

**AN ASSESSMENT ON THE CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: A CASE STUDY
OF NYAHERA VILLAGE OYUGIS DISTRICT IN KENYA**

BY

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Declaration

I OYATTA MAURINE, declare that this research project is my original work and has not been previously presented for the award of a degree in any University

Signature


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Approval

This research dissertation has been submitted for examination with the approval as university supervisor.

Signature



.....

Madam Sidonia

Date:.....



Dedication

This research project is entirely dedicated to our family, faculty of social sciences , my fellow students and the victims of domestic violence.

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List of acronyms

FIDA – Federation of International Women’s Association

UN—United Nation

CHAPTER ONE

1.1 Introduction

In the past 28 years, in particular since campaign against gender-based violence was established at the UN's decade for women meeting of 1985, women's groups and individual activities across world have campaigned vigorously against abuses such as rape, wife beating, sexual harassment most especially in war affected zones, for example in northern Uganda where women and young girls are being abducted and raped. Persistent lobbying by feminists has recently succeeded in establishing official international recognition of gender-based violence as a fundamental violation of women's and children's rights, yet through out the world, violence is still very much a hidden problem whose scale is vastly underestimated everywhere.

According to country report for the seminar on improvement on the statute of women II (1993), for the eight provinces reported in 1998 in Kenya, there were a total of 1,124 rape cases, an increase of nearly 20% from the previous year. Rift Valley province was notable for the dramatic increase of 69% in the reported incidences. Recent statistics from the police indicate that the number of reported rape cases are on the increase. In the first six months of 1999 alone, 756 cases were reported to the police countrywide. In 2000, 1675 rape cases were reported to the police countrywide.

According to the publication by department of women in development, domestic violence involves use of force on members of the family, for example by hitting, beating, cutting or other ways of causing pain to person, ways intended to cause suffering to a person that is denying a person basic needs or necessities of life such as food, medical attention or using abusive language intended to humiliate that person.

Domestic violence is a very common phenomenon and universal which is on rise in our nation of Kenya. It is absurd that the victims have not got enough courage to speak against the vice since utmost it occurs behind curtains in homes. It is manifested in the political, social, economic and private sphere of human life. It is inherent in the low status accorded to children and women by society. At the political level, violence is manifested especially during political upheavals, where in case of women, are raped and brutalized. At the social level, domestic violence is manifested by the cultural legitimization of customs and practices

that affects women's rights. The woman is taken as property owned by a man who paid a bride price for her to the parents of that woman. Still under cultural, there's female circumcision which is customary practiced and this legitimizes violence against women from that culture. At the economic level, violence is through the full control of one's income. For example a man may decide to have control over her wife's income because a woman or that woman is taken as a property due to bride price paid, as it is quoted by an Eteso man who said a property can not own a property. In the private sphere of human life, women are the mostly affected in that violence may take form of defilement, incest, rape, murder, assault, mental torture and psychological violence. Private sphere is taken as Household or compounded related environment hence perpetrators of violence are members of the household or community where the victim lives.

The victims mostly women stay in such abusive relationship for the safety of their children, for fear of being outcasted from society and with hope that the abuser will change

1.2 Background to Study

Acts of domestic violence constitute an unpleasant subject, one, that many physicians do not recognize or acknowledge. Domestic violence includes physical violence, emotional abuse, marital rape, sexual abuse, neglect and verbal abuse. Domestic violence is gendered - hence numbers of the victims will reveal that it is disproportionately directed against women.

Domestic violence is gendered - hence numbers of the victims will reveal that it is disproportionately directed against women. Current prevalence data is mainly from the West where it has been recognized as a public health problem. Prevalence of 3.8% among women seen in emergency rooms, to 37% among pregnant women and 40% among women seeking abortion services has been reported in the West.

According to a magazine by Action Aid entitled Stop Violence Against Girls in School, in Ethiopia about 93% of male student respondents in one study confirmed that they know violence against female is a criminal act and punishable by law. However about 33% of them believed that it is right for male student to get whatever they want either by charm or by force and about 20% admitted to be behaving this way themselves.

