
THE DRAMATIC SHIFT IN GBV CASES IN THE LAST TWO YEARS: THE ZAMBIAN CASE

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Abstract

In the last two years, Zambia has witnessed an increasing number of Gender-based violence involving women as major culprits. This study, therefore, was carried out between January 2015 and the first quarter of 2017 to investigate the causes of the dramatic shift in Gender Based Violence where men have become victims. The study is being conducted in Kabwe involving 150 respondents. Additional 100 informants were drawn from across the country through social media interactions via Facebook, Twitter, Whatsapp, and Messenger. The study employed both qualitative and quantitative approaches using a descriptive design. The researcher conducted a desk review of various monitoring and evaluation reports, Newspapers both print and online and other documents dealing with Gender Based Violence and collected the most recent GBV statistics regarding prevalence in the last two years. Apart from questionnaires distributed, Focus Group Discussions were conducted, and the results of this study reveal that High alcohol consumption/drug abuse, Poverty, Infidelity, a Shaky foundation of marriage, and misapplication of human rights are among the major contributing factors to the

dramatic shift in Gender Based Violence. The study recommends that there is need to increase advocacy and awareness, increased government funding and opportunities for girls/ women to reduce over-dependency on their husbands, put up more counseling centres, and review of traditional counselling curriculum.

Keywords: *Gender-based violence, infidelity, poverty, cultural values, alcohol abuse, dramatic shift, Physical and Emotional pain.*

I. INTRODUCTION

"Gender-based Violence" and "Violence against women" are terms that often used interchangeably as most gender-based violence is inflicted by men on women and girls. Bloom (2008:14) defines Gender-based Violence (GBV) as "the general term used to capture violence that occurs as a result of the normative role expectations associated with each gender, along with the unequal power relationships between the two genders, within the context of a specific society. The United Nations (UN) on the other hand, defines Violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.

The general perception and of course widely acknowledged concept is that the majority of persons affected by gender-based violence are women and girls, as a result of unequal distribution of power in society between women and men. Further, women and girls victims of violence suffer particular consequences as a result of gender discrimination. According to United Nations Population Fund Agency (UNFPA: 2010), violence against women and girls is one of the most common human rights violations in the world. It knows no social, economic or national boundaries. The World Health Organisation (WHO) data from 2013 indicate that one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex or abused in some other way- most often by someone

she knows. One in five women is sexually abused as a child, according to a WHO 2014 report. WHO's data also indicate that women who have been physically or sexually abused are 16 percent more likely to have a low-birth-weight baby, and they are twice as likely to have an abortion. In some regions, they are 50 percent more likely to acquire HIV, according to a 2013 report from UNAIDS.

However, the rising number of men being victims of Gender-based Violence in Zambia should be everyone's concern. In the last Twenty-four months, Zambia has witnessed a significant shift in Gender-based violence where women found themselves in the limelight of inflicting emotional and physical pain on men. Traditionally, it has been vice-visa but the last two years has been fascinating. Some of the screaming headlines that hit the front pages of the print and electronic media and indeed the screens of Television sets included astonishing ones such as: "Woman murders husband", "Girlfriend murders Lusaka businessman (Lusaka Times online Newspaper, 2016:1)," "Lusaka man burnt with cooking oil insists on withdrawing the case (Muvi TV News, 2017)," "Another woman murders boyfriend," "Hubby Killings continue....as woman axes husband to death (Tembo & Mweetwa, 2016:6)," "Another Hubby Killed (New Vision Newspaper, 2017:1), and many other cases. This picture may, of course, be new to Zambia but the rate at which it has bludgeoned the Zambians within a period of Twenty-four months obviously raises eyebrows not only of the Civil Society Organisations but also of the head of state and the general public. The

question that has continued to be asked among the Zambian citizens is, "What has gone wrong in our society that is a Christian nation for women to turn against their spouses/boyfriends?" This research, therefore, set out to try to address this question using a participatory approach through Focus Group Discussions, Interviews and Social media interaction as a medium to solicit views of various respondents.

