



FACULTY OF EDUCATION

DEPARTMENT OF ADULT EDUCATION

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: UNDERSTAND, EXPERIENCES AND PERCEPTIONS OF
ADULT EDUCATION STUDENTS AT A SELECTED STATE UNIVERSITY IN
ZIMBABWE.**

BY

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R115108A

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENTS OF THE BACHELOR OF ADULT EDUCATION DEGREE AT
MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY.**

MAY 2016

GWERU, ZIMBABWE

MIDLANDS STATE UNIVERSITY

APPROVAL FORM

The undersigned certify that they have read and recommended to the Midlands State University for acceptance, a research project entitled, " Experiences, beliefs, perceptions, attitudes, understanding and perspectives of women towards domestic violence : A case of Adult Education students at Midlands State University, " submitted by Eunice .R. Mutara in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the Bachelor of Adult Education Degree.

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my parents, Mr. R. Mutara and Mrs. R. Mutara and the Mutara Family.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Almighty God for taking me this far in my academics. If it was not for His grace I would not have made it.

Many thanks goes to my supervisor for guiding me throughout this research. Thank you for your patience and hard work. I am grateful to my friends and colleagues, Sikoliwe Helegwa for being there to support and encourage me during the hard and trying times.

I also express gratitude to my sisters for their support throughout my academic years. Last, but not least, i also want to express my gratitude to my parents, Mr and Mrs Mutara for their support, financially, morally, physically and spiritually. God bless you.

ABSTRACT

The focus of this research was on exploring the phenomenon of domestic violence perpetrated by men towards women. The research was inspired by the increasing incidences of women at State Universities and Zimbabwe as a whole who are being abused by men and therefore sought to get an understanding of the dynamics and trends of the phenomenon. The descriptive research design was used in order to describe the situation of domestic violence that is perpetrated by men on their spouses and partners. The study population comprised 10 participants including the researcher. The researcher employed questionnaires and focus group discussion as data collection instruments. In view of the questionnaire responses, the research ascertained that indeed the majority of women suffer abuses at the hands of their spouses and partners. The focus group discussion showed that even men suffer from abuses by their female counterparts but it is the female partner who is the most affected. The study also found that women are mainly vulnerable because they are of financial dependence on men. In light of this, the researcher outlined views from key respondents which are measures that should be taken to address problems at family level and also to raise the awareness of the general populace concerning domestic and intimate partner violence that is being perpetrated by men towards women.

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CHAPTER ONE

THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

1.1 INTRODUCTION

This study is grounded on the view that women are abused by men in their homes. The study sought to focus on the abuses that takes place in a husband and wife or intimate relationships. In this chapter, the researcher is going to discuss on the background of the research, statement of the problem and the purpose of the study. The definition of terms will be given as well as the discussion of delimitations, limitations and assumptions of the study.

1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Domestic violence is the most common form of Gender Based Violence, which is dominating in many communities around the world. It can also be referred to as Intimate Partner Violence. Spousal abuse or IPV is the most common form of domestic violence. During the colonial era and after independence, Zimbabwe did not have laws to address issues of domestic violence and disputes. It was only in 1991 that the country approved the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against women (CEDAW). Reforms were made to the Criminal Law Act (Codification Reform) (2007) and the Domestic Violence Act (2006) was adopted into law. All these acts and other efforts such as gender mainstreaming were meant to improve the women's welfare by the governments.

The 1948 UN Universal Declaration of Human Rights created a global promise that all human beings are born equal in dignity and rights. However, in Zimbabwe, the country's vision and aim for human equality still lies in a complete disorder partly because of the increasing number of GBV cases that are undermining women's rights.

Media reports and police statistics bear a testimony to the worrying trend of Domestic violence. Domestic Violence is the type of Gender Based Violence that has been on the increase in Zimbabwe for years (Osirim, 2003). Gender based violence is one of the most pervasive violations of human rights, denying women security, dignity, self esteem and their fundamental rights. In Zimbabwe, levels of gender based violence remain a concern. According to the Zimbabwe Demographic Survey (2011), one in four women reported that they had experienced sexual violence and one in three women aged 15 to 49 have experienced physical violence since the age 15. Gender Based Violence is a psychological and emotional stumbling block in women's lives.

Intimate Partner Violence is an issue of real concern worldwide. It is associated with quite a number of harmful consequences such as marital rape, assault, intimidation and harassment. Violence in the homes has often been understood from the perspectives of male perpetrators and female survivors. However, men can also be survivors in some cases, but in most cases, women are more likely to be victims of Domestic Violence than men. Women are mostly at the receiving end.

According to Krug et.al (2002) the bulk of studies indicate that men are the main culprits behind Intimate Partner Violence. Moreover, men's violence against women apparently has far more serious consequences than women's violence against men (Straus, 1999). Women are viewed as weaker sex in religion and culture. The violence that women are subjected to most commonly is interpersonal violence committed by an intimate partner (Krantz and Moreno, 2005).

Due to the patriarchical nature of the Zimbabwean society, women are affected more by Domestic Violence than men. Kambarami (2006) defines patriarchy as a social organisation or system that reproduces itself from male members of a society who are endowed with

power and authority. Knickmeyer et.al (2003) say that domestic violence is a consequence of patriarchy and part of a systematic attempt to maintain male dominance in the home and in society.

According to Osirim (2003) a major increase in the reported number of women beaten by their spouses occurred at the beginning of the economic crisis and the subsequent imposition of the Economic Structural Adjustment Program (ESAP) in Zimbabwe in 1992. Additionally, Osirim (2003) said that there were no laws in Zimbabwe that recognized marital rape which frequently accompanied domestic abuse. Domestic violence usually occurs when the abuser believes that abuse is acceptable and unlikely to be reported.

Due to the rise in cases of abuse against women and children, this led to the establishment of the Domestic Violence Act Chapter 5:16 in 2006 and the Anti Domestic Violence Council. According to statistics provided by the Victim Friendly Unit Department in the ZRP, it was recorded that about 10 871 cases of Domestic violence were reported in 2013. Furthermore, Mugugunyeki (2014) advances that very few women and girls in rural areas who are survivors of physical or sexual violence are seeking legal, medical or social support services. Osirim (2003) states that many Domestic Violence cases are unreported to police and other authorities as survivors , in most cases, women fear being stigmatized. Although men and women can both perpetrate Domestic Violence, men are more likely than women to exhibit more serious acts of physical aggression (Archer,2002).

The current researcher was motivated to explore on the experiences, perceptions, and understanding of Domestic violence by Adult Education students at a selected state university in Gweru.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

There is an increase in cases of domestic violence in Zimbabwe. Some students in the department of Adult Education at MSU were once victims of domestic violence, others are still victims whilst other students have witnessed cases of domestic violence in their homes, by their neighbours and in their communities. Women of different age groups and professions are falling victims to various forms of abuse which are being perpetrated by men at their homes. They are being abused verbally, sexually, psychologically, physically as well as economically.

1.4 PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The aim of this study was to explore on the experiences, perceptions, and understanding of Domestic violence by Adult Education students at a selected state university in Midlands. Both males and female students will take part in order to have an understanding of the importance of the initiatives being implemented to reduce the cases of Domestic violence and Intimate Partner Violence.

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The following research questions guided the study.

1.5.1 Main question

The major research question was:

- 1) What are Adult Education students' perspectives and understanding of domestic violence?

1.5.2 Sub questions

To further explore the major research question, the following sub research questions are explored :

- 2) What are the forms of abuse that women face from men at their homes?
- 3) How do adult education students perceive the abuses perpetrated by men?
- 4) What strategies do the adult education students suggest to minimise cases of domestic violence?

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The study is important to a wide range of stakeholders. It will develop the researcher's understanding to the problem under study and equip the researcher with more skills on carrying out a research. The study is also important to the selected university, the Adult Education Department and the Gender Studies Department at the university as it will significantly contribute to the literature on domestic violence.

Upon approval, the study will also be used for reference purposes by both the lecturers and the students. The study has the theoretical significance of addressing the research gap in studies pertaining to women. It will also help women to be aware of their legal and human rights and to be able to open up on cases of IPV and also to know where to report to.

1.7 DELIMITATION

The study was carried out at a selected State University in Zimbabwe. Students studying for a Bachelor's Degree in Adult Education participated in the study.

1.8 LIMITATIONS

The study was carried out at a selected State University particularly in the department of Adult Education. The limitation of this study is that it will only give the views and opinions of students from the selected university and not those of other students countrywide. The study will also focus on female students in the adult education department only and not on other female students from other departments and faculties.

In other words, the findings will not be generalised to female students and women at the excluded departments. The participants' views will not represent the views of other students at the institution. A focus group will be used in the study, and each focus group will contain five participants. A typical group size for focus groups is between six and ten individuals (Morgan,1998). Therefore, the focus groups used did not meet the standard.

