

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND WOMEN'S DIS-EMPOWERMENT IN WEST POINT
TOWNSHIP-MONROVIA, LIBERIA**

BY

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DECLARATION

I **Sophia Wilson**, a student of Kampala International University do here by declare that this is my own research work and it has never been submitted to any other university or institution for academic purposes.

SIGNATURE ..... DATE: 24-05-2018.....

SOPHIA WILSON


DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my sister Mrs. Philomena K Nagbe who has been my source of inspirations, my Darling Husband Mr. G. Ernest Yormie ,my Late father Mr. Alexander G. Wilson whose dream was to see me at the higher heights. To my mother siblings and all those who included me in their daily prayers during my educational journey.

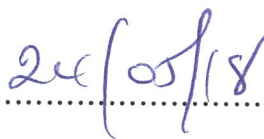
APPROVAL

This is to certify that this dissertation has been done under my supervision and guidance and is ready for submission to the university with my approval.

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May God bless you all.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
DV	Domestic Violence
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DV	Domestic Violence
FGDs	Focus Group Discussions
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immune Virus
ICPD	International conference on population and development
IRC	International Rescue Committee
KIIs	Key Informant Interviews
LIGIS	Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo information Service
LNP	Liberia National Police
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MPs	Members of Parliament
MOGSP	Ministry of Gender and Social Protection
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
SPSS	Statistical Package for Social Scientists
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAW	Violence Against Women
WAO	Women's Aid Organization
WICCE	Women's International Cross-Cultural Exchange
WHO	World Health Organization

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DECLARATION.....	i
DEDICATION.....	ii
APPROVAL	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS.....	iv
ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS.....	v
LIST OF FIGURES	ix
LIST OF TABLES.....	x
ABSTRACT	xi
CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND.....	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Background of the Study	1
1.2.1 Historical Perspective	1
1.2.2 Theoretical Perspective.....	2
1.2.3 Conceptual Perspective.....	3
1.2.4 Contextual Perspective	4
1.3 Problem Statement.....	4
1.4 Objectives of the Study.....	5
1.4.2 Specific Objectives:.....	5
1.5 Research Questions.....	5
1.7 Scope of the Study	6
1.7 Subject Scope.....	6
1.7.2 Geographical Scope	6
1.6.3 Time Scope	6
1.8 Significance of the Study.....	6
1.9 Definition of Terms	6
1.10 Conceptual Framework.....	8
CHAPTER TWO	9
LITERATURE REVIEW	9
2.1 Introduction.....	9
2.2 Theoretical Overview	10
2.4 Forms of Domestic Violence.....	12
2.4.1 Physical Abuse.....	12
2.4.2 Sexual Abuse	12
2.4.3 Marital Rape	13
2.4.4 Emotional Abuse	13
2.4.5 Verbal Abuse	14
2.4.6 Economic Abuse.....	14
2.5 Causes of Domestic Violence	15
2.6 Effects of Domestic Violence on women	18

2.7 Research Gap	20
CHAPTER THREE	22
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	22
3.1 Research Design	22
3.2 Study Area	22
3.3 Study Population.....	22
3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedures.....	23
3.5 Sampling Procedure.....	25
3.6 Sources of Data.....	25
3.6.1 Primary Data.....	25
3.6.2 Secondary Data.....	25
3.7 Study Methods	26
3.8 Research Instruments.....	26
3.9 Validity and Reliability of the Instruments	26
3.10 Data Gathering Procedures	27
3.10.1 Before the Administration of the Questionnaires:	27
3.10.2 During the administration of the questionnaires (Quantitative and qualitative):	27
3.10.3 After the Administration of the Questionnaires.....	28
3.11 Data Analysis.....	28
3.12 Ethical Considerations	28
3.13 Limitations of the Study	28
CHAPTER FOUR	30
PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS.....	30
4.1 Introduction.....	30
4.2 Profile of Respondents.....	30
4.3 Forms of domestic violence in West Point Township, Monrovia, Liberia.....	32
4.3.1 Experience with Domestic Violence.	32
4.3.2 Where women report domestic violence	33
4.3.3 Forms of domestic violence among the women in West Point Township, Monrovia.....	34
4.3.4 Whether domestic violence is a problem.....	36
4.3.5 Encouragement of Domestic Violence Victims	37
4.3.6 Threatens or abuse in the household.....	38
4.3.7 Responses on the persons that threaten women.....	38
4.3.8 Reasons for the threats on women	39
4.4 Causes of domestic violence in West Point Township Monrovia, Liberia.....	41
4.4.1 Causes of domestic violence in West Point Township Monrovia, Liberia.....	41
4.5 Domestic violence dis-empowers women in West Point Township, Monrovia.....	43
4.5.1 Psycho-social effects of domestic violence on the survivors/victims	44
4.5.2 Whether domestic violence affect parent-children relationship in your household.	44
4.5.3 How Domestic Violence Affect Women.....	45

4.5.4 Domestic Violence and Dependence47

4.5.5 How Domestic violence affect self-confidence and Job.....48

4.5.7: Shows responses on whether the women have experienced Stigma49

4.5.7 Community involvement in combating domestic violence50

CHAPTER FIVE53

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS53

5.1 Introduction.....53

5.2 Discussions of Findings.....54

5.2.1 Profile of Respondents.....54

5.2.2 Forms of domestic violence in West Point Township, Monrovia54

5.2.3 Causes of domestic violence in West Point Township, Monrovia55

5.2.4 How domestic violence disempowered women in West Point Monrovia.....56

5.2 Conclusions.....57

5.4 Recommendations based on the study findings.....57

5.5 Suggestions for further Research.....58

REFERENCES58

APPENDIX 1: RESEARCH TOOLS.....63

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS63

APPENDIX II.....69

FOCUS GROUP GUIDE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS.....69

APPENDIX III.....70

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE.....70

APPENDIX IV: TIME FRAME.....71

APPENDIX V: MAP OF WEST POINT MONROVIA72

LIST OF FIGURES	Page
Figure 1: Conceptual Framework	8
Figure 4.3.6: Presence of threatened or abused in any way in your household.....	38
Figure 4.3.8: Reasons for the threats on women	40
Figure 4.3.9: Whether perpetrators of Domestic violence should be punished.....	41
Figure 4.5.6 Showing whether the women were traumatized by violence	49

LIST OF TABLES

Table 3.1: Qualitative Sample (Women and men in households)	24
Table 3.2: Response rate	24
Table 4.3.1: Experience of domestic violence	33
Table 4.2: Demographic Characteristic of respondents (n=55)	31
Table 4.3.2: Where women report the domestic violence	34
Table 4.3.3: Forms of domestic violence among the women in West Point Township, Monrovia.	35
Table 4.3.4: Responses on whether domestic violence is a problem	36
Table 4.3.5: Whether you have ever encouraged a domestic violence victim	37
Table 4.3.7: Show responses on the persons that threaten women.....	39
Table 4.4.1: Causes of domestic violence in West Point Township Monrovia, Liberia	42
Table 4.5.2: Whether domestic violence affects parent-children relationship in households	45
Table 4.5.4: Whether domestic violence affect dependence	47
Table 4.5.7: Shows responses on whether the women have experienced Stigma	49
Table 4.5.7: Community involved in combating domestic violence	50

ABSTRACT

This study was done to establish the impact of domestic violence on women's disempowerment in West Point Township Monrovia, Liberia. The study objectives were to determine the forms of domestic violence, examine the causes of domestic violence and how domestic violence disempowers women in West Point Township. The study was conducted based on a sequential mixed method design in which both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection were used. Quantitatively the study used questionnaires administered to 55 women and qualitatively 8 key informant interviews and 4 gender segmented focus group discussions were conducted. The results indicate that beating constituted the highest response on domestic violence with 24%, verbal abuse 20% followed, then abandonment 17%, pushing 11%, stalking 7%, sexual assault 6% and economic violence 6%, rape 4%, marital rape 4% and isolation 4% followed as other forms of violence. The major cause of domestic violence was poverty (55% of the respondents) followed by cultural beliefs 24%, alcoholism 15% and parenting 7%. The results further show that domestic violence has dis-empowered women in west point in various ways including low self-esteem, dependence, low skills, low self-confidence, and inability to solve problems, trauma, stigma, and job loss. The focus group discussion and key informant guides further show that the forms of domestic violence are majorly verbal abuses and the causes were house hold poverty and cultural issues. It was further established that domestic violence dis-empower women through earnings, education, health and the general social setup. It can be concluded that domestic violence exists in different forms in West point with the major form being physical violence in the form of beating. The study also shows that poverty and cultural barriers are the major causes of domestic violence. The study further shows that domestic violence dis-empowers the women by highly creating dependency on the family and husbands, stigma, trauma, loss of self-confidence and loss of employment. The study recommends that among others that intervention into the family management should be undertaken and the culprits of domestic violence should be apprehended. There is also need to address poverty among women through economic empowerment initiatives so that women become economically independent instead of depending on their male partners.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

1.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives, research questions, significance of the study and definition of terms.

1.2 Background of the Study

1.2.1 Historical Perspective

Domestic violence is the outcome of gender inequality and discrimination that is socially developed, largely 'sanctioned' and exercised. Gender inequalities increase the risk of acts of violence by men against women. For example, traditional beliefs that men have a right to control women make women and girls vulnerable to physical, emotional and sexual violence by men (World Health Organization, 2009). For all societies, the common denominator of gender is female subordination (Momsen, 1991), often mediated by class, race and religion. This inferior position of women is more prominent in Third World countries like Liberia, India, or Bangladesh because of economic backwardness and legacy of colonialism.

Historically, women have always suffered from domestic violence (Martin, 1976; Tomes, 1978; Dobash and Dobash, 1979; Freeman, 1979; Smith, 1989; Clarke, 1992, AuSAID, 2013). However, this problem has only become publicly evident when there has been a strong feminist movement, enabling the collective organization against its occurrence (Freeman, 1979; Brokowski et al., 1983; Pence and Paymar, 1993). Heise et al (1994) described domestic violence as a significant social and public health problem in many countries. Besides being a tremendous burden to social services, health care and the criminal justice system, the harm brought by domestic violence is more problematic in terms of the physical, emotional, psychological and behavioral damage. Thus issues of domestic violence need to be considered as an urgent and important matter because a substantial proportion of resources are demanded from everyone in dealing with this problem (Berry, 2000).

Domestic violence is often seen as a gender issue. According to Walby and Allen (2004), women are more prone compared to men, especially in regards to sexual violence. In a study in United States conducted by Tjaden and Thoennes (2000), 22 per cent of women had reported being assaulted by their male partner or ex-partner compared to a figure of only 7.4 per cent regarding male victims. In the UK, statistics show that one in every four women has experienced episodes of domestic violence at some point in their lives (Women's Aid, 2009). In the United States, approximately two million women are subjected to violence by their intimate partners every year (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000).

Feminist activists tried to explain the Western view of empowerment in terms of colonialism and neo-colonialism by branding it as a 'new project of Western patriarchy' (Shiva, 1988). So came the attempt to rethink empowerment planning in terms of 'social' dimensions in place of the earlier empowerment practice that missed out on the 'human factor' by not adequately incorporating the great majority of people into development efforts (Oakley and Marsden, 1984).

1.2.2 Theoretical Perspective

This study used liberal feminism theory to explain how Domestic Violence (DV) disempowers women. Liberal feminists argued that women need to be included in the masculine project. The aim was that women should be given access to education and need to enter public life. For instance, Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-97) wanted women to attain what men of similar class had in terms of opportunities and access to public activities. They argued for women's equality and individual freedom. They also called for women's involvement in public worlds of politics, business and professions as they still remained gendered. Wollstonecraft emphasized supporting women's entry into the male world of public life. Liberal feminist focused on the elimination of constraints facing women and gaining equal civil for rights for women as public citizens. Therefore, the study is based on liberal feminist theory and its arguments will help in explaining the view women are disempowered by domestic violence and how Domestic violence limits their freedoms.

Empowerment calls for a distinct language for understanding lay efforts to cope with stress, adapt to change and influence communities. The empowerment theory includes both process and outcomes (Swift & Levine, 1987). The theory suggests that action, activities, or structures may be empowering, and that the outcome of such processes result in a level of being empowered.

Empowerment is context and population specific. It takes on different forms for different people in different contexts. Individual, organization and community empowerment are mutually interdependent and are both a cause and consequence of each other. Empowered persons are a basis for developing responsible and participatory organizations and communities.

Thus, the study used the empowerment theory and its arguments helped in examining how domestic violence disempowers women. Empowerment theory emphasizes the interdependence between individual, organizational and community empowerment. The theory also assisted in explaining how domestic violence may negatively affect women's self-esteem and confidence as well as self-efficacy and how women fail to maintain analytical skills/problem solving behaviors and become unable in making decisions that affect their lives thereby ending up disempowered.

