

WOMEN'S PERSPECTIVES ON DOMESTIC GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
A CASE STUDY OF WOMEN IN NEBBI DISTRICT

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that, this dissertation is my original work and has never been submitted to any other University or Institution of higher learning for an academic award.

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APPROVAL

This thesis has been submitted for the award of Masters of Arts degree in Development Administration and Management of Kampala International University with the approval of my supervisors:

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DEDICATION

This is dedicated to my late parents Mr. Orwiny Natale and Mrs. Joyce Acaye Orwiny and my late sister Juliet Orwiny, who did not live to see the progress of the seed they had sown.

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ACRONYMS

<i>ACFODE</i>	-	<i>Action for Development</i>
<i>AIDS</i>	-	<i>Acquired Immune-deficiency Syndrome</i>
<i>CEDAW</i>	-	<i>Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women</i>
<i>CEDOVIP</i>	-	<i>Center for Domestic Violence Prevention</i>
<i>DGBV</i>	-	<i>Domestic Gender Based Violence</i>
<i>DRB</i>	-	<i>Domestic Relations Bill</i>
<i>FAL</i>	-	<i>Functional Adult Literacy</i>
<i>FHRI</i>	-	<i>Foundation for Human Rights Initiative</i>
<i>FIDA-U</i>	-	<i>Association of Women Lawyers</i>
<i>FOWODE</i>	-	<i>Forum for Women in Democracy</i>
<i>IDP's</i>	-	<i>Internally Displaced persons</i>
<i>LDU's</i>	-	<i>Local Defence Units</i>
<i>MGD's</i>	-	<i>Millennium Development Goals</i>
<i>MOH</i>	-	<i>Ministry Of Health</i>
<i>NGO</i>	-	<i>Non Governmental Organization</i>
<i>STD</i>	-	<i>Sexually Transmitted Diseases</i>
<i>UNFPA</i>	-	<i>United Nations Population Fund</i>
<i>UNHCR</i>	-	<i>United Nations High Commission for Refugees</i>
<i>UHRC</i>	-	<i>Uganda Human Rights Commission</i>
<i>UNICEF</i>	-	<i>United Nations Children's Fund</i>
<i>UWONET</i>	-	<i>Uganda Women's Network</i>

ABSTRACT

This study was set out to analyze the women's perspectives on domestic gender-based violence in Nebbi District. Specifically the study was guided by the three

It also suffices to note that women are more involved in most of the rural chores though their control over incomes is unfavorably looked down upon (Kasente, 1998:9). Reducing poverty and uplifting their status calls for recognition of the contribution of women to development (Kwesiga, 1993: 9) particularly now that 80% are in the country side, illiterate and above all in rural and peri-urban areas like Nebbi.

The promotion of gender equality and empowering women by 2015 is enshrined in the third goal of the Millennium Development Goals (MGDs) on which several countries including Uganda are focusing their development attention. Article 14 of the United Nations Convention on elimination of violence against women, lays greater emphasis on the protection of women and the appropriate measures state parties should take in order to address the accruing challenges (Directorate of Gender and Community Development, 2000: 31).

The above realization of violence emerges from the observed universal oppression and inequality that are grounded in the patriarchal system of female subservience and secondary status (Fenster, 1999:7). This system seems to have a direct correlation with the current gender-based violence (DGBV) in the structures of our societies, that keep women subjugated and maintained as servants to men. With the ever-increasing magnitude, feminists have risen up to question servile position. (Akina Mama WA Africa, 2003: 27).

At national level there are high rates of wife battering, particularly from Northern and Eastern Uganda. According to locally available information at the District community development office and the police in Nebbi, there is high rate of defilement, rape and abuse and particularly geared towards the women and the girl-child.

Domestic and gender issues needs a systematic attention in the design of adjustment measures that are aimed at redressing the intra-house hold

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background

In most communities in the world there are people who have been affected by acts of brutality. Atrocities committed by organized groups are often well publicized while abuses committed behind closed doors in confines of one's home always remain much hidden. Domestic Gender-based violence are some of the many cases the world over. According to UNHCR guidelines on DGBV (2003) world wide, an estimated 40-70% of homicides of women are committed by intimate partners in the context of an abusive environment. Around the World, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or at least abused in her lifetime. More than 90 million African women and girls are victims of genital mutilation. At least 60 million girls who would otherwise be expected to be wives are often missing (UNHCR 2003).

Gender-Based violence is a violation of human rights which has seen women of all ages becoming victims (Tayiwaa, 1998:14). This kind of violence manifests through rape, sexual assault, torture including exposure to prostitution, all of which perpetuate the stereo-typing of gender roles that denies human dignity of the individual and the subsequent human development.

Determining the position of both women and men requires a clear understanding of the social roles and the relationship between the two sexes (Mosse, 1992). It would then be against such background that the forms and traditional practices that perpetuate domestic gender-based violence within societies could best be understood in order that appropriate programmes can be presented to respond to such violence.

specific objectives namely:-the forms of Domestic Gender-based violence, the traditional practices that perpetuates violence, and the socio-economic effects of domestic gender-based violence. Literature was reviewed based on the various sub-themes; in all its aspects it alluded to violence as a practice that emanates as a result of unequal power relations and discrimination between men and women in all spheres of life. The study employed a descriptive study design with a triangulation of both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection and analysis. The qualitative methods involved, in-depth interviews with key informants, observation, documentation, and focused group discussions. The quantitative methods involved were the use of questionnaires; a total sample population of 119 women and men were reached for this study.

Data analysis involved content analysis from literature reviewed, manual analysis of primary data using excel and Microsoft word. The major findings were that women are potential victims of Domestic gender-based which is violence exhibited in the forms such as wife battering, indecent assault rape and defilement etc, the cultural practices that perpetuate violence included polygamy, bride wealth payments inheritance and practices of early or forced marriages, and the socio-economic implication violence included low economic status, family disintegration. HIV/AIDS prevalence and maternal mortality among others. The recommendations in terms of measures to combat DGBV included strengthening community networks, empowering of women, getting men involved in activities for combating violence, transforming socio-cultural norms, the need for domestic violence legislation, and a transformation of traditional legal system, all this is aimed at improving the status of the women within society and to enable them participate meaningfully in the development process.

relationships and the gender-based differentials in the incentive capacity and in cognisance to the cultural impediments within the societies. (Blackden and Morris, 1993:30).

The study therefore, proposes to analyze and document the perspectives of women on domestic gender-based violence and its subsequent impacts on the socio-economic development of women in Nebbi District. Better still to highlight the pertinent issues that perpetuate violence in societies and suggests probable intervention scheme that can be employed to redeem the situation.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Domestic gender-based violence is the dark side of the family life, which is inflicted on the family's weakest members, women, children, the very old and the disabled. It manifests itself in habitual physical abuse, psychological torture, deprivation of basic needs, and sexual molestation, among other punitive acts which involves violent actions on especially the female gender. Which are rooted in the aspect of un-equal power relations between men and women.

Domestic gender-based violence is further more prevalent in rural areas where there is general lack of respect for human rights. It's therefore a human rights violation. Women and children, who are often most vulnerable to human rights abuses, are also those who suffer most from Domestic Gender-based violence. This is therefore a serious problem and one which require concerted effort to avert the implications.

Un-redeemed domestic violence essentially denies women equality before the law and reinforces their subordinates' social status. Men use domestic violence to diminish women's autonomy and sense of self worth, given that this matter is regarded of no concern to the broader aspects of society. This gives violence legitimacy and consequently its regard as a normal perspective of livelihood common in the rural areas.

ground. Furthermore it was concerned with aspects of conjugal rights and issues in a marriage relationship. The study therefore limited itself duly to the focus on women's perspectives on Domestic gender-based violence.

The study was conducted in Nebbi District-Padyere County. Out of the seven sub-counties comprising/forming Padyere county five of them randomly selected were visited. The choice of the district and the county by the researcher was based on the factor of resource constraints and availability of information and the researcher's experience of domestic gender-based violence in the area. The study population comprised of women and women of authority, secondary students of at least 16 years, local government officials, the police, local council chairpersons and opinion leaders.

Theoretically the study was also premised on the on the relevant human rights principles of international human rights law, the provisions within the constitution of the republic of Uganda and other relevant national and international documents that have been instrumental in governing and protection of women's rights and human rights in general. Particularly it has been premised on the activities and relentless efforts of the various organizations that have been trying to voice and improve the status quo and reduction of discrimination of Women by men within the societies.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The researcher desired to delve into this study particularly for its significance. Thus the research findings will be a vital tool for potential end users. Among others includes relevant governmental heads, Gender activists, women leaders, opinion leaders and individual persons. The findings of this study will also be instrumental to persons for purpose of reviewing their respective approaches to mainstreaming Gender attributes and Right to justice for victims of domestic gender based violence. While seeking to ensure an environment free of violence especially against women and mutual respect for both men and women.

The above therefore is a phenomenon which has been in existence in Nebbi since time immemorial has affected and continuously deprive women level of co-existent with men, and reduced the women to servile status in the society and a shadow cast on the female population. Earlier studies have not addressed this precisely, and therefore, this study wishes to capture the perspectives of women on Domestic gender-based violence so as to pre-empt immediate action for addressing the unfairness within the society.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

1.3.1 General Objectives

The overall purpose of the study is to analyze women's perspective on domestic gender-based violence.

1.3.2 Specific Objectives

1. Identify the forms of domestic gender-based violence in Nebbi District.
2. Examine the cultural practices that perpetuate domestic gender based violence in the District.
3. Evaluate the effects of domestic gender-based violence on the socio-economic development of women in Nebbi District.

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are major forms of domestic gender-based violence among women in Nebbi District?
2. What would you consider to be cultural practices that perpetuate domestic gender-based violence in your community?
3. What are the effects of DGBV on the socio-economic development of women in your community?

1.5 Scope of the Study

In terms of the depth of investigation, this study delved much on the determination of women's perspectives on domestic gender-based violence. It was also concerned with issues pertaining to the policy on gender issues on the

Equally the findings of this study shall be of great use to the researchers ,mainly in engendering the process of development, the findings shall also give a practical insight into realities pertaining to equal rights on the ground, enhancing skills in addressing Gender related violence now and in the future.

Its equally worth noting that the findings will be of great contribution to the knowledge base on a matter that has for long been regarded as a none issue, better still, the findings will create impact towards a sustained good life for families, communities victims of domestic violence. Most importantly it will provide appoint of reference to the relevant by authorities. Above all the study shall create impact, especially through empowering the predominantly rural population of women in Nebbi District.

1.7 Theoretical Framework

This research was guided by the theory of socio-cultural perspectives of domestic gender-based violence, Much as it's a universal phenomenon, its patterns and causes can be fully understood and remedied only in specific social cultural contexts. Each society has mechanisms that legitimize, obscure, deny and perpetuate gender-based violence.

The theory on domestic gender-based violence propounded by (Lengermann and Niebrugge,1996). Is embedded on the fact that the oppression of women is a consequence of direct power relationship between men and women in which men have fundamental and concrete interest in controlling, using, subjugating and oppressing women in private or public sphere. This pattern of oppression is incorporated in a basic structure of domination commonly called patriarchy, and this in turn is sustained by deliberate intentions and acts which have come to be regarded as culturally normal and acceptable.

