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**FACULTY OF ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

**AN INVESTIGATION IN THE EFFECTS BEHIND THE INCREASE IN CASES OF
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN URBAN ZIMBABWE: THE CASE OF GWERU URBAN
BETWEEN THE PERIODS OF 2008 TO 2014**

BY

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RELEASE FORM

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DEDICATION

This research is dedicated to my family, thank you for your immense support during the period of my studies . May the almighty God continue to bless you abundantly and unseasonal and I am forever indebted to you.

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Firstly, I would like to thank the Lord Almighty for the privilege he allowed me into this programme and the following people for their help and support in this dissertation.

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MAY GOD RICHLY BLESS YOU ALL, AMEN:

ABSTRACT

The research study investigates the nature of domestic violence and the reasons for the continuous increase in Gweru urban. The study focused on the lived experiences among the victims of domestic violence. Factors noted causing the increase of domestic violence are misinterpretations of equal rights and Domestic Violence Act, the patriarchal systems, cultural norms and also the adverse economic situation in the country. It examines the effects of domestic violence on socio-economic development were the mental and physical capabilities of victims negatively affect the productivity thus, gross domestic product(GDP) and increase the national budget. Diversion of funds from development programs is used for health care by the employer. It covers the experiences, perceptions of violence held and the coping strategies adopted by the victims. Qualitative and quantitative methods were used to gather valid and reliable data, these included perusal of records, questionnaires, in-depth interviews from officials and observations. The research findings confirmed the existence of domestic violence amongst the intimate partners. Various recommendations were suggested which include the need for incorporation of the rights of men in the constitution, awareness campaigns on what constitutes equal rights and Domestic Violence Act.

ACRONYMS;

CBD -	Central Business District
CEDAW -	Convention of Elimination of all forms of Domestic violence Against Women
DV	- Domestic Violence
DVA	- Domestic Violence Act
DVAM	- Domestic Violence against Men
VFU	-Victim Friendly Unit
GBV	- Gender Based Violence
HQ	-Head Quarters
HIV	- Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LDCZ	- Law and Development Commission of Zimbabwe
NGOs	- Non-Governmental Organizations
VSR	- VarumeSvinurai Register
WCoZ	- Women Coalition of Zimbabwe
WHO	- World Health Organization
WRVH	- World Report on Violence and Health
ZDHS	- Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey
ZWLA	-Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association
ZRP	- Zimbabwe Republic Police

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 INTRODUCTION

The study investigates the increase of domestic violence cases in Gweru urban. This chapter presents the background of the study, statement of the problem, purpose, assumptions, limitations and delimitations, significance, objectives and justification of the study and the methodology used in gathering data.

Economic growth provides a critical foundation for economic development focused on ending extreme poverty and boosting shared prosperity. However, economic development is more than increase in income. Amartya Sen suggests that it is about the expansion of ‘freedoms’, or new opportunities, increased voice and active agency of women and girls, men and boys, and requires addressing inequality. Hence, investment promoting gender equality and opportunities for all is key to sustained economic development.

Pro-poor growth has been highlighted as the most important factor in sustainably reducing poverty (United Nations (UN) 2000; World Bank 2000; Ravallion and Chen 2002). The literature suggests that increased gender inequality increases poverty, decreases other welfare measures and reduces economic growth (Ravallion and Datt 1996; Thomas 1997; Blackden and Bhanu 1999; World Bank 2000; World Bank 2001; Knowles, Lorgelly et al. 2002; Klasen 2004). An important dimension of gender inequality that women and girls, and households more broadly, face is violence of any nature, which has significant economic implications that need are delineated in this study.

Violence against men and in particular women, recognized globally as a fundamental human rights violation, is widely prevalent across the globe irrespective of developed (high income) or developing (middle to low income earners) countries. A new WHO report estimates that one in three women across the globe has experienced physical or sexual assault at some point in their lifetime indicating the epidemic scale of such abusive violence (WHO 2013). The report demonstrates unequivocally the significant health impacts and that, without a doubt, physical and sexual violence perpetrated against men and women is a major public health

concern. Violence against men and women has also significant economic costs in terms of expenditures on service provision, lost income for women and their families, decreased productivity, and negative impacts on future human capital formation. The health and economic impacts together fracture individuals, families, communities and societies overall.

While domestic violence is a serious human rights violation that impacts millions of victims worldwide, it also has substantial economic consequences, new research from the World Bank Group (WBG 2011) shows. According to the WBG (2009), domestic violence imposes an economic burden on individuals, households, private businesses and the public sector through the cost of healthcare services used to treat victims, a loss of productivity and reduced income for women due to missed work. According to WBG (2011) annual costs of intimate partner violence have been calculated at USD 5.8 billion in the United States in 2008 and GBP 22.9 billion in England and Wales in 2009. A 2009 study by World Bank Group in Australia estimated the cost of violence against women and children at AUD 13.6 billion per year. World Bank Group (2009) further estimate the costs of domestic violence against women at the household level to the economy in Viet Nam suggests that both out-of-pocket expenditures and lost earnings represent nearly 1.4 per cent of GDP in that country and an overall estimate productivity loss however, comes to 1.8 per cent of GDP of the same period.

1.1 Regional Statistics

Domestic violence in Nigeria is a problem as in many parts of Africa .There is a deep cultural belief in Nigeria that it is socially acceptable to hit a woman is to discipline her. Domestic violence is widespread and shows no signs of lessening in Nigeria where the CLEEN Foundation (2013) reports that one(1) in every three (3) respondents admitting to being a victim of domestic violence and afraid of reporting the abuse. The survey by CEEN Foundation (2013) also found a nationwide increase in domestic violence in the past 3 years from 21% in 2011 to 30% in 2013.The research also estimates the productivity loss due to absenteeism caused by domestic violence in Uganda and Bangladesh, for example, was \$87.76 million and \$262 million, respectively in 2012 (Ibid). This is equivalent to almost 1.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) for both countries (Ibid).

According to Direnfield(2013) global review of available data, thirty five percent (35%) of women worldwide have experienced either physical and or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence. However, Direnfield (2013) note some national violence studies show up to seventy percent (70%) of women have experienced physical and or sexual violence in their lifetime from an intimate partner. It is estimated that of all women killed in 2012, almost half were killed by intimate partners or family members (Ibid).

International research consistently demonstrates that a woman is more likely to be assaulted, injured, raped, or killed by a current or former partner than by any other person. Findings from nearly 80 population-based studies indicate that between 10% and 60% of women who have ever been partnered have experienced at least one incident of physical violence from a current or former partner. (Ellsberg &Heise, 2005, WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence)

The effects of domestic violence to development are evident and resounding in all scenarios of violence against women and are borne by all levels of society. These include reduced productivity and growth, intergenerational effects on health, nutrition and education of children and the likelihood of violence as adults, the opportunity costs of funds allocated for victim services which could otherwise be used for social investments. As suggested by Hudson et al (2009) the risk of societal violence is due to a climate of tolerance for violence against women and disrespect for human rights. The latter costs would extend beyond the nation to the global level, since countries are increasingly linked or integrated in terms of economic development and security.

Among the most direct consequences of witnessing violence may be the attitudes a child develops concerning the use of violence and conflict resolution. Jaffe, Wilson and Wolfe (1986) suggest that children's exposure to adult domestic violence may generate attitudes justifying their own use of violence in solving their problems. Behavioral and emotional problems and similar measures have found child witnesses of domestic violence to exhibit more aggressive and antisocial (often called "externalized" behaviors) as well as fearful and inhibited behaviors ("internalized" behaviors), and to show lower social competence than other children. Children who witnessed violence were also found to show more anxiety, self-esteem, depression, anger, and temperament problems, than children who did not witness violence at home. Longer-term problems for example, Silvern et al.'s (1995) study of 550

undergraduate students found that witnessing violence as a child was associated with adult reports of depression, trauma-related symptoms and low self-esteem among women and trauma-related symptoms among men.

1.2 Background to the study

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), violence affects millions of men and women in Africa. In a 2007 study on women’s health and domestic violence, the WHO found that 50 per cent of women in Tanzania and 71 per cent of women in Ethiopia’s rural areas reported beatings or other forms of violence by husbands or other intimate partners.

The statistics from Zimbabwe Republic Police (ZRP 2012) show that, over 9 500 cases of domestic violence were reported to the police. From January to May 2012, a total of 3,141 domestic violence cases were reported to police, not putting into consideration those victims too scared to make an official report and instead bear their wounds in silence. Women with unexplained reasons have found themselves with bruises on their bodies and in worst case scenarios, with bullets (case of Oscar Pistoris of South Africa) and knives thrust into their bodies by people who had vowed to love them for the rest of their lives. The Registrar of the High Court (2013) also reported that, there had been a sixty (60%) increase in the number of crimes of domestic violence as compared with the previous year.

Musasa Project’s Harare One Stop Centre Client Statistics (2014) shows a high increase in Gender Base Violence (GBV) on the tables below;

Table 1

Domestic Violence against women

Period (years)	Frequency (cases)
2012-2013	671
2013-2014	1019

Table 2

Domestic Violence against men

Period (years)	Frequency (cases)
2012-2013	297
2013-2014	924

The statistics on tables above show that despite active campaigns from women's groups, government ministries and NGO's, domestic violence continues to be a major problem in Zimbabwe. According to the World Health Organization (WHO 2007), domestic violence is defined as: “the intentional use of physical force or power, (threatened or actual) against oneself, another person or against a group or community that either results in (or has a high likelihood of resulting in), injury, death, psychological harm, reduced development or deprivation”. WHO (2007) also note that, the most common perpetrator of domestic violence against victim is a current or former husband or sex-partner. According to the 2010-11 Zimbabwe Demographic Health Survey released by the Zimbabwe National Statistics Agency ZNSA (2011), thirty percent (30%) of women have experienced physical violence at some point since the age of 15 to the age of 54 while only nine percent (9%) of men have reported the same abuses.

Domestic violence is a global problem. International comparisons are difficult due to the lack of internationally agreed statistical standards, and the use of different approaches, definitions, sample designs, and questions. In Europe, violence in the home is the primary cause of injury and death for women aged 16–44, more lethal than road accidents or cancer WHO (2008). Indeed, then-UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan (1999) said “violence against women knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. It is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation.” And, he added, it is “perhaps the most pervasive.”

