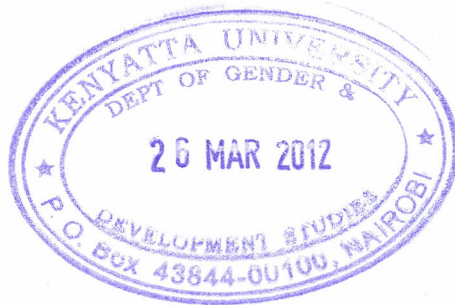


EFFECTS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ON GIRLS AND WOMEN IN  
KIBERA INFORMAL SETTLEMENT, NAIROBI COUNTY



JANE IGOKI MWERERU

A RESEARCH PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE SCHOOL OF HUMANITIES  
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REQUIREMENTS FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN GENDER  
AND DEVELOPMENT STUDIES OF KENYATTA UNIVERSITY.

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Mwereru, Jane Igoki  
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violence on girls and*

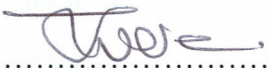


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## DECLARATION

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

Signature:  .....

Date: 11/11/2011 .....

Jane Igoki, Mwereru

C50/CE/11269/07

This project has been submitted with our approval as the University supervisors.

Signature:  .....

Date: 11/11/2011 .....

Dr. Pacificah Okemwa

Department of Gender and Development Studies

Kenya University

Signature:  .....

Date: 15/11/2011 .....

Dr. Grace Wamue -Ngare

Department of Gender and Development Studies

Kenya University

## DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this degree to my mother Hellen Muthoni Mwereru and my two children, Collins Jamhuri and Melody Tamasha. There is no doubt in my mind that without their continued support, love and patience, I would not have completed this process.

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Lastly, I would like to thank the respondents for their cooperation and input.

May the Almighty God, bless you all.

## LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

|               |  |
|---------------|--|
| <b>BCC</b>    | Behaviour Change Communication   |
| <b>CBO</b>    | Community Based Organization   |
| <b>CEDAW</b>  | Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| <b>CREAW</b>  | Centre for Rights Education and Awareness                                  |
| <b>CSO</b>    | Civil Society Organization   |
| <b>FGM</b>    | Female Genital Mutilation  |
| <b>GBV</b>    | Gender Based Violence  |
| <b>GVRC</b>   | Gender Violence Recovery Centre  |
| <b>IGWG</b>   | Interagency Gender Working Group   |
| <b>MSF</b>    | Medicin sans Frontiers   |
| <b>NGO</b>    | Non-Governmental Organisations   |
| <b>NWH</b>    | Nairobi Women's Hospital   |
| <b>SGBV</b>   | Sexual and Gender Based Violence   |
| <b>UN</b>     | United Nations   |
| <b>UNDP</b>   | United Nations Development Program   |
| <b>UNHCR</b>  | United Nations High Commission for Refugees                                |
| <b>UNICEF</b> | United Nations Children's Fund   |
| <b>UNIFEM</b> | United Nations Fund for Women  |
| <b>USAID</b>  | United States Agency for International Development                         |
| <b>WHO</b>    | World Health Organisation  |

## DEFINITION OF TERMS

**Economic Impact:** This refers to the effects of gender based violence which are related to the ability of a victim to conduct an economic activity, earn a living and have decent living standards.

**Gender Based Violence:** An umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and that is based on socially ascribed (gender) differences between males and females.

**Health Consequences:** In the context of this study these are the results of gender-based violence on a victim's health status. These include physical, psychological and emotional consequences of GBV.

**Sexual Violence:** An act, attempt to obtain a sexual act , unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work

**Social Consequences:** This refers to those issues which come as a result of gender violence and affects the relationship between the victim and the other members of the society

**Survivor/Victim:** A person who has experienced gender-based violence. The terms "victim" and "survivor" can be used interchangeably. "Victim" is a

term often used in the legal and medical sectors. "Survivor" is the term generally preferred in the psychological and social spheres

## ABSTRACT

This sought to investigate the effects of gender based violence (GBV) on girls and women in Kibera, an informal settlement. The aim was to document the nature and forms of GBV in Kibera as well as establish their causes. In addition, it sought to investigate the effects of GBV on girls and women. The target population was sampled from the nine villages that constitute Kibera Division. Purposive sampling was applied to select these villages. Findings revealed that there were various forms and causes of GBV in Kibera that had adverse effects on all facets of girls and women's lives, their health, economic and social aspects. Based on the findings it is concluded that GBV has adverse effects on girls and women in the informal settlements. From the research findings, it is recommended that there is need for increased sensitization and enhanced advocacy on GBV, enhanced awareness education with regard to the provision of Sexual Offences Act, where to seek help and what help is available for the survivors of GBV, strengthening of the legal framework and judicial system, and socio- economic empowerment of girls and women.

## CHAPTER ONE

### 1.0 BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY

#### 1.1 Introduction

Primarily, any form of violence is taken to mean physical aggression and physical or sexual harm. Any restriction of the freedom, independence or physical integrity of women and girls is a form of gender-based violence (GBV). This conforms to the definition as understood by the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (CEDAW) adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979. For the purposes of this Declaration, the term "violence against women" means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. (UN, 1993).

The GBV social ill was one of the issues which led to the adoption of The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), in 1979 by the UN General Assembly. In the same spirit one agenda extensively dealt with during the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing China in 1995 was that of GBV. These initiatives point to the fact that, varied stakeholders have recognized the magnitude of the GBV problem, its effects on the victims and the utmost need to address it in all corners of the world.

The prevalence of GBV is underscored by such campaigns as the "The 16 Day Activism for No Violence against Women and Children". This is an international campaign which

takes place every year from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). During this time Governments and stakeholders run a 16 Day Activism Campaign to raise awareness on the negative impacts of violence on women and children and to act against abuse (Phillips-Barrasso, (2009).

Gender-based violence is a leading cause of girls and women's death and incapacity globally. In addition to facing physical and psychological trauma and injury, girls and women who suffer violence are at a higher risk of contracting sexually transmitted infections, including HIV/AIDS. They may also face unintended pregnancies, adverse pregnancy outcomes and chronic health problems. Survivors of GBV often suffer rejection and further victimization from partners, family and community members due to the shame and stigma associated with such violations (Okioma and Kimani 2007).

Adolescent girls are particularly vulnerable to sexual abuse and harassment in and around school settings. Bennet (2005), in a research study based in South Africa found that a third of men who raped girls under the age of 15 were teachers. The risk of school-related violence and exploitation deterred parents from sending their daughters to school and was also a reason why the girls dropped out of school. It is worth noting that GBV is so rampant in South Africa that four women are killed every day by their intimate partners (Njenga, 2001). Many children are still being married off in several African countries. All the reports around Africa point to the same conclusion; girls and women have been



unacceptably subjected to violence in such a way that both private and public places are not any safer (Njenga, 2001).

Mutua (2009) notes that gender based violence against women takes place at all levels of society and within all social classes. In Kenya such violence is sexual, political, sadistic or criminal. He further notes that GBV is in the home, the work place, on the street with strangers, and all around us. He concludes that "Kenya has an epidemic of gender-based violence". Njenga (2001), on the other hand, notes that wife-battery; wife-murder, rape, and other forms of gender-based violence are possible because men see themselves in a superior-subordinate role towards women.

A 2010 Amnesty International study showed that more than half the women in slums had experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence. The report found that perpetrators of these abuses included youth gangs, intimate partners, family members, employers and security personnel. The study was conducted in four slums of Nairobi between November 2009 and February 2010 (CREAW 2009). It is from this background that this study was conducted with the aim of shedding light on this retrogressive practice with particular attention being paid towards identifying the effects of GBV on girls and women in Kibera.

## **1.2 Statement of the problem**

Kibera is an informal settlement with a high population made up of people from diverse cultural backgrounds. Various forms of GBV are reported regularly in this area by the media.

From the background, it is clear that GBV is prevalent in Kenya. The study focused on Kibera settlement in order to underline the effects of GVB on girls and women.

NGOs working in Kibera have noted high prevalence of the various types of GBV. However, many are unreported and one wonders why this is the case, yet GBV in its various forms adversely affects girls and women.

This study therefore sought to document nature and forms of GBV. It also aimed at answering questions such as, are there factors that increase the chances of GBV, what effects does GBV have on girls and women and are there ways of addressing GBV in Kibera?

## **1.3 Objectives of the study**

The objectives of this study were:

1. To document the nature and forms of GBV in Kibera.
2. To assess the factors that increase chances of GBV in Kibera.
3. To investigate the effects of GBV on girls and women in Kibera.
4. To find ways of addressing GBV in Kibera.

## **1.4 Research Premises**

These are my research premises:

1. GBV in Kibera manifests itself in various forms.

2. There are many factors that fuel GBV in Kibera.
3. That GBV affects girls and women in various ways in Kibera.
4. There are ways of addressing GBV in Kibera.

### **1.5 Justification of the study.**

In Kenya, efforts to deal with the crisis of GBV directed towards girls and women in its many forms have been frustrated by the patriarchal society and cultural laws among others (Mutua, 2004). In view of this situation, a study was needed to investigate the effects of GBV on women and girls and recommend various solutions. This study will be helpful to various stakeholders. First, the nature, forms, causes and effects of GBV directed towards girls and women in informal settlements in Kenya will be documented and the results of Kibera will emphasize to the consequences of this worrying social problem.

Given that there are studies on the topic which have taken the context of the proposed study; that of giving attention to the informal settlements and in particular Kibera, the findings will go a long way in giving insights into the features of GBV in Kibera. The findings may be utilized to inform policy makers on the need to raise awareness on GBV and strategies of managing GBV menace in informal settlements. The study findings will also form basis for further research by other scholars.

### **1.6 Scope and limitations of the study**

The study was carried out in Kibera, targeting the whole spectrum of people living within this community. Largely an informal settlement, Kibera presented a unique opportunity for study since informal settlements are known to have the greatest incidents of crimes (Swat, 2010). The study had limitations that restricted both its extent and some desired outcomes. These included limited financial resources, time constraints and unavailability of some key respondents including the children's officer, and judicial officers.

The research tools used were designed in a way that enabled gathering of relevant information without infringing on the privacy of respondents. The respondents were also assured that the information obtained was for academic purposes only.