1.9 DEFINITION OF TERMS

The following are the definitions of key terms that were used in this study. The terms were defined in context with the study as:

Attitude -Baron (1996) views an attitude as a feeling, belief and opinion of approval or disapproval towards something.

Perception - Perception is the organization, identification, and interpretation of sensory information in order to represent and understand the environment. (Schacter,2011).

Violence - The World Health Organisation (2002) defines violence as the intentional use of physical force or power , threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, which either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation.

Domestic violence - Panjak et.al (2013) defined DV as a pattern of abusive behaviours by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family or cohabitation.

Experience - Practical contact with and observation of facts or events, actual knowledge or contact (Oxford University Press, 2016).

Intimate Partner -An intimate partner is a person with whom one has a close personal relationship that can be characterized by regular contact or identity as a couple (Breiding et.al, 2015).

1.10 SUMMARY

The researcher has discussed on the background of the study. The statement of the problem and purpose of the study have been given. The objectives of the research as well as the significance of the study have also been given. Lastly, the definitions of terms have been given by the researcher. The next chapter looked at the literature review.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter reviewed literature that explains the causes of DV against women, their beliefs, perceptions and attitudes towards DV. This chapter also showed what women are doing in order to cope with DV. The chapter also focus on the DV Act and its provisions in addressing GBV in Zimbabwe, and showing how useful it has been in Zimbabwe in addressing GBV as well as factors hindering its application in Zimbabwe.

2.2 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

A theoretical framework is a collection of interrelated concepts that guide the research in determining what is to be measured. Theories include Social Learning Theory by Bandura (1977), Theory of Reasoned Action by Fishbein (1967),and the Feminist Theory.

The Social Learning Theory by Bandura (1977) added a social element, arguing that people can learn new information and behaviours by watching what other people do. It posits that people learn from one another through observation, imitation and modelling.

Bandura (1977),states that behaviour is learnt from the environment through the process of observational learning. The theory assumes that behaviour change requires four components. The first component is an informational component to increase awareness and knowledge of health risk and to convince people that they can change their behaviour, for example educating people about domestic violence, its effects on one's health and encouraging them to avoid solving problems through violence.

The second one is a component to develop the self control and risk reduction skills needed to prevent the behaviour. That is showing people what their risks are and how they can change them. The third component is to increase an individual's self-efficacy in implementing these behaviours. For example, specific efforts to show people including men the negative effects of domestic violence to women, children and to them. The last component is to build social support for the individual as he or she engages in the new behaviours, for example use of support groups.

In relation to this study on domestic violence the social learning theory is important when trying to understand the frequencies of domestic violence since the theory suggests that behaviour is learnt by observing and imitating the behaviours of other people. Chitiyo (2004) states that in most African cultures, violence is learnt by observing the behaviours of others especially in family set ups where children witness violence between parents and somehow are likely to repeat the same behavior in future.

The Theory of Reasoned Action by Fishbein (1967) was formulated after trying to estimate the discrepancy between attitude and behaviour. The Theory of Reasoned Action suggest that a person's behaviour is determined by their intention to perform the behaviour and that this intention is, in turn, a function of their attitude towards the behaviour and their subjective norm. In relation to this study, the researcher suggests that engaging in Intimate Partner Violence is also determined or driven by the perpetrator's inner self that drives him to engage in such a behaviour.

The theory maintains that a person must have an intention to change and intentions are influenced by major factors which are attitudes towards the behaviour and subjective norms about the behaviour. Subjective norms are seen as a combination of viewed expectations from relevant individuals together with the intention to comply with these expectations. In other

words, the person's perception that most people who are important to him or her think he should or should not perform the behaviour in question (Fishbein and Ajzen, 1975).

The feminist theory is perhaps the most commonly used theory to explain IPV by men to women. Proponents of this theory believe that males abuse their female partners as a means to exert power and control over them. According to Archer (2006) it can be speculated that in staunchly patriarchal cultures, Intimate Partner Violence is more prevalent than in less patriarchal societies.

The subordination of women tends to be compliant with pervasive gender norms that are inherent to popular culture (Brown, 2006). Women are constantly at a disadvantage due to male dominance in all spheres of life. Cultural and economic constraints bar women from freeing themselves from domestic violence. The feminist approach asserts that men are the ones who need more education on domestic violence than women.

According to Brownmiller(1975) feminists are keen to argue that domestic violence occurs due to the dominance and control within patriarchy in society. Feminists believed that whenever a male position of dominance was threatened, they turned to violence as a powerful means of oppressing women. Connel (1987:183) refers to the men in society as 'hegemonic masculinity'. If men lack dominant power then they are seen as weak.

2.3 ATTITUDES

Eagly and Chaiken (1993:1) define an attitude as "a psychological tendency that is expressed by evaluating a particular entity with some degree of favor or disfavor."

Baron (1996) views an attitude as a feeling, belief and opinion of approval or disapproval towards something.

Rosenberg and Hovland (1960) suggest that there are several different components that make up attitudes and these are an emotional component, cognitive component and a behaviour component. An emotional component involves how the object, person, issue or event makes you feel. In this study, that is how domestic violence issues make women feel. That is how they feel when the issue of violence/ intimate partner violence is raised. A cognitive component involves one's thoughts and beliefs about the subject under discussion. That is what women think about violence and their beliefs about the act. A behaviour component involves how the attitude influences a person's behaviour. When one develops an attitude about domestic violence, these attitudes can influence that person's beliefs as well as behaviour.

After all plenty of people support the prevention of violence, and yet fail to practice what they say and support. Furthermore, Rosenberg and Hovland (1960) have discovered that people are more likely to behave according to their attitudes under certain conditions and these are when one's attitudes are as a result of personal experience and when one is an expert in a particular subject.

2.4 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Panjak et.al (2013) defined domestic violence as a pattern of abusive behaviours by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family or cohabitation. According to a report by Zimbabwe Women Lawyers (2011) spousal abuse is the most common form of Gender Based Violence. This usually occurs in a marriage or cohabitation.

In a quest for men to control and dominate their partners, women are in many cases victims of physical, sexual, psychological and socio-economic abuse. WHO (2005) has recognised violence against women as a major human rights concern. Not only is violence against

women a public health issue but is a major threat to social and economic development of a country (WHO, 2005).

Violence against women involves physical, sexual and emotional violence (WHO,2005). According to Jewkes (2002) violence against women occurs in all social and economic classes, but women living in poverty are more likely to experience violence due to its associated stressors.

Men in difficult economic circumstances such as unemployment, low socio economic status or blocked advancement due to lack of education may resort to violence out of frustration. At the same time, poor women who experience violence may have fewer resources to escape violence in e home (Heise, 1998). Women who have less education are more likely to experience more violence than those with higher education levels.

Enrolment in and completion of secondary education is also a critical area of concern as it is clearly associated with employment opportunities and women's empowerment (WHO, 2005). The relationship between educational attainment and its protective effect is critical. WHO (2002) points out that some men may react violently to women's empowerment through education, particularly if educated women then challenge traditional gender roles. However, the relationship between education and IPV is complex in some cases, women who are becoming more educated and empowered are facing a greater risk of violence as their male partners try to regain control (UNIFEM, 2002).

Although pregnancy may be a protective factor against violence in some societies, violence during pregnancy is widely prevalent (Campbell , 2005). According to Heise (1999) it is estimated that one in four women worldwide is physically or sexually abused during pregnancy by their partners.

Garcia and Watts (2000) say that abused women and girls have a greater risk of contracting HIV infections because they lack autonomy to decide when, with whom and under what circumstances they will have sex. Fear of violence can prevent women suggesting that their male partners use a condom, still less insisting on it (Maman, 2000), thus highlighting the evidence that violence against women undermines HIV prevention and care efforts.

Domestic violence has its foundation in tradition and culture. It is frequently used as a means of resolving conflicts and a means to silent women. Cultural practices are making women more vulnerable. Armstrong (1998) asserts that traditionally in cultures in Zimbabwe, wife beating is considered an appropriate way of correcting a woman's behaviour.

To men, emotional and physical violence is normal since they absorb their fathers' contempt for women very early in life. As the boy grows up in such an environment characterised by violence, he learns that a man must always be in control of women and that he can get that control through hurting and demeaning women. At the same time, the boy learns and believes that he can get his father's approval through following his footsteps and behaving just like him. Other factors linked with domestic violence are lower socioeconomic classes, substance abuse, couple age disparity, and unemployment (Obi and Ozumba, 2007).

2.5 FORMS OF ABUSE EXPERIENCED BY WOMEN

In the previous section, the factor associated with domestic violence were discussed and reference was made to various studies. In the current section, the forms of abuse experienced by women is discussed.

Cultural, economical, historical and political factors all strongly influence the forms of domestic violence . Dutton (2012) asserts that violence has many forms including physical aggression/assault, sexual abuse, emotional abuse and economic deprivation.

