

**EXPLORING COMMUNITY PERCEPTIONS ON VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN IN DAN VILLAGE IN GREATER TZANEEN LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

by

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DECLARATION

I, declare that the mini-dissertation hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of Master of Development has not previously been submitted by me for a degree at this or any other university; that it is my work in design and in execution, and that all material contained herein has been duly acknowledged.

Matli R.J
Surname

Signature

15 February 2018
Date

DEDICATION

Special dedication is given to my late father Piet Lesetja Matli, who passed away in 2012. He always insisted that I must go to school to gain knowledge and skills that will be my strength and my security, and my mother Joyce Ramokone Matli for believing in me.

To my sister Nkele for encouraging me that it is possible and my mother- in- law who filled gaps for me while I was away for my studies.

To my cousins Mr and Mrs Baloyi for being supportive and fetching my children from school when I am busy.

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SPECIAL DEDICATIONS

Special thanks to my lovely children, Lehlogonolo, Hlonhlorhi, Ntiyiso and Charlie, for your understanding when I could not be there for your needs.

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ABSTRACT

Violence against women has been one of the critical concerns in South Africa. To stop violence against women we need to understand how the specific society views and perceives such violence. Then we can introduce effective and efficient strategy to tackle the problem. Literature reviews pointed out the nature of violence against women, the causes and the effects and also the communities' perceptions on violence against women and the policies or strategies to reduce violence against violence.

The study aimed at exploring local community perception on violence against women in Dan village. Qualitative study were conducted using individual interviews and focus group discussions with traditional leaders/ indunas, community policing forums, ward committees, civic organisations and community members of Dan village. A purposive sampling was used to obtain 11 community leaders and 34 community representatives from the area. Qualitative content analysis technique was used to analyse the qualitative data collected.

The findings revealed the increasing level of violence against women in the study area. The local leaders and authorities response to violence against women seems inadequate in the area. Violence in the area takes the form of physical, sexual, emotional and economical abuses on women. Violence against women committed by people who are very close to victims, including their husbands and family members. The study reveals that major causes of violence were jealousy and alcohol and drug abuse. It is recommended that rural women empowerment should be prioritised to equip them with education and skills, improved social and health facilities, access to micro-credits and job opportunities. It is further recommended that collaboration and networks among local actors needs to be strengthen to address alcohol and drug abuses, criminal gangsters and to create more awareness campaigns on violence against women.

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List of abbreviations

DHS	:	Demographic and Health Survey
FGM	:	Female Genital Mutilation
GBV	:	Gender Based Violence
GBH	:	Grievous bodily harm
HIV	:	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
IDP	:	Integrated Development Plan
IPV	:	Intimate Partner Violence
MRC	:	Medical Research Council
RSA	:	Republic of South Africa
SSA	:	Statistics South Africa
SAPS	:	South African Police Services
UN	:	United Nations
US	:	United States
VAW	:	Violence against women
VEP	:	Victim Empowerment Programme

CHAPTER 1: OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

1.1 INTRODUCTION

Violence against women is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Violence against women may include but is not limited to, indecent phone calls, name calling, swearing, yelling, gunshot wounds and killing. Violence against women is observed to be a violation of women's physical and /or emotional well-being, which manifests in various forms (Chan and Martin in Shilubane and Khoza, 2014). But whatever forms violence against women takes, it constitutes a means of social control in which the subservient position of women is highlighted and their vulnerability accentuated (Carter and Weaver, 2003).

Although violence is a global phenomenon, numerous scholarly works have noted that South Africa ranks at the top of the world's league tables for violent crime (Altbeker cited in Macmaster, 2010). Shilubane and Khoza (2014) stated that culturally, black women in South Africa are perceived as subordinate and inferior and are not expected to take part in decision making. Whilst violence affects almost every facet of social life in South Africa, violent youth criminality is one of the primary challenges facing contemporary South Africa (Clark, 2012). This violence is often articulated as alcohol and substance abuse intersect producing a range of long lasting impacts (Watt, Aunon, Skinner, Sikkema, Kalichman and Pieterse, 2012) more often than not disproportionately affecting women (Jewkes, Morrell, Sikweyiya, Dunkle and Penn-Kekana, 2012).

Laws against violence, marital rape, human trafficking and other social ills have been implemented in many nations including South Africa (World Health Report, 2001). For example, the Domestic Violence Act (1998) was introduced in South Africa with the aim of affording women protection from harm by creating the obligation for law enforcement bodies to protect women as far as possible (World Health Report, 2001). The Act sets out a broad range of behaviours that constitute violence,

including physical, sexual, verbal, emotional, and psychological abuse, stalking, intimidation, harassment, malicious damage to property, unauthorised access to the complainants' property, as well as other forms of controlling behaviour which may cause harm to the safety, health or wellbeing of the complainant (World Health Report, 2001).

1.2 BACKGROUND TO THE RESEARCH PROBLEM

Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014) mentioned that gender based violence is prevalent in South Africa and the country has been labelled the “rape capital” of the world by the Human Rights Watch in 2010. This, combined with malignant attitudes among the local population, make women a particularly vulnerable group. Gould (2014) indicates that there were 827 children murdered in South Africa in 2012/13. In the same year 2,266 women were murdered and 141,130 women were victims of attempted murder, assault with Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) and common assault.

Reddi (2007) stated that violence against women in South Africa violates a number of provisions of the South African Constitution's Bill of Rights. These include the rights to: equality; human dignity; life; freedom from public and private violence, and security; not to be subjected to slavery, servitude and forced labour; privacy; freedom of association; freedom of movement and residence; access to health care, food, water and social security; and access to the courts.

The Domestic Violence Act (1998) was introduced in South Africa with the aim of affording women protection from harm by creating the obligation for law enforcement bodies to protect women as far as possible (World Health Report, 2001). The Children's Act (2005) also set out principles to provide protection from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation; and that the best interests of a child are of paramount importance in every matter concerning the child in South Africa.

1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

In general, research problem refers to some difficulty that the researcher experiences in the context of either a theoretical or practical situation, and to which he or she wants to obtain a solution (Kruger and Mitchell, 2006; Mouton, 2001). This

study is concerned about the growing level of violence against women in the democratic South Africa. Despite the introduction of legislative and policy measures, violence against women continues to be a serious challenge in South Africa. Evidence shows that women and young girls in South Africa are more vulnerable to violence. More than three-quarters of South African men have perpetrated violence against women in their lifetime and more than half of women in South Africa have experienced gender-based violence (South Africa Gender Protocol Alliance, 2011).

As a social worker, the researcher has observed many examples of the devastating violence on the rural women including communities, especially at the Dan village in Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality. A gang group calling itself “Boko Haram” is allegedly conducting a reign of terror in Dan village (Matlala, 2014). The gang has reportedly been attacking and stealing from residents’ especially vulnerable women. Furthermore, numerous reports have indicated that members of armed gang group move around targeting people some of whom they have stabbed to death in the night. While there is a lot of information about violence in South Africa, limited attention has been given to the violence against rural women. Given this context, this study explores the community perceptions on violence against women at the Dan village in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality.

1.4 MOTIVATION FOR THE STUDY

As a social worker situated in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, the researcher noted that cases committed at the Dan village were very disturbing. Even during the diversion programmes, most offenders were from these areas. Most of the crimes that were committed in the area were assault, rape, theft, housebreaking, robbery and murder.

The topic emanates from cases that were reported by the South African Police Services (SAPS) at Ritavi Station showing that there is a high rate of violence against women around the area. Matlala (2014) indicated that a group of youngsters is terrorising people from the surrounding areas in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality by assaulting, robbing or killing people during the night or early hours of the morning.

1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

- It will assist policy makers to improve existing strategies on violence against women especially in rural areas of South Africa.
- It will assist the Province, municipal structures, SAPS, community policing forums and probation officers towards reducing violence against women.
- The study hopes to generate new insights on violence against women in the study area. It intends to inform violence prevention initiatives, explore community narratives about their exposure to violence against women to gain insight into their understanding of the causes and effects of violence in their communities.

1.6 AIM OF THE STUDY

The aim of the study is to explore the community perceptions about violence against women at the Dan village in the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality, Limpopo Province.

1.7 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

This study is intended to achieve the following objectives:

- To examine perceived nature of violence against women in the study area;
- To investigate factors that contribute to violence against women in the study area; and
- To recommend alternative measures to reduce violence against women in the study area.

1.8 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The study will answer the following research questions:

- What is the perceived nature of violence against women?
- What factors contribute to violence against women?
- What should be done to reduce violence against women?

1.9 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Community

Bursik and Grasmick (1993) view community as constrained residential spaces where many minority groups live and where family income is a crucial determining factor for residential patterns of settlement. Community is a group of people who live in the same area or who have the same interests, religion, or nationality (Leoschut, 2006).

Violence

Otwombe, Dietrich, Sikkema, Coetzee, Hopkins, Laher and Gray (2015) maintain that violence is defined as the intentional use of physical force against another person within the family or community that may result in injury or psychological harm.

Violence against women

Heise (1993) has defines violence against women as:“any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life”.

Perception

It is a conscious experience that results from stimulation of the senses (Goldstein, 2008).

1.10 OUTLINE OF CHAPTERS

Chapter 1: Overview of the study

This chapter outlines the aims or the purpose of conducting the study. The researcher states reasons why she is interested in understanding more about the Dan area and the significance of studying violence that affects women. The research questions are outlined in this section of the study.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

This section outlines the theories and the debates around the topic as well as the previous studies relevant to the study.

Chapter 3: Research Methodology

This is where the techniques and the methodology of the study are explained as well as how the research will be conducted. This section reveals the nature of the population, the sampling methods, and how the data was collected.

Chapter 4: Analysis, presentations of findings

The findings are presented and analysed in this section.

Chapter 5: Summary, Conclusions and Recommendations

This section entails the discussions and the arguments drawn from the findings. A number of recommendations are put forward. This section ensures that the significance of the study is fulfilled and that it is clear.

1.11 CONCLUSION

The first chapter refers to the introduction of the study, problem statement, research objectives and research methods. Concepts were defined relevant to the study. The next chapter discusses the theories and the debates around the study as well as the previous studies relevant to the study.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter one of this study presented the background, problem statement and the purpose of the study. Violence against women is a world burning issue in both developed and developing countries including South Africa. The Dan village as one of the areas situated in South Africa is not excluded from the above issue. In this chapter, a review of literature related to violence against women will be discussed and analysed. The purpose of exploring what has already been researched is to locate the current study within the existing body of knowledge. This chapter is organised into four sections: conceptualising violence against women; factors that contribute to violence against women; international experience on violence against women; and South African content on violence against women.

2.2 VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN: CONCEPTUALISATION

2.2.1 Definition of violence against women

Violence against women means practices that degrade and dehumanize women as well as physical, psychological and economic acts of abuse. Heise (1993) defines the term "violence against women" as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in the public or in the private life". Carter and Weaver (2003) concur with Heise by defining the term "violence against women" as the violation of women's physical and/or emotional wellbeing, which manifests in various forms. But whatever its form, it constitutes a means of social control in which the subservient position of women is highlighted and their vulnerability accentuated.

According to Nangolo and Peltzer (2003) violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which has led to the domination of women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women. Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014) state that the term "violence against women" encompasses many forms of violence, including: violence by an intimate

partner (intimate partner violence); rape/sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated by someone other than a partner (non-partner sexual violence); female genital mutilation; honour killings or crimes; the trafficking of women; early and forced marriage; forced pregnancy; sexual harassment in the workplace, other institutions and in public places; violence condoned by the State and violence in conflict situations.

2.2.2 Dimensions of violence against women

There are different types of violence against women detailed as follow.

2.2.2.1 Physical violence

Instances of physical violence include slaps, punches, kicking, beating with a stick, phishing, choking, burning, and use of weapons such as a gun, knife and others (Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay, 2014; Yigzaw, Berhane, Deyessa and Kaba, 2010). Mkhonto, Sengane and Havenga (2014) agree that most acts of physical violence result in severe injuries, profuse bleeding, pain, and burns that necessitate immediate consultation and/or admission into the public hospital. For example, Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014) state that Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) encompasses all procedures involving partial or total removal of the external genitalia or other injury to the female genital organs whether for cultural, religious or other non-therapeutic reasons.

Men regard physical abuse as a way of discipline to women and that it is also normal to do so. Damba, Lunga and Musarurwa (2013) also agree that amongst men, references to physical abuse frequently describe using terms such as 'discipline'. Many South African women and men have long accepted some degree of physical violence between intimate partners and, in various South African communities, if police reaction to crime is ineffective, vigilantism is often regarded as a right (Graham, Bruce and Herold, 2010). Reddi (2007) states that men describe physical abuse as "discipline" or "punishment" and that it is justified to beat women "when they don't listen" or "when they stand up for their rights". Communities still promote physical abuse as a way to discipline those who have wronged them especially

women and children that is why violence against women seems normal to most South Africans and other countries.

2.2.2.2 Sexual violence

According to Yigzaw et al (2010), sexual violence is defined as forcing a woman to have sex against her will. According to Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014), sexual assault is defined as sexually violating another person without such person's consent. Sexual violation covers a very wide range of behaviours, for example contact between the genital organs or anus or female breasts of one person and any body part of another person or animal or object; and contact between the mouth of one person and the genital organs or anus or female breasts or mouth of another person or masturbation of one person by another person.