1.2.3 Conceptual Perspective

The conceptual framework for this study on Domestic violence, empowerment and disempowerment of women was based on Naila Kabeer's work on women's empowerment as well as women's economic empowerment in particular. Kabeer (1999) presents a profound view that women's economic empowerment refers to an enhanced ability of women to make choices in three dimensions: access and control of resources, power and agency and achievements or outcomes. Women should be able to make choices from a number of alternatives. In reference to resources, women should have access and control of economic (e.g. land, skills and financial capital) and social resources (e.g. Social networks) which increase their ability to make choices governed by the rules and norms that regulate the distribution and exchange of resources within a given context. Agency and power refers to one's capacity to define life's choices and to pursue them, exercised within the rules and norms that govern social behavior. Kabeer noted that empowerment is applicable to persons that have been disempowered, which is normally manifested in existing inequalities in people's capacities to make choices such as limited human capacity, decision-making, political involvement and participation in the market.

Kabeer (2009) asserts that the issue of women empowerment is matter of human rights and justice. There is evidence that women's control of valued resources has a strong influence on the family's wellbeing that is likely to enhance the human capital of the family members and the women themselves.

1.2.4 Contextual Perspective

According to the investigation which was aided by statistics gathered from the Gender Based Violence Division of the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection (MOG & SP) in Liberia, 34% of the survivor between the age of 13-17 years suffered statutory and gang rape assault, sexual assault, domestic violence and others (MOG & SP, 2015).

There has been legislation against gender-based violence including the Rape Amendment Act, also known as the “revised rape law,” the Revised Gender-Based Violence Action Plan, and the African Union Protocol as well as action plans and community-based groups meant to decrease the rate of domestic violence, like the Gender-Based Violence Network, an initiative designed to increase community ownership of domestic violence issues and improve response at the grassroots level. But despite these advances, there still is a long way to go, increased funding and coordination between domestic and international agencies and the Liberian government is necessary to have a real impact on the lives of the “countless women” whose lives are threatened by domestic violence (MOG & SP, 2009).

Empowerment cannot be achieved where there is domestic violence. Domestic violence is one of the threats to empowerment in Liberia and Africa at Large. Many women and men who have been abused in their homes become more emotionally, physically and economically affected. Although psychological experiences/torture does not leave physical scars on the individual, it may lead to emotional and behavioral disorder including psychosis (madness), suicidal behavior and inability (WICCE (2007).

1.3 Problem Statement

Studies in all parts of the globe confirm the prevalence of especially physical violence in all parts of the globe, including the estimates of 20 to 50 per cent of women from country to country who have experienced domestic violence (UNICEF, 2007). Violence against women is the main outcome of gender-based inequalities, creating far greater consequences for women’s well-being and empowerment than previously thought. Violence against women remains a problem in Liberia. Although many dramatic cases have been reported in the media, the issue is still viewed with little interest by the general public. According to the Police Force figures, it can be seen that the latest data documented on all forms of violence against women showed that domestic violence makes

up nearly 50 per cent of the reported cases of violence against women followed by cases of rape as well as a small percentage of incest, child abuse and abuse of domestic workers (WAO, 2009).

The effects of abuse on women's work and employability in Liberia are numerous. For instance, many women may not be able to look for work due to physical and psychological abuse, which contributes to their social isolation, emotional degradation, and feelings of worthlessness (Kurz, 1995). Abused women may struggle with much psychological and emotional impairment. The high levels of withdrawal, depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder they experience may also lead to drug and alcohol dependence and other health problems that negatively affect their empowerment (Rosen, 2001). Women dis-empowerment in Liberia highly exists given the nature of the life of people. Dis-empowerment of women in Liberia is much occasioned by the low socio-economic status such as low education that grossly create a difficult environment. Not much has been done on how domestic violence disempowers women in Liberia. This study examined the forms, causes of domestic violence and how domestic violence disempowers women in an urban township in Liberia.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

1.4.1 General Objective

To investigate how domestic violence disempowers women in West Point Township, Monrovia, Liberia

1.4.2 Specific Objectives:

- i. To determine the forms of domestic violence in West Point Township, Monrovia, Liberia.
- ii. To examine the causes of domestic violence in West Point Township Monrovia, Liberia.
- iii. To examine the influence of domestic violence on women dis-empowerment in West Point Township, Monrovia, Liberia.

1.5 Research Questions

- i. What are the forms or types of domestic violence in West Point Township, Monrovia, Liberia?
- ii. What are the causes of domestic violence in West Point Township, Monrovia, Liberia?

- iii. How does domestic violence disempower women in West Point Monrovia, Liberia?.

1.6 Scope of the Study

1.6 Subject Scope

The focus of the study was on forms of domestic violence, assessing the causes of domestic violence and examining how domestic violence dis-empowers women in West Point Township, Monrovia, Liberia. The study therefore focused around the areas of the domestic violence and how it disempower the women.

1.6.2 Geographical Scope

The study was conducted in West Point Township, Monrovia District, Liberia. West Point is a township of Liberian capital city of Monrovia located on peninsular which is between Atlatlantic Ocean and Mesurado and St Paul rivers. The distance for West Point town from Monrovia is approximately 3.1kilometers (source: liberia.places-in-the-world.com).

1.6.3 Time Scope

The study considered data on experience of domestic violence and how it dis-empowers the women from August 2017.

1.7 Significance of the Study

The findings of this study provide information on domestic violence and disempowerment of women in West Point Township, Monrovia, Liberia. The findings will help policy makers and NGO's in formulating policies that would be beneficial in improving women's status and standards of living in Liberia. Furthermore, the findings generated would contribute to the knowledge base for academicians interested in this area of the study. The study may help in highlighting how domestic violence dis-empowers women and therefore help coming up with strategies for prevention of domestic violence in Liberia. The research findings provide information that can be used to sensitize and create awareness to the local people about domestic violence and its effects on women's empowerment while making them take the responsibility of controlling, preventing and responding to such violence.

1.8 Definition of Terms

Empowerment is a psychological process in which individuals think positively about their ability to make change and gain mastery over issues at individual and social levels. This includes the

notion of self-efficacy that is, perceptions of competence, personal control and positive self-image (Zimmerman, 2000).

Women's economic empowerment refers to an enhanced ability of women to make choices in three dimensions: access and control of resources, power and agency and achievements or outcomes (NailaKabeer, 1999). According to NailaKabeer, empowerment is applicable to persons that have been disempowered, which is normally manifested in existing inequalities in people's capacities to make choices such as limited human capacity, decision-making, political involvement and participation in the market (Kabeer, 1999).

Disempowerment refers to the failure to achieve one's goals which reflects some deep-seated constraint on the ability to choose, that it can be taken as a manifestation of disempowerment (Kabeer, 1994).

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of abusive behaviors by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, or cohabitation. Domestic violence includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, and abuse to property and pets (Ganley, 1989).

Physical abuse include actions such as punching, slapping, hitting, beating, pushing and pulling, burning and strangling. Physical violence is usually accompanied by psychological abuse and in many cases by sexual assault (UNICEF, 2000).

Sexual violence involves rape and sexual harassment and is common in abusive relationship because women's right to consent is likely to be ignored. Sexual abuse and rape by an intimate partner is not considered a crime in most countries and women in many societies do not consider forced sex as rape if they are married to, or cohabiting with, the perpetrator (UNICEF, 2000).

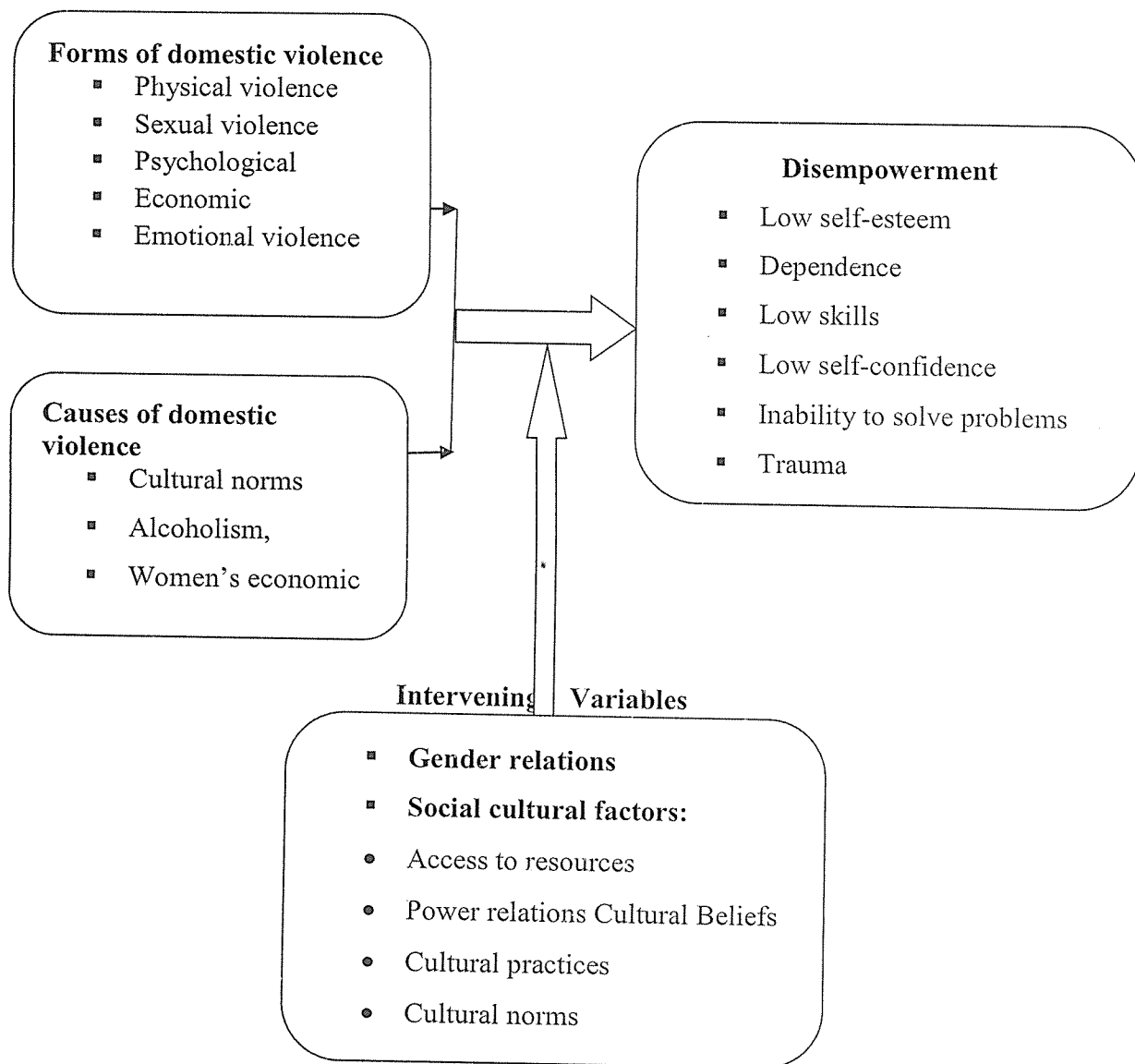
Psychological or emotional violence can be verbal or non-verbal. Psychological violence or emotional torture is often more unbearable than the physical brutality, with mental stress leading to a high incidence of suicide and suicide attempts (UNICEF, 2000).

1.9 Conceptual Framework

To establish the link between domestic violence and women disempowerment in West Point Monrovia in Liberia, the variables were categorized as independent whereby these include; forms of domestic violence for instance Physical violence, Sexual violence, Psychological, Economic violence among others, while the dependent variable included women’s disempowerment, seen in terms of low self-esteem, dependence, low skills, low self-confidence, inability to solve problems, loss of income, trauma, dignity, and stigma due to cultural factors and gender relations. For instance how often the women experience domestic violence and consequences of domestic violence thereafter due to cultural factors. However, there are also intervening factors of which for this case are cultural factors including beliefs/acceptance of domestic violence as a social norm, cultural beliefs on gender relations for example, who should have control over financial & other production resources, decision making, power relations due to culture among others. All these relationships are illustrated below.

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework





CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the theoretical framework and a review of related literature from different scholars on the issue of domestic violence and disempowerment of women. It gives an overview of salient issues underlying domestic violence for instance forms of domestic violence such as

physical violence, sexual violence, emotional and economic violence, as well as the causes and effects of domestic violence or how it dis-empowers women.

2.2 Theoretical Overview

This study was based on liberal feminist ideas of Mary Wollstonecraft (1792) argued that women need to be included in the public sphere including education, politics, business and professions. Many people incorrectly believe that feminist theory focuses exclusively on girls and women and that it has an inherent goal of promoting the superiority of women over men. In reality, feminist theory has always been about viewing the social world in a way that illuminates the forces that create and support inequality, oppression, and injustice, and in doing so, promotes the pursuit of equality and justice. That said, since the experiences and perspectives of women and girls were historically excluded from social theory and social science, much feminist theory has focused on their interactions and experiences within society in order to ensure that half the world's population is not left out of how we see and understand social forces, relations, and problems (Kent, 1993).