According to this theory, domestic gender-based violence is enshrined in the social construction perspective that socially dominant groups have constructed many of our beliefs and customs in order to maintain their economic, political or homogenic power. The dominant ideology justifies and neutralizes male dominance. They further argue that violence against women is manifested in the patriarchal institutions, which control both the private and the public spheres in all societies. Then looking at intergenerational transmission aspect of wife abuse, they assert that individuals who observed or experienced violence in the home as children is more likely to use violence in their own homes.

In other words men who observed their fathers abuse their mothers or were abused by their parents as children are likely to resort to violent actions toward their wives. Given the above assertions in retrospect of the above assertion one of the significant factors related to a wife tolerating abuse from her husband is the extent to which her parents hit her as a child. Accordingly the theory also contends that men who observed their parents physically attacking each other were almost three times more likely to have hit their own wives.

The above theory implies, therefore, that abusive behaviour is handed down from generation to generation as an acceptable means of dealing with problems. The family is the locust of both the victim and the victimizer. Cultural values emphasize the autonomy of the family, discouraging others to intervene in violent situations. Patriarchal values also support women's inferiority within intimate relations with men holding the major decision-making, a behaviour which is socialized in the families' younger generations and therefore becomes a bearing of sustained aspects of perpetuation of domestic gender-based violence.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter focused on five major themes namely: forms of domestic and gender-based violence, predisposing factors to domestic gender-based violence, cultural/ traditional practices that perpetuate domestic-gender based violence, effects of domestic-gender based violence, and appropriate measures to deal with domestic gender-based violence.

2.1 Domestic Gender-Based Violence: a theoretical Overview

Uganda National Gender Policy (1997) derives the notion 'gender' as the social relationship between women and men as opposed to biological differences. Documenting the differences between women and men has long been a pre-occupation of many scientists, drawing differences between the various sexes, however goes beyond simply cataloging sex differences, particularly attitudes, aptitudes, and behaviors are imputed within the different societal value system. One trait of behavior is typically considered superior to the other, while scientist have solely explained the sex differences in terms of biological difference between women and men, the inferiority and superiority is built out of socialization of the various task and responsibilities within the environment of growth, society however capitalize on this difference to cause bias and segregation which consequently becomes the basis of prevalence of violence. This study therefore wishes to examine the magnitude of this social relationship.

Mukyaya, J (1997) asserts that the aim of the gender policy is to guide and direct at all levels, the planning, resource allocation and implementation of development programmes with a gender perspective, she notes that sustainable development necessitates maximum and equal participation of both gender in economic, political, civil and social development. In this study, efforts will be

made to determine the level of participation and its relationship with gender based violence.

Mosse, C. (1992) argues that the term Gender is useful because it covers the social roles of both, and the relationship between men and women, which in most cases is associated with masculine and feminist ideologies in life, in the social domain it goes further to question the legitimate ideas in life to a point of superiority and insubordination between male and female. The extent to which this discrimination creates bias and consequently violence against women will be evaluated through the on going study.

It is worth to note that Domestic Gender-based violence is an act that is construed in society based on people's claim of poverty and alcohol and many other things listed as contributing factors to domestic gender-based violence. But domestic violence is in most cases caused by difference in status between men and women. The idea of domestic gender-based violence therefore emanates out of societal perspectives of assigning value and status differently to men and women , a factor that is fundamental in as far as perpetuation of domestic gender-based violence within societies (Denziger 2002). In this study the interplay between poverty, alcohol and how status of men influences the level of gender-violence in the rural communities will be unearthed.

(Blackden, and Morris 2003), Note further that gender analysis must take into account of and seek to redress, the imbalances in the gender – division of labour, accordingly the discrimination is rooted in the contexts of women's lives and depicts how women and men are treated differently at work place. Sexiest stereotypes, hiring biases, different access to opportunities, and other forms of discrimination seem to have engulfed society to a point which grossly affects their capability and financial empowerment potential. The diversity of this segregation goes beyond the symmetry of households and intra-house level.

Domestic gender based-violence has also been sustained and exhibited by the Uganda's failure to enact sufficient laws in the Constitutional Review process. According to (Salome 2003) several proposals for Constitutional reform were forwarded to the Constitutional Review Commission (CRC). Among these were the proposals to increase and enhance women's political representation. For example, with the experience of the limits to affirmative action where the one-third tended to be a ceiling rather than a minimum, women articulated the need for gender parity, this is to say 50/50 representation. In this regard, the women's organisations went a step further to propose a reform in the electoral system as well as other areas of concern from the winner takes it all to a system of proportional representation (PR). The spirit behind this was to improve democratic content of elections as well as allow for proper inclusion of political minorities, such as women. Although the proposals to adopt a proportional representation did not pass through the sieves of the constitutional review commission, the question of women's representation was somehow made visible during the transition. Unfortunately this was perceived with a lot of negative sentiments from the men a situation that has consequently kept women in the dark, thus unable to articulate on various rights issues given the narrow political space. Violence therefore prevalent because of lack of adequate forum to articulate on the various issues pertaining to domestic gender based violence.

2.2 Forms of Domestic Gender-based violence

The UN Declaration on Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) defines domestic violence as physical, sexual and psychological violence accruing in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation. In this study the various perspectives of domestic gender based violence will be explored in quite a detail.

Further more (UNFPA 2006) in perspectives of negative traditional cultural practices noted that certain aspects of gender-based violence are often perpetrated in the name of culture and tradition. Examples are female genital mutilation (FGM) widow inheritance, food taboos and polygamous relations. In most societies in Uganda, cultural practices and values distinct to those particular groups, and certain cultural values are regarded as sacred in some communities, and are often taken as given without any questioning. For example amidst all fears to contract HIV, men's extra marital relations are more easily accepted in society than women yet it has a very serious reproductive health implications for women ,the wellbeing of children and the family as a whole. Culture also creates stereotypes about men and women reinforcing violence against women.

Domestic and Gender Based Violence is a notoriously difficult issue on which to establish accurate statistics or to collect good qualitative information is problematic. In Northern Uganda there are massive social and economic and cultural barriers to survivors, (UNICEF, 2004). However, various duties are pointers towards DGBV being a common hazard, especially for women and girls in both rural and urban areas. A survey conducted by UNICEF in late 2003 recorded 13% of night commuters, reporting awareness of involuntary sexual activity and 7% reported feeling under sexual threat. A study on night commuters in Gulu in 2001 corroborated and found rape, defilement, was a common phenomenon.

Similar scenario of sexual violence was exhibited in Gulu District in 1997 and 1998, Amnesty International documented sufficient cases of wife battering, rape, and defilement outstanding among other issues to include that there was extensive pattern of rape that was largely hidden .This study will investigate the various forms and pattern of Domestic and Gender Based Violence from the women perspective.

Fenster, (1999:7) identifies the patriarchal system which ensures continued female subservience and secondary status as the commonest in our society. This occurs as a result of the existing power irregularities, between individual and the family setting where a level of existing power irregularities among individuals tends to re-enforce and influence subordinate positions and construes on the right of individual rights because of an established culture within the society. In this study, the depth of patriarchy will be established.

UNICEF – Uganda (2004) notes that one of the common forms of violence against women is that performed by a husband or male partner, this violence may be invisible literally or as a normal part of life. This is largely rooted in individual attitudes that condone violence within the enclaves of a family and community setting that tends to rationalize the pundit acts of violence in societies. This study wishes to determine the extent to which husbands in Nebbi exhibit violence on their spouses.

At least one in every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or abused in some way by a husband or any male family member under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The extent to which alcohol relates to violence against women shall be established by getting the views of the abused and consequently the scenario in Nebbi sub county Nebbi District depicts a rural perspective and scenario of Domestic and Gender Based violence exhibited on women, (Herse,1994).

Patriarchy is the concept that men hold power in all the important roles in societies (Oxfam, 1993: 51), in government, education, business, religion and that women are mainly deprived of access to equitable level of sharing responsibility. The power imbalance always tends to wield power in men's favour. This study will try to identify the linkages between power relations and violence.

2.3 Predisposing factors to Domestic gender-based violence

Kendler (2003) noted that despite encouraging statistics about recent decline in

substance abuse of drugs, alcohol remains one of the most serious and destructive problems to the present generation in as far as death and destruction of families are concerned. Girls are likely to at least been physically or sexually abused. such girls are at great risk of substance abuses, almost all women aged 15-44 years have used drugs at least once in their lives and of these nearly two million have used cocaine. Sexual violence is therefore more strongly associated with drug or alcohol dependence than any other psychiatric disorder. The extent to which these assertions hold water shall be confirmed through the on going study.

Pregnant women are particularly vulnerable to violence because some husbands become more violent during this season (UNFPA, 2004). Cross cultural studies further point to poverty, ignorance, drug abuse, etc, all of which need an explanatory study. Therefore, the prevalence of violence in a given society therefore is the result of faint acceptance by the society as a whole.

An Individual's degree of knowledge, personal security, access to and control of resources, services and social benefits and attitudes towards gender can influence whether a person will become a victim of gender violence or not (UNHCR, 2003). Further to that, relationships between individuals and families, can easily translate into violence. This study therefore assesses these contentions from all the levels and individual, family, community and society as a whole.

Benninger, (2000: 89) noted that the persistence of gender discriminatory customary law, as well as the prejudices and stereotypical attitudes concerning the role of women and men in the family and society, illiteracy among women and low political representation of women perpetuate violence at the domestic, community and state levels. This study was held in Cameroon but similar conditions seem to be at play in Uganda.

Domestic and Gender Based Violence includes much more intoxicating evidence that includes more than sexual assault and rape. Although it occurs in public contexts, it is thus largely rooted in individual attitudes that condone violence within society, the community and state. Thus the root causes of Domestic and Gender Based Violence must therefore be understood so that appropriate intervention mechanisms can be planned, (UNHCR, 2003)

Negative social-economic aspects of domestic gender based violence on a society is also exhibited in women participation in public office, this is also taken on the notion that gender inequality is deeply rooted in the entrenched attitudes, societal institutions and market forces, political commitment at the highest national and international levels, as essential to institute policies that can trigger social change and to allocate resources necessary to achieve gender equality and women's empowerment. Without political commitment and policies and programs aimed at gender equality, will simply remain on paper. Though gender equality remains a critical factor or component in economic and social transformation. Women equal participation in politics is therefore important because they will mobilize forces that will put in place policies and legal frameworks that will propel communities towards gender equality and they need to actively engage to ensure that these policies are translated into action. (Gender equality task force 2005).

2.4 Domestic and Gender based violence in conflict Areas in Uganda.

The proportion of the IDP population in Northern Uganda has grown tremendously over the years and by 2003 the number rose to over 1.2 million persons (UN Annual report, 2004). The protracted conflicts in Northern Uganda between Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) and the Government of Uganda, which mainly affected the seven districts located in the Acholi and Lango sub-regions, has for over 20 years, brought terror, brutal violence to communities, that resulted in weakening social protection mechanisms among the society. It led to abduction of children for conscription as child soldiers, local defense units, sex

slaves and porters, unknown numbers have been mutilated killed, leaving both physical and psychological scars (United Nations Annual report 2004).

