**GENDER BASED VIOLENCE (GBV) AND WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT. A CASE OF KAKOBA DIVISION- MBARARA CITY**

**BY**

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# DECLARATION

I **Nimwijuka Osbert,** do herebydeclare that I have carried out this dissertation and the content inside is my original work which has never been submitted to any institution.

**Signature**…………………………………**Date**…………………………………………

**(Researcher)**

# APPROVAL

This is to certify that this dissertation has been done with my supervision and is ready for field approval.

**Signed …..…………………………………..Date………………………………..**

**Dr. Anne Abaho**

**University Supervisor**

# DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this work to my family

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to God almighty who sustained me throughout my stay at Nkumba University.

My appreciation further goes to my family and all my friends for the support, advice and encouragement. I would like to thank my supervisor, Dr. Ann Abaho, for the tireless effort and time devoted to guiding throughout the process of research.

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# ABSTRACT

The study was about the impact of gender-based violence (GBV) on women’s economic empowerment in Uganda basing on a case study of Kakoba Division, Mbarara City. It was guided by three objectives which are; i) to establish the effects of denial of resources on women economic empowerment in Kakoba Division, ii) to examine the effects of gender-based violence on women’s economic empowerment in Kakoba Division and iii) to assess what has been done to redress gender-based violence in families and to establish the reasons for its continued occurrence in families in Kakoba Division. The study adopted a cross sectional survey design focused on quantiative and qualitative aproaches to collect data from 87 respondents who had been conveniently picked for the sample of which only 86 positively responded to the study. The study used two data collection methods which included questionnaire survey and key informant interview. The findings revealed that many women have been denied resources to start up business ventures in both homes and financial institutions which has left them deprived economically and having poor standards, there is lack of voices defending the promotion of rights of women and their participation in food security. It was also revealed that couples in Kakoba Division are making efforts in handling personal finances as a way of reducing gender inequality in homes and communities. The study recommends that efforts to reduce GBV should be based on the evaluation of all by-laws put in place and involve both men and women to participate in decision making to ensure compliance to these by-laws and policies to ensure family welfare and development. It was also suggested that government still needs to sensitize the masses on the negative impact of GBV so that they can learn from their own experiences.

# CHAPTER ONE:

# INTRODUCTION

# 1.0 Overview

This chapter introduces the study in its entirety. It will include background to the study, problem statement, objectives of the study, research questions, justification, significance of the study and conceptual framework.

# 1.1 Introduction

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a serious, life-threatening protection issue primarily affecting women and children in most cases basing on Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC,2016). According to Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC) report on gender-based violence (GBV) (2016), GBV is a widespread international public health and human rights issue, that adequate, appropriate, and comprehensive prevention and response are inadequate in most countries worldwide. Gender-based violence is a violation of universal human rights protected by international human rights conventions, including; the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the right to employment, inhuman, or degrading treatment and the right to life among others.

Therefore, it seems most of these human rights keep on being violated by human beings who are supposed to be protecting and promoting them especially women have suffered most as they are subjected to various forms of violence that have negatively affected their economic empowerment and independency. Women’s economic empowerment (WEE) is critical if we are to change the forces that are aligned against low-income households. Their families need their economic contribution to survive. Moreover, it is essential to equality between men and women. According to sexual violence research Initiative’s report (2019) poverty is a risk factor associated with gender-based violence; it also often intersects with and reinforces gender inequality, power imbalances and relations in families as men feel they have the power on control over resources seem to have caused barriers in economic empowerment for most of women. Various microfinance and other economic empowerment approaches are needed to empower women by increasing their economic resources and reducing gender inequalities in their intimate relationships especially at household levels. In this study the researcher will try to dig deeper into GBV and its effect on women’s economic empowerment in particular reference to Kakoba Division- Mbarara City.

# 1.2 Background to the study

## 1.2.1 Historical background

Gender Based Violence is a global public health and economic problem that affects both women and men. Approximately 35.6 per cent of women globally are reported to suffer from some forms of gender-based violence. This entails considerable costs for national economies of both industrialized and developing countries (care gender empowerment report, 2019). According to World Bank (2019) Gender-based violence (GBV) is a global pandemic that affects 1 in 3 women in their lifetime. World bank report indicates that GBV cases are staggering: [35% of women worldwide](https://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/) have experienced either economic, physical or sexual violence. GBV is not only devastating for survivors of violence and their families, but also entails significant social and economic costs. In some countries, violence against women is estimated to cost countries up to 3.7% of their GDP – more than double what most governments spend on education (World Bank, report 2019). Therefore, often, Gender Based Violence is a reflection of gender inequality and women subordination in most societies.

In the United states of America (USA), GBV especially sexual violence [is normalized in early adolescence](https://gendersociety.wordpress.com/2014/04/09/normalizing-sexual-violence/), intimate partner violence is experienced by nearly a quarter of all women and accounts for about half of women’s homicides, and marginalized racial and ethnic groups are often [demonized](http://www.youngwomenunited.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/06/ywu-dismantlingtpp-DEC2016-digital-interactive.pdf) in state-sponsored sexual health interventions (Sameena, 2018)

In Europe especially Germany during the 1945 Battle for Berlin and in the immediate postwar period, approximately one in three Berlin women were raped by Allied troops – mostly from the Red Army while 10,000 women in Berlin died from sexual assault (Antill, Peter (2016). Many women committed suicide after rape, some forced to do so by their fathers because of their ‘dishonor’, while others were shot and killed by their husbands for consenting to sexual relations. More so, many women lost the little jobs they were engaged in which exposed them to lots of economic hardships unlike their male counterparts and they ended up being subjected to economic violence (Kuwert et al., 2014).

In Africa GBV cannot be understood outside norms and cultural values. As adolescent girls are socialized according to established norms and are expected to adopt and operate within these beliefs, they even cope from what they see at their homes and are acquainted to the system (Uthman, et al, 2018). This has increased HIV/AID in Africa, 60% of HIV living population is women and girls and 59.6% of adult women are living with HIV in sub-Saharan Africa (UNAIDS report, 2018). However, data on gender-based violence is hard to come by as violence is in most cases under reported because of shame, stigma and fear of it spreading further. Women therefore remain silent because many societies take violence against women as an accepted and normal aspect of gender relations ([www.unfpa.org/swp/2021/english/ch7/](http://www.unfpa.org/swp/2021/english/ch7/)).

Uganda has one of the youngest populations in the world with 78% being under the age of 30. Specifically, 25.6% of Uganda’s population are adolescents aged 10-19 years (young adolescents 10-14 years account for 14% and older adolescents 15-19 years 11.4%); and young people 20-24 years constitute 9.4% of Uganda’s population. Taken together, adolescents and young people (10-24 years) comprise 35% of Uganda’s population. This substantial number of young people presents an opportunity to accelerate economic growth and reduce poverty but requires appropriate investments that can enable young people to contribute towards development and lead healthy lives. It is important for Uganda to provide quality services to adolescents and young people if the national development goals and aspirations are to be realized in a sustainable manner (gender analysis report, USAID-RHITES-E, 2018)

In Eastern Uganda early marriages are common with 10% of women married by 15 years and 40% by 18 years. The proportion of people living below the poverty line has increased from 19.7% in 2015/2018 to 27% in 2016/2017. Poverty is highest in Bukedi (47.5%), Elgon (40.9%), Teso (40.5%) and Acholi (34.7%). A national study found that 22% of women aged 15-49 report had experienced sexual violence at some point in time. In eastern region; Bugisu11.2%, Bukedi 28.4% and Teso 9.8%. In 2016, the UDHS shows that 31.4% of women aged 15-19 in Teso, 29.5% in Bukedi and 28.2% in Bugisu had begun childbearing. The percentage of adolescent girls who had begun childbearing raises rapidly from 3.1% at age 15 to 53.9% at age 19. Gender Based Violence (GBV) and sexual exploitation appear to be widespread and increase the risk of young girls and women to HIV/AIDS, sexually transmitted infections (STIs), unintended pregnancies, and unsafe delivery. Nearly 60 percent of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence, 28 percent have suffered sexual violence, and 16 percent have experienced violence during pregnancy (UDHS 2016).

The Regional Health Integration to Enhance Services- Gender, Youth and Social Inclusion Assessment-(RHITES-GYSIA report, 2018) report further states that; Ugandan adolescents and young people are a marginalized group. This target group experiences multiple sexual and reproductive health needs requiring special focus; however, general evidence shows inequitable access to quality health services among the youth, and particularly young girls are greatly socially excluded due to a number of factors which have in turn affected their economic empowerment.

In Uganda government programs like youth livelihood programs, youth loan, NAADS, support of get-together women groups, decentralization, etc. have greatly valued and fought for the economic empowerment of women (World Bank Development Report, 2015). The government has ensured the setting of up of the structures that help in handling GBV perpetrators like the police, security organizations, and some other NGOs have also shown their participation on addressing the matter (FAO, 2015).

## 1.2.2 Theoretical background

The current study was guided by the Feminist Theory which was advanced by Mary Wollstonecraft in 1974. The theory is best to guide the study because it demonstrates that knowledge cannot be considered neutral or objective. In its early days, the Feminist Theory has engendered knowledge on the basis of the dominant perspective and behavior in society¸ which was the male one (androcentrism). As a consequence, knowledge has been blind to the specific historical, political, social and personal conditions on which it was reported, making invisible gender differences. Feminist epistemologies have claimed that knowledge is dynamic, relative and variable and that it cannot be considered an aim itself but a process.