Some feminist theory provides an analytic framework for understanding how women's location in, and experience of, social situations differ from men's. For example, cultural feminists look to the different values associated with womanhood and femininity as a reason why men and women experience the social world differently. Other feminist theorists believe that the different roles assigned to women and men within institutions better explain gender difference, including the sexual division of labor in the household. Existential and phenomenological feminists focus on how women have been marginalized and defined as "other" in patriarchal societies.

Some feminist theorists focus specifically on how masculinity is developed through socialization and how its development interacts with the process of developing femininity in girls (Stocking, 1995). The study was also based on the empowerment theory and its argument helped in examining how domestic violence dis-empowers women. Since empowerment theory emphasizes the interdependence between individual, organizational and community empowerment, it can be used in explaining how domestic violence may affect women negatively especially women's self-esteem, confidence, self-efficacy and how women fail to maintain analytical skills/problem solving behaviors and become unable in making decisions that affect their lives thereby ending up disempowered.

2.3 Concepts

Domestic violence is defined as a pattern of abusive behaviors by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, or cohabitation. Domestic violence includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse, and abuse to property and pets (Ganley, 1989).

Empowerment is a psychological process in which individuals think positively about their ability to make change and gain mastery over issues at individual and social levels. This includes the notion of self-efficacy, i.e. perceptions of competence, personal control and positive self-image (Zimmerman, 2000). Disempowerment refers to the failure to achieve one's goals which reflects some deep-seated constraint on the ability to choose, that it can be taken as a manifestation of disempowerment (Kabeer, 1994).

The high rate of domestic violence is an important factor challenging women's health in Africa. Gender based violence is a widespread problem all over the world. With respect to intimate partner violence, Africa, Eastern Mediterranean and South-East average around 37 percent. In addition, nearly one out of every two African women (45.6%) has experienced some kind of sexual or physical violence during their life time (UNDP, 2016). Domestic Violence has a negative impact on production and prosperity. Domestic violence reduces the economic development of each nation (UN Report on VAW, 2007). Domestic violence refers to assaultive and coercive behaviours that adults use against their intimate partners (Holden, 2003, p.155) who may include current or former spouses and dating partners (Saltzman, Fanslow, Mc Mahon and Shelly, 1999). Koss Gidycz (199) defines domestic violence as psychological and emotional abuse, coercion as well as physical assault and sexual assault. The prevalence of violence was estimated by a survey using questions based on legal definitions of physical and sexual assault in the Canadian code.

Anthony Giddens (2001) defined domestic violence as a physical abuse directed by one member of the family against another or others. While gender based violence is a universal problem, it is a problem of extreme magnitude in less developed countries. A recent study in Liberia and Bangladesh reported that more than 80% and 94% of women surveyed respectively had experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence at some point in their marriage/intimate

relationship. Gender based violence is exacerbated by war and is increasingly a feature of conflicts. Widespread rape has been documented in the DRC, Liberia, Bosnia and Rwanda, leaving a legacy of violence long after peace treaties have been signed (Blundell, 2002).

According to Naila Kabeer, empowerment is applicable to persons that have been disempowered, which is normally manifested in existing inequalities in people's capacities to make choices such as limited human capacity, decision-making, political involvement and participation in the market. Agency and power refers to one's capacity to define life's choices and to pursue them, exercised within the rules and norms that govern social behavior. Other scholars such as Tornqvist and Schmitz define women economic empowerment as the process which increases a woman's real power over economic decisions that influence their lives and priorities in society. Women's economic empowerment can be achieved through equal access to and control over critical economic resources and opportunities, and the elimination of structural gender inequalities in the labour market including a better sharing of unpaid care work (Kabeer, 2012).

2.4 Forms of Domestic Violence

2.4.1 Physical Abuse

This involves contact intended to cause feelings of intimidation, pain, injury, or other physical suffering or bodily harm. Physical abuse includes hitting, slapping, punching, choking, pushing, burning and other types of contact that result in physical injury to the victim. Physical abuse can also include behaviors such as denying the victim of medical care when needed, depriving the victim of sleep or other functions necessary to live, or forcing the victim to engage in drug/alcohol use against his/her will. If a person is suffering from any physical harm then they are experiencing physical abuse. This pain can be experienced on any level. It can also include inflicting physical injury onto other targets, such as children or pets, in order to cause psychological harm to the victim (Hamel, 2007).

2.4.2 Sexual Abuse

This is any situation in which force or threat is used to obtain participation in unwanted sexual activity. Coercing a person to engage in sexual activity against their will, even if that person is a spouse or intimate partner with whom consensual sex has occurred, is an act of aggression and violence. Sexual violence is defined by World Health Organization as: any sexual act, attempt to

obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.

2.4.3 Marital Rape

Also known as spousal rape, is non-consensual sex in which the perpetrator is the victim's spouse. It is a form of partner rape, of domestic violence, and of sexual abuse. Once widely condoned or ignored by law, spousal rape is now repudiated by international conventions and increasingly criminalized. Still, in many countries, spousal rape either remains legal, or is illegal but widely tolerated and accepted as a husband's prerogative. The criminalization of rape in marriage is recent, having occurred during the past few decades (Millett, 2011).

The legal and social concept of marital rape, has developed, in most industrialized countries, in the mid to late 20th century; and in many parts of the world it is still not recognized, socially and legally, as a form of abuse. Several countries in Eastern Europe and Scandinavia made spousal rape illegal before 1970, but other countries in Western Europe and the English-speaking Western World outlawed it much later, mostly in the 1980s and 1990s. In many parts of the world the laws against marital rape are very new, having been enacted in the 2000s (Hampton, (2006).

2.4.4 Emotional Abuse

Also called psychological abuse or mental abuse can include humiliating the victim privately or publicly, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information from the victim, deliberately doing something to make the victim feel diminished or embarrassed, isolating the victim from friends and family, implicitly blackmailing the victim by harming others when the victim expresses independence or happiness, or denying the victim access to money or other basic resources and necessities World Health Organisation (2009). Degradation in any form can be considered psychological abuse. Emotional abuse can include verbal abuse and is defined as any behavior that threatens, intimidates, undermines the victim's self-worth or self-esteem, or controls the victim's freedom. This can include threatening the victim with injury or harm, telling the victim that they will be killed if they ever leave the relationship, and public humiliation. Constant criticism, name-calling, and making statements that damage the victim's self-esteem are also

common verbal forms of emotional abuse. Emotional abuse includes forceful efforts to isolate the victim, keeping them from contacting friends or family. This is intended to eliminate those who might try to help the victim leave the relationship and to create a lack of resources for them to rely on if they were to leave. Isolation results in damaging the victim's sense of internal strength, leaving them feeling helpless and unable to escape from the situation (Hanson, 2010).

2.4.5 Verbal Abuse

Verbal Abuse is a form of emotionally abusive behavior involving the use of language. Verbal abuse can also be referred to as the act of threatening. Through threatening a person can blatantly say they will harm you in any way and will also be considered as abuse. It may include profanity but can occur with or without the use of expletives. Verbal abuse may include aggressive actions such as name-calling, blaming, ridicule, disrespect, and criticism, but there are also less obviously aggressive forms of verbal abuse. Statements that may seem benign on the surface can be thinly veiled attempts to humiliate; falsely accuse; or manipulate others to submit to undesirable behavior, make others feel unwanted and unloved, threaten others economically, or isolate victims from support systems. In Jekyll and Hyde behaviors, the abuser may fluctuate between sudden rages and false joviality toward the victim; or may simply show a very different "face" to the outside world than to the victim. While oral communication is the most common form of verbal abuse, it includes abusive communication in written form (Helton, 2011).

2.4.6 Economic Abuse

Economic Abuse is a form of abuse when one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources. Economic abuse may involve preventing a spouse from resource acquisition, limiting the amount of resources to use by the victim, or by exploiting economic resources of the victim. The motive behind preventing a spouse from acquiring resources is to diminish victim's capacity to support his/herself, thus forcing him/her to depend on the perpetrator financially, which includes preventing the victim from obtaining education, finding employment, maintaining or advancing their careers, and acquiring assets. In addition, the abuser may also put the victim on an allowance, closely monitor how the victim spends money, spend victim's money without his/her consent and creating debt, or completely spend victim's savings to limit available resources (Helton, Peggy, 2011).

2.5 Causes of Domestic Violence

There are many different theories as to the causes of domestic violence. These include psychological theories that consider personality traits and mental characteristics of the perpetrator, as well as social theories which consider external factors in the perpetrator's environment, such as family structure, stress and social learning. As with many phenomena regarding human experience, no single approach appears to cover all cases (Bastick, Grimm & Kunz, 2010).

El Jack (2013) argued that since the inauguration of the new government of Liberia in 2006, the country embarked on a massive recovery and reconstruction program to consolidate peace and security. Basic social services are being restored, roads and infrastructure is being rebuilt and institutions of governance are being reestablished. The Government has also put in place a range of measures to address gender equality and sexual and gender based violence, in particular. At the international level, it has demonstrated its steadfastness in attending to provisions and obligations set out in CEDAW, as evidenced in its detailed status report on the implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action

The Liberian National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 1820 recommends, among others, the harmonization of the statutory and traditional justice systems to enhance the rule of law and to promote accountability and women's improved access to justice; women's increased participation at all levels in political and decision-making processes; and the enactment and full implementation of laws for the prevention of all types of gender based violence, including rape; domestic violence; harmful traditional practices; human trafficking; and the sexual exploitation abuse of young girls (Bastick, Grimm & Kunz, 2010). Whilst there are many theories regarding what causes one individual to act violently towards an intimate partner or family member there is also growing concern around apparent intergenerational cycles of domestic violence. In Australia where it has been identified that as many as 75% of all victims of domestic violence are children Domestic violence services such as Sunny kids are beginning to focus their attention on children who have been exposed to domestic violence (Jackson, 2007).

Responses that focus on children suggest that experiences throughout life influence an individuals' propensity to engage in family violence (either as a victim or as a perpetrator). Researchers supporting this theory suggest it is useful to think of three sources of domestic violence: childhood

socialization, previous experiences in couple relationships during adolescence, and levels of strain in a person's current life. People who observe their parents abusing each other, or who were themselves abused may incorporate abuse into their behaviour within relationships that they establish as adults (Oquaye, 2010)

Psychological theories focus on personality traits and mental characteristics of the offender. Personality traits include sudden bursts of anger, poor impulse control, and poor self-esteem. Various theories suggest that psychopathology and other personality disorders are factors, and that abuse experienced as a child leads some people to be more violent as adults. Correlation has been found between juvenile delinquency and domestic violence in adulthood. Studies have found high incidence of psychopathy among abusers. However, these psychological theories are disputed: Gelles suggests that psychological theories are limited, and points out that other researcher have found that only 10% (or less) fit this psychological profile. He argues that social factors are important, while personality traits, mental illness, or psychopathy are lesser factors David Denny (2008). Many psychiatric disorders are risk factors for domestic violence, including several personality disorders: all Cluster B PDs, (especially antisocial), paranoid and passive-aggressive. Bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, drug abuse, alcoholism and poor impulse control are also risk factors. It is estimated that at least one-third of all abusers have some type of mental illness (Pollard, Carrie (2004).

The American Psychiatric Association planning and research committees for the forthcoming DSM-5 (2013) have canvassed a series of new Relational disorders which include Marital Conflict Disorder Without Violence or Marital Abuse Disorder (Marital Conflict Disorder With Violence). Couples with marital disorders sometimes come to clinical attention because the couple recognizes long-standing dissatisfaction with their marriage and come to the clinician on their own initiative or are referred by an astute health care professional. Secondly, there is serious violence in the marriage which is "usually the husband battering the wife (Carpenter, 2009).

In these cases the emergency room or a legal authority often is the first to notify the clinician. Most importantly, marital violence "is a major risk factor for serious injury and even death and women in violent marriages are at much greater risk of being seriously injured or killed (National Advisory Council on Violence against Women 2000)". The authors of this study add that "There is current

considerable controversy over whether male-to-female marital violence is best regarded as a reflection of male psychopathology and control or whether there is an empirical base and clinical utility for conceptualizing these patterns as relational."

Many cases of domestic violence occur due to jealousy when one partner is either suspected of being unfaithful or is planning to leave the relationship. It can also be seen in a situation where one partner is doing better than the other. For example: the woman being more successful than the wife. An evolutionary psychology explanation of such cases of domestic violence against a woman is that they represent male attempts to control female reproduction and ensure sexual exclusivity through violence or the threat of violence. Though often jealousy is used as an excuse for the abusers behavior, most often it is just an excuse in order to exert more control over their partner and a blaming technique in order to isolate the victim further from friends and family (Roberts, 2007).

