

**THE EFFECT OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ON WOMEN'S POLITICAL
PARTICIPATION IN LOCAL GOVERNANCE: A CASE OF MUKONO CENTRAL
DIVISION MUKONO DISTRICT**

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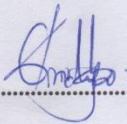


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DECLARATION

I, Kirabo Cindy, hereby declare that this research report entitled, “the effect of gender based violence on women’s political participation in local governance: a case of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District,” is my original work and that it has never been submitted in any institution for any award. I have read the regulations of the university with regard to plagiarism and here declare that I abided by all of them.

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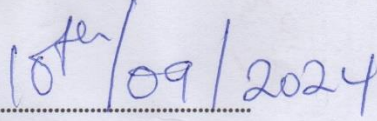
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APPROVAL

This is to acknowledge that this research report entitled, "the effect of gender-based violence on women's political participation in local governance: a case of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District," has been done under my supervision and is now ready for submission to the School of Social science at Uganda Christian University.

Signature: 

Date: 

MADAM EDITH NAGADIYA

(Supervisor)

DEDICATION

With special regard, I wish to dedicate this piece of work to my parents who have always been there to support me in my education. May the Almighty God richly bless you.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank the Almighty God for the gift of life and guiding me throughout my education; it has not being easy but it was possible.

My heartfelt gratitude goes to my supervisor, Ms Edith Nagadya Ssentongo for the tireless efforts and expertise she rendered to me during his supervision.

Additionally, I acknowledge the women leaders in Mukono Central Division for providing me with the necessary information to complete my research.

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God bless you all.

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ABSTRACT

The study examined the effect of gender based violence on women's political participation in local governance: a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District. It specifically focused on; establishing the effect of economic abuse on women's political participation in local governance, exploring the effect of emotional abuse on women's political participation in local governance and examining the effect of physical abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division.

The study was carried out using a cross sectional survey research design where both quantitative and qualitative research approaches were also used. The data was collected using questionnaires and interviews during the data collection, both purposive and simple random sampling methods were used. A sample size of 32 respondents who are women leaders in MCD was also used in the study.

The study found out that there are various forms of abuse i.e. economic, emotional, and physical significantly impede women's political participation in Mukono Central Division. Economic abuse restricts women's access to essential resources and undermines their decision-making power, while emotional abuse erodes their self-esteem and discourages engagement in political activities. Physical abuse creates an environment of fear and insecurity, further limiting women's involvement in governance. Furthermore, regression statistics revealed that there every unit increase in gender-based violence, women's political participation decreases by 23.3 units implying that as gender based violence increases, it is more it becomes difficult for women to fully participate in the politics of their local governance in MCD.

Lastly, the study recommended the need for implementing comprehensive financial support programs and legal protections to address economic abuse. The study also recommended the need for targeted emotional support services and counseling programs for women experiencing emotional abuse. Finally, the study recommended the need for stringent enforcement of laws against physical abuse and the establishment of robust support systems for survivors.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This study was about examining the effect of gender based violence on women's political participation in local governance: a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District. This chapter therefore presents the background of the study, problem statement, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, scope of the study, research question, significance of the study, and the conceptual framework.

1.1 Background of the Study

This section considered historical background, theoretical background, conceptual background and contextual background.

1.1.1 Historical background

Women's political participation in local governance has evolved significantly over time (Hern, 2020). In the 19th and early 20th centuries, women in many European countries and the USA began to fight for their right to vote and participate in politics, a struggle that was marked by the suffrage movements and significant legislative changes (Cullen & McGing, 2024). In Africa, women's political participation has been shaped by colonial histories and post-independence political reforms, with varying degrees of progress across the continent (Robinson & Gottlieb, 2021). In Uganda, women's involvement in politics has seen considerable improvement since the introduction of affirmative action policies in the 1990s, which reserved seats for women in local councils and parliament (Ahikire & Mwiine, 2019; Muzee & Endeley, 2019). Despite these advances, gender-based violence remains a significant barrier to women's full participation in political life (Anyidoho et al., 2021; Milazzo & Goldstein, 2019).

Historically, gender-based violence (GBV) reveals its pervasive nature globally, with roots in patriarchal structures and societal norms that have long oppressed women (Jabeen & Iqbal, 2020). In Europe and the USA, GBV has been documented and

addressed through evolving legal frameworks and feminist movements, highlighting its impact on women's rights and participation (Sumbas & Koyuncu, 2019; Håkansson, 2021). In Africa, GBV remains a significant barrier to women's empowerment, exacerbated by traditional practices and weak enforcement of protective laws (Enaifoghe et al., 2021). In Uganda, historical and cultural factors have contributed to high levels of GBV, which continue to hinder women's political participation despite progressive policies aimed at promoting gender equality (Bashford-Squires et al., 2022).

1.1.2 Theoretical background

This study was guided by the Social Role Theory. This theory was developed by Alice Eagly in 1987. Social Role Theory posits that the behavioral differences between men and women arise from the contrasting roles that society assigns to them (Eagly & Wood, 2012). These roles are shaped by cultural norms and expectations, which influence the behaviors and attitudes deemed appropriate for each gender (Koenig & Eagly, 2014). The key tenets of Social Role Theory include the idea that gender roles are socially constructed and are learned through socialization processes. It assumes that these roles are maintained by societal institutions and cultural practices, which reinforce the division of labor based on gender. The theory also posits that these roles can change over time as society evolves and as cultural norms shift (Cantir & Kaarbo, 2012).

In the context of gender-based violence and women's political participation, Social Role Theory helped to explain how traditional gender roles that prioritize male dominance and female subordination contribute to the prevalence of gender-based violence (Harnisch, 2011). This violence, in turn, acts as a barrier to women's political participation by reinforcing their subordinate status and discouraging their involvement in political activities. By understanding the social roles assigned to women and how they perpetuate gender-based violence, this theory provided a framework for addressing the cultural and institutional barriers to women's political empowerment in Mukono Central Division, Mukono District (Koenig & Eagly, 2014).

1.1.3 Conceptual background

According to Anyidoho et al. (2021), GBV includes physical, sexual, and psychological harm inflicted by an intimate partner or others, rooted in gender inequalities. Similarly, Enaifoghe et al. (2021) define GBV as any harmful act directed at an individual based on their gender, which causes physical or psychological harm, and is entrenched in cultural and societal norms. For this study, GBV is defined as a spectrum of harmful behaviors including economic, emotional, and physical violence against women, which undermines their political participation. The dimensions of GBV considered are economic violence (financial control, employment restrictions, property deprivation), emotional violence (verbal abuse, intimidation, isolation), and physical violence (assault, domestic violence, threats of harm), all of which impact women's ability to engage in local governance activities.