Butler (2000) also explains that the Feminist Theory operates around the principle that gender inequalities the promotion of women’s rights, interests and issues, are the common basis of the feminist studies and their epistemological concerns, despite the fact that there are multiple meanings of gender and the concept of gender itself has been criticized. In addition, violence against women “constitutes a violation of the rights and fundamental freedoms of women and impairs or nullifies their enjoyment of those rights and freedoms” (Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, UN, General Assembly Resolution 48/1004 of 20 December 2003).

In sum, femicide is a crucially important feminist theory to highlight violence against women and acts as a useful starting point to reveal how masculine dominance asserts itself within power structures.

## 1.2.3 Conceptual background

Gender Based Violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person’s will and based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females (IASC, 2016). It refers to any act of violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological suffering to women including threats of coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life (United Nations Declaration, 1993). It is a form of violence that is directed to an individual based on her or his gender role in society intended to reinforce gender hierarchies perpetuating gender inequality. It therefore affects both men and women although women and girls are affected disproportionately (Judy, et al, 2019).

Gender-based violence is increasingly a term that connects all acts of violence rooted in some form of patriarchal ideology (Brownridge, 2019). Gender-Based violence refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power and harmful norms. Gender-based violence (GBV) is a serious violation of human rights and a life-threatening health and protection issue. It is estimated that one in three women will experience sexual or physical violence in their lifetime (unhcr.org, 2018).

Gender based violence encompasses a range of acts of violence committed against females because they are females and against males because they are males, based on how a particular society assigns and views roles and expectations for these people. It includes sexual violence, intimate partner or spouse abuse (domestic violence), emotional and psychological abuse, sex trafficking, forced prostitution, sexual exploitation, sexual harassment, harmful traditional practices for example female genital mutilation (FGM), forced marriage, infanticide of girl children and discriminatory practices based on gender (Beth Vann, 2019). However, GBV may take other forms such verbal abuse, deprivation, physical abuse, drinking and gambling by men, polygamy, promiscuous behavior and casual sex, property grabbing, dowry and bride price, divorce and desertion, teenage pregnancy, and abusive in-laws. (Narayan et al, 2000).

Higher female earnings and bargaining power translate into greater investment in children’s education, health and nutrition, which leads to economic growth in the long-term (Colclough, et al, 2000). Worldwide, the share of women in waged and salaried work grew from 42% in 1997 to 46% in 2017 (Leach et al, 2018). Total agricultural outputs in Africa increased by up to 20% after women’s gaining of access to agricultural inputs was equal to men.  Women-owned businesses comprise up to 38% of all registered small businesses worldwide (USAID, 2017). The number of women-owned businesses in Africa, Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America is growing rapidly and, with that growth, come direct impacts on job creation and poverty reduction (United Kingdom Department for International Development, 2018).

To achieve women’s economic empowerment, rigid traditions and culture must be eroded as they deter women from accessing control over most productive resources, education and training of women to enable them attain knowledge, skill, and self-confidence to express their concerns, sharing the unpaid care that they provide to the household between partners, and ensuring reproductive and sexual health; availing reproductive information and services, reduced rate of early marriages, giving them a chance to finish education breaking out of poverty (Irish Aid, 2018).

## 1.2.4 Contextual background

Gender disparities in almost all areas of development including asset ownership and employment as well as Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) have continued to persist in Uganda. Gender Based Violence (GBV) in all its manifestations (physical, sexual, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), emotional and psychological) remains critical in human rights, public health and economic development. GBV is perpetrated against men, women, boys and girls however, the vast majority of cases reported involve women and girls (UBOS, 2019). Therefore, it is significant to understand the gender situation in Uganda by analyzing the available data on Gender-based violence, Asset ownership and Employment.

Women remain a vital contributor to the community in all its activities in most fields in the economy in Uganda more than men in 2019. Since time immemorial women were not encouraged to join in meaningful decisions in their families, apart from taking care of the children and bearing them. Education has empowered women to perform numerous tasks and created positive meaningful change in the society. The 21 century raised the status of Women through education, creating literacy, awareness, and training in different avenues that enables them to live independent lives financially (Kyotalengerire, 2019). Over 70% of women in 2006 were victims of either sexual or physical violence from the age of 15, only 6% reported their case formally to police.

GBV is a major obstacle to poverty reduction and has continuously failed efforts of achieving equality among boys and girls, women and men and its government’s mandate to implement the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace, and security that will further protect women against GBV including refugees (Achan, 2019). According to World health organization, worldwide 818 million women (35%) in the age of 15 and above have experienced sexual or physical violence, Sexual and psychological abuse, threats, coercion, arbitrary deprivation of liberty and economic deprivation at workplace, home or in their communities (Achan, 2019c). Types of gender-based violence can include female infanticide; child sexual abuse; sex trafficking and forced labour; sexual coercion and abuse; neglect; domestic violence; and elder abuse (Blaser, 2012).

Despite efforts by all responsible stakeholders in eliminating gender-based violence in all forms of intimate partner violence, physical punishment, sexual, emotional or psychological violence cases in Kakoba Division, there still exist gaps in women economic empowerment in form of business decision making, access to credit, financial support and prosperity. This study seeks to examine this phenomenon.

# 1.3 Problem Statement

Women’s economic empowerment is important as it the basis of all development actions because women have a greater influence on their husband’s choices to plan, reduces dependency burden if they can support themselves and even contribute to positively towards social development especially when they are economically empowered (UNHS, 2003). The basic needs of the household are guaranteed in case women are self-sustaining since they are always at the apex of addressing whatever is required in a home.

Contrary, Kakoba division community development office report (2018) showed rising cases of gender-based violence on women increased by 12.3% between 2018 and 2019 indicating about 4 out of 10 women being victims in each household; this has deprived most of them from attaining economic empowerment. For instance, women in Kakoba Division are still facing gender based related abuses/challenges and are unable to achieve dreams of attaining gender equality since most are victims of gender-based violence is in their homes and work places. According to Kakoba division community development office report (2020), cases of gender-based violence on women has been a major cause of intimate partner violence, serious health complications and denial of other related rights; this has greatly undermined the dignity and rights of women and also caused most of them to lose out on many opportunities of economic growth; as a result, women cannot contribute to their well-being and economic empowerment. It is common practice for most women to be denied access to financial support or take lead in business decision making by their spouses, this has kept women in positions of being economically deprived and dependent and at the receiving side of their spouses hence hindering attainment of economic empowerment. Division reports indicate that almost 38.7% of women are not allowed to have access to credit from financial institutions of group help associations that extend credit to their members, instead these are mainly available for the women or the highly educated women yet these are few. (Division annual report, 2020).

In Kakoba Division, gender-based violence continues to be one the major issues being handled with local authority reports indicating incidents of about 22.2% increase (Local authority report, 2019). This is why the researcher sought to carry out a study on the impact of gender-based violence on women economic empowerment. In addition, the extent to which gender-based violence has affected women economic empowerment in Kakoba Division in not clearly established and this is why the study is being conducted.

# 1.4 Purpose of the study

To examine the impact of gender-based violence (GBV) on women’s economic empowerment in Uganda. A case study of Kakoba Division, Mbarara City.

# 1.5 Research objectives

1. To examine the effects of denial of resources on women economic empowerment in Kakoba Division.
2. To examine the effects of physical violence on women’s economic empowerment in Kakoba Division.
3. To assess the effectiveness of the measures against gender-based violence in families in Kakoba Division.

# 1.6 Research questions

1. What are the effects of denial of resources on women economic empowerment in Kakoba Division?
2. What are the effects of physical violence on women’s economic empowerment in Kakoba Division?
3. How effective are the measures against gender-based violence in families in Kakoba Division?

# 1.7 Scope of the study

## 1.7.1 Geographical Scope

The study was carried out in Kakoba Division one of the 6 divisions that make up Mbarara Municipality in Western Uganda. The geographical coordinates of Kakoba Division are: Latitude- 0° 35' 59" S; Longitude-30° 40' 44" E. (https://www.mindat.org/feature-8657803.html).

## 1.7.2 Content scope

The study reviewed the concept of gender-based violence and women economic empowerment; the study discussions were limited on the effects of denial of resources on women economic empowerment, the effects of physical violence on women economic empowerment and what has been done to address gender-based violence in families and determine reasons for its continued occurrence.

## 1.7.3 Time scope

The study explored data from 2017-2019 because this is the time when the cases of gender-based violence were high and women economic empowerment was low.

# 1.8 Justification of the study

The study about gender-based violence warrants research because it is one of the most widespread human rights abuse and public health problem in developing countries such as Uganda; GBV has deprived many categories of people of their rights of freedom, choice and for women especially, the phenomenon affects as many as one out of every three women and the right to attain economic empowerment (Marijkr, 2017). It’s also an extreme manifestation of gender inequality, targeting women and girls because of their subordinate social status in society. The consequences of gender-based violence are often devastating and long-term affecting women's physical health and mental wellbeing. At the same time its ripple effects compromise the social development of other children in the household, the family as a unit, the communities where the individuals live and society as a whole. Clarion (2004) asserts that whenever conflict occurs within a country, the female gender is usually exposed to more suffering than the male gender. Often, men can flee the scene of conflict quickly. Women feel an obligation to be the last to leave because they must secure the entire family especially children. In most cases where the prevalence of violence is high, women tend to suffer such violence more than men do.

# 1.9 Significance of the study

**To government:** The study created awareness to government and the entire population by providing sensitization information so as to reduce on gender-based violence and its effects on women.

**To future academicians:** the study intends to help them in gaining an insight about the relationship between gender-based violence and economic empowerment of women.

# CHAPTER TWO

# LITERATURE REVIEW

# ****2.0 Introduction****

The review of literature is necessary to create a basic foundation for the study. Thus, this chapter presents a review of relevant scholarly studies in relation to this study. However, the depth of this study is a factor of attempting to substantiate or create new perspectives for understanding the impact of gender-based violence (GBV) on women’s economic empowerment.

