

# **GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN KABALE MUNICIPALITY, KABALE DISTRICT**

**DENIS MUCUNGUZI**

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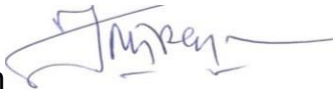
**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
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## DECLARATION

I **Mucunguzi Denis**, declare to the best of my knowledge that this research entitled ***“Gender Based Violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District”*** is original and have not been presented to any University for award of any degree. I’m grateful to the efforts of other scholars and professionals that are cited for their contribution.

Sign

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Mucunguzi Denis', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Date 10<sup>th</sup> June 2025

**MUCUNGUZI DENIS**

**J21/BBUC/MSW/004**

## APPROVAL

This Research titled “Gender Based Violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District” has been submitted with my approval as an academic supervisor.



Sign:

AGGREY YESIGOMWE

DATE 10<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2025

ACADEMIC SUPERVISOR

## DEDICATION

This Research is dedicated to my wife **Mrs. Annitah Mahirwe Mucunguzi**, and my entire family for the moral, spiritual and financial support they rendered to me during my study.

## LIST OF ACRONYMS/ABBREVIATIONS

ACFODE	:	Action for Development and Environment
AFJ	:	Alliance for Justice
CDO	:	Community Development Officer
CEDAW	:	Convention on Elimination of all Discriminations Against Women
CEED	:	Community Empowerment Education Development
CSBAG	:	Civil Society Budget Advocacy Group
CSV	:	Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation
DDP	:	District Development Plan
DFID	:	Development Fund for International Development
DLG	:	District Local Government
DV	:	Dependent Variable
EOC	:	Equal Opportunities Commission
FAL	:	Functional Adult Education
FGM	:	Female Genital Mutilation
FIDA	:	Association of Uganda Women Lawyers
GBV	:	Gender Based Violence
GEST	:	Gender Equality Training Programme
IASC	:	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
IPV	:	Intimate Partner Violence
IV	:	Independent Variable

IWDA : International Women's Development Agency  
 LSEPS : London School of Economic and Political  
 Science MEDA : Mennonite Economic Development  
 Associated MoGLSD : Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social  
 Development NAPW : National Action Plan on Women  
 NDP : National Development  
 Plan OC : Officer in Charge  
 OWC : Operation Wealth  
 Creation PO : Probation Officer  
 UDHS : Uganda Demographic Health  
 Surveys ULS : Uganda Law Society  
 UN : United Nations  
 UNDP : United Nations Development  
 Programme UNFPA : United Nations Fund for  
 Population UNGA : United Nations General Assembly  
 UNIAWG : United Nations Inter-Agency Working Group  
 UNICRI : United Nations International Crime and Justice  
 Institute UWEP : Uganda Women Entrepreneurship Program  
 VAWG : Violence against Women and  
 Girls WEE : Women Economic  
 Empowerment WHO: World Health Organization

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I, **Mucunguzi Denis**, acknowledge that this research report is the result of my diligence, skill, and divine favour. May God bless you, Mr. Aggrey Yesigomwe, my supervisor, for your excellent professional and technical guidance in this endeavor. I want to sincerely thank my wife for her unwavering financial, spiritual, and moral support.

I also want to sincerely thank my employer and coworkers for their financial, moral, and spiritual support. May the Almighty God richly bless you.

## ABSTRACT

This study set out to investigate the extent and effects of gender-based violence (GBV) on the rights of women and girls in Kabale District and Kabale Municipality. The specific objectives of the study were (1) to establish the effectiveness of different advocacy strategies on GBV prevention and reduction, (2) to assess the impact of women's empowerment strategies on GBV reduction; and (3) to evaluate the effectiveness of the new laws and policies on GBV prevention and reduction in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

This study was a cross-sectional study that involved quantitative data collected using household questionnaire administered to 360 household heads to establish the quantitative contributions of different advocacy strategies and impact of women empowerment strategies on GBV prevention and reduction in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. Qualitative data was collected from fourteen (14) purposively selected District level Key informants using interview guide to establish the qualitative contributions of different advocacy strategies, impact of women empowerment strategies on GBV prevention and reduction; and the contributions of the new laws and policies on GBV prevention and reduction in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. In order to produce relative frequencies and summary statistics, quantitative data was analysed using Excel and SPSS, while qualitative data was examined using the storytelling technique.

Findings show that 55.6% of respondents agreed that increasing the capacity of duty bearers and those in charge of putting laws, policies, and programs into place

reduces GBV, 51.4% agreed that campaigns to raise awareness and promote women's and girls' human rights and prevent GBV also contribute to GBV prevention and reduction, and 50.6% agreed that empowering women and girls to pursue secondary education enhances their knowledge, skills, and opportunities to escape GBV in Kabale Municipality, Further 51.4% of the respondents cited awareness on women's human rights has been achieved through educational initiatives and advocacy for women's rights, 45.8% acknowledged improved communications and conflict resolution skills, 44.4% cited that women's community support networks fosters solidarity and assistance among women within community groups in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, 40.3% agreed women's economic independence is enhanced consequently mitigating their reliance on their male partners in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. Lastly, key informant respondents noted that the new laws and policies have done little to prevent and reduce GBV because of their ineffective enforcement, limited legal literacy among women and men, as well as rigid culture that do not consider women's rights.

Gender-Based Violence is remains a human rights challenge women and men in Comprehensive measures for promoting gender equality, respect and safety should be put in place. Strengthening of legal and Policy frameworks through continuous reforms is needed. Capacity building for law enforcement and judiciary personnel, awareness campaigns, economic and education empowerment programs for girls, addressing cultural and customary practices, legal aid services to the victims of GBV can help combat GBV and promote gender equality.

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## CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

### 1.0 Background to the study

This chapter covers the background, problem statement, purpose, objectives, research questions, scope, and significance, theoretical and conceptual framework.

According to the IASC (2005), gender-based violence (GBV) is any damaging act that is committed against the consent of the victim and is motivated by socially assigned gender norms (being male or female). Gender-based violence is directed at an individual based on their gender roles in society with the intention of reinforcing gender hierarchies and sustaining gender inequality. It causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm to both men and women (UNDR, 1993).

Both men and women are impacted by gender-based violence, however women are more severely affected than men. For instance, one in three women are thought to have experienced gender-based violence at some point in their lives, according to UN Women (2015). In addition, gender-based violence is now acknowledged globally as a violation of women's and girls' human rights (UNFPA, 2005). Family dissolutions are on the rise worldwide as a result of wives' inability to control the expressions of gender-based violence. This has compromised family relations both on rural and urban households (Subramanian, 2000). It is therefore on this basis that gender-based violence has attracted global, National and local attention since it poses a serious human rights challenge among women and men and it has been perceived as one of the key obstacles for the attainment of equality, development

and peace globally among families (United Nations, 1986a).

### **1.0.1 Historical Background**

The origins of gender-based violence are well recorded in the book of archaeologies of gender and violence, which includes a Greek-Ptolemaic text from 2,200 years ago that strangely, mirrors society today (Patou-Mathis, 2020). According to Adams (1991), gender-based violence against women and other minorities dates back 2000 years to the Roman Empire and the colonization of America 500 years ago. The patriarchy as a family structure was created by men and women 2500 years ago and can be traced back to early Mesopotamia, which was dubbed "the cradle land of civilisation" in 3100 BC (Arce, 2017; Lerner, 1987).

Global efforts to combat gender-based violence started when the United Nations established a commission on women's status, which led to the 1949 and 1962 documents on the rights that should be applied equally to men and women. These efforts were followed by the creation of laws, policies, and actions for the protection, prevention, and empowerment of women (World Vision, 2022). Additionally, on November 25th of each year, the United Nations (UN) observes the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women. On this day, the UN system and other organizations aim their activities and events to create the global awareness needed to shift mindsets and behaviors towards ending all forms of violence against women and girls. In recent years numerous Governments have acted swiftly to devote their attention to the issue of gender-based violence in the context of women empowerment.

In Africa, gender-based violence has colonial roots. The colonial oppression with controls over the black individuals (women and Men) extended to their historical mobility, social interaction and off-spring, sexual relations and sexuality. The colonial landscape demonstrated the unequal sexual exploitation, sexual abuse, rape and forced pregnancies on African women and girls. The colonial unequal racialised, gendered and sexualized form of social interactions disadvantaged African women and men and most colonial states focused on the perceived fertility of African women as a rationale for cheap free-slave labour (Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR), 2023). Colonial oppression limited social, political and economic participation of women as opposed to men. Women under colonial establishment were confined to their reproductive functions and relevance on marriage only (Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation (CSVR), 2023).

Additionally, in Africa, gender-based violence cannot be understood outside norms and cultural values. As young boys are socialized according to established norms and are expected to adopt and operate within these beliefs, they even cope from what they see at their homes and are acquainted to the system (Uthman, et al, 2009). However data on gender-based violence in Africa is under reported because of shame, stigma and fear of spreading it further. According World Health Organization (WHO, 2015) an estimated 45% of women have experienced some form

of sexual violence in Africa and yet many women in African societies remain silent because African societies take violence against women as an accepted and normal aspect of gender relations (UNFPA, 2005). Needless to say, some African Countries have sought to address gender-based violence through institutional reforms. For instance, Morocco adopted 103-13 Law on elimination of violence against women in 2018, Uganda enacted a number of Laws (2010 Law on Domestic Violence and 2011 Domestic violence Regulations, the Equal Opportunities Commissions Act, 2007, the National Action Plan on Women (NAPW), 2007) and policy (Elimination of Gender Based Violence Policy for Uganda). Also important to note, civil society organizations in Africa have been playing a fundamental role in helping to advocate and create public awareness on gender-based violence and to also provide support to victims by advocating for protective policies and implementing programmes to curb violence against women and girls (Philanthropy Circuit, 2017).

In Uganda, gender-based violence has reached its highest peak (UDHS, 2011), UN Women Report (2020), indicated that 70% of the Women in Uganda have their rights violated, sexually, physically and psychologically. Over the years, the government of Uganda has made an attempt to address the high rate of gender-based violence (GBV) in the nation. Among such effort are the legislative and policy reforms. For instance, Uganda Government legislated the 2010 Law on Domestic Violence and 2011 Domestic Violence Regulations, Anti-female Genital mutilation Act 2010, Anti-trafficking in Persons Act of 2009, the Equal Opportunities Commissions Act 2007, the National Action Plan on Women (NAPW) 2007 and in August 2016, the Ugandan

Cabinet approved the elimination of gender-based violence Policy for Uganda which mandated Government of Uganda to allocate resources for implementation of the above gender-based violence laws (Uganda None in three, 2018). Additionally, in 2017, the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MoGLSD) released a male involvement strategy for the prevention and response to gender-based violence in Uganda. This strategy encourages men and boys to take responsibility for their sexual and reproductive behaviour and refrain from discriminating against women and girls in any way. Additionally, the Ugandan government ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).

In Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, gender-based violence has also been a serious problem with the District report indicating 50% of the women being physically and sexually abused by their husbands and young girls being sexually abused from their homes (Kabale DLG DDP III, 2020). In an effort to reduce the incidence of gender-based violence, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Local Government (KDLG), has launched extensive campaigns to raise awareness and raise awareness of the factors that contribute to social inequality through local radio programs and religious and cultural leaders. Operation Wealth Creation (OWC), Youth Livelihood Program (YLP) for economic self-reliance, promotion of adult education (FAL), and vocational skills trainings for women to lower illiteracy levels and acquire employable skills are just a few of the government's economic empowerment programs that fund women groups to engage in a variety of business

ventures. The District Council also passed ordinances and bylaws to address some of the detrimental cultural practices that encourage gender inequality and domestic violence in the District (Kabale DLG DDP III, 2020).

However, GBV incidences continue to increase despite these interventions. For example, according to Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Local Government DDP III (2020), 818 cases of GBV incidences were reported and 570 cases were handled by Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Community Based Services (CBS) (Kabale DLG DDP III, 2020).

### **1.0.2 Theoretical Background**

The following theories served as the foundation for the study: resource theory, patriarchal theories, and loss of control theories.

According to the theory of loss of control, violence results from a lack of control. To a certain extent, yes. Alcohol causes men to lose control and become unable to regulate their rage and frustration, which leads to them assaulting their wives (Advocacy for Human Rights, 2018). In respect to Kabale, this is true. According to the Independent Magazine (2020), excessive alcohol consumption is the leading cause of gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District according to police records (The Independent, 2020). The same view was also echoed by Deputy Resident District Commissioner (DRDC), Kabale who when interviewed by Boona FM in February 2023, who argued that the main causes of gender-based violence or domestic violence are excessive consumption of Alcohol and drug abuse, poor behavioral control and impulsiveness. (Boona FM, 2023). Studies have since then

shown that domestic violence is associated with depression, substance abuse, suicide, and loss of self-esteem among female victims (Kirkwood, 1993). Perceived lack of control of one's partner causes emotional distress for another (Umberson & Williams, 1993) especially when there is a high need for control (Gondolf, 1985) in turn, distress may trigger violent acts. Other studies by Ptacek (1988) on the perpetrators of domestic violence have found out that violent men often attribute their behavior to a "loss of control" (Ptacek, 1988). Nonetheless, feminist theorists contended that "Batterers' violence is deliberately directed towards specific individuals at specific times and locations." Regardless of how furious or "out of control" they are, batterers "choose not to hit their bosses or police officers" (Ethel et al, 1997). Additionally, a study report by the family violence prevention fund indicates that batterers became more controlled and calm as their aggressiveness increases (Ganley & Schechter, 1995). Whatever the case may be in this study loss of control theory has helped to understand the perceived cause of violence especially gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

Patriarchal Theories are linked to Feminist theory and emerged in 1960s and 70s, when feminist scholars began assessing the history and impact of misogyny and gender inequality in various spheres of life. Patriarchy theory provides explanation to violence against women in terms of a power struggle and their argument is that in a patriarchal society those with all the power are males and resort to violence when their position of dominance is threatened in home and in society (Steven, 2007). They argued that unequal distribution of power between the sexes has

resulted in societies that have been dominated by men and that most women occupy subordinate positions of power, increasing their vulnerability to violence, especially within the family (Martin, 1976); (Dobash & Dobash, 1979). The theory further argues that the general need to control one's partner is the primary issue for men, who perpetuate violence against the wives.

Subsequent research has revealed that the prevalence of violence against women is highest in environments where gender norms are strictly established and upheld and where masculinity is associated with toughness, male honour, or dominance. Cultural norms permit men to punish women and children. It is further argued that gender-based violence is a key social mechanism for perpetuating the subordination of women, since male hegemony-power being considered the generic patrimony of men (Amorós, 1990), this power men poses is based on social control over women. Therefore, violations of women's human rights are directly or indirectly related to the gender system and to mainstream cultural values that gives men powers. The findings of studies on family violence indicate that the likelihood of spousal beating increases with the level of patriarchy in the home (Finkelhor, 1983; Straus and Gelles, 1990). The colonial-era chiefs' courts in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, frequently sustained women's property rights over husbands and co-wives. Men who sought to sell a wife's land or to transfer parcels among co-wives received sharp rebukes from the courts. It was not until the late 1960s that the magistrates' courts favored a more patriarchal vision of family (Khadiagala, 2002). Whatever the case is this study utilised patriarchal theory to understand the exercise of spousal

power in the families in the context of gender-based violence and advocacy for women's rights in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

The last idea is resource theory, which has proponents including Goode, Allen, and Strauss. It asserts that people use the resources at their disposal to accomplish their objectives. One tool that can be utilised to further one's own goals in a relationship is violence. The likelihood of using violence will decrease as more resources become available. In order to attain control in intimate relationships, a person with limited resources—such as position, income, or prestige—may be more likely to resort to violence (Edubirdie, 2022). They further argue that families, in which husbands live, believe that they should have more power than their wives but buy fewer resources into family than their wives are more likely to encounter husband-to-wife violence (Allen & Straus 1980; Blood & Wolfe, 1960; Houses, 1981).

Studies by Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz (1980) found that in households where women have less power due to lack of employment outside the home coupled with no voice in decision making are at greater risk of abuse. Similarly, when husbands perceive themselves to have fewer resources than their wives and they hold traditional beliefs that their family power should be higher than their wives, they may employ “the ultimate resource” of violence as a means to regain their power (Goode, 1971; Allen and Straus, 1980; Brown, 1980; Flauser, 1982). In context to Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, the resource theory helps us to understand the cause of domestic violence in the perspective of power and resource control in the

family. Studies by Umubyeyi et al., 2016 found that a lot of women who are submissive and economically dependent on their male partners may at times be the perpetrators of the violence (Umubyeyi, Persson, Morgan, & Krantz, 2016).

Promotion of women's rights in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District has been multi-faceted and continuous over the years through tireless work by organizations such as Kabale Women in Development (KWID) and the Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Women's Association (KADWA), which, from their establishment, set high priorities for fighting gender-based violence, economic empowerment, as well as women's and girls' education. In addition, encouraging gender equality within the district government has been significantly helped by the Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Gender Mainstreaming Department. The 2019 "Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District: A Situational Analysis," have been excellent providers of valuable data to front-line their promotion efforts, with NGOs such as Action Aid, Oxfam, and CARE International having significantly contributed with their reports and publications to even further raise the voices calling for an end to women's rights violations.

### **1.0.3 Conceptual Background**

Gender refers to the differences between women and men, boys and girls within the same household and within and between cultures that are socially and culturally constructed and change over time (Ocheme, Gloria, & Zuwena, 2020).

The concept of gender-based violence (GBV) has been defined differently by

scholars. According to United Nations Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC, 2005), gender-based violence is an umbrella term for any harmful act that is perpetrated against a person's will and based on socially attributed (gender) differences between males and females (Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), 2005)

Jeanne (2006) looked at gender based violence as any harm that is perpetrated against a person's will that results in a negative impact on the physical or psychological health, development, identity of a person that is as a result of gender power inequalities that exploit the differences between males and females (Jeanne, 2006).

Gender-based violence has become internationally recognized as a denial of human rights to women since they are the mostly affected (UNFPA, 2005). In accordance with this perception, United Nations General Assembly (UNGA, 1993), defined Gender-Based Violence (GBV) as an act of Violence against women that results or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty while whether occurring in public or in private life (United Nations General Assembly Resolution 48/104, Declaration on the elimination of violence against women, 1993). However, the term "Gender-based violence" and "violence against women" are frequently being used interchangeably in Literature and by advocates. In this study, gender-based violence (GBV) shall be defined as an act of violence against a person because of his or her gender and expectations of his or her role in a society or culture.

Advocacy, according to Alliance for Justice (AFJ, 2016), is any action that speaks in favor of, recommends, argues for a cause, supports or defends or pleads on behalf of others (Alliance for Justice (AFJ), 2016). Additionally, Advocacy refers to a set of organized actions aimed at influencing public policies, social attitudes and socio-political process that enable and empower the marginalized to speak for themselves (International Centre for Human Rights Education, 2009). Additionally, a common definition of advocacy is the act of endorsing a policy and influencing individuals in positions of authority to support it locally, nationally, and internationally (International Human Rights Watch, 2005). Lastly, in this study, advocacy for women's rights shall be defined as a legal and non-legal intervention to safeguard women's social status and actions to protect them against abuse (Marksperson, 2019). Advocacy consists of both strategy and action to achieve an objective (UN Women, 2010), which in this study is the anticipated advocacy impact on promotion of women's rights.

Amnesty International (2023), Women's rights include the rights to live free from violence and discrimination, to enjoy the highest attainments of standards, of physical and mental health, to be educated, to own property, to vote and to earn an equal wage (Amnesty International, 2023).

In any event, this study will use the definition provided by the online dictionary Wikipedia, which states that women's rights are the rights and privileges asserted for women and girls over the world (Wikipedia, 2023). These definitions above have been reinforced by the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination

against Women (CEDAW, 1979) that has been a key international treaty addressing gender- based discrimination and provides special protection for women’s rights.

Research on the impact of gender-based violence on women's rights activism is, nevertheless, scarce. Thus, the purpose of this study was to determine the relationship between gender-based violence and support for women's rights in Kabale District and Kabale Municipality.

#### **1.0.4 Contextual Background**

The persistent and exceptional increase of gender-based violence rates in Uganda (DFID, 2014); (UBOS, 2018), implying that Uganda has a high rate of violence against women. The achievement of women's rights as guaranteed by Uganda's legal and policy documents is under jeopardy because of this. According to reports, almost half (50%) of the women in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, experience physical and sexual violence at the hands of their husbands, and young girls are subjected to sexual abuse in their households (Kabale DLG DDP III, 2020). In the end, this has caused the District's women's rights situation to worsen. These alarming gender-based violence prevalence rates in the Country and in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District have prompted the researcher to query whether advocacy strategies for gender-based violence response and prevention could lead to promotion of women’s rights in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

This study particularly analyzed how gender-based violence response and prevention strategies influences advocacy for women rights in Kabale Municipality,

Kabale District. Advocacy strategies, such as media campaigns, awareness of women's rights, women's economic empowerment, and institutional capacity building, have a positive impact on the forms of gender-based violence as defined in the study, which include physical violence, sexual violence, harmful cultural practices, economic violence, and psychological violence. Hence, a positive impact in the promotions of women's rights in terms of increased women's decision making, reduced teenage pregnancies, reduced early Marriage and increased access and control to business and other economic resources by women

### **1.1 Statement of the Problem**

Gender-based violence estimates and prevalence rates are still rising in spite of national, international, and local efforts to prevent and address these situations. According to a World Health Organization (WHO) analysis of data from 2000 to 2018 for the United Nations Interagency Working Group (UNIAG), in 161 countries and regions, approximately one in three women, or 30% of all women, experience physical and/or sexual violence from an intimate partner, non-sexual violence, or both (World Health Organization (WHO), 2021). The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) reports that 1 in 5 men (20%) have experienced physical intimate partner violence (IPV), and 17% of men worldwide suffer from some form of GBV, including intimate partner violence (IPV). Despite this, men are not as affected by GBV as women are. For example, lifetime prevalence of sexual violence is reported lower among men than women. Studies show 2.9% of men experiencing sexual violence (Awor, Ahumuza, Namuggala, & Nalwadda, 2025). However, overall,

according to WHO, the prevalence rates of GB are high in Africa (33%), East Mediterranean (31%) and South East Asia (33%) (World Health Organization (WHO), 2021). While In Uganda, gender-based violence continues to be rampant. The Global Gender Gap Report (2020) estimates Uganda to have 49.9% gender-based violence prevalence, above the average in Africa and the world (World Economic Forum, 2020). Similarly, Uganda's Police Annual Crimes Report (2021), reported increased cases to 48, 650 from January to June 2021 and about 1,142 cases monthly and 38 cases daily (UNFPA, 2021). This further complemented by Uganda Demographic Health Survey (UDHS, 2016) findings that reported that 22% of the women aged 15-49 years' experience some form sexual violence annually in Uganda. Also Records from Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Police (2020) indicated that over 50% of the Women in the District experienced at least some form of gender-based violence during this reporting time (Kabale DLG DDP III, 2020).

With these global, national and local statistics, it is eminent that gender-based violence is a serious human rights violation among women and girls. GBV has become pandemic. Laws and policies on GBV are made but not implemented. Uganda loses, shillings 31 Trillion annually to Gender Based Violence according to FOWEDE (2024). In Uganda, an average of 33.25% of households experience some form of GBV this underscores widespread nature of the problem. In Uganda, GBV research gap exists in several areas in several areas-the need for better data on GBV at the district level, the National Surveys such as Uganda Demographic Health

Surveys (UDHS) provide district context data and research are crucial for understanding specific patterns and challenges in the districts such as Kabale Municipality, Kabale District to provide needed evidence to promote women's rights in terms of gender-based violence prevention advocacy tactics, the effect of women's empowerment tactics on the decline in gender-based violence, and the ways in which new GBV laws and policies can be put into place in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District?

## **1.2 Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of this study is to examine the scope and impact of GBV against women and girls rights to inform interventions to prevent and respond to GBV in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

### **1.2.1 Specific Objectives**

The specific objectives of the study are:

- i) To establish the effect of different advocacy strategies being promoted on preventing gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District,
- ii) To assess the impact of women empowerment strategies on the reduction of gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District,
- iii) To evaluate the new laws and policies on gender-based violence response and prevention in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District

### 1.3 Research Questions

The study is guided by the following research questions:

- i) What is the effect of different Advocacy strategies being promoted on preventing gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District
- ii) What impact does women empowerment strategies have on the reduction of gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District?
- iii) What are the new laws and policies on gender-based violence response and prevention in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District?

#### **1.4 Justification for the Study**

Several Scholars have shown interest in the study of gender-based violence (Mtaita, Likindibikoki, McGowan, Mpembeni, & Safary, 2021) and some of the scholars have conducted studies in Kabale (Kabonesa & Kindi, 2020), (Pheonah, 2008).

Analysis of the studies under review revealed, mixed findings while some other studies (African Women and Youth Action for Development (AWYAD), 2021), revealed that gender-based violence response have led to improved women rights. Other research, like the one by Ocheme, Gloria, and Zuwena (2020), did not even demonstrate a connection between the advocacy for women's rights and gender-based violence. On these bases, there is need for more research to provide a definite position on how the gender-based violence contributes to advocacy for women rights in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District in general. Since none of the studies cited above had been conducted in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. Therefore, the goal of this study is to provide a comprehensive understanding of how gender-based violence contributes to the fight for women's rights in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

The study will theoretically enrich the existing body of knowledge on gender-based violence and particularly by providing an empirical link between gender-based violence and advocacy for women's rights in the context of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

By analyzing the effect of different advocacy strategies being promoted on the prevention and reduction of gender-based violence, assessing the impact of women empowerment strategies on gender-based prevention and examining the new laws and policies on gender-based violence response and prevention, the study will provide empirical basis for the advocates and activists for women rights in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District in particular and in Uganda in general.

Further, the findings of the study will benefit decision makers to come up with legal and Policy reviews on gender-based violence prevention and response for effective advocacy and promotion of women's rights in Uganda.

Additionally, Gender Scholars, Academicians, Practitioners and Students can use the study not only as the basis for appreciating the role gender-based violence study plays in advocacy for women's rights but also as the source of literature that can further enrich their studies by carrying out further research in the area of gender-based violence and advocacy for women's rights as duty calls.

Lastly the promoters of women's rights in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District can use the study to find better ways to fight gender-based violence in the District.

## **1.6 Scope of the Study**

### **1.6.1 Geographical Scope**

The research was carried out in the southwest of the Republic of Uganda, in the Kabale Municipality and Kabale District. Kabale Municipality and Kabale District share borders with the Republic of Rwanda to the south, Rubanda District to the

west, and Rukiga District to the east. The study was particularly conducted in Kabale Municipality which is prime Urban Centre in the District and the Municipality is made of three (3) divisions; Central Division, Southern Division and Northern Division.

Kabale Municipality is further comprised of 12 Parishes and 74 Villages (Kabale DLG DDP III, 2020). According to UBOS 2019 Population projections, Kabale Municipality has a population of 52,300 People and 11, 678 households (UBOS, 2019). The study was conducted in Kabale Municipality because, the municipality has been reporting an increased cases of gender-based violence (GBV) since 2018. According to CBS report 2020, 131 cases of GBV were recorded in 2018 and 153 cases of GBV in 2019 as opposed to other Sub-counties in the District (Kabale DLG DDP III, 2020). This showed that the majority of the households in Kabale Municipality experience GBV. Therefore, household respondents were required to provide data about how Kabale Municipality, Kabale District had contributed to the prevention and response to GBV incidences in Kabale Municipality.

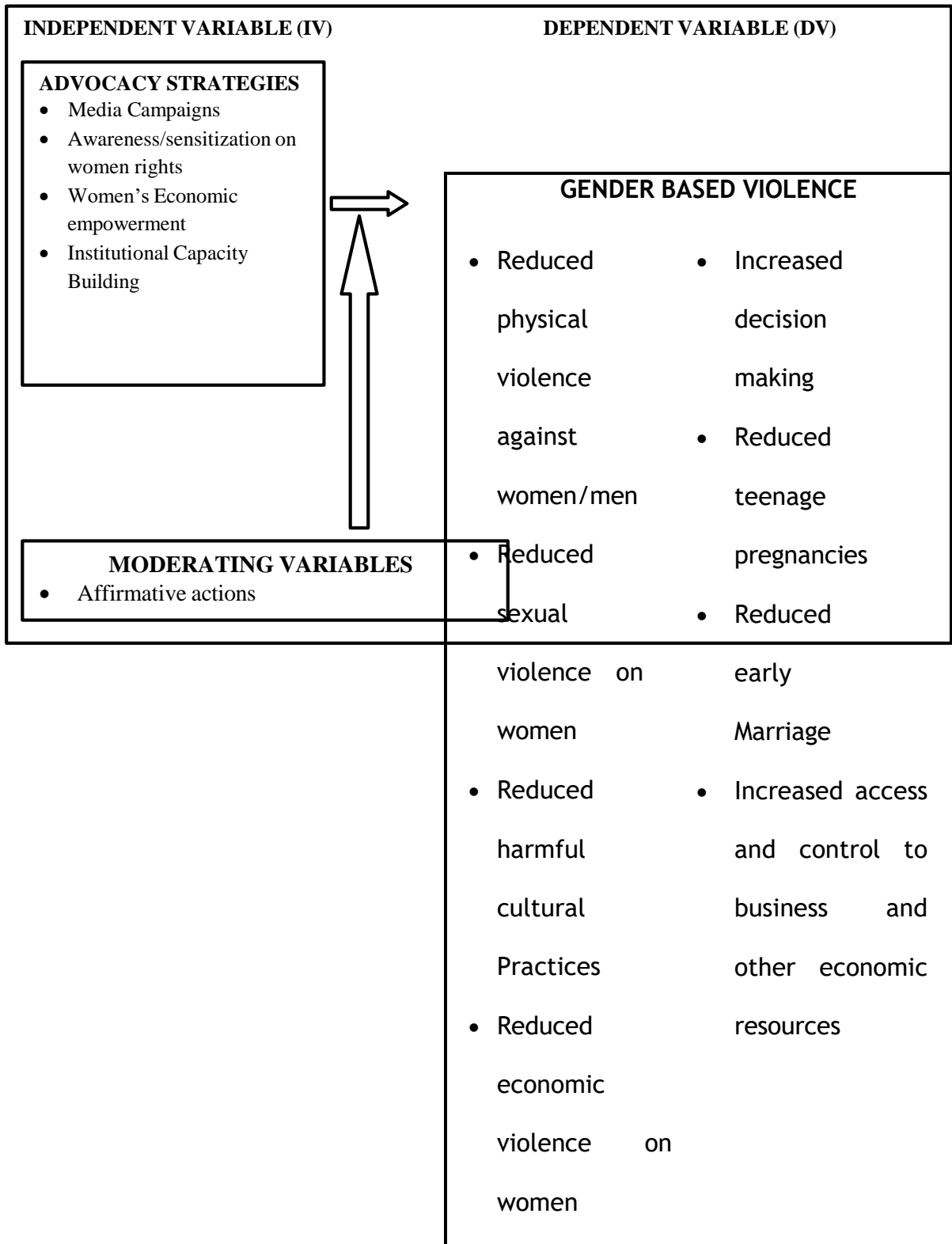
### **1.6.2 Content Scope**

The study specifically analyzed the effect of different advocacy strategies being promoted on preventing and reduction of gender-based violence, assessed the impact of women empowerment strategies on the prevention and reduction of gender-based violence, and evaluated the new laws and policies on gender-based violence response and prevention in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

### **1.6.3 Time Scope**

This study covered the period from January 2018 up to December 2023 when the study is accomplished at the end of the Masters Programme. This period is adequate to explore how the gender-based violence contributes to advocacy for women rights both in terms of literature review and through collection of cross-section data in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

## 1.7 Conceptual Framework of the Study



- Reduced cases of emotional/psychological Violence on women and men

**Source: Researchers own Idea**

*Figure 1.8: Conceptual frame of the study*

From the above conceptual framework in Figure 1.8, advocacy strategies informs of Media campaigns, Awareness and sensitization campaigns on women rights, economic empowerment of women and institutional Capacity building are perceived to be Independent Variables (IV) that are linked to gender-based violence (GBV), Dependent Variable (DV) and they jointly influence Advocacy for women’s rights inform of increased gender equality, reduced sexual harassment and violence and increased access to business and economic resources. However, advocacy strategies and gender-based violence are indirectly influenced by intervening variable inform of affirmative action as illustrated in the figure 1.8 above. In this study, any act of violence that injures women and girls physically, sexually, socially, economically, psychologically, or emotionally is considered gender-based violence (GBV). Accordingly, gender based violence shall be perceived and defined in this study as any behavior from any persons or spousal partner that causes harm-

including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and economic denial of resources. Advocacy for women's rights is defined as a legal and non-legal intervention to safe guard women's social status and actions to protect them against abuse (Marksperson, 2019). In this study advocacy strategies are conceptualized as legal and non-legal interventions to safe guard women's social status and actions to protect them against any form of abuse (IWDA, 2020). International Women's Development Agency (IWDA, 2020) further defined advocacy strategies as a set of organized activities designed to influence the policies and actions of others to achieve change such as lobbying, protests, rallies, marches, media campaigns, research projects, petitions, open letters, strategic events, awareness raising and capacity building on activism women's rights (IWDA,2020).

Further, the ultimate results to empowerment of women to realize their rights in this study is perceived in terms of increased women participation in decision making, reduced teenage pregnancies, reduced early marriages and women's increased access and control to business and other economic resources such as farming land

Lastly, in this study, it is perceived that moderating variable in form of government affirmative actions on women and girls has indirect effect on reduction of gender-based violence and subsequently the perceived outcome on women participation in decision making, reduced teenage pregnancies, reduced early marriages and women's increased access and control to business and other economic resources.

## CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW

### 2.0 Introduction

This chapter is the review of the literature on gender-based violence (GBV) especially on the different advocacy strategies being promoted in preventing gender-based violence, impact of women empowerment strategies on reduction and prevention of gender-based violence and the new laws and policies on gender-based violence response and prevention in Uganda particularly in the context of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

The examined literature comes from a variety of printed and online sources, including textbooks, papers, journals, and other publications. Pro-quest, SAGE Premier Data Base Academic Search Premier, Google Scholar, and other search engines and databases are used to find online sources. The goals of the study provide the basis for the chapter's organisation. The impact of women's empowerment initiatives on the prevention and reduction of gender-based violence, new laws and regulations on gender-based violence response and prevention, and advocacy techniques being advocated in order to prevent gender-based violence are therefore included in its subsections. The literature review's synopsis.

#### **2.0 Advocacy strategies being promoted in preventing gender-based violence**

Advocacy Strategy refers to evidence and experience-based plan that analyses a problem, develops a solution, identifies the decision makers and develops strategic

tactics to target them (Plan International, 2016).

Globally, there have been a number of advocacy strategies to prevent and reduce prevalence of gender-based violence and promote women's rights. These advocacy strategies being used all aimed at achieving increased gender equality, reduced sexual harassment and violence against women and girls and to increased women's access to business and other economic or production resources such as land.

Policy and legislative reforms: There is need to advocate for legislative reforms which address protection of women and girls and prosecution of perpetrators and other legal reforms that can reduce the risk of violence and increase opportunities women and girls have to avoid or escape. These include equal marital rights regarding divorce, property, child custody, child support, minimum age at marriage and legal recognition of customary marriage (UN Women, 2013). Additionally, there is need for development of National Legislation on Gender Equality and on Violence against Women. Uganda has implemented sector-specific reforms, including the 2010 Law on Domestic Violence and the 2021 Domestic Violence Regulations, the 2010 Anti-Female Genital Mutilation Act, the 2009 Anti-Trafficking of Persons Act, the 2007 Equal Opportunities Commission Act, and the 2007 National Action Plan on Women (NAPW). In August 2016, the Cabinet approved the Elimination of Gender Based Violence Policy for Uganda. The policy mandates that the government should allocate resources for the implementation of gender-based violence laws such as the Domestic Violence Act 2010. Uganda government also ratified the convention

on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) (Uganda one in three, 2018). The Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MoGLSD) has created policies, policy regulations, and standard operating procedures for gender-based violence in addition to the legal reforms. It has also given local governments and non-governmental organisations support supervision in their efforts to respond to and prevent gender-based violence. However, in respect to Kabale Municipality, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, this study seeks to find out if these legal, legislative and policy reforms contributes to gender-based violence prevalence reduction and prevention as well as advocacy for women's rights.

Capacity building: building the capacity of duty bearers or those responsible for implementing the laws; such as the judiciary, Police, health and education personnel among others on human rights and gender issues (UN Women, 2013). Building capacity of personnel such as health care ensures that they uphold women's rights to make women make their own decision related to reporting abuses or taking legal action. It also makes sure police understand their duty to intervene on domestic violence situations even when it occurs in the private home. Additionally justice mechanism staffs take procedures that takes into account the gender based nature of crimes and eliminating discrimination that may deter women from reporting or filing a case right away and also providing legal rights training for women and girls in order to empower them to know their rights to protect them against violence (UN Women, 2013).

As part of the capacity building approach for law enforcement on gender-related violence in Uganda, the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MoGLSD) created policies, regulations, and standard operating procedures for gender-based violence. Additionally, it offered support supervision to local governments and non-governmental organisations by educating and training duty bearers on their responsibilities to respond to and prevent gender-based violence (MoGLSD-Ministry of Gender Lab Nonetheless, this study aimed to determine how such capacity building affects the reduction of gender-based violence in the Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. Further, awareness and sensitization campaigns: These are aimed at zero tolerance for violence to reduce stigma for gender-based violence victims and change attitudes that tolerate human rights. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and Human Rights Activists have used media campaigns against the practice of gender-based violence and to change attitude of men against sexual harassment of women (UN Women, 2018). Studies done in South Africa have shown that media advocacy the Country's 'rape crisis' garnered global attention and sexual violence was made a lasting political or judicial priority (LSEPS, 2022). Additionally, in Uganda; Ministry of Gender, Labor and Social Development (MoGLSD), promotes community mobilization and awareness raising about gender-based violence as one of the key strategies to prevent gender-based violence in the Country. Through local radio programs and religious and cultural leaders, the District Local Government of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, started an aggressive campaign to raise awareness and sensitise people about the issues that

contribute to social disparity (Kabale DLG DDP III, 2020). Economic Empowerment of Women: Giving women and girls the ability to access and manage financial resources like land and property guarantees that they have access to income, which is why this study aims to determine whether this would have an impact on the decrease of gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

These include pushing for recognition and protection of women's rights to inherit property, housing and social security, among others (UNGA, 2006). Women's access to economic assets such as Agricultural land and other resources used for productive activities can contribute to increased economic support and living standards through reinvestment of earnings, and increased levels of productivity for both their families and at the national level (UNFPA, 2006). Studies have also demonstrated that male economic and decision-making power is highly correlated with abuse against women as men are the primary breadwinners and controllers of wealth (Heise, Mary, & Gottemoeller, 1999). Hence increasing women's access to and control over economic resources can help them escape abuse and may also provide options for women to enter into a relationship on their terms and on more equitable footing with men.

In Uganda, Government has made efforts to alleviate household income through numerous income generating programs such as Operation Wealth Creation (OWC), UWEP and promotion of Women's land and Property rights. Additionally, according to Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Local Government Report (2021), UWEP has

been empowering women in the District through vocational skills development and income generating activities. This has closed the gap of limited access to affordable financial services, limited skills for enterprise selection and business management among women, this study therefore sought to establish these economic empowerment of women has an effect on reduction of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

Girl Child's access to Education empowerment: pushing for girls' access to secondary or higher levels of education. Education serves as protective factor by increasing girls' knowledge, skills and opportunities which can help against early and forced marriages and improves their prospect for escaping intimate partners abuse (UN Women, 2013). To achieve this Uganda government introduced 1.5 additional affirmative action points for entry into public universities (Ministry of Education and Sports (MoES), 2014) which saw female enrolment rising to as high as 48 in 2004 (NDP, 2010). In line with this Kabale University in Partnership with Community Empowerment Education Development (CEED), ACFODE and CIMC implements a project which involves widespread sensitization and capacity building campaign that highlight the importance of women's socio-economic participation, a cost-effective, blended and decentralized e- learning program that allows women to upgrade their teaching certifications without having traveled to universities or access the internet. The e-learning program presented a solution for women who faced barriers to access education due to communities' perceptions on gender roles, distance. Home care work (CEED, 2022), among other roles. During the recent

academic year, 2022/2023, first year's orientation, two hundred twenty nine (229) and one hundred sixty (160) males were reached. This means the e- learning program is beneficial to women to access University education from Kabale University (CEED, 2022). However, there are no known interventions by Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Council to increase female or girl's access to higher education. This study therefore, would establish education interventions by other actors such as Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), among others and determine if this education empowerment for women and girls have affected the prevalence of gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

Research and Data collection: Researching and Collection Data on violence against women and girls to make interventions based on the understanding of the magnitude of violence. Sexual abuse against women and girls disabilities requires special attention, so that their needs can be well documented and researched for tailored action (Morrison, Mary, & Bott, 2004).

In the context Uganda and Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, a number of studies have been done both by Government and Civil Society Organization to respond and make advocacy efforts to respond and prevent gender-based violence in the Country. Among these studies are the most recent National Qualitative Survey on Violence in Uganda by the Uganda Bureau of Statistics (UBOS, 2020), which sought to produce accurate estimates of the prevalence of various types of violence

against women and girls, offer comprehensive information on the effects of violence against women and girls, and investigate women's attitudes towards violence and how they deal with data on violence. Another study on the prevention of domestic violence against women in Kabale Municipality was conducted by Ndyabawe (2013) with support from the Gender Equality Studies Training Programme (GEST).

To gather the necessary data on the prevalence of domestic violence in Kabale District, South Western Uganda, to educate men and women about women's rights to be free from domestic violence, to engage local leaders to break cultural norms and practices that encourage domestic violence against women, and to help police, local council courts, and community-based departments better support victims of domestic violence by offering legal and psychological support (Ndyabawe, 2013). These investigations, however, were not conducted within the Kabale District or Kabale Municipality.

Lastly, Promotion of women and Girls in participation in Decision Making: Participation of women and girls on equal terms with men and boys in leadership or decision making at all levels of society is paramount and helps in reducing gender-based violence.

However, in Uganda, women's and Girls participation is very low and they are often excluded from decision making process even when it affects their life more than

men and boys. Studies have since suggest that the gender gap of inequality between women and Men is largely linked to issues of women's and girls' lack of participation and empowerment (Mantre, Rubin, Allen, Summerfield, Colverson, & Akeredolu, 2013); (OECD, 2015). At least 25% of women in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, participate in important household choices, and since then, there has been an improvement in the representation of women in the District Council's decision-making process. Thus 40% in District Executive Committee and 42.4% as the District Councilors (Kabale DLG DDP III, 2020). However, the question is whether this participation of women in the leadership of the district contributes to reduction of gender-based violence in the context of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District as the subject under investigation in this study.

## **2.1 The impact of women empowerment on the reduction of gender-based violence**

Gender-based violence (GBV) also called violence against women and girls are one of the most serious human rights violations. A key solution to it lies in investing in empowering women as this helps women to break their silence on gender-based violence and makes their voices better reach the marginalized communities (MEDA, 2022). The impacts of strategies for women empowerment on the gender-based violence are immense, for this study, the following were considered;

Increased Awareness of women through education and awareness-raising about women's rights has contributed to reduction of gender-based violence and

promotion of women's rights. Education empowerment changes the mind set of women and girls on the rigid cultural practices norms. An educated woman and girl will campaign against domestic violence. Studies have revealed that educated women and girls showed a largely positive impact on reducing gender-based violence; women with at least a secondary education are not as likely as their less educated peers experienced such violence. The same study reported indicated that more than 60% of women and girls (ages 20-24) with little to no education were married before the age of 18 years and are 3 times as likely to marry by 18 years as those with secondary or high education (ZONTA International, 2023).

Improved communication and conflict resolution through empowerment programs often focus on enhancing communication and conflict resolution skills within households. The legal Aid services and rights awareness for women to voice up their issues has significantly contributed to improvement in women's communication and conflict resolution skills. According to Justice Centers Uganda (2014), their Legal aid services has enabled the vulnerable groups and women to resolve their disputes enhance their legal awareness and hence be able to claim their rights (justice Centers Uganda, 2014).

Community Support Networks through women empowerment programs often facilitate the formation of support networks among women within communities. These women support groups such as Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs), have given women an opportunity to voice and participate decision making on issues

that affect women and girls as a result women in these women support groups begin to exercise autonomy in their opinions and voice to fight violence meted against them and promote their rights (Farwash & Varalakshmi, 2019). In the context of Uganda and Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, a number of women economic empowerment and support groups have been created by Civil Society Organization and Non-Governmental Organizations to help fight gender based violence and promote women's social and economic rights.

Further enhanced economic independence through economic empowerment initiatives, such as providing women with access to income-generating activities or financial literacy training, can reduce women's economic dependence on their partners. This is true. According to women economic empowerment (WEE), research, gender-based violence (GBV) is experienced less among women with greater economic power and women and girls who are economic empowered are able to voice their issues and fight for their rights (Farwash & Varalakshmi, 2019). Although, an interview by a Nigerian woman from Edo State indicates the contrary that “an empowered woman who does not respect her husband or his authority in her demeanor will attract bettering from her husband and dislike from his relatives” (Farwash & Varalakshmi, 2019). (Eric, Nanfuka, Turyomurugyenda, Adela, Nadia, & Roslyn, 2021). The Uganda National Development Plan emphasises that one of the main causes of violence and discrimination against women is the lack of women's political and economic engagement and empowerment. In the context of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, it is therefore imperative to empower women and

girls economically to end gender-based violence and promote women rights to have access to economic resources and such as land and Property.

Lastly, reduced tolerance for violence as women become more empowered and assert their rights within households, there is often a decrease in the tolerance for violence against women. Awareness creation through mass media and involvement of men in ending violence against women and girls to amicably resolve disputes between men and women. For example, “me too movement and time up” media campaign in United States of America against sexual harassment of women led to attitude change and the system to enhance more social intolerance towards sexual harassment violence (UN Women, 2018). In the context of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, this study sought to understand reduced tolerance for violence on women and its perceived impact on reduction of gender-based violence and promotion of women’s rights within households of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

## **2.2 New laws and Policies on gender-based violence response and prevention**

The Global Gender Gap Report (2020) states that 49.9% of Ugandan women have experienced gender-based violence at some point in their lives, making the country one of the most hazardous places for women worldwide. To address, this high rate of gender-based violence in the Country, the Government in the last few years made specific laws and legal reforms as well as policies that aimed at responding to gender- based violence situation in the country. Among such laws are; the 2010 Domestic violence Act and 2011 Domestic Violence regulations, the Anti-female

Genital Mutilations Act, 2010, the Anti-trafficking in Persons Act, 2009, the Equal Opportunities Commission Act 2007, the National Action Plan on Women (NAPW) of 2007 and in August 2016, the Cabinet of Uganda also approved the Elimination of Gender Based Violence Policy for Uganda. Furthermore, in keeping with the aforementioned, Uganda's National Male Involvement Strategy for Gender-Based Violence Prevention and Response was released in 2017 by the Ministry of Gender, Labour, and Social Development (MoGLSD). The effectiveness of these new laws, legal changes, and policies in preventing and responding to gender-based violence is examined in the following ways.

The 1995 Constitution, in the chapter four, offers protection of human rights irrespective of gender, age, race, status among others. However, in the base line survey by Action for Development (ACORD) in December 2009 on sexual gender-based violence (SGBV), there are no specific laws on sexual violence and the provisions in the penal code are applied to address the injustices arising out of sexual violence (Sempija, 2019).

Further, Uganda Government also ratified the International Bill of Human Rights which is coded in the 1995 Constitution of Uganda. Chapter four (4) of the constitution provides protection to citizens. For example the, the domestic violence and marital rape are reflected in the constitution as unacceptable violent acts, but no practical laws are in place to prosecute offenders and even where laws are applicable, the survivors or communities are reluctant to seek redress because of ignorance or legal procedures to report cases or cultural norms and traditional

practices which regard such practices normal (Sempija, 2019). According to a study on sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) in Pabbo Camp, Gulu District, Northern Uganda in September 2004, published in January 2005; women are denied security, the right to enjoy fundamental freedoms and forces them into subordinate positions compared to men (Sempija, 2019). In Uganda, sexual and gender-based violence incidences are being frequently reported in the press. The situation is even worse in the rural and remote areas. Probably this formed the basis to undertake a study in gender-based violence and advocacy for women's rights in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

Once again, the 1995 Constitution offers protection for both men and women on all forms of abuse and discrimination in chapter four (4) and in effect guarantees the fundamental human rights and freedom (Ssali, 2019). However, in practice, women due to the prevalent customary beliefs that women cannot own property are often deprived of their property rights. Even though women now own property through affirmative action as a result of women empowerment.

The equal opportunities commissions Act of 2007, section 3; provides for the same treatment to women and girls or any other person for free enjoyment of their right and freedom to access social services, education, employment and physical environment or the participation in social services and political activities regardless of sex, age, race, color, culture, ethnic tribe, greed, religion among others. Therefore the provisions of the Equal Opportunities Commission Act 2007, gives women a right to have recourse in law against the perpetrators of gender-

based violence in Uganda. However, Equal Opportunities Commission Act 2007 is too general and does not specifically refer to a specific group of people say women for example, but rather categorizing them in terms of discrimination or marginalization which leads to ambiguity (Sempija, 2019).

Again, the Domestic Violence Act, 2020 provides legal mechanisms to curb down some of the practices and factors that are related to domestic violence by providing protection and relief to victims of domestic violence through punishing the perpetrators. However, the act is considered to be widening the scope of gender-based violence to include domestic violence. It does not come clearly to distinguish the offences of the domestic nature and these offenses under the Penal Code Act Cap. 120 such as assault, grievous bodily harm among others which are not adequately specific and unique in nature of the offenses of domestic violence is special and independent offense (Penal Code Act, Cap.120). Additionally, Domestic Violence Act 2010, requires that the offender of the violence to vacate premises under section 13 (3). This has not been the case in most societies including Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, Kigezi Region. Further, whereas the Domestic Violence Act 2010 provides for some remedies to the victim of the domestic violence, under section 6 (5)-caution, apology, counseling, compensation and fine not exceeding 25 currency points. These remedies are sometimes not adequate or appropriate considering the injury inflicted on the person (Ssali, 2019). Lastly, Domestic Violence Act 2010 adds domestic violence to the list of gender based violence in Uganda and also added typology in Police Records across the nation, the

level of public awareness is lacking. There is need to review sexual gender based violence typology to capture all aspects of sexual gender based violence (Sempija, 2019).

The Prohibition of female Genital mutilation (FGM) Act 2010 provides for the prohibition of female genital mutilation, lays down offenses, the procedures for prosecution and punishment of offenders and the protection of victims as well as girls and women under threat of female genital mutilation and provides for other related matters (Sempija, 2019). However in practice people in the local communities are uncooperative and reluctant to implement it in disguise of protecting and reserving their cultural norms, customs and belief hence making it hard to enforce in practice as it is in statute. According to Agency for Cooperation and Research in Development (ACORD), although the Government outlawed female genital mutilation, young girls are still subjected to the practice despite the ban (ACORD, 2019)

The Customary Marriage (Registration) Act Cap. 248: The act regulates and provides for customary marriages and for all other related matters for the purposes relating to customary marriages (the customary marriage (Registration) Act, section 1 (b). The act offers little safe guard as far as protection of women against gender-based violence except in section 12 and section 13 respectively. Section 10 of the act provides for a certificate of customary marriage to act as evidence of the marriage. Section 4 provides for celebrating of customary marriage in any part of Uganda and that customary marriage may be polygamous (Sempija, 2019). Section 11 provides

for the eligibility of customary marriage and puts the eligibility of girls (women) at the age of 16 years whereas boys (men) at 18 years which is discriminative in nature and exposes women (girls) to gender and sexual based-violence (*Mwagiro Vs Mumbi*, 1967).

Further, the Marriage Act Cap. 25 provides for protection of marriage, by regulating marriages and protecting a person's right to marriage especially women who are prone to gender-based violence (Ssali, 2019). However in other sections of the act, the act guaranteed protection for the women who might have entered into adulterous marriages but under the act, section 36, it asserts that the act shall effect the validity of any marriage contracted under or in accordance with any customary law or in any manner applied to marriages so contracted (Sempija, 2019). This leaves women who continue facing the prejudice of customary law which gives men right to polygamous marriage which at times culminates into gender-based violence.

Again, section 2 of the Marriage and Divorce Act Cap. 24 gives women the opportunity to petition the court for a dissolution of their marriage if they believe their husband has engaged in incestuous adultery, bigamy, or another type of marriage with another woman, among other reasons (Sempija, 2019). Section 14 allows for the judicial separation of a husband and wife for cruelty, adultery, or dissolution without a valid reason for two years or more, and if the court is satisfied, it may judicially separate the parties accordingly. However, much as the majority of the sections of the Marriage and Divorce Act Cap.24 provide for the protection

for women in cruel marriages, section 36 acts to the contrary by providing for adjournment for further evidence on the petition. Practices show that this provision of the law is often misused by way of seeking unnecessary adjournment aimed at prolonging the proceeding, leading to delayed justice (Ssali, 2019).

Finally, the Ugandan Cabinet approved the country's program to eradicate gender-based violence in August 2016. Although the policy requires the government to set aside funds for the enforcement of laws against gender-based violence, there haven't been enough funds to carry out some of the policy's obligations. Based on the evaluation of recent legislation and policies aimed at preventing and responding to gender-based violence, this study aims to determine if these laws and policies have aided in the prevention and response to gender-based violence in the setting of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

### **2.3 Summary of the Literature**

The literature research identified several approaches to addressing the issues of gender-based violence, but it did not specifically identify the most effective approach.

Additionally, the literature study noted many methods for women's empowerment and their effects on reducing gender-based violence; however, it made no indication of which strategy would have the most effect on reducing gender-based violence. Last but not least, a critical evaluation of the new legislation, legal changes, and gender-based violence policies were conducted. The literature

research demonstrated how these laws can support Uganda's efforts to prevent and address instances of gender-based violence. In the framework of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, where this study was conducted, the review also found gaps and difficulties in the laws and policies' application to address and prevent gender-based violence.

#### **2.4 Research gap**

The literature review highlights several key research gaps in understanding and addressing gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. These include a need for more specific research on the effectiveness of different advocacy strategies and contextual analysis on empowerment strategies tailored to the locality. Addressing these gaps through further research efforts can lead to the development of more targeted and effective strategies and policies for combating gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District and similar contexts.

## CHAPTER THREE: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

### 3.0 INTRODUCTION

This chapter outlines research methodology to be employed to conduct and finalize the study. It is described with identification and justification of a chosen research design to conduct the study as well as with justification of a study population. It illustrates how sample selection alongside sample size is determined. It also encompasses a complete procedure to be utilized to design instruments of research, to establish their validity and reliability, to collect data, as well as to analyse data collected.

#### 3.0 Research Design

Cross-sectional designs were formulated in this research. As believed by Orodho (2000), a design for a research is a scheme, framework, or strategy formulated to arrive at solutions to problems of research. As asserted by Kothari (2003), a cross-sectional design is a kind of research design where data is allowed to be collected from a variety of respondents at one particular time. With data being gathered from respondents simultaneously, this approach to a study was picked because it is a cost-effective strategy as far as time is concerned as well as resources. It also allowed for cross- verification of data gathered from interviews as well as questionnaires distributed in the study.

To properly demonstrate the contribution of the various advocacy tactics to the response and prevention of gender-based violence as well as the advancement of women's rights, this study employed both quantitative and qualitative

methodologies (Amin, 2005). To answer the study questions in a triangulated and thorough manner and gain a detailed understanding of a particular instance, a hybrid method (quantitative and qualitative data) was required (Muaz, 2013). As a result, it made it easier for the researcher to present a thorough quantitative and qualitative understanding of gender-based violence, including the various advocacy tactics advocated to address and prevent it, the effect of women's empowerment tactics on reducing gender-based violence and advancing women's rights, and the ways in which new laws and policies are influencing gender-based violence prevalence rates in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

Lastly, Qualitative data was collected in form of interview responses and desk review of secondary data on gender-based violence was used to corroborate quantitative data in a manner that facilitated in-depth understanding of the nature of the variables within the context of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District

## **1.2 Study Population**

The Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Third Development Plan, 2020, and other policy documents, including the Uganda Policy Annual Crimes Report (2021), which identified the key players in Gender Based Violence (GBV) prevention and response at the district level, were reviewed in order to create the study population. The study's population comprised all of these important district actors.

Citizens (household heads) were included to provide data on the advocacy

strategies used in GBV prevention and response and the impact of women empowerment on the GBV prevention and response in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

Since the unit of analysis in the study was a household, population of the study consisted of **11,678 households** (Kabale DLG DDP III, 2020) and **16 Key GBV prevention and response actors** in the district who constituted key informant population. This gave a total population of study of **11,694** potential respondents as shown on the table below:

**TABLE 3.2: Study Population Distribution**

Population Category			Population Number
Total Household Population (Northern, Central and Southern Divisions)			11,678
Key Informants	1.	Police, OC Family Protection Unit	1
	2.	District Probation Officer	1
	3.	Civil Society Representatives	3
	4.	District Technical Staff (Probation Officer, Community Development Officers (CDOs), Assistant Town Clerks(	5

	5.	Religious Leaders (Anglican, Catholic, Muslims)	3
	6.	Political Leaders-LC3 Chairpersons (Northern, Central and Southern Divisions)	3
<b>Total Study Population</b>			<b>11,694</b>

### 3.3 Eligibility

#### Criteria Inclusion

The following were the inclusion criteria:

- a) Elected political leaders such as LC3 Chairpersons of the three (3) Divisions of Kabale Municipality
- b) All the technical staff of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District and Kabale Municipality who are in Better position to provide information on Gender Based Violence (GBV)
- c) All heads of households located in the three (3) Divisions of Kabale Municipality, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District

#### Exclusion

The following were the exclusion criteria:

- a) Technical staff of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District and Kabale Municipality who are not in better position to provide information on gender-based violence
- b) All household members who are not in the headship position and are below 18years.

### 3.4 Sample Size Determination

The study employed Sloven's formula cited from Ryan (2013) to determine the sample size as follows:

$$n = \frac{N}{[1+N(e)^2]}$$

Where; n = the required sample size,

N = study population size and

e = accepted level of error taking alpha as 0.05

Substituting the Study Population Size of **11,694** and value of e specified above, the expected sample size shall be;

$$n = \frac{11,694}{[1+11,694(0.05)^2]}$$

$[1+11,694(0.05)^2] = 386.77$ , therefore Sample Size is, **386 People**

The sample size was distributed as shown on the table below

**Table 3.4: Sample Size Distribution**

S/No.	Sample Type	Sample Description	Sample Size
1.	Quantitative Sample	Household Heads (in Northern, Central, Southern Divisions), Kabale Municipality	371
2.	Key Informant (KI)	Police, OC Family Protection Unit	1

3.	Key Informant (KI)	District Probation Officer	1
4.	Key Informant (KI)	Civil Society Representatives	3
5.	Key Informant (KI)	District Technical Staff (Probation Officer, Community Development Officers (CDOs), Assistant Town Clerks(	5
6.	Key Informant (KI)	Religious Leaders (Anglican, Catholic, Muslims)	3
7.	Key Informant (KI)	Political Leaders-LC3 Chairpersons (Northern, Central and Southern Divisions)	3
<b>Total Sample Size</b>			<b>386</b>

**Source: Researcher's Own idea**

From the above table, quantitative and qualitative samples comprised of the following:

- a) Quantitative Sample: Quantitative sample was 371 household heads, both males and females above the age of 18 years in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.
- b) Qualitative Sample: Qualitative sample was Sixteen (16) key informants which included District Police Probation Officer, Officer in Charge (OC) Police Child and Family Protection Unit-CPS Kabale, Community Development Officers, Assistant

Town Clerks, LC3 Chairpersons CSOs representatives, Religious leaders and Political Leaders from Kabale Municipality, Kabale Districts. Sixteen (16) key informants from Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, made up this sample since qualitative research does not necessarily follow the statistical criterion that a sample be representative of the study community (Amin, 2005).

### **3.5 Sampling Procedures**

Purposive sampling was used to choose respondents for the Key Informants (KI) case based on their familiarity with the topic of the study (women's rights activism and gender-based violence). As will be discussed below, systematic random sampling procedures are also employed to choose the head of the household for quantitative data collection.

#### **3.5.1 Purpose Sampling**

Purposive sampling, a non-probability sample strategy, was used to choose each key informant (KI) based on their capacity to supply the necessary data (Amin, 2005). This was based on their knowledge on advocacy strategies to respond to gender-based violence, impact of women empowerment strategies on the reduction of gender-based violence and new laws and policies on gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. Accordingly, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Police Officer in charge of Child and family Protection Unity), Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Probation Officer, Municipal Divisions Community Development Officers, Municipal Divisions Assistant Town Clerks, Kabale

Municipality, Kabale District Civil Society Representatives, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Religious Leaders and Political Leaders were selected based on their unique knowledge and experience in gender-based violence response and prevention in the context of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

### **3.5.2 Systematic Random Sampling**

Simple random selection was utilised to choose a desired sample from a large sample of families, and all household heads who were older than 18 years were chosen. The following actions were taken in accordance with Babbie's (2010) advice.

- a) Dividing the number of households in the study population by the number of household heads required for the sample yields the sampling interval.
- b) Choosing a start at random from 1 to the sampling interval.
- c) Adding the sampling interval repeatedly to choose the heads of households in each division chosen for the study.

The researcher chose a random starting point and sampled intervals until a predetermined number of interviews were conducted in each Kabale Municipality division.

### **3.6 Data Collection Methods**

The information required to complete this study was gathered using three different techniques. These comprised

- a) Interview: This technique was employed to gather comprehensive qualitative information required to fully describe the nature of the variable or variables under investigation (Amin, 2005). By enabling respondents to answer the questions in a flexible and limitless way, it made the process of gathering this data easier (Barbie, 2010). As a result, it facilitated the flexible and limitless collection of precise data from the key informants (KIs).
- b) Survey: In a comparatively short amount of time, a sizable sample of first-hand information was gathered using the survey approach (Saunders, Lewis & Thornhill, 2012). Thus, it was employed in this study to gather information from the heads of the chosen households in Kabale Municipality.
- c) Document Review: Secondary data was gathered from pertinent documents using this technique (Amin, 2005). Data on various advocacy tactics advocated to address and prevent gender-based violence, the effect of women's empowerment tactics on reducing and preventing gender-based violence, and new laws and policies pertaining to gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, were reviewed in this study.

### **3.7 Data Collection Instruments**

Data was gathered from secondary sources on the prevalence of gender-based violence throughout Uganda and Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, as well as primary sources from the key informants (KIs) and chosen household heads in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

The study employed the following tools for gathering data:

(a) Interview schedule: According to Barbie (2010), the interview schedule is made to allow respondents to freely and flexibly submit comprehensive qualitative data.

The chosen key informants (KIs) for this study were the District Police (Officer in Charge-District Police Child and Family Protection Unity), the District Probation Officer of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, Community Development Officers, Assistant Town Clerks, Civil Society Representatives, Religious Leaders, and Political Leaders. An interview schedule was created in accordance with the predetermined research questions. Appendix 2 contains a copy of this instrument.

Key Informants (KIs) who wished to be encouraged to supply the necessary material orally were interviewed using interview schedules, which acted as a guide for the in- person interviews (Amin, 2005).

(B) Household Questionnaire: A household questionnaire is a tool that primarily consists of closed-ended items that are used to measure a variable using a suitable Likert response scale and to gather a lot of data from a large sample in a short amount of time (Barbie, 2007).

A home questionnaire was created for this study in order to gather a lot of information from the heads of households. According to Appendix 1. The literature covered in Chapter Two provided the items utilized to create this questionnaire.

A section on the respondents' background characteristics that are deemed pertinent to this study was included in the questionnaire due to its design. In the context of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, a separate section discusses the many advocacy tactics advocated to address gender-based violence and the influence of women's empowerment tactics on the decline of gender-based violence. The Likert scale, which ranges from Strongly Agree to Agree to Not Sure to Disagree, was used to measure each of these factors. (1) Strongly Agree, followed by (5) Strongly Disagree. The questionnaire's design described the documents the researcher planned to examine in order to get secondary data needed to complete the study as intended (Saunders et al., 2012).

### **3.8 Data Quality Control**

By analysing the validity and dependability of quantitative and qualitative data independently, as will be discussed below, the desired level of data quality was achieved.

#### **3.8.1 Validity and Reliability of Quantitative Data**

##### Validity:

The content validity approach was used to examine and determine the validity of the developed household questionnaire items. According to Amin (2005), this approach made use of item analysis, which entailed looking at each item to make sure it was measuring the things it was supposed to measure. An attempt was made to create the questionnaire for this study and send it to two peers enrolled in the

Master's Program who are familiar with the study's central issue for evaluation. Upon reviewing each item in the questionnaire, these assessors were asked to rate it as either irrelevant (IR), neutral (N), or relevant (R). The following formula was used to determine the content validity index (CVI) following the rating of each item: The formula for CVI is  $R + N + IR$ .

Where CVI, R, N, and IR are as predefined as shown in the formula above.

Following computation, if the CVI was 0.92 higher than 0.7 (Appendix 4), which is the lowest allowable criterion for a legitimate questionnaire as stated by Amin (2005). This indicated that the questionnaire's items were sufficiently valid to measure the variables.

Reliability: According to Creswell (2014), reliability is the extent to which a research tool measures a variable consistently across many studies and populations. The degree to which a research tool consistently produces comparable results is a measure of its consistency (Collis & Hussey, 2014).

The Cronbach Alpha technique of internal consistency, with assistance from SPSS (Version 22), was used to determine the questionnaire's reliability. When the calculated Alpha value was 0.978 (Appendix 5), it was higher than 0.7, which Amin (2005) states should be the lowest acceptable number for a questionnaire to be considered reliable enough to gather trustworthy data. This indicated that the questionnaire's reliability for gathering data was sufficient.

### 3.8.2 Validity and Reliability of Qualitative Data

The validity and reliability of qualitative data was investigated and established in a concurrent manner and involved ascertaining the trustworthiness of the data based on credibility, transferability, dependability, and conformability (Leung, 2015)

- a) **Credibility:** The study interview schedule was designed by including all the questions formulated out of the concepts shown in the conceptual framework to help collect accurate data from respondents. This instrument was administered to the respondents in a manner that did not influence their answers but built trust in them to respond to the questions freely. The responses were recorded using the researchers' mobile phone (audio Recording App) to avoid altering them. Some of the key responses were written in the notepad so as not to forget them when analyzing the data. During data analysis, effort was made to interpret the data objectively while avoiding bias, negativity or favour. The responses were reported as respondents provided them and were interpreted objectively.
- b) **Transferability:** Effort was made to design the interview questions based on the questions and gaps raised in the literature. This was intended to relate the findings to the reviewed literature and to establish the extent to which the findings could be matched, generalized and applied to Municipalities and Districts as far as the different advocacy strategies promoted to respond to gender-based violence, impact of women empowerment strategies on the

- reduction of gender-based violence and new laws and policies on gender-based violence response and prevention were concerned.
- c) **Dependability:** The occasionally made random data quality audit to ascertain the quality of the data collected by contacting respondents again to cross-check whether the data they had provided during the interviews was the same data they had reported to data collection field interviewer about each variable of the study. The aim was to ascertain the level of replication and therefore dependability of the responses.
  - d) **Conformability:** The draft findings were shared with respondents interviewed to confirm that the findings were consistent with the data they had provided, and that the findings were free of the researchers' bias and assumptions.

### **3.9 Data Collection Procedure**

To prove to the chosen key informants (KIs), LC1 chairpersons, and household heads that the researcher is a student undertaking solely academic study, an introductory letter was obtained from the university to present the researcher and the field data assistants. In addition to requesting the targeted respondents' cooperation, approval, and desire to engage in the study, the letter was used to ask the District authorities for permission to access the respondents.

In-person oral interviews were used to get information from the key informants (KIs). After informing each responder about it, all of the data was recorded using mobile phones (audio recording apps). Additional attempts were made to get information from the heads of the chosen households. The researcher through

Research Assistants introduced himself to the selected household heads and explained the purpose of the study to them and why they are needed to participate in the study.

### **3.10 Data Analysis**

Both quantitative and qualitative analysis techniques were used to examine the gathered data, as detailed below.

#### **3.10.1 Quantitative Analysis**

The household data was gathered, verified for accuracy, completeness, and any omissions or discrepancies, and then put into Excel and the SPSS program (Version 22) using the numerical codes that were assigned to the responses and in accordance with the respondents' responses. Cleaning the data for errors, missing numbers, and inconsistencies was another step in the data screening process. To explain the nature of the study's primary variables in the context of Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, descriptive analysis was carried out following data screening in order to produce relative frequencies and summary statistics (means and standard deviations). In order to calculate global variables from all of the responses that respondents gave for each variable, the data was further modified. In order to determine the contribution of the independent factors (advocacy methods, women empowerment) to the dependent variable (gender-based violence), the calculated global variables were then subjected to multiple linear regression analysis. Consequently, the contributions were set up to look into how

the independent variables affected the dependent variable.

### **3.10.2 Qualitative Analysis**

Narrative analysis was used to analyze the interview data collected from the key Informants (KIs) as explained by Creswell (2014). This analysis technique was applied by transcribing, describing, editing, and interpreting all open-ended responses. The responses were cleared of any ambiguity through minor editing and written in their narrative form directly into the text of the study.

### **3.11 Ethical Considerations**

A number of ethics considerations were observed during the study. These included seeking the guidance of the supervisor to ensure that the proposal was written in the ethical manner recommended by the University Ethics Board. After the research proposal was approved, ethical clearance was sought from the Head of Department in the University, involving requesting for a letter introducing the researcher to the district leaders and other key Informants (KIs). This letter was used to get permission from the LC1 Chairpersons to get access to households for interviews. Further effort was made to seek informed consent, willingness and cooperation of the respondents, and to accord deserved respect to all those who cooperated by making it known to them that their participation is voluntary (Sudeshna &Datt, 2016).

## **CHAPTER FOUR: PRESENTATION OF THE FINDINGS AND ANALYSIS**

### **4.0 Introduction**

This chapter presents and analyses the findings generated as explained in Chapter Three. The chapter is organized according to the research questions of the study. It however begins with the presentation of findings, describing the sample from which data was collected.

### **4.0 Sample Characteristics**

The sample from which data was collected was made of two main categories, which included the sample for quantitative data, which consisted of the selected household heads and the sample for qualitative data which consisted of the key Informants (KIs).

#### **4.0.1 Quantitative Sample Characteristics**

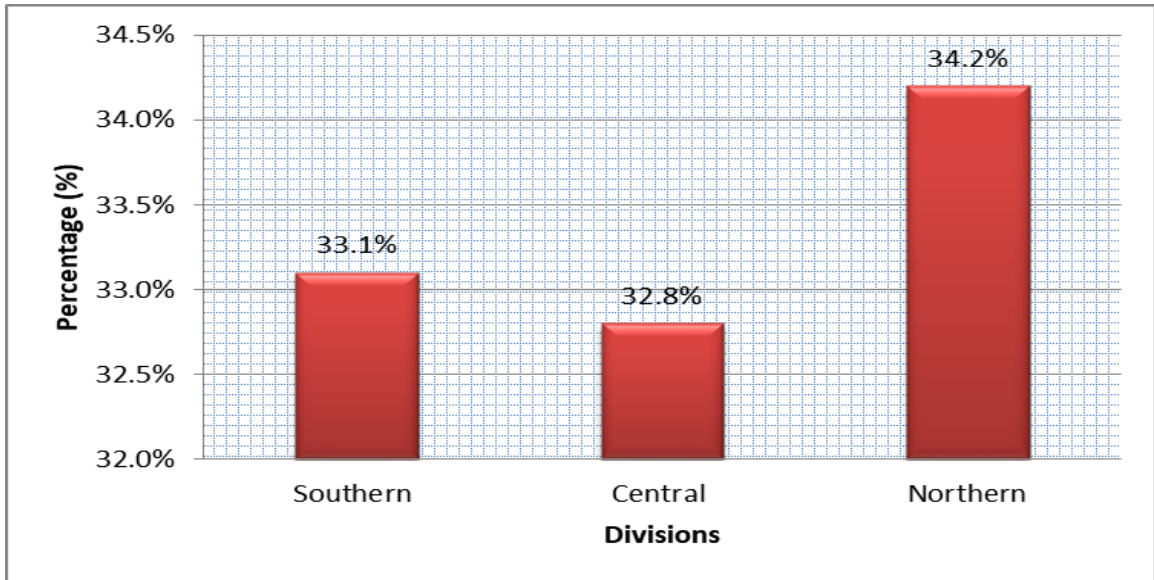
The total household sampled for the study was 386; however, 360 household heads were reached at the end of the survey representing response rate of 97%, and none response rate of only 3%. According to (Wu, Zhao, & Fils-Aime, 2022; Barush, 1999), a response rate of at least 50%, 60% and 75% are sufficient, satisfactory and excellent respectively. Thus response rate of 97% was an excellent rate in this study.

The characteristics of the respondents reached and the descriptive findings were shown as follows:

*Table 4.1.1: Distribution of household heads by Parish (N=360)*

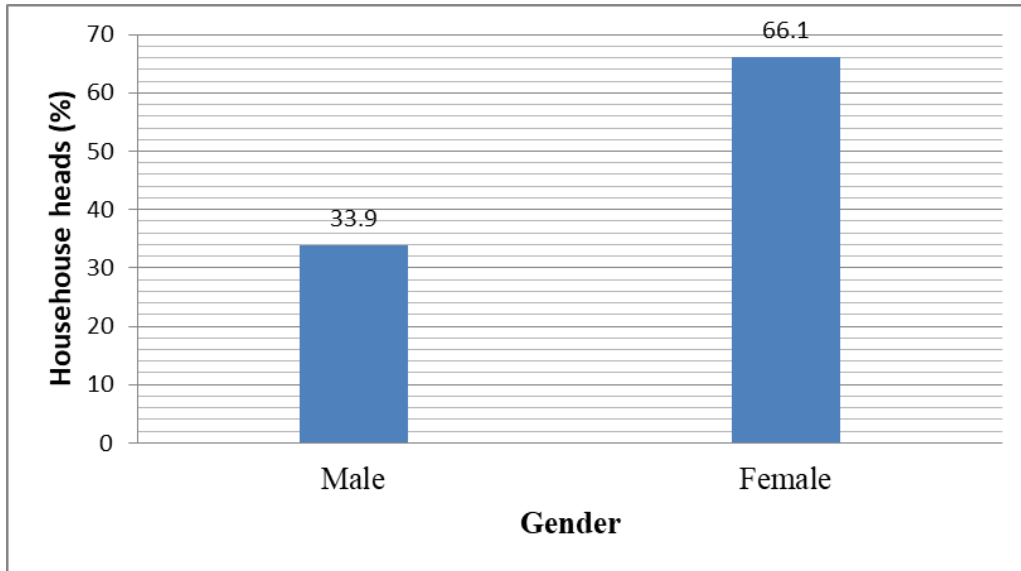
<b>Parishes</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
Central Ward	39	10.8
Karubanda	36	10.0
Kigongi Ward	40	11.1
Kijiguta Ward	40	11.1
Kirigime Ward	42	11.7
Lower Bugongi	40	11.1
Mwanjari Ward	41	11.4
Nyabikoni Ward	39	10.8
Upper Bugongi	43	11.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>	<b>100.0</b>

From the table on distribution of household heads, An analytical glance at the frequency distribution reveals that the number of household heads selected from each parish ranged between 36 (10%) and 43 (11.9%). This suggests that the difference in the number of household heads selected per Parish was only three (0.9%), which was not so big as to cause a significant difference in the findings resulting of numbers. Therefore, the findings apply to all Parishes in an almost balanced manner. Descriptive analysis of household heads' responses according to their Municipal Division of residence are presented in Figure 4.1.2



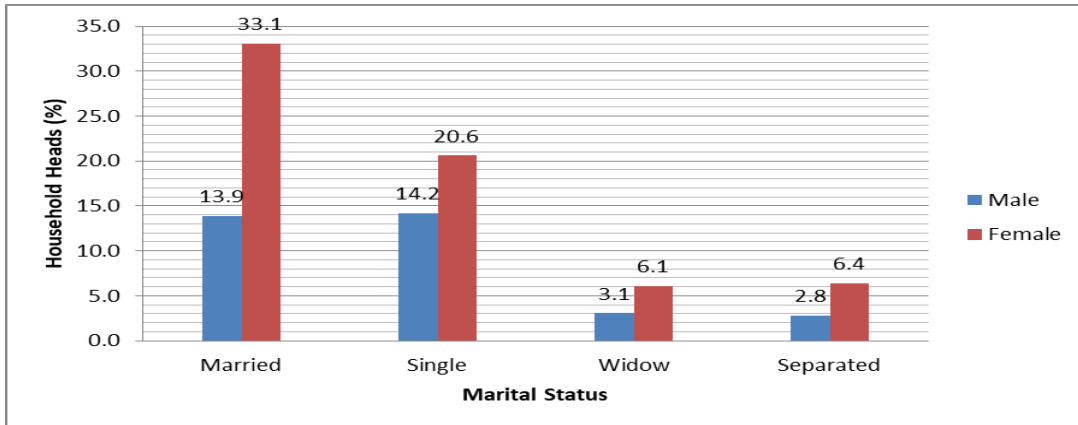
*Figure 4.1.2: Distribution of Household Heads by Divisions (N=360)*

Figure 4.1.2 above, indicates that the proportion of household heads selected from the Divisions varied between 32.8 % and 34.2 %, and therefore did not differ much. Therefore, the findings obtained from these respondents did not differ much as a result of numerical differences across the Divisions. As far as gender was concerned, descriptive analysis of the responses provided by the selected household heads led to findings presented in Figure 4.1.3



**Figure 4.1.3: Distribution of Household Heads by Gender (N=360)**

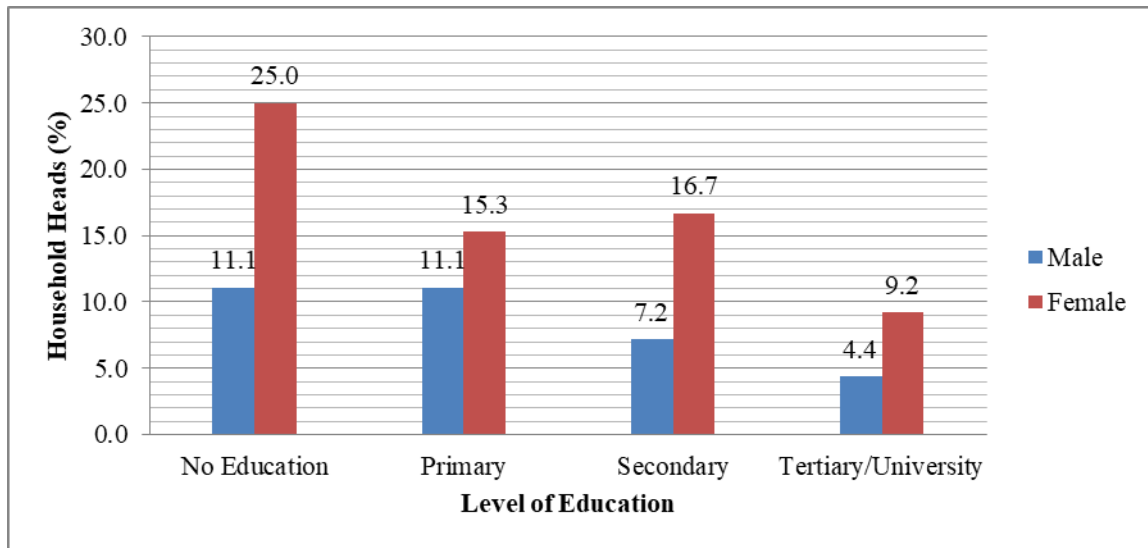
Findings in Figure 4.1.3 above indicated that household heads that were female were 66.1% of the sample and those who were male were 33.9%. These findings showed that the sample was dominated by female household heads. This can be explained fact that most of the households are female-dominated as a matter of the patriarchal culture observed in Uganda where in most cases women are left home to take care of the homes as men go to work or look for money. Regarding the marital status of the selected household heads, findings are presented in Figure 4.1.4.



**Figure 4.1.4: Distribution of Household Heads by Marital Status (N=360)**

The findings in Figure 4.1.4 above indicate marital status percentages ranges from 2.8% and 13.9 among males, 6.1% and 33.1% among females.

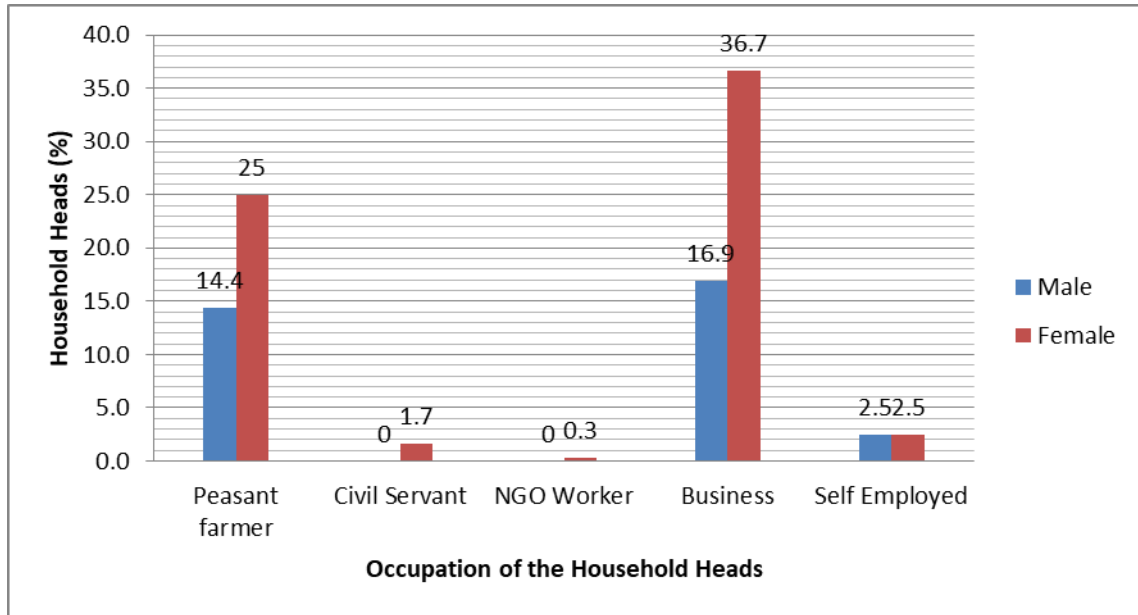
Most of the respondents (14.2% males) were single, (33.1% females) were married. These findings showed that most household heads sampled among females; 33.1% were married, 20.6% were single, 6.4% separated and 6.1% were Widows. Among males; 14.2% were single, 13.9% were married, 3.1 were widow and 2.8 separated. This further showed that the sampling was balanced. Regarding the highest level of education attained by the selected household heads, findings are presented in Figure 4.1.5



*Figure 4.1.5: Distribution of Household Heads by Level of Education (N=360)*

The findings in the Figure 4.1.5 above indicate that the highest level of education that the selected household heads had attained ranged from primary to university among males and females, but those who had attained No education at all were the majority (males 11.1%, followed by 7.2% Secondary and 4.4% Tertiary/University). Among the females; the highest level of education was Secondary (16.7%), followed by primary (15.3%) and Tertiary/University (9.2%).

While majority of the females (25.0%) did not have education or never studied and males (11.1%) did not have education or never studied. As far as the occupation of the selected household heads are concerned, findings are presented in Figure 4.1.6



**Figure 4.1.6: Distribution of the Household Heads by Occupation (N=360)**

The findings in the Figure 4.1.6 above indicate that majority of the female household heads (36.7%) were engaged in Business as the main occupation, followed by (Peasant farmer (25.0%), self-employed (2.5%), Civil Servant (1.7%) and NGO worker (0.3%). While majority of male household heads (16.9%) were also engaged in Business as their main occupation, followed by Peasant farmer (14.4%) and Self-employed (2.5%). The findings also indicated that none of the male household heads selected were employed as Civil Servant and NGO Worker with both scoring 0% in the analysis.

#### **4.0.2 Qualitative Sample Characteristics**

The qualitative sample for this study included respondents for key Informants (KIs) interviews. These included; Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Police Officer in Charge (O.C), Child and Family Protection Unit, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District

Probation Officer, Community Development Officers from Divisions in Kabale Municipality, Assistant Town Clerks, LC3 Chairpersons in Kabale Municipality, Human Rights Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) representatives, Religious leaders and Political Leaders from Kabale Municipality, Kabale Districts.

**4.1 Objective One: Effect of different advocacy strategies being promoted in preventing gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District?**

This research question was answered by first asking the selected household heads to assess the effect of different advocacy strategies being promoted in the prevention of gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. Thereafter, the key Informants (KIs) were asked different advocacy strategies being promoted in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District to prevent gender-based violence. Linear regression analysis was applied to establish the contributions of the different advocacy strategies in Prevention gender-based violence. The findings are systematically presented in the same order but in a triangulated manner as follows.

**Table 4.2.2: Descriptive statistics on different advocacy strategies for gender-based violence prevention in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District**

Please, indicate whether you agree or you do not agree with the following statements on advocacy strategies being promoted in preventing Gender Based Violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District; where 1-Yes, 2-No		
<b>Different advocacy strategies for preventing</b>	Frequency	Percentage (%)

Gender Based Violence (GBV)	1	2	1	2
	Yes	No	Yes	No
Building the capacity of duty bearers and those responsible for implementing laws, policies and programs reduces gender-based violence Prevalence	200	60	55.6 %	44.4%
Awareness and sensitization campaign on gender-based violence help in reducing its prevalence and promotes human rights of women.	185	175	51.4%	48.6%
Educational empowerment of women and girls to access secondary or high education improves their knowledge, skills and opportunities to escape	182	178	50.6%	49.4%
gender-based violence in their households and communities				
Policy and legislative reforms contributes to the reduction of gender-based violence.	175	185	48.6%	51.4%
Promotion of women and girls participation in leadership and decision making helps in reducing gender-based violence	165	195	45.8%	54.2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>		<b>100%</b>	

From the analysis on effect of different advocacy strategies for gender based violence prevention, three hundred sixty (360) participants were asked about the advocacy strategies for gender-based violence prevention in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. The three main advocacy strategies for gender-based violence prevent were as follows; Majority participants (55.6 %) cited subjection to Building the capacity of duty bearers and those responsible for implementing laws, policies and Programs reduces gender- based violence prevalence followed by (51.4%) who cited that awareness and sensitization campaigns on gender-based violence help in reducing its prevalence and promote human rights of women. In addition, (50.6%) revealed that educational empowerment of women and girls to access secondary or high education improves their knowledge, skills and opportunities to escape gender-based violence in their households and communities while (48.6%) of the respondents said that a combination of policy and legislative reform advocacy strategies were responsible for prevention of gender based violence. However, only (45.8%) of the respondents agreed that promotion of women and girls participation in leadership and decision making helps in reducing gender-based violence.

Inclusion therefore in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, the primary advocacy strategies identified for gender-based violence prevention include building the capacity of duty bearers, awareness campaigns, and educational empowerment of women and girls. A comprehensive approach combining these strategies emerges as crucial for effectively reducing gender-based violence prevalence.

#### 4.1.1 Narrative findings

In an interview with some of the house hold members about different advocacy strategies being promoted in preventing gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, one of the members had to say *Promoting the participation of women and girls in leadership and decision-making roles can indeed contribute significantly to reducing gender-based violence she revealed that when women and girls are represented in leadership positions, they become empowered to voice their concerns and advocate for policies and initiatives that address gender-based violence. Having their perspectives heard in decision-making processes ensures that issues related to gender- based violence are taken seriously and prioritized, women leaders are more likely to champion policies and programs aimed at preventing and addressing gender-based violence. Their firsthand experiences and understanding of the challenges women face can inform more comprehensive and effective strategies. Moreover, their influence can ensure the implementation and enforcement of laws and regulations designed to combat gender-based violence and in leadership roles serve as role models and inspire other women and girls to aspire to leadership positions. This can help challenge traditional gender norms and stereotypes that perpetuate violence against women*

One of the interviewed Key Informants(Community Development Officers (CDOs), Assistant Town Clerks) had this to say: “Increased knowledge and understanding on the human right of both men and women offers women opportunity fight gender-based violence, women and girls being able to engage in income generating

activities creates equal opportunities with men and boys. .... Educating women and girls gives them exposure that leads to mind set... capacity building of women leaders makes them able to support their fellow women by giving them guidance and counseling as well as support programs women and girls who are victim need. .... Legal and court remedies for perpetrators helps women and girls fight violence at homes”(Source: KI Interview Extract).

From the provided information, two key observations can be drawn: The study highlights a range of advocacy strategies employed for gender-based violence (GBV) prevention in Kabale Municipality, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. These strategies include building the capacity of duty bearers, awareness and sensitization campaigns, educational empowerment of women and girls, and a combination of advocacy approaches. This multiplicity stresses the fact that GBV is a complex problem with complex solutions from legislative reform to education to social transformations.

Household members as well as key informants noted that encouraging women's and girls' participation in leadership and decision-making positions is an effective strategy to decrease GBV. Women leaders who hold decision-making positions are regarded as empowered champions who can champion policies and programs to effectively respond to GBV. Due to their firsthand information and knowledge about women's problems, they can champion integrated strategies among others to challenge entrenched gender stereotypes. In addition to that, women leaders can also be an inspiration to others as they aim to take positions with decision-making

powers, leading to wider societal changes in gender attitudes related to equality as well as gender-based violence.

Overall, findings recommend a necessity to adopt forms of different advocacies to prevent gender-based violence within Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. Enhancing duty bearers' abilities, raising awareness through campaigns, educating girls and women to be empowered to question norms and claim their rights, and enhancing women's leadership represent some fundamental building blocks to addressing GBV. These interventions present a dual benefit by increasing knowledge and awareness about human rights but also by empowering girls and women to question norms and claim their rights. Addressing GBV from a multiplicity of angles with an emphasis on enhancing women's leadership enables communities to aim to create safer environments where gender equality is promoted.

#### **4.2 Objective Two. Impact of women empowerment strategies have on the reduction of gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District?**

This research question was answered by first asking the selected household heads what impact does women empowerment strategies have on the reduction of gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. Thereafter, the key Informants (KIs) were asked the impact of women empowerment strategies on the reduction of gender-based violence and contributions of the different advocacy strategies in Prevention gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. The findings are systematically presented in the same order but in a triangulated manner as follows.

**Table 4.3.3: Showing impact of women empowerment strategies at household level on prevention of gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.**

Please, indicate whether you agree or you do not agree with the following statements on the impact of women empowerment in the reduction of gender based violence and promotion of women’s rights in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, where 1-Yes, 2-No				
Impact of women empowerment in the reduction of Gender Based Violence (GBV)	Frequency		Percentage (%)	
	1 Yes	2 No	1 Yes	No
Increased awareness by empowering women within households often involves education and awareness-raising about women's rights	185	175	51.4%	48.6%
Improved communication and conflict resolution through empowerment programs often focus on enhancing communication and conflict resolution skills within households.	165	195	45.8%	54.1%
Community support networks through women empowerment programs often facilitate the formation of support networks among women Within communities.	160	200	44.4%	55.6%
Enhanced economic independence through	145	215	40.3%	59.7%

economic empowerment initiatives, such as providing women with access to income-generating activities or financial literacy training, can reduce women's economic dependence on their partners				
Reduced Tolerance for Violence as women become more empowered and assert their rights within households, there is often a decrease in the tolerance for violence against women	125	235	34.7%	65.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>360</b>		<b>100%</b>	

The study conducted in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, assessed the impact of women empowerment strategies on the prevention of gender-based violence and promotion of women's rights at the household level. Through interviews with key informants and members of households, it was evident that there is a consensus regarding the positive effect of women empowerment strategies on reducing gender-based violence. The research once more focuses on the importance of empowering programs for women, pointing out the way they can be utilized to contribute to safer communities and reduce cases of gender-based violence. This serves as an important guideline for policymakers and stakeholders when designing appropriate preventive responses to such prevalent problems in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, and elsewhere.

It was based on the analysis of women empowerment strategies that the household members described the role of women empowerment strategies in stopping gender-based violence and maintaining women's rights. Agreement cited a few points: first, more awareness gained through learning courses and promotion of women's rights, representing 51.4% of the responses. It was followed by an appreciation for enhanced communication and conflict-resolution skills, where 45.8% valued its importance. Also, empowerment programs for women most commonly enable the creation of women support groups within communities by 44.4% of the sample respondents, were found to be most significant in enabling solidarity and support for women within communities.

Furthermore, economic empowerment initiatives, representing 40.3% were noted for their role in enhancing women's economic independence, consequently mitigating their reliance on partners and lastly 34.7% of the respondents agreed that reduced tolerance for violence as women to become more empowered and assert their rights within households is often a decrease in the tolerance for violence against women. Collectively, these insights underscore the multifaceted nature of women's empowerment strategies within households and their pivotal contribution to combatting gender-based violence.

Inclusion therefore in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, awareness achieved through educational initiatives and advocacy was recognized the most impactful on the reduction of gender based violence and promotion of women's rights. This was followed by improved communication and conflict resolution skills which

contributes to gender based violence reduction and promotion of women's rights and lastly, community support networks through women empowerment programs often facilitate the formation of support networks among women within communities hence reducing gender based violence and promoting women's rights. All these in combination have crucially led to reducing gender-based violence prevalence and promoted women's rights.

One of the interviewed Key Informants (church leaders) had to say *Women empowerment programs often facilitate the formation of support networks among women within communities. These networks provide a sense of solidarity, mutual understanding, and assistance for women experiencing GBV. They offer a safe space for women to share their experiences, seek advice, and access available resources such as shelters, counseling services, and legal aid. Community support networks play a crucial role in empowering women to seek help and break the silence surrounding GBV.* (Source: KI Interview Extract)

*As women become more empowered and assert their rights within households and communities, there is often a cultural shift towards a decreased tolerance for violence against women. This shift in attitudes is crucial in challenging traditional gender norms and expectations that condone or justify GBV. By challenging these norms and promoting gender equality, communities can work towards eliminating GBV and creating safer environments for all individuals.* (Interview with group of households members).

From the provided information, two key observations can be drawn:

The results demonstrate the varied effects of women empowerment tactics on the prevention of gender-based violence in homes. A number of facets of empowerment, including increased knowledge of women's rights, enhanced interpersonal and conflict resolution abilities, access to support systems in the community, and financial independence, have been identified as important factors in the decline in GBV cases. This emphasizes how diverse empowerment programs are, showing that combating GBV necessitates an all-encompassing strategy that takes into account all facets of women's empowerment.

The interviews reveal that as women become more empowered and assert their rights within households and communities, there is often a cultural shift towards a decreased tolerance for violence against women. This cultural shift is essential in challenging traditional gender norms and expectations that perpetuate GBV. By promoting gender equality and challenging societal attitudes that condone violence, communities can work towards eliminating GBV and creating safer environments for all individuals. This observation highlights the importance of addressing underlying cultural factors to effectively combat GBV.

In conclusion, the study conducted in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District sheds light on the significant impact of women empowerment strategies on preventing gender-based violence at the household level. The findings underscore the multifaceted nature of empowerment initiatives, ranging from increased awareness of women's rights to improved communication skills and access to

support networks. Furthermore, as women become more empowered and assert their rights, there is a notable cultural shift towards decreased tolerance for violence against women, highlighting the importance of promoting gender equality and challenging traditional gender norms. These insights provide valuable guidance for policymakers and stakeholders in crafting effective interventions to address GBV not only within Kabale Municipality but also in broader contexts, emphasizing the crucial role of women's empowerment in fostering safer environments and mitigating instances of gender-based violence.

### **4.3 Objective three. The new laws and policies on gender-based violence response and prevention in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District?**

To answer this question, a purely qualitative approach was adopted. Key informants having knowledge on the implementation of new laws and policy on gender-based violence were identified and interviewed to find out if in deed, the laws and policies implementation have contributed to gender-based violence prevention, response and reduction in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. Their responses were transcribed and analyzed as presented in the narrative findings as below

#### **4.3.1 Narrative findings**

The effectiveness and the implementation of the new laws and policies on gender-based violence prevention and response were ascertained by asking the selected key informants in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District at large. To begin with, the key informants were asked whether there are new laws and policies on gender-based violence in Uganda. All of them answered in affirmative. One of them

elaborated his view as follows;

“We have domestic violence Act, the sexual offences Act, the National Policy on Gender, the Employment Act, the National Policy on gender and development, among others” (Source: KI Interview Extract)

The key informants( project directors) were asked which laws or policies are working in preventing gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, and which ones are not working and why. Most of them seemed to have agreed unanimously that much as the laws are there, there are still challenges or gaps in the implementation these laws and policies on gender-based violence prevention and response. One respondent has this to say

“Women in Uganda, Kabale inclusive still experience gender discrimination and bias in courts and justice delivery system. .... The laws are gender neutral and the application and enforcement tends to be biased when it concerns women whose rights are being violated” (Source: KI Interview Extract)

Further, respondents also agreed sexual assault especially on women and girls are existent and the existing laws do not pronounce themselves on cultural practices that encourage sexual assault on women and girls. For example, one respondent had this to say: “... it is our culture, there is no way you can go to police and say you husband has raped you, they will say he brought you... and do your work” (Source: KI Interview Extract)

Again, most respondents think, Police officers view domestic violence as a private family issue rather than a crime. “Police look at domestic violence as a domestic issue and think the man has a right to discipline his wife” such are the fears and worries of victims of gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District and Uganda at large.

Once more, the interviewed key informants (civil servants) also expressed fear on the limited knowledge on laws and policies by the victims who are mainly women and girls with low levels of education and the languages used in courts are not easily understood or not understood at all. One respondent has this to say”

“Limited legal literacy, the languages of the court, makes navigation difficult for women and girls. ... The corruption makes the economically disadvantaged women and girls to fall victims of domestic violence to their economically powerful husbands who can bribe the system” (Source: KI Interview Extract)

This submission is in fact in line with the finding of the 1998, National integrity survey where 63% of the respondents or service users who admitted having paid bribe to the police to access justice and 50% having paid bribe to courts to access justice (Just Die Quietly, 2003).

Further, the key informants (probation officer) also faulted the laws on customary marriages. For example, they argued the customary payment of bride wealth gives the husbands proprietary rights over their wives, allows husbands treat their wives

more or less like cattle. It equates women's status in marriage with amount of bride wealth exchanged, not her abilities. It is further argued that the customary marriage (Registration) Act Cap.248 is discriminative in nature and exposes women and girls to gender and sexual based violence (Mwagiro Vs Mumbi, 1867).

*Also in an interview with church leaders, they revealed that integrating the church's perspective into efforts to prevent and address gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District holds immense potential for fostering societal change. By collaborating with local church leaders, establishing support services within congregations, organizing community events, providing training on GBV awareness, encouraging theological reflection, and mobilizing advocacy efforts, the church can leverage its influence to challenge harmful norms and promote gender equality. Through these concerted actions, the church can serve as a catalyst for creating a safer and more equitable environment for all individuals, contributing to the collective effort to combat GBV and foster social justice within the community.*

Lastly, discriminative land and labour laws do not favour women and girls, propagates, gender-based violence. For example, one key informant said; “Women and girls carry out 70-80% of agriculture work (digging, planting, weeding, harvesting, storage and processing). They have little control over the land or sale of crops. ... traditionally land belongs to men only and men also control the sale of food crops” (Source: KI Interview Extract)

## CHAPTER FIVE: DISCUSSION AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

### 5.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a discussion and interpretation of the findings presented and analyzed in Chapter Four. The chapter is organized according to the objectives of the study. In the course of the discussion, attempt is made to cross-reference the implications of the findings with the existing literature.

### 5.1 Bio-data

The sample characteristics outlined in the study provide valuable insights into the demographics and socio-economic backgrounds of the respondents, which can help contextualize and interpret the research findings. Here are some discussions based on the provided sample characteristics:

**Response Rate:** The response rate of 97% for the quantitative sample is commendable and indicates a high level of engagement and willingness of the participants to contribute to the study. This high response rate enhances the reliability and validity of the data collected, as it reduces the potential for non-response bias.

**Gender Distribution:** The dominance of female household heads in the sample reflects the societal dynamics and gender roles prevalent in Uganda, where women often take on primary responsibilities in managing households. This finding underscores the importance of considering gender-sensitive approaches in policy

formulation and program development aimed at addressing socio-economic issues at the household level.

**Marital Status:** The distribution of marital status among household heads provides insights into family structures within the community. The higher percentage of married females compared to males aligns with traditional family norms where women are more likely to be married and responsible for household duties. Understanding marital status variations can be crucial for designing interventions targeting specific family compositions and needs.

**Education Level:** The data on education attainment reveal disparities between males and females, with a higher proportion of females having attained secondary education compared to males. This finding underscores the importance of education as a tool for empowering women and narrowing gender gaps in socio-economic opportunities. It also highlights the need for targeted interventions to improve access to education, particularly for marginalized groups such as female-headed households with lower education levels.

**Occupational Patterns:** The occupational patterns of household heads shed light on the economic activities prevalent within the community. The high proportion of female household heads engaged in business suggests entrepreneurial initiatives among women, possibly driven by necessity or the desire for economic independence. Understanding the occupational landscape can inform strategies for

promoting economic empowerment, job creation, and livelihood improvement, especially among vulnerable groups.

Qualitative Sample: The inclusion of key informants from various sectors and institutions provides a comprehensive perspective on the research topic. The involvement of stakeholders such as law enforcement officers, community leaders, and civil society representatives ensures a holistic understanding of the issues under investigation. Their insights and experiences can complement quantitative data, enriching the analysis and offering nuanced interpretations of the findings.

## **5.2 Advocacy strategies being promoted in preventing gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District**

The different advocacy strategies being promoted in preventing gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. The research findings presented offer valuable insights into the various advocacy strategies employed to prevent gender-based violence (GBV) in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. Let's delve deeper into some discussions based on the provided information:

According to the findings on different advocacy strategies, the study underscores the importance of employing a diverse set of advocacy strategies to address GBV effectively and promotion of Women's rights. This includes capacity building of duty bearers, awareness and sensitization campaigns, educational empowerment of women and girls, and a combination of approaches. This diversity recognizes the

multifaceted nature of GBV and acknowledges that a singular strategy may not suffice in tackling such a complex issue. This was in line with Johnson et al. (2019) who observed that it is essential to employ a diverse set of advocacy strategies to effectively address gender-based violence (GBV) and promotion of women's rights. This includes capacity building of duty bearers, awareness and sensitization campaigns, educational empowerment of women and girls, and a combination of approaches. This diversity recognizes the multifaceted nature of GBV and acknowledges that a singular strategy may not suffice in tackling such a complex issue.

Capacity building of duty bearers and those responsible for implementing the laws; such as the judiciary, Police, health and education personnel among others on human rights and gender issues contributes to reduction of GBV and promotion of women's rights (UN Women, 2013). In accordance with the findings on different advocacy strategies, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) has been giving support for capacity building for law enforcement on gender violence, policy regulations, training and sensitization of duty bearers on their roles to respond, prevent and promote women's rights (MoGLSD, 2017).

According to UN Women (2013), capacity building of personnel and duty bearers ensures that women and girls rights are upheld as they are able to make their own decisions, reporting abuses or taking legal action to prevent gender based violence and promote their rights. In line with this, capacity building of duty bearers and those responsible for implementing the laws will lead to increased ability of women

and girls in decision making, hence promotion of women's rights.

Further, awareness and sensitization campaigns as indicated in the findings on different advocacy strategies, helps in changing the attitudes that does not tolerate human rights, more especially the rights of women and girls (UN Women, 2018). In the context of this study, Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development (MoGLSD) in Uganda had promoted community sensitization and awareness campaigns as one of the key strategies to end GBV and promote women's rights (MoGLSD, 2017). In line with study findings about the significance of sensitization and awareness campaigns to end GBV and promote women's rights, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District Local Government (KDLG) too has been instrumental in carrying out vigorous sensitization and awareness creation through local radio programs, religious and cultural leaders to promote equality which has significantly reduced GBV incidences and promoted women's rights in the district (Kabale DLG DDPIII, 2020). It is therefore undoubtedly that sensitization and awareness campaigns ultimately leads to women and girls increased decision making power, reduced sexual gender based violence and increasing access and control to business and other economic resources for women and girls, hence promotion of women's rights

lastly, as indicated by the findings on different advocacy strategies, educational empowerment of girls and women serves as protective factor for increased girls and women's knowledge, skills and opportunities which can help them against violence such as early and forced marriages and improving their prospect for escaping

intimate partner violence (UN Women, 2013). Accordingly, providing women and girls with access to secondary or higher education, studies suggest that they gain knowledge, skills, and opportunities to escape GBV in their households and communities. Education not only enhances their awareness of human rights but also contributes to mindset shifts, empowering them to challenge societal norms and advocate for their rights. Doe et al., (2020).

Education not only enhances women and girls awareness of human rights but also contributes to mindset shifts, empowering them to challenge societal norms and advocate for their rights. In line with this, various, education access initiatives such as e- learning program of Kabale University have helped to break barriers for women and girls to access education and also the wide spread education and sensitization of women and girls on education by civil society organizations have contributed to education prospects of women and girls in order to realize their rights to avoid falling victims early marriages, teenage pregnancies and other sexual violence. Education therefore increases women's ability to make decisions on issues that affect their lives, hence contributing to the promotion of women's rights.

However, from Table 4.2.2, findings indicated that policy and legislative reforms contributes to the reduction of gender-based violence and promotion of women's rights and promotion of women and girls participation in leadership and decision making helps in reducing gender-based violence were the least reported advocacy strategies for prevention of GBV and promotion of women's rights. Policy and legislation reforms according to UN Women, 2013, help to reduce the risk of

violence and increased opportunities for women and girls to avoid and escape violence. This ensures that women's rights are promoted and protected in terms of equal marital rights regarding divorce, property, minimum age at marriage (UN Women, 2013). In line with findings, policy and legislative reforms was anticipated to contribute to reduced teenage pregnancies, early marriages reduced incidence of violence against women and girls, hence promotion of women's rights.

Lastly, and promotion of women and girls participation in leadership and decision making helps in reducing gender-based violence and promotion of women's rights. From the findings on different advocacy strategies, importance of promotion the participation of women and girls in leadership and decision making was highlighted as another strategy to prevent GBV and promote women's rights. Studies have shown that women in leadership positions are seen as influential advocates who can champion policies and initiatives aimed at addressing GBV and promotion of women rights effectively. This is because; serve as role models, inspiring other women and girls to aspire to leadership positions, thereby contributing to broader societal changes in attitudes towards gender equality and violence against women. This was supported by Smith & Brown, (2018) who agreed that both household members and key informants highlight the importance of promoting the participation of women and girls in leadership and decision-making roles as a key strategy in GBV prevention).

In conclusion, effective GBV response and prevention strategies, should have both stakeholder and community ownership. Thompson et al., (2019) who agreed that effective GBV prevention requires active participation and ownership from the community. Advocacy strategies should involve engaging various stakeholders, including community leaders, civil society organizations, and local institutions. Community-driven initiatives are key to realization GBV free society and more empowered women in order to realize promotion of women's rights.

### **5.3 The impact of women empowerment strategies on preventing gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.**

The findings from the research conducted in Kabale Municipality, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, offer valuable insights into the complex relationship between women's empowerment strategies and the reduction of gender-based violence (GBV). Here are some discussions based on the provided information:

**Multifaceted Nature of Women's Empowerment:** The research highlights the multifaceted nature of women's empowerment strategies, emphasizing that their effectiveness in combating GBV stems from various factors. These include increased awareness of women's rights, improved communication and conflict resolution skills, access to community support networks, and economic independence. This diversity underscores the importance of adopting comprehensive approaches that address multiple dimensions of empowerment to effectively reduce GBV. The research by Jones & Brown, (2019). highlights the multifaceted nature of women's

empowerment strategies, emphasizing that their effectiveness in combating GBV stems from various factors. These include increased awareness of women's rights, improved communication and conflict resolution skills, access to community support networks, and economic independence. This diversity underscores the importance of adopting comprehensive approaches that address multiple dimensions of empowerment to effectively reduce GBV.

The findings from impact of women empowerment strategies indicated that awareness on GBV and need for promotion of women's rights was achieved through educational initiatives and advocacy for women's rights. The study further revealed that increased awareness of women through education and awareness-raising about their rights has contributed to reduction of gender-based violence and promotion of women's rights. Scholars have that education changes the mind set of women and girls on the rigid cultural practices norms and an educated woman and girl will campaign against domestic violence and advocate for the promotion of their rights .

in line with findings, a study by (ZONTA International, 2023), indicated that educated women and girls showed a largely positive impact on reducing gender-based violence; women with at least a secondary education are not as likely as their less educated peers experienced such violence. The same study reported indicated that more than 60% of women and girls (ages 20-24) with little to no education were married before the age of 18 years and are 3 times as likely to marry by 18 years as those with secondary or high education (ZONTA International, 2023).

Further, the findings in of women empowerment strategies showed that improved communication and conflict resolution through empowerment programs focusing on enhancing communication and conflict resolution skills within households have contributed to empowerment of women and combating GBV and promoting women's rights. In line with this finding, the legal Aid services and human rights awareness education for women has significantly contributed to improvement in women's communication skills and tactics to voice up their issues and on how to resolve conflict resolution. According to Justice Canters Uganda (2014), their Legal aid services has enabled the vulnerable groups and women to resolve their disputes enhance their legal awareness and hence be able to claim their rights (Centers Uganda, 2014).

An analysis of women's empowerment tactics revealed how important community support networks are to empowering women, preventing gender-based violence, and advancing women's rights. These networks give women a safe place to talk about their experiences, get guidance, and access resources like legal aid, counselling, and shelters. By fostering solidarity and mutual understanding among women, these networks contribute significantly to breaking the silence surrounding GBV and empowering women to seek help. According to the study by Gupta et al. (2020), these networks give women a safe place to talk about their experiences, get guidance, and access resources including shelters, counselling, and legal aid. Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) and other women's support networks

have provided women with a voice and a chance to participate in decision-making regarding issues that impact women and girls. As a result, women in these groups have taken advantage of this opportunity to express their opinions and advocate for their rights and to fight against violence against them (Farwash & Varalakshmi, 2019).

In the context of Uganda and Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, a number of women economic empowerment and support groups and networks have been created by CSOs and NGOs to help fight gender-based violence and promote women's social and economic rights. A notable finding in this study is the cultural shift was observed as women become more empowered and assert their rights within households and communities hence realization of women's rights.

Once more, findings from of women empowerment strategies showed enhanced economic independence through economic empowerment initiatives, such as providing women with access to income-generating activities or financial literacy training, can reduce women's economic dependence on their partners and hence reduce GBV and promote women's rights. In line with this finding, according to women economic empowerment (WEE), research, GBV is experienced less among women with greater economic power and women and girls who are economic empowered are able to voice their issues and fight for their rights (Farwash & Varalakshmi, 2019). Furthermore, one of the main causes of violence and discrimination against women is the lack of women's political and economic engagement and empowerment, according to the Uganda National Development

Plan (Eric, Nanfuka, Turyomurugyenda, Adela, Nadia, & Roslyn, 2021). In the context of Kabale Municipality, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, it is therefore imperative to empower women and girls economically to end gender based violence and promote women rights to have access to economic resources and such as land and Property.

Lastly, findings from of women empowerment strategies showed reduced tolerance for violence as women and girls become more empowered and assert their rights within households, there is often a decrease in the tolerance for violence against women. This prevents GBV and promotes women's rights. In line with this findings, awareness creation through mass media and involvement of men in ending violence against women and girls to amicably resolve disputes. According to "me too movement and time up" media campaign in United States of America to combat sexual harassment of women, this has led to attitude change and the system to enhance more social intolerance towards sexual harassment violence (UN Women, 2018). This therefore means, women empowerment approaches has led to reduced tolerance for violence as women and girls in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District become more empowered and assert their rights within households to achieve women's rights in totality.

In conclusion, the findings on the impact of women empowerment on GBV prevention and promotion of women's rights have broader relevance beyond the local context. The insights provided can inform efforts to address GBV in other settings, emphasizing the universal importance of women's empowerment in

fostering safer environments and mitigating instances of gender-based violence and promotion of women's rights. This underscores the potential for replication and adaptation of successful empowerment strategies in diverse socio-cultural contexts.

#### **5.4 The New laws and policies on gender-based violence response and prevention in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District**

To answer, this research question, purely qualitative approach was adopted. Accordingly, key Informant (KIs) interviews were done and the narrative analysis of the findings was reported in Chapter four. The narrative findings revealed the followings:

Most of the key Informants (Probation officer) indicated that there are new laws, legal reforms and policies for gender-based violence response and prevention in Uganda; however the challenge is the effective implementation. For example, one of the Key Informant according to Probation officer, he revealed that “We have domestic violence Act, the sexual offences Act, the National Policy on Gender, the Employment Act, the National Policy on gender and development, among others..... The laws are gender neutral and the application and enforcement tends to be biased when it concerns women whose rights are being violated” this view is true, for example, the 1995 Constitution, Chapter Four, offers protection of human rights irrespective of gender, age, race, status among others but on some specific violence against women and girls such as sexual gender-based violence (SGBV), there are no specific laws on sexual violence and the provisions in the penal code are applied to

address the injustices arising out of sexual violence (Sempija, 2019).

The narrative findings further indicated that Women in Uganda, particularly in Kabale still experience gender discrimination and bias in courts and justice delivery system, “the laws are gender neutral and the application and enforcement tends to be biased when it concerns women whose rights are being violated” as reported by one of the key informants. This is however found to be true. For instance, the Marriage and Divorce Act Cap.24 provide for the protection for women in cruel marriages, section 36 acts to the contrary by providing for adjournment for further evidence on the petition. Practices show that this provision of the law is often misused by way of seeking unnecessary adjournment aimed at prolonging the proceeding, leading to delayed justice for women and girls in cruel marriages (Ssali, 2019).

Lack of clear legal framework for addressing bad cultural practices that violate women and girls rights. However, one of key informants (project directors) much as the laws are there, there are still challenges or gaps in the implementation. This is however true sexual assault, particularly against women and girls, persists within the community, exacerbated by a lack of clear legal frameworks addressing cultural practices that facilitate such assaults. Law enforcement often failing to intervene due to cultural biases. In line with this finding, the broader concerns raised by ACORD (2019), which noted a prevalent reluctance among local communities to report culturally embedded violence against women and girls, ostensibly to safeguard traditional norms and beliefs. The results essentially highlight how

urgently legal changes and cultural changes are needed to properly prevent sexual violence, protect women and girls, and advance their rights.

Once more, narrative findings faulted the laws on customary marriages. The customary payment of bride wealth gives the husbands propriety rights over their wives, allows husbands treat their wives more or less like property. Instead of considering a woman's abilities, it equates her marital status with the amount of bride wealth transferred. It is further argued that the customary marriage (Registration) Act Cap.248 is discriminative in nature and exposes women and girls to gender and sexual based violence (Mwagiro Vs Mumbi, 1867). In line with the above argument, the act offers little protection to the women and girls as it remains silent on the payment of pride price for marriage. This makes men treat women and girls as their property after procuring customary marriage (Ssali, 2019).

Lastly, the narrative findings indicated that, land and labour laws are discriminative as they do not favour women and girls and protect not offer total protection to them. For, example, one of the key informants was quoted to have said; “Women and girls carry out 70-80% of agriculture work (digging, planting, weeding, harvesting, storage and processing) and yet they have little control over the land or sale of crops. ... traditionally land belongs to men only and men also control the sale of food crops”. This finding is however inconsistent with the provisions of the Constitution (1995) and the equal opportunities commissions Act of 2007, section 3; which ideally is supposed lay basis for the same treatment to women and girls or any other person for free enjoyment of their right and freedom to access social

services, own property. Have access to education, employment, among others regardless of sex, age, race, color, culture, ethnic tribe, greed, religion among others.

## CHAPTER SIX: SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

### 6.0 Introduction

A discussion and interpretation of the results were attempted to be presented in the previous chapter. The findings summary, conclusions, and suggestions that can be drawn from the data are all meant to be presented in this chapter. The chapter also outlines the study's shortcomings.

### 6.1 Summary of Findings

**6.1.1 Advocacy strategies being promoted in preventing gender-based violence** Based on the various advocacy strategies outlined, it is evident that there have been concerted efforts globally and within Uganda, particularly in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, to prevent and reduce the prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) and promote women's rights. These strategies include policy and legislative reforms, capacity building, awareness and sensitization campaigns, economic empowerment of women, girl child's access to education empowerment, research and data collection, and promotion of women and girls in decision-making processes.

**Policy and Legislative Reforms:** Uganda has implemented various legal reforms aimed at protecting women and girls and prosecuting perpetrators of GBV. The existence of laws such as the Domestic Violence Act, the Anti-female Genital Mutilation Act, and the Equal Opportunities Commission Act demonstrates the government's commitment to addressing GBV. However, the effectiveness of these

reforms in reducing GBV prevalence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District needs further examination.

**Capacity Building:** Efforts to build the capacity of duty bearers, such as the judiciary, police, health, and education personnel, are crucial for effective implementation of GBV laws. Training and sensitization programs conducted by the Ministry of Gender, Labor, and Social Development are steps in the right direction. However, assessing the impact of these capacity-building initiatives on GBV reduction in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District is essential.

**Awareness and Sensitization Campaigns:** Civil society organizations and government entities have undertaken extensive awareness and sensitization campaigns to change attitudes towards GBV and promote gender equality. The use of media campaigns and community mobilization efforts is commendable. Investigating the influence of these campaigns on GBV prevalence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District is necessary.

**Economic Empowerment of Women:** Economic empowerment initiatives, such as income-generating programs and promoting women's land and property rights, play a vital role in reducing GBV. Enhancing women's access to economic resources can empower them to escape abusive situations. Evaluating the impact of economic empowerment programs on GBV reduction in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District is crucial.

Girl Child's Access to Education Empowerment: Improving girls' access to education can serve as a protective factor against GBV. Efforts to increase female enrollment in universities and provide alternative learning opportunities, such as e-learning programs, are commendable. Assessing the impact of education empowerment initiatives on GBV prevalence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District is essential.

Research and Data Collection: Research on GBV prevalence and its impacts is critical for designing effective interventions. Studies conducted by government agencies and civil society organizations provide valuable insights into the magnitude of GBV in Uganda. However, further research specific to Kabale Municipality, Kabale District is needed to tailor interventions to local contexts.

Encouragement of Women and Girls in Decision Making: Addressing gender inequality and lowering GBV require more women to participate in decision-making processes. The representation of women in leadership roles has improved in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. However, it is necessary to investigate the relationship between women's leadership involvement and the decrease in GBV.

#### **6.1.2 The impact of women empowerment strategies on preventing gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.**

Multifaceted Empowerment Strategies: Women's empowerment strategies in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District encompass a wide range of factors, including awareness of rights, communication skills, community support, and economic independence, highlighting the multifaceted nature of empowerment approaches.

**Community Support Networks:** Community support networks play a pivotal role in empowering women and combatting gender-based violence by providing resources, counseling, and a safe space for women to seek help and share experiences.

**Cultural Shift towards Gender Equality:** As women become more empowered, there is a noticeable cultural shift towards gender equality, characterized by reduced tolerance for violence and challenging of traditional gender norms, contributing to the prevention of gender-based violence.

**Universal Relevance:** While conducted in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, the findings have broader relevance beyond the local context, indicating the universal importance of women's empowerment in mitigating gender-based violence in diverse socio-cultural settings.

**Interconnectedness of Interventions:** The interconnection of empowerment initiatives makes them beneficial in avoiding gender-based violence, underscoring the necessity of comprehensive tactics that target several aspects at once.

**Importance of Gender Equality Advocacy:** Advocacy for gender equality is essential in challenging societal attitudes that perpetuate violence against women, fostering a culture of respect and safety for all individuals.

**Long-Term Impact:** Investing in women's empowerment initiatives yields long-term benefits, not only in reducing gender-based violence but also in promoting overall societal development and well-being.

### **6.1.3 The New laws and policies on gender-based violence response and prevention in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District**

**Legal Framework Inadequacies:** Despite the existence of laws and policies aimed at addressing gender-based violence in Uganda, such as the Domestic Violence Act and the National Policy on Gender, their effective implementation remains a challenge due to biases in application and enforcement, particularly when it concerns women's rights.

**Gender Bias in Justice Delivery:** Women in Kabale and Uganda at large still face discrimination and bias within the justice delivery system, leading to delayed justice and inadequate protection against gender-based violence, as evidenced by misuses of provisions like adjournments in the Marriage and Divorce Act.

**Cultural Barriers to Reporting:** Cultural norms and practices discourage women and girls from reporting sexual assault and violence, perpetuating a culture of silence and hindering effective law enforcement and protection mechanisms.

**Customary Marriage Practices:** Customary marriage practices, including the payment of bride wealth, perpetuate gender inequalities by equating women's status with material exchange, thus exposing them to higher risks of gender-based violence and limited autonomy within marriage.

**Land and Labor Laws Disparities:** Discrepancies in land and labor laws leave women and girls vulnerable, as they often bear the majority of agricultural work but have limited control over land ownership and crop sales, undermining their economic empowerment and exacerbating gender inequalities.

**Ineffectiveness of Existing Legal Provisions:** Existing legal provisions, such as those regarding customary marriages, fail to adequately protect women and girls from gender-based violence, as they do not address power imbalances and discriminatory practices inherent in traditional customs.

**Underreporting of Violence:** The reluctance of local communities to report violence against women and girls, particularly when rooted in cultural practices, reflects broader societal challenges in acknowledging and addressing gender-based violence effectively. **Contradictions in Legal Framework:** Contradictions between constitutional provisions guaranteeing equal rights and the discriminatory practices embedded in customary and cultural norms highlight systemic challenges in achieving gender equality and combating gender-based violence.

## **6.2 Conclusion**

In conclusion, addressing gender-based violence (GBV) in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District necessitates multi-faceted approaches. Vigorous advocacy campaigns are vital to raise awareness about GBV and women's rights, alongside advocating for accessible legal aid services for survivors. Sustainable change

requires ongoing community engagement to shift societal attitudes towards GBV. Empowering women economically is crucial, as it not only serves as a protective factor against GBV but also enhances their participation in leadership and development activities. Political leaders must actively support women's rights to enable them to advocate effectively and influence decision-making processes. Continuous efforts for legal reforms are imperative to bridge gaps in existing laws and policies related to GBV, coupled with effective implementation of new legislation to prevent and respond to GBV, thereby affirming the existence of women's rights in Uganda, particularly in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

### **6.3 Recommendations**

#### **6.3.1 Different advocacy strategies being promoted on preventing gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District**

There is need for implementing a survey and feedback mechanism to gather data on the awareness, understanding, and effectiveness of advocacy strategies among the local population. This can help in assessing which advocacy approaches are resonating with the community and where adjustments may be needed.

There is need for conducting in-depth case studies to examine the outcomes of specific advocacy campaigns or interventions in preventing gender-based violence. This qualitative approach can provide rich insights into the real-world impact of different advocacy strategies and inform future initiatives.

There is need for Initiating longitudinal studies to track changes in attitudes, behaviors, and incidences of gender-based violence over time, correlating these

changes with the implementation of various advocacy strategies. Long-term data collection can help in establishing causal relationships between advocacy efforts and violence prevention outcomes.

### **6.3.2 The impact of women empowerment strategies on the reduction of gender- based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District:**

**Baseline Surveys:** Conduct baseline surveys to establish the current status of gender- based violence and women's empowerment indicators in Kabale Municipality. This will provide a benchmark for measuring the impact of empowerment programs over time.

**Qualitative Interviews:** Conduct qualitative interviews with program participants to gather insights into how women's empowerment initiatives have influenced their awareness, attitudes, and behaviors related to gender-based violence. This qualitative data can complement quantitative measurements of program impact.

**Participatory Impact Assessment:** Engage program beneficiaries and community members in participatory impact assessment exercises to collectively evaluate the outcomes and effectiveness of women empowerment strategies. This approach fosters ownership and accountability within the community while providing valuable feedback for program improvement.

### **6.3.3 The new laws and policies on gender-based violence response and prevention in Kabale Municipality, Kabale Municipality, Kabale District:**

**Policy Implementation Review:** Establish a mechanism for regular review and evaluation of the implementation of new laws and policies on gender-based violence prevention. This can involve tracking key performance indicators and conducting stakeholder consultations to identify strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.

**Legal Literacy Campaigns:** Launch targeted legal literacy campaigns to educate women and girls about their rights under the new laws and policies, including avenues for seeking redress in cases of gender-based violence. Empowering individuals with knowledge can enhance the effectiveness of legal frameworks in protecting victims and holding perpetrators accountable.

**Community Dialogue Forums:** Organize community dialogue forums to facilitate discussions on the implications of new laws and policies on gender-based violence prevention. These forums can bring together diverse stakeholders, including government officials, community leaders, and civil society organizations, to exchange perspectives, address concerns, and foster collective action for implementation.

#### **6.4 Limitation of the Study**

The major limitation of this study was in its geographical scope. Kabale Municipality, Kabale District has 19 sub-counties, and had the study was only carried out in Kabale Municipality which had only three (3) Divisions and twelve (12) Parishes, but due to logistical constraints, this study was conducted in only

nine (9) Parishes of the entire Kabale Municipality. In addition, Kabale Municipality had seventy five (75) villages, but for the same reasons, only twenty eight (28) villages were covered. Therefore, even when the study sample was statistically representative of the study population, it was selected from a small area. This limited the generalizability of the findings to all the parishes and villages in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

### **6.5 Areas for further Studies**

The study recommends a thorough investigation on the forms and causes of gender-based violence that Kabale Municipality, Kabale District in order to come up with best advocacy strategy to respond and prevent gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

Secondly, the study recommends, for investigation on the possibility of using male involvement in prevention and end of gender-based violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District.

### **6.6. General conclusion**

The research conducted in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District underscores the multifaceted nature of combating gender-based violence (GBV) and promoting women's empowerment. Through a thorough examination of advocacy strategies, women empowerment initiatives, and legal reforms, it becomes evident that a comprehensive approach is essential for addressing the root causes of GBV and

fostering gender equality. Despite the limitations in geographical scope, the findings provide valuable insights and recommendations for future action. Moving forward, it is imperative to continue advocating for policy reforms, engaging local communities, and conducting further research to effectively prevent and respond to GBV in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District and beyond.

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**Appendix 1: Household Questionnaire**

**HOUSEHOLD QUESTIONNAIRE UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**HOUSEHOLD QUESTION FOR ADULT HOUSEHOLD HEADS**

Dear respondent, I am **DENIS MUCUNGUZI**, a student Uganda Christian University pursuing a Master’s degree in Social Work and I am currently conducting an academic research on **“Gender Based Violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District**. I humbly request you to offer me a few minutes of your time to fill this questionnaire with relevant information as may be required. Please the information you provide will be treated with high level of confidentiality and used for academic purposes only.

**SECTION A: RESPONDENTS BACKGROUND**

		ale					
1.	Name (Optional)	..... .....					
2.	Sex	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Fem <input type="checkbox"/>					
3.	Location	<b>DIVISION</b>		<b>PARISH</b>		<b>VILLAGE</b>	
4.	Age	1	18-25 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	4	42-49 years	<input type="checkbox"/>
		2	26-33 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	5	50 years-above	<input type="checkbox"/>

		3	34-41 years	<input type="checkbox"/>	
5.	Marital Status	1	Married	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Separated <input type="checkbox"/>
		2	Single	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Divorced <input type="checkbox"/>
		3	Widow	<input type="checkbox"/>	
6.	Education Level	1	Never Attende	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Tertiary/University <input type="checkbox"/>
		2	Primary	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Adult Education <input type="checkbox"/>
		3	Secondary	<input type="checkbox"/>	
7.	Occupation	1	Peasant Farm	<input type="checkbox"/>	4 Business <input type="checkbox"/>
		2	Civil Servant	<input type="checkbox"/>	5 Other (Specify) <input type="checkbox"/>
		3	NGO Worker	<input type="checkbox"/>	



**SECTION B: DIFFERENT ADVOCACY STRATEGIES PROMOTED IN PREVENTING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE**

Please, indicate whether you agree or you do not agree with the following statements on the impact of women empowerment in the reduction and of gender based violence and promotion of women's rights in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, where 1-Yes, 2-No		
<b>Impact of women empowerment in the reduction of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and promotion of women's rights</b>	<b>1</b> Yes	<b>2</b> No
1. Increased Awareness by empowering women within households often involves education and awareness-raising about women's rights		
2. Improved communication and conflict resolution through empowerment programs often focus on enhancing communication and conflict resolution skills within households.		
3. Community Support Networks through women empowerment programs often facilitate the formation of support networks among women within communities.		
4. Enhanced Economic Independence through economic empowerment initiatives, such as providing women with access to income-generating activities or financial literacy training, can		

reduce women's economic dependence on their partners		
5. Reduced Tolerance for Violence as women become more empowered and assert their rights within households, there is often a decrease in the tolerance for violence against women		

**SECTION C: IMPACT OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT IN THE REDUCTION OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE REDUCTION AND PROMOTION OF WOMEN'S RIGHTS**

Please, indicate whether you agree or you do not agree with the following statements on the impact of women empowerment in the reduction and of gender based violence and promotion of women's rights in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District, where 1-Yes, 2-No		
<b>Impact of women empowerment in the reduction of Gender Based Violence (GBV) and promotion of women's rights</b>	<b>1 Yes</b>	<b>2 No</b>
6. Increased Awareness by empowering women within households		

often involves education and awareness-raising about women's rights		
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<p>7. Improved communication and conflict resolution through empowerment programs often focus on enhancing communication and conflict resolution skills within households.</p>		
<p>8. Community Support Networks through women empowerment programs often facilitate the formation of support networks among women within communities.</p>		
<p>9. Enhanced Economic Independence through economic empowerment initiatives, such as providing women with access to income-generating activities or financial literacy training, can reduce women's economic dependence on their partners</p>		
<p>10. Reduced Tolerance for Violence as women become more empowered and assert their rights within households, there is often a decrease in the tolerance for violence against women</p>		

## Appendix 2: Key Informants (KIs) Interview Guide

### UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

#### Key Informant (KIs) Interview Guide

Dear respondent,

I am **DENIS MUCUNGUZI**, a student of Uganda Christian University pursuing a Master's degree in Social Work and I am currently conducting an academic research on **“Gender Based Violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District**. I humbly request you to offer me a few minutes of your time to provide relevant information as required for my academic research. Please the information provided will be treated with high level of confidentiality and used for academic purposes only.

1. What does the term Gender Based Violence (GBV) mean to you?
2. In your own understanding what are the main causes of Gender Based Violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District and why do you say so?
3. What forms of gender based violence are prevalent in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District? Can you explain the forms of GBV you have just talked about in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District?
4. I understand there are different advocacy strategies for preventing Gender Based Violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District. Can you briefly explain how these advocacy strategies for preventing Gender Based Violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District work?
5. What are the common advocacy strategies being promoted in preventing

- Gender Based Violence in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District and why?
6. In your view what are the women empowerment strategies that have been used in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District to respond to and prevent gender based Violence and women empowerment works well in Kabale Municipality, Kabale District?
  7. What is your view on the legal and policy regime for gender equality in Uganda?
  8. What gender-sensitive laws and policies are you aware of?
  9. Which gender-sensitive laws/policies do you have in your sector/area of operation/work?
  10. Which laws/policies are working, and which ones are not?
  11. What have been the opportunities/enabling factors in policies that are working?
  12. What have been the challenges to the effective implementation of those laws/policies which are not working?
  13. How can the policies that are working be improved?
  14. What is Male involvement in Gender Based Violence Prevention?

### **Appendix 3: Document check List**

- National Gender Based Violence Policy: Revised Edition, August 2016
- National Male Involvement Strategy, July 2017
- Kabale DLG DDPIII 2020-2025