Stress may be increased when a person is living in a family situation, with increased pressures. Social stresses, due to inadequate finances or other such problems in a family may further increase tensions. Violence is not always caused by stress, but may be one way that some people respond to stress. Families and couples in poverty may be more likely to experience domestic violence, due to increased stress and conflicts about finances and other aspects. Some speculate that poverty may hinder a man's ability to live up to his idea of "successful manhood", thus he fears losing honor and respect. Theory suggests that when he is unable to economically support his wife, and maintain control, he may turn to misogyny, substance abuse, and crime as ways to express masculinity (Barnes, Albrecht & Olson, 2010).

In abusive relationships, violence is posited to arise out of a need for power and control of one partner over the other. An abuser will use various tactics of abuse (e.g., physical, verbal, emotional, sexual or financial) in order to establish and maintain control over the partner. Abusers' efforts to dominate their partners have been attributed to low self-esteem or feelings of inadequacy, unresolved childhood conflicts, the stress of poverty, hostility and resentment toward women (misogyny), hostility and resentment toward men (misandry), personality disorders, genetic tendencies and sociocultural influences, among other possible causative factors (Specht & Red Shoes, 2010)

A causalist view of domestic violence is that it is a strategy to gain or maintain power and control over the victim. This view is in alignment with Bancroft's "cost-benefit" theory that abuse rewards the perpetrator in ways other than, or in addition to, simply exercising power over his or her target(s). He cites evidence in support of his argument that, in most cases, abusers are quite capable of exercising control over themselves, but choose not to do so for various reasons. Oquaye (2010) argued that an alternative view is that abuse arises from powerlessness and externalizing/projecting this and attempting to exercise control of the victim. It is an attempt to 'gain or maintain power and control over the victim' but even in achieving this it cannot resolve the powerlessness driving it. Such behaviors have addictive aspects leading to a cycle of abuse or violence. Mutual cycles develop when each party attempts to resolve their own powerlessness in attempting to assert control.

2.6 Effects of Domestic Violence on women

A large and growing body of literature has investigated the consequences of domestic violence to the individual who is abused, the people surrounding them, as well as the community as a whole. It was found that negative impacts of abusive relationships range from physical impairments to social isolation as well as the deterioration of psychological well-being (Dutton et al, 2003).

Women's health and domestic violence against women was conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO, 2005). This international-scale research aimed to estimate the prevalence of various types of violence perpetrated by male partners such as physical, sexual and emotional abuse with reference to the women's health outcomes. Although the study has been supported with a large data set coming from various countries, the main weakness of the study is the failure to study male partners' accounts of violence in particular. It is believed that the exploration from the men's perspective (that is the perpetrator) might offer a better understanding of the possible causes of abuse, the men's beliefs, as well as their attitudes regarding violence against women. A considerable amount of literature has been published regarding the impacts of domestic violence on the psychological and emotional aspects of health. Previous studies have reported the effects of

mental health problems including anxiety disorder, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as well as suicidal thoughts and attempts (Dorahy et al, 2007).

According to a report by the United States Department of Justice, a survey of 16,000 Americans showed 22.1% of women and 7.4% of men reported being physically assaulted by a current or former spouse, cohabiting partner, boyfriend or girlfriend, or date in their lifetime. A 2010 survey of over 21,000 residents of England and Wales by the UK Home Office showed that 7% of women and 4% of men were victims of domestic abuse in the last year. A study in the United States found that women were 13 times more likely than men to seek medical attention due to injuries related to spousal abuse (Roberts, Albert R. (2007).

Women are more likely than men to be murdered by an intimate partner. Of those killed by an intimate partner about three quarters are female and about a quarter are male. In 1999 in the United States 1,218 women and 424 men were killed by an intimate partner, and 1181 females and 329 males were killed by their intimate partners in 2005. In England and Wales about 100 women are killed by partners or former partners each year while 21 men were killed in 2010. In 2008, in France, 156 women and 27 men were killed by their intimate partner.

The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) states that "violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which has led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men". In their study of severely violent couples, Neil Jacobson and John Gottman conclude that the frequency of violent acts is not as crucial as the impact of the violence and its function, when trying to understand spousal abuse; specifically, they state that the purpose of domestic violence is typically to control and intimidate, rather than just to injure.

Murray Straus (2007) explored some of these problems, and he outlined several processes by which the data have been distorted by researchers. These processes include direct suppression of evidence, manipulating survey research questions to avoid unwanted data, selective and biased citations, misinterpreting or over interpreting data to acquire the desired conclusion, manufacturing

the appearance of evidence through repeated citation (the "woozle effect"), obstructing the publication or funding of potentially contradictory research, and finally, harassment, threats, and penalties against researchers who produce contrary evidence. Nicola Graham-Kevan (2002), whose research was the spark for Straus' commentary, concurred with Straus' conclusions and noted that another tool used to suppress evidence is the manipulation of numerical and statistical data to distort the public presentation of domestic violence research. (Murray, 2007).

El Jack (2013) contend that the regional character of African conflicts saw the spread of sexual violence across conflict affected regions as armed groups often moved between countries, carrying out similar forms of atrocities wherever they went. Much of the widespread sexual violations²⁰ carried out in the eastern regions of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, for example, have been attributed to armed groups implicated in the genocide in Rwanda. Sexual violations committed by Sierra Leone's Revolutionary United Front in Liberia, and raping sprees carried out by Liberian armed groups in the north-eastern regions of Sierra Leone followed similar patterns of sexual violations across national borders.

Although many of these wars have now come to a formal end and countries are undertaking the arduous task of rebuilding their infrastructure, institutions and communities after conflict, the end of hostilities has not put an end to the rampancy of sexual and gender based violence. Rather, as the focus moved from the battlefield to community sites, so too the profile of the main perpetrators of sexual and gender based violations shifted from rebels to husbands, neighbours, relatives and fellow civilians (Judy El-Bushra & Sahl, 2009).

2.7 Research Gap

From a review of the literature, the major gap is that few studies disempowerment on women disempowerment have been done in Monrovia, Liberia. Most studies conducted on women empowerment do not directly explain the relationship between domestic violence and women's disempowerment This study seeks to address the above gap and explore the impacts of domestic violence on the abused women as well as dis-empowerment that inhibit the violence disclosure. In addition, the study also aims to discover issues in relation to the women's needs and the support of domestic violence service providers.

The employment of qualitative interviews in the study enabled the researcher to obtain an in-depth exploration of the experiences of abused women as well as the professionals (i.e. counselors, social workers, directors of the shelter homes and refuge managers) who work with these women victims and survivors of domestic violence in this country in which the research took place.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter describes in detail how the study was organized and carried out. The chapter discusses the research design quantitative and qualitative, its rational, methods and the process of data collection. It also discusses the sampling procedures, ethical consideration and issues to do with reliability and validity. In addition the chapter discusses how data analysis was done

3.1 Research Design

The study used a sequential mixed method design in which both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection were used, The design used provide an appropriate integration of information on both qualitative and quantitative research design. The qualitative methods of investigation employed included in-depth interviews and Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). As argued by Miles and Herberman (1994) qualitative methods provides data that offers a source of well grounded, rich descriptions and explanations of process in identifiable contents. Quantitatively, a survey was used to obtain quantifiable data on demographic characteristics, forms of domestic violence, causes of domestic violence and impact of domestic violence on women's empowerment in West Point Township. The mixed design enables the collection of detailed information of both qualitative and quantitative to justify the study.

3.2 Study Area

West Point is a township of Liberian capital city of Monrovia located on peninsular which is between Atlanlatic Ocean and Mesurado and St Paul rivers. The distance for West Point township from Monrovia is approximately 3.1 Kilometers (source: liberia.places-in-the-world.com).

3.3 Study Population

According the Liberia Institute of Statistics and Geo-Information Service (LISGIS) (2008) Population and Housing Census, the population of West Point is approximately 75,000 people, out of which 40,500 were women and the remaining 34,500 were men (www.lisgis.net). It is one of most densely populated slums in Monrovia. However, the study targeted people of West Point Township for household questionnaire, focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

The population was therefore in 5 categories (34,500) for quantitative data, NGO officials who were (6) men representatives who were (5), politicians (5), local community members (20). It is one of most densely populated slums in Monrovia. However, the study targeted people of West Point Township for household questionnaire, focus group discussions and key informant interviews.

3.4 Sample Size and Sampling Procedures

3.4.1 Quantitative Sample

A sample of 70 women was determined following the Cochran's (1977) sampling technique out of the 40500 women population as shown in equation 1.1;

$$n = \frac{Z_{\alpha/2}^2 pq}{e^2} \dots\dots\dots 1.1$$

Where,

n = total sample size selected.

$Z_{\alpha/2}$ = level of significance (1.96).

p = probability of success (0.50).

q = (1- p) = probability of failure (0.50).

e =error margin due to non-responses (0.1148).

The sample of 70 respondents is hence computed as below;

$$n = \frac{1.96 * 1.96 * 0.5 * 0.5}{0.1148 * 0.1148} \dots\dots\dots 1.2$$

The sample population was therefore 70 women.

3.4.2 Qualitative Sample

Qualitatively 15 Key informant interview and FGDs were conducted.

Table 3.1: Qualitative Sample (Women and men in households)

Respondents	Methods	Sample population/target number	
The NGO officials (key informants)	Key informant interviews	5 men	1 Woman (Women of Hope)
Men representatives (key informants)	Key informant interviews	5 men	—
Politicians	Key informant interviews	5 men	—
Local Community Members	Focus Group Discussions	10 men	10 Women
Total		35 Men	21 Women

3.4.3 Response Rate:

The actual sample size consisted of 70 women. Questionnaires for different women respondents, key informant interviews and Focus Group Discussions were developed and used to generate data for this study. Out of 70 questionnaires administered for women respondents, 70 were given out, 55 were returned. This represents an 87% response rate, which is considered very good to make conclusions for the study. A 50% response rate is adequate, 60% good and above 70% rated very good. Table 3.2 presents the response rate on respondents' interviews.

Table 3.2: Response rate

Instruments	Total Number	Responded	Response rate
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Questionnaire survey for women respondents in households	70 Women	55 women	79%
Key informant interviews	15 men	15 Men	
	1 woman	1 Woman	
Focus Group Discussions	20 men	20men	
	20 Women	20 Women	
Total	126 (men and women)	111 (men and women)	

Source: Primary Data, 2017

3.5 Sampling Procedure

Simple random sampling technique were used to collect quantitative data about the domestic violence causes, effects as well as how it dis-empower women using questionnaires. Simple random sampling allowed the researcher to collect both qualitative and quantitative data. In-depth interviews were carried out among the key informants. Focus group discussions (FGDs) were also carried out with community members, all the respondents in the study were selected using simple random sampling and this gave change to all the respondents to be chosen.

3.6 Sources of Data

3.6.1 Primary Data

Primary data was collected through key informants interviews, focus group discussions and the questionnaires for the household survey to get the first hand information from the respondents.

3.6.2 Secondary Data

Secondary data refers to re-analyzing data that has already been collected for some other purposes other than the one at hand. The data in literature review was mostly obtained from various sources such as reports, text books, and internet sources, documentation and library.

3.7 Study Methods

A survey of 55 women was conducted in West Point Township, Monrovia as indicated in Table 3.1. In-depth interviews were also carried out with the key informants and Focus group discussions were also carried out with community members.

3.8 Research Instruments

According to Orodho (2005), research instruments are tools the research uses to collect data. Questionnaires were used and they contained both open and closed-ended questions to allow for collection of mainly quantitative data. Questionnaires were developed and used to determine the forms, causes of domestic violence and how it disempowers women. Questionnaires have the advantage of enabling the researcher to collect data from various people simultaneously. The other research tools that were utilized in this study included the following:

- I. **Key informant Interview guide:** Key informant interview guide was used for key informants such as NGO officials, men representatives and politicians.
- II. **Focus Group Discussion Guide:** An FGD guide was developed and used especially while collecting data from men.

The choice of these tools is because they provide an appropriate understanding of the state of affair of the situation clearly explaining the quantitative and non numerical facts that enabled grounding of the situation with facts.

3.9 Validity and Reliability of the Instruments

Content validity was ensured by subjecting the questionnaire on domestic violence and women's disempowerment to judgment by the content expert (supervisor and senior lecturers). The validity of the study was obtained through the questionnaire and FGD and Key Informant guides before actual field work to assess the clarity of questions and groups where necessary. These respondents were not included in the actual study. The purpose of pretesting was to refine the questionnaires and interview guides so that respondents would not have problems in answering the questions and recording data (Mitchell, 2010).

3.10 Data Gathering Procedures

Data gathering procedures were divided into three phases, these included before, during and after. The researcher followed these phases to reach to the conclusion of the data gathering procedures.

3.10.1 Before the Administration of the Questionnaires:

An introduction letter was obtained from the School of Post Graduate Studies and Research for the researcher to solicit approval to conduct the study from respective heads of public institutions and obtained approval form to collect data.

After approval, the researcher secured a list of the qualified respondents from the public institutions in charge and selected through systematic random sampling from the list to arrive at the minimum sample size. The respondents were given information by the researcher about the study and they were requested to sign the Informed Consent Form.

