



**Determinants of Domestic Violence among Women
Attending Gender Based Violence Centre (GBV) At
Nakuru County Referral Hospital**

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Abstract

Domestic violence include all acts of physical, sexual psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners. The violence against women cases continue to increase in Kenya and globally. Domestic violence is highly skewed towards women than in male partners. Violence against Women (VAW) is a fundamental violation of women's rights. 30% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence. In Kenya VAW is still regarded as a private family matter. Violence against women by an intimate partner has strong traditional and cultural considerations. 45% of women between 15-49 years have experience physical violence. Almost 75% of women in Kenya experienced domestic violence (KDHS, 2014). Nakuru is one of the counties with high prevalence of domestic violence against women. Violence among women is still largely experienced by women across Kenya and therefore an urgent need for effective ways of reducing its prevalence. This study therefore attempted to establish awareness and factors contributing to domestic violence among women. The study found that thirty one per cent (31%) of the respondents were aged 18 - 28 years while 19% were aged above 50 years, 32% were married while 18% were widows/widowers. The findings further revealed that 36% of the respondents got their income from the farm while 42% earned between 500 - 5000Kshs monthly, while minorities 8% earned Kshs 15001 and above. Culture influenced domestic violence, majority 77% of the respondents said their culture did not allow women to make decisions concerning the family. It was also found that 65% of the respondents were aware of domestic violence and 30% said domestic violence was common in their area. Fifty nine per cent knew victims of domestic violence. Culture was the main contributing factor to domestic violence. Men were allowed to beat their wives as a form of punishment for an alleged mistake or

behavior. The study found that GBV affects women globally thus women should be empowered socially, emotionally and economically in gender issues and be involved in decision making at all levels. Women should also know their rights in the society. The government should ensure that legal framework and policies including enforcement of legal punishment to the perpetrators of GBV against women are implemented. The ministry of education to consider introducing GBV violence in Kenya's educational curriculum therefore creating awareness at early age.

Keywords: *Domestic violence, Gender Based violence, Violence against women, maternal knowledge, Female Genital Mutilation, Victim*

1.1 Introduction

Domestic violence refers to all acts of physical, sexual psychological or economic violence that occur within the family or domestic unit or between former or current spouses or partners, whether or not the perpetrator shares or has shared the same residence with the victim (1). In the United States three women are murdered everyday by a current or former male partner while 38,028,000 women have experienced physical intimate partner violence in their lifetimes. African American women experience intimate partner violence at rates of 35% higher than white women. In 2011, 1509 women in the US were recorded to have been killed by an intimate partner. Worldwide, men who were exposed to domestic violence as children were three to four times more likely to perpetrate intimate partner violence as adults than men who did not experience domestic abuse as children (2)

In Kenya Violence against Women (VAW) is still regarded as a private family matter. Violence against women by an intimate partner has strong traditional and cultural considerations. Forty five per cent (45%) of women between 15-49 years have experience physical violence. Almost 75% of women in Kenya experienced domestic violence (3). Domestic violence is higher than what's reported; almost every woman in Kenya is occasionally violated verbally and physically but doesn't understand it as domestic violence (4). Nakuru is one of the counties with high prevalence of domestic violence against women. Woman had a 38% lifetime prevalence (5). These women are discriminated against, as they are not economically empowered to adequately meet their own basic needs and therefore, take charge of their sexuality and livelihoods. There have been several initiatives to prevent and help reduce VAW in Kenya. Initiatives by law makers such as "the protection against domestic violence bill" which was signed into law by President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya in 2015, rehabilitation centers and shelters for domestic violence victims, domestic Violence desk in police stations strictly for reporting domestic violence cases, economic empowerment programs, civic education on women's rights for both men and women, societal civic education on the consequences of domestic violence, yet domestic violence still remain a national problem especially in Nakuru county where the study is conducted.