According to Mukanangana, Moyo, Zvoushe and Rusinga (2014) globally, it is also estimated that, one in five women is a victim of rape or attempted rape in her lifetime. In the study, it was noted that 20% of the girls reported that they had experienced at least one incident of sexual abuse. In Peru, Samoa and Tanzania, it was noted that between 10 and 12% of women have ever suffered sexual violence by strangers after the age of 15 with 25% of married women (globally) reported being forced to have sex when they did not want by their marital partners. Many women in South Africa and other countries are experiencing sexual violence perpetrated by their partners, relatives or strangers.

Many forms of sexual violence, particularly sexual harassment and forms of sexual coercion that do not involve physical force are widely viewed as normal male behaviour (Medical Research Council, 2009). This is a cultural perspective that maintains that women do not express their sexual desire openly, and men would have to take the initiative, leaving matters of sex to their discretion (Yigzaw et al, 2010). In many parts of the world, women are expected to be submissive and sexually available to their husbands at all times, and it is considered both a right and an obligation for men to use violence in order to correct or chastise women for perceived transgressions. Violence within the family is considered a private matter in which outsiders, including government authorities, should not intervene. For unmarried women, sexual violence is so stigmatizing that most women prefer to

suffer in silence than to risk the shame and discrimination that would result from disclosure (Ellsberg, 2006). Kapoor (2000) stated that experiences during childhood, such as witnessing domestic violence and experiencing physical and sexual abuse, have been identified as factors that put children at risk. Violence may be learnt as a means of resolving conflict and asserting manhood by children who have witnessed such patterns of conflict resolution.

2.2.2.3. Emotional Violence

According to Shilubane and Khoza's (2014) study, women experience emotional violence such as swearing, yelling, and name calling by their partners. Yigzaw et al (2010) indicate that examples of psychological abuse include insults, constant degradation, calling of names, and withholding family support. Mkhonto et al (2014) study indicate that emotional violence against women is the expressed feeling of emotional pain or sadness, anger with the perpetrator, being disrespected, belittled, unloved, ignored, feeling insecure, desperate, being fearful of the partner and being restricted by the fear, feeling intimidated and controlled, irritable, self-doubt and self-blame, and declining feelings for the partner. Furthermore, the study describes emotional violence as continued controlling behaviour evidenced by not being spoken to by their partners, accusations of infidelity, monitoring of their phone calls and messages, being stalked, restricted to visit home or to go elsewhere even to community and being degraded for keeping close contact with mothers, disrespected and swearing at their parents.

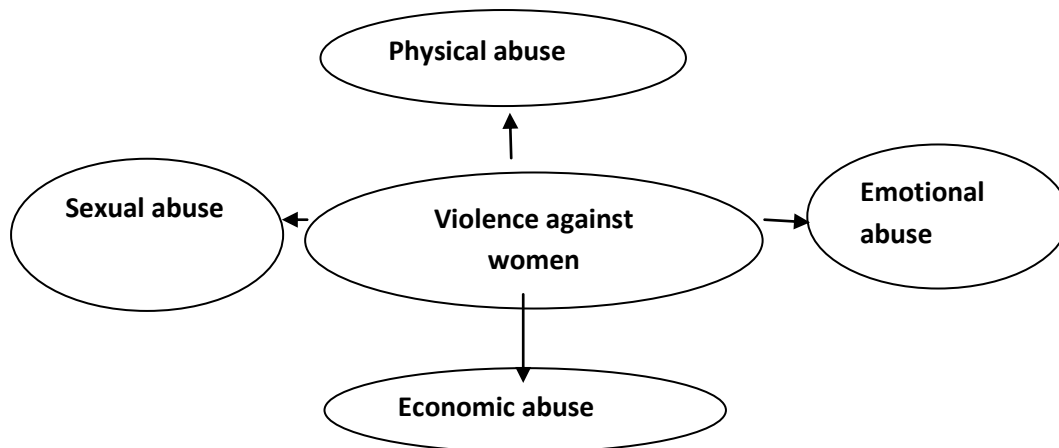
2.2.2.4 Economic violence

Peace (2009) stated that economic abuse means making one partner to be financially dependent on the other by maintaining complete control over the finances. This is often seen both in marital relationships as well as older children-aging parent relationships. Another way to abuse someone financially would be to deny them the freedom to be gainfully employed. Shilubane and Khoza (2014) indicated that economic violence is when the husband who upon fighting with his wife ends up punishing his wife by not giving her money for food, clothes and family health care.

Bhowan and Munbauhal (2005) indicated that low socio-economic status probably reflects a variety of conditions that in combination place a woman at greater risk of being victimized. They further indicated that most of victims of violence were unemployed with low education levels and were fully dependent on their husbands. Although it is widely recognized that family and intimate partner abuse occurs across all economic groups, it seems to be most prevalent in low economic groups. Severe violence against both women and children is highest among families with low incomes or with male partners that are either unemployed or have a low paying job.

In this study, violence against women refers to the occurrence of violation of rights and unfair treatment against women by men, either partners or strangers. The abuse of power against women in various forms, i.e. physical, psychological, emotional, sexual and economy in order to deprive them control over their rights and constrain women's daily activities and behaviours.

Figure 2.1 Dimensions of violence against women



Source: author (2017)

2.3 FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

2.3.1 Factors related to violence against women

Bhowan and Munbauhal (2005) conducted a study on violence against women in Mauritius focusing on domestic violence. The findings reveals that the principal causes of violence were unequal power relations, sexual abuse and extra-marital affairs, jealousy and isolation, poverty and dependence on partner, alcohol and drugs abuse. According to Peace (2009) study on the impact of domestic violence reported that one area that women confess is a catapult for aggressive behaviour is jealousy, coupled with poor anger management skills.

Flood (2007) identified determinants of violence against girls and women such as violence-supportive attitudes and norms, gendered inequalities of power, and economic and social disadvantages, men's abuse of alcohol and drugs, men's perpetration of partner violence, social isolation, traditional gender role attitudes.

Tumwesigye, Kyomuhendo, Greenfield and Wanyenze, (2012) study reported that Ugandan women whose partners often got drunk were six times more likely to report physical intimate partner violence compared to those whose partners never drank alcohol. According to Peltzer and Pengpid (2013) study having a partner that is a problem drinker and drug user is associated with psychological or emotional intimate partner abuse.

Kapoor (2000) study mentioned that excessive consumption of alcohol and other drugs has also been noted as a factor in provoking aggressive and violent male behaviour towards women and children. South Africa has one of the highest per capita alcohol consumption levels per drinker in the world, social norms dictate that when we drink we consume a lot. Many of our acts of fatal and non-fatal violence occur after alcohol and drug abuse, especially fights, some types of homicide and rape. Many victims of violence are also rendered vulnerable by alcohol (MRC Policy Brief 2009). Alcohol and drug abuse mostly are the cause of many forms of violence especially violence against women, as women are vulnerable and powerless than men.

A study conducted by Dalal (2008) on causes and consequences of violence against children and women in developing countries found that poverty, illiteracy, male dominance in resource control and social acceptance of violence make children and women more vulnerable to violence. A study on exploring strategies to overcome youth exclusion, vulnerability and violence in southern Africa reported that many South African women and men have long accepted some degree of physical violence between intimate partners and, in various South African communities, if police reaction to crime is ineffective, vigilantism is often regarded as a right (Graham, Bruce & Herold, 2010)

It has been determined that poverty increases a poor woman's vulnerability to partner abuse (Bassuk, Dawsom and Huntington, 2006). Kapoor (2000) concur that lack of economic resources underpins women's vulnerability to violence and their difficulty in extricating themselves from a violent relationship. The link between violence and lack of economic resources and dependence is circular. There is supportive evidence suggesting that youth living in socioeconomic disadvantage communities and high rates of violence are prone to bias social information processing and aggression (Arsenio et al., 2009; Thomas, Bierman, & The Conduct Problems Prevention Research Group, 2006). According to researcher above it is evidenced that environment shapes behaviour.

Bhowan & Munbauhal (2005) study indicated that low socio-economic status probably reflects a variety of conditions that in combination place a woman at greater risk of being victimized. Researchers argue that an ecological model is more apt to understand the personal, situational and socio-cultural factors that combine to cause abuse. The structural theory identifies the source of violence as stress, frustration and deprivation resulting from economic crises.

Many authors agreed that there is a strong correlation between environmental factors, which include exposure to crime, illegal drugs, living in poverty, poor family functioning, unplanned pregnancy, child abuse and neglect, and violence perpetration (Lambert, Lalongo, Boyd, & Cooley, 2005; Moore, Glenmullen, & Furberg, 2010; Nabors, 2010). Lambert et al. (2005) reported that behavior problems

among youth has a strong tie with involvement with delinquent peer and family functioning, resulting in a high rate of violence exposure.

There is legitimate violence that is valued by the society at large and within families or group of people. For example, discipline features as a child-rearing practice and a socialization act which can be exercised through violent or non-violent means. In essence, where a young person learns violence within the home, particularly at a young age, they are far more likely to enter into cycles of violence themselves. It is also in the home that dominant notions of masculinity and femininity are perpetuated, reinforcing the gendered nature of violence (Graham, Bruce & Perold 2010).

Krob and Steffen (2015) conducted a study on religious influence on education and culture indicated that education, culture and religion, often encourage situations of violence, especially against women. According to Goosen & Klugman, Van Dyk, Ellsberg, Morgan & Bjorkert in Shilubane & Khoza (2014) on the study about violence against women in Limpopo indicated that most societies perpetuate violence against women, and the reality is that violations of women's human rights are misinterpretation of the religious tenets.

According to Çengel-Kültür, E., Çuhadaroglu-Çetin, F. & Gökler, B., (2007) study mentioned risk factors of violence as the following:

- Genetic: There is evidence that criminal behaviour is partly heritable. When the sums of all genetic traits are combined with environmental influences it can lead to the development of a particular trait. The existence of familial transmission of criminal convictions and related personality traits is now well established
- Exposure to violence and conflict in the family: Parents who have a history of violence have a greater chance of raising violent children, because violence is learned by children by observing others, primarily parents and siblings
- Maternal deprivation in early childhood : causes the absence of secure attachment and lack of empathy

- Violent behaviour in family: This is a factor which makes the child feel helpless in face of violence which in turn, unconsciously, leads to identification with the aggressor in order to be in control of his weakness.
- Family structure: Adolescents from broken homes are more prone to violent behaviour
- Poor family functioning: anger is more acted out in the form of violent behaviour in dysfunctional families
- Stressful parenting authority: this is one of the major causes of physical abuse
- Authoritarian childrearing attitudes: putting too much stress on the child, can lead to aggressive rebelliousness in adolescents
- Harsh, lax, or inconsistent disciplinary practices
- Low parental involvement and low emotional attachment to parents or caregivers: creates a deviancy in empathizing with others which is an important risk for developing violent behaviour easily
- Parental substance abuse or criminality: serves as a negative modelling for adolescents

2.4 INTERNATIONAL EXPERIENCE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

According to Mukanangana et al (2014) globally, policies have been formulated in a bid to eradicate Gender Based Violence targeting women. Such policies include: The Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979; The UN General Assembly of 1993; Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Development, Equality and Peace, held in Beijing, China, in 1995; The Declaration on Gender and Development on the Prevention and Eradication of Violence against women and Children of 1997 and The Domestic Violence Bill of 2006. The Government of Zimbabwe has made strides in addressing gender based violence through the enactment of various pieces of legislation like the 1987 Matrimonial Cause Act, the 1989 Maintenance Act, the 1997 Administration of Estates Act, the 2001 Amended Sexual Offences Act, the 2006 Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act and the 2007 Domestic Violence Act.

Regardless of all the aforementioned policies and conferences, violence against women continues to be a thorn in flesh among women globally, regionally and

Zimbabwe in particular. A study in Zimbabwe for Musasa project revealed that 32% of women reported physical abuse by marital partners since the age of 16 years. In Zimbabwe, available literature revealed that 37% of women in Midlands were once victims of sexual harassment perpetrated by their marital partners (Mukanangana et al 2014). Zimbabwe has been noted as one of the countries with the highest child forced marriages in the world with an estimated 55% prevalence rate. While child marriage is common in Zimbabwe, prevalence is highest in Mashonaland Central (50%), followed by Mashonaland West (42%), Masvingo (39%), Mashonaland East (36%), Midlands (31%), Manicaland (30%), Matabeleland North (27%), Harare (19%), Matabeleland South (18%), and Bulawayo (10%) (Mukanangana et al (2014). The needs to ensure a better future for daughters and economic gains have been cited as the underlying factors to forced marriages (Mukanangana et al, 2014).