The researcher printed out more than enough questionnaires for distribution.

Four research assistants (2 males and 2 females) worked with the researcher in the data collection exercise as they were briefed in order to be consistent in administering the questionnaires.

3.10.2 During the administration of the questionnaires (Quantitative and qualitative):

In the process of collecting data, the researcher educated the respondents about the research and also informed them about the future use, benefits and outcomes of the research report. This was done by the researcher with the help of four people by distributing/administering the questionnaires to the respondents.

The respondents were requested to answer completely and not to leave any part of the questionnaires unanswered.

The researcher and assistants emphasized retrieval of the questionnaires within three days from the date of distribution.

On retrieval, all returned questionnaires were checked if all were answered.

3.10.3 After the Administration of the Questionnaires

After collecting the data from the field research the analysis of data was done. The researcher made sure she collected all the questionnaires from the respondents since the questionnaires (FGDs and KIIs guides) were vital in data analysis procedures and presentation. The data gathered from the survey was compiled, encoded into the computer and statistically analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS).

3.11 Data Analysis

Qualitative data which was collected from FGDs, interviews and data from open-ended questions were categorized, and coded and summarized. These data was later arranged in accordance to the stated objectives of the study and analyzed descriptively. In addition, qualitative data was analyzed using thematic method. The analysis was used to analyze the information from interview schedule. The content was organized as per themes drawn from study objectives. While some quantitative data from interview schedules was entered into spread sheet for error and consistence checkups, these data was then be exported to (SPSS). Descriptive statistics were used to analyze quantitative data by calculating frequencies and percentages that was presented using tables.

3.12 Ethical Considerations

To ensure that ethics in this study as well as utmost confidentiality for the respondents and the data provided by them, the following were maintained:

- (1) Coding of all questionnaires; (2) the respondents were requested to sign the consent form; (3) the researcher also got a clearance/introduction letter from the Kampala International University, School of Post Graduate Studies and Research as an approval to conduct the study from respective respondents; (4) findings were presented in a generalized manner for Confidentiality purposes; (5) Respondents' confidentiality was respected as they would not be forced to speak but they would participate in the discussion voluntarily and they were also assured that their responses would be treated as confidential.

3.13 Limitations of the Study

There was lack of adequate response from participants as some respondents were not willing to disclose their personal experience of domestic violence and feared to reveal information. This was

overcome by explaining to the respondents both women and men about the significance and purpose of the study as well as setting a favorable environment for the respondents to answer the questions freely. The researcher also presented a letter from the University explaining the purpose of the study hence assuring them of confidentiality.

The study was delayed in the data collection given a vast number of tools used and the fact that the study interacted with many respondents so to attain information from many categorized respondents in time was challenging.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter comprises of the findings of the study which are presented in line with the study objectives. It begins by describing the profile of the respondents followed by the forms of domestic violence in West Point Township, Monrovia, Liberia, causes of domestic violence and then finally discusses how domestic violence dis-empowers women.

4.2 Profile of Respondents

Respondents were asked to provide information regarding their gender, age, education level, marital status, occupation; religion and ethnicity; their responses were summarized using frequencies and percentage distributions as indicated in table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: Demographic Characteristic of respondents (n=55)

Category	Frequency	Percent
Sex		
Female	55	100
Age		
18-28	11	20
29-38 Years	8	15
39-49 Years	25	45
50 Years above	11	20
Education		
Never Attended	7	13
Primary	13	24
Secondary	20	36
Post Secondary	15	27
Occupation		
Fisher men	24	44
Civil Servant	16	29
Business Person	8	15
NGO Work	7	13
Religion		
Pentecostal	24	44
Catholic	14	25
Moslem	8	15
Protestant	6	11
Jehovah Witness	3	06
Marital Status		
Cohabiting	19	35
Married	21	38
Divorced	5	09
Separated	4	07
Widowed	6	11
Time of marriage or Cohabiting		
Once	12	22
Twice	14	26
3-5 Times	29	53
Causes of divorce		
Beating	8	50
Cheating	6	38
Chased	1	06
Frustration	1	06
Whether Partner used other partner		
Yes	12	22
No	18	33
Not sure	25	44

Source: Primary data, 2017

From table 4.2 the study was conducted from the 55 respondents who were females. This is because all the respondents in this case were females, this study on how domestic violence dis-empowers women in west point township-Monrovia, Liberia. Table 4.1 reveals that the majority of the respondents were in the age of 39-49years (45%), those aged 18-28 years (20%), 50 years and above (50%) of the respondents, 29-38years were (15%).

Table 4.2 further reveals that majority of the respondents were of secondary education (36%), post-secondary (27%), those for primary (24%) and those with never attended were 13% of the respondents. The study results also reveals that concerning the occupation of the respondents, the majority respondents were fisher men (44%), Civil Servant were (29%), business person (15%) while NGO work (13%) of the respondents. The results on religion was that Pentecostal were majority with 44% of the respondents, followed by the Catholics at 25% and Muslim (15%) while protestant (11%).

Concerning the marital status, the majority of respondents were married (38.2%), cohabiting (34.5%), divorced were (9%), widowed (11%) and separated were 7%. It was further established that the time for marriage and cohabiting were one (22%), twice were 26% and 3-5times in marriage were 29(53%). Regarding the cause of the divorce the beating caused according to the 50%, cheating (38%) and chased and frustration had 6%. The results also reveal that majority of the respondents (44%) argued that they are not sure that their partners have not been other partners outside marriage, 33% disagreed and 22% agreed that their partners have had extra marital relations.

4.3 Forms of domestic violence in West Point Township, Monrovia, Liberia

The respondents were asked the forms of domestic violence in West Point.

4.3.1 Experience with Domestic Violence.

The women with women were asked to state whether they experienced domestic violence. Others were simply observed and the results were presented in table 4.3.1 below.

Table 4.3.1: Experience of domestic violence

Experience of domestic violence		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	45	82
No	10	18
Total	55	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2017

The field findings presented in table 4.3.1 reveal that majority of the respondents admitted that they have ever experienced domestic violence (82%) of the respondents while those who had not experienced violence were 18%.

The focus group discussions also revealed that most men in west Point Township, Monrovia had experienced domestic violence.

Also most of the men who were consulted in the focus group discussion revealed that many of them had experienced domestic violence. The results point to the fact that men have had fair and staggering family relations since they got married

FGD, with the men in Fanti town, 8.8. 2017.

The results imply that the men in west point Monrovia also experience domestic violence in their way of life like their female counterparts.

4.3.2 Where women report domestic violence

Women who experience domestic violence were asked where they report the violence. The response attained from the women is presented in table 4.3.2 below.

Table 4.1.2: Where women report the domestic violence

where did you report it		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Police	8	15
Community Leader	12	22
Family Member	21	38
Elderly	10	18
No where	4	07
Total	55	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2017

The study results provided that the majority of the respondents report domestic violence to their family members (38%) Community Leaders had 22% of the respondents, others report to their elderly (18%), those who report to police (15%) and 7% go nowhere. The results reveal that domestic violence is reported to family members. There is limited reporting to the authorities.

The interview guide responses regarding the domestic violence among men also presented that they have always reported to relatives, few report to the authorities like the Police. The relatives or elders and community that we report to have nothing significant they do to my situation of domestic violence. We fear to report to Police due to further victimization by the partners

KII with Male representatives in Fanti town, 8.8.2017

The results imply that the domestic violence prevail among the men too though the state of the reporting for violence on them is limited for fear of losing respect and honor in public.

4.3.3 Forms of domestic violence among the women in West Point Township, Monrovia

These seek to establish the forms of domestic violence among the women in West Point Township, Monrovia. The data collected can be presented as in table 4.3.3 below.

Table 4.3.3: Forms of domestic violence among the women in West Point Township, Monrovia.

Forms of violence		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Beating	13	24
Pushing	6	11
Verbal abuse	11	20
Stalking	4	7
Rape	2	4
Marital Rape	2	4
Sexual assault	3	6
Economic	3	6
Isolation	2	4
abandonment	9	17
Total	55	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2017

The study results on the forms of domestic violence among the women in West Point Township, Monrovia. The results indicate that beating constituted that highest domestic violence among the women (24%) while verbal abuse followed with 20%, 16% of the women experienced abandonment, Pushing had 11% of the respondents among forms. The results reveal that there exist the different forms of domestic violence among the women in West Point Township.

The data collected from the respondents also provided that some of the forms of domestic violence in West Point Township, Monrovia including verbal abuse, physical violence especially beating, economic violence, isolation and abandonment. From the findings it was noted that, men are also victims of domestic violence in West Point township Monrovia, Liberia.

KII with politicians and Men representatives, 15.08.2017

It was noted by respondents that domestic violence was a wide problem as it was frequently occurring in Monrovia, Liberia and it affects families and households' members as well as the community at large. Basing on the field findings physical violence was the most common form of domestic violence experienced by men also in West Point Township.

The domestic violence exist in the form of beating, torture, threats, insults and even killings especially on the men who have existed on the means of the response rate attained.

KII with JPC Official, 15.08.2017.

The study results reveal that the state of the domestic violence is high in both men and women, it exist in the form of victimization and has highly affected the people's ways of life, the results reveal that violence is in different forms.

4.3.4 Whether domestic violence is a problem

The study results on the data collected on whether domestic violence is a problem provided according to the results attained are presented as below.

Table 4.3.4: Responses on whether domestic violence is a problem

Whether domestic violence is a problem		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	47	85
No	8	15
Total	55	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2017

The study findings in table 4.3.4 on whether domestic violence is a problem show that a large majority respondents argued that domestic violence is a problem (85% of the respondents) while 15% of the respondents disagreed. The results imply that the domestic violence is a key problem to the people.

The domestic violence is a problem because it has caused family separations, divorce and poor children growth among the children. Domestic violence among the women is a key cause of poverty cause the people of (man and woman can't settle for any meaningful development.

4.3.5 Encouragement of Domestic Violence Victims

This seeks to establish whether the respondents had encouraged a domestic violence victim.

The results from the findings are presented as below.

Table 4.3.5: Whether you have ever encouraged a domestic violence victim

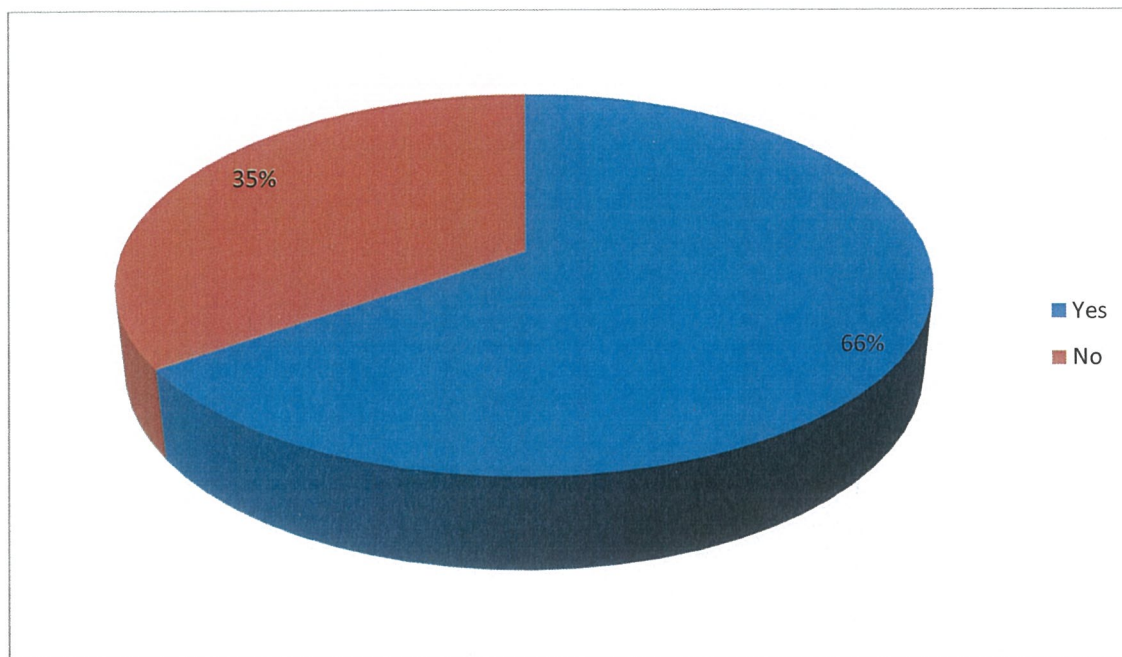
Whether you ever encouraged domestic violence victim		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	30	55
No	25	45
Total	55	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2017

From the table 4.3.5, the majority respondents reveal that the majority of the respondents 55% agreed to have encouraged the victims of domestic violence; the other 44% did not encourage any victim. The results reveal that the majority responses point to the fact that many have encouraged violence victims though a reasonable number did not. The study results reveal that experience with the victims of violence was worse with some threatening divorce, others harming the perpetrators and many others wanting to kill themselves.