The fact that domestic violence against women has increased since 2006, with 299 cases, 412 in 2007, and 400 in 2008 (GVRC, 2010) still possess challenge to both population, Health facilities and Government of Kenya at large. Forty five per cent (45%) of women aged 15-49 years have experienced physical violence (3). Study conducted by Federation of Women Lawyers- Kenya (FIDA-K) in 2008 showed that most women were violated and were not aware of such violations (4). They did not understand what is meant by domestic violence. It's only by understanding domestic

among women , factors that contributes to it and its consequences in Kenya that we can only reduce the prevalence of domestic violence especially in Nakuru county which is one of the leading counties with domestic violence among women. The gap in reducing domestic violence among women in Kenya is still a burden hence this study. The findings of the study are useful to stakeholders in Identifying strategies that are of benefits to the country, therefore empowering victims of violence against women economically, physically and emotionally.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The overall research problem addressed in this study is that violence against women cases continue to increase in Kenya. Domestic violence is however skewed towards women than in male partners, Violence against Women is a fundamental violation of women's rights. 30% of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence. Globally, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by intimate partners. Women who have experienced domestic violence report higher rates of important health problems. 16% are more likely to have a low birth-weight baby, 32% are likely to have an abortion, 32% are likely to experience depression and 24% are likely to acquire HIV, as compared to women who have not experienced partner violence. (WHO, 2013)

In 2006 there were 299 reported cases, 412 cases in 2007 and 400 in 2008 (GVRC, 2010). Although there are no recent tabulated statistics for gender violence for Kenya, according to GVRC report 2013, the center treats 15 cases of rape and domestic violence daily. The Gender Violence Recovery Centre (GVRC), a department of the Nairobi Women's Hospital report that the total number of gender violence cases reported in 2011-2012 increased by 45 cases from 2909 to 2954 and therefore an urgent need to reduce the number of these cases. In Kenya women are discriminated against, as they are not economically empowered to adequately meet their own basic needs, (FIDA, 2002). This situation predisposes them to mistreatment from their male partners. In Kenya VAW is still regarded as a private family matter. Violence against women by an intimate partner has strong traditional and cultural considerations. 45% of women between 15-49 years have experience physical violence. Almost 75% of women in Kenya experienced domestic violence (KDHS, 2014).

Nakuru is one of the counties with high prevalence of domestic violence against women. Woman had 38% lifetime prevalence. (NCRCS, 2015). There are various initiatives that are being undertaken on gender issues to address the causes of domestic violence This include :signing of protection against domestic violence bill of rights by president Uhuru Kenyatta in 2015. Initiation of rehabilitation centers and shelters for Domestic Violence victims, domestic Violence desk in police stations strictly for reporting domestic violence cases, economic empowerment programs, civic education on women's rights for both men and women, societal civic education on the consequences of domestic violence. However, despite these initiatives little have done to analyze factors affecting violence among women in Kenya. Violence among women is still largely experienced by women across Kenya and therefore an urgent need for effective ways of reducing its prevalence. This study therefore attempts to evaluate factors which contribute to violence among women. The level of awareness also is largely unknown. These study therefore aim to establish awareness and Factors contributing to domestic violence among women.

2.1 Conceptual Framework

Conceptual framework refers to a written or visual presentation which narratively or graphically explains the main concepts or variables in a study as well as the presumed relationship among them. Figure1 presents the conceptual framework