## CHAPTER TWO

### 2.0 LITERATURE REVIEW

#### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter contains the literature reviewed in relation to the research topic. It is divided into the following sub- topics: Literature related to the forms and nature, causes and effects of GBV on girls and women in Kibera. The summary and knowledge gap is given and the theoretical framework related to gender based violence discussed.

#### 2.2 Forms and nature of gender based violence.

Violence has always been part of human experience. Despite this fact, the world does not have to accept it as part of the human condition. According to a WHO (2004) report, more than one million people lose their lives and many more suffer non-fatal injuries as a result of self-inflicted, interpersonal and collective violence every year. The magnitude of violation makes this a crucial issue for action with violence against women and girls especially requiring priority action.

Domestic violence is the most common form of violence, and the most difficult to deal with, since it is perpetrated under the privacy of the home and family. Such is the extent of this type of violence that girls and women have come to accept it as a norm in marriage. Studies show that 35% of women in Egypt, 41% in Uganda, 19% in Columbia, 30% in India, 28% in the USA, and 16% in Cambodia report being beaten by their husbands (Ward, 2005). Domestic violence takes various forms, including wife battering,

child defilement, desertion, abusive language, marital rape, incest, child labor and sexual exploitation of domestic workers (The Advocates of Human Rights, 2006).

Other forms of violence that are meted out on girls and women are physical and psychological forms of violence. They take the form of actual physical beating, intimidation, verbal abuse, subordination, over-work, deprivation of basic necessities, control of movement and isolation from family and friends.

Most societies have some traditional practices which encourage violence against women and girls (Runbold and Keesbury 2008). Female genital mutilation (FGM), early and forced marriage, early sex, discriminatory dietary practices, child labor and wife inheritance are apt examples that have hazardous health, mental, physical and social effects. Others include folk tales, songs, proverbs and sayings that undermine women's capabilities and teach them to subordinate their own needs, wills and sexual desires in order to please and serve men (Bennet, 2005). Cultural tolerance of violence, gender-based division of labor and heavy workload for girls and women are other forms of exploitation and abuse (Leach, 2003).

Sexual violence which is another form of violence meted out on girls and women, can be defined as "any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting including but not limited to home and work" (WHO, 2002). In Kenya, 43% of 15-49 year old women reported having experienced some form of gender-based violence in their

lifetime, with 29% reporting an experience in the previous year; 16% of women reported having ever been sexually abused, and for 13%, this had happened in the last year (K DHS, 2007).

### **2.3 Causes of gender-based violence**

The unequal power relations between females and males in society are the root cause of gender based violence. According to Betron and Doggett (2006), the abuse of power and gender inequality is at the core of GBV. Power relations have been critical in fuelling GBV, although erroneously advocated as normal and acceptable based on traditional and customary attitudes and practice. Other factors can only be legitimately viewed under the scope of these power relations. In other words, other factors cannot suffice on their own without reference to unequal power relations. In a quest to bring to light the primal cause of GBV, the UNHCR (2007) report suggests that other factors only exacerbate these unequal power relations. In fact, in most cases, these other factors only determine the type and extent of violence.

The other factors may be classified differently depending on the perspective taken. In this study however, the factors viewed by and large include social cultural causes, policy and legal frameworks as well as institutional factors. The social and cultural factors to a great extent help explain the legitimization of the unequal power relation function while legal, economic and institutional challenges may explain the extent and sustenance of GBV in any given context.

### 2.3.1 Socio-cultural factors

While some literature uses power relations and socio-cultural factors interchangeably, the two are inherently distinct in that while power relation has to do with psychological positioning, the latter has to do with the perpetrators of this positioning. With this understanding, factors like the patriarchal nature of most societies would then help explain the existence and extent of unequal power relations. In these societies, there is legitimized subordination of women, which includes the treatment of women as the property of men through practices such as payment of bride price. This, in turn, perpetuates violence against women and girls (CREAW, 2009).

The socialization process is such that the female gender is relegated to positions, functions and roles that are viewed as inferior and by extension suitable for the bearers of these aspects (IRIN, 2004). In other words, females are perceived as, and socialized to believe that they are weak, inferior and needing direction, guidance and discipline. In other cases, they are socialized to believe that they exist for the sole purpose of satisfying men's needs and desires (Long, 2001). Males, on the other hand, are socialized to demand and expect services from women and to treat them as inferior (Njenga, 2001).

Traditions, customs, beliefs and attitudes are used to justify the subordination and violation of women's rights (El Jack, 2003). According to Bennet, (2005) women are the gatekeepers of the traditions, customs, practices and attitudes passed on through generations. Those who do not toe the line are ostracized by society and endure violence

of different types. The powerlessness of women is worsened by their general lack of exposure, illiteracy and low education, which also limits their choices to a better life.

### **2.3.2 Policy and legal conditions**

Lack of access to legal services, justice and protection for victims is a major hindrance to actualization of women's rights (Krug, 2003). Inaccessibility to these services makes it difficult even for the willing to make headway while the perpetrators of violence often go unpunished. Some of the laws as well as the poor justice implementation structures make the victims of violence feel left out and even in some cases traumatized in the pursuit of justice. On the other hand, the level of commitment by some governments to the implementation of the international commitments is not sufficient (Mezieobi, 2004). For most countries, the spirit and letter of the said commitments goes only as far as the ink of the appended signatures reaches.

In most countries, national constitutions provide for the equal rights of women and men. However, in some cases, there is a disconnect between the existing laws and policies and the constitutions of the respective countries. This disconnect invariably requires certain amendments to allow for conformation. The challenge arising from this regards the pace of amendments which has itself become a major constraint to achievement of equality between the females and males. Equally, the law reform processes are dependent on the support of lawmakers, most of who are men and whose commitment to support the gender equality agenda cannot be guaranteed. Experience from several countries has

demonstrated that women cannot expect much from these legislative institutions (Judith 2004).

There are no laws governing domestic violence in most countries. The law enforcement agencies, including the police and the judiciary, largely rely on penal provisions relating to assault and battery to fill the gap, inadequate as they are in dealing with the seriousness of the problem. In matrilineal and patrilineal societies alike, men are the key architects and custodians of customary law and authority as well as government policies and programmes. The absence of women from decision-making positions is a major factor contributing to the negative policy and political environment, which perpetuates or at least tolerates violence. Most governments only pay lip service to the global commitments to eliminate violence and often sign conventions and covenants they have no intention of implementing (UNIFEM, 1998).

### **2.3.3 Institutional Factors**

In most countries there are few, if any, victim support services. Even where they exist, the services are far away and victims cannot easily or cheaply access them. Long distances from courts, health facilities and police stations are a major obstacle to combating gender-based violence. According to Ahmadu (2000), most settings especially the rural areas, chiefs, religious as well as community leaders are the only link to any form of justice for victims of GBV and other crimes. These positions are invariably occupied by men who are heavily influenced by the patriarchal culture which ultimately becomes the definition of social justice. For instance, among the Somalis, the incidents of

domestic violence or rape are in most cases reported to the Maslaha courts. All the Maslaha members are usually men and even when judgments are passed, the victim is never at the center of their consideration. Restitution for lack of a better word is done to the members of the Maslaha rather than to the victim of violence. With such institutions, the challenge of GBV remains deeply rooted in the communities.

#### **2.4 Effects of gender based violence on girls and women**

Gender based violence affect girls and women in various environments. In this study the consequences are grouped into three categories –economical, health and social. UNICEF (2000) captures the situation in a report on GBV and states that GBV against girls and women continues to be a global epidemic that kills, tortures, and maims – physically, psychologically, sexually and economically. The report further emphasizes that GBV is one of the most pervasive of human rights violations, denying girls and women equality, security, dignity, self-worth, and their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms.

##### **2.4.1 Economic consequences of gender based violence**

Female-focused violence represents a hidden obstacle to economic and social development. By sapping women's energy, undermining their confidence, and compromising their health, gender violence deprives society of women's full participation. As the United Nations Fund for Women (UNIFEM) recently observed, "Women cannot lend their labour or creative ideas fully if they are burdened with the physical and psychological scars of abuse"(UNIFEM 1999).

The potential psychological effects of a GBV incident include lowered self-esteem, difficulty with interpersonal relations, increased stress, depression, frustration, and anxiety. Those who have encountered GBV display common coping strategies, i.e. indirect expression of anger, denial or minimization of the incident, and compliance; as well as feelings of powerlessness, aloneness, fright, humiliation, and incidence of post-traumatic stress disorder (Dobash and Dobash , 2007).

Gender based violence is also a serious development concern. Development is not simply the pursuit of economic growth but the linking of economic growth to indicators of social justice and individual well-being. The UNDP defines development as the “enlargement of choices,” and the improvement of women’s individual agency is essential to this. Therefore, at the most fundamental level, GBV contradicts the goals of development (UNDP, 2010).

Gender based violence against women also undermines development outcomes, because it depletes resources and has various direct and indirect economic and social costs. Sash (2007) identify direct costs such as medical, criminal justice, social services as well as non-monetary costs such as increased homicide, suicide, alcohol/drug abuse, depressive disorders. For example, in the United States, the health related costs of rape, physical assault; stalking and homicide by intimate partners are more than \$5.8 billion every single year (UNIFEM, 2003).

Research has also identified larger economic consequences of GBV such as loss of productivity, decreased investment and social impacts such as intergenerational transmission of violence, reduced quality of life, reduced participation in democratic processes (Burton et al. 2000). Violence and the threat of violence have been found to significantly reduce women's and girl's opportunities for work, their mobility and their participation in education, training, community activities and wider social networks Fawole, and Osungbade (2003), In Mexico a study found that a major reason why women stopped participating in development projects was due to men's threats (Heise et al, 1999:28).

#### **2.4.2 Health consequences of gender based violence**

Health consequences of GBV take various forms. First there are physical and reproductive consequences such as, injury, diseases, gastrointestinal problems, infections, gynaecological disorders, unwanted pregnancy, menstruation disorders, pregnancy complications, sexual disorders, unsafe abortion and miscarriage among others. There are also emotional and psychological effects including post-traumatic stress disorders, mental illness, suicidal thoughts and behaviours, shame, insecurity, self-hate and self-blame among others.

According to USAID (2006) the impact of gender-based violence resonates in all areas of health and social programming: survivors of GBV experience increased rates of morbidity and mortality, and violence has been shown to exacerbate HIV transmission, among other health conditions.