There are different forms of Gender-based Violence, but this research focused on physical and Psychological violence. Physical Violence, in this case, may include spitting, scratching, biting, grabbing, shaking, pushing, choking, burning, and use of weapons such as household objects, knives, guns, etc. against men. Psychological violence, on the other hand, may include threats of violence and harm, Emotional violence – which consists of a wide variety of verbal attacks and humiliations, including repeated verbal attacks against the man, isolation, economic violence – where perpetrators control survivors by controlling their access to all the family resources: time, transportation, food, clothing, shelter, insurance, and money.(Gray, Anne, L.: 1998). The study indicated that Gender-based violence cases are as a result of women having lost their cultural identity arising from the western influence. The study further revealed that defence mechanisms and emotional suppression among women folk had the potential to erupt like a volcano at an opportune time. Additionally, the study indicated that high alcohol consumption among women, infidelity, shaky

foundations of marriage, and poverty are topmost in fuelling Gender-based violence. The research, however, showed that going back to the nation's cultural roots would help curb the emerging vice and also promote insaka among both women and men to address the challenges of modernity.

II. REVIEW OF LITERATURE

Overwhelmingly, so much has been written about Gender-based violence and appropriate intervention strategies have been documented. Most writers, however, have concentrated on women as being the major victims of sexual, physical and Psychological abuse. Among them are Roselidah Ondeko and Susan Purdin (2002,2002) who investigated the causes of Gender-based violence in a refugee settlement in Northern Uganda which highlighted a high incidence of Gender-based violence (GBV). The results indicated that the breakdown in the traditional divisions of labour caused violence because men worked only four hours a day, while women worked about 20 hours a day. Men spent most of their time socialising at the market. Domestic violence is one of the negative consequences of enforced idleness and the ensuing frustration.

The study further revealed that men own Four-fifths of such valued household assets as bicycles and radios. Women's possessions are mostly confined to low-value assets such as cooking utensils, jerry cans, and food. This is often a source of conflict in the home. "When men are drunk they beat us and ask for good food like meat."- Which the woman cannot afford.

Instead, they cook vegetables which are considered a poor man's food. The research also revealed that there was rampant alcohol abuse in October, November, and January when the refugees were able to generate a bit of money by selling the food they had harvested. Husbands exchange the little food they got for alcohol, and when they got drunk, they beat their women as they expected good food from their wives.

Sylvie Morel-Seytoux et al. (2010) conducted an evaluation of Gender-Based Violence related activities in Zambia with the overall purpose of being to 1) assess the ASAZ (A Safer Zambia Programme) and CDC (Center for Disease Control)'s GBV Programme (CSA centres) Child Sexual Abuse Programme) performance in accomplishing the terms and objectives of their respective agreements; and 2) utilize the information to assist United States Government (USG)/Zambia in formulating ideas regarding future GBV activities. This evaluation indicated that there were 6,859 cases of GBV between January 2008 and May 2010 handled by ASAZA CRC sites in Burma, Chipata, Kabwe, Kitwe, Livingstone, Mazabuka, Mtendere, and Ndola. The collected data indicated that spouse battery (995 cases) was the most commonly reported form of GBV cases followed by defilement (Child Sexual Abuse) (501 cases including defilement attempts). However, a majority (67%) of the cases reported (3,868 of the total 5,755 GBV cases fell into the large pool of "other GBV cases," which had not been analysed because this level of detail of data was not provided to the evaluation team. (P.24). For instance, 148 GBV cases of spouse

battery were reported between 4th quarter of year 1, through May 30, 2010, while Chipata had 258 spouse assault cases.

The evaluation further indicated that the causes of GBV were varied and complex, requiring a detailed economic, social, historical, political, and cultural analysis to accurately pinpoint and assess the situation in Zambia. Quoting the Zambia Demographic Health Survey (ZDHS:2010), Sylvie et al. (2010) provided a few contributing factors to GBV cases which included extreme poverty, high levels of unemployment, abuse of drugs and alcohol, extreme economic dependence of women on men, male dominance/patriarchy which promotes imbalance power relations and sexual harassment, inadequate laws on GBV including the delay in passing of the GBV bills, and a criminal justice system which is not equipped with resources or status to fully uphold the rights of women and children.

Hamoonga (2016) reported that Zambia had recorded an increase of 7.7% in Gender-Based Violence cases in the first quarter of 2016. He indicated that a total of 4,998 cases of GBV were reported countrywide during the first quarter of 2016 compared to 4,615 cases reported in the first quarter of 2015. The report further revealed that the country recorded 13 murder cases of which six victims were women, six men, and one boy. Further, a total of 1,567 cases of Assault OABH were reported representing 31.4% and this translated to a 4.6% reduction of reported cases in 2015 first quarter which was 1,666. Out of the reported 1,567 Assault

AOBH cases in the first three months of 2016, 1,136 were women victims while 431 were men victims. This means that 72.5% were female victims and 27.5% represented men victims.