Women's political participation in local governance refers to the engagement and involvement of women in political processes and decision-making at the local level. According to Jabeen & Iqbal (2020), it encompasses various forms of involvement, including voting, candidacy, and participation in local government structures. Similarly, Milazzo & Goldstein (2019) define it as the active contribution of women to political activities, including holding office, influencing policies, and participating in political debates. In this study, women's political participation in local governance was defined as the extent to which women engage in activities that influence and contribute to local governance. The dimensions used to measure this involvement include voter registration, election candidacy, policy advocacy, public debate engagement, and leadership roles.

1.1.4 Contextual background

In Uganda, women's political participation in local governance faces significant challenges despite some progress in representation. As of 2023, women hold approximately 34% of local council seats, reflecting an improvement but still falling short of gender parity (Women, U.N., 2021). This underrepresentation is compounded by societal norms and structural barriers that hinder women's active involvement in

political processes (Ahikire & Mwiine, 2019). Gender-based violence and political intimidation are also prevalent, impacting women's willingness and ability to engage in politics (Krook & Sanín, 2020). Moreover, Uganda's Domestic Violence Act of 2010 aimed to address gender-based violence but has faced implementation hurdles, affecting women's political participation (Ahikire & Mwiine, 2019).

In Mukono District, targeted interventions aimed at empowering women economically have shown some potential to enhance political participation (Bashford-Squires, Gibson, & Nyashanu, 2022). However, the region still faces significant hurdles due to entrenched cultural biases and insufficient support structures for women (Sanín, 2022). Statistics indicate that while there have been improvements in women's representation in local governance, the pace of change is slow, and systemic barriers continue to obstruct full participation (Ebron et al., 2024). Addressing these challenges is crucial for fostering greater gender equality in Mukono Central Division's political landscape.

1.2 Problem statement

Ideally, women's political participation in local governance should be robust and equitable, with equal representation and active involvement (Jabeen & Iqbal, 2020). However, in Uganda and particularly in Mukono district, women's political participation remains significantly constrained. Evidence shows a marked decline in women's political engagement across various dimensions. For instance, only 24% of women in Mukono Central Division are registered voters compared to 42% of men (Cullen & McGing, 2024). Additionally, women's candidacy in local elections has dropped to 15%, reflecting a significant disparity (Ahikire & Mwiine, 2019). Leadership roles held by women in local governance have decreased to 20%, indicating a troubling trend (Håkansson, 2021). All this could be attributed to persistent cultural norms, socio-economic barriers, and instances of GBV, leading to intimidation and further discouragement of women's political involvement (Bardall et al. 2020). If this problem is not addressed continued gender inequality in political representation, weakened democratic processes, and hindered community development will persist (Robinson & Gottlieb, 2021).

Furthermore, despite extensive research on women's political participation, there is a significant gap concerning the specific impact of GBV on this participation in local governance. Previous studies by scholars like Ebron et al. (2024) and Bashford-Squires et al. (2022) have explored various aspects of women's empowerment and political engagement. However, the intersection of GBV and its direct effect on women's political activities, particularly in Mukono Central Division, remains under-researched. This study aimed to fill this gap by providing a detailed analysis of how GBV influences women's political participation in local governance with specific focus on Mukono Central Division, Mukono District.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to examine the effect of gender based violence on women's political participation in local governance: a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District.

1.4 Objectives of the study

- i. To establish the effect of economic abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division.
- ii. To explore the effect of emotional abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division.
- iii. To examine the effect of physical abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division.

1.5 Research questions

- i. What is the effect of economic abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division?
- ii. What is the effect of emotional abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division?
- iii. What is the effect of physical abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division?

1.6 Scope of the study

The scope of the study covered three dimensions that is; content, geographical and time and these were discussed in detail below;

1.6.1 Content scope

This study specifically focused on; establishing the effect of economic abuse on women's political participation in local governance, exploring the effect of emotional abuse on women's political participation in local governance and examining the effect of physical abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division.

1.6.2 Geographical scope

This study was conducted in the Kauga village located in Nsuube-Kauga parish, Mukono Central Division, Mukono District which is one of the districts in the Central Region of Uganda. It is located approximately 25 kilometers east of the capital city, Kampala, in the Central Region of the country. Mukono District is home to a population of over 600,000 people, with the predominantly rural Kauga region accounting for a significant portion of the district's residents. The Kauga community is largely engaged in subsistence agriculture and small-scale income-generating activities. Women in the Kauga region face disproportionate barriers to political participation, economic empowerment, and access to social services, challenges that have been exacerbated by the persistent and high prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) reported in the area. By focusing the study within the specific geographic context of the Kauga region, the researcher aimed to conduct an in-depth investigation of the dynamics and impacts of GBV on women's lived experiences, with the goal of informing tailored interventions and policies to address the unique needs of this community.

1.6.3 Time scope

The study focused on scholarly material from the period 2019 to 2024. This timeframe is chosen to allow for an up-to-date analysis of the current impacts of gender-based

violence (GBV) on women's political participation, economic status, and social well-being in the Kauga region. The five-year duration provides sufficient time to assess both immediate and longer-term effects of GBV, capturing a comprehensive understanding of the issue. By focusing the study on 2024, the researcher aimed to deliver findings that are relevant and actionable for stakeholders working to address GBV and promote women's empowerment in the Kauga community.