# 2.1 Literature survey

No scholarly study such as the one being undertaken has so far been done on Kakoba Division. However, there are similar studies in other areas outside the scope of Kakoba Division. Below is a review of the major studies.

Asasira (2013) carried out a study about gender-based violence and women’s economic empowerment in Nyakayojo Sub-County, Mbarara District in Uganda. The study was conducted in the six parishes of the sub-county with a total of 50 respondents who were drawn from the entire sub-county. Data was collected by interviewing respondents; household heads, LC leaders, NGOs and church, and conducting FGDs with local communities. Findings indicate the majority of the respondents were women who were involved in various activities which included agriculture and other activities like operating retail shops, pottery, knitting, weaving baskets, mats and bags. Main crops grown in the area included bananas and beans. Families in the area were experiencing GBV and most prominent and financially stable families were prone to this kind of violence. However, Asasira did not provide information about the effects of denial of resources on women economic empowerment; the current study filled the identified gap.

Mulenga (2017) conducted a related study about the social and economic effects of gender-based violence: a case study of Mukono District. The aim of this study was to investigate the effects of gender-based violence on various aspects of development, ascertain factors that facilitate the occurrence of gender-based violence and analyse the impediments of the existing GBV support systems and prevention interventions in order to suggest possible solutions. The study findings revealed that the common forms in which gender-based violence is manifested include physical, emotional, economical, and sexual violence. The study found that the causes and factors of gender-based violence include low educational levels, traditional factors, economic dependency and adverse childhood experiences. The study concluded that gender-based violence in all its forms is a manifestation of unequal power relations that has negative impacts on the resilience and development of an individuals and communities. GBV is rampant however the available support systems have a number of limitations. However, Mulenga’s study did not provide any information about the effects of physical violence on women’s economic empowerment.

# 2.2 Theoretical review

This section presents the different studies that support or embraced or those against the Feminist Theory.

## 2.2.1 The Feminist Theory

Radical feminist theory is premised on the understanding of social relationships in terms of gender oppression. Radical feminists do not deny the importance of liberal reforms in improving the status of women, particularly efforts directed to protecting the rights of victims such as rape shield laws or, in the international context, the re-understanding of rape as torture. Rather, they argue that the reformist program is far too limited. Liberal reforms are premised on the protection of liberty and rights, of both victim and accused. To the extent that such even-handed protection of rights presumes a background of equality, radical critics argue, it both reflects and perpetuates gender domination in society. Far more sweeping reforms are needed instead.

Because women must live and survive in conditions of oppression, moreover, silence or passivity cannot be taken as consent. Instead, the law must insist upon the woman’s active consent and on her having the space within which to give such consent. Along these lines, Lois Pineau proposed a model of communicative sexuality, on which the sex is presumed to be undesired on the part of the woman unless she affirmatively communicates her desire for it. Stephen Schulhofer has argued that just as affirmative consent is required for medical treatment or the appropriation of property, and an ambiguous non-answer will not suffice in these circumstances, so too affirmative consent should be required for sexual entry into a woman’s body. In sum, femicide is a crucially important feminist theory to highlight violence against women and acts as a useful starting point to reveal how masculine dominance asserts itself within power structures

These proposals regard liberal reforms that either expand the notion of force or change the standards of proof for non-consent as perpetuating assumptions about the sexual role of a woman as passive and accepting, perhaps secretly and stereotypically desiring sex even if she does not say so. They urge the law instead to presume that the sex is unwanted unless it is the subject of explicit consent. They reject suggestions that woman should be regarded as complicit in their own rapes for behavior such as wearing seductive clothing, going to bars, or accepting rides, because such judgments impose burdens on women that are not imposed on men.

# 2.2 Causes of Gender Based Violence

Understanding the clear relationship between GBV and women’s economic empowerment, individual-level risk factors for intimate partner and sexual violence are personal characteristics, but they can also occur within families, communities, and the larger society. Many of these factors are associated with both perpetrators and victims of violence, but some are specific to one or the other (WHO, 2016). GBV is sometimes regarded or caused by a myth; that a woman’s dress and behavior can cause rape.  This myth according to Saran places the blame for rape on a woman and views men as unable to control themselves. A woman in this case is known as a party animal or a tease and wears provocative clothing; she is asking for attention, flattery, or just trying to fit in. She is not asking to be raped, but men tend to exhaust such myth opportunities resulting into sexual and GBV (Saran 1999). Alcohol consumption levels more especially among men perpetrators are also responsible for high rates of GBV in most societies of the world (UN Women, 2016).

The degree to which GBV is taken to be socially acceptable by both perpetrators and the victims has also resulted into high rates of GBV. The actors of GBV and the victims consensually agree that in most cases GBV is as a result of unusual behaviors that the victims always pose to their perpetrators (UNICEF, 2016).“Regardless of related variations, the causes of gender violence are comparable, originating in structural gender inequalities in assorted social arenas”. For example, in schools they are rooted in the formal and informal processes of schooling, which serve to establish the gendered norms of behavior in what is commonly termed a ‘gender regime’ (Connell, 2019).

The relationship level of the ecological model explores how close relationships such as those between peers, family members, and intimate partners increase the risk for perpetrating or experiencing GBV. This is a clear indicator that GBV is learned through social interactions and the social structures constructed by the society based on gender differentials Proximal relationships typically involve repeated interactions on a daily or frequent basis, giving peers, intimate partners, and family members the ability to shape an individual’s behavior and experiences (Krug et al., 2019).  At the broadest levels, communities and the larger society have characteristics that exert a greater deal of influence over the behavior of those who live in them. Community and social factors have been presented together as the major attributes for the ever-increasing rates of gender-based violence, although it is important to recognize that multiple communities within the same country or society can present matchless combinations of risk factors and, therefore different rates of GBV (Wilson, 2015).

GBV has been attributed to girls’ inability to access formal education which has often been ascribed to poverty and/or culture (Colclough, Rose and Tembon, 2000) and the girls themselves have generally been constructed as victims. “It is unsurprising, therefore, that studies of gender violence in schools in developing countries have used similar binary gender categories to position female students and to a lesser extent teacher as the victims of physical or sexual violence perpetrated by male teachers or students”. This finally makes females find themselves in less paying job as a result of discrimination in the education attainment process (Leach and Machakanja, 2000).

Studies in Sub-Saharan Africa show that these informal processes include allocating higher status public tasks to boys and more domestic private tasks to girls for example male students ringing the school bell for assembly, girls cleaning the classroom floors, allowing boys to generally dominate the physical and verbal space in class, and tolerating sexual harassment (Dunne *et al.*, 2016) although in practice there is likely to be more nuanced gender differentiation. Authoritarian teaching practices, competitive assessment procedures and narrowly focused curricula often exclude particular groups of learners. In most cases students from minority ethnic groups can feel marginalized when their cultures are omitted from, or undermined by, curriculum materials. These are all processes which sustain inequalities and in so doing promote the conditions for gender violence (Leach *et al.*, 2003).

Whereas UN Says “No” to Violence against Women’ suggest movement toward a more egalitarian society (Citizen, 2015), they are discordant with the patriarchal nature of customary and religious practices that promote female submission (Rutazaa, 2016). Data from the study conducted in Tanzania on GBV revealed that 42 percent of men and 60 percent of women validated wife beating as an appropriate and typical aspect of society (Tanzania Demographic Health Survey TDHS, 2019). In a 2016 study by the World Health Organization in Dar-es-Salaam and Mbeya, found out that 41 percent of ‘ever-partnered’ women reported experiencing physical or sexual abuse by a partner at some point in their lifetime (Ministry of Planning, Economy, and empowerment 2014).

High frequency of GBV in most societies can be best understood through the social learning theory, which posits that behavior is learned by observing and re-enacting the behavior of others, especially role models. Just as gender roles and social norms are learned within a larger cultural context and passed from one generation to the next, too is behavior (Uthman, Lawoko, and Moradi 2018). Young boys are socialized according to established norms and are expected to adopt and operate within these beliefs. This pressure, while subtle, infiltrates every aspect of the social environment as boys are taught at home, in school, and in the community that their primary responsibility will be to marry and support a family (Dunne, 2016). “An inability to provide financially likely causes feelings of inferiority and consequently threatens one’s masculine identity”. One compensatory response is to assert power in other ways, often through physical and sexual aggression (Mzinga, 2019).

The Psychiatric Association in Kenya conducted a study on reasons for the rise in gender-based violence one of the causes is the space people live in. The more crowded people are the more domestic violent they are likely to be (Njenga 1999). “Behaviors learnt from a larger group or society at times may differ from smaller societies and those who adopt either of the behavior are likely to be violent as they change to join another society.” The study also ascertained that associated with financial insecurity poverty also determines the rate of GBV that is; if a man cannot establish his authority intellectually or economically, he would tend to do so physically and sometimes sexually where and how a person lives, is also one of the contributing factors to the rising cases of GBV (Njenga, 1999).

Control over productive resources in families pose a threat to family resulting onto GBV and men have always toiled to have full control of these resources. When women tend to claim ownership, men use authoritative power to turn them down and the only way is the practice of GBV. Among families, men tend to have and own all productive resources that their command must not be refuted (UPHOLD, 2014). Again, HIV/AIDS among partners in family has perpetuated GBV in a situation where on partner starts blaming the other for such diseases. Violence picks a stem then grows on, later on transferred to generations and their siblings spreading further to the entire community (International Centre for Research on Women, 2018).