According to Durenfeld (2013) verbal abuse refers to the use of language to cause distress, insecurities and to exploit the other party. It can involve threats, blaming, name calling, disrespect and criticism.

Physical abuse is defined as "an act carried out with the intention, or perceived intention, of causing physical pain or injury to another person" (Straus & Gelles, 1986). Physical abuse includes, but is not limited to beating up, actually using a weapon against a partner, kicking or threatening with a weapon (Gondolf, 1988). A Project alert on violence against women in Nigeria (2001) indicated some of the reasons that were given by women for physical abuse and these include their husbands being drunk, financial issues, and the rejection of a partner's sexual advances.

According to Quinn and Tomita (1997) sexual abuse is a form of non-consensual physical contact which includes molestation, rape or any other sexual contact on another person. Sexual abuse has also been defined as including ". . . sex without consent, sexual assault, sexual control of reproductive rights, and all forms of sexual manipulation carried out by the perpetrator with the intention or perceived intention to cause emotional, sexual, and physical degradation to another person" (Abraham, 1999: 592). In Zimbabwe, there are laws that have been passed to protect victims of sexual abuse and these include the Sexual Offences Act that is now under The Criminal Law(Codification Reform) Act (2006) and Domestic Violence (2007). However, cases of marital rape are still high in Zimbabwean marriages.

Follingstad and Dehart (2000) define emotional abuse as any behaviour that threatens, intimidates, undermines the victim's self worth or self esteem, or controls the victim's freedom. Emotional abuse often precedes, occurs with, and/or follows physical or sexual abuse in relationships (Koss et al,1994). Emotional abuse has been variously characterized as

"the use of verbal and nonverbal acts which symbolically hurt the other or the use of threats to hurt the other" (Straus, 1979:77). According to Walker (1984) emotional abuse is considered an important form of abuse because many women report that it is as harmful or worse than physical abuse they suffer. Behaviors regarded as psychologically and/or emotionally abusive include, but are not limited to preventing the partner from working or attending school, insulting the partner, withholding affection and resources such as money (Tolman, 1989).

Adams et.al (2008) say that economic abuse is a form of abuse when one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources. This may involve preventing a spouse from resource acquisition, limiting the amount of resources to use by the victim, or by exploiting economic resources of the victim (Brewster, 2003). Similarly, Adams et.al (2008) say the motive behind preventing a spouse from acquiring resources is to diminish the victim's capacity to support herself, thus forcing her to depend on the perpetrator financially, which includes preventing the victim from obtaining education, finding employment and acquiring assets.

2.6 LEGAL AND POLICY FRAMEWORK RELATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

There are laws that were set up to deal with cases of violence in Zimbabwe. The legislations that are used to combat domestic violence in Zimbabwe are discussed below. These include The Constitution of Zimbabwe and the Domestic Violence Act (2007).

2.6.1. The Constitution of Zimbabwe

The constitution of Zimbabwe Amendment (No. 20) Act 2013 promotes gender equality and ensures that there are measures taken by the government in addressing and reducing cases of violence in Zimbabwe. A pertinent section of the legislation is Chapter 2 (No. 25) states that it is the duty of the state to ensure the protection of families. All the government

agencies and institutions are therefore required to protect families and adopt strategies for the prevention of violence.

2.6.2 Domestic Violence Act Chapter 5:16

The Domestic Violence Act (2007) (Chapter 5:16) is an act meant to protect the victims of DV. The act was brought into the system in 2007 by the President and Parliament of Zimbabwe. The act states the duties of police officers and powers to arrest in respect of domestic violence and protection orders. The Domestic Violence Act (2007) was established to help women, men and children who face gender violence . However special protection is further given to women and the girl child in Section 3 Part 1. This section focuses on abuse derived from cultural practices that discriminate women or degrade them.

There are quite a number of factors affecting the application of the DV Act in reducing domestic violence in Zimbabwe. These include customary laws, with Matope et.al (2013) arguing that many cases of domestic violence go unreported in Zimbabwe because of cultural and traditional practices such as the payment of lobola. Sithole (2007) points out that traditional leaders argue that the family is sacred and the laws should not interfere in family matters. The second factor is lack of cooperation from law enforcement agencies.

A study by Chuma and Chazovachii (2012) revealed that women survivors stated that police officers are the weakest link in so far as the enforcement of the law is concerned. According to the Zimbabwean Newspaper Article (2013) by Sofia Mapuranga, a study carried out by Msasa Project ,Gender Links and the women's affairs ministry to measure violence against women in Zimbabwe in 2012, and there was evidence that women believe the Domestic

Violence Act is helpful, however, the attitude of police officers becomes a hindrance to its effective implementation.

According to the Herald Newspaper dated 8 September (2015), the issue that arose on the difficulty to implement the act were that the police officers were proposing love to the women when they report cases of domestic abuse. Some of the police officers were requesting for bribes and not pursuing matters as they should. The third issue was that the officers were accusing female victims of becoming a problem if they go repeatedly to report violence. They mentioned that in most cases the officers often tell the victims to go and bring the perpetrator.

Other issues mentioned in the newspaper article were that victims have to relate their case to the front desk officers before they are directed to the Victim Friendly Unit and officers tell victims to go back home and find possible solutions to their problems with their husband thereby discouraging victims from making a report. Another issue that was mentioned is that police officers take cases of domestic violence very lightly and even laugh when the victims narrate their story.

2.7 CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

There are quite a number of theories that focus on the causes of domestic violence and these are psychological theories, social stress, social learning, jealousy and lobola.

Psychological theories focus on mental characteristics as well as personal traits of the offender. These traits may include poor self esteem. According to Kalra (1996) various theories suggest that psychopathology and other personal disorders are factors and that abuse observed or experienced as a child lead some people to be more violent in adulthood.

Jealousy is another cause of domestic violence against women. This occurs when the female partner is suspected of being unfaithful, is having an affair with someone or when one of the partners is planning to leave the relationship. In a study carried out in Scotland nearly half of the 109 battered women interviewed identified their partner's excessive possessiveness and sexual jealousy as the typical precipitant of violence (Dobash & Dobash 1980). Two thirds of the women at a refuge for battered women in the London area reported that their partner's excessive jealousy was the primary cause of the violence and that in many cases the partner's suspicions were entirely without foundation (Gayford 1975).

Stress usually occurs due to increased pressure. Seltzer and Kalmuss (1984) say that violence is not always caused by stress, but may be one way that some people respond to stress. Additionally, couples in poverty may be more likely to experience violence due to increased stress or conflicts about finances and other aspects (Jewkes, 2002).

An individual often imitates a violent behaviour after witnessing or observing one. Crowell and Sugarman (1996) say that violence is transmitted from generation to generation in a cyclical manner. Men can apply domestic violence in their homes because of observing for example their neighbour and imitating that same behaviour of abusing their partner. Chitiyo (2004) states that in most African cultures, violence is learnt by observing the behaviours of others especially in family set ups where children witness violence between parents and somehow are likely to repeat the same behavior in future.

The lobola concept is another possible cause for the increasing cases of domestic violence for example here in Zimbabwe. According to Marissa and Willemien (2008) lobola is property in cash or kind, which a prospective husband or head of his family undertakes to give to the head of a prospective wife's family in consideration of a customary marriage. The intention of lobola is to bind relations between the two families. Since time immemorial, lobola has

been regarded as a way of appreciating from the husband to his in-laws. A man would give his in-laws a beast or money. However, with the modern world we are living in, the lobola concept is changing and demands are now too many. Nowadays, men are expected to pay lobola in form of cash, sometimes cars, clothes for the in-laws, cattle, groceries and many other valuables. The husbands then begin to view women as their property. This lead men to engage in violence and abuse against women in order to maintain control over them. Daughters are taught to endure no matter what monster some men might turn out to be. They have to preserve their marriage because some fathers-in-law would not tolerate them walking out of the marriage because of fear that they might be asked to pay back their sons-in-law.

2.8 MAJOR EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Domestic violence can cause both short term and long term effects to the victims. Some of the effects are physical effect, effect on children, psychological effects and health problems.

According to Dodd (2009) there has been an increase in acknowledgement that a child who is exposed to domestic abuse during his upbringing will suffer in his development and psychological welfare. Domestic violence can cause a child to have a change in how he or she socialises. Abuse perpetrated in front of the child can lead the child to have an increased aggressiveness. It has been found that children who witness mother assault are more likely to exhibit symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (Lehmann, 1995).

High levels of stress and fear are very common in women who continue living with their partners despite the abuses that they face. Post Traumatic Stress Disorder is is the common psychological effect of violence. This can be experienced by the victim for a very long time even after moving away from the situation. Sable (1998) found that in the USA, 6% of the victims of violence live in intense disappointment that they decide to commit suicide.

