

**THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATION IN ADDRESSING THE ERADICATION OF
HUSBAND BATTERING: A CASE STUDY OF MATHIRA DIVISION- NYERI
COUNTY**

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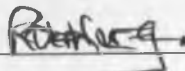
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DECLARATION

Candidate's Declaration

This research project is my original work and has not been submitted in any other university for a degree award.

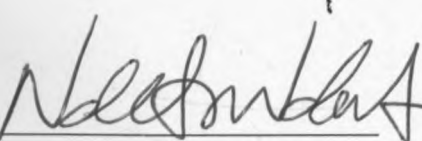
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Supervisor's Declaration

This project paper has been submitted for examination with my approval as university supervisor

Signature:  Date: 23/11/2012

NAME: DR. NDETI NDATI, PhD

DEDICATION

This thesis is dedicated to the supreme God who has given me the grace to carry on. I also dedicate it to my parents. Mr. Charles Miriti and Mrs. Lydia Nduru Miriti for the continued support, their prayers and for instilling discipline in me in upbringing.

To my daughter Jasmine, I pray that God shall see you to grow into a hard working obedient and God fearing child for his grace is abundant to those who are his.

To my husband Richard for supporting me in this crucial duty and encouraging me many times that I felt overwhelmed.

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I'm very grateful to my supervisor Dr.Ndeti Ndati for guiding me through the writing and seeing to it that this research paper has been done to academic standards.

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Many individuals have contributed immensely in the completion of this project. I thank you all.

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Sincere gratitude goes to my husband for taking care of our family when I was late most of the time. Thanks too for ensuring that our daughter Jasmine felt the warmth of a parent during my absent moments.

My family members for moral and financial support during the period of study

To every one who had an input to the success of this project, I 'm sincerely humbled. I hope and pray that this study will make a positive impact in the society at large, now and for generations to come. May God bless you all.

LIST OF ACRONYMS

NGO	Non governmental organization
FGD	Focus group discussion
MYWO	Maendeleo ya wanaume organization
CCV	Control causative violence
NHMRC	Non-profit national healthy marriage recourse centre
NACADA	National Campaign against Drug Abuse (Authority)
SOJ	School of journalism
DN	Daily nation
KI	Key informants
P	Participants

ABSTRACT

This study sought to examine the role of communication, in addressing the eradication of husband battering. The study of this topic was prompted by escalating cases of husband battery in the last ten years, with Nyeri County leading especially in the last two years. Another reason is that most researchers incline on wife battery leaving the area of husband battery under researched. This was evident as data information on husband battery was not easily found with minimal data on reported cases. Because of these reasons, there was a need to carry out a study of this sensitivity to: Investigate the causes of gender based violence in Nyeri County, Examine how mass media can be used to address gender based violence and to investigate the role of communication in alleviating husband battering. The study used qualitative method of research as elaborated in chapter three (methodology). Interview guides and interview schedule were utilized as they explain human behaviour best.

Two theories were used to inform this study. Agenda setting and the two step flow theory have been used to complement each to inform this study. This study concluded that husband battery comes as a result of several deficiencies as discussed in the findings. It is therefore of utmost importance to deal with the causative factors among others alcoholism and poverty.

To curb husband battery, the study recommends that the government, the concerned NGO's and the community at large particularly the nuclear family should work towards building and not destroying their homes for peaceful co-existence. This as outlined in the intervention strategies can be achieved by creating income generating projects, guidance and counseling, creating public awareness among others.

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background information

Everyone needs peace for purposes of personal or societal growth. However in some instances this is denied. In recent years, there has been increasing concern about gender based violence in general and 'female against male' violence in particular, in both developed and developing countries. Not only has gender violence been acknowledged worldwide as a violation of the basic human rights but an increasing amount of research highlights the health burdens, intergenerational effects, and demographic Consequences of such violence (United Nations General Assembly, 1991; Heise et al., 1994 & 1998; Jejeebhoy, 1998).

Gender-based violence occurs across all socio-economic and cultural backgrounds and in many societies. Violence of any kind has a serious impact on the economy of a country. The United Nations' Institute for Research and Training (INSTRAW) States that gender-based violence is rooted in prescribed behaviour, norms and attitudes on the basis of gender and sexuality. The prescribed norms and definitions of what it means to be a woman or a man, and how men and women are positioned vis-à-vis one another and other groups of men and women define this violence (Straus, 1991)

These norms and definitions allow and even encourage violent behaviour within environments that assign privilege and hierarchical power to certain groups of men. Gender-based violence, therefore, is the enforcement of power hierarchies and structural inequalities created and sustained by belief systems, cultural norms and socialization processes. Abused males are more restrained than women in revealing their victimization partly for fear of being ridiculed (Szinovacz, 1983)

The notion that women are no less violent than men is threatening to those wishing to empower one gender at the expense of the other gender, particularly given the fact that there are virtually no data demonstrating that federally-funded feminist approaches to resolving domestic violence are effective (Satel, 1997).

Straus, in 1977, presented findings (during a conference held at Stanford University) from the first study of domestic violence in the U.S. involving a large and nationally representative sample.

The findings were published in a journal article appearing later that year (Straus, 1977-78), in books Straus published with Hotaling (1980), and with Gelles and Steinmetz (1980). The study involved a national probability sample of 2,143 married and unmarried couples, examined in 1975, whose demographic profile closely matched the nation as a whole in regard to age, race, and socio-economic status. Straus used an ascending continuum (The Conflict Tactics Scale) of violent acts including the following: (1) Throwing things at spouse; (2) pushing, shoving or grabbing; (3) slapping; (4) kicking, biting, or hitting with the fist; (5) hit or tried to hit with something; (6) beat up; (7) threatened with a knife or a gun; and (8) used a knife or a gun. Items 1-4 were regarded as an overall "Violence Index" whereas items 4-8 were considered to constitute a "Severe Violence Index." Straus Findings indicated that, in a given year, men perpetrate an average (median) of 2.5 "assaults" per year (items 1-8), but women perpetrate an average of 3.0 "assaults per year (items 1-8). When means rather than medians were used to assess central tendencies, men engaged in an average of 8.8 assaults per year, but women were found to engage in 10.1 assaults per year. Women also engaged more often than men in serious transgressions (items 4-8). Whereas males perpetrated a yearly average (median) of 2.4 acts of severe violence, women committed an average (median) of 3.0 acts of severe violence against male intimates (1.8 million), (Hotaling 1980).

These findings were, and are, stunning to casual observers of the gender based violence phenomenon. This is because people have difficulty with the notion of women inflicting injuries on men because men, on average, are larger, stronger, and more adept at fighting. But the average man's size and strength are neutralized by guns and knives, boiling water, fireplace pokers, bricks, and baseball bats. Many fail to realize that domestic assaults do not involve pugilistic fair play, or to consider that attacks occur when males are asleep, or incapacitated by alcohol, age, or infirmities (McNeely & Mann, 1990).

Violence by wives has not been an object of public concern no funds have been invested in ameliorating (violence against males) because it has not been defined as a problem (Straus and Gelles 1985).

Clearly, violence against men is much more destructive than violence against women. Male victims are injured more often and more seriously than are female victims" (McLeod, 1984).

Just as had been the case in the U.S., most British studies of gender based violence initially focused exclusively on battered women or on community samples of women (Andrews & Brown, 1988). It was this 'neglect' that Carrado et al. (1996), decided to conduct a study with a nationally representative sample of both male and female heterosexual respondents in 1994. Carrado et al, revealed that 11 percent of women indicated committing physical aggression. The latter finding, that of men suffered more victimization, was consistent with prior smaller scale United Kingdom studies showing females to commit more severe violence than their male partners (cf. Archer & Ray, 1989; Russell & Hulson, 1992).

Patricia Overberg, Director of the Valley Oasis Crisis Center in Sacramento California, one of the rare shelters that admits men, contends that men have a more difficult time not only admitting they are victims and seeking help, but they, also have a more difficult time leaving the abusive relationship- "Because if you leave, you are abdicating your responsibility, and you are less than a man" (Cook, 1997, p. 60)

Battered husbands have historically been either ignored or subjected to ridicule or abuse. In 18th-century France, a battered husband "was made to wear an outlandish outfit and ride backwards around the village on a donkey" (Steinmetz & Lucca 1988).

Even the liberated and open-minded in the society often have a difficult time even imagining that husband battering could take place. Although feminism has opened many eyes about the existence of domestic violence, and newspaper reports often include incidents of, the abuse of husbands is a rarely discussed phenomenon.

One reason researchers and others had not chosen to investigate husband battering is because it was thought to be a fairly rare occurrence. Police reports seemed to bear this out with in some cases a ratio of 12 to 14.5 female victims to every one male victim. The other reason is that because women were seen as weak and helpless than men due to sex roles, and men on the other hand were seen as more sturdy and self-reliant, the study of abused husbands seemed relatively unimportant (Steinmetz 1977).