Independent variables

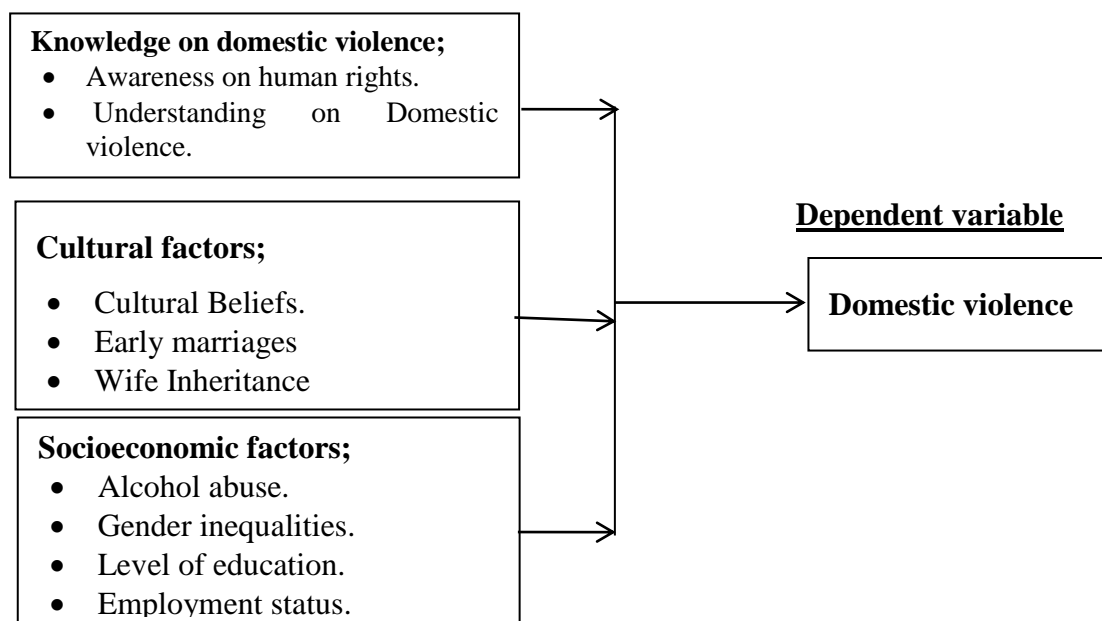


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

3.1 Research Methodology

The study adopted a descriptive cross sectional study design; where its main purpose was to observe all aspects of the situation as it usually appears at a given time without repetition. The study was carried out in Nakuru County located in the Great Rift Valley region of Kenya. The target population of the study included women of reproductive aged (15-49) years at Nakuru County level 5 Hospital. The researcher used purposive sampling and simple random sampling techniques. The researcher sampled 100 respondents. The study included women who were attending Nakuru County Referral hospital and were willing to participate in the study. Nonetheless, the study excluded women who were very ill and not attending Nakuru Referral hospital

4.1 Study Results

The study results gathered are presented subsequently in subsections.

4.2 Demographic Data

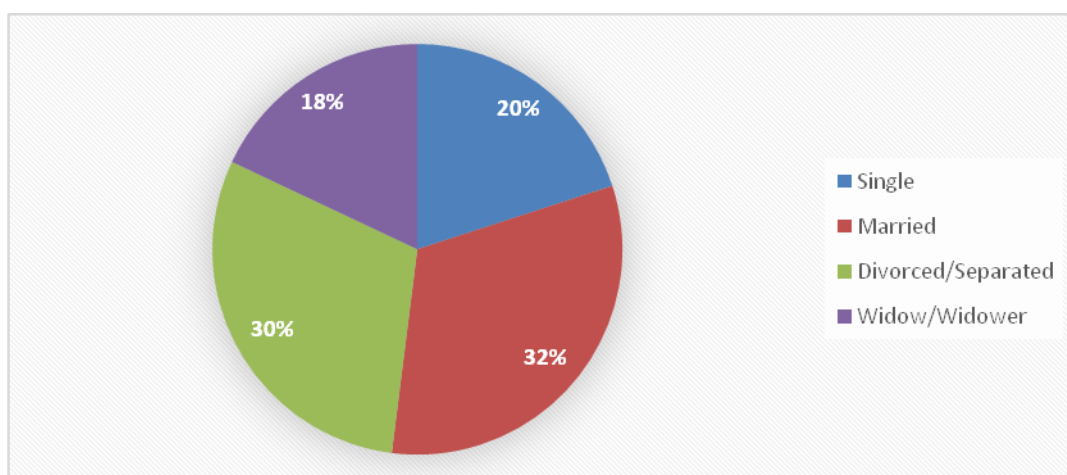
The demographic data is discussed below.

Table 1: Age of Respondents

Response	Frequency	Percentage
18 - 28 years	31	31%
29 - 39 years	28	28%
40 - 50 years	22	22%
Above 50 years	19	19%
Total	100	100%

The study findings presented in Table 1 shows that the majority (31%) of the respondents were aged 18 - 28 years while the minority (19%) were aged above 50 years.

