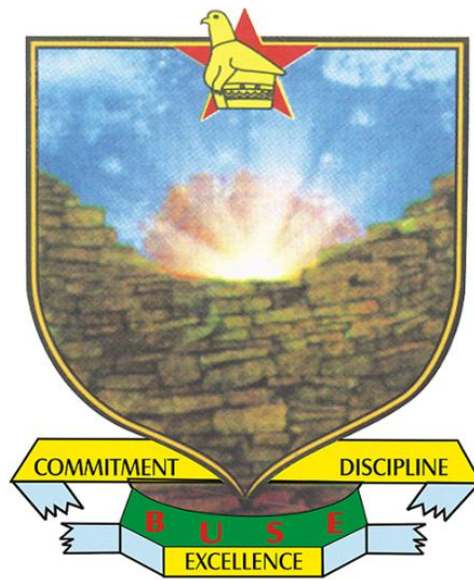


BINDURA UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE EDUCATION
FACULTY OF SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING
DEPARTMENT OF SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



**THE IMPACTS OF GROSS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON THE SOCIO-ECONOMIC
GROWTH IN ZIMBABWE**

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**A dissertation submitted in partial fulfilment of the Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in
Development Studies**

Supervisor: Dr T. Samukange 2024.

ABSTRACT

This dissertation examines the impacts of gross domestic violence on the socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe. The purpose of the study is to investigate the multifaceted effects of domestic violence on key socio-economic indicators and provide insights into the consequences for the overall development of the country. The research employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative analysis of existing data and qualitative interviews with survivors, policymakers, and relevant stakeholders. The findings reveal that domestic violence has significant detrimental effects on various socio-economic aspects, including health, education, labour productivity, and economic participation. Moreover, the study uncovers the interplay between domestic violence and broader social issues such as gender inequality and poverty, exacerbating the negative impacts. The conclusions drawn from the analysis emphasize the urgent need for comprehensive interventions addressing domestic violence in order to foster sustainable economic growth and social development in Zimbabwe. The recommendations put forth include the implementation of robust legal frameworks, increased awareness campaigns, provision of support services for survivors, and the promotion of gender equality across all spheres of society. By addressing domestic violence holistically, Zimbabwe can pave the way for a more inclusive and prosperous future.

DECLARATION FORM

I, Kudakwashe Dananai Sandhla, hereby declare that the information and content presented in this dissertation/research study/thesis titled “The impacts of gross domestic violence on the socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe” is entirely my original work. Wherever external sources have been used, proper citations and references have been provided. I affirm that no part of this work has been submitted for any other academic qualification or degree. I take full responsibility for the accuracy and authenticity of the data, analysis, and conclusions presented in this dissertation/research study/thesis. Furthermore, I declare that all ethical guidelines, including obtaining necessary permissions, maintaining confidentiality, and ensuring the privacy of participants, have been adhered to throughout the research process. I understand that any misrepresentation, plagiarism, or violation of academic integrity will have serious consequences. By signing this declaration, I acknowledge the academic and ethical implications of my work and affirm my commitment to upholding the highest standards of integrity and professionalism.

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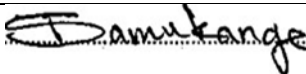
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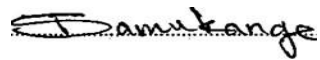
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APPROVAL FORM

The undersigned certify that they have read the dissertation and have approved its submission for marking confirming that it conforms to the departmental requirements on a research entitled: “The impacts of gross domestic violence on the socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe” . Submitted by Kudakwashe Dananai Sandhla in partial fulfilment of Bachelor of Science Honours Degree in Development Studies.

Dr.T. Samukange (dissertation Supervisor)

Signature

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'T. Samukange', written over a dotted line.

Date.....

DEDICATION

I dedicate this dissertation/research study/thesis to my two mothers, my uncle, my grandparents and friends whose unwavering support, encouragement, and belief in me have been instrumental in my academic journey. Their constant presence, guidance, and understanding have been the driving force behind my accomplishments. I am deeply grateful for their love, sacrifices, and belief in my abilities. This work is a testament to their unwavering faith in me, and I dedicate it to them as a token of my profound appreciation and love.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all those who have contributed to the completion of this dissertation/research study/thesis. First and foremost, I would like to thank God for taking me this far and I am deeply grateful to my supervisor Mr T. Samukange for their invaluable guidance, expertise, and unwavering support throughout this journey. Their insightful feedback, constructive criticism, and mentorship have been instrumental in shaping the direction and quality of this work. I would also like to thank the participants who generously shared their time and insights, without whom this research would not have been possible. Additionally, I extend my appreciation to my family, friends, and loved ones for their constant encouragement, understanding, and belief in my abilities. Their unwavering support has been a source of strength and motivation. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the academic community, colleagues, and institutions that have provided resources, literature, and assistance throughout this research. Their contributions have enriched my understanding and enriched the quality of this work.

ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS:

ICT – Information and Communication Technology

O level – Ordinary Level

ED – Gross Domestic Violence

USD – United States Dollar

WHO – World Health Organization

UNESCO – United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

NGO – Non-Governmental Organization

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CHAPTER ONE

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Domestic violence is a widespread problem that affects societies worldwide, irrespective of their level of development. It encompasses various forms of abuse, such as physical, sexual, and psychological violence, occurring within intimate partner relationships or family settings. The repercussions of domestic violence extend beyond individual victims and impact families, communities, and a nation's overall socio-economic fabric. Understanding the global context of domestic violence and its influence on socio-economic growth is crucial in emphasizing the urgency and importance of researching this topic in Zimbabwe.

At the international level, numerous studies and reports have revealed the harmful effects of domestic violence on socio-economic growth in developed countries. For example, research by the World Health Organization (WHO) found that domestic violence is linked to negative economic consequences, including decreased labor force participation, reduced productivity, and increased healthcare costs (WHO, 2013). In countries like the United States, domestic violence has been estimated to result in billions of dollars in medical expenses, lost productivity, and criminal justice system expenditures (CDC, 2017).

Furthermore, domestic violence obstructs gender equality and women's empowerment, which are vital components of sustainable development. The United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) emphasizes that violence against women, including domestic violence, acts as a barrier to achieving gender equality and women's full participation in social, economic, and political spheres (UNDP, 2018). Countries like Sweden have recognized the impact of domestic violence on socio-economic growth and have implemented comprehensive policies and interventions to address the issue, leading to significant progress in reducing domestic violence rates and promoting gender equality (SOU, 2018).

Regionally, the impact of domestic violence on socio-economic growth is evident across various contexts. In Europe, for instance, the Council of Europe's Istanbul Convention emphasizes the need for member states to comprehensively address domestic violence and promote gender equality (Council of Europe, 2011). This regional recognition demonstrates the acknowledgment of domestic violence as a significant hindrance to socio-economic development. In the African region, domestic violence is a pressing concern that hampers progress towards sustainable

development goals. The African Union's Agenda 2063, outlining the continent's development aspirations, recognizes the importance of addressing domestic violence and promoting gender equality for inclusive and sustainable growth (African Union, 2015). Studies conducted in countries such as South Africa and Kenya have revealed substantial socio-economic costs of domestic violence, including decreased productivity, increased healthcare expenses, and reduced educational attainment (Abrahams et al., 2020; Devries et al., 2013).

At the national level, domestic violence poses significant challenges to socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe. The Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) conducted in 2015 revealed alarming rates of domestic violence, with approximately 35% of women aged 15-49 reporting experiencing physical violence (ZIMSTAT & ICF, 2016). These acts of violence have severe socio-economic consequences, including adverse impacts on women's health, education, and economic empowerment. Moreover, domestic violence perpetuates a cycle of poverty and hinders sustainable development in Zimbabwe. The prevalence of domestic violence negatively affects productivity, as individuals experiencing abuse may face physical and psychological health issues that impede their ability to engage in productive activities. It also disrupts education, as children who witness or experience domestic violence may struggle with concentration, perform poorly academically, and be at an increased risk of dropping out of school (Mlambo-Ngcuka, 2016).

Recognizing the international, regional, and national significance of domestic violence and its impact on socio-economic growth underscores the urgent need for research to be conducted in Zimbabwe. By exploring the specific dynamics and consequences of domestic violence within the Zimbabwean context, this study will contribute to the existing knowledge on this issue and provide valuable insights for policymakers, organizations, and stakeholders to develop targeted interventions and policies that effectively address domestic violence and support sustainable socio-economic growth.

1.2 Purpose of the Study

This study focuses on the widespread problem of domestic violence in Zimbabwe, which presents significant challenges for individuals, families, and communities.

1.3 Statement of the Problem

Extensive evidence exists to demonstrate the existence of this problem and its harmful effects on various aspects of society. The Zimbabwe Demographic and Health Survey (ZDHS) conducted in 2015, for example, provides concrete proof of the high prevalence of domestic violence in the country (ZIMSTAT & ICF, 2016). The survey revealed alarming rates of physical violence experienced by women, with approximately 35% of women aged 15-49 reporting such incidents. This evidence clearly highlights the urgent need to address the issue of domestic violence in Zimbabwe. Domestic violence affects not only the direct victims but also the broader society. Women and children are the primary targets of domestic violence, enduring physical, psychological, and emotional harm. The consequences of domestic violence extend beyond the immediate impact on individuals; they permeate through families, communities, and the socio-economic fabric of the nation. Numerous scholars have documented the effects of domestic violence on individuals and society. For instance, Abrahams et al. (2020) emphasize the negative implications of domestic violence for women's health and well-being. Devries et al. (2013) provide evidence of how domestic violence affects children's education, leading to poor academic performance and an increased risk of dropping out of school. Additionally, the socio-economic ramifications of domestic violence are significant. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2013) underscores the economic consequences of domestic violence, including reduced participation in the labor force, decreased productivity, and increased healthcare costs. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC, 2017) highlight the financial burden of domestic violence, estimating that it costs billions of dollars annually in medical expenses, lost productivity, and expenditures within the criminal justice system. Thus, the issue addressed by this study is the pervasive problem of domestic violence in Zimbabwe.

1.4 Research Objective

The research aims of this study are as follows:

1. Evaluate the prevalence and patterns of domestic violence in Zimbabwe, including the types of violence experienced and the demographic characteristics of victims and perpetrators.
2. Investigate the socio-economic consequences of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities in Zimbabwe, examining its impact on physical and mental health, education, employment, and economic well-being.

3. Identify the underlying factors and risk factors associated with domestic violence in Zimbabwe, including cultural norms, gender inequalities, socio-economic disparities, and the role of substance abuse.
4. Provide evidence-based recommendations for the development of effective interventions, policies, and support services that aim to prevent domestic violence, promote gender equality, and support the recovery and empowerment of survivors in Zimbabwe.

1.5 Research Questions

The research questions to be addressed are as follows:

1. What is the prevalence of domestic violence in Zimbabwe, and what are the patterns of violence experienced? What are the demographic characteristics of victims and perpetrators?
2. What are the socio-economic consequences of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities in Zimbabwe? How does domestic violence impact physical and mental health, education, employment, and economic well-being?
3. What are the underlying factors and risk factors associated with domestic violence in Zimbabwe? How do cultural norms, gender inequalities, socio-economic disparities, and substance abuse contribute to the occurrence of domestic violence?
4. What are the effective interventions, policies, and support services that can be implemented to prevent domestic violence, promote gender equality, and support the recovery and empowerment of survivors in Zimbabwe?

1.6 Research Assumptions:

1. It is assumed that participants will provide honest and accurate information about their experiences of domestic violence, as the study relies on self-reporting and their willingness to disclose sensitive and potentially stigmatized information.
2. It is assumed that the selected research methods and instruments are valid and reliable in capturing the complexities and nuances of domestic violence in the Zimbabwean context. This assumption ensures that the data collected will be robust and representative of the phenomenon under investigation.

3. It is assumed that the research findings and recommendations will be utilized by relevant stakeholders, policymakers, and organizations to inform and guide the development of interventions, policies, and support services addressing domestic violence in Zimbabwe. This assumption assumes a commitment to evidence-based decision-making and a willingness to take action based on the study's outcomes.

1.7 Importance of the Study

This study holds significant importance for various stakeholders involved in addressing and combating domestic violence in Zimbabwe. The findings and outcomes of the study can contribute to their efforts in the following ways:

1. Non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and advocacy groups

NGOs working on domestic violence prevention and support can benefit from the study's findings by aligning their efforts with the identified risk factors and underlying causes. The study can inform the development of targeted programs and services to support survivors, raise awareness, promote gender equality, and challenge cultural norms that perpetuate violence.

2. Healthcare professionals and service providers

The study's insights can equip healthcare professionals with knowledge on the needs of survivors. It guides the development of effective interventions and support services within the healthcare system to identify and address domestic violence cases, provide appropriate care, and facilitate access to resources for survivors.

3. General public and communities

The study's findings inform the general public about the prevalence and consequences of domestic violence. It can help challenge societal norms and attitudes that perpetuate violence, foster empathy and support for survivors, and encourage community-based initiatives to prevent domestic violence.

1.8 Delimitations of the Study

The geographic boundary is limited to Zimbabwe, and the findings may not be directly generalizable to other contexts. The timeframe of the study will be determined by the availability

of data and resources, ensuring a comprehensive understanding of domestic violence up until the most recent available information. The study will primarily rely on quantitative methods to collect and analyze data. It may involve survey questionnaires, structured interviews, or analysis of existing datasets, such as national surveys or reports on domestic violence in Zimbabwe. The qualitative aspect may be limited, and in-depth exploration of individual experiences may not be fully addressed due to the nature of the research design. The study will draw upon existing theories and frameworks related to domestic violence, such as the ecological model or feminist theories, to guide the research.

1.9 Limitations of the Study

The study acknowledges several limitations that should be recognized. Firstly, one challenge was relying on self-reported data, which could be influenced by memory biases and the tendency to provide socially desirable responses. To address this, measures were taken to ensure participant confidentiality, emphasize the importance of honest answers, and use validated assessment tools. Secondly, the study's cross-sectional design restricts the ability to establish causality or capture temporal relationships between variables. To mitigate this limitation, statistical techniques such as regression analysis and control variables were used to explore associations and potential confounding factors. Additionally, the study's focus on Zimbabwe's specific geography and culture may restrict the generalizability of the findings to other regions or cultural contexts. To address this, the research included a diverse sample from different regions and aimed to provide a comprehensive understanding of domestic violence within the Zimbabwean context. While these limitations are important to consider, the study implemented rigorous data collection, analysis, and interpretation processes to minimize their impact.

1.10 Definition of Key Terms

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence refers to a pattern of abusive behavior in intimate or familial relationships where one individual seeks to exert power and control over another through physical, sexual, emotional, or economic means. It encompasses acts such as physical assault, sexual coercion, emotional abuse, and financial manipulation.

Prevalence

Prevalence indicates the proportion or percentage of individuals or households within a specified population that experience domestic violence during a given period. It represents the frequency or occurrence of domestic violence within a defined population.

Socio-economic Consequences

Socio-economic consequences refer to the wide-ranging impacts of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities, primarily in terms of social and economic aspects. These consequences may include physical and mental health issues, disrupted family dynamics, educational disruptions, reduced employment opportunities, and financial instability.

Risk Factors

Risk factors refer to the conditions, characteristics, or circumstances that increase the likelihood of domestic violence occurrence. These factors can include individual factors (such as substance abuse or a history of violence), relationship factors (such as power imbalances or conflicts), and societal factors (such as gender inequality or cultural norms).

Gender Equality

Gender equality is the principle of equal rights, opportunities, and access to resources and benefits for people of all genders. It challenges and aims to eliminate discrimination and gender-based disparities, promoting fairness and equity in social, economic, and political spheres.

1.11 Dissertation Structure

The dissertation comprises five chapters that contribute to a comprehensive exploration and understanding of the research topic. Chapter 1 serves as the introduction, providing an overview of the research topic's significance and presenting the research objectives. It outlines the research questions that will guide the investigation and provides a brief preview of the subsequent chapters.

Chapter 2 conducts a literature review, analysing existing scholarly works and theoretical frameworks relevant to domestic violence in Zimbabwe. This chapter critically examines and synthesizes the literature to identify gaps, inconsistencies, and areas requiring further exploration, establishing a solid foundation for the research.

Chapter 3 focuses on the methodology employed in the study, explaining the research design and approach chosen (quantitative, qualitative, or mixed methods). It describes the data collection methods, sampling strategy, determination of sample size, and ethical considerations. Additionally, it explains the data analysis techniques used and acknowledges any limitations or challenges encountered during the research process.

Chapter 4 is dedicated to data presentation and analysis. It presents the collected data in an organized manner, utilizing appropriate tables, graphs, or qualitative excerpts. A detailed analysis of the data is conducted, addressing each research question and objective. The findings are interpreted in relation to the existing literature and theoretical frameworks, with any unexpected or significant findings discussed.

Finally, Chapter 5 provides a summary of the main findings of the study, relating them back to the research questions and objectives. It highlights the contributions of the research to the field of domestic violence in Zimbabwe and explores the implications of the findings for policy, practice, or future research. This chapter concludes with suggestions for further exploration and offers final remarks, providing a cohesive and conclusive end to the dissertation.

Chapter 2: Literature Review

2.1 Introduction

Chapter 2 explores various aspects of domestic violence, including policy frameworks, legal measures, and theoretical perspectives. It analyses global and regional perspectives to examine policy interventions and legal measures implemented worldwide. Additionally, it discusses different theoretical frameworks, such as feminist theories, culturally specific perspectives, psychological theories, and intersectionality, to provide a comprehensive understanding of the underlying dynamics of domestic violence.

2.2 Prevalence and Patterns of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a pervasive and multifaceted issue with global implications for individuals, families, and communities. It encompasses different forms of abuse, including physical, sexual, psychological, and economic violence. Understanding the prevalence and patterns of domestic violence is vital for addressing this widespread problem and developing effective interventions. This section explores global and regional perspectives on the prevalence and patterns of domestic violence, shedding light on the magnitude and nature of this issue.

Globally, studies consistently reveal alarming rates of domestic violence. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately one in three women worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner in their lifetime (WHO, 2013). This statistic highlights the significant impact of domestic violence on individuals and societies globally. Scholars emphasize that domestic violence is not limited to specific countries, cultures, or socioeconomic groups but cuts across diverse societies and transcends geographical boundaries (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2006; Jewkes et al., 2002).

In the African region, domestic violence remains a pressing concern. Research indicates that rates of domestic violence in Africa are among the highest globally (Koenig et al., 2003). Studies conducted in various countries across the region consistently demonstrate the prevalence of domestic violence and its detrimental effects on individuals and communities. For instance, a study in Ethiopia found that nearly 71% of women had experienced physical or sexual violence from an

intimate partner (Abeya et al., 2018). Similarly, a study conducted in South Africa revealed that approximately one in four women had experienced physical violence from an intimate partner (Jewkes et al., 2002).

In Zimbabwe, domestic violence is a significant social issue with profound consequences for individuals and society as a whole. The prevalence of domestic violence in Zimbabwe is concerning, with studies indicating high rates of abuse within intimate relationships. One study found that 35% of women in Zimbabwe reported experiencing physical violence from their partner (Chirwa et al., 2017). Another study highlighted that 41% of women in Zimbabwe had experienced some form of physical or sexual violence (Shamu et al., 2016).

These studies underscore the alarming prevalence of domestic violence globally, regionally, and specifically in Zimbabwe. They emphasize that domestic violence is a widespread problem that affects individuals across cultural, social, and economic contexts. The findings highlight the urgent need for comprehensive strategies and interventions to address this issue and safeguard the well-being of individuals and communities.

A systematic review of African studies found that the prevalence of domestic violence in Zimbabwe ranged from 13% to 63%, with intimate partner physical violence being the most commonly reported form (Shamu et al., 2016). These figures indicate the significant burden of domestic violence in Zimbabwe, underscoring the need for effective interventions and support services. Scholars globally and regionally have identified several factors contributing to the prevalence of domestic violence. Cultural norms and gender inequalities play a significant role in perpetuating violence within intimate relationships. Patriarchal structures and rigid gender roles often reinforce power imbalances, promoting the belief in male dominance and control over women (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2006). Socio-economic disparities and poverty are also associated with higher rates of domestic violence, as financial stress and limited resources can exacerbate tensions within relationships (Jewkes et al., 2002).

Furthermore, substance abuse, including alcohol and drug use, has been identified as a risk factor for domestic violence globally. Research suggests that substance abuse can increase the likelihood and severity of violence within intimate relationships (Chirwa et al., 2017). Substance use impairs judgment, intensifies aggression, and contributes to a cycle of violence.

2.3.2 Impact on Health

Domestic violence has significant implications for the health of survivors, both globally and regionally. Scholars have extensively researched this topic, providing valuable insights into the physical and mental health consequences experienced by survivors.

The physical health consequences of domestic violence are profound. Globally, studies have consistently shown that survivors of domestic violence are at a higher risk of experiencing a range of physical health problems. These include injuries, chronic pain, gastrointestinal disorders, cardiovascular issues, and reproductive health complications (Ellsberg et al., 2008; Devries et al., 2013). A study conducted in the United States found that domestic violence survivors had higher rates of chronic diseases such as hypertension, diabetes, and asthma (Coker et al., 2002). Similarly, in a study conducted in India, researchers found that women who experienced domestic violence were more likely to report physical health problems such as headaches, back pain, and digestive issues (Kalokhe et al., 2017). The impact of domestic violence on physical health extends beyond immediate injuries. Survivors may experience long-term consequences that affect their overall well-being and quality of life. Chronic pain, disabilities resulting from physical injuries, and compromised immune functioning are among the long-term health effects documented in research (Bonomi et al., 2006; Beydoun et al., 2012).

Domestic violence is strongly associated with adverse mental health outcomes. Survivors often experience symptoms of depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and suicidal ideation (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2005; Devries et al., 2013). A global study found that women who experienced intimate partner violence had significantly higher odds of suffering from depressive symptoms and suicidal thoughts (Devries et al., 2013). In another study conducted in Canada, researchers found that mental health disorders such as depression and anxiety were more prevalent among women who had experienced domestic violence (Afifi et al., 2009).

The psychological impact of domestic violence can be long-lasting, even after the abuse has ended. Survivors may struggle with low self-esteem, feelings of shame, and difficulties in establishing healthy relationships (Lagdon et al., 2014). Additionally, domestic violence can negatively impact cognitive functioning and impair decision-making abilities (Stewart et al., 2006).

The intersection between physical and mental health consequences further compounds the health burden experienced by survivors. The co-occurrence of physical injuries and mental health disorders can create a vicious cycle, with physical health issues exacerbating mental health symptoms and vice versa (Campbell et al., 2002).

The impact of domestic violence on health carries significant societal and economic implications. Survivors often require extensive healthcare services, including medical treatments, therapy, and medication, leading to increased healthcare costs (Stöckl et al., 2013). The physical and mental health issues experienced by survivors may also lead to reduced productivity, missed workdays, and decreased earning potential, contributing to economic instability at both individual and societal levels (Lagarde et al., 2013).

2.2.2 Types of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence encompasses a range of abusive behaviours that occur within intimate relationships. Understanding the various types of domestic violence is essential for comprehending the complexity and consequences of this issue. Scholars at the global and regional levels have identified distinct forms of domestic violence, which are outlined below to provide insights into the diverse manifestations of abuse within intimate relationships.

2.2.2.1 Physical Violence

Physical violence involves the deliberate use of physical force with the intention to harm, injure, or cause death. It includes actions such as hitting, slapping, kicking, choking, or using weapons against an intimate partner. Physical violence is a prominently visible and acknowledged form of domestic violence, often leaving visible marks or injuries on the victim's body and inflicting severe physical and psychological consequences (Heise, 1998).

2.2.2.2 Sexual Violence

Sexual violence refers to any non-consensual sexual activity imposed on an individual within an intimate relationship. This includes acts of rape, forced sexual acts, coerced sexual activity, and sexual harassment. Sexual violence violates an individual's autonomy, dignity, and bodily integrity, leading to long-lasting psychological and physical effects on survivors (World Health Organization, 2013).

2.2.2.3 Psychological/Emotional Abuse

Psychological or emotional abuse encompasses behaviours that undermine an individual's self-worth, control, and autonomy. It involves insults, humiliation, threats, intimidation, isolation, and manipulation. Psychological abuse aims to exert power and control over the victim, leaving them feeling fearful, anxious, and emotionally traumatized (Stark, 2007).

2.2.2.4 Economic Abuse

Economic abuse involves controlling or exploiting an individual's financial resources and economic independence within an intimate relationship. It includes actions such as restricting access to money, withholding financial resources, obstructing employment or educational opportunities, and sabotaging economic autonomy. Economic abuse can render survivors financially dependent and vulnerable, making it difficult for them to leave abusive relationships (Adams et al., 2008).

2.2.3 Impact on Economic Well-being

The economic ramifications of domestic violence are substantial and have implications for the financial stability of survivors globally and regionally. Extensive research has shed light on the financial consequences faced by survivors and the broader economic impact on individuals, families, and societies.

On a global scale, domestic violence often results in significant financial losses for survivors. Studies indicate that survivors may experience economic abuse, including control over financial resources, sabotage of employment, and forced unemployment (Adams et al., 2008; Puri et al., 2016). These tactics lead to limited access to income, diminished job prospects, and financial dependence on the abuser. In the United States, intimate partner violence has been found to cause an annual loss of 8 million days of paid work, equivalent to over \$8 billion in economic losses (Catalano, 2007).

Regionally, the economic impact of domestic violence varies, but research consistently highlights the financial burden experienced by survivors. For example, a study conducted in India revealed that women who experienced domestic violence were more likely to be unemployed and have

lower educational attainment, resulting in reduced earning potential and economic insecurity (Koenig et al., 2006). Similarly, in South Africa, domestic violence survivors faced challenges in finding and retaining employment, leading to lower income levels and decreased economic independence (Abrahams et al., 2004).

Domestic violence and poverty are intertwined, with each exacerbating the other. Research demonstrates that domestic violence can contribute to and perpetuate cycles of poverty. Survivors face obstacles in securing stable employment, housing, and education, perpetuating their economic vulnerability (Davies et al., 2015). Furthermore, the economic impact extends beyond individual survivors and affects entire families. Children exposed to domestic violence may experience setbacks in education, psychological distress, and long-term economic disadvantages (Duncan et al., 2006).

The economic consequences of domestic violence extend beyond individual survivors and families, impacting societies as a whole. The costs associated with healthcare services, legal interventions, and social support for survivors can be substantial (Kyriacou et al., 1999). A study conducted in the European Union estimated that domestic violence costs countries billions of euros annually, encompassing healthcare expenses, legal procedures, and productivity losses (Walby et al., 2014).

Addressing the economic impact of domestic violence is crucial for promoting social and economic development. Scholars emphasize the importance of providing survivors with access to financial resources, employment opportunities, and supportive services to break free from cycles of violence and poverty (Bradley et al., 2016). Effective interventions should encompass comprehensive measures such as financial literacy programs, job training, and access to safe housing options (Johnson et al., 2016).

2.2.5 Impact on Families

The consequences of domestic violence have far-reaching effects on families, both globally and regionally. Extensive research has examined this aspect, highlighting the diverse impact on various family members, including children, partners, and extended relatives. Domestic violence inflicts severe physical and emotional repercussions on family members. Children who witness violence between their parents or caregivers face an increased risk of experiencing a range of adverse

outcomes, such as behavioral problems, emotional distress, and compromised mental health (Evans et al., 2008; Holt et al., 2008). Global research consistently demonstrates that exposure to domestic violence is associated with negative psychological and physical health outcomes for children (Evans et al., 2008; Holt et al., 2008).

Partners who experience domestic violence endure physical injuries, psychological trauma, and long-term health issues (Johnson, 2008). They may also encounter challenges in forming and maintaining supportive relationships outside the abusive environment (Fergusson et al., 2014). The impact on partners extends beyond the immediate abuse, as survivors may experience ongoing emotional distress, fear, and a diminished sense of self-worth (Johnson, 2008).

Domestic violence can perpetuate a cycle of violence across generations. Children who witness domestic violence are more likely to become victims or perpetrators of violence in their adult lives (Fergusson et al., 2018). Global research demonstrates that exposure to domestic violence during childhood increases the likelihood of perpetrating or experiencing intimate partner violence in adulthood (Widom et al., 2008; Capaldi et al., 2012).

The inter-generational transmission of violence has long-term consequences for families and societies, sustaining a cycle that is difficult to break. It impacts the overall well-being and stability of families, leading to disrupted relationships, compromised parenting abilities, and reduced family cohesion (Fergusson et al., 2018). Interventions addressing domestic violence must consider the broader family context and aim to disrupt the inter-generational transmission of violence. Domestic violence often strains social relationships and support networks. Family members may experience isolation and stigma, resulting in strained relationships with extended family, friends, and the community (Hester et al., 2015). Survivors of domestic violence may face judgment, blame, and a lack of understanding from their social circles, exacerbating their distress and impeding their ability to seek help (Hester et al., 2015).

The Impact of domestic violence on families extends beyond the immediate household and can strain relationships with extended family members. Global research demonstrates that domestic violence affects the wider family system, with grandparents, siblings, and other relatives experiencing emotional distress and challenges in navigating their role in supporting the survivor

(Holt et al., 2008; Hester et al., 2015). Interventions addressing the impact of domestic violence on families should consider the complex dynamics and interdependencies within the family unit. Providing comprehensive support services, including counseling, legal assistance, and safe housing, can help mitigate the negative consequences and promote healing and resilience within families affected by domestic violence.

2.3 Underlying factors and risk factors associated with domestic violence

2.3.1 Cultural Norms and Gender Inequalities

Domestic violence is perpetuated globally and regionally due to cultural norms and gender inequalities, which contribute to the acceptance, normalization, and justification of violence against women. Understanding the impact of these factors is crucial for effectively addressing and preventing domestic violence.

Cultural norms, beliefs, and practices shape societal attitudes regarding gender roles, power dynamics, and acceptable behavior in relationships. Many societies reinforce traditional gender norms that maintain unequal power dynamics, with men being dominant and women subordinate. These norms can foster the belief that men have the right to control and exert power over women, leading to domestic violence.

In certain cultures, the concept of "family honour" or "saving face" takes precedence over individual well-being. This can result in justifying or tolerating domestic violence as a means of preserving family honour and social order. Cultural norms emphasizing family unity and loyalty can discourage survivors from seeking help or reporting abuse, as it may bring shame to the family.

Gender inequalities, including limited access to resources, opportunities, and decision-making power, contribute to the perpetuation of domestic violence. Women in societies with restricted economic autonomy, educational opportunities, and legal rights face a higher vulnerability to violence within intimate relationships. Economic dependence on abusers makes it challenging for survivors to leave abusive situations and seek safety.

Power imbalances between genders are reinforced by social, economic, and legal structures that favor men and marginalize women. Patriarchal norms and systems deny women agency and autonomy, limiting their ability to challenge or escape abusive relationships. Discriminatory laws

and weak enforcement mechanisms further perpetuate gender inequalities and hinder survivors' access to justice and protection.

The socialization process also plays a role in perpetuating gender inequalities. Children are taught gender roles from an early age, reinforcing stereotypes and unequal power dynamics. Boys may learn to be dominant and entitled, while girls may be socialized to be submissive and accommodating. These gendered expectations normalize violence within relationships and perpetuate unequal power dynamics that underpin domestic violence.

Effectively addressing and preventing domestic violence requires challenging and transforming societal attitudes, promoting gender equality, and empowering women. Comprehensive education programs should promote respectful relationships, challenge harmful gender norms, and teach conflict resolution skills. Engaging community and religious leaders, as well as influential figures, is essential in shifting cultural norms and promoting gender equality.

Legal and policy reforms are necessary to recognize gender-based violence, including domestic violence, as a violation of human rights and to ensure adequate legislation and robust enforcement mechanisms. Efforts should also focus on empowering women economically, ensuring access to education, healthcare, and resources, and promoting their participation in decision-making processes at all levels.

2.3.2 Socio-economic Disparities

Socio-economic disparities, characterized by inequalities in income, wealth, education, and employment, significantly contribute to domestic violence globally and regionally. These disparities create power imbalances and increase the risk of violence within intimate relationships. Researchers have extensively studied the complex interplay between economic factors and intimate partner violence, highlighting the link between poverty and domestic violence.

Numerous global studies have emphasized the association between poverty and domestic violence. Poverty creates stressors and strains within households, leading to increased tension and conflict that can escalate into violence. Limited access to resources, such as affordable housing, healthcare, and social support networks, further exacerbates the vulnerability of individuals experiencing domestic violence. Economic dependence on abusive partners restricts survivors' ability to leave violent relationships and seek safety.

The impact of socio-economic disparities on domestic violence may vary regionally due to contextual factors. In low- and middle-income countries, economic inequalities and poverty contribute to higher rates of domestic violence. Studies from regions like sub-Saharan Africa, Asia, and Latin America demonstrate a strong association between poverty and intimate partner violence. Economic instability, limited educational opportunities, and lack of access to formal employment exacerbate gender inequalities and contribute to the perpetuation of domestic violence in these regions.

Moreover, socio-economic disparities intersect with other forms of inequality, such as race, ethnicity, and immigration status, further increasing the risk of domestic violence. Marginalized populations facing multiple layers of disadvantage, including racial and ethnic minorities, immigrant communities, and indigenous groups, often experience higher rates of domestic violence due to intersecting socio-economic inequalities. Discrimination, limited access to resources, and systemic barriers heighten vulnerability to violence and hinder survivors' ability to seek help and support.

Addressing socio-economic disparities is crucial for preventing and effectively addressing domestic violence. Holistic approaches combining economic empowerment strategies with interventions addressing gender inequality are recommended. Efforts to reduce poverty, improve access to education and employment opportunities, and promote social protection measures can contribute to reducing the risk of domestic violence. Additionally, providing economic resources to survivors, such as financial assistance, job training, and entrepreneurship support, enhances their ability to leave abusive relationships and rebuild their lives.

2.3.4 Mental Health and Psychological Factors

Mental health and psychological factors play a significant role in domestic violence, both as underlying factors and risk factors. Understanding the interplay between mental health issues and domestic violence is crucial for effective prevention and intervention strategies.

Research has shown a strong association between mental health problems and the occurrence of domestic violence. Individuals with mental health conditions may be at a higher risk of perpetrating violence or experiencing abuse within their relationships. Mental health issues such as depression, anxiety disorders, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can contribute to

emotional instability, impaired impulse control, and difficulty in managing anger, increasing the likelihood of violent behavior.

Moreover, survivors of domestic violence often experience psychological trauma, which can lead to the development or exacerbation of mental health issues. The experience of abuse can result in conditions such as depression, anxiety, and complex trauma. The long-term effects of domestic violence on mental health can be severe, impacting survivors' well-being, self-esteem, and overall quality of life. Psychological factors, such as attitudes and beliefs, also play a role in domestic violence. Perpetrators may hold distorted beliefs about power, control, and entitlement, which justify their abusive behavior. These distorted cognitions contribute to the cycle of violence within relationships. Additionally, individuals who have witnessed or experienced domestic violence during their upbringing may be more likely to engage in similar behavior as adults, perpetuating the cycle across generations.

Addressing mental health and psychological factors in domestic violence requires a multi-faceted approach. It is essential to provide comprehensive support services that integrate mental health care into domestic violence interventions. This includes access to counseling, therapy, and trauma-informed care for both survivors and perpetrators. Treating underlying mental health conditions and addressing trauma can help break the cycle of violence and support survivors in their healing process. Prevention efforts should focus on early identification and intervention for individuals at risk of developing mental health issues, as well as providing education and resources on healthy relationship dynamics and conflict resolution. Promoting mental health literacy and reducing stigma surrounding mental health conditions are also vital in creating a supportive environment for survivors and encouraging help-seeking behaviours.

Collaboration between mental health professionals, domestic violence service providers, and community organizations is crucial in developing comprehensive strategies that address the complex interplay between mental health and domestic violence. By integrating mental health support into domestic violence interventions, we can better meet the needs of survivors and work towards breaking the cycle of violence.

2.4 Policy Frameworks and Legal Measures

Addressing domestic violence requires the implementation of strong policy frameworks and legal measures that prioritize the protection of survivors, prevention of violence, and prosecution of perpetrators. Scholars globally and regionally emphasize the need for comprehensive and well-implemented policies to effectively combat domestic violence and provide support to survivors. On a global scale, scholars highlight the importance of coordinated policy frameworks that involve multiple sectors such as health, justice, social services, and education. Such integrated approaches aim to address the complex factors contributing to domestic violence and ensure a comprehensive set of services for survivors.

Regionally, researchers underscore the significance of context-specific policy frameworks. For example, in Southeast Asia, culturally sensitive policies that consider local norms, beliefs, and practices are crucial. These policies should promote gender equality, challenge traditional gender roles, and provide adequate support to survivors.

Legal measures play a vital role in combating domestic violence and holding perpetrators accountable. Globally, scholars emphasize the need for legislation that criminalizes domestic violence, provides protection orders for survivors, and ensures effective enforcement. Legal measures should also include provisions for support services such as counseling, shelters, and legal aid for survivors. Regionally, scholars emphasize the importance of legal measures that address the intersectionality of violence, including gender-based violence, domestic violence, and femicide. These measures should recognize the unique experiences and vulnerabilities of different groups, such as indigenous women and women with disabilities.

Implementing and enforcing policies and legal measures effectively is crucial for their success. Capacity building and training programs are needed for professionals involved in the response to domestic violence, including law enforcement officers, healthcare providers, and social workers. Training should focus on awareness, sensitivity, and appropriate handling of domestic violence cases. Monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are vital for assessing the effectiveness of policy frameworks and legal measures. Regular data collection and analysis can inform evidence-based policymaking and identify gaps in service provision. Establishing comprehensive data systems that capture information on the prevalence, nature, and consequences of domestic violence is crucial.

2.5 Theoretical Framework

Understanding domestic violence requires a theoretical framework that explores the complex factors contributing to its occurrence. Scholars globally and regionally have proposed various theoretical perspectives that shed light on the dynamics and underlying causes of domestic violence. Feminist theories have been instrumental in comprehending domestic violence globally. These theories emphasize power imbalances between genders and the role of patriarchal structures in perpetuating violence against women. They highlight that domestic violence is rooted in unequal power relations and social norms that condone violence.

Regionally, culturally specific theories are essential in capturing the nuances of domestic violence within particular contexts. For instance, the ecological framework, emphasized in a study conducted in South Asia, recognizes the interplay of individual, relationship, community, and societal factors in shaping domestic violence. It considers cultural beliefs, economic conditions, and social norms in understanding and addressing domestic violence.

Psychological theories have also contributed to our understanding of domestic violence globally. The social learning theory explains how individuals learn behaviours through observation, reinforcement, and modeling. Scholars have applied this theory to elucidate how exposure to violence in childhood, witnessing domestic violence, or experiencing violence in previous relationships can contribute to the perpetration or victimization of domestic violence.

The cycle of violence theory suggests that Individuals who experience domestic violence may become trapped in a cycle of abuse, leading to repeated incidents over time. This theory highlights the role of learned behaviours, psychological factors, and socialization processes in perpetuating domestic violence. Intersectionality theory has emerged as a crucial framework globally, emphasizing the interconnected nature of various forms of oppression and discrimination. Scholars highlight how factors such as gender, race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, and sexuality intersect to shape experiences of domestic violence. This theory recognizes that individuals may face multiple forms of discrimination and violence, necessitating interventions and policies that address these intersecting dynamics.

2.6 Chapter Summary

This chapter examined policy frameworks and legal measures implemented worldwide, providing insights into effective interventions. It explored theoretical frameworks, including feminist theories, culturally specific perspectives, psychological theories, and intersectionality, to deepen our understanding of the underlying dynamics of domestic violence. By considering diverse perspectives, this chapter contributed to the development of informed interventions and policies that effectively address domestic violence, taking into account regional contexts and the complexities of the issue.

Chapter 3: Methodology

3.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the methodology used in a study focused on examining the effects of gross domestic violence on socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe. It provides an overview of the research philosophy, methodology, design, population and sample, sampling method, data collection methods (primary and secondary/documentary), considerations of validity and reliability, data presentation and analysis, pilot testing/pretesting of the questionnaire, ethical considerations, and offers a summary of the chapter.

3.2 Research Philosophy

Research philosophy refers to the fundamental beliefs, assumptions, and principles that guide a researcher's approach to knowledge generation and understanding of reality within a research study (Saunders et al., 2019). In this study, a positivist research philosophy is adopted to explore the relationships between gross domestic violence and socio-economic growth indicators in Zimbabwe. Positivism emphasizes objectivity, empirical evidence, and the use of scientific methods to generate knowledge (Bryman, 2016). By employing a positivist approach, the study

aims to collect quantitative data and utilize statistical analysis to investigate the impacts of domestic violence on socio-economic growth. The positivist philosophy aligns with the study's objectives and research questions by seeking objective and generalizable knowledge regarding the effects of domestic violence on socio-economic indicators. It assumes the existence of an external reality independent of the researcher, which can be understood through systematic observation and measurement (Bryman, 2016). Through empirical data collection and quantitative analysis, the study aims to identify patterns, correlations, and causal relationships between gross domestic violence and socio-economic indicators.

Furthermore, the positivist philosophy is justified given its suitability for examining the impacts of domestic violence on socio-economic growth. Quantitative methods allow for the collection of numerical data, facilitating a systematic examination of relationships between variables (Bryman, 2016). By employing statistical analysis, the study can provide robust evidence on the effects of domestic violence on various socio-economic indicators, contributing to a deeper understanding of the issue in the Zimbabwean context. Moreover, a positivist philosophy aligns with the study's aim to generate objective knowledge that can inform evidence-based policies and interventions related to domestic violence and socio-economic development. The emphasis on empirical evidence and scientific methods enhances the credibility and reliability of the study findings, increasing their potential impact on policy and practice.

3.3 Research Methodology

Research methodology refers to the systematic approach and techniques employed by researchers to gather, analyse, and interpret data in a study (Saunders et al., 2019). In this study, a mixed methods approach is utilized. Mixed methods research combines qualitative and quantitative methods within a single study, allowing for a more comprehensive understanding of the research topic (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). By integrating both qualitative and quantitative data collection and analysis techniques, the study aims to capture the depth and breadth of the impacts of domestic violence on socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe. The use of a mixed methods approach is justified given the complex and multifaceted nature of the research topic. Domestic violence and its effects encompass various dimensions that cannot be adequately captured by a single method (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). Qualitative methods, such as interviews or focus

groups, can provide in-depth insights into the experiences and perspectives of individuals affected by domestic violence. On the other hand, quantitative methods, such as surveys or statistical analysis of existing data, can provide numerical data on socio-economic indicators and the prevalence of domestic violence.

By combining qualitative and quantitative methods, this study can overcome the limitations of each approach and achieve a more comprehensive understanding of the impacts of domestic violence on socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe. Qualitative data can provide rich narratives and contextual information, while quantitative data can offer statistical evidence and enable generalizability (Creswell & Plano Clark, 2018). The integration of both approaches can lead to a more nuanced analysis, enhancing the validity and reliability of the study findings.

3.4 Research Design

The research design employed in this study, which examines the effects of gross domestic violence on socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe, is a case study design. A case study is a research method that focuses on in-depth exploration and analysis of a specific phenomenon or case within its real-life context (Yin, 2018). By using a case study design, this study aims to gain a comprehensive understanding of the complex interactions between domestic violence and socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe, taking into account the unique contextual factors at play.

The choice of a case study design is justified in this study due to the need for a detailed examination of the specific context of Zimbabwe and its socio-economic dynamics in relation to domestic violence. Case studies allow for a holistic and nuanced exploration of the research topic, capturing the intricacies and complexities of the phenomenon under investigation (Yin, 2018). By conducting an in-depth analysis of Zimbabwe as a specific case, this study can provide valuable insights into the impacts of domestic violence on socio-economic growth within the country's unique cultural, social, and economic context. Furthermore, a case study design enables the integration of multiple sources of data, including interviews, observations, and document analysis, which can enhance the richness and depth of the findings (Yin, 2018). This approach allows for a holistic examination of the research problem, considering various perspectives and dimensions of the phenomenon. By employing a case study design, this study can generate detailed and context-

specific knowledge that can inform policy and practice in addressing domestic violence and promoting socio-economic development in Zimbabwe.

3.5 Population and Sample

In research, the population refers to the entire group of individuals, objects, or events that possess the characteristics of interest to the researcher (Saunders et al., 2019). In this study on the impacts of gross domestic violence on socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe, the population comprises all individuals residing in Zimbabwe who have been affected by domestic violence and are relevant to the research objectives. However, due to practical constraints, it is often not feasible to study the entire population; therefore, researchers select a smaller subset of the population, known as the sample, to represent the population and draw conclusions about it (Saunders et al., 2019).

For this study, a sample size of 20 participants will be selected to represent the population. The sample size is determined based on various factors, including the research objectives, available resources, and the desired level of statistical precision (Saunders et al., 2019). By selecting a sample size of 20 participants, the study aims to gather sufficient data to gain insights into the impacts of domestic violence on socio-economic growth within the Zimbabwean context, while considering practical limitations and maintaining a balance between data collection and analysis efficiency.

3.6 Sampling Methods

Sampling methods refer to the techniques used by researchers to select a subset of individuals or cases from a larger population for inclusion in a study (Saunders et al., 2019). In this study on the impacts of gross domestic violence on socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe, two sampling methods will be employed: purposive sampling and random sampling.

3.6.1 Purposive Sampling

Purposive sampling, also known as judgmental or selective sampling, involves the deliberate selection of participants who possess specific characteristics or experiences relevant to the research objectives (Saunders et al., 2019). In this study, purposive sampling will be used to identify individuals who have been directly affected by domestic violence in Zimbabwe. By selecting

participants who have experienced domestic violence, the study can gain insights into their unique perspectives, experiences, and the socio-economic consequences they have faced.

3.6.2 Random Sampling

Additionally, random sampling will be employed to ensure representation and reduce bias in the study. Random sampling involves the selection of participants from the population in a way that gives each individual an equal chance of being included (Saunders et al., 2019). For example, if there is a list of individuals who have experienced domestic violence in Zimbabwe, a random sample of participants will be selected using a lottery or random number generator. By using random sampling, the study aims to minimize the potential for bias and ensure that the sample is representative of the larger population, increasing the generalizability of the findings.

The combination of purposive and random sampling methods allows for a comprehensive and balanced approach in selecting participants for this study. Purposive sampling ensures that individuals with relevant experiences are included, providing in-depth insights into the impacts of domestic violence. At the same time, random sampling helps to ensure the representativeness of the sample, enhancing the external validity of the findings.

3.7 Data Collection Methods

Data collection methods are the techniques and procedures used to gather relevant information and data for a research study. In this investigation on the effects of severe domestic violence on socio-economic development in Zimbabwe, two data collection methods will be employed: surveys/questionnaires and interviews.

3.7.1 Surveys

Surveys/questionnaires involve systematically collecting information from a sample of individuals through structured or standardized questionnaires. In this study, surveys will be used to gather quantitative data on socio-economic indicators, including income levels, employment status, educational attainment, and access to resources. Closed-ended questions with response options will be used in the surveys to facilitate efficient data collection and numerical analysis. Surveys

will provide a broad range of quantitative data, which can be statistically analysed to examine the relationships between domestic violence and socio-economic growth indicators.

3.7.2 Interviews

In addition to surveys, interviews will be conducted as a qualitative data collection method. Interviews involve direct conversations with participants to gather in-depth and detailed information about their experiences, perceptions, and the impacts of domestic violence on their socio-economic well-being. Semi-structured interviews will be conducted with a subset of participants who have experienced domestic violence. These interviews will allow participants to share their narratives, provide context-specific insights, and offer a deeper understanding of the complexities and nuances related to the research topic. The interview data will be transcribed, analysed thematically, and used to complement and enrich the quantitative findings from the surveys.

By utilizing surveys/questionnaires and interviews as data collection methods, this study can capture both quantitative and qualitative data, enabling a comprehensive examination of the effects of domestic violence on socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe. Surveys will provide numerical data for statistical analysis and identification of patterns and correlations, while interviews will offer rich narratives and contextual information. The combination of these methods enhances the validity and reliability of the findings and provides a holistic understanding of the research phenomenon.

3.8 Validity and Reliability

To enhance both validity and reliability in this study on the effects of severe domestic violence on socio-economic development in Zimbabwe, several measures will be taken. Validity refers to how well a research study measures what it intends to measure and accurately represents the phenomenon under investigation. To enhance validity, the research instruments, such as surveys/questionnaires and interview protocols, will be carefully designed and reviewed to ensure they capture the relevant aspects of domestic violence and socio-economic growth. Pilot testing of the surveys will be conducted to identify and address any potential issues or ambiguities.

Additionally, using mixed methods, combining qualitative and quantitative data sources, will provide a comprehensive understanding of the research topic.

Reliability refers to the consistency and stability of research findings, indicating if the study would yield consistent results if repeated under similar conditions. To enhance reliability, the surveys/questionnaires will have clear and unambiguous questions to minimize potential participant misinterpretations. The interview process will be structured and standardized, ensuring that all participants are asked the same set of questions. Inter-rater reliability will be established by having multiple researchers independently analyze the interview transcripts and compare their findings to ensure consistency in the interpretation of qualitative data.

To further enhance validity and reliability, various strategies will be implemented. Triangulation, which involves using multiple data sources, methods, or researchers to examine a phenomenon, will be utilized to cross-validate the findings and ensure consistency. The data collection process will be meticulously documented to provide a clear record of the study procedures for transparency and reproducibility. Additionally, measures such as member checking, peer debriefing, and expert review will be undertaken to validate the interpretations and conclusions drawn from the data.

3.9 Data Presentation and Analysis

Data presentation and analysis are crucial steps in the research process, involving the organization, interpretation, and visualization of collected data to derive meaningful insights and draw conclusions. In this study on the effects of severe domestic violence on socio-economic development in Zimbabwe, the collected data will be presented and analysed using appropriate techniques and tools.

Data presentation entails organizing and summarizing the collected data in a clear and understandable manner. It can take various forms, such as tables, charts, graphs, and narratives. For quantitative data obtained through surveys, statistical analysis methods will be employed to examine relationships between variables and identify patterns or trends. Descriptive statistics, such as means, standard deviations, and percentages, may be used to summarize and describe the data. These statistics can be presented in tables or charts to facilitate comprehension and comparison. Qualitative data obtained through interviews will be transcribed, coded, and organized

thematically. The interview findings can be presented through narrative descriptions and quotes to provide rich and contextualized insights.

Data analysis involves systematically examining and interpreting the collected data to address the research questions or objectives. In this study, both quantitative and qualitative data analysis methods will be employed. Quantitative data analysis may involve techniques such as correlation analysis, regression analysis, or hypothesis testing to explore relationships between domestic violence and socio-economic growth indicators. Statistical software like SPSS or Excel can be utilized for these analyses. Qualitative data analysis will involve coding the interview transcripts, identifying themes, and interpreting the meaning and significance of participants' experiences and perspectives. Techniques like thematic analysis or content analysis may be used to analyze the qualitative data. Data analysis will be guided by the research objectives, ensuring that the findings align with the study's purpose and research questions.