Appiah and Cusack in Amoakohene (2004) indicated that violence against women in Ghana manifests in emotional, psychological and economic terms as well as through certain cultural practices. Acts of violence perpetuated through culture include the following:

- a. Widow inheritance: a wife 'naturally' becomes the sexual partner or wife of a brother or relation of her late husband.
- b. Widowhood rites through which various acts of cruelty are exhibited to punish the surviving wife. These include seclusion, pouring pepper into the eyes and private parts of a widow and preventing her from eating as signs of mourning.
- c. Forced marriages arranged between families without the consent of the bride. These include betrothal of girls (usually in infancy), sororate or sororal marriage "in order to retain a family's wealth".
- d. Female genital mutilation or female circumcision, a practice of genitalia of females, is prevalent in Northern Ghana.
- e. A range of abuses related to pseudo-religious practices such as witch camps where women suspected to be witches who have caused various forms of harm to their families are banished and religious practices bondage like the 'trokosi'. "Trokosi" is a system of enslavement of females (usually girls) to atone for supposed crimes of their ancestors.

Yigzaw et al (2010) indicated that partner's violence occurs in all countries and transcends social, economic, religious, and cultural groups. Studies (Yigzaw et al 2010) in Ethiopia have also shown that about one-half to two-thirds of women experience one or other forms of spousal abuse at least once in their lifetime. The following acts were mentioned as instances of intimate partner violence: beating with/without an object, use of weapons, burning, forced sex, unusual sex, insults, undermining, not listening to, calling names, intimidation, withholding money (Yigzaw et al 2010). Extramarital affairs, annexing/selling/destroying properties of a partner, monitoring movements, being prevented from learning/working, infecting one's spouse with HIV deliberately, forcing a woman to become pregnant or to have too many children, abandoning a woman, and denying equal rights on resources and decision-making (Yigzaw et al 2010). The demographic and health survey of Ethiopia also indicated that the majority of women believed that a husband is justified in beating his wife at least for one reason (Yigzaw et al 2010).

Mkhonto et al (2014) indicate that a National Gender-Based Violence Study in Malawi reported the following levels of abuse amongst Malawian women: physical abuse (30%), economic abuse (28%), emotional abuse (25%) and sexual abuse (18%) (Pelser, Gondwe, Mayamba, Mhango, Phiri and Burton, 2005).

Falb, Annan, Kpebo and Gupta (2014) state that male perpetrated Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) against women is an egregious human rights concern that has been estimated to occur among 15 to 76% of women. The authors further indicated that half (49.8%) of rural Ivorian women in the community-based sample reported experiencing physical and/or sexual IPV from a male partner at some point in their lifetime, demonstrating that IPV is commonplace in this region, regardless of marital status.

Falb et al (2014) in Côte d'Ivoire, a West African nation that has been grappling with armed conflict and political instability for over a decade; both Intimate Partner Violence and poor reproductive health of women are concerns. Community-based work has documented that 47% of rural Ivorian women report having ever experienced IPV from a male partner. The investigation of IPV and male partner perpetrated reproductive coercion is further indicated by a recent study on rural

Ivorian women documenting that women who reported abuse from in-laws were more likely to experience reproductive coercion from their male partners' family members (Falb et al., 2014).

The vulnerability of women in Nigeria is an incontestable fact. Nigerian women have suffered various forms of violence and discriminations during pre-colonial era through the colonial and post-colonial period (Patrick and Ugwu 2013). Patrick and Ugwu (2013) furthermore indicated that in the northern part of Nigeria, women suffer from restriction of their freedom of association and even the right to education because of the practice of purdah; the girl child is given out early for marriage against her wish and is often sexually abused. Apart from these, there are several obnoxious cultural practices that violate women dignity and their rights in the northern parts of Nigeria. In the South-South Nigeria among the Ikwerre ethnic nationality in Rivers State, if a woman must inherit her father's property; she has to remain single or unmarried. This practice tends to promote promiscuity (Patrick and Ugwu 2013).

Peace (2009) stated that in the United States of America, it is estimated that between two and four million women are victims of domestic violence every year. It is probable that every 18 seconds someone is a victim of domestic violence. A research study was done to explore the barriers faced by victims of domestic violence who are Korean immigrants in the United States. Oftentimes, barriers are grounded in the very nature of the Korean culture (Peace 2009). The main barrier is the Korean community itself, which tends to find fault with the victims of domestic violence and therefore the victim has no way out within their community.

2.5 SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Abrahams, Mathews, Jewkes, Martin and Lombard (2012) report that every eight hours a woman is murdered by an intimate partner in South Africa. Gould (2014) indicates that there were 827 children murdered in South Africa in 2012/13. In the same year 2,266 women were murdered and 141,130 women were victims of attempted murder, assault with Grievous Bodily Harm (GBH) and common assault.

The youth of South Africa particularly women, are still being sexually violated. According to the South African Police Services (2011), 64 514 cases of sexual offences had been reported to the police by the end of March 2012. Thirty eight percent of sexual offence victims were victimised by a known member of the community, 22% by unknown members of the community and 15.8% were victimised by relatives (Statistics South Africa (Statistics South Africa, 2011). Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014) maintain that gender based violence is prevalent in South Africa and the country has been labelled the “rape capital” of the world by the Human Rights Watch in 2010. In the year 2012, there were 55 201 rape cases reported to the South African Police Services (SAPS). However, there is a problem of gross under-reporting of cases of rape in the country and the South African Police Services estimate that only one in thirty six rape cases are reported (Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay 2014).

In some South African studies, more than 40 percent of men have disclosed having being physically violent to a partner, and 40 – 50 percent of women have also reported experiencing such violence (Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay 2014). Intimate partner violence is often sexual and emotional, and many women undergo several forms of violence. In Soweto, 20 percent of women surveyed in antenatal clinics reported sexual violence by an intimate partner, and 68 percent reported psychological abuse, identified by measures such as threats of violence, controlling of movement, eviction from home, insults and humiliation (Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay, 2014).

More women are killed by their current or ex-intimate male partner in South Africa than in any other country with a rate of 8.8 per 100 000 women (Abrahams et al, 2009). The highest prevalence of domestic violence in South Africa has been reported in the Vhembe District in the Limpopo Province, with 2553 cases in the first quarter of 2012 (Limpopo Provincial Department of Social Development,2012). Of the women and men who apply for an interim protection order in the Western Cape (depending on the different population groups) 62–73% reported physical violence, 89.5–100% verbal abuse, 57.1–61.5% psychological/emotional abuse, 21.4%–38.2% economic abuse and 7.1–11.4% sexual abuse (Vogt, 2007).

Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014) indicate that global awareness is growing that the role of violence against women plays an increasing role in the HIV epidemic. The burden of HIV infection disproportionately affects women in Africa and it is estimated that 60% of individuals living with HIV in Africa are girls and women. In the sub-Saharan Africa, 40% of women living with HIV reside in South Africa. Women who experience violence may engage in early sexual initiation, anal sex, commercial sex work and unprotected sex with unfamiliar partners. Physically, forced sexual initiation involves friability of vaginal tissue among adolescents contributing to the possibility of HIV acquisition. Globally, forced sexual initiation is highly prevalent, ranging from 5% to 46%, and is associated with HIV risk behaviours including inconsistent or no condom use and multiple partners. Kouyoumdjian et al. (2013) reported that it is the experience of violence and not a particular type of violence which increases the risk of HIV, although there is an overlap in the forms of violence experienced by the women.

South Africa has one of the highest per capita alcohol consumption levels per drinker in the world (Medical Research Council 2009). Social norms dictate that when we drink we consume a lot. Many of our acts of fatal and non-fatal violence occur after alcohol and drug abuse, especially fights, some types of homicide and rape. Many victims of violence are also rendered vulnerable by alcohol (Medical Research Council, 2009). Alcohol and drug abuse mostly are the cause of many forms of violence especially violence against women, as women are vulnerable and powerless than men.

Van Dyk in Shilubane and Khoza (2014) supported the above statement by saying excessive consumption of alcohol and other drugs has been noted as a factor in provoking aggressive and violent male behaviour towards women. Women Health Victoria (2004) demonstrated that violence contribute to women's mental health issues. Many of our acts of fatal and non-fatal violence occur after alcohol and drug abuse, especially fights, some types of homicide and rape

Reddi (2007) stated that violence against women in South Africa violates a number of provisions of the South African Constitution's Bill of Rights. These include the rights to: equality; human dignity; life; freedom from public and private violence, and

security; not to be subjected to slavery, servitude and forced labour; privacy; freedom of association; freedom of movement and residence; access to health care, food, water and social security; and access to the courts.

The Domestic Violence Act (1998) was introduced in South Africa with the aim of affording women protection from harm by creating the obligation for law enforcement bodies to protect women as far as possible (World Health Report, 2001). The Act sets out a broad range of behaviours that constitute violence, including physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse, stalking, intimidation, harassment, malicious damage to property, unauthorised access to the complainants' property, as well as other forms of controlling behaviour which may cause harm to the safety, health or wellbeing of the complainant (World Health Report, 2001 and 2002).

2.6 CONCLUSION

The nature including the types, factors in, global and South African perspectives on violence were briefly discussed. The views and beliefs of the community on violence against women were also indicated using different reference points. Some South African policies and strategies in place were elaborated to link the situation in South Africa with specific reference to violence against women. In conclusion, violence against women is a social problem that cuts across all countries including South Africa.

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

In chapter two the literature related to the research problem was reviewed. The main purpose for this was to give a theoretical framework to the study, and to outline the current global situation with regard to practical work, as well as to give reasons for the suggestion in a South African context. This chapter presents the research design and methodology. This entails a discussion on the population, sampling concepts, sampling methods and the data collection techniques in this chapter. The data analysis method was used in this study will also be described and thereafter a conclusion will be made.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

According to Rubin and Babbie (1989), qualitative research, as an inductive approach, is eminently effective in determining the deeper meaning of experiences of human beings and gives a rich description of the specific phenomenon that is being investigated in reality. Qualitative research emphasises the dynamic, holistic and individual aspects of the human experience, and attempts to capture those experiences in their entirety, within the context of those experiencing them (Polit and Beck 2004; Streubert and Carpenter 1999). A qualitative research design was used for this study due to the nature of the study which focuses on investigating community perception on violence against women. The qualitative research design enabled the researcher to gather in-depth perceptions of rural communities.

According to Myers (2009), qualitative research is designed to help researchers understand people, and the social and cultural contexts within which they live. The researcher has utilised qualitative research method in order to study the everyday life of different groups of people and communities in their natural setting.

3.3 STUDY AREA

The research project was conducted at Dan village which includes Rhulani, Lusaka, Mbabamencisi and Nkomanini communities. The village is located in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, a category B municipality situated in the eastern quadrant of the Limpopo Province within the Mopani District. The study area is situated in a rural context characterised by poverty, hunger and underdevelopment, high unemployment levels, low levels of education, and limited employment opportunities.

3.4 POPULATION

Welman *et al.* (2006) refer to a population as the full set of cases from which a sample is taken. According to Wagner (2008) a population is the collection of all the observations of a random variable under study, about which one attempts to draw conclusions in practice. Polit and Hungler (1999) define a population as the totality of all subjects that conform to a set of specifications, comprising the entire group of persons that is of interest to the researcher and to whom the research results can be generalised. The population of the study includes local community representatives (traditional leaders/indunas, ward committees; community policing forums) and members of community residing in the Dan village.

3.5 SAMPLING METHODS

Sampling entails using a small group of participants from a defined population. Sampling is therefore an element of data collection, and is defined by Bryman and Bell (2007) as the fragment or section of the population that is selected for the research process. Seaberg in de Vos, Strydom, Fouche and Delpport (2007) describes a sample as a small portion of the total set of objects, events or persons which together comprise the subject of the study.

Sampling theory distinguishes between two types of sampling methods, namely probability sampling and non-probability sampling (Bless and Higson-Smith, 1995). Probability sampling occurs when the probability of including each element of the population can be determined. Non-probability sampling refers to the case where the probability of including each element of the population in a sample is unknown. Fox and Bayat (2007) indicate that, although units of analysis of non-probability sampling

do not have an equal chance of being included in the sample, it still is frequently used because of its convenience and inexpensiveness. Greenfield (2002) defines purposive sampling as the technique where subjective judgements are used to resolutely select groups that the researcher believes will represent the population. The purpose of using this sampling technique is not to assure representativeness in statistical terms but to interview community representatives as they are knowledgeable about the research topic and it is not possible to interview the whole community. Creswell (2003) states that purposive sampling refers to selection of sites or participants that will best help the researcher understand the problem and the research question, they must be willing to reflect on and share this knowledge.

In this study, the researcher used non-probability sampling, which is purposive sampling to select respondents because the study is qualitative in nature and the researcher is interested to conduct interviews and focus group discussions with key informants. Bless and Higson-Smith (1995) stated that an important issue in sampling is to determine the most adequate size of the sample. The researcher sample size was a total of 45 participants which includes (11 community representatives, specifically two (3) indunas/ traditional leaders, four (4) ward committees and four (4) community policing forums) and 34 community members.

3.6 DATA COLLECTION

Data collection is the strategy of obtaining and analyzing information (Hagan 2006). The purpose of data collection is to obtain information to make decisions about significant issues, to keep on record and to pass information on to others. In this study, two main data collection instruments were used to gather data, namely the individual interview and focus group discussions.

Since the study adopted qualitative method based on research questions, the appropriate strategy or techniques for data collection are individual interview and focus group. In addition, this data collection strategy allows the researcher to collect detailed or in-depth information to answer research questions.