Figure 2: Marital Status



The study results depicted in Figure 2 shows that most of the respondents (32%) were married while the minority (18%) were widows/widowers.

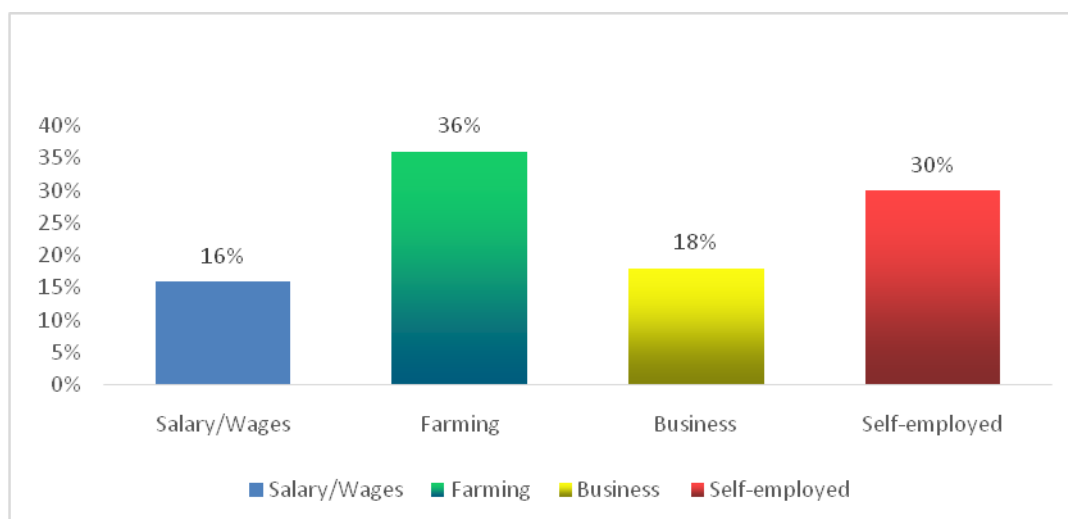
Table 2: Education Level

Response	Frequency	Percentage
None	41	41%
Primary	32	32%
Secondary	20	20%
College/University	7	7%
TOTAL	100	100%

It was found that majority (41%) of the respondents had no formal education at all while the minority (7%) had attained up to college/university level of education as illustrated in Table 2

4.3 Socio-economic factors

Figure 3: Source of Income



The study findings presented in Figure 3 shows that majority (36%) of the respondents get their source of income from farming while the minority (16%) get their source of income from salaries/wages

Table 3: Average monthly income

Response	Frequency	Percentage
500 - 5000 Kshs	42	42%
5001 - 10,000 Kshs	27	27%
10,001 - 15,000 Kshs	23	23%
15, 001 Kshs and above	8	8%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 3 shows that majority (42%) of the respondents earn between Ksh. 500 – 5000 monthly while the minority (8%) earn Kshs 15,001 and above per month.

Table 4: Do your spouse violate you financially

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	72	72%
No	28	28%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 4 shows that majority (72%) of the respondents spouse violate them financially while minority (28%) said their spouse do not violate them financially

Table 5: Ability to make any financial decisions in the family

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	56	56%
No	11	44%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 5 shows that 56% of the respondents make financial decision in the family while 44% of the respondents do not get the opportunity to make any financial decision in the family