Women and girls continued to face widespread violence and discrimination. However, data on the prevalence of acts of violence against women, including domestic violence and rape, was inadequate. According to figures quoted in parliament, police recorded 2,300 rapes in

2004. However, statistics from health facilities and non-governmental organizations suggested that the number of unreported rapes in Kenya could be as high as 16,000 a year, according to data obtained from FIDA Kenya website

1.3 Problem Statement

There's a growing number of incidents of domestic violence, the Media reports cases of battered wives and slain husbands, children being denied basic necessities, daily, the hospitals receive many wounded spouses who do not wish to return to the domestic arena and church pastorates find many cases of mental disputes that require their intervention. 59% of Japanese women are victims of domestic violence. In Kenya, 42% of women and in Pakistan, 80% of women experience violence within the home. What is the explanation for this state of affairs, why is it ever on the increase? How do the people of Kenya perceive this issue, are they aware that violence in home constitutes a criminal act?

Generally, victims of domestic violence do not report the abuse for fear of retaliation and shame, with some women considering physical abuse as part of marriage life. It is common therefore to find that in spite of requiring medical attention for injuries sustained, very few abused women report to their careers about it. There is a general absence of proper institutional channels available to victims in reporting their grievances that is STIGMA attached to reporting cases of violence as one of the greatest bottlenecks to alleviating the problem of violence.

1.4 Objective of Study

The major objective was to examine the causes and nature of domestic violence in Kenya so that we will be able to formulate measures and policies to improve the socio-economic conditions of the victims in homes thus curbing the problem of domestic violence.

1.4.1 Specific Objectives of Study

1. To assess strategies victims apply in coping up violence, and whom is domestic violence directed to.
2. To find out public understanding of the term domestic violence for the purpose of generating information that can be used to make policy recommendations that will address domestic violence constraints

3. What are main factors causing domestic violence?

1.5 Scope of Study

The study will investigate international views on domestic violence comparing them with our views which have influenced violence in homes, the general conditions of victims in both economically advantaged and disadvantaged homes in order to come out with a clear comparison the study will look at the traditional social factors that is, before the advent of European colonialism and Arab traders, to show whether with the coming of these foreigners the situation changed or remained. This will necessitate looking at the ways these have influenced or undermined domestic violence in Kenya

1.6 Significance of Study

Domestic violence is a wide spread occurrence that has now become a practice, it has raised the concern of Human Rights Activities in the country. This study therefore will seek to examine the extent of the problem and why it is ignored or appears to be ignored. It is recognized by people as a gross problem, wear and tear of relationships; where lies the causes of tolerance in our society.

Information on domestic violence is recognized by policy makers for example Ministry of Gender and Community Development, Women Organisation concerning with the rights of women and welfare like FIDA Kenya

Further more the study will be used to sensitize victims about their rights, that is, what to do when their rights have been infringed, where to report those cases of domestic violence and many others.

1.7 Hypothesis

The study consists of the following hypothesis:- the main cause of the violation of human rights in home and other places, which is due to economic status of the victims originating from the situation of the country's economic life.

CHAPTER TWO

2.0 Literature Review

A flood of books, articles and unpublished thesis or reports on domestic violence in general have emanated from scholars of local, national and international institutions, why then make another study on this topic? Am doing so with the aim of adding ever increasing volume of human knowledge. Whenever there is an increase in constructive doubt, there is a sign of advancing civilization because it leads to further research and findings. Second I want to fill that gap in the existing thesis in order to diagnose domestic violence so that when we apply a healing knife no new sores appear or reoccur. However we must recognize the worth of various views and literature today.

According to Mirande Davies (1986), Domestic violence is used to describe a variety of actions and omissions that occur in different relationships. The term is used narrowly to cover incidents of physical attack, which may take the form of physical and sexual violations, for example on January 25th, 2007, a woman mother of three appealed to court in Nairobi to have her husband for 24 years stopped from entering her home and demanding sex. She told lady justice Kalipana Rawaal that two of her children were born out of rape, thus sexual violations, such as punching, throwing boiled water and many other acts; the result of which can range from bruising to killing. Some people use the term to include psychological or mental violence which can consist of repeated verbal abuse, harassment confinement and deprivation of physical financial and personal resource; contact with family member may be controlled.

According to Chambliss et al (1995), Domestic violence, defined as abuse involving intimate partners is the most common cause of injury to women. Domestic violence occurs and can involve men to women, men to children, women to children and sometimes women to men. In other words domestic violence is the violence between the members of the same family. Frequently, the violence is a combination of physical, sexual and psychological abuse that occurs in a cyclic and intensifying pattern that can ultimately result in serious assaults with weapons or even death.

There were numerous instances of mob violence and vigilante justice. The great majority of victims killed by mobs were suspected of criminal activities, including robbery,

There were numerous instances of mob violence and vigilante justice. The great majority of victims killed by mobs were suspected of criminal activities, including robbery, killings, cattle rustling, and membership in terror gangs. The government rarely made arrests or prosecuted the perpetrators of these acts.