3.6.1 INDIVIDUAL INTERVIEW

The interview is a well-known method of collecting data (Babbie, 1998). Kvale (1996) explains that a qualitative interview is literally an interview, an interchange of views between two persons conversing about a theme of mutual interest, where the researcher attempts to understand the world from the subjects' point of view, to unfold meanings of peoples' experiences. According to Behr (1988), an interview is a direct method of obtaining information in a face to face situation.

An interview schedule used to conduct interviews with representatives of the community at identified areas. Qualitative interviews were secured with 11 participants. Individual interviews conducted with 4 ward committees, 3 traditional leaders/ indunas and 4 community policing forums in order to obtain information that is also linked to the research objectives. The duration of the interviews depended on the respondent's willingness to share information. Interviews lasted for approximately thirty minutes and questions that respondents did not understand or misinterpreted were rephrased and clarified to be relevant to the research objectives. During the interviews the respondents were asked the same questions, from the same interview schedule. Even though all respondents were asked the same questions, the interviewer adjusted the formulation and terminology to suit the background and educational levels of the respondents (Huysamen, 1994). The permission of interviewees, the interview transcriptions and field notes were stored electronically to ensure that no information got lost.

3.6.2 FOCUS GROUP

De Vos *et al.* (2007) define a focus group as a carefully planned discussion designed to obtain perceptions on a defined area of interest in a permissive, non-threatening environment. The purpose of the focus group discussion is to produce qualitative data to provide insights into the attitudes, perceptions, and opinions of participants (Krueger 1994). Focus groups were chosen as the preferred method in view of the qualitative data that is required. The focus group includes five (5) focus group sessions with various community representatives comprising one (1) group from the civic organisation and four (4) groups from the community members. The focus

groups were supposed to have six sessions, but the researcher was engaged with five sessions consists of 34 participants.

3.7 DATA ANALYSIS

Mouton (2001) stated that data analysis involves the breaking up of data into manageable themes, patterns and trends in determining the relationship between variables and themes. The aim of analysis is to put the collected data into meaningful information in order to be understandable. Qualitative data analysis is a detailed systematic examination of the contents of a particular body of material for the purposes of identifying patterns, themes in order to tabulate the frequency of each characteristic found in the material being studied (Leedy and Ormurd, 2010). In this study, the researcher employed a qualitative content analysis technique to analyse data collected through one-on-one interview and focus group discussion.

Content analysis is a technique used to analyse data and infer a variety of things from respondent's response (Powner, 2015). The researcher examined the key words participants choose to discuss about the aspects of the topic. Then the researcher determined frequencies associated with key words on the aspects of the topic. Then key words were categorised into themes that were lined to research objectives. Furthermore, the researcher used direct quotations where necessary to support the findings. The finding was presented in the form of tables, texts and direct quotations.

3.8 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

Golafshani (2003) describes reliability and validity as trustworthiness, rigour and quality in qualitative research. The researcher used triangulation technique to ensure the quality of data. First, the researcher used different data collection techniques such as interview, focus group discussion and review of secondary sources. Secondly, the researcher used different source of data including local leaders, community representatives and members of community. Furthermore, the key findings in conclusion chapter were discussed in the light of existing literature.

3.9 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The study was conducted in accordance with the basic ethical principles and standard practice of research. As required the researcher ensured that potential informants were, as far as possible, enabled to freely give their informed consent to participate in the research and were advised that they could terminate their involvement for any reason, at any time (Payne and Payne, 2005). The participants were informed about what the research was about, who was undertaking it, and why it was being undertaken. The researcher concurs with Henning, Van Rensburg and Smith (2004) in that the respondents need to know that their privacy and sensitivity will be protected and what is going to happen with their information after recording. Anonymity was guaranteed under this study. The informants' identities were protected in that their identities were not revealed in the report and that no harm was done to them.

There are thus intrinsic ethical reasons, such as the need to respect communities, for adding community permission to individual informed consent guidelines as a requirement for ethical research involving communities. There could also be instrumental ethical reasons to add this requirement; community permission could enhance the individual informed consent process, perhaps improve enrolment, and decrease adverse effects of the research on community values (Diallo, Doumbo, Plowe, Wellems, Emanuel and Hurst 2005). The community leadership of Dan and the University of Limpopo's research policy were taken into consideration during the research. This entailed requesting and obtaining permission to conduct the research in this Dan village.

3.10 CONCLUSION

The research methodology stated above supplied a fundamental framework from which the study on the community perceptions towards violence against women was conducted. The methodology provided detailed information about the chosen research design or strategy which was considered to be fit for the kind of study which was embarked upon. The methodology also provided detailed information with regard to the Tzaneen Local Municipality, Dan village as a study area, the target population for the study, sample selection, method and size, data collection and

analysis methods and fundamental ethical issues which were considered by the researcher during the study.

CHAPTER 4: DATA ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATIONS OF FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The previous chapter described the research design and methods used to collect and analyse data in the study. In this chapter the researcher analyses the collected data. As indicated in chapter three (3), the researcher used the individual interviews and focus group discussions to collect data. Qualitative content analysis technique was used to analyse the qualitative data collected through the interview schedules and focus group discussions.

This chapter is organised into two main sections. The first section of the chapter presents responses from 11 individual interviews with community representatives, specifically two (2) indunas/ traditional leaders, four (4) ward committees and four (4) community policing forums. Since one (1) induna was suspended until further notice, the researcher interviewed one of the induna's committee. The second section presents responses from the five (5) focus group sessions with various community representatives comprising one (1) group from the civic organisation and four (4) groups from the community members. The focus groups were supposed to have six sessions, but the researcher was engaged with five sessions consists of 34 participants. The third section provides key findings based on the study objectives and the last section provides conclusive remarks.

Content analysis is a technique used to analyse data and infer a variety of things from respondent's response (Powner, 2015). The researcher examined the key words participants choose to discuss about the aspects of the topic. Then the researcher determined frequencies associated with key words on the aspects of the topic. Then key words were categorised into themes that were lined to research objectives. Furthermore, the researcher used direct quotations where necessary to support the findings. The finding was presented in the form of tables, texts and direct quotations.

4.2 PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS FROM ONE ON ONE INTERVIEW

4.2.1 Demographic profile of individual interview respondents

4.2.1.1 Age of respondents

Figure1. Age group of respondents

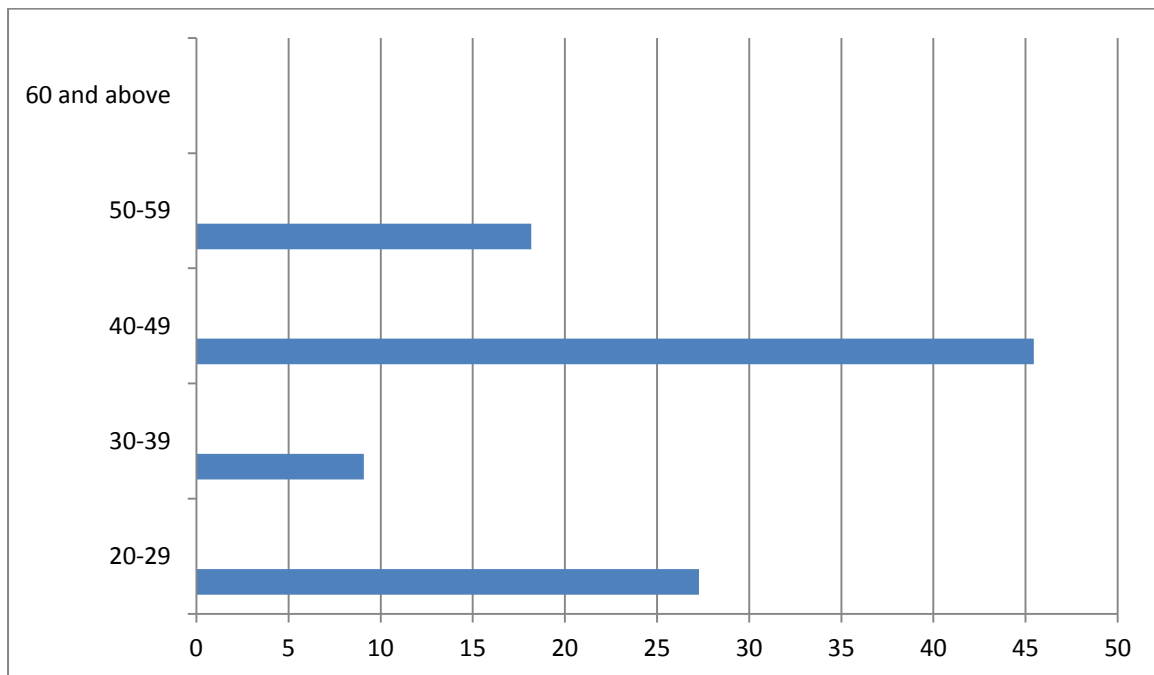


Figure 1 shows that 5 (45.4%) of the respondents were between 40-49 years of age and 3 (27.3%) of the respondents were between 20-29 age group whereas 2 (18.2%) of the respondents were aged 50-59 years and 1 (9.1%) of the respondents was between 30-39 years. The finding shows that a majority of the respondents were between the age group of 40-49 years. It shows that all the age groups indicated were represented except 60 and above as most of the community structures were led by youth and adults below 60 years meanwhile those above this age are regarded as pensioners.

4.2.1.2 Gender of respondents

Figure 2. Gender of respondents

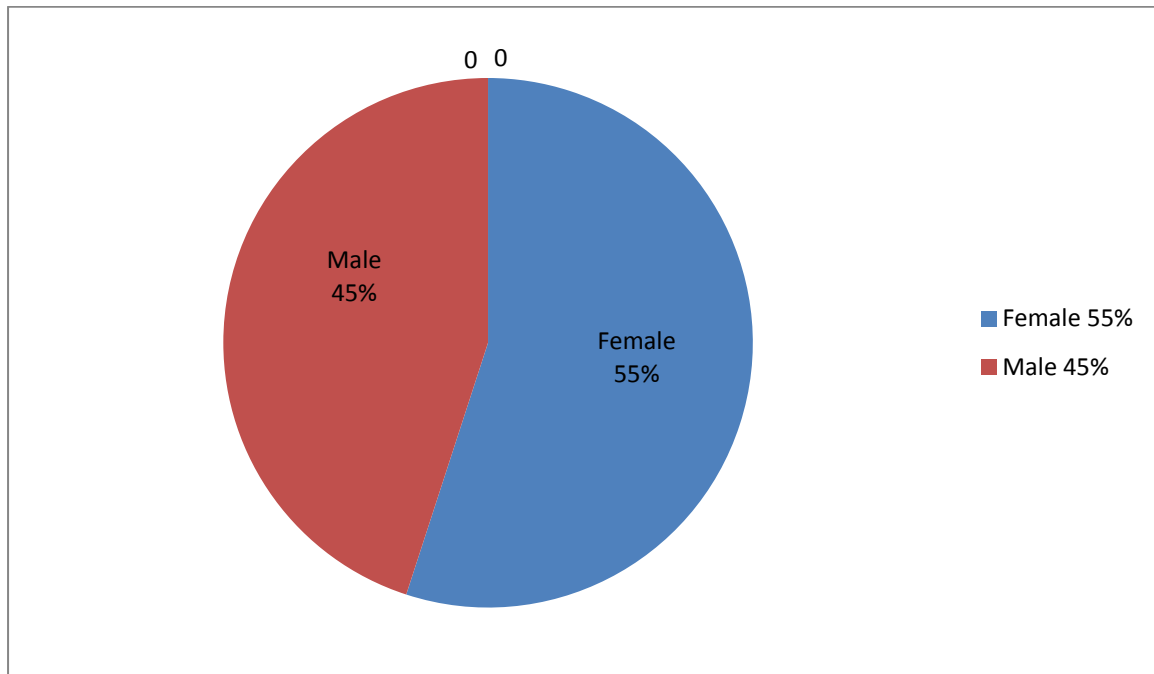


Figure 2 shows that 6 (55%) of the respondents were female while 5 (45%) of the respondents were male. The finding indicates that the majority of respondents were female as this study is concerned about local community perceptions on violence against women. The one-on-one interviews consisted of representatives from both genders which is appropriate for the study.