Domestic violence can cause serious injuries that will require immediate medical attention. Berrios and Grady (1991) mention that some chronic health conditions that have been linked to victims of violence are arthritis and irritable bowel syndrome. Vitanza et.al (1995) said that PTSD is characterized by flashbacks, intrusive images, exaggerated startle response, nightmares and avoidance of triggers that are associated with the abuse. Victims who are pregnant during a violent relationship experience greater risk of miscarriage, pre-term labour and injury to or death of the fetus (Jones and Horan, 1997).

Domestic violence can cause long term effects to the victims of the abuse. Domestic violence often lead to mental health issues and health problems and illnesses such as High Blood Pressure, heart problems and strokes.

2.9 PREVIOUS RESEARCH STUDIES

There are previous research findings that relate to the current study. A study was carried out by Musingafi and Tom in (2013) on domestic violence in urban areas in Zimbabwe and the study was carried out in Glen Norah in Harare. The study covered 60 households and a questionnaire with both closed and open ended questions was used. Eighty percent of the respondents indicated that the major cause of violence is unfaithfulness or infidelity in marriage. Thirteen percent of the respondents suggested that lack of interspousal communication especially regarding household income was another contributory factor towards violence. The study also revealed that men are the major contributors of IPV. The study revealed low awareness on the forms of domestic violence. Seventy five percent of the respondents indicated that it is physical abuse that can be conceptualised as domestic violence.

Justino (2008) carried out a study in Bebeluane District in Mozambique which focused on domestic abuse, cultural and legal problems affecting women in the country. Nearly 50% of

women interviewed reported that they had once encountered violence perpetrated by their partners. In addition, Justino's (2008) study points out that 75% of the women agreed that increased rates of violence are caused by lack of legislation that guides violence in Mozambique. Sixty percent of the women chose to solve their violence problems through family agreements. Sixty percent of the women responded that they had suffered emotional and psychological trauma. The majority of the women did not know the meaning of violence and could not define it. Fifty percent of the women said that they were continuing to stay with the abusive partners because of children, hope that the abusers would change, economic dependence on the abusers, family advice and cultural and religious constraints.

Another study was also carried out in New Zealand on women's attitudes towards violence. According to Cribb (1995) the study was undertaken as part of larger research project which investigated the effects of urbanisation on Western Samoan women's attitudes towards domestic violence. Thirty Samoan women living in Christchurch were interviewed using scheduled interviews. In addition, Cribb's (1995) study points out that two thirds of the women interviewed responded that domestic violence is unacceptable whilst one third viewed it as acceptable. In the same study, twenty percent of the respondents who said that they do not accept domestic violence proposed that they would make use of the police and formal legal measures for protection against violent partners, whilst 35% said they would make use of extended family networks. According to Cribb's study (1995) acceptors of violence in New Zealand are identified by their single cultural system that does not give them an opportunity to escape violence. Furthermore, Cribb's (1995) study points out that in New Zealand, women who do not accept domestic violence have a multi cultural system and have other ways of running away and evading violent situations.

From the given examples of past studies given and other studies which have been read by the researcher, domestic violence and IPV tends to be an issue of great concern worldwide.

Levels of knowledge regarding domestic violence legislation seem to be low in some countries. There are factors that contribute to high levels of domestic violence and these are economic factors, social and cultural factors. The factors contributing to high cases of domestic violence are almost the same worldwide. Legislation measures have been passed in all the countries globally to protect victims of abuse, but their implementation is a major challenge. This study was carried out to find the experiences, perceptions, and understanding of domestic violence by Adult education students and it was carried out at MSU in Gweru.

2.10 SUMMARY

In this chapter, the researcher has given the conceptual framework of the study. The theoretical framework has also been given and the researcher gave some of the theories related to domestic violence, and application of these theories to domestic violence awareness among women has been mentioned. Examples of previous research findings that relate to the current study were given as well as the knowledge gap. The next chapter is on Research Methodology.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

This section outlined the methods and ways in which the research will be undertaken and it showed a series of activities that the researcher engaged in. It is in this section where research design, population, sampling procedures/ techniques, data collection procedures, data analysis and ethical considerations were discussed. Silverman (1993) defines research methodology as the general approach to studying a research topic.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

Burns and Grove (2001) defined a research design as a blueprint of how the research is going to be conducted. Coolican (2004) defines it as the overall structure and strategy of the research study. An analysis of the above definitions shows that a research design is a framework, a blueprint and an overall structure that specifies the type of information to be collected and the data collection procedures to be used as well as the instruments. The researcher used a descriptive and explanatory research design. The researcher meant to give a thorough description of the phenomenon of domestic violence and an explanation of the reasons and causes of domestic violence between intimate partners.

3.2.1 Qualitative Research

For the purpose of this study, qualitative methods helped the researcher to understand women's experiences, perceptions and attitudes towards domestic violence in depth. Bryman (2008) refers to qualitative data as emphasising words rather than the collection and analysis of information. The use of qualitative research uses open ended techniques such as interviews

to collect data for understanding issues relating to human behaviour. It enabled the researcher to quantify the students' experiences, attitudes and perceptions towards Intimate Partner Violence.

The use of qualitative research uses open ended techniques such as interviews to collect data for understanding issues or human behaviour in terms of reasons for the behaviour and elicits the understandings and motives which cause some action (Clissette, 2008). According to Rowles and Reinhard (1988), qualitative description is necessary when studying individual and social situations that are distinctive, unknown or have become stereotyped.

Quantitative research did not serve much in this current study since it deals with numerical data. For an accurate estimation for the relationship between the variables in a descriptive quantitative research, hundreds of participants may be required. The large number was not possible here because the costs could multiply to impossible limits.

3.2.2 Case Study

The study employed a case study as the main research method. A case study is a multifaceted, intensive investigation that uses qualitative research instruments and several data of sources, that is primary and secondary (Feagin et.al, 1991).

3.3 POPULATION AND SAMPLE

Polit and Hungler (2006) refer to the term population as an aggregate or totality of all the objects, subjects or members that conform to a set of specifications. Kitchenham (2000), defines a target population as the group or the individuals to whom the survey applies. The population of a study refers to all potential subjects in the universe who possess specific characteristics the researcher is interested in (Strydom, 2005).

The target population of this study consisted of students from a selected state university in Zimbabwe who are studying for a Bachelor of Adult Education Degree. The researcher sampled a group of male and female students to find out and understand their experiences, perceptions, beliefs and attitudes towards domestic violence. The research sample consisted of both male and female students who have experienced IPV or witnessed cases of violence.

3.4 SAMPLING PROCEDURE

Dodge (2003) defines sampling as a process of selecting a group of subjects for a study in such a way that the individuals represent the larger group from which they were selected. In this study, the researcher used stratified random sampling to select research participants.

Dodge (2003) defines stratified random sampling as a technique which attempts to restrict the possible samples to those which are less extreme by ensuring that all parts of the population are represented in the sample in order to increase the efficiency that is to decrease the error in the estimation. Stratification involves grouping members of the population into sub groups that are known as strata. Tedlie and Fen (2007) state that stratified random sampling allows a researcher to sample a sub group that is of great interest to the study. For the purpose of this study, the strata were two, that is stratum for male students and the other for female students.

Teddie and Fen (2007) defines purposive sampling as a process when a researcher chooses specific people within the population to use for a particular study. Purposive sampling focuses on people with particular features and will be able to assist with the relevant information. The researcher applied purposive sampling in selecting the key informants for the study. Purposive sampling was useful for the study because the researcher had to select the participants from the same programme and same level. This method also enabled quick access of data as it was collected from people who were easy to reach. Male and female students studying for a Bachelor of Adult Education Degree made up the sample population.

However, only 10 them who were in the same level were selected for in depth study. The researcher was also a participant.

3.5 RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

According to Parahoo (1997) a research instrument is a "tool used to collect data. An instrument is a tool designed to measure knowledge, attitude and skills. Data was collected by means of questionnaires and a focus group discussion. The reasons for choosing a focus group discussion was to obtain different perspectives on the phenomenon under investigation, to clarify unclear questions and observe non verbal communication. The questionnaires were administered personally by the researcher to the participants.

3.5.1 Questionnaire

Neuman (2007) defines a questionnaire as simply a tool for collecting and recording information about a particular issue of interest. The questionnaire used both open and ended questions on women's experiences, attitudes and perceptions on domestic violence. Christensen (1994) defines a questionnaire as an instrument containing a set of questions targeting a number of subjects at once .

According to Baron (1996) closed questionnaires limit participants' responses to given options and no explanations are required. On the other hand, open ended questions afforded each participant an opportunity to give a free response. The questionnaires helped in the identification of abuses suffered by women and they targeted a number of participants at once. The questionnaire sought to give the biographical information of the participants. The second section was intended to ascertain the knowledge that the participants held about domestic violence and the Domestic Violence Act (2007). The last section was for the participants to mention some of the strategies and measures that are being taken in Zimbabwe to address the issue of domestic violence by men against women.