On January 10, a mob in Nairobi stoned to death a man they caught sodomizing a minor; another mob killed a man caught stealing a mobile phone and about \$50 (3,650 shillings) in cash.

On April 5, villagers in the Kiambu District killed a 17-year-old-boy and set his body on fire after the boy was caught stealing household goods.

On April 25, a mob beat to death a man in Meru District who allegedly had sodomized a 13-year-old boy.

On June 20, residents of Kisumu stoned to death a gang member who had attempted to steal a two-month-old baby.

On August 12, a mob in Molo killed a man who had locked his parents inside a grass-thatched house and set it on fire.

On July 12, a group of Borana men attacked a Gabra village near Marsabit and killed approximately 80 persons over accusations of cattle rustling. Over the next 48 hours revenge attacks and counter attacks raised the death toll to nearly 100 in the area. Four local MPs, one Gabra, and three Borana accused each other of inciting the violence.

Between January and November 2000, the Kenyan media reported some 50 deaths and 69 cases of severe injury resulting from domestic violence, the Daily Nation newspaper reported on 3 November 2000.

In 1999, FIDA-Kenya, had reported 60 deaths resulting from domestic violence, and said at least three out of every five women in the country had been assaulted in the home.

According to D. Marden(1997) in her book Sociological perspective on family violence on page 102 show that,. domestic violence can happen in families from any class. Given the limitations of existing research, it is difficult to generalize about the social position of victims of domestic violence, some research show over representation of victims who are economically disadvantaged or who might be described as lower-class or from young age groups. There are many more domestic violence in families that are economically disadvantaged or where the husband has had less education than the wife. Since he does not give us the reason for this trend, we should ask ourselves why there is more violence in families which are economically disadvantaged and why are less educated husbands more violent?

In south Africa, human rights watch found that South African girls face the threat of multiple forms of violence at school. This includes rape, sexual abuse and sexualized touching or emotional abuse in the form of threat of violence. Girls also encounter constant highly sexualized verbal degradation in the school environment. The impact of the violence is immeasurable and includes loss of self-esteem, depression, anger, risk of suicide, unwanted pregnancies, HIV infection and fear of victimisation.

According to amnesty international, in Russia woman dies from domestic violence every 40 minutes in Russia. And every day around 36,000 women in Russia are beaten by their husbands or partners. Each year in Russia, about 14,000 women die at the hands of their husbands or intimate partners. In the United States, by comparison, this number stands at about 1,200, according to the 2001 Bureau of Justice Statistics Report. Russia's population is 144 million; the U.S. population is 293 million. Russian women are 2.5 times more likely to be murdered by their partners than American women. However, American women are already twice as likely to be killed by their partners than women in

Western European countries. In a 2003 Russian Ministry of the Interior report that polled victims of domestic violence, 76 percent of the women said they had suffered from abuse for a long time before reporting it to the police or making it public in some other way. Some of their given reasons were: "Didn't believe that the law enforcement would help," "Was afraid of revenge," "Was afraid of losing housing, had nowhere to go," "Was afraid of public scorn," "Didn't want to leave the kids without a father." As compared

to Kenya, 42% of 612 women surveyed in one district reported having been beaten by a partner; of those 58% reported that they were beaten often or sometimes. In Uganda 41% of women reported being beaten or physically harmed by a partner; 41% of men reported beating their partner.

According to Stella Mukasa (1994), as quoted from the New Vision dated Dec 23 1994 vol. 8, the attitude of the law enforcement agencies towards incidents of domestic violence as private and therefore, outside their spheres of operation is another crucial areas to be addressed in mapping out the framework to address the problem. Despite her good research, she remains an escapist and does not address the problem squarely. She did not give a solution to such a problem which admits as regards police officers handling their clients “that is a private matter, go and sort it with your husband”. It would have been better if with the experience she has to give a strategy of escaping from such predicament.