Violence against men and women goes beyond beatings. It includes forced marriage, dowry-related violence, marital rape, sexual harassment, intimidation at work and in educational institutions, forced pregnancy, forced abortion, forced sterilization, trafficking and forced prostitution. Such practices cause trauma, injuries and death. Female genital cutting, for example, is a common cultural practice in parts of Africa. Yet it can cause “bleeding and infection, urinary incontinence, difficulties with childbirth and even death,” WHO (2009). The organization estimates that 130 million girls have undergone the procedure globally and 2 million are at risk each year, despite international agreements banning the practice.

Sexual violence is another problem. A local organization in Zaria, Nigeria, found that 16 per cent of patients with sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) were girls under the age of five, a sign of sexual assault. In the single year 1990, the Genito-Urinary Centre in Harare, Zimbabwe, treated more than 900 girls less than 12 years for STDs. As observed by WHO (2008) “African women and girls are at higher risk of sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS than men and boys.”

The Domestic Violence Act Chapter 5:16 came as a response to the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (CEDAW). Therefore, in 1993, the need for national budget to include resources targeted at the elimination of violence against women was recognized in the United Nations Declaration on the elimination of violence against women.

1.3 National Legislative Framework

While the declaration is not a binding treaty, it does set out a common international standard that states should follow. The declaration on the elimination of violence against women (1993) requires that "... states should preserve by all means and without delay a policy of eliminating violence against women ..."

Musasa project, (now called Musasa), CEDAW, Child line and other non-governmental organizations made it their obligation to implement the declaration by campaigning through the following institutions, the Ministry of Justice and Legal Affairs, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Gender and Community Development, Ministry of Health and Child Welfare, Ministry of Education, Sports, Art and Culture, Department of Social Services, Zimbabwe Republic Police and also the Civic Society such as the, Church Organizations and the Council of Chief. These advocated for the Domestic Violence Act which later came into effect on 16 June 2006 and was signed into law by the president in February 2007 (UN 2009, 30). The Domestic Violence Act (Chapter 5:16) was then enacted on 26th February 2007, became operational on 25th October 2007 and the Regulations were gazetted on the 20th of June 2008. In Zimbabwe, it is an offence to commit any form of violence as stated in the Domestic Violence Act 5:16 and severe punishment is provided by the Act. Under the Act Pastor Gumbura was given forty years in prison for rape and sexual abuse.

Media reports on domestic violence are increasing by the day in Zimbabwe. Newspapers, radios, and television clips and the internet are replete with disturbing reports on domestic violence. One wonders whether domestic violence reports are escalating in number because the reality of violence has increased or because the media have gained more awareness of the phenomenon. Sunday Mail Report (2012) has an unsettling incident that of Lillian Simbai of Masvingo province in Chivi who was struck to death with an axe by her husband after she accused him of having an extra conjugal affair.

Domestic violence has caused great psychological, emotional and physical harm to members of the society. In particular children, and youth, as alluded above, who are exposed and experienced emotional, mental and social damage that affect their developmental growth. Individuals and the whole societies erroneously believed that the consequences of Domestic Violence are temporary and individual. The abused person has often been considered ill-fated and some kind of social outcast to be derided by kith and kin .Contrary to this unfortunate misconception, research and experience point in a total different direction. It is now clear that, the consequences of abuse and domestic violence can be far reaching and immense and they can also defy individual boundaries and encroach onto other so-considered safe societal spaces. The consequences of domestic violence affect not only the individual victim but the society, including other people who might have no personal relationship with the abused party.

The Domestic Violence Act makes provision for the protection and relief of victims of domestic violence and provides for matters connected with or incidental to that. The definition of domestic violence is,“any unlawful, act omission or behavior which results in death, or the indirect infliction of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, economic abuse, intimidation, harassment, stalking, malicious damage to property and abuse derived from negative cultural or customary rites such as forced virginity testing and force wife inheritance” Published Gazette (2007). Most acts of domestic violence are criminalized exception of emotional, verbal, psychological and economic abuse, which can only be subject to civil proceedings.

Zimbabwe Central Statistics Office (CSO) and macro-international Inc. (2007) implemented a survey in 2005 – 2006, which included information about the prevalence of domestic violence in Zimbabwe. The results indicate that of 4 658 married women between ages of 15 to 49 years, 47,1% experienced a form of physical or emotional violence by their husbands or partner, specifically ;

- 27, 5% emotional violence
- 29, 5% physical violence
- 18, 9% Sexual violence
- 10, 2% physical and sexual violence
- 38, 2% experienced physical or emotional violence

Activists who fight for women's rights are calling for stiffer penalties on perpetrators of domestic violence as a deterrent measure. Activists standing for men's rights argue that domestic violence can only be nipped, if there is dialogue between women's groups and men's groups to find lasting solutions to the scourge. The practices have varied from domestic violence and political, economic deprivation, sexual harassment and child marriages to pledging virgins by religious sects. Domestic violence not only has negative impacts on development and health but also affects emotional and psychological well-being. Women play a critical role in sustainable development when they are educated and healthy, their families, communities and countries benefit. Yet domestic violence undermines opportunities for women and denies them the ability to fully utilize their basic human rights.

1.4 Problem statement

Zimbabwe's commitment in addressing equality between men and women demands gender equality for all citizens of Zimbabwe. This commitment has been demonstrated through the country's ratification of CEDAW as well as the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in African (The Women's Protocol to the African Charter). Domestic Violence Act 5; 16 was born through these provision and other pressure groups but, despite these legislation and campaigns carried out domestic violence remains on the increase. It is this continuous increase in cases of domestic violence to be delineated by the researcher.

1.5 Objectives of the study

The objectives of the study are to:-

- I. The nature and extent of Domestic Violence
- II. Establish factors contributing to the increase in domestic violence in urban Zimbabwe, with a particular focus on Gweru
- III. Socio-economic effects of domestic violence on victims who include children.
- IV. Suggest possible solutions, for various stakeholders such as the Government, Non-Governmental Organization, to end Domestic Violence in Zimbabwe.

1.6 Research questions

- i. What factors explain the increase in domestic violence?
- ii. What are the effects of domestic violence on the socio-economic arena?
- iii. What are the possible solutions to mitigate domestic violence

1.7 Assumptions of the study

The researcher will assume that:-

- i) Some of the cultural practices are contributing to domestic violence (DV).
- ii) Men, women and children suffer from domestic violence because of ignorance of their rights.
- iii) There is an increase in incidences of domestic violence in Gweru
- iv) Both men and women are victims of domestic violence
- v) Most cases of domestic violence are not reported
- vi) Both men and women are potential perpetrators
- vii) Respondent will cooperate with the researcher

1.8 Significance of the study

- i) The purpose of the study is to establish the socio-economic factors perpetuating domestic violence in Zimbabwe and Gweru in particular.
- ii) The findings are going to establish causes of increase in cases of domestic violence and find efforts to strengthen policies
- iii) Established results are going to contribute to the already existing body of knowledge on domestic violence.
- iv) Suggest possible solutions, for various stakeholders such as the Government, NGOs to mitigate domestic violence in Zimbabwe.

1.9 Scope of the study

Delimitation

For the purpose of the study and its sensitivity, the researcher would focus mainly on Gweru urban where major stakeholders are present.

Limitations

The study will likely to face the following problems

Time: the researcher is a full time employee and has some work commitments. Time to do the research would be limited. To counter this limitation, the researcher will use time offs and occasional leave days.

Resources: With prevailing economic hardships bedeviling the country, the researcher will have difficulties in acquiring stationery and transport. The researcher will use other sources such as well-wishers to donate for the purpose of the study.

Access to information

The researcher will also meet resistance in soliciting for information since the study is centered on the private lives of people. The researcher will however use persuasive language to individuals and the stakeholders on how the project is going to help them in the future. Research ethics will be employed during the period of study in order to promote privacy and confidentiality of research respondents.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

Literature reviews is defined by Leedy (1993) as a process by which researcher look at the relatedness of other literature to their topics under the study. Therefore a good review of literature is made to support, explicate and illuminate logic implicit in the proposed current investigations. This is accomplished through reading extensively in the areas that are either direct or indirectly related to the topic. Literature review is "a systematic, explicit, and reproducible method for identifying, evaluating, and synthesizing the existing body of completed and recorded work produced by researchers, scholars, and practitioners." Arlene Fink, (2005.)

Literature review is about information seeking to identify useful articles from scholars. A literature review must however, in a systematic manner and related directly to the area of study .The review must also synthesize results into a discussion of what is not known and known in order to identify gaps other researchers did not explore and areas of controversy in the literature world report on violence and health.

World Report on Violence and Health (WRVH 2002) postulates that Zimbabwe just like in South Africa, there is that relationship between women empowerment and violence against them. According to Mutepfa (2009), as women get educated the more they become resistant to patriarchal systems. A Zimbabwean activists group, (VarumeSvinurai) aims to address advocacy imbalances among women and men's rights. It has vested (Varume Sviurai) interest in domestic violence and the male victims in particular. Varume Svinurai calls upon the Zimbabwean government to take steps towards addressing domestic violence on men. The literature by VRS (2010-2011) indicated that 1 100 men visited Varume Svinurai between the years 2010 and 2011 for psycho-social, counseling and as well the economic support because of abuse suffered from the former or current wife. The figure above averages 10 men victims per month which is too high. This advocacy group challenges the way Zimbabwean Law particularly, Domestic Violence Act 5: 16 (2007) defines domestic violence and the way male

victims are trampled during execution of this law. The domestic violence is defined by Domestic Violence Act (2007:3) as any form of abuse derived from cultural or customary rites or practices that discriminates against or degrade women such as, “forced virginity testing, female genital mutilation, pledging of women or girls for purpose of appeasing spirits, forced marriage, child marriage, forced wife inheritance, sexual intercourse between fathers in law and newly married daughter in law.”Published Gazette (2007). This definition undermines the possibility of the male counterpart falling victims of domestic violence upon the hands of women in their matrimonial homes. Because of this definition there is a high possibility that domestic violence cases involving males do not get the same attention as those involving female victims receive in the courts, Varume Svinurai (2011).