In 1986, *Marriage and Divorce Today*, a newsletter for family therapy practitioners, reported on a study done by Pillemer and Finkelhor of the Family Violence Research Laboratory of the University of New Hampshire. The study, based on interviews of over 2000 elderly persons in the Boston metropolitan area, found that 3.2% of the elderly had been abused. 52% of the abuse victims were men (Smith, 1989). In Kenya there has been raising concerns of husband battering reported in the local dailies (DN, July 2010)

The subject of husband-battering had finally been addressed, but not to the great satisfaction. Although it had finally been shown that there was violence being perpetrated both by wives and husbands, there was no information about relative frequency or severity, or who initiated the abuse and who was acting in self defense. Furthermore, some researchers became concerned that the use of police or social services references in choosing subjects to study might be biasing the results. In short, they recognized that battered husbands might be nearly invisible next to their female counterparts. This leaves serious knowledge gaps to be filled. These gaps pertain the causes, consequences and the impact of husband battering in terms of social, psychological and economic wellbeing of a society. Gender based violence particularly physical abuse against men leads to among others, physical injuries and death.

The majority of studies that have assessed the victimization of men in marriages have compared these men to abused women. Researchers mostly have attempted to ascertain whether abused women experience more physical injuries than abused men. The researcher focuses only on the rate of physical injuries among men. Studies have clearly shown that abused women are at higher risk for physical injury than abused men. It should be emphasized, however, that these studies have also shown that abused men are at risk for physical injury as well.

For instance, Cascardi et al. (1992) found that 2% of the men who reported experiencing minor or severe spousal abuse reported suffering broken bones, broken teeth, or injury to a sensory organ. Similarly, Makepeace (1986) found that 2.2% of the males in his sample of 2,338 students reported sustaining a moderate or severe physical injury as a result of the dating violence they experienced. Finally, in an analysis of the results from the 1985 National Family Violence Survey, Stets and Straus (1990) found that 1% of the men who reported being severely assaulted needed medical attention.

The results of these studies are logical, considering the relative size of the average man compared with the average woman. Obviously, men can inflict more harm with their fists than women can, and they are more able to restrain an abusive partner than women are. Some researchers, however, have pointed out that sometimes women may even the score by throwing things that could hurt their partners (e.g., dishes, boiling water, or a frying pan) or by brandishing a weapon (Langley & Levy, 1977). This explanation is a reason why Morse (1995) and Makepeace (1986) compared with the injury rates in the previously mentioned studies, found even higher rates of injury among men. Specifically, depending on the time period, 10.4%, 19.6% of the abused men in Morse's study sustained some type of injury at the hands of their wives (Morse, 1995). Similarly, Makepeace (1986) found that 17.9% of the abused men in his sample sustained a mild or moderate injury. These rates of injury for abused men are noteworthy because they confirm that men can be injured by women.

In addition, although sources vary in reported frequencies of different forms of violence, it is clear that the effects of women's violence against men, like those of men's violence against women, can be lethal. For example, using data from the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI's) Uniform Crime Reports, Supplemental Homicide Report (1994) to analyze homicides between marital partners in the United States from 1976 through 1985, Mercy and Saltzman (1989) found that "husbands and wives were nearly equal in the risk of spouse homicide victimization" (p. 597). Whereas Mercy and Saltzman focused on marital partners, Browne and Williams (1993) analyzed a broader set of relationships and noted that FBI Uniform Crime Reports, Supplemental Homicide Report data for 1980-1984 indicated that "whereas only 12 percent of male homicide victims were killed by a female partner, over one half 52 percent of all women murder victims were killed by male partners" (p. 81).

More recently the 1994 Uniform Crime Reports, Supplemental Homicide Report revealed that, in 1994 for homicides in which the victim-offender relationship was known, 31% (1,394) of female victims over the age of 12 and 4% (669) of male victims over the age of 12 were killed by an intimate. Although most of these statistics indicate that women are more likely to be killed by an intimate than men are, it cannot be denied that a substantial number of men are being murdered by their female partners and, although some of these murders are undoubtedly in self-defense, there is no evidence that all of them are (e.g., Mann, 1988).

Physical injury and or effects go hand in hand with psychological effects. The researcher will not dwell on psychological effects as this lies outside the scope and objectives of the study.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

In the last ten years Gender violence in a family setting particularly husband battering has been on the rise. International organizations such as the United Nations, mobilize countries to address specific problems, recognize the broader issue of gender violence in a domestic setting. One of the major concerns in gender based violence is physical violence.

In 1980, a team of researchers, including Steinmetz, attempted to address some concerns about the earlier surveys (Straus, Gelles& Steinmetz, 1980). They created a nationally representative study of family violence and found that the total violence scores seemed to be about even between husbands and wives, and those wives tended to be more abusive in almost all categories.

International organizations such as the United Nations, mobilize countries to address specific problems, recognize the broader issue of gender based violence in a domestic setting. One of the major concerns in gender based violence is physical violence. There is such a strong stigma against being a battered man, carried over from medieval times when the battered man was considered the guilty party that special attention should be paid to reaching out to these victims (Steinmetz 1977).The public is already aware of intimate partner violence against men. According to a 2006 Harris Poll, 88% of Americans have seen or heard of a male domestic violence victim in the past year, and 76% of Americans believe domestic violence against men is a serious problem. But this is not reflected in public education efforts, policy-maker perceptions or services offered to male victims. The available data show that husband battering is a serious problem in Kenya and that it should be nibbed right at the bud. The Daily nation ,February 2012,and The standard news paper, may 2012 have the stories of battered husbands in Nyeri-Kenya. There is such a strong stigma against being a battered man, carried over from medieval times when the battered man was considered the guilty party that special attention should be paid to reaching out to these victims.

Due to the sensitivity of husband battering, the topic is not discussed as it's culturally considered not a problem. There are men (husbands) who are hurting and need services that are

currently not available (Robbins, 2010). This study therefore aims at filling the existing gap by investigating the role of communication strategies in the eradication of husband battery in Nyeri County.

1.3 Objectives of the study

1.3.1 General objective

The purpose of this study was to examine the role of communication in addressing the eradication of husband battering.

1.3.2 Specific objectives were to:

1. Investigate the causes of gender based violence in Mathira division, Nyeri County
2. Examine how mass media can be used to address gender based violence
3. Investigate the role of communication in alleviating husband battering

1.4 Research questions

1. What causes gender based violence in Nyeri County?
2. To what extent does mass media address gender based violence?
3. What are the policy and formal interventions that could be put in place to address the problem of husband battery?

1.5 Justification of the study

This study has academic, social, health, economic and policy implications. The society in general needs to engage in peace making ventures which should include strategic use of effective communication.

It is evident that efforts to protect human welfare need to be strengthened and expanded at the local, national and international levels. Any strategy to combat gender based violence must attack the root causes of the problem in addition to tracing its symptoms. This means establishing

the causes and patterns of violence in each unique circumstances and contexts to enable individuals and other relevant bodies to lay out strategies for intervention. From the background information, husband battery is a problem that warrants investigation. This is because is a new phenomenon especially in Kenya and it affects the socio-economic fabric of the society.

This study will be of help to NGO's, church based organizations and private individuals who are involved in addressing gender based violence in promoting harmony in the family institution. In the past, husband battery has been taken lightly but as depicted in literature review it is a serious problem warranting immediate intervention. If effective communication is utilized the concerned persons will curb this vice and bring dignity back to men.

This study will also contribute immensely to the already existing body of knowledge on gender based violence and its practice in Kenya as well as bridge the gaps in the field of communication in gender based violence. This will help organizations, private or public to formulate relevant policies that shall enhance specialized training in effective communication in addressing gender based violence. Specifically this research should help promote peace in the country as a whole and the family institution in particular.

The government institutions include the ministry of information and communication, ministry of gender and social services. The ministry of gender and special programmes may use the findings of this study to check on their performances and achievement of set objectives. Institutions of learning especially universities and colleges through their instructors may find the need to incorporate the findings of this study in designing curriculum for short courses in their institutions.

1.6 Limitations of the study

The subject of gender based violence is broad and multifaceted. To fully appreciate the extent to which communication can be used to curb husband battery, a wider scope survey, longitudinal studies intensive methods of data collection and information gathering which is beyond this study's completion time and budgetary provision need to be put in place.

Limited data

The study in question is under-researched in Kenya. Therefore, several impeding factors in its study might pose a threat to the success of the research. Another hurdle is the fact that the exact statistics on any form of gender based violence in Kenya are difficult to obtain, mainly to the large number of cases that go unreported as a result of (social stigma and mockery with the process of reporting and court hearings) entail to the victim. With the emerging wave of gender equity, in the latter part of the twentieth century, studies targeting women versus men's issues are treated with suspicion. This probably accounts for the current dearth of data. In a patriarchal society it is expected that systems would fear that more information on husband battering might pose a threat to the expected recognition by the significant other.