Studies further show that women and men in these areas have experienced violence differently in their capacities as victims and perpetrators during and after conflict. While sexual violence has been largely inflicted on women, men and boys are also reported to have been raped with the intention to challenge male power. (Grace Bantebya 2004), Women in northern Uganda have experienced various forms of violence and gender based violence. This includes rape forced marriages, sexual slavery, disfigurement through cutting of facial and other body parts, land mine injuries, destruction of properties, spread of HIV/ Aids and erosion of social values and severe poverty. (Isis WICCE report 2006. Critical analyses of the chronic war situation in Kitgum District.).

International human rights law protects the rights of women and children at all times, including those times when they find themselves enviably trapped in situation in situations of armed conflict. According to HEINTZE (2004) international human rights law has no limits-it is valid in all circumstances and at all times, including situations of armed conflict. Although the state may not provide sufficient protection or derogate from certain civil and political rights under strictly defined circumstances, certain rights cannot be suspended –not even in war. When focusing on the internally displaced persons (IDP's), women and children enjoy special protection under international law. Along with the domestic law, international humanitarian law and human rights law are applicable to the IDP's. Yet this protection is further strengthened by the UN guiding principles on Internal Displacement (1998). A scenario that should be exhibited in terms of protection to all women.

Gender-based violence is also evident in situations of armed conflict in that women always experience violence in their community through torture, disappearance, abduction, arbitrary execution, intimidation, and coercion. Girls have been reduced to sexual slaves, as well as forced to marry and early

pregnancy, which is a taunting encounter. More still amidst all this also exist other acts like rape, forced prostitution and abortion. (Nkuuhe 2003) attributes this violent acts are inflicted on women simply because the perpetrators are ignorant of the law, or deliberately because of the societal negative perception of women. Given the already compromised plight of the women the rights that the international human rights protective mechanism or organs have been passive or overlooked for so long. Women and girls continue to be among the most vulnerable groups likely to be attacked. Unfortunately, it is shrouded in silence. The stigma, powerlessness of the women and their loss of faith in the rule of law and societies lack of prioritization of women issues therefore entrench and give room for violence in societies.

2.5 Effects of Domestic and gender-based violence

Unless gender is addressed, women's contribution to development remains 'invisible' and they remain unrecognized and inadequately rewarded (Kwesiga, 1993:9). When women's contribution is not valued, their own value is not appreciated. Contribution and violence seem to share the same 'coin' but require a field based study.

The sexual and violence research (2002) argues that women in abusive situations often feel shame, a desire to protect their families and divided loyalties, all of which make the subject very difficult for them to talk about and are consequently engulfed in greater jeopardy in trying to either put up with their conflicting interest, of what it is and the expectation of the society. This needs a deeper study.

Physical and economic insecurity live women and girls vulnerable to gender exploitation in return for food, security and money (UNICEF, 2004). That soldiers and LDU's take temporary wives and girlfriends when stationed in detaches near IDP Camps. These are vital issues which need a more down earth study.

Violence against women is also viewed in two distinct perspectives, accordingly.

Nkkuhe (2003), Asserts that Domestic gender-based violence is a disempowering tool, this is because of the patriarchal nature of the Ugandan society, where women have been subordinated to men and often regarded as possession of men. The man, therefore, at best regards his wife as one of the dependants and he disciplines her as he does to any of his children. Whether physical, verbal, or psychological, such violence has the effect of disempowering woman who cannot be an effective participant in the development process. Given that domestic gender based violence is associated with rape, sexual assault, coercion as well as harmful traditional practices not with standing female genital mutilation.

It's therefore worth noting that domestic gender based violence has adverse effect on the health and welfare of women. It results in psychological trauma, loss of dignity. For instance rape tortures women mentally, physically and psychologically (Nkkuhe, 2003) consequently a woman is likely not to perform to the capacity in terms of her potential given that the already subjugated or rather abused capacity instills a lot of fear and their triple roles of production, reproduction and community roles. It becomes apparent that there most sought after or needed services within their community can not take cause. Thus a blow to a rather fragile process of community development.

Accordingly, Mgala (2003) states that as long as domestic violence still is tolerated all over the world, women will continuously remain in subjugation, will seriously undermine development efforts societies. There fore not until the right and full potential of women, lasting solution to the world's most serious social, economic and political problems are likely to be found. There fore domestic gender based violence against women instills great fear, and thus leads to dependence, which has for long been pointed as challenges of empowering women. Mechanism to counter gender based violence there fore needs to put in

place clearly laws and regulation which should be used for community policing on the critical issues of Gender violence.

Worse still physical and sexual violence affects women's reproductive health, either directly through the risks incurred by forced sex or fear, or indirectly through psychological effects that lead to risk-taking behaviours. Children may also suffer the consequences, either during their own childhood due to neglect or the psychological and developmental effects of living with or experiencing abuse. To note further is the fact that sexual and physical violence increase women's risk for many reproductive health problems, such as chronic pelvic pain, vaginal discharge, sexual dysfunction, and premenstrual problems, as well pregnancy loss from abortion or miscarriage, and low birth weight in infants. (Heise & Gottemoeller, 2002).

In the health perspective domestic gender-based violence measures a life time experience of physical, sexual, and emotional violence by partners and non-partners among women ages 15-49 in Peru, Brazil, Japan, Thailand, Tanzania, Bangladesh, and Namibia (Ellsberg M 2002). In this study it was realized that abused women have more children, researchers hypothesized that having more children is a risk factor for abuse, such abuse begins early in marriage, often before the first child, indicating that high parity may be a result of abuse because women's control over their fertility is reduced, and consequently subjecting her to more horrifying tale of long suffering and associated complications (Ellsberg M 2000). In this study the health consequences of this violence will be assessed.

(Valladares 2002) in a WHO study shows an inverse relationship between GBV and practicing safer sex. Sexual violence limits the women's ability to practice safer sex and protect them from STI's and unwanted pregnancies. 30 percent of women who have been abused reported that their husbands refused to use condoms to prevent diseases compared to 10 percent of non-abused women. More evidence has started to be deduced of the fact that violent abuse can lead

to unwanted pregnancy and STI's since women who are more likely to practice high risk behaviors, such as having unprotected sex and/or multiple partners. Such behaviours and rampant cases of adolescent pregnancies are associated with a history of sexual abuse, emanating from practice of domestic gender-based violence, which equally will be unearthed during this study.

Economic perspectives of gender-based violence are also exhibited in the onset of various hazards experiences which are both physical and psychological health in content. Besides, others hazardous includes unwanted pregnancy as a result of girls' engagement in sex. Some girls desperately take the option of abortion to avoid parental responsibilities and related consequences, which is itself a harrowing tale. Child sex workers are stigmatized by the communities they stay and work. Many people condemn commercial sex on the grounds that the business is a manifestation of moral decay. Married women condemn commercial sex because it breeds marital conflicts and break ups, and spread STD's including HIV/AIDS. For government law enforcement institutions, the business is illegal. That is why some of the commercial sex workers have been arrested by police and LDU's and charged in courts of law. Worse still the girls are exposed to wide spread violence reflected in drug abuse, beating, harassment, rape, and use of dangerous objects like bottles for sexual gratification. In an effort to earn a living many of the violent incidents go unreported because of fear of being victimised by police or worse punishments from their culprits (Stella Okoronkwo 2006).

Further the legal framework has a key role to play in determining women's access to key economic resources, including credit, land, and property. But a legislative reform alone is not sufficient. Uganda's land law is not discriminatory, but it does not address the highly unequal allocation of land between men and women or ongoing inheritance and ownership practices that perpetuates this inequality. The main issue is therefore not legislative reform but changes in customary practice and attitudes. Therefore it's not the legislative framework and

inheritance but ownership practices that limit women's access to economic resource resources but, rather the population remains largely unaware of the legal rights or how to enforce them. This is particularly true to women, who have less access than men to legal advice and representation- a situation that creates a precursor for violent actions to the detriment of the female gender. (The gender policy 1997).

2.6 Cultural practices that perpetuates domestic gender-based violence.

Culture is generally defined as a "historically created designs for living, explicit and implicit, rational and non-rational, which exists at any given time as potential guide for behaviour of human beings" (Keesing & Stratthen1998: 15). These designs of living are often passed on through successive generations. Hence, its no doubt that the kinds of identities, roles, activities and responsibilities we under take as men and women are a result of the culture we are socialized into. These roles and identities act as lens through which husband and wife are able to accept or resist their oppression. Although the acceptance and succumbing to oppression is a result of deliberate and subtle inculcation of the dominant cultural beliefs or ideologies, it takes intelligence and creativity to unveil the oppressive nature of the dominant culture and strategies against it. It's on this premise that that the negative cultural practices will be fully examined in this study.

More still, efforts that has been put in place to solve problems associated with violence against women is based on its applicability of reforms in sub-Saharan Africa with its peculiar system of patriarchy, advocates for poverty, religious, and cultural beliefs. The focus here is that advocates of freedom and empowerment for women in Africa should appreciate the continent' peculiarities and avoid pitfalls of wholesale transplanting of western ideas in Africa. Gender-based violence is detrimental to the health of both the victims and victimizers, no doubt. How ever solving it demands a holistic social educational approach that will not destabilise but understand the social foundation of African tradition systems. Africa is already in crises and to distabilised the family unit will lead to a lot of

to assume the position and social and economic obligations of the deceased. In the general law, courts and administrative departments apportion property according to legal rules. In customary law, the family apports property and appoints a successor according to customary principles which are essentially flexible and negotiable. But what looms customary practice is the fact that both the inheritance of property and the succession to position and obligations was predominantly through the male line. A situation that strips the women of their rights to inheritance as the women were simply allowed to use the properties as a family or a times were equally inherited in the sense of being given new husbands (Alice Armstrong 2004). In study therefore inheritance as a traditional practice that perpetuates violence will be explored further.

Further more culture is also crudely imbedded in the perspective of consent on sex and marital matters, within the entire spectrum of livelihood. According to (Nhlapo, T. 2004) the concept 'consent' is itself a problematic issue when measured to cultural norms. The consent required by statute law is the consent of an individual. Yet in the customary settings, there are many instances when decisions about the life of an individual are made not by the individual but by a group, usually the family. Thus the family considers it worth while to make certain crucial decisions in matters of consent especially on behalf of a girl child most especially in marriage. Consequently forced marriage is a precursor of because the legal concept of consent is insufficient to adequately deal with a variety of ways in which a young girl might be pressured into submitting to sexual intercourse, marital decisions, or are simply socialized into believing that she has no right to control her own sexuality. This is typical of most rural settings, Nebbi inclusive were forced or coerced marriages are very common and rampant, in this study therefore forced marriages will be particularly analyzed.