Maboreke (2009) denotes that, most Africa states are predominantly patriarchal as such violence leveled against men is not of significant as men are considered to be strong to defend themselves against women. Those men who report violence of any form perpetrated by women are viewed as weak. This however, could be the reason why domestic violence understood from the perspective of women victims and men abusers or batterers. This study will also need to delineate the unreported cases of domestic violence which are dealt with at churches, and never reported to police.

2.1 What is Domestic Violence?

Since time immemorial, domestic violence has been viewed as wife battering which is not wrong in the African perspective. Wife battering is but a part of domestic violence. Giddens (1997:163) defines domestic violence as; physical abuse directed by one member of the family against another or others. The Oxford Dictionary (1995:133) defines domestic violence as an, “aggressive and hostile behavior between members of a family that results in injury, harm, humiliation and sometimes death. This behavior includes physical abuse, rape, and destruction of property and deprivation of basic needs.”

2.2 The Problem with Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence has become a huge problem within the whole society. The International Research Survey on Human Rights (2009) noted that domestic violence by intimates was on the increase worldwide. Domestic violence problem is continuously escalating despite the measures taken by all stakeholders who sympathize with abused victims. This problem is

however, beginning to find its attention and recognition that it required in order to mitigate it and possibly stop before it spreads further within today's society. The need to direct recognition towards the ever spreading domestic violence is shown by the various campaigns that are showing on television, social media, newspapers, the police, the government and individual campaign groups. There is a need for these people to target the general public, alert them to the prevailing problem and educate them that they are not alone, and that they are ways to get help, and off course that by reporting their cases effectively they will be helping others who are in the same situation.

2.3 The Public Perception of Domestic Violence

According to Scott and Marshal (2009), there is the perception and view that domestic violence is the problem associated with those who are uneducated and those who are in the elite working class. Also there, remains a particular type of a person(stereotypical image) of an abused and battered victim, unable to move out of the relationship and elude or get free from the abusive companionship due to both the financial fears and that of family obligations (Scott and Marshal 2009). These images, while correctly portraying a fraction or proportion of the victims of family violence, do not portray and expose the whole picture on the matter (Ibid). Kambarami et al (2009) had argued that domestic violence is not at all a gender problem but rather a problem of humanity. However, in the way domestic violence is portrayed in media for the politically funded campaigns, the emphasis of general public sympathy is centered on the female and child victim and the public's dislike directed to the male perpetrator. However, the general public view domestic violence is in some instance influenced by the media.

There is also a perception that there is a problem with term" domestic violence". The term domestic violence is, however, used in ordinary and familiar conversation(colloquial)to explain disharmony among intimate partners. The use of the term domestic violence is however, a problematic. It had been argued that the use of term only serves to discourage the victims from reporting incidents that are not violent and physical in their nature, for example the emotional and financial abuse.

A group of women and other Non-Governmental Organisation has lobbied members of the National Assembly (advocating for domestic violence) during the period to criminalize

domestic violence which was then enacted and adopted as an act in most African countries. In addition the government worked within the Southern Africa Development Community (SADC) to increase female participation in the legislature (Gender equality) and the quarter system where female members must be actively involved in decision making in areas that affect them most. Most NGOs such as CEDAW, Musasa Project, Child Line and other actively opposing domestic violence worked to involve the police in education, enforcement (which in Zimbabwe came the establishment of Victim Friendly Units), and identifying domestic violence as a criminal problem. Local NGOs reported that rape was a widespread and becoming a serious problem which requires urgent adoption of domestic violence act. Despite Constitutional provisions globally, guaranteeing the equality of men and women in all aspects of political, economic and social life. Civil and commercial practices contradict one another as well as the Constitution because of the African states is patriarchal in nature.

2.4 The Patriarchal System

Under family and inheritance law, the husband or father is the head of the household, and both wives and daughters must have the approval of a husband, father, or close male relation in order to go ahead with a decision. Without such approval, women cannot lease property, obtain a loan, or contract for goods and services. The legal domicile of the married women in a patriarchal context is her husband's house, and she may work outside the private sphere only with the express consent of her husband. While it appeared that these legal restrictions on women's freedoms were not enforced enough to have a regulative effect, they left women open to extortion and other pressures. The emphasis among domestic violence studies is purely directed on violence against women by men. Kambarami (2006) attributes this based thought to patriarchy which is endemic in world over including Zimbabwe. The patriarchy system is a socially constructed system that reproduces from its own male members of the society who have the power and authority.

In this patriarchy system, women and men are socialised into gendered roles by institutions such as education and family. Because of this system men become breadwinners while women counter parts are socialised into caregivers. For (Musasa Project, Girl- Child Network, WOZA, Women Collation of Zimbabwe (WCoZ) which are women organisation and activists, patriarchy perpetuates subordination, discrimination and men abusing women in societies. Before independence (the colonial era) and after independence, Zimbabwe didn't

have any law on domestic abuses. Later in the nineties, Zimbabwe ratified the Convention on Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW). On the same period of 2006 to 2007, reforms were done to the criminal law act (codification and reform) and Domestic Violence Act 5:16 were adopted into law. All these efforts by the governments and other activists were meant to improve women's welfare including gender main streaming. However, women took advantage and began to abuse men against cultural dictates. The patriarchy system imposed constraints upon women and its presumed resultant cases of domestic violence remains on the increase.

Zimbabwe National Statistics (2012) postulates that domestic violence cases dealt with after Domestic Violence Act in Zimbabwe court for the years 2009, 2010 and 2011 were 4 194 and 10100 respectively. Male victims cases were 997 27.4% in 2009, 2 969 (38.8%) in 2010 and 4 009 (39.7% in 2011 and male victims cases were 2 010 in 2009, 5 306 in 2010 and 11 018 in 2012 respectively. The above statistics shows an upward analysis in cases of domestic violence victims.

Armstrong (200:135) has noted that domestic violence in Zimbabwe is characterised by alternating norms, values, gender roles, changing attitudes towards women, marriage and sexuality and the changing socio-economic conditions. She argues that these invariably leads to stress and confusion in marriages, in sexual relations, in families and all these leads to violence as men try to reassert their dominance. The country's economic crisis also negatively affected the attitudes choices that victims could have if they are faced with different forms of domestic violence since victims prioritised basic livelihood over the expense of their right to protection against domestic violence.

2.5 Social and cultural contributing factors of domestic violence

Most African countries and other Islands such as Fiji, Solomon Islands the decision-making processes are entrenched in pure custom and religious teachings. Women are still looked upon when it comes to high level of decision making at the household, community and country levels. In the case of the Solomon Islands, traditionally it had a matrilineal (based on female line) land system whereby women plays a major role in decision making of land and resource management and was highly respected for that but, however, in past years these roles were eroded with the introduction of the patriarchal religious, legal, economic and

political systems. Equal participation in the workplace and household level and customary decisions are being ignored as women have very little say in decisions. This social and patriarchal attitude of male counterpart over women domination has led to discrimination against in the workforce. This change in custom over the years, has led to a saying among the Wontok people that women (no save tok) ‘(cannot or must not talk), and that they must stand behind men when are dealing with resources in the public arena. This social attitude has constrain women’s ability to participate in the formal managerial and political system, making Solomon Islands one of the countries not implementing the quota system, hence, they have no female parliamentarians in its fifty members parliament.

Women received inferior treatment and looked down upon by men has led to severe domestic violence against women and where women are to remain silent and not shame their family and community. However, men gave their reasons for intimate partner violence as alcohol, gender inequality, justified as discipline and bride price and some perpetrators, often become angry with their spouses for not conforming to social and traditional gender roles, for example, not preparing food for the husband and family or completing housework as expected of a wife on time, denying sex on minor excuses, being disobedient or rude to them. Almost all men said they hit their wives as a form of discipline and most said that to improve the situation, their wives should learn to be obedient and do what men ask (SPC, 2009).

2.6 Economic Development and Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a form of gender inequality and has hindrance to economic growth and limits the well-being of communities and individuals. Most developing states are at a stage of increasing poverty levels and underutilization of productive resources and for the purposes of improving livelihoods and eradicate poverty levels it is of significant to achieve inclusive growth and sustain it. The literature has shown that the domestic violence is one of the most severe and global violation of human rights and brings about social and economic consequences to countries. Developing states suffer more than developed states in terms of high costs in health, costs in legal issues and household costs, through loss of productive labour and the negative consequences on the health and mental state of children who are the future leaders. Addressing domestic violence through peer education, tertiary education and workshops at all community levels (bottom up approach) the monetary funds can be used into other sectors to improve the economy. As of significant important, women and girls will

realize the equal opportunities of men and boys in eradicating the ever increasing vicious cycle of domestic violence, thus enabling a country to reach its full economic potential.

As mentioned above developing countries face the biggest challenges of increasing the well-being of its people through achieving and sustaining economic growth. The disparities in achieving favorable economic growth rates among developing countries and the developed states have continued to increase and without any meaningful steps to address their challenges, the risks this trend poses including, among others is social instability which will continue to grow. Inclusive growth paradigm in developing states focuses on economic growth, which is a necessary and important condition for poverty reduction. It embraces improved livelihoods on both income and non-income dimensions of wellbeing. This paradigm (Inclusive growth) is a strategic objective in Asian Development Bank's (ADB) Strategy 2020, along with the focus on environmentally sustainable growth and regional cooperation and integration (ADB 2008).

Ali and Zhuang (2007) denotes that inclusive growth has no restrictive measures to growth that provides and allows economic opportunities but most importantly growth that provides equal access to opportunities to the society at large. He further illustrate that one most key aspect in attaining and sustaining inclusive growth is efficient utilization of human capital through inclusive and equal participation of both men and women in development and governance processes. Despite such paradigm in place, women continue to be under represented and experience some form of discrimination in the development and governance process. As a result gender inequality continues to be a major development barrier for economic development.