4.3.6 Threatens or abuse in the household

Figure 4.3.6: Presence of threatened or abused in any way in your household



Source: Primary data, 2017

The study results from the figure 4.3.6 reveal that 66% respondents had been ever threatened while those of 35% of the respondents did not receive threats. The study results further show that the several women receive threats on their life in the family a sign of high prevalence of domestic violence.

4.3.7 Responses on the persons that threaten women

In this regard, the researcher set to establish the persons who threaten the women, the results attained are presented in table 4.3.7 below.

Table 4.3.7: Show responses on the persons that threaten women

who threatened or abused you		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Husband	35	63.6
Male child	11	20.0
Father	6	10.9
Mother	3	5.5
Total	55	100.0

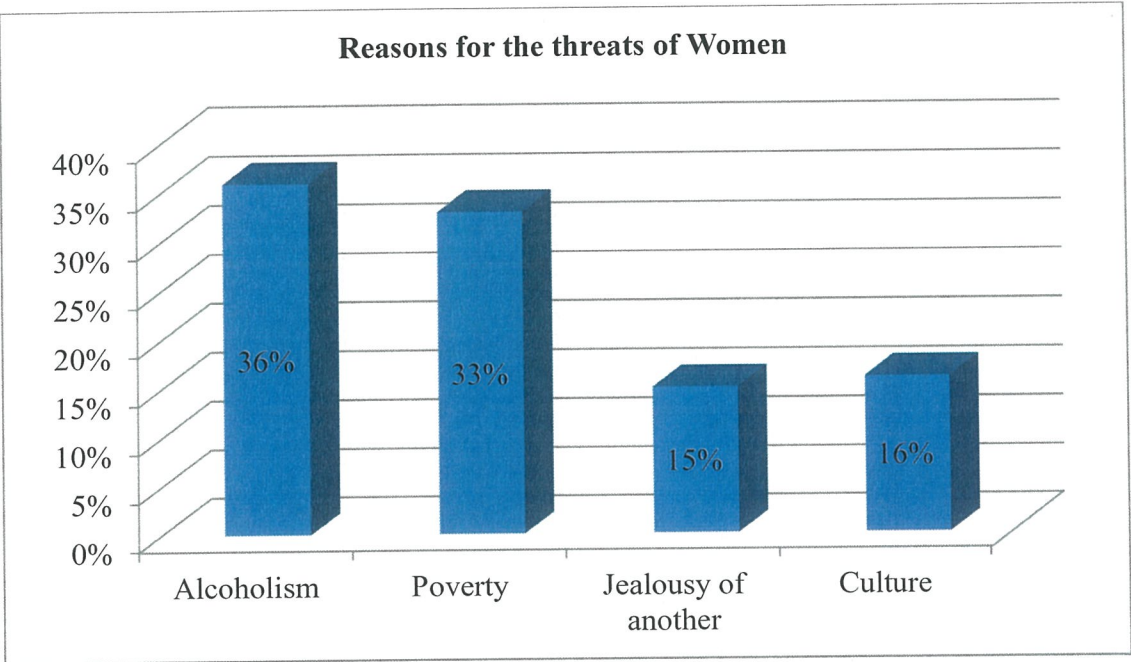
Source: Primary data, 2017

The study results in the table above reveal that the most women were threatened by the husbands (64% of the respondents), the male children threatened by 20% while the father by 11% of the respondents, the mothers had 6% of the respondents. The results reveal that the male or husbands are the key perpetrators of domestic violence on women.

4.3.8 Reasons for the threats on women

These seek to answer the questions on reasons for the threats or abuse on the women, the table collected is presented in table 4.3.8 below.

Figure 4.3.8: Reasons for the threats on women



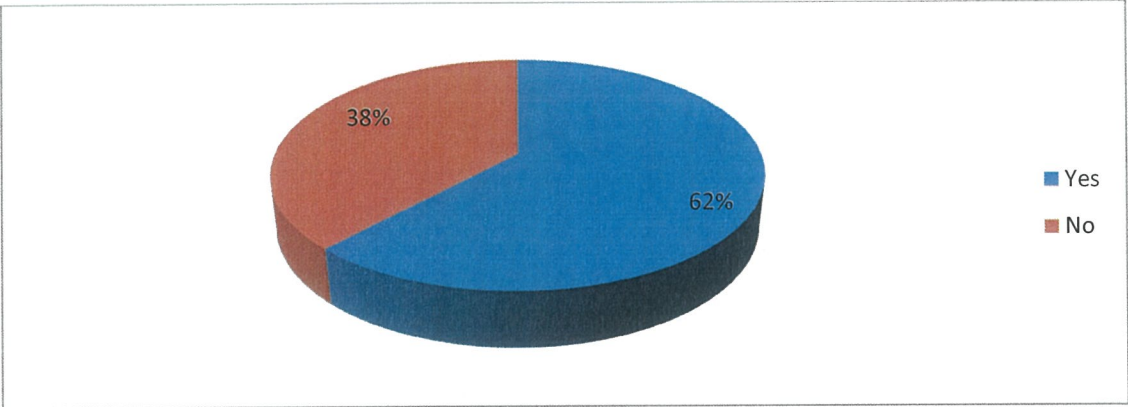
Source: Primary data, 2017

The results shows that alcoholism was the greatest cause of women abuse or threats (36%) of the respondents, poverty had 33% of the respondents while jealousy of another had 15% of the respondents and culture accounted for 17% of the responses. The results therefore reveal that alcohol and poverty account for a highest contribution of the women threats.

4.3.9: Whether perpetrators of Domestic violence should be punished

The respondents were asked their views on whether the perpetrators of domestic violence should be punished.

Figure 4.3.9: Whether perpetrators of Domestic violence should be punished



Source: Primary data, 2017

The study findings presented in figure 4.3.9 show that majority respondents agreed that violence should be punished according to the 62% of the respondents, the reason for the punishments was because these cause harm, stress and a poor psychological environment for the women. The study results further reveal that the majority respondents seek for punishments to the perpetrators of domestic violence.

4.4 Causes of domestic violence in West Point Township Monrovia, Liberia.

The second research objective was to determine the causes of domestic violence in West Point Township Monrovia, Liberia. The study results collected is presented as per the questions set in regard to the issues as presented below.

4.4.1 Causes of domestic violence in West Point Township Monrovia, Liberia

The respondents first were asked the causes of domestic violence in West Point township Monrovia, Liberia and the results are presented in the table 4.4 below

Table 4.4.1: Causes of domestic violence in West Point Township Monrovia, Liberia

Causes of domestic violence		
Response	Frequency	Valid Percent
Parenting	4	07
Alcoholism	8	15
Poverty	30	55
Culture beliefs	13	24
Total	55	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2017

The study findings in Table 4.4.1 regarding the causes of domestic violence in West Point Township Monrovia, Liberia reveal that the major of domestic violence amongst the respondents was poverty (55%) of the respondents while cultural beliefs followed with 24% of the respondents, alcoholism had 15% of the respondents while the parenting had 7% of the respondents. The results reveal that poverty accounted for the greatest degree of domestic violence though other factors interplay with poverty to cause domestic violence.

The data collected through the Key informant interview and the Focus group discussion is presented below.

The causes of domestic violence include poverty, cultural beliefs, poor communication, cheating on the partners, misunderstandings among the partners and alcohol including drug abuse by some partners in the relationship. The study results presented indicate that the domestic violence is caused by a series of factors.

Poverty is a cause of domestic violence in Liberia, Some men can't also afford to access basic needs and they depend on their wives or female partners for survival. Some women end up abusing men through domestic violence since some women are source of income in their households thus violating men's rights in one way or the other. furthermore, society perceive domestic violence as part of life and some respondents would be against men victims that they deserve to be violated and they should be treated in such a way in their communities because in most cases men are the ones who are usually violating their women's rights.

FGD with Women of Fanti Town, 21.08.2017

The respondents provided that poor communication or misunderstandings in the family led to domestic violence. In addition, respondents noted that due to jealousy among one of the partners like suspicion of being unfaithful and committing adultery, couples end up fighting, lose trust from each other and one of them would experience or suffer from violence.

KII with JPC Officials, 21.08.2017

Alcoholism especially among the men though prevailing on all the genders, cheating on their wives (adultery) and failure to provide financial support to women cause domestic violence. The presence of drugs and their usage in the families have highly caused the domestic violence amongst the women.

KII with West Point commissioners, 21.08.2017

Furthermore domestic violence is brought by the poor children parenting; these children who are brought up in families with poor child up bringing or experienced domestic violence have also behaved in the similar manners.

FGD with Women of Fanti town, 21.08.2017

The results reveal that the fundamental cause of domestic violence among the women was poverty the results of the domestic violence, furthermore the cultural beliefs were also seen to fuel domestic violence among the women. The results imply that a series of the causes are available for causing domestic violence.

The study also sought to establish the mechanism for curbing the domestic violence, the need for establishing the policy on reporting the domestic violence, legislate on the provisions of the punishments to the people. The study results further reveal that there is need for apprehending the culprits to domestic violence among the women. It is also required that the domestic violence need to be addressed through practical business environment that support the work.

4.5 Influence of domestic violence on women dis-empowerment in West Point Township, Monrovia

This study examined how domestic violence dis-empowers women in West Point Township. The women were asked whether their domestic violence dis-empowers women are presented below.

4.5.1 Psycho-social effects of domestic violence on the survivors/victims

Here the respondents were asked to mention the psycho-social effects of domestic violence on the survivors/victims, the data collected from the field responses are presented below.

The victims did not have any diagnosed mental disorder before the present study. Concerning the form of violence that they had gone through, the victims had suffered psychological abuse, some have suffered physical abuse and the sexual abuse, while some of the victims have suffered all the above forms of violence. As arises from the preliminary results of our research, the victims presented symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder while. Regarding to the state of their psychosomatic health, some of victims has declared that during the last two weeks they felt worse than usual. More specifically, feels a physical discomfort, some victims presents reduction in functionalism while seems to have stress symptoms. Finally victims show symptoms of depressions. By referring to the duration of abuse, victims declared that had suffered violence during the last months.

4.5.2 Whether domestic violence affect parent-children relationship in your household.

The respondents were asked whether domestic violence affect parent-children relationship in your household and the results are presented in the table 4.5.2 below.

Table 4.5.2: Whether domestic violence affects parent-children relationship in households

Does domestic violence affect parent-children relationship		
Responses	Frequency	Percent
Yes	37	67
Not Sure	18	33
Total	55	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2017

The study findings on whether domestic violence affects parent-children relationship in your household. The results reveal that majority of the respondents agreed with violence affecting the parent children relationship (67%) of the respondents while 33% of the respondents were not sure. The study results imply that the domestic violence negatively affect the parent children relationships.

The findings further reveal that both parents are highly affected by the domestic violence though the female parents are more affected. Domestic violence lead to divorce that in most cases have made us (women) leave the homes and therefore leave the children under the single care of their fathers, these therefore reduce the relationship between the mother parents and their children.

4.5.3 How Domestic Violence Affect Women

The women argued that domestic violence has negatively affected the house hold. The income generating capacity is reduced, the values of the work is reduced hence limited business. Lack of decision making powers among women: It was found out that because of domestic violence; women may not effectively make decisions and influence decision making processes at household level since they develop fear for their husbands. Death of victims and perpetrators: Domestic violence problem may even lead to death of people especially women there by leading to single headed households especially when one of the spouses dies. Respondents also noted that violence in a big problem as rights of people especially women are violated/not respected and perpetrators thought that violence is the only way out.

Women victims feel ashamed before their husbands and children due to domestic violence thus a problem to the family and community at large.

The women also provided that “Domestic violence has caused family breakdown creation of Single headed households due to divorce and separation. Conflict between couples increase and there would be no confidentiality in the household because of domestic violence. In such a situation, women suffer a lot from domestic violence than their male counterparts especially in terms of maintaining the standards of living because when they separate from husbands they may not go with any property to support themselves.”

The women respondents also provided that domestic violence causes disability among victims for example through poor eye sight, cutting depending on the type of violence. A person with poor eye sight as a result of domestic violence may not do anything in her life thus disempowered. Through physical and other forms of domestic violence like rape, some victims become disabled there by leading to disempowerment especially women as their condition may not allow them to perform some work or contribute to their wellbeing effectively. In addition, some survivors of domestic violence because of disability they are neglected by the community and these sometimes become homeless and this condition doesn't not favor them to support themselves socially and economically.

The study findings further on the on how domestic violence affects self-esteem. The results reveal that women survivors of domestic violence develop negative self-esteem (low self-esteem) for instance they get worries and this creates fear, stress, isolation and low self-esteem as well as loss of patience/endurance. Lack self-esteem through inability/fear to make decisions, hopelessness, being impatient, and no persistence. When women attempt to make decisions, they get challenged with their husbands and this creates more problems in the household and in turn occurrence of domestic violence.