According H.F. Morris (1966), the wife has a duty of obedience to her husband and the normal domestic obligations of the cored of the house and the children but also carryout manual duties such as that of cultivation of her husband crops when or if required to o so. Traditionally a husband had unlimited rights to treat his wife as he wished particularly as regards chastisement for disobedience, modern native custom, however would gear definite limits to the degree of chastisement which could be inflicted and native courts can often do hear cases of cruelty alleged by a wife against her husband and will punish a man who has been convicted of ill treating his wife without reasonable cause

Lorna Smith (1989) says it is difficult to estimate the actual incidence of violence in the household, communities deny the problem fearing that an admission of its existence is as assault on the integrity of the family and few official statistics are kept. It is difficult to estimate the actual incidence of violence in the household, communities deny the problem fearing that an admission of its existence is an assault on the integrity of the family and few official statistics are kept. Current methods of estimating number of women assaulted by their husbands are questionable. According to violence against women crisis in Eighties by Elizabeth Wilson on page 84, the statistics are based on reported incidents of abuse obtained from police, welfare and hospital records on number of victims. Victims are often reluctant to

report that they have been violated, they may fail to report because they feel ashamed of being assaulted by their husbands, they may have sense of family loyalty. This therefore rises the question, should the woman or the victim sleep on his or her rights because they want to uphold the integrity of the family and have sense of family royalty? There is need therefore to sensitise people about their rights and the dangers which they are likely to face if they just sleep on them.

Cultural practices of offering bride price which at times very high for the an makes women be treated as property of a man which they can use as they want including venting their anger. The women are often trapped because leaving her husband implies returning the bride price

According to <http://www.turningpointservices.org/domesticviolence.htm> as at March 16, 2007. Statistics on violence was as

1. 95% of the victims are female.
2. 95% of the perpetrators are male.
3. Every 15 seconds a woman is beaten, raped, or killed.
4. Domestic violence occurs among all racial, ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic groups.
5. Battering is the largest single major cause of injury to women.
6. Everyday, 4 women are murdered at the hands of an intimate partner.
7. About 2 - 4 million American women are battered each year by their partners.
8. Women are at a 75% greater risk of being killed after they leave their partners.

2.1 Domestic Violence as an International Phenomenon

The discovery of domestic violence as a problem rooted in the structure of the social order, rather than the pathological psyches of individual as important component of feminists theories has taken different paths in different parts of the world. It was a major issue in Europe and North America. In other parts of the world, it was the UN decade for women 1975-1985 that became the primary catalyst for discovering domestic violence against women.

Gray Ford's study showed that the women had been punished, kicked, attacked with knives and broken bottles, beaten with belts and buckles, burned and sealed.

In the USA, it is estimated that one third to one half of all women who live with male companies experience forms of brutality such as threats of severe harm, degradation, beatings and torture.

In the world the idea of regarding man as superior to woman has not yet been eliminated and under estimation and dissemination of women is still exists. In Ghana, social customs have been a major factor of the gender issue as men claim that evening the creation of the world, God made woman out of the rib of a man thus man enjoying the domination in the family thus enhancing violence against women.

In Bangladesh the most serious problems associated with domestic against women include illiteracy, economic dependency and the social and religious attitudes and beliefs as it is a male oriented society.

In conclusion therefore, after looking at the domestic violence as an international phenomenon, it is important to note that the problem is prevalent world wide touching all aspects of women's lives and the victims at large. Despite the momentum to no definitive framework have yet emerged for conceptualizing effort to understand the nature and global extent of violence.

2.2 Causes of Domestic Violence

There are any theories to explain the existence and extent of the problem. Various causes range from drunkenness to those that are oriented within traditions and those related to gender power relations. Some of the causes are as follows:-

Some men especially those in cohabitational unions do not attach value to their women well knowing that they can always replace them. They treat their spouses in a rough manner, their concern being the mere fulfillment of society's expectation of a man to have a woman in his house. And some men always say that "the home of the man never disintegrates if one woman goes, he can gear another one". To this the women pressurize their men into wedding which the men are not ready for and therefore do not stop incidents of domestic violence.

Alcohol has been highlighted as the cause of domestic violence in marital relationships. When drunk the men are so irritable and their tempers flare at the smallest opportunity wanting all things to be done by their command. There is one incident or case where a female brought a complaint against her husband to the law society for assaulting her physically whenever his husband is drunk, she further complained that he assaulted even the children as he locked them in the house and threatening to kill them. The legal aid report wrote to the husband asking him to allow the wife to stay separately from him until he changed his behaviour. This case explains alcohol as the cause of domestic violence in marital relationships.

Lack of communication by way of dialogue and discussion between spouses. Some partners express their dissatisfaction through physical violence without waiting to get explanations from their wives. In such instances the male physical strength is what legitimates violence over the weaker female.

It is clear that the unbalanced gender power relations sustain and legitimize domestic violence by maintaining that the man is always right. Some religious beliefs such as wives submit yourselves to your husband, the head of every woman is a man thus manifesting why men feel the way they do over their wives which attitude has led to quite a number of women living miserably.