Fawole et al. (2003) did a study on prevalence and nature of violence among young female hawkers in motor-parks in south-western Nigeria. He found that the women who had undergone any form of gender based violence were physically injured or had suffered mental torture. The study found that victims usually have scars and in the severe cases such as where acid was used in the attacks the physical appearance of the victim was altered completely. The study also noted that there were instances of death though they could not be traced directly to the gender based violence.

Regarding the issue of female genital mutilation/cutting (FGM/C) the consequences include stress, fear, extreme shock, heavy bleeding and sometimes death. This is complicated like in the case of Somali women who are stitched. Brady (2001) indicated that depending on the type of excision made - cutting the tip of the clitoris or removal of the clitoris as well as the minor and major labia - women end up suffering complications during their menstrual period, during marriage and at childbirth. Carr (2007) also found that as the stitching done during FGM leaves only a small opening, this often results in complications that can lead to infections during the menstrual period and at times a woman has to undergo surgery upon marriage to re-open the vagina. Even during childbirth, surgery must be performed and this can lead to the baby's or woman's death where surgery is not easily available.

#### **2.4.3 Social consequences of gender based violence**

Morrison (2004) observes that GBV leads to social consequences including social stigmatization, social rejection and isolation, loss of roles/functions in society, the

blaming of the victim, feminization of poverty and increased gender inequality. All these consequences have led to an increase in maternal morbidity.

Gender based violence has an impact on young girls in social, family and school settings. It is only through the studies presented in the foregoing discussions that we can assess the impact of gender violence against girls. They suggest that violence against girls is an important cause of poor performance and dropout in schools, although it is difficult to establish cause and effect. The study by Dunne (Leach, 2003) on the impact of violence experiences on retention and achievement found that violence against girls, in the form of sexual intimidation, verbal abuse and physical assault was a significant contributor to irregular attendance and underachievement of girls in school and extra curricula activities.

The United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women held in Beijing in 1995 observed that violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objectives of equality, development and peace in the society. It was further noted that GBV against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms (Morrison et al., 2004).

Domestic violence has been found to cause untold suffering on the victims of the violence-directly being the mother, this in turn affects the relationship with the children. In most cases as observed domestic violence leads to family breakdown. According to Njenga (2001) this situation is confirmed by the high number of households which are

having single parents. This is because in the long term abusive relationship ends up in separation or in extreme cases deaths.

## **2.5 Strategies of addressing gender based violence**

Gender based violence is an extremely complex phenomenon with deep roots in power imbalances between men and women, gender-role expectations, self-esteem and social institutions. As such, it cannot be addressed without confronting the underlying cultural beliefs and social structures that perpetuate violence against women. In many societies women are defined as inferior and the right to dominate them is considered the essence of maleness itself. Confronting violence thus requires re-defining what it means to be male and what it means to be female (Phillips-Barrasso, 2009). The passage of the Convention of the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) in 1979 revolutionized advocacy for women's rights in global, national and local spaces. Subsequent global conferences on women, especially those convened by the United Nations, squarely put women's rights issues on national agendas. Specifically, the naming of violence against women a human rights violation to be considered as a moral and legal crime by CEDAW, the Vienna Declaration and the Beijing Platform for Action reinvigorated local activism against gender based violence (Ward, 2005).

Research from the United States indicates that certain individual factors can increase the likelihood of violence on the part of any particular man including excessive alcohol use, a history of physical or sexual abuse within his own childhood, witnessing parental violence as a child and unemployment. But none of these factors accounts for why

women are so systematically the targets. Only the pervasive existence of cultural, economic, and social systems that subordinate women can explain the overall pattern of abuse.

According to Tamale (2001) any response to violence must meet the immediate needs of victims while working to combat the attitudes, beliefs and social structures that encourage gender-based abuse. There is need to reform laws that discriminate against women in addition to expanding legal, medical, psychological, and advocacy services for victims (Rumbold and Keesbury 2008). There is also need to enact and enforce laws against battering, rape, and sexual abuse. Training professionals in how to identify and respond to abuse and expanding the availability of shelters and safe home networks have been suggested as ways of addressing with the impact of GBV. Incorporating gender awareness training, parenting skills, and non-violent conflict resolution into family life curricula; eliminating gratuitous violence from the media; and ensuring alternatives for women by expanding access to low income housing, credit, child care, and divorce (Judith, 2004).

Experience has shown that strategic intervention on the part of the community, women's organizations, and the state, can save lives, reduce injury, and lessen the long term effects of victimization on women and their children. Kabira and Nzioki (2003) indicate that women in Kenya have formed women groups popularly known as *chamaas*. These *chamaas* were found to play a pivotal role in disseminating information on GBV and also empowering women across all social classes in the Kenyan society to stand up and speak out on GBV.

Kithaka (2008) describes sexual offences legislations cropping up in the region in the last two decades as intended to prevent and protect people from harmful and unlawful gender violence acts. Armed with these International Human Rights instruments, women human rights activists around the world campaigned for legal reform to bring local laws up to universal standards. In Kenya the Sexual Offences Bill despite it watering down in parliament is a strong deterrent and a firm step by the policymakers to address the issue of GBV against women and girls in Kenya.

According to Borwankar (2008) approaches towards GBV often do not recognize or quantify the costs of gender-based violence to a society. Bennet, (2005) note that given that GBV has serious consequences not only for health, but also for unemployment, productivity and overall economic development, a cost-based analysis of gender inequality and GBV might encourage stronger leadership of the issue, which is urgently needed to develop a multi-sectoral approach towards combating GBV. National planners must determine how they are to rectify the weak or insufficient policy response to GBV, by addressing legal inequality for women and increasing legal access and education. Leaders must also recognize the nexus between high levels of gender-based violence, gender inequality, and HIV/AIDS, and develop overt measures to tackle all three issues in different sectors of society (Machera, 2004)). Rumbold and Keesbury (2008) argued that gender-based violence is fundamentally a governance issue, and it requires African leadership and engagement on this issue like we have never seen before.

## **2.6 Summary and Knowledge Gap**

The literature reviewed gives a description of the nature and features of GBV. This includes the nature and forms, causes and effects of GBV. The literature review reflects the fact that GBV seems to be a rather resilient and destructive, yet largely hidden social activity, that is firmly rooted in the existence and prevalence of patriarchal relationships of power at every level of human interaction within the historically often male-dominated societies around the globe.

The available studies have not concentrated on the effects of GBV on women in informal settlements such as Kibera. Therefore this study was based on the existing literature but went further to add a Kenyan perspective and is designed in the contexts of informal settlements such as Kibera.

## **2.7 Theoretical Framework**

This study was guided by the Interacting Factors Model developed by Maynard and Winn (1989). In this model, the two wished to integrate “a wide range of factors” across various forms of violence against women and reveal their commonalities. The model defines some elements of interacting. These are sociological (historical and cultural), interpersonal or situational (social networks) (Bell and Naugle, 2008). This perspective examines individual behaviours in context.

The Interacting Factors Model assumes that patriarchy operating from historical level affects the power dynamics of all relationships. Shared patterns of ideas and beliefs passed through generations define ones social networks. Historical and social- cultural

factors create an environment in which the growing child learns rules and expectations. It is evident first in the family context, and later in the peer, intimate and work relations. The early experiences define the context for later experiences.

Embedded in these social networks are characteristics of the personal relationships in which the individuals act violently. Power dynamics become enacted at the interpersonal level and result in the internalization of gendered values, expectations and behaviours. Thus, cultural norms governing the use of aggression as a tool of the more powerful to subdue the weaker combines with gender inequalities to create an environment conducive for violence against women which is inextricably bound to the social context of male domination and control in the society. The patriarchal view of the society gives men a higher value than women. Men dominate in politics, economics and the social world including the family life. This is seen as normal and natural. Violence against women is thus an assertion of power and control men have over women, an idea also expressed by Shipway (2004).

Using the above model as a framework of analysis, White and Kowaski identified key factors that distinguish between various types of violence against women, the nature of relationship, the ages of the perpetrator and the victim and the form the violence takes. For example, sexual activity between unrelated adults is called rape, among others. In all cases the violence varies in severity continuum and is psychological, verbal or physical and may be episodic or continuous. Intimate violence is learnt and maintained within broad social context that has tolerated violence against women, Beech and Ward (2004).

## CHAPTER THREE

### 3.0 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the research methodology that was employed in the study. The sections covered include: research design, site of study, target population, sampling techniques and sample size sampling procedure, research instruments, validity and reliability of the instruments, data analysis and presentation procedures and ethical considerations.

#### 3.2 Research Design

This study was exploratory and it employed a descriptive survey design. Descriptive survey designs are used in preliminary and exploratory studies to allow researchers to gather information, summarize, present and interpret for the purpose of clarification. Borg and Gall (1989) note that descriptive survey research is intended to produce statistical information about aspects of education that interest policy makers and educators. The choice of the descriptive survey design was based on the fact that in this study, the researcher was interested in the state of affairs already existing in the field and no variable was manipulated.

#### 3.3 Site of the Study

The study was done in Kibera, the largest of Nairobi's informal settlements (slum) with a population of 170,070 inhabitants as found out in the 2009 national census (Kenya National Bureau of Statistics 2010). The slum is located 5 km south west of the city.

centre of Nairobi encompassing an area of 2.5km<sup>2</sup>. The area is divided into a number of villages, including Kianda, Soweto, Gatwekera, Kisumu Ndogo, Lindi, Laini Saba, Silanga/Undugu, Makina and Mashimoni (Ndeti, 2003). The study location was chosen because of the alarming rate of GBV as reported in the media. GBV in Kibera is so rampant that it has accelerated family breakup, school dropout and injury of some residents. The residents of Kibera represent the ethnic diversity that is reflected in Kenya. Below is the map of Kibera showing the nine villages.