4.2.1.3 For how long have you been living in the Dan village?

Figure 3. Respondents' years of living in the Dan village

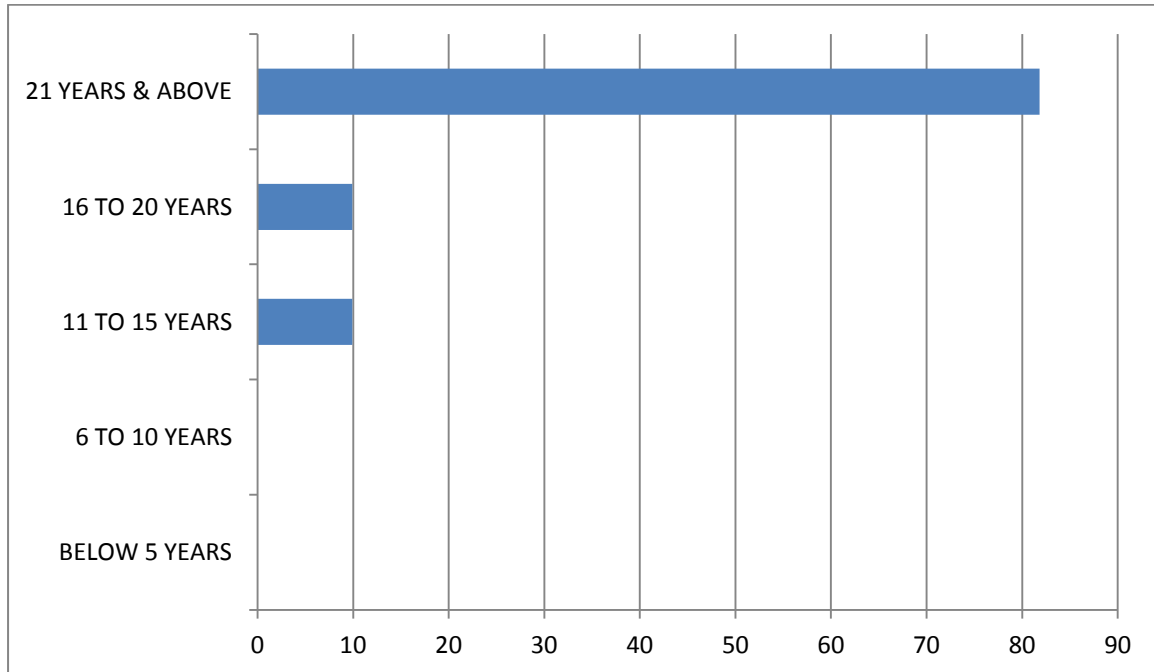


Figure 3 depicts that most of the respondents (81.8%) had stayed in the Dan village for 21 years and above. The figure further shows that some of the respondents had 11 to 15 years and others had 16 to 20 years (9.1%) respectively of living in the Dan village. The findings show that all respondents stayed long enough to understand what was going on in the village in relation to the subject of the study as the majority of the respondents knew the area very well as they had stayed for more than 21 years.

4.2.1.4 Education of the respondents

Figure 4. Level of education of the respondents

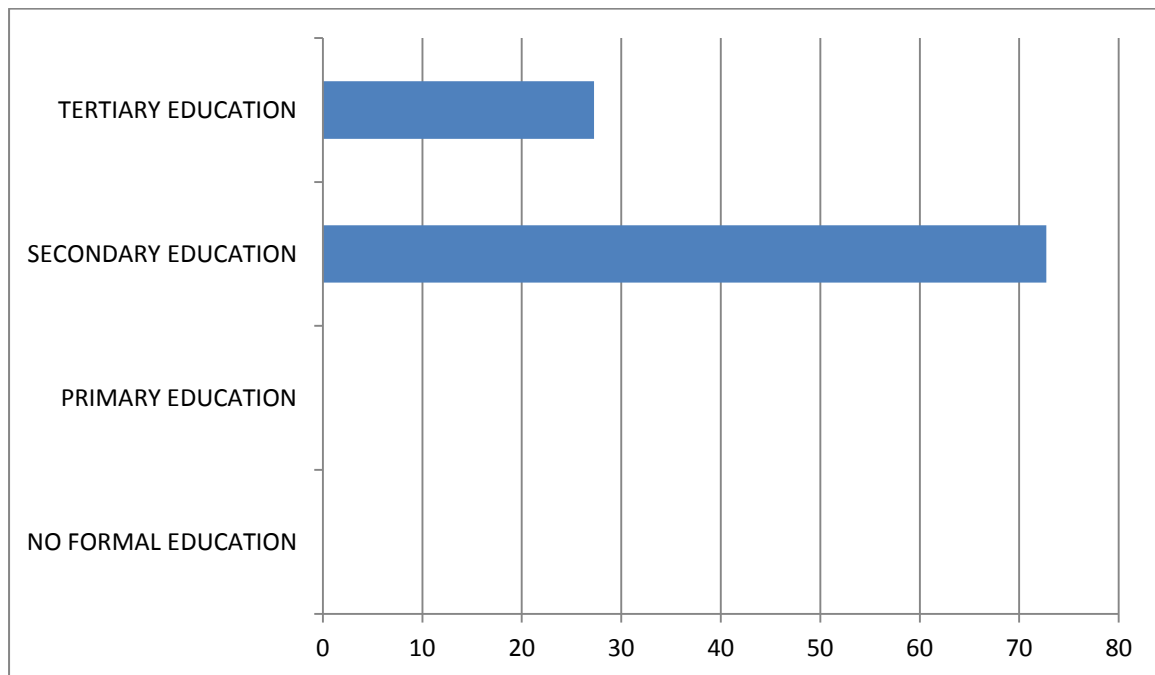
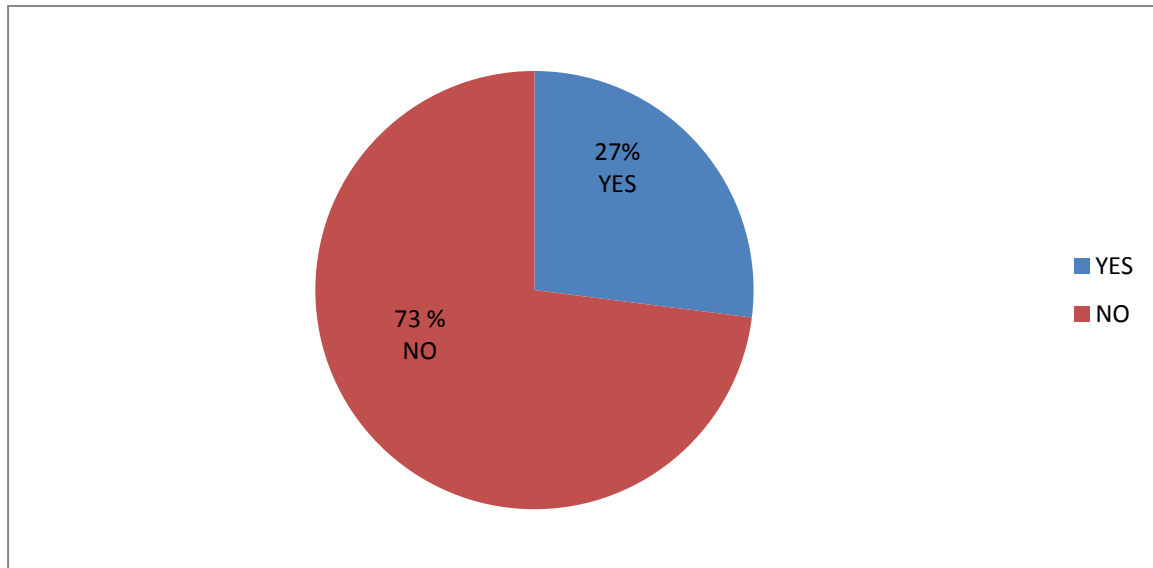


Figure 4 shows that the respondents could read and write as a majority of them (72.7%) had secondary education while 3 (27.3%) of the respondents had tertiary education. The finding shows that all the respondents had the formal school levels enough to enable them to understand the questions that were asked to them.

4.2.1.5 Have you ever worked as a member in any group which deals with violence against women?

Figure 5. Respondents' experience about violence against women



The findings shows that the majority of respondents 8 (73%) indicated that they had no exposure, while 3 (27%) said they had worked as members in groups which dealt with issues about violence against women such as community policing forum members and volunteering at Victim Empowerment Programme Centres. Results of the study depict that a large proportion of respondents did not have experience of working as members in any group which dealt with violence against women. This means that there is still much to be done in fighting violence against women in the study area.

4.2.2 THE NATURE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

4.2.2.1 Respondents' understanding of the term violence against women

Table 1 Response on respondents' understanding about the term 'violence against women'

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
When women are being beaten up	4	36.3
Being raped	2	18.2
Oppression towards women	1	9.1
Deprivation of women's freedom	1	9.1
Women being killed	1	9.1
Violation of women rights	1	9.1
To be insulted all the time	1	9.1
Total	11	100

The respondents 4 (36.3%) associated violence against women with being beaten up and 2 (18.2%) associated it with being raped. Some respondents (9.1%) indicated that killing a woman and being insulted are regarded as violence against women. The table shows that one (9.1%) respondent indicated that oppression towards women is violence against women. It also indicates that another respondent (9.1%) respectively stated that deprivation of women's freedom and violation of women rights are violence against women. The result shows that violence against women according to the respondents is more linked to physical aspects followed by sexual abuses which suggest a low level of understanding about the psychological or emotional abuse of women.

4.2.2.2 Have you heard or seen physical abuses on women in your area?

The finding shows that all respondents 11(100%) agreed that they had heard or seen physical abuses of women in the area. All the respondents witnessed that there was physical abuse of women happening in the area. Respondent No 4 explained that:

“I once saw women being beaten and stabbed by their husbands or partners”

Likewise, respondent no 1 indicated that *“as a traditional leader the community [are] report cases of physical abuse to me”*.

4.2.2.3 Do you think women are facing sexual assaults in the area?

Respondents were asked about sexual assault on women in the area. The finding shows that all respondents 11 (100%) perceived that women were facing sexual assaults in the area. Respondent No 6 indicated that: *“(8) eight men gang raped a woman a month ago”*.

Likewise, respondent no 10 also supported the statement that since he volunteered at the Victim Support Centre, numerous cases about rape have been reported. The result shows that indeed women were facing sexual assaults in the area.

4.2.2.4 In your opinion, do women face economic violence in your area?

The finding shows that the majority of respondents 10 (90%) agreed that women face economic violence in their area while respondent 1 (10%) indicated that he is not sure about the issue. Respondent No. 8 said “men are not maintaining their partners instead they are utilising [using] all the money on alcohol and they also take control over their partners’ salaries”. Respondent No. 1 indicated that he does not have information regarding the issue.

4.2.2. 5 How do you describe the current level of violence against women in your area?

Table 2 Respondents' view on the level of violence against women

Responses	Frequency	Percentage
Increasing	8	72.7
Same	3	27.3
Decreasing	0	0
Total	11	100

Table 2 shows that a majority of the respondents (72.7%) agreed that the level of violence against women had been increasing in the area. They stated that since gangsters called “Boko haram” and “Sangking” established themselves in the area, crime had continued to increase day by day. They further indicated that the high rate of crime happening in the area came to the attention of the Premier of Limpopo province, Mr Stan Mathabatha who later intervened. Only respondents 3(27.3%) indicated that the current level of violence against women in the area had not changed overtime. The respondents stated that the area was known to be a dangerous especially during the night. The result shows that the level of violence against women had been increasing in the area during the time of the study.

4.2.2.6 In your opinion, who are perpetuating violence against women in your area?

Table 3 Respondents' response on who are perpetuating violence against women

Perpetrators	Frequency	Percentage
Partners	5	45.4
Family members	3	27.3
Gangsters	2	18.2
Strangers	1	9.1
Total	11	100

The table above depicts that a majority of respondents 5 (45.4%) stated that violence against women was committed by victims' partners, followed by 3 (27.3%) respondents indicating that violence against women was committed by family members. This indicated that sons were raping their mothers and fathers were sleeping with their daughters or uncles raped their nieces. Two 2 (18.2%) respondents stated that violence on women was committed by gangsters that operate in the area. The gangsters attack, rob and gang rape women during the night and early hours of the morning. One 1 (9.1%) respondent said they are strangers because they were unknown to the victims. The result shows that people who are committing violence against women were mostly partners, followed by family members, gangsters and strangers.

4.2.2.7 What is the reaction of community members about violence against women in your area?

Table 4 Response on community members' reaction about violence against women

Reactions	Frequency	Percentage
Angry about the situation	2	18.18
Afraid to take action	2	18.18
Feel helpless	2	18.18
Blaming the Justice system	2	18.18
Blaming the police	2	18.18
Fear for their safety	1	9.1
Total	11	100

The table above shows that respondents 2(18.18%) said that the community felt angry about the situation. Two 2(18.18%) stated that the community members were afraid to take action towards violence against women. Respondents 2(18.18%) revealed that the community felt helpless about the violence against women. The

table also shows that respondents 2 (18.18%) indicated that the community was blaming the justice system for granting the perpetrators bail and short sentences whilst respondents 2 (18.18%) indicated that the community blamed the police for not arresting the perpetrators while respondent 1 (9.1%) said they feared for their safety. The result shows that the community members were angry, afraid to take action, felt helpless, feared for their safety, blaming the police and the Department of Justice for not taking serious action about violence on women happening in their area.

4.2.2. 8 Do you think violence affects women life in your area?

The finding shows that all respondents 11 (100%) indicated that violence affected women life in their area. Respondent 4 said that: *“when the woman raped is at risk of being infected by diseases or conceive unwanted pregnancy”*.

Likewise respondent no 7 indicated that *“when a woman is beaten or insulted all the time she develop[s] [a] low self-esteem”*. The findings depict that all respondents agreed that women’s lives were affected badly by gender-based violence.

4.2.2.9 Do survivors of violence seek help or report to local leaders in your area?

The finding shows that the majority (55%) of respondents stated that survivors were not seeking help or reporting to the local leaders or the police as they were ashamed, afraid or discouraged because the Department of Justice releases the perpetrators. Some cases, for instance, where the husband has beaten his wife or an uncle has raped his niece or even the mother being raped by her biological son, were not reported because these cases were often treated as family matters. Five 5 (45%) respondents reported that survivors did report to the local leaders or the police.

