

**EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST
WOMEN IN SESHEGO ZONE 1, LIMPOPO PROVINCE**

By

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DECLARATION A

I declare that the dissertation hereby submitted to the University of Limpopo, for the degree of Masters in Criminology and Criminal Justice 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.

_____. Date_____ Seanego C.L. (Ms)

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This work is dedicated to my mother, P.W. Seanego and to my husband G. Maswanganye for always being there for me and for inspiring me to fulfil my education goals and dreams. This dedication is also extended to my daughters Lethabo and Mahlari.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS AND DESCRIPTIONS

AfCRWC	African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CJS	Criminal Justice System
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
DoJ &CD	Department of Justice and Constitutional Development
DPT	Deviant Place Theory
DVA	Domestic Violence Act
GBH	Grievous Bodily Harm
GBV	Gender-Based Violence
HIV	Human Immune Virus
HRW	Human Rights Watch
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
IPVAW	Intimate Partner Violence Against Women
LPDSD	Limpopo Provincial Department of Social Development
MRC	Medical Research Council
MUT	Mangosuthu University of Technology
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
NISVS	National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey
NISVS	National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey
NPA	National Prosecuting Authority
NRC	National Research Council
PTSD	Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SADHS	South Africa's Demographic and Health Survey
SAGPA	South Africa Gender Protocol Alliance
SAPS	South African Police Service
SJT	Social Justice Theory
STDs	Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STIs	Sexually Transmitted Infections
TCA	Thematic Content Analysis

TREC	Turfloop Research and Ethics Committee
UL	University of Limpopo
USA	United States of America
VAW	Violence Against Women
VAWA	Violence Against Women Act, 1994
WEF	World Economic Forum
WHO	World Health Organisation

ABSTRACT

This study intended to explore Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) against women in the Seshego Zone 1 area, which is situated in the Polokwane Municipality of the Limpopo Province. The different types of IPV against women, the prevalence of IPV against women, the causes of IPV against women, the reasons for not reporting IPV against women, as well as the available measures taken to combat this scourge guided this study.

This study followed a qualitative research approach, where 17 participants were purposively selected, and this was coupled with snowball sampling. Face-to-face in-depth semi-structured interviews were utilised to collect data to explore the IPV against women. The collected data was analysed by means of Inductive Thematic Content Analysis (TCA). The responses were audio recorded and written down to add value to the study findings. Themes and sub-themes were solicited from the participants' verbatim expressions.

This study established that the rate of IPV against women cases are high and has been increasing during the period of study because the victims are not taken seriously when reporting. It was also confirmed that jealousy and poverty are the major causes of IPV against women in the area. The victims often fail to seek support and do not report to the police when the violence takes place. It was also evident that most people seem to lack exposure on the issues of IPV against women and the lack of economic and employment opportunities in the area hinder women empowerment against violence and this should be urgently addressed.

This study recommends that the local police should learn to take the cases of IPV against women seriously so that the rate of violence can decrease and the victims of IPV against women should be able to identify the signs and prevalence of this practice to effectively prevent it. Moreover, the victims should be encouraged to report cases to the police, and they must demand progress reports on the cases. As a result, the women continue to suffer due to violence in the study area.

Moreover, this study suggests that there must be local support groups for women who experience violence in the community to help in detailing the consequences of IPV against women. This should be aided by various awareness campaigns to alert men that IPV against women is a criminal offence, and it is punishable. The government should also support women to start small businesses to reduce full dependence on their partners, thereby reducing the risks of IPV.

Key words: Exploration, experience, violence, intimate partner violence against women, women

CHAPTER ONE

GENERAL ORIENTATION

1.1. BACKGROUND AND MOTIVATION

Women experience cases of violence against them. Such cases span borders of age, class, income levels, education, culture, and race. The cases of violence with women as victims are not restricted to indecent phone calls, insults, imprecation, and shouting. Violence is observed as an abuse of an individual's well-being assuming several dimensions, including but not limited to sexual, physical, and emotional forms (Shilubane & Khoza, 2014:84). However, whatever form the violence takes, it constitutes a means of regulation by norms wherein the submissive position of women is tinted, and their helplessness is heightened (Carter & Weaver, 2003:3). This is one of the challenges that are currently being faced by women in South Africa.

According to World Health Organisation (WHO) (2018:27) available statistical data shows that of the 30% cases on the Violence Against Women (VAW), specifically Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), this scourge is believed to be a gross underestimation of the true extent of the practice. It has been estimated that from 2008-2018, only one in nine women reported incidences of violence. Women are afraid of reporting the violent practices against them as some of them are not aware that there are legal provisions in place to protect them. Banda (2008:16) opines that there is dearth of literature related to the cases of IPV against women. Identifying the precursors to IPV against women may be important for early intervention and prevention efforts (Banda, 2008:16).

Significant legislation such as the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) (No. 116 of 1998) is in place to protect women against violence. In this Act, several key integrated plans, and strategies such as laws against violence, marital rape and human trafficking tend to have been effectively implemented in many nations, including South Africa (World Health Report, 2007:10). For example, the DVA, 1998 was initiated with a view to ensure that women in South Africa are protected from violence. This was done by

ensuring adequate adherence by law enforcement agencies to protect women as much as possible (WHO, 2007:10).

The researcher observed that the cases of IPV against women that were committed in the Seshego area were very disturbing and uncoded. Most of the crimes that were directed to women in the area include but are not limited to physical abuse, emotional abuse, and sexual abuse. This study emanated from the cases that were reported by the South African Police Service (SAPS) at Seshego Police Station that showed that there is a high rate of IPV against women in the area. Moreover, there were limited criminological studies about the violence committed against women by their intimate partners in Seshego. The lack of published scientific criminological studies about the VAW in the Seshego area motivated the researcher to undertake this study.

Furthermore, the researcher was motivated to carry out this study due to the notable and highly documented cases of IPV against women across South Africa [i. e. including the Seshego policing area) where women have been killed by their partners. These include but are not limited to Dibuseng Moss-Chiliza, who was shot dead by her husband at a divorce court in Durban (Nene, 2018:2); Karabo Mokoena, who experienced physical abuse and was killed by her ex-boyfriend (Chabalala, 2018:1); Nandi Mbizane, who went missing after she was last seen with her ex-boyfriend in 2012 (Chil, 2012:1) and Nosiselo Mtebeni, a 23 year old University of Fort Hare student, who was brutally murdered by her boyfriend, Mtebeni's dismembered body was found stuffed in a luggage bag and placed in the street of East London's Quigney suburb (Malibongwe, 2021:2). In another case, Reeve Steenkamp was shot by her boyfriend, Oscar Pistorius, who claimed that it was an accident because he had thought that she was an intruder, this happened after he had woken up in the middle of the night at his Pretoria home (Danniels, 2013:1). This list is just a tip of the iceberg. There are more women who have been abused or killed by their intimate partners, whose cases are neither documented nor have they received any major media coverage.

1.2. RESEARCH PROBLEM

The researcher was concerned about the increasing cases of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1 Limpopo Province, albeit there was an induction of various legislative frameworks, policies, and other relevant measures in the identified policing area. The IPV against women continues to pose a serious challenge in the study location and the experiences are uncoded.

The South Africa Gender Protocol Alliance (SAGPA) (2018:77) reports that most men living in South Africa have committed IPV against women. As a result, the following notable 2019 and 2021 cases, which occurred at Seshego Zone 1 specifically and in Polokwane City in general motivated the researcher to undertake a study of this nature.

Lebogang Lamola who was 23 years old was fatally stabbed by her ex-boyfriend Cuthbert Manamela who was 32 years (Ramothwala, 2019:1). In another case, three women from Seshego Zone 1 who did not know each other claim that they were victimised and humiliated by Seshego police officers who were reluctant to help them to open cases of domestic violence. *Victim one*, who was physically abused by her partner says the police officers laughed at her when she told them she was scared that her partner might kill her. *Victim two* explained that she also tried to open a case after she was physically abused in front of her child, but she was turned away by the officers on duty. While *Victim three* emphasised her disappointment on how the officers treat women who open domestic violence cases (Molope, 2021:2).

Moreover, a taxi driver, 34-year-old Kibi Josias Lebogo allegedly shot and killed 32-year-old Tshepo Rakoma who was his girlfriend in the parking area of a supermarket on the corner of Grobler and Landdross Mare streets in Polokwane (Maromo, 2021:2). Furthermore, Kgothatso Moloto, 22, stated that she was abused and humiliated beyond what she could ever have imagined by the man she loved the most (Mabeba, 2021:1). In another case, a 32-year-old lawyer allegedly knocked down his girlfriend, Tumi Seshoene who was 23 years old killing her after a heated argument (Ramothwala, 2021:3).

Unfortunately, most women who are victims of IPV do not share their experiences, neither are they documented for proper interventions by the local government, the Criminal Justice System (CJS) or by private partners who include but are not limited to the local Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs). In addition, there are numerous cases of women living in South Africa who have been victims of this practice and of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) related cases (SAGPA, 2018:77).

This study explores the experiences of IPV against women in the Seshego Zone 1 area of the Limpopo Province, in South Africa. This problem has been occurring and has been increasing before and during the time of conducting this study. Pre-research project observation suggests that many examples of the devastating effects of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1 from 2018, 2019, 2020 and also in 2021, [Four years projections, some of these incidences were reported by the media, as post depicted in this section, with some neglected cases forming part of the dark figures of IPV against women in the Seshego Zone 1 area, showing the unrecorded numbers of unreported IPV cases and those that were not reflected in the official overall crime statistics of South Africa, thereby further supporting the numbers of IPV cases that are unknown to the local SAPS]. To support the alleged dark figures of IPV against women in the study location, the researcher submits that she witnessed this practice in Seshego Zone 1, where many women were victims to the ever-increasing IPV in the study area.

The researcher is a full-time Master of Arts (MA): Criminology, University of Limpopo (UL) student, who resides in the designated topic area (Seshego Zone 1). The research topic is of specific interest to the researcher, *firstly*, for the reason that one is confronted daily by multiple scenes of IPV against women in the study location; and *secondly*, the researcher was also a victim of this scourge.

Subsequently, it can be concluded by this study that women in the study location still experience IPV that was hugely connected with mental health and physical challenges cited as some of the effects that were directed to VAW in the study area. These abusive actions do not only affect women, but it also impacts their children, immediate and distant families, and the local communities also pay a heavy price. The effects of

violence cause harm to all stakeholders and some victims are recorded to have either lost their jobs or were rendered homeless (Johnson & Das, 2009:978).

The researcher found it imperative to undertake this study so that the solutions to curb the problem can be sought. There is an increasing global recognition that the IPV against women often occurs in homes and it is driven by different factors. For instance, the young boys who witness their mothers being abused in the home are more likely to harm women and children later in their life (WHO, 2007:14). It is also important to undertake the study because everyone must understand and address the factors that put people at risk of being violated. Promoting healthy, respectful, and nonviolent relationships as well as communities can prevent the harmful and long-lasting effects of IPV on individuals, families, and communities (WHO, 2021:7).

Furthermore, the IPV against women is on the increase in the Seshego Zone 1 area; and deterrent effects (such as combative, investigative, preventative, and policing strategies) seem to be non-existent. It becomes rather evident that a relook into the existing strategies remains of paramount importance to establish the effective measures to create the desired free IPV against women environment. Most importantly, this study will hopefully provide the researcher with an understanding of the motives and consequences of IPV against women in the Seshego Zone 1 area. This understanding will offer the local relevant stakeholders the required tools to effectively respond to this ill-practice.

1.3. OPERATIONAL DEFINITION OF KEY CONCEPTS

The definition of concepts is very vital to explain the researcher's trail of thoughts as well as the facilitation of familiar understanding thereof. The word concept can be defined as the word or phrase that is designated to happenings about which science tries to make sense of. The main purpose of concept clarification is mutual communication and comprehension (de Vos, 2005:28). For the tenacity of this study, the following concepts are clarified.

1.3.1 Exploration

An exploration is the act of searching for the purpose of discovery of information or resources. It occurs in all non-sessile animal species, including humans (Groh, 2018:5). An exploration is the 'action of exploring an unfamiliar area, through the examination of a subject' (Babbie, 2007:89).

Stebbins (2001:70) supports the above definition by explaining that an exploration is something that a person does when they want to learn more about what is out in the world. For the purpose of this study, an exploration is defined as investigating a problem which is not clearly defined.

1.3.2 Experience

Webster (2020:2) defines an experience as the process through which conscious organisms perceive the world around them or as something that is personally encountered or that one has lived through. Experiences can be accompanied by an active awareness on the part of the person having the experience. MacCabe and Yanacek (2018:33) define an experience as a process of observing, encountering, or undergoing something. An experience can help a person to gain knowledge or practical wisdom based on what they have observed, encountered, or undergone.

Newberg and Newberg (2005:199) define an experience as the fact or state of having been affected by or as having gained knowledge through direct observation or participation. For the purpose of this study, an experience is the process where women have had a bad experience of violence or have been affected by the violence.

1.3.3 Intimate-partner violence

According to Larsen (2016:110), IPV is a domestic violence act/s perpetrated by a current spouse or former spouse or partner in an intimate relationship against the other spouse or partner. IPV can take a number of forms, including but not limited to physical, verbal, emotional, economic, and sexual abuse. The WHO (2002:22) defines IPV as any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological, or sexual harm to those in the relationship, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours. IPV is

sometimes referred to simply as battery, or as spouse or partner abuse. Mitchell (2009:319) describes IPV as the physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, or psychological harm by a current or former partner or spouse. This type of violence can occur among heterosexual or same-sex couples, and it does not require sexual intimacy. For the purpose of this study, IPV is any act of GBV that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual, psychological harm or suffering to women caused by their male intimate partners.

1.3.4 Violence

Violence is defined as the intentional use of physical force or power. It may be threatened or actual violence (against oneself, another person or against a group or community) that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation (Burton & Leoschut, 2013:2). Otwombe, Dietrich, Sikkema, Coetzee, Hopkins, Laher and Gray (2015:450) maintain that violence is defined as the use of physical force against another person that may result in injury or psychological harm. For the purpose of this study, violence is explained as the intentional use of physical power, economic exploitation, sexual or psychological harm to women by their male intimate partners.

1.3.5 Violence Against Women (VAW)

VAW means practices that degrade and dehumanise women as well as physical, psychological, and economic acts of abuse. Heise (2011:35) defines VAW as any act of GBV that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or in the suffering of women. These acts include but are not limited to threats, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in the public or in private life. Carter and Weaver (2003:7) concur with Heise (2011) by defining the term VAW as the violation of women's physical and/or emotional wellbeing, which manifests in various forms.

According to Nangolo and Peltzer (2003:16), the VAW is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to the domination of women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women.

Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014:17) state that the term VAW encompasses many forms of violence, including: IPV; rape/sexual assault and other forms of sexual violence which is 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. For the purpose of this study, VAW is defined as any act of GBV that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or in the suffering of women caused by their intimate partners.

1.3.6 Women

A woman is an adult female human. Prior to adulthood, a female human is referred to as a girl (a female child or adolescent) (Stanton, 2002:21). Webster (2018) defines a woman as an adult female human being. 'Woman' is the general term. It is neutral, lacking either favorable or unfavorable implication. In scientific, statistical, and other objective use, 'woman' is the neutral contrastive term to 'man'. For the purpose of this study, a woman is explained as a female human being who is inferior to men because of violence.

1.4. THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

According to Creswell (2013:124), Denscombe (2010:11), Litchman (2014:38), Singleton and Straights (2010:107) as well as Thomas (2013:6), research is undertaken for the broad purposes of namely:

1.4.1 To explore

This study was exploratory in nature, with the research objectives as defined by Creswell (2013:124), Denscombe (2010:11), Litchman (2014:38), Singleton and Straights (2010:107) as well as Thomas (2013:6). The purpose of this study was to explore the experiences of IPV against women at Seshego Zone 1 of Limpopo Province, in South Africa. It was imagined that this study can help in identifying the IPV against women to determine the measures that can be taken to prevent or reduce

the IPV against women. Furthermore, the study's aims, and objectives are discussed below.

1.5. STUDY AIM

The aim of this study was *to explore the lived experiences of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province.*

1.6. STUDY OBJECTIVES

This study was guided by the following objectives:

- To identify the different kinds of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province;
- To examine the occurrence of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province;
- To assess the causes of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1;
- To ascertain the reasons for the non-reporting of IPV against women to the local SAPS in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province.

1.7. STUDY SIGNIFICANCE

This study intends to contribute to existing literature on IPV against women. It has been observed that women are reluctant to report violent practices against them as some are not aware of the legal provisions that protect them (Banda, 2008:23). This study might help the South African society, more especially in Seshego Zone 1 as well as the academic community by creating public awareness that IPV against women is against the law. Moreover, the study might encourage the reporting of these crime against women that are perpetrated by people who should supposedly protect them. The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 states that everyone is equal before the law (Refer to Section 9). Hence whoever violates this right must be prosecuted.

Blaickie (2009:19) as well as Brynard and Hanekom (2006:2) state that research must make a reasonable direct or useful contribution to some field of high priority in the public or private sector. Leedy and Ormrod (2010:122) postulate that research must potentially make a substantial contribution to the body of human knowledge and may even, in some small way, help to make the world a better place. An attempt was made by the researcher to make this study contribute to a broader understanding of IPV against women.

This study aims to explore the lived experiences of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province. Thirdly, it is envisaged that it can also help to determine the measures that may be taken to prevent or reduce IPV against women. Therefore, it is hoped that this study will add new knowledge in the following areas:

1.7.1 Public

This study seeks to add value and establish new ideas with regards to better and more effective strategies to the experiences of IPV against women in the Seshego area. The outcome of this study can obviously benefit the community of Seshego and other provinces in South Africa.

1.7.2 Academic Community

The new knowledge will be available to UL libraries and to the greater academic community. The information can be used both in the curriculum and in learning programs as a referral source for students and researchers.

1.7.3 Industry

The South African law enforcement industry with investigative capabilities would benefit from this research where SAPS investigators will acquire more knowledge, improved skills, methods, and techniques in terms of taking a complainant`s statement on IPV against women cases. This research will contribute to a higher competency level during the taking of statements relating to IPV against women and statement

taking in general. The information will be used in the curriculum for future training to cultivate more professional investigators.

1.7.4 South African society

The society will benefit because the investigators will be better skilled and competent resulting in increased prosecution and in a better conviction rate of IPV perpetrators. The South African community will, by providing information regarding the subject under investigation, empower themselves with knowledge and stimulate their way of reasoning and thinking about the effects of effectively taking statements about IPV against women.

1.8. SCOPE OF THE STUDY

The researcher focused on the experiences of IPV against women in the Seshego Zone 1 area. The participants of this study included women who experienced IPV. The selected study participants were subjected to one-on-one in-depth semi-structured interviews. The researcher conducted these interviews with the participants to explore their experiences on the study subject. This was done to indicate the credibility of this technique, in conjunction with the consulted literature studies in Chapter Two of this study as used during the collection of the data.

Therefore, the collected literature and the conducted one-on-one interviews present a true and accurate picture of what this study claimed to validate through the instruments (i.e., literature study and one-on-one interviews) that were used to collect data and provide credibility. With this study, the researcher explored the experiences of IPV against women in the Seshego Zone 1 area.

1.9. CHAPTERS PROGRESSION

- **Chapter One**

Chapter one focusses on general orientation of this study, looking at the introduction and background, the research problem, operational definitions of key concepts, study purpose, study significance, scope of the study and the chapters progression.

- **Chapter Two**

This chapter provides an in-depth literature study on the prevalence of IPV against women. It includes the causes of IPV against women by their intimate partners, the reasons for not reporting IPV against women, the different types of IPV against women and the measures that can be taken to reduce or prevent IPV against women. This was based on the study aim and objectives.

- **Chapter Three**

Focuses on the theoretical framework of the study. This chapter uses the Deviant Place Theory (DPT) and Social Justice Theory (SJT) to explain and understand IPV against women. The DPT proposes a relationship between greater exposure to places of violence and greater risk of being victims of IPV. The SJT promotes a just society by challenging injustice and IPV against women.