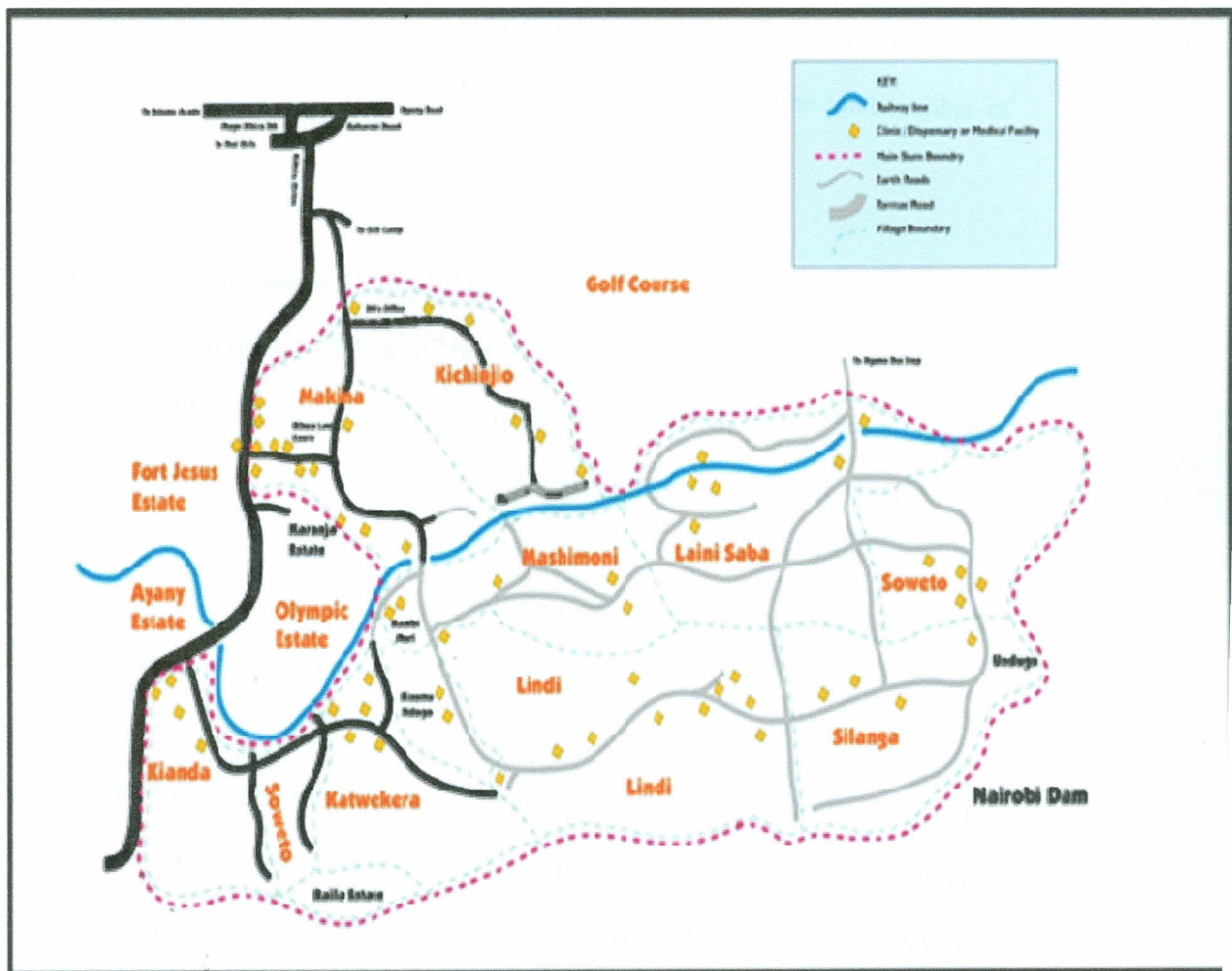


Plate 3.1: Map of Kibera: Source: Hagen (2009)

### **3.4 Target population**

The target population for the study was 170,070 inhabitants of Kibera. This population occupied nine villages namely Kianda, Soweto, Gatwekera, Kisumu Ndogo, Lindi, Laini Saba, Silanga/Undugu, Makina and Mashimoni each of which had a population of approximately 18,000 people. From the villages, 30 households were identified to participate in the study; each of these households had an average of 5-6 occupants ( $30 \times 5 = 150$ ). Thus 150 persons were to be interviewed. The total sample size targeted was 150 respondents and was considered sufficient for generalization at 95% confidence level. A booster sample of 14 respondents was included, raising the total number of respondents to 164.

### **3.5 Sampling Techniques and Sample Size**

The study used purposive sampling in order to identify half of the villages to participate in the research. Out of the nine villages, four were selected for the study. The size of the village was used as a criterion and as a result two large and two small villages were selected. Due to the nature of the informal settlement where the houses are not constructed in any order, the study applied cluster sampling to identify households whose members would be involved in the study.

The idea of having clusters was to ensure optimal representation across the areas of study and to eliminate any possible biases that could result from a more generalized sampling design. The expected number of respondents from the 30 households was 150. 14 respondents were added to this population to cater for any unreturned questionnaires

giving a total of 164 respondents. This was approximately 10% of the total population hence a representative sample size. Snow balling sampling was also used to identify FGD participants due to the sensitivity of this topic.

### **3.6 Research instruments**

#### **3.6.1 Interview guides**

The researcher applied interview guides, (Appendix VII, VIII, IX, X) in order to collect data from key informants who were too busy to complete questionnaires. Appointments were made early and this enabled the key informants namely the local administration, community leaders, the police, and the medical personnel to prepare and attend the interviews.

#### **3.6.2 Questionnaires**

These were applied on household members, women and girls (Appendix II, III, and IV). The researcher used research assistants to drop the questionnaires at all the sampled households and collected them after two days as arranged. Out of the 164 questionnaires distributed, only 5 were not returned and 16 were not completely filled as expected.

#### **3.6.3 Focus group discussions (FGDs)**

The researcher applied this method in order to collect data from the community and teachers (Appendix V, VI). FGDs were used to obtain information that was difficult to get using other methodologies and from persons that were well informed. In addition, the researcher wanted to interact with the participants, pose follow-up questions and ask

questions that probed more deeply. The sampled groups' opinion on the study topic was also very important. There were 5 FGDs, 2 for women, 1 for girls, 1 for the teachers and 1 for boys and men.

### **3.7 Validity and Reliability**

In order to ensure the validity of these instruments, the questions on the research tools were constructed in a manner that the responses only provided answers to the research questions. Pre- testing was conducted with a sample of 15 respondents from 5 villages who were not part of the final sample respondents for the study. The pre-testing was necessary to determine validity of the instruments and enabled the researcher to determine whether the respondents understand the question. The research tools were also designed with the help of supervisors who gave important critique of the tools.

### **3.8 Data Analysis and Presentation Procedures**

Data processing was done at two levels, considering the qualitative and quantitative data collected. The qualitative data were analyzed through content analysis and included in the reporting for the augmentation of the findings of the survey. Quantitative data were keyed in using EPI Data. It was then transferred to SPSS for analysis. Initial runs were done to check for outliers or unusual results. The analysis was done after the data were deemed clean. The presentation was organized according to objectives and presented using narratives, tables and charts as was applicable.

### 3.9 Ethical Considerations

During the study, the researcher focused on certain ethical issues, which were considered during the data collection phase. First, the researcher sought permission from the District Officer Kibera, and also the researcher kept the identity of the subject's anonymous pseudo and the information provided by the respondents was treated as confidential. This was done by not keeping a record of real names of the participants. In addition, their identity was kept confidential.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### 4.0 EFFECTS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ON GIRLS AND WOMEN IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

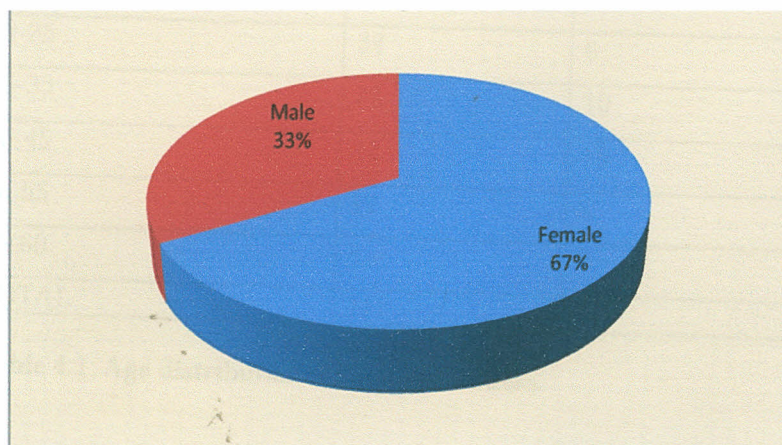
#### 4.1 Introduction

In this chapter, the findings of the study are presented. The findings were presented under the following sub-headings: socio-demographic characteristics of respondents, nature and forms of GBV, causes of GBV, effects of GBV on girls and women and ways of addressing GBV in Kibera.

#### 4.2 Socio demographic characteristics of respondent.

##### 4.2.1 Gender distribution of household members

The study sought to establish the gender distribution of men, women, girls and boys in the 30 sampled households. This was crucial to guarantee gender equitable representation and participation in the study.



**Figure 4.1: Gender distribution of household members**

From the 30 households sampled, 110 (67%) of the respondents were women and girls while 54 (33%) were men and boys. The results indicate that the female gender was more represented which was good for the study's objective whose aim was to document the effects of GBV on girls and women in Kibera. The findings also indicate that women dominated the percentage of respondents since they headed most of the households. A majority of the men were indulged themselves in alcoholism or occupied with other issues not related to family cohesion.

#### 4.2.2 Age distribution of household members

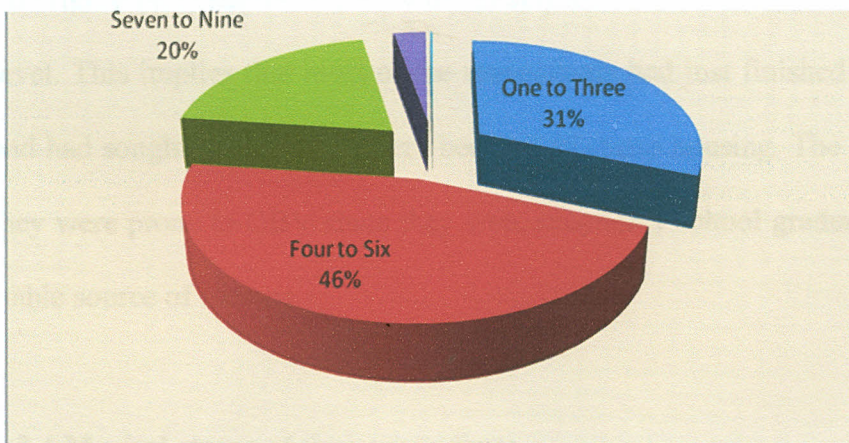
The demographic attribute of age was important since it is linked to individual knowledge. Knowledge can differ across age cohorts in relation to the study variables. The researcher felt that age differences may be a factor in the nature and effects of GBV on girls and women in Kibera. The age distribution of the subjects is shown on Table 4.1 below.

| Age Interval   | Frequency |      | %   |
|----------------|-----------|------|-----|
|                | Female    | Male |     |
| Below 18 years | 28        | 14   | 26  |
| 19-25          | 32        | 6    | 23  |
| 26-35          | 22        | 10   | 20  |
| 36-45          | 12        | 15   | 16  |
| 46-55          | 11        | 6    | 10  |
| 56-60          | 5         | 3    | 5   |
| TOTAL          | 111       | 53   | 100 |

**Table 4.1: Age distribution of family members**

Forty-two (26%) of the household members were aged below 18 years. Out of this figure 28 (67%) were girls and 14 (33%) were boys. The data indicates that there were more female than male in the targeted households. The 19-25 age bracket were more because majority of them were employment seekers and had sought tenancy in Kibera because of cheap housing and low standards of living as compared to other residential estates. The frequency per age bracket seemed to decrease with increasing age. This may be due to the low life expectancy in the informal settlements due to the hardships faced of which GBV is one of them (PARTH, 2008).