4.2.3 Factors that influence violence against women

4.2.3.1 In your opinion, what are the reasons for violence against women in your area?

Table 5 Respondents' reasons for violence against women

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Alcohol and drug abuse	6	54.5
Gangsters' influence	1	9.1
Culture	1	9.1
Unemployment	1	9.1
Women exposed themselves to violence	1	9.1
Childhood experience	1	9.1
Total	11	100

Table 5 above shows that a majority of respondents (54.5%) believed that alcohol and drug abuse were the reasons for violence against women in their area. Respondent no 7 said that: *“men are abusing alcohol and dagga and as a result they [are] unable to control themselves”*.

One respondent (9.1%) indicated that gangsters' influence was the reason for violence against women whereas another stated that unemployment was another reason for violence against women. Respondent (9.1%) mentioned that culture was the reason for violence against women while 1 respondent (9.1%) alluded that women exposed themselves to violence when they walk alone to and from the taverns at night.

Likewise 1 respondent (9.1%) said *“some men have learnt violence at childhood level”*. The findings show that the main reason for violence against women in Dan village is alcohol and drug abuse.

4.2.3.2 What are the causes for physical abuse against women in your area?

Table 6 Causes for physical abuse against women

Causes	Frequency	Percentage
Alcohol abuse	6	54.5
Male dominance	3	27.3
Jealous	1	9.1
Culture	1	9.1
Total	11	100

Table 6 above indicates that, the majority of respondents (54.5%) believed that alcohol abuse was the cause for physical abuse while 3 (27.3%) agreed that it is male dominance. Furthermore, 1(9.1%) respectively mentioned jealous and culture as the cause of physical abuse in their area. According to the study, the result indicates that alcohol abuse was the main cause of physical abuse in their area followed by dominant power.

4.2.3.3 What are the causes for psychological or emotional abuse of women in your area?

Table 7 Causes for psychological or emotional abuse of women

Causes	Frequency	Percentage
Jealous, alcohol and drug abuse	5	45.4
Unemployment	4	36.4
Extramarital affairs	2	18.2
Total	11	100

The table above shows that 5 (45.4%) of respondents indicated that jealous, alcohol and drug abuse were the causes of psychological or emotional abuse of women, while 4 (36.4%) respondents mentioned that it was caused by lack of employment. Respondent No 5 said that

“my sister was accused of sleeping around and she was insulted all the time for something she did not do”. Furthermore, 2 (18.2%) of the respondents believed that extramarital affairs were the cause of psychological or emotional abuse of women. Respondent No 3 said that *“men can insult you for no reason as they know that you cannot do anything”*. These findings show that 5 (45%) of the respondents believed that jealous, alcohol and drug abuse were the main causes of psychological or emotional abuse of women in their area.

4.2.3.4 Why do women face economic violence within their family or at community level in your area?

Table 8 Reasons why women face economic violence

Reasons	Frequency	Percentage
Unemployment	7	63.6
Poverty	3	27.3
Dependency	1	9.1
Total	11	100

Table 8 above indicates that 7 (63.6%) of respondents mentioned unemployment as the reason why women faced economic violence, followed by 3 (27.3%) of the respondents who stated poverty and 1 (9.1%) who alluded that dependency was the reason for economic violence. According to the study, the results show that unemployment was the main reason why women faced economic violence within their family or at the community level in their area.

4.2.4 Measures or strategies to reduce violence against women

4.2.4.1 What measures are being taken by local authorities and leaders to reduce violence against women?

Table 9 Measures being taken to reduce violence

Measures	Frequency	Percentage
Report cases to the police	4	36.3
Counselling	2	18.2
Refer to social worker's office	2	18.2
Election of community policing forum	1	9.1
Street committee elected	1	9.1
Nothing	1	9.1
Total	11	100

The table above shows that 4 (36.3%) of the respondents indicated that the measures that were taken by local authorities and leaders to reduce violence against women were to refer the cases to the police. Furthermore, 2 (18.2%) of the respondents respectively stated that the leaders sometimes gave counselling to couples in order to solve the problem, while on the other hand they referred the cases to the social workers' offices. One respondent (9.1%) mentioned that the community policing forum was elected to reduce violence against women whereas another respondent also stated that street committees were elected. Lastly, one respondent indicated that:

"nothing had been done to reduce violence against women in their area as the community was afraid to take action". Therefore, the respondents indicated that measures being taken by the local leaders and authorities to reduce violence against women were basically to refer cases to the police.

4.2.4.2 Do you think the measures taken by local authorities and leaders are adequate, please explain?

The findings in response to this question show that 7 (63.6%) of the respondents indicated that the measures were not adequate as violence was still increasing in the area. However, 4 (36.4%) of the respondents believed that the measures that were taken were adequate as some members of the gangsters were being arrested. The finding shows that the majority of respondents believed that the measures taken by local authorities and leaders in order to reduce violence against women in the area were not adequate.

4.2.4.3 What needs to be done to reduce violence against women in your area?

Table 10 Respondents' strategies on what should be done

Strategies	Frequency	Percentage
Awareness campaigns to the community	4	36.3
Educational talk to men and women about violence against women	2	18.2
Long sentencing	1	9.1
South African Police Services to be effective	1	9.1
Gangster groups to be destroyed	1	9.1
Department of Justice's system to be improved	1	9.1
Job creation	1	9.1
Total	11	100

The table above shows that 4 (36.3%) of the respondents thought that awareness campaigns could reduce violence against women. Respondent No 11 said *“awareness campaigns to the community can alert the community on how serious*

violence is against women in their area". Two respondents (18.2%) mentioned that educational talk to men and women could reduce violence against women. One respondent 9.1% stated that the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development should improve their system to work effectively. One respondent (9.1%) said that long jail sentences, SAPS' effectiveness and also job creation could reduce violence against women. Respondent no 1 responded by saying that *"gangsters should be prohibited in the area to reduce violence against women"*. Respondent No 3 said that *"the gangster called Boko-Haram should be destroyed so that violence against women within the Dan village may be reduced"*. According to the study, the majority of respondents' believe that awareness campaigns to the community will reduce violence against women in the area.

4.3 PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS FROM FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSIONS

The participants of the focus group discussion were members of community and civic organisations. The focus group sessions included two female only groups (focus groups A and B) and three mixed groups (focus groups C, D and E) to enrich the findings. The focus groups consisted of 34 participants.

4.3.1 Summary of Biographical details of focus group participants

The finding shows that 35% of the respondents were from the age group of 40 to 49 followed by 26% in the age group 50-59 years. The finding indicates that 82% of the respondents were female and 18% were male. The result shows that 79% of the respondents were Tsonga speaking people, followed by Pedis at 21% of the respondents. The finding further shows that 44% of the respondents attended secondary school and 38% went to tertiary.

4.3.2 Aspects of the nature of violence against women

4.3.2.1 Can you tell me what you understand by the term ‘violence against women’?

Out of five (5) focus groups, groups A, B, C and E said that ‘violence against women’ is when women are being beaten up, raped, insulted and have no control over their money whereas group D said that ‘violence against women’ is when women are being killed, lack freedom and their rights are violated. These findings indicate that the majority of groups agreed that ‘violence against women includes being beaten up, rape, insults and having no control over their money.

4.3.2.2 What kind of physical abuses on women have you heard about or seen in your area?

Out of (5) five focus groups, three (3) groups; A, B and C agreed that they had heard or seen physical abuses on women such as beatings and killings whereas two (2) other groups; D and E agreed that the kind of physical abuses that they had heard or seen were of women being stabbed, burned and shot. The findings show that a majority of the groups agreed that they had heard or seen physical abuses such as beatings, killings, stabbing and burnings of women in their area.

4.3.2.3 What kind of psychological or emotional violence on women is happening in your area?

Out of (5) five focus groups, (2) two groups; A and B said psychological or emotional violence that happened in the area was when women were insulted with name calling that was offensive. Group C indicated that psychological or emotional violence on women happened when partners had extramarital affairs and were insulted all the time. Group E which had mixed members from the communities mentioned that the psychological or emotional violence on women happened when women were called by offensive names while their partners had extramarital affairs and often insulted them. Group D was a mixed group representing the communities allegedly accused for having affairs and were criticised all the time as part of psychological or emotional violence against women. The findings indicate that to be insulted, called by offensive names, having extramarital affairs, being falsely

accused and criticised were among the psychological or emotional violence perpetuated against women.

4.3.2. 4 What kind of sexual assault do women face in your area?

Out of (5) five focus groups, all of them agreed that sexual assault faced by women in the area involved rape while group A and group B added that marital rape was another sexual assault that some women faced in the area. The findings show that all focus groups' believed that the most common assault experienced by women in the area was rape in its various forms.

4.3.2. 5 Tell me the economic violence that women are facing in your area?

All (5) five focus groups agreed that the economic violence that women faced was that men were not maintaining their families and the burden was left with women to look after the children. Out of (5) five focus groups, (4) four focus groups; A, B, D and E also said that the economic violence that women faced was when women not having control over their money (or salary). Four (4) focus groups; A, C, D and E said that the economic violence that women faced was when women were not allowed to go to work but depended on their partners who were not even taking care of them. Group B and D also indicated that economic violence that women faced was when the in-laws would take away their properties or belongings after their husband's or partner's death. The findings show that the majority of groups' believed that economic violence that women faced were none maintenance from their husbands or partners followed by not having control over family finances including their own salary and being prohibited to go to work.

4.3.2. 6 Who do you think are committing violence on women in your area?

All (5) five focus groups; A, B, C, D and E said violence against women was committed by husbands or partners and family members in their area. Out of (5) five focus groups, (4) four groups; A, B, D and E said strangers were also committing violence against women in their area. Group A added that gangsters were also committing violence against women in the area. Both Group A and B agreed that

relatives were also committing violence against women especially the in-laws. The findings show that the violence against women was committed by partners, family members, strangers, gangsters, and relatives of the victims.

4.3.2.7 Do survivors of violence, especially women seek help and report?

Out of (5) five focus groups, two (2) groups; D and E agreed that survivors of violence seek help and report the incidents. Another two (2) focus groups; A and B said the survivors of violence were not seeking help or reporting the incidents. On the other hand group C said some of the survivors of violence sought help and reported while some did not seek help or report the incidents. The findings show that some of the survivors sought help and reported the cases whereas some did not seek help or report as they were afraid of stigmatization, intimidation, threats and more victimization.

4.3.2.8 How does violence affect women's lives in your area?

All five (5) focus groups said women who were affected by violence in their lives were stressed about the situation. Group A, C and E said women felt angry about the violence that is happening to them. Group C, D and E said women may have low self-esteem after the violence while group B, D and E indicated that women may blame themselves for violence that is occurring in their lives. Lastly, Group A also mentioned that women may be traumatised after the incidents. The findings show that women who are affected by violence may feel stressed, traumatised, angry, have low self-esteem and blame themselves for the violence's occurrence to them.

4.3.3 Factors that influence violence against women

4.3.3.1 What are the reasons for the increasing level of violence against women in your area?

All (5) five focus groups agreed that alcohol and drug abuse was the reason why violence against women was increasing in the area. Four (4) focus groups; B, C, D and E out of five (5) focus groups still believed that violence against women was increasing because of the gangster groups that were operating in the area. Group C

and E said that peer pressure was also the reason for increasing violence against women in the area meanwhile Group B agreed that another reason for increasing violence against women was that cases were not reported and perpetrators went on with their violent acts undeterred. The group further stated that more reasons for increasing violence against women were that perpetrators were not punished as the Department of Justice was not effectively dealing with the cases. The findings show that the main reasons for increasing levels of violence against women in the area were alcohol and drug abuse, and gangster groups.

4.3.3.2 What are the causes for physical and emotional abuses of women in your area?

All (5) five focus group said alcohol and drug abuse were the cause of physical and emotional abuse of women. Group A said culture, environment and extramarital affairs were contributory causes. Group B agreed that jealous and extramarital affairs caused physical and emotional abuse to women. Group C agreed that culture and unemployment contribute to the physical and emotional abuses of women. Male power and unemployment were stated by group D that they were the causes while group E agreed that the environment and male power were also the causes of physical and emotional abuses of women. The findings indicate that the main causes of physical and emotional abuse of women in the area were alcohol and drug abuse followed by culture, male power, unemployment, environment, and extramarital affairs.

4.3.3.3 Why do women continue to face economic violence in your area?

Out of (5) five focus groups, (4) four groups; A, C, D and E said unemployment was the reason why some women face economic violence. Group A, D and E agreed that dependency is also the reason for economic violence on women. The other reasons were poverty stated by group E and lastly extramarital affairs that group B indicated in their discussions. The results show that the main reasons why women continue to face economic violence in the area is due to unemployment that women are experiencing, followed by dependency which makes women to be more vulnerable to economic violence.

4.3.3.4 Do you think being unemployed puts women at risk of facing violence? Please explain.

All (5) five focus groups agreed that unemployed women are at risk of violence because they depend on men who are taking advantage of that and end up abusing them and some women may be promised jobs or employment in exchange for sexual favours. The findings show that women who are not working are at risk of facing violence because they may be vulnerable to men.