Human socialization of the sex roles of men and women enhances the practice of physical violence. Boys grow up seeing their father batter their mothers and the girls grow up seeing their mothers battered. In the latter case, there is acceptance in some cultures and indeed the belief that a woman who is not battered by her husband is not loved. Hence she sometimes invites violence onto herself because the husband may ignore her and she has to provide him to notice her albeit in a negative way in this case, negative notice is better than not a notice.

Women are expected to be submissive to sexual demands even when unreasonably made. They are expected to tolerate physical abuse within marriage because it is believed to be part of the marriage life. There is a tendency by in-laws to play down the gravity if incidence of domestic violence when reported. Often cases of domestic violence do not reach the formal

dispute resolution for a because of under reporting and tacitly condemnation which fuels domestic violence to a large extent

In case of women, they face forced continuous reproduction. If they mention use of contraceptive, the men want to beat them up. Like there is one incidence where a man told his wife to leave if she was tired of bearing children because she was good for nothing else. It is therefore clear from this response that some men consider it to be their natural right to solely make decisions on the number of children their wives should have. The women comply to this social construction and continue to endure this form of violence due to fear of replacement.

Cultural practices such as bride wealth was meant to be a sign of appreciation, love and commitment of husband to is bride, but now some parents ask for exorbitant prices before their daughters is giye. To this the men interpret it as a practice of wife purchase and proceed to use or abuse the wife like chattel

Another reason is the men always suspect their women to be unfaithful especially when the woman is working.

2.3 Effects of Domestic Violence

While it may not be possible to have a precise picture of the actual extent of violence in homes, the results of this violence are fairly clear, and they include:-

Physical injuries ranging from bruising to death, abused women suffer from health and psychological problems. They have a significant higher level of anxiety, depression and somatic complaints than women who have not suffered abuse.

Women who are abused are often paralysed by terror and under stress from the ever present threat of an attack and they are likely to be deprived, which may lead to higher rates of suicide.

In homes where domestic violence occurs, children are physically abused and neglected at a rate 15 times higher than the national average. Several studies have shown that in 60% to 75% of families in which a woman is battered, children are also battered. In addition, children living in households where domestic violence is occurring are at a higher risk for sexual abuse.

Many children in families where domestic violence has occurred appeared to be "parentified." They are forced to grow up faster than their peers, often taking on the responsibility of cooking, cleaning and caring for younger children. Laura Gillberg, MSW, is the child and adolescent program director at Sarah's Inn an agency in Oak Park, Illinois. She stated, "Many of these children were not allowed to have a real childhood. They don't trust their fathers because of his role as an abuser and they may have been worried about what to expect when coming home. They learned at a young age to be prepared for anything."

Children may also be isolated. Typical activities such as having friends over to their house may be impossible due to the chaotic atmosphere. "Kids aren't going to have their friends over when mom has a black eye." However, school performance is not always obviously affected. Children may respond by being overachievers.

Infants and toddlers who witness violence show excessive irritability, immature behavior, sleep disturbances, emotional distress, fears of being alone, and regression in toileting and language. Preschool children may develop enuresis and speech disfluencies, such as stuttering. "Exposure to trauma, especially family violence, interferes with a child's normal development of trust and later exploratory behaviors, which lead to the development of autonomy. According to <http://www.findcounseling.com/journal/domestic-violence/domestic-violence-references.html>

CHAPTER THREE

3.0 Methodology

3.1 Study Area

The study area was Nyahera village, Oyugis district in Kenya. Oyugis district is on a surface area of 50 squared kilometers.

3.2 Sample Techniques

A stratified sampling technique was used in order to increase the precision of estimates. Most affected i.e. victims of domestic violence. E.g. women and children will be taken as strata. Stratified sampling is to arrange or divide (society) into a hierarchy of graded status levels. A total of 45 respondents will be interviewed.

3.3 Methods of Data Collection

In order to achieve the objective of this study, I used the following methods of data collection to get information on domestic violence. The methods enable me to generate enough information so as to make conclusions and draw conclusion appropriately to these issues.

3.3.1 Questionnaire

The questionnaires were administered on some men, children and women in the rural and urban areas of Oyugis district especially Nyahera village in Kenya, so that I can compare and contrast between the two areas.

3.3.2 Interview Method

I conducted face-to-face interviews with some men, children and women both illiterates and literates on issues pertaining to their relationships in the homes to see whether their views are different or the same.