World Bank (2001) report states that gender disparities not only diminishes the wellbeing of women but also affects the wellbeing of children and men, thus, hindering long term economic growth. Development stakeholders of these developing states have increasingly acknowledge that gender equality and women's empowerment is a powerful means that foster development and poverty reduction (ADB 2007, 2008; World Bank 2008). One of the most significant negative results of gender inequality is gender based violence (GBV) which brings about various forms of domestic violence. The gender based violence reflects and reinforces inequality between men and women compromising the health, dignity, security and autonomy of its survivors. GBV covers human rights violations, sexual abuse of children,

domestic violence, sexual assault and harassment, trafficking of women and girls and harmful traditional practices. These forms of violence are experienced globally irrespective of social class, ethnicity, religion and economic status yet it is the least recognized human rights abuse in the world UN (2012).

Despite women and girls in different states receive higher education their economic and social accesses are hindered by religious and customary barriers such as the patriarchy social system that fosters male power and control over women and girls. This inequality of power within households and communities has seen many incidence of gender based violence that is domestic violence.

2.7 Economic dependence and poverty

The economic dependence and poverty has placed women and girls at high risk of economic and sexual violence. Women's reliance on a male breadwinner is seen as a major deterrent to complaining about violence or leaving her husband (AusAID 2008). The majority of ever-partnered women (58%) reported controlling behavior by an intimate partner. Forms of controlling behavior include, wanting to know where the spouse was at all times (42%), becoming angry one speaks with a different sex (32%), controlling access to health care (32%); and often suspected of being unfaithful (31%). Victims who had experienced intimate partner violence were more likely to report that their partner takes control of their finances, for example, 19% of women who had experienced partner violence had their earnings controlled by their partner against their concert compared with 5% of non-abused women (SPC, 2009).

2.8 Regional Instruments

The initiatives by African states on the issues of domestic violence have been in the form of Protocol to the African Charter on Human Rights of Women in Africa and on addition an addendum on the SADC Declaration on Gender and Development paying attention on violence Against Women. The SADC Document and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action identified all forms of violence against women such as the physical, sexual, economic and psychological while on the other hand the African women's protocol render the General Recommendation 19 and DEVAW, linked cases of violence against women to existing human rights such as right to security and life Banda (2005; 164).

The SADC Declaration on Gender and Development (1997) together with its addendum obliges all states parties to consider and review laws and constitutions that subject discrimination on women. Therefore, states are obliged to promote and protect women and children's rights and urgent preventive measures to deal with hidden cases of violence and the same time create awareness in an integrated manner.

2.9 Overview of the Domestic Violence Act 5; 16

Domestic Violence Act in Zimbabwe is actually based on the South African model of Domestic Violence Act (no116 or 1998) the law development commission of Zimbabwe (ZDCZ) (2000:17) notes that the Act was modified and later adopted to suite local circumstances. On the adoption of the Act, and before the Act came into force, the criminal code covered only physical violence and sexual violence. The domestic violence Act (5:16) covers a wide range from economic, physical, sexual, emotional, harassment, intimidation stalking, malicious damage to property, abuse deriving from cultural practices. The act also creates mechanism of enforcement which seeks to have perpetrators who violate the protection orders prosecuted, while the duties of judicial and police officers are clearly spelt out in the act.

Oguli (2002:50) noted that, despite the legislation changes, the operation of legislative frameworks is limited by a range of factors. She further noted that the implementing officials in the judiciary and police interpret the laws based on their experiences hence the discretion and this is further influenced by their cultural norms and orientation. Oguli further noted that women are dependent on men which result in some of them withdraws the reported cases and this is usually encouraged by police officers.

The Musasa Project, now Musasa, (2012) compilation, noted that women constitute a larger percentage of the world poorest group because they lack access to education. This therefore means lack of access to education or lower levels of education reduces the scope of economic activities to women, hence weaker on the financial position than the perpetrators. This observation was useful in the in bringing about questions sought to establish factors that hinder victims from violence despite having the legislative framework.

The Domestic Violence Act (Chapter 5:16) was enacted on 26th February 2007, became operational on 25th October 2007 and the Regulations were gazetted on the 20th of June 2008. The Domestic Violence Act makes provision for the protection and relief of victims of domestic violence and provides for matters connected with or incidental to that. According to the Domestic Violence Act Chapter 5:16, it is any unlawful act, omission or behavior which results in death or indirect infliction of physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional, economic abuses, intimidation, harassment, stalking, malicious damage to property and abuse derived from negative cultural or customary lives such as forced virginity testing and forced wife inheritance. Most acts of domestic violence are criminalized excepting emotional, verbal, psychological and economic abuse which can only be subject to civil proceedings.

Domestic violence has its foundation in culture and tradition in the African context where young women are taught from an early age that they must submit to men. Sons and daughters adopt the social roles and behaviour of their parents, thus the patriarchy system with the results that violence against women is often intergenerational. Religious edicts or customs prescribe and legitimate male violence against women. In other words, religious edicts or traditional customs advocate for male domination and women are expected to be submissive to their husbands which bring them vulnerable to domestic violence. Violence is frequently used as a means of conflict resolution within the family and a means to silence women from their unspecified rights by the laws and acts. Finally, African legal systems support the exercise of male power within the family. Consequently, domestic violence is endemic and broadly viewed as a legitimate practice. According to the UN (2006), most countries in Africa do not have specific laws to address abuses within the family, and the police rarely respond positively to complaints of domestic violence.

In view of the above definitions domestic violence can be perpetrated to anyone and by anyone in a family. Stewart and Taylor (1991) insist that domestic violence can also occur between aunt, cousin, mother-in-law and daughter-in-law or father and son. Also violence between boyfriend and girlfriend or former husband and former wife is regarded as domestic violence, since there were some relationships that exist or existed between the parties previously. For the purpose of this study, the researcher will focus on domestic violence against men, women and children. However, most if not all reports received by police, Child line and Msasa Project show that women and children are the victims.

2.10 Forms of domestic violence

The preliminary report carried out by Msasa Project, a Non-Governmental Organization, as cited in the second Annual meeting of the International Research Network on violence (December 1996) revealed that Zimbabweans recognized at least four types of domestic violence. These are physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence.

2.11 Theoretical framework

2.11.1 Liberal feminism

Liberal feminism theory approach would be employed from the perspective whereby women's subordination is rooted in a set of customary and legal constraints that bar women from freeing themselves from domestic violence. In the cultural context a women has many restrictions, more than her male counterpart and equality between the sexes is absent. The approach would be used to investigate the reasons behind the increases in domestic violence either is because of gender neutrality in the provision of the specific laws on domestic violence. The approach investigates the government's provisions of additional specific laws that protect women from the ever increasing abusive relationships.

Human beings are not abstract but people who lived different histories, who have different social relations with each other and who have different capabilities and different needs. The bill on domestic violence has to be clear about the rights of both sexes and in which way they address education of women and men on domestic violence. The approach asserts that men need more education in domestic violence than women.

2.12 Conclusion

The literature has shown much that has been written about domestic violence and much more progress may be put in place to combat violence of all forms. On the Agenda 66 (2005:6), the various instruments on issues of domestic violence have assisted in indentifying the link between how individuals think about the domestic violence problem and how to react on a constructive and helpful way. The literature also indicate that even in the presence of jurisdiction where protection order is available it is undermined by socio-economic and cultural factors

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

Research methodology refers to the procedure and techniques employed in a research study. The methodology focuses on data collection instruments, data presentation techniques, sampling techniques, ethical considerations and the research design employed.

3.1 Research design

Leedy (1985:91) describes a research design as “an operational framework within which the facts are placed so that their meaning may be seen more clearly.” It addresses the planning of a scientific inquiry and the finding out of real results. The research design is a model that guides and directs the researcher in different stages of the research.

The descriptive research survey and case study methods are going to be used. The qualitative and quantitative research designs would also be used in this research. The adoption of these designs helped in answering questions which require quantitative form and qualitative means as well as of reliability and validity of research results. It will describe how different forms of domestic violence impact negatively on women, men, children and the whole socio-economic arena. The researcher will assume that the survey will identify the strengths and limitations of Domestic Violence Act and other supporting legal institutions.

Factors that promote non acceptability of legal frames of domestic violence by the communities at large will be highlighted

Justification of descriptive survey method

The method has the following strengths that the researcher considered.

- i) Descriptive research allows the researcher to interact with respondents through interviews to collect necessary information.
- ii) Descriptive research can provide information about the characteristics of a particular group such as victims of domestic violence
- iii) The results are reliable and representative of a much wider population than the one directly studied if properly conducted.

iv) The personal influence of the researcher on the result is so limited.

Babbie (1989:254) states that, “many questions maybe asked on the given topic, giving the researcher considerable flexibility in his/her analysis”.

3.2 Sampling design and procedures

Sampling, according to Leedy (1980:75), is whereby the researcher derives a sample by selecting the unit from the larger population. This implies that, it is a process of selecting numbers of a research sample from a defined population, usually with the intent that the sample actually represents that population. There are many sampling designs that include stratified, simple random, cluster sampling, convenience sampling and systematic sampling.

3.2.1 Research using qualitative and quantitative interviews

Qualitative research examines questions that can be best answered by verbally describing how participants in a study perceive and interpret various aspects of their environment.

Quantitative research examines figures, percentages, and ratios are important in understanding the scope of the problem. In order to have the greatest chance of understanding what a woman in a violent relationship is going through, the voices of those women must be heard. For example, Weiss presents information from her interviews about the tension building phase of a relationship. This information is difficult to quantify, as the tension building phase can be anything from calculated put-downs to explicit verbal threats, damaging furniture to social isolation. Many of the women interviewed in Weiss' book described a "brainwashing" that occurs in the initial phases of a violent relationship, which is also difficult to describe in numbers. These individual stories are the details that are lost in quantitative research, especially in a topic with as many nuances as domestic violence.

Qualitative research has interpretive character. It utilizes different data gathering tools such as interviews and focus group discussion to capture the perspective of the respondents who participated in the study. It measures information which cannot be quantified but appears in the form of views, opinions and attitude towards domestic violence.