Domestic Gender-based violence is also and fore most embedded in the aspect of Gender as an ecology, culture and the period pertaining to social relations of power between Men and Women. In some instances, it has been articulated with

social upheaval—the consequence of which will be enormous to the society. Family stability with well defined authority structures still has its useful functions. (Anne Hilton 2003)

It's further true to note that the source of women's vulnerability is embedded upon male supremacy. The world we live in is a male-dominated world where Gender power relations are clearly in favour of men. These power relations are normally unquestionable. The close link between religion and patriarchy is, so much so that like the chicken and an egg riddle. This patriarchy has therefore created a bias in religion from its origins. All the God's have son's not daughters, these origins of religion there fore have huge scars on human beings who are at one time in evolutionary stage when those religions appeared, were primitive and illiterate. People therefore embraced and institutionalized patriarchal world were women from every sphere of public. (Agadech & jemis 2004). In this research therefore scenarios that maintain the status of women in retrospective will be investigated and analyzed.

Culture equally exacerbate domestic gender-based violence in view of the link between democracy and violence, and this is embedded on the fact that culture and tradition do affect women negatively, and the main problem is lack of democracy and human rights. Its worth noting therefore, that democracy a requirement should be at the center of ensuring gender equality and respect of rights, because only in a democratic regime can there be a genuine democracy and equality between men and women. In states or societies which are ruled through dictatorship, the opposite happens, where women are deprived even of their basic human rights, as it's in many Muslim countries (Ebila & Muhanguzi).

To note further is the fact that culture still provides a night mare in terms of denial of women certain basic aspects in life, its also important to note that practices like inheritance goes a long way to cast a dark shadow on the rights of women. In its general law, it refers to apportioning and receiving of property after the death of a person. Under the customary law, it also includes appointing someone

regard to the division of labour, the share of private and public space and other resources, and women's visibility. This assertion has been rooted in the recognition of their work, and thereby, men's and women's health, status, roles and their sharing of economic resources, depended on societies most cherished norms and sense of priority (tseshai;2004).

It's also worth noting that, the economic Dependence of women lies at the heart of the problem of domestic gender based violence. Women lack of control over productive resources and assets is a systematic issue; inequity in marital status and property ownerships intersects with cultural attitudes and beliefs to create formidable obstacles to change. The imperative to control women-embodied in the question "how can property own property?" is underpinned by the fear that women will become promiscuous and indulge in extra marital affairs if allowed to work. Men express the view that women will become promiscuous if allowed to work. Men express the view that women will become "uncontrollable" "unruly", unmanageable or disrespectful to men if they gain economic independence. This is further accelerated by the fear that allowing women to work may lead to family breakup, because women will be able to abandon their husbands and family once they are not economically dependent on men. Therefore violence is simply an act to maintain women in their servile positions in life of poverty and subordination. (UWONET DRB NO.1.2004)

2.7 Measure's to combat domestic gender-based violence.

In addressing domestic gender-based violence, various approaches can be adopted to respond adequately to the needs of the women within societies.

In an effort to curb rampant cases of domestic gender-based violence, health providers can play a crucial role in detecting, referring and caring for women living with violence. Abused women often seek health care, even when they do not disclose the violent event. While women tend to seek health services more than men throughout their lifespan, studies shows that abused women seeks services even more for ailments related to their abuse. Thus intervention s by

health workers potentially mitigate both the short and long term health effects of domestic gender-based violence on women and their families.(Garcia-Moreno 2002).

More still in pursuit of combating domestic gender based violence there is also need for a design to catalyse the construction of an integrated strategy for addressing gender-based violence that targets women in violent situations, should be able to incorporate local community resources and the social sectors- particularly the health sector-in a coordinated response to the problem. Its results will be able to provide the stakeholders with a much deeper understanding of the barriers that women face in the in breaking their silence and in overcoming the obstacles, humiliation and inadequate responses they are encountered with. This probably provides an opportunity for averting the rather acute cases of domestic gender-based violence within societies (Mandela N. 2002).

Better still measures aimed at reducing domestic gender-based violence involves approaches for changing individual behaviour which includes a pre-school enrich and development programmes, as well as vocational training and incentives to complete secondary schooling. These are designed to ensure academic success, manage anger and build skills, and effectiveness in preventing youth violence. Similar life-skills and educational approaches around issues of gender, relationships and power have been used to address physical and sexual violence against women. Effective treatment and counseling can reduce the potential for further physical and psychological harm after interpersonal violence has been experienced (Hugh Waters 2004).

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In critically analyzing the women's perspective of domestic gender-based violence; the researcher used several methods of data collection. This chapter therefore, presents the methodology undertaken in the process of carrying out the study. It further describes the manner in which data was collected and analyzed.

3.1. Research design

The study utilized descriptive study designed to investigate the women's perspective on domestic gender-based violence. This was to describe the situation as it was on the ground and how significantly it affected the life of the population. The study adopted both qualitative and quantitative methods of data collection and analysis of the case study. This was intended to get the ideas on the whole concept of domestic gender-based violence upon which findings, interpretations, summaries and conclusions and recommendations were made on the subsequent chapters. The design was based on the sub-themes of the study which included the forms of domestic gender-based violence, cultural practices that perpetuates violence, socio-economic effects of domestic gender-based violence.

The qualitative design involved in depth interviewing of key informants and focus group discussions and direct observation. This was because it was investigating the perspectives of women on domestic gender-based violence. The quantitative section involved the use of closed ended questionnaires which was convenient for the required response.

3.2 Area and Population of Study

This study was conducted in Padyere-county Nebbi District, West Nile Region Northern Uganda. Padyere County comprise of seven sub-counties, out of which five sub-counties namely: Erussi, Kucwiny, Akworo, Parombo and Nyaravur was chosen for the study. The researchers purposely choose the area of the study having witnessed and experienced numerous cases of domestic Gender-based violence in the area. More over the researcher also comes from the same area which was convenient in the data collection process. The study was restricted to the perspective of women on domestic gender-based violence in the District; the main respondents were women, men, and children. It also consisted of the area LC1 chairpersons, the secretary for women affairs, women councilors, the police, probation and community development officers all together the total sample was 119 respondents.

3.3 Sample selection and size

This study employed simple random sampling and purposive sampling techniques. Simple random sampling was a method of drawing a portion (or sample) of the population so that each member of the population had equal chance of being selected. Simple random sampling was used to select at random (representative) sample. Simple random sampling is a technique that selects a sample without bias from the accessible population. It also ensures that each member of the target population has equal chances of being included in the sample.

Purposive sampling was used to collect focused information. According to Stacey (1959), in purposive sampling the researcher uses his or her own judgment about which respondents to choose, and picks those who best meet the purpose of the study.

Reasons for the use of purposive sampling: according to Stacey (1959) the major advantage of purposive sampling is that it ensures that we get precise information from respondents who are not easy to locate yet crucial for the study.

Further more purposive sampling is more admirable because the selected informants (purposively selected respondents) are selected based on a great deal of knowledge about the subject under study. Therefore purposive sampling was found suitable for the in this study in this study for the following reasons:

The selected respondents are found to be more knowledgeable about the information required due to their affiliation or responsibility to the area of concern. More reliable and valid data is likely to be given by the respondents; the respondents may also take it as their obligation or duty to answer questions. Respondents of the age 16 years and above, both men and women as target population, were considered, a total of 119 respondents was selected from the rest of the population of Paderesi County-Nebbi District. This was a small sample compared to the total population of the district but given that it's a survey research it was deemed sufficient and appropriate as a representative of the entire population.

3.4 Data collection sources

3.4.1 Primary Data

The study utilized mainly qualitative methods of investigation and these were in depth interviews, Focused group discussions, and direct observation. The quantitative methods involved closed ended questionnaire to collect primary data.

3.4.2 Secondary Data

Secondary data was gathered from available documentation concerning domestic gender-based violence other gender related issues. This information was obtained from books, journals, internet reports and relevant documentations from the District and Women organizations concerned with domestic Gender issues.

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3.5 Data collection procedures

3.5.1 In-depth Interviews

In-depth interviews, Questionnaires, were carried out with the help of interview guide, that were open ended questionnaire. Probing was a supplementary way of getting the required information. The interviews involved face to face interaction with the key informants. The interviews were conducted in Alur and English depending on the language that was convenient to the respondents. This method was vital for supplementing the information got from the questionnaires.

3.5.2 Direct Observation

This method was used to ascertain the key issues that compound domestic gender-based violence, predisposing factors like alcohol, poverty, and generally the socio-economic status of the women. Their general appearance in terms of scars, ownership of resources and the condition of livelihood. This method was useful because it gave accurate information that could not be elicited by the use of questionnaires or any other means.

3.5.3 Documentary sources

Documentary sources of data included published books, organizations reports, news papers, journals, magazines and internet sources. This enabled the researcher to bridge the gap in information and supplement on the findings of the study. Reports on cases of domestic gender-based violence within the society were obtained through records from the police, probation, community development and the local council chairpersons records. Much as it was a tedious process, it provided a database which was vital for comparing respondents' interpretation of the phenomenon under study, and attitude of other people involved in the act violence in their lives.

3.5.4 Focused group discussion

This method was employed on the respondent, in this part of the sampled population in a group of at least 7 people at a given time. These procedure was

instrumental in giving vital information, because it as easy for the researcher to probe further to get a balanced view on the subject under investigation. Better still it provided an atmosphere for willful expression of respondents' views.

3.6 Data Processing and Analysis

3.6.1 Data Processing

The research objectives, research questions, and theoretical framework guided the processing stage. This was realized through a careful segmentation of data in a thematic order as follows: forms of domestic, Gender-based violence, traditional/cultural practices that perpetuate DGBV, and the socio-economic effects of domestic gender based violence,. Data was analyzed co-currently to avoid duplication, and this guided the entire aspect of the study for a balanced and critical analysis.

3.6.2 Data Analysis

Data was analyzed in line of the research objectives in order to realize a harmonious flow during the study and this depended on the response from the field study.

Qualitative analysis

Thematic procedure of analysis was used; in this the researcher clarified on the views o the respondents' on the existing perspectives of domestic Gender-based violence. The tools applied were documentation, in-depth interview methods, Questionnaires and focused group discussion methods. The researcher qualitatively analyzed the views of the different respondents through got through the various means according to the various themes.

Quantitative analysis

Quantitative data analysis, was expressed in tabular forms, three different figures were used to illustrate the data thematically expressed in terms of Frequency and percentages. It was on this basis that conclusion was deduced.

3.7 Ethical consideration

The research was carried out with full knowledge and authority of the District Community Development Officer and the probation officer and the lower level the Local Council Chairpersons were consulted before carrying out the study. Assurance of confidentiality was exhibited in the critical process of collecting and coding data, better still objectivity as a principle of research was paramount to the control of bias and distortion. Since the study was crucial in as far as, it targeted a vulnerable class of society, as its primary subjects, and the subject matter of the study as sensitive, assurances of not divulging or pre-empting violence was made note of.

3.8 Limitations of the Study

Within the entire process, the research encountered one major challenge of the tendency of respondents to exaggerate responses with their perceived opinions and expectations; but this was handled by the researchers appeal to the conscience of the respondents to try to be truthful and give information from their experiences, and the real problem on the ground.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.0 Overview.

This chapter begins by presenting, analyzing and interpretations of the numerous forms and likely trigger factors of domestic gender-based violence, the traditional practices that perpetuate domestic Gender-based Violence, and its effects on the socio-economic developments of women in Nebbi District.

4.1 Response on forms of DGBV

Table 4.1: Showing Forms of Domestic Gender Based Violence.

