

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN AND ITS IMPLICATIONS ON THEIR
PERCEIVED MASCULINITY IN BUSIA COUNTY, KENYA**

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MAY, 2023

DECLARATION

I confirm that this thesis is my original work and has not been presented in any other university/institution for certification.

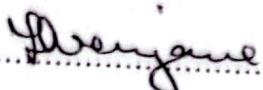
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ABSTRACT

Domestic abuse is a major societal and economic burden across the world. However, the most familiar type is abuse against women, with men being the perpetrators. In reality, though, many men are suffering in silence from violence perpetrated by their intimate partners. This is mainly due to the masculine norms that put so much pressure on men to restrain their emotions and be seen as strong and macho. This study investigated domestic violence against men and its implications on their perceived masculinity in Bunyala Sub-County, Busia County, Kenya. The aims of this study were to establish the nature of domestic violence against men in Bunyala Sub-county, to examine the effects of domestic violence against men on their perceived masculinity in Bunyala Sub-county, to investigate the challenges of mitigating domestic violence against men in Bunyala Sub-county, and to explore the best strategies for mitigating domestic violence against men in Bunyala Sub-county. The study employed mixed methods to gather both quantitative and qualitative data through an exploratory research design. This study was guided by the family conflict theory. Simple random sampling was utilized to select the study area. Gatekeepers, such as village elders and assistant chiefs, were nominated using purposive sampling, while snowball sampling was utilized to identify men and women who were survivors or perpetrators of domestic violence to participate in the study. The study focused on men and women who had been in marriages for at least five years and had experienced or were experiencing domestic violence for at least one year. Information was gathered through interviews and focus group discussion using in-depth semi-structured interview schedules, focus group discussions, and key-informant interviews. Quantitative data was analysed using Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 24 and NVivo. Qualitative data was analysed through coding and identifying similar themes. The study aimed to contribute to the limited knowledge in this area and help more men come forward and free themselves from their violent spouses. The findings of the study showed that men in Bunyala were experiencing domestic violence, and this had implications on their perceived masculinity. The study found that the men felt emasculated and ashamed when they were abused by their partners. They felt that society expects them to be strong and in control, and being a victim of domestic violence went against these expectations. The men also expressed fear of reporting the abuse, as they believed they would not be taken seriously or would be seen as weak. The study findings also highlighted the need for more education and awareness on the issue of domestic violence against men. Participants expressed the need for more support services and interventions specifically designed for men, as the current services were largely focused on women.