1.7 Significance of the study

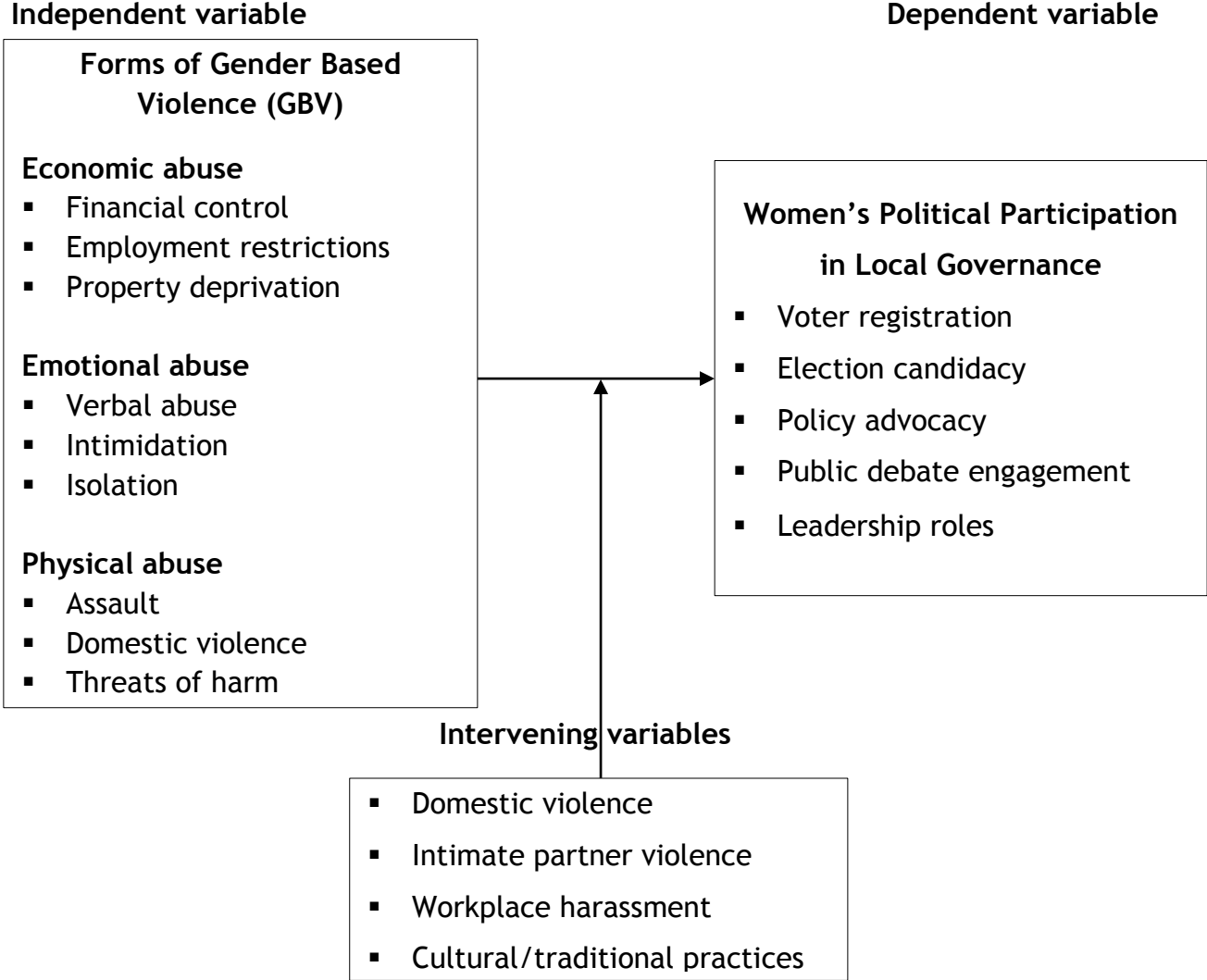
The findings will directly inform the government's efforts to achieve its national commitments to gender equality and women's empowerment, as outlined in policy frameworks such as the National Gender Policy and the Sustainable Development Goals. The comprehensive analysis of how gender-based violence (GBV) undermines women's political participation, economic status, and social well-being will help the government develop more targeted and effective interventions.

The study will contribute to the limited body of empirical evidence on the multidimensional impacts of GBV in the Ugandan context. By filling this critical knowledge gap, the research will pave the way for further scholarly exploration of this issue and inform the development of more nuanced, contextually-relevant theories and frameworks.

The participatory, community-based approach of this research will ensure that the perspectives and experiences of women in the Kauga region are amplified. The findings and recommendations will be directly responsive to the needs of this affected population, supporting community-led efforts to address GBV and promote women's empowerment.

The study's in-depth analysis of the links between GBV and women's political, economic, and social marginalization will equip NGOs and activists with the evidence they need to design and implement more holistic, gender-responsive interventions. The findings will inform advocacy efforts and help shape policies and programs that better support women in the Kauga community.

1.8 Conceptual framework
Figure 1: Conceptual Framework



Source: *Adopted from, Nguyen (2022) and modified by the researcher (2024)*

The conceptual framework for this study examines the relationship between Gender-Based Violence (GBV) and Women's Political Participation in Local Governance, with socio-demographic factors serving as moderating variables. GBV is categorized into three dimensions: economic abuse (financial control, employment restrictions, property deprivation), emotional abuse (verbal abuse, intimidation, isolation), and physical abuse (assault, domestic violence, threats of harm). These forms of violence adversely affect women's ability to participate in political processes, which is reflected in their voter registration, election candidacy, policy advocacy, public debate

engagement, and leadership roles. Other forms of gender based violence like domestic violence, intimate partner violence, workplace harassment and cultural/traditional practices intervene in this relationship, potentially influencing the extent to which GBV impacts women's political participation.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter tries to review the scholarly materials put forward by several personalities on the effect of gender based violence on women's political participation in local governance as well as critically analyzing the deviations in the explanations to find out the research gap in the study variables. Literature was reviewed objectively by starting with definition of a concept followed by reviewing of objectives. Sources like journals and books related to the topic were used.

2.1 Definitions and concepts of the variables

2.1.1 Gender Based Violence

Gender-based violence, or GBV, is a widespread problem that has been described and interpreted differently by different academics. According to Jabeen & Iqbal (2020), gender-based violence (GBV) encompasses physical, sexual, and psychological abuse that takes place in both public and private settings and is directed towards an individual based on their gender or sex. The societal norms and power disparities that support discrimination and inequality are frequently the source of this type of violence (Anyidoho et al., 2021). As per Sumbas & Koyuncu's (2019) findings, gender-based violence (GBV) is a broad category that includes several harmful behaviors such as sexual harassment, domestic abuse, and human trafficking. These behaviors are common in various cultures and communities and are a reflection of ingrained gender prejudices and power dynamics.

The idea of gender-based violence is also connected to the larger context of gender equality and human rights. According to Håkansson (2021), gender-based violence (GBV) not only violates an individual's rights but also poses a serious obstacle to the advancement of gender equality and women's empowerment. According to Robinson & Gottlieb (2021), combating GBV necessitates extensive legal frameworks, efficient law

enforcement, and cultural shifts that question and alter damaging gender stereotypes. According to Bardall et al. (2020), gender-based violence (GBV) is a tactic that is employed to uphold gender hierarchies and prevent women from participating in a variety of fields, such as politics and governance, hence undermining social justice and democratic processes.

Different scholars emphasize the multifaceted nature of GBV and the importance of a holistic approach to tackling it. Córdova & Kras (2020) stress the need for coordinated efforts between governmental agencies, non-governmental organizations, and community groups to create supportive environments for survivors and hold perpetrators accountable. Enaifoghe et al. (2021) point out that societal awareness and education are crucial in changing attitudes and behaviors that perpetuate GBV. According to Krook & Sanín (2020), sustainable progress in combating GBV involves addressing underlying socio-economic factors and promoting gender-sensitive policies that protect and empower vulnerable populations. Rezwana & Pain (2021) add that understanding the intersectionality of GBV, including how it affects different groups differently, is essential for developing effective interventions and support systems.