Few people are willing to open-up

Husband battery phenomenon is treated with lesser scrutiny. Mockery is subjected to the victims, who as a result live in constant denial. This was a major challenge to data collection process, as some men shunned away from telling their side of the story.

Conflict of intent

It is crucial to mention that it's not easy to separate physical violence (husband battery) and psychological torture as the two are intertwined; one causes the other and one is a consequence of the other. Some people brought in emotional concept which is beyond the objectives of this particular study. The researcher¹ used probing method during interviews to get information needed for the objective of the study

Limited budget

A comprehensive research in all rural areas of the country could is not possible given the limited budget. The researcher used Nyeri County (Mathira division) as a representative of the rural areas in Kenya.

1.7 Assumption of the study

It was assumed that,

- i. All respondents will give accurate and honest information
- ii. The respondents have adequate knowledge on the role of communication in the eradication of husband battering.

1.8 Definition of Operational terms

The definitions of terms highlighted in this section are based on their application in this study and not necessarily their literal meaning

Heterosexual is a person sexually attracted to persons of the opposite sex. Or a person who has sexual relations with the opposite sex.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on domestic violence in general with violence against men in particular. The information is sourced from scholars who have extensively researched on communication. Information in this chapter is sourced from secondary data through library, books, internet and journals.

This chapter contains an analysis of literature on inter-spousal physical violence in heterosexual relationships. The chapter is organized into 3 sections Section 1 features the definitions related to the concept of violence in general and domestic inter-spousal in particular with specific reference to definition and scope, causes of violence, importance of communication, Section 2 presents the history, causes and consequences of spousal violence societal perspectives the flip side of communication. Section 3 looks at the patterns and trends of domestic/inter-spousal violence within global, African and Kenyan contexts regard to how people have used communication to build relationships, and how lack of effective communication has brought about violence

2.2 Scope of violence

Domestic Violence in the 1990s rates and forms of partner violence was in its infancy. Filling this gap is an important task for the next decade of research. Some distinctions are central to the theoretical and practical understanding of the nature of partner violence (e.g., types of violence and perpetrators), others provide important contexts for developing more sensitive and comprehensive theories (e.g., types of relationships or gender differences),and others may simply force us to question our tendency to generalize from one context to another. Such distinctions were a major theme in the domestic violence literature of the 1990s, and they will continue to be so into the next decade. A second major theme of the 1990s has been control. Whatever the immediate precipitators of violence may be, it generally gives the perpetrator some measure of control, but once again we see distinctions among types of violence as central. The control may be specific, focused narrowly on winning a particular argument or having one's way in some narrowly defined matter (CCV). In other cases the control may be broad, involving the

establishment or maintenance of general control over one's partner (IT, M VC). Sometimes the control issue is one of wresting some medium of control from a generally abusive partner (VR). We believe that the most progress will be made in our understanding of domestic violence by assuming that the origins and dynamics of the different kinds of control motives are not the same. In our review of this literature, we want to make a somewhat arbitrary distinction. Some writers have come to their focus on control issues through an analysis of the domestic violence.

2.2.1 Definitions of violence

In defining heterosexual inter spousal physical violence, we need to examine the meanings attributed to the term violence by a variety of sources. Robert Litke (1992) notes that etymologically, violence 'to carry force' towards something or someone (every human action could be described in such a way). It is important to define the concept more narrowly. The WHO (world health organization) defines violence (2002) as the international use of physical force or power, threatened or actual against oneself, another person or against a group or community that either results in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation. The definition used by the world health organization associates intention with the committing of the act itself, irrespective of the outcome it produces. Excluded from the definition are unintentional incidents such as most road traffic injuries and burns. The inclusive of the word 'power' in addition to the phrase 'use of physical force' broadens the nature of a violent act and expands the conventional understanding of violence to include those acts that result from a power relationship including threats and intimidation. The use of power also serves to include neglect or acts of omission, in addition to the more obvious violent acts of omission, in addition to the more obvious violent acts of omission. Thus the use of 'physical force' should be understood to include neglect and all types of physical, sexual and psychological abuse as well as suicide and other self abusive acts.

The WHO definition on violence puts emphasis on the matter of intentionality where violent acts occur. Two important points should be noted. First even though violence is distinguished from unintended events that result in injuries, the presence of intent to use force does not mean that there was intent to cause damage. Indeed, there may be a considerable disparity between perpetrators intended behavior and intended consequence. A perpetrator may intentionally

commit an act by objective standards, is judged to be dangerous and highly likely to result in adverse health effects, but the perpetrator may not perceive it as such.

In 1997, the WHO declared violence as the leading public health problem. The world health assembly called on the WHO to develop a typology of violence that characterized the different types of violence and the links between them. Few typologies already exist and none is very comprehensive.

The typology proposed by WHO divides violence into three broad categories according to characteristics of those committing the violent act.

Self directed violence.

Interpersonal violence

Collective violence

Self directed violence. This is subdivided into suicidal behavior and self abuse. Suicidal behavior includes acts such as self mutilation.

Interpersonal violence is divided into two categories: Family and intimate partner violence-that is violence largely between family members and intimate partners usually though not exclusively taking place at home.

It is outside the scope of this study to take up the matter of which is the best definition of the term 'violence', rather the challenge is to define 'violence' narrowly enough for it to be useful to the purposes of this study. Violence will be defined in the context of the 'domestic' or 'family' space as outlined below.

2.3 Domestic violence

The term domestic violence describes actions and omissions that occur in varying relationships in a family unit. The term is used narrowly to cover incidents of physical attack when it may take the form of physical violations. Domestic violence may be in the form of psychological and mental violence which can contain repeated verbal abuse, harassment, confinement and deprivation of physical, financial and personal resources

Although the forms of violation vary from one society and culture to another, globally, evidence indicates that violence in families takes many forms such as female spousal/male spouse battering, physical/sexual of children, incest, spousal rape and elder abuse (Davies 1994 united nations 1993)

Interpersonal violence is more likely to occur in a domestic setting. Straus and Gelles cautions that one of the major problems that confront investigators who attempt to study domestic violence has been quagmire of conceptual dilemmas encountered. For example, the term violence and abuse are often used interchangeably by those who study domestic violence. These concepts are not conceptually equivalent. More over there is a considerable variation in how each of the concepts is nominally defined.

2.4 Spousal violence

‘Spousal violence’ refers to the violence and mistreatment that a woman or man may experiences in the hands of a marital partner. There are many forms of spousal violence and a one may be subjected to one or more one form(department of justice Canada 2006)In this study , the term spousal violence is used interchangeably with inter- spousal violence. The term husband beating is used to refer to violence towards males by their female counter-parts. This research is particular to physical violence of women against their husbands.

According to maendeleo ya wanaume chairman, Nderitu njoka ,It is common knowledge that gender relations are in constant flux and conceptions of masculinity and femininity are being reshaped and redefined as our time passes on..Njoka argues that “It is not an issue of poverty any more. It is about women supremacy as they want to dominate men,” (Daily nation 2012)

“Mr Njoka blames “female superiority complex” for the rising cases of husband battery, tracing its roots to the high handed female colonial chief, Wangu wa Makeri, who reigned in Murang’a with an iron fist, and was particularly hard on men.” (The star Feb 2012)

“Men should be respected as family heads, but in Central Kenya, they have been reduced to the role of fathering children before they are dumped.” – Nderitu Njoka. (Daily nation Feb 2012)

It is clear that MYW Chairman believes there should be gender hierarchy (which must be recognized and respected) and this is precisely the kind of mentality that women in Nyeri may be reacting against.

2.5 Physical Violence

Physical violence occurs when someone uses a part of their body or an object to control your actions. Physical violence includes, but is not limited to, the following: Pushing, Shoving, Pinning or holding a person down, Confinement, Pinching, Hairpulling, Slapping, Punching, arm twisting, Kicking, Biting, strangling, choking, burning, overmedication, assault with an object or weapon, threats with an object or weapon, stabbing and Murder. Setting on fire.



2.6 Violence initiated by women against husbands

The diagram above courtesy of You tube is a manifestation of physical assault in Nyeri county

Violence by husbands against wives is not the only form of spousal violence; women may sometimes be the perpetrators of violence. In most cultures, however, the level of spousal violence initiated by wives is only a fraction of the level of spousal violence initiated by husbands. To measure spousal violence by women, the 2003 KDHS asked married, divorced, or separated women, "Have you ever hit, slapped, kicked, or done anything else to physically hurt your (last)husband/partner at times when he was not already beating or physically hurting you?" This line of questioning may result in some underreporting if women find it difficult to admit that they themselves initiated violence. Results show that only 3 percent married, divorced, or separated women report initiating violence against their husbands (data not shown). Of the women who have experienced violence from their husband, 5 percent report initiating violence; of the women who have not experienced violence from their husband, less than 1 percent report initiating violence.