4.3.3.5 Do you think cultural practices play an important role on violence against women? Please explain.

All (5) five focus groups agreed that cultural practices play an important role on violence against women, because culturally women should submit to be controlled by men. Physical and sexual violence are used against women to demonstrate male power and it seems normal to do so. The groups also indicated that culturally women are not supposed to take any decision even if it is regarding their wellbeing, and some men still consider cultural practices even if they violate women's rights. The findings reveal that cultural practices are contributing to violence against women in the area.

4.3.4 Measures or strategies to reduce violence against women

4.3.4.1 What measures are being taken by local authorities and leaders to reduce violence against women?

All (5) focus groups agreed that local authorities and leaders reduce violence against women by referring the cases to the police and social workers. Group A, B, C and D also agreed that another measure to reduce violence against women in their area was the election of the community policing forum. Group A and D further indicated that the local authorities and leaders also elected the street committees reduce violence against women in the area while group C and E added that counselling was being conducted to reduce violence against women especially the married couples. The results show that the main measures that the local authorities and leaders were

using to reduce violence against women in the area were to report cases to the police and social workers' offices. The findings further indicated that the community policing forum was also used as a measure to reduce violence against women.

4.3.4.2 Do you think the measures taken by the local authorities and leaders are adequate, please explain?

All (5) five focus groups said the existing measures were not adequate to reduce violence against women because after the cases had been reported, either the police would not investigate or the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development would release the perpetrators. The other reason was that the local authorities and leaders who were giving victims and perpetrators counselling were not trained to do so.

4.3.4.3 Do you have any suggestions or ideas for reducing violence against women in your area?

All (5) five focus groups suggested that awareness campaigns should be conducted to reduce violence against women. Group A, B, D and E agreed that the justice system should be strengthened in order to reduce violence against women and group A, D and E further indicated that police investigations also should be effective. Group A, B and C suggested that educational talk to men and women should be conducted. Group A and E also suggested the installation of Apollo lights during the night to enhance vigilance during the night. Group D and E insisted that victims should report cases so that the perpetrators may be punished. Group B suggested that there should be no bail for the perpetrators so that potential perpetrators who think about committing such acts should be discouraged. Lastly, group C suggested that jobs should be created in order for women to be economically independent to avoid the risk of facing violence. The results show that in order to reduce violence against women, there is a need for awareness campaigns in the community, the justice system should be strengthened; police investigations must be effective; educational talks to men and women has to be conducted; Apollo lights need to be installed; no bail should be given to perpetrators; more jobs should be created and victims should report all cases.

4.4 SUMMARY OF THE FINDINGS

The empirical investigation collected data in the form of interview and focus group discussions. The findings are discussed below in relation to the study objectives.

Objective 1: To examine the nature of violence against women in Dan village

4.4.1 Respondents' understanding of the term violence against women

- According to the findings from interview, the majority 72% of respondents indicated that the term violence against women is when women are beaten up and raped.
- The findings from focus group also show that violence against women includes insults and no control over their money besides being beaten up and rape.

4.4.2 Physical abuse heard or seen in the area

- The findings from interview reveals that all respondents 100% witness that there is physical abuse on women that is happening in the area.
- The findings from focus group also highlights that they have heard or seen physical abuses such as beatings, killings, stabbing and burnings on women in their area.

4.4.3 Sexual assaults faced by women in the area

- The findings from interview reveals that all the respondents 100% agreed that women are facing sexual assaults in the area.
- The findings from focus group also show that sexual assault faced by women in the area is rape. Few groups added that women also faced sexual assault such as forced sexual intercourse, and they indicated that this kind of assault is happening to women who are married mostly.

4.4.4 Economic violence faced in the area

- The finding from interview shows that the majority of respondents 90% agreed that women face economic violence in their area.
- The findings from the focus group also highlights that the economic violence that women are facing is that men are not maintaining their families and the burden is left with women to look after the children.

4.4.5 The current level of violence against women in your area

- The findings from interview reveal that the majority 72% of respondents agreed that the current level of violence against women is increasing in the area.
- The findings from the focus groups also show that alcohol and drug abuse is the reason why violence against women is increasing in the area.

4.4.6 Who are perpetuating violence against women in your area?

- The findings from the interview show that the majority 45% of respondents stated that violence against women is committed by victims' partners.
- The findings from the focus groups also highlights that violence against women is committed by husbands or partners and family members in their area.

4.4.7 The reaction of community members about violence against women in your area

- The findings from the interview show that the respondents indicated that the community feels angry about the situation, afraid to take action, feels helpless and the community is blaming the justice system for giving the perpetrators bail and short sentence.

4.4.8 Do survivors of violence, especially women seek help and report?

- The findings from the interview reveal that the majority 54% of respondents stated that survivors are not seeking help or report to the local leaders or police as they are ashamed, afraid, discouraged because Department of justice is releasing the perpetrators.
- The findings from the focus group show that some of the survivors seek help and report the cases and some do not seek help or report as they are afraid of stigmatization, intimidation, threats and more victimization.

4.4.9 Violence affect women's lives in your area

- The findings from the interview show that the majority 100% of respondents indicated that violence affects women life in their area.
- The findings from the focus groups highlights that women who are affected by violence in their lives are stressed about the situation.

Objective 2: To determine the factors that influence violence against women

4.4.10 The reasons for violence against women in your area

- The findings from the interview show that the majority 54% of respondent belief that alcohol and drug abuse is the reasons for violence against women in their area.
- The findings from the focus groups also show that alcohol and drug abuse is the reason why violence against women is increasing in the area.

4.4.11 The causes for physical abuse against women in your area

- The findings from the interview show that the majority 54% of respondents stated alcohol abuse is the cause for physical abuse
- The finding from the focus groups also highlights that alcohol and drug abuse is the cause of physical and emotional abuse of women.

4.4.12 The causes for psychological or emotional abuse of women in your area

- The findings from the interview reveal that 45% of respondents indicated that jealous, and alcohol and drug abuse is the cause of psychological or emotional abuse of women, respectively.
- The findings from the focus group also show that alcohol and drug abuse is the cause of physical and emotional abuse of women.

4.4.13 The reason women continue to face economic violence in your area

- According to the findings from the interview, 63% of respondents mentioned unemployment as the reason why women face economic violence
- The findings from the focus groups also show that unemployment is the reason why women face economic violence.

4.4.14 Unemployed puts women at risk of facing violence

- The findings from the focus groups show that women who are not working are at risk of facing violence

4.4.15 Cultural practices play an important role on violence against women

- The findings from the focus groups reveal that culture practices are contributing to violence against women in the area.

Objective 3: To suggest alternative intervention strategies to fight violence against women

4.4.16 Measures are being taken by local authorities and leaders to reduce violence against women

- The findings from the interview reveal that 36%of respondents indicated that the measure that is taken by local authorities and leaders to reduce violence against women is to refer the cases to the police.

- The findings from the focus groups also highlight that local authorities and leaders reduce violence against women by referring the cases to the police and social workers.

4.4.17 Whether measures taken by local authorities and leaders are adequate

- According to the findings from the interview, the majority 63% of respondents indicated that the measures are not adequate to reduce violence against women.
- The findings from the focus groups also show that the measures are not adequate to reduce violence against women

4.4.18 Suggestions or ideas for reducing violence against women in your area?

- The findings from the interview reveal that 36% of respondents indicated that the awareness campaigns can reduce violence against women.
- The findings from the focus groups also highlight that awareness campaign should be conducted to reduce violence against women.

4.5 Conclusion

This chapter presented key findings of the study by focusing on the major factors that exposed the level of violence against women in the study area. The chapter started off by providing the demographic profile and the experience of the respondents on the research problem. The study has pointed the nature and some of the factors that influence violence against women, followed by presentation and discussion of the issues around violence against women. As an arm of the government SAPS and the community policing forums have been established with the aim of fighting violence and crime at large. However, violence against women has been increasing in the area and the situation is becoming unbearable. The study has indicated measures or strategies to be implemented in order to reduce violence against women.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

As indicated in chapter one (1), the aim of this research is to explore the community perception towards violence against women. Illustrated from the aim of the study, the following objectives were addressed:

- To examine the nature of violence against women in Dan village;
- To determine the factors that influence violence against women; and
- To suggest alternative intervention strategies to fight violence against women

In this chapter, the researcher draws conclusions of the study and makes recommendations against issues that were raised. The researcher also identified issues that need further research. It starts off first by summing up the main points of the study which are the nature of the violence against women in the area, the factors that influence violence and the measures or strategies in place to reduce it. The last part of the chapter provides suggestions on how to improve the strategies in place to reduce violence against women.

5.2 OVERVIEW OF THE STUDY

Chapter one focused on the layout of the research study. It explained the background of the study, problem statement, and motivation of the study, significant of the study, aim or purpose of the study, research objectives and research methods. Qualitative research methods will be used in gathering and analysing data.

Chapter two focused on understanding the various factors which influence the violence against women. The literature review focused on three aspects which is the nature of violence, causes and its effects.

Chapter three provided detailed information about the chosen research design or strategy which was considered to be fit for the kind of study which was embarked upon. The methodology also provided detailed information with regard to Dan village as a study area, the target population for the study, the sample selection, method and size, chosen data collection methods for the study, chosen data analysis methods for the study and fundamental ethical issues which were considered by the researcher during the study.

Chapter four provides detailed analysis and presentation of findings from both one-on-one interview and focus group sessions. The last chapter deals with summary of findings, conclusions and recommendations.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS

The following conclusions have been made based on the findings from, interview, focus group discussions and literature review detailed as follow:

Objective 1: To examine the nature of violence against women in Dan village

5.3.1 Participants perceived violence against women as physical (being beaten up), sexual (rape), emotional (insults) and economic (no control over their money)

The finding shows that participants described violence against women being beaten up, rape, insults and no control over their money. Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014) fairly agreed with the study that the term “violence against women” encompasses many forms of violence, including: violence by an intimate partner (intimate partner violence) and rape/sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence perpetrated by someone other than a partner (non-partner sexual violence), female genital mutilation, honour killings or crimes, the trafficking of women, early and forced marriage, forced pregnancy, sexual harassment in the workplace, other institutions and in public places, violence condoned by the State and violence in conflict situations

5.3.2 Physical abuse (beatings, killings, stabbing and burning) on women are common phenomena in the area

The findings highlight that participants have heard or seen physical abuses such as beatings, killings, stabbing and burnings on women in their area. Mkhonto et al

(2014) agreed that most acts of physical violence resulted in severe injuries, profuse bleeding, pain, and burns that necessitated immediate consultation and/or admission into the public hospital. Instances of physical violence included slaps, punches, kicking, beating with a stick, burning, and use of weapons (Yigzaw et al, 2010).

5.3.3 Psychological or emotional violence (name calling, insults, criticism, accusation and extramarital affairs) are happening in their area

The findings show that psychological or emotional violence that women faced are name calling, insults, criticisms, accusation and extramarital affairs. According to Shilubane and Khoza (2014) study the majority of participants experienced emotional violence such as swearing, yelling, and calling names as commonly used by their partners. Yigzaw et al (2010) agreed that examples of psychological abuse presented as experiences included insults, constant degradation, calling of names, and withholding family support.

5.3.4 Women are facing sexual violence (rape and forced sexual intercourse) in their area

According to the findings, women are facing sexual assault in the area i.e. rape and forced sexual intercourse. The sexual assaults such as rape and forced sexual intercourse are faced by women, including those who are married. In many parts of the world, women are expected to be submissive and sexually available to their husbands at all times, and it is considered both a right and an obligation for men to use violence in order to correct or chastise women for perceived transgressions (Ellsberg, 2006).

5.3.5 Women are facing economic violence (no maintenance from their partner and no control over their money) in their area

The findings highlight that women are facing economic violence as men are not maintaining their partners instead they are utilising all the money on alcohol and they also take control over their partners' money (salaries). Shilubane and Khoza (2014) concur with the findings that when the husband is fighting with his wife, he ends up punishing his wife by not giving her money for food, clothes and family health care.

5.3.6 The level of violence against women is increasing from time to time in their area

The findings show that the current level of violence against women is increasing in the area. It has been argued that there is an unavoidable, irreducible reality that every single piece of reliable data we have tells us that South Africa ranks at the very top of the world's league tables for violent crime (Altbeker cited in Macmaster, 2010).

5.3.7 Violence on women is committed by people who are very close to them including their own husband and family members in the area

The findings show that perpetrators who are committing violence on women mostly are partners or husbands and family members. Shilubane and Khoza (2014) agreed with the study that males who are or have been in positions of trust, intimacy and power usually perpetrate violence in the domestic sphere. They can be husbands, boyfriends, fathers, stepfathers or other relatives. In most cases violence is violence perpetrated by men against women. A woman is more likely to be assaulted, injured, raped, or killed by a current or former partner than by any other person (Ellsberg and Heise, 2005; Ellsberg, Jansen, Heise, Watts and Garcia-Moreno, 2008).

5.3.8 The community members feel angry and disappointed by the justice system against violence on women in their area

The findings show that the respondents indicated that the community feels angry about the situation, afraid to take action, feels helpless and the community is blaming the justice system for giving the perpetrators bail and short sentence. Rebecca Davies, journalist for the *Daily Maverick*, writes on 22 Aug 2013: "Violence against women is certainly the most pressing, life-threatening and shocking danger women face in South Africa, and it has come to the fore of our national conversation in a much-needed way this year, due largely to the murders of Booyesen and Steenkamp".