2.1.2 Women participation in local governance

The term "women" refers to a broad range of gender identities and manifestations, not just biological differences, but also those who identify as feminine. Women are a heterogeneous group, according to Bonvillain (2020), and their identities and experiences are influenced by a range of sociocultural, political, and economic elements. With the recognition of the intricate intersections of race, class, sexuality, and other social categories, the concept of women has expanded to encompass a wider perspective that transcends traditional gender roles. All women, regardless of their circumstances, are recognized and respected in society because to this inclusive attitude (Rioux et al., 2022).

Women's participation is the active engagement of women in the social, political, and economic realms of life (Yemenu, 2020). In particular, women's participation in governance refers to their involvement and presence in policy formation, leadership

positions, and decision-making processes in both governmental and non-governmental organizations (Rasheed et al., 2020). Kabeer (2021) asserts that in order for participation to be meaningful, women must be empowered to effectively influence results and contribute to governance in addition to having a sufficient number of representation. This idea emphasizes how crucial it is to establish supportive environments in which women may take advantage of opportunities, exercise their rights, and make their voices known in both the public and private spheres.

Recent academic research has provided ample documentation of the importance of women's engagement in government. Imburgia et al. (2021), for example, stress that having more women in administrative and political positions promotes more inclusive and fair policy-making that takes into account the needs and viewpoints of the whole community. Research indicates that women who are involved in governance are more likely to take up concerns including social welfare, healthcare, education, and gender-based violence (Imburgia et al., 2021). Furthermore, Bjarnegård & Donno (2024) emphasize that women's involvement advances inclusivity, accountability, and openness in governing institutions, which helps to democratize society. According to Bjarnegård and Donno (2024), women's engagement plays a crucial role in promoting social justice and sustainable development when viewed holistically.

2.2 Effect of economic abuse on women's political participation in local governance

In their study, Jabeen & Iqbal (2020) emphasized the negative impact that economic abuse has on women's political engagement in local administration in Pakistan. They discovered that women's capacity to participate in politics is severely hampered by economic abuse, which includes denying them access to money or withholding it from them. Anyidoho et al. (2021) concur, arguing that women's political agency and involvement are restricted by their economic reliance on male peers. The researchers noted that women who experience economic abuse are less likely to be financially independent and hence remain politically marginalized since they are unable to successfully engage in local administration.

Sumbas & Koyuncu (2019) explored the dynamics of economic abuse and its impact on the political empowerment of women in Turkey. They concluded that economic abuse serves as a barrier to women's political participation by restricting their access to resources and opportunities essential for political engagement. Håkansson (2021) supports this finding, noting that women who experience economic abuse are often excluded from political processes due to a lack of financial means to campaign or participate in political activities. This economic control and abuse contribute to a cycle of political disempowerment and marginalization.

Robinson & Gottlieb (2021) investigated the intersection of economic abuse and women's political participation in matrilineal societies in Africa. They found that even in societies where women traditionally hold more power, economic abuse can severely restrict their political involvement. This is corroborated by Bardall et al. (2020), who noted that economic abuse is a form of political violence that specifically targets women, preventing them from participating fully in political life. These scholars emphasize the need for policies that address economic abuse to enhance women's political participation.

Córdova & Kras (2020) examined the role of economic abuse in limiting women's political participation in Latin America. They found that economic abuse, including the manipulation of economic resources, significantly hampers women's ability to engage in political activities. Enaifoghe et al. (2021) also highlighted that economic abuse in South Africa is a critical factor that deters women from participating in local governance. They argue that without financial independence, women are less likely to participate in political processes or seek political office.

Krook & Sanín (2020) explored the impact of economic abuse on women's political participation in various countries. They found that economic abuse acts as a form of political violence that prevents women from accessing the financial resources necessary for political engagement. Prillaman (2023) supports this view, arguing that economic abuse restricts women's ability to join political groups or run for political office, thereby limiting their representation in local governance. These findings underscore the

importance of addressing economic abuse to promote gender equality in political participation.

Rezwana & Pain (2021) examined the effects of economic abuse on women's political participation in disaster-prone areas. They found that economic abuse during and after disasters exacerbates women's economic vulnerabilities, further restricting their political engagement. Michelis (2024) also noted that economic abuse in the context of gender-based violence services limits women's ability to participate in local governance. These studies highlight the compounded effects of economic abuse on women's political participation in vulnerable communities.

A study by Liu (2022) investigated the gender gaps in political participation in Asia, focusing on the role of economic abuse. The study found that economic abuse significantly contributes to the gender gap in political participation by limiting women's financial independence and political agency. Dahlum et al. (2022) also found that economic abuse is a critical barrier to women's political empowerment and participation in local governance. They argue that addressing economic abuse is essential for promoting women's political participation and achieving gender equality.

Another study by Cullen & McGing (2024) examined the impact of economic abuse on women's political participation in local government in Ireland. They found that economic abuse, including the control of financial resources, significantly hinders women's ability to engage in political activities and seek political office. Hern (2020) also highlighted that economic abuse in electoral regimes in Africa limits women's political participation by restricting their access to necessary financial resources. These studies emphasize the need for comprehensive measures to address economic abuse to enhance women's political participation in local governance.

2.3 Effect of emotional abuse on women's political participation in local governance

The negative impacts of emotional abuse on women's political engagement in developing nations are emphasized by Milazzo & Goldstein (2019). They discovered that

emotional abuse severely impairs women's self-esteem and willingness to take part in local government. This includes verbal insults, threats, and psychological manipulation. Sumbas & Koyuncu (2019), who contend that emotional abuse not only has an adverse effect on women's mental health but also fosters an atmosphere of fear and insecurity that deters political activity, reinforce this finding. Similarly, Mlambo & Kapingura (2019) discovered that emotional abuse has a role in women's low self-esteem, which is a major obstacle to their ability to participate in politics in the SADC area.

Krook & Sanín (2020) examines the prevalence of emotional abuse against female politicians and its impact on their political careers. They found that emotional abuse often manifests as harassment and intimidation, which can lead to decreased political activity and withdrawal from public life. This is corroborated by Bardall et al. (2020), who argue that emotional abuse is a tool used to maintain gender hierarchies and deter women from seeking political office. Furthermore, Enaifoghe et al. (2021) note that emotional abuse in the political sphere often goes unreported due to societal norms that trivialize women's experiences, thereby perpetuating the cycle of abuse and underrepresentation.