Categories	Agree		Disagree		Neutral		Total	
	F	%age	F	%age	F	%age	F	%age
Wife battering	72	60	32	27	15	13	119	100.0
Indecent Assault	81	68	21	18	17	14	119	100.0
Marital Rape	30	25	67	57	22	18	119	100.0
Denial of entitlement	56	47.0	35	29.0	28	24.0	119	100.0
Defilement	87	73.0	21	18.0	11	9.0	119	100.0

Source: field data

4.1.1 Wife battering

From the presentation of research findings, wife battering was found to be common. Accordingly research data revealed that wife battering constitutes a common form of domestic gender-based violence and has got significant cause of unrest within society. In this study a total of 60% of the respondents agreed that wife battering was prevalent, and that it occurs quite often in most families. Only 27% disagree while 13% remained neutral. The 60% who did agree and accepted the prevalence of wife battering described it in various forms including punching, kicking, beating with fists or objects among others. The 27% that

disagreed with the notion of wife battering viewed it as a normal disciplinary measure and an aspect that happens in every home and society as a disciplinary and love tracking measure, they consequently supported it as long as it did not involve serious bodily harm it was thus condone and not to be reported to the local authorities.

4.1.2 Indecent assault

Indecent assault is common practice in most societies, a practice that has been rationalized and taken advantage of by men to oppress women within the rural societies or livelihoods, because its a silent but rather a deadly incarnation and as well life threatening. In this study, 68% of the respondents did agree that indecent assault was a common practice within their societies, but did not understand whether it also amounted to violence against women, but they did conceded to the fact that indecent assault was a common scenario during dowry payment and dancing festivals where breasts and buttocks of women are touched regardless of their marriage status. Mean while 18% of respondents disagreed with notion of indecent assault because they referred to it as general happiness an act that was not supposed to be regarded as violence in terms of concern since it involved adults, the 14% of respondents who remained neutral failed to gauge its extents of violence and how it can also be rationalized within society.

4.1.3 Marital rape

From table 4.2 above reveals the percentage of views on marital rape. According only 25% of the respondents agreed to the fact that marital rape exist, and they had experienced forced sex by their spouses though they pointed out that, forcing or the act of marital rape was not a daily routine but it did happen in their sexual relations. Yet they did not know as to whether it could be equated to as rape. However, 56% of the respondents noted that, there was no forced sex in their marriages and that activity was a result of joint consent between the spouses. While 18% choose not to say anything (remained neutral) citing that it

was a secret they could not be discussed with any body other than their spouses. Noted through observation was the failure to understand what marital rape entails by most respondents, because throughout the research study, they time and gain described it as over demand for sex by their spouses.

4.1.4 Denial of basic rights and necessities

The table above equally shows the responses on denial of basic rights and basic necessities. This form of violence is a rather emotional and psychological abuse of rights of women; it may not necessarily be physical but mental and degrading. Though most of the respondents did not associate this to violence parse, notably 47% the respondents disagreed on the notion that a real woman does not need to depend on the husband given the fact that in this society women performed a donkey work, but were also not sure of whether this denial can be exhibited in other ways because it could provoke conflict, as they would fight back to gain their rights. Where as 24% of the respondents remained neutral but simply regarded the practice to negligence and had nothing to elude its prevalence to domestic gender based violence.

4.2 Cultural Practices that perpetuates Domestic Gender Based Violence

Table 4.2: Showing Cultural Practices that perpetuates Domestic Gender Based Violence

Categories	Agree		Disagree		Neutral		Total	
	F	%age	F	%age	F	%age	F	%age
Polygamy	50	42.0	58	49.0	11	9.0	119	100.0
Bride Price	58	49.0	38	32.0	23	19.0	119	100.0
Inheritance	74	71.0	33	19.0	12	9.0	119	100.0
Early and forced marriage	37.	31.0	74	62.0	08	7.0	119	100.0
Cultural aspect of discrimination	85	71.0	23	19.0	11	9.0	119	100.0

Source: field data

4.2.1 Rape and defilement

From table 4.2 above it can be appreciated that rape and defilement were common in society. Rape is simply defined as coerced intercourse against the will of the victim, while defilement is an act of sex with a female below the age of 18 years. Accordingly 73% of the respondent agreed to the fact that rape and defilement were common, but associated it to the low economic status of the victims and cultural expectations of the girls within the society. Meanwhile 18% disagreed to the essence of rape and defilement alluding to it as allegations and blamed it to the age of consent, more still it was not an issue since most of the respondents did not know rights pertaining to retribution of the same. Only 9% sought to remain neutral. But by the use of observation, it was easy to note that the number of child mothers within the homes and respondents were alarming, and most of them allegedly dropped out of primary schools owing to rape and defilement,

4.2.2 Polygamy

Polygamy is a situation where a man marries more than one wife; it's thus an instrumental tool in enchanting violence, most common in Alur society. From the research finding 42% of the respondents agreed to the fact that polygamy was a common precursor of violence and acknowledged the fact that it existed since time immemorial, it's also a traditional practice that a man was free to indulge in despite and regardless of his financial or economic status. While 49% disagreed to the notion of polygamy as a practice that predispose women to acts of violence, but rather it depended on the individuals because not all the homes that are polygamous were experiencing violence. Only 09% of the respondents remain neutral because they were either not married or were simply reluctant to comment.

4.2.3 Dowry/Bride price

Table 4.2 illustrates response to Dowry/Bride price, Bride wealth as a precursor to violence against women. Bride price is a marriage practice which has existed for thousands of years, and has survived with minimal changes to the present day. In view of the above, 49% of the respondents agreed to the fact that Bride wealth/price or Dowry is a traditional practice which predisposes women to violence. In retrospect 32% of the respondents disagreed to equate violence to Bride price because not everyone who is married by use of bride price/Dowry experience domestic violence quite often, but rather attributed it to ignorance and the low status of women within the societies. Meanwhile 19% choose to remain neutral since they did not know how best dowry could enhance their lifestyle or how it directly entrenches on their rights in a marriage relationship.

4.2.2 Inheritance

The information from the findings in table 4.2 shows in terms of the response to inheritance as a perpetrating factor of violence. Accordingly 71% of the respondents overwhelmingly agreed to the fact that inheritance as a traditional/cultural practice is detrimental to the life of the women, in both instance of either within her family lineage or by virtue of marriage, where as 19% of the respondents disagreed to the notion of inheritance as a precursor of violence, but attributed it to ambitions of some women, to rival with men over property. Meanwhile 9% of the respondent choose neither to agree nor disagree, citing that it was a complex matter to comprehend.

4.2.3 Early and forced marriage

The above information obtained from the respondents within the community, the development and probation officers, was raised pertaining to early and forced marriages, accordingly 31% of the respondents agreed to the fact that it was a common practice in Alur society and its thus a predisposing factor to violence because it repatriate dependence on a man. While an astonishing 62% of the respondents disagreed to the notion of early and forced marriage as a traditional

practice that predispose women to violence, but that it was because the girls were fast maturing and needed to get married immediately after the period of puberty. Whereas 7% were unwilling to comment, they thus remained neutral.

4.2.4 Cultural aspects of discrimination

It can be appreciated from table 4.2, that discrimination against the women is an aspect of society that pre-empts and tend to give preference to male at the expense of female. Accordingly 71% of the respondents agreed to the fact that discrimination do exist in society in all spheres of life, while 19% choose to disagree on the grounds that the term discrimination is misleading in a situation of a society where status quo has already been set and established as a societal norm. Only 9% of the respondent remained neutral as they were not sure of what it meant comprehensively.

4.3 Response on economic status of women in a situation of violence

Table 4.3: Showing the Effects of Domestic Gender-Based Violence on Socio-Economic Development of Women

Categories	Agree		Disagree		Total	
	F	%age	F	%age	F	%age
Economic Status	86	72	33	28	119	100.0
Family disintegration	105	88	14	12	119	100.0
STI's and HIV/AIDS	109	92	10	08	119	100.0
Maternal and Child mortality	74	62	45	38	119	100.0
Maternal and child mortality as a social-economic effect	112	94	9	06	119	100.0
Psychological Imbalance	105	88	14	14	119	100.0
Poor academic performance	104	87.0	15	13.0	119	100.0
School dropout	114	96	05	04	119	100.0

Source: *field data*

4.3.1 Low economic status of women

The information in table 4.3 shows that the essence of low economic status of the women emanating, from the views of domestic gender based violence, accordingly 72% of the respondents contended to the fact that, there was low economic status of women, this was associated with lack of effective involvement of women in economic activities as a result of instabilities resulting from domestic violence, while 28% of the respondents were in disagreement citing negligence and laziness of the women not involve themselves gainfully in any economic activity.

4.3.2 Family disintegration

The above table illustrates the aspect of family disintegration as a resultant effect of domestic gender based violence, accordingly 88% of the respondents agreed to the notion of family disintegration. Only 12% of the respondent disagreed to the notion on the grounds that women have learnt to tolerate and manage abusive relationship without necessarily scrambling to the pressure of disintegration.

4.3.2 STI's and HIV/AIDS

Table 4.3 further shows that 92% of the respondents agreed that Sexual Transmitted Infections (STI's) and HIV/AIDS remain rampant among women in abusive relationships, they pointed that extramarital relations was popularly a leading case of this effect, however a handful of only 08% did not agree on the grounds that men used condoms outside their marital affairs, unfortunately this was not very easy to verify given that they are no available data from a demographic health survey of the District, that could provide precise information.

4.3.3 Maternal and Child mortality

The information given table 4.3 indicates that maternal and child mortality deaths was common among families where domestic Gender based Violence was

rampant consequently, children at the age of two followed the trend innocently, whereas 38% of the respondents disagreed to the idea given the improved health care up to parish level, more so they further disagreed on the death of children on the grounds that they are not primary victims of violence.

4.3.4 Unwanted pregnancies

From the above table, 94% of the respondents agreed to the fact that due to domestic and gender based violence cases of unwanted pregnancy was common within their community, owing to rape, defilement, which also led to common cases of risky options of unequal abortions which lead to deaths of the victims. Meanwhile only 6% of the respondents disagreed with the association citing the numerous cases of pregnancy and abortion respectively due to recklessness and the victims lust for sex.

4.3.5 Psychological imbalance

From the above illustration 88% of the respondents agreed to the fact that domestic gender based violence led to psychological imbalance among the victims, this is because they loose stability, confidence as well as integrity. This imbalance had consequently leading to loss of sense of livelihood utmost attention for husband was equally lost scenario 16 which is likely to penetrate family disintegration. Only 12 disagreed to the question of imbalance as a result of violence by spouses but rather medical relayed grounds.

4.3.6 Poor Academic Performance

From above illustration 87% of respondents that domestic gender based violence had led to poor performance among students from families frequent cases of violence, and this was due to the fact that, there was hardly a stable environment for students to stabilize and concentrate on then academic work/studies. Nonetheless 13% of respondents disagreed arguing that such students can be transferred to boarding schools away from the violent parent

4.3.7 School Dropout

The information in the above table further indicates that there are common cases of school drop outs, from the research findings 96% of the respondents contended to the fact that school drop outs were very common among students/pupils from females faced with domestic gender based violence. In an interview with female respondents, they described the hurdles within their society that they have to struggle for example they did accept that, most of them have in one way or another been victims or witnessed the acts with in the neighbourhood. Only 4% of the respondents disagree and contended that at times such acts are orchestrated or provoked by the victim's lack of interests in being in school.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSIONS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter unveils the discussions, conclusions and recommendations based on the findings of the research. This has been done to provide sufficient and precise proposals for intervention in terms of recommendation to the local government agencies, NGO's, General public and authorities at the various levels of government. All this is in view of improving livelihood of the female gender/women.