The study results reveal that domestic violence has a negative bearing on the households of the performance in terms of wealth creation. The results also imply that domestic violence reduces women self-esteem.

4.5.4 Domestic Violence and Dependence

Here the researcher set to investigate whether domestic violence affects dependence among the respondents. The data collected was presented as below 4.5.4.

Table 4.5.4: Whether domestic violence affect dependence

Domestic violence		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	38	69
No	17	31
Total	55	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2017

The study findings from the field reveal that 69% of the respondents agreed that domestic violence affect the dependence of the women, though 31% contend that it does not affect, never the less domestic violence has had a high bearing on the dependence and it causes dependence of the women.

The respondents argued that domestic violence causes negative effects on women's economic independence through decline in income, loss of jobs, unemployment, lack of access to and control over resources or property ownership. Women are denied all the privileges as well as rights to access and control production resources especially through economic violence and even their incomes is sometimes controlled by their male counterparts thus disempowerment. Domestic violence results into weakening of career and skills; no concentration at work as there would be no peace of mind thus leading to poor work performance; unemployment among women; lack of basic needs as women depend on men and when men choose not to provide for them women suffer the consequences. In addition women are stopped by their husbands from doing work or pursuing employment opportunities due to violence. Women are looked at as just caretakers and dependants on male counterparts. Domestic violence leads to closing or stopping of business thus low productivity by victims especially women. Poor health due to violence affects individual performance .on their jobs respectively.

Poor business performance and skills result to collapse of business and, women's inability to work especially when they got sick because of physical violence like beating. Domestic Violence affects

women's income through reduction in their money earnings as some men decide to control women's income.

4.5.5 How Domestic violence affect self-confidence and Job

Survivors of domestic violence experience lack of self-confidence. These women fear that "they cannot survive without their husbands or male counterparts". This increases women's dependency on men/their partners including more vulnerability to domestic violence. Women develop fear about their male counterparts including fear to ask for or access to basic needs of life as well as services. Domestic violence leads to loss of confidence in a spouse (man), fear to take own decisions and choices as well as women's failure to express themselves and to make right decisions and opinions.

The women argued that domestic violence affects women's contribution to work through inability to focus or concentrate on the job thereby leading to poor performance at workplace, low productivity and negative impacts on individual career as they may not be promoted due to poor performance of their roles and responsibilities when suffer from domestic violence.

The results presented reveal that domestic violence negatively affects self-confidence and job opportunities for the women. The presence of the violence is therefore an impediment to the employment creation in the organization.

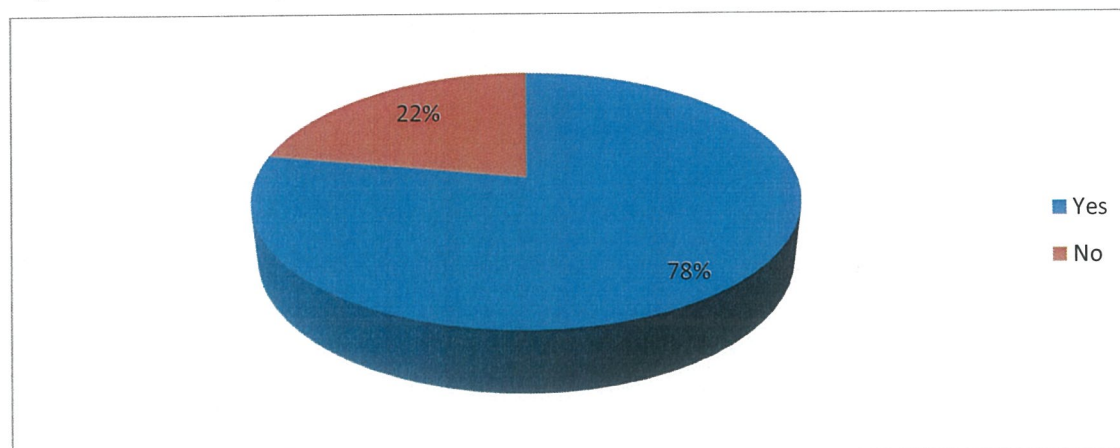
4.5.6 Trauma and domestic violence

In this study the women were asked whether they felt traumatized by the violence from their male counter parts as in figure 4.5.6.

4.5.6 Trauma and domestic violence

In this study the women were asked whether they felt traumatized by the violence from their male counter parts as in figure 4.5.6.

Figure 4.5.6 Showing whether the women were traumatized by violence



Source: Primary data, 2017

The study findings in figure 4.5.6 Show responses on whether women are ever felt traumatized as a result of being abused. The responses were that majority findings were that 78% of the respondents agreed while 22% of the respondents. The results imply that domestic violence causes trauma. The results reveal that the presence of trauma is prevalent amongst the people of Monrovia.

Lack of peace of mind when they experience violence and with this, women's health is negatively affected. Perpetrators of domestic violence abuse women without genuine reasons and majority of women do not live in peace and are insecure because of violence from their male counterparts.

4.5.7: Shows responses on whether the women have experienced Stigma

Table 4.5.7: Shows responses on whether the women have experienced Stigma

Have you ever experience stigma		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	45	82
No	10	18
Total	55	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2017

The study findings in table4.5.6 on whether the women have experienced Stigma, the majority of the respondents (82%) agreed that they experience stigma through domestic violence though 18% of the respondents disagreed. Never the less the responses reveal that the women are stigmatized meaning that sigma arise from domestic violence. The respondents also reveal that domestic

violence impact on women negatively through bad feelings and stress. Some forms of domestic violence such as beating, pushing, rape are painful and also have emotional and psychological effects on the victims of violence.

The respondents revealed that in order to solve domestic violence, there is need to conduct awareness on the forms and consequences of domestic violence. Educate men on the effects of domestic violence as well as awareness creation on women's rights and the need to protect women, there is need to break the culture of silence so as to end the impunity of domestic violence. Engage men as change agents in combating domestic violence, Perpetrators of domestic violence should be held accountable. There is need to avoid compromising the incident or avoid handling violence incidents as a family matter. Victims of domestic violence should always report to leaders/responsible authorities as well as find legal services in settling DV issues.

4.5.7 Community involvement in combating domestic violence

Table 4.5.7: Community involved in combating domestic violence

your community is involved in combating domestic violence		
Response	Frequency	Percent
Local leaders	20	36
NGOs	14	26
MPs	12	22
LNP	9	16
Total	55	100.0

Source: Primary data, 2017

The study findings in table 4.5.7 on the community involved in combating domestic violence reveal that majority respondents were local leaders 36%, NGOs followed with 26% of the respondents while MPs had 22% and the LNP had 16 % of the respondents. The study results reveal that on average there are several leaders involved in combating the domestic violence among the women.

In regard to the Key informant interview and focus group discussion in regard to how domestic violence disempower men in West Point Township, Monrovia, Liberia.

The responses attained from the respondents on how domestic violence dis-empower the men in West Point Township in Monrovia. The study responses from the interview guide and the focus group discussion guide are presented.

Domestic violence makes men less focused and don't concentrate on the work activities because of low self-esteem caused by the frustrations occasioned by domestic violence. The men can look at themselves as useless in the society given the battering that they go through in the violence put to them by the community.

KII with Men of Fanti town, 25.08.2017

Low self confidence among the men because of domestic violence, men may also not effectively make decisions and influence decision making processes at household level since they develop fear for their wives. Domestic violence reduces the confidence that the men have in regard to the decision making in their families.

FGD with Men of Fanti town, 25.08.2017

Domestic violence causes negative effects on men's economic independence through decline in income, loss of jobs, lack of access to and control over resources or property ownership. Men are denied some of the privileges as well as rights to access and control production resources especially through economic violence and even their incomes are sometimes controlled by their female counterparts thus disempowerment. Domestic violence results into weakening of career and skills; no concentration at work as there would be no peace of mind thus leading to poor work performance; unemployment among men; lack of basic needs as men depend on women and when women choose not to provide for them men suffer the consequences.

KII with Fanti town community chairman, 25.08.2017

Domestic violence leads to stigma as violence against men too. Some society members tell victims of violence words like "it's your fault" noted by one of the respondents. This is very discouraging and disempowering to survivors of domestic violence. Therefore, survivors of domestic violence experience stigma through various ways as one of the respondents Louis noted "I felt stigmatized through name calling/nick names

FGD with Men in Fanti town, 25.08.2017

Domestic violence negatively affects the working of the men through inability to focus or concentrate on the job thereby leading to poor performance at workplace, low productivity and negative impacts on individual career as they may not be promoted

due to poor performance of their roles and responsibilities when suffer from domestic violence.

KII with Women of Hope, 25.08.2017

Domestic violence account for a low level of family growth especially among the girl children. It makes the growth of the girl children in the frustration manner given that they will be scared that they too will face the same environment like the one their mothers under go, to this extent some of them fail to get married because of fearing to undergo the negative features of domestic violence. The presence of domestic violence has caused the reduction in the values of the upcoming children especially the girls, through providing hindrances to the accessibility of the girl child education and other special children requirements that are fundamental for proper children growth, these dis-empower the women at their infancy and make them more vulnerable than the real direct victims of domestic violence.

KII with SGBV Unit, 25.08.2017

The key responses Interview from focus group regarding how domestic violence dis-empower men. The respondents argued that domestic violence dis-empowers men in various ways including low self-esteem, dependence, low skills, low self-confidence, and inability to solve problems, trauma, stigma, and job loss. The presence of domestic violence cause high degree of dis-empowerment among the men as they lose their jobs, skills, suffer from trauma, stigma, low self-confidence and cause women dependence on their families and even the perpetrators of the domestic violence themselves as living on them as dependent.

Regarding the challenges men face when trying to access justice services include fear of future victimization by the wives, the society hardships such as culture that restrict the development mix of the reporting the violence cases on the domestic violence. There is restricted access to the justice due to limited access to the legal and financial resources that could support them in accessing the work values for the development avenues. The presence of the hindrances to accessing the justice provide for lessons on the need for addressing the vice of domestic violence, having a proper legislation against the vice of domestic violence in the country, empowering the local government to have appropriate and a supportive environment for controlling the vice of domestic violence.

KII with West Point Commissioner, 25.08.2017

The respondents also provided for the need of policy intervention into the vice of domestic violence through proper legislation, establishing cultural supports through the cultural leaders since the culture was seen as an impediment to addressing domestic violence. The means of addressing poverty through having an instrument for creation of income generating activities to the community that can block the dependence gaps between the women and the men. There is adequate need appending the perpetrators of the domestic violence as means to instill fear into those that cause domestic violence.

FGD with Women in Vai Town, 25.08.2017

All in all, the challenge in regard to the fighting domestic violence is limited policy implementations and the cultural barriers that restrict the prevention of domestic violence against the women..

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This is the last chapter of the research, it consists of discussion the findings, conclusions and recommendations. The discussion is made with reference to other similar works done in previous

studies. The chapter also provides the conclusion which is the basis of the recommendations finally areas that are potential grounds for further area presented.

5.2 Discussions of Findings

This section was further organized into three subsections with respect to the research objectives that guided the study.

5.2.1 Profile of Respondents

The study was conducted from 55 respondents who were females. This is because all the respondents in this case were females, the study also focus on how domestic violence disempowers women in west point township-Monrovia, Liberia. The respondents were from all the age groups majority in above (50%) of the respondents, 39-49years followed by 18-28 years (20%), then 50 years and 29-38years were. The education had that secondary education had most respondents, post-secondary, those for primary and those with never attended. The occupation of the respondents was that fisher men were majority followed by civil Servants followed by business person while NGO work. The results on religion was that Pentecostal were majority with followed by the Catholics followed and Muslims followed while protestant. Concerning the marital status, the majority respondents were married, cohabiting followed by divorced were, widowed and separated.

5.2.2 Forms of domestic violence in West Point Township, Monrovia

The study findings on the forms of domestic violence reveal that there exist several forms of domestic violence in West Point Township. The results indicate that beating constituted that highest response on domestic violence with 24%, verbal abuse followed, then abandonment, pushing, stalking, sexual assault and economic violence while Rape, marital rape and isolation followed as forms violence. The study results attained are in agreement with the previous studies such as those of Hamel (2007) argued that physical abuse in form of beating is prevalent in the countries and has a bearing on the women, these facts are in agreement with Hanson (2005) who argued that psychological abuse or mental abuse can include humiliating the victim privately or publicly, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information from the victim, deliberately doing something to make the victim feel diminished or embarrassed, isolating the

victim from friends and family, implicitly blackmailing. Emotional abuse can include verbal abuse and is defined as any behavior that threatens, intimidates, undermines the victim's self-worth or self-esteem, or controls the victim's freedom. This can include threatening the victim with injury or harm, telling the victim that they will be killed if they ever leave the relationship and public humiliation. In the same line Helton (2011) argued that through threatening a person can blatantly say they will harm you in any way and will also be considered as abuse. It may include profanity but can occur with or without the use of expletives. Verbal abuse may include aggressive actions such as name-calling, blaming, ridicule, disrespect, and criticism, but there are also less obviously aggressive forms of verbal abuse.

