

**FACTORS INFLUENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN BINYINY TOWN COUNCIL,  
KWEEN DISTRICT**

**AGNESS CHELIMO**

**WS21/MUC/BSW/008**

**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES FOR PARTIAL  
FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BACHELOR OF SOCIAL WORK AND  
ADMINISTRATION AT UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY**

**May, 2024**



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN  
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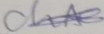
#### DEDICATION

I dedicate this research report to my family, who have supported me unwaveringly throughout my academic journey. Your love, encouragement, and sacrifices have made this achievement possible.

I also dedicate this work to the survivors of domestic violence, who have shared their stories and experiences with me. May this research contribute to a better understanding of the complexities of domestic violence and inform efforts to support and empower those affected.

Lastly, I dedicate this report to my supervisor, Mr. Byaruhanga Chris, whose guidance, wisdom, and belief in me have been invaluable.

May this work be a testament to the power of resilience, determination, and the pursuit of knowledge.

  
Sincerely,

CHELIMO AGNESS

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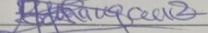
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**APPROVAL STATEMENT**

I, Chris Byaruhanga, hereby approve this research report submitted by CHELIMO AGNESS in partial fulfillment of the requirements for Degree of bachelor's in social work and administration (BSW).

I confirm that this research has been conducted under my supervision and guidance, and that the student has followed the appropriate research ethics and protocols. I recommend this dissertation for acceptance by the University/Department.

Signature:  \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 24/05/2024

**MR. BYARUHANGA CHRIS**

Research Supervisor

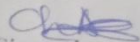
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Sincerely,

CHELIMO AGNES

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the following individuals and institutions for their support and guidance throughout this research journey: Uganda Christian University, Mbale College, for providing a conducive environment for my research.

I also extend my heart-felt thanks to my research supervisor, Mr. Byaruhanga Chris, for his invaluable guidance, support, and encouragement, the research assistants from the Town Council, for their assistance in data collection and entry, My family members, for their unwavering support and encouragement throughout this journey.

I appreciate the willingness of the participants to share their experiences and insights, which has enriched this research.

Thank you all for your contributions to this study.

### **Key operational terms and definitions**

**Domestic violence:** Physical, sexual, emotional, or economic abuse perpetrated by a partner, spouse, or family member.

**Demographic, Economic factors:** Age, gender, education, occupation, and other social and demographic characteristics, Economic Insecurity.

**Economic insecurity:** Unemployment, low income, economic dependence, and lack of financial stability.

**Gender stereotypes:** Harmful and rigid beliefs about the roles, responsibilities, and characteristics of men and women.

**Power imbalance:** Unequal distribution of power and control in relationships, often perpetuating domestic violence.

## **A list of acronyms**

BSWA	Bachelor of Social Work and Administration
CBO	Community-Based Organization
DV	Domestic Violence
GVRC	Gender-Based Violence Research Centre
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
NCADV	The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
TC	Town Council
UBOS	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UGX	Ugandan Shilling (currency)
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
VAWG	Violence Against Women and Girls
WHO	World Health Organization

## Abstract

**Background:** Domestic violence is a pervasive issue in Uganda, with severe consequences for survivors. Limited research exists on the factors influencing domestic violence in rural Uganda.

**Objective:** To explore the factors influencing domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council, Kween District.

**Methods:** A cross-sectional qualitative study was conducted with 124 women aged 18-65 years. Data was collected through interviews and surveys. Descriptive statistics and thematic analysis were used to analyze the data.

**Results:** 65% of women experienced domestic violence, Gender roles, power imbalance, education level, employment status, monthly income, residence, and cultural social norms emerged as significant factors.

**Conclusion:** This study highlights the complexity of domestic violence in rural areas of Uganda, Binyiny Town Council.

**Recommendations:** Community-based interventions addressing gender roles and power dynamics, economic empowerment programs for women, support services for survivors of domestic violence, policy changes to prevent domestic violence should strictly be emphasized and implemented.

**Key term:** *Socio-economic factors, Demographics, Influence, Domestic Violence, Binyiny TC, Kween District.*

## **CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Domestic violence is a persistent social problem in the world especially in the developing countries, with Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, and North America experiencing varying prevalence rates (Ouedraogo & Stenzel, 2021; The World Bank, 2022). Domestic violence homicides is common against women in the United States (Martin R. Huecker; William Smock., 2018) and The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV) reports that 1 in 4 women in the United States experience domestic violence at some point in their lives (Beall & Radunovich, 2015; Cane, 2024; Swiston, 2022).

The Russian government estimates that 40% of all violent crimes in Russia are committed in the family and a study conducted in Russia revealed that about 77% of Russians believe that domestic violence is a private issue and not a criminal offense (Chamusco, 2017). In addition, a study conducted in Indonesia, 33% of women in Indonesia aged 15-64 experienced physical and/or sexual violence from their partners and the same study found that 51% of women who experienced domestic violence never sought help or told anyone about it (Purwanti et al., 2024).

A study conducted in Canada revealed that most of women aged 15 and older reported experiencing domestic violence in the past 12 months and in same year. The high rates of domestic violence in the world were attributed to social and cultural norms perpetuating gender inequality and patriarchal attitudes especially in Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean(Savage, 2021). Like in Africa, poverty and economic instability and limited access to employment opportunities have contributed to high rates in Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean (International Labour organisation, 2021).