Power relationships and discriminatory cultural norms have also led to gender base violence. Due to standing cultural norms, which hold that men are more powerful than women in most of the societies, any kind of violence is aimed at maintaining their superiority. Power also assert that powerful positions are reserved for men, that women should not bother making themselves supreme and any kind of such effort by women is silenced easily by GBV (Uthman, Lawoko, and Moradi 2018). “This can be linked with the image created by the society which portrays a man to be viewed as being strong, educated, creative, and clever while a woman is the opposite of all these traits.  The way parents bring up their children, which create disparity between boys and girls, also is a source of gender-based violence in later life”.  When a boy grows up, knowing that he is not supposed to wash his own clothes, cook or help in the house, if he grows up and gets married to a woman who comes from a home where duties are equally shared between girls and boys, this can create tension that might lead to violence (Krug, 2019).

# 2.3 Denial of resources on women economic empowerment

This sub-section presents the different forms in which different writers have argued that this is evident enough to say that there is GBV in case this situation is evidenced in the society. GBV can therefore be in form below presented phenomena.

As evidenced by the prevalence data that has been presented in different reviews, there exists wide variation in the experience of GBV across the regions of Africa (USAID Report on GBV, 2014). This diversity of experience not only exists in terms of prevalence, but also in the specific types of GBV engendered by particular social and community contexts (ICRW, 2018). A few manifestations of GBV and risk factors beyond those identified.

Studies have found out that physical intimate partner abuse sometimes referred to as wife battery is the most common form of gender-based violence committed not only in Africa but worldwide (UN Women, 2016; Green, 1999). The marriage rite of bride price, commonly practiced in many African and other countries, has been identified as contributing factor to this behavior because it encourages women to be viewed as property, helping to justify violence against them, reducing women’s decision-making abilities in the household, limiting women’s independence, and perpetuating unequal gender relations (Green, 2009; Kaye et al., 2016; Hague et al., 2016).

A number of factors make rape a particularly acute problem and a form of violence in regions of Africa, including but not limited to the virgin cleansing myth that having sex with a virgin will restore to health a man of AIDS (Freeman, 2019), prevalence of sexual violence in schools (Wilson, 2015), corrective rape wielded against lesbians, beliefs that forcing sex on a woman is not wrong, and the use of rape as a political weapon (Middleton, 2016).

Female genital mutilation (FGM) typically carried out by traditional circumcisers involves partial or total removal of the external female genitalia for non-medical reasons. FGM has no medical benefit whatsoever and harms girls and women in both immediate and long-term ways. It is in most cases done without the consent of the victim, as it stems from traditional set up of a given society. The causes of female genital mutilation include a mix of cultural, religious and social factors within families and communities (WHO, 2015).

Child marriage and forced marriage is widely recognized as a violation of human rights. Forced marriage and child marriage deprive young girls of their rights to health, education, development, and equality (UN women, 2016). Since these decisions are made without notifying the child, it is viewed as a great violation of children’s rights. This is however common in girls compared to their counterpart. Contributing social and community factors include tradition and customary law, religion, poverty, bride price, and notions of morality and family honor associated with a girl’s virginity (UNICEF, 2016).

Property grabbing has also been regarded as a form of GBV, whereby an individual, often upon the death of the woman’s husband, is forcibly evicted from her home by family members, neighbors, or traditional leaders and is often unable to take her possessions with her, disproportionately affects women. Occurring in areas of Southern and East Africa, the practice increases women’s poverty and is often accompanied by other acts of extreme GBV. Women’s weak inheritance and property rights, customary laws and practices, and high rates of HIV/AIDS mortality contribute to this form of GBV (Izumi, 2017).

# 2.4 Impact of physical abuse on Women’s Economic Empowerment

Agricultural sector and agricultural-based livelihoods are highly dependent on land, natural resources and human labor and thus good health status of farmers; this means that farmers are negatively affected by GBV. And women being the greatest contributor to the agricultural sector and general outputs, they are greatly affected when GBV set in. This has greatly impacted on food security in family setting (WFP, 2017).

With the increasing GBV cases, development and development programs have been jeopardized and this has kept the trends of poverty cycles rising high and higher among rural households. In this regard, as the socio-economic costs of gender-based violence increase, the ability to save and invest has reduced. This has accelerated gender-based violence in rural households as poverty is looked at as one of the stimulators of gender-based violence (Gertrude, 2018).

From an international development perspective, GBV is fundamentally at odds with the objectives of the Millennium Development Goals, which include promoting gender equality and empowering women. GBV contributes to, and is exacerbated by, the economic and sociopolitical discrimination experienced by women in many countries (Population Council, 2015). It is a major driver of individual women’s disempowerment and poverty in general, as the threat of violence constrains women’s choices, abilities, and productivity both within and beyond the household (Terry & Hoare, 2017). GBV hampers productivity, reduces human capital and economic growth. Exposure to GBV exacerbates the problem of women’s poverty, in turn, makes women more vulnerable to GBV. Women’s lack of economic empowerment is evident in lack of access to and control over resources such as land, personal property, wages, and credit (UN-GA, 2014).

Social stigma and discrimination may lead to psychological trauma, feelings of powerlessness, and inadequacy to engage in productive activities and to fully participate in community activities leave them impoverished (Le Thi Phuong Mai,March 2016).The physical health consequences experienced by the victims were predominantly sexually transmitted infections with its complications. The psychological and mental consequences included feeling of humiliation, loss of self-esteem, an aversion to sex, depression. Stigmatization, high divorce rate, unwanted pregnancy and poverty dominated social and economic consequences of SGBV (IGWG of USAID, 2014).

Worldwide, the range and magnitude of GBV has tremendous negative impact to the individual, family and society (Mugawe & Powell, 2014). In addition to being a direct cause of injury, illness, and death, exposure to gender-based violence significantly increases other health risk factors for girls and women, including increased likelihood of early sexual debut, forced sex, transactional sex, and unprotected sex, (Population Council, 2015). Survivors of gender-based violence experience increased rates of morbidity, mortality, and higher rates of health conditions including HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases, health risks associated with unwanted pregnancies, and mental illness (Terry & Hoare, 2017). The effects of female Genital cutting (FGC) as the form of GBV are many for example it impending girls’ sexual enjoyment, experience intense pain, bleeding, painful abdominal menstruation, infection or trauma (Women vision in Uganda, 1998).

Gender-based violence is heavy a health burden for women of ages 15-49 is as that posed by HIV, tuberculosis and infection during child birth, cancer and heart diseases.  The fourth world conference on women has adopted a platform for action, which declares that “violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objective of equality, peace and development” (Population Reference Bureau 2000).

In most families, men are dominant, women’s bargaining power is weak and they are unable to discuss, negotiate or decide on sexual and reproduction issues. Awareness and availability of condoms for women to protect themselves from contracting HIV/AIDS does not work in households where there is a threat of violence. Violence decreases women’s ability to negotiate safe sex and increases their risk of exposure to forced and unprotected sex (Kimuna and Djamba 2015).

# 2.5 Effectiveness of the measures against gender-based violence

The world strongest evidence of effectiveness for the primary prevention of GBV is with respect to school-based programs to prevent violence within adolescents’ dating relationships. Such programs, however, have not been sufficiently evaluated in resource-poor settings and cannot be expected, in any case, to be effective as isolated strategies (WHO, 2016).

Additional promising primary prevention strategies that have tried to do their best, include microfinance combined with gender equality training; promotion of communication and relationship skills within communities; reducing access to alcohol; alcohol harm reduction; and changing cultural gender norms (WHO, 2016).

Mitigating GBV has of recent taken another shift that involves multiple sectors in the community, from law and justice to education and health. However, these efforts have not become fruitful due to fear, victim-blaming, stigmatization, discrimination, and cultural taboos that often keep survivors of GBV from seeking assistance and efforts have not been made to ensure that services are available and accessible. Medical, legal, and social services for survivors should be integrated and coordinated responses (Singhal, 2019).

Legislation and policies have been developed and enforced to protect survivors of GBV, address gender discrimination, promote gender equity, and discourage violence (WHO, 2016). Much as these legislations to prevent and address gender-based violence has been enacted on international and national levels, these laws are not homogeneously enforced (UNICEF, 2018). Legal systems can be undermined by national and international conflicts, disregarded, or procedurally circumvented this is as to why they have been unevenly enforced (UNICEF, 2018).

On the other hand, on a state and community level, legal systems have sometimes served to re-victimize survivors of GBV rather than helping them. Many governments deny the existence of sexual violence, engage in extreme forms of victim blaming, force victims into the hands of their abusers, and block humanitarian efforts to provide services for survivors of abuse (International Center for Research on Women, 2014). Proving rape is extremely difficult in some legal systems, resulting in stigmatization and further harm to survivors while perpetrators go unpunished (UNICEF, 2018).

Continuing advocacy, monitoring, and accountability by the international community has been done and has encouraged governments worldwide to enforce the laws that protect human rights, the health and wellbeing of their populations, and promote positive development (Kaufman, 2003).

UNDP developed a framework for mainstreaming pro-poor and gender-sensitive indicators into evaluations of democratic governance. A set of key questions used to formulate the pro-poor and gender-sensitive indicators, with each question being accompanied by a particular indicator. This framework has been implemented in Uganda to mitigate the effects of gender-based violence (UNDP 2014).

# 2.6 Conceptual framework showing relationship between gender-based violence and women economic empowerment

**Independent Variable (IV) Dependent variable (DV)**

**Gender based Violence (GBV) Women’s economic empowerment**

|  |
| --- |
| * Injuries * Denial of resources * Emotional/psychological abuse * Physical abuse/assault |

|  |
| --- |
| * Employment * Business decision making * Access to credit * Financial control * Prosperity |

**Intervening variables**

|  |
| --- |
| * Cultural beliefs * Religion * Violation of human rights * Denial of education * Politics * Family background |

***Source: Adapted from Terry & Hoare (2017) and modified by researcher, 2021***

# Figure 1: Conceptual framework

The conceptual framework reflects two variables namely gender-based violence which is the independent variable and women economic empowerment which is the dependent variable. In other words, it’s conceptualized that woman economic empowerment depends on gender-based violence. Gender-based violence include early/ forced marriages, injuries, denial of resources, emotional/ psychological abuse and physical abuse/ assault and these can directly impact on women economic empowerment.