Green and Thorogood (2009) state that questionnaires are useful in reflecting on the basic attitudes or opinions of people. The advantage of using questionnaires in this study was that they were practical and large amounts of information to address the phenomenon was obtained in a short period of time, that is in one week. Neuman (2007) asserts that questionnaires have a weakness in that response rates can be low if a self administered questionnaire is applied and refusal rates might be high from respondents. However, in this study, the response rate was high and all the participants agreed to take part in the research.

The possible disadvantages of questionnaires in this study were that they did not allow the researcher to verbally answer questions that the participants had. Some of the participants withheld genuine responses. However, the researcher made an attempt to solve the problem by ensuring the participants that all the information they will give will be confidential and used for academic purposes only.

3.5.2 Focus Group Discussion

The researcher conducted two focus groups and each group had five participants, including the researcher. The researcher organised each focus group based on sex or gender. Morgan (1988) asserts that homogeneity or similar characteristics in background is the goal of focus groups because it encourages participation and discussion, and helps limit the number of focus groups a researcher has to conduct. These background characteristics may be gender, race, age or social class.

Furthermore, two focus groups were used to collect the data. According to Parahoo (1997), a focus group discussion is an interaction between one or more researchers and more than one participant for the purpose of collecting data.

Holloway and Wheeler (2002) state that in focus group discussion, researchers interview participants with common characteristics or experience for the purpose of eliciting ideas, thoughts and perceptions about a particular or specific topics linked to an area of interest. In this study, the researcher interviewed adult students who had witnessed cases of Intimate Partner Violence or are survivors of such violence.

According to Parahoo (1997), a focus group discussion is cheaper and quicker way of obtaining valuable data. The focus group discussion was used by the researcher because it was cheap and information was obtained in less than an hour for each focus group.

The focus group participants were more comfortable in voicing their opinions in each other's company than on their own with the researcher. The participants were provided an opportunity to reflect or react to the opinion of others with which they disagreed. According to Holloway and Wheeler (2002) the strengths of focus group discussion are that the dynamic interaction among participants stimulates their thoughts and reminds them of their own feelings about the research topic.

The focus group method was chosen for this study because it allowed access to socially constructed views, opinions, experiences and attitudes of the participants which helped the researcher understand how they interpret fear appeals (Berg, 1998).

3.6 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

During the research process, the researcher adhered to the ethical guidelines that govern all research activities that involve human beings. Denscombe (2000) notes that ethical concerns are part of the everyday practice of doing research. Participation in this study was on voluntary basis. The ethical considerations that were applied by the researcher included informed consent, privacy/confidentiality and deception of respondents.

The researcher informed the participants about the nature of the study before they took part. They chose whether to or not to take part in the research and were informed about how the findings were to be used. The researcher assured the respondents about the benefits of participating in the research and that no harm shall result from taking part in this research. According to Strydom (2005) privacy and confidentiality is concerned with the handling of information in a confidential manner.

These ethics were used to protect and safeguard participants and the information that they gave. The researcher also used pseudonyms to protect the privacy of the students. The researcher also ensured the participants that the research will provide anonymity in order to safeguard the identities of respondents.

Confidentiality was considered as the most important ethical principle in this study particularly because of the sensitivity of the subject's condition. In addressing the issue of confidentiality in this study, subjects were informed that all the information they would give would not be revealed during the process of study. According to Kothari (2004:152), treating the information of respondents in such "a manner that nothing is revealed is regarded as a moral and professional obligation for all researchers."

The researcher requested permission to conduct the study by way of approval letters from the Department of Adult Education.

3.7 DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

Chambers and Skinner (2003) define data analysis as the process of developing answers to questions through the examination and interpretation of data. Chambers and Skinner (2003) state that analysis of data involves working with data, organising it, breaking it down, synthesising it, searching for patterns, discovering what is important and what is to be learnt and deciding what a researcher will tell others. In the study, the researcher made use of

charts and graphs to present data and tables to present quantitative data. Content analysis was also employed to present the qualitative data sets that were obtained from the study.

3.8 SUMMARY

This chapter outlined how data is going to be carried out by giving the research design, research instruments to be used, target population, sample and sampling techniques as well as procedures to be used in the study. The next chapter focused on data presentation, analysis and discussion.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this chapter was to present the results of the findings gathered through questionnaires and focus group discussion. The chapter discussed the experiences, beliefs, perceptions, attitudes, understanding and perspectives of the respondents towards domestic violence against women. Data was presented, analysed and interpreted. According to De Vos (1998) data analysis in qualitative research is a challenging and highly creative process that starts with data collection. In this chapter both qualitative and quantitative presentation and analysis of the data was employed.

4.2 DATA PRESENTATION

In this section, the researcher presented the data that was obtained from the study. It presents the biographical data of the respondents basing on their age, sex and marital status. This section was also used by the researcher to present data on the knowledge that the participants had on domestic violence, the forms of domestic violence that they are familiar with and the Domestic Violence Act (2007). Table 4.1 below illustrates bio data details of respondents basing on their age, sex, and marital status.

Table 4.1 Bio data

Characteristics	Details	Number
Age	20-30	4
	31-40	3
	41-60	3
Total		10
Sex	Female	5
	Male	5
Total		10
Marital status	Single	3
	Married	5
	Divorced	2
	Widowed	0
Total		10

The data presented in table 4.1 above gives details on the bio data of the participants to this research. A total of 10 students made up of 5 females and 5 males participated in the study. The male and female gender was evenly presented in this study. No attempt was made to manipulate gender figures of the respondents. The researcher ensured gender equality between the participants. The majority of the respondents were in the age range of 20-30 years. The majority of respondents, that is 5, were married people. All the participants indicated that they were Christians.

4.3 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE KNOWLEDGE

When asked if they had ever heard or witnessed cases of domestic violence, the response was 100% as all the participants responded that they had either heard or witnessed such cases.

Respondents were asked questions to find out their knowledge on the Domestic Violence Act (2007).

Table 4.2 Knowledge of domestic violence

Question	Yes	No	Not sure
Do you know what domestic violence is	10	-	-
Have you ever heard about the Domestic Violence Act	10	-	-
Does the Domestic violence Act hold the capacity to reduce domestic violence and IPV	10	-	-
Are men the main perpetrators of IPV	8	2	-
Are you aware of the contents of the domestic violence act	8	-	2

Table 4.2 above illustrates information given by participants on the knowledge they had on the domestic violence act. All the participants had knowledge on what domestic violence is. All the respondents indicated that they had heard about the Domestic Violence Act.

All the participants responded that the Domestic Violence Act has the capacity to reduce domestic violence and intimate partner violence. When asked if men were the main perpetrators of intimate partner violence, 8 of the 10 respondents indicated that men were the main perpetrators. Only 2 male participants responded that men were not the main perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence.

Of the 10 participants, 8 responded that they were aware of the contents of the domestic violence act. Two participants, a male and a female responded that they were not sure about the contents of the Act. The findings indicate that all of the respondents knew what domestic violence is and have an understanding of what the Domestic Violence Act is all about. All the respondents indicated that the Domestic Violence Act has the capacity to reduce domestic violence although a few were not sure about the contents of the act.

FORMS OF ABUSES

Table 4.3 Forms of abuses

Experienced forms of abuse	Sex	Yes	No	Not yet
Sexual abuse	Females	5	0	0
	Males	0	1	4
Economic abuse	Females	2	1	2
	Males	0	4	1
Physical abuse	Females	3	0	2
	Males	0	4	1
Emotional abuse	Females	5	4	0
	Males	0	0	1

As can be noted in Table 4.3 above, 6 participants reported at least one form of abuse. Five females and 2 males reported having been either or both physically, psychologically or emotionally, economically or sexually abused by current or former spouse. Four males reported that they have not experienced any form of abuse by their spouses or partners.

A total of 5 participants responded that they had experienced sexual abuse by their partners or spouses. Five responded that they have not yet experienced any form of sexual abuse by their spouse or partners. Two females responded that they had experienced economic abuse by their former spouses, with the majority, 8, responding that they had not experienced such abuse.

When asked if they had experienced physical abuse, 3 participants responded that they once experienced the abuse. A total of 3 females indicated that they once experienced the abuse. A total of 5 participants responded that they had experienced emotional abuse with females being the most respondents. The other 5 responded that they have not yet experienced emotional abuse.

The data findings indicated that female participants suffered the abuses more than the male respondents.

4.4 Domestic Violence Bill

4.4.1 Do you think that the law as currently in place in Zimbabwe protect women from Intimate Partner Violence and domestic violence?