As of November 2016, the Zambia Police Service had revealed that the country recorded 15 Gender-Based Violence related murder cases in the third quarter of 2016. Out of the 15 cases, six victims were female adults, four male adults, two female juveniles and three male juveniles. A total number of 4,235 Gender-Based Violence cases were reported during the third quarter of 2016 compared to 4,951 cases reported in the third quarter of 2015. This translated to a decrease by 716 cases giving a percentage of 14.5%.

However, as the Zambia entered the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, the situation had taken a surprising twist. According to Lusaka Times online newspaper of November 26, 2016, the government was in shock that cases of such a nature continued to be on the rise in the country. The Mast Editorial (2017) reported President Edgar Lungu's lamentation and worry at the sale of alcohol beverages in bus stations, markets and other public places, which he said does exacerbate gender-based violence, defilement, and transmission of diseases in our communities. It was further reported that alcohol is a factor in many sexual assaults, including the dreadful HIV. It was indicated that frequent heavy drinking is also linked to many personal problems, including having relationship problems.

Kaoma (2015) documented a case of a 27-year old woman of Mpulungu' Lyendwe

ward who was in a coma after being axed by her husband in July 2015. Kaoma expressed shock that the country is still struggling to reduce the cases of GBV despite Zambia's Enactment landmark Anti-Gender Based Violence Act of 2011. Kaoma further indicated that one factor that has contributed to the wide increase of GBV is that most victims do not report the cases due to fear of being discriminated or because the perpetrators threaten them. She, however, suggested that one way in which GBV can be addressed is by educating young boys and girls, promoting relationships and gender equality among them. Another way of curbing the vice is to create a safe environment for victims so that even when they report the cases, their safety is guaranteed. Law enforcement commissions must also put in stiff punishments for perpetrators of GBV so as to serve as an example to would-be offenders. Above all, there is a need for everyone to be involved by not turning a blind eye to what is happening around them but break the silence and help one another. (P.33).

Headman Sibule of Chief Chikanta of Kalomo as cited by Jajah (2017) noted with concern that most of the men who are victimised by their wives do not report such cases to law enforcers for fear of being laughed at by fellow men. He explained that every time he handled a case of GBV, the report was always about females being victimised when there were also a lot of men being victimised by women. He further observed that there was an increase in reports of GBV cases in Chikanta area, hence the need for everyone

to be sensitised on the subject so that they could help end the vice.

Tembo & Mweemba (2016) reported a case of a 20-year-old woman of Chipungu Village of Kabangwe area in Lusaka who had axed her husband to death after a marital dispute. It was alleged that Violet Mvula gruesomely murdered her husband, Hassan Chipeta 22 while he was asleep. It was after they had a quarrel on Sunday, which led to the husband beating up the wife who later on Monday evening took advantage of the husband who was asleep by axing him in the head. The police sources as captured by Tembo and Mweemba (2016) indicated that many men had been killed in Lusaka in 2016 by their partners. Before Chipeta's murder in October, police arrested a woman of Makeni for allegedly killing her husband Kosi Milumbe, 38 who was run over by a car. About a week later, a Zambian musician Francis Zimba, commonly known as Frankiss, was stabbed to death with a knife by a woman suspected to be his girlfriend in Lusaka's Garden House area. Police appealed to stakeholders in the fight against gender-based violence to get involved in sensitisation campaigns so as to discourage the problem which was becoming the order of the day. It is on this basis that this study was conducted to get the views of the public on what could have gone wrong in the last two years to warrant the increase in the number of men falling victims of gender-based violence.

Haachizo (2016) however, indicated that Zambia Centre for Communication Programme (ZCCP) has partnered with the Zambia Police Service to design a Syllabus

that focuses on how to help officers curb incidents of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). John Mtonga, the ZCCP- Kwatu Executive Director as quoted by the Sunday Times of March 26, 2016, said the syllabus would consist of some guidelines to be taught to recruits in the fight against GBV. It was stated that it is cardinal for the police, being the first group to deal with perpetrators, to be well-equipped with skills on how to help reduce the scourge of GBV and related cases.

Many other reported and unreported cases of GBV in which men were victims occurred between the first quarter of 2015 and first quarter of 2017. This study, therefore, took interest in enquiring into the paramount causes of the dramatic shift in GBV during the period under review.