According to Liu's (2022) research on gender disparities in political engagement in Asia, emotional abuse has a major role in deterring women from taking part in local governance. According to Liu's research, women who are subjected to emotional abuse are less likely to participate in politics or to run for government. Cullen & McGing's (2024) research, which discovered that emotional abuse fosters a hostile climate that discourages women from participating in politics, is consistent with this finding. Furthermore, Hern (2020) noted that emotional abuse is frequently employed as a means of undermining the credibility of female candidates and discouraging them from running for office. This abuse takes the shape of public humiliation and disparaging remarks.

The effect of emotional abuse on women's political engagement in Ireland is examined by Galligan & Buckley (2023). They discovered that emotional abuse considerably lowers women's political activity, including cyberbullying and defamation. Michelis (2024)

provides evidence for this claim, stating that emotional abuse fosters a climate of fear and intimidation that keeps women from actively engaging in politics. Furthermore, emotional abuse has a negative effect on women individually as well as on women's movements and advocacy activities, which reduces the power of these groups in local government, according to research by Ebron et al. (2024).

Emotional abuse is a significant obstacle to women's political engagement, according to Robinson & Gottlieb's (2021) research on narrowing the gender gap in political participation in matrilineal civilizations in Africa. They contend that emotional abuse deters women from pursuing professions in politics, frequently manifested as familial pressure and societal exclusion. Prillaman's (2023) research supports this, showing that emotional abuse—such as verbal and physical attacks and public humiliation—significantly lowers the probability of women seeking public office. Rezwana & Pain (2021) also draw attention to the fact that emotional abuse occurs before and after natural catastrophes, such as cyclones, and that this exacerbates gender inequality and prevents women from participating in politics.

Burnet (2019) investigates how emotional abuse affects Rwandan women's political representation. Burnet discovered that emotional abuse severely limits women's participation in local politics. This abuse includes verbal and physical threats. Sharma (2020), who contends that emotional abuse fosters a climate of fear that discourages women from entering politics, supports this conclusion. Kenyatta (2023) also discovered that women are emotionally abused when they experience prejudice and stigma from society, which keeps them from pursuing leadership roles and engaging in political activity.

Schneider & Carroll (2020) on violence against women in elections found that emotional abuse is a pervasive issue that significantly impacts women's political participation. They argue that emotional abuse, including psychological intimidation and public denigration, discourages women from running for office and participating in electoral processes. This is supported by Ackah-Baidoo et al. (2022), who found that emotional abuse in the form of social exclusion and verbal harassment deters women from political

engagement. Additionally, Burnet (2019) observed that emotional abuse contributes to the underrepresentation of women in local governance by creating a hostile and unwelcoming political environment.

Dahlum et al. (2022) have conducted a study that examines the correlation between women's political empowerment and economic growth. The study concludes that emotional abuse poses a substantial obstacle to women's political engagement. They contend that emotional abuse damages women's confidence and capacity to engage in politics, in addition to having an adverse effect on their mental health. Håkansson's (2021) research, which revealed that emotional abuse in the form of discrimination and gender bias considerably lowers women's political activity in Sweden, lends credence to this. Furthermore, emotional abuse in the form of economic control and manipulation exacerbates gender inequality and prevents women from participating in politics, according to research by Bashford-Squires et al. (2022).

2.4 Effect of physical abuse on women's political participation in local governance

The impact of physical abuse on women's political engagement in local governance in Pakistan was studied by Jabeen & Iqbal (2020). They discovered that physical violence greatly lowers women's willingness to participate in political activities in addition to having a direct effect on their health and well-being. In a similar vein, Anyidoho et al. (2021) emphasized that physical violence fosters a climate of intimidation and fear, discouraging women from taking part in local government. Their research in Ghana found that, out of fear of more abuse, women who had been physically abused were less inclined to participate in community gatherings or run for local office.

Håkansson (2021) corroborated these findings by demonstrating that in Sweden, women who are subjected to physical abuse are less likely to pursue political careers due to the psychological trauma and fear of public exposure and retribution. Sumbas & Koyuncu (2019) focused on women's empowerment at the local level in Turkey and found that physical abuse is a significant barrier to political participation. They argued that physical abuse affects women's physical health but also undermines their confidence and self-esteem, which are crucial for political engagement.

Physical abuse is a significant contributing factor to the gender gap in political participation, according to Robinson & Gottlieb's (2021) research on matrilineal tribes in Africa. They discovered that because of the stigma and social exclusion attached to physical abuse, women are frequently dissuaded from taking part in local administration. In addition, Bardall et al. (2020) discovered that physical abuse is a type of gendered political violence that keeps men in positions of power and discourages women from participating in politics.

Physical abuse has a major impact on women's political engagement, according to Córdova & Kras's (2020) analysis of the effectiveness of women's police stations in resolving violence against women. They discovered that women who reported physical abuse were more likely to stop participating in politics out of concern about reprisals. Enaifoghe et al. (2021) drew attention to the high rate of gender-based violence in South Africa and contended that physical abuse fosters a climate of fear that keeps women from engaging in politics and local government.

In their analysis of harassment and violence directed at female politicians, Krook & Sanín (2020) discovered that physical abuse is a major barrier to women entering the political sphere. They contended that physical abuse, encompassing actual attacks and threats, fosters a hostile atmosphere that dissuades women from engaging in political activity or running for office. According to Prillaman's (2023) research, women in India who experience physical abuse in politics are less likely to engage in politics or be represented in it because they fear for their safety and well-being.

Rezwana & Pain (2021) investigated the effects of gender-based violence in Bangladesh prior to, during, and following cyclones and discovered that physical abuse makes it more difficult for women to participate in politics. They discovered that because of the exacerbated trauma and fear of more violence, women who were physically abused during disasters were less likely to participate in political activities. Additionally, Michelis (2024) discovered that young women receiving services related to gender-based violence claimed that physical assault severely hampered their capacity to engage in political advocacy and local administration.

Liu (2022) on gender gaps in political participation in Asia found that physical abuse is a significant factor in discouraging women from participating in local governance. Liu's research indicated that women who experience physical abuse are less likely to engage in political activities or run for office. This finding aligns with Cullen & McGing (2024), who found that physical abuse creates a hostile environment that dissuades women from political involvement. Hern (2020) observed that physical abuse in the form of public humiliation and physical assaults is a common tactic used to undermine female candidates' credibility and deter them from participating in elections.