5.3.9 Survivors of violence do not seek help or report to local leaders in their area

The findings highlight that survivors of violence does not seek help or report to local leaders. Ellsberg (2006) agree with the study that violence within the family is considered a private matter in which outsiders, including government authorities, should not intervene. For unmarried women, sexual violence is so stigmatizing that most women prefer to suffer in silence than to risk the shame and discrimination that would result from disclosure. Abeya, Afework and Yalew (2012) also agree that most women do not report cases of violence by their intimate partner primarily due to the fact that they may be stigmatized and ashamed by the community.

5.3.10 Women in their area are continue to suffer due to violence

According to the findings, women who are affected by violence may feel stressed, traumatised, angry, have low self-esteem and blame themselves for the violence's occurrence to them. Women who are repeatedly abused experience high levels of stress and stress-related illnesses such as post-traumatic stress syndrome, panic attacks, depression, sleeping and eating disorders, high blood pressure, alcoholism, drug abuse and low self-esteem (Reddi, 2007 and Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay, 2014)

Objective 2: To determine the factors that influence violence against women

5.3.11 Alcohol and drug abuse are the major reasons for violence against women in the area

According to the findings, alcohol and drug abuse are the main causes of physical and psychological or emotional abuse in the area. Van Dyk in Shilubane and Khoza (2014) supported the above statement by saying excessive consumption of alcohol and other drugs has been noted as a factor in provoking aggressive and violent male behaviour towards women. Women Health Victoria (2004) demonstrated that violence contribute to women's mental health issues. Many of our acts of fatal and non-fatal violence occur after alcohol and drug abuse, especially fights, some types

of homicide and rape. Many victims of violence are also rendered vulnerable by alcohol (Medical Research Council, 2009).

5.3.12 Alcohol abuse is the main cause for physical abuse on women in the area

According to the findings, alcohol abuse is the main cause for physical abuse in their area. Bhowan and Munbauhal (2005) agreed that most of the battered women admitted that alcohol was used as a pretext by their husbands to hit them. Ugandan women whose partners often got drunk were six times more likely to report physical intimate partner violence compared to those whose partners never drank alcohol. (Tumwesigye et al, 2012).

5.3.13 Jealous, alcohol and drug abuse are the major causes of psychological or emotional abuses on women in the area

The findings show that the main cause of emotional abuses of women in the area is jealous, alcohol and drug abuse. Peltzer and Pengpid (2013) indicated that having a partner that was a problem drinker and drug user was associated with psychological or emotional intimate partner abuse. Peace (2009) indicated that one area that women confess as a catapult for aggressive behaviour is jealousy, coupled with poor anger management skills.

5.3.14 Unemployment is one of the main reasons why women continue to face economic violence in the area

The findings show that the main reason why women are continue to face economic violence in the area is unemployment. It has been determined that poverty increases a poor woman's vulnerability to partner abuse (Bassuk, Dawsom, and Huntington, 2006).Bhowan and Munbauhal indicated that most of victims of violence were unemployed with low education level and were fully dependent on their husbands.

5.3.15 Unemployed puts women at risk of facing violence in the area

The findings show that women who are not working are at risk of facing violence.Bhowan and Munbauhal harmonise with the study that low socio-economic

status probably reflects a variety of conditions that in combination place a woman at greater risk of being victimized. Kapoor (2000) concur that lack of economic resources underpins women's vulnerability to violence and their difficulty in extricating themselves from a violent relationship. The link between violence and lack of economic resources and dependence is circular.

5.3.16 Cultural practices play an important role over violence against women

The findings show that culture practices play an important role over violence against women. Shilubane and Khoza (2014) concurred with the study that culturally, black women in South Africa are perceived as subordinate and inferior and are not expected to take part in decision making. A cultural perspective mentioned to condone forced sex was that women do not express their sexual desire openly, and men would have to take the initiative, leaving matters of sex to their discretion (Yigzaw et al, 2010).

Objective 3: To suggest alternative intervention strategies to fight violence against women

5.3.17 Local authorities and local leaders play a role in reporting cases to police related to violence against women on behalf of the victims

According to the findings, measure that is being taken by the local authorities and leaders to reduce violence against women is to refer cases to the police. Nangolo and Peltzer (2003) indicated that although some battered women, turned to headmen, to community priests, to magistrate courts and police, to a trusted neighbour or to social workers for help, they felt that the social support system was limited.

5.3.18 Measures taken by local authorities and local leaders is not adequate

The finding shows that the measures that are taken by local authorities and leaders in order to reduce violence against women in the area are not adequate. Those who turned to the police also indicated that the police officers were reluctant to help, telling them that violence between two lovers is a private matter. This again reflects

the ignorance or passivity of the law in helping victims of violence (Nangolo and Peltzer 2003)

5.3.19 Awareness campaign is suggested by respondents as a measure to reduce violence against women

According to the findings, awareness campaign is suggested to be a strategy to reduce violence against women in the area. The educational programs should seek to encourage a balanced relationship in marriage where the husband and wife live and treat each other as equal partners. They should help communities understand the negative consequences of violence against women (Yigzaw et al, 2010). Kapoor (2000) agreed with the study that key areas for intervention include: advocacy and awareness raising, education for building a culture of nonviolence and training.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the conclusion, the following recommendations are made to contribute on the reduction of violence against women:

- a) It is evident that the level of violence against women has been increasing from time to time, yet the local authorities and leader's response is inadequate. It is recommended that collaboration and network among police, social workers and community leaders and representatives needs to be further developed to address various kinds of violence on women. The communities and community based organisations should openly denounce and take practical measures in collaboration with relevant authorities to address the on- going concern in the area.

Most community leaders and representatives as well as local people seem that they lack exposure on the issues of violence on women. It is recommended that various awareness campaigns should be conducted to alert the community that violence against women is a criminal offence and is punishable. The awareness sessions needs to address issues of physical, sexual, emotional and economic abuses on women as well as the role and responsibility of community leaders and local authorities in addressing the aforementioned issues of violence against women.

- b) Alcohol and drug abuse are the major sources of violence against women in the area. It is recommended that there should be strong measures and punishment on alcohol and drug abuse in the local area
- c) The local leaders and communities have expressed their dissatisfaction with the justice system and further voiced their anger on high crime rate, especially violence on women. It is recommended that the criminal justice system should ensure that those who succeeding committing crime will be arrested and successfully prosecuted. It is further recommended that police should have a guideline to monitor response to cases regarding violence on women.
- d) Women continue to suffer due to violence in the area. It is recommended that support should be available to women who experience violence, from Criminal Justice System, Social Development, Health and VEP centres and moreover from family, friends and the community at large.
- e) Lack of economic and employment opportunities in the area hinder women empowerment against violence. It is recommended that job opportunities should be created to reduce the risk of facing violence on women.
- f) Victims fail to seek support and do not report to the police whenever the violence takes place. It is recommended that victims should report cases to the police and demand progress report of the cases.

5.5 CONCLUSIVE REMARKS

The purpose of the study was to explore community perceptions on violence against women in Dan village. From the finding it is evident that the magnitude of violence on women is increasing in the area primarily due to inadequate measures taken by police, justice and community leaders. This study was qualitative in nature and limited to a case study of Dan village. Therefore, the researcher is of the view that further quantitative research should be done to determine the number of cases and violent activities on women. The research should also be replicated to other areas where there is violent crime on women.

From the results of the study, it can be concluded that the level of violence against women is increasing from time to time. The results indicated the following aspects:

First objective: Nature of violence against women

According to Dan community “Violence against women” means physical (being beaten up), sexual (rape), emotional (insults) and economic (no control over their money) acts of abuse towards women which are common phenomena in their area. Violence on women is committed by people who are very close to them including their husband and family members in the area. Survivors of violence do not seek help or report as they are disappointed by the justice system against violence on women in their area.

Second objective: Factors that influence violence against women

The respondents perceived that alcohol and drug abuse are the major reasons for violence against women and unemployment also puts women at risk of facing violence (economic) in the area. Besides alcohol and drug abuse, jealous was also mentioned as the cause of psychological or emotional abuse in the area. Cultural practices were mentioned as one of the factors that influence violence against women in Dan village.

Third objective: To suggest alternative intervention strategies to fight violence against women

According to the respondents, the measure that is being taken by the local authorities and leaders to reduce violence against women is to refer cases to the police and it is not adequate as the police officers are reluctant to help. Awareness campaign is suggested to be a strategy to reduce violence against women in the area. The educational programs are also necessary to encourage a balanced relationship in marriage where the husband and wife live and treat each other as equal partners.

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ANNEXURE A: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR COMMUNITY LEADERS

A. DEMOGRAPHIC PROFILE OF RESPONDENTS

1. What is your age range?

20-29	
30-39	
40-49	
50-59	
60 and above	

2. What is your gender

Male	
Female	

3. For how long have you been living in Dan village?

Below 5 years	
6 to 10 years	
11 to 15 years	
16 to 20 years	
21 years and above	

4. What is your highest education?

No formal education	
Primary education	
Secondary education	
Tertiary education	

5. Have you ever worked as a member in any group which deals about violence against women?

Yes	
No	

If yes, please elaborate on the membership and your role _____

B. THE NATURE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1. What do you understand by the term ‘violence against women’?

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

2. Have you heard or seen about physical abuses on women in your area?

Yes	
No	

If yes please explain:

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

3. Do you think women are facing sexual assaults in your area?

Yes	
No	

If yes please explain:

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

4. In your opinion, do women face economic violence in your area?

Yes	
No	

If yes please explain:

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

5. How do you describe the current level of violence against women in your area?

Decreasing	Same	Increasing

If it is increasing, please explain the extent of violence?

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

6. In your opinion, who are committing violence on women in your area?

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

7. What is the reaction of community members against violence on women in your area?

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

8. Do you think violence affects women life in your area?

Yes	
No	

If yes please explain:

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

9. Do survivors of violence seek help or report to local leaders in your area?

Yes	
No	

If no, please why:

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

C. FACTORS THAT INFLUENCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1. In your opinion, what are the reasons for violence against women in your area?

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

2. What are the causes for physical abuse on women in your area?

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

3. What are the causes for psychological or emotional abuse of women in your area?

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

4. Why women face economic violence within their family or at community level in your area?

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

D. MEASURES OR STRATEGIES TO REDUCE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1. Can you let me know what measures are being taken by local authorities and leaders to reduce violence against women?

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.....
.....

2. Do you think the measures taken by local authorities and leaders are adequate, please explain?

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

3. What needs to be done to reduce violence against women in your area?

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

Thank you in advance for your participation!

ANNEXURE B: FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION CHECKLIST FOR COMMUNITY REPRESENTATIVES

Date: _____

Name of the village: _____

Respondents' membership: _____

Duration: _____

Introduction:

- The researcher introduces herself
- The researcher asks participants to introduce themselves
- The researcher clarifies the purpose of session
- The researcher assures participants that all response are confidential and anonymous
- The researcher thanks participants in advance for their participation in the study
- The researcher requests to capture each respondent's demographic profile

Questions

Aspects of the nature of violence against women

1. Can you tell me what you understand about the term 'violence against women'?
2. What kind of physical abuses on women have you heard about or seen in your area?
3. What kind of psychological or emotional violence on women is happening in your area?
4. What kind of sexual assault women are facing in your area?
5. Tell me the economic violence that women are facing in your area?
6. Who do you think are committing violence on women in your area?
7. Do survivors of violence, especially women seek help and reporting?
8. How does violence affect women's life in your area?

Factors that influence violence against women

1. What are the reasons for increasing level of violence against women in your area?
2. What are the causes for physical and emotional abuses of women in your area?
3. Why women are continue to face economic violence in your area?
4. Do you think being unemployed puts women at risk of facing violence? Please explain
5. Do you think culture practices play an important role over violence against women? Please explain

Measures or strategies to reduce violence against women

4. Can you let me know what measures are being taken by local authorities and leaders to reduce violence against women?
5. Do you think the measures taken by local authorities and leaders are adequate, please explain?
6. Do you have any suggestions or ideas for reducing violence against women in your area?



LIMPOPO PROVINCE
CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE HUMAN
SETTLEMENT AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS
NKUNA TRADITIONAL COUNCIL

Muhlava Royal Palace
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Ref:CH 11/8/5

Enquiry: Chauke HE

Attention Nduna Mavunge and Mbhalati

PERMISSION TO CONDUCT RESEARCH AT DAN VILLAGE

Permission is hereby granted to Matli J, a masters student from University of Limpopo by Nkuna Traditional Council to conduct research at Dan village titled " community perception towards violence against women"

Hope the above is in order

Nkuna Traditional Council





FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

School of Languages & Communication Studies

DATE: 07 July 2017

REF: Editing of Ms R.J. MATLI'S MDev DISSERTATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

This letter serves to confirm that Ms J.R. Matli (Student Number 9817342) submitted her Master's dissertation entitled "*Exploring community perceptions towards violence against women in Dan village*" for proof-reading and language editing to the undersigned. Hence, the document has been proof-read and edited for grammatical and technical errors. It is hoped that if all the editorial aspects (including the list of references) highlighted therein will be attended to, the document will be error-free, enjoyable to read and academically sound.

Kind regards



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