III. RESEARCH METHODS AND STUDY PARTICIPANTS

Participants were picked at random across combinations of internet bloggers and different sections of society ranging from marketers to those in formal employment. Since the researcher's interest was merely to hear their views, all participants were taken as having the potential to offer the most compelling insights into what has caused the dramatic shift in gender-based violence between the first quarter of 2015 and the first quarter of 2017. The study adopted a mixed methods approach involving both quantitative and qualitative data collection methods using a descriptive design. This combination of quantitative and qualitative approaches complemented each other and allowed complete analysis. Questionnaires and unstructured interviews were used for data collection with a sample

of 250 of which 150 questionnaires were given out to police officers, health care providers, civic leaders, lawyers, prison warders, NGOs, shop attendants, and men's groups. An additional 100 informant interviews, using pre-tailored interview guides, with line Ministries, Prison waders, religious leaders, teachers/lecturers and online bloggers who were drawn from across the country through social media interactions via Facebook, Whatsapp, Twitter, and Messenger were conducted.

The researcher also conducted a review of various monitoring and evaluation reports, Newspapers both print and online and other documents dealing with Gender Based Violence and collected the most recent GBV statistics regarding prevalence in the last two years. Apart from questionnaires distributed, Focus Group Discussions were conducted which involved marketeers, bus drivers, and Women's groups.

IV. RESULTS

This research was anchored on five major variables which included: Infidelity, Poverty, Alcoholism and Drug Abuse, Foundation of Marriage, and Civil Society Organisations.

A. Poverty

43% of the respondents ranked poverty as number one source of Gender-based Violence. 20% placed poverty in the second position while 14.3%, 17.1%, and 9% placed poverty in the third, fourth, and fifth positions respectively. The respondents indicated that poverty leads to early marriages on the part of women,

resulting in unstable relationships. Most relationships/marriages are not built on solid ground as they are based on materialism. Unemployment has forced many into poverty, and as such, they are desperate for social and economic protection. The research further revealed that poverty brings about frustration in families and marriages in particular. For instance, the moment the husband or wife fails to provide what is expected of them, tension builds up between the couples and eventually slides into psychological or physical violence. It further indicates that poverty has led to commercialisation of marriages in the country. Questions like, 'What does the man who wants to marry you have?' This and many other kinds of question set the tone for the kind of marriage one would expect once the couple gets married. This means that whether lovable or not the girl accepts marriage on the basis that the man is rich. This is a mistake from the start because it creates an impression that the man who is made to pay Lobola (dowry) through the nose owns the woman as a piece of property and can treat her in any way he pleases. The respondents submitted that this poses a danger to the couple's marriage life.

The research additionally revealed that this has got worse due to a breakdown in the social fabric of the Zambian society as a result of the economic and social base obtaining. The respondents stated that Zambia's liberalised economic approach, lack of social safety net for the most vulnerable, political violence based on the scramble for the resources had created a sharp distinction between the haves and halve-knots. As such,

relationships/marriages have not been spared in the struggle for survival.

B. Infidelity (Extra-marital relationships)

17.14% of the respondents placed infidelity as number one source of the dramatic shift in Gender-Based Violence between January 2016 and March 2017. 12.5% of those who placed infidelity as number one were men while 6.25% were female. 20% put it in the second position in the ranking while 14.3% and 22.9% of the respondents placed infidelity in the third and fourth position respectively. 40% of the respondents assigned infidelity to the bottom of the ranking. The respondents revealed that marital differences bordering on extra-marital affairs had been one of the main causes of the increasing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) cases in the last two years. The respondents stated that women do not want to share their spouses with any other women. Once they learn about their husband's extra-marital involvement, they react and sometimes violently, leading to murder cases on the increase. The research further indicates that women have been psychologically beaten by their spouses who have been unfaithful and did not regularly service the needs of their wives. This results in spontaneous moods that eventually erupt into violence. The respondents also said that the abolishment of marriage interference law has a fertile ground for extra-marital affairs to thrive for both men and women, thereby promoting GBV cases. It was said that before the abolishment of the law, couples would sue the intruder when they had reasons or sufficient evidence that the spouse was

cheating on them and seek redress in the courts. The intruder would receive some punishment once found guilty of marital interference.