All the participants responded that they think the law as currently in place in Zimbabwe protected women from Intimate Partner Violence and domestic violence. The findings indicate that the respondents were aware that there is a law in Zimbabwe that protects women and widens the scope of relief available to domestic violence victims. The findings are similar to a study carried out by Dzimbahete (2014) in Hwange Central in Zimbabwe. From the interviews that he carried out, respondents indicated that they knew there was a law that protects victims of domestic violence.

4.4.2 Do you think the police in Zimbabwe handle reports of Domestic violence towards women fairly?

TABLE 4.4 Police response to domestic violence reports

Age	Yes	No
20-30	2	2
31-40	2	1
41-60	2	1

As can be noted in table 4.4 above, a total of 6 participants responded that the police in Zimbabwe handle reports of domestic violence towards women fairly. Of the 6 respondents, 4 were males and 2 were females. Four of the 10 participants responded that the police in Zimbabwe handles reports of Domestic violence towards women fairly.

4.4.3 When was the Domestic Violence bill passed into law?

TABLE 4.5 Domestic Violence Bill

Age group	Yes	No	Not sure
20-30	1	-	3
31-40	2	-	1
41-60	3	-	-

Table 4.5 above illustrates information given by respondents. Most of the respondents, that is 6, knew when the Domestic Violence Bill was passed into law. Of the 6 respondents, 4 were males and 2 were the female participants. The remaining 4 of the respondents were not sure when the bill was passed into law, with 3 being females and 1 male.

4.5 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACT

What forms of Domestic Violence are covered by the Domestic Violence Act?

TABLE 4.6 Domestic Violence Act

Types of abuse	Expected frequency	Frequency
Sexual	10	10
Verbal	10	10
Emotional	10	7
Economic	10	8
Physical	10	8

As can be noted on table 4.6 above, every participant gave the forms of domestic violence that they know are covered by the Act. Eighty percent of the respondents were able to state all the forms of Domestic Violence that are covered by the Domestic Violence Act.

Which form of abuse affect women the most?

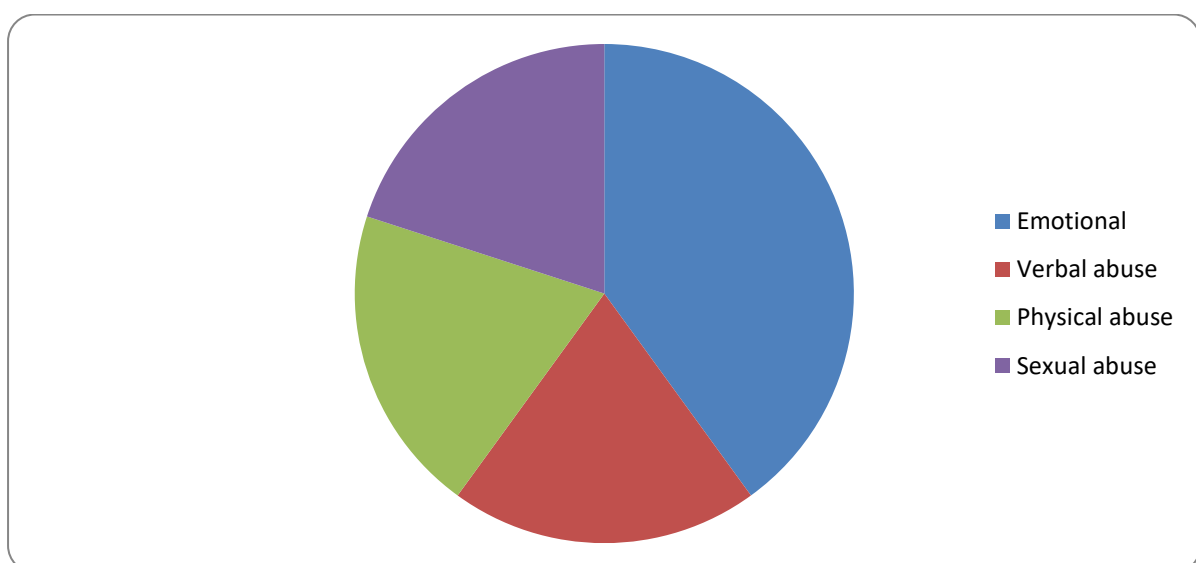


Fig 4.1 Forms of abuses that affect women the most

Emotional abuse

Emotional abuses are taken as one form of abuse in this study because the majority of the respondents that is 4, indicated the abuse as affecting women the most.

Verbal abuse

Of the 10 participants, 2 responded that verbal abuse affect women the most. Verbal abuses are normally committed through criticisms, shouting, name calling and use of derogatory language meant to demoralise victims and destroy their confidence.

Physical abuse

In this study, 2 of the 10 participants responded that women are mostly affected by physical abuse.

Sexual abuse

As shown on Fig 2 above, 2 participants responded that women are mostly affected by sexual abuse and this either perpetrated by current or former spouse. Women are sexually abused by their partners through forced sexual intercourse.

Therefore, the findings indicate that women are mostly affected by emotional abuses.

4.6 FORMS OF EDUCATION

What forms of education are being used to inform and conscientise women about Domestic Violence and how they can handle such cases?

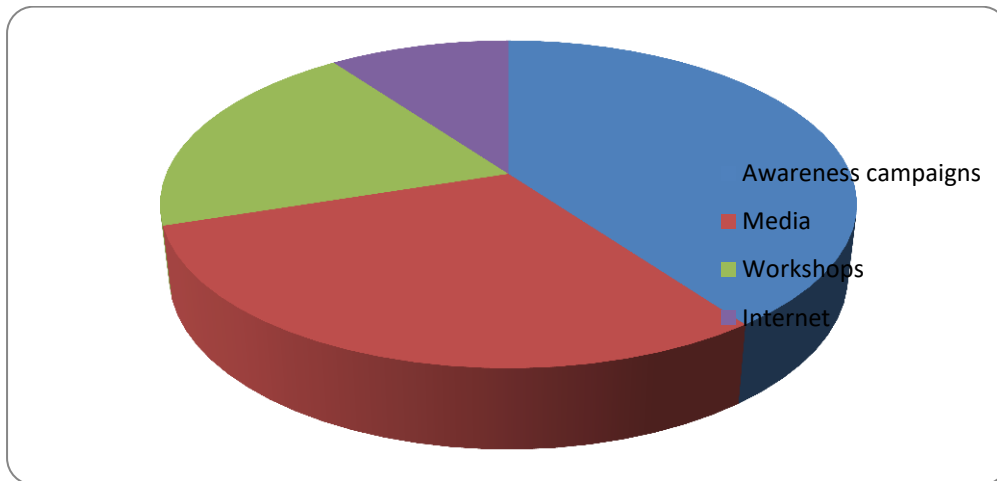


Fig 4.2 Forms of education being used to inform women about domestic violence

Fig 2 shows the methods of education that are being used to inform and conscientise women about Domestic Violence. Four of the respondents indicated that women are being informed through awareness campaigns. Of the 10 participants, 3 indicated that the knowledge was being gained through the media, 2 indicated that it is through workshops and 1 responded that they are being conscientised through the use of the internet.

What factors are leading to an increase in the number of Domestic Violence cases?

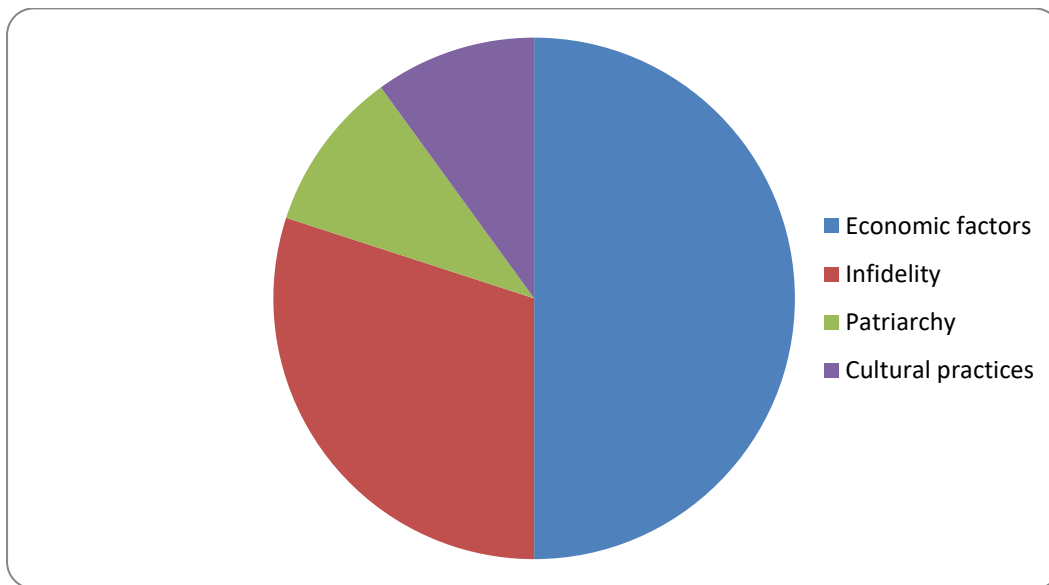


Fig 4.3

Fig 3 above shows some of the factors leading to an increase in the number of Domestic Violence cases. Of the 10 participants who filled in the questionnaire, 5 of them responded that economic factors such as insufficient income are leading to the increase. A total of 3 participants indicated that infidelity is leading to the increase. One female participant responded that cultural practices such as polygamy contribute to an increase in the number of Domestic Violence cases. The other participant indicated that it is the patriarchal nature of the Zimbabwean Society that is leading to the increase. Knickmeyer et.al (2003), argue that domestic violence is a consequence of patriarchy and part of a systematic attempt to maintain male dominance in the home and society.