Figure 4: Experience of any form of domestic violence at the work place

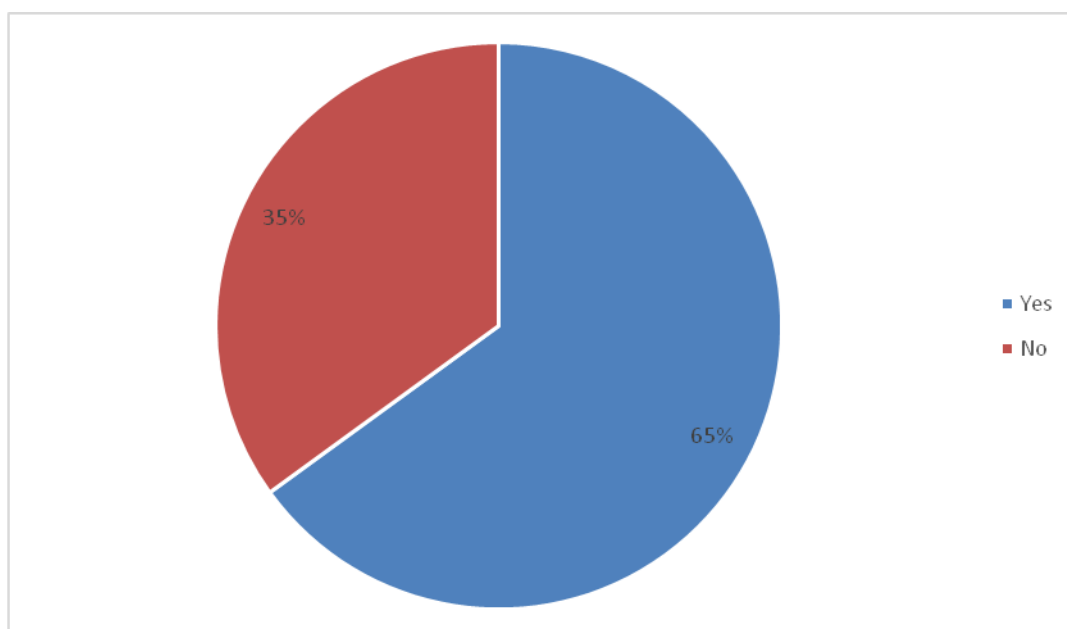


Figure 4 shows that 65% of the respondents have ever experienced domestic violence at their work place while 35% have never experienced any of it

Table 6: Does your spouse provide for the family

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	76	76%
No	24	24%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 6 shows that majority 76% of the spouse provide for the family while minorities 24% of the spouse do not provide for the family

4.4: Socio-Cultural Factors

Table 7: Culture allow women to make decisions over the family

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	23	23%
No	77	77%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 7 shows that majority 77% of the respondents say that their culture does not allow women to make decisions concerning the family while minorities 23% say their culture allows women to make decisions over the family

Figure 5: FGM a form of violence against women

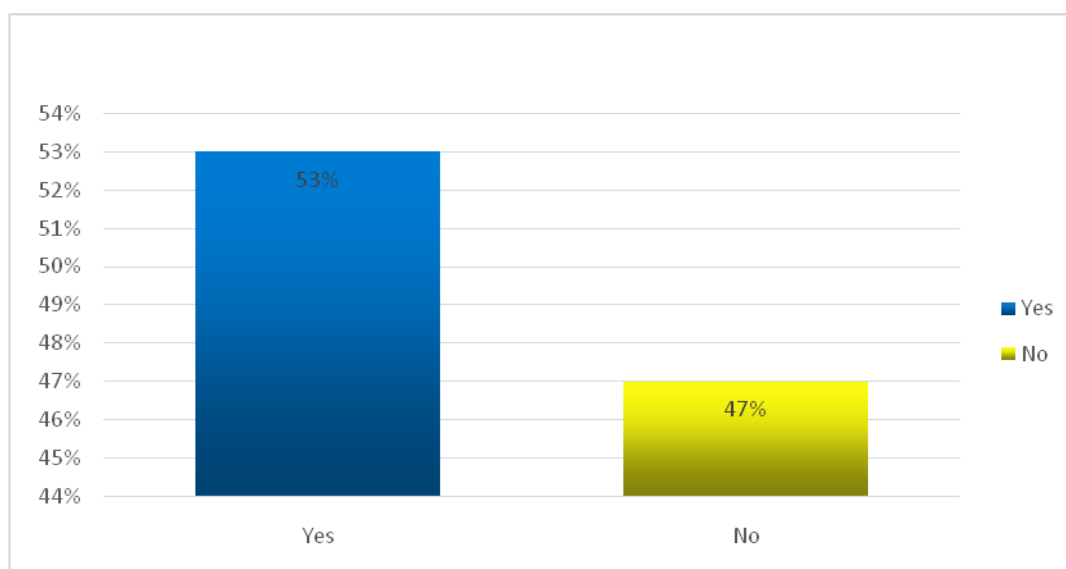


Figure 5 shows that 53% of the respondents agree that FGM is a form of violence against women in their culture while 47% disagree that FGM is not a form of violence against women in their culture