3.3.3 Reference to Secondary Data

Text books and other related works of outstanding scholars whether Published, Magazines, Newspapers were referred to so as to give more right on issues of domestic violence both in Nyahera village in Kenya and international.

3.4 Data Analysis

Different data sets were used in analyzing data collected, i.e. where necessary SPSS package will be used. Bar graphs will be used to give a clearer outlook on assessment on causes of domestic violence. Bar graphs and other graphs were done in Microsoft Excel. Recommendations will be made using the outcome of the result of the analysis

3.5 Problems Encountered

- Translating questionnaires into local languages as some may not know English
- Some may refuse to give answers for some questions
- Transport costs from Uganda to Kenya to collect data is high.

CHAPTER FOUR

4.0 Research Findings/Discussions

Presentation, Interpretation and Discussion of the findings.

In this chapter, the researcher presents data/findings. It also addresses the findings adopted from the data collected and analysed from the respondents, observation and literature from other writers

4.1 Background of the Respondents

Table 1 Age Distribution of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage
<9	05	11%
10-19	08	18%
20-29	10	22%
30-39	10	22%
40-49	08	18%
50+	04	09%
Total	45	100%

Source: Fieldwork 2007

The composition, as shown in the above table I, of the respondents by age distribution show that the majority of the respondents were in the age group of both 20-29 and 30-39 with 22.22%, followed by 10-19 and 40-49 both with 17.78%, followed by <9 with 11.11%. The 50+ age group is the smallest with only 08.89%.

Table 2 Sex Distribution of the population

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Male	20	44%
Female	25	56%
Total	45	100%

Source: Fieldwork 2007

The composition of the respondents by gender indicates that there was more females (55.56%) than Males (44.44%). This is because females are much likely to be affected by domestic violence

Table 3 Knowledge about Domestic Violence

Knowledge	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	40	89%
No	05	11%
Total	45	100%

Source: Fieldwork 2007

Most of the sampled population has ever heard of domestic violence or they know what domestic violence is and this comprised 88.89% and 11.11% did not know anything about domestic Violence and probably these were the children.

Table 4 Shows the victims of domestic violence

Sex	Frequency	Percentage
Female	25	56%
Males	20	44%
Total	45	100%

Source: Fieldwork 2007

There are more females affected because it included girls who always run away from home and who are being raped on their way to school and some their rights are being violated in taxi or commuters. The percentage of females is 55.56% as compared to 44.44% males. Males included even kids who were found on the streets of Oyugis District.

4.2 Definition of Domestic Violence according to the respondents

For clear understanding of domestic violence in Kenya, it is better to look at the various definitions of domestic violence as stated by the respondents I managed to interview.

In general the respondents defined domestic violence as misunderstanding in the home, fights and quarrel, lack of cooperation, lack of unity, refusal to provide domestic requirements, denial of affection and care, desertion, beating of a spouse and children.

Some of the interviewed women ten (10) female teachers in Nyahera defined violence as sexual violence that includes adultery and denial of conjugal rights. Sexual violence according to them including Sexual abuse is when an intimate partner has;

- Minimized the importance of your feelings about sex,
- Criticized you sexually,
- Insisted on unwanted or uncomfortable touching,
- Withheld sex and affection,
- Forced sex after physical abuse or when you were sick,
- Raped you,
- Been jealously angry, assuming you would have sex with anyone,
- Insisted that you dress in a more sexual way than you wanted

Some of the children I interviewed, ten (10) of them defined domestic violence as denial of their rights, basic needs such as food and clothing's, threats of killing like children being locked in houses because they refused to do what they were told to do by their parents or guardians. They further said that they are exposed to physical and verbal abuse. Physical abuse being Physical abuse is when an intimate partner has...

- Pushed or shoved you,
- Held you to keep you from leaving,
- Slapped or bitten you,
- Kicked or choked you,
- Hit or punched you,
- Thrown objects at you,
- Locked you out of the house,
- Abandoned you in dangerous places,

- Forced you off the road or driven recklessly, and
- Threatened to hurt that child with a weapon

According to counseling's website, estimates are that more than 3.3 million children are exposed to physical and verbal spousal abuse each year.

Some girls who are students in Kotieno Primary, Kotieno Secondary school and Nyabola Girls Secondary School who were interviewed, defined domestic violence as infringement of girls rights, denying girls their rights to education. It takes the form of rape, sexual harassment, intimidation, teasing and threats by old men. They further said that it affects all girls regardless of their age, race, class, whether in school or not. Violence against girls is not limited to specific age group.