Which Organisations in Zimbabwe are educating women about Domestic Violence Act and how to handle such cases?

There are quite a number of organisations educating women about the Domestic Violence Act in Zimbabwe and how to handle domestic violence cases. Three organisations that are

educating women about the Domestic Violence Act (2007) were mentioned by the respondents. Most of the respondents that is 5, indicated Msasa Project as one of the Organisations. Of the 10 respondents, 4 indicated that women are being educated about the Domestic Violence Act by the Zimbabwe Republic Police. According to the responses, 1 of the respondents mentioned that women are being educated by the, Ministry of Gender and Women Affairs.

4.7 STRATEGIES AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

What forms of assistance are women resorting to after experiencing Intimate Partner Violence?

Among the reported forms of assistance and strategies are divorce reporting to the police and seeking counselling from church elders, pastors and other family members. The majority of the participants, that is 6, indicated that women were resorting to making police reports as strategies of coping with the violence. By making use of the justice delivery system, a majority of women seek restraining orders or pressing criminal charges against perpetrators of the violence. The family Violence Law Centre (2012) states that a restraining order is a court order that can protect victims from being physically threatened, abused, stalked and harassed.

Of the 10 participants, 3 responded that women were resorting to counselling either by professional counsellors, church elders or family members. According to Makinde (1990) counselling means a service meant to help an individual analyse himself by relating his capabilities, achievements, interests and mode of adjustment to what new decision he has made or has to make. It provides a safe and confidential environment for victims to express their feelings and experience (Locke et.al,2001).

Of the 10 participants, 1 indicated that women were opting for divorces. Leaving the matrimonial home is one of the noted measures employed by victims of abuse.

What in your opinion would be the better remedy of Domestic violence and Intimate Partner Violence?

A total of 5 participants responded that imprisonment would be the better remedy of domestic violence and intimate partner violence. Of the 10 participants, 3 indicated that information dissemination through awareness campaigns, media and workshops aimed at conscientising women and the general public about the consequences of intimate partner violence would be the best remedy. The remaining 2 participants indicated that punishments of violence perpetrators would be the better remedy of domestic violence and intimate partner violence.

How do the police respond to reports of Domestic Violence?

A total of 3 participants responded that the police responded to reports of domestic violence fairly. Majority of the participants, that is 7, responded that the police respond to reports of Domestic Violence unfairly. This therefore leads to high levels of underreporting of cases of domestic violence by women. Four of the participants responded that the police respond to reports of domestic violence unfairly and gave reasons for such a response.

Of the four respondents, 1 indicated that the police discourages victims of the violence in most cases. Another respondent said that some perpetrators are only charged with a fine which is not fair to the victims. The third participant responded that the police only give verbal warning to the perpetrators and in most cases are bribed. The fourth participant responded that majority of the police officers are also perpetrators of intimate partner violence so their response to domestic violence cases against women is biased, and they do not take such matters seriously

4.8 FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION FINDINGS

This section contains the focus group questions and the findings from the discussion that was carried out by the researcher and it involved two groups, one for the male participants and the other one for the female participants. The researcher named the two groups, Group A and Group B. Group A was for male participants and Group B was for female participants.

When asked about their understanding on domestic violence, Group A which consisted of male participants responded that they understood domestic violence as a violent confrontation between spouses, partners or household members. They went on to say that this can involve physical, emotional or psychological harm.

Group B responded that they understand domestic violence as a pattern of abusive behaviour which serves to establish coercive control of one partner over the other. The participants said that the violence is usually perpetrated by men in order to control women.

The above findings show that the participants had different understanding and views on domestic violence. The male participants understand it as a violent confrontation whereas the female participants understood it as a pattern of abusive behaviour which serves to establish coercive control of one partner over the other.

When asked about their understanding on the Domestic Violence Act (2007), Group A responded that the Domestic Violence Act is a bill that was passed into law in 2007 with the aim of protecting particularly women and children against all forms of abuses. One male participant mentioned that,

"The Domestic Violence Act was established for women and not for us, and it is unfair on our side because we are always viewed as the perpetrators of domestic violence whereas a majority of us are victims of the abuses by our partners."

Group B responded that the act is a law that provides protection and widens the scope of relief available to domestic violence victims. The female participants said that the law protects all the citizens and not women only.

The above findings on the participants' understanding of the Domestic violence Act shows that the male participants were gender biased therefore viewing and perceiving the Act as protecting women and children. The findings also indicate that the male participants or Group A had an understanding on the meaning of domestic violence but did not have an in depth understanding on the meaning of the Act. However, the Act aims at protecting all the citizens against any forms of violence or abuses.

The males' group, that is Group A, responded that women are the main perpetrators of the violence. Whereas Group B for females responded that men are the main perpetrators of domestic violence.

One of the male participants in the Group A of the focus group discussion said,

" vakadzi ndivo vari kuti shungurudza mudzimba, ndivo vari kukonzeresa mhirizhonga mudzimba (Women are the ones abusing us and they are the main perpetrators of violence in the homes)."

The above findings and views by Group A are the same as those by Medzani (2013) who viewed and asserted that men are abused by women at home although domestic violence against men remains under studied in Zimbabwe.

Group A responded that Intimate Partner Violence is not only being perpetrated by men or male partners, but also by women. Male participants said that the vigorous advocacy against women abuse in the home by women organisations such as Msasa Project overshadows the campaigns against domestic violence against women. They went on to say that men engage in

the violence against women because women who are supposed to be passive and submissive to their husbands as per the dictates of patriarchy are seen taking up assertive roles. When men try to discipline the women, this is then viewed as abuse against the women.

One participant said,

"Hatisi tese varume tiri kushungurudza madzimai mudzimba umu, variko vakadzi vakawandisa vari kushungurudza varume mudzimba (Not all of us men are abusing their female partners in the homes, a majority of women are abusing their male partners)."

Group B said that men are the main perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence. They gave some of the factors giving rise on the perpetration of this violence by men. The factors are the patriarchal nature of the Zimbabwean society, infidelity and women's submission and economic dependence on their husbands. One female participant said,

"Varume vanotishungurudza mudzimba umu vachitora advantage yekuve the head of the house (Men abuse us taking advantage of being the head of the house)."

The findings from the two groups indicate patriarchy as the major and main factor giving rise to domestic violence against women. Requoting, Kambarami (2006), defines patriarchy as a social organisation or system that reproduces itself from male members of a society who are endowed with power and authority. Knickmeyer et.al (2003) say that domestic violence is a consequence of patriarchy.

Group A responded that all perpetrators of domestic violence in households, whether men or women, should face imprisonment and equal jail sentences.

Group B agreed that male participants should get tough punishments and long jail terms.

The two groups recommended imprisonment, tough punishments and long and equal jail terms for all perpetrators. In a study conducted by Sherman (1982), arrest was found to be the most effective police response. The study found that arrest reduced the rate by half of re-offending against the same victim within the following six months (Maxwell et.al, 2001).

Group A responded that in most cases, the female partners and wives are the ones who cause them to behave in a violent manner and apply violence in the home. The group indicated that women are good at verbally abusing them and the abuse causes them to suffer psychological disorders. Therefore, applying other forms of abuse such as physical torture or harm will be in retaliation of the verbal abuses.

"Vakadzi ndivo vanoita kuti tiite behave in a violent manner nekuda kweimwe behaviour yavanomboita saka by so doing tinenge tichiedza kuti vaite discipline (Women are the ones who lead us to behave in a violent manner because of their bad behaviour, by so doing we will be trying to discipline them)."

Group B responded that women cause their partners and husbands to apply violence in the home and in very few cases. The participants said that women may act in such ways because men are the ones who cause them to act in such ways.

The above findings indicate that the female and male participants shared almost the same sentiments although Group A responded that in most cases and Group B in very few cases.

4.9 DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

The study revealed that women face all the forms of abuse from men at their homes. These are economic abuse, emotional abuse, economic abuse, physical abuse and sexual abuse. The participants showed an understanding of Domestic violence. The study revealed high awareness on the forms of domestic violence. The respondents proposed that the women

abused made use of the police, counselling and others abandon their homes as a way of trying to cope with the abuses and violence.