5.2.3 Causes of domestic violence in West Point Township, Monrovia

The study findings established that domestic violence in West Point Township, Monrovia is caused by a series of factors. The major cause of domestic violence was poverty 54.5% of the respondents, cultural beliefs, alcoholism and parenting. The study findings are in agreement with previous studies that Jackson (2007) argued that regarding what causes one individual to act violently towards an intimate partner or family member there is also growing concern around apparent intergenerational cycles of domestic violence. In Australia where it has been identified that as many as 75% of all victims of domestic violence are children Domestic violence services such as Sunny kids are beginning to focus their attention on children who have been exposed to domestic violence caused by poverty. Even Pollard (2004) argued that Bipolar disorder, schizophrenia, drug abuse, alcoholism and poor impulse control are also risk factors. It is estimated that at least one-third of all abusers have some type of mental illness.

Roberts (2007) contend that domestic violence occurs due to jealousy when one partner is either suspected of being unfaithful or is planning to leave the relationship. It can also be seen in a situation where one partner is doing better than the other. For example: the woman being more successful than the wife. An evolutionary psychology explanation of such cases of domestic violence against a woman is that they represent male attempts to control female reproduction and ensure sexual exclusivity through violence or the threat of violence.

5.2.4 How domestic violence disempowered women in West Point Monrovia

Domestic violence dis-empowered women in various ways including low self-esteem, dependence, low skills, low self-confidence, and inability to solve problems, trauma, stigma, and job loss. The presence of domestic violence cause high degree of dis-empowers women and has reduced their means to ownership of resources. The study findings are in line with the previous studies Dutton et al, (2003) who argued that the consequences of domestic violence to the individual who is abused, the people surrounding them, as well as the community as a whole. It was found that negative impacts of abusive relationships range from physical impairments to social isolation as well as the deterioration of psychological well-being.

WHO (2005) argued that the international-scale research aimed to estimate the prevalence of various types of violence perpetrated by male partners such as physical, sexual and emotional abuse with reference to the women's health outcomes. Although the study has been supported with a large data set coming from various countries, the main weakness of the study is the failure to study male partners' accounts of violence in particular. Even Murray Straus (2007) explored some of these problems, and he outlined several processes by which the data have been distorted by researchers. These processes include direct suppression of evidence, manipulating survey research questions to avoid unwanted data, selective and biased citations, misinterpreting or over interpreting data to acquire the desired conclusion, manufacturing the appearance of evidence through repeated citation, obstructing the publication or funding of potentially contradictory research, and finally, harassment, threats, and penalties against researchers who produce contrary evidence.

Nicola Graham-Kevan (2002) argued that the spark for Straus' commentary concurred with Straus' conclusions and noted that another tool used to suppress evidence is the manipulation of numerical and statistical data to distort the public presentation of domestic violence research.

5.2 Conclusions

The study set to investigate how the domestic violence dis-empowers women in West Point Monrovia. It can be concluded that domestic violence exists in different forms in west point with the major form being beating, verbal abuse, abandonment, economic violence and sexual assault that have existed in the forms of occurrence. Domestic violence is caused by several factors but poverty and culture barriers are most paramount in Monrovia. The study further concludes that domestic violence dis-empowers the women by highly creating dependency on the family and husbands, stigma, trauma, loss of self-confidence and loss of employment. Domestic violence therefore dis-empowers the women in terms of physical, psychological, economical and social victimizations and this call for an approach to reducing the negative impact on the women.

5.4 Recommendations based on the study findings

Based on the findings, it is recommended that:-

- On the form of domestic violence, the study recommends that house hold interventions into the family management be undertaken secondly there is need for apprehension of the culprits of domestic violence through improving the reporting mechanism of the victims of domestic violence. The cultural institutions need to be educated to sensitize the communities on the hurdles affiliated with beating on physical injury to the partners through sensitization of the people on behavior and treatment of partners in the relationships.
- On the causes of domestic violence, the study establishes that poverty and culture are the key causes. The study therefore recommends that there is need to address poverty as a major cause of economic empowerment initiatives so that women become economically independent instead of depending on their male partners. This can be done through empowering the women with income generating activities to reduce their dependence on agriculture and their husbands for money. Culture is not static and some of the norms and beliefs that impact on women negatively through domestic violence need to be discouraged from west point township communities through sensitization activities. Perpetrators need to be punished to ensure personal safety and future protection of the offenders, and also

prevent the offence from being repeated by the culprit through continuing violation of other people's rights. This should make the offender take the responsibility for his/her actions and serve as a deterrent to the perpetrator.

- On how domestic violence dis-empowers women, the study recommends that women form being abused should be empowered and educated about their rights and their protection of human rights and communities should be sensitized that women's rights is every one's responsibility. Government and other stakeholders should sensitize communities about the importance or value of women to reduce on the violation of their rights through domestic violence. Government should enforce the law on domestic violence in order to save women. Legal steps should be taken against the perpetrators and serious punishments should be given to perpetrators. There is need to avoid compromising the incident or avoid handling violence incidents as a family matter.

5.5 Suggestions for further Research

- This study can be replicated in other parts of Liberia to give a reflection of the whole country on domestic violence and women disempowerment especially on how it disempowers women in various ways. This will ensure the need and call on every one's responsibility to prevent and respond to domestic violence.
- A study on law enforcement on domestic violence at different levels in Liberia should be carried out. This would provide a clear picture on whether different women report cases of domestic violence and whether stakeholders are responding to domestic violence.
- Further study on poverty and cultural traditions on domestic violence occurrence among the women in Monrovia, Liberia.

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APPENDIX 1: RESEARCH TOOLS

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR HOUSEHOLD MEMBERS

Questionnaire for Domestic violence and women disempowerment

Dear Respondent,

I am Sophia Wilson, Reg No: 1162-06286-04540 a student of the Kampala International University. I am currently carrying out a study for the purpose of writing a dissertation as a requirement for the award of Masters of conflict resolution and peace building at Kampala International University. My topic of the study is Domestic violence and women's disempowerment in West Point Township Monrovia Liberia. You have been selected to participate in the study due the importance of your information in the study. The information you provide will only be used for the purpose of this study and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. I kindly request you to answer the questions fully and honestly.

Thank you!

Section A: Demographic characteristics of respondents

For the questions in this section, please answer by ticking the box representing the most appropriate response for you.

NO.	QUESTION	RESPONSE
A1	Name of the respondent
A2	Sex : Male Female
A3	How old are you? (years)
A4	What is your highest level of education attained?	(1) Never attended (2) Primary (3) Secondary (4) Post-secondary

A5	What is your main occupation?	(1) No Business (2) Business person (3) Civil servants (4) Others(please specify)
A6	What is your religion affiliation?	(1) Catholic (2) Muslim (3) Protestant (4) Pentecostal (5) African Tradition (6) Jehovah's Witness (7) Others(specify)
A7	What is your marital status?	(1) Cohabiting (2) Married (3) Divorced (4) Separated (5) Widowed (6) Widower
A8	If married or cohabiting, how many times have you been married or cohabited?	(1) Once (2) Twice (3) More than twice (specify).....
A9	If separated or divorced, what was the main cause for the break up?	(1) Beating (2) Cheating (3) Chased by spouse (4) Others (specify)
A10	Do you have any idea whether your husband/partner has/used to have other wives?	(1) Yes (2) No (3) Not sure
A11	If you knew, how many were they?	(1) One (2) Two (3) More than two (specify).....

SECTION B:Forms of Domestic Violence

B1. Have you ever experienced domestic violence?

1. Yes
2. NO

B2. If yes in B1.above , where did you report it?

- (a) Police
- (b) Community leader
- (c) Family members
- (d) Elderly
- (e) Others (specify)

B3. Which form of violence did you experience?(Tick more than one)

- (a) Beating
- (b) Pushing
- (c) Verbal abuse
- (d) Stalking
- (e) Rape
- (f) Marital Rape
- (g) Sexual assault
- (h) Economic
- (i) Isolation
- (j) abandonment
- (k) Others (Specify)

B4 Do you think domestic violence is a problem in your household / family?

1. Yes
2. No

B5. If yes , why do you think it is a problem?

B6. Have you ever seen /encountered any victim of domestic violence in your community?

- 1 .Yes
- 2 No

B7. If yes, what was your experience with this victim that you saw / encounter?

B8.. Have you ever been threatened or abused in any way in your household?

1 .Yes

2. No

B9. If yes (in B7), who threatened or abused you in your household?

(a) Husband

(b) Male child

(c) Father

(d) Mother

(e) Others specify

B10. Why do you think you were threatened or abused in your household?

(a) Alcoholism

(b) Poverty

(c) Jealousy of another spouse

(d) Culture

(e) Others specify

B11 . Do you think the perpetrators of Domestic violence should be punished?

1. Yes

3 . No

B12. If yes, Give reasons.....

SECTION C: Causes of Domestic Violence

C1. What do you think are the causes of domestic violence in your area/community? (Tick more than one)

- (a) Parenting
- (b) Alcoholism
- (c) Poverty
- (d) Culture beliefs
- (e) Others (Specify)

C2. What can be done to combat domestic violence?

SECTION D: Domestic Violence and Disempowerment of Women

D1. What do you think are the psycho-social effects of domestic violence on the survivors/victims?

D2. Does domestic violence affect parent-children relationship in your household / family?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

D3. If yes which parents have their relationship with their children affected as the result of Domestic violence in your household

D4. If yes, how does Domestic violence affect parents, child relationship in your household / family

D5. How does domestic violence affect you in your household?

D6. (For those who have ever experienced Domestic violence) Has the Domestic violence you ever experienced affected your self-esteem?

D7. If yes, how did domestic violence affect your self-esteem?

D8. As a victim of Domestic violence, has it ever affected your dependence?

- 1. Yes
- 2. No

D9. If yes how did domestic violence affect your dependence?

D10. As a victim of Domestic violence, how did it affect

(a) your Self-confidence?.....

(b) Job or work or skills

D11. Have you ever felt traumatized as a result of being abused / being a victim of Domestic violence?

1 .Yes

2. No

D12. If yes, how were you traumatized?

D13 ., As a victim of domestic violence , have you ever experience stigma?

1. Yes

2. No

D14. If yes how were you stigmatized

D15. what do you think can be the possible solutions to the problem of domestic violence in your household/ community?

D16. Where in your community is involved in combating domestic violence?

(a) Local leaders

(b) NGOs

(c) MPs

(d) LNP

(e) Others, specify

APPENDIX II

FOCUS GROUP GUIDE FOR LOCAL COMMUNITY MEMBERS

1. How many of you had ever experienced domestic violence in their life experience?
2. Do you know about what to do and where to go when you experience domestic violence?
3. In what ways are women and men abused in this community in West Point?
4. What are causes of domestic violence in your community?
5. How does domestic violence disempower women in your community/?
6. Which organizations and individuals are helping to deliver domestic violence services in your community?
7. What challenges do you face when trying to access justice services in your country?
8. What lessons have you learnt in trying to access justice services?
9. What can be done to combat domestic violence in your community?
10. What do you think is being done to fight domestic violence in your community?

APPENDIX III

KEY INFORMANT INTERVIEW GUIDE

(For politicians, Men representatives, and NGOs officials).

1. What do you understand by the term Domestic Violence?
2. What do you think are the causes of domestic violence in West Point Township?
3. What are the forms domestic Violence in your area/community (probe e.g. economical, physical, sexual, psychological, emotional violence)?
4. What do you think are the effects of domestic violence on women in your community?
5. How does domestic violence affects women self-esteem in your community
6. Does domestic violence affect women's jobs or skills?
 - 1.Yes
 - 2.No
7. If yes ,How does Domestic violence affects women's Jobs or Skills in your community?
8. How does domestic violence affect Women's ability to be dependent in your community?
9. What challenges do you face when trying to prevent and respond to domestic violence cases?
10. What lessons have you learnt in trying to prevent and respond to domestic violence?
11. What do you think can be done to empower women to defend their rights and prevent domestic violence?
12. What do you think can be the possible solutions to the address domestic violence?
13. What do you think can be done to the perpetrators, and survivors of domestic violence?

APPENDIX IV: TIME FRAME

During the field exercise, the researcher followed a timetable set. This helped to utilize the available time affectively so that the researcher was able to finish the study on time.

No	Start-End Date	Activity
1	JAN 2017	Conceptual Phase
2	FEB 2017	Design and planning Phase
3	MARCH 2017	Proposal Correction Phase
4	APRIL TO JUNE 2017	Proposal Hearing
5	JULY 2017	Adjustment of Proposal and Data Collection
6	AUGUST TO OCTOBER 2017	Final Data Collection and Analysis
7	NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 2017	Thesis Defense ,Final Book Bound and Dissemination
8	JUNE 2018	GRADUATION

APPENDIX V: MAP OF WEST POINT MONROVIA