The average household size was 5 people. The bar chart below shows the household sizes in the study area.

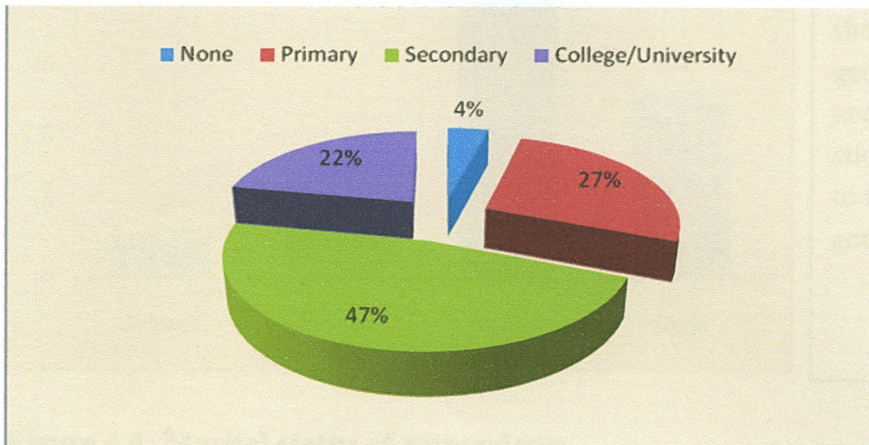


**Figure 4.2: Household Sizes**

From the households sampled, 39% of the respondents were the household heads (male) while 33% were the female spouses. Sixteen per cent were children of the households while 9% were members of the extended family. The findings indicate that there were far

too many people sharing a single or double room. This compromised both privacy and security and therefore, a key factor that may be fueling GBV in Kibera.

#### 4.2.3 Education level of respondents

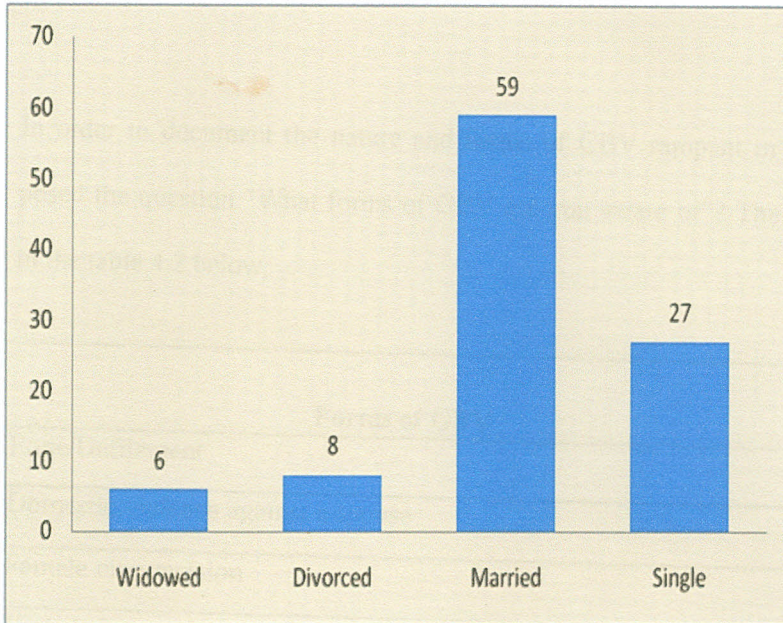


**Figure 4.3: Education level of respondents**

The figure (4.3) shows that 47% of participants had attained secondary school education level. This implies that most of the respondents had just finished their secondary school and had sought tenancy in Kibera because of cheap housing. The finding may imply that they were prone to GBV since they were secondary school graduates with no training or stable source of income.

#### 4.2.4 Marital status of the respondents

In 59% of the households in the study, the occupants who were interviewed were married while 27% of households were single persons. Eight per cent and 6% indicated that they were divorced or widowed respectively as shown in Figure 4.4 below.



59% of the respondents were married because of the financial support from either of the couple.

The research established that although the female gender faced discrimination and violence, they opted to stick to their marriages due to the financial support they got from their husbands.

**Figure 4.4: Marital status of respondents**

The finding situates GBV within marriage. Therefore, it confirms earlier studies that the perpetrators of GBV are people known to the survivors especially those they live with (COVAW 2006).

**4.3 Nature and forms of gender based violence**

The study sought to document the various types of GBV in Kibera. It was established that majority of the people knew types of GBV due to the fact that they were very common. It was noted that older women and men knew more about the nature and the various forms of GBV. However, they trivialized it, and thus wife battering was regarded as a disciplinary measure rather than a violation or a crime against the survivor. For this reason, a working definition of the concept of GBV had to often be explained to the study participants.

In order to document the nature and forms of GBV rampant in Kibera, the researcher posed the question “What forms of GBV are you aware of”? The findings are presented in the table 4.2 below.

| Forms of GBV                              | GBV awareness |     |
|---|---------------|-----|
|   | Women         | Men |
| Rape/Defilement                           | 100%          | 90% |
| Domestic violence against a spouse        | 27%           | 20% |
| Female circumcision                       | 80%           | 50% |
| Verbal abuse                              | 100%          | 98% |
| Forced marriage (Forced wife inheritance) | 89%           | 59% |
| Incest                                    | 90%           | 68  |
| Forced prostitution                       | 80%           | 60  |
| Drug induced sex                          | 89%           | 42  |

**Table 4.2: Forms of gender based violence existing in Kibera**

When asked to name the forms of GBV they were aware of, 100% women and 90% men mentioned rape/defilement. Domestic violence against a spouse was 27% and 20% respectively. The study established that violence against a spouse was seen more as a disciplinary measure than a form of violation. In this regard, John\* stated that:

...wife beating is meant to tame a wife. Women are like babies, if not beaten once in a while, they will get out of hand.... (O.I 26/07/2011)

The findings suggest that all forms of GBV are known to the Kibera community. However, the high level of awareness did not imply legal or other form of redress.

This may be an indicator that many forms of GBV have become part of common and accepted community behavior and practices. COVAW (2006:7) expresses a similar view that communities may condon violence against women due to tradition, lack of access to legal services and service providers as well as attitudes towards these forms of violence.

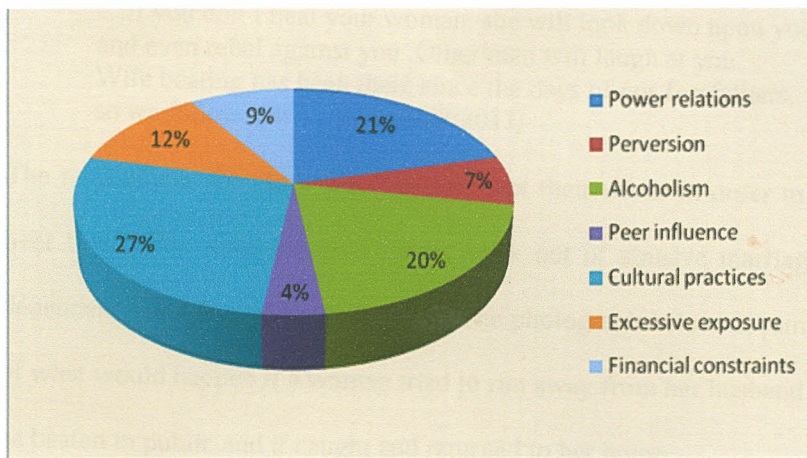
Rape and verbal abuse were noted to be the most common forms of GBV amongst the girls and women because of the poor living conditions such as dark streets and alcoholism. Domestic violence, according to the men, was not too serious a form of violence because of the cultural values as Wanjala put it.

...I being an African man believe that our culture allows us to discipline our women when in the wrong, though not to hurt.... (O.I 26/07/2011).

#### 4.4 Causes of gender based violence

This section discusses the causes of GBV cases in Kibera. By design, the study took liberty to explore the causes without being overly concerned about any categorization. This is partly because part of the data collection exercise was participatory and therefore, there were no limitations on how the information came in.