Schneider & Carroll (2020) on violence against women in elections found that physical abuse is a pervasive issue that significantly impacts women's political participation. They argued that physical abuse, including physical assaults and threats, discourages women from running for office and participating in electoral processes. Ackah-Baidoo et al. (2022) found that physical abuse in the form of social exclusion and physical harassment deters women from political engagement. Burnet (2019) observed that physical abuse contributes to the underrepresentation of women in local governance by creating a hostile and unwelcoming political environment.

2.5 Summary and gap in the literature

Significant gaps in our knowledge of the combined impacts of economic, emotional, and physical abuse on women's political engagement were found in the literature. Studies like those by Jabeen & Iqbal (2020) and Sumbas & Koyuncu (2019) show that both physical and financial abuse prevent people from participating in politics, but they frequently don't go into great depth on how these abuses interact with emotional abuse. Furthermore, little study has been done combining the compounding effects of various forms of abuse with contextual elements including socioeconomic and cultural variances. While studies by Liu (2022) and Krook & Sanín (2020) draw attention to these problems, they do not fully explore the ways in which various abuse types interact to affect women's political agency in a variety of contexts. By offering a comprehensive examination of the interactions between various abuse kinds and their cumulative effect on women's political engagement, this study aims to close these gaps.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter introduces the research questions and takes the reader through the steps of collecting, analyzing and processing data that will be used to explore these questions. Moreover, in this chapter, a sketch is also made on how we are going to carry out the investigation. The chapter enumerates techniques to be used in implementing the research and the methods used to get good results.

3.1 Research design

This study was conducted using a cross-sectional survey research design in order to collect data from respondents from the representative population at a particular point in time without repetition. The design was selected since it requires less time to complete (Spector, 2019). It was also utilized since it enabled the researcher to record data pertaining to information obtained at a certain moment in time. The participants in the data collection pool had a range of factors, or unique features and demographics. Furthermore, by employing a cross-sectional research design, the research results assisted in replacing presumptions with factual information on the particular variables examined (Aspers & Corte, 2019).

The study considered both quantitative and qualitative research approaches. The quantitative research approach was used to analyze statistical data whereas the qualitative approach was used to get an unbiased result that can represent a larger population. The exploratory type of research under qualitative research used to gain an understanding of underlying reasons opinions and motivations and provide insight into the problem or help to develop ideas or hypothesis for potential quantitative research (Mugenda and Mugenda, 1999).

3.2 Study area and study population

This study was conducted in the Kauga village located in Nsuube-Kauga parish, Mukono Central Division, Mukono District in the Uganda. It is located approximately 25 kilometers east of the capital city, Kampala, in the Central Region of the country. According to statistics from Mukono Municipal Council (2024), there are a total of 35 elected women in different leadership positions at the local level in Mukono Central Division (MCD) and these were included in the study as the target population. These women elected leaders hold positions like; the woman councilor representing MCD to the district (1), woman councilor representing Nsuube-Kauga parish to MMC (1), women councilors represent the nine villages in Nsuube-Kauga parish (27), disabled woman representing PWDs at MCD (1), the elderly woman representing the elders at MCD (1) and youth female leaders at MCD representing the youths at MCD (4). The study population also included; the district opinion leaders, NGOs forum and the Gender Officer at the district level, Local Government resulting to 5 and these were included in the study as the key informants.

3.3 Sample size

A sample size was selected using Krejcie and Morgan (1970) table and the sample size and sampling methods used to select these respondents are shown in the table below;

Table 1: Population, sample size selection and sampling methods

Category of respondents	Study population	Sample size	Sampling methods	Method of data collection
Women elected leaders in different positions	35	32	Simple random sampling	Questionnaires
Opinion leaders	2	2	Purposive sampling	Interviews
NGOs Forum	2	2	Purposive sampling	Interviews
Gender Officer in MDLG	1	1	Purposive sampling	Interviews
TOTAL	40	37		

Source: MDLG (2024)

Therefore, the sample size was 32 elected women in different leadership positions at the local level in Mukono Central Division (MCD). More so, the study also included a sample of 10 key informants who were; opinion leaders at the district level, NGOs forum and the Gender Officer at the district level in Mukono District Local Government.

3.4 Sampling techniques and procedure

Purposive sampling method which is under non-probability sampling technique and simple random sampling method which is under probability sampling techniques where everyone has a chance of being selected or not were used to attain samples for the research. Simple random sampling method was used to select the elected women in different leadership positions at the local level in Mukono Central Division (MCD) given that these were big in number and using this method eased their selection and gave each person to participate in the study, simple random sampling was preferred because its procedure was unbiased and prevented bias in their work and made research on large populations more practical.

On the other hand, purposive sampling method was used to select the key informants who were the opinion leaders at the district level, NGOs forum and the Gender Officer at the district level in Mukono District Local Government since they are the ones responsible for ensuring that gender based violence is dealt with to encourage more women to participate in elective politics of their country at the local level. The reason why purposive sampling was used for this category of respondents is because of their knowledge on the topic under study, these individuals also had special qualification and therefore these categories of respondents were expected to provide in-depth information about the topic under study.

3.5 Data sources

Primary sources: Primary data helped the researcher to have unused and fresh data for the determination of events. The researcher directly reached out to the respondents through various data collection instruments such as interviews and questionnaires.

Secondary sources: Document review related to the study, newspapers, online journals, and textbooks were used such that the researcher was well equipped with the required data to facilitate the study.

3.6 Data collection methods

The study used interviews and questionnaire surveys as the data collection instruments. These data collection methods elicited information on the topic under study.

3.6.1 Questionnaire Survey

According to Amin (2005) a survey is a self-report investigation used for gathering information about variables of interest. A survey is deemed suitable because it enables respondents to give opinions objectively without prejudice. Emotional effects such as shyness are minimized. They also have the advantage of collecting data from a big population over a short time. Using a questionnaire survey method in research allows for the efficient collection of standardized data from a large sample, facilitating quantitative analysis and comparison. This method is cost-effective, ensures anonymity, and can be administered remotely, reducing geographical barriers. It is used by designing a set of questions, distributing them to respondents, and then analyzing the collected data to draw conclusions about the research topic.

3.6.2 Interviews

Agreeing to Desncombe (2008), interviews are open questions regularly managed to key sources to give them wide scope to conversation about the subject. The interviews complimented and triangulate the data assembled from respondents and the accessible records (Patton 2001). This was aimed to evoke a wide view of the subject. Interviews

were both face-to-face and phone interviews. These contained both structured and semi structured questions. Interviews were utilized since they have the advantage of guaranteeing testing for more data, clarification and capturing facial expression of the interviewees (Somekh & Lewin, 2015). In expansion, they moreover grant an opportunity to the analyst to return to a few of the issues that have been an over-sight in other rebellious and however they are considered imperative for the study.