According to project officers working in the area of education and child protection in Kenya, every girl is at risk of her rights being violated, and this is not restricted to the classroom or schoolyard but in many school related places, i.e. in school toilets, dormitories, hostels, and in no go places on the school ground. Source FIDA Kenya

For men domestic violence takes the form of denial of basic needs in case when the woman is the one in control and this may happen when the wife is employed or working and the man is not working.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

5.1 Summary of Research Findings

The respondents in general outlined the following forms of domestic violence known to them; Physical harm, Denial of basic needs or necessities, Denial of love, Care and affection, Harassment by relatives of the husband, Denial of sex and conjugal rights, Psychological violence, Drunkenness, Chasing away a wife and adultery

Among others they defined the following forms of domestic violence;

- a) Among the victims, the married outlined the following forms of domestic violence; Physical harm, Sexual violence, Psychological violence, General mistreating, Denial of basic need or basics, Denial of love, Care and affection. And none defined it as drunkenness, lack of funds and misunderstanding.
- b) Cohabitants outlined forms of domestic violence as; Sexual violence, Physical harm, Psychological care and affection, none of them outlined it to include it to include denial of basics, drunkenness and desertion
- c) The general respondents who are not victims nor married nor cohabitants outlined the following forms of domestic violence; Boxing, Kicking, Beating with instruments, Slapping, Denial of material things, Denial of school fees, Neglect and others defined it as, Denial of love care and affection and Refusing a partner to work and confiscating woman's property.
- d) Among the general respondents who are in monogamy relationship and not victims outlined the forms of violence as; Boxing, Kicking, Beating with instruments, Slapping, Denial of material things, Denial of school fees, Quarrelling and Neglect

- e) Those in polygamy marriage outlined the following terms to mean domestic violence; Boxing, Kicking, Beating with instruments, Slapping, Denial of material things, Denial of conjugal rights, Quarrelling, Lack of care and affection, Chasing away female partners, Neglect, Refusing the wife to work, Using abusive language.

The findings show that although domestic violence is widely spread, the concept is perceived differently by different people. This makes the problem of domestic violence difficult to address at all levels. It also shows that there are no specific forms or definitions of domestic violence.

In conclusion of the above forms of domestic violence as stated by the respondents, from various description of domestic violence stated by the respondents, it is notable that there is no specific description of the term domestic violence. This shows that although domestic violence is wide spread in Kenya, the concept is perceived differently to different people. This makes the problem of domestic violence difficult to address at all levels especially from the legal perspective irrespective of the legal status of the union. It also shows that there are no specific forms or definitions of domestic violence

5.3 Conclusion

The effects of domestic violence on our society are obviously enormous, but are impossible to measure. Our entire nation suffers. You can see the effects at bus stations, fast-food restaurants, and schools. You can see it on television and in jails. Victims of abuse also require mental health care. There is enormous cost to the state in the form of time spent by law enforcement officers, courts, lawyers, public health workers and more. There is cost to social welfare organizations in the form of money and donated time to staff and run shelters, counseling services, hotlines, and more. There is cost to the productivity of our workhouse in the form of absenteeism, worker re-training (when a victim is killed), and decreased productivity. The educational system is required to provide specialized services to children suffering from attentional and behavioral problems resulting from domestic violence.

Now think about the fact that children growing up in a house with domestic violence will grow up and require medical care for stress-related illnesses, mental health care for anxiety,

depression, panic, and shock. They will likely end up costing the state money in the legal system, will earn less than their peers because of their academic difficulties as children and because they may have lost the optimistic and risk-taking qualities necessary to become successful, and finally, they will likely raise children who will in turn continue the cycle.

Lastly research has revealed that the problem of domestic violence in Kenya is of critical concern. Its underlying cause has been identified as inequality between sexes, mostly due to socio-economic and cultural background.

5.2 Recommendations

This research is an effort to highlight domestic violence Ouygis District what it is its causes, shortcoming and others suggestions on what should be done.

Domestic Violence is a criminal offence which rarely finds its way into courts of law and where it is handled as seriously as other criminal offenses. Fore sample you may find that one has been charged with a less offence when he actually committed a more serious offence. The abusers should be taken to court such that they are charged heavy than what they did.

The following policies should be upheld or put into consideration;

Education of the society, that the society's attitude of non-interference should change and everybody in the community should hare the responsibility of responding to a victim's cry for help. Members of the public should be sensitized to support victims and treat them with compassion, sympathy and concern instead of shunning them with dismissing the problem as private one and later gossiping about it to one another, society should show a disapproval of the perpetrators of these heinous acts. Non Government Organizations (NGOs) and other related agencies that carry out sensitization could play a big role in changing society's attitude.