In the same way, it can be argued that positive relationship between the elements under gender-based violence can lead to positive results in the elements under women economic empowerment.

# CHAPTER THREE

# METHODOLOGY

# 3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodological consideration for data collection exercise to answer and test hypothesis on gender-based violence and women economic empowerment. It presents the research design, its description and justification, the population in terms of number and composition, sample size and techniques. It features the data collection methods and the corresponding study instruments, data quality assurance, variables measurement, data analysis and it ends with the ethical considerations.

# 3.2 Research design

This research embraced the cross-sectional survey design. The choice of this design is because cross sectional survey designs are compatible with explorative studies which are not covering a very large area (Creswell, 2003). Furthermore, given the constrained duration within which the study about is to be conducted, the analyst finds the cross-sectional design more reasonable. The study also used quantitative and qualitative techniques. Quantitative data involved collecting and converting data into numerical form hence use of statistical calculations in computing the responses from respondents under the questionnaire instrument and also computing the hypothesis where conclusions were drawn.

# 3.3. Study population

Study population is defined as all the members of a real or hypothetical set of people, events or objects to which a researcher wishes to generalize the results of the research study (Kothari, 2004). The current study targeted a population of 111 individuals in Kakoba Division, these comprised of women survivors of GBV, spouses, local community leaders, religious leaders, marriage counselors.

# 3.4. Sample size

The sample size was determined using the following formula by Yamane (1967:886).

n = N

**Where**

n = Sample size

N= Population size

e = margin of error at 95% confidence level

e = Margin of error/0.05

1 + N (e2)

n= 111

1 + 111 (0.052)

n= 111

1 + 111 (0.0025)

n= 87

**Where**

n = Sample size, N= Population size, e = margin of error at 95% confidence level, e = Margin of error/0.05

## 3.4.1 Sampling techniques

Purposive, random and census sampling techniques will be used to select the sample.

**Purposive sampling**

The study used purposive method of sampling to select respondents from women victims, spouses and local community leaders. Purposive sampling was used because it is the foremost method of selecting a sample from different divisions and it assists the researcher to choose a sample with crucial information on the subject (Creswell, 2009).

**Simple random sampling**

The study utilised simple random sampling to select respondents from religious leaders. The technique was applied to because it eliminates bias, both conscious and unconscious, that the analyst presented in sample choice. Simple random sampling method also offers each part of the populace an even chance of being chosen for the task and it is required for inferential measurements since the analyst wants to create deductions about the population basing on the behavior of tests (Shadish, et al, 2012).

# 3.5 Data Collection Methods

## 3.5.1. Questionnaire survey method

In addition, the questionnaire method was distributed to respondents in categories of women victims, spouses, local community leaders, religious leaders. The researcher used the survey method to obtain information relating to the impact of gender-based violence on women economic empowerment. The method was utilized since information can be collected generally rapidly because the study does no need to be available when the surveys are being completed (Andrea, 2014). The survey was planned as a Likert scale comprising of statements requiring the respondents to choose one out of the five suppositions utilizing the 5-point Likert scale with strongly disagree=1, disagree=2, not sure=3, agree=4 and strongly agree=5.

## 3.5.2. Key informant interview method

In this study key informant interviews were sought where the researcher met face to face with the selected interviewees and pause questions from the interview schedule on gender-based violence from which the interviewee’s responses were recorded (Creswell, 2015) in audio and later transcribed and typed out. The choice of interviewing as justified by Creswell (2015) is that it provides opportunity for probing to gain in-depth explanations from the interviewee on gender-based violence in the Kakoba Division.

# 3.6 Data Collection Instruments

## 3.6.1. Self-administered Questionnaire

The questionnaire comprised of statements requiring the respondents to opt for one out of the five opinions using the 5-point Likert scale with strongly disagree=1, disagree=2, not sure=3, agree=4 and strongly agree=5. The questionnaires were distributed to all 87 respondents in the Kakoba Division because they are assumed to have prior knowledge about gender-based violence and how it contributes to women economic empowerment.

## 3.6.2. Interview guide

The study used the interview guide because it helped to cover questions that need answers under each objective (Sekaran and Bougie, 2010). The study therefore, designed structured interview guides with a list of same questions and in the same order that participants are to provide answers to. This was done by the researcher to ensure that the purpose of the interview is clearly expressed to the respondents, neutral questions were the first in all sessions in order to facilitate free flow of information (Bird, 2016).

# 3.7 Data Quality Control

## 3.7.1 Validity of the instruments

Cresswell (2011) states that validity is utilized to decide whether the instruments determine what it planning to be measured and to approximate the truthfulness of the results. A pre-test of the research instrument to set up its validity was done. With the point of completing the study in time, the instrument was given to 2 supervisors who provided their conclusions on the relevance of the questions employing a 5- point scale of relevance to not relevant. Items that will be determined not to be relevant were disposed of and those found not to be relevant were modified for clarity. The validity of the research instruments was determined using the content validity index (CVI) because the method can evaluate whether test items are valid, and define the content of the study.

## 3.7.2 Reliability of the Instruments

Reliability quality was determined by SPSS Examination Scale (Alpha coefficient). Typically, since of its ease and programmed appropriateness which fits a two or more-point rating scale. The analyst utilized Alpha co-efficient since it is simple and programmed to apply ((Mugenda, 2010).

# 3.8 Procedure of Data Collection

The researcher got a university letter highlighting the goals of the research; the letter was signed marked by the Dean of School of Social Science before distributing the self-administered questionnaires and interview guides to the respondents.

# Data Analysis

## 3.9.1 Analysis of Quantitative Data

The quantitative collected information was altered, coded and cross-checked for completeness utilizing Ms Excel and copied to SPSS version 25 for examination. The quantitative information was displayed in form of numeric utilizing tables and charts frequencies and percentages of results. The inferential measurements such as regression analysis and correlation were utilized to test the hypotheses.

## 3.9.2 Analysis of Qualitative Data

Qualitative data was analysed using content analysis and thereafter develop themes and sub-themes. The findings were presented in narrative form by directly reporting respondents responses through quotations.

## 3.9.3 Ethical Considerations

The study was conducted basing on the moral contemplations. To guarantee that more considerations were kept up and followed, anonymity, informed consent and confidentiality was assured to the respondents.

**Informed consent**

The analyst guaranteed the he advises his respondents about the reason of the study and sometime before conducting interviews, respondents were inquired whether they have agreed or not to take part and provide their individual data.

**Confidentiality**

The analyst guaranteed that other than her and the supervisor, no one else had access to the information that was obtained amid the research supervisor.

**Privacy**

The analyst complied the rules and rights of the respondents to guarantee that the rights to security and security of the respondents was not encroached.

# CHAPTER FOUR

# DATA ANALYSIS, PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION & DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

# 4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings on the three specific objectives of the study, namely, i) to examine the effects of denial of resources on women economically in Kakoba Division, ii) to examine the effects of gender-based violence on women’s economic empowerment in Kakoba Division and iii) to the effectiveness of the measures against gender-based violence in families in Kakoba Division. This section begins with providing background characteristics of the respondents, findings per study objective and then the conclusion.

# 4.0.1 Response rate

Out of the 87 questionnaires distributed, 86 respondents filled and returned the questionnaires representing 98.8% response rate which is acceptable in making conclusions since it is above .70 or 70%. The 86 filled questionnaires are the basis of reporting in this chapter and the subsequent chapters.

# 4.1 Respondents’ background information

In this study, the respondents’ background information including gender, age groups, marital status, highest level of education attained and others, and the results obtained are given below;

# 4.1.1 Gender of respondents

Respondents were asked to identify the gender in which they belonged and Results to this question are summarised in Table 4.1

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.1: Gender | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Male | 37 | 43.0 | 43.0 | 43.0 |
| Female | 49 | 57.0 | 57.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.1, results revealed that 43.0% of the respondents were males while 57.0% of the respondents were females. This can be interpreted to mean that both male and female respondents were well represented in the study and as such the study did not suffer from gender bias.

# Age group of respondents

Respondents were also asked to identify the age brackets they belonged, Results to this question are summarised in Table 4.2

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.2: Age | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | 20-30 years | 16 | 18.6 | 18.6 | 18.6 |
| 31-40 years | 32 | 37.2 | 37.2 | 55.8 |
| 41-50 years | 19 | 22.1 | 22.1 | 77.9 |
| 50 years and above | 19 | 22.1 | 22.1 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.2, results indicate that 37.2% belonged to the age bracket of 31-40 years, this was the majority age bracket. 22.1% were aged between 41-50 years and 50 years and above while 18.6% were aged between 20-30 years. This means that all respondents are mature and assumed to have a good understanding how gender-based violence has influenced women economic empowerment in Kakoba Division.

# Period of stay in Kakoba Division

Respondents were asked to identify the number of years stayed in Kakoba Division. Results to this question are summarised in Table 4.3

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.3: Period of stay in Kakoba Division | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Less than a year | 9 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 |
| 1-5 years | 22 | 25.6 | 25.6 | 36.0 |
| 5-7 years | 28 | 32.6 | 32.6 | 68.6 |
| 7 years and above | 27 | 31.4 | 31.4 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.3, results revealed that the highest number of respondents who served for a period between 5-7 years was represented by 32.6%, this was followed by 31.4% who served for a period of more than 7 years, 25.6% served for a period between 1-5 years while the least 10.5% served for a period of less than 1 year. This can be interpreted that a bigger number of respondents had stayed in the region for a recognisable number of years to have information about how gender-based violence trends and forms in the region; thus, provided reliable and relevant information.

# Level of education

Respondents were asked to identify their respective levels of education. Results to this question are summarised in Table 4.4

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.4: Level of education | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Certificate | 11 | 12.8 | 12.8 | 12.8 |
| Diploma | 18 | 20.9 | 20.9 | 33.7 |
| Bachelor | 23 | 26.7 | 26.7 | 60.5 |
| Masters | 22 | 25.6 | 25.6 | 86.0 |
| Others, specify | 12 | 14.0 | 14.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.4, results revealed that majority of the respondents summarised by 26.7% and 25.6% had bachelor and master degrees respectively as the highest level of education. The results also reveal that all respondents had a relevant level of education and as such expected to have knowledge about the study variables.

# 4.2 The effects of denial of resources on women economically in Kakoba Division

This section presents data about the first objective of the study; the effects of denial of resources on women economic empowerment.

## 4.2.1 Women are denied access to land and property rights

Respondents were asked whether women are given service delivery opportunities to increase on their income. The results are presented in table 4.5

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.5: Women are denied access to land and property rights | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 12 | 14.0 | 14.0 | 14.0 |
| Disagree | 14 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 30.2 |
| Not sure | 6 | 7.0 | 7.0 | 37.2 |
| Agree | 23 | 26.7 | 26.7 | 64.0 |
| Strongly agree | 31 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.5, results indicate that 36.0% strongly agreed, 26.7% agreed, 16.3% disagreed, 14.0% strongly disagreed while 7.0 were not sure. 62.7% of the respondents generally agreed and this can be interpreted to mean that a number of women in Kakoba Division do not have equal rights to property and do not have access to land ownership. Respondents revealed for women, land is truly a gateway right and without it efforts to improve the basic rights and well-being of all women in the region is still hampered with.

## 4.2.2 Women are denied small business set-ups to settle personal debts

The respondents were also asked whether women are denied small business set-ups to help settle personal debts. The responses to the question are presented in table 4.6

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.6: Women are denied small business set-ups to help settle personal debts | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 22 | 25.6 | 25.6 | 25.6 |
| Disagree | 27 | 31.4 | 31.4 | 57.0 |
| Not sure | 7 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 65.1 |
| Agree | 16 | 18.6 | 18.6 | 83.7 |
| Strongly agree | 14 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.6, it is indicated that 31.4% disagreed and 25.6% strongly disagreed, since this is the majority, it can be interpreted to mean that women have some level of independent control over their business establishments. It was however revealed that only 23.2% of women in the region got capital for their business start-ups from their spouses, while majority 47.2% got capital from group loans or microfinance institutions. During an interview session, a key respondent expressed that;

*“For those who are fortunate to be allowed by their husbands or spouses to work, they have managed to start up small business setups in activities such as marketers, street vendors, food and tea marketers and fruit vendors, this enables women to earn small incomes that is usually used to settle small household debts for home purchases”.*

## 4.2.3 Women are denied secure land rights to improve on investment

Here the researcher sought to determine whether women are denied secure land rights in order to improve on investment. The results are presented in table 4.7

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.7: Women are denied secure land rights to improve on investment | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
| Disagree | 4 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 7.0 |
| Not sure | 3 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 10.5 |
| Agree | 26 | 30.2 | 30.2 | 40.7 |
| Strongly agree | 51 | 59.3 | 59.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.7, results reveal that 59.3% strongly agreed while 30.2% agreed, 89.5% of the respondents generally disagreed to the statement, this means that there is still exists gaps between men and women, particularly in securing land rights. It was revealed that securing land rights could be very essential for ensuring the economic development of women in Kakoba Division. Respondents revealed that denying women secure land rights has denied them the opportunity of creating incentives for investment and provision of an

asset that can be leveraged for agriculture or business development and also maybe offer a solid foundation for financial stability.

## 4.2.4 Women are denied involved in economic activities to ensure food security

The respondents were also asked whether women are not allowed to get involved in various economic activities to ensure food security. The results to the question are highlighted in table 4.8

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.8: Women are denied involved in economic activities to ensure food security | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 9 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 10.5 |
| Disagree | 18 | 20.9 | 20.9 | 31.4 |
| Not sure | 4 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 36.1 |
| Agree | 31 | 36.0 | 36.0 | 72.1 |
| Strongly agree | 24 | 27.9 | 27.9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.8, it results indicate that 36.0% agreed while 27.9% strongly agreed, generally 64.0% of the respondents disagreed to the statement, this can be concluded to mean that the role of women in agricultural production and food security is still lacking. The respondents revealed that despite the fact that women are the primary farmers and producers in Kakoba Division, their work continues to go largely unrecognised and unsupported. It was revealed that there is lack of voices defending the promotion of rights of women and their participation in food security, they are denied access or given limited access to training which poses greater challenges with respect to leveling the playing field for women in economic activities that can ensure food security.

## 4.2.5 Women are denied access to financial resources.

The respondents were asked whether women have been denied access to financial resources The results to the question are highlighted in table 4.9

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.9: Women are denied access to financial resources | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 12 | 14.0 | 14.0 | 14.0 |
| Disagree | 16 | 18.6 | 18.6 | 32.6 |
| Not sure | 7 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 40.7 |
| Agree | 21 | 24.4 | 24.4 | 65.1 |
| Strongly agree | 30 | 34.9 | 34.9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.9, results indicated that 34.9% strongly agreed and 24.4% agreed, generally 59.3% of the respondents agreed. This means that women’s access to financial resources including savings, insurance, remittance transfers and credit is limited in Kakoba Division. Respondents revealed that the major contributing factor to this denial is attributed to legal, institutional and social cultural barriers. During an interview session, a key respondent mentioned that;

*“Most organisations in the region and the country at large identified this gap and have worked hard to redress gender-based violence and inequalities in access to financial resources and more work directed towards broader gender equality goals”.*

## 4.2.6 Women are denied access to formed groups that can ensure self-sustaining

The respondents were asked whether women have been denied access to formed groups that can ensure self-sustaining. The results are presented in table 4.10

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.10: Women have formed groups to work together so as to be self-sustaining | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 11 | 12.8 | 12.8 | 12.8 |
| Disagree | 15 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 30.2 |
| Not sure | 4 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 34.9 |
| Agree | 28 | 32.6 | 32.6 | 67.4 |
| Strongly agree | 28 | 32.6 | 32.6 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.10, results indicate that majority of respondents generally agreed, this was summarised by 32.6% who both agreed and strongly agreed. Since this was the majority response, it can be interpreted to mean that self-help groups organised amongst women entrepreneurs has not been an effective instrument for empowerment of women by delivering micro credit to undertake the entrepreneurial activity. The respondents revealed many self-help groups by women have tremendously collapsed in the region and for those that are still active the number of members has reduced to a maximum of 5-7 women which means that the monthly contributions are little to enable women achieve basic rights and economic empowerment.

## 4.2.7 Women are denied the right to social protection

Respondents were asked whether women have been denied the right to social protection. The responses to the question are highlighted in table 4.11

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.11: Women have been denied the right to social protection | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 16 | 18.6 | 18.6 | 18.6 |
| Disagree | 10 | 11.6 | 11.6 | 30.2 |
| Not sure | 5 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 36.0 |
| Agree | 19 | 22.1 | 22.1 | 58.1 |
| Strongly agree | 36 | 41.9 | 41.9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.11, results indicate that majority of respondents generally agreed, this was summarised by 41.9% and 22.1% who strongly agreed and agreed respectively. Since 64.0% generally agreed to the statement, this means that the women have limited roles in the labour force and are exposed to insecurity and crisis differently. Respondents revealed that the results of unequal property rights, interruptions to their working lives posed by childbearing, unequal sharing of unpaid care responsibilities, location in less well-regulated forms of work and lower levels of remuneration.

# 4.3 The effects of pyhsical violence on women’s economic empowerment in Kakoba Division

This section presents data about the second objective of the study; the effects of gender-based violence on women’s economic empowerment.

## 4.3.1 Physical abuse has led women to abandon agriculture production

Respondents were asked whether physical abuse has led women to abandon agriculture production. The results to the question are presented in table 4.12

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.12: Physical abuse has led women to abandon agriculture production | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 20 | 23.3 | 23.3 | 23.3 |
| Disagree | 23 | 26.7 | 26.7 | 50.0 |
| Not sure | 4 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 54.7 |
| Agree | 20 | 23.3 | 23.3 | 77.9 |
| Strongly agree | 19 | 22.1 | 22.1 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.12, results indicate that majority of the respondents generally disagreed, this was summarised by 23.3% strongly disagreed while 26.7% disagreed respectively. This can be interpreted to mean that despite the dangers and effects of gender-based violence on women, many have still managed to remain consistent in agriculture production. Respondents revealed that in Kakoba Division, there is an increase in number of gender-based violence against women, a high number of physical abuse and assault has caused great injuries which negatively affects their production levels inn agriculture. This means that gender-based violence is seriously impacting on women’s physical health and emotional well-being as well as their ability to work and participate in agricultural production.

## 4.3.2 Socio-economic violence has reduced on women participation in economic activities

Respondents were also asked whether participation in economic activities of women has reduced due to socio-economic violence. The results are presented in table 4.13

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.13: Socio-economic violence has reduced on women participation in economic activities | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 29 | 33.7 | 33.7 | 33.7 |
| Disagree | 24 | 27.9 | 27.9 | 61.6 |
| Not sure | 9 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 72.1 |
| Agree | 11 | 12.8 | 12.8 | 84.9 |
| Strongly agree | 13 | 15.1 | 15.1 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.13, results indicate that majority of the respondents that is 33.7% and 27.9% strongly disagree and disagree respectively. Since this was the majority response, it can be interpreted to mean that the practices used to prevent domestic violence and support the women exposed to GBV are ineffective since participation is still low. Respondents revealed that more men are involved in economic activities than the men in Kakoba Division while most women are only restricted to household work.

## 4.3.3 Sexually violated women have deprived economic empowerment

The respondents were also asked whether sexually violated women have deprived economic empowerment. The results to the table are highlighted in table 4.14

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.14: Sexually violated women have deprived economic empowerment | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Agree | 32 | 37.2 | 37.2 | 37.2 |
| Strongly agree | 54 | 62.8 | 62.8 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.14, results indicate that all respondents that is 100% generally agreed, this was summarised by 62.8% and 37.2% who strongly agreed and agreed respectively. This can be interpreted to mean that sexually violated women have been severely physically and mentally impaired. During an interview session, a key respondent revealed that; During an interview session, a key respondent revealed that;

*“Within the market places and business units in Kakoba Division, rumors about sexual assault on some of the women easily spread, however, it is common for such women never to be seen again running their business because they feel self-esteem deprived and shame. This forces these women to entirely spend their time at home away from people, this hinders their business continuity or start-up hence limiting women empowerment”.*

## 4.3.4 Girls are often forced into early marriages making them loose chance of attaining education

The respondents were also asked whether girls are often forced into early marriages making them loose chance of attaining education. The results are presented in table 4.15

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.15: Girls are forced into early marriages making them loose chance of attaining education | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 24 | 27.9 | 27.9 | 27.9 |
| Disagree | 26 | 30.2 | 30.2 | 58.1 |
| Not sure | 12 | 14.0 | 14.0 | 72.1 |
| Agree | 10 | 11.6 | 11.6 | 83.7 |
| Strongly agree | 14 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.15, results indicate that 30.2% disagreed while 27.9% strongly disagreed, generally 58.1% of the respondents disagreed. This can be interpreted to mean that the practice of girls forced into marriages is on a low level. Respondents revealed that respective authorities have in the previous decade made efforts to reduce forced marriages for young girls and increase on the access to education. The enactment of Universal Primary Education and Secondary Education have been cornerstones in this achievement. It has provided more chances to girls and reduced pressures from parents and relatives due to poverty into forcing the girls into forced marriages, as a result the girls have acquired education to improve on the chances of success through employment after school.

## 4.3.5 Women and their husbands work together and have joint accounts

The respondents were also asked whether women and their husbands work together. The responses to the question are presented in table 4.16

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.16: Women and their husbands work together and have joint accounts | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 7 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.1 |
| Disagree | 14 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 24.4 |
| Not sure | 5 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 30.2 |
| Agree | 25 | 29.1 | 29.1 | 59.3 |
| Strongly agree | 35 | 40.7 | 40.7 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.16, results indicate that majority of the respondents that is 40.7% and 29.1% strongly agreed and agreed respectively. Since this was the majority response, it can be interpreted to mean that couples in Kakoba Division are making efforts in handling personal finances as a way of reducing gender inequality in homes and communities. Respondents revealed that having joint accounts has served as a symbolic gesture of trust and commitment in business relationship and objectives between couples. However, 22.2% of the respondents indicated that this possesses lack of independence especially for partners who don’t have the same source of income. Sharing bank accounts has been a contributing factor to some women missing out on opportunities of enhancing women empowerment since they cannot explore personal interests without the consent of their husbands.

## 4.3.6 Men often meet or buy basic needs in their homes

The respondents were also asked whether men do not meet or buy basic needs in their homes. The results are highlighted in table 4.17

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.17: Men often meet or buy basic needs in their homes | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 22 | 25.6 | 25.6 | 25.6 |
| Disagree | 26 | 30.2 | 30.2 | 55.8 |
| Not sure | 12 | 14.0 | 14.0 | 69.8 |
| Agree | 10 | 11.6 | 11.6 | 81.4 |
| Strongly agree | 16 | 18.6 | 18.6 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.17, results indicate that majority of the respondents generally disagreed, this was summarised by 30.2% and 25.6% who disagreed and strongly disagreed respectively. This means that there is a significant contribution of lack of basic needs in homes to gender based violence. During an interview session, a key respondent expressed that;

*“The increase in number of women involved in business has led to an increase of irresponsibility in men in Kakoba Division. It has been reported that men who have employed women have surrendered their responsibilities to women yet most of them don’t earn enough, this is gender inequality since men are by law and culture the primary household providers; when issues arise, the women are either verbally or physically abused”.*

## 4.3.7 Women are abused on their economic strength and economic related issues

The respondents were also asked whether women are abused on their economic strength and economic related issues. The results to the question are presented in table 4.18

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.18: Women are abused on their economic strength and economic related issues | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 4 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 |
| Disagree | 9 | 10.5 | 10.5 | 15.1 |
| Agree | 29 | 33.7 | 33.7 | 48.8 |
| Strongly agree | 44 | 51.2 | 51.2 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.18, results indicate that majority of the respondents generally agreed, this was summarised by 51.2% and 33.7% who strongly agreed and agreed respectively. This means that women in Kakoba Division are experiencing economic abuse from their spouses. The respondents revealed that this is associated with financial difficulties, psychological problems, and depression. Financial difficulty and dependence represent significant obstacles to women living in violent relationships. It has been reported that a number of women have experienced emotional or economic violence without physical or sexual violence in the past are more likely to report symptoms such as anxiety or grief, sadness due to feelings of worthlessness, wanting to cry for no reason, mood swings, bad temper, insomnia and persistent fatigue.

# 4.4 The effectiveness of the measures against gender-based violence in families

This section presents data about the third objective of the study; what is the effectiveness of the measures against gender-based violence in families.

## 4.4.1 There is increased sensitisation of the masses about the dangers of GBV

The respondents were asked whether there is increased sensitisation of masses about the dangers of gender-based violence. The results to the question are summarised in table 4.19

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.19: There is increased sensitisation of the masses about the dangers of GBV | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 24 | 27.9 | 27.9 | 27.9 |
| Disagree | 37 | 43.0 | 43.0 | 70.9 |
| Not sure | 2 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 73.2 |
| Agree | 10 | 11.6 | 11.6 | 84.8 |
| Strongly agree | 13 | 15.2 | 15.2 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.19, results indicate that majority of respondents that is 43.0% and 27.9% generally disagreed to the statement, this means that authorised parties or offices in Kakuba Division have been negligent on educating residents about the dangers of gender-based violence. Respondents revealed that communities in Kakoba Division lack informal and formal support structures that could help women and girls to cope with GBV. During an interview session, a key respondent stated that;

*“Majority of GBV violations are criminal cases that are often referred to police, which is not keen on sensitisation. The area has one magistrate court which is 60 to 100 kms from Mbarara Municipality, therefore, the community predominantly reports violence to male majority traditional courts that further interests of their own, as women are rarely given audience to make a case. This has also left a gap of lack of sensitisation”.*

This means that there are barricades to justice and prevention of GBV due to lack of sensitisation programs.

## 4.4.2 There has been effectiveness of strengthening responsible institutions in preventing and stopping GBV

The respondents also asked whether there has been strengthening responsible institutions in preventing and stopping GBV. The results are presented in table 4.20

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.20: Effectiveness of strengthening responsible institutions in preventing and stopping GBV | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 26 | 30.2 | 30.2 | 30.2 |
| Disagree | 34 | 39.5 | 39.5 | 69.7 |
| Not sure | 7 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 77.8 |
| Agree | 11 | 12.8 | 12.8 | 90.7 |
| Strongly agree | 8 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.20, results indicate that 39.5% of the respondents disagreed and 30.2% strongly disagreed respectively. Since this is the majority, it can be interpreted to mean that Kakoba Division does not have an effective guide into the quest of eliminating all forms of GBV. Respondents revealed that the responsible institutions have failed to bring justice to survivors and also failed to interconnect overarching strategies which could improve response services for survivors. It was also indicated that majority of people are unaware whether there exists any institutional frameworks and bodies which still shows incapability of institutions, even the men who victimise women and girls in forms of GBV are often set free by police.

## 4.4.3 Women are encouraged to seek assistance from nearby police station

The respondents were asked whether women are encourages to seek assistance from nearby police stations. The responses to the question are presented in table 4.21

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.21: Women are encouraged to seek assistance from nearby police station | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 8 | 9.3 | 9.3 | 9.3 |
| Disagree | 15 | 17.4 | 17.4 | 26.7 |
| Not sure | 12 | 14.0 | 14.0 | 40.7 |
| Agree | 26 | 30.2 | 30.2 | 70.9 |
| Strongly agree | 25 | 29.1 | 29.1 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.21, results indicate that majority of respondents generally disagreed; this was summarised by 30.2% and 29.1% who agreed and strongly agreed respectively. Since this was the majority response, it can be interpreted to mean that the police officers are equipped with gender-based violence response knowledge skills. It was revealed that the Department of Child and Family Protection embarked on training police officers to respond to cases of gender-based violence and violence against children; in Kakoba Division, the police station has 3 trained officers in this field and have the responsibility of handling and filing all GBV cases and offering protection to the women and girls who have been victimised, as such the people were told to report any case related to violence to the police for a resolution.

## 4.4.4 The cases of GBV have been tackled through empowering women

The respondents were asked whether cases of GBV have been handled through empowering women. The responses to the question are summarised in table 4.22

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.22: The cases of GBV have been tackled through empowering women | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 7 | 8.1 | 8.1 | 8.1 |
| Disagree | 13 | 15.1 | 15.1 | 23.3 |
| Not sure | 10 | 11.6 | 11.6 | 34.9 |
| Agree | 27 | 31.4 | 31.4 | 66.3 |
| Strongly agree | 29 | 33.7 | 33.7 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.22, results indicate that majority of respondents that is 33.7% and 31.4% strongly agreed and agreed respectively. This most respondents generally agreed, it can be interpreted to mean that women are guaranteed equal opportunity to equal to men, this ensures access to land, employment which enforce gender equality. However, it was also reported that empowerment challenges the status qou in household which makes it a contributing factor to GBV, this has led male partners to use violence in order to maintain their position. Respondents also revealed that women who have achieved empowerment through education or financial empowerment offer high status in the household thereby decreasing women’s risk of experiencing violence.

## 4.4.5 Creating fear within individuals by the government and other organizations has also helping in reducing GBV

The respondents were also asked whether creating fear in individuals has helped in reducing GBV. The responses to the question are presented in table 4.23

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Table 4.23: Creating fear within individuals by the government has reduced GBV | | | | | |
|  | | Frequency | Percent | Valid Percent | Cumulative Percent |
| Valid | Strongly disagree | 17 | 19.8 | 19.8 | 19.8 |
| Disagree | 14 | 16.3 | 16.3 | 36.0 |
| Not sure | 5 | 5.8 | 5.8 | 41.9 |
| Agree | 26 | 30.2 | 30.2 | 72.1 |
| Strongly agree | 24 | 27.9 | 27.9 | 100.0 |
| Total | 86 | 100.0 | 100.0 |  |

**Source: Primary data (2021)**

As seen in Table 4.23, it is indicated that 27.9% strongly agreed and 30.2% agreed respectively, this can be interpreted to mean that the strategy of fear against those who inflict violence and pain on women and girls has helped to reduce the number of GBV. Respondents revealed that there is a number of men/ spouses who were previously violent to their women, however, after punishment by legal authorities these men have turned away from such violent acts. It was noted that women are economically exploited, and socio-economically marginalized; they lack power or autonomy over their work particularly because the majority work in the informal sector and in domestic sphere; they have experienced cultural oppression any time in their lives; and they face systematic violence.

# Summary of the chapter

It can be noted that only a few women were involved in various activities which included agriculture, retail shops and saloon work. Families in the area were experiencing GBV and most prominent and financially stable families were also prone to such kind of violence. The argument behind this was the economic empowerment of women who wanted to own and control their own finances, have freedom to do all they deemed good to them much as this would contravene their relations with their husbands and the entire family.

# CHAPTER FIVE

# SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

# 5.0 Introduction

This chapter is divided into three sections. The first section discusses the summary findings of the study and the second section looks at the conclusions on the basis of the findings of the study. The last section draws recommendations from the study.

# 5.1 Summary of findings

## 5.1.1 Denial of resources and women economic empowerment

The results under this question revealed that a number of women in Kakoba Division have increased their income through service delivery, only 23.2% of women in the region got capital for their business start-ups from their spouses, while majority 47.2% got capital from group loans or microfinance institutions, many women have been denied resources to start up business ventures in both homes and financial institutions which has left them deprived economically and having poor standards, there is lack of voices defending the promotion of rights of women and their participation in food security, women have been able to properly identify their economic potentials and opportunities based on realistic assessment of available resources, self-help groups organised amongst women entrepreneurs has been an effective instrument for empowerment of women by delivering micro credit and women have limited roles in the labour force however their contribution enables them to save for the future.

## 5.1.2 Physical violence and women’s economic empowerment

The results in this question show that despite the dangers and effects of gender-based violence on women, many have still managed to remain consistent in agriculture production, women are not limited in working hours by their husbands, women are not limited in working hours by their husbands, sexually violated women have low self-esteem due to self-blame and guilt which can endure for months and years after the assault, the practice of girls forced into marriages is on a low level, couples in Kakoba Division are making efforts in handling personal finances as a way of reducing gender inequality in homes and communities, there is a significant contribution of lack of basic needs in homes to gender based violence and women in Kakoba Division are experiencing economic abuse from their spouses.

## 5.1.3 The effectiveness of the measures against gender-based violence in families

The results under this question revealed that authorised parties or offices in Kakoba Division have been negligent on educating residents about the dangers of gender-based violence, Kakoba Division does not have an effective guide into the quest of eliminating all forms of GBV, the police officers are equipped with gender-based violence response knowledge skill, women are guaranteed equal opportunity to equal to men, this ensures access to land, employment which enforce gender equality and the strategy of fear against those who inflict violence and pain on women and girls has helped to reduce the number of GBV.

# 5.2 Conclusion

Basing on the study finding, it was concluded that GBV was prevalent in Kakoba Division because women have been economically empowered much as high levels of poverty was also an attributing factor much as there were other factors attributed to its high prevalence like alcohol consumption rumors among others. The study realized a gradual increase of violence as women began gaining empowerment. In its initial stages, violence was minimal while after women reaching the top, they even impose violence on their husbands to prove their empowerment.

The study concluded that the effects of GBV were a hindrance to women’s economic empowerment as it jeopardized the progress of their activities, proved costly to take care of survivors of GBV, creating unfavorable investment climate, among other negative effects. This was responsible for the high levels of violence manifested in the area. The study concluded that most of the cases related to GBV were not reported as the victims feared for further spread or increase in violence afterwards. The victims said they were not secured in any way after settling such cases in courts and at the police, which they concluded that it was putting their life at stake.

# 5.3 Recommendation

The government still needs to sensitize the masses on the negative impact of GBV so that they can learn from their own experiences. The government needs to understand the root causes of GBV and deal with them as required.

Efforts to reduce GBV should be based on the evaluation of all by-laws put in place and involve both men and women to participate in decision making to ensure compliance to these by-laws and policies to ensure family welfare and development.

A need to carefully listen to both parties in a violent situation is essential. Much should be put in mind that violence affects both men and women.

Continuous counseling should be availed to families. This should reach the family level than community since some issues are feared to be discussed in public.

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# APPENDICES

# APPENDIX A: SELF ADMINISTERED QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent,

You are kindly requested to fill in the following questions to enable the researcher accomplish the study about “**the impact of gender-based violence (GBV) on women’s economic empowerment in Uganda with a case study of Kakoba Division, Mbarara City”,** leading to the award of a Degree of Master of Human Rights and Human Development of Nkumba University. Therefore, the study is an academic work and thus the information given will confidentially be used for that purpose. You are kindly requested to give your own views, as no response is wrong, you may not disclose your name**.**

**SECTION A**

**BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

1. Gender

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Male | Female |
|  |  |

2. Age (in years)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| 20-30 | 31-40 | 41-50 | Above 50 |
|  |  |  |  |

3. Period of stay in Kakoba Division (in years)

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Below 2 years | 2 - 5 | 6-10 | Above 10 |
|  |  |  |  |

1. Highest level of education

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Certificate | Diploma | Bachelor’s degree | Master’s degree | If others, specify |
|  |  |  |  |  |

For section B, C, D, and E read the statement provided and indicate your most honest level of agreement to the statement using the scale of 1-5 where;

1=Strongly Disagree

2=Disagree

3= Neutral

4= Agree

5= Strongly Agree

**SECTION B: The effects of denial of resources on women economic empowerment**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Statement | Scale | | | | |
| 1 | Women are denied access to land and property rights | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | Women are denied small business set-ups to settle personal debts | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | Women are denied secure land rights to improve on investment | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | Women are denied involved in economic activities to ensure food security | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | Women are denied access to financial resources | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | Women are denied access to formed groups that can ensure self-sustaining | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7 | Women are denied the right to social protection | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | Women are effective and productive in providing manual labour | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**SECTION C: The effects of gender-based violence on women’s economic empowerment in Kakoba Division**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Statement | Scale | | | | |
| 1 | Physical abuse has led women to abandon agriculture production | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | Socio-economic violence has reduced on women participation in economic activities | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | Sexually violated women have deprived economic empowerment | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | Girls are often forced into early marriages making them loose chance of attaining education | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | There is increasing number of retarding children’s education | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | Women and their husbands work together and have joint accounts | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7 | Men do not often meet or buy basic needs in their homes | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | Women are abused on their economic strength and economic related issues | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

**SECTION D: The effectiveness of the measures against gender-based violence in families**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| No. | Statement | Scale | | | | |
| 1 | There is increased sensitisation of the masses about the dangers of GBV | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 2 | There has been effectiveness of strengthening responsible institutions in preventing and stopping GBV | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 3 | Women are encouraged to seek assistance from nearby police station | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 4 | Government agencies have been vital in handling GBV cases | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 5 | The cases of GBV have been tackled through empowering women through education | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 6 | Ensuring love, trust and respect for one another in marriage has been advocated | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 7 | Prevalence of GBV in families has been minimized by starting up self-help project | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |
| 8 | Creating fear within individuals by the government and other organizations has also helping in  reducing GBV | 1 | 2 | 3 | 4 | 5 |

# APPENDIX B: INTERVIEW GUIDE

1. Interviewer self-introduction and purpose of the interview ……………..
2. Interviewee personal data…………………………
3. What is the nature of GBV in Kakoba Division?.............and what factors may account for GBV?.........................
4. Are women involved in service delivery activities to improve on their income?............
5. Are women involved in many economic activities to ensure food security?………
6. Is the abandonment of agriculture production due to cases of GBV in the region? if yes how specifically…………………..
7. What could be done by stakeholders or government to reduce on GBV and its associated risks on economic empowerment of women?.............................