2.7 Impact of spousal- physical violence on children

There is also a substantial literature regarding the effects of partner violence on children who witness it (Kolbo, Blakely, & Engleman, 1996; Wolak & Finkelhor, 1998).

Behavioral effects include aggression and delinquency, among others. Psychological effects include anxiety, depression, and low self-esteem. There is even evidence of long-term effects, with college-age women who remember violence between their parents having lower self-esteem, greater depression, and lower levels of social competence (Henning, Lei-tenberg, Coffey, Bennett, & Jankowski, 1997; Silvern, Karyl, Waelde, Hodges, & Starek, 1995). There is need to point out that although some of these studies deal with populations in which the nature of the parental violence is relatively clear, in most cases the measures do not allow the necessary distinctions. The reported effects are generally small, but we do not know if exposure to it might in fact have powerful effects that are muted by their aggregation with the effects of CCV. Inter

generational on transmission of violence. One particularly of long-term effect on children has been studied enough to merit its own section.

The negative psychological effects of domestic violence documented in past research may be due, in part, to victims' lack of personal control over the violence in their environments. However, previous survey research has not examined whether exposure to violence within the social environment leads to a reduced sense of personal control. Personal Control and Perpetrators of Domestic Violence Much theory and research on batterers and some intervention programs designed for batterer's emphasize some aspect of "control" as playing a role in domestic violence (e.g., Gondolf, 1985; Stets, 1988). For example, many studies suggest that domestic violence occurs in response to a perceived lack of control over the environment and in order to obtain control over the primary individual in one's social environment (Campbell, 1993; Dobash & Dobash, 1979; Sonkin, Martin, & Walker, 1985; Stets, 1988). Furthermore, this violent attempt to control others is most likely to occur when the perpetrator perceives some threat or challenge to his control over others (e.g., Campbell, 1993; Dutton, 1988; Stark & Flitcraft, 1991). In an earlier study, Stets (1992) found that attempts to control one's partner were associated with interpersonal aggression. These studies suggest that attempts to establish personal control may be linked to the use of violence. Several studies of perpetrators of domestic violence have found that violent men often attribute their behavior to a "loss of control" (Ptacek, 1988). Feminist theorists, however, have argued that male perpetrators often are explicit about the timing, place, and target of their violence. This suggests that these men are actually in control of their behavior and are using violence as an instrumental fashion (Ptacek, 1988). These are not necessarily mutually exclusive situations. Perpetrators may, indeed, feel that they have little control over some element of their social environment (e.g., unemployment). Violence may be an instrumental act initiated in an attempt to regain a sense of control over at least one element of their environment when they feel out of control generally. This suggests that perpetrating acts of violence may enhance the perpetrator's sense of personal control. Gender, Violence, and Control In light of the possibility of gender differences in the process of control and violence, we consider how personal control is associated with domestic violence for men and women.

Causal Direction The literature on victims of domestic violence and that on perpetrators suggest slightly different causal processes involving personal control and domestic violence. The victim literature suggests that being the victim of domestic violence reduces one's sense of control. The perpetrator literature suggests that a low sense of control may contribute to acts of violence and that acts of violence may, in turn, enhance one's sense of personal control. The effect of violence on a sense of control is as theoretically important as the effect of a sense of control on violence-particularly because casual processes may differ for victims and perpetrators, men and women.

Studying Domestic Violence with National Surveys Survey research on domestic violence has produced controversy over why men and women report similar rates of domestic violence-both as victims and as perpetrators. Feminist researchers argue that violence perpetrated against and by women is different from violence perpetrated against and by men (Dobash et al., 1992). Johnson (1995) has attempted to address the survey research controversy by suggesting that common couple violence-where both men and women participate in the violence-represents less severe cases of domestic violence and is more likely to be reported in surveys than are the most severe cases. We suggest that, even in common couple violence, the experience and effects of violence differ for men and women. Our findings are consistent with the argument that violence, even when both the man and woman participate, is more frightening and undermining of female well-being than male well-being. We contend that national survey data can provide insights about gender, victimization, and perpetration of domestic violence, and this may help clarify how and why gender matters in the process of domestic violence, even if men and women perpetrate violence at similar rates.

Causal Order We are unable to disentangle the causal order of personal control and domestic violence with cross-sectional data from the NSFH2. Furthermore, even if we had data from two time points, we would not be able to solve this question of causality. One would expect sense of control, couple conflict, and violence to fluctuate a great deal over several years. Therefore, data obtained several years apart may not reveal how control, conflict, and violence actually unfold over time. An excellent way to begin to understand these processes would be to collect diary data from men and women to assess fluctuations in sense of control, conflict, and violence. Diary studies are uniquely suited to examining the vicissitudes of couple dynamics over time (DeLongis & Lehman, 1989). Stress researchers emphasize that cross-sectional and even longitudinal studies are limited because stress is a process that must be

considered at multiple points over short periods of time (House, Strecher, Metzner, & Robbins, 1986). Daily diaries may provide an advantageous approach to studying domestic violence because the process can be assessed as it occurs. Despite our inability to establish Causal order with the present data, we establish a moderate association between personal control and having a violent partner.

Impact on health.

Violence has been linked to a host of different health outcomes. Being the victim of violence puts one at risk of: depression, , psychomatic disorders, suicide attempts, physical injury, chronic pain syndromes irritable bowel syndrome and a variety of reproductive health consequences. Men particularly Nyeri County have been reported to neglect their wife's conjugal rights. This as one discussant confessed is not possible for him as he is simply not interested.

2.8 Definition of communication

Communication is dissemination of information from the sender through a channel to the receiver and should be a feed back from the receiver back to sender through a channel

Effective communication is not a natural gift; it requires much more than just good will and openness. It also requires the following skills:

1. To accurately verbalize thoughts and feelings with clarity and with respect to your partner
2. The ability to authenticate (confirm what you have understood about the message received; to clarify)
3. To detect interferences (barriers) that can get in the way of the dialogue and confuse or create misunderstanding of the message received and transferred.

2.8.1 Functions of communication

i) Influence or persuasive function:

According to Berlo (1960), the sole purpose of communication is to influence people. Persuasive function of communication i.e. to induce people is extremely important for extension in changing their behavior in the desirable direction.

ii) Command or instructive function:

Those who are hierarchically superior in the family, society or organization, often initiate communication either for the purpose of informing their subordinates or for the purpose of telling them, what to do, how to do when to do etc.

The command and instructive functions of communication are more observable in formal organizations than in informal organizations.

iii) Information function:

The basic requirement of adapting and adjusting oneself to the environment is information. There must be some information about what is going on in the environment which concerns the people. The receiving or giving of information underlines all communication functions, either directly or indirectly.

iv) Integrative function:

A major function of communication is integration or of continuously offsetting any disintegration at the interpersonal or at the organizational level. This helps in maintaining individual, societal or organizational stability and identity.

2.9 Causes of violence

Violence is a vice that should be dealt with from the roots. Physical violence in homes especially spouses is mostly a manifestation of other hidden 'unwanted' or not pleasing behavior or situation. The following includes but not limited to some of the major causes of physical violence.

2.9.1 Social and demographic characteristics

Unlike many health problems, there are few social and demographic characteristics that define risk groups for intimate partner violence. Poverty is the exception and increases risk through effects on conflict, women's power, and male identity. Violence is used as a strategy in conflict. Relationships full of conflict and especially those in which conflicts occur about finances,

jealousy, and women's gender role transgressions are more violent than peaceful relationships. Heavy alcohol consumption also increases risk of violence. Risk of violence is greatest in societies where the use of violence in many situations is a socially-accepted norm.

Poverty or patriarchy, alcohol or aggression; the causes of intimate partner violence have been contested by social scientists for decades.

The increase in data has enabled researchers to identify associations that pertain to more than one setting, explore hypotheses critically, and understand the plausibility of associations when considered in the light of what else is known about a society. Furthermore, understanding of the mechanisms through which many associated factors contribute to intimate partner violence has been greatly advanced, helping clarify interventions needed for primary prevention.

With the exception of poverty, most demographic and social characteristics of men and women documented in survey research are not associated with increased risk of intimate partner violence. Age, for example, has occasionally been noted to be a risk factor for such violence, with a greater risk attached to youth but in most research a relation with age of either partner has not been seen. Similarly, age at marriage is not an associated factor.

Intimate partner violence is mainly a feature of sexual relationships or thwarted sexual relationships in the case of stalking violence. Its relation with marital status varies between settings and is at least partly dependent on the extent to which women have premarital and extramarital sexual relationships.

Most household characteristics are not associated with intimate partner violence. These characteristics include living in large or crowded homes and living with in-laws similarly, urban or rural residence is not factors. The exception is number of children, which is frequently associated with intimate partner violence. However, in a study in Nicaragua, the first incident in almost all violent relationships occurred within a couple of years of marriage. Thus, rather than a large family causing intimate partner violence, the causation was in the reverse direction.