For women, they should be economically empowered. It can not be ignored that some women stay in violent relationships because they are economically dependent on their partners and any action against the accused will leave them vulnerable, women need to be

empowered to be able to stand on their own through education and informal training, accessibility to land and credit facilities and equal opportunity so that they can gain confidence and be able to say no to abuse. They should inherit worth and dignity, capable of making positive contributions to society side by side with men.

The law enforcement agencies should also be sensitized to be responsive about the problem of domestic violence. They should try to find a fair way of dealing victims so that they are seen as being unsympathetic and unhelpful. However, police training should also address the issue of family conflict resolution and counseling. These agencies should, therefore through seminars and other forms of training be made to understand that the issues involved are not domestic but infringement of God given rights against torture, cruelty, in human degrading punishment and do their duty of protecting those rights.

Programmes to eliminate violence against women must be aimed at men as much or even more than at women, and must involve men in their implementation unless men change, women will continue to suffer. In fact, therefore violence against women must be seen as a problem of society, and not just of women.

The medical profession is another important component in the prevention of abuse since these are the people in contact with the victims. It should be noted that very few health personnel identify or deal with victims of domestic violence in other way other than treating injuries. This is strengthened by findings revealed by research in health facilities where it was discovered that such cases are recorded as assault cases. Nothing in the record of the patient's history throws any light as to the actual cause of her injuries. Medical records should therefore, be made, showing statistics with a gender breakdown.

Supporting services should be availed to victims of domestic violence. Usually victims of domestic violence need temporally refuge since in most cases they have to run away from the violence. It is therefore necessary that crisis centre be set up by government and NGOs to provide shelter for the battered women and children while they decide what action to take. Voluntary counseling should be part of the services offered in these crisis centres. Programmes should be introduced in schools at various levels to educate the young

generation about positive ways of dealing with the causes of violence in the family. Similar methods could also be taken at community levels to help families handle psychological and other problems without resorting to violence in the family. Similar methods could also be taken at community levels to help families handle psychological and other problems without resorting to violence. Generally, there is great need for proper preparations before marriage for example counseling of couples.

Domestic violence should be criminalized and amended to be an independent of grievous bodily harm

Domestic relations bill should be recommended that define composition of marital property and provide for equal sharing of the property acquired by the spouse during the legal marriage regardless of how it was acquired, while property owned before marriage should be separated.

Women should be given rights of property inheritance; they however conceded that bride price should continue unless it becomes repugnant to natural justice.

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APPENDIX

1-QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent,

I am a student of Kampala International University is conducting a research on the an assessment on the causes of domestic violence: a case study of Nyahera village Oyugis district as one of the requirement of the Bachelors of Social Work and Social Administration.

You are kindly requested to answer the questions honestly and the information given will be treated with maximum confidence and academic purposes only.
Your cooperation is highly appreciated

AREA OF RESIDENCE

Identification Number

--	--

Tick where appropriate

1. (a) What is your name?.....
(b) What is your age?
(c) What is your sex? Male/Female
(d) What is your occupation?.....
(e) What is your religion?

- | | | |
|---|-----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1 | Catholic | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2 | Protestant | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3 | Moslem | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4 | Others (specify)..... | |

- (f) What is your marital status?

- | | | |
|----|-----------|--------------------------|
| 1. | Single | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | Married | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | Widowed | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. | Separated | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- (g) What is your education level?

- | | | |
|----|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. | No Education | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. | Primary level | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. | Secondary Level | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. | Post-Secondary level | <input type="checkbox"/> |

2. Do you have children?

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------|
| 1. Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

3. If yes how many do you have?

.....
.....

4. Have ever heard of the term domestic violence?

- | | |
|--------|--------------------------|
| 5. Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. No | <input type="checkbox"/> |

5. If yes, then what is domestic violence?

.....
.....

2. No

7. If you have ever been affected by Domestic Violence then who did it to you?

.....
.....

8. What was the cause or why were you violated ?

.....
.....

9. What was the form of domestic violence?

.....
.....

10. Should these forms be allowed to continue?

.....
.....

11. Did you report to the police or any other concerned institution?

.....
.....

12. What has been done by the government in response towards Domestic Violence?

.....
.....

13. If not why didn't you report?

.....

14. Do you think that there are solutions to Domestic violence? Yes or No

.....

15. What are possible solutions can you recommend to solve domestic violence?.....

Conducted by

Student on Research.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR COOPERATION