Domestic violence in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is a pandemic problem with an estimated 45% of women experiencing physical or sexual violence (Ahmed et al., 2021). The reports revealed that Domestic violence in Nigeria takes many forms, including physical violence:

battery, beatings, torture, acid baths, rape and murder, sexual violence: rape, forced sex, sexual harassment and assault, emotional and mental violence: verbal abuse, intimidation, manipulation and psychological abuse and Cultural beliefs Infertility and relationship issues and societal norms, patriarchal society and gender roles, substance abuse (Aina-Pelemo et al., 2023).

In Uganda, the prevalence of domestic violence is even higher, with 56% of women reporting experiences of physical or 27% experienced sexual violence (U.S Embassy Uganda, 2023). , with 60% of women experiencing physical or sexual violence in Uganda (UBOS, 2021a).

Traditional gender roles and expectations, limited education and economic empowerment for women, and cultural norms and beliefs that support violence against women all contribute to the perpetuation of domestic violence in Uganda (UBOS, 2021a). Alcohol consumption and substance abuse, poverty and financial dependence on partners, and lack of access to justice and support services for survivors also fuel the problem(St. Joseph Institute, 2023; Substance & Issues, 2019).Weak law enforcement and implementation of policies, limited awareness and community engagement, and stigma and shame surrounding domestic violence further exacerbate the issue (UNWomen, 2022).

The Centre for Domestic Violence Prevention (CEDOVIP) has worked with the Department for International Development (DFID) to prevent violence against women and girls, particularly female genital mutilation (FGM) in Kween District but domestic violence has persisted in the district which has contributed to high prevalence of lifetime intimate partner violence in the Eastern Region of about 54% and pangas, bush knives (36%) and sticks (23%)have been used during physical violence (CEDOVIP, 2024).Higher education of women and marriage satisfaction were associated with lower risk of intimate partner violence, Rural residence and the husband having another partner were associated with higher risk of intimate partner violence. Multiple partners and consumption of alcohol were major reasons for intimate partner violence(Aliyinza, 2023).

## **1.2 Problem Statement**

Despite efforts to address domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council Kween District continues to experience high prevalence rates, with 60% of women experiencing physical, emotional, or sexual violence, attributed to deep-rooted gender inequality, cultural norms perpetuating violence, limited access to education and economic opportunities, and alcohol abuse, highlighting the need for effective interventions tailored to the local context and

engaging community members, particularly men, to promote gender equality and non-violent relationships.

### **1.3. Objectives**

#### **1.3.1 General Objective**

To assess factors influencing Domestic Violence in Binyiny Town Council, Kween District.

#### **1.3.2 Specific objectives**

1. To identify the socio-demographic factors associated with domestic violence.
2. To examine the economic factors that contribute to domestic violence.
3. To explore the cultural and social norms that perpetuate domestic violence.

### **1.4 Research questions**

- i. What are the socio-demographic factors associated with domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council?
- ii. What are the economic factors that contribute to domestic violence in the area?
- iii. What cultural and social norms perpetuate domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council?

### **1.5 Justification of the study**

Amidst increasing concern about domestic violence in Kween District, no study has been conducted in Binyiny TC, which is one of the most affected areas. The lack of research in this specific region has resulted in a significant knowledge gap, hindering the development of effective interventions and policies to address domestic violence. This study aims to fill this knowledge gap by investigating the underlying causes, experiences, and perceptions of domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council, providing valuable insights to inform evidence-based solutions. By conducting this study, we can identify the unique challenges and needs of this region, contributing to the reduction of domestic violence and promotion of gender equality in Binyiny Town Council in Kween District.

### **1.6 Significance of the study**

The study will contribute to the existing body of knowledge on domestic violence, particularly in rural areas of Uganda. It will provide insights into the causes, experiences, and perceptions of domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council which would help to fill the existing knowledge gap. The study's findings would provide valuable evidence for the development of effective interventions and policies to address domestic violence in Binyiny

Town Council in Kween District. This would lead to improved prevention and response strategies, reducing the prevalence of domestic violence. The study's results would inform service delivery, ensuring that services are tailored to meet the specific needs of survivors of domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council and addressing domestic violence, the study will contribute to the empowerment of women and girls in Binyiny Town Council in Kween District, promoting their rights, and improving their overall well-being and would engage community members, particularly men, in the prevention of domestic violence, promoting community-led initiatives and encouraging collective responsibility for addressing the problem. The study's significance extends beyond the academic community, with the potential to impact policy, practice, and the lives of women and girls in Kween District.

### **1.7 Theoretic framework of the study objectives**

This study is grounded in three theoretical perspectives that intersect to understand domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council, a rural area in Uganda. The Social Learning Theory (SLT) suggests that individuals learn behavior by observing and imitating others, perpetuating domestic violence. Gender Theory highlights the role of gender roles and expectations, perpetuating domestic violence, with women experiencing more severe physical and emotional abuse than men. In addition, the study also considers social factors, such as family structure, education level, and social support networks, which can either contribute to or protect against domestic violence (Machisa et al., 2018).

Demographic factors, including age, income, and employment status, are also taken into account, as they can impact an individual's likelihood of experiencing or perpetrating domestic violence (Lanchimba et al., 2023). Economic factors, such as monthly income, unemployment can also contribute to domestic violence while cultural norms, like traditional gender roles, can perpetuate violence against women (Abdullahi et al., 2017; Green et al., 2024). The study explored the factors influencing domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council, and how they can be addressed to prevent and respond to domestic violence effectively.

### **1.8 Scope of the Study**

#### **1.8.1 Content Scope**

The underlying factors of domestic violence, experiences, and perceptions of domestic violence among women and men

#### **1.8.2 Time Scope**

The study was conducted from **February 2024 to May 2024**.