C. Alcohol and Drug Abuse

The research revealed that of late both men and women have been abusing alcohol and drugs. It indicated that most spouses who drink a lot and misuse drugs tend to abuse their wives physically as well as psychologically. Usually, women use abusive language to their husbands, and some even end up murdering their spouses over minor issues such as food. 17.14% of the respondents placed alcohol and drug abuse in position one of the ranking while 20% assigned it to position number two of the classification. 34.3% gave it position three while 14.3% and 17.14% occupied the fourth and fifth position in the ranking, respectively.

The study further indicated that men who abuse alcohol and drugs tend to neglect their parental responsibilities thereby mentally torturing their spouses. In some cases, they abandon their matrimonial homes for weeks and only re-appear after they have spent all the money on alcohol and drugs. Hence, tension builds up in the home which leads to Gender-based Violence. The research further revealed that beer drinking and substance abuse had become a Fifty-Fifty affair between men and women. It indicates that of late more women are working and therefore are financially independent. They can spend their money as they wish, even on alcohol. As many such women now have taken to the bottle, most of whom are young and potential wives, who have already become

drunkards even before they get married. This puts their future marriages/relationships on the chopping board. The respondents indicated that high consumption of alcohol and drug abuse among men and women has contributed to the increase in the number of Gender-based Violence in the last two years. Once one is drunk, they lose respect for their spouses, and this leads to fights and verbal abuse. For instance, one respondent passionately remarked thus:

"Excessive intake of alcohol/drugs can cause the person to act abnormally and do all sorts of things while under such influence."

D. Foundation of Marriage

The foundation of marriage is one other reason for the dramatic shift in Gender-based Violence cases that came up especially during the Focus Group Discussions and online interactions. It is commonly said that the foundation of any structure determines the strength of the building. This equally applies to relationships and marriages. For any marriage/relationship to stand the storms of marital temptations/problems, it should be built on a solid foundation. The study has revealed that poor/shaky marital/relationship foundation has also been one of the forces behind the escalating gender-based violence in the last two years in Zambia. 17.14% of the respondents ranked foundation of marriage number one and four while 29% assigned it to position two and three, respectively. Only 3% placed this variable in position five.

What came out of the Focus Group Discussions, and of course from the social media interactions, was that most marriages have bad beginning as most of them are based on materialism. Respondents stated that wealth/ riches shape modern relationships/marriages. Money seems to be at the centre of marriages/relationships at the expense of real love. The study found out that couples nowadays do not take the time to know each other well. This poses a danger to their marital life. Some marriages start with unwanted pregnancies while others start in drinking places such that they only realize very late that they are not compatible while in marriage. The result of such marital/relationship foundations is that of cats and dogs (always fighting) leading to physical and psychological pain on each other. The study further revealed that women of late have been using marriage as a fundraising venture. This is why they have no remorse on their spouses as they know so well that even if their spouse dies the estates remains in their custody.

E. Civil Society Organisations

The study revealed that the Civil Society Organisations, especially those that have been championing the human rights and the rights of women, are partly the cause of the increasing number of men falling victim to Gender-Based Violence. Only 6% of the respondents ranked Civil Society Organisations as having been number one in promoting Gender-Based Violence in the last two years. 11.4% placed the Civil Society Organisations in position two in the rank while 9% and 29% were assigned

to position three and four respectively. The last position was given 31.4%. The study further revealed that the Civil Society's increased education and sensitization on women's rights contributed to the breakdown of cultural values.

The respondents blamed the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) on the breakdown of cultural values leading to gender-based violence. They stated that the CSOs campaign messages had been biased against men thereby creating a volatile situation. However, 3.2% of these respondents said that the CSOs campaign messages have made women highly enlightened. This has led them to stand up for their rights but albeit taking the law into their hands. Some felt that at times the hostility and lack of humility necessitate this vice while the misapplication of philosophies such as human rights, women rights, and gender rights has contributed to gender-based violence.

The research further indicated that in the 21st Century most women have taken up jobs in offices. With the understanding of equal rights, they have forgotten about their roles as wives and mothers. Women want to be heads of homes, but they are not ready- this creates problems in marriages as it is a fertile ground for gender-based violence where men are at the mercy of their working wives.

F. Other causes

During the Focus Group Discussions and Social Media interactions, one issue that was not part of the variables in the questionnaires emerged. What came out of these interactions was that for men killed

during a struggle could be due to the fact that they are very abusive, and women act in the heat of the passion or self-defence. In the past women were taught not to raise their voices when their men are talking to them (submission) part but now it is no longer the case. Since women are weaker than men naturally, they tend to rely heavily on lethal weapons. The respondents said that those men killed long after disagreement may be during their sleep not in the heat of the passion; it's because abuse has accumulated over time and being weaker sex women resort to killing when the abuser is sleeping. A good number of respondents passionately remarked:

"We African men sometimes abuse women. ...A lot of men in Zambia and Africa as a whole still abuse their wives/girlfriends and that has to stop if women are to stop killing us. We hope the law takes its course in this matter as there are women out there being abused by husbands."

The research further revealed that most men who drink a lot of alcohol become aggressive when they are drunk. Hence, women become victims of abuse. Women would opt to stay in abusive homes due to lack of resources. The accumulation of this abuse be it physical or psychological becomes a time bomb overtime.

DISCUSSION

Despite the enactment of the Gender-Based Violence policy in the year 2011, GBV cases have been on the increase in the last two years. This study set out to find out

what could have gone wrong for an increase in the number of men falling victims of GBV as opposed to the concept that women are always the victims. What came out of this study is that a combination of factors is responsible for the dramatic shift of GBV cases in the period under review. To a larger extent, poverty and unemployment were cited as a primary source of conflicts in homes and relationships. This finding was, in fact, consistent with Sylvie et al.(2010) 's findings which indicated that extreme poverty and high levels of unemployment were fertile ground for Gender-based Violence. The study further revealed that women are just retaliating the violence they receive from Zambian men. It is called self-defence. Perhaps Zambian men need to start being accountable to their spouses and their families to curb the emerging monster. Gone are the days of wanton polygamy, sexual abuse, and indiscipline by men. What this finding further suggests is that men, despite being the victims, are the perpetrators of this GBV through abuse of women who later retaliate by killing them. This finding perhaps also suggests that nothing much has been done to address the violence perpetrated by men to curb the dramatic shift of GBV in the last two years.

Alcohol and Drug Abuse, as revealed by the study as being one of the sources of the dramatic shift in Gender-Based Violence is consistent with Roselidah and Susan (2002's findings in their survey of Sudanese refugees in Achol-pil refugee settlement in northern Uganda. This result reflects and justifies President Edgar Lungu's concern over rampant alcohol

abuse in Zambia which he said it is responsible for many family conflicts. Any wonder the ministry of health's move to work on alcohol policy to regulate high alcohol consumption in the country has received accolades from all sectors of society.

The high percentage (40%) of respondents assigning infidelity to the bottom of the ranking in this research is probably an indication that the vice (extra-marital affairs) is not a major source of conflict in marriages/relationships. But, poverty is, as indicated by the high percentage (43%) of respondents who ranked it number one source of Gender-Based Violence in the last two years. What is interesting, however, about this variable is that 73% of those who said poverty were the source of GBV cases were men while 11.4% were females. This probably suggests that more men are affected by poverty than women, thereby become frustrated by it to the extent of affecting their relationships with their spouses. As for the infidelity variable, again 67% of male respondents, as opposed to 33% female respondents, indicated that extra-marital affairs have been responsible for the increasing number of male victims of GBV. Further, it seems female respondents did not believe that alcoholism was a number one source of GBV since only 5% ranked it a number one as opposed to their male counterparts who had 50%. One can therefore safely say that this study shows that no variable was entirely a source of the dramatic shift in GBV cases in the last two years other than a wide range of variables.

CONCLUSION

Some variables have been at play in the increasing GBV cases in the last two years involving men as victims. Poverty and unemployment have been ranked as one of the top leading source of the growing number of men being victims of GBV. The study further indicated that Gender-based violence cases are as a result of women having lost their cultural identity arising from the western influence. The study further revealed that defence mechanisms and emotional suppression among women folk had the potential to erupt like a volcano at an opportune time. Additionally, the study indicated that high alcohol consumption among women, infidelity, shaky foundations of marriage, and poverty are topmost in fuelling Gender-based violence. The research, however, suggested that going back to the nation's cultural roots would help curb the emerging vice and also promote insaka among both women and men to address the challenges of modernity. The study also recommends an increase in advocacy and awareness, government funding, and opportunities for girls/ women to reduce over-dependency on their husbands, put up more counseling centres, and review of traditional counselling curriculum. Finally, addressing poverty, high consumption of alcohol and Civil Society Organisations' refocus on their campaign messages would perhaps reduce the emerging phenomena of GBV cases.

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