3.7 Data collection instruments

3.7.1 Questionnaires

The surveys were composed of closed-ended questions with a list of potential answers. Respondents were asked to choose the answers that best reflected their views on the situation and problem under inquiry (Mugenda and Mugenda, 2005). There was no room for flexibility in the questionnaire's tight, standardized format, and responses had to match the questions it asked. This makes it easier to regulate the unnecessary variables and ensure validity (Sarantakos, 2005). To gather data on the topic, a structured questionnaire with sections based on study factors was created. It was given to the 32 chosen elected women who held various local leadership roles in Mukono Central Division (MCD). Response options on the five-point Likert scale included (1) Strongly Disagree, (2) Disagree, (3) Not sure, (4) Agree, and (5) Strongly Agree. The Likert format allows responders to select from a range of replies, and it also makes it simple to tabulate the data collected for analysis.

3.7.2 Interview guide

The purpose of the interview topical guide was to gather data. This manual aided in preserving coherence. Top management candidates were given preference for the interviews since they are considered knowledgeable as a consequence of their offices and their freedom to discuss the topic in-depth. Unstructured questions covering every variable in the conceptual framework were included in the interview guide. The interviewing procedure now has the benefit of guaranteeing probing for more information, clarification, and capturing the interviewees' facial expressions, according

to Ragin (2009), since the interview guide contains things that are utilized to direct the interviewing process. The researcher interviewed the district opinion leaders in Mukono District Local Government, the NGOs forum, and the district gender officer.

3.8 Measurement of variables

The structured questionnaire, operationalized with a set of Likert scale statements ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 5 (strongly agree) measured the variables in this study. Each variable's dimensions were captured through multiple items, ensuring comprehensive coverage and depth. Data collection involved aggregating responses to create composite scores for each variable, facilitating statistical analysis. This method ensured the reliability and validity of the measurements, allowing for precise quantification and comparison of the study's constructs. The approach provided a robust framework for hypothesis testing and enhanced the overall rigor of the research.

3.9 Quality Control

3.9.1 Validity

According to Collis and Hussey (2013), an instrument's validity is determined by its capacity to gather accurate and legitimate data—that is, by measuring the very things for which it was designed. The goals of the study served as the foundation for creating the questionnaire. The supervisor saw the data collection tools and confirmed to their content validity—that is, the relevance and ambiguity of the question questions. To calculate the content validity index, ten respondents completed a pretest of the questionnaire. When the average percentage was determined to be higher than 0.7 (70%), the content was deemed legitimate. The instrument's validity was ascertained using the following formula:

$$CVI = \frac{R}{R + N + IR}$$

R is Relevant, N is Neutral, and IR is irrelevant. The closer the value is to 1, the more valid the instrument (Amin, 2005).

3.9.2 Data quality control and management

The degree to which a questionnaire assesses what it intends to measure is referred to as its validity (Mugenda, 2003). The study used content-related validity in testing validity by consulting with peers and the researcher's supervisor. The supervisor reviewed the questionnaires that the researcher had created and offered comments on their appropriateness, clarity, and relevance. After that, the supervisor provided comments that were added to the completed version. The degree to which a research instrument consistently produces results or data after multiple trials is referred to as its reliability. The researcher used a variety of respondents to administer and pilot test the questionnaires in order to determine the dependability of the research instruments. Based on the results, the researcher made the required modifications to the questionnaires in order to obtain pertinent data.

3.10 Procedure of data collection

The researcher obtained an introductory letter from the School of Social Sciences at Uganda Christian University, after which, permission was sought from the leaders of Mukono Central Division to use them as part of the case study. Various respondents were approached to conduct interviews and distribute the questionnaires after the respondents had consented.

3.11 Data analysis

3.11.1 Analysis of quantitative data

The package (SPSS) version 26, which was suitable for managing the study's regressions and correlations between the variables in addition to being user-friendly, was used to analyze the data. In particular, SPSS assisted the researcher in analyzing quantitative questionnaire data. For computer input, names and codes were allocated to each variable. Second, to make computer data input easier, all of the responses were coded. Thirdly, negatively worded scales were recorded and given new values once data entry was finished. Fourthly, target variables were estimated to obtain composite scores for items on a scale. Fifthly, data entry errors were reduced by screening the data.

Descriptive, bivariate, and multivariate statistics were used to assess the degree of correlation between the independent and dependent variables in quantitative data.

3.11.2 Analysis of qualitative data

Thematic review was employed in this. As a result, the qualitative data was revised and rearranged into coherent sentences. Stated differently, a thematic method was employed to identify themes, categories, and patterns in qualitative data. The findings included the recurring themes that surfaced in response to each of the interview's leading questions, along with a few chosen direct quotes from the subjects as examples.

3.12 Ethical consideration

To confirm that the data gathered from study is for academic reasons, a copy of the introduction letter from the School of Social Sciences was provided. By ensuring that participation was voluntary, the researcher avoided coercing participants. Prior to gathering data from the recipients, the researcher also provided them with a debriefing. The investigator acknowledged their efforts in terms of secondary data by citing all relevant documents used in this study.

3.13 Limitations and delimitations of the study

Errors in sampling occurred when a probability sampling technique was applied to choose a sample, which did not accurately represent the relevant population or the overall population.

In order to draw reliable conclusions from a study, it was crucial to have a large enough sample size. Because statistical tests require a higher sample size to ensure that the sample was considered representative of a community and that the statistical conclusion could be extended to a broader population, the sample was too small, making it impossible to find meaningful associations from the data.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF RESULTS

4.0 Introduction

With the aid of tables, this chapter presents and examines the findings of an analysis conducted to look at the study's specific aims and in connection to the reviewed literature. The study was conducted utilizing a questionnaire with a selection of women elected leaders in various positions in addition to interviews with key informants, including district-level opinion leaders, members of NGOs, and the gender officer in the Mukono District Local Government.

4.1 Response rate

A total of 32 respondents were meant to be involved in the study using questionnaires and all of them were successfully involved in the study as shown in Table 1 below in relation to the different categories.

Table 2: Response rate

Response Rate	Frequency	Percentage
Response	32	100%
Non Response	00	00%
Total	32	100%

Source: Primary data, 2024

Table 2 above indicates that a total of 32 (100%) respondents—selected women elected leaders in various positions—were anticipated to participate in the survey. All of the respondents provided feedback, resulting in a 100% response rate. Given that the researcher had ample time to gather the data herself and that only a small number of respondents were needed, the high response rate was likely caused by these factors.