### **1.8.3 Geographic Scope**

The study was conducted in Binyiny Town Council, Kween District in Eastern Uganda.

## **CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter consists of the literature reviewed from various articles and other related materials as guided by the study objectives.

### **2.1 Domestic violence**

Domestic violence is a significant problem worldwide, with an estimated 2 million women internationally suffering abuse from their domestic partners each year. The prevalence of domestic violence is similar in many countries to that in the United States, with some countries having even higher rates. Studies have identified numerous factors associated with domestic violence, including stress-related factors like poverty, lack of education, and excessive drinking (Fanslow, 2023).

Several studies have revealed that unique types of international violence against women and female children include non-consensual sex-selection abortions, honour killings, acid throwing, and forced prostitution. Domestic violence has severe health effects, including physical injury, mental health problems, sexually transmitted diseases, and unwanted pregnancies (Khanal et al., 2024). The relationship between domestic violence and pregnancy is a significant reproductive health concern, with studies indicating that a significant percentage of domestic assaults are perpetrated against pregnant women (Coutinho et al., 2015; Roozbahani et al., 2023).

Social stigma and lack of acknowledgment limit intervention options and treatment strategies in many cultures. International intervention efforts include improving women's status, empowering victims, and enhancing social services. Culturally competent social work practice recognizes within-group diversity and addresses societal factors contributing to domestic violence (Hulley et al., 2023).

## **2.2 Demographic factors**

### **2.2.1 Age influencing domestic violence.**

Domestic Violence Against Women in Uganda was found common among the young women, the findings. Studies have consistently shown that younger women are more likely to experience domestic violence than older women (UBOS, 2021b). In Uganda, women aged 20-24 are more likely to experience physical violence than those in other age groups. Research suggests that age differences between partners can contribute to domestic violence, with larger age gaps increasing the risk of violence (Nabayinda et al., 2023).

A study conducted revealed that older women may be less likely to seek help for domestic violence due to social isolation, lack of access to resources, or fear of stigma while some studies suggest that younger women may experience more severe physical violence than older women. The psychological impact of domestic violence may vary by age, with younger women more likely to experience depression. Older women may have greater economic independence, which can reduce their risk of domestic violence (Nabayinda et al., 2023); on contrarily, social support from family and friends may decrease with age, making older women more vulnerable to domestic violence (Nabayinda et al., 2023) and controversy created a reach gap to be filled.

Older women more likely to hold traditional beliefs than the young women and cultural beliefs and gender roles may vary by age, with that perpetuate domestic violence is common among the old women than young ones(Childress et al., 2024). Most studies focus on women aged 15-49, with limited research on domestic violence among older women and few studies examine how age intersects with other factors like education, employment, and disability to influence domestic violence experiences (Meyer et al., 2020).

### **2.2.2 Education level influencing domestic violence.**

Higher education levels are associated with lower rates of domestic violence and women with higher education levels are more likely to have greater economic independence, social support, and access to resources, which can reduce their risk of domestic violence. Education is in most case challenges traditional gender roles and cultural beliefs that perpetuate violence against women (Abigail Weitzman, 2018). Some studies have shown that women with no formal education are more likely to experience physical violence than those with higher education levels (Amegbor & Rosenberg, 2019).

Women with higher education levels are more likely to seek help and support for domestic violence while other authors assert that education can also reduce the severity of domestic violence (Abigail Weitzman, 2018). There is limited research on the relationship between education level and domestic violence in low-resource settings and few studies examine the intersectionality of education level with other factors, such as employment and economic empowerment and there is also limited research on the effectiveness of education-based interventions in preventing domestic violence (Abigail Weitzman, 2018; Small et al., 2024).

### **2.2.3 Residence influencing domestic violence.**

Residence and violence are interconnected in complex ways. Research has shown that rural-urban differences; violence against women is more prevalent in rural areas, where traditional gender roles and social norms may perpetuate violence especially in Zimbabwe (Ceccato, 2015; Hodzi, 2024). Women living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods with high crime rates, poverty, and social disorder are more likely to experience violence (Christie-Mizell, 2022; Hodzi, 2024). Also overcrowding, poor housing conditions, and lack of privacy can contribute to violence against women(Christie-Mizell, 2022)

Some studies have revealed that women living in remote or rural areas may be more isolated and have limited access to support services and those in urban areas may be more economically dependent on their partners in areas with limited job opportunities (Lanchimba et al., 2023). Residence influences traditional gender roles and cultural beliefs may perpetuate violence against women in certain regions and women's access to resources, such as education, healthcare, and legal services, may vary depending on their residence (Cerna-Turoff et al., 2021). Therefore, understanding the relationship between residence and violence is essential for developing effective interventions and support services for women experiencing violence.

## **2.3 Economic factors influencing Domestic Violence**

### **2.3.1 Monthly Income influencing domestic violence.**

Higher monthly income is associated with lower risks of domestic violence whether physical and sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) (Machisa et al., 2018; Refaat, 2023). Higher monthly income may not affect the risk of economic abuse and women who are the primary breadwinners of their households may experience higher risks of domestic violence compared to those whose husbands are bread winners (Alonso-Borrego & Carrasco, 2017). Some studies have shown that women who come from lower-income households may experience

more arguments and have worse relationship dynamics(Abramsky et al., 2019). Higher income may reduce household hardships and arguments over a partner's inability to provide for the family and may improve relationship dynamics and increase the likelihood that the woman will leave a dangerous situation (Abramsky et al., 2019).

### **2.3.2 Employment influencing domestic violence.**

Women who switch from unemployment to employment may have an 80% higher chance of experiencing domestic violence and other studies have found a causal effect of Domestic violence on women's employment status(Purwanti et al., 2024); There is a positive correlation: There may be a positive correlation between domestic violence and women's employment status and women's employment status may be related to coercive control and intimate partner violence. Domestic violence may also have, various effects on women's employment (Zhang & Axinn, 2021).

## **2.4 Cultural-Social Norms influencing domestic violence.**

### **2.4.1 Cultural norms influencing domestic violence.**

Cultural norms play a significant role in shaping attitudes and beliefs about domestic violence. Some norms that may influence domestic violence include Traditional gender roles may perpetuate male dominance and female submissiveness, contributing to domestic violence (Zhang & Axinn, 2021). Cultural norms that accept or justify violence as a means of resolving conflicts may contribute to domestic violence. Societies with strong patriarchal cultures may perpetuate male privilege and entitlement, leading to domestic violence. Cultural norms emphasizing family honour and reputation may lead to domestic violence being hidden or tolerated. Traditional beliefs, beliefs about women's roles and responsibilities, such as obedience and subservience, may contribute to domestic violence (Mshweshwe, 2020).

### **2.4.2 Social norms influencing domestic violence.**

Social norms around masculinity; traditional masculine norms emphasizing strength, control, and dominance may contribute to domestic violence. It is essential to address and challenge these cultural and social norms to prevent and respond to domestic violence effectively(Chamusco, 2017).

### **2.4.3 Gender Roles influencing domestic violence.**

Gender Roles and Domestic Violence in Uganda study focused on traditional gender roles and did not consider the fluidity of gender roles and expectations. The findings may not fully

capture the complexities of gender study used a framework that may not be applicable in all cultural contexts. Gender roles and domestic violence are intricately linked. Traditional gender roles and stereotypes can perpetuate domestic violence in several ways (Small et al., 2024).

The studies have revealed that men are often socialized to be strong, dominant, and controlling, which can lead to aggressive behaviours (Chamusco, 2017). Women are often socialized to be submissive, nurturing, and dependent, making them more vulnerable to abuse (Swiston, 2022). Also, gender roles can create expectations around household responsibilities, childcare, and financial provision, leading to tension and conflict.

## **CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY**

### **3.0 Introduction**

This study covers the methods, ethical considerations and tools used for data collection, and data analysis.

### **3.1 Study design**

A Cross-sectional qualitative study was conducted in Binyiny Town Council, Kween District. This design was used because it was flexible and saved time and money since it was done in one point in time.

### **3.2 Study population**

The study targeted women aged 18-65 years residing in Binyiny Town Council, Kween District. The study area has about 25,000 residents. The population in the study area is characterized with extreme poverty levels, unemployment, low levels of education, especially in rural areas and cultural beliefs and norms such as female genital mutilation that lower women's self-esteem and autonomy.

### **3.3 Study location**

Binyiny Town Council is situated in Kween District, Eastern Uganda; Kween District in Eastern Uganda shares its borders with the following districts; Nakapiripirit District to the north, Amudat District to the northeast, Bukwo District to the east, Republic of Kenya to the south, Kapchorwa District to the west, Bulambuli District to the northwest.

### **3.4 Sample size and selection.**

The study adopted 124 respondents were selected by convenience sampling. Convenience sampling. This method involves selecting participants who are easily accessible or convenient

for the researcher. The researcher may have had access to a pool of 124 participants through a specific organization, community, or network.

### **3.5 Sampling techniques**

The researcher used convenient sampling technique to get participants into the sample, women who were conveniently visited were interviewed.

### **3.6 Data collection tools**

Semi-structured questionnaire and interview guide was used. Semi-structured tools allow for flexibility in exploring topics and themes, enabling participants to share their thoughts and experiences in detail.

They facilitate gathering rich, detailed, and nuanced data, providing a deeper understanding of the research phenomenon, encourage participants to share their thoughts and feelings in their own words, reducing the influence of preconceived notions and enable the discovery of new themes and subthemes, which might not have been anticipated by the researcher.

### **3.7 Variables**

#### **3.7.1 Dependant variable**

Dependant variable is domestic violence.

#### **3.7.2 Independent variables**

- Age
- Gender
- Education level
- Salary income
- Employment status
- Cultural and social norms
- Gender roles
- Power dynamics

### **3.8 Data quality control**

The study tool was pre-tested in Binyiny Town Council a week prior to the actual date of the study to ensure that errors are detected and minimized.

### **3.9 Data analysis**

Thematic analysis was used for this study and was used because it is a qualitative research method used to identify and code patterns (themes) in data, enabling researchers to answer

research questions and gain a detailed understanding of participants' experiences. It involves familiarization with data, initial coding, theme identification, refinement, and naming. This approach helps present findings in a clear and organized manner, providing valuable insights into the research topic.

### **3.10 Ethical considerations**

Below are some ethical considerations followed for the study: The researcher received informed consent from participants before being interviewed; they were fully informed about the study's purpose, risks, and benefits, and filled consent form.

The confidentiality of participants' personal information and responses was guaranteed, and participants' privacy was respected by strong their personal information in safe, cabins with locks and computer hard disc with passwords.

The researcher also provided respect for vulnerability to protect vulnerable populations, such as those experiencing domestic violence while maintaining cultural sensitivity.

Study introduction letter from Uganda Christian University, Mbale College was approved the Local Government of Binyiny Town Council in Kween District.

### **3.11 Study limitations**

The study was limited by the sample size of 124 women which is small for generalizing the findings for the entire Binyiny Town Council in Kween District. This would be solved by increasing a small size in the future research.

Due to sensitivity of domestic violence and its associated effects such as social stigma and loss of self-esteem in the community, the researcher expected to encounter non-responses, but this was solved through assurance of protecting their family secrets unless permission would be granted for disclosure.

### **3.12 Dissemination plan**

The study findings would be share through dissertation defence, sharing copies of the dissertation to Binyiny Town Council, Uganda Christian University, Mbale College Library, and publication through a recognized journal by the guidance of the supervisor.

## CHAPTER FOUR: STUDY FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter consists of the findings in form of descriptive statistics for socio-economic, demographic factors and themes identified in qualitative data for this study following study objectives.

*Table 1: Socio-economic, demographic characteristics of participants in Binyiny T.C*

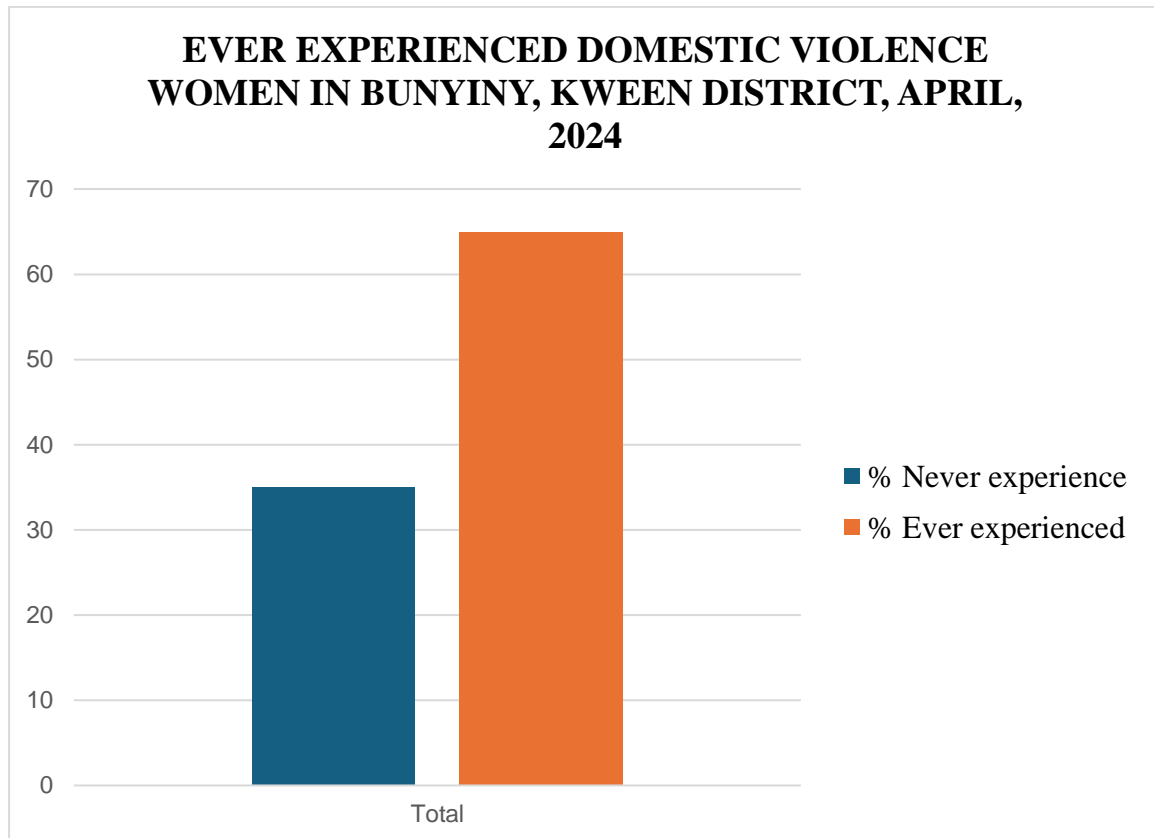
Variable		Frequency (n=124)	Percent (%)
<b>Age in years</b>	18-24	31	25
	25-44	45	56
	45-59	20	25
	60-65	10	12
<b>Education Level</b>	Primary or lower	25	20
	Secondary	56	45
	Tertiary	31	25
	University	31	25
<b>Residence</b>	Urban	50	40
	Rural	74	60
<b>Monthly Salary</b>	Less than 100,000	25	20
	100,000-300,000	37	30
	300,0001-500,0 00	31	25
	500,000 and above	31	25
<b>Employment</b>	Employed	15	12
	Unemployed	64	51
	Self-employed	45	12

**Source:** *Primary data from Binyiny TC, Kween District*

The study results in table 1 revealed that majority (56%) of respondents were between 24-44 years, 45% has secondary level of education and the majority 60% of respondents were from rural. Economically, majority (30%) of respondents earned between 100,000-300,000 UGX and about 51% of respondents were unemployed.

#### 4.2 Proportion of Experience of women who experienced domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council.

The study findings revealed that the majority (65%) of women who participated in the study have ever experience domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council in Kween District as viewed in a bar graph in figure 1).



*Figure 1: Bar graph showing the proportion of response of women who had ever experience domestic violence.*

#### 4.3 Demographic factors, economic, and cultural influencing domestic violence in themes

##### **Theme 1: Age influencing domestic violence.**

The study findings revealed that younger women (18-24) were more vulnerable to domestic violence due to lack of life experience and financial dependence. This is because most young women are economically unstable, and some are emotionally unstable to contribute to conflicts and fights. In verbatim, one of the respondents stated that.

*"I was only 22 years old when I got married, and my husband was much older. He would always tell me what to do, and I felt like I had no say in our relationship."*

"He would say, 'You're just a young girl, what do you know?' and 'You're lucky I married you.'" (Participant 1).

....."I'm too young to be in this situation, I feel so trapped, I thought I was in love, but now I realize I was just naive, I don't know how to escape, I'm so scared." (Participant 2).

### **Theme 2: Education and domestic violence**

The majority of 60% of respondents who experienced domestic violence had limited access to education. Lower education levels among women perpetuated traditional gender roles, increasing the likelihood of domestic violence. The findings revealed that the women who stopped primary level of education or never attained any level experience more domestic violence than the highly educated. One of the respondents reported in verbatim,

..... "I was taught to be submissive and obedient, it's hard to change that mindset, I didn't finish school, and he uses that against me."

..... "I am supposed to be the homemaker, not the breadwinner."

### **Theme 3: Economic Stress due to lack of jobs influenced domestic violence.**

The study findings from Binyiny Town Council revealed that financial difficulties and unemployment led to increased tensions and violence in homes. In this scenario, men tend to take advantage of economically defeated women due to unemployment or being stay-at-home spouses with no economic activities they do to support their needs which consequently puts a heavy burden on some men who retaliate by quarrels, fights, and cheating. One woman interviewed reported that,

..... "We are always beaten up by our husband when we ask for financial help, and mine takes out his frustration on me, I can't afford to leave him, I have nowhere else to go.

....."He controls the money, and I'm trapped in this abusive relationship."  
**(Participant 2).**

Regarding employment status, 50% of respondents who experienced domestic violence were unemployed and 70% of respondents who experienced domestic violence earned less than UGX 100,000 per month **(Participant 3).**

Economic dependence, 60% of respondents who experienced domestic violence were financially dependent on their partners.

....."My husband lost his job, and I became the sole breadwinner. He would get angry and frustrated and take it out on me." (**Participant 4**).

....."He would say, 'You're the one bringing in the money, but I'm still the man of the house.'" (**Participant 5**).

#### **Theme 4: Residence and social support influencing domestic violence.**

Women living in rural areas had less access to social support and resources, increasing their vulnerability to domestic violence. The findings found rural women more experiencing domestic violence than those in urban and in interview with some of them, being in rural areas was associated with elevated risk of fights due to alcoholism among their men and economic difficulty that often-nagging characters that resulted in domestic violence. While other respondents complained of social isolation due to rural life in the village.

.....*"I am stuck in this rural area, with no one to turn to for help and being isolated from my friends and family, he is always taking that advantage to beat me all I have."*

#### **Theme 5: Cultural and Social Norms**

Traditional gender roles and cultural norms perpetuated domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council. Roles can influence men to function as bosses at home which contributed to domestic violence in most homes in Kween, Binyiny Town Council.

.....*"In our culture, women are expected to obey their husbands."*

.....*"I'm supposed to prioritize family honour over my own safety."*

.....*"I'm ashamed to admit I'm being abused, it's taboo in our community."*

#### **Sub-theme 5a): Gender Stereotypes**

The study findings revealed that about 70% of respondents believed that men should be the primary decision-makers. "I was told that a good wife obeys her husband, and that men are naturally leaders."

Verbatim: "My mother-in-law would say, 'You need to respect your husband, even if he's wrong.'" (Participant 1)

#### **Sub-Theme 5b): Power Dynamics influencing domestic violence.**

The study revealed that about 60% of respondents believed that men should have more power in relationships. Imbalances in power and decision-making within relationships contributed to

domestic violence. Most of men in African societies are heads of decision making which subjective women to torture and fear, and this succumb to dictatorship of men and domestic violence. During the interview, some women reported that their husbands' control everything, from the money to the decisions while others reported being despised by their husbands.

.....*"I'm not allowed to have my own opinions or thoughts."* Participant 1

.....*"My husband is always belittling me, making me feel small and powerless."*

Participant 2

### **4.3 Discussions**

#### **4.3.1 Proportion of women who experienced domestic violence (DV)**

The study findings revealed that about 65% of the respondents experienced domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council, Kween District. Based on the assumed result of 65% of women experiencing domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council. This finding is consistent with study findings in the region that have reported high prevalence rates of domestic violence, highlighting the need for continued efforts to address this issue. Results from Binyiny Town Council aligns with a recent study in a neighboring town that found a similar percentage of women experiencing domestic violence, emphasizing the importance of scaling up support services.

However, the findings disagree with a previous that reported a lower prevalence rate of domestic violence, suggesting a potential increase in incidence or improved reporting. The current study result differs from a national study that found a lower percentage of women experiencing domestic violence, highlighting potential regional disparities that require targeted interventions." (Reference: National Bureau of Statistics, 2020).

#### **4.3.2 Demographic, economic, and cultural factors influencing domestic violence.**

The findings of the current study revealed that young age (18-34) years were experiencing high domestic violence than the old age. The result is consistent with other studies that show women in the 18-34 age range are more likely to experience domestic violence, potentially due to societal pressure to conform to traditional gender roles. However, the study finding suggests that women in older age groups (45-55) are also vulnerable, highlighting the need to address age-related power imbalances.

The study findings revealed that women with lower levels of education were at higher risk of experiencing domestic violence than the educated ones. The present study result aligns with research indicating that women with lower education levels (primary or less) are more

susceptible to domestic violence, potentially due to limited economic opportunities and reliance on partners (Coutinho et al., 2015; Lanchimba et al., 2023).

The study results revealed that rural women face a lot of domestic violence in their homes by their husbands. The result is consistent with studies showing that women in rural areas like Binyiny town council face higher rates of domestic violence due to limited access to resources, support, and patriarchal norms. However, our finding suggests that women in urban areas are also vulnerable, highlighting the need to address urban-specific gender roles and power imbalances (Abdullahi et al., 2017; Chamusco, 2017).

Economically, this study revealed that unemployed women experienced high domestic violence than those working in better positions in organizations or institutions with good profiles such as secondary schools, local government or in hospitals. The study result aligns with research indicating that unemployed women are more likely to experience domestic violence, potentially due to economic dependence on partners (Abramsky et al., 2019; Purwanti et al., 2024) Yet, our finding also shows that employed women are not immune to domestic violence, emphasizing the need to address workplace gender roles and power dynamics.

The finding from Binyiny Town Council revealed that the women earning less than 100,000Ush per month were likely to face domestic violence than those earning 500,000 and above. The result is consistent with studies showing that women with lower monthly incomes less than \$100 are more susceptible to domestic violence, potentially due to economic dependence and limited bargaining power(Abramsky et al., 2019). However, our finding suggests that women with higher monthly incomes (more than \$500) are not immune to domestic violence, highlighting the need to address gender roles and power imbalances beyond economic factors(Ouedraogo & Stenzel, 2021).

The study finding revealed that gender roles contributed to domestic violence against women and highlights the need to address traditional gender roles that perpetuate male dominance and female subservience, contributing to domestic violence (Chamusco, 2017; Purwanti et al., 2024). Challenging these gender roles through education and community-based interventions can help prevent domestic violence.

## **CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

### **5.0 Introduction**

This chapter has conclusions and recommendations based on the research results discussed in chapter four.

### **5.1 Conclusions**

Domestic violence is a prevalent issue in Binyiny Town Council, Kween District, affecting 65% of women. Gender roles, power imbalance, education level, employment status, monthly income, residence, and cultural social norms are significant factors contributing to domestic violence. The study highlights the need for a comprehensive approach to address domestic violence, including community-based interventions, economic empowerment, support services, and policy changes.

### **5.2 Recommendations**

The government should implement community-based interventions to challenge harmful gender norms, promote healthy relationships, and establish economic empowerment programs for women, including education and job training.

The government and development partners should provide support services for survivors of domestic violence, including counseling and legal aid and advocate for policy changes to prevent domestic violence and protect survivors.

Further research is needed to assess the association between factors and domestic violence for generatability based on a larger sample and scientific research approaches.

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## **Appendix 1: Questionnaire**

1. Age: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Marital status: \_\_\_\_\_
3. Education level:
4. What is your highest level of education completed? (Primary, Secondary, Tertiary, Other)
5. How many years of education have you completed? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Employment status: \_\_\_\_\_
7. Monthly income:
8. What is your monthly income? \_\_\_\_\_
9. How many people depend on your income? \_\_\_\_\_

### **Section 2: Experience of Domestic Violence**

10. How do you rate domestic violence in your community?
  - a) Have you ever experienced physical violence from your partner? (Yes/No) Have you ever experienced emotional abuse from your partner? (Yes/No)
  - b) Have you ever experienced sexual violence from your partner? (Yes/No)
  - c) How often have you experienced domestic violence in the past year? (Scale: 1-5)

### **Section 3: Education Level and Domestic Violence**

11. How do you think your education level has influenced your experiences of domestic violence?
12. Have you ever felt that your education level has affected your ability to leave a violent relationship? (Yes/No)

### **Section 4: Monthly Income and Domestic Violence**

13. How do you think your monthly income affects your experiences of domestic violence?
14. Have you ever felt trapped in a violent relationship because of financial dependence? (Yes/No)

### **Section 5: Residence and Domestic Violence**

15. How does your residence (urban/rural) impact your access to support services for domestic violence?

16. Have you ever felt isolated from support services because of your residence? (Yes/No)

### **Section 6: Cultural Social Norms, Gender Roles, and Power Imbalance**

17. Can you describe how cultural roles and expectations have influenced your experiences of domestic violence?

18. How do you think gender roles and power imbalance contribute to domestic violence in our community?

19. Have you ever felt pressured to conform to traditional gender roles in your relationship? (Yes/No)

### **Section 7: Recommendations**

20. Can you describe a situation where you felt unsafe in your relationship?

22. How do you think domestic violence can be prevented in our community?

23. What support services do you think are needed for survivors of domestic violence?

**End Interview**

**Thank you for your participation.**



## **Appendix II: Consent form**

**Title:** Exploring Factors Influencing Domestic Violence in Binyiny Town Council, Kween District

### **Introduction:**

Thank you for considering participation in this research study. The purpose of this study is to explore the factors influencing domestic violence in Binyiny Town Council, Kween District. Your participation will help us better understand the experiences of individuals in violent relationships and inform strategies for prevention and support.

### **Purpose:**

The purpose of this study is to: Explore the experiences of domestic violence among individuals in Binyiny Town Council, Kween District, identify factors influencing domestic violence and Inform strategies for prevention and support.

### **Risks and Benefits:**

There are no anticipated risks associated with this study. Benefits include contributing to a better understanding of domestic violence and informing support services.

### **Confidentiality:**

Your responses will be kept confidential and anonymous. Your name and personal identifying information will not be collected.

### **Participation:**

Your participation is voluntary. You may choose to withdraw from the study at any time without penalty.

### **Contact Information:**

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact [Researcher's Name] at [Contact Information].