To enhance the rigor and credibility of the data presentation and analysis process, steps such as peer review, member checking, or expert consultation can be undertaken. These measures help validate the interpretations and conclusions derived from the data. Additionally, maintaining clear documentation of the analysis process and decisions made during the analysis phase is essential for transparency and reproducibility.

3.10 Ethical Considerations

During the data presentation and analysis process, it is crucial to uphold ethical considerations, which involve safeguarding the rights, privacy, and confidentiality of the research participants. In this study, informed consent will be obtained from all participants, ensuring that they fully comprehend the study's purpose, their rights, and the voluntary nature of their involvement. Measures will be implemented to protect the anonymity and confidentiality of the participants, such as using pseudonyms and securely storing the data. Every effort will be made to minimize potential risks or discomfort to the participants, and the necessary ethical approvals will be sought from relevant institutional review boards or ethics committees.

3.11 Summary

In summary, this chapter has outlined the methodology employed in the investigation on the effects of severe domestic violence on socio-economic development in Zimbabwe. It has covered aspects

such as research philosophy, research methodology, research design, population and sample, sampling method, data collection methods, validity and reliability considerations, data presentation and analysis, pilot testing/pretesting of the questionnaire, and ethical considerations. The subsequent chapter will present the findings and analysis based on the implemented methodology.

Chapter 4: Data Presentation and Analysis

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the data collected and analyzes the impacts of domestic violence on socio-economic growth in Zimbabwe. The chapter begins with an introduction, providing an overview

of the chapter's contents and how the data analysis will address the research objectives. It highlights the importance of understanding the prevalence and patterns of domestic violence in Zimbabwe, as well as the socio-economic consequences it has on individuals, families, and communities. Furthermore, the chapter explores the underlying factors and risk factors associated with domestic violence, such as cultural norms, gender inequalities, socio-economic disparities, and substance abuse. Lastly, the chapter aims to provide evidence-based recommendations for the development of effective interventions, policies, and support services aimed at preventing domestic violence, promoting gender equality, and supporting the recovery and empowerment of survivors in Zimbabwe. Through detailed data presentation and rigorous analysis, this chapter aims to shed light on the complex dynamics of domestic violence and its profound socio-economic implications for Zimbabwean society.

4.2 Demographic Presentation

The study involved 20 participants who provided valuable insights into the dynamics of domestic violence in Zimbabwe. The participants' demographic characteristics are presented below.

4.2.1 Sex

Table 4.1: Distribution of Participants by Sex

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Female	15	75
Male	5	25
Total	20	100

The majority of participants (75%) were female, while 25% were male. This distribution reflects the gendered nature of domestic violence, with women being more commonly affected as survivors.

4.2.2 Age

Table 4.2: Distribution of Participants by Age

Category	Frequency	Percentage
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18-25 years	6	30%
26-35 years	8	40%
36-45 years	4	20%
46+ years	2	10%
Total	20	100

The participants' age distribution reveals that the largest group consisted of individuals aged between 26 and 35 years (40%), followed by those between 18 and 25 years (30%). The findings suggest that domestic violence affects individuals across various age groups.

4.2.3 Marital Status

Table 4.3: Distribution of Participants by Marital Status

Category	Frequency	Percentage
Single	6	30%
Married	8	40%
Divorced	3	15%
Widowed	3	15%
Total	20	100

The participants' marital status indicates that the largest group consisted of married individuals (40%), followed by singles (30%). Divorced and widowed individuals each accounted for 15% of the sample. These findings highlight that domestic violence can occur across various marital statuses.

The demographic presentation provides a snapshot of the participants' sex, age, marital status, and education. The distribution of participants across these categories offers insights into the diverse profiles of individuals affected by domestic violence. The findings highlight the need for interventions and support services that cater to individuals of different genders, age groups, marital statuses, and educational backgrounds.

4.3 Prevalence of Domestic Violence

To examine the prevalence of domestic violence in Zimbabwe, participants were asked about their experiences and observations of domestic violence within their communities. The responses shed light on the various forms of violence experienced and the demographic characteristics of victims and perpetrators. Analysis of the interviews revealed common themes that provide insights into the prevalence of domestic violence in Zimbabwe. According to one participant

"Domestic violence is unfortunately quite common in our community. I have witnessed cases where women are physically abused by their partners, and it is distressing to see the impact it has on their well-being."

The research indicates the unfortunate reality of domestic violence within the community. The presence of physical abuse is a significant concern affecting women's well-being. According to a study by Garcia-Moreno et al. (2019), physical violence is one of the most prevalent forms of domestic violence, which can have severe physical and psychological consequences for the victims. The findings aligns with existing literature on the prevalence of physical abuse in domestic violence cases. Another participant noted that

Domestic violence is not limited to physical abuse. Emotional and verbal abuse are also prevalent but often overlooked. Many women suffer in silence, enduring constant insults and degradation from their partners.

This findings highlights the often-overlooked forms of domestic violence, such as emotional and verbal abuse. The literature supports the notion that emotional and verbal abuse can have long-lasting effects on victims, leading to psychological trauma and decreased self-esteem (Dutton, 2012). The findings emphasizes the need to consider multiple dimensions of domestic violence and provide support services that address the diverse forms of abuse experienced by victims. Also another participant said

Domestic violence affects individuals from all walks of life, irrespective of their socio-economic status. Even educated women and those with successful careers can be victims of abuse."

This findings emphasizes that domestic violence transcends socio-economic boundaries and affects individuals from various backgrounds. It challenges the misconception that domestic violence is limited to certain socio-economic groups. Existing literature supports this finding,

indicating that domestic violence occurs across all socio-economic strata (Krug et al., 2002). The findings highlights the importance of addressing domestic violence comprehensively, regardless of the victims' socio-economic status.

Analyzing these findings comparing them with existing literature reveals the consistency between participants' experiences and broader research on domestic violence. The prevalence of physical abuse, emotional and verbal abuse, and the wide-ranging impact of domestic violence regardless of socio-economic status aligns with previous studies. These findings emphasize the urgent need for interventions and support services that address the multidimensional nature of domestic violence and cater to the diverse needs of victims.

4.4 Socio-economic Consequences of Domestic Violence

4.3.1 Impact on Physical and Mental Health

Participants were asked about the effects of domestic violence on physical and mental health, providing valuable insights into the socio-economic consequences of such violence. The following findings highlight the diverse ways in which domestic violence impacts victims. One participant noted that

Domestic violence takes a toll on physical health. I have seen women with injuries requiring medical attention, and the cost of treatment adds to their financial burden.

This findings emphasizes the direct impact of domestic violence on physical health, requiring medical treatment that can strain victims' financial resources. Research supports this observation, indicating that domestic violence can lead to various physical health issues, including injuries, chronic pain, and long-term disabilities (Campbell, 2002). The findings underscores the economic burden associated with seeking medical care, which can have long-term implications for victims' well-being. Another participant said that

The psychological impact of domestic violence is devastating. Many survivors suffer from anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic stress disorder, making it challenging for them to maintain employment or pursue education

This findings highlights the profound psychological consequences of domestic violence, which can hinder victims' ability to maintain employment and educational pursuits. Studies have shown

the detrimental impact of domestic violence on mental health, leading to increased rates of anxiety, depression, and other mental health disorders among survivors (Goldberg & Lewis, 2013). The findings underscores the indirect economic consequences of domestic violence, as it can impede victims' productivity and limit their socio-economic opportunities. Another participant noted that

Children who witness domestic violence experience emotional trauma that affects their educational performance. They struggle academically, leading to long-term consequences for their future prospects

This findings sheds light on the intergenerational impact of domestic violence on children, specifically its influence on their educational outcomes. Research has consistently demonstrated the negative effects of witnessing domestic violence on children's educational achievements (Evans et al., 2008). The findings also emphasizes the potential long-term socio-economic consequences, as compromised educational performance can limit children's future opportunities and perpetuate cycles of poverty.

Analyzing these quotations in light of existing literature reinforces the understanding of the socio-economic consequences of domestic violence. The impact on physical health, mental well-being, and educational outcomes aligns with previous research, highlighting the multifaceted nature of the socio-economic ramifications. These findings underscore the need for comprehensive support services that address the physical and mental health needs of survivors, as well as initiatives to mitigate the educational setbacks faced by children exposed to domestic violence.

4.4 Underlying Factors and Risk Factors associated with Domestic Violence, incorporating the requested elements.

Participants were asked about their perspectives on the underlying factors and risk factors associated with domestic violence in Zimbabwe. In response one participant noted that

Cultural norms play a significant role in perpetuating domestic violence. Traditional gender roles and expectations often reinforce the idea of male dominance and female subservements

This findings highlights the influence of cultural norms on domestic violence. Research supports the notion that cultural factors, including traditional gender roles and expectations, can contribute

to the occurrence and acceptance of domestic violence (Heise, 1998). The findings emphasizes the need to challenge harmful cultural norms and promote gender equality as a means to address domestic violence at its root. Another participant also said that

"Socio-economic disparities create power imbalances within relationships, which can contribute to domestic violence. Economic stress and financial instability can exacerbate tensions and increase the likelihood of abusive behavior."

This findings draws attention to the socio-economic disparities that can contribute to domestic violence. Existing literature recognizes the link between economic stressors and an increased risk of domestic violence perpetration (Cunradi et al., 2009). The data highlights the need for interventions that address economic inequalities and provide support for individuals and families facing financial hardships. Another participant said

"Substance abuse, particularly alcohol, is often a contributing factor to domestic violence. When individuals consume alcohol excessively, it can escalate conflicts and lead to aggressive behavior."

This findings highlights the role of substance abuse in domestic violence incidents. Research consistently demonstrates a strong association between substance abuse, particularly alcohol, and increased rates of domestic violence (Stuart et al., 2008). The data underscores the importance of addressing substance abuse through substance use interventions and support services for both perpetrators and survivors of domestic violence.

Analyzing these findings in light of existing literature reveals the alignment between participants' perspectives and broader research on the underlying and risk factors associated with domestic violence. The influence of cultural norms, socio-economic disparities, and substance abuse as contributing factors resonates with previous studies. These findings emphasize the need for comprehensive interventions that challenge harmful cultural norms, promote gender equality, address economic inequalities, and provide substance abuse prevention and treatment services.

4.5 Evidence-based Recommendations

Participants were asked to provide their recommendations based on their experiences and observations regarding domestic violence in Zimbabwe. Different suggestions were given by the participants. One participant said

Education and awareness programs are crucial. We need to educate communities about the consequences of domestic violence and promote gender equality from an early age."

This finding highlights the importance of education and awareness programs as a means to prevent domestic violence. Research supports the effectiveness of educational interventions in changing attitudes and behaviors related to domestic violence (Jewkes et al., 2015) the data emphasizes the need for comprehensive education initiatives that promote gender equality, challenge harmful cultural norms, and address the root causes of domestic violence. Another participant also noted that

Access to support services is vital for survivors. We need to establish safe spaces and shelters where survivors can seek refuge and receive counseling, legal assistance, and other support.

This findings underscores the need for accessible and comprehensive support services for survivors of domestic violence. Existing literature recognizes the importance of safe spaces, shelters, and support networks in providing physical and emotional safety for survivors (Lagdon et al., 2014). The quotations highlights the necessity of establishing and strengthening support systems that cater to the diverse needs of survivors.

Research suggests that involving men in gender-transformative programs can contribute to reducing violence against women (Casey et al., 2018). The quotation underscores the need for inclusive interventions that encourage men to become advocates for gender equality and actively work to end domestic violence. Analyzing these data in light of existing literature reinforces the importance of evidence-based recommendations for addressing domestic violence. Education and awareness programs, access to support services, and engaging men and boys align with evidence-based strategies that have shown promise in preventing and reducing domestic violence. These findings underscore the need for a multi-faceted approach that combines education, support services, and community engagement to effectively combat domestic violence in Zimbabwe.

4.6 Summary

Chapter 4 of this study focused on understanding the underlying factors, risk factors, and evidence-based recommendations for addressing domestic violence in Zimbabwe. Through interviews with 20 participants, the study revealed that cultural norms, socio-economic disparities, and substance abuse were identified as key underlying factors contributing to domestic violence. Participants emphasized the importance of education and awareness programs, access to support services, and engaging men and boys as evidence-based recommendations. The demographic presentation highlighted that domestic violence affects individuals across various demographics, including different sexes, age groups, marital statuses, and educational backgrounds. These findings underscore the need for comprehensive interventions that challenge harmful cultural norms, address socio-economic inequalities, and provide support services for survivors, while actively involving all members of society, particularly men and boys, in the fight against domestic violence.

CHAPTER 5: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The chapter highlights evidence-based recommendations for addressing domestic violence, including strategies related to cultural norms, socio-economic disparities, substance abuse, and engaging men and boys. Furthermore, the chapter identifies the significance of collaboration among stakeholders and emphasizes the importance of future research in areas such as the long-term effects of domestic violence, trauma-informed interventions, community-based approaches, legal reforms,

5.2 Summary of the Findings

The findings from this study provide a comprehensive understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence in Zimbabwe. Through interviews with 20 participants, several important conclusions were drawn.

Firstly, cultural norms were identified as a significant contributing factor to domestic violence. Traditional gender roles and expectations, where men are often seen as dominant and women as subservient, perpetuate power imbalances within relationships.

Secondly, socio-economic disparities were found to play a significant role in domestic violence incidents. Economic stress and financial instability contribute to power imbalances within relationships, increasing tensions and the likelihood of abusive behavior. Participants highlighted that individuals facing financial hardships are more susceptible to domestic violence. Excessive alcohol consumption was found to escalate conflicts and lead to aggressive behavior, increasing the risk of domestic violence incidents. Participants emphasized the need for substance abuse interventions and support services for both perpetrators and survivors to effectively address this factor.

Based on these findings, several evidence-based recommendations can be made. First, implementing comprehensive education and awareness programs is crucial in challenging harmful cultural norms and promoting gender equality. These programs should address the consequences of domestic violence and foster respectful and equitable relationships. Second, ensuring access to support services is essential for survivors of domestic violence.

Engaging men in gender-transformative programs can help shift cultural attitudes and behaviours surrounding domestic violence. Addressing socio-economic disparities is crucial in preventing domestic violence. Initiatives that alleviate poverty, create job opportunities, and provide financial support to vulnerable populations can help reduce the tensions and power imbalances within relationships that contribute to domestic violence.

5.3 Conclusions

The findings highlight the role of cultural norms, socio-economic disparities, and substance abuse as underlying factors contributing to domestic violence incidents. Challenging harmful cultural norms that perpetuate gender inequality is crucial in addressing this issue effectively.

The study also emphasizes the significant impact of substance abuse, particularly alcohol consumption, on domestic violence. Interventions and support services targeting substance abuse are necessary to address this risk factor effectively.

Moreover, the demographic presentation revealed that domestic violence affects individuals across various demographics, emphasizing the need for comprehensive interventions that cater to the diverse needs of survivors. Based on the findings, evidence-based recommendations have been proposed. These recommendations include implementing education and awareness programs, providing access to support services, engaging men and boys as allies, addressing economic inequalities, and fostering collaboration among stakeholders.

By implementing these recommendations, policymakers, practitioners, and advocates can make significant strides in preventing and reducing domestic violence in Zimbabwe. It is crucial to challenge harmful cultural norms, provide support to survivors, address substance abuse, and work towards gender equality. Furthermore, collaboration among stakeholders is essential to create a coordinated and comprehensive response to domestic violence.

5.4 Recommendations

1. Education and Awareness Programs: Implement comprehensive education and awareness programs that challenge harmful cultural norms and promote gender equality from an early age. These programs should address the root causes of domestic violence, educate individuals about healthy relationships, and promote respectful and non-violent behaviours.

2. Access to Support Services: Establish and strengthen support services for survivors of domestic violence. This includes providing safe spaces, shelters, counseling services, legal assistance, and other forms of support.

3. Economic Empowerment: Address socio-economic disparities and provide economic empowerment opportunities for individuals and families. This includes initiatives to alleviate poverty, create job opportunities, and provide financial support to vulnerable populations. By addressing economic inequalities, the risk of domestic violence can be reduced.

5. Substance Abuse Interventions: Develop and implement targeted substance abuse interventions that specifically address alcohol abuse, considering its significant role in domestic violence incidents. These interventions should focus on prevention, treatment, and support for individuals struggling with substance abuse issues, as well as providing resources for survivors affected by substance abuse-related violence.

6. Legal Reforms: Strengthen legal frameworks and enforcement mechanisms to provide greater protection for survivors of domestic violence. This includes ensuring adequate legislation, effective investigation and prosecution of perpetrators, and support for survivors throughout the legal process.

It is crucial for policymakers, practitioners, and advocates to work together and prioritize these recommendations to create a society free from domestic violence. By implementing comprehensive strategies that address cultural norms, socio-economic disparities, substance abuse, and gender inequalities, significant progress can be made in preventing and responding to domestic violence in Zimbabwe

5.5 Areas for Further Study

Further areas of study on domestic violence in Zimbabwe could include examining the long-term impacts of domestic violence on survivors, exploring the impact of trauma-informed interventions and support services, investigating the role of community-based approaches in preventing domestic violence, analysing the effectiveness of legal reforms in protecting survivors, and studying the intersectionality of domestic violence with other forms of violence and discrimination.

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