The study found out that there were many causes of GBV in Kibera. The most common are presented in the Figure 4.5 below



**Figure 4.5: Causes of Gender Based Violence**

20 % of the respondents had the view that the violence was caused by alcoholism. This is supported by the fact that the informal settlements are characterized by cheap liquor which is also easily available. This was confirmed by Mariam\* who said:

... The men of this place drink too much until they lose their senses. Due to the effect of this cheap liquor, they go on a raping spree so that Kibera is worse than it was in terms of safety. I no longer send my daughter to the shops after 7 pm because I don't know who is waiting to harm her.... ( O.I 2/08/2011)

Power relations (21%) was sighted as one of the biggest causes of GBV. Mutisya\* a community leader noted:

...Men in Kibera feel they are superior to women just because they are the breadwinners and majority of women in this slums depend on them for financial support. So even when they violate the rights of the women, the women do not report but keep quiet as they do not want to lose their daily bread. This makes GBV continue unabated.... (O.I 23/08/2011)

In view of the above, Otieno opined:

...If you don't beat your woman, she will look down upon you and even rebel against you. Other men will laugh at you. Wife beating has been there since the days of our forefathers, so we follow suit.... (O.I 23/08/2011)

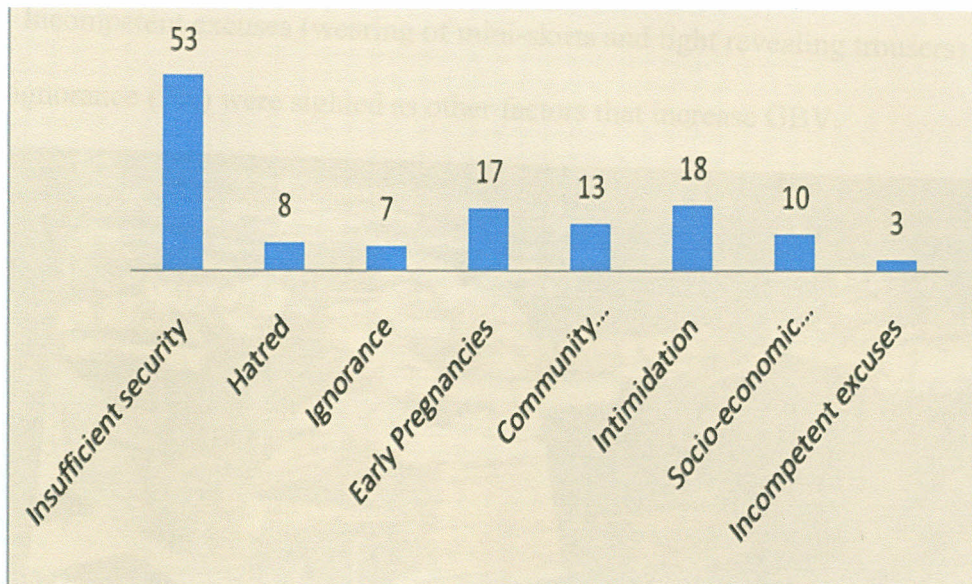
The respondents therefore felt that men beat their wives in order to demonstrate power over them. The women would hardly walk out of abusive marriage due to economic dependency and fear of more beatings. The photograph below documents a typical scene of what would happen if a woman tried to run away from her husband. Ideally, she would be beaten in public and if caught and returned to her house

\*Name disguised for the safety of the respondents and for confidentiality



**Plate 4.1:** A woman who had fallen as she tried to run away from her abusive husband after a domestic fight in the Kibera. **Source: Author, 2010**

Other factors identified as facilitators GBV and included insufficient security, intimidation and incompetent excuses among others. These factors were not in themselves direct causes, however they increased the probability of GBV occurring. Some of these factors are presented in table 4.6 below:



**Figure 4.6 Factors that increase chances of gender based violence in Kibera.**

The study established that insufficient security (53%) was the main factor that facilitated GBV in Kibera. The insecurity was due to poor living conditions in Kibera with poor housing and access roads which lacked street lighting. In this regard, Auma\* felt that the Nairobi city council should improve the lighting of Kibera

...If only we could have the lighting maintained by Nairobi city council then the many incidences of GBV would not occur or would be reduced.... (O.I 24/08/2011)

Incompetent excuses (wearing of mini-skirts and tight revealing trousers) (3%) and ignorance (7%) were sighted as other factors that increase GBV.

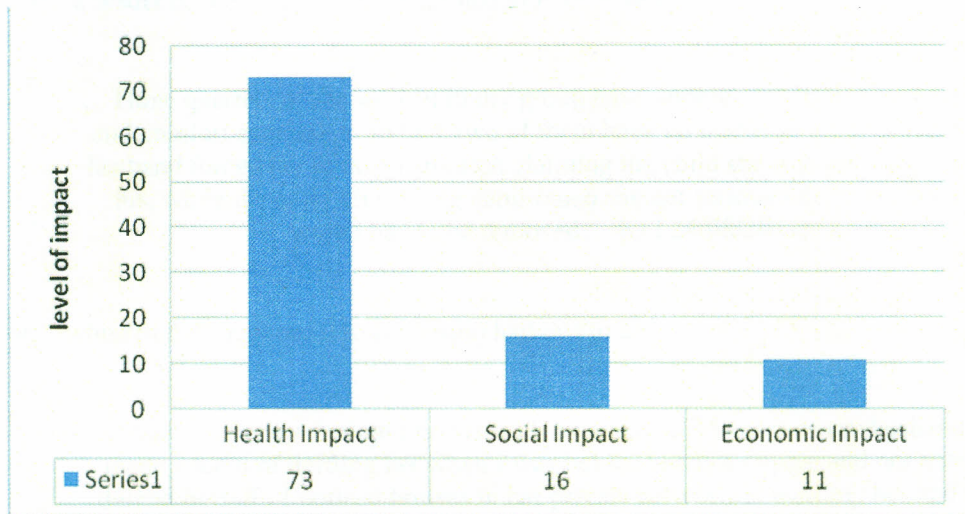


**Plate 4.2: Photo of Kibera (27/07/2011)**

The above plate shows the state of living of the residents of Kibera. The poor living conditions, small congested houses and poor access roads which lack street lighting were said to be very strong factors that increased GBV.

#### 4.5 Effects of Gender Based Violence On Girls And Women

This section gives a detailed account of the findings obtained regarding the effects of GBV on girls and women in Kibera. The presentation is divided into three sub-sections; health, social and economic fronts.



**Figure 4.7 Effects of gender based violence on girls and women**

Figure 4.7 shows that 73 % of the respondents said that GBV had a negative health impact, 11 % said that GBV affected them economically, while 16 % said that GBV affected them socially.

The study established that 73% of girls and women’s health had been negatively affected by GBV with consequences ranging from physical injury, chronic pain, anxiety and depression, to deadly outcomes such as maiming. Achieng\* narrated how she was still suffering after a thorough beating by her husband with whom she still lives.

...He hit my head against the wall several times accusing me of having an affair with his brother. I screamed but he did not stop neither was anyone coming to my rescue. I don’t know how I got to Kenyatta National

Hospital because that is where I found myself when I gained consciousness. Today, I can't hear properly as my ear drums were damaged.... (O.I 24/08/2011)

Jane\*, a leader of one of the women groups in Kibera had this to say:

...Three quarters of the women in my group have undergone GBV. We share a lot and comfort each other. In fact, two of them have no uterus as we speak, one, the husband forced her to do an abortion claiming the child she was carrying was not his, while the other after being gang-raped she got serious infections that the womb had to be removed... (O.I 24/08/2011)

Sara\* who cried throughout this discussion had this to say:

...I had to take my daughter to live with my sister in Mathare as my husband had made a habit of defiling her when I was not in. She is a cripple and not able to defend herself. I noticed bruises in her private parts while washing her and she confided in me that her father (my husband), who is her step-father, had been abusing her and threatened to kill her and me if she disclosed to anybody... (O.I 25/08/2011)

Though a small percentage (11%) said GBV affected them economically, Nekesa\* had the following to say:

...We just have to put up with these `monsters.`  
As you can see our status, we are poor and like me  
I have five children, if I leave my husband where  
do I take this burden to?.... (O.I 25/08/2011)

This clearly shows that women in Kibera depend on men and GBV will continue until the women are economically empowered. In addition, they feel helpless and therefore unable to do anything about the violence meted on them.

Wanja\*, a primary school teacher in Kibera reported thus:

...progress in education, particularly girls' enrolment and retention in schools, was clearly constricted by the high prevalence of GBV within schools and the community due to the insecurity that girls faced on their way to and from school, within the school and at home. GBV inhibited girls' access to schooling, resulting poor performance and eventually dropping out. Once raped, some girls drop out of school due to shame and stigma. Male teachers still lure the bigger girls into having sex with them and impregnate them. Parents are then compromised due to poverty....  
(O.I 15/08/2011)

#### 4.6 Ways of addressing GBV in Kibera

The study sought to establish what was needed to be done in order to minimize cases of GBV in Kibera. The study focused on ways of dealing with GBV by asking the question, how do you address GBV?. Table 4.3 below shows various actors who are addressing GBV in Kibera.

| S/N | Actors                   | Frequency | %   | Responses of the Actors  |
|-----|--------------------------|-----------|-----|--|
| 1   | Community Leadership     | 23        | 14  | Arbitrated and settled disputes                                      |
| 2   | Teachers                 | 25        | 15  | Facilitated further reference  |
| 3   | Administration           | 34        | 21  | Arrested the culprits and mediate the cases                          |
| 4   | Law enforcement agencies | 18        | 10  | Investigated the crimes and took the offender to court               |
| 5   | Health Care              | 53        | 32  | Offer medical consultations and did referrals                        |
| 6   | Civil Society            | 29        | 18  | Created awareness, educated and advocated for the eradication of GBV |
|     | TOTAL                    | 164       | 100 |  |

**Table 4.3: Ways of addressing gender based violence in Kibera**

Table 4.3 summarizes the findings of the respondents regarding the various ways adopted by the survivors in addressing GBV in Kibera. 32% of the respondents said they visited the health care facilities for medical consultations and referrals. Joyce\*, a nurse at Medicin Sans Frontiers (MSF) Clinic said:

...this clinic offers medical consultation for victims of GBV which include among other services, sexually transmitted infection (STI) treatment, post exposure prophylaxis (PEP) and counseling.... (O.I 20/08/2011)

Wanjira\* had praises for the clinics operating in Kibera:

...if it were not for these clinics, most us would be dead by now. When I was raped, I went there and was treated immediately. Otherwise I could have contracted AIDS as the doctor put it.... (O.I 20/08/2011)

The study noted that 18% of the respondents sought assistance from civil society organizations/NGOs when incidences of GBV occurred. The main NGOs that had specific programme targeting GBV issues in Kibera include, Centre for Rights Education and Awareness (CREAW), Pathfinder International, World Vision International (WVI) as well as Care International. The respondents said that the reason that made them go to these civil societies was because they were involved in the creation of awareness, education and advocacy in relation to GBV issues. They also offered legal assistance to individuals affected by GBV to access justice, as Ochieng\* put it:

...if it were not for CREAW, I would be childless. They took up my daughter's case as if we were related. They took my daughter to Nairobi Women Hospital, she was represented in the court by a very good woman lawyer and the offender was jailed for life... (O.I 20/08/2011)

He was referring to the daughter's defilement case.