4.2 Findings on demographic characteristics of respondents

This section presents the respondents' age, level of education position of leadership held in Mukono Central Division and the period that they have spent in this position as shown in the table below;

Table 3: Background Information about the respondents

Item	Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age	18-30 years	9	28.1
	31-40 years	13	40.6
	41-50 years	7	21.9
	Above 50 years	3	9.4
	Total	32	100.0
Level of education	Secondary	7	21.9
	Tertiary	25	78.1
	Total	32	100.0
Position of leadership held	Woman councilor	26	81.3
	PWDs representative	1	3.1
	Elderly women representative	1	3.1
	Youth representative	4	12.5
	Total	32	100.0
Period spent in this leadership position	1-5 years	13	40.6
	6-10 years	11	34.4
	Above 10 years	8	25.0
	Total	32	100.0

Source: *Primary data, 2024*

Table 3 above shows that the majority of respondents were represented by 40.6% are aged between 31-40 years, indicating that middle-aged individuals are the most represented in leadership roles in Mukono Central Division. This is followed by the 18-30 years age group, comprising 28.1% of the respondents, suggesting significant youth

participation. Those aged 41-50 years made up 21.9% of the respondents, while the least represented were those above 50 years, accounting for only 9.4%.

Furthermore, a significant majority of the respondents represented by 78.1% have at least attained tertiary education, indicating a high level of educational attainment among women leaders in Mukono Central Division. In contrast, 21.9% of the respondents have at least completed secondary education, showing that a smaller proportion of the leadership has a lower educational background.

In addition, majority of respondents represented by 81.3% are woman councilors at parish level and village level, highlighting that this leadership position is predominantly held by women in the division. Youth representatives accounted for 12.5% of the respondents, while PWDs (Persons with Disabilities) and elderly women representatives were minimally represented, each constituting 3.1% of the respondents.

Lastly, most respondents represented by 40.6% have been in their leadership positions for 1-5 years, indicating relatively fresh leadership tenure among the majority. Those with 6-10 years of experience comprised 34.4% of the respondents, whereas a smaller group of 25.0% has been in their positions for over 10 years, suggesting that a quarter of the leadership has long-standing experience in their roles.

4.3 Effect of economic abuse on women’s political participation in local governance

Table 4 presents a summary of the respondents' opinions of how economic abuse affects women's political engagement in Mukono Central Division local governance. The Likert scale includes the following responses: SA (Strongly Agree), A (Agree), NS (Not Sure), D (Disagree), and SD (Strongly Disagree).

Table 4: Effect of economic abuse on women’s political participation in local governance

Statements	Mean	Std. Dev.
I have experienced financial control or restriction by my partner which limits my ability to engage in political activities.	4.02	0.996
Lack of access to personal or family funds has hindered my participation in local governance.	3.91	1.085
Economic abuse has affected my ability to campaign effectively for political positions.	4.15	0.589
Financial threats or manipulation by my partner have discouraged me from pursuing political roles.	4.28	0.510
Economic dependence on my partner has limited my decision-making power in political matters.	3.88	1.033
Economic abuse has prevented me from attending political meetings and events.	4.00	0.933

Source: *Primary data, 2024*

The analysis of Table 4 above, which was obtained by using a Likert scale with the following representations: Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Not sure (3), Agree (4), and Strongly Agree (5), reveals the impact of economic abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division. The variables that were deemed to matter to a small extent were those with Strongly Disagree and Disagree ratings, which correspond to mean scores ranging from 0 to 2.4 on the continuous Likert scale. A variable that was considered to matter to a moderate amount was represented

by the score of Not sure, which corresponds to a mean score of 2.5 to 3.4 on the continuous Likert scale. Strongly agree and agree scores, which translate to a mean score of 3.5 to 5.0 on a continuous Likert scale, have been interpreted as representing a variable that mattered to a Large Extent. When it comes to the impact of economic abuse on women's political engagement in local administration in Mukono Central Division, a standard deviation of greater than 1.5 indicates a substantial difference.

The table 4 findings showed that on average, the majority of respondents had experienced financial control or restriction by their partners, which limits their ability to engage in political activities, as indicated by (Mean = 4.02; Std. Dev. = 0.996). This implies that one major obstacle preventing women from participating in politics is economic control.

The study also found that most respondents agreed that lack of access to personal or family funds has hindered their participation in local governance (Mean = 3.91; Std. Dev. = 1.085). This highlights the impact of financial dependency on women's involvement in governance.

Additionally, the results demonstrate that, on average, a sizable portion of respondents concurred that economic abuse had impacted their capacity to successfully run for political office (Mean = 4.15; Std. Dev. = 0.589). This illustrates the difficulties women encounter in obtaining the resources required for political participation.

A significant proportion of respondents strongly agreed that financial threats or manipulation by their partners have discouraged them from pursuing political roles, as reflected by (Mean = 4.28; Std. Dev. = 0.510). This high level of agreement underscores the severe impact of economic abuse on women's political ambitions.

In addition, the study findings indicate that most respondents agreed that economic dependence on their partners has limited their decision-making power in political matters (Mean = 3.88; Std. Dev. = 1.033), showing how financial dependence can undermine women's political agency.

Lastly, the findings revealed that on average, the majority of respondents agreed that economic abuse has prevented them from attending political meetings and events (Mean = 4.00; Std. Dev. = 0.933). This suggests that economic abuse significantly restricts women's ability to participate actively in political processes.

Overall, these findings suggest that economic abuse is a major deterrent to women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division, severely limiting their engagement and effectiveness in political roles.

4.3.1 Economic abuse and women's ability to participate in local governance

From the interviews conducted with the selected opinion leaders at the district level, NGOs forum and the Gender Officer at the district level in Mukono District Local Government, they were asked for their views on how they perceive the impact of economic abuse on women's ability to participate in local governance in Mukono Central Division and their responses were as follows;

The Key informants in Mukono District, including opinion leaders, members of NGOs, and the Gender Officer, collectively emphasized the significant detrimental effects of economic abuse on women's ability to participate in local governance. They noted that economic abuse severely limits women's financial independence, which is crucial for active political participation. The lack of financial resources constrains their ability to campaign effectively, attend important political meetings, and contribute to decision-making processes. This economic dependency often forces women to prioritize basic survival needs over political engagement, thereby weakening their influence and representation in local governance.

The respondents highlighted that economic abuse not only affects the logistical aspects of participation but also undermines women's confidence and autonomy. Women who are economically controlled by their partners often face intimidation and are discouraged from pursuing leadership roles. This control extends to limiting access to personal funds, which is vital for any form of political engagement. Such constraints

create a barrier that prevents women from asserting their political rights, further perpetuating gender disparities in local governance.

Additionally, key informants pointed out that economic abuse perpetuates a cycle of disempowerment. