

CASES AND INCIDENCES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN IN TOWNSHIP WARD OF NYAMIRA COUNTY, KENYA

Monicah Kerubo Obegi

Masters of Art Degree in Criminology and Criminal Justice, Egerton University,
Kenya

Samson W. Mwangi

Associate Professor, Department of Peace, Security and Social Studies, Egerton
University, Kenya

Francis Machira Appolos

Lecturer, Department of Peace, Security and Social Studies, Egerton University,
Kenya

©2017

International Academic Journal of Law and Society (IAJLS) | ISSN 2519-772X

Received: 13th October 2017

Accepted: 17th October 2017

Full Length Research

Available Online at: http://www.iajournals.org/articles/iajls_v1_i1_106_125.pdf

Citation: Obegi, M. K., Mwangi, S. W. & Appolos, F. M. (2017). Cases and incidences of violence against men in township ward of Nyamira County, Kenya. *International Academic Journal of Law and Society*, 1(1), 106-125

ABSTRACT

This study sought to examine the cases and incidences of violence against men in township ward of Nyamira County, Kenya. Specifically this study analyzed the causes, consequences and management strategies of violence against men. Despite numerous studies that report the preponderance of violence is perpetrated by men against women, other empirical studies suggest that rates of violence by women and men are equivalent. In recent years, a serious debate has erupted among activists, activist organizations, and individuals about the nature of violence and, especially, the gender of the perpetrators. Increase of violence against men in Kenya led to the emergence of Maendeleo ya Wanaume, which aims at raising awareness on the increase of violence against men. Theoretical framework consisted of Social learning theory and differential association theory which were used to explain that violence is learned in relationships and the conditions favourable to violent behaviour. This was a descriptive survey study done in Nyamira Township Ward covering 96 respondents with 73 male victims selected using snow ball sampling technique and 23 key informants purposively sampled. Unit of analysis consisted of male victims of

violence in Township ward. Data was collected by use of interview schedule and focus group discussions. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics and content analysis and then presented in percentages, tables, figures, pie charts, means and standard deviation. This study has established that age, education level, income level, nature of employment, marital status significantly influenced the extent of violence the respondents experienced. Consequently, respondents who were violated suffered emotionally, sexually, physically and verbally. This study concludes that the respondents' socioeconomic characteristics were major determinants in the violence they experienced. In terms of policy, this study recommends that the County government of Nyamira puts in place awareness programmes and also a strong social support network to encourage the help seeking behavior of the men on the violence they go through. Given the rise of violence against men across the country, this study is of the view that further study be done to cover a wider area to enhance generalization on all men across the country.

Key Words: *cases and incidences, violence against men, township ward, Nyamira County, Kenya*

INTRODUCTION

Gender based violence can result in physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to the victims. It also includes threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty (United Nations General Assembly, 1993). Barber (2008) stated that domestic violence could be defined from emotional, financial and physical aspects. Male victims of domestic violence rarely report their incidents of abuse. According to Barber (2008) a male is abused by his female partner every 14.6 seconds. Male victims often feel ashamed that this act of violence happens to them and struggle to decide what to do next.

Globally, it is estimated that over 50% of men and women have experienced domestic violence (Kishor and Johnson, 2004), and this is more pronounced in Africa. In the United States, numerous studies have found that women and men are equally likely to report to researchers that they have hit their partners during the preceding 12 months. In Great Britain, 4.2% of women and men said they had been physically assaulted by their partners during the previous 12 months (Tendler, 1999). According to the 2004 British Crime Survey, a fifth of all reported domestic violence is against men and family conflict studies find approximately equal rates of assaults by women and men (Archer, 2000; Fiebert, 1997).

According to Fink (2006) in the United States intimate partner violence has affected 7.6% of males. The National Coalition against Domestic Violence found out that 1 out of 14 men have been assaulted physically by their current partner, spouse or former partner in their lifetime. In addition the NCADV found that 835,000 men are abused by their wives, spouses, or partners every year. This was seen as a problem because males feel that they cannot address this matter because no one will listen to them and that any type of treatment will not help them solve their problems. Male victims are silent about the domestic violence incidents and do not contact authorities because they think that it is personal matter and they can take care of it. Battered men think that they will not be taken serious if they went to the authorities to report because of the stigma that domestic violence only happens to women and not men (Neeley-Bertrand, 2010).

Research carried out by McKeown and Kidd (2003) on male victims of domestic violence highlights that male victims face a society that is heavily influenced with the belief that ‘women are the only victims and men are the only perpetrators of domestic violence’. This belief again being reinforced by public awareness campaigns continuously aimed at female victims denying the fact that domestic violence is a reality for male victims as well. Hence men and women abuse each other in approximately equal numbers (Cleary, 2004).

Violence against men itself, however, is not a recent phenomenon in Kenya, nor are struggles against it. Ingolo (2002) observed that the tradition in Kenya forbids men from crying or speaking about any abuse administered to them especially by women. Men are not supposed to speak up, not to cry because they will be seen as cowards. As a result, they opt not to come up in the open. This tradition is now changing. Battered men have now set up a body to protect them from their spouses. The organization, Men for Gender Equality Change Now (MEGEN), was set up but has not picked up great publicity (Mbekar, 2003). Forty-five percent of women and 44 percent of men age 15-49 have experienced physical violence since age 15, and 20 percent and 12 percent, respectively, experienced physical violence within the 12 months prior to the survey (KDHS, 2014).

Incidents of husband abuse have recently been reported in the media. For example, George Angwenyi from Kisii endured a decade of physical abuse from his wife and consequently sought assistance from FIDA-Kenya (Ingolo, 2002). An article on the daily nation by Aggrey Omboki (2006) on ‘the ugly face of domestic violence’ dated June 2016 stated that GBV in Nyamira and

Kisii counties is on the rise and is mostly perpetrated by those close to the victim. He states that there are 217 GBV cases handled by Kisii Level Five Hospital since June 2015 of which 22 cases were brought by the police and averagely 6.4% cases are reported to the authorities. These incidents clearly show that abused men have started coming out in public in this decade than it has been in the previous years. It is upon this background that this study will seek to examine the cases and incidences of violence against men in township ward of Nyamira County, Kenya.

STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Gender based violence is a serious problem that transcends racial, economic, social and religious lines. It affects human health, undermines human dignity. Over the years, gender based violence has been focused on women as the victims and men as the perpetrators. Violence against men in Kenya has been changing and escalating in magnitude with men being victims of violence, threats and abuse. A culture of silence surrounds male victims of violence which affects their reporting and hence their awareness. From the foregoing, this study was necessary to fill the gaps existing in knowledge and status of violence against men.

BROAD OBJECTIVE

The broad objective of this study was to examine the cases and incidences of violence against men in Township ward of Nyamira County, Kenya.

SPECIFIC OBJECTIVES

1. To examine the causes of violence against men in Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya.
2. To explore the consequences of violence against men in Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya.
3. To assess the effectiveness of management strategies in controlling violence against men in Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya.

LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Causes of Violence against Men

Violence affects individuals in all social classes. This assertion has been critical in raising awareness about violence by reminding the public that wealth does not protect against victimization. Nevertheless, various types of research show a strong relationship between financial status and risk for violence against men. Although it is certainly the case that middle class and affluent families do experience violence against men, studies consistently indicate that as the financial status of a family increases, the likelihood of domestic violence decreases (Benson & Fox, 2004). They found that as the ratio of household income to need goes up, the likelihood of domestic violence goes down. Their findings confirmed earlier analyses of data from the redesigned National Crime Victimization Survey, which showed that violence rates

were five times greater in households with the lowest annual incomes compared with households with the highest annual income. Consequent to the above findings, this study sought to examine the relationship between financial status and risk for violence against men.

One of the most consistent relationships reported has been an inverse association between education and reported violence. Studies have generally found a consistent inverse relationship between husband's education and reported violence. At least one of these studies has reported a threshold effect of education (Visaria, 1999), with violence levels only substantially lower when one or both spouses has been educated at least through secondary school. Educated households are less likely to experience stress due to poverty (a possible cause of domestic violence), because more educated people tend to have better paid jobs. Men are less likely to consider domestic violence less acceptable if educated. However, male education is not the only factor, female education is also effective. Education reduces violence against men however violence does not decline incrementally with each added year of schooling but is most apparent when one attains relatively higher levels of education. The above scholars have highlighted the inverse relationship between education and violence. This study sought to examine the education levels of men victims of violence in Township Ward of Nyamira County.

Research has shown that alcohol abuse is a major contributor to violence against men. The routine as well as heavy consumption of alcohol increases not only the risk of violence but is contributory to violence (Thaler, 2011). Alcohol use is said to impair judgment, including the ability to interpret social cues and reduces inhibition, which further contributes to incidences of violence (Jewkes et al., 2002). The vulnerability of male victims increases should they consume alcohol and use drugs to the extent where their own judgment is impaired. Furthermore, because there is less ability to perceive the potential for violence, victims are easier targets for perpetrators of violence. In regard to this, it was necessary to investigate whether alcohol and drug use influences violence against men in Township ward.

The most violent perpetrators are those who as children witnessed parental violence as well as having experienced child abuse which may lead to later relationship conflict and subsequent to violence. This early socialization to violence also results in it being used as a coping mechanism or as a way of resolving conflict (Contreras et al., 2012). Vogelmann (1990) reiterates that it is in the family that controlling and domineering behaviour is learnt. Furthermore, there may also be a behavioral predisposition to violence (Thaler, 2011). Research has found that there are higher rates of violence in those households in which there are children present (Romans et al., 2007). According to the ABS (2006) Personal Safety Survey, 49 percent of men and women who reported experiencing violence by a current partner had children in their care at some time during the relationship and approximately 27 percent reported that these children had witnessed the violence. Sixty-one percent of victims of violence by a previous partner also reported having children in their care at some time during the relationship and 36 percent said that these children had witnessed the violence (ABS, 2006). In regard to this, it will be necessary to investigate the influence of family size on male victimization. In regard to this, it was necessary to investigate

the history of abuse on men victims of violence at childhood and if it is related to victimization at adulthood.

Consequences of Violence against Men

Violence has been associated with many negative health consequences like injuries (ranging from cuts and bruises to severe injuries leading to permanent disabilities such as loss of hearing); sexually transmitted diseases; HIV/AIDS; chronic pelvic pain, sometimes associated with pelvic inflammatory disease; hypertension; depression; anxiety disorders; post-traumatic stress disorder; headaches; irritable bowel syndrome and various psychosomatic manifestations (UNFPA, 1999). Violence is increasingly recognized as a cause of injury among spouses and its impact on mental health and on sexual and reproductive health is also of great magnitude (WHO, 1997). There is also a close relationship between violence and mental ill health (Elsbergh et al., 1999). This study sought to examine the negative health consequences on men victims of violence.

The consequences of violence affect almost all aspects of the family, their health and that of their children, and also on broader society (Finkler, 1997). There are also many ways in which violence perpetuates itself. Violence is sustained by inequality and in turn perpetuates inequality. For example, domestic violence is associated with poverty, but it also perpetuates poverty (United Nations, 1995). According to FIDA, 2001, domestic violence is one of the reasons why many families remain poor despite working hard towards their wellbeing for example if one is battered in a family, the amount of time and money lost in search for medical attention is very high (Juma, 2002). The FIDA (2001) annual report reveals that domestic violence was the most common human rights violation of the year out of a total of 62 murders reported between January and September 2000. This means 47% of all murders nationwide are as a result of domestic violence and included broken limbs and fractures, amputations, physical marks, missing teeth and hair. Between January and November 2000, the Kenyan media reported some 50 deaths and 59 cases of severe injuries from domestic violence (Juma, 2002). In addition, according to Kwamboka (2002), domestic violence is becoming common among the affluent in Kenya with a strong socio-cultural link. Consequent to the above findings, this study sought to find out the effect of victimization on the family and society at large.

Violence can also lead to death. Deaths from female homicide are usually much lower than homicide deaths in men. For example, in the Americas external causes are responsible for 51.7% of male deaths and 24.5% of female deaths. For men, the main external cause is homicide, accounting for 39.5% of the total, while for women homicide was the second external cause of death accounting for 23.2% of such deaths (National research council, 1996). In addition, studies in India, Bangladesh, the USA, Papua, New Guinea and Peru indicate a high correlation between domestic violence and suicide rates (WHO, 1997). This study sought to find out whether violence against men results to death and suicide in Township Ward.

According to the Inter-American Development Bank's special report on domestic violence in 1999, gender based violence results in direct loss of money due to health care, police, court costs and productivity (World Bank, 1993). Hence the need to establish the relationship between loss of money and health care in Township Ward.

Management Strategies on Violence against Men

Violence manifests in many different forms and does not have a particular strategy that works in all situations (World Bank, 1993). It is influenced by societal contexts hence different societies adopt different strategies (UN, 1993). The community is known to play a critical role in curbing and at the same time influencing the perpetration and victimization of violence against men. According to law enforcement, a study conducted by Lawrence Sherman in 1992, The Minneapolis Domestic Violence Experiment, to evaluate the effectiveness of various police responses to domestic violence calls in Minneapolis, Minnesota; including sending the abuser away for eight hours, giving advice and mediation for disputes, and making an arrest. Arrest was found to be the most effective police response. The study found that arrest reduced the rate by half of re-offending against the same victim within the following six months (Maxwell et al., 2001). Generally, if the victim has visible and recent marks of abuse, the suspect is arrested and charged with the appropriate crime.

Since violence against men is a major risk factor for serious injury and even death, and the spouse in violent marriages are at much greater risk of being seriously injured or killed, counseling intervention is much needed. Initial assessment of the potential for violence in a marriage can be supplemented by standardized interviews and questionnaire which have been reliable and valid aids in exploring marital violence more systematically. Counselors and therapists should also make the distinction between situations where battering may be a single, isolated incident or an ongoing pattern of control. It is unreasonable for the therapist to expect that a victim will leave her abusive spouse solely because she disclosed the abuse. The therapist should respect the victim's autonomy and allow her to make her own decisions (Lawson, 2003). This solemnly leaves the decision making to the victim to determine whether to continue with the abusive relationship or not.

Therapists are not aware that supporting assertiveness by a battered partner may lead to more beatings or even death. Even in few cases, when the partner leaves because of life threatening situation, therapists relax their vigilance after a battered partner leaves. Some data suggest that the period immediately following a marital separation is the period of greater risk for the women. Many women will stalk and batter their husbands in an effort to get them to return or punish them for being irresponsible. The main goal of counseling for offenders of violence against men is to minimize the offender's risk of future violence, whether within the same relationship or a new one. Treatment for offenders should emphasize minimizing risk to the victim, and should be

modified depending on the offender's history, risk of re-offending and criminogenic needs. The majority of offender treatments are conducted in a group setting with groups not exceeding 12 participants. Groups are also standardized to be gender specific (Colorado Domestic Violence Offender Management Board, 2010). This leads to victims being open and ready to discuss the risks and challenges they are going through with fear or shame.

Meanwhile, various voluntary and non-governmental groups are offering legal aid, shelter and health support to victims of gender based violence. These are located in the major urban centers and mainly attend to female victims of violence. Unfortunately, there has not been such support groups to attend to male victims of domestic violence. It is in view of the foregoing that this study will find out the reporting mechanisms within the community.

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Social Learning Theory

Social learning theory is one of the most popular explanatory perspectives in the marital violence literature (Mihalic and Elliot, 1997). Social learning was developed by Bandura to explain the role that violence play in relationships. According to Bandura (1973), violence is a learned behavior. Bandura explained that people model behaviors they have been exposed to as a child. Children who witness or experience violence as a child internalizes their observations and develops inadequate coping strategies for handling stress and conflict. Social learning theorists believe that if “the family of origin handled stress and frustrations with anger and aggression, the child who has grown up in such an environment is at greater risk for exhibiting those behaviors, witnessed or experienced, as an adult” (Mihalic and Elliott, 1997). Moreover, men and women develop their concept of self through socialization by their parents and environment. Despite the contribution of Social learning behaviour to the understanding of violence, it is insufficient in explaining the specific direction of motives, drives, rationalizations techniques and attitudes which drive a person to engage in violence. It is also deficient in explaining the conditions that are favorable to violent and non-violent behaviour. This study will address this gap by adopting differential association theory.

Differential Association Theory

Differential association theory outlines the processes whereby a person becomes a criminal. It explains violence in the family specifically by an individual within a group setting wherein outlining attitudes towards violence, techniques of committing violence and critical-point decision-making processes (Sutherland, 1947). According to Sutherland, violent behavior is learned in interaction with intimate personal groups in a process of communication. When violent behavior is learned, the learning includes techniques of committing the violence, which could be very complicated or simple and the specific direction of motives, drives, rationalizations, and attitudes. The specific direction of motives and drives is learned from definitions of cultural and family norms as favorable or unfavorable. Therefore a person becomes

violent because of an excess of definitions favorable to violation of law (norms) over definitions unfavorable to violation of the law (norms). Differential associations may also vary in frequency, duration, priority, and intensity. Hence the process of learning violent behavior by association with violent and anti-violent patterns involves all of the mechanisms that are involved in any other learning (Sutherland & Cressey, 1970). Violent behaviour is learned through symbolic interaction with symbolic others, the culture of violence including attitudes, motives, rationalizations and techniques, the judgment to commit violence and patterned decisions to engage in violence that are more rewarding than decisions not to engage in violence.

CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

The conceptual Framework below presents the relationship between the study variables. The independent variables are causes, consequences and management strategies while dependent variable is violence against men.

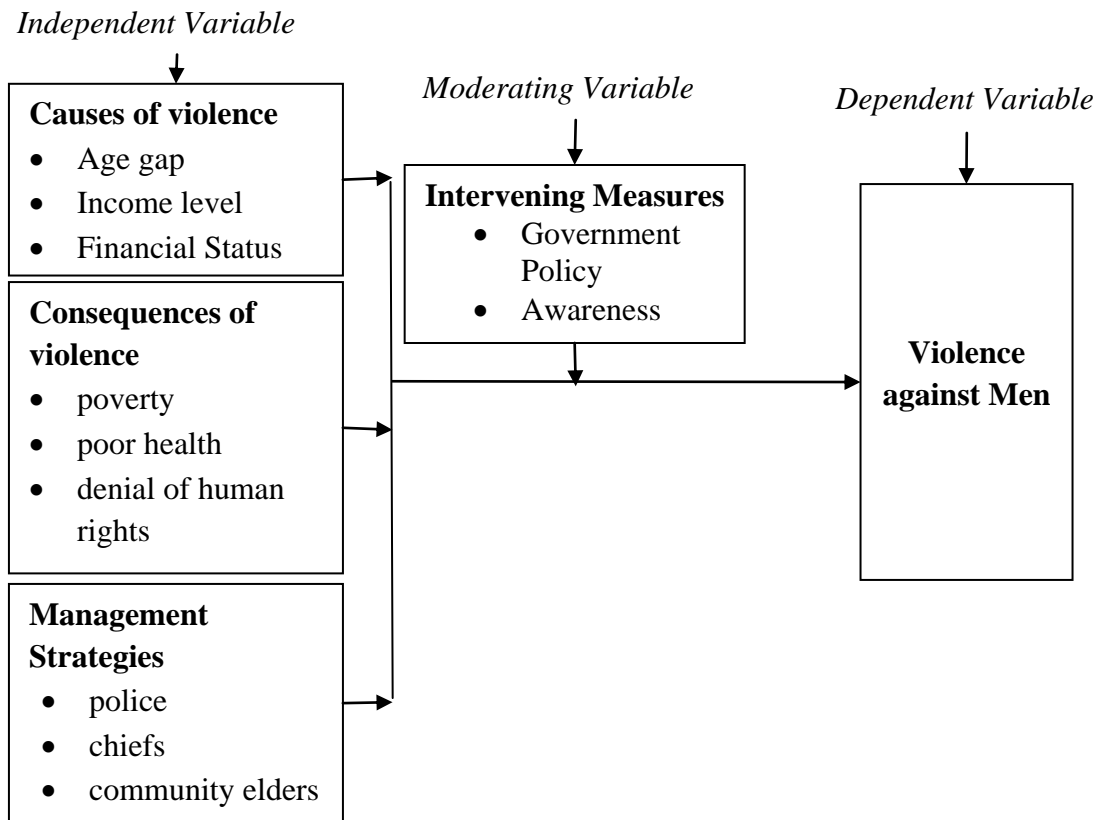


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Causes of violence take the forms of physical, verbal and emotional violence. All these are because of factors such as alcohol intake, educational level, age gap, financial status, income levels among others. These causes lead to men being vulnerable and an easy target for their spouses. Men are easily violated because their spouses are older, more educated, earn more

money than them. On the other hand men engage in excessive alcohol consumption, infidelity which prompts their spouses to violet them.

Consequences of violence include poverty, poor health, emotional torture and denial of human rights among many others. All these consequences negatively affect families and relationships. The impact of the causes of violence continues to escalate as most of the victims do not report these cases and incidences. These therefore have increased physical and psychological abuse to them which in return leads to reported low levels of self-esteem.

Management Strategies include seeking help from agencies like the police, chiefs, and community elders among others. These agencies play a critical role to the control of violence against men. The police take legal action against spouses that violate men. Chiefs, religious leaders and community elders work closely with the male victims as they interact in the community on a daily basis making them easily approachable hence the male victims can report to them as and when they are violated.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The study area was Township ward of Nyamira County was the study area. Township Ward has over the recent past experienced a high increase in cases of violence against men hence the need to find out the factors responsible for the violence against men. Nyamira County has five sub-counties. Township ward is one of the five wards in Nyamira South sub-county. Nyamira County is one of the 47 counties in Kenya. The county covers an area of 899.4 Km² and borders Homabay County to the North, Kisii County to the West, Bomet County to the South East and Kericho County to the East. The population of Nyamira County is 598,252 (Male - 48 %, Female - 52 %). The average population density for the county is 665 people per square kilometer.

This study used descriptive survey design. The design was preferred where subjects respond to a series of statement or questions in a questionnaire or an interview (Jackson, 2003). The design is also concerned with finding out who, what, where and how of a phenomenon which is the concern of this study. According to Independent Electoral and Boundaries Commission, Nyamira County has a population of 598,252 people with approximately a total of 131,039 households with Township ward having a population of 19,577 people. Unit of analysis consisted of male victims of violence in township ward of Nyamira County. Sample size consisted of 73 male victims and 23 key informants who were selected using non-probability snowball and purposive sampling techniques respectively. Data for this study was gathered using interview schedules for male victims while Focus Group Discussion was used for key informants. A focus group discussion is a good way to gather together people from similar backgrounds or experiences to discuss a specific topic of interest while Interview schedules were used due to their characteristic that they capture information that would otherwise not be captured using questionnaires and as Gay (1992) notes, interview schedules are systematic and comprehensive since questions are formulated before interview.

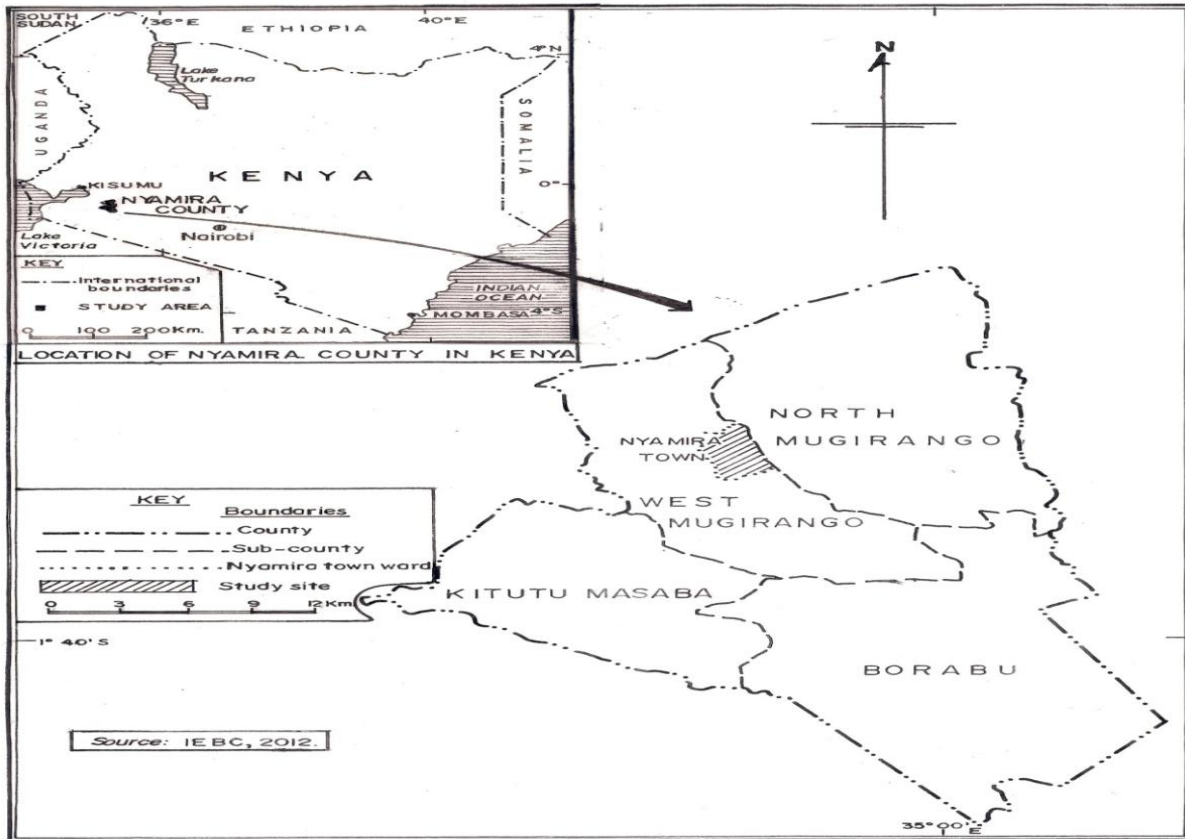


Figure 2: Map of Kenya Showing Study Area

Descriptive statistics and content analysis were used to analyze data. Quantitative data collected was analyzed and interpreted using descriptive statistics such as means, standard deviation, frequency distributions and percentages. Data collected was then summarized and presented using frequency tables and pie-charts. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) computer technique was used to analyze the data.

This study involved collection of data using interview schedule. To enhance research ethics, there was adherence to the principle of voluntarily participation in which interview participants were not coerced into participating in this research. Research participants were informed about the procedures and objectives for this research and gave their consent to participate. In addition, there were participants confidentiality guarantee in that they were assured that the information would not be made available to anyone who was not directly involved in this study.

RESEARCH RESULTS

Causes of Violence against Men

From the findings of this study majority of the respondents 57% indicated that their partners felt jealous or angry if he (talk/talked) to other women. It was revealed that 61% of the respondents were frequently being accused by their partners of unfaithfulness. 40% of the respondents were

not permitted by their partners to meet their male friends. The partner of the respondent says or does something to humiliate him in front of others as supported by a mean of 1.543 and standard deviation of 0.765. It was established that the wives of the respondents insult them or make them feel bad about themselves; since the mean was 3.123 with standard deviation of 0.134.

Majority of the respondents have been forced to have sex with their previous girl friends, wives and other partners. From the findings, 51% were between 19-29 years when they were first forced to have sexual intercourse. Majority of the respondents, 51% have wives who often use alcohol. 53% of the respondents are aware of their mothers beating their fathers. Majority of the respondents, 61% had been physically abused at the age of 15 years. A majority of 59% had only sometimes been abused in their last 12 months and 58% had abused their wives physically. Majority of the respondents indicated alcohol abuse, neglect of responsibility and low levels of educations as some of the other causes of violence.

Consequences of Violence against Men

This study found out that majority of the respondents 65% had cuts, bruises or aches; 73% had eye injuries, sprains, dislocations or bums; and 59% indicated having suffered from deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or any other serious injury. The findings of the study revealed that 55% of the respondents in most of the time are afraid of their wives. From the findings, 51% suffer from divorce.

Effectiveness of Management Strategies in Controlling Violence against Men

From the findings, majority of the respondents; 67% do not seek help on experiencing the forms of violence. Of the respondents who seek help, majority of them 33% get the help from churches. It was revealed by 57% of the respondents that agencies are in place to address the violence that men go through.

Majority of the respondents, 59% indicated that there are some cultural practices that encourage violence against men. As indicated by 54% of the respondents, polygamous marriages are one of the forms of cultural practices encouraging violence against men as their partners felt betrayed when they married other wives.

The findings of this study indicated that the community of the Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya is indeed helpful towards the management of violence against men. There are community elders who are charged with the responsibility of hearing such cases of men violence. Among the measures suggested by respondents to manage violence against men include putting in place community based legal assistance schemes, having a proper policy framework, cooperation with all the stakeholders, setting up of Maendeleo ya Wanaume offices in the area and creating more awareness among men so as to make them open up.

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

A focus group discussion was held consisting of 1 chief, 1 police officer, 1 hospital personnel, 10 community elders and 10 religious leaders. The focus group discussion was carried out in two groups with the first group having 12 members and the second group 11 members. The discussions were analyzed using content analysis. The findings are established in subsequent sections.

Causes of Violence

Regarding the prevalent forms of violence that men suffer in the Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya, majority of the informants indicated physical violence, emotional violence and verbal violence. All these forms of violence are carried out by their partners. Most women use threats of taking the men to traditional witch doctors should they take any actions and this makes men suffer in fear and silence.

In respect to the challenges facing men in the Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya, most of the key informants indicated unemployment, alcohol abuse and lack of role models. The high level of unemployment lowers the economic empowerment of these men and this reduces their ability to responsibly meet the needs of their families.

For the difficulties faced by men in obtaining support and accessing justice, majority of the key informants indicated low income levels which reduce affordability to meet the costs, lack of openness among men to clearly come out and seek help besides low awareness among men on the availability of support networks. The limited awareness among men in particular has reduced the uptake of these support and justice networks.

Consequences of Violence against Men

On whether men find it easy to access health service after victimization, most of the key informants indicated that such services are availed to victims in a timely and convenient manner. However, most men shy away from visiting the health centers to seek medical services for fear of unknown.

On the level which these health services meet the needs of men in the Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya, most of the informants indicated that such services effectively offer solutions to the injuries and the damages caused by the violence to men. Numerous services are availed to men victims of violence ranging from mere first aid to sophisticated body operations. There are also both inpatient and outpatient services.

Regarding the affordability of the health services to men, most of the key informants indicated that the cost of the services depends with the extent of the effect of the violence. Mere operations are less costly compared to sophisticated health services including operations. There is also customization of the health services in respect to the health conditions.

For the health service alternatives available to men, most of the key informants said that other alternatives are in place for the men victims of violence. Some of the alternatives established included availability of guiding and counseling units and availability of free ambulance services offered by the County government.

With regard to how men in the Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya are supported by the community networks to recover from the challenges, most respondents indicated that guiding and counseling sessions are in place to offer advice to men. Furthermore, strong social support network is encouraged within the Township Ward of Nyamira County.

With respect to ease of access of justice by respondents, most informants indicated that measures are in place to encourage men to access justice. Administrative units are in place that includes assistant chiefs and chiefs who actively assist men victims of violence. Judicial systems are also in place and these enhance fair hearings from male victims of violence although they do not mostly seek the channel.

Measures Taken To Control Violence against Men

As to the role of the government in addressing the challenges men face in the Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya, most of the key informants indicated that crucial steps have been undertaken in respect to the challenges. Nyumba Kumi initiative has been encouraged which is about knowing your neighbor and this enhances a social support network. The government has also championed for setting up of administrative police units in the area besides the residents court systems. The government has also encouraged men to form or join active SACCOs that enhance them to obtain loans and this empowers them economically.

On the local actors addressing the challenges and their responses, most of the key informants held that various lobby groups have been formed to address the challenges that men suffer in the Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya. These local actors normally get involved in creating awareness among men on their rights and privileges.

As to the gaps in the responses by the government and local actors in dealing with the challenges that men in the Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya suffer; most of the respondents indicated poor understanding of the real challenges men face, lack of transparency and accountabilities on the part of the actors.

On how a community based legal assistance seek help in addressing the challenges that men in the Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya suffer, majority of the key informants indicated that availability of such a scheme would increase openness among men to speak out about the violence they suffer, it will also reduce the cost of meeting the violence.

On the established bodies and organizations that handle male victims cases in the Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya, most of the key informants said that there is Maendeleo ya

Wanaume Initiative and the Human Rights Against Gender Violence. These organizations listen and address the challenges that men suffer from the female partners.

As to whether the current measures are adequate in handling the cases of male victimization; most of the key informants felt that such measures are insufficient. There is need to have more measures which will reduce the violence which men suffer. There is need for the government, local community and the organizations championing for human rights to have cooperation so as to succeed in managing the challenges which men suffer.

On the problems suffered when dealing with cases of men victimization, majority of the key informants said that limited openness on the side of the victims due to fear, corruption on the side of female defendants so as to conceal evidence. This demands highest levels of integrity and transparency.

In respect to how the issues of men victimization are solved, majority of the respondents indicated that this is done in a fair and just way. Both sides are encouraged to air out their views to assess the party on the wrong end. Sufficient time is given to these parties during the time of their defenses.

On what should be done to manage the problem of violence against men; majority of the key informants put forward putting in place community based guiding and counseling services, creating more awareness on the rights of men, setting up of more branches of Maendeleo ya Wanaume Initiative, Communal Participation Programmes, Opening up of more job opportunities in the area.

CONCLUSIONS

Theoretical Conclusions

This study was grounded on social learning and differential association theories. Social learning explains the role that violence play in relationships. Violence is a learned behavior and that people model behavior they have been exposed to as children and develop inadequate coping strategies for handling stresses and conflict. History of violence determines how a person will behave at adulthood. If the family of origin handled stress and frustrations with anger and aggression, the child who has grown up in such an environment is at greater risk for exhibiting those behaviors, witnessed or experienced, as an adult. Men and women develop their concept of self through socialization by their parents and environment.

These observations find much favour with most of the findings of this study. People are modeled by the behaviour they have been exposed to hence the justification as to why if a person was brought up in a violent home he will grow resulting to violence at any slight provocation.

Differential association theory seeks to outline attitudes towards violence, techniques of committing violence and critical-point decision-making processes. This study explicitly established the personality traits that are related to the attitudes that predispose one to violence.

While social learning theory was used to explain the role of the family in encouraging violence, differential association theory was used to explain the principles of acquiring a violent and non-violent behaviour. The two theories due to their complimentary roles have been found useful and adequate in the explanation of violence, more so the aspects this study focused on.

Empirical Conclusions

Analysis and interpretation of data collected reveals that the forms of violence against men are physical, sexual, verbal and emotionally categorized. Among these causes include infidelity, humiliations, threats, alcohol abuse and history of abuse.

The help of men victims is minimal and of a poor quality. The aim of gaining an understanding was achieved and has provided information that confirms the thoughts of other literature in this area and added discussion to this under researched debate. The information gained from the research generally supports the notion that society is the underlying repressors of the abused male, even relating to the concept that the repression of male victims can cause men to abuse their female partners out of fear of being dominated. If this concept is true to some male perpetrators of violence then in order to reduce their abuse it would seem male victims need to be embraced by society and not repressed.

This study also concludes that violence against men results into numerous consequences. Some men suffer from cuts, bruises or aches while others get eye injuries, sprains, dislocations or bums; and also some other men suffer from deep wounds, broken bones, broken teeth, or any other serious injury. The violence against men also enhances fear among men on their partners. There are also cases of divorce among men as a result of the violence they go through.

This study further concludes that most of the men do not seek help on experiencing the forms of violence. Sharing of the violence is also not in place among most men. Several agencies are in place which address the violence that men go through. Some cultural practices that include polygamous marriages encourage violence against men. The community of the Township Ward of Nyamira County, Kenya is indeed helpful towards the management of violence against men.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This study recommends that the County government of Nyamira should put in place awareness programmes on the dangers of drug abuse, and infidelity among married couples. The County government should open up more job opportunities among men in Nyamira County which will go a long way to reducing the level of unemployment and therefore economically empowering men to take up their responsibilities.

This study also recommends that first aid programmes and ambulance services should be availed to community members of the County government of Nyamira. This will help to address the effects of cuts, bruises or aches while others get eye injuries, sprains, dislocations or bums. There is need for creation of more health units in the area so as to address the injuries caused by violence. The cost of health should be subsidized by the government for affordability.

This study further recommends that men should be encouraged to open up on the violence that they go through. A strong social support net work should be put in place which encourages the help seeking behavior of the men on the violence they go through.

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