Table 8: It is culturally right for husband to beat a woman

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	63	63%
No	37	37%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table.8 shows that 63% of the respondents agree that it is culturally right for husband to beat a wife while 37% disagree

4.5 Knowledge on domestic violence

Figure 6: Awareness of domestic violence

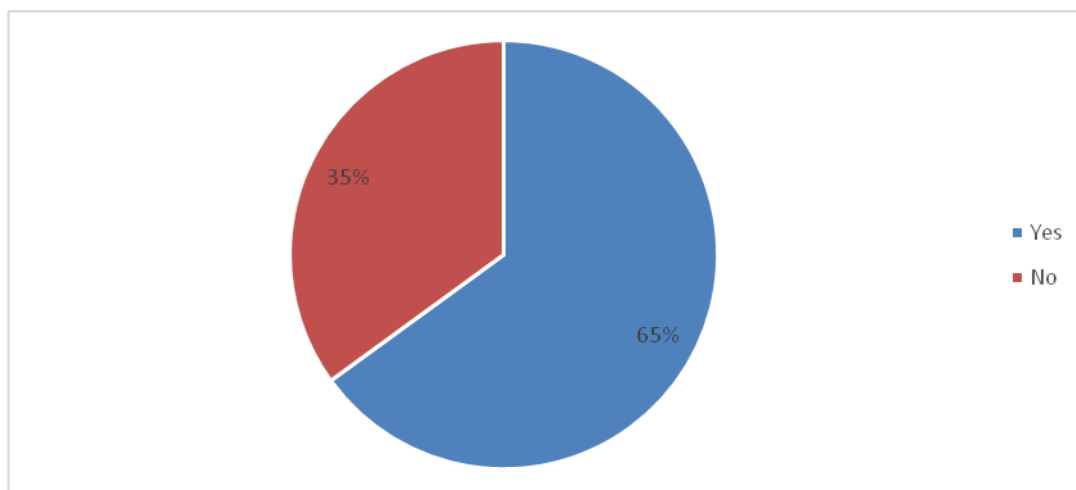


Figure 6 above shows that 65% of the respondents were aware of domestic violence while 35% were not aware of what domestic violence is.

Table 9: How common is domestic violence against women in your area

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very common	26	26%
Common	30	30%
Fairly common	28	28%
Not common	16	16%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 10 above shows that 30% of the respondents said domestic violence is common in their area while 16% said that domestic violence is not common

Table 10: Aware of any woman who is a victim of domestic violence

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	59	59%
No	41	41%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 10 above shows that 59% of the respondents are aware of any women who is a victim of domestic violence while 41% are not aware

Table 11: Awareness of laws/political initiatives preventing domestic violence against women

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	76	76%
No	24	24%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 11 above shows that majority 76% of the respondents were aware of laws/political initiatives preventing domestic violence against women while minorities 24% were not aware

Figure 7: Aware of organizations/specialized support for women survivors of domestic violence