In North America, belonging to a minority ethnic group has been thought to be associated with intimate partner violence, but associations have been largely explained by differences in education and income. Risk of intimate partner violence varies between countries and between

otherwise similar settings within countries. These differences persist after adjustment for social and demographic factors, relationship characteristics, and other risk factors. Some of the difference may be explained by factors such as study design and willingness to disclose violent experience in interview settings. However, other factors also seem to be involved. Research has not been undertaken to identify exactly what these factors are. Possibly they relate to cultural differences in the status of women or acceptability of interpersonal violence. Research aimed at understanding the roots of substantial differences in prevalence between otherwise similar social settings is likely to provide important insights into the causes of violence.

2.9.2 Poverty

Poverty and associated stress are key contributors to intimate partner violence. Although violence occurs in all socioeconomic groups, it is more frequent and severe in lower groups across such diverse settings as the USA, Nicaragua, and India. Influential theory explaining the relation between poverty and intimate partner violence is that it is mediated through stress. Since poverty is inherently stressful, it has been argued that intimate partner violence may result from stress, and that poorer men have fewer resources to reduce stress. However, this finding has not been supported by results from a large study of intimate partner violence in Thailand in which several sources of stress reported by men and their relation with intimate partner violence were analyzed.

Research has shown the importance of levels of conflict in mediating the relation between poverty and abuse. In a study in South Africa, physical violence was not associated in the expected way with indicators of socioeconomic status including ownership of household goods, male and female occupations, and unemployment. Intriguingly, women are protected from intimate partner violence in some of the poorest households, which are those that are mainly supported by someone other than the woman or her partner (43% of all women in the study). Further analysis indicated that this form of extreme poverty reduced the scope for conflicts about household finance.

Financial independence of women is protective in some settings but not all. Circumstances in which the woman, but not her partner, is working convey additional risk. This finding suggests that economic inequality within a context of poverty is more important than the absolute level of income or empowerment of a man or woman in a relationship. Violence is associated with the

product of inequality, whether in the form of advantage to either party. Because socioeconomic injustice at a community or societal level is increasingly being shown to be important in other forms of violence, it might be important in explaining differences in prevalence of intimate partner violence, but there are no data on this factor.

2.9.3 Power, and sex identity

Within any setting ideas vary on what it means to be a man and what constitutes successful manhood. Gelles first postulated that the link between violence and poverty could be mediated through masculine identity. He argued that men living in poverty were unable to live up to their ideas of “successful” manhood.. Some social scientists have become especially interested in the effect of poverty on male identity and relations between male vulnerability and alcoholism. They have argued that such relations are mediated through forms of crisis of masculine identity, which are often infused with ideas about honour and respect_Bourgois_described how Puerto Rican men growing up in New York slums feel pressurized by models of masculinity and family of their parents' and grandparents' generations, and present-day ideals of successful manhood that emphasize consumerism. Trapped in urban slums, with little or no employment, neither model of masculine success is attainable. In these circumstances, ideals of masculinity are reshaped to emphasize misogyny, substance use, and participation in crime. Male vulnerability stemming from social expectations of manhood that are unattainable because of factors such as poverty experienced by men. Male identity is associated with experiences of power. Challenges to the exercise of power by men can be perceived by them as threats to their masculine identity. An inability to meet social expectations of successful manhood can trigger a crisis of male identity. A man turning to alcoholism as a means of resolving this crisis because it allows expression of power that is otherwise denied.

2.9.4 Alcoholism effects and consequences

According to psychologist Neill, Neill, PhD if a spouse or partner shifts from enjoying a drink to compulsively needing alcohol to feel okay, the non alcoholic spouses may also shift from being giving and caring to being addicted to partners care.

The non-profit national healthy marriage recourse centre (NHMRC) gives more insight on the effects of alcoholism

1. Anger. Marital satisfaction is related strongly to a couple's ability to communicate effectively. Heavy alcohol use is associated with more negative and hostile communication, more expressions of anger. These factors decrease a couple's satisfaction in their marriage and create greater tension

2. Marital distress. Alcohol abuse increases the feelings of marital distress. Individuals in marriages where one or both spouses is an alcoholic report higher levels of marital distress than those who are not alcoholics

2.9.5 Signs of alcoholism

Drinking alcohol to relax

Drinking in order to socialize

Hiding alcohol and /or lying about consumption

Not able to recall events that occurred while under the influence

Unable to quit drinking

Worry about alcohol running out during a weekend or holiday

Problems meeting responsibilities at home, work and /or school

Risky behavior such as drunk driving

2.9.6 Effects of alcoholism

Poor in everyday responsibilities

Alcohol abuse decreases marital satisfaction because it decreases the drinking spouse's ability to participate in everyday house chores and responsibilities

According to NHMRC alcoholism has the following communication effects in marriage:

1. Damaging communication. Alcoholic spouses tend to use more negative and damaging communication(eg criticizing,blaming,contempt,anger, and show lower levels of warmth

when trying to solve a problem). This kind of negative communication discourages the use of positive problem solving skills such as open discussion and encouragement.

Less problem solving

partners in such marriages may lose the desire to engage in problem solving and give up when alcohol is involved because they anticipate that the conversation would end up negative.

Personality characteristics

Personality characteristics can also affect Communication. Alcoholics tend to be less conscientious, less agreeable, and more anxious and hypersensitive than are non drinkers. As a result important issues such as family finances, intimacy and childrearing issues go unresolved because it is easier to avoid communication than to deal with stress and negative emotions that are associated with alcohol related communication problems

2.9.7 Alcohol and its effects on marriage

The more frequently men are intoxicated, the more likely they are to be verbally towards their spouse. Alcohol abuse is connected to increased violence which is likely to result in injury

Effects on the brain

Researchers believe that alcohol effect on the brain may contribute to the increase in the negative communication. Alcohol tends to impair a persons ability to understand properly interpret what a spouse is saying. Alcoholics tend to respond to their partners in a negative way and this leads them to respond with greater anger and negative emotions.

2.9.8 Suggested remedy to alcoholism

According to HCMRC, Alcoholism is not simply an individual problem. Families often play a significant role in the 'cause' and 'cure' of alcohol abuse. For this reason, research shows that therapy involves the spouse and possibly other family members is more helpful to overcoming alcoholism than is only treating the individual who has the problem

The national institute on alcohol abuse and Alcoholism recommends the following steps in to help create a successful intervention

1. Quit making excuses or protecting the alcoholic from the consequences of his or her substance abuse so that he or she can see the full impact of his behavior
2. Timely interventions whereby immediately after an alcohol related problem such as an accident or major dispute talk to the alcoholic. Make sure they are sober before you can do an alcoholism intervention
3. Giving the alcoholic specific examples of how his or her drinking has created problems
4. Strategic communication combines a series of elements:

Extensive use of data

Careful planning

Stake holder participation

Creativity

High quality programming among others that stimulate positive and measurable behaviour change among the intended audience

2.10 Theoretical framework.

Theories are analytical tools for understanding, explaining and making decisions about a given phenomenon. This study is based on the theories of mass communication and behavior change. Strong theories will be applied to deal with the cause of spousal violence, the consequential husband battery and how to incorporate effective communication to eradicate this vice. The theories used in this study are presented separately but their contributions to the explanation of eradication of husband battery is interrelated in many aspects .The theories are complimentary rather than competitive to each other

2.10.1 Agenda setting.

This was proposed by Maxwell McCombs and Donald Shaw in 1972 to deal with the vision popular at the time that media effects are immediate reflections of media consumption. Intellectual content was thought to transfer from media to its consumers is directly proportional to the amount of media exposure. The authors argued that people are not indoctrinated by the media but rather their attention is directed at specific issues by mass communication channels. People pick and choose the issues they decide to explore and make their own, but they usually end up choosing that which media defined as being the issue. Specifically, people found most important the issues that were covered most often. Exposure to a topic increases its salience which further funnels attention to it. The theory highlights the power of the news media to set a nations agenda to focus public attention on key public issues, is an immense and well documented influence. Not only do people get factual information about public affairs from the news media, readers and viewers also learn how much importance to attach to a topic on the basis of the emphasis placed on it in the news.

Application

Based on the fact that people attach importance to topics on the basis of emphasis on it on the news, the interveners whether in form of a campaign or, programmes should choose a correction measures of intervention at a particular time . This theory emphasizes the need for mass media in behavior change. For instance, the need to stop husband battery in Nyeri County. This theory seeks to explain how news spread to society by the use of media. Since the content is thought to transfer from media to its consumers, directly proportional to the amount of media exposure, Correction methods should be aired through the most popular station .In this case kameme Fm would be appropriate as is popular among the Nyeri people. The station would the focus on the importance of a close knit family and vehemently shun the causes of violence which in this particular research is caused by excessive consumption of illicit brews in the area.