5.1 Discussion of Findings

5.1.1 Wife Battering

In this study, Wife Battering was found to be a common phenomenon, and that it causes significant unrest within the family and societal settings. Its prevalence has been described in various forms not limited to punching, kicking, beating with fist among others. The respondents viewed it as an unfortunate thing for instance if it happens because of refusal to have sex, while others approve of it as a normal disciplinary measure if it does not involve serious body harm. In line with the above a female respondent had this to say:

"Your husband is your head, the crown of your life and the bread winner. He deserves to be obeyed and respected and if a woman does to the contrary, she deserves to be beaten but not to the extent of inflicting injury. We only frown at beating if it threatens the life and health-in terms of a serious wound inflicted"

The puzzling idea with the notion of wife battering is that it involves gross unfairness in its practice, the fact that the violence is directed towards women as its primary victims. This finding is also in line with the demographic health survey (2000 – 2003) which cites the fact that a number of women condone violence so as to maintain the aspect of conjugal expectation of society, bestowed over a

man to rule women. The above study further states that certain conditions substantiate and aggravate the notion of wife battering this includes: drunkenness, isolation and disagreements among others; in a marriage scenario. None the less the gross unfairness associated with the practice simply pre-empts insubordination and enslavement of women.

(Margaret Tibulya 2001) further concurs to the findings of this study, she attests to the fact that Human socialization of the sex roles of Men and Women enhances the practice of physical violence. Boys grow up seeing their fathers' batter their mothers and girls grow up seeing their mothers battered. In the latter case, there is acceptance in some cultures and 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 provoke him to notice her albeit in a negative way. In this case, negative notice is better than no notice at all.

5.1.3 Indecent Assault

Indecent Assault as a form of Domestic Gender-based violence has got a considerable impact on the life of the community. It's worth noting that the people didn't understand whether the notion of Indecent Assault amounted to violence as it was simply associated with general happiness common with festivities of cultural dances, But unfortunately it acts as an avenue to punitive acts that reduce the dignity of a woman worse still it can lead to other acts of violence.

Indecent Assault is therefore a practice that targets not only the women but also girls; its an abuse to rights and privacy of a person to attest to decent living, which can be dignified.

Indecent assault therefore thrives on the aspect of unequal power relations within society in view of patriarchy and the culture of silence. It's simply been aggravated by ignorance and the precision of other factors like alcoholism among others. The finding is in line with (feister 2000) who eludes indecent assault to

the contention of the culture of silence and consideration of an aspect of relationship as per traditional requirements.

In a related study conducted by unicef in pabbo camp (one of the camps for displaced persons in Northern Uganda) in 2004, it was found that 6 out of 10 women are physically and sexually assaulted, threatened and humiliated by men that they trust. It further revealed that women in the displaced people's camps are twice vulnerable to cases of indecent assault given the level of lawlessness that characterize most camps in northern Uganda and adapting to the harsh situation creates uncertainties on the part of the women and consequently scaling the level of sexually related violence

5.1.4 Marital Rape

Research findings revealed that Marital Rape was a common occurrence in Nebbi, but it was considered as a private affair. Respondents noted that it was not easy to report it, because of the unbearable shame and subsequent consequences. More still the respondents viewed it as promoting divorce because no man would ever want to live with such a woman again.

Because of the widely held view within society that marital rape was unheard of in a marriage relationship, thus its acceptance out of ignorance and societal held view. Accordingly in an interview with women in Akworo sub-county kasatu parish, the area local council chairperson in the interview had this to say in regard to marital rape:

"You cannot say that your husband raped you after all he married you. the whole concept of marriage in our culture means that you are there to service him whenever he needs you, whether you are ready or not."

The above assertion therefore suffices to the fact that marital rape is not accepted to be a norm. The women believe that though they were forced into sex against their own will, it's not possible to say that ones legal husband raped her in Alur society.

To note further is the fact that the victims never report such cases to the police or any other authorities, but may at times discuss it with friends because of the need to avoid disgrace and becoming a social out-cast. The police can never take you seriously when you report to them, they will ask you to prove whether you have never met him before or they will just blame you for being responsible for the rapist to have access to you. Such scenario's are therefore responsible for condoning domestic gender based violence in most communities in as far as it creates shame on the victim exhibited through a culture of silence and common belief that a man cannot rape his own wife/spouse.

In light of the above assertion (UWONET 2003) highlights the fact that people are not aware of their gender-based human rights. Further, that culture is used to legitimize men's control over women's bodies. In addition, it argues that people may find it to seek refuge in the law. Instead of legislation against marital rape, people should be sensitized about it. This argument is related to the difficulties in the enforcement of marital rape as an offence are similar to those advanced in relation to those advanced in relation to domestic violence-that its private affair that should not be exposed to the public. However this just perpetuates the injustice, having the law in place has the potential to serve as restraint for sexual abuse in marriage. Consideration should be given to the mandating the L C courts to handle DRB, not as a way of marginalizing issues but as way of facilitating its enforcement.

5.1.5 Denial of Entitlements

The Denial of Entitlements to women happens in so many ways not limited to the husband denying a woman access to her children in case of separation, locking a wife out of the house at night forcing her to sleep out in the open in case of any quarrel, forcing a lady to get married, selling of wives produce and refuse to give her the money, subjecting a woman to verbal insults to humiliate her in public. Is also worth noting that at times It happens because of provocation from the woman

The researchers view is that, this act of denial can therefore expose the woman to a host of incidents and vulnerability to other acts of violence in an event that can lead to serious emotional, psychological and physical consequence a scenario detrimental to health of the women as primary victims. Worse still it denies the fundamental rights of the women especially in preserving her dignity, which is enshrined in (Article 21 (1) of the Ugandan constitution which states:

“All persons are equal before and under the law in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life and in every other respect and shall enjoy equal protection of the law”

But on rather unfortunate bit is the fact that, the women seem unaware of the provisions of the law since they are predominantly illiterate and rural, a fact that it further condones violence against women.

(UWONET 2003) Denotes that violence in terms of denial of certain basic necessities, emanates from the Economic dependence by women on their husbands heightens emotional violence against them. Men take advantage of their control of and women's lack of accessibility to economic resources to inflict emotional violence on them.

5.1.6 Rape and Defilement

A research finding reveals that Rape and Defilement were common occurrence, much as most of them associated it with consent by both parties. Note should be made of the fact that the constitution of the republic of Uganda stipulates the age of consent at 18 and also disputes sex without consent as immoral and punishable by life imprisonment. The fact that society rationalizes every action to their cherished values. But unfortunately it creates unfairness as the girls are simply forced and lured into the acts respectively.

Worse still gender expectations and socialization increase women and girls vulnerability to acts of rape and defilement. Because society imposes on women roles and expectation that eventually push them to the backyard and consequently denial of their rights.

(Grace Bantembya 2004) asserts that rape and defilement is escalated because of what societies imposes on women as their roles and expectations push them into the backyard as compared to the men and this gender inequality results into a culture of denial of human rights. The construction of identities of women in their gendered roles as mothers and guardians of culture implies that women turn out to be victims. In most cases young girls are defiled while on their way to from fetching water or while collecting fire wood this is true both in conflict and non conflict areas although the magnitude differs.

(Action aid Uganda 2006) the DRB in Section 61 out laws sex without consent and provides for both civil and criminal liability

5.2 Cultural Practices that perpetuate domestic gender-based violence

5.2.1 Polygamy

The practice of polygamy is a cultural aspect embedded on patriarchal nature of society which subjects the women to a kind of competition and rivalry among the co-wives in a bid to impress the man-a situation that predispose them to a lot of violence and abuse, coupled with this is the situation that a mans desire for more women is rationalized and accepted in the society while a women attempt to have more than one man is despicable and regarded as prostitution. Women therefore resort to endless pursuit of being accepted by the man including witchcraft – which even escalates further violence.

In an exclusive interview with two Women Representatives in the Local Council, Nebbi District Local Government it was noted that Polygamy as a cultural practice in Alur society is an indication of a social standing, a sign of influence and is regarded further as a sound economic and social investment. However the practical outcomes are for the benefit of men. In view of the above they had this to say:

“Under customary law, polygamy cements alliances with very many villages from where the women come, economically its believed to increase the labour force of a man from within his own family, and the social motives of

polygamy was for raising the status of a man on the basis of the number of wives in his house holds”.

The above mentioned situation only serves the interest of men without regard to the physical, psychological and emotional pain it causes women.

The researchers view, polygamy causes instability in marriage, unhealthy rivalry, and unhealthy competition of child bearing and above all spread of HIV/AIDS. All this tend to work to the detriment of the women as they are abused violently in an event of claiming equality in marriage.

A situation like this renders the women as mere objects because they simply cling in the rather violent marriage situations out of desperation, a situation that for a long time been breads emotional and psychological suffering of the women.

5.2.2 Bride Price as a cultural practice that predispose women to violence

Bride price in Alur society, first like in many African societies is recognized as an integral part of the customary law of marriages, from the above analysis its worth noting that it amounts to violence on women, because it entails transfer of rights (in terms of something with a price tag), loss of right in that the payment of the bride price means the woman becomes married to the person who pays it, and consequently subject to exploitation. In situations where the marriage breaks down the woman remains married until her family returns the bride price to her to regain her freedom. As if to make matters even worse the decision of fixing the bride price is the duty of the elderly male from the paternal side of the bride in agreement with the groom's family.

More still the bride price according to the respondents is not negotiated on behalf of the bride or for the use of the bride; she does not share in the proceeds of the bride price. The proceeds are shared by the family members and payment seals the customary marriage. The scenario here seems to trap the women in a journey of no return and thus her vulnerability to all kinds of abusive and violent

acts by the spouse and since the women are taught endurance under all circumstances, it thus consequently perpetrates and pre-empts continuity of violence against women since they are reduced to the level of bought item by their spouses.

(UWONET 2004) in a research of community perspective on the payment of Bride wealth, highlights the fact that, suggested that bride wealth was essential for sustainable marriages and gives status and value to the women. The assumption that bride price is a stabilizing factor is related to the fact that traditionally on the, on the on the break down of marriage bride price was repayable. The clause in DRB that proposes non-payable gifts were these are given, invalidates the arguments. As regard women's value and status being associated with payment of bride price, this just legitimizes women's subordination to men. Further more, it perpetuates the assumption that women are assets that can potentially be changed in the market. This simply serves to perpetuate violence on the women since they have been bought on the payment of bride price.

5.2.3 Inheritance as a cultural practice that predispose women to violence

Research findings reveals that Inheritance is common practice in Alur society, it should be noted that it a practice that involved both men and women. Much as women were allowed to inherit property, it was simply for formality as the men were the greatest beneficiaries. To worsen matters women were also considered an inheritance not until the era of HIV/ AIDS.

In a confirmatory interaction with the L.C of Koch Avinga village, koch parish, he did confirm that in both situations of either lineage or by virtue of marriage. A woman is considered to be beneficiaries of proceeds out of the property of men, but not to own, in her lineage she ceases owning the entitlements immediately she gets married, while in marriage in case the spouse dies if she inherits any

property including land, that ceases immediately when she is inherited (remarried) by the relatives of the deceased husband.

The researchers view is that law of inheritance is unfair because it reduces the woman to the level of an item, in a focused group discussion a woman had this to say.

“The elders always prefers males to inherit their property, because women can always find property were she is married”.

This therefore creates a sense of powerlessness which subject women to submission to men, in what ever circumstance, because they are normally left with no choice but succumb to all violence in the names of affiliation with men or spouses because even women themselves are potential inheritance for men, but remains a despicable act that predispose women to risk of violence.

This finding is in line with the 2005 Gender Monitoring Baseline Survey for land sector strategic plan found that, Cultural and traditional practices grossly deprive ownership of land to pass to women irrespective of the constitutional assurances for ownership to all people. Women property rights continue to be dependent on rights of husbands and other male relatives. While the practice of widow inheritance is also routed in the perception/ belief that the woman becomes part of the property of the clan by the virtue of the bride wealth that was given to her family at the time of her marriage. When the husband dies the clan has to ensure that what belongs to the clan remains in the clan. In this age of HIV/AIDS this is a dangerous practice, which contravenes the spirit of the land enshrined in the 1995 constitution. Worst still inheritance brings disharmony in the family in a situation were the man is already married.

5.2.4 Forced marriages

In the researchers own view early and forced marriages continues to hinder girls empowerment consequently, increasing girls vulnerability to early and un planned pregnancies. Girls suffer sexual expectations because they are in a

weaker bargaining position or at times are not aware of their rights and the looming consequences looms them.

The girls are likely to encounter medical and psychological problems in the case of an early pregnancy. Early marriages are therefore a destruction of social care and control mechanisms that are usually expected in the social environment of community. In an interview with the L.C.1 Chairman he had this to say:

“The failure of existing customary law that expects girls to marry at puberty stage, to meet the demands of such expectations, often breeds pressure from elders and relatives for the girls who are not married, propelling girls into forced relationships”.

The above assertion therefore portrays the benefits accrued on the girls by their parents; relative's causes a kind of connivance with the intending man in question. Existing customary and marriage laws subordinates wives to their husbands and inherent rights to perpetuate dependency on men not only for livelihood but also for important choices in life which greatly enhance their vulnerability. This is contrary to the article 31 of the constitution which provides that men and women of the age of eighteen years and above have the right to marry and found a family and are entitled to equal rights in marriage, during marriage and its dissolution.

5.2.5 Discrimination Against the women

Discrimination is an aspect of society that existed since time immemorial. According to this research therefore discrimination occurs in many spheres of life, in this perspectives we focus on the fact that in a community where status quo is being developed it still tends to be common. Notably in the study was the fact that men are given a priority in all the spheres of life.

In researchers view the aspect of discrimination starts right from birth in away that if a male child is born, there is more joy compared to when a female child is born, and this unfortunately becomes a ground for discrimination in all aspects of life including ownership of land, inheritance and division into feminine and masculine are envisaged in the following perspectives.

Men are accepted as bread winners and women as non working. Limited access and control over resources, and women serving community without bag paid/remunerated as well as not being recognized for the work they do, this together with long-held prejudices and beliefs that women are generally docile, submissive, patient and tolerant to all kinds of hardships they are subjected to coupled with the fact that girls are taught submission as they grow and that lack of conformity carries a lot or high personal and social cost, therefore makes them a soft target for abuse for the male gender.

5.3 Social and Economic impacts of Domestic Gender-based violence

5.3.1 Economic Status of women

The researchers view is that the harm caused on the women tends to put halt all activities that are necessary for effective economic perspective of life thus leaving them even more vulnerable to poverty and other threatening life situation. This therefore has the implication that, due to domestic violence a lot of time is spent to nurse the harm instead of concentrating in any viable economic activities. Thus deteriorating level of productivity would also imply that per capita income of the women have deteriorated to unimaginable levels. This therefore means that the man can therefore tighten his grip on the women as she has to depend on him for her entire livelihood, subjecting her further to abuses detrimental to her health.

5.3.2 Family Disintegration

Disintegration in regard to effects of domestic gender-based violence refers to issues like separation, Divorce, lack of parental love, poverty and above all the impunity in terms of unpredictable and frightening environment; children consequently learn to fear their fathers and worry of their mothers.

In the on going study, It was noted that children growing up in violent homes learn that violence and aggression are acceptable ways of expressing emotion or resolving violence in their own homes as adults.

The researchers view is that family disintegration brings to halt the moral fabric of a family setting that consequently precede and cast a dark shadow on the family is the fact that women and children forms a bigger part of its potential victims.

5.3.3 HIV/Aids

Research findings noted that STI's and HIV/AIDS were common in an abusive relationship, much as it was generally attributed to unfaithfulness of the couples. But in a situation of violent relationships it was found to be rampant, given the extra-marital relationship in exhibited in a relationships where equality was no longer upheld.

(Human Rights Watch 2003), it was noted that, Uganda's success in reducing HIV/ AIDS prevalence has been globally acknowledged. Nevertheless, the government's failure to identify and tackle the role of violence in the transmission of HIV to women is proving fatal to Ugandan women. Current approaches focusing on fidelity, abstinence, and condom use do not address the ways in which domestic violence inhibits women's control over sexual matters in marriage, minimize the complex causal factors of violence, and incorrectly assume that women have equal decision making power and status within their intimate relationships. Uganda Aids commission has yet to incorporate violations of Women Rights, including Domestic violence in its HIV/Aids programming.

The researchers view on the implications of the above research is that while we acknowledge the common scourge of STI's and HIV/AIDS as a resultant factor of domestic gender based violence, it is also worth noting the culture of silence and societal expectations of a woman to tolerate abusive relationship creates vulnerability to the women, more so she is not likely to deny sex to a man she is married to, a situation that creates a fertile ground for the spread of the STI's and HIV/AIDS.

5.3.4 Maternal and Child Mortality

According to research findings it was noted that domestic gender-based violence has got both was responsible for both Maternal and child mortality. It was attributed to the mans failure to tolerate the women during periods pf pregnancy, and failure to corporate in bringing up the child.

This therefore implies that domestic Gender based violence put the women, especially girls at risks, more so during pregnancy whereby a woman's response to the hormonal changes make her behavior and may make her very "aggressive" irritable" and at times hates everything to do with a man, therefore a man failure to realize and respond appropriately may then escalate violence and cause harm and consequently death during pregnancies. Meanwhile the children die because lack of proper care due to abandonment especially in situation of separation and divorce.

The researcher views of this consequences emanating from domestic gender based violence, is the aggressiveness in terms of poor couple communication between couple communication between couples and failure for especially the men to portray a level of patience violence very inevitable.

5.3.5 Unwanted Pregnancy

The implication of unwanted pregnancy emanates in a situation of circumstantial pregnancy from an abusive relationship or where there was no equal bargaining power and a situation were the interest of the women did not take paramount importance, but the man decides on everything even if the direct burden or consequence rested on the women. Creates and a servile position that dominates women and thus leading to direct consequences.

The researchers view on the above assertion is that pregnancy owing out of rape, defilement creates a very uncomfortable situation for the women, to make matters worse abortion is sought to end such pregnancies because of the hurt

feelings of especially the victims of rape, which thus creates Gynecological consequences and in most cases leading to death.

5.3.6 Psychological Imbalance

Emanating from the research findings psychological imbalances are brought about by the physical and emotional among the couples, the effects therefore comes as a result of injuries, sexual dysfunction, depression and feeling of anxiety.

This therefore implies that the physical and emotional damages may have transmitted consequences in terms of psychological damage this are envisaged as a result physical injuries, unwanted pregnancies, STD's, drugs and alcohol, abuse, fear, anxiety, low self esteem, sexual dysfunctional, depression and suicide acts among others.

The researchers view on this matter is that the psychological imbalance is brought about by the pressure, depression and disappointment that are exhibited in terms of post traumatic stress disorder (P.T.S.D) a conditions of acute dysfunction of the human brain that has the capacity to cause irreparable damage. Even children who witness or experience violence or abuse exhibits health and behavioral problems consequently internalizing violence as a form of conflict resolution, worse still it expose girls who begins to accept violence as a norm in marriage.

5.3.7 Poor academic performance

Research findings further revealed that poor academic performance was common among children in violent homes. To note further is the fact that children in a home embroiled in violence in most cases becomes secondary victims directly or indirectly.

Violence has also got other implications of denials of economic requirements making the children potential victims, thus a shadow is cast on their future.

The above revelation confirms the catastrophe children are embroiled in a violent household. Notable is the fact that the environment tends to be volatile, situations where the children are stressed and in most cases unable to concentrate in class. In a focused group discussion with girls in Koch Awinga senior secondary school a female student had this to say;

"I find it very difficult at school because of the way I feel now, when I am in class I don't feel so attentive because my parents are always on my mind. I feel very sad that I don't have them in my life any more".

This assertion therefore exhibits the stress children have to go through, especially if separation ensued, as a result of violence.

The researchers view on poor academic performance is that, children are happy and tends to concentrate when there is harmony and mutual trust in the entire family setting, the fact that the children learn and live in fear for their father and worry for their mothers creates tension, thus the inability to be able to perform better in their studies (both in boarding and day schools).

5.3.8 School Drop out

This findings on the effects of Domestic gender-based violence implies that, violence causes school drop outs are not only violence within their homes, but also the ones directed towards them in terms of defilement, rape, indecent assault among others makes it impossible for them to achieve the intended educational attainment given that they bare a lot of consequence such as pregnancies, and thus therefore means that they loose their chances for finishing schools, and this will consequently, perpetrate illiteracy and domination of by the men.

The researchers view is that such acts of violence creates a vocative family and societal environment, and since society tends to condone and live some of this actions unpunished, given the domination and the slave mentality and stereotyping associated with especially the female, then illiteracy especially of

the Mai women is likely to take root within our society a tool this is detrimental a sustained good living and development of their areas.

In the final analysis of the socio economic effects of domestic gender based violence, based on the findings the researcher noted that a lot of harm has been inflicted on the social and economic realm of the women in Nebbi district, particularly Padyere-County. This therefore signify a protracted and deliberate attempt by the men, therefore fear and resist the prospects of equality because they think there are certain natural reasons for men to dominate women. Besides women have also misunderstood aspect of empowerment and perhaps this shows why the domestic relations bill in Uganda has fail to take root. Thus violence seems to be sufficient reasons to dominate and keep women in fear.

5.4 Conclusions

The perspective on domestic and gender based violence addresses a common hazard within society, which occurs both within and outside the domain of the homes, the forms are various ranging from aggravated rape indecent assault and wife beating among other forms are a common practice, this takes prevalence because of the lack of realization of the rights of individual and the low status accorded to them especially the victims.