3.2.2 Methods of data collection

The approach to be used for collecting data from the field would be multifaceted based on the study projected on a sensitive but prevalent social problems, The researcher has the opinion that no single method would be most appropriate therefore, had to use different methods to have a wider scope of data triangulation purposes. The researcher will use triangulated methods to get information from different sources.

- Questionnaire
- In-depth interviews
- Group discussions
- Records
- Secondary sources of data

3.2.3 Questionnaire

Merriam and Simpson (1984:105) define a questionnaire as an instrument that is used to obtain conditions concerning attitudes and opinions”. A questionnaire is a set of designed questions administered to a number of respondents to gather statistical information. It may have open -ended and close ended questions. The open-ended question is very important in investigative work. An open-ended question is designed to encourage a full, meaningful answer using the participant’s own understanding or feelings about the study under investigation. It is the opposite of a closed-ended question, which encourages a short or single-word answer. Open-ended questions also tend to be more objective and less leading than closed-ended questions. Open-ended questions should be more explicit in their wording than closed-ended questions.

Questionnaires guarantees confidentiality and anonymity. They can easy to reach participants and obtain a higher rate of response. However, the disadvantage is that the participant may misinterpret the questions. Questionnaire collects target quantities of data from a considerable number of people over a relatively short space of time. If open – ended questions are used they allow flexibility and in-depth discussion. The questionnaires helped in the identification of abuse suffered by the respondents. Questionnaires also help in generating statistical data which is useful and appropriate in quantitative design partly adopted in this study.

3.2.4 Interviews

Robson (1993:228) defines an interview as, “a kind of conversation with a purpose”. It is one initiated by the interviewer for the purposes of obtaining research information often guided by research objectives and research principles.

Interviews may be structured or unstructured. Structured interviews are pre-determined sets of questions which are asked and response is recorded in a standardized schedule. Whereas unstructured interview is where questions are worked out in advance and are prone to modification by either, giving further explanations or changing the wording. Interviews are flexible since they have room to probe further and the non-verbal cues signify a person’s opinion, are also observed by the interviewer.

3.2.5 In-depth interviews

The method was used on victims of domestic violence to elicit first-hand information from the victims themselves, police officers who had attended to victims of domestic violence, officials from different NGOs that deal with victims of domestic violence, nurses from different hospitals or clinics, and a Ministry of Gender assistant who deals with women’s issues.

The method was appropriate in helping to probe underlying issues on the increases in domestic violence and to seek immediate clarification on unclear issues such as gender inequality and over reliance on the bread winner. To conduct the interviews, the researcher makes appointments with the selected respondents to specify the conditions under which they wish to be interviewed. The researcher employed open-ended questions during the interviews, but the interviews were confined to different guiding research questions. This depended on how the victim responded to a particular question.

This approach allowed the interviewees to contribute as broadly as possible to the issues being approached, and the researcher monitored the dialogue to ensure that the main issues were covered. The questions focused on problems which victims face in case of domestic violence and how they resolve their problems in that community.

3.2.6 Group discussion

This method of data collection was conducted with survivors of domestic violence in the community, consisting of young women and men (16-54 years) and also those who were

directly involved in dealing with cases of domestic violence through counselling and other interventions. The researcher also conducted interviews with women who are still in the abusive relationships. During the discussion, the researcher wanted to know if the victims know about the laws on domestic violence and at the same time what remedies existed on the ground to help them to solve their problems on domestic violence.

The strength of this method is that women could take part in discussions without being identified as victims themselves. The researcher sort clarification on unclear explanations or views and got feedback instantly.

3.2.7 Records

The researcher perused both court and police records to get an idea of the number of cases that go through the formal legal system in search of a solution and also determining the reasons and percentage on increase in domestic violence.

The weakness of this method is that it is highly likely that the information in the police or court files would be incomplete, hence the use of estimated statistics based on the insufficient data available.

3.2.8 Secondary sources of data

The researcher used documentary evidence such as books, law reports, workshop reports, newspapers and magazines. The researcher used this methodology before conducting the research in order to lay a basis for the research and after field work in order to supplement data derived from other sources. Because domestic violence is a global phenomenon affecting many people worldwide, the researcher considered both international and local texts on the problem.

The local texts were mainly considered for purposes of triangulating the information that already existed in those books with the findings from the fieldwork. The method was useful in identifying the gaps which already existed in the literature and what was being practised on the ground. This enabled the researcher to look for ways of filling those gaps.

3.3 Data presentation

In analyzing data, the researcher asked similar questions in the questionnaire, group discussions, records, secondary data and interview guide for ease of analysis and interpretation. The qualitative analysis and quantitative analysis was used to describe and narrate the major highlights on the data collected.

3.4 Data analysis

Data collected focused on answering set objectives of the study such as

- i) Establish the contributing factors causing domestic violence
- ii) Identify the most prevalent types of domestic violence
- iii) Highlight socio-economic effects of domestic violence on victims, children and the whole society.
- iv) Find possible solutions to domestic violence

The research topic is about domestic violence against all victims considering the criminological factors relating to this socio-economic problem. The availability of minimal research data meant that primary and secondary research would be challenging, but however, they could make a contribution to those organizations who work practically in the field. The initial research (primary research) was carried out to investigate areas for the purpose of recording and analysis of data. It was important that an anonymous questionnaire would be sent physically to organizations that deal with domestic violence. This was thought to be the most efficient method of collecting data as this would allow participants to gather data from internal resources. According to Denscombe (2007; 171) “because the researcher does not meet the respondent and because the answers are given ‘at a distance’, the researcher cannot rely on a number of clues that an interviewer may have about whether the answers are genuine or not”. Therefore, it is important that the data collected by this method would be quantitative, hence the opportunity to gate qualitative information on behavior, trends and attitudes, by other data collection techniques, which would be of great value from a limited sample.

The sensitive nature of the domestic violence topic meant that it was not ethical to carry out individual interviews. Ethical approval was sought and granted. King and Wincup (2008) point out that the value of interviews and personal contact is that the requirements can be explained and it has been a concern that the questionnaire would not get the information that

was required and so pilot work was undertaken to ensure that meaningful answers were obtained. It is also important that the obtained results would be analyzed, and because of the likelihood that there could be relatively few responses in this sensitive and under resourced field.

3.5 Research ethics

These are the code of conduct to be observed while undertaking a research. The researcher, for entrance and admission to interview and accesses documents from officials and victims sort authority to conduct research from the management.

Permission was sought from authorities in ZRP (HQ) Gweru offices, Musasa projects, Home Affairs, Zimbabwe Women Lawyers Association (ZWLA), Social welfare and Child- line. No names were used in order to promote privacy and confidentiality of research respondents. Also participation of respondents is specifically out of voluntarism and consent as the research gets to the private lives of families. Lewis et al (2003) notes that, those who investigate violence face particular dilemmas in relation to ‘ethics, data collection, confidentiality and empathy.’ No one was forced or coerced to participate in the study.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND DATA ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher presents and analyses the findings of the study. In the presentation, the researcher takes note of the assumptions outlined in the first chapter with assumption that cultural practices and social practices contribute to domestic violence. The continuous increase in domestic violence is regarded as something caused by lack of understanding about the legislation and that the socio-economic and cultural demands imposed by the patriarchal system. The relationship between equal rights and domestic violence has also been attributed to the increase in victims of domestic violence.

The findings from the study also draw data from a survey of fifty (50) respondents having ten (10) respondents from each contributing organization. Some respondents (within the selected 50) were selected for further in-depth study considering the sensitivity of the study. The data outlined here focuses on the socio-economic description of the respondents selected for intensive study, (which was not easy to obtain) their lived experiences, the strategies they adopted to cope with and as well their perceptions of different kinds of abuses. The motives of both men and women who perpetrate violence are also presented here. Case studies of both husband and wives abusing one another, case study of men abusing wife and women abusing men was looked at. Views of related stakeholders such as churches and Varume Svinurai (men's organization) evoked through interviews are also outlined here. On a larger extent the researcher found men are abusing women more. To further conceptualize the survey results either, tables, graphs and pie charts are used in this discussion of findings.

4.1 Nature and Extent of Domestic Violence

While domestic violence is a serious human rights violation that impacts millions of victims worldwide, it also has substantial economic consequences, new research from the World Bank Group (WBG 2011) shows. According to the WBG (2009), domestic violence imposes an economic burden on individuals, households, private businesses and the public sector through the cost of healthcare services used to treat victims, a loss of productivity and

reduced income for women due to missed work. According to WBG (2011) annual costs of intimate partner violence have been calculated at USD 5.8 billion in the United States in 2008 and GBP 22.9 billion in England and Wales in 2009. A 2009 study by World Bank Group in Australia estimated the cost of violence against women and children at AUD 13.6 billion per year. World Bank Group (2009) further estimate the costs of domestic violence against women at the household level to the economy in Viet Nam suggests that both out-of-pocket expenditures and lost earnings represent nearly 1.4 per cent of GDP in that country and an overall estimate productivity loss however, comes to 1.8 per cent of GDP of the same period.

Domestic violence in Nigeria is a problem as in many parts of Africa .There is a deep cultural belief in Nigeria that it is socially acceptable to hit a woman is to discipline her. Domestic violence is widespread and shows no signs of lessening in Nigeria where the CLEEN Foundation (2013) reports that one(1) in every three (3) respondents admitting to being a victim of domestic violence and afraid of reporting the abuse. The survey by CEEN Foundation (2013) also found a nationwide increase in domestic violence in the past 3 years from 21% in 2011 to 30% in 2013.The research also estimates the productivity loss due to absenteeism caused by domestic violence in Uganda and Bangladesh, for example, was \$87.76 million and \$262 million, respectively in 2012 (Ibid). This is equivalent to almost 1.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) for both countries (Ibid).

4.2 Factors Contributing to Domestic Violence.

Different factors contribute to the increase in domestic violence such poverty, inequality, poor policing by the police force, and cultural factors, these are further explained in detail below.

4.2.1 The Role of Cultural Practices in Domestic Violence

Cultural practices in reference to this research, refers to customs and beliefs, the way of life and social arrangement of Gweru Urban in particular. The data findings revealed that culture promotes and encourage men's abuse of their wives. When most men are asked to give reasons why they beat their spouses, they refer to cultural practices and women who were interviewed also agreed that, the cultural values were a major contributor. The patriarchal

system transmitted from generation to generation creates the impression that a husband is the head of the house and, therefore, the wife has to be submissive to him.