10% of the respondents reported GBV to the law enforcement agencies that included both the Regular Police and the Administration Police. Wandia \* observed:

... Many women are reluctant to report cases of GBV to law enforcers as many a times they were threatened by the perpetrators when they got wind of it. The man who defiled my daughter openly told me to move from Kibera or he will kill me if

I don't withdraw the case I had filed with the police. I had no choice but to withdraw for my own safety... (O.I 23/08/2011)

The school girls (15%) preferred to report GBV cases to their teachers, most of which were sexual in nature, although physical violence was not entirely absent. The greatest challenge for teachers in dealing with GBV cases included threats from perpetrators and frustration with follow up in the formal justice system. Muriuki\*, a class six teacher said:

...The best we can do as teachers is to facilitate further reference with the head teacher.... (O.I 27/08/2011)

The study also established that GBV survivors received support from the various actors discussed earlier in this chapter as indicated by table 4.4 below.

| S/N | Strategies Adopted                       | Frequency  | %          |  |
|-----|--|------------|------------|--|
| 1   | Systems Rehabilitation                   | 80         | 49         |  |
| 2   | Community Education / Awareness          | 50         | 30         |  |
| 3   | Sustained and Systematic Victim Recovery | 34         | 21         |  |
|     | <b>Total</b>                             | <b>164</b> | <b>100</b> |  |

**Table 4.4 Strategies for addressing gender based violence in Kibera.**

From the findings shown in Table 4.4, about half 49% of the respondents were for the opinion that there was great need to rehabilitate all the government systems in order to increase efficiency. In this regard, Hassan\*, a civil society and human rights crusader said:

...unless all the government systems are totally transformed and the people manning them are trained, including the removal of persons stalling the processes, GBV will continue in Kibera....(O.I 30/08/2011)

Wambua\*who thought otherwise said:

...There should also be a behavior change communication (BCC) strategy that is drawn up targeting the Government Systems to make them friendlier....  
(O.I 3/09/2011).

The study also found that community education should focus on mobilizing the community to take action rather than imparting information to the community on issues surrounding GBV. This view was expressed by 30% of the respondents.

Edith\*, a CBO worker, had this to say:

...Development of a behaviour change communication (BCC) strategy to improve community sensitization on GBV as a violation of human rights is necessary. This can be emphasized through existing channels like radio programs and other interactive activities. Special focus on young people is important, to break the silence and indifference towards GBV and to start to shape a non-violent generation....  
(O.I 3/09/2011)

21% of the respondents were of the opinion that there should be collaborative efforts to ensure optimal recovery of the victims.

... These could include coordination between health providers, legal aid providers, local administration and law enforcers. All partners should be able to jointly educate and provide a coordinated referral system which will ensure that a survivor receives all the necessary assistance (Ann, PARTH).... (O.I 4/09/2011)

The study established that the people of Kibera had various options to redress GBV.

However, GBV was still rampant with many girls and women keeping silent about it.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### 5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study. The chapter is organized as follows: summary of each objective, conclusion, and recommendation. Areas for further research are then proposed.

#### 5.2 Key Observations according to study objectives

The first objective was to document the nature and forms of GBV in Kibera. In this regard, the study noted that there are many forms of GBV. Though the girls and women were aware of GBV occurrence, the awareness did not translate into actions aimed at addressing it. This finding is in line with the model of interacting factors that says "cultural norms governing the use of aggression as a tool of the more powerful to subdue the weaker combines with gender inequalities create an environment conducive for violence against women". Thus women and girls are aware of GBV and its adverse effects, yet they opt to suffer in silence.

The second objective was to assess the factors that increase chances of GBV in Kibera.

In view of this it was noted that there are many factors that fuel the incidences of GBV in Kibera and hence the need to increase its understanding in terms of depth and to enlarge the scope of reach.

Maynard and Winn (1989) express a similar opinion in their observation that gender based violence is inextricably bound to the social context of male domination and control in society and that many factors culminate into violence. These include historical and social factors compounded with power dynamics, all of which aggravate GBV. This explains the reasoning of some of the research participants that women must be disciplined by their spouses as the society dictates.

Objective three was to investigate the effects of GBV on girls and women in Kibera.

In this regard, there was evidence that there are adverse effects of GBV that are experienced immediately and in the long run. Indeed, most of the GBV experiences were life changing and totally altered the lives of the victims.

White and Kowaski (2001) who analyzed this model say that the effects of violence meted on women varies in severity continuum and is psychological, verbal or physical and may be episodic or continuous. This concurs with the findings on the effects of GBV on the lives of survivors as discussed in chapter four.

The fourth objective was to establish ways of addressing GBV in Kibera. In this regard it was established that there are various actors addressing GBV. The services provided were varied, among others, these were, arresting the culprits, mediating the cases, investigating the crimes and taking the offender to court, offering medical consultations and referrals to the survivors, and creating awareness and advocacy for the eradication of GBV. It was however, noted that the available interventions are few as compared to the population of Kibera.

### 5.3 Conclusion

The study concludes that GBV has adverse impact on all facets of women and girls lives- health, economic and social aspects. These adverse effects are both short-term and long-term. Indeed, most of the GBV experiences are life changing and totally alter the lives of the victim. The study also notes that there are various ways of addressing GBV, but the people often fail to report GBV cases and therefore, it would look like the mechanisms are not effective.

### 5.4 Recommendations

- i) It is recommended that enhanced awareness education with regard to the provision of Sexual Offences Act, where to seek help and what help is available for the survivors of GBV are done. In this regard, empowerment of both girls and women to report cases of GBV should be emphasized. This would ensure enforcement of the law hence reduce GBV in Kibera.
- ii) A combination of strategies could be put in place to counter the factors fueling GBV. This include sensitization and cautioning of men and boys violating the rights of women using culture as an excuse and indulging in violent acts that are criminal should be done urgently and lighting of footpaths and enhanced patrols by security agents .This may be implemented by the Kenya Power as well as the various arms of security namely such as the Kenya Police and Administrative Police.
- iii) Key actors (health providers, legal aid workers, and local administration and law enforcers) involved in GBV issues in Kibera should collaborate to educate and

provide a coordinated referral system which will ensure that the victims receive all necessary assistance. This will mitigate the negative impact of GBV.

- iv) The community inculcates positive values and practices with regard to gender relations, ideas that are necessary to ending GBV.

### **5.5 Suggestions for Further Research**

The study suggests the following areas where further research should be conducted;

Further studies should be conducted in other slum areas and other parts of the country to assess the effect of GBV on women and girls as this would enable a cross country comparison and observation of the trends in sexual violence.

Further studies could also be conducted on one of the aspects of women lives such as health or economical aspect to bring out the clearer picture of the adverse effects of GBV

Studies should also be conducted to find out the impact and challenges being faced by the on-going interventions aimed at checking GBV in informal settlements.

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APPENDICES

APPENDEDIX 1: INTRODUCTORY LETTER TO THE DISTRICT OFFICER

DISTRICT OFFICER

KIBERA DIVISION

Dear Sir/Madam,

**RE: PERMISSION TO CARRY OUT A STUDY IN YOUR DIVISION**

I am a postgraduate student in the department of gender and development studies of Kenyatta University. I am undertaking a study on effects of Gender Based Violence (GBV) on girls and women in informal settlements.

Kibera has been sampled as a study division and hence I request you to allow me carry out this study here. The research instrument calls for direct dissemination through interviews and observation with the respondents.

The data generated by the study will be treated as confidential and will be used for the purpose of this study only. The cooperation of men, women, boys and girls as well as you will be highly appreciated.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Jane Igoki Mwereru

Noted by:

.....

.....

Supervisor

## APPENDIX II: QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent, my name is Jane Mwereru. I am a student at the Kenyatta University and currently I am carrying out a study on "Effects of Gender Based Violence on girls and women in Informal Settlements". You have been selected to be one of my respondents. I have a set of questions that I would like you to answer with the aim of coming up with data that will be useful to this study.

Any information you give will be for academic use and it will be treated with uttermost confidence. Please do not indicate your name.

### Section A: General Information

| A1)<br>Gender of respondent | A2)<br>Respondents Relation to the Household Head   | A3)<br>Education levels of HH   | A4)<br>Marital Status of HH  | A5)<br>Occupation of HH   |
|-----------------------------|---|---|--|---|
| 1 = Male<br>2 = Female      | 1 = Is the HH<br>2 = Wife<br>3 = Husband<br>4 = Son<br>5 = Daughter<br>6 = Relative<br>7 = Employee | 1 = None<br>2 = Primary<br>3 = Secondary<br>4 = College/University<br>5 = Others..... | 1 = Single<br>2 = Married<br>3 = Separated/Divorced<br>4 = Widowed | 1 = Full time employment<br>2 = Business<br>3 = Casual employment<br>4 = Fully unemployed |
|                             |   | Adults  | Children   |   |
|                             | Male  | <b>A7</b>   | <b>A9</b>  |   |
|                             | Female  | <b>A8</b>   | <b>A10</b>   |   |
| <b>A11</b>                  | Are there other contributors to the HH income?  |   |  | 1 = Yes<br><br>2 = No   |

## Section B: Forms of Gender Based Violence

1). What forms of gender-based violence are you aware of?

Tick from the table below

| Forms of GBV   | Tick |
|--|------|
| Rape / Defilement  | 1    |
| Forced marriage (Forced wife inheritance)                        | 2    |
| Female Circumcision  | 3    |
| Wife battery   | 4    |
| Violence against a child/child abuse                             | 5    |
| Indecent acts e.g. touching a woman's sexual parts, breasts etc. | 6    |
| Drug induced sex   | 7    |
| Incest   | 8    |
| Forced sexual favors because of one's position                   | 9    |
| Use of sexually offensive language                               | 10   |
| Child marriage   | 11   |
| Forced prostitution  | 12   |
| Sexual assault   | 13   |

**Section C: Causes of Gender Based Violence**

Below are causes of GBV. Please read them carefully and indicate to what extent you agree or disagree with each of them. Indicate the extent of your agreement or disagreement by using this scale?

| Statements |                              | Agree strongly | Agree somewhat | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree Somewhat | Disagree Strongly |
|------------|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1          | Alcohol & substance abuse    | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 2          | Cultural Practices:          | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 3          | Peer Influence               | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 4          | Criminal activities          | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 5          | Personal frustrations        | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 6          | Non-working                  | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 7          | Unfaithfulness or infidelity | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 8          | Insufficient Security        | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 9          | Hatred                       | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 10         | Social Economic Conditions   | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |

### Section D: Effects of Gender Based Violence

Below are some effects of GBV on girls and women.