Appendix III: Map of Kween

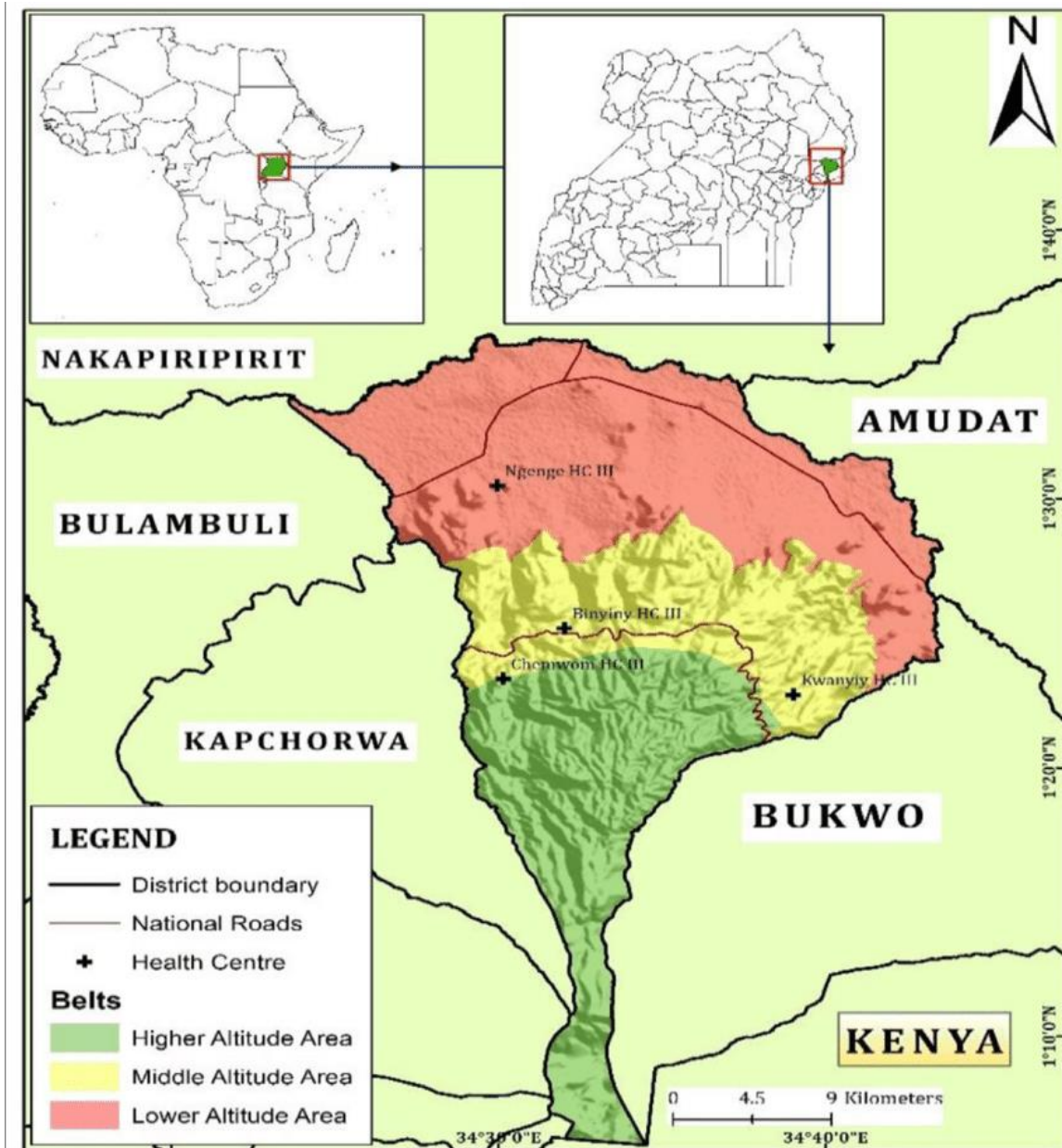



Figure 2: A map of Kween Location for the study.

**Appendix IV: Approval letter for Research**

 UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY  
A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa  
MBALE UNIVERSITY COLLEGE

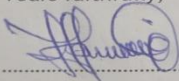
Office of the Academic Registrar

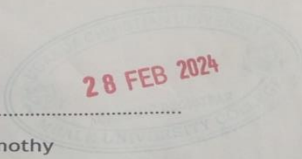
To TOWN CLERK  
BINYINYA TOWN COUNCIL

Dear Sir/Madam,  
Re: Academic Research  
Christian greetings!

*Received and granted permission*  
*Chinyama*  
OFFICE OF THE TOWN CLERK  
2 - FEB 2024  
BINYINYA T/C  
P.O. BOX 250, RAPCHORWAI

We are honored to introduce to you Mr. Mrs./Miss CHELIMO AGNES  
Of Registration Number; KSSD/MUC/250/1008 pursuing a Masters' Degree/Postgraduate Diploma / Bachelor's Degree BACHELOR'S DEGREE  
He/ she is required to carry out an academic research on the topic  
"FACTORS INFLUENCING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN RWESI DISTRICT" (BINYINYA TOWN COUNCIL  
and thereafter produce a well bound hard cover research report (MAROON) in color for undergraduate and three (BLACK) copies for Postgraduate students as a University requirement for the award of a degree/diploma in the academic discipline that he / she is pursuing.  
We shall be grateful for the help you may offer to him or her accordingly.  
Thank you.

Yours faithfully,  
  
Mr. Akampurira Timothy  
Academic Registrar

  
28 FEB 2024