- **Chapter Four**

This chapter explores the adopted research design and methodology in this study, with attention paid to the research design, employed research approach, study location, study population, sampling method and procedures. It also focuses on snowball and purposive sampling, data analysis methods to ensure quality criteria and ethical considerations.

- **Chapter Five**

This chapter consists of the research findings, and it provides comprehensive data presentations, analysis, and interpretations, including related discussions of the empirical research findings, supported by the consulted literature studies and theoretical frameworks. The aims and objectives of the study guided the development of the main themes and sub-themes to the collected data.

- **Chapter Six**

This chapter serves as the final chapter, which includes the achievement of the study aim and objectives. It also includes the summary, conclusions, and recommendations. Finally, the chapter looks at the limitations of this study as well as future research studies.

1.10. SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter gives the highlights on the study's introduction and background regarding exploring the experiences of IPV against women. Moreover, this chapter covered the problem statement that guided this study. This chapter also presented the study's aim and objectives. This was followed by the operational definition of key concepts, the study purpose, study significance, scope of this study and the chapters progression. Chapter 2 will present the literature studies based on the study's aim and objectives.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

2.1. INTRODUCTION

Chapter 1 of this study presented the background, the motivation, the research problem, the literature review, the theoretical framework, the purpose of the study, the significance of the study and the ethical considerations. This chapter entails the conceptualisation and understanding the nature, prevalence, the causes of the IPV against women and the typologies of women victimisation (that is the different types of VAW), as well as the reasons for not reporting this scourge. The chapter also includes the approaches on how to stop and to prevent the violence against women.

The Seshego area is not excluded from the topic under study. In this chapter, a review of the literature related to the VAW will be discussed and analysed. To compile the literature review, the researcher made use of journals, internet searches, previous dissertations and books that are based on the lived experiences of the IPV against women. The purpose of exploring what has already been researched is to locate the current study within the existing body of knowledge.

2.2. INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVE ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

According to Mukanangana, Moyo, Zvoushe and Rusinga (2018:112), globally, policies have been formulated in a bid to eradicate the GBV targeting women. Such policies include: The Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women of 1979 United Nation [UN] General Assembly (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 VAW and Children of 1997 as well as The Domestic Violence Bill of 2006.

Moreover, the Government of Zimbabwe has made strides in addressing gender-based violence through the enactment of various pieces of legislation such as the Matrimonial Cause Act (No. 11 of 1987), the Maintenance Act (No. 2 of 1989), Administration of Estates Act (No. 6 of 1997), the Amended Sexual Offences Act (No 8 of 2001), the Criminal Law (Codification and Reform) Act (No. 9 of 2006) and the DVA (No. 14 of 2006). Regardless of all the policies and conferences, the VAW continues to be a thorn in the flesh among women globally, regionally and in Zimbabwe in particular. A study in Zimbabwe for Musasa Project reveals that 30% of the women reported physical abuse by marital partners since the age of 16 years. In Zimbabwe, Mukanangana *et al.* (2018:113) state that the available literature reveals that 40% of the women in the Midlands were once victims of the sexual harassment that was perpetrated by their marital partners. Zimbabwe has been noted as one of the countries with the highest child forced marriages in the world with an estimated 56% prevalence rate (Mukanangana *et al.*, 2018:113).

Yigzaw, Berhane, Deyessa and Kaba (2010:39) highlight that IPV occurs in all the countries and transcends social, economic, religious, and cultural groups. The studies (Yigzaw *et al.*, 2010:39) 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 the IPV: beating with/without an object, burning, forced sex, unusual sex, insults, undermining, not being listened to, calling names, intimidation, and withholding money (Yigzaw *et al.* 2010:40). IPV was also quoted as including extramarital affairs, annexing/selling/destroying the properties of a partner, monitoring movements, being prevented from learning/working, infecting one's spouse with the Human Immune Virus (HIV) deliberately, forcing a woman to become pregnant or to have too many children, abandoning a woman, as well as denying equal rights on resources and decision-making (Yigzaw *et al.* 2010:41). The demographic and health survey of Ethiopia also indicates that most women believed that a husband has a right to beat his wife (Yigzaw *et al.*, 2010:43).

Mkhonto, Sengane and Havenga (2014:333) state that a National GBV 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%). Falb, Annan, Kpebo and Gupta (2014:61) confirm that the male perpetrated IPV against women is an egregious human rights concern that has been estimated to occur among 15% to 76% of women.

Mkhonto, Sengane and Havenga (2014) further indicate that half (49.8%) of the 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, thereby demonstrating that the IPV is commonplace in this region, regardless of the marital status. Falb *et al.* (2014:62) mention that in Côte d'Ivoire, a West African nation that has been grappling with armed conflict and political instability for over a decade; both the IPV and the poor reproductive health of women are concerns. Community-based work has documented that 47% of the rural Ivorian women reported having experienced the IPV from a male partner. The investigation of the IPV and the male partner perpetrated reproductive coercion is further indicated by another study on rural Ivorian women documenting that the 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 the pre-colonial era through the colonial and post-colonial period (Patrick & Ugwu, 2013:5804). Patrick and Ugwu (2013:5804) further highlight that in the northern part of Nigeria, women suffer from the restriction of their freedom of association and even the right to education because of the practice of purdah; where the girl child is given out early for marriage against her wish and is often sexually abused.

According to Peace (2009:25), in the United States of America (USA), 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 by Peace (2009:25) to explore the barriers that are faced by the victims of domestic violence who are Korean immigrants in the USA. The afore mentioned study reveals that the Korean community is the main barrier to the prevention of the IPV, as it tends to find fault with the victims of domestic violence and therefore the victim has no way out within their community.

2.3. CONCEPTUALISATION AND UNDERSTANDING THE NATURE OF THE INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

The consulted literature studies indicate that the IPV against women is a world burning issue in both developed and developing countries, including South Africa. Identities are vital to the understanding of the IPV against women. The women experience more IPV than men, which is why the development of academic literature on the subject is valuable (Cooper-White, 2011:811). There may be violence against other genders than women, but most of the crimes are perpetrated against women, and arguably, it is against different types of women. An intimate partner can use many ways of attacking their loved one. Straus and Gozjko (2014:51) introduce the concept of intimate terrorism, which they define as the repeated attack on various aspects of the intimate partner involving physical, emotional, or mental assault causing reoccurring fear and trauma. While developing the idea of intimate terrorism, Straus and Gozjko (2014:52) also note of the impact the patriarchy may have on the way in which men develop.

For the purpose of conceptualisation, the Intimate Partner Violence Against Women (IPVAW) means practices that degrade and dehumanise women as well as the physical, psychological, and economic acts of abuse (Amoakohene, 2014:2373). Heise (2011:35) defines this term as any act of GBV that results in, or is likely to result in the physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering of women, including threats of such acts, the coercion, or the arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in the public or in the private life. Carter and Weaver (2003:7) concur with Heise (2011:35) by stating that IPVAW refers to a violation of the women's physical and emotional wellbeing, which manifests in various forms by their intimate partners. In Soweto, 20% of the women who were surveyed in antenatal clinics reported sexual violence by an intimate partner, and 68% reported psychological abuse, which was identified by measures such as threats of violence, controlling of movements, eviction from home, insults, and humiliation (Langa-Mlambo & Soma-Pillay, 2014:19).

According to Nangolo and Peltzer (2003:16), IPV 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 (2014:17) state that this term encompasses many forms of violence, including violence by intimate partners. Furthermore, the term also includes 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 as well as violence in conflict situations.

2.4. PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SOUTH AFRICAN CONTEXT

The researcher considers the IPV against women to be a major social problem in South Africa. The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey [NISVS] (2010:5) projects that 47% of women are victims of psychological aggression by an intimate partner in their lifetime, 32% are violence victims, while 16% of women are victims of sexual violence by an intimate partner. The IPV against women is fast becoming an epidemic in South Africa with an alarming rate which continues to maintain an upward trend. The rate at which women are murdered by their intimate partners is alarming. Consequently, this has raised concerns about the high prevalence of violence in South Africa. For instance, a number of specific cases of VAW (i.e., the killing of women by their intimate partners) are all pointers to the nature of concerns about security. Despite the prison sentence (32 years) that was placed on the partner of the late Karabo Mokoena, this does not in any way give life back to the victim (Schwartz, 2018:3).

It is submitted that ending the IPV against women remains one of the most serious and on-going challenges for international development agencies, governments, and civil societies across the globe. According to the WHO (2016:7), the IPV against women in particular, is one of the most widespread violations of human rights worldwide, affecting one in every three women in their lifetime, and often perpetrated by an intimate partner. A startling finding of the study is that, globally, 38% of all women who are murdered are murdered by their intimate partners, and 42% of women who

have experienced physical or sexual violence at the hands of a partner had experienced injuries as a result.

This means that more than one billion women worldwide are affected by the IPV against women and, for many of these women; the home is the most dangerous place to be and the prevalent data on the different forms of IPV against women are as follows: lifetime physical and/or sexual IPV: 21.3 %, physical and/or sexual IPV in the last 12 months: 8.7 %, lifetime non-partner sexual violence: 10 % and child marriage; 5.6 % (WHO, 2021:3). Etheridge (2019:2) reveals that on the 24th of August 2019, the University of Cape Town (UCT)'s 19-year-old student by the name of Uyinene Mrwetyana was raped and murdered inside of the Clareinch Post Office in Claremont by a 42-year-old employee in the post office. Mrwetyana had gone to enquire about a parcel on the day of her disappearance. The electricity had been off, and she was asked to return later.

Etheridge (2019:2) further shares that the lack of protection, dismissal and the oversight on the police officers' side has resulted in the deaths of many women. Thandi Ndlovu, a celebrated businesswoman from Soweto in the Gauteng Province tried to report domestic abuse and was turned away by the officers and encouraged to go home and solve things with her husband. The news of her abusive marriage broke only after Forbes honoured the entrepreneur who died in a car crash. Leighandre Jegels, a boxing champion, reported her police officer boyfriend, to the police but they never took any action. She was later shot and killed by her boyfriend (Etheridge, 2019:3).

2.4.1 The context for the violence against women in South Africa

Abrahams, Mathews, Jewkes, Martin and Lombard (2012:2) indicate that in South Africa, the research on the three provinces undertaken by the Medical Research Council (MRC) reveals that 25% of women had experienced physical violence at some point in their lives. This figure should be taken in the context that the underreporting of IPV against women is a significant issue in South Africa. For example, it is estimated that only one in nine women report incidences of sexual violence. In 2013/14 alone, 169 559 crimes were committed against women, and they were reported to the SAPS.

Other studies estimate that between 43% and 56% of the women in South Africa have experienced IPV and 42% of men report perpetrating it (SAPS, 2014:165). Given the extent of the problem, the IPV against women has a fundamental and significant impact on the lives of all women as it is a threat to their safety, and it undermines their ability to live full and meaningful lives.

The SAPS (2020:2) mentions that while they cannot claim easy victories, they acknowledge that the circumstances that led to the declining numbers were distorted. But even if they were distorted, it was a better time in South Africa because more lives were saved. These official figures also show a reduction in the crimes committed against women and children during stage four and five of the Coronavirus disease-2019 [COVID-19] lockdown in 2020. However, the low numbers of reported domestic abuse and sexual offences cases could have been due to some women not being able to escape their abusers and they could not report the crimes that were committed against them. In this regard, the SAPS will continue to monitor the reporting of such cases and verify whether the reduction was a result of non-reporting due to the lockdown. This will be done by comparing the dates of reporting with the crime dates. It is equally important to acknowledge that the unavailability of alcohol also had a role to play. This is evident in the decreased numbers of cases of contact crimes which plummeted by 37.4%. This means there were 53 891 less cases of murder, attempted murder, assault, common robbery, and common assault that were reported compared to the same reporting period. There has also been a big drop in the number of sexual offences as there was a 39.7% drop on crimes such as rape and sexual assault. A 40.4% decrease in the number of rape cases was reported during the three months (SAPS, 2020:3).

All 'top' 30 stations that are reporting high levels of assault with the intent to inflict GBH recorded drops in numbers. However, the numbers of reported common assault cases declined from April and May while the country was under Level 4 and 5, but the gap started to close on the 1st of June 2020 when the country was eased into level 3 of the Lockdown. There are certainly many lessons to be learnt from these recent figures and how resources must be channelled where they are needed most to sustain these low numbers (SAPS 2020:4). Abrahams *et al.* (2012:3) report that every eight hours a woman is murdered by an intimate partner in South Africa. Meanwhile Gould (2014:15)

states that there were 827 children that were 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 GBH and common assault cases.

It is also revealed that women are still being sexually violated. According to the SAPS (2020:3), 52 420 cases of sexual offences had been reported to the police between April 2018 and March 2020, and the cases went up by 2 312 when compared to the previous years. A total of 46% of sexual offence victims were victimised by a known member of the community, 18% by unknown members of the community and 13.7% were victimised by relatives (Statistics South Africa 2019:17). South Africa has one of the highest per capita alcohol consumption levels per drinker in the world (MRC, 2018:12). The social norms dictate that many of the acts of fatal and non-fatal violence occur after alcohol and drug abuse, especially the fights, some types of homicide and rape. Many victims of violence are also rendered vulnerable by alcohol (MRC, 2018:12). Alcohol and drug abuse are the main causes of many forms of violence especially the VAW, as women are vulnerable and powerless than men.

Reddi (2007:503) confirms that the VAW in South Africa violates several provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 Bill of Rights (Chapter 2). 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; as well as the access to the courts.

Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014:17) point out that GBV is prevalent in South Africa and the country has been labelled the “rape capital” of the world by the Human Rights Watch (HRW) in 2010. In 2012, there were 48 201 rape cases reported to the SAPS. However, there is a problem of the gross under-reporting of cases of rape in the country and the SAPS estimate that only one in 36 rape cases are reported (Langa-Mlambo & Soma-Pillay, 2014:17). Furthermore, the afore-mentioned authors state that in some South African studies, more than 40% of the men have disclosed having been physically violent to their partners, and 40 – 50% of the women have also reported experiencing such violence. The IPV is often sexual and emotional, and many women undergo several forms of violence.

According to Abrahams *et al.* (2012:4), 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. The highest prevalence of domestic violence in South Africa has been reported in the Vhembe District in the Limpopo Province, with 2 553 cases in the first quarter of 2012 (Limpopo Provincial Department of Social Development (LPDSD), 2012:15). 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 (Jewkes & Abrahams, 2010:34).

The DVA (No. 116 of 1998) was introduced in South Africa with the aim of affording women the protection from harm by creating the obligation for law enforcement bodies to protect women as far as possible (World Health Report, 2001:10). This Act sets out a broad range of behaviours that constitute violence, including physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse, stalking, intimidation, harassment, and the malicious damage to property. The Act further constitutes to 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, 2001:11).

2.5. THE NOTABLE CAUSES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Heise (2011:33) opines that there is an entrenched belief that men possess strength and power. Some societies believe that men are strong and powerful. As a matter of fact, this is a pointer to the belief in gender norms. Additionally, it is known that women are often perceived as lower than men in terms of power. All of these are witnessed in both spheres of life (public and private) in and around the community. Such imbalance refers to the inequality in gender; little wonder the society inadvertently accepts the cases of IPV against women as though it is a norm. Heise (2011:33) associates gender norms, the limitations on women's independence and the approval of the IPV against women as what drives men to violate the women's rights in society.

The findings of the study conducted on the IPV against women in Mauritius reveal that the principal causes of violence were unequal power relations, sexual abuse, extra-marital affairs, jealousy and isolation, poverty and dependence on partner, alcohol, as well as drug abuse (Bhowan & Munbauhal, 2005:383). According to Peace (2009:24), in a study on the 'impact of domestic violence' women confess that the causes of aggressive behaviour are jealousy, coupled with poor anger management skills. Bhowan and Munbauhal (2005:388) indicate that a low socio-economic status probably reflects a variety of conditions that in combination place a woman at greater risk of being victimised. The afore mentioned researchers further 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, and frustration. Kapoor (2000:11) shares that the excessive consumption of alcohol and other drugs have also been noted as factors that provoke aggressive and violent male behaviour towards women and children.

A study conducted by Dalal (2008:79) on the '*causes and consequences of violence against children and women in developing countries*' found that poverty, illiteracy, male dominance in resource control and the social acceptance of violence makes children and women more vulnerable to violence. A study on exploring the strategies to overcome youth exclusion, vulnerability, and violence in Southern Africa reports 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 the police's reaction to crime is ineffective, vigilantism is often regarded as a right (Graham, Bruce & Herold, 2010:38). Equally, there is no single factor that can explain the IPV against women, but rather a myriad of factors contributes to it and the interplay of these factors lies at the root of the problem. Rawls (2003:14) opines that the SJT specifically enshrines justice fairness. Social justice promotes equality in accessing opportunities. No women are supposed to stay with an abusive partner because of poverty and it is also against unequal power relations.

On the other hand, The DPT argues that the more people visit dangerous places, the more likely they will be exposed to victimisation (Siegel & Worrall, 2013:50). The

dangerous places in this study refer to the places where the victims are likely to experience violence, for example their intimate partners place, more especially when they are abusive. The individuals who are more likely to experience IPV in the abuser's place are the ones who stay with the abuser because of poverty and the ones who believe that they love the abuser.

According to the SJT, wealth and unequal power relations offer the abusers an opportunity to remain abusive which increases the likelihood of victimisation, because the abusers are aware that the women believe that men possess more economic, political, domestic, and overall decision-making power than women (Kimmel, 2002:1336). The DPT argues that women should leave the abuser's place and start standing on their own feet to reduce the IPV against them. Therefore, the five factors contributing to the IPV against women are identified below:

2.5.1 Unequal power relations

Kimmel (2002:1333) explains an unequal power relationship as the basic component of a power structure. The person with superior power, either due to trust or to technology access or superior knowledge, does not necessarily have superior ethical judgement, just because they are trusted, technologically enabled, or better educated. The IPV against women is caused by gender inequality including the unequal power relations between women and men, the rigid gender roles, norms and hierarchies, and ascribing women to a lower status in society (Kimmel, 2002:1334).

The IPV against women is a manifestation of the historically unequal power relations between men and women, which has led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women. The VAW is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position when compared with men. In most places, men possess more economic, political, domestic, and overall decision-making power than women (Kimmel, 2002:1336).

2.5.2 Jealousy

According to Mullen (2008:580), the violence of jealousy is predominantly vented on the partner rather than on the actual or supposed rival. The men are responsible for most killings and for serious injuries resulting from jealousy. Several judgements that are constitutive of jealousy are associated with feelings and predispositions to behave. It should be remembered that jealousy is linked to the individual's other characteristics such as impulsiveness and insensitivity.

2.5.3 Poverty

Poor women are exposed to greater violence for multiple reasons. Firstly, they are subject to greater levels of the IPV. In a household bargaining model that incorporates violence, the lower a woman's income, the worse her bargaining power and the greater the level of IPV. Poverty exacerbates the abuse because it increases or prolongs the women's exposure to it as it reduces their capacity to leave. Women are therefore more likely to be financially dependent on someone else (Case, Lubotsky & Paxson, 2002:1309).

Heise (2008:8) argues that particular groups of women that are living in poverty, face multiple forms of discrimination, and face increased risks of violence as a result. A study by Heise (2008:9) shows that poor girls are 2.5 times more likely to marry in childhood than those living in the wealthiest quintile. The women and the girls living in poverty are more vulnerable to sexual exploitation, including trafficking and those who experience domestic or IPV have fewer options to leave violent relationships, due to their lack of income and resources. According to the SJT, everyone is entitled to an equal opportunity including women to prevent IPV due to financial dependence.

2.5.4 Alcohol abuse

Alcohol may encourage aggression or violence by disrupting normal brain function. According to the disinhibition hypothesis for example, alcohol weakens the brain mechanisms that normally restrain impulsive behaviours, including inappropriate aggression (Angelucci, 2008:43). By impairing information processing, alcohol can also lead a person to misjudge social cues, thereby overreacting to a perceived threat.

Simultaneously, a narrowing of attention may lead to an inaccurate assessment of the future risks of acting on an immediate violent impulse (Angelucci, 2008:43).

Van Dyk (2018:84) indicates that the excessive consumption of alcohol and other drugs have been noted as factors in provoking aggressive and violent male behaviour towards women. Women Health Victoria (2017:22) demonstrates that the violence contributes to the women's mental health issues. Many acts of fatal and non-fatal violence occur after alcohol and drug abuse, especially fights, some types of homicide and rape.

2.5.5 Love for the abuser

So often, the victim feels love for their abusive partner. They may have children with them and want to maintain their family. Abusive men can often be charming, especially at the beginning of a relationship, and the women may hope that their partner will go back to being that person. The abuse takes place during a relatively short period of time. Afterwards the offender may be quite gentle, apologetic, loving, and may promise never to beat the women again (Felson *et al*, 2002:618).

2.6. CONSEQUENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014:3) indicate that global awareness is growing on the role that the VAW plays on the increase in the HIV epidemic. The burden of HIV infection disproportionately affects women in Africa, and it is estimated that 60% of the individuals living with HIV in Africa are girls and women. In the sub-Saharan Africa, 40% of the women living with HIV reside in South Africa. The women who experience violence may engage in early sexual initiation, anal sex, commercial sex work and unprotected sex with unfamiliar partners.

Kouyoumdjian, Calzavara, Bondy, O'Campo, Serwadda and Nalugoda (2013:1332) report 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 the violence that is experienced by the women. The IPV affects the women's physical and mental health through direct pathways such as injury, and the indirect pathways, such as the chronic

health problems that arise from prolonged stress. A history of experiencing violence is therefore a risk factor for many diseases and conditions. Campbell (2008:221) suggests that the influence of abuse can persist long after the violence has stopped. The more severe the abuse, the greater its impact on a woman's physical and mental health, and the impact over time of different types and multiple episodes of abuse appears to be cumulative. The consequences of intimate partner abuse are outlined as follows:

2.6.1 Injury and physical health

Golding (2009:130) indicates that the physical damage resulting from IPV can include: bruises and welts; lacerations and abrasions; abdominal or thoracic injuries; fractures and broken bones or teeth; sight and hearing damage; head injury; attempted strangulation; as well as back and neck injuries. However, in addition to injury, and possibly far more common, are ailments that often have no identifiable medical cause, or are difficult to diagnose. These are sometimes referred to as 'functional disorders' or 'stress-related conditions', and include irritable bowel syndrome/ gastrointestinal symptoms, fibromyalgia, various chronic pain syndromes and the exacerbation of asthma.

2.6.2 Mental health and suicide

Campbell (2008:221) reveals that women who are abused by their partners suffer higher levels of depression, anxiety, and phobias than non-abused women. In the multi-country study, the reports of emotional distress, thoughts of suicide, and attempted suicide were significantly higher among women who had experienced physical or sexual violence than those who had not. In addition, the IPV has also been linked with alcohol and drug abuse; eating and sleep disorders; physical inactivity; poor self-esteem; Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder [PTSD]; smoking; self-harm and unsafe sexual behaviour (WHO, 2017:66).

2.6.3 Sexual and reproductive health

The IPV may lead to a host of negative sexual and reproductive health consequences for women, including unintended and unwanted pregnancy, abortion and unsafe abortion, Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) including HIV, pregnancy complications, pelvic inflammatory disease, urinary tract infections and sexual dysfunction. The STIs may result from forced sexual intercourse within marriage, or through indirect pathways, for example, by making it difficult for women to negotiate contraceptive or condom use with their partner (Devries, 2010:157). Furthermore, Golding (2009:127) establishes that the substantial levels of physical IPV during pregnancy have been associated with miscarriage; late entry into prenatal care; stillbirth; premature labour and birth; fatal injury and low-birthweight or small-for-gestational-age infants.

2.6.4 Homicide and other mortality

According to Devries (2010:158), the studies from a range of countries have found that 40-70% of female murder victims were killed by their husband or boyfriend, often in the context of an abusive relationship. In addition, the evidence suggests that the IPV increases the risk of a woman committing suicide, and may also increase the risk of contracting HIV, and the Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS)-related deaths (Devries, 2010:158).

2.6.5 Effects on children

Campbell (2008:222) establishes an association between the IPV against women and the negative social and health consequences for children, including anxiety, depression, poor school performance and negative health outcomes. The exposure to IPV against the mother is one of the most common factors associated with male perpetration and female experience of IPV later in life. According to Campbell (2008:222), several studies have found an association between the IPV and child abuse within the same household.

2.7. TYPOLOGIES OF WOMEN VICTIMISATIONS

Jewkes and Abrahams (2010:33) report that cases of violence relate to women who cannot afford to continue with their education. Their study was conducted on 1 306 women who lived in three of South Africa's provinces, namely: Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga, and Limpopo. Additionally, the above-mentioned research revealed that the cases of violence had a relationship with alcohol consumption and the liberal ideas of women's roles. Hence, the majority of the likely victims (women) appear to be stuck via subordination, emotional manipulation from the abuser, a no-choice of decision other than accepting what norms and standards define. Other areas include the lack of own financial security, panic, humiliation, and the 'motherly' attachment to take care of their children (Artz, 2003:17).

A study conducted by Artz (2003:17) suggests that women with disabilities are more likely to experience domestic violence, emotional abuse, and sexual assault than women without disabilities. Women with disabilities may also feel more isolated and feel they are unable to report the abuse, or they may be dependent on the abuser for their care. Like many women who are abused, the women with disabilities are usually abused by their intimate partners. The poor women are exposed to greater violence for multiple reasons. In a household bargaining model that incorporates violence, the lower a woman's income, the worse her bargaining power and the greater the level of IPV. Poverty exacerbates the abuse because it increases or prolongs the women's exposure to it as it reduces their capacity to leave.

Women are therefore more likely to be financially dependent on someone else (Case *et al.*, 2002:1309). Bhowan and Munbauhal (2005:388) indicate that the low socio-economic status probably reflects a variety of conditions that in combination place a woman at greater risk of being victimised. They further argue that an ecological model is more apt to understand the personal, situational, and socio-cultural factors that combine to cause abuse. The women who are less educated and the women who grew up in an abusive environment are more likely to be victims of IPV.

In this regard, Felson, Messner, Hoskin and Deane (2002:618) indicate that a woman may not know what a healthy relationship looks like, perhaps from growing up in an environment where abuse was common or having no idea about the violence, and they may not recognise that their relationship is unhealthy. The victim may rationalise the beatings, believing that she 'deserved' the punishment or that the abuser was just too drunk to know what he was doing. The SJT postulates that men should not violate their intimate partners just because they are educated or have the powers over them.

2.8. REASONS FOR THE UNDER-REPORTING OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

About 84% of women who experience violence do not report the abuse to the police. They simply do not seek a legal remedy. They understand the hard truth that the United State law and United State actors-police, prosecutors and judges-ordinarily provide no legal remedy for violence that is motivated by gender animus. In 1994, the Congress tried to give women a remedy that did not rely on state law and state actors when it enacted the VAW Act [VAWA] of 1994. The provision of VAWA gave women the opportunity to lodge civil complaints against their attackers in federal courts if they were subjected to criminal violence that was motivated by gender animus (Felson *et al.*, 2002:627).

The SJT is against violence and social injustice. The role of this theory includes equality among all genders, as no woman is supposed to be a victim of violence by their intimate partners. Additionally, the human rights protection, adherence to the rule of law, raising bills that will ensure there is no gender imbalance, and the fair appropriation of rights are also within the ambits of the theory. According to the SJT, the women should learn to report violence and they must be aware that there are legal policies to protect them. There are revelations wherein the victims would rather not report cases of IPV because of their children. Heise (2011:2) makes assumptions that these children usually bear the brunt from the results of the reports that were lodged at appropriate quarters. Heise (2011:3) further notes that a woman's reluctance to report can be inferred as a way of ensuring the protection of her offsprings. An abused woman's reasons include stigma or the fear of what may befall her children in the case of divorce; fear that there will be some form of revenge; inadequate financial means of support; and dearth of care from her people.

The DPT indicates that the individuals who do not report violence are those who depend on the abuser financially and those who are living with the abuser for the sake of the children. It also includes those who are embarrassed of leaving the abuser's place because they are ashamed of what people will say. The DPT connotes that the victims should avoid the areas that are engulfed with violence; adequately noting that such people always become victims of IPV.

The people who have never been abused often wonder why a person would not just report an abusive relationship. They do not understand that reporting can be more complicated than it seems. Reporting is often the most dangerous time for a victim of abuse because abuse is about power and control. When a victim reports, she is taking control and threatening the abusive partner's power, which could cause the abusive partner to retaliate in very destructive ways (Felson *et al.*, 2002:628). Here are some of the reasons why women do not report the violence against them as perpetrated by their male intimate partners. The victim fears the abuser, believing the abuser to be almost 'godlike'. Often threats are made against the victim, for example, the abuser will kill the victim if the beatings are reported. In addition, the women often fear reporting abuse because of the fear of the manner in which their families and friends may react. They may also worry that their friends and families will judge them (Krantz, 2002:242).

Victim-shaming is when the victim of abuse is somehow made to feel like they are responsible for their abuse. It prevents people from healing from their trauma because they either do not believe them or imply that they were somehow at fault (Felson *et al.*, 2002:619). It is often difficult for women to admit that they have been abused. They may feel they have done something wrong by becoming involved with an abusive partner (Krantz, 2002:242).

2.8.2 Low self-esteem and self-doubt

Felson *et al.* (2002:618) note that when an abusive partner constantly puts someone down and blames them for the abuse, it can be easy for the victim to believe those statements and think that the abuse is their fault. Sometimes the abuser is otherwise well respected or mild mannered, so the victim's concerns are not taken seriously. Often the abuser is violent only with the victim and frequently concludes there is

something wrong with the victim. Krantz (2002:243) confirms that in cases of emotional abuse, the victims often begin to doubt themselves and second-guess all their decisions. This can prevent them from getting the help they so desperately need. There is a form of emotional abuse known as gas lighting where the victim is manipulated into doubting their own memories of what happened and wondering if they are crazy. Sometimes the victims are even convinced that what is happening is normal, or even their fault.

2.8.3 Cultural/religious reasons, physical disability and language barriers or immigration status

The traditional gender roles supported by someone's culture or religion may influence women to stay rather than end the relationship for fear of bringing shame upon their family (WHO, 2017:55). Krantz (2002:242) states that the women living with disabilities tend to depend more on their abusive partners. These women may think that their well-being is connected to the relationship. This dependency could heavily influence their decision to stay in an abusive relationship. Consequently, if a woman is an undocumented immigrant, she may fear that reporting the abuse will affect their immigration status. Also, if their first language is not English, it can be difficult to express the depth of their situation to others (WHO, 2017:55).

2.8.4 The lack of money/resources

Financial abuse is common, more especially on women who are financially dependent on their abusive partners. Without money, the access to resources or even a place to go, can seem impossible for them to leave the relationship. This feeling of helplessness can be especially strong if the person lives with her abusive partner. Often the woman stays for the sake of her children 'needing a father,' or the offender can make threats of violence against the children if the woman tries to leave. The offender frequently threatens to take the children away from the mother if she decides to leave. The threats will make the woman stay because she believes the abuser's threats (WHO, 2017:58).

2.8.5 Believing abuse is normal

South Africa has adopted violence as its 12th official language. Moreover, violence has been 'valorised' in our patriarchal culture to the point that it is being taken for granted, or as a social fact, and not as something that is problematic (van der Merwe, 2013:72). Violence has become so normalised because South Africa has in effect developed a 'culture of violence (van der Merwe, 2013:73). This may be attributable to the fact that violence, either against human beings, animals or non-living objects has somewhat become peculiarly normalised (Rapatsa, 2017:16).

2.9. DIFFERENT TYPES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

2.9.1 Physical violence

Instances of physical violence include slaps, punches, kicking, beating with a stick, phishing, choking, burning, and the use of weapons such as a gun, knife, and others (Langa-Mlambo & Soma-Pillay, 2014:18). Men regard physical abuse as a way of discipline to women and that it is normal to do so. Damba, Lunga and Musarurwa (2013:2) 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 the police's reaction to crime is ineffective, vigilantism is often regarded as necessary (Graham *et al.*, 2010:36).

Reddi (2007:503) states that men describe physical abuse as 'discipline or as punishment' and that it is justified to beat women 'when they do not listen' or 'when they stand up for their rights'. The communities still promote physical abuse to discipline those who have wronged them especially women and children, hence the IPV seems normal to most South Africans and other countries.

2.9.2 Sexual violence

According to Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014:19), sexual assault is defined as sexually violating another person without such a person's consent. Sexual violation

covers a very wide range of behaviours. For example, it includes contact between the genital organs or anus, or female breasts of one person and any body part of another person or using an object to penetrate the vagina or anus. It also includes 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.

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 (MRC Policy Report, 2018:11). For example, the touching of buttocks or breasts is seen as acceptable. 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. In many parts of the world, women are expected to be always submissive and sexually available to their husbands, and it is considered both a right and an obligation for men to use violence 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 stigmatising that most women prefer to suffer in silence than to risk the shame and discrimination that would result from disclosure (Ellsberg, 2006:326).

Kapoor (2000:10) puts forth that, the 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.

2.9.3 Emotional violence

Shilubane and Khoza (2014:86) contend that women experience emotional violence such as swearing, yelling, and name calling by their partners. The above authors further indicate that emotional IPV is the expressed feeling of emotional pain or sadness, anger with the perpetrator, being disrespected, belittled, unloved, ignored, feeling insecure, desperate, as well as being fearful of the partner. They also explain it as being restricted by the fear, feeling intimidated and controlled, irritable, self-doubt

and self-blame and having declining feelings for the partner. Furthermore, the study of the authors stated above 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 the community. They further describe it as being degraded for keeping close contact with mothers, being disrespected, and swearing at their parents.

2.9.4 Economical violence

Peace (2009:22) highlights 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 in older children-aging parent relationships. Another way to abuse someone financially would be to deny him or her the freedom to be gainfully employed. Shilubane and Khoza (2014:88) reveal 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. The above author's research further indicates that most victims of violence were unemployed with low education levels and were fully dependent on their husbands. Although it is widely recognised that family and intimate partner abuse occurs across all the economic groups, it seems to be most prevalent in low economic groups.

2.10. BEST APPROACHES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

Several international reviews have synthesised evidence on effective, or at least promising, approaches to preventing and responding to VAW, including the IPV against women. These reviews suggest a need for comprehensive, multi-sectoral, long-term collaboration between governments and the civil society at all levels of the ecological framework (Heise, 2011:57). These approaches are almost certainly the key to long-term prevention; and they are also the most under-researched. Moreover, Heise (2011:57) identifies a set of specific strategies that have demonstrated promise or effectiveness, including: reforming civil and criminal legal frameworks; organising media and advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about existing legislation;

strengthening the women's civil rights related to divorce, property, child support and custody; building coalitions of government and civil society institutions; as well as building the evidence base for advocacy and awareness.

Heise (2011:57) further identifies a set of strategies including using behaviour change communication to achieve social change; transforming the whole institutions in every sector, using a gender perspective; in particular, integrating attention to the VAW into sexual and reproductive health services. Another set of strategies includes promoting the social and economic empowerment of women and girls; building comprehensive service responses to the IPV survivors in communities; designing life-skills and school-based programmes; engaging men and boys to promote nonviolence and gender equality; and providing early-intervention services to at-risk families (Heise, 2011:57).

2.10.1 Awareness regarding the violence against women

In South Africa there is a campaign called 16 Days of Activism Against Women and Child Abuse. In the rest of the world, this has been adopted to mitigate cases of VAW and children with a view to increasing the rate at which people become aware of the menace (WHO, 2018:2). This awareness campaign is usually held yearly between late November and early December. In spite of these efforts, it is expected that all the stakeholders should join hands to arrest and curb the menace of the VAW in society.

On the 4th of September 2019, the South African people launched a campaign called *#Am/Next*. The goal was to get the government to take the problem seriously and do more to prevent the horrors that women and children are faced with every day. The women were saying enough is enough and they wanted to make their voices heard and to make sure that one day the question, *#Am/Next* will not exist. It was Uyinene's murder that sparked the movement *#Am/Next*. It was both a question and a haven nestled in a hashtag where women shared their experiences of sexual assault and rape (Singh, 2019:4). The streets of Cape Town, South Africa filled with people speaking out against the violence that was perpetrated by men. In South Africa, a woman is murdered every three hours, this according to the statistics that were released by the SAPS (2019:2).

This forms part of alarming statistics, with outrage slowly bubbling below the surface but after details of Uyinene Mrwetyana's death emerged online and news broke of 6-year-old Amy-Lee's kidnapping, the anger and fear boiled over, and the people wanted the government to act. Protest actions have been in the works, and hundreds of people took to the streets in Cape Town to be heard. The hashtags *#EnoughisEnough* and *#RememberingNene* have been used to share images of all the protests taking place today (Singh, 2019:4). Etheridge (2019:2) indicates that on September 4, the University of Cape Town students and femicide protestors turned their pain on Twitter into action and took to the streets of South Africa to express their frustration. They gathered outside the Cape Town International Conference Centre where President Cyril Ramaphosa attended the first day of the World Economic Forum (WEF). Through chants and signs, they demanded justice and protection for women and girls because of Uyinene and other women who had met similar fates.

Etheridge (2019:2) further states that during the rush hour, the students blocked several major roads in the city and what started as a peaceful protest turned into a violence confrontations with the SAPS. Women from different towns and generations wore all black in solidarity, and they sang songs from the apartheid era and wore shirts that read, *#AmINext*, "Our mothers have warned us about many things, but midday trips to the post office were never one of them". Uyinene's murder is part of a long tale as old as sexism itself. However, it is important stories such as hers that are uplifted and shared through the lens of vulnerability, the goal was that one day the question, *#AmINext* will not exist (Singh, 2019:4).

The IPV is an epidemic in South Africa. In 2019, the brutal rape and murder of Uyinene Mrwetyana at the hands of a post office worker sparked a national outcry for stricter rules and the protection from government and the police. A year later, the situation has seemingly gotten worse with more women murdered and raped every day. The public has been asked to tweet President Cyril Ramaphosa ahead of the protest and to write the following: "*We demand more funding, prevention and response services to GBV. Women's medical, sexual & reproductive health services, counselling, shelters & legal assistance are an essential service*" (Cape Town ETC, 2020:3).

2.10.2 The importance of comprehensive government responses to the violence against women

Chenwi (2010:12) provides that the international human rights treaties and conventions that lay down the rights of individuals and groups also set out the duties of states in ensuring the enjoyment of these rights. These duties require that the states go beyond making a legal commitment to ensuring that these rights are realised through the adoption of appropriate measures. Banda (2008:3) argues that South Africa has ratified a range of international and regional human rights instruments including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and the African Charter on the Rights and Welfare of the Child (AfCRWC).

The CEDAW covers not only the obligation of states to refrain from discrimination through discriminatory laws or the acts of state officials but also the obligation to adopt appropriate measures to protect women from discrimination by private persons. The CEDAW also requires that states should provide women who have experienced discrimination with effective remedies. This means that women are to be protected from torture as well as from cruel and degrading treatment. This means that the South African government holds the primary responsibility for the prevention of and action on IPV and, therefore, for implementing laws, policies, and services around these two issues as established under these international human rights instruments (Banda, 2008:4).

In South Africa, the protesters are encouraged to call governmental hotlines to express grievances over the IPV incidences. The organisers suggest saying: *“I am calling to express my grievances related to the genocide of women in South Africa. I demand more funding to be allocated to prevention and response services to GBV. Women’s medical, sexual and reproductive health services, counselling, shelters and legal assistance are an essential service that need to be prioritised”* (Cape Town etc, 2020:3).

2.11. SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter focused on the literature review that was based on the constructs of the study. The researcher discussed the literature on the IPV against women in the whole world, which was relevant to the problems outlined in Chapter 1. The prevalence of IPV against women, the causes of IPV against women, the typologies of women victimisation, the reasons for not reporting, the conceptualisation and the understanding of the nature including the different types of IPV against women and the approaches on how to stop and to prevent violence were briefly discussed. In conclusion, the IPV against women is a social problem that cuts across all the countries including South Africa (WHO, 2018:27). In the next chapter, the researcher will thoroughly discuss the applied theoretical framework of the study which are namely, the DPT and the SJT.

CHAPTER THREE

THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK ON INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

3.1. INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the theoretical framework. Theories must adhere to scientific testing to bring truth and comprehension. Criminological theories attempt to explain why some people commit crime and the reason for certain crime patterns (Van der Westhuizen, 2011:123). Theories may also shed light on why certain people are more prone to victimisation than others. Thus, it is important to understand the theories pertaining to IPV against women as a means to contextualise the criminal activity. This entails a discussion of different theories in application to the IPV against women. For this study, the researcher has used the DPT and the SJT because they best fit the study.

Violence against women by their male intimate partners is a public health problem. From infrequent slaps, pushes, grabs, or shoves to frequent and severe life-threatening assaults, IPV in its various forms has significant individual and social consequences (Stephens, McDonald & Jouriles, 2000:147). Fear, depression, intense anxiety, and social isolation are common factors among abused women, and the collateral damage that follows from IPV extends beyond the victim's individual suffering (Stephens, McDonald & Jouriles, 2000:148). For example, the children of abused women are at high risk for being victimised, as they suffer from significant emotional and behavioural maladjustment which is perpetuated by the violence in their interpersonal relationships.

3.2. THE TRIANGULATIONS OF THE TWO THEORIES

The DPT and SJT are used to explain the experiences of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province. The two theories were chosen because they can describe the experiences of IPV against women. According to Cullen and Wilcox (2010:13), the DPT was developed by Rodney Stark in 1989,

whereas SJT was developed by Rawls in 1971 (Amartya 2009:56). The DPT pays more attention on the deviant places that create opportunities for perpetrators to commit offensive behaviour and social justices. It also pays more attention on promoting social justice.

The SJT better describes and encourages men to stop the IPV against women because it promotes social justice. It is against violence and social injustice. The DPT explains why women are experiencing IPV against them and it also encourages women to stay away from places where they can be victimised. For example, the DPT argues that the more likely women spend their time with men who are violent, the more likely they will be the victims of violence. Siegel and Worrall (2013:54) indicate that there exists a linear relationship between violence and the dimensions of actions. The occurrence of violations of standards amid men with domestic violence tendencies and otherwise share a relationship; this is a function of estimating the historical occurrence of such violations otherwise referred to as defiant behaviors. Hence, a trend in retrospect on such behaviours will establish the likely engagement of men in continued violence.

Section Nine of the Constitution of South Africa, 1996 guarantees equality before the law and freedom from discrimination to the people of South Africa. This equality right is the first right that is listed in the Bill of Rights. It prohibits both the discrimination by the government and the discrimination by private persons; however, it also allows for affirmative action to be taken to redress the past unfair discrimination. In conditions of social justice, people are equal before the law and they are "*not to be discriminated against, nor their welfare and well-being constrained or prejudiced on the basis of gender, sexuality, religion, political affiliations, age, race, belief, disability, location, social class, socioeconomic circumstances, or other characteristic of background or group membership*" (Giddings, 2013:44). The DPT argues that there is a relationship between exposure to a crime area and being a victim of the crime in the area (Bouffard & Muftic, 2006:56).

3.3. THE DEVIANT PLACE THEORY

According to Siegel and Worrall (2013:48), the DPT proposes a relationship between the greater exposure to places of violence and the greater risk of women being victims of IPV. The theory connotes that victims should avoid areas that are engulfed with violence as it adequately notes that such people always become victims of IPV. Therefore, it proposes that people will not become victims of IPV if they do not find themselves within the areas of high rates of IPV, which simply means women will not experience IPV if they do not force themselves to live with abusive partners. The dangerous places in this study refer to the places where the victims are likely to experience violence, for example the abuser's place.

The individuals who are more likely to experience IPV in the abuser's place are those who depend on the abuser financially and those who are living with the abuser for the sake of their children. This also includes the individuals who are embarrassed of leaving the abuser's place because they are ashamed of what people will say. The individuals who engage with the abusive people have a greater chance of being victimised. The DPT also stipulates that the more people visit dangerous places, the more likely they will be exposed to victimisation (Siegel & Worrall, 2013:50). Thus, women who continue to stay with abusive partners are more likely to remain exposed to IPV. The DPT states that victims are at risk of harm or violence due to the dangerous places that they place themselves in which makes them more likely to become the victim of a crime. This is not like any of the other theories, the victims fall prey due to being in environments that are bad or engulfed in criminal activity. The more the victims spend time with their abusive partners just for the sake of their children, the more likely they will be exposed to IPV.

When applying the DPT to IPV, the present research defines deviance broadly and examines the co-occurrence of IPV and other forms of deviance (National Research Council - NRC, 2016). IPV and other forms of deviant behaviour are associated concurrently, as indicated by a higher concurrent prevalence rate of deviant behaviour among men who engage in IPV compared with men who do not. IPV and other forms of deviant behaviour are associated prospectively, as indicated by differing past prevalence rates of deviant behaviour.

The studies by Daigle and Mummert (2014:255) reveal that the people associated with low levels of income continue to reside with men who abuse them. Furthermore, the abuser tends to feel that they have control over them, and they continue with the abuse. In addition, the women who grew up in an abusive home tend to think that IPV is normal. This theory feels that the victims should avoid the so-called bad places to avoid attacks. To lower the chance that one will become the victim of violence, the individual should avoid going to the abuser's place. One should avoid these places so that they avoid being victims of IPV, for example, de Villiers (2020:2) reported that a body of a 28-year lady named Tshegofatso Pule was found stabbed and hanged in a veld and yet the lady was last seen visiting her boyfriend. Steenkamp who was shot by Oscar Pretorius, was shot while visiting him. The studies by Siegel and Worrall (2013:52) have shown that the women with low incomes usually live with abusive husbands. The DPT argues that there is no need for victims to practice safety measures to elude injury, because it would be useless, the women should just leave their abusive partners at any cost to avoid the risk of victimisation.

3.3.1 The criticism of the Deviant Place Theory

A few criticisms and limitations have been levied against the DPT. The early attempts to understand the relationship between crime and place took a macro approach, focusing on the characteristics of the physical space or area and neglecting the role of opportunity in offending and victimisations (Eck & Weisburd, 2005:2). The DPT is critiqued for its emphasis on the larger social environment (macro approach) and for disregarding a micro approach that examines the places themselves. Eck and Weisburd (2005:3) further argue that the DPT is incomplete because it does not explain why the offenders select certain individuals (that is, target attractiveness). The DPT only considers the crimes that take place in poor, densely populated areas, highly transient neighborhoods, and commercial areas with residential property in proximity and disregards the crime that takes place in rural and suburban areas (Bouffard & Muftic, 2006:56). The indicated criticisms argue that the DPT has limited places of crimes that are more in the developed than in the undeveloped areas. For example, in this study, most of the abusers are from the more populated area, and they have money. They abuse their intimate partners because they depend on them financially.

According to Hipp (2013:620), the DPT also proposes that the safety measures that may be taken in dangerous areas may be of little to no use since it is the areas' demographic that increases victimisation rather than the victim's lifestyle choices. If an individual lives in the abuser's place, the only 'way to lower their chance of being a victim of IPV is to leave the abuser's place'.

3.3.2 The lasting value of the Deviant Place Theory

Quinney (2010:33) argues that the DPT focuses on the causes of norm violations. Typically, these theories identify the aspects of the social environment that trigger norm violations; and the social conditions in which the violations are most likely to occur. In contrast, the social reaction theories argue that deviance is often a matter of social construction, which is a status that is imposed by one person or group on others and a status that ultimately may influence the subsequent behaviour of the designated deviant. Quinney (2010:33) further argues that some individuals and groups may be designated or labelled as deviant and that the process of labelling may trap or engulf those individuals or groups in a deviant social role. The above author argues that one of the values that makes DPT to last is because it focuses on the causes of norm violations and the victims should be able to identify the causes of IPV so that they can be able to prevent it.

According to Giddens (2001:681), the sociologist Emile Durkheim believed that deviance is rooted in societal factors such as, rapid social change and the lack of social integration among people. The DPT provides social values that the victims of IPV should learn to be able to stand on their own, and not to depend on their abusers. Although many people continued to follow the dominant morals (such as the norms, values, and laws) as best as they could, the rapid social change contributed to an anomy social condition in which people experienced a sense of futility because the social norms are weak, absent, or conflicting, as social integration (that is, bonding and community involvement) decreased, while deviance and crime increased. However, from his perspective, this was not altogether bad because the sociologist believed that deviance has positive social functions in terms of its consequences.

According to Giddens (2001:681), Durkheim suggests that deviance is universal because it serves three important functions:

- Deviance clarifies rules by punishing deviant behaviour and intimate partners reaffirm its commitment to the rules;
- Deviance unites intimate partners, to avoid the opposition of deviant behaviour between intimate partners;
- Deviance promotes social values to intimate partners.

The expression, deviance draws reference to frown upon behaviour in a social context (Newman, 2004:77). Some types of deviance are determined by criminal law, while others are defined by social standards, morality, the expectations of certain social groups, the welfare system, or the medical vocation (Roach-anleu, 2003:280). It is subjective to classify what is regarded as deviant since the norms and values vary across nations and culture. The various forms of action or behaviour may well be respected in one context, or by certain intimate partners, but they may also be viewed negatively by others (Giddens, 2001:687).

3.4. THE SOCIAL JUSTICE THEORY

The SJT is defined as the theory promoting a just society by challenging injustice and valuing diversity. 'It exists when' all the people share a common humanity and therefore have a right to equitable treatment, support for their human rights, and a fair allocation of community resources. In conditions of social justice, the people are equal before the law and they are "not to be discriminated against, nor their welfare and well-being constrained or prejudiced on the basis of gender, sexuality, religion, etc." (Giddings, 2013:44). This theory is against the prejudice or violation on the basis of gender; thus, men should not violate their intimate partners just because they have the powers over them or because of their welfare. This theory is generally equated with the notion of equality or equal opportunity in society. The men should be equal to their intimate partners regardless of their status.

Although equality is undeniably part of the social justice, the meaning of social justice is much broader (Scherlen & Robinson, 2008:54). Furthermore, 'equal opportunity' and similar phrases such as personal responsibility have been used to diminish the prospective for realising social justice by justifying enormous inequalities in modern society (Berry, 2005:177). The most prominent statements about social justice, of which it posits its own theory of social justice, are Rawls' (2003:13) justice as fairness. While this theory can be considered as an exhaustive treatment of the subject matter, it offers a complex theory of social justice that illustrates its broad meaning (Brighouse, 2005:22).

The theory is founded on the principles that protect justice in a society. It equally establishes that for a society to be morally just, it must ensure that both social and economic benefits are open to all genders to prevent IPV. When applying SJT to explain IPV, this theory fits this study because it promotes social justice. Based on this theory, the men are not supposed to violate their intimate partners. The researcher chose this theory because it is against violence and social injustice. The role of this theory includes equality among all genders, as no women are supposed to be victims of violence that is perpetrated by their intimate partners. Additionally, human rights protection, adherence to the rule of law, raising bills that will ensure there is no gender imbalance, and fair appropriation of rights are also within the ambits of the theory.

Rawls (2003:14) further opines that the theory specifically enshrines justice fairness. Social justice promotes equality in accessing opportunities, as everyone is entitled to equal opportunity including women to prevent IPV due to financial dependence. Hence, equality is a function of the nature of justice in a society. Conwill (2010:42) describes overlapping or intersecting social identities and related systems of oppression, domination, or discrimination as well as privilege and power. The SJT is an excellent tool for examining IPV in lower, middle, and higher-class communities. To illustrate, by understanding the social location in which low-income women reside, intersectionality can help us to understand how and why they experience IPV in the context of the high rates of poverty, mass incarceration, housing instability, and community violence, which, in turn, elevates their risk for a host of physical and mental health problems. The combination of poverty and IPV can also predispose women who live in economically distressed areas.

Rawls (2003:16) does not suggest that everyone will agree with what justice requires in given situations, but rather that his conception of justice as fairness can fit into "conflicting doctrines" because of what he calls "overlapping consensus." That is, men must agree that they should protect their intimate partners instead of abusing them. It is important to note that Rawls' theory is one of domestic justice (principles that apply to the basic structures of society) and not of local justice (principles that apply to institutions and associations in society) or global justice (principles applying to international law). The author argues that global justice is beyond the scope of his theory, although international law is relevant for social justice. Furthermore, the principles of social justice that apply to the structures of society help to determine the causes of IPV against women (Rawls, 2003:17).

Finally, Rawls (2003) does not posit an unrealistically utopian (that is, relating to or for a perfect society in which everyone works well with each other and is happy) vision of justice, but instead the author offers a theory of social justice that is "realistically utopian" (Rawls, 2003:18). The author attempts to showcase what a just democratic society would be like if there is still a possible historical condition that is allowed by the laws and tendencies of the social world. John Rawls's theory of 'justice as fairness,' can be summarised using two primary principles, as follows:

- Women have the same indefensible claim to a fully adequate scheme of equal basic liberties, and the scheme is compatible with the same scheme of liberties for all;
- The social and economic inequalities are to satisfy two conditions: Firstly, they are to be attached to offices and positions that are open to all under the conditions of fair equality of opportunity. Secondly, they are to be the greatest benefit of the least-advantaged members of society (Rawls, 2003:18).

According to Rawls (2003:18), these principles are ordered; meaning the first principle (the "equal liberties principle") should be achieved before the efforts to achieve the second principle are attempted. Furthermore, the first part of the second principle (the 'equal opportunity principle') precedes the second part (the 'difference principle'). The

ordering of the principles suggests to the author that equality is the most important element of the SJT. Equality means a fair distribution of each of the capacities needed to be normal and fully cooperating members of society over a complete life (Rawls, 2003:19). The author explains that the 'priority [that is, of equality] means that the second principle (Which includes the difference principle as one part) is always to be applied within a setting of background institutions that satisfy the requirements of the first principle (including the requirement of securing the fair value of the political liberties). The background institutions refer to basic structures of society (Family, school, religion, economy, polity), which can be referred to as 'background justice' (Rawls, 2003:19).

3.4.1 The criticisms of the Social Justice Theory

The concept of social justice means equalising wealth or opportunities for people. Many classical liberals and libertarians reject the idea of government-directed social justice. Some reject it because they think it is impractical or even immoral. Zwolinski (2013) rejects the SJT because the author thinks it is useless and corrupt since even if it means equalising wealth or opportunities for everyone, women are still being abused, more especially by their intimate partners. The others reject it because they believe the idea is conceptually confused. Zwolinski (2013:147) explains that the primary problem in the social justice concept is that the free societies lack a central distributor to ensure that wealth, jobs, opportunities, resources, or other goods are distributed "equally" or "fairly" to women. The women who depend on their intimate partners financially are being deprived of the opportunity of standing on their own and they end up being financially abused, because their intimate partners think that they have some control over them. The libertarians and classical liberals find that the only meaningful concept of social justice is one that is focused on the legal and economic rules of societies. Many think this focus is incompatible with the political concept of the SJT.

Robin (2017:8) rejects the very idea of the SJT as meaningless, self-contradictory, and ideological because men abuse their intimate partners knowing that even if they report them to the police, nothing will be done. Robin (2017) opines that to realise any degree of social justice is unfeasible, and that the attempt to do so must destroy all liberty. There can be no test by which one can discover what is 'socially unjust'

because there is no subject by which such an injustice can be committed. In addition, there are no rules of individuals to conduct the observance of which in the market order would secure to the individuals and groups. The SJT does not belong to the category of error but to that of nonsense, like the term a 'moral stone'.

Robin (2017:9) argues that the proponents of social justice often present it as a moral virtue but most of their descriptions pertain to the impersonal situation (e.g., income inequality, poverty), which are cited as "social injustice". The author further argues that social justice is either a virtue or it is not. If it is, it can only be ascribed to the actions of the individuals. However, most people who use the term ascribe it to social systems, so "social justice" in fact describes a regulative principle of order. For Robin (2017:9), this notion of social justices presupposes that the people are guided by specific external directions rather than internal, personal rules of just conduct. It further presupposes that the woman can never be held accountable for their intimate partner's behaviour, as this would be 'blaming the victim'. The function of social justice is to blame someone else (that is, men), and it is often attributed to "the system" or those who are supposed to mythically control it. Thus, it is based on the appealing idea of if one suffers; their suffering is caused by powerful intimate partners; and these oppressors must be destroyed.

O'Neill (2011) shares that in advocating for 'social justice' - the notion of 'rights' is a mere term of entitlement, which is indicative of a claim for any possible desirable good, no matter how important or trivial, abstract or tangible, recent or ancient. It is merely an assertion of desire, and a declaration of intention to use the language of rights to acquire the said desire. In fact, since the programme of the SJT inevitably involves the claims for government's provision of goods, paid for through the efforts of men, the term refers to an intention to use force to acquire one's desires. Women do not earn desirable goods by rational thought and action, production, and voluntary exchange, but they go in there and forcibly take goods from their intimate partners.

3.4.2 The lasting values of the Social Justice Theory

According to Rawls (2003:52), the SJT is concerned with the principles that regulate the way in which major social institutions distribute what he calls 'primary goods.'

Primary goods are, *“things that every rational man is presumed to want. These goods normally have a use in their intimate partners’ plan of life. For simplicity’s sake, assume that the chief primary goods at the disposition of society are rights, liberties and opportunities, and wealth and income”* (Rawls, 2003:54).

These are to be distributed according to two principles of social justice, and the principles interpreted according to the “difference principle.” The two principles of justice are: *“Women is to have equal rights to the most extensive share of equal liberties compatible with their intimate partners. Second, social, and economic inequalities are to be arranged so that they are both a) Reasonably expected to be to everyone’s advantage, and b) Attached to positions and offices open to all”* (Rawls, 2003:53).

The different principle decisively affects the concrete application of these principles to the distributions of primary goods. It maintains that inequalities are permissible as incentives to the wealthy to ensure that the “economic process is more efficient, [and] innovation proceeds at a faster pace and in general, becomes more productive, creating more wealth overall, and therefore a larger pool of resources for women” (Rawls, 2003:68).

Amartya (2009:66) provides that the social and economic inequalities are to be arranged so that they are attached to offices and positions that are open to all genders under the conditions of equal opportunities. This is because equal opportunity requires not merely that offices and positions be distributed based on merit, but that all genders have reasonable opportunity to acquire the skills based on which merit is assessed, even if one might not have the necessary material resources due to a beneficial inequality stemming from the difference principle. According to Follesdal (2005:88), the SJT is concerned about the following five principle: access, equity, diversity, participation, and human rights, as discussed below.

- **Access**

Access to resources is a fundamental SJT principle. Unfortunately, in many areas of society, women have had different levels of access based on factors such as

socioeconomic status, education, employment, and the environment. Education, for example, is associated with better opportunities for employment, higher-paying jobs, and economic advancement. It follows, then, that when equitable education is not available, that lack feeds the cycle of unemployment, low-wage occupations, and poverty, thereby limiting access for future generations. By levelling the playing field, it expands underserved women facing IPV's' access to resources affecting health, and education (Follesdal, 2005:89).

In broad public policy terms, that could mean offering free public education for everyone, thereby eliminating the financial barriers created by the economic disparities in the educational system. There could be implementation of more equitable funding distribution for essential resources, thereby improving the quality of education for women in disadvantaged homes (Follesdal, 2005:90).

- **Equity**

The effort and resources that are required for two different people to achieve a common goal can vary widely. For example, to complete a college degree, some victims may need more support and educational resources than others do. To achieve social justice and to ensure equal opportunities for success, it is important to provide equitable resources that focus on the specific needs of women facing IPV (Follesdal, 2005:91). Advocating for justice could mean promoting policies that address systemic barriers. Implementing policies for inclusive education and adding more educators for victims, based on their needs, would be important first steps.

- **Diversity**

Group supports should be better equipped to craft policies that address everyone's needs when they acknowledge the differences that exist between women and their intimate partners. To be effective, the police must recognise and accept all the factors that create barriers, then work on ways to overcome them. By understanding diversity and embracing cultural differences, the opportunities and access should be expanded (Follesdal, 2005:92).

- **Participation**

Social justice requires that the victims have the opportunity and platform to participate in making the policies that affect their well-being. Even well-meaning public administrators can create exclusionary policies when they fail to bring diverse voices to the table. Policies are often created by a select group of people in powerful government positions. The public administrators can help to prevent IPV by carefully considering who will be part of the decision-making process. This may be done by purposely inviting the advocates for the groups that are not adequately represented and encouraging them to apply for long-term and permanent positions (Follesdal, 2005:93).

- **Human Rights**

Perhaps the most important principle in this discussion, is human rights and they are inherent to all victims, regardless of their socioeconomic status. Human rights and social justice are inevitably intertwined, and it is impossible to have one without the other. In this country, these rights are manifest in laws that grant freedom of speech, voting rights, criminal justice protections, and other basic rights (Follesdal, 2005:94).

3.5. SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

The main purpose of this chapter was to give the study's theoretical framework and to outline the current global situation regarding practical work, as well as to give reasons for the suggestion in a South African context. The DPT and SJT are the theories that were used by the researcher to explain the IPV against women. The Deviant Theory connotes that woman should avoid areas that are engulfed in violence; thereby adequately noting that such women always become victims of the crimes.

Therefore, it proposed that women will not become victims of crimes if they do not find themselves within their abuser's place (Siegel & Worrall, 2013:49). The theory is founded on principles that protect justice in a society. Furthermore, in conditions of social justice, the people are equal before the law and are "*not to be discriminated*

against, nor their welfare and well-being constrained or prejudiced on the basis of gender, sexuality, religion, political affiliations, age, race, belief, disability, location, social class, socioeconomic circumstances, or other characteristic of background or group membership,” in this case, the women should not experience violence by their intimate partners (Giddings, 2013:43). The next chapter is about the study’s employed research design and methodology.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

4.1. INTRODUCTION

The study intended to explore the lived experiences of IPV against women in the Seshego Zone 1 area of the Limpopo Province. This chapter presents the research methodology. The research methodology is the most important part of the research, as it comprises of the tools and techniques to obtain appropriate data, namely: the research design, population, sampling, and data collection methods, upon which the entire research will be based. The term research methodology can be used to describe the art of investigating something (Babbie & Mouton, 2001:73). The exploration of the lived experiences of the IPV against women in Seshego was achieved through a qualitative methodology.

4.2. RESEARCH DESIGN

This study used the qualitative research approach which was the exploratory research design to explore the experiences of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province. According to Dane (2007:18), the qualitative method refers to research which produces descriptive data, which is generally the people's own written or spoken words. Qualitative research is not concerned with the methods and techniques that are used to obtain appropriate data for investigating the research hypothesis, as in the case of quantitative research. Qualitative data is based on the meanings that are expressed through words and other symbols or metaphors (Dane, 2007:18). The exploratory research design was adopted with the view to examine the exploratory research objectives to gain more knowledge on IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1 of the Limpopo Province.

4.3. STUDY LOCATION AND POPULATION

4.3.1 Study location

The study took place in the Seshego area which is in the Limpopo Province. It was conducted mainly in the Zone1 community of the Seshego Area. The township is directly on the northwest side of the city of Polokwane. It is nearest to the economic core of all the settlement areas and thus has the best access to the formal economy of Polokwane. Polokwane means a "*place of safety*" in Sotho, and it is the capital city of the Limpopo Province. Polokwane is South Africa's largest urban centre which is north of Gauteng. The Polokwane municipality comprises of a total area of +/- 539 982.5 Ha and is located in the central part of the Limpopo Province. It is located within the Capricorn District in the Limpopo Province and accounts for 3% of the province's total surface area of ±124 000 km².

In terms of its physical composition, the Polokwane municipality is 23% urbanised and 71% is still rural. The remaining area (6%) comprises of small holdings as well as institutional, industrial, and recreational land. It is the economic hub of the Limpopo Province, and it is strategically located to be the administrative and economic capital of the province (Reaga Polokwane, 2021:23). The city of Polokwane has launched an exciting programme called "*Re aga Polokwane*" that is geared towards ensuring that the government and the citizens are working together to build the city of Polokwane (Statistics South Africa, 2019:2).

4.3.2 Study population

Welman and Kruger (2006:33) refer to a population as the collection of all the observations of a random variable under study, about which one attempts to draw conclusions. Wagner (2008:92) defines a population as the totality of all the subjects that conform to a set of specifications and comprising of the entire group of persons that is of interest to the researcher and to whom the research results can be generalised. The population of this study includes women who have experienced IPV, however, 17 were sampled. The participants were selected according to certain

criteria, and the participants were between the ages of 22 and 52. All the participants were women who have been victims of IPV.

4.5. SAMPLING METHODS AND PROCEDURES

A sample can be defined as a part of the population group that is considered for the actual inclusion in the study (Strydom, 2011:27). The non-probability sampling method, particularly the purposive and snowball sampling methods were adopted for the purpose of the study. Non-probability sampling is a sampling technique where the samples are gathered in a process that does not give all the individuals in the population equal chances of being selected (Walker & Maddan, 2009:149). Non-probability sampling was used to enable the researcher to reach specific categories of participants that would have been hard to reach using probability sampling, in this regard who are the women who experienced IPV (Walker & Maddan, 2009:149).

4.5.1 Purposive sampling

The rationale of adopting purposive sampling is to understand a particular population with characteristics that are relevant to the study (Strydom, 2011:232). Purposive sampling is a sampling technique where the researcher relies on their judgement to choose the participants (Neuman, 2014). The researcher specifically used the purposive sampling technique, which is a sampling technique where the researcher chooses the units of analysis purposively. When using this technique, the researcher targeted those units of analysis, which were appropriate for the study who in this case were the women who experienced IPV.

A purposive sampling technique was used in this study, where information-rich participants were selected for face-to-face in-depth semi-structured interviews since they could provide both the best information as well as first-hand experiences about the problem under study, that is, IPV against women (McMillan & Schumacher, 2010:138). This research began with purposive sampling where the researcher purposively selected the elements of inclusion of women who experienced IPV. After interviewing the first participants, the researcher asked them to refer other participants who experienced IPV (that is, snowballing sampling).

4.5.2 Snowball sampling

Snowball sampling is a sampling technique that is used by researchers to identify potential subjects in studies where subjects are hard to locate (Walker & Maddan, 2009:152). Snowball sampling provides the study with the ability to transcend the limitation of accessing the relevant subjects for the purpose of the study. The researchers use this sampling method if the sample for the study is very rare or if it is limited to a very small subgroup of the population. This type of sampling technique works like a chain referral. After observing the initial subject, the researcher asks for assistance from the subject to help identify people with a similar trait of interest (Walker & Maddan, 2009:152). As such, it requested the help of an accessed subject to assist in the identification of other subjects who share similar characteristics. The researcher interviewed the women that are known to her, she then asked these first participants to refer her to people they know who meet the characteristics of the sample.

4.6. DATA COLLECTION METHODS

The purpose of data collection is to obtain information to make decisions about significant issues, to keep records and to pass information to others (Hagan, 2006:127). In this study, two main data collection instruments were used to gather data, namely the face-to-face in-depth semi structured interviews and documentary methods.

4.6.1 Face-to-face Semi structured interviews

Semi-structured interviews were engaged to retrieve data from the participants. Bob (2002:13) explains an interview as a direct method of obtaining information in a face-to-face situation with participants who were asked to answer questions relating to the problem. The interviews allowed for detailed information to be collected. As the data was collected during the COVID-19 epidemic, the data was collected face to face and the following measures were taken: the researcher was wearing a mask and a face shield, while the participants also wore masks. In addition, the required 1.5m social distance was kept, and the researcher sanitised the participants first before they started signing the consent form.

Data saturation was reached when there was enough information to replicate the study (O'Reilly & Parker, 2012:190; Walker, 2012:37), that is when there was no additional new information and when further coding was no longer feasible (Guest, Bunce & Johnson, 2006:59). A total of 17 participants were interviewed. The information was intended to be collected from 20 participants, but the saturation point was reached with participants number 15, 16 and 17. These interviews were semi-structured, as an interview guide was utilised to conduct the-said interviews. Data was written down and audio recorded with permission from the participants. The researcher personally undertook the data retrieval. This method was considered suitable as it intended to create a safe environment, wherein the participants enjoyed the comfortability of sharing their views about their experiences of the IPV against women in this study location.

4.6.2 Documentary studies

Documentary methods refer to a process of reasoning in which particular examples or evidence are used to document underlying patterns such as newspapers, directories, government statistical publications, photographs, paintings, gramophone records, tapes, and computer files (Scott, 2015:34). Notably, the available statistics were also reviewed to provide an overview of existing publications on this subject. The information sources that were retrieved comprised of recent academic books, dissertations, thesis, academic journal articles, legislation, policy documents, national instructions, and information that was available on the internet.

4.7. DATA ANALYSIS METHODS

According to Mouton (2001:13), data analysis involves the breaking up of data into manageable themes, patterns, and trends to determine the relationship between variables and themes. The aim of analysis is to put the collected data into meaningful information. A qualitative data analysis is a detailed systematic examination of the contents of a particular body of material for the purposes of identifying patterns, and themes for the purposes of tabulating the frequency of each characteristic that was found in the material being studied (Leedy & Ormrod, 2010:10). In this study, the

researcher employed a qualitative content analysis technique to analyse the data that was collected through face-to-face in-depth semi-structured interviews.

Content analysis is a technique that is used to analyse data and infer a variety of things from the participants' responses (Powner, 2015:15). The Thematic Content Analysis [TCA] was adopted because of its ability to comprehensively examine and record trends within the collected data. The researcher transliterated the retrieved data with a view to understand their views on the IPV against women. Conclusions were inferred from the results while they were presented. The six steps of TCA that are used to analyse data are discussed below.

4.7.1 Familiarising with the data

This involve transcribing audios, reading through the text, and taking initial notes, and generally looking through the data to get familiar with it (Braun & Clarke, 2006:77). The researcher had an all-inclusive comprehension and deduction from the interviews and was acquainted with the data. The researcher then immersed herself with the data by reading and re-reading textual data for example, as well as by transcribing interviews and listening to audio-recordings repeatedly.

4.7.2 Generating initial codes

After data familiarisation, the identification of initial codes was done manually (Braun & Clarke, 2006:78). Once familiar with the data, the researcher then started identifying preliminary codes, which are the features of the data that appear interesting and meaningful.

4.7.3 Searching for themes

At this point, the relationship between the codes, sub-themes and themes are carried out (Braun & Clarke, 2006:83). The researcher sorted relevant data extracts and combined them according to overarching themes.

4.7.4 Reviewing themes

On this step, the researcher made sure that the themes are useful and are accurate representations of the data. This was done by combining some themes and separating others (Braun & Clarke, 2006:88). The researcher combined, refined, and separated, initial themes.

4.7.5 Defining and naming themes

Defining themes involves formulating exactly what is meant by each theme and figuring out how it will help to understand the data. Naming themes involves coming up with a succinct and easily understandable name for each theme (Braun & Clarke, 2006:95). The researcher then defined and further named the themes, and then presented them for analysis and analysed the data within them.

4.7.6 Producing the report

This step involves presenting an interpretation of how the themes relate with the relevant data (Braun & Clarke, 2006:96). The researcher transformed her analysis into an interpretable piece of writing by using vivid and compelling extract examples that related to the themes, research questions, and the literature.

4.8. METHODS TO ENSURE QUALITY CRITERIAS

The benchmarks for qualitative research are transferability, credibility, dependability, and confirmability. To ensure the transferability, credibility, dependability, and confirmability of the research, the researcher asked questions about the IPV that was directed at women and avoided other conversations that are not related to the topic. The researcher did not change or misinterpret the participants' facts and ensured that she does not add her opinions. The four elements of the quality criteria for the qualitative approach that was followed in this research are discussed below:

4.8.1 Credibility

The credibility of the findings is reflective of a well-structured interpretation of reasonable findings in alignment with the original data (Moser & Korstjens, 2017:271). Peer debriefing, and the checking of members were done to ensure that there is credibility of the findings. To maintain credibility in this study, the researcher conducted interviews with the participants to explore their perceptions and experiences of IPV against women and clearly linked the research findings with reality (literature study) to demonstrate the truth of the study's findings. The researcher further ensured that the information that was collected from all the participants was recorded and analysed accurately.

4.8.2 Transferability

Transferability in research refers to the process in which the researcher asks whether the research results can be transferred from one case to another. This is the extent to which the results were consistent regardless of how many times the analysis is done under different climes and to tackle the main issue of how far the researcher may make claims for a general application of a theory (Moser & Korstjens, 2017:272). To achieve this, the researcher improved transferability by using proven data collection strategies such as interviews to ensure that the findings arrived at are likely to be the same if the study was carried under similar conditions in another environment.

The researcher further referred to the original theoretical framework to show how data collection and analysis were guided by concepts and models. The researcher provided sufficient and adequate information, research context, processes and lastly the relationship between the researcher and the participants which enabled the researcher to decide how the findings may be transferred from one case to the other in this study.

4.8.3 Dependability

This is the extent to which the findings are trustworthy (Moser & Korstjens, 2017:273). To address the issue of dependability more directly, the researcher reported the process under study in detail to enable future researchers to be able to repeat the

work, and if necessary, to obtain the same results. The researcher used an enquiry audit to examine the process of the study and to determine its acceptability to the dependability of the study. The researcher looks into the data, findings, interpretations, and recommendations and looks into whether the study is supported by data and is trustworthy.

4.8.4 Confirmability

It is important to establish that the findings are not mere creations and manipulations (Moser & Korstjens, 2017:273). To ensure confirmability, the researcher ensured that as far as possible the study's results are objective and are not based upon the biases, motives, and perspectives of the researcher. For this study, confirmability was demonstrated by making field notes available for auditing. The researcher documented the procedures for checking and rechecking the data throughout the study which involved taking the interpretations and descriptions of the data analysis back to the research participants to verify accuracy and credibility.

4.9. ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The research conclusions may appear biased considering the researcher's capabilities and the sensitive nature of information about the participants. Hence, the study addressed the following ethical considerations which were handled carefully:

- All sensitive information was retrieved and judiciously used for its intended purpose of this study only. The researcher agreed/signed relevant non-disclosure agreements with the participants involved in this study.

More specifically, the following ethical considerations were considered in this study:

4.9.1 Permission to carry out the study

This study was carried out under the auspices of the UL which requires ethical clearance from the University. This was done before the study's commencement. The committees which granted the ethical clearance for this study were the Faculty of

Humanities Higher Degrees and Ethical Committee (FHDC) and the Turfloop Research and Ethics Committee (TREC), as well as the external gatekeeper.

4.9.2 Informed consent and voluntary participation

The researcher was doing this study to obtain a master's degree and will also publish the work in accredited journals. The participants were briefed about the content and the context of the research before they engaged or participated in the research (Grady, 2015:855). Additionally, all the participants were given a fair share of their right to discontinue with their participation (Payne & Payne, 2005:14).

4.9.3 Confidentiality and anonymity

The researcher concurs with Henning, Van Rensburg and Smith (2004:43) in that the participants need to know that their privacy and sensitivity will be protected. They also need to know what will happen with their information after recording. The participants were also assured of the confidentiality of their information; as the information that they provided was protected and was not made available to anyone else (Grady, 2015:856). The participants' rights and wishes to remain anonymous were respected. Anonymity which means that the participants' names and other unique identifying particulars such as (place of residence, professions and so on) were not required during the interviews and the information was written in such a way that the views expressed were not linked back to a particular participant.

4.9.4 Discontinuance

This was not different from the above as it granted the participants the rights to discontinue with the research exercise if they felt unsafe or threatened (Grady, 2015:860).

4.9.5 Physical and psychological harm

Under no circumstances were the participants allowed to be faced with potential harm of any dimension. As such, once it was discovered that any of the participants indicated a sign of being overwhelmed, such participants were asked to visit the appropriate quarters for counselling (Grady, 2015:862).

4.10. SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter focused on the research design and the methodology that was employed in the empirical investigation. The research methodology stated above supplied an exploratory framework from which the study on the lived experiences of IPV against women was conducted. The methodology provided detailed information about the chosen research design or strategy which was fit for the kind of study which was embarked upon. This study used non-probability sampling, and in more particular purposive and snowball sampling to collect data.

The methodology also provided detailed information with regard to Seshego, Zone one (1) 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 5 of this dissertation will focus on the data presentations, the analysis, and the interpretations, as collected from the selected participants.

CHAPTER FIVE

DATA PRESENTATIONS, ANALYSIS, AND INTERPRETATIONS

5.1. INTRODUCTION

The aim of this chapter is to present, analyse and interpret the findings of the study. This chapter will also summarise the core issues that were derived from the topic under investigation. The researcher opted to use face-to-face semi-structured interviews to gain an in-depth understanding of the lived experiences of IPV against women. The aim of this study was to explore the lived experiences of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province. The participants were given a chance to express their feelings, opinions, and experiences regarding the IPV against women.

The purposive and snowball sampling technique was adopted to target only women from the Seshego Zone 1 area who have been subjected to IPV. The information was intended to be collected from 20 participants, but the saturation point was reached with Participant number 17. All the participants were interviewed face to face. The researcher made the appointments with the participants and went to the participants' chosen study location on the time of appointment to collect data. As the data was collected during the COVID-19 pandemic, the data was collected face to face and the following measures were taken: the researcher and the participants were wearing masks, the 1.5m social distance was kept, and the researcher sanitised the participants first before they started signing the consent forms.

Therefore, the inductive TCA was utilised for the allowance of the identification of the important constructs that emerged during data collection. In the next section, a transcript of data is presented. This is in support of the outlined themes' evidence. Each theme was considered in relation to the existing objectives of the study. The researcher has identified five themes, with each theme having its own sub-themes. In Chapter 4, the research design and the study's methodology were clearly outlined. The various ethical considerations in conducting the research as well as the measures to ensure trustworthiness were explained in detail.

In this chapter, the researcher will firstly present the biographic information of the victims. Secondly the occurrence/prevalence of IPV against women, the causes of IPV against women, the reasons for the non-reporting of IPV against women to the local SAPS and the different kinds of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province will be outlined. Furthermore, the researcher will also present the best approaches that can be used to reduce or end the IPV against women.

5.2. PROFILE OF TYPICAL VICTIMS

The aim of this section is to present the victims' personal information. The reason for this is to better understand the experiences of IPV against women in detail. The age ranges of the participants were from 22 to 52 years. The most victimised group of individuals were between the ages of 22 years to 35 years, with a total of 11 victims, of which seven of them are unemployed and four are employed. The second victimised group were between the ages of 36 to 45 years, with five victims of whom three were employed victims and two were unemployed. The third group was between the ages of 46 and 52 with only one victim who is working, and this was the least victimised group. According to the findings, the most victimised group was between the ages of 22-35 and the least victimised group was above 45 years of age.

According to the presented information, the findings are that the young people aged between 22-35 years are more vulnerable to violence and most of them are unemployed where people from age 36 to 52 are less likely to be victimised and most of them are working.

To ensure that the principle of confidentiality was complied with, each of the participants were coded with numbers such as Participant 1, and Participant 2. The system of coding that was used ensured that there was no link between the data and the participants, and neither between the data and the settings, thereby ensuring the anonymity of the participants and the confidentiality of the data (McMillan & Schumacher, 2010:121). Refer to table 1.

Table 1: Demographic profile of participants

Age	Gender	Occupational status	Race
22-35	Females	7 unemployed 4 employed	Black
36-45	Females	3 employed 2 unemployed	Black
52	Females	1 employed	Black

Source: Researcher's illustration (2021)

5.3. IDENTIFICATION OF THEMES AND SUB-THEMES

To analyse and interpret the large volume of raw data that was collected through the process of consulting written records and conducting interviews, a qualitative data analysis process was conducted. The development of these themes, and sub-themes were based on the guidelines for data analysis and interpretation. Furthermore, the aims and objectives of the study as stated guided the development of the main themes and sub-themes. This process of categorising the information assisted the researcher in TCA and interpretation (Wiersma & Jurs, 2009:216). The main themes that were identified in this study were as follows:

- The occurrence/prevalence of IPV against women;
- The causes of IPV against women;
- The reasons for the non-reporting of IPV against women to the local SAPS;
- The different kinds of IPV against women;
- The best approaches taken to reduce or end the IPV against women.

5.4. PRESENTATIONS AND DISCUSSIONS OF EMPERICAL STUDY FINDINGS

The themes that emerged in the study emanate from the experiences of the IPV against women and the contributing factors leading to violence. These themes and categories are discussed in detail to present the major findings of this research. In addition, the applicable verbatim quotes from the raw data that was obtained are used to confirm and justify important findings.

5.4.1 Theme 1: The occurrence/prevalence of the violence against women by intimate partners

This theme stipulates the participants' views regarding the occurrence/prevalence of the IPV against women. In this theme, one sub-theme emerged which is in line with the main theme that was indicated in Section 5.4.1 of this study, namely: the prevalence of IPV.

Table 2: The occurrence/prevalence of the violence against women by their intimate partners

THEME 1: The occurrence/prevalence of the violence against women by intimate partners			
Research questions	Participants	Sub-theme	Responses
What is the prevalence of IPV against women perpetrated by their intimate partners?	All participants	Prevalence of IPV.	17 Quotes

Source: Researcher's illustration (2021)

5.4.1.1. Sub-theme 1: Prevalence of intimate partner violence

The participants reported that the IPV against women was prevalent in Seshego Zone 1. The following verbatim quotations were shared by the selected study participants:

“To me it happens daily, I am emotionally violated almost every day of the week. It’s like it has become a habit for my partner to call me names whenever he feels like it” **(Participant 1, 30 years).**

“Almost every week we hear about IPV against women. As for me I am being insulted about my body size and that I am a nervous wreck” **(Participant 2, 24 years).**

“IPV against women is a very disturbing scourge in our community because a month cannot go by without hearing that someone has been physically abused, whenever me and my partner have a misunderstanding, he too beat me” **(Participant 3, 22 years).**

“The violence is very traumatic, after being humiliated you lose self-esteem and believe that you are not good enough and end up not reporting the violence, I am being emotionally abused by being restricted to engage with my co-workers, just imagine that!!” **(Participant 9, 41 years).**

“The violence in our area happens very often because you cannot go beyond three months without hearing that a woman has been killed by her intimate partner” **(Participant 11, 27 years).**

“The violence against women in my area is very high due to the high rate of unemployment. My partner used to slap, hit, and kick me. He does not even allow me to look for work” **(Participant 13, 33 years).**

“The IPV against women is high because we as women are reluctant to report it” **(Participant 14, 30 years).**

The participants explained that there is a prevalence of IPV against women in their community. They further explained that the violence happens frequently because the victims are reluctant to report it. The expressed views by the participants concur with paragraph 2.4 of Chapter 2 of this study, when the WHO (2016) highlighted that the IPV against women is one of the most widespread violations of human rights worldwide, as it was affecting one in every three women in their lifetime, and it was often perpetrated by an intimate partner. The IPV against women remains one of the most serious and on-going challenges for international development agencies, governments, and civil society across the globe.

5.4.1.2 Section deduction

The result from the above section shows that the IPV against women is prevalent in the study area. Paragraph 2.4 from Chapter 2 of this study confirms this finding as stated by the NISVS (2010) that the IPV against women is a major social problem in South Africa. The IPV against women is fast becoming an epidemic in South Africa with an alarming rate which continues to maintain an upward trend. The rate at which women are murdered by their intimate partners is alarming. Consequently, this has raised concerns about the high prevalence of violence in South Africa. Women are afraid of reporting the violent practices against them as some of them are not aware that there are legal provisions that are in place to protect them. The above expressed views agree with Banda (2008) who highlights that there is dearth of literature related to cases of IPV against women.

Summarily, the DPT proposes a relationship between the greater exposure to places of violence and the greater risk of women being victims of IPV. The DPT connotes that the victim should avoid areas that are engulfed with violence; and it notes that such people always become victims of IPV. The relationship between the DPT and the prevalence of IPV against women is that women have a greater risk of being victims of IPV by visiting/staying in the abuser's place. The more women who visit their abuser's place, the more the rate of IPV cases; therefore, the DPT proposes that women should avoid the places where they experience violence.

5.4.2 Theme 2: The causes of the violence against women by intimate partners

The study's research findings indicate that the causes of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1 are subjected to five main causes, which are namely, jealousy, alcohol and drug abuse, poverty, illiteracy, unequal power relations and the love for the abuser.

Table 3: The causes of the violence against women by their intimate partners

THEME 2: The causes of the violence against women by intimate partners			
Research questions	Participants	Sub-themes	Responses
What are the causes of IPV against women by intimate partners?	Participants 3, 2, 10, 11, 17 and 15	Jealousy	6 Quotes
	Participants 1, 5, 13, 12 and 16	Poverty	4 Quotes
	Participants 4, 7 and 8	Unequal power relations	3 Quotes
	Participants 6 and 14	Alcohol abuse	2 Quotes
	Participant 9	Love	1 Quote

Source: Researcher illustration (2021)

5.4.2.1 Sub-theme 1: Jealousy

The following verbatim quotations were shared by the selected participants of this study:

“My partner has trust issues, whenever we go out, I have to explain when we got home why men were looking at me. According to him it means I gave them the impressions to look at me and if I do not answer his questions, he would slap me” (Participant 3, 22 years).

“Yhoo the guy is very insecure; he thinks I am cheating with my colleagues. He wanted a full access to my phone, my Facebook login details and every time we met, he’d go through my Whatsup and messages just to check my movements and I don’t have access to his phone and its always off” (Participant 11, 27 years).

“My partner would sneak into my phone and check who I am chatting with, if it happened that I am talking to a guy whom he does not know,he would tell me that otlatsaba ko diphala dinwang meetse, translated, I will know where the springboks are drinking water” (I will know his hidden brutal/abusive behaviour) (Participant 2, 24 years).

“Jealous is the main cause for me being abused, my partner does not want to see me with other men even if they are my colleagues” (Participant 10, 45 years).

“It is because of trustworthiness between the partners. We promise each other the things we cannot fulfil, and men feel betrayed when the goal of the relationship is somehow compromised” (Participant 17, 29 years).

The findings from the participants indicate that jealousy is the main cause of the IPV against women. The men are responsible for most killings and serious injuries, and these are resulting from jealousy (Mullen, 2008). Mullen (2008) reveals that several judgements which are constitutive of jealousy are associated with feelings and predispositions. It should be remembered that those who resort to violence when jealous, often have other individual characteristics such as impulsiveness and insensitivity.

To this cause, the DPT explains that the other cause of the IPV against women is because of jealousy and it encourages women to stay away from places where they can be victimised. For example, the DPT argues that it is likely that the more women spend their time with men who are violent because of jealousy, the more likely it is that they will be victims of violence.

5.4.2.2 Sub-theme 2: Poverty causes intimate partner violence

The following verbatim quotations were shared by the selected participants of this study:

“I stayed in an abusive relationship because of poverty. Whenever I think of leaving him, I start thinking that I have nowhere to go and have no one to feed me. My parents died long time ago while I was young, and I did not finish school” (Participant 1, 30 years).

“Lack of employment is a major cause of violence because we end up settling down into the abusive relationships because of money” (Participant 13, 33 years).

“My husband is a breadwinner and very abusive and I am not working, when I think of quitting, I am thinking of what will happen to my kids. So, I stayed in this relationship because I have the children to support” (Participants 5, 45 years).

“For me, the finances are the cause of me staying in the abusive relationship. I have to dance to my partners tune because of my financial problems” (Participants 12, 52 years)”.

The DPT suggests that the individuals become victims of crime when they are being exposed to dangerous places. The dangerous places for the purpose of this study refer to the place of the abuser. The individuals who stay with the abuser because of poverty, employment or finances have a greater chance of being victimised. In reference to the SJT, the men should not violate their intimate partners just because they have the powers over them or because of their welfare. The findings from the participants indicate that poverty has a direct bearing on the causes of the IPV against women.

The participants indicated that they are forced to stay in the abusive relationships because of poverty. These expressed views by the participants are in line with Case *et al.* (2002) who share that in a household bargaining model that incorporates violence, the lower a woman's income, the worse her bargaining power

and the greater the level of the IPV. Poverty exacerbates the abuse because it increases or prolongs the women's exposure to it as it reduces their capacity to leave. The women are therefore more likely to be financially dependent on someone else.

5.4.2.3 Sub-theme 3: Unequal power relations

The following expressed views from the participants concur with Kimmel (2002) who explains the unequal power relationships as the basic component of a power structure. The person with superior power, either due to trust or to technology access or superior knowledge, does not necessarily have superior ethical judgement, just because they are trusted, or are technologically enabled, or better educated. The participants regard an unequal power relation as a contributing factor to the IPV against women. The following sentiments were shared by the study's selected participants:

“My husband grew up in a violent family where his father was always humiliating his mother, so he grew up thinking that violence is a solution to every problem and also thinking that a man has a right to control woman” (Participant 4, 38 years).

“I grew in a family where my father would always beat my mother. Even after being in a relationship, I was not seeing any problem when my partner beat me, up until one of my friends complained about it, to me it was normal to be beaten by your male partner” (Participant 7, 33 years).

“My boyfriend is abusive because he has a trauma of abuse from and disrespect for women. He also thinks that he has power over me and own me since he is supporting me and our child” (Participant 8, 29 years).

Kimmel (2002) also established that the unequal power relations between men and women, led to the domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women. The IPV against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position when they are being compared with men. In most places, the men possess more

economic, political, domestic, and overall decision-making power than women (Kimmel, 2002).

van der Merwe (2013) showed that South Africa has adopted violence as its 12th official language. Moreover, violence has been 'valorised' in the patriarchal culture to the point that it is being taken for granted, and not as something that is problematic. Paragraph 2.8.5 from Chapter 2 of this study also concurs with the expressed views from the participants, when Rapatsa (2017) stated that violence has become so normalised because South Africa has in effect developed a 'culture of violence. This may be attributed to the fact that violence, either against human beings, animals or non-living objects has somewhat become peculiarly normalised. The participants mentioned that they believed that their partners have power over them.

As shared in the aforementioned paragraph, the SJT is generally equated with the notion of equality or equal opportunity in society. (Scherlen & Robinson, 2008). The DPT states that some victims with low levels of income reside with the abuser and the abuser tends to feel that they have control over them and end up abusing them (Daigle & Mummert 2014). The relationship of the two theories and the findings from the participants shows that an unequal power relation is a contributing factor to the IPV against women, therefore the SJT suggests that the men should be equal to their intimate partners and the women should not believe that their partners have power over them, they should treat them as their equals regardless of their status. The DPT suggests that to lower the chance that one will become the victim of violence, the individual should avoid going to the abuser's place.

5.4.2.4 Sub-theme 4: Alcohol abuse

The following sentiments were shared by the selected participants of this study:

"Wherever my partner is drunk, he does not think straight and tend to be abusive. He would come home drunk and start talking about things that happened in the past and we would fight for small things" **(Participant 6, 34 years).**

Alcohol abuse is the biggest problem in my relationship, when my partner is drunk, he comes home very late, making noise while we are sleeping and accusing me of cheating on him” (Participant 14, 30 years).

The DPT suggests that the individuals who stay with abusive partners that are drunkards are most likely to be the victims of abuse, therefore, the DPT suggests that the women should leave their abusive partners as much as possible. The findings from the participants indicate that alcohol abuse is a contributing factor to the IPV against women. These expressed views by the participants are in line with Paragraph 2.5.4 of Chapter 2 of this study, when the MRC (2018) reveals that the social norms dictate that many of the acts of fatal and non-fatal violence occur after alcohol and drug abuse, especially the fights, some types of homicides and rape. Many victims of violence are also rendered vulnerable by alcohol. Alcohol and drug abuse are mostly the cause of many forms of violence especially the IPV against women, as women are vulnerable and powerless than men (MRC, 2018).

5.4.2.5 Sub-theme 5: The love they have for their partners

The following comment was shared by one of the selected participants of this study:

“I stayed in an abusive relationship in the name of love. When I grow up, I was told that heoka bona monna a boulelwa ka wena o tsebe gore wao rata, (Loosely translated in English as follows: If a man is jealous of you, it means he loves you). My partner does not want me to associate with other men, when he sees me with other men, he become very aggressive and end up fighting me just because he says he loves me. He is a very nice and loving person, but when he is angry, you won’t like him” (Participant 9, 41 years).

The findings from the participant indicates that love is one of the causes of IPV. This is supported by Felson *et al.* (2002) in sub-section 2.5.5 of Chapter 2 of this study, when they say that the victims love their abusive partners. They may have children with them and want to maintain their family. Abusive people can often be charming, especially at the beginning of a relationship, and the victims may hope that their partner will go back to being that person. The abuse takes place during a relatively

short period of time. Afterwards the offender may be quite gentle, apologetic, loving, and may promise never to beat the victim again.

5.4.2.6 Section deduction

The research participants have shown that jealousy, alcohol abuse, poverty, unequal power relations and love are the common contributing factors of the IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1. The findings of this study indicate that jealousy and poverty are the most contributing factors of the IPV against women and the least contributing factors to the IPV against women are alcohol abuse, unequal power relations and love. The above information is supported by Peace (2009); as well as by Bhowan and Munbauhal (2005) in sub-section 2.5 of Chapter 2 of this study who agree that jealousy, coupled with poor anger management skills and low socio-economic status probably reflect a variety of conditions that in combination place a woman at greater risk of being victimised.

5.4.3 Theme 3: Reasons for not reporting the intimate partner violence against women

The research findings of this study indicate that there are five reasons why women do not report IPV, and these are namely: embarrassment and shame, believing that abuse is normal, fear, lack of money and the lack of police interference. Only one participant (Participant 6) indicated that she has reported the violence to the police.

Table 4: Reasons for not reporting the intimate partner violence against women

THEME 3: The reasons why women do not report violence			
Research questions	Participants	Sub-themes	Responses
What are the reasons for not reporting IPV against women?	Participants 1, 10, 15 and 16	Lack of money	4 Quotes
	Participants 4, 17, 7 and 3	Believing abuse is normal	4 Quotes
	Participants 8, 11 and 13	Fear	3 Quotes
	Participants 5 and 12	Embarrassment and shame	2 Quotes
	Participants 2 and 14	Lack of police interference	2 Quotes

Source: Researcher’s illustration (2021)

5.4.3.1 Sub-theme 1: Lack of money

The following was shared by the study’s selected participants:

“I am afraid of losing my support system because he is the breadwinner and myself, I am earning peanuts, the money that I am earning cannot be able to support me and my children” (Participant 10, 45 years).

“My financial problems are stopping me from reporting him because no one will provide for me if he goes to prison. My kids will also suffer because I am not working” (Participant 15, 43 years).

“When I fell pregnant, my father chased me out of the house, the only place I could go to was my boyfriend’s place. He then started to abuse me knowing that I cannot report him because I am unemployed, I cannot afford to pay rent and I have no place to go. He is still abusing me, and I am still with him because I do not know where I can go.

People think it's easy, but to tell the truth; it is only easy when you have a supportive family or parents" (Participants 16, 29 years).

"I was afraid that if I report him and the police decide not to take my case serious, he will kill me. I was protecting him because he is the one providing for the family, I also stayed for the sake of my children because they need their father" (Participant 1, 30 years)

The participants explained that the lack of money is a common reason why the violence is not reported. The other participants explained that the reasons why they cannot report violence is because their partners are the ones providing for them whereas the others explained that they do not want their children to grow up without a father figure. These expressed views by the participants read with Paragraph 2.8.4 of Chapter 2 of this study, where the WHO (2017) revealed that financial abuse is common, and a victim may be financially dependent on their abusive partner. Without money, it is difficult to access resources or even a place to go. This feeling of helplessness can be especially strong if the person lives with their abusive partner. Often the victims stay for the sake of the children 'needing a father'.

The DPT states that the victims with low levels of income reside with the abuser and tend to feel that there is a need to stay with their abusive partners and end up being abused (Daigle & Mummert 2014). The findings from the participants show that the lack of money is a contributing factor to the IPV against women. The DPT suggests that to lower the chance that one will become the victim of violence, the individual should avoid going to the abuser's place.

5.4.3.2. Sub-theme 2: Believing abuse is normal

The following was shared by the selected participants of this study:

"I did not report it because I believed that one day, he will change. My family found out about it after years. They held a meeting and talked to him and he never repeated that mistake again" (Participant 4, 38).

“I somehow feel responsible for the behavior of my partner. I wanted the society to think that I am happy in my relationship, I was believing that he will change and not do it again only to find out that he knows how to manipulate the situation” (Participant 17, 29 years).

“I did not report it because it was difficult for me to admit that I have been abused. I was also worried that my friends and family will judge me and was always blaming myself thinking that I am the reason for the abuse” (Participant 7, 33 years).

“I was living with my boyfriend when I was 18. I was thinking that he abuses me because he loves me and he had his right to do so and a woman must love her husband, whatever he does, so I had to surrender patiently. I was concerned about my children” (Participant 3, 22 years).

This shared views by the participants in this section concur with sub-section 2.8.5 of Chapter 2 of this study when van der Merwe (2013) states that South Africa has become a society which endorses and accepts violence as an acceptable and legitimate means to resolve problems and achieve goals. The endorsement and acceptability of violence to which this label (that is, culture of violence) refers is crucial to an understanding of any violent incident in South Africa. Resolving conflict and problems through violence has long been a major part of South African culture (van der Merwe, 2013). Violence has become so normalised because South Africa has developed a ‘culture of violence’. This may be attributed to the fact that violence, either against human beings, animals or non-living objects has somewhat become peculiarly normalised (Rapatsa, 2017).

The DPT states that the women who grew up in an abusive home tend to think that IPV is normal (Daigle & Mummert, 2014). The relationship between the DPT and results from the findings above is that the participants believed that abuse is normal and that is why they did not see the importance of reporting the violence. They explained that they thought their partners had the right to abuse them, and they were blaming themselves because they thought that their partners will change, as shared in sub-section 2.8.5 of Chapter 2 of this study.

These expressed views by the participants concur with sub-section 2.8 of Chapter 2 of this study, where Felson *et al.* (2002) indicate that a person may not know what a healthy relationship looks like, perhaps from growing up in an environment where abuse was common, and they may not recognise that their relationship is unhealthy. The victim may rationalise the beatings, believing that the victim must have "deserved" the "punishment" or that the abuser was just "too drunk" to know what he was doing.

5.4.3.3 Sub-theme 3: Fear

The following verbatim quotations were shared by the selected participants of this study:

"I did not report it because of fear of relapsing back to poverty life and again my partner is from a close family, so I was afraid of damaging his future by reporting him" (Participant 13, 33 years).

"I have a fear of losing him because I do not want my children to grow without a father, and I cannot afford to support them alone since I don't have any source of income" (Participant 8, 29 years).

"I feared reporting the abuse because of the way family and friends will react. It somehow made me to feel like I am responsible for the abuse. I was also thinking that people will not believe me or say that I am the one at fault" (Participant 11, 27 years).

The findings from the participants show that fear is a contributing reason for not reporting violence. The participants explained that they have a fear of going back to poverty, or a fear of losing the partner and the fear that the family and friends will judge them. These expressed views by the participants agree with sub-section 2.8.1 of Chapter 2 of this study, where Felson *et al.* (2002) highlight that a person may be afraid of what will happen if they decide to report the violence.

5.4.3.4 Sub-theme 4: Embarrassment

The following comments were shared by the selected study participants:

“I was embarrassed to report him because I have three kids with him, so I was thinking that if I report him no man will want to marry me with three kids” (Participant 5, 45 years).

“I did not report it because I was embarrassed of the family issues, I was protecting him because he was sleeping with different girls in our home and also knowing that the police will not take me seriously if I report such things. My children were also encouraging me not to report him thinking that he will change, and they also wanted to have a father figure in the family” (Participant 12, 52 years).

findings from the participants indicate that embarrassment is also a key reason for not reporting the violence. Some of the participants explained that they are embarrassed of exposing the family issues or are embarrassed of having to start another relationship because they have children. These expressed views by the participants are in line with sub-section 2.8.3 of Chapter 2 of this study, when Krantz (2002) indicates that it is often difficult for someone to admit that they have been abused. They may feel they have done something wrong by becoming involved with an abusive partner. They may also worry that their friends and family will judge them.

5.4.3.5 Sub-theme 5: Lack of police interference

The following comments were shared by the selected participants of this study:

“It is because we are not taken seriously when reporting the violence. This thing of reporting someone and then tomorrow you see them roaming the streets should end because they will not refrain from being violent as they know their charges do not last” (Participant 2, 24 years).

“The process of reporting is too long and stressing and the justice does not take us serious” (Participant 14, 30 years).

The findings from the participants indicate that the lack of police interference is a reason for not reporting because the participant explained that they are not taken seriously, and the process of reporting is tiring. This is supported by the study of Felson *et al.* (2002) which states that sometimes the abuser is otherwise well respected or mild mannered, so the victim's concerns are not taken seriously. Often the abuser is violent only with the victim and frequently concludes that there is something wrong with the victim. The SJT promotes equality in accessing opportunities and service deliveries (Rawls, 2003). The relationship between SJT and the findings from the participants is that the police are incompetent and do not take the violence seriously, therefore, the SJT suggests that women have the rights to equitable treatment, to support for their human rights, and to a fair allocation of community resources. The SJT further suggests that the police should start taking women seriously when they are reporting violence, as discussed in sub-section 3.4 of Chapter 3 of this study.

5.4.3.6 Section deduction

The findings from the above section prove that love, the lack of money, embarrassment, fear, believing that abuse is normal, and the lack of police interference are the key reasons for not reporting the violence. Only one in 17 participants indicated that she has reported the violence to the police. The most common reasons for not reporting violence at Seshego Zone1 are the lack of money, believing that abuse is normal, the fear of being followed by embarrassment and the lack of police interference. The least reason is love with one response.

Therefore, sub-section 2.8 of Chapter 2 of this study supports this finding as stated by Felson *et al.* (2002) by indicating that the people who have never been abused often wonder why a person would not just report an abusive relationship. They do not understand that reporting can be more complicated than it seems. Reporting is often the most dangerous time for a victim of abuse because abuse is about power and control. When a victim reports, they are taking control and threatening the abusive partner's power, which could cause the abusive partner to retaliate in very destructive ways (Felson *et al.* 2002).

5.4.4 Theme 4: the different kinds of intimate partner violence against women committed in Seshego Zone 1

The findings of this study indicate that there are three different kinds of IPV against women namely: sexual, physical, and emotional abuse.

Table 5: The different kinds of violence against women committed in Seshego Zone 1

Theme 4: The different kinds of violence against women committed in Seshego Zone 1			
Research questions	Participants	Sub-themes	Responses
What are the different kinds of IPV against women committed in Seshego Zone 1?	Participants 7, 5, 17, 2, 1, 12, 4 and 11	Emotional abuse	8 Quotes
	Participants 3, 6, 10, 13, 14 and 15	Physical abuse	6 Quotes
	Participants 6 and 16	Sexual abuse	2 Quotes

Source: Researcher’s illustration (2021)

5.4.4.1 Sub-theme 1: Emotional abuse

In cases of emotional abuse, the victims often begin to doubt themselves and second-guess all their decisions. This can prevent them from getting the help they so desperately need. The following verbatim quotations were shared by the selected participants of this study:

“He would insult me about my body size saying I am full of fats and worse he ended up insulting me about my HIV status, that is when I decided to end things and made promise to myself that I will never ever disclose my HIV status to anyone onwards”
(Participant 7, 33 years).

“My partner was quite insane. He tried to use a knife to slash me the other day. He threatened to kill all at our home. My child and I were very afraid. We jumped out of the window to flee. We ran to the police station. We were very afraid. We were frightened and slept there until early morning” (Participant 5, 45 years).

“He told me that if he finds me cheating on him, he would take me to a very far forest and leave me there to be eaten by the wild animals, my family will never know my whereabouts. I was supposed to dress in a certain way, I was not allowed to put on lipsticks or go out with friends. I was given exactly an hour to get home from work every day and he would want to know my work schedule every week. He ended up being physically abusive, I remember him beating me in front of my 3 years old daughter and pointed a gun on me and I decided to end things with him” (Participant 17, 29 years).

“The guy would come to my workplace to spy on me when I have a male client, he would stand there wanting to see what he was doing. Every time when I turn over, he is there, I could not breath, like for real. When I left him, he insulted me about my body size and that I am a nervous wreck” (Participant 2, 24 years).

“He told me that I should lose weight and wear everything according to his taste. I don't wear shorts because I don't have a nice body according to him. He even went as far as cheating with someone who uses make up and wear shorts but nna (myself) I must remain natural gore banna basa mpona (Loosely translated to English as follows: So that other men do not see me). On weekends he used to leave me are o chila le majita (Loosely translated to English as follows: And says he is going to rest with other guys), only to see pictures trending a nale (Loosely translated to English as follows: Having) girls with shorts, make up and bodies like camels” (Participant 1, 30 years).

“My partner can spend three days without sleeping at home and when I ask him, he says why should I be worried because he satisfies all my needs. Sometimes, he can just be angry for no reason and me and my children will have to dance to his tune because he provides for us” (Participant 12, 52 years).

“He firstly made me to quit my job and I depend on him financially; I became his prisoner and he stalked me whenever I was going because he hacked my phone and also isolated me from my friends and family. I had to pretend that I am happily married, and people would admire us as a happy couple. He was monied but disrespectful because he used to mock me about my family background” (Participant 4, 38 years).

“We have dated for a couple of years and have a son together, I was constantly made to feel small, not enough (Bodywise, beauty and materialistic). The guy would cheat like nobody’s business with girls in my circle and I would always feel like it was my fault because I am not beautiful enough or the mistakes are with me. When I was 6 months pregnant, he officially had a new girlfriend in front of me, that is when I realised that no maan I am fed up because I couldn’t handle the stress anymore” (Participant 11, 27 years).

The findings from the participants indicate that some participants were emotionally abused. They have explained that their partners were calling them names, body shaming them, controlling, disrespecting, stalking, and cheating on them. This is supported by the study of Shilubane and Khoza (2014) who submitted that women experience emotional violence such as swearing, yelling, and name calling by their partners.

Shilubane and Khoza (2014) further indicate that the 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 that is evidenced by not being spoken to by their partners. It also includes but is not limited to accusations of infidelity, monitoring of their phone calls and messages, being stalked, restrictions to visit home or to go elsewhere and being tarnished for keeping close contact with parents.

5.4.4.2 Sub-theme 2: Physical abuse

The following was shared by the study participants:

“When he was drunk, he repeatedly assaulted me. Sometimes he left me outside home all night. I felt pain and was afraid of him, he would search my phone while I am sleeping and block every guy in my phone. If I insist on talking to the guys he blocked, I will get a warm clap” (Participant 3, 22 years).

“lyhoo, I got married, my father paid off his debt, so we could start off a good life, only to sign up for hell and abuse, ended up with some physical and emotional scars that made me to fear men even today. He accused me of cheating and then hit me and locked me in a room where I was stuck inside the whole day” (Participant 15, 29).

“I was not supposed to have friends and I was told whom to talk to and not to talk to. Sometimes he just comes back from work and decide to physically abuse me because he saw me talking to a male person” (Participant 10, 45 years).

“He was hurting me too much, slapping, hitting, and kicking me. He would come to my work and abuse me there. He didn’t allow me to work. Some days when I went to sell some stuff at the market, he follows me and slap me. I felt stressed and terrified. There was nothing good in my life. My children were exposed to the violence, and both felt bad about their father. I am worried that my children might be at a risk for misbehaviour. They might become the bad people” (Participant 13, 33 years).

“I remember the other day he slapped me and when my daughter tried to fight him, to help me, he hit her as well. I even tried to kill myself, but I thought of my baby” (Participant 6, 34 years).

“I was not happy in my relationship. My partner had sexual relationships with my friend at our house. He always quarrelled and hit me and locked me up in a dark room when he abused me. He repeatedly assaulted me although he would tell me that he loved me” (Participant 14, 30 years).

The findings from the participants reveal that they were physically abused. The participants clearly explain that their partners have been slapping, punching, kicking, and beating them. These expressed views by the participants are in line with Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014) who reveal that instances of physical violence include slaps, punches, kicking and beating amongst others. Men think that the best way to discipline women is to physically abuse them, and on the other hand women accept that.

5.4.4.3. Sub-theme 3: Sexual abuse

The following sentiments were shared by the selected participants:

“He would just come home and act as if he is insane and hit me. He has STIs from sleeping around. He would force me to have sex with him every day. When I ask him to use a condom, he becomes physically abusive and shout at me. I got some pains from intercourse because sometimes he was forcing me to have sex whereas I was not in the mood. The mistreatment stressed me too much to an extent that I could not sleep at night” (Participant 6, 34 years).

“My guy would demand sex even when I am on my periods. He would go to the tavern and come back drunk and force himself on me. I remember one night he came home drunk and started accusing me of stealing his money and cheating on him and then he started punching me” (Participant 16, 29 years).

The indicated quotations showed that the people from Seshego Zone 1 are experiencing sexual abuse as a kind of IPV against women. The participants explained that their partners sometimes force themselves on them without their consent. The above information is supported by Langa-Mlambo and Soma-Pillay (2014) when they define sexual abuse as sexually violating another person without such a person's consent.

5.4.4.4 Section deduction

The findings from the above section show that the participants from Seshego have experienced three different kinds of IPV against women which are sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and physical abuse. According to this section, the most common abuse is emotional abuse with eight responses. It is difficult to describe emotional abuse to others because it requires time to explain. It was followed by physical abuse with six responses and the least abuse is sexual abuse with two responses.

This finding is as stated by Amoakohene (2014) who indicates that the IPV against women means the practices that degrade and dehumanise women as well as physical, psychological, and economic acts of abuse. Heise (2011) defined this term as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or the suffering of women. It includes 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 (2011) by stating that the IPV against women refers to a violation of women's physical and/or emotional wellbeing, which manifests in various forms.

5.4.5. Theme 5: The best approaches to reduce or end the intimate partner violence against women

The research findings of this study indicate that the best approaches that can be used to reduce or end the IPV against women are subjected to four main approaches namely: support groups, police interference, awareness campaigns, empowering women to learn to stand for themselves and better communication.

Table 6: The best approaches to reduce or end the intimate partner violence against women

THEME 5: Best approaches to reduce or end the intimate partner violence against women			
Research questions	Participants	Sub-themes	Responses
What are the best approaches that can be taken to reduce or end intimate partner violence against women?	Participants 2, 3, 14 and 15	Support groups	4 Quotes
	Participants 5, 8, 11 and 13	Police interference	4 Quotes
	Participants 1, 6 and 9 and 12	Empowering women to learn to stand for themselves	4 Quotes
	Participants 4, 7 and 10	Better communication	3 Quotes
	Participants 16 and 17	Awareness campaigns	2 Quotes

Source: Researcher's illustration (2021)

5.4.5.1 Sub-theme 1: Support groups

The following quotations were shared by the selected participants of this study:

“There should be an ongoing programme in communities that talks about these different types of violence against women, that both men and women should attend to learn more on how to deal with these issues” (Participant 2, 24 years).

“There should be a running support system in the community which make women aware of violence against them and helps them find jobs so that they can be able to stand on their own” (Participant 14, 30 years).

“The best way is to find someone to talk to and someone who can help you to speak about your experiences and help to report violence to the police” (Participant 15, 43 years).

“There should be a support group of women experiencing violence, so that women can speak about their situations and help each other to solve this problem by guiding each other that humans must love themselves first. If a man loves you, he will not abuse you. We as women should be able to know and understand our rights” **(Participant 3, 22 years).**

“The community should create a support group for women more especially the ones that have been abused so that they can be able to share their experiences of violence and be able to help each to deal with the abusers” **(Participant 9, 41 years).**

According to the participants, for the violence to end or to be reduced, there should be support groups that will help to enhance the self-esteem of victims and provide a social network as well as essential support. This will help the abused women to be courageous and will encourage them to be able to speak openly about the violence, as well as gain an understanding of the proper way to end the violence. They should also be able to solve violence through a process which includes accepting the situation, improving their own thoughts, and coping with the problem, to help them gain power and self-esteem and to develop coping skills.

Heise (2011) mentions a set of specific strategies that have demonstrated the promise or effectiveness to reduce the IPV against women. A support group is crucial to find solutions, to increase inner strength and to leave the abusive cycle and survive beyond the abuse. In a support group, the participants can share their stories of conflict, tension and the problems that are related to their intimate violence circumstances. Critical understanding will be obtained within the group.

5.4.5.2 Sub-theme 2: Police interference

The following sentiments were shared by the study’s participants:

“I think the police should take the crime serious when reported, because if such crimes are taken seriously when women report them, then a lot of men will stop abusing women” **(Participant 5, 45 years).**

“The only way for the abuse to end is if women report such incidents at an early stage and for the police to do their jobs and not let criminals get away with it like always. If a crime is reported, police should act upon it and not delay all the time” (Participant 8, 29 years).

“I think the government should introduce the rule which says any man who abuses women should be given a long sentence” (Participant 11, 27 years).

“The justice system should be transparent and trust the victims when they report. They should also provide support and give protection to the victims” (Participant 13, 33 years).

The illustrated participants' responses showed that violence can be reduced or prevented if the police can interfere and take the violence or the victims seriously. The participants explained that the police and the justice system should take the victims seriously and give the abusers long sentences. They also explained that the justice system should be transparent, and it should provide support as well as give protection to the victims. The expressed views by the participants concur with the World Health Report (2001) which stipulates that the DVA, 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, yet the police are not taking the victims seriously.

5.4.5.3 Sub-theme 3: Empowering women to learn to stand for themselves

The following comments were shared by the selected participants of this study:

“The government should enforce strict age of commencing relationships and parents should play an important role in their children's education and tell them that they should focus on their studies so that they can be able to stand for themselves in future and not stay in an abusive relationship just because of money” (Participant 1, 30 years).

“Women who are experiencing violence by their intimate partners should just leave them and do something that will take their minds out of abuse like doing business if

they are not working so that they can be able to stand on their own” (Participant 9, 41 years).

“I think the solution to this is we as women should not depend on men, to take care of us and to speak out, speaking to others helps to leave a toxic relationship. Women who are not working should start small businesses and stand in their own shoes because according to my knowledge independent women are less likely to be victims of abuse” (Participant 6, 34 years).

“The government should create economic opportunities for women to be financially free” (Participant 12, 52 years).

The expressed views agree with Heise (2011) who mentions the strategies to prevent IPV which include promoting the social and economic empowerment for women and girls. Economic independence is the main thing for stability and survival. The more the women work, the more money they earn, and the less they will have time to think about the experience of violence. Earning a living is a key factor which will make the women happy, and which will increase their feelings of self-worth and confidence. Moreover, they will feel empowered to stand on their own feet (Sroisong, Triamchaisri, Kongsakon, Bennett & Ross, 2018). It was stated that the SJT promotes equality in accessing opportunities and service deliveries, as confirmed by Rawls (2003). The relationship between the SJT and the responses above from the participants is that violence can be reduced or prevented if the victims can be empowered to learn to stand on their own and be given equal opportunities.

The participants mentioned that the violence can also be reduced if the parents can encourage their children to go to school so that they can be educated and be able to stand on their own. The participants further explained that women should learn not to depend on men financially as they should start their own business to be financially stable.

5.4.5.4 Sub-theme 4: Better communication

The participants shared the following:

“Families should have a close relationship with their children and make them feel free to talk to them about anything. Crime is crime whether caused by family members or not (Participant 4, 38).

“There should be a better communication between partners, they should communicate about their cultural differences to avoid inaccurate use of words during communications” (Participant 10, 45 years).

“I think when we start the relationship, we must be clear about how we feel and set the record straight from the beginning. If one start making you feel somehow about the kind of person you are, you must not act as if you understand while it’s hurting you inside. Confront how you feel about their treatment and persists walk away. Don’t be a punching bag of a broken man in the name of love” (Participant 17, 29 years).

The responses above from the participants show that violence can be reduced or prevented if women can stand firm and communicate their differences with their partners and not allow them to violate them.

5.4.5.5 Sub-theme 5: Awareness campaigns

“As a community, we need to challenge and talk about violence, educate the public about the negative impact including the pain brought by the violence” (Participant 16, 29 years).

“I think it can be reduced by educating woman about partner violence and creating awareness to woman so that they know what partner violence is, train them to stand up and speak up about partner violence. This will encourage other women to speak up and have some strength to go and report cases of intimate partner violence” (Participant 17, 29 years)

The findings from the above responses point out that to reduce or prevent the IPV against women, there is a need for; awareness campaigns in the community, as well as for educational talks for men and women to encourage the victims to speak up and report cases. These expressed views by the participants are in line with Heise (2011) who confirms that a set of specific strategies has demonstrated a promise or the effectiveness, including: the reform of civil and criminal legal frameworks. Heise (2011) further reveals the strategies which include but are not limited to organising media and advocacy campaigns to raise awareness about existing legislation; and strengthening the women's civil rights related to divorce, property, child support and custody. The strategies may also include building coalitions of government and civil society institutions; and building the evidence base for advocacy and awareness.

5.4.5.6. Section deduction

The findings from the above section shows that for the IPV against women to be reduced or prevented there is a need for support groups and awareness campaigns in the community. In addition, the justice system should be strengthened by police investigations. Educational talks for women have to be conducted so that they can learn to stand on their own. The women must be encouraged to start small businesses so that more jobs are created. The victims should be encouraged to report cases of the IPV.

5.5. SUMMARY OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter provided an analysis and interpretations of the raw data, which was collected from the participants using face to face semi-structured interviews. It entailed the analysis of the research findings after in-depth semi-structured interviews. The chapter started by providing the demographic profiles/ biographic information of the victims and the experience of the participants on the research problem, and this was followed by the presentation and the discussion of the issues around the IPV against women. There were some themes that emerged as a result, and these were supported by the participants' responses.

The researcher indicated how the data from the interview transcripts and the field notes was analysed by identifying the main themes, and the sub-themes. In addition, the research findings resulting from the emergent themes were discussed. Furthermore, the appropriate theory, as well as the relevant evidence from the literature study were used to support the findings. According to the study, the IPV against women has been increasing in the area and the situation is becoming unbearable. The study has also indicated the measures or the strategies to be implemented to reduce the VAW. In the next chapter, the researcher presents the summary, conclusion, and the recommendations to eradicate the problem of the IPV against women.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. INTRODUCTION

The previous chapter dealt with the data analysis of the study. The purpose of this chapter is to offer a brief summary of the study's findings as per the objectives of the study. The chapter also aims to conclude the study and to provide suitable recommendations. This study sought to achieve the specific study aim and objectives. This study was undertaken to explore the experiences of the IPV against women. This chapter aims to provide the recommendations of the IPV against women based on the literature review of Chapter 2 and the research findings of Chapter 5. In Chapter 4, the qualitative research design and the methodology were described. In this chapter, the conclusions are made from the literature study and the recommendations are made for further study. The limitations of the study are also highlighted.

6.2. SUMMARY OF THIS STUDY

The study of exploring the lived experiences of the IPV against women was conducted at Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province, and data was collected from 17 women who experienced violence. A qualitative approach was adopted. Data was collected using self-administered face-to-face in-depth semi-structured interview schedules. The snowball and purposive sampling methods were used to identify the potential subjects in the study because the subjects were hard to locate. The data was then presented in narrative form using, themes and words that define them.

6.2.1 Summary of study findings based on the study aim and the objectives

6.2.1.1 Study aim: To explore the lived experiences of the intimate partner violence against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province

The findings from this study showed that the IPV is caused by jealousy, poverty, unequal power relations, alcohol abuse and the love they have for their abusers. The findings also explored that indeed the women are experiencing the IPV due to the following reasons: the lack of money, believing that the abuse is normal, fear and the embarrassment of reporting their partners to the police officers.

6.2.1.2 Study objective 1: To identify the different kinds of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province

The participants reached consensus that they have experienced three different kinds of IPV against them, namely: **1) Sexual abuse, 2) Emotional abuse, and 3) Physical abuse.** The findings of this study further indicated that the most common abuse is emotional abuse, and it is difficult to describe emotional abuse to others because it requires time to explain.

6.2.1.3 Study objective 2: To examine the occurrence of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province

The participants were all women aged between 22 and 52 years and according to the findings, the most victimised group was between the ages of 22-35 and the least victimised group was the above 45 years of age group. All the participants have mentioned that there is a high rate of IPV against women in their community.

6.2.1.4 Study objective 3: To assess the causes of the IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province

The participants showed that jealousy, alcohol abuse, poverty and unequal power relations are the common contributing factors of IPV against women. It was also

indicated that jealousy and poverty are the most contributing factors of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1 and the least contributing factors to IPV against women are alcohol abuse, unequal power relations and love.

6.2.1.5 Study objective 4: To ascertain the reasons for the non-reporting of the IPV against women to the local South African Police Service in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province

The key reasons for not reporting the violence are love, the lack of money, embarrassment, fear, believing that abuse is normal and the lack of police interference. The participants mentioned that they think that for the IPV against women to be reduced or prevented, there is a need for support groups and awareness campaigns in the community. The CJS should be strengthened; and the police investigations must be effective. Educational talks for women have to be conducted so that they can learn to stand on their own and create jobs. These will also encourage the victims to report all the cases.

The summary of the presented chapters of this study are as follows:

- **Chapter one** gave a highlight of the study's introduction, the background, and the motivation regarding exploring the experiences of the IPV against women. Moreover, this chapter covered the problem statement that guided this study. The chapter also presented the study's aim and objectives. This was followed by the operational definition of key concepts, the study purpose, the study's significance, the limitations of the study, the scope of this study and the chapters' progressions.
- **Chapter two** focused on the literature review that was based on the constructs of the study. The researcher discussed the literature on the IPV against women in the whole world, which was relevant to the problems outlined in Chapter 1. The prevalence of the IPV against women, the causes of the IPV against women, the typologies of women victimisation, the reasons for not reporting, the conceptualisation and understanding the nature including the different types of the IPV against women and the approaches on how to stop and to prevent violence

were briefly discussed in the chapter. The chapter also indicated that the IPV against women is a social problem that cuts across all the countries including South Africa.

- **Chapter three** presented a theoretical framework to the study, and it outlined the current global situation regarding practical work. It gave reasons for the suggestion in a South African context. The DPT and SJT were used by the researcher to explain the IPV against women.
- **Chapter four** focused on the research design and the methodology that was employed in the empirical investigation. The research methodology supplied an exploratory framework from which the study on the lived experiences of the IPV against women was conducted. The methodology provided detailed information about the chosen research design or strategy which was fit for the kind of study which was embarked upon. The study used a non-probability sampling method, which included purposive and snowball sampling to collect data. The methodology also provided detailed information with regard to Seshego, Zone one (1) as a study area, the target population for the study, sample selection, the method and size, the data collection and analysis methods and the fundamental ethical issues which were considered by the researcher during the study.
- **Chapter five** provided an analysis and the interpretations of the raw data, which was collected from the participants using face to face semi-structured interviews. The chapter entails the analysis of the research findings after in-depth semi-structured interviews. There is a provision of the demographic profile/biographic information of the victims and the experiences of the participants on the research problem. This is followed by a presentation and a discussion of the issues around the IPV against women. There are some themes that emerged as a result, and these were supported by the responses of the participants. In this chapter, the researcher indicated how data from the interview transcripts and the field notes were analysed by identifying the main themes, and sub-themes. In addition, the research findings resulting from the emergent themes were discussed. Furthermore, an appropriate theory, as well as relevant evidence from the literature study were used to support the findings. The study indicated that the IPV against

women has been increasing in the area and the situation is becoming unbearable. This study has also indicated the measures or the strategies to be implemented to reduce the VAW.

- **Chapter six** presented a brief summary of the study's findings as per the objectives of the study. This chapter provided the conclusions and the recommendations of the IPV against women based on the literature review and the research findings. The limitations of the study are also highlighted. This chapter revealed that indeed women experience violence from their intimate partners. Despite the introduction of legislative and policy measures, the IPV against women continues to be a serious challenge in the country.

6.3. CONCLUSIONS FROM THE RESEARCH FINDINGS

This chapter discusses the recommendations to address the problem of the IPV against women and it gives suggestions for future research. The purpose of the study was to explore the experiences of the IPV against women at Seshego Zone 1. This study was concerned about the growing level of the IPV against women in South Africa. Despite the introduction of legislative and policy measures, the IPV against women continued to be a serious challenge in the country. The aim of the research was to undertake a study of the relevant literature to explore the lived experiences of the IPV against women.

The researcher used DPT and SJT to explain the IPV against women. The findings of this study indicated that the IPV against women took place frequently. This study was qualitative in nature, and it was limited to a case study of Seshego Zone 1. Data in this study was collected through face-to-face in-depth semi-structured interviews. The study provided recommendations of the IPV against women based on the literature review and the research findings. The recommendations are also made to assist the community at large on how to prevent and reduce the IPV against women.

6.4. STUDY RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the research findings and the conclusions derived from the perception of the participants in the study and on the document analysis, the following recommendations are made to prevent future cases of the IPV against women and to contribute to the reduction of this practice:

6.4.1 Recommendations based on the study aim: To explore the lived experiences of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province

To end/reduce the causes and the reasons for not reporting the IPV against women, it is recommended that support groups should be formulated for women who experience violence in the community. The community at large must be educated through various platforms such as the radio, Televisions (TVs), community meetings/*Imbizos*, and social media pages about the consequences of IPV against women. These should include amongst others, the criminal offence and prison time that one will serve, and further consequences attached to this type of abuse. It is further recommended that women must be economically empowered to curb the risk of staying in abusive relationships.

Moreover, the findings relating to the objectives of this study were as follows:

6.4.2 Recommendations based on study Objective 1: To identify the different kinds of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province

It is recommended that the women should be able to explain the different kinds of IPV against women so that they can be able to report them. It is further recommended that the people from the community should learn to address the problem of the IPV against women and take serious measures to end it.

6.4.3 Recommendations based on study Objective 2: To examine the occurrence of IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province

It is recommended that the police should take the cases of IPV against women serious when reported so that the rate of violence can decrease. It is further presented that there should be an effective collaboration between the police officers and the people from the community to help to reduce the IPV against women. The justice system should be transparent, and it must provide support and give protection to the victims.

6.4.4 Recommendations based on study Objective 3: To assess the causes of IPV against the women in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province

It is recommended that there should be an educational programme that educates women about the IPV against them, and it must promote healthy, respectful, and nonviolent relationships. It is further recommended that the government should promote social and economic empowerment for women, and it should also support women to start small businesses so that more jobs are created.

6.4.5 Recommendations based on study Objective 4: To ascertain the reasons for the non-reporting of the IPV against the women to the local South African Police Service in Seshego Zone 1, in the Limpopo Province

It is recommended that the victims should be encouraged to report cases to the police and demand the progress reports of the cases. It is further recommended that the women should learn to communicate about their differences with their partners and not allow them to violate them. Educational talks should be conducted for women so that they can learn to stand on their own.

6.5. LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

6.5.1 Study location

This study only focused on the experiences of the IPV against women in Seshego Zone 1 rather than in the whole area of Seshego. As a result, the sample was not representative of the majority of the South African population, and it is not generalisable.

6.5.2 Target study group and sampling procedures

Data was collected from women who experienced the IPV only, even though the researcher is aware that men are also victims of IPV (Cooper-White, 2011:811). In this study, 17 participants were sampled using the non-probability sampling method, that is the purposive and snowball sampling techniques were used to reach saturation. The sampling size for this study was relatively small. However, owing to the nature of the employed research method, the study met the minimum requirements for this study. For this reason, the findings of this study cannot be generalised, but they can be used as a guide for further studies that involve similar themes.

6.5.3 Applied theoretical frameworks

The DPT and SJT helped to explain the aim and the objectives of the study. The theories also helped to strengthen, support, and add lasting value to the literature review and to the findings from the data. The used theories can best fit the application of the study. As a result, not all the theories can be used to the application of this study.

6.5.4 Fieldwork duration

The fieldwork of this study lasted for two months (June and July 2021) to complete.

6.6. FUTURE RESEARCH STUDIES

From the information provided by the participants in the study, it is evident to the researcher that women do experience violence by their intimate partners. Despite the introduction of legislative and policy measures, the IPV against women continues to be a serious challenge in the country. The findings of this research might contribute to developing expertise around the IPV against women in the Limpopo Province, and even in South Africa as a whole. This expertise can be utilised in the development of effective interventions and programmes that are aimed to combat, investigate, and prevent the IPV against women. In addition, the research can be used in the lobbying for the strengthening of laws and policies that are aimed to protect the rights of women. The results from this research can be used by future researchers in the field to conduct research and to improve on the current study.

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APPENDIX A: INFORMED CONSENT LETTER

RESEARCH TOPIC: EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SESHEGO ZONE 1, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Dear participant

My name is Chuene Lonia Seanego; I am a student at the University of Limpopo, Turfloop Campus in the Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice. I am doing research on the above-mentioned topic in fulfilment of Master of Arts in Criminology. You are requested to take part in this study. Before you decide to participate in this interview, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully. Please ask the researcher if there is anything that is not clear or if you need more information. I plead with you to participate in this study, and it will be a great honour for me if you do so voluntarily.

The purpose of the research is to explore the experiences of IPV against women. The benefit of the study is that it will highlight the problem and propose strategies to prevent IPV against women. It will also assist in producing scholarly academic article for more researchers to learn about IPV against women. I assure you that all discussion remains confidential, and your responses will be anonymous by reporting data in such a manner that people will not be able to know your identity or link your identity to your responses. Please be advised that your name and other unique identifying features such as address, place and profession will not be attached to the data. Numbers instead of names will be used to identify participants. If you feel uncomfortable or unable to carry on, then you have the right to discontinue the interview at any time without being required to offer any explanation.

Participant's signature _____

APPENDIX B: INTERVIEW SCHEDULE GUIDE

RESEARCH TOPIC: NARRATIVE EXPERIENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNERS VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SESHEGO ZONE 1, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

SECTION A: BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION

These are guiding questions with close-ended questions.

This section covers the background information of the participant.

1. Age

--

2. Race

Black	
White	
Coloured	
Indian	

3. Occupational status

Employed	
Unemployment	

SECTION B: PARTICIPANTS' RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE

This section covers all the questions of the study.

4. What is the prevalence of intimate partner violence against women in Seshego Zone 1?

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

5. What is your experience on intimate partner violence?

.....
.....

6. In your opinion, what are the causes of intimate partner violence against women in Seshego Zone 1?

.....
.....

7. What types of intimate partner violent acts have been committed against you?
(E.g., sexual, physical, emotional, stalking, financial).

.....
.....

9. Did you report the violence committed against you by your intimate partner to the police?

Yes	
No	

Please support the answer that you have given

.....
.....

8. What do you think can be done to reduce or end intimate partner violence against women in Seshego Zone 1?

.....
.....

THANK YOU FOR YOUR PARTICIPATION IN THIS STUDY

**APPENDIX C: APPROVAL LETTER FROM THE FACULTY OF HUMANITIES
HIGHER DEGREES AND ETHICAL COMMITTEE**



University of Limpopo
Faculty of Humanities
Executive Dean

Private Bag X1106, Sovenga, 0727, South Africa
Tel: (015) 268 4895, Fax: (015) 268 3425, Email:Satsope.maoto@ul.ac.za

DATE: 14 October 2020

NAME OF STUDENT: SEANEGO, CL
STUDENT NUMBER: [201110311]
DEPARTMENT: MA – Criminology
SCHOOL: Social Sciences

Dear Student
FACULTY APPROVAL OF PROPOSAL (PROPOSAL NO. FHDC2020/5/1)

I have pleasure in informing you that your MA proposal served at the Faculty Higher Degrees Meeting on 20 May 2020 and your title was approved as follows:

TITLE: EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SESHEGO ZONE 1, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Note the following:

Ethical Clearance	Tick One
In principle the study requires no ethical clearance, but will need a TREC permission letter before proceeding with the study	
Requires ethical clearance (Human) (TREC) (apply online) Proceed with the study only after receipt of ethical clearance certificate	✓
Requires ethical clearance (Animal) (AREC) Proceed with the study only after receipt of ethical clearance certificate	

Yours faithfully

Prof RS Maoto,
Executive Dean: Faculty of Humanities
Director: Prof SL Sithole
Supervisor: Ms OR Chabalala
Co-supervisor: Dr W Maluleke

APPENDIX D: APPROVAL LETTER FROM THE TURFLOOP RESEARCH AND ETHICS COMMITTEE



University of Limpopo
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TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE
ETHICS CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE

MEETING: 17 February 2021

PROJECT NUMBER: TREC/20/2021: PG

PROJECT:

Title: Exploring the experiences of intimate partner violence against women in Seshego Zone 1, Limpopo Province.
Researcher: CL Seanego
Supervisor: Ms OR Chabalala
Co-Supervisor/s: Dr W Maluleke
School: Social Sciences
Degree: Master of Arts in Criminology

PROF P MASOKO

CHAIRPERSON: TURFLOOP RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE

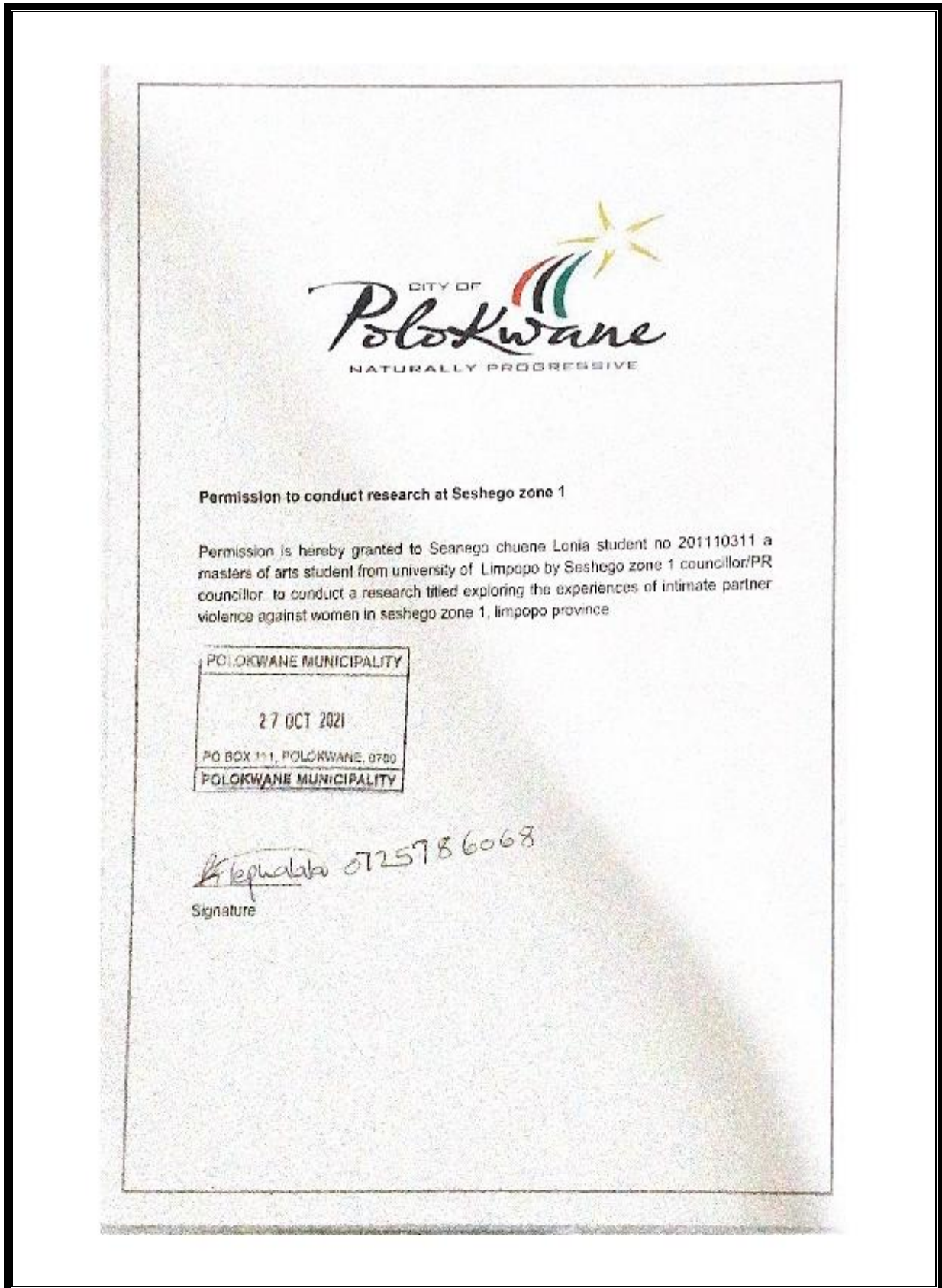
The Turfloop Research Ethics Committee (TREC) is registered with the National Health Research Ethics Council, Registration Number: REC-0310111-031

Note:

- i) This Ethics Clearance Certificate will be valid for one (1) year, as from the abovementioned date. Application for annual renewal (or annual review) need to be received by TREC one month before lapse of this period.
- ii) Should any departure be contemplated from the research procedure as approved, the researcher(s) must re-submit the protocol to the committee, together with the Application for Amendment form.
- iii) PLEASE QUOTE THE PROTOCOL NUMBER IN ALL ENQUIRIES.

finding solutions for Africa

APPENDIX E: APPROVAL LETTER FROM EMPLOYER/COMPANY



APPENDIX F: TURNITIN REPORT

EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCES
OF INTIMATE PARTNER
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN
SESHEGO ZONE 1, LIMPOPO
PROVINCE

by Chuene Lonia Seanego

EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNER
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SESHEGO ZONE 1, LIMPOPO
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APPENDIX G: CERTIFICATE/LETTER FROM EDITOR



You Write. We Edit. You Love it.

29 December 2021

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

RE: CONFIRMATION OF LANGUAGE EDITING SERVICES

I confirm that I have done language editing for Chuene Lonia Seanego's dissertation titled:

EXPLORING THE EXPERIENCES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN SESHEGO ZONE 1, LIMPOPO PROVINCE

The dissertation now conforms to the University of Limpopo's language editing standards.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lynn N Sibanda Moyo".



Lynn N Sibanda Moyo

Tel: 011 050 0376

Mobile: 071 989 0983

Email: lynn@lovetoedit.co.za

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