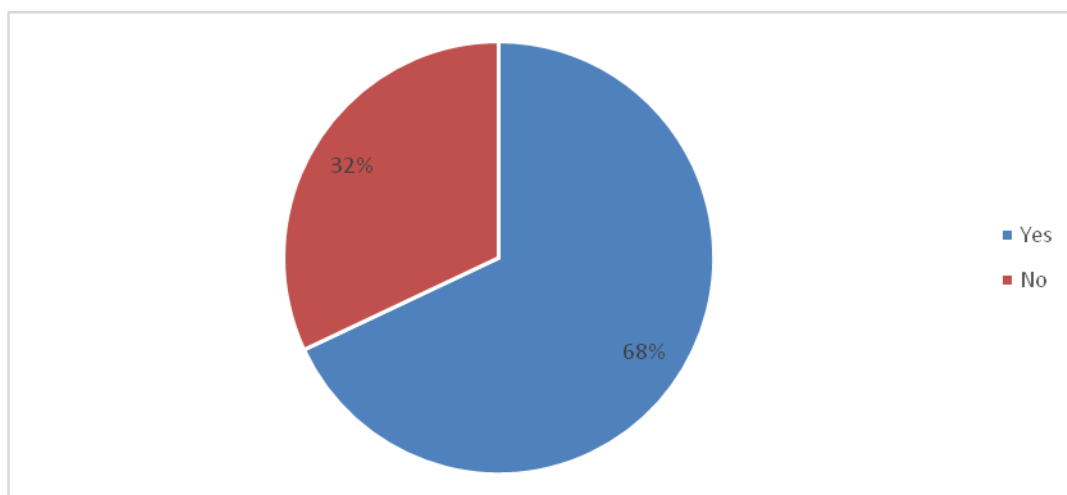


Figure 7 above shows that 68% of the respondents were aware of organizations/specialized support for women survivors of domestic violence while 32% were not aware

Table 12: How serious is domestic violence as an offence

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Not serious	9	9%
Slightly serious	16	16%
Serious	34	34%
Very serious	41	41%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 12 above shows that 41% of the respondents agree that domestic violence is a very serious offence while 9% say it is not serious

Table 13: Do you think domestic violence is a good case to go to court

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Yes	24	24%
No	76	76%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 13 above shows that 76% of the respondents agree that domestic violence is not a good case to go to court while 24% of the respondents say that domestic violence is a good case to go to court.

Table 14: How often do domestic violence cases go to court?

Response	Frequency	Percentage
Very often	43	43%
Quite often	32	32%
Often	20	20%
Rarely	5	5%
TOTAL	100	100%

Table 14 above shows that 43% of the respondents say that cases of domestic violence very often go to court while 5% say that the cases of domestic violence rarely go to court.

5.1 Discussion and Conclusions

The findings revealed that 31% of the respondents were aged 18 - 28 years while 19% were aged above 50 years, another 32% of the respondents were married while 18% were widows/widowers, 41% of the respondents had no formal education at all while minorities 7% had attained up to college/ university level of education. Majority of females experience domestic violence at a younger age than their male counter parts. A study conducted in India by Ackerson proved that socio-economic factors contributed to domestic violence among women and age was another contributing factor presenting with 67% (6). Source of income is a major factor contributing to domestic violence among residents of Nakuru County, this study has also shows that majority of the spouses were being violated financially. This concurs with another study conducted in India by Boyle, 2009 on women's education, attitudes towards mistreatment and standards of living, this study showed that men had attitude over women who were working thus showing that occupation was a major contributor to domestic violence(7).

Culture influenced domestic violence, majority 77% of the respondents said that their culture did not allow women to make decisions concerning the family and that 53% of the respondents agreed that FGM was a form of violence against women in their culture while 47% disagreed with the notion that FGM was a form of violence against women in their culture. Sixty three per cent of the respondents agreed that it was culturally right for husband to beat a wife. Another neural conducted in Nairobi by Mitullah, concurs with our study where women inheritance was a major issue in families where women had more than enough compared to their men thus showed that in some cultures inheritance

In conclusion, Lack of women empowerment lead to domestic violence, women were viewed as lower beings and hence were subjected to violence and there was no need to empower women economically and socially. Culturally women in these settings felt inferior being left out on any decisions making. Gender based violence was also attributed to economic strain as instability in the economy led to a breakdown in values leading to gender based violence. Legal framework in addressing gender based violence against women was ineffective.

6.1 Recommendations

Based on the findings, the following recommendations were made:

- i. The government should develop strategies to stop the violence and provide safe solutions for victims of gender based violence.
- ii. The legal definitions for gender based to be followed to enforce the legal punishment.
- iii. Service providers should consider the cultural background and the unique issues faced by the domestic violence victims and provide culturally competent services to children, youth, and families who have been exposed to gender based violence
- iv. The government should have a separate budget line in the state budget allocated for implementing strategies to combat gender based violence and specifically and comprehensively address the needs of survivors.

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