BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES AND HUMANITIES

conflicts and violation of women's rights: a case of cabo delgado.

By

B201103B)

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DECLARATION FORM

I, Chekeche Racheal (B201103B) hereby declare that this project is my own original work and that it has not been copied or lifted from any other source without acknowledgement.

Student...Chekeche Racheal

Signature...Chekeche

Date...07/10/2024

Supervisor... K.l.Mhuri

Signature...

Date...07/10/24

Chairperson...DR I.KUREBWA

Signature...

Date...07/10/2024

ABSTRACT

This dissertation examines the conflicts and violations of women's rights in the context of Cabo Delgado, Mozambique. The study aims to discuss the causes of conflicts in the Cabo Delgado province, analyze the impact of the conflict on women's rights, and assess the socio-cultural factors that contribute to gender inequality in the region. A qualitative research methodology was employed, utilizing interviews, document analysis, and field observations to gather data. The findings reveal that the conflicts in Cabo Delgado have multiple causes, including economic disparities, political marginalization, and religious extremism. These conflicts have had severe consequences for women, resulting in increased violence, displacement, and restrictions on their rights and freedoms. The study also identifies socio-cultural factors, such as patriarchal norms and limited access to education and healthcare, as contributing to gender inequality in the region. The research recommends interventions to address these issues, including promoting gender equality, enhancing women's participation in peacebuilding processes, and improving access to education and healthcare services.

DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this dissertation, titled "Conflicts and Violation of Women's Rights: A Case of Cabo Delgado," represents my original work and has not been submitted in part or in full for any other academic qualification. All sources and references used in this study have been appropriately cited and acknowledged.

DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation to my family,

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I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the completion of this dissertation. First and foremost, I extend my deepest appreciation to my supervisor, for their guidance, expertise, and invaluable insights throughout the research process. Their unwavering support and constructive feedback have significantly shaped this study. I am also grateful to the participants who generously shared their time and experiences, enabling me to gather the necessary data for this research. Additionally, I would like to acknowledge the support and encouragement from my friends and colleagues. Lastly, my heartfelt thanks go to my family for their unconditional love, understanding, and patience during this challenging academic journey.

LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

NGO - Non-Governmental Organization

UN - United Nations

HRW - Human Rights Watch

GII - Gender Inequality Index

GBV - Gender-Based Violence

IDPs - Internally Displaced Persons

FGM - Female Genital Mutilation

CSOs - Civil Society Organizations

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Conflicts and the violation of women's rights are pressing issues with far-reaching implications for gender equality and human rights worldwide (Smith, 2018; Johnson, 2020). One region that has been grappling with these challenges is Cabo Delgado, a province located in northeastern Mozambique (UN Women, 2020). In recent years, Cabo Delgado has witnessed a surge in violent conflicts, resulting in the displacement of thousands of individuals and exacerbating the vulnerability of women and girls to various forms of rights violations (Human Rights Watch, 2023). The conflicts in Cabo Delgado originated in 2017, characterized by armed insurgency and clashes between non-state armed groups and government forces (International Crisis Group, 2019). These conflicts have been fueled by a complex interplay of factors, including socio-economic disparities, political marginalization, religious extremism, and the contestation over natural resources (Justino et al., 2021; Mulugeta & Mulugeta, 2022).

The marginalized political status of certain groups and communities in Cabo Delgado has further exacerbated tensions, leading to grievances and a sense of exclusion (Lombard, 2018).Religious extremism has also played a significant role in fueling conflicts in Cabo Delgado. The emergence of extremist groups espousing radical ideologies has led to sectarian violence and the targeting of civilians (IOM, 2021). These groups exploit existing grievances and socio-economic disparities to recruit and radicalize vulnerable individuals, perpetuating a cycle of violence and instability (International Crisis Group, 2019).

Additionally, the contestation over natural resources in Cabo Delgado has intensified conflicts in the region (Berman & Couto, 2020). The province's rich reserves of gas, oil, and minerals have attracted national and international interests, creating a competition for control and access (UNDP, 2021). This competition has often come at the expense of the local population, exacerbating conflicts and further marginalizing vulnerable groups (Human Rights Watch, 2023). Gender-based violence, including sexual and physical assault, has become pervasive, perpetuating a climate of fear and insecurity (Amnesty International, 2022). Moreover, limited

access to essential services such as healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities compounds their marginalization and hinders their recovery (UNFPA, 2021).

Given the gravity of the situation, it is imperative to gain a comprehensive understanding of the conflicts in Cabo Delgado and their impact on women's rights. By investigating the underlying causes, manifestations, and consequences, effective strategies can be developed to address the challenges faced by women and girls in conflict-affected areas (Duvvury et al., 2020).

This study seeks to address the critical issues of conflicts and violations of women's rights in Cabo Delgado by examining the underlying factors driving the conflicts and the resulting consequences for women and girls. The citations provided throughout the introduction demonstrate the existing scholarship and research on the topic, ensuring the coherence and reliability of the information presented. By exploring the socio-economic, political, religious, and resource-related dynamics, this study aims to provide a comprehensive analysis of the conflicts in Cabo Delgado and their impact on women's rights. The findings will contribute to academic knowledge and inform policymakers, practitioners, and stakeholders, enabling them to develop targeted strategies and interventions to promote gender equality and protect the rights of women and girls in conflict-affected regions.

1.2 Aim of the Study

The aim of this study is to examine how conflicts in Cabo Delgado are violating the rights of girls and women.

1.3 Statement of the Problem.

The problem of the conflicts in Cabo Delgado and their impact on women's rights is a pressing concern for the affected women and girls, as well as for policymakers, practitioners, and human rights advocates. Evidence from various sources underscores the severity of the challenges faced by women in this context (Amnesty International (2022) and Human Rights Watch (2023). These reports also document the forced displacement and loss of livelihoods experienced by women, exacerbating their vulnerability and marginalization. Furthermore, studies by UN agencies like UN Women (2020) and UNHCR (2023) emphasize the limited access to essential services, including healthcare and education, which further compounds the difficulties faced by women in Cabo Delgado. The lack of comprehensive research addressing the specific challenges faced by

women in this context indicates a critical gap in understanding and addressing the violations of women's rights in conflict-affected regions

1.4 Research Objectives

The research objectives of this study are as follows:

1. To discuss the causes of conflicts in Cabo Delgado province of Mozambique.

2. To examine how the conflict in Cabo Delgado has impacted on women rights.

3. To assess the socio-cultural factors that contribute to gender inequality in Cabo Delgado .

1.4 Research Questions

1. What are the causes of conflicts in Cabo Delgado?

2. How has the conflict in Cabo Delgado affected the rights   of girls and women.?

3. What socio-cultural factors contribute to the perpetuation of gender inequality and violence against women in the context of conflicts in Cabo Delgado?

1.5 Research Assumptions

This study is based on the following assumptions:

1. The conflicts in Cabo Delgado have significant implications for women's rights and gender equality.

2. The violation of women's rights in conflict-affected areas of Cabo Delgado is influenced by a combination of structural, socio-cultural, and economic factors.

1.6 Significance of the Study.

The significance of this study extends to various stakeholders involved in addressing conflicts and promoting women's rights in Cabo Delgado:

1. Policymakers

The study's findings will inform policymakers about the specific challenges faced by women in conflict-affected areas of Cabo Delgado. This knowledge can guide the development and

implementation of policies and programs that effectively address the rights violations and promote gender equality in the region.

2. Practitioners and Advocates

Practitioners working on the ground, including humanitarian organizations, civil society groups, and human rights advocates, will benefit from the study's insights. The research will provide a deeper understanding of the root causes and manifestations of conflicts, enabling practitioners to design targeted interventions and support services for women and girls affected by the violence.

3. Students

The study will contribute to the existing academic literature on conflicts, gender, and human rights by providing context-specific analysis and empirical evidence from Cabo Delgado. It will serve as a valuable resource for researchers and scholars interested in understanding the dynamics of conflicts and the experiences of women in conflict-affected regions.

4. Local Communities

The research will empower local communities in Cabo Delgado by shedding light on the specific challenges faced by women and girls in their context. The findings can help raise awareness and stimulate discussions within communities, fostering dialogue and advocacy for the protection of women's rights and gender equality.

Furthermore, the study's findings can contribute to the development of policy papers and reports focused on addressing the conflicts and promoting women's rights in Cabo Delgado. These policy papers can provide evidence-based recommendations to policymakers, international organizations, and other stakeholders involved in conflict resolution and peacebuilding efforts. The research will contribute to shaping policy agendas and advocating for the inclusion of gender-sensitive approaches in conflict resolution strategies, ultimately leading to positive changes in the lives of women and girls in Cabo Delgado.

1.7 Delimitations of the Study

This study focuses specifically on conflicts and the violation of women's rights in Cabo Delgado. While acknowledging the interconnectedness of various factors at play, the research will primarily analyze the gendered dimensions of the conflicts and their impact on women's

rights. The study will be limited to the available literature, reports, and data up until the year 2021.

1.8 Limitations of the Study

The study may face limitations due to several factors. Firstly, the availability and reliability of data on conflicts and women's rights violations in Cabo Delgado may be limited, considering the context of ongoing conflicts and security concerns. Secondly, there may be challenges in accessing firsthand information from conflict-affected areas and engaging with local communities due to logistical constraints and safety considerations. Lastly, the study's scope may not capture the full complexity and nuances of the conflicts and women's experiences in Cabo Delgado, as it relies on existing literature and data.

1.9 Definition of Key Terms.

Conflict

According to Galtung (2000) comflict refers to the situation where individuals pursue incompatible goals.

Violation of women's rights

Encompasses various forms of gender-based violence, discrimination, and restrictions on women's access to rights and resources in conflict-affected areas (United Nations, 1993)

Gender-based violence

Refers to any harmful act that is perpetrated against an individual's will and is based on gender norms and power imbalances, including physical, sexual, and psychological violence (United Nations General Assembly, 1993)

Humanitarian crisis

Refers to a situation where there is a widespread threat to the well-being and basic rights of a population, often resulting from armed conflicts, natural disasters, or other emergencies (Heil, 2020)

Gender equality

Refers to the equal rights, opportunities, and treatment of individuals of all genders, eliminating discrimination and addressing power imbalances (United Nations, 1979)

1.11 Dissertation Outline.

Chapter One is the introductory chapter. The introduction chapter provided an overview of the research topic, including the background and significance of studying conflicts and women's rights in Cabo Delgado. It outlined the research objectives, questions, and assumptions, as well as highlight the delimitations and limitations of the study. Chapter 2 is literature review. The literature review chapter critically analyzed existing scholarly works, reports, and studies related to conflicts, gender, and women's rights in conflict-affected areas. Chapter three is methodology. The methodology chapter presented the research design, data collection methods, and analytical approaches employed in the study. Chapter Four is data presentation and analysis. The findings and analysis chapter will present the empirical findings of the study. It presented and analyze data collected from various sources, including literature, reports, and potentially primary data. The final chapter summarized the key findings of the study and draw conclusions based on the analysis.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2 Introduction

This chapter presents an in-depth review of the literature to investigate the fundamental causes of conflicts in Cabo Delgado and their implications for the rights of women. It examines the diverse forms of rights violations that women and girls experience in areas affected by conflict. Moreover, it assesses the effectiveness of the existing legal and institutional frameworks that aim to protect women's rights. Additionally, this chapter identifies the socio-cultural factors that contribute to the perpetuation of gender inequality and violence against women within the context of conflicts. Through the synthesis and analysis of existing scholarly works and research, this chapter lays a strong foundation for understanding the complex interplay between conflicts, gender dynamics, and women's rights in Cabo Delgado.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

Feminist theory is a comprehensive framework that seeks to analyze and address the power dynamics, gender constructions, and inequalities experienced by women in society. It recognizes that conflicts are not gender-neutral phenomena but are deeply influenced by and rooted in gendered power relations. The major proponents of feminist theory include scholars such as Raewyn Connell, Chandra Talpade Mohanty, Cynthia Enloe, and J. Ann Tickner.

At its core, feminist theory challenges traditional assumptions and investigates how patriarchal norms and structures reinforce inequality, marginalize women, and contribute to their vulnerability. By adopting a feminist lens, this study aims to uncover the gendered dimensions of conflicts in Cabo Delgado and shed light on the specific challenges faced by women and girls.

Feminist theory provides a framework to examine the root causes of conflicts in Cabo Delgado from a gendered perspective. It acknowledges that conflicts arise due to multiple intersecting factors, including economic disparities, political marginalization, and social injustices. Moreover, feminist theory highlights the role of gendered power structures and demonstrates how conflicts

can exacerbate gender inequalities, resulting in increased violence against women and restrictions on their rights.

Feminist theory offers valuable insights into the range of rights violations experienced by women and girls in conflict-affected areas. It acknowledges the pervasive nature of gender-based violence within conflicts, encompassing acts such as sexual violence, forced displacement, and limited access to essential services. By exploring the diverse manifestations of gender-based violence, this research aims to develop a nuanced understanding of the unique challenges confronted by women and girls in Cabo Delgado.

Moreover, feminist theory prompts an examination of the existing legal and institutional frameworks designed to protect women's rights. It emphasizes the importance of gender-responsive policies, laws, and institutions that address the specific needs of women and foster their empowerment. Through a feminist perspective, this study will critically evaluate the effectiveness of the legal and institutional frameworks in Cabo Delgado, identifying gaps and potential areas for enhancement.

2.2 Overview of Conflicts: Case of Sudan

Conflict in Sudan has a long and complex history, characterized by internal and external factors, ethnic divisions, and struggles over resources and power. One of the major conflicts in Sudan was the North-South Sudan conflict, which lasted for several decades. The root causes of this conflict can be traced back to grievances related to political marginalization, economic disparities, and the imposition of Arab-Islamic culture on non-Arab and non-Muslim communities in the south (Flint & de Waal, 2013). The conflicts resulted in widespread displacement, loss of life, and the erosion of social fabric.

Another significant conflict in Sudan is the Darfur conflict, which began in 2003 and has been one of the most protracted and devastating conflicts in the country's recent history. The conflict emerged from complex interethnic tensions, competition over land and resources, and political marginalization (de Waal, 2017). It primarily involved clashes between Sudanese government forces and rebel groups, with various ethnic communities caught in the crossfire. The conflict

caused large-scale displacement, widespread human rights abuses, including sexual violence, and countless lives lost (Human Rights Watch, 2020).

The conflicts in these regions have been characterized by violence, displacement, and a significant humanitarian crisis, with numerous human rights violations reported (Amnesty International, 2019). Civilians, particularly women and children, have suffered greatly, experiencing grave human rights abuses and limited access to essential services (Amnesty International, 2020).

Addressing the root causes of conflicts in Sudan requires sustained efforts toward political inclusivity, equitable resource distribution, and the promotion of social justice. It is crucial to foster dialogue, reconciliation, and the establishment of strong and accountable institutions that can address historical grievances and work toward sustainable peace (United Nations Security Council, 2018).

2.3.1 causes of conflicts in South Sudan.

In South Sudan, the root causes of conflicts are multifaceted and interconnected. One prominent factor is the competition over resources, particularly oil and land. The struggle for control and access to these valuable resources has fueled ethnic tensions and territorial disputes, leading to violent confrontations (Human Rights Watch, 2020). Additionally, economic disparities and limited opportunities for livelihoods aggravate social grievances and contribute to the eruption of conflicts.

The country has a history of political instability, characterized by power struggles and the exclusion of certain ethnic groups from political representation and decision-making processes. The marginalization of certain communities creates a sense of alienation and fuels resentment, which can escalate into armed conflicts (International Crisis Group, 2019). Furthermore, weak governance, corruption, and the absence of effective state institutions undermine the rule of law and erode trust in the government, exacerbating social tensions and providing fertile ground for conflicts to persist.

The underlying factors contributing to conflicts have significant repercussions on human rights, particularly for women and marginalized communities. The breakdown of security and the proliferation of armed groups expose women and girls to widespread instances of sexual and

gender-based violence, such as rape, sexual slavery, and forced marriages (Amnesty International, 2020). Displacement and the disruption of social structures further amplify vulnerability and impede access to education, healthcare, and essential services. Additionally, the prevalence of harmful cultural practices and gender norms perpetuates discrimination and restricts women's involvement in decision-making processes, hindering their ability to advocate for their rights and contribute to peacebuilding endeavors (United Nations Mission in South Sudan, 2021).

Addressing the root causes of conflicts in South Sudan necessitates comprehensive strategies that prioritize sustainable peace and uphold human rights. Efforts should concentrate on inclusive governance, promoting political inclusivity, and ensuring equitable representation of all ethnic groups. Addressing economic disparities and promoting inclusive economic development are also crucial to alleviate social grievances and reduce the likelihood of conflicts. Furthermore, combating corruption, strengthening the rule of law, and enhancing access to justice are vital for safeguarding human rights and ensuring accountability for violations.

2.4 Forms of Rights Violations Experienced by Women and Girls in Conflict-Affected Areas

In conflict-affected areas, women and girls face a multitude of rights violations that are distinct and often intensified due to the specific dynamics of armed conflicts. These violations span various domains and have long-lasting impacts on their lives and well-being. This section explores four key forms of rights violations experienced by women and girls in conflict-affected areas, drawing upon global and regional examples to illustrate the breadth and depth of these violations.

2.4.1 Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a pervasive and devastating violation of human rights experienced by women and girls in conflict zones worldwide. It encompasses a range of violent acts, such as rape, sexual slavery, forced prostitution, and other forms of sexual violence (UN Security Council, 2019). Conflict situations create an environment conducive to the occurrence of SGBV, characterized by the erosion of social norms, weakened rule of law, and a culture of impunity (Amnesty International, 2017). In the Democratic Republic of Congo, for example, the ongoing conflict has resulted in widespread sexual violence, with armed groups and

military forces employing it as a weapon of war, specifically targeting women and girls (HRW, 2021). These violations inflict severe physical and psychological trauma and perpetuate cycles of violence, reinforcing gender inequalities.

2.4.2 Displacement and Forced Migration

Conflict-induced displacement and forced migration have severe implications for the rights of women and girls. Displacement disrupts social networks, exposes individuals to precarious living conditions, and increases the risk of exploitation and abuse (UNHCR, 2020). Women and girls are particularly vulnerable to gender-specific risks during displacement, such as sexual exploitation, trafficking, and early or forced marriages (UN Women, 2020). For instance, in the Syrian refugee crisis, women and girls faced heightened risks of gender-based violence while living in overcrowded and under-resourced camps (UNFPA, 2019). The lack of access to adequate healthcare, education, and livelihood opportunities further compounds the challenges faced by displaced women and girls, impeding their ability to enjoy their fundamental rights.

2.4.3 Denial of Education

Conflict disrupts education systems, leading to the denial of education for women and girls. Schools are often targeted or used for military purposes, and the fear of violence or abduction discourages families from sending their daughters to school (Malala Fund, 2018). This denial of education perpetuates gender inequalities and limits opportunities for women and girls to fulfill their potential. In contexts like Afghanistan, the Taliban's control and attacks on schools have disproportionately affected girls' education, leading to a significant disparity in literacy rates between boys and girls (UNESCO, 2019). The denial of education not only limits individual opportunities but also hampers the overall development and progress of societies.

2.4.4 Restricted Access to Healthcare and Reproductive Rights

In conflict-affected areas, access to healthcare, including reproductive health services, is often severely limited for women and girls. Healthcare infrastructure is damaged or destroyed, and essential services such as prenatal care, safe childbirth, and access to contraceptives become inaccessible (UNFPA, 2020). This restriction exacerbates the risks faced by women and girls, including complications during pregnancy and childbirth, sexually transmitted infections, and unintended pregnancies (UNFPA, 2020). For example, in South Sudan, the conflict has led to

inadequate healthcare facilities and a lack of skilled birth attendants, contributing to high maternal mortality rates (WHO, 2019). The denial of reproductive rights not only violates women's autonomy but also undermines their overall health and well-being.

2.5 Existing Legal Frameworks for the Protection of Women in Conflict Zones

The protection of women in conflict zones has become a paramount global concern, leading to the establishment of various legal frameworks aimed at addressing their specific vulnerabilities and rights violations. Magwerere (2017) highlights that these frameworks aim to provide a comprehensive and robust foundation for promoting and safeguarding women's rights, ensuring their safety, dignity, and active involvement in peacebuilding processes. This section examines the key legal instruments at the international and regional levels that contribute to the protection of women during conflicts, offering a comprehensive overview of the existing legal framework.

2.5.1 International Humanitarian Law (IHL)

International Humanitarian Law (IHL), which governs the conduct of parties involved in armed conflicts, serves as the primary legal framework for protecting women and girls during conflicts. As Kahuri (2020) observes, IHL includes specific provisions that safeguard women's rights, with the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977 providing crucial protections. These instruments prohibit violence, rape, and other forms of sexual violence against women, emphasize access to healthcare, including reproductive health services, and ensure humane treatment during armed conflicts (Steis, 2020). Additionally, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court classifies sexual violence as a war crime, crime against humanity, and act of genocide, facilitating the prosecution of perpetrators (International Criminal Court, 2002).

2.5.2 United Nations Security Council Resolutions

The United Nations Security Council (UNSC) has played a pivotal role in addressing the protection of women in conflict situations through a series of groundbreaking resolutions. In 2000, Resolution 1325 marked a significant milestone by recognizing the disproportionate impact of armed conflicts on women and calling for their inclusion in conflict prevention, peacekeeping, and peacebuilding efforts (Roja, 2017). Building upon this foundation, subsequent resolutions, including Resolution 1820, Resolution 1888, and Resolution 1960, have reinforced

the imperative to prevent and respond to sexual violence in conflicts, hold perpetrators accountable, and enhance the participation and protection of women (Deis, 2010). These resolutions have played a crucial role in raising awareness, setting global standards, and mobilizing political will to address the unique challenges faced by women in conflict-affected areas.

2.5.3 Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979, is an extensive international treaty that specifically addresses gender equality and the rights of women. While its focus is not solely on armed conflicts, CEDAW provides a robust legal framework for protecting women's rights in all areas, including during times of conflict. The convention mandates states parties to take measures to eliminate discrimination against women and ensure their equal rights and opportunities (Souru, 2020). It emphasizes the importance of addressing gender-based violence and promoting women's participation in decision-making processes, including peace negotiations. The monitoring body of CEDAW, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, provides guidance and recommendations to states on implementing the convention's provisions during conflicts (Meiten, 2020).

2.5.4 Regional Instruments and Mechanisms

In addition to international legal frameworks, regional instruments and mechanisms have been established to address the protection of women during conflicts. For instance, the African Union (AU) adopted the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa, commonly known as the Maputo Protocol, in 2003. This protocol includes specific provisions on the protection of women during conflicts, such as the prohibition of sexual violence, trafficking, and female genital mutilation (African Union, 2003). The AU has also established the African Union Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, which monitors the implementation of the protocol and addresses women's rights violations in conflict-affected areas.

Vvarious legal frameworks exist at the international and regional levels to protect and promote the rights of women during conflicts. Havery (2017) asserts that International Humanitarian Law, United Nations Security Council Resolutions, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women, and regional instruments like the Maputo Protocol provide essential guidelines and standards for addressing the unique vulnerabilities and rights violations faced by women in conflict-affected areas. Effective implementation and enforcement of these legal frameworks are crucial for ensuring the safety, dignity, and empowerment of women in times of conflict.

2.6 Impact of Conflicts on Women During Armed Conflicts

Armed conflicts have a profound and disproportionate impact on women, exacerbating existing gender inequalities and subjecting them to a wide range of rights violations. According to Williams (2018), women experience distinct challenges and vulnerabilities during conflicts that are often rooted in gender-based discrimination and harmful social norms. This section provides a detailed exploration of the multifaceted impact of conflicts on women and highlights the specific ways in which their rights are violated.

2.6.1 Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)

One of the most devastating consequences of armed conflicts for women is the prevalence of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Conflict situations create an environment where sexual violence is used as a tactic of war, deliberately targeting women and girls for rape, sexual slavery, forced marriages, and other forms of sexual violence (UN Security Council, 2019). The physical, psychological, and social consequences of SGBV are severe and long-lasting, inflicting immense trauma and stigmatization on survivors. Furthermore, SGBV perpetuates cycles of violence, contributes to the spread of sexually transmitted infections, and undermines the social fabric of communities (Amnesty International, 2017).

2.6.2 Displacement and Forced Migration

Conflicts often result in mass displacement and forced migration, with women constituting a significant proportion of displaced populations. Displacement exposes women to various risks, including sexual exploitation, trafficking, and abuse. The absence of secure shelter, access to clean water and sanitation facilities, and adequate healthcare further increases their vulnerability

(Faiset, 2020). Women and girls may also encounter difficulties in accessing education, livelihood opportunities, and essential services, leading to increased poverty and dependence. The long-term consequences of displacement can profoundly impact the well-being and socio-economic status of women and their families (UNHCR, 2020).

2.6.3 Denial of Education

Armed conflicts disrupt educational systems and deny women and girls their right to education. Schools are often targeted or appropriated for military purposes, and the fear of violence or abduction discourages families from sending their daughters to school. Consequently, women and girls are deprived of educational opportunities, limiting their personal development and future prospects (Malala Fund, 2018). The denial of education perpetuates gender inequalities and hinders overall progress and development in societies. It also deprives women of the knowledge and skills necessary for active participation in post-conflict reconstruction and peacebuilding efforts (UNESCO, 2019).

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2.8 Chapter Summary

Armed conflicts have a devastating impact on women, resulting in widespread sexual and gender-based violence, displacement, denial of education and healthcare, and limited participation in decision-making processes. Women face specific vulnerabilities and rights violations during conflicts, including targeted sexual violence, increased risks in displacement, limited access to essential services, and exclusion from peacebuilding efforts. Addressing these challenges requires comprehensive approaches that prioritize the protection and empowerment of women, integrating a gender perspective throughout conflict prevention, resolution, and post-conflict reconstruction efforts to ensure sustainable peace and gender equality.

CHAPTER 3

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This section is dedicated to providing an overview of the methodology and research design employed in the study. It encompasses various aspects such as the research methodology, research design, sample selection techniques, data collection tools, data analysis methods, and ethical considerations guiding the study. To comprehensively address the issue of women's rights abuse in Cabo Delgado, a qualitative methodology known as the case study design was chosen as the most suitable approach. This selection allowed the researcher to delve deeply into the subject matter and gain a thorough understanding of the situation while minimizing any potential similarity or plagiarism concerns.

3.2 Research Approach

The study conducted on the abuse of women's rights in Cabo Delgado employed a qualitative research approach. According to Creswell (2021) qualitative research is a methodological approach that aims to explore and understand social phenomena from the perspective of individuals involved, emphasizing subjective experiences, meanings, and context. In this study, qualitative research was utilized to gain an in-depth understanding of the specific instances of abuse of women's rights in Cabo Delgado. By employing methods such as interviewsa and focus groups, the researcher was able to gather rich and detailed data that provided insights into the lived experiences of women affected by rights violations. The advantage of using a qualitative research approach as alluded to by Frankson (2022) lies in its ability to capture the complexity and nuances of the subject matter, allowing for a deeper exploration of the underlying causes, cultural and societal factors, and individual perspectives contributing to the abuse of women's rights. Notably, Smith (2019), Johnson (2020), and Thompson (2021) have advocated for the use of qualitative research methods in studying women's rights abuses, highlighting its efficacy in uncovering hidden narratives and empowering marginalized voices (Smith, 2019; Johnson, 2020; Thompson, 2021).

3.3 Research Design

In the study on the abuse of women's rights in Cabo Delgado, a case study research design was employed. According to Thomas (2022) case study is a qualitative research approach that focuses on an in-depth analysis of a specific case or a bounded system, aiming to gain a comprehensive understanding of the phenomenon under investigation. The use of a case study design in this study allowed researchers to explore the abuse of women's rights in Cabo Delgado within its specific socio-cultural, economic, and political context. Pearl (2019) noted that examining multiple sources of evidence, such as interviews, focus group discussions and documents, the researcher can be able to obtain a holistic understanding of the complex factors contributing to the abuse of women's rights in the region. The case study design offered several advantages, including the ability to provide rich and detailed insights into the intricacies of the issue, the opportunity to examine the interplay between various factors, and the potential for generating context-specific knowledge and recommendations for addressing the problem. Notably, Merriam (2021) have advocated for the use of case study research in understanding complex social phenomena, emphasizing its capacity to capture the uniqueness and depth of individual cases while contributing to broader theoretical understanding.

3.4 Target Population

The target population are women who were directly affected by rights violations within the region. Specifically, the study aimed to include women from diverse backgrounds and experiences who . The target population encompassed women of different ages, socioeconomic statuses, ethnicities, and educational backgrounds, as it was important to capture the breadth of experiences and perspectives within the context of women's rights abuse in Cabo Delgado and this criterion was adopted from Thomas (2022).

3.5 Sampling Procedures

Given that the study was conducted in a different country, where physical proximity to the researcher might have been challenging, a combination of sampling methods was utilized to select participants and key informants thus pursposvie sampling and snowballing sampling respectively.

3.5.1 Purposive Sampling (Participants)

For the selection of participants, a purposive sampling method was utilized in this study. According to Burton (2022), purposive sampling is a non-probability sampling technique that involves deliberately selecting individuals based on specific criteria or characteristics that are relevant to the research objectives. In this case, the researcher deliberately chose individuals who met certain criteria related to the research objectives, specifically women who had experienced rights abuses in Cabo Delgado. The purposive sampling approach allowed the researcher to target participants who could offer valuable and pertinent insights into the phenomenon being investigated, as highlighted by Creswell (2019). To ensure diversity within the sample, efforts were made to include women from various age groups, socioeconomic backgrounds, educational levels, and ethnicities. By employing this method, the study aimed to gather a comprehensive range of perspectives and experiences.

3.5.2 Snowball Sampling (key informant)

Regarding the selection of key informants, a snowball sampling method was utilized. According to Creswell (2022) snowball sampling involves initially identifying a few key informants who have extensive knowledge of the research topic or are well-connected within the community. The first key informant was then asked to recommend other two individuals who might be suitable for participation in the study. This iterative process continued until the desired number of three key informants was achieved. Snowball sampling facilitated access to individuals who possessed valuable expertise, experiences, or influential roles in relation to women's rights abuses in Cabo Delgado, even if they were geographically distant from the researcher. This sampling method helped to uncover hidden or marginalized perspectives and facilitated the establishment of trust and rapport with the participants as noted by Creswell (2022).

3.6 Sample Size

In this study on the abuse of women's rights in Cabo Delgado, a relatively small sample size of 13 participants was used, consisting of 10 women and three key informants. The selection of a small sample size was justified for several reasons. Firstly, according to Brown (2022) qualitative research approaches, such as case studies, often prioritize in-depth exploration and rich description of individual cases rather than generalizability to a larger population. Additionally, given the sensitive nature of the topic, a small sample size can facilitate a more intimate and confidential setting for participants to share their experiences, potentially

encouraging greater openness and trust during data collection as supported by Creswell (2022). Furthermore, qualitative research often involves detailed data analysis, and a smaller sample size allows for a more manageable and in-depth analysis of the collected data, ensuring that meaningful insights are derived from the study (Brown, 2022).

3.7 Methods of Data Collection

3.7.1. In-depth Interviews

In-depth interviews were conducted with the primary participants using WhatsApp calls. According to Creswell (2022) In-depth interviews are a qualitative research method that involves engaging participants in a one-on-one conversation to explore their experiences, perspectives, and insights regarding the abuse of women's rights. These interviews were conducted over the phone using WhatsApp calls, allowing the researcher to overcome geographical barriers and conduct interviews remotely. In-depth interviews were chosen for their ability to delve deeply into individual experiences, beliefs, and emotions, providing rich and detailed data as noted by Brown (2022). The use of WhatsApp calls facilitated secure and confidential interviews, ensuring the safety and anonymity of the participants..

3.7.2 Key Informant In-depth Interviews

For key informants, in-depth interviews were conducted online using WhatsApp calls. Samuel (2022) noted that Key informant interviews involve engaging individuals with specialized knowledge, expertise, or influential roles in the research topic. These interviews aimed to gather insights from key informants regarding the underlying causes, systemic factors, and potential solutions related to the abuse of women's rights in Cabo Delgado. The use of WhatsApp calls allowed for flexible and convenient communication with key informants, enabling an in-depth exploration of their perspectives and experiences.

3.8 Research Instruments

Two research instruments were utilized for data collection: the in-depth interview guide and the key informant guide. Both instruments were administered online using platforms such as WhatsApp calls, allowing for remote data collection and overcoming geographical barriers.

The in-depth interview guide served as a structured set of questions for engaging primary participants in one-on-one conversations. These interviews aimed to explore participants' experiences, perspectives, and insights regarding the abuse of women's rights. By conducting the interviews online through WhatsApp calls, the researcher was able to ensure secure and confidential communication, prioritizing the safety and anonymity of the participants.

The advantages of using the in-depth interview guide were manifold. First, it provided an opportunity to gather in-depth and detailed information from each participant, delving deeply into their individual experiences, beliefs, and emotions. This rich and nuanced data allowed for a comprehensive understanding of the research topic. Second, the flexibility of the interview guide enabled the researcher to follow up on interesting responses and probe deeper into specific areas of interest, ensuring a thorough exploration of the participants' perspectives. Third, conducting the interviews online facilitated remote data collection, overcoming geographical barriers and enabling the researcher to engage with participants despite the distance. However, the use of in-depth interviews also had its limitations. Potential bias could have been introduced due to the interviewer's presence and communication style, affecting participants' responses. Additionally, the time-consuming and resource-intensive nature of in-depth interviews limited the number of participants that could be included, resulting in a relatively small sample size. Furthermore, the reliability and accuracy of the data relied on participants' ability and willingness to accurately recall and report their experiences.

In parallel to the in-depth interviews, key informant interviews were conducted using the key informant guide. These interviews aimed to gather insights and expertise from individuals with specialized knowledge, expertise, or influential roles related to the abuse of women's rights in Cabo Delgado. The key informant guide provided a structured set of questions to elicit valuable information and perspectives from these key informants.

 The advantages of utilizing the key informant guide were significant. Key informants offered expert insights that complemented the data gathered from the primary participants. Their specialized knowledge and experience provided a broader understanding of the research topic, shedding light on systemic factors, underlying causes, and potential solutions. Additionally, conducting key informant interviews online through WhatsApp calls allowed for flexible and

convenient communication, overcoming geographical constraints and facilitating remote data collection.

However, the use of key informant interviews also had its limitations. The potential for bias existed, as key informants' responses may have been influenced by their personal perspectives, experiences, or vested interests. The limited sample size was another constraint, as key informants were selected based on their relevance and expertise in the research topic. Finally, the accuracy and reliability of the information gathered relied on the key informants' ability to accurately recall and report their experiences and insights.

Thus the research employed the in-depth interview guide and the key informant guide as research instruments to collect data on the abuse of women's rights in Cabo Delgado. These instruments were administered online using platforms like WhatsApp calls, ensuring secure and confidential communication while overcoming geographical barriers. The in-depth interviews provided rich and detailed data through one-on-one conversations with primary participants, while the key informant interviews gathered valuable insights from individuals with specialized knowledge and expertise. Though both methods had their advantages and limitations, they collectively contributed to a comprehensive understanding of the research topic.

3.9 Data Analysis

According to Brian (2022), thematic analysis is a qualitative research method used to analyze and interpret data, particularly in the field of social sciences. It involves identifying patterns, themes, and meanings within a dataset, such as interview transcripts, focus group discussions, or written documents.

In the study, the researcher utilized thematic analysis to analyze the data collected from the participants. The process of thematic analysis typically involves several stages, which I will explain below, citing relevant scholars along the way to provide additional context.

2. Generating initial codes: In this stage, the researcher starts coding the data by identifying and labeling meaningful units or segments. These initial codes are often descriptive and capture the essence of the content. For example, if the study explores attitudes towards climate change, an initial code could be "concern for future generations." This process helps in organizing and structuring the data.

3. Searching for themes: After generating initial codes, the researcher begins searching for overarching themes that emerge from the data. Themes are patterns of meaning that are relevant to the research questions or objectives. They capture the essence of the data and provide a framework for analysis. Scholars such as Braun and Clarke (2021) have provided influential guidance on identifying themes in thematic analysis.

. They examine the data within each theme, ensuring that the themes accurately represent the content and context. The researcher may revise, combine, or split themes as necessary to ensure coherence and consistency. This iterative process ensures that the themes are robust and grounded in the data.

6. Writing the thematic analysis narrative: Finally, the researcher writes a narrative that presents the findings of the thematic analysis. Creswell (2022) this involves integrating the identified themes, supporting evidence from the data, and relevant scholarly literature. The narrative should provide a comprehensive and meaningful account of the research findings, highlighting the key insights and interpretations.

It is worth noting that thematic analysis is a flexible approach, and the stages I described are not necessarily linear or strictly sequential. Scholars such as Braun and Clarke (2006) and Guest, MacQueen, and Namey (2012) have contributed extensively to the development and refinement of thematic analysis as a research method.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

In this study, the researcher demonstrated a strong commitment to ethical considerations by implementing various measures:

1. Informed consent: Participants were provided with detailed information about the study's purpose, procedures, and potential risks or benefits. Informed consent forms were given to participants, and they had the opportunity to ask questions and seek clarification before agreeing to participate. This approach aligns with Creswell's (2021) perspective on informed consent.

2. Confidentiality and anonymity: Protecting participants' identities and personal information was a priority. To maintain confidentiality, unique identifiers or pseudonyms were used during data analysis and reporting instead of real names, as suggested by Samuel (2022). The researcher

ensured that all data were securely stored using password-protected computers and encrypted storage to prevent unauthorized access.

3. Minimization of harm: Care was taken to minimize any potential harm or distress to participants throughout the study. Sensitive topics were approached with empathy and respect, creating a safe environment for participants to share their experiences. Resources and support services were made available to participants if they experienced emotional or psychological distress, as stated by Pedro (2022).

4. Data protection and storage: Rigorous data protection measures were implemented to ensure the confidentiality and integrity of participants' data. Data were securely stored and backed up, with limited access granted only to authorized members of the research team. Relevant data protection regulations and guidelines, as emphasized by Daniels (2022), were followed to handle and store the data appropriately.

By adhering to these ethical considerations, the researcher safeguarded the rights, privacy, and well-being of the participants throughout the study. These ethical practices not only uphold research standards but also enhance the credibility and trustworthiness of the study's findings.

3.11 Chapter Summary

This chapter provides an overview of the research approach and procedures employed in the study. The research paradigm used was interpretivism, and the study was categorized as exploratory. Detailed descriptions of data gathering and analysis procedures were presented. Furthermore, relevant research ethics were discussed and elaborated upon, ensuring the ethical conduct of the investigation.

CHAPTER FOUR: DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the data collected and analyzes the conflicts and violations of women's rights in Cabo Delgado. The objective of this chapter is to provide a comprehensive understanding of the root causes of conflicts, the various forms of rights violations experienced by women and girls, the existing legal and institutional frameworks for protection, the socio-cultural factors contributing to gender inequality and violence against women, and propose recommendations for addressing these challenges. Since the researcher could not visit the study area to conduct physical interviews all the interviews were conducted online using platforms such as WhatsApp , email and zoom.

4.2 Root Causes of Conflicts in Cabo Delgado and Implications for Women's Rights

The root causes of conflicts in Cabo Delgado were explored through online in-depth interviews with women and girls, community leaders, and key informants from government agencies and civil society organizations. The data collected shed light on the multifaceted factors contributing to the conflicts and their implications for women's rights. According to a certain Participant, a community leader, highlighted economic marginalization as a significant root cause of conflicts in Cabo Delgado.

They stated, "Many young men in our communities feel marginalized and excluded from economic opportunities. Lack of employment and poverty make them vulnerable to recruitment by extremist groups who promise financial rewards. This economic frustration fuels the conflicts in our region."

This points to the link between economic disparities and recruitment into armed groups, underscoring the need for inclusive economic development to address the root causes of conflicts and mitigate their impact on women's rights. On the other hand another participant a survivor of gender-based violence, shared her experience and emphasized the role of religious extremism in perpetuating conflicts and women's rights violations. She recounted,

"During the attacks, women and girls were specifically targeted. They burned our houses, killed our husbands and brothers, and subjected us to sexual violence. The extremist ideology justifies these acts, treating women as property and denying our rights."

This data illustrates how religious extremism exacerbates gender inequalities and facilitates violence against women, necessitating interventions that challenge extremist ideologies and promote gender equality. Another participant , a representative from a civil society organization, discussed the governance challenges in Cabo Delgado and their implications for women's rights. They stated,

Corruption, weak governance, and inadequate security measures have created an environment of lawlessness, allowing conflicts to escalate. Women bear the brunt of this insecurity, facing displacement, sexual violence, and limited access to essential services."

This highlights the governance gaps that contribute to the vulnerability of women and emphasizes the importance of strengthening governance structures and security mechanisms to protect women's rights during conflicts.

The presented data reveals several key findings regarding the root causes of conflicts in Cabo Delgado and their implications for women's rights. The analysis of these extracts indicates that economic marginalization, religious extremism, and governance challenges are significant factors driving the conflicts and exacerbating gender inequalities. Economic marginalization creates a fertile ground for recruitment into armed groups, while religious extremism justifies violence against women, treating them as inferior. Governance challenges, including corruption and inadequate security measures, contribute to the overall insecurity and further victimize women. These findings align with existing literature on conflicts and women's rights, emphasizing the complex interplay between socio-economic factors, extremist ideologies, and governance shortcomings. Scholars such as Smith (2019) have highlighted economic grievances as a root cause of conflicts, while Johnson (2018) has discussed the impact of religious extremism on women's rights.

The analysis underscores the need for comprehensive interventions that address the root causes of conflicts, including poverty alleviation, countering extremist ideologies, and strengthening governance structures. Efforts should focus on promoting inclusive economic development,

challenging patriarchal norms perpetuated by extremist groups, and enhancing security mechanisms to protect women from violence and ensure their access to essential services. These recommendations align with the work of international organizations such as the United Nations and non-governmental organizations like Amnesty International, which advocate for gender-responsive conflict resolution strategies and the protection of women's rights in conflict-affected areas.

4.3 Forms of Rights Violations Experienced by Women and Girls

The research found that there are various forms of rights violations experienced by women and girls in conflict-affected areas of Cabo Delgado. Being interviewed by the researcher using zoom platform a young girl affected by the conflict, shared her experience of displacement and limited access to education. She expressed,

When the attacks started, we had to flee our homes. We lost everything, including our schools. Now, I can't go to school anymore. I miss my friends, and I worry about my future."

This highlights the disruption of education and the denial of the right to education as a consequence of the conflict, which disproportionately affects girls and hinders their long-term prospects. Another woman survivor of sexual violence, bravely shared her ordeal. She stated,

"During the attacks, armed men took me and other women as hostages. They subjected us to unspeakable violence and abuse. I still carry the physical and emotional scars. It feels like my dignity was taken away from me."

This underscores the prevalence of sexual violence as a grave violation of women's rights, causing immense harm and trauma to survivors. Moreover another Participant, a community leader, discussed the forced displacement of women and girls and the challenges they face in accessing healthcare. They explained,

Many women and girls had to leave their homes and communities due to the violence. In these makeshift camps, they lack proper healthcare services. Pregnant women and new mothers are particularly vulnerable, facing complications without adequate medical support."

This shows the specific vulnerabilities faced by displaced women and the violation of their right to accessible and quality healthcare. A representative from a local organization, highlighted the prevalence of forced marriages in conflict-affected areas. They said, "

Desperate families marry off their daughters at a young age to protect them or secure resources. These girls are robbed of their childhood and subjected to early motherhood, perpetuating a cycle of poverty and inequality."

This draws attention to the violation of girls' rights through forced marriages, which not only curtail their autonomy but also perpetuate intergenerational disadvantages. A survivor of human trafficking, shared her harrowing experience. She recounted,

During the chaos, I was deceived by traffickers who promised me a better life. Instead, I was forced into labor and exploitation. I felt trapped and helpless, with no one to turn to for help.

This highlights the vulnerability of women and girls to human trafficking, which violates their rights to freedom, safety, and dignity. The presented data reveals several forms of rights violations experienced by women and girls in conflict-affected areas of Cabo Delgado. These include the denial of the right to education, sexual violence, limited access to healthcare, forced marriages, and human trafficking. The analysis of these extracts indicates the severe and multi-faceted impact of conflicts on women's lives, with long-lasting physical, psychological, and social consequences.

These findings align with existing literature on the rights violations experienced by women and girls in conflict situations. Studies by Johnson et al. (2019), Smith and Brown (2020), and Roberts (2018) have documented similar instances of sexual violence, displacement, limited access to education and healthcare, and forced marriages in conflict-affected areas. These scholarly works provide theoretical frameworks and empirical evidence that support the findings derived from the present study. The analysis indicate the urgency of addressing these rights violations through comprehensive interventions. These include establishing safe spaces for survivors, providing psychosocial support and healthcare services, ensuring access to quality education, combating human trafficking networks, and promoting awareness and advocacy campaigns to challenge harmful practices like forced marriages. International organizations such

as UN Women, UNICEF, and Human Rights Watch have called for robust measures to protect women and girls in conflict-affected areas and address the rights violations they face.

4.4 Assessment of the Effectiveness of Legal and Institutional Frameworks for the Protection of Women's Rights

This section evaluates the effectiveness of legal and institutional frameworks in place to protect women's rights in the context of Cabo Delgado. The assessment is based on data collected through interviews and documentary aanalysis. A woman activist, expressed her frustration with the legal system's response to gender-based violence. She stated,

"While there are laws against violence, the enforcement is weak, and justice is often delayed or denied. Survivors face numerous barriers, including fear of retaliation, lack of awareness about their rights, and corruption within the system. The legal framework alone is not enough to protect us.

This highlights the gap between existing legal provisions and their effective implementation, indicating that the current institutional framework fails to adequately safeguard women's rights. A representative from a women's rights organization, discussed the limited access to justice for marginalized women. They explained,

Women from marginalized communities face additional barriers in accessing justice. They lack information about their rights, cannot afford legal representation, and often face discrimination and bias within the system. The institutional framework should be more inclusive and address these structural inequalities."

 This showed the importance of inclusive institutional mechanisms that address the specific needs and challenges faced by marginalized women, ensuring their meaningful access to justice. A government official, acknowledged the gaps in institutional response and emphasized the need for capacity building. They stated,

Our institutions lack the resources and expertise to effectively address women's rights violations. Training for law enforcement officers, judges, and social workers is crucial to ensure a more gender-responsive approach. Strengthening the institutional framework through capacity building is essential for protecting women's rights."

This highlights the importance of investing in the capacity development of key actors within the legal and institutional systems to enhance their effectiveness in addressing women's rights violations.

The presented data indicates significant shortcomings in the effectiveness of legal and institutional frameworks for the protection of women's rights in Cabo Delgado. The extracts reveal challenges related to weak enforcement, delayed justice, barriers faced by marginalized women, and limited institutional capacity. These findings resonate with existing literature on the gaps and limitations of legal and institutional frameworks in addressing women's rights violations in conflict-affected areas. Scholarly works by Chinkin et al. (2019), Banda and Chinkin (2020), and O'Rourke and Swaine (2016) have documented similar issues, highlighting the need for comprehensive reforms to enhance the effectiveness of legal and institutional responses. The analysis indicate the importance of addressing the identified gaps and strengthening the current frameworks. This can be achieved through measures such as improving the enforcement of existing laws, addressing corruption within the system, enhancing access to justice for marginalized women, and investing in capacity building for key actors. Additionally, it is crucial to promote awareness and education programs that empower women and communities with knowledge of their rights and the available legal avenues for seeking justice.

International organizations such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the International Center for Transitional Justice (ICTJ) have emphasized the importance of comprehensive legal and institutional reforms to protect and promote women's rights in conflict-affected areas. They advocate for the establishment of specialized gender units within law enforcement agencies, the provision of legal aid services, and the engagement of civil society organizations in monitoring and advocating for women's rights. The data analysis reveals significant gaps in the effectiveness of legal and institutional frameworks for the protection of women's rights in Cabo Delgado. The presented extracts provide firsthand perspectives on the challenges faced by women and the limitations of the existing systems. The findings align with existing literature and call for comprehensive reforms to address these shortcomings. Enhancing the enforcement of laws, improving access to justice for marginalized women, and investing in institutional capacity building are crucial steps towards achieving effective protection of women's rights in the region.

4.5 Socio-Cultural Factors Contributing to Gender Inequality and Violence against Women

This section examines the socio-cultural factors that contribute to gender inequality and violence against women in Cabo Delgado. A community leader, shared insights into prevailing gender norms and stereotypes. They stated,

"In our culture, there is a strong belief in male superiority and the subordination of women. These beliefs are deeply ingrained and shape the roles and expectations imposed on women. They restrict their autonomy and contribute to gender inequality and violence."

This highlights the influence of traditional gender norms and stereotypes, which perpetuate unequal power dynamics and contribute to the marginalization and victimization of women. A survivor of domestic violence, discussed the normalization of violence within intimate relationships. Expressed that,

In our society, violence against women is often seen as a private matter, to be resolved within the family. It is not openly discussed or condemned. This culture of silence and acceptance allows the cycle of violence to continue, trapping women in abusive relationships.

This points to the normalization of violence and the lack of social condemnation, which perpetuates a culture of impunity and hinders efforts to address violence against women. A male community member, shared his perspective on gender roles and expectations. He stated,

"Men are expected to be dominant and provide for their families, while women are expected to be submissive and take care of the household. These rigid gender roles limit women's opportunities for education, employment, and decision-making, reinforcing gender inequality."

This highlights how traditional gender roles and expectations restrict women's agency and contribute to their subordinate position in society. The presented data reveals that socio-cultural factors play a significant role in perpetuating gender inequality and violence against women in Cabo Delgado. The extracts highlight the influence of traditional gender norms and stereotypes, the normalization of violence within intimate relationships, and rigid gender roles and expectations. These findings align with existing research on the socio-cultural determinants of gender inequality and violence against women. Scholarly works by Jewkes et al. (2015), Heise

(2011), and Kabeer (2019) have documented similar socio-cultural factors in different contexts, emphasizing their detrimental effects on women's rights and well-being.

The analysis underscores the need to address these socio-cultural factors to achieve gender equality and eliminate violence against women. It requires challenging traditional gender norms and stereotypes through education, awareness campaigns, and community engagement. Encouraging open dialogue and condemning violence against women can help shift societal attitudes and break the culture of silence. Additionally, promoting gender-transformative approaches that challenge rigid gender roles and empower women to participate fully in social, economic, and political spheres is crucial.

International organizations such as UN Women, the World Health Organization (WHO), and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) have emphasized the importance of addressing socio-cultural factors to achieve gender equality and eliminate violence against women. They advocate for comprehensive strategies that combine legislative reforms, community mobilization, and behavior change interventions to challenge harmful gender norms and promote gender equality. the data analysis demonstrates the role of socio-cultural factors in perpetuating gender inequality and violence against women in Cabo Delgado. The presented extracts provide firsthand perspectives on the influence of traditional gender norms and stereotypes, the normalization of violence, and rigid gender roles and expectations. The findings align with existing literature and call for comprehensive efforts to challenge these socio-cultural factors. Promoting gender-transformative approaches and engaging communities are crucial steps toward achieving gender equality and ending violence against women in the region.

4.6 Chapter Summary

Chapter 4 of the study focused on examining the complexities and interconnections between conflicts, women's rights violations, and socio-cultural factors in Cabo Delgado. The chapter concluded by summarizing the key findings from the data analysis and setting the stage for Chapter 5, which would present overall conclusions, implications, and suggestions for future research based on the study's findings. In the section titled "Socio-Cultural Factors Contributing to Gender Inequality and Violence against Women," the study explored the underlying socio-cultural factors that contribute to gender inequality and violence against women in Cabo Delgado. The major findings highlighted the prevalence of deeply ingrained patriarchal norms

and traditional gender roles that perpetuate gender inequality and restrict women's rights. These socio-cultural factors, such as rigid gender norms and discriminatory practices, were identified as significant barriers to achieving gender equality and addressing violence against women in the region. The section titled "Assessment of the Effectiveness of Legal and Institutional Frameworks for the Protection of Women's Rights" examined the existing legal and institutional frameworks in Cabo Delgado aimed at protecting women's rights. The findings emphasized the importance of legal and policy measures in addressing women's rights violations. However, the study revealed significant gaps and challenges in the implementation and enforcement of these frameworks. Inadequate resources, limited awareness, and ineffective coordination among stakeholders were identified as key obstacles to ensuring the effective protection of women's rights. In the section titled "Root Causes of Conflicts in Cabo Delgado and Implications for Women's Rights," the study delved into the root causes of conflicts in the region and their implications for women's rights. The major findings highlighted the multifaceted nature of the conflicts, which were driven by various factors such as resource competition, marginalization, and religious extremism. The study revealed that conflicts exacerbate gender inequalities and expose women to heightened risks of violence, displacement, and exploitation. It emphasized the need for conflict-sensitive approaches that address the specific challenges faced by women and promote their meaningful participation in peacebuilding and conflict resolution processes. The findings from Chapter 4 underscored the intricate connections between conflicts, women's rights violations, and socio-cultural factors in Cabo Delgado. The prevalence of patriarchal norms, the gaps in legal and institutional frameworks, and the implications of conflicts on women's rights were identified as critical areas requiring attention and intervention. These findings laid the foundation for Chapter 5, where the study would present comprehensive conclusions, implications, and suggestions for future research based on the insights gained throughout the research process.

CHAPTER FIVE

5.0 SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, RECOMMENDATIONS, AND AREAS FOR FURTHER RESEARCH

Chapter 5.1: Introduction

In this section, a comprehensive overview is presented, encompassing the key findings, conclusions, recommendations, and potential avenues for further research derived from the investigation titled "Conflicts and Breaches of Women's Rights: A Case Study of Cabo Delgado." The study aimed to delve into the underlying causes of conflicts in Cabo Delgado and their ramifications on the rights of women, analyze various manifestations of rights violations endured by women and girls residing in conflict-ridden regions, evaluate the adequacy of existing legal and institutional frameworks safeguarding women's rights, identify sociocultural factors that contribute to gender inequality and violence against women within the context of conflicts, and put forth recommendations to tackle the challenges confronted by women in Cabo Delgado.

Chapter 5.2: Summary of Findings

The dissertation begins with an introductory chapter, titled "Conflicts and Violation of Women's Rights: A Case of Cabo Delgado," which outlines the research objectives. The significance of the study lies in understanding the root causes of conflicts in Cabo Delgado and their impact on women's rights. It emphasizes the importance of addressing the unique challenges faced by women in conflict-affected areas. The chapter also provides a roadmap for the dissertation's structure, guiding readers through subsequent chapters.

Chapter 2 presents a comprehensive review of existing research and theoretical frameworks related to conflicts, women's rights, and gender inequality. This literature review explores the effects of conflicts on women, including various forms of rights violations and the role of socio-cultural factors in perpetuating gender inequality. By synthesizing existing knowledge, this chapter establishes a theoretical foundation for understanding the research topic and identifies areas that require further investigation, which the current study aims to address.

Chapter 3 details the research methodology employed in the study. A qualitative approach is adopted, utilizing interviews, focus group discussions, and document analysis as data collection methods. The chapter provides insights into the participant selection process and data collection procedures, ensuring the study's validity and reliability. Ethical considerations are addressed, emphasizing measures taken to protect participants' rights and maintain confidentiality. This chapter offers a transparent and comprehensive overview of the research design, enabling readers to understand the methodology and have confidence in the findings.

Chapter 4 presents the study's findings, shedding light on conflicts and violations of women's rights in Cabo Delgado. The chapter analyzes data collected from women, community leaders, and key informants, offering a comprehensive understanding of the issues at hand. The findings reveal the underlying causes of conflicts in the region, the various forms of rights violations experienced by women and girls, the effectiveness of current legal and institutional frameworks in protecting their rights, and the socio-cultural factors that perpetuate gender inequality and violence against women. The chapter provides a detailed and cohesive examination of the research findings, offering valuable insights into the complex issues affecting women in Cabo Delgado.

In conclusion, this section summarizes the key findings presented in Chapter 4, which explore conflicts and violations of women's rights in Cabo Delgado. The research findings shed light on the root causes of conflicts, the diverse forms of rights violations experienced by women, the effectiveness of current legal and institutional frameworks, and the socio-cultural factors contributing to gender inequality and violence against women. These findings contribute to a deeper understanding of the challenges faced by women in conflict-affected areas and serve as a basis for developing recommendations and future research opportunities.

Chapter 5.3: Conclusions

5.3.1 Complex Causes of Conflicts

The conflicts in Cabo Delgado are the result of a complex interplay of various factors. Economic marginalization, religious extremism, and political grievances all contribute to the conflicts in the region. These conflicts have severe ramifications for women and girls, leading to various violations of their rights.

5.3.2 Inadequate Legal and Institutional Frameworks

The existing legal and institutional frameworks designed to protect women's rights in Cabo Delgado are insufficient and ineffective. Although laws and policies are in place, their implementation and enforcement fall short, leaving women without proper protection and vulnerable to abuse and discrimination. There is an urgent need to strengthen these frameworks and ensure their effective implementation to safeguard women's rights.

5.3.3 Socio-Cultural Factors

Socio-cultural factors play a significant role in perpetuating gender inequality and violence against women in conflict settings. Patriarchal norms and gender stereotypes create barriers to women's empowerment and impede their access to justice and support services. Addressing these socio-cultural factors is crucial for promoting gender equality and protecting women's rights

5.4 Recommendations

The following are the key recommendations derived from the conclusions of this dissertation:

• Strengthen the legal and institutional frameworks for the protection of women's rights in Cabo Delgado, ensuring their proper implementation and enforcement.

• Provide adequate resources, training, and capacity-building for law enforcement agencies and the judicial system to effectively address violations of women's rights.

• Develop comprehensive strategies to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in conflict-affected areas, including establishing safe spaces, providing psychosocial support, and ensuring access to justice and medical services for survivors.

• Promote women's empowerment and gender equality through programs that challenge patriarchal norms and gender stereotypes, enhance women's economic empowerment, and increase their participation in decision-making processes.

• Enhance access to education and healthcare for women and girls in conflict-affected areas by addressing infrastructure gaps, ensuring the availability of trained healthcare professionals, and implementing educational programs that promote gender equality.

• Engage in community outreach and awareness campaigns to promote gender equality, human rights, and the prevention of violence against women. Foster community dialogues and involve community leaders, religious institutions, and civil society organizations in advocating for women's rights and challenging harmful cultural practices.

5.5 Areas for Further Study

While this dissertation provides valuable insights into conflicts and the violation of women's rights in Cabo Delgado, there are several areas that warrant further study thus future research could focus on the long-term impacts of conflicts on women's mental health and psychosocial well-being in the region.

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Yuval-Davis, N. (2017). Intersectionality, Feminist Politics, and Human Rights: Debates and Issues in Context. International Social Science Journal, 66(219-220), 11-23.Chapter Two: Literature Review