In essence of the causes it entails a lot of actions of both men and women that acts as a provocation tool while others occurs basically out of ignorance notably drunkenness', sexual dissatisfaction ,suspected adultery, polygamy, extra marital affairs among others. Above all the patrachial system of female subservience and secondary status upheld by the society poses significant challenges of domestic violence which thrives on the ignorance and lack of awareness of the victims.

The consequences emanating from domestic gender based violence are shocking and catastrophic in nature within the socio-economic perspectives in that it erodes the establishment of society right from the family, community, the sub-county, district and the sub-region of west Nile as a whole. Notably low economic status, physical and psychological and gynecological consequences, most severe is the continued scourge of HIV/Aids and the perpetuation of poverty within the family and he society.

5.5 Recommendations

The recommendations raised in this study focuses and targets policy makers, community leaders, the women representatives, community members and the organizations championing remediation measures in dealing with Domestic Gender-based violence in the Nebbi.

5.5.1 Strengthening community networks

The community should play a significant role in designing and\ implementing, and evaluating strategies to prevent domestic gender based violence. The organizations like Action Aid, and offices like community development office and probation should work with the community leaders, help identify volunteers within the community who will be instrumental in running outreach activities. Efforts should be made to ensure gender balance in the recruitment of the community volunteers. These individuals can therefore work as community peer educators, counselors, and also train the community with aspects of crisis intervention skills, which will be instrumental in shaping the cultural attitudes within society.

5.5.2 Empower women

Its worth noting that, Men and Boys can be targets of domestic gender based violence, its more often women and girls who are subjected to this particular violation of their basic human rights. According to this research findings women are regarded as subordinate to, and are rendered dependent upon, men. These unequal power relations leave women at double disadvantages: women are at greater risk of physical and psychological abuse, and if subjected to such abuse,

they generally left with few or no options for redress and economic self sufficiency. Noted are

- The local legal system may not consider domestic gender based violence as a crime.
- A woman's report of violence may be ignored or mocked.
- A woman may fear to report the incident for fear of retribution or further violence against her or family members
- If the perpetrator is her husband she may be trapped into staying with him, and possibly suffering more abuse, because she cannot provide for herself and the children.

There is therefore need to help women to change their roles in society and women's perceptions of themselves by offering activities that promote their independence and economic self-reliance and their leadership and decision-making abilities. This may include offering adult literacy programmes like FAL, supporting women's groups and associations, and offering leadership training among others.

5.5.3 Get Men involved

It's noted that focusing only a woman ignores the fact that men perpetrate most incidents of domestic gender based violence. Men must therefore be part of the solution to this problem. Men must take decisive stand against domestic gender based violence before real progress can be made. Men in leadership position within the community and the sub-county have the power and authority to influence change. They can act as role models for others. Equally men must be made to understand that perpetrators of domestic violence can easily be punished, and it can have adverse effects on their families and communities.

Therefore there is need to support groups of men who are committed to ending Domestic gender based violence in their community. This groups can reinforce the idea that domestic gender based violence is not only a "women's issue". Important lesson can be learnt from those who work with men in family planning

programmes. When men are seen to be working to prevent domestic and gender based-violence, they thus give the issue credibility that can convince other men to join them. But there is need for sensitivity to the fact that some men and boys are also victims/survivors of gender based violence. Thus the need to create space and conditions that can allow men to discuss this issue and to work towards ending this kind of violence.

5.5.4 Create awareness on reproductive health programmes

It's noted that most activities addressing domestic gender-based violence focus on responding to such violence and assisting victims/survivors. However there is need to implement reproductive health activities that tackle a wide range of activities such as discussions about gender, relationships, and domestic gender based violence that target men and adolescents as well as women.

There is also the dire need to engage traditional birth attendants as partners in reproductive health activities. Traditional birth attendants can be a valuable source of information and can help disseminate prevention and protection messages.

The Society may be appalled and supposed to love that a significant proportion of women in prison are in for violent crimes they perpetrated against those that they are supposed to love-family members. But mere outrage is not the solution society must do more: it must alter the socio-economic, cultural and legal arrangements that deprive women of more humane ways of conflict resolution.

5.5.5 Transforming Socio-cultural norms

This assertion is based on the realization that the domestic gender- based violence is rooted in socio-cultural norms of gender inequality and discrimination. Preventing sexual and gender based violence thus requires changes in gender relations within the community- that is the socially ascribed roles, responsibilities and expectations, limitations, opportunities and privileges assigned to persons in the community based on sex.

Prevention activities should therefore target socio-cultural norms seek to influence changes in knowledge, attitudes, and behaviour. Goals to aim for should be able to appreciate reproductive responsibilities, respecting the worth of each individual's contribution to the community and solving problems non violently; and treating all person regardless of their gender or gender roles with respect.

5.5.6 The need for domestic violence legislation

There is also need for specific legislation to arm those structures attempting to tackle spousal violence. Since domestic violence is recognized as a human rights issue, therefore matters concerning spousal abuse should not be relegated to the family and community as responsible actors, but should be brought out in the public sphere, the deserving punishment just like any other forms of rights violation. Though criminalizing cases like forced sex could provide pretext for women to harass their husbands. Never the less the laws have to be created to protect victims of domestic violence regardless of the gender.

5.5.7 Promote reproductive health programmer

Implementation of reproductive health programmes is necessary to address especially the sexual perspectives of domestic gender based violence. This can be in terms of a response programme implemented by the health workers both in terms of response to such violence and also in terms of preventive mechanism to combat sexual violence within the society.

Implementing reproductive health activities should therefore include discussion about gender, relationships, and gender based violence, which should target men and adolescents as well as women. Awareness issues about HIV/Aids should be part of this effort. Also engaging traditional birth attendants can be a valuable source of information and therefore be helpful in disseminating preventive and protective measures and should also contain information for combating gender based violence within the society.

5.5.8 Mainstream gender in all stages of programme planning and implementation

The sub-county as an immediate unit of local government together with other implementing actors should apply gender analysis when planning programmes. Those programmes should therefore be gender sensitive, taking into account the particular needs of both men and women, starting right with the priorities within there office.

The sub-county and other organizations with operations area within the sub-county should accelerate efforts to reach gender equity (women and men comprising fifty percent each of total staff) at senior levels and in field operations. This consequently will contribute to ensuring hat gender issues are address through out there programming and the influences can be felt within the community and can bring about positive attitudes among families thus a society free of violence.

5.5.9 Transform traditional legal system

Traditional or customary legal system, usually administered by elders operates in many communities. The rules, procedures and decision making of these groups reflect the society's norms, beliefs, and attitudes. These groups may pass judgment in domestic gender violence cases, in situations where such tribunals or committees pass judgments which are offensive to international to both national and international human rights standards.

This groups should there fore be targeted for awareness raising campaigns and training campaigns and training programmes on human rights and gender. Strengthening respect for human rights of all persons within the community and ensuring that domestic gender based-violence is not tolerated will benefit the community as a whole.

5.6 Gaps for future research

This shaded light on the women's perspective on domestic gender-based violence. The study how ever did not go further to assess how women are also

potential perpetrators of domestic gender-based violence. Another study should therefore focus on;

- (a) The relationship between educational levels and poverty in the prevalence of Domestic gender-based violence.
- (b) Domestic violence and the scourge of HIV,AIDS in the rural areas

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APPENDICES

Appendix I: Questionnaires

The researcher is a post graduate student in KIU carrying a research on the women perspectives on domestic an gender-based violence in Nebbi, as part of a requirement of the award of a masters degree in Development Administration and Management. Dear respondents your are therefore requested to spare some few minutes of your precious time to fill in this questionnaire, and all the information given will be treated with the confidentiality it deserves. I appreciate and thank you very much.

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

Age.....
Sex.....
Position.....
Number of years in service.....

1).Has your status ever received any case of domestic gender based violence?

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐

2). How many cases do you receive monthly?

1-10 ☐

11-20 ☐

More ☐

3). What are the forms of domestic gender based violence prevalent your area.

(a)Wife battering ☐

- (b) Rape and Defilement ☐
- (c) Indecent assault ☐
- (d) Abusive or derogatory languages ☐
- (e) Denials of entitlements and benefits ☐
- (f) Others specify ☐

4). a) Do you agree that women are most affected by the various forms of DGBV?

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐

b) If you agree what are the likely trigger factors that accelerates the cases of DGBV in your area.

.....

5). Do you agree that certain cultural / traditional practices perpetuate DGBV?

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐

b) If you agree, then give examples of the cultural practices that perpetuate violence.

.....

6) Do you agree that cultural practices plays enormous role in perpetuate violence against women

.....

7) In what manner does the cultural practices predispose women do domestic gender based violence.

.....

.....

8) Do you agree that men do take advantage of culture to cause violence?

.....
.....

9) a) Do you think domestic gender based violence has got an enormous effects on the so co-economic livelihood of women and the family as a whole.

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐

b) If you agree what are some of the socio – economic effects and challenges of domestic gender based violence interview guide for women

.....
.....

10) a). What measures do you think can be adopted to combat the problem of domestic gender-based violence?.....

.....

b) Are you aware of and constitutional provision that protects women from acts of DGBV?

Appendix II: Interview Guide

Part. 1

1. Personal information

- a) Sex
- b) Age group (in year)
- c) Education level
- d) Marital status

a) What do you understand by domestic gender based - violence.

.....

.....

b) Which of the above forms of GDBV are common in your society?

.....

.....

c) Which of the above forms are most common in your community?

.....

.....

Part. 2

Do you think that certain cultural practices perpetuate DGBV?

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐

If you agree, give examples

Do you think cultural practices predispose women to domestic women to DGBV?

Agree ☐ Disagree ☐ Neutral ☐

If you agree, what do you think can be done to prevent further scourge of domestic gender based violence.

.....
.....

Part. 4

- a) How is your community affected by DGBV?
- b) How domestic gender based violence does affects the status of women within society.
- c) What do you think should be done to address the problem of DGBV.

Focused group discussion guide

- What are the common forms of the practice of DGBV in your community
- What do you understand by DGBV?
- Who are most affected by it in the community?
- Which categories of women are affected by DGBV?
- Do you think cultural practices are instrumental in perpetuate domestic gender based violence.
- What do you think are some of the effects of this violence on women, and also the community?
- What do you think should be done to parent further scourge of domestic based violence?

- What measures can be adopted to combat the rampant cases of DGBV?



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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
SCHOOL OF POST-GRADUATE STUDIES

15th June 2007

Dear Sir/Madam,

RE: INTRODUCTION FOR ALITHUM BRUCE (MA DAM/1177/51/DU)

The above named is our student in the school pursuing a Master of Arts in Development Administration and Management (MA DAM).

He wishes to carry out a research in your organization on **"Women's perspectives on Domestic Gender-Based Violence: A case study of women in Nebbi District."**

The research is a requirement for the award of a Master of Arts in Development Administration and Management (MA DAM).

Any assistance rendered to him regarding research will be highly appreciated.



Prof. OWOLABI O.SAMUEL
DIRECTOR - SCHOOL POST GRADUATE STUDIES

APPENDIX V

MAP OF UGANDA SHOWING THE LOCATION OF NEBBI DISTRICT