A study carried out by Cribb (1995), also revealed that 20% of the respondents did not accept domestic violence and they proposed that they would make use of the police and formal legal measures for protection against violent partners. A total of 35% said that they would make use of extended family networks. This study revealed that patriarchy, infidelity, cultural practices and economic are some of the factors leading to an increase in the number of domestic violence cases. A study carried out by Musingafi and Tom (2013) revealed that domestic violence is also caused by unfaithfulness or infidelity in marriages.

Mararike (1999) asserts that people are not given strategies, rather, they devise their own strategies to deal with their situations. In this study, respondents gave various mechanisms that are being used by women to cope with the Intimate Partner Violence perpetrated by male partners.

The study revealed that students had knowledge of Domestic violence since they all responded that they had heard of the act. They all responded that there are quite a number of organisations that are advocating for an end to Domestic violence in the country. There are also quite a number of forms of education being used to inform and conscientise women and the country as a whole, about domestic violence, how to handle domestic violence cases and the consequence of perpetrating violence.

There is a general consensus in academia (Maboreke, 1989) and among women NGOs (Msasa Project, 1997) that women are not physically gifted and as such, they are not capable of abusing men. Rather, they are physically abused by men, that is their spouses or partners. Majority of the respondents indicated that they had not experienced physical abuse. The current study revealed that men are the main perpetrators of Intimate Partner Violence. A

study by Musingafi and Tom (2013) also revealed that men are the major contributors of Intimate Partner Violence.

The findings carried out by Raditloneng (2013) in Botswana revealed that 88,7% of the participants had heard about the Domestic Violence Act. The findings also indicate that respondents believe that the act has the capacity to reduce domestic violence. The findings are similar to a study carried out by Dzimbahete (2014) in Hwange Central in Zimbabwe. From the interviews that he carried out, respondents indicated that they knew there was a law that protects victims of domestic violence. According to Dzimbahete (2014) the Domestic Violence Act was signed into law on 26 February 2007 and came into operation that same year on the 25th of October 2007.

According to Medzani (2013) study on perceptions and experiences of domestic violence among male victims in Kwekwe, victims are scalded with water, cooking oil or porridge, kicked and objects thrown on them. This study shows that women of all ages can experience physical abuse in the home.

The Family Violence Law Centre (2012) states that a restraining order is a court order that can protect victims from being physically threatened, abused, stalked and harassed. Holloway and Wheeler (2002) state that in focus group discussion, researchers interview participants with common characteristics or experience for the purpose of eliciting ideas, thoughts and perceptions about a particular or specific topics linked to an area of interest. The researcher grouped the participants according to their gender. According to UN Report (1997), gender equality is the view that both men and women should receive equal treatment and not be discriminated against based on their gender.

4.10 SUMMARY

In this chapter, the researcher has given the research data findings and the data has been presented in form of charts and tables. A section on focus group discussion has also been given. The next chapter is on summary, conclusion and recommendations.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter seeks to explore whether the research goal has been appropriately addressed and the main research questions answered. This chapter summarizes the whole research inclusive of findings and makes conclusions and gives recommendations on what needs to be done to reduce cases of domestic violence among intimate partners in Zimbabwe.

5.2 SUMMARY

The purpose/aim of this study was to investigate on the adult education students' beliefs, perceptions, attitudes, understanding and perspectives of domestic violence towards women.

This covered two components:

- A situation analysis: reviewing key studies, that is published research studies and reviews on domestic violence and intimate partner violence towards women in other countries.
- A response analysis is reviewing key studies and evaluations of interventions aimed at increasing awareness and reducing Intimate Partner Violence.

The study was designed to access and describe:

1. The domestic violence level of understanding among students at Midlands State University.
2. The attitudes of students at Midlands State University towards domestic violence and Intimate partner violence issues

Chapter one focused on giving the background of the study on domestic violence and Intimate Partner Violence. The chapter also focused on the reasons that influenced the researcher to carry out a study on the topic. The chapter also focused on the significance of the study and how it is going to benefit the organisations responsible.

In chapter two, both the theoretical and conceptual frameworks of the study were given by the researcher. Chapter two focused on highlighting on some of the theories that would guide the study such as the Social Learning Theory by Bandura (1977), Theory of Reasoned Action by Fishbein (1967), and the Feminist Theory. The application of the theories to domestic violence against women was shown. The chapter also focused on the literature review by highlighting on the research carried out by other researchers on Domestic violence and Intimate Partner Violence. The chapter reviewed past studies on domestic violence.

Chapter three focused on highlighting the research methodology that was used by the researcher. Silverman (1993) defines research methodology as the general approach to studying a research topic. The chapter explained the research design, research instruments, population, sample and sampling techniques that were used in the study. The chapter also focused on the procedures that were used by the researcher in carrying out the research. The researcher used stratified random sampling and convenience sampling to choose the respondents who participated in the Questionnaire and focus group discussion. The questionnaire and focus group discussion were used as tools of gathering data. The questionnaires were submitted and collected in person to ensure an effective return of papers.

Chapter four focused on presenting the data and analysing the findings by the researcher on the adult education students' perspectives and understanding of domestic violence towards women. The purpose of this chapter was to present the results of the findings gathered through questionnaires and focus group discussion. The chapter discussed the experiences,

perceptions, attitudes, understanding and perspectives of the respondents towards domestic violence against women. Data was presented, analysed and interpreted. According to De Vos (1998) data analysis in qualitative research is a challenging and highly creative process that starts with data collection.

Chapter five focused on giving the summary of the study, recommendations on improving the understanding and levels of awareness of domestic violence among students in the Department of Adult Education and Zimbabwe as a whole.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS

The study was carried out in Gweru at Midlands State University and was on the experiences, beliefs, perceptions, attitudes, perspectives and understanding of domestic violence by Adult education students. The study revealed that the students had knowledge of Domestic violence and the Domestic violence Act since they all responded that they had heard of the two. However, the majority of the respondents indicated that the police in Zimbabwe is handling cases of domestic violence unfairly.

However, several initiatives and campaigns have been implemented by the Ministry of Gender and Women's Affairs, local NGO's such as Msasa Project with the view to assist women to gain an understanding and knowledge about Domestic violence, and how they can handles cases of DV perpetrated by men, change their attitudes and perceptions about Domestic violence and encourage them to report cases of violence perpetrated by men.

However, the male students, according to the findings, were gender biased since they viewed and perceived the Domestic Violence Act as protecting women and children only. They shared the same sentiments with Medzani (2013) who viewed and asserted that men are abused by women at home although domestic violence against men remains under studied in Zimbabwe.

The findings revealed that the students are aware of the law mechanisms that protects women and victims of domestic violence and their knowledge level of the domestic violence concept and Act is very high. Majority of the students have demonstrated a positive attitude towards issues relating to Domestic Violence against women. The initiatives and awareness campaigns which are being conducted by the Ministry of Gender and Women's Affairs and Msasa Project are playing a major role in increasing the domestic violence risk perceptions.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on findings about the Domestic violence understanding, beliefs and attitudes, the researcher recommends that women need to be helped to become economically independent and to be self reliant and not rely on their male counterparts even when they are being ill treated.

The second recommendation is that there should be funding of women's organisations by NGOs and the Government so that such Organisations can be able to reach out to all the victims of domestic violence and respond to their needs.

There is still a greater need for public enlightenment through the use of mass media on the negative effects of domestic violence against women. For example, establishment of adverts and commercials on Domestic Violence. There should also be introduction of dramas and soaps that teach on domestic violence and these can be shown on Zimbabwe Television and also aired on all radio stations.

Support authorities, particularly the police officers and the judiciary should be trained and sensitized in order to offer holistic support to victims of domestic violence. There is need for appreciation of domestic violence against women by the police so that there can be a balanced approach when dealing with domestic violence cases. Punishment given to abusive men should be publicised so that it can serve as deterrence to other abusers

5.5 FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

The researcher has concluded and suggested recommendations derived from findings of the study. The researcher is convinced that if the above recommendations are adopted by all the interested parties, they will go a long way in addressing the ever growing problem of domestic violence against women in Zimbabwe. However, the researcher further recommends that research on the abuses that men are also suffering from women should also be conducted in Zimbabwe because cases of women abusing men are also now on the rise in the country.

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APPENDIX I

LIST OF ACRONYMS

CEDAW - Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

DV - Domestic Violence

GBV- Gender Based Violence

HIV - Human Immuno- Deficiency Virus

IPV - Intimate Partner Violence

MSU - Midlands State University

TRA - Theory of Reasoned Action

UN - United Nations

UNIFEM - United Nations Development Fund for Women

USA - United States of America

VFU- Victim Friendly Unit

WHO - World Health Organisation

ZRP - Zimbabwe Republic Police