2.10.2 Two step flow theory

Two step flow theory was first introduced by Paul Lazarsfeld, Bernard Berelson and Hazel Gaudet in "*the peoples choice*," a 1944 study focused on the process of decision making during a presidential election campaign

Assumptions

1. Information from the media moves in two distinct stages. First opinion leaders who pay close attention to the mass media and its messages receive the information
2. Opinion leaders pass on their own interpretations in addition to the actual media content.
3. Opinion leaders are quite influential in getting people to change their attitudes and behaviours

Application

This theory utilizes the use of opinion leaders to persuade the target group to follow their interpretation of the message and also influence their decision making. Personal contacts will have more influence than exposure to the radio television and newspapers as sources of influence in creating awareness and influence. This theory informs this study that information can be successfully disseminated through the use of opinion leaders who in turn pass the information to the people in their various ways.

2.11 The law and gender based violence

The Kenya's constitution guarantees freedom and security to every one (chapter 29) (d) every person has the right to freedom and security of the person, which includes the right not to be subjected to any form of violence either public or private sources

(f) Treated or punished in a cruel, inhuman or degrading manner

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction.

This chapter gives an in-depth analysis of the methodological aspects of the study. It outlines the areas of study, research design, data collection methods, sample size and sampling procedures, data analysis and presentation and ethical issues that will be considered in this study.

3.2 Research site

The research was carried out in Mathira Division, Nyeri County.. Nyeri County is located in Central Kenya, it borders the following counties; Laikipia to the North, Meru to the North East, Kirinyaga to the East, Muranga to the South, and Nyandarua to the West. It has an area of (km²) 3,337.1km². Nyeri has a population of 693,558 (Male – 49 %, Female – 51 %) Its population density is 208 people per Km² (KNBS 2009). The area is selected because of its recent escalating reports of husband battery. The Daily nation February 2012, March 2012 and May 2012, highlighted three stories of battered husbands in Nyeri. The second reason is that the concept has been highlighted before in the county therefore identifying the victims would be easy unlike an area that has had husband battery spoken in hushed voices. (Steinmetz 1977)

3.3 Research design

The study employed qualitative design to explore the role of communication in combating the vice of husband battering. Qualitative research was chosen because it permits research to go beyond the statistical results. Human behavior is also explained best by use of qualitative research. This approach entails techniques and measures that yield discreet numerical data. This approach assumes the role of providing a voice to disadvantaged groups empowering them by giving them a chance to be heard (Mugenda 2008)

3.4 Sample size.

The study used a sample size of 22 respondents 10 key informants and 3 FGDs of 4 people per sitting. The respondents used were between the ages of twenty and sixty years.

3.5 Sampling Procedures

Sampling is the process of selecting a number of individuals or objects from a population such that the selected group contains elements representative of the characteristic found in the entire group (Orodho & Kombo, 2002).

Non Probability sampling method was used to ensure that in-depth information was obtained. Specifically, convenient sampling and snowball sampling was used. The technique entails selecting initial subjects with desired characteristics purposively. These would lead the researcher to others with similar characteristics. (Mugenda 2008)

Data was collected from key informants and FGDs. The researcher used purposive or judgmental sampling as per the required information with respect to the objectives of this study, to identify 10 key informants and 12 people for the FGDs.

3.6 Data Collection Methods

A concern for the methodological challenge in the study of spousal physical violence is instituted by the sensitivity nature of the phenomena. This implies that a thorough scrutiny for the choice of research method to use was vital. The main data collection used was interviews .This was through the use of interview schedule for key informants and interview guide for the FGDs.The process will start off with the identification of Key informants who facilitated the identification of the study victims and perpetrators. This study made use of primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected using interviews. Secondary data was sourced from records of battery cases recorded in the relevant NGO'S e.g ,Maendeleo ya wanaume organization as well as any other materials like the newspaper reports that would be of help as data source. Interview schedule was prepared for the key informants and Focus group discussion guide was prepared for FGDs. This method was chosen because:

i) The researcher could get more information by probing method.

ii) Interviews are more flexible as the researcher could adapt to the situation to get as much information as possible

iii) Researcher made it possible to obtain data required to meet specific objectives of the study

3.6.1 Qualitative data

The researcher employed qualitative data to obtain detailed information in a systematic way in order to come to some useful conclusions and recommendations.(mugenda 2008)

Focus group discussions

This is the third method of data collection. The researcher held three focus group discussions of 4 people per sitting.FGDs is preferred for collection of qualitative data because they could generate more information especially if participants have gone through similar experiences (Patton 2002).

Key informants

A total of 10 key informants were interviewed. These included: 2 social workers, one doctor, two legal providers, the chair person MYWO, three church leaders and a counselor. The researcher will have an interview schedule with the above named persons face to face so as to meet the specified objectives of the study and also clarify and elaborate the purpose of the research. This enables respondents give more complete and honest information (mugenda 2008).

3.7 Data Analysis and presentation

The researcher was interested in analyzing data in a systematic way in order to come to some useful conclusions and recommendations. The data collected qualitatively which was in the form of text materials and photographs was presented using themes.

3.8 Ethical considerations

Due to the sensitivity of the study, and ridicule that is subjected to the known victims, the researcher will ensure that the information given by respondents will be private and confidential and identification by name will be avoided on the questionnaire to ensure the same. The researcher sought permission from key informants prior to the interview day so as time could be

allocated for the same. A student introductory letter from (UON)-(SOJ) had been obtained to enable the researcher collect data. The researcher will not give monetary incentives to avoid exaggeration of information, imposters and most importantly collect objective data.

CHAPTER 4

DATA PRESENTATION AND FINDINGS

4.1 Background characteristics of respondents in the study

The focus of this study was battered men who were married or has been married at one time and were at the time of research divorced, separated or widowed. The study interviewed a total of 10 key informants, and 22 focus group participants. The key informants included: 2 social workers, one doctor, two legal providers, the chairperson MYW, three church ministers and 1 counsellor. The key informants did not have to be victims. Their qualifications were determined by the fact that they possessed education and training on how to deal with battered men and were actively involved in its eradication.

4.2 Some factors that lead to husband battering in a heterosexual relationship

The participants ranged from 20 years of age to 60 years. A man of 20 years is young and when he marries at this age, he is likely to suffer frustrations especially if he does not have constant income. Most of the men aged between 25 -29 years had gone to school, at least to primary level. They were open minded and said that at the time of attack they are either asleep or too drunk for sense. Majority said that they resort to alcohol as result of disillusionment and lack of jobs.

The mean age of 10 key informant was 32 years. The range was 22 years with the youngest 28 years and the oldest 48 years

To establish factors that are likely to cause violence, 25 percent of the respondents cited poverty as the root cause of violence as men go to illicit brewing and consumption of the same.

It was noted that most men's lives revolve around beer with little or no effort at all to improve their families financially. A participant reported that her husband sells even the children's clothes to clear the debts he has with illicit brewers. 'Anaiba hata pesa ya kununulia watoto chakula' (he steals money meant to buy food for the children)' The woman said that upon asking him he seemed less concerned and she realized he had fallen asleep leaving her talking to herself. She

reported to have taken a blunt object and hit him severally. He collapsed immediately. She added that the man did not seek medical attention neither did he share with anyone for fear of ridicule

Many are times when they go hungry. The husband comes drunk and demands for food. 'This angers me to my bones' confessed a participant in one of the FGDs. Such reports are indicative of the fact that there is lack of basic necessities. Sentiments linking to the acts of violence to economic issues were prevalent throughout the focus group discussions

Complains over misuse of money on alcohol and irresponsibility are linked directly to physical violence

Another direct factor includes real or imagined infidelity by the wife. It was reported that when a man starts coming home at odd hours drunk, to the wife he has money that he is using with others and not him. A participant in the FGD pointed out a case in time when he arrived home drunk and he headed straight to bed as he had mild head ache after consuming beer. 'Niliamshwa na maji moto' (was woken up by hot water) He revealed his burn't back which was in the process of healing. He nursed the wound all by himself with concentrated salt solution.

He said that the hospital bill would be way out of his capability and that he could not report that he was burnt by his wife for fear of mockery from the society.

During the interviews that the researcher conducted, the participants had among others, the following responses

Q. What is your view of the prevalence of gender based violence in this area? What are the main causes (probe for drunkardness, poverty, negligence and lack of jobs)

P1. 'Mimi naonelea wachapwe' (in my view men should be beaten) 'Kazi yao ni pombe tu hawawezi hata kutafutia familia' (they only value their drink. They cannot even take care of their families')

P4. 'Women should understand the hard economic times and behave accordingly. 'Bibi anajua sina pesa na anataka ninunue chakula. Nitatoa pesa wapi na sina kazi?' (My wife knows that i'm not financially okey but she insists that i buy food. Where will he get money from and I don't have a job?)'

P1. 'Men have forgotten their responsibility in the family. 'Wamewacha familia yao kabisa' (men have neglected their families)

During interview schedules, the participants had the following to say

KI.2. The root cause of husband battering is lack of employment. It is through this that there is no dependable source of income. Meaning that one cannot provide for their family. This in turn leads to frustrations which make men hide in drinking dens

The participants had low levels of education; with a high percentage having attained up to primary education only. Research has revealed that men with low levels of education end up taking odd jobs whose income is not consistently guaranteed. With little or no income at all to meet the basic needs of the family, most men end up in drinking dens as a consolation. This worsens the situation as their input in the family is neglected whether emotionally or economically. This frustrates women who end up beating them up at their weakest moment i.e drunk or asleep.

Most participants are in monogamous marriages and only one percent admitted polygamy. This was a case of a 56 year old man. Majority of men admitted having one wife that is legally known but they also admitted having concubines who they turn to when the tension is high at home. This worsens the situation as there are more channels through which money is expected. Majority of the men regret keeping a concubine.

P1. 'Mimi niko na 'mpango wa kando kwenye naenda bibi akiwa mkali kwa nyumba' (I have a concubine who I run to when tension is unbearable at home)

KI.4 Most men here have one legally known wife but they secretly see another woman. This brings in conflict when the legal wife gets to know.

A participant in one of the FGDs said that the wife had caught him courting another wife and she started hitting him with a panga that she had in her hands. He was quick to defend himself that the events took a split of a second as the wife had cut his arm and was bleeding profusely. He took to his heels.

When he went to hospital, he said that had cut his left arm while cutting fodder for the animals. It was heartbreaking that even the most educated in the group chose silence as they cannot bear with ridicule associated with husband battery.

The respondent who had stayed shortest in his marriage was one year and the longest time 20 years.

The research revealed that men hang on their marriages as they keep mump to their problems. The study showed that most men especially those recently married seek solicit from their mothers who promise to keep silent as no one would be proud that their son is beaten by the wife.

This however becomes minimal after 15 years of marriage. One respondent said that for him there are other methods of resolving conflict for example, working out in farms, looking after cattle and this lessens tension

One respondent said that he rather keep quiet than face mockery. He pointed out a case in time that he went to the area chief to report. He narrated to the police officers on duty as he awaited his turn to see the chief. They burst out laughing and asking, “....wewe ni mwanamme nambari ngapi?(What kind of a man are you.?What number are you?)” He left without reporting. This one instance is a representative of hundreds of mockery that men shun with their last drop of blood.

Majority of the respondents and their spouses were in very humble occupations that could not sustain them in terms of the basic needs. The research revealed that majority of men earn between kshs4,000 and kshs10,000. Most respondents relied on farming whose outcome was meager in monetary terms. Most men had no idea of how much their wife's have at the end of the month .Men revealed that they result in drinking dens which guarantee intoxication with as little as 20 shillings

The presence of husband battery was quiet evident in that 6 out of 12 participants reported that their wife's used sharp objects such as knives at one time to hurt them. Other forms reported by Key informants included Stabbing, Assault with an object, Confinement and Burning.

The research revealed that different victims get different assaults. A respondent in one of the FGD's revealed his hidden secret behind his wearing a hat. He was nicknamed "mtu wa kofia" (Aman of hat) as despite of the weather condition he has his hat on. He removed it revealing a artificial bald he got after his wife poured hot water when he was asleep. 2 out of 12 participants confessed having been locked in the house for a day "I could not scream for help as I didn't want neighbours to know" One respondent confessed that he stayed in the house without food and nowhere to relief himself throughout the day. The above forms as revealed by the research are just but a eighth of what men silently undergo through.

4.3 Mass media and gender based violence

Q 1. Which radio station do you listen to most? Have you ever heard of gender preventive measures over the radio? Probe for content, length and impact)

Ten out of the twelve participants reported Kameme fm as their favourite radio station. Six out of twelve participants admitted having heard messages through the radio station but people including reporters tend to create a joke out of it.

P3. 'Kameme hutangaza mwanaume akichapwa na bibi yake, lakini hakuna suluhisho inapeanwa. Hata reporters wanafanya inakuwa mchezo.' (Kameme fm reports husband battering but they end up creating a joke out of it)

This is evident that the issue needs to be put in a serious way for people to start reacting on its eradication.

KI.10 'The media should take the centre stage addressing the vice. Kameme fm reports in 'Kikuyu' language (the language spoken by the native) The messages in my opinion should be designed in a way that people will start seeing the escalation of this vice, the effect it has on the socio-economic status of the family and the society as a whole'

KI. 6. 'Opinion leaders should be informed so that they can take it as a responsibility to eradicate this vice through programmes meant for the same in radio. Otherwise we are losing the necessary dignity and masculinity in the society'

4.4 The role of communication in alleviating husband battering.

Q. How are husband battery messages communicated? Do you think people understand these messages? What do they like or dislike about channels used to communicate husband battering. How can they be improved to reach people effectively

During interviews it was evident that there were communication problems between spouses which ought to be addressed as a matter of urgency. It was also evident that husband battery messages are communicated sometimes using animation for clarification or example the photograph used in literature review. Such a photograph elicits ridicule and eventually the message ends up not being disseminated as intended.

KI 5 'The messages used should reflect a dire situation. For instance cries of children who are the innocent victims of family wrangles, the husband's desperate cries for employment or the wishes of a mother that the husband changes and becomes a respectable member of the society. This will make people silent in contemplation of the problem at hand rather than creating jokes out of a fatal situation'

For effective communication on the issue of husband battery, the mass media should be utilized and the messages aired at strategic times when majority of the people are likely to be in the house e.g. 6am-8am in the morning. Campaign messages should be designed to meet the second and third objective of this study. It was evident from the key informants that opinion leaders who are very influential members of the society ought to be utilized as they can easily influence a change in behavior

The concerned organizations e.g. MYWO and relevant NGO's should organize campaigns against alcohol consumption. The most appropriate media to use would be a vernacular radio station kameme fm which at the time of study had the most listenership in the area as it broadcasts in the native language (kikuyu language) (KNBS) The campaign should have among others, the following intended outcomes.

4.4.1 Campaign intended outcomes:

- To increase the awareness of the dangers of drinking illicit brews.

- Increase in amicable ways of settling disputes e.g. via communication

Reduction of the drinkers of illicit brews and increase in alternative ways of engaging themselves during frustration times e.g. looking after cattle/rearing fish.

- Increase awareness of the economic impact of alcoholism to the society and families in particular
- To reduce cases of spousal physical violence that are caused by alcohol consumption

4.4.2 Pre test

A Pretest of the campaign should be done on selected segments of the target population in the county. Through a Pre Test they should ensure that themes, messages and activities reach the intended target populations. The Pre test should be done on the messages, campaign materials, training packages, support and tools. The messages should be evaluated on: Comprehension, Attraction, Persuasion, Acceptability and the Audience members' degree of identification through a rigorous interview.

The different media versions through which the message will be disseminated should be pre-tested and audience reactions compared.

Upon completion of the Pre-test, the messages and the campaign strategy should be reviewed to increase the effectiveness and success of the campaign

4.4.3 Post test

The Post Test will measure the impact of the campaign to the county. To evaluate the campaign properly, effective information-gathering systems should be established. These include reports on the number of young people booked by the Police for cases of drunk and disorderly /violent behavior, site visits to identify the number of drinking dens and increase harmony in families which were otherwise violent and increased awareness of the dangers of drinking illicit brews.

The methodology for conducting the Post Test include: Periodic focus-group discussions and in-depth interviews will also be used to assess the perceptions of target populations. Peer educators

will collect responses from target populations to help identify changes that may have been achieved.

Media reports, documents or other sources will be analyzed and categorized to identify trends and patterns in county.

CHAPTER FIVE:

Summary of findings, conclusion and recommendations

5.1 Education

The Key informants felt that there should be guidance and counseling centers in the area for accessibility as some men admitted addiction of the illicit liquor. 25 percent of the men I interviewed admitted negligence of their duty. Including provision of the basic needs. Women also complained of frustrations at the turn of events contrary to the initial mandate of the marriage. A woman who for confidentiality remains unnamed said that he beats her husband to discipline him to start attending to his responsibilities other than looking for illicit liquor.

All the concerned stakeholders' including the churches in the area should teach on the importance of responsibility. From the findings alcoholism is the root cause of family violence, particularly husband battery.

b) The ministry of education science and technology (MOEST) should design a curriculum on domestic violence. This should be incorporated in the system from kindergarten through to Universities. The lessons should be structured in a way that children get both formal and informal education on the best practices and amicable non-violent ways of handling disputes. The fact that violence is the oil that cooks instability and family breakages should be emphasized. Children who manifest violent behavior should be counseled against it and should be severely punished for others with such intent to stop.

5.2 Counseling.

i) Holistic counseling should be given at community level. This should be towards an in-depth understanding of what is considered violent, its causes, how to solve differences and what channel to use if the problem at hand is very severe or life threatening

ii) All the NGO's that deal with domestic violence particularly MYWO should be more aggressive in dealing with this vice. Both the perpetrators and victims of violence should be shown the need to attend counseling as battering leaves deep scars that lie beneath the skin and if

no intervention is availed soon enough could lead to worse situations where fatalities could result.

iii) Pre-marital counseling

This should be intensified at community level. This will act as an effective early intervention strategy to husband battery. This will equip the couple with the expected challenges and ways of resolving issues that pertains family life. This research revealed that due to economic constraints most men resort to illicit liquor as a result of frustrations. This as earlier mentioned leaves the wife frustrated and she ends up beating the husband when he is drunk.

Pre-marital counseling should include?

A) Age bracket to marry

This is necessary as some teenagers at 15 who are infatuated with each other drop out of school and marry only to separate a year later due to frustrations.

b) Enough courtship time.

Young people should be counseled to take time to know each other in terms of likes, dislikes, strengths, weaknesses and one's character in general.

c) Expected challenges in marriage

Virtues such as patience should be instilled in marriages as some couples enter into a union with skyrocketing expectations.

5.3 Communication

This study revealed that communication breakdown was one cause of husband battery. This therefore necessitated the need to nurture communication and constant dialogue in marriages. For instance a man who is frustrated by his inability to make as much money as he would wish turns to illicit brew to bury his head from the situation, the wife on the other hand starts to see irresponsible man that he has become. Tension rises and this leads the wife battering her husband as she no longer has value for him. In this scenario the husbands tightlipped on his inability to

make more money makes the wife live life as normal. If the husband communicated on the issue, the wife would 'tighten the belt' to fit in the stringent budget. This would help avoid violence.

5.4 Creation of job opportunities

This research found out that a substantial parentage of youth idle around with no particular dairy activity. These are the same youth that engage in friendship that leads into early marriages. Frustrations set in and as discussed above end up in violent behavior.

This research found out that men should be empowered academically. It is because of low education levels that these men cannot get higher paying jobs.

5.5 Technical training institutions

These institutions should be located in the area so that those who do not qualify for higher levels of education can be trained on some technical jobs eg mechanics, tailoring, carpentry and the like. This will give them livelihood.

5.6 Medical intervention

Doctors everywhere in the republic should be trained and sensitized to identify cases of husband battery as most men prefer dying in silence than suffer the humiliation of being beaten by a 'woman'. The Nairobi women's hospital has the best expertise on gender violence but it's basically inclined to women's issues. Another hospital with equal equipment and expertise with counselors' for men should be put up by the government, not to fight Nairobi women's hospital but to offer aid and highly specialized medical intervention to men who would be free to visit the hospital, especially the delicate cases where a man's genitalia is chopped off.

5.2 Recommendations

1. Educating the public

Prevention of domestic violence and husband battery ultimately depends on changing the beliefs and practices of a people in regard to conflict resolution. To achieve this, the concept of gender

roles and responsibilities in partnership with the changing times should be incorporated in the school's curricular, professional colleges, universities among other training settings.

2. Sensitization programs

The government through the area representative /Member of Parliament should conduct a campaign against violence amongst spouses. Another campaign should be against preparation and consumption of illicit liquor which as the research found out is the root cause of violence

Local musicians should compose lyrics condemning both the causative behaviours and violence in general

3. Use of media to build public awareness

Mobilization of communities for or against a behavior requires NGO's and the government advocates working effectively with all forms of media

4. Provision of medical and psychological services

As discussed in literature review, physical violence leaves deeper emotional scars than the visible. Care is provided but a more specialized hospital's need to be set up at the community level for accessibility and immediate intervention as some physical assaults are fatal. One man in a FGD shown his scar on his neck which was in the healing process.

5. Initiate self help programmes

The government through a Member of parliament should through the CDF kitty initiate qualified personnel to teach people on programs and services for instance cattle rearing poultry keeping, bee keeping, rabbit rearing among other programs to the community. This would offer self employment and will keep the locals occupied.

6. Stern legal measures

Stern legal measures should be taken to those who are involved in brewing of illicit liquor. Research showed that the liquor is readily available and at a debt to those whose financial status at the time of drinking is unstable.

7. Strengthen follow up and monitoring

Few service providers consistently monitor clients or maintain long-term records. Both the NGO's and the government and all the stakeholders concerned need to develop and prioritize follow up and tracking mechanisms. Building a strong systematic follow up with 'soft' records is critical to regularly assessing and improving the impact of services.

5.3 Summary of findings

The findings revealed that there is a very strong link between alcoholism and physical abuse of men. A male spouse drinking was linked with irresponsibility which often frustrates the wife. Some respondents admitted having attacked the husband after word has it that he was unfaithful. It is evident that alcohol use is fuelled by its availability and idleness. In the men's FGD's majority of the men took the blame to lack of employment which makes them resort to alcohol use to lessen their frustrations as the economy is on the upward move. Further research found out that men who were dependent on their wife's income and support tend to experience more physical attack.

A respondent in the men's FGD's said that the wife attacked him and that he was too drunk to resist the beating. He was blaming inability to get employment which leads him to get occupied in the drinking dens. A respondent said that he has fear for his wife and this makes him drink more liquor so as he can reassure himself that he is a man. I did not interrogate him further as psychological torture was not part of my research. The research found out that husband battery is a consequence and not a symptom. It is therefore wise to deal with the causative factors eg. poverty, and alcoholism among others as discussed above in the findings, as if the causative factors are dealt with the consequences by extension are also prevented.

5.4 Conclusion

A strong conclusion emanating from this research is that husband battery is prevalent in Kenya. By observing social demographic characteristics of men interviewed, battery cuts across age, religion and social class. Majority of men abused prefer suffering in silence for fear of mockery as it is beyond the expectation of a sane man to be beaten by a woman. Another key issue that stood out from the research is that most battered men are usually not in their stable condition of

the mind. They are either too intoxicated to resist or are emotionally depressed as a result of extreme poverty. Physical violence in itself is a manifestation of underlying problem(s). As mentioned in the findings, physical violence occurs after irresponsibility, infidelity, laziness and poverty among other factors as discussed in chapter 4. These factors should be given utmost intervention to eradicate because as research found out one cannot talk of physical violence without mentioning irresponsibility of the significant other or any other factors mentioned in the research findings.

5.5 Areas of further research

1. The focus of this study was to examine the role of communication in addressing the eradication of husband battering. A study of this magnitude should be carried out to establish psychological impact of husband battery .As the research found out the man is silently rotting from within as the society has oriented him to manifest courage by not speaking his problems to the public.
2. The study was done in Nyeri County, a rural area. The researcher recommends that a comparative study be done in an urban setting to establish the causes, and impact of husband battery and the role of communication in an urban setting

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Appendix 1

FOCUS GROUP DISCUSSION GUIDE

Note: For each group, the age, sex and educational level (i.e., which class they are in) of the participants will be written down

Knowledge and causes of gender based violence in Mathira Division, Nyeri County

1. What does husband battery mean? Which names or description is given to a battered man?
(Probe for different perceptions)
2. What is your view of the prevalence of gender based violence in this area? What are the main causes (probe for drunkardness, poverty, negligence and lack of jobs)
3. What measures do you take as a victim? (Probe for silence, report to the relevant authorities, sulking, living in denial, fear seeking refuge to friends, family or relatives)
4. What sort of physical assault is commonly inflicted on you? (Probe for severity time and frequency of the attack)

Media and gender based violence

5. Which radio station do you listen to most? Have you ever heard of gender preventive measures over the radio? (probe for content, length and impact)
6. How do you think messages should be passed to address husband battering?
7. Is there a specialized hospital for the male victims? Probe for the effectiveness of the centre if any, alternative sources of Aid)

Remedy for husband battering

8. What do you think should be done to curb the vice? (Probe for answers in alcoholism, irresponsibility, poverty and impotence)

APPENDIX 2

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR KEY INFORMANTS

Note: For each interview, the designation of the interviewee is to be written down.

Knowledge and causes of gender based violence

1. Do the people know of husband bartering as a vice? (Probe for how people perceive husband battery in the area)What are the key causes of husband battery (probe for drunkardness, irresponsibility, lack of employment, impotence and illiteracy)
2. Are people aware of these causes? What is their take? Do they try to address the vice?(probe for common physical assault)

How mass media is used to address gender based violence

3. Which mass media is the people's favourite? (Probe for favourite, radio station and why)Does the radio station address the increase of gender based violence in the area?
4. How is the reaction of people on the issue? (Probe for general reception of the message (mockery, jokes, ridicule)

The role of communication in eradication of husband battery

5. Has there been a campaign to stop husband battery (probe for content, reactions and the success and failure of the campaigns)
6. In what ways do the campaign messages target the vice? Do the people accept or reject these messages? If so what reasons do they give for rejecting these messages. What do they like about the messages?
7. How are husband battery messages communicated? Do you think people understand these messages? What do they like or dislike about channels used to communicate husband battering. How can they be improved to reach people effectively
8. What are the steps taken to alleviate gender based violence in this area so far?(probe for by who? through which methods, extent of success or failure and reasons for each)