Please study each statement carefully and tick your opinion on the frequency.

| Statements                   | Agree strongly | Agree somewhat | Neither agree nor disagree | Disagree Somewhat | Disagree Strongly |
|------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|
| 1 They contract HIV/AIDS     | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 2 Leads to death             | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 3 Increases rates of divorce | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 4 Social stigmatization      | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 5 Social isolation           | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 6 Depression                 | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 7 Drop out from school       | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 8 Unintended pregnancies     | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 9 Hatred                     | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |
| 10 Broken families           | 5              | 4              | 3                          | 2                 | 1                 |

Thank you for your time and input.

### APPENDIX III: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR WOMEN

Dear respondent, my name is Jane Mwereru. I am a student at the Kenyatta University and currently I am carrying out a study on "Impact of gender based violence on girls and women in Informal Settlements". You have been selected to be one of my respondents. I have a set of questions that I would like you to answer with the aim of coming up with data that will be useful to this study.

Any information you give will be for academic use and it will be treated with uttermost confidence.

1. What is your age?

Between 18- 30years  30 -40 years  40 --50 years  50 --60 years   
Above 60 years

2. What is your marital status?

Single  Married  Widowed  Divorced

3. What is your highest level of education?

Graduate  A' Level  O' Level  Primary  None

4. What is your occupation?

Student  Housewife  Wage employment  Pensioner  Business/trade   
Unemployed  other, specify \_\_\_\_\_

4. a) If in occupation how much income (in Ksh) do you make per month from your occupation? (Tick one)

Low (0 to 3,000)  Middle (3,000 to 6,000)  High (above 6,000)

b) If not in occupation how do you earn a living/ make ends meet?

6. Have you ever suffered any form of abuse?

Yes  No

7. What was the form of the abuse?

Physical abuse  Psychological/emotional abuse  Sexual abuse

Combination of 1 and 2  Combination of 1, 2, and 3

8. Who abused you?

Spouse  Brother in law  Sister in law

Others specify \_\_\_\_\_

9. Please specify the form of abuse?

Rape  Slapping  abuses

Other [please specify] \_\_\_\_\_

10. How did/would you react to the abuse?

Went for counselling  Accepted it as normal  Escaped  Made peace

Fought back  Tried to change self /partner

Others \_\_\_\_\_

11.a) Did you report the abuse?



Yes [ ] No [ ]

b) If no, what made you react that way? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What do you think are the causes of abuses on women?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

13. What are the effects of these abuses on woman?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

14. What would you recommend regarding gender based violence situation in Kenya?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Thank you for your time and input**

## APPENDIX IV: QUESTIONNAIRE FOR GIRLS

Dear respondent, my name Jane Mwereru. I am a student at the Kenyatta University and currently I am carrying out a study on "Effects of Gender Based Violence on girls and women in Informal Settlements". You have been selected to be one of my respondents. I have a set of questions that I would like to discuss with you with the aim of coming up with data that will be useful to this study.

Any information you give will be for academic use and it will be treated with uttermost confidence.

What is your age? \_\_\_\_\_

Are you married?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

1. What is your highest level of education?

Graduate [ ] A' Level [ ] O' Level [ ] Primary [ ] None [ ]

2. Have you ever suffered any form of abuse?

Yes [ ] No [ ]

3. What was the form of the abuse?

Physical abuse [ ] Emotional abuse [ ] Sexual abuse [ ]

Combination of 1 and 2 [ ] Combination of 1, 2, and 3 [ ]

4. Please specify nature of abuse?

Rape [ ] Slapping [ ] Verbal abuses [ ]

Other [please specify] \_\_\_\_\_

5. How did you react to the abuse?

Went for counselling [ ] Accepted it as normal [ ] Escaped [ ] Made peace [ ]

Fought back [ ] Tried to change self /partner [ ]

Others \_\_\_\_\_

6. What do you think are the causes of these abuses?

---

7. What are the effects of these abuses on the girls?

---

8. What would you recommend regarding gender based violence situation in Kenya?

---

**Thank you for your time and input**

## APPENDIX V: COMMUNITY FGD GUIDE

### Focus Group Discussion Guide

#### Introduction

- Introduce self
- Introduce group discussion process - Interactive, participative, no wrong answers
- Complete confidentiality – to obtain unbiased responses
- Rules for discussion – One person at a time, no side conversations, no domination

#### Warm up

Respondents introduce themselves

- Name
- What you do

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Introduction</b>                              | <b>Today we are going to talk about Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Kibera. Explain to them what Gender Based Violence is.</b>  |
| <b>Awareness and Knowledge on forms of GBV</b>   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What forms of GBV do you know?</li> <li>▪ Lists</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Forms, nature and extent of GBV Practices</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Do you know of people in your neighbourhood or household who have been victims of GBV?</li> <li>▪ If yes what were the form, nature and extent of the abuse?</li> <li>▪ Have you been a victim of any GBV violation?</li> <li>▪ If yes, which one?</li> </ul> |
| <b>Causes and factors of GBV</b>                 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What do you think is the root cause of the GBV violations you named?</li> <li>▪ Are there things a person can do to increase the chances of GBV violation happening? (Say to cause battery, rape, verbal assault etc.)</li> </ul>                             |
| <b>Effects of GBV on girls and women</b>         | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ What were the effects of GBV violations on girls and women?</li> </ul>  |
| <b>Conclusion</b>                                | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Do you have any comments or suggestions on what we have just discussed?</li> </ul>  |

Thank you for your time and input

## APPENDIX VI: TEACHERS FGD GUIDE

Dear respondent, my name Jane Mwereru. I am a student at the Kenyatta University and currently I am carrying out a study on "Effects of gender based violence on girls and women in Informal Settlements". You have been selected to be one of my respondents. I have a set of questions that I would like to discuss with you with the aim of coming up with data that will be useful to this study.

Any information you give will be for academic use and it will be treated with uttermost confidence. Please do not indicate your name.

1. Are you aware of any pupils in your school who are abused or have been abused?
2. What was the nature and form of this abuse?
3. Which is the most common?
4. In most cases, are the victim's boys or girls?
5. What do you think are the causes of these abuses?
6. What are the effects of these abuses on the girls?
7. Is there anything you have done having learned of the incidents of abuse?
8. Any comments or suggestions on what we have just discussed?

**Thank you for your time and input**

## APPENDIX VII: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE LOCAL ADMINISTRATION

### A. Introduction

- Introduce yourself
- Assure respondent of confidentiality by stating that the information provided will be used for research purposes only and personal details will not be divulged

### B. Interviewer's Details

Name of interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_ Date of interview \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Respondent's Details

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Name of respondent |  |
| Place of work      |  |
| Phone/ Mobile no.  |  |

Today, I would like us to talk about gender based violence (GBV). But perhaps to kick off the discussion, you could tell me a little bit about yourself & office

### D. Yourself & Office

How long have you been an administrator in this area?

What services does your office offer the people?

### E. Forms of GBV

What form/nature of GBV is reported to your office?

Which are the most common?

### F. Causes of GBV in the area

In your opinion, what are the causes of the mentioned GBV cases?

### G. Effects of GBV

What are the effects of these abuses on girls and women?

### H. Conclusion

Do you have any comments or suggestions on what we have just discussed?

**Thank respondent and end interview**

## APPENDIX VIII: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR THE COMMUNITY LEADERS

### A. Introduction

- Introduce yourself
- Assure respondent of confidentiality by stating that the information provided will be used for research purposes only and personal details will not be divulged

### B. Interviewer's Details

Name of interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of interview \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Respondent's Details

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Name of respondent       |        |
| Place of work            |        |
| Physical Address         |        |
| Phone/<br>no. (optional) | Mobile |

Today, I would like us to talk about gender based violence (GBV). But perhaps to kick off the discussion, you could tell me a little bit about your office

### D. Yourself & Office

- a) What do you do as a community leader?
- b) What role do you play in dealing with GBV?

### E. Forms of GBV

- a) What are the major forms of SGBV in this area?
- b) Which are the most common ones?

### F. Causes of GBV in the area

- a) In your opinion, what are the nature and the causes of the GBV incidents?

### G. Effects of GBV

- a) What are the effects of these abuses on girls and women?

### H. Conclusion

Do you have any comments or suggestions on what we have just discussed?

**Thank respondent and end interview**

## APPENDIX IX: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR POLICE

### A. Introduction

- Introduce yourself
- Assure respondent of confidentiality by stating that the information provided will be used for research purposes only and personal details will not be divulged

### B. Interviewer's Details

Name of interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of interview \_\_\_\_\_

### C. Respondent's Details

|                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| Name of respondent           |  |
| Place of work                |  |
| Physical Address             |  |
| Phone/ Mobile no. (optional) |  |

Today, I would like us to talk about gender based violence (GBV). But perhaps to kick off the discussion, you could tell me a little bit about your office

### D. Yourself & Office

- a) What is the title of your department/office?
- b) What services does your office offer the people?

### E. Forms of GBV

- a) What is the nature and forms of GBV reported here?
- b) Which are the most common ones?

### F. Causes of GBV in the area

- a) What can you attribute to be the causes of the GBV incidents?

### G Effects of GBV on girls and women

- a) What are the effects of these abuses on girls and women?

### H. Conclusion

Do you have any comments or suggestions on what we have just discussed?

**Thank respondent and end interview**

## APPENDIX X: MEDICAL PERSONNEL IN-DEPTH INTERVIEW GUIDE

### Medical Personnel

#### A. Introduction

- Introduce yourself
- Assure respondent of confidentiality by stating that the information provided will be used for research purposes only and personal details will not be divulged

#### B. Interviewer's Details

Name of interviewer: \_\_\_\_\_

Date of interview \_\_\_\_\_

#### C. Respondent's Details

|                          |        |
|--------------------------|--------|
| Name of respondent       |        |
| Place of work            |        |
| Physical Address         |        |
| Phone/<br>no. (optional) | Mobile |

Today, I would like us to talk about gender based violence (GVB). But perhaps to kick off the discussion, you could tell me a little bit about your office

#### D. Yourself & Office

- a) What is the title of your department/office?
- b) What services does your office offer the people?

#### E. Forms of Gender Based Violence

- a) What is the nature and forms of GBV you attend to?
- b) Which are the common GBV violations you attend to?
- c) In your assessment, are these cases many?

#### F Effects of GBV on girls and women

- b) What are the effects of these abuses on girls and women?

#### G. Conclusion

Do you have any comments or suggestions on what we have just discussed?

**Thank respondent and end interview**