In response to the question on, what they thought as a possible reason for wife battering, most women were against the practice and refer to it as an abuse but were quick to point out that, it is because of the patriarchal system (cultural practices). Some women also stressed that it was a way men used to avoid questions from their wives on responsibility. The victims who are mainly women and children agreed that domestic violence is also increasing because of socio-economic problems such as lack of basic requirements at home. These basic requirements were also seen by the researcher to be different in terms of social class. Those from well up family women complain of biased maintenance of their vehicle and face make up. Those from low class levels, complain of lack of food and payments of rentals.

Records, secondary source and interviews conducted from both the police and the victims confirmed that most of the husbands rarely denied committing domestic violence crimes leveled against them by their wives. This further assert that, the patriarchal system is in play considering the notion that the husband should have total control over his wife and that he cannot be made answerable for domestic violence.

The other main factor noted as causing domestic violence is infidelity and lack of agreement between the couples is due to the fact that husbands believes that women should not question their infidelity. Women complain as well, that if they are to ask a question on infidelity they are accused of lack of respect towards him and at times, thus results in physical abuses. Women further note that even if one keeps quiet and stops asking husbands still accuses the women of having stopped loving them and he consequently gets a lover.

Regarding the question of where to seek legal advice, most victims showed some knowledge of the existence of some legislation protecting them against abuse by their perpetrators. They cited the Department of Women Affairs, Musasa, and ZRP Victim Friendly Units (VFU). Women were of the opinion that the resolutions on such private and sensitive matters were best left at the family level. Lobola was cited as another major impediment to providing solutions to issues of domestic violence. The women are kept confined in the institution of marriage since it is taboo for parents of the women are to pay back the money, which they received as the bride price from the husband's family.

Some women in Gweru urban felt that cases of domestic violence are on the increase because both men and women has the view that it's because of love to beat one's spouse rather than to divorce. Other victims also thought and believe that domestic violence will continue to exist because the Zimbabwean laws protecting women against domestic violence are not deterrent enough to defend them.

4.2.2 Poverty and Domestic Violence

The most noted risk factors of domestic violence at societal level are poverty, inequality among men, women, and children, unemployment, ineffective criminal justice system, and infidelity among intimate partners. Considering this societal level in general, Zimbabwe has had this culture of aggression rooted in slavery since colonial times and some of the identified changes at the societal level noted are,

4.2.3 Poverty and Inequality.

To those people that were raised in poverty it has been found by Musasa, Child-line and VFU that, they have a greater likelihood of being involved in domestic violence and other crimes. This trend has been noted in the statistics recorded that 38 % were children and young adults between the ages of 16 to 25 who recently married and coming from poor background. The abuses recorded are often related to aggression because of increased background stress and feelings of hopelessness and also that violence is exacerbated by the socio-economic situation in Zimbabwe bringing about chronic unemployment and other associated factors.

This inverse relationship between poverty and domestic violence is well documented globally (World Bank, 2006). During the deep economic and financial crisis of 2003-2004, extreme poverty doubled from 7 percent to 14 percent (World Bank and IDB, 2006). Violent crimes also rose dramatically; from 2002 to 2005, the rate of violent death nearly doubled from 14.5 to 26.4 per 100,000 residents (Aleph, 2006). In addition to poverty, the income inequality demonstrated by drug dons, foreign tourists, and the media encourages engagement in easy money activities, including drugs and prostitution (World Bank, 2003).

4.2.4 Role of Police in Domestic Violence

The mandated role of the police officers in crime prevention is weakened by problems within the police force. The majority of respondents in focus group discussions held by Musasa, noted that even if they were caught committing a crime, reported to have committed the

crime, the possibility of buying one's way out through bribes to police was always a feasible option, as well as that of using patrons (Godfathers) who could intervene on their behalf and have court decisions suspended, or even have prison inmates freed said one ZRP official whose name is withheld.

The case studies below indicate both women and men as perpetrators of domestic violence but however, men have to a larger extent as shown on tables above being the main abuser.

4.3 Effects of Domestic Violence to Socio-Economic

The literature review also estimates the productivity loss due to absenteeism caused by domestic violence in Uganda and Bangladesh, for example, was \$87.76 million and \$262 million, respectively in 2012. This is equivalent to almost 1.3 percent of gross domestic product (GDP) for both countries.

The costs of domestic violence against women at the household level to the economy in Viet Nam suggest that both out-of-pocket expenditures and lost earnings represent nearly 1.4 per cent of GDP.

According to the WBG (2009), domestic violence imposes an economic burden on individuals, households, private businesses and the public sector through the cost of healthcare services used to treat victims, a loss of productivity and reduced income for women due to missed work.

According to WBG (2011) annual costs of intimate partner violence have been calculated at USD 5.8 billion in the United States in 2008 and GBP 22.9 billion in England and Wales in 2009.

Case study

Wife sexually abusing her husband

The researcher had an interview with a couple in their late thirties and they have three children together. Their marriage is over seven years and they are both members of a local church here in Gweru. Mr Banda (not real name) is formally employed at a local company and Mrs Banda, is self-employed as an entrepreneur who operates her enterprise at home. Mr Banda confirmed that he is a victim of domestic violence perpetrated by his wife. According to him, he is forced to sexual intercourse on different occasions for the whole period of their marriage of seven years they have stayed together. Mr Banda cited one incident when he came home from work and upon his arrival, his wife who was at home the whole day demanded sex as usual. As he tries to explain to her that he had a very busy schedule at work

and was very tired and, as such, was not ready for sex. Mrs Banda did not heed his pleas, instead she started shouting at him loudly while also dragging him to their bed. She told her husband that under what circumstances it is his duty to sexually satisfy her at all times, “Basa rako pano nderei kana usingarari neni uchindigutsa?Uri murume pachii?Hausi murume iwe, urimbwende”. (“What is the point of having you if you cannot sexually satisfy me? What kind of man are you? You are not a man, you are a weakling”).Mr Banda agreed that he would give in on most of such situations, but against his will. He feels as the head of the house, it is his responsibility to initiate sex as well as to satisfy his wife sexually without coercion.

As a strategy to cope up with his predicament Mr Banda indicated that he moved out of their matrimonial home and stayed with a friend for almost three months. He did not report the abuse to the police and, with a friend’s advice, they approached their local church pastor for counseling. During the time of this temporary separation he avoided all of her calls and the people she sent to him. After counseling that’s when Mr Banda returned home and he reportedly noted a positive change in the behavior of his wife. He was not forced to have sex any more. However, Mr Banda report that he is still a subjected of verbal abuse by his wife.

On the other hand Mrs Banda noted in a separate discussion that she does not agree that her behavior is an abuse in any way. She has an understanding that in a marriage institution either of the parties can instigate sex without fear. She strongly disagreed with her husband’s thought that it is the preserve of men in any marriage institution to initiate sex. For her, Mr Banda’s view exposes men’s patriarchal intention to control women and their sexuality and the other hand, the husband views domestic violence against men as a means utilized by women to control men .He further argued that domestic violence against men negatively impacts on the capacity of men to be authoritative. Furthermore, Mr Banda noted that the Domestic Violence Act 5; 16 does not cover rape perpetrated by women on men. It is silent about men being coerced to having sex hence, a weakness of the act.

Case study

Men abusing wife

The researcher had an interview with Jayne who started explaining her predicament that she is engaged to Andrew and their relation is two years old. One morning Jayne explained that she forgot her phone at home when going shopping with her family. When she went home, she had more than 30 missed phone calls and lots of texts from Andrew. She immediately called Andrew apologizing for having forgotten her phone at home, but he didn’t listen to her

and was furious. She told Andrew that she very sorry and she will make it up to him and rushed over to his house. In Andrew's house she narrated how she forgot her phone and how sorry she was.

Andrew: "So you'll make it up to me? Hey hey!!"

Jayne: "Yeah, I promise you. I'm really, very sorry."

Andrew then slapped her twice and said "This is so you never forget your phone again and isn't anything like how much you hurt me." Jayne explained how she felt about the pain from that slap and the effort she made to his place, with tears running down her cheeks. Jayne said with a very low voice with her eyes looking straight on Andrew's eyes "... and he forced himself into me..." She said afterwards all seemed to have calmed down.

She explained that, ever since then Andrew has become increasingly demanding and tries to find any reason to punish and hitting her. At times he embarrasses me in front of my classmates at the University campus. From there onwards we always talk and Andrew tells me how much he loves me and how he wants me to himself and feels irritated when there are other people around talking to me. Jayne further explains that, many of times she thinks about how difficult Andrew can be but finds comfort in how much he loves her

Jayne said she realized the intensity and frequency of his anger has increased and so has the persistence efforts of Jayne to appease Andrew and to make it up to him. In few weeks' time she told Andrew that she is 2 months pregnant. Andrew became so angry and starting shouting at me and asking whose baby that was, and used his belt to beat her up. I ran away from his house and went back home and I did not tell anyone at home about the violent relationship with Andrew. However, later on the day I gained courage and broke down in tears and told my mother about what had happen. It was during the conversation when father came back after having had a few drinks with his friends. He had me crying and my mother went on to tell, I was pregnant and her dad started shouting. He pulled his belt out and started beating me. She said i ran away from home and after walking around the streets for a couple of hours thinking of my next move i went back to Andrew. Ever since she went home once to pack her things while her dad was not there.

However, due to severity of endless shouting and quarrels one of Andrew's neighbors reported us to police couple for domestic violence. But however upon the arrival of the police both Andrew and Jayne denied any violence, and mentioned they just had a disagreement

between them. Jayne was then admitted in the hospital for miscarriage due to beatings from her husband and the doctor reported the case to police which resulted in his arrest.

On the analysis of couple, domestic violence of different forms were committed against Jayne such as rape, stalking, psychological, physical, intimidation abuses. Asked why she did not report her husband she thinks very well that because he loved me. She also noted that she was aware of the institutions that she could report her cases such as Musasa and police but not specifically VFU. The police officers present also confirmed the husband knew about the domestic violence offences he committed against Jayne but was doing that in the name of love.

Case study

Men abusing wife

A married man aged thirty six who has been in marriage for nine years. He is employed and has three sons. Mr Bonde (not his real name) is a Christian and his wife is a non-believer from a wealth family. Mr Bonde explains that they started having problems on when his wife was supposed to get employment. Mr Bonde suggested a delay in his wife's employment because their children were still young and so they needed the care from their mother at all times. Mrs Bonde has an idea of leaving their sons with their old grandmother who also needed attention herself but this did not go well with husband. He also indicated that he was not in total disagreement with the idea of his wife getting employment. He notes that she would get employed later when their children reached school going age because there was no hurry for her get a job because he was financially stable to provide for the family.

In one fateful day she cited an incident when the two were quarreling and Mr Bonde grabbed his wife by the throat violently and shoved her sideways hitting against the walls with the head. As a result she sustained minor bruised on the neck, shoulders and a swollen forehead as well as visible scratches all over her body. She mentioned that she did not respond physically or resist to the attack from him because she was not expecting it and she thought he had a hidden motive behind.

When asked the question whether she reported the case to anyone she has this to say, "I did not make a police report because was afraid he will go jail for sure and was afraid of the community's perception about my marriage. She also did not respond to the attack by any form of abuse but rather, she sought counseling from her husband's relatives. However, Mrs Bonde explained that she continued suffering physical and verbal abuse despite family

counseling, through the continued quarreling between them. He further explains that torture persisted to an extent of denied sex by his husband and sometimes forced into having sex.

Mr Bonde agreed that the physical and sexual abuse laid against him were true because he wanted to pressure his wife to feel he was the head of the house who dictates when she would get employment or not.

She thought her husband's view to delay her getting employment was illogical. She had to do everything in her power to convince him otherwise. Below is an excerpt from an interview with him.

DM (initials of the researcher): So you denied your wife sex so that she would not make demands to get employment.

Mr. Bonde: "Yes, you know what young man, women need some kind of control and deprivation for them to give in and become considerate. Now that I deprive her tell me, (laughing) isn't it that she is looking after the kids, Ahhhh iwe kunomborinei kubasa kwacho hee, very soon she will go back to work anywhere."

Mr Bonde has a perception that if his wife has employment she makes demands of being equal with him. On his reply it shows the husband is jealousy of his wife. So by denying her opportunity for employment is a way of controlling her. He added that the patriarchal system is still recognized by our way of life hence women must listen to their husbands.

Reaction from the Pastor

The Pastor from a local church has been with the church for the past eleven years and has been around different provinces in Zimbabwe. Mr Pastor, (not real name) notes that for the period he has been with the Gweru church, domestic violence is at play men are abusing their wives despite being an elder or ordinary church member. He used to provide counseling to at least ten couples per year but now they have tripled, it's a daily routine now. He does not record such cases because of their sensitivity and in every ten couples he counseled, at least four of them involved male victims abused by their wives. Mr Pastor denotes that most reports he received are very minor but become so complicated such as of denial of food, cheating, and disposal of household goods without mutual consent, denial of sex, verbal and physical abuse are amongst others. The pastor also noted that women especially from the elite class were misled on the issue of equal rights which they use to make decisions without consulting their spouses. He also noted very rare cases of unnatural forms of abuse such as

bewitchment and spiritual, through what he referred to as love potion or husband taming herbs (mupfuwhira)

Mr Pastor contends that for the period he has been in the counseling ministry about 95 cases thus 95% on average of his clients maintained their marriages. He argued the low divorce rate is from his teachings which are based on the bible which does not encourage divorce and those cases that are spiritual are dealt with through spiritual deliverance of the perpetrator. Pastor also perceives domestic violence as a reality but a normal behavior between married people though continued abuse is not warranted in the face of God and not healthy at all for it derails the socio-economic performance. He believes that all forms of abuse perpetrated against men or women can be resolved without putting an end to the matrimonial marriage. Mr Pastor concluded that domestic violence often results from unresolved conflicts which build up tension and eventually erupt into abusive actions

Musasa organization

A representative of Musasa, name withheld, has been representing the organization since 2009. The organization aims at redressing gender imbalance in advocacy among men and women. The organization has particular interest in dealing with victims of domestic violence as is one form of gender inequality and is a hindrance to economic growth and the well-being of individuals. She has however, received some unusual cases where men came to report abuse through deliberate infection with HIV by a partner. The organization is its mandate to provide the required assistance to victims of such cases and to access ARV drugs, shelter and counseling. According to Musasa representatives, an average of 120 victims per month come to their organization for financial and psycho-social support despite that the organization's operations are stifled by lack of funding.

He also noted that, there is need for greater awareness campaigns to make men and other perpetrators with the potential of causing violence at home to be aware of the existence of the Domestic Violence Act and understand the effects of violence to the economy. Domestic violence has become a norm in resolving issues at home, that needs to be appreciated and have stiff measures taken to mitigate the abuses. Domestic violence has a serious consequence on economic productivity and as such, these victims of domestic violence will suffer double abuse at home and in the public sphere.

4.4 Discussion of Findings

This section is going to analyze the research findings. It will discuss issues drawn from fifty (50) victims including both male and female perpetrators; 1 pastor; 1 representative from Varume Svinurai, Musasa, police (VFU) and the observations that were made during field work.

Socio-demographic profile

The respondents were both female and male victims of domestic violence with their ages ranged between fifteen (15) and fifty-four (54) years. An equal proportion of 40% (20 respondents) were formally employed and self-employed respectively and only 20% (10 respondents) were none employed, as in Table 1 below. In these categories are the professionals, non-professionals and the business people. The gender category is also highlighted in the tables below.

Table 3 Background characteristics of respondents

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage %
Age		
15-24	5	9
25-34	27	55
35-44	15	34
45-54	3	2
Total	50	100

On the tables below all respondents were proportionally separated into married, divorced and single categories with percentages of 68% (33), 29% (15) and 3% (2) respectively. Of the 62% study population belongs to the African Traditional religion and the remaining 38% is of the Christian faith.

Table 4; Marital status of respondents

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage %
Marital Status		
Married	33	68

Divorced	15	29
Single	2	3
Total	50	100

Table 5; Religious status of respondents

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage %
Religion		
African Tradition	31	62
Christians	19	38
Total	50	100

Table 6; Employment status of respondents

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage %
Employment status		
Self-employed	21	39
Employed	18	42
None-employed	11	19
Total	50	100

Table 7; Zimbabwe National Statistics (2013)

Domestic Violence after the DV Act of 2007

Period (Years)	Frequency (cases)
2009 - 2010	2 910
2010 - 2011	7 600
2012 - 2013	14 100

Table 8; Domestic Violence against men

Period (Years)	Frequency (cases)
2009 - 2010	897
2010 - 2011	2 069
2011 - 2012	4 009

Table 9; Domestic Violence against women

Period (Years)	Frequency (cases)
2009 – 2010	2 010
2010 – 2011	5 306
2011 – 2012	10 018

Table 10; Domestic Violence against women in Gweru Urban

Period (Years)	Frequency (cases)
2012 – 2013	671
2013 – 2014	1 019

Table 11; Domestic Violence against men in Gweru Urban

Period (Years)	Frequency (cases)
2012 – 2013	297
2013 – 2014	924

Table 12; Background of abusive spouse

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage %
Background(abusive spouse)		
Rich and non-believing	26	54
Political power	11	24
Lower social class	13	22
Total	50	100

Table 13; Employment status of abusive spouse

Characteristics	Frequency	Percentage %
Employment status(abusive spouse)		
Employed	18	36
Self-employed	25	50
None-employed	7	14
Total	50	100

The presented statistics indicates that both men and women can be abused regardless of their age, religion as well as socio-economic standing in the society. Based on these findings above one can assert that everyone from all walks of life are potential to abuse by intimate partners, though statistics indicate more women being abused by men. Nonetheless, the indications above show that some age groups are more susceptible to abuse than others as noted above most victims are the age group between 25-34(54%).

4.5Forms of violence experienced

Table 14; Forms of abuse

Type of abuse	Expected Frequency	Percentage%	Frequency
Verbal abuse	50	98	49
Emotional abuse	50	70	36
Physical abuse	50	66	34
Psychological	50	31	14
Sexual abuse	50	24	12
Economic abuse	50	14	7

Questionnaire response

Question 18, What are the likely causes of domestic violence?

(not likely 1 2 3 4 5 very likely)

Table 15

	1	2	3	4	5
Partners with history of violence	-	-	2	4	8
Drug or alcohol abuse	-	-	2	7	6
Employment problems	2	1	5	6	3
Outside relationships	-	2	1	6	4
Retaliation over violent behavior	4	2	3	3	-
Problems with children in relationships	1	2	4	5	2

Verbal abuse

There is a clear picture or rather an indication that victims are violated verbally by their perpetrators. Verbal abuse is referred as the use of language to cause distress, insecurities and to exploit the other party, Direnfeld (2013). Verbal abuse is the most often cited form of abuse perpetrated by both men and women. All of the cited 98% participants on the, Table above have experienced verbal abuse against them. This form of abuse was committed through the expression of disapproval of someone; name calling and shouting, use of disrespectful attitude and sarcastic language meant to lose confidence of victims. On the case study above, Mr Banda was called uri murume papipacho (useless man) and in case study in another case the woman was told by the husband “a prostitute” because she became pregnant. These kinds of words have an emotional and a serious psychological effect on the victims which further compromise their socio-economic productivity. This, however, infer that although victims are often verbally abused as the study indicates, the victims are mostly affected by emotional and psychological effects of verbal abuse than they are affected by verbal abuse itself meaning in vernacular language, “kurohwa kurinani pane kutukwa”. Maboreke, (1989) and Musasa, (1997), concur that women were born feminine hence, are not physically gifted and, as such, most of women are not capable of abusing men physically. Rather, they abuse their husbands in other different forms

Physical abuse

According to National Committee for Prevention of Elder Abuse, (2013) (NCEPA) defines physical abuse as a contact on another person intended to cause bodily harm; physical pain or impairment. On this research study 66% of the respondents indicated having been physically abused by their perpetrators in various means. Fifteen of the respondents 30% have indicated that they scalded with hot water, boiled cooking oil, porridge, punched or kicked. The research study had shown that victims of all ages ranging between 16 and 54 years have experienced physical abuse perpetrated by either men or women in their home.

A total of (52%) fifty-two percent of the physical abused victims were reported and having taken place in front of children and in public. Only 14% of the physical abuse took place behind closed doors. This explains as noted earlier in table 12, why 72% of respondents who reported having been affected largely by emotional abuse. The total humiliation of the victim being either the father or the wife in public or in the presence of children has emotional consequences on socio-economic sphere. This study however, corroborates a study by Mutepfa (2009) which brings to conclusion that women as well as men are all capable of abusing each other in a marriage or relationship.

Psychological and Emotional Abuse

The Domestic Violence Act (2007) defines psychological and emotional abuse as a pattern of degrading or humiliating conduct towards a partner that includes but is not limited to repeated insults, ridicule or name-calling as well as repeated threats to cause emotional pain. Psychological abuse is the willful infliction of mental emotional anguish by threat or humiliation by other verbal or physical contact thus according to Quinn (1997). Both emotional and psychological abuses are regarded as a single form of abuse in this research study because most respondents indicated having concurrent experiences of the abuse. As noted earlier in the study, the two Emotional abuse and psychological abuses are mostly as a resultant effect of the verbal and physical abuses. The cases study above reported emotional abuse through denial of sex, yet 31% indicated that they were psychologically abused by being infected deliberately with HIV. Emotional abuse ranked at (70%) form of abuse that affected respondents the most.

Sexual abuse

(Quinn 1997) has acknowledged that boys are more sexually abused by women and other scholars have concluded that men are sexually abused during childhood, but as indicated in

this research, adult women experience sexual abuse perpetrated by either their current or former spouse. According to Quinn (1997), sexual abuse is another form of non-consensual physical contact which includes molestation, rape or any other sexual conduct on another person without any consent. Twenty six percent (24%) of the respondents in this research indicated they were sexually abused through forced sexual intercourse

4.6 Domestic violence against men is culturally unacceptable.

Traditions in the African concept perceive that domestic violence against men at home is culturally unacceptable behavior as noted by Kambarami (2006), that culture is a complex phenomenon which includes knowledge, belief, arts, morals, law, customs and social habits acquired and practiced by members of a society. Maboreke (1989) also asserts that the social customs and habits in the African concept are largely based on patriarchy, which Kambarami (2006), eludes as a social system that reproduces itself from males. Men are socialized in the patriarchal system to be the head of the house that should be given superiority over other members of the family but not to abuse and take advantage over their feminine make up as indicated on Mr Bonde’s case.

4.7 Solutions and coping strategies used by victims in dealing with the abuse

As noted above in this research study, Bourdieu (1979), have used the habitus, capital and field ideas to explain the different concepts which people use in dealing with their social world. He further asserts that, in their daily lives individuals use various means to struggle with perceived threats and challenges. While on the same note, Mararike (1999) denotes that people are not given strategies, rather they devise their own strategies to deal with their situations .Considering this research study, victims are seen adopting different strategies to cope with abuse experienced.

Table 16; Coping strategies employed by respondents

.....what did you do after the abuse?

Divorced	48%
Sought Counselling	24%
Report to police	8%
Counseling and Later Divorced	8%
Report/Restraining order and divorced	12%

Divorced

These highest percentages (68%) of respondents show that they divorced because of perceived abuse. While on the other hand 48% reported that they did not consider any option of dealing with the domestic abuse before divorcing, and 20% indicated that they did not make a formal police report or sought counseling before divorcing their spouses. As indicated in this study victims adopted such coping strategies as divorce in a way to save their identities from public humiliation. Divorce therefore has been adopted by many as a lasting solution to the abuse perpetrated against them. Some respondents indicated that divorce saves them from societal victimization through loss of respect, dignity and degrading remarks as well as blame for choosing a bad spouse.

Therefore, there is indication in the daily live that men who divorced remarried other wives in-order to prove to the society that they are men enough and not weaklings. On the other hand women who divorced do not want to be remarried because of various reasons but the main factor was noted, they don't want to be controlled or rather be under men, they enjoy independence. The researcher has noted from other respondents that the misconstrued interpretation of equal rights and the relationship between equal rights and Domestic Violence Act is the major factor of divorce.

Counseling

According to Locke et al (2001) counseling is a process in which a person who is an expert holds a face to face talk with another person to help him or her solve personal problems or family conflicts or help improve that person's attitude or character. He further elude that, it provides a safe and confidential environment for victims to express their feelings and experiences. Counselors who are on this study are Pastors, Musasa officials, VFU officers, Varume Svinurai, relatives or professionals from other NGOs play an important part in domestic violence matters as they are normally non-judgmental to the concerns of the victims. In this research study, 32% of the respondents reported having sought counseling from above mentioned counselors in order to deal with domestic abuse. Only twenty four (24%) of the respondents who were counseled maintained their marriages and the remainder (8%) later divorced after the anticipated change of behavior in their abusive relationship failed to materialize.

Report abuse to police

Twenty percent (20%) of the victims made use of the justice delivery system to seek restraining orders or pressing criminal charges of different forms of violence against perpetrators. The Family Violence Law Centre (2012) notes that a restraining court order is meant to protect victims from being physically abused, threatened, stalked and harassed. The research case study results above show that those who reported and pressed charges against abusive perpetrators were actually victims of physical abuse who had resulting from scalding and scratches as notable signs of alleged abuse. However, almost all victims who adopted these strategies showed lack of satisfaction with them and they claimed both the issuance of restraining orders and the pressing of criminal charges proved not to produce the desired results because, either abuse continued or sentences passed showed lenience.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS.

5.0 Recommendations

Considering the indications in this research study there is evident of increased existence of domestic violence among intimate couples. There should be serious consideration from the leadership and political will on the rights of men the same way as any other groups of people. Other respondents noted that, the definition of marital rape in the Domestic Violence Act 5; 16 should cover men as potential victims of abuse. There is a need for an appreciation of domestic violence taking place against men by the legal authorities and officials in the justice delivery system, as to achieve a balanced and equitable approach against domestic violence cases.

There is critical need for the government and the NGO sectors to fund organizations such as Varume Svinurai, Musasa, Child Line and the Ministry of Gender and Women Affairs so that they reach out to victims of domestic violence and respond to their needs. Information dissemination through awareness campaigns is critical to conscientize women and men on the correct interpretation of Domestic Violence and Equal Rights. While gender and women empowerment is meant to improve women's economic security there is also a need to engage men in the decision making because they will resist thinking their role as head of family is being taken away (the patriarchal system). Involvement of both women and men in gender sensitive workshops is also critical in changing their mindset. The collaboration between Chiefs and church elders in dealing with domestic violence is of significant in restoring the cultural believes and norms. The primary and secondary curriculums need to incorporate gender studies to educate children, both girls and boys on gender equality and change the socially defined roles of gender. Lastly the government must be prepared to budget high on this phenomenon to avoid loss of productivity in the manufacturing sector for it has severe negative impact on the economy.

5.1 Conclusion

The research study has investigated the experiences of victims of domestic violence in the home specifically focusing on the various forms of abuse perpetrated against intimate

partners. Despite the common forms of domestic violence such as verbal abuse and physical abuse, today's world men and women are abusing each other through unnatural and uncommon means such as 'kusungwa' and sometimes getting infected with HIV. Other forms of domestic violence such as psychological, emotional, sexual abuse are also noted to be become common. As such, men are not passive recipients of cheating, beating, insults and witchcraft. Victims of domestic violence have adopted various coping strategies that range from divorce, desertion, reporting to police, seeking restraining orders, seeking counseling and even suicide as a way out.

The research study confirmed that domestic violence exists in varied forms while on the other hand refutes the impression that men are only abusive to women while women are passive recipients of abuse. The research has however; show that Christians and African Traditionalists generally view domestic violence as a challenge to the explanation of conventional masculinities and violation of human rights.

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APPENDIX 1

Questionnaire

As a Midlands State University (MSU) student from the Department of Development Studies, I am carrying out a research study on domestic violence in fulfillment of an Honors Degree in Development Studies. The study is focused on exploring the reasons why a continuous increase in cases of domestic violence despite the Domestic Violence Act and its implications to Development. Main focus is in Gweru Urban south. I hope you will enjoy your full participation in this research study.

(Please tick the suitable answer)

1. Your age

[16-19]

[20-25]

[26-35]

[36-60]

[61+]

2. Marital status

[Single]

[Married]

[Divorced]

[Widowed]

3. Your employment status

[Employed]

[Self-employed]

[Not employed]

4. Have you ever been humiliated in public by your spouse or girlfriend? [Yes] [No]

5. Have you ever physically abused before? [Yes] [No]

6. If yes, how? Through [clapping] [shoving] [punching] or other (specify)

.....

7. Have you ever been scalded with hot water, hot cooking oil or any other liquid by your spouse? [Yes] [No]

8. Have you ever been denied sex by your spouse? [Yes] [No]

Please specify questions below

9. What other form/s of domestic violence did you experience?

.....

.....

10. What action did you take after the abuse?

[Divorced]

[Abused back]

[Went for counseling]

[Made a police report]

[Other]Specify

11. How do you perceive domestic violence?.....

.....
.....
.....

12. How much do you understand about Domestic Violence Act 5; 16

.....
.....
.....

13. How do you deal with the issue of Equal Rights at home?

.....
.....

14. Did domestic violence affect you financially? If yes how?

.....
.....

15. Do you respect the cultural values at home as husband and wife?

.....
.....

16. Did domestic violence affect your work at all? If yes, how

.....
.....

17. Which type of abuse affected you the most?

[Physical] [Verbal] [Sexual] [Emotional] [Economic] [Psychological]

18. What are the likely causes of domestic violence?

.....
.....
.....

19. What do you think are the possible solutions to Domestic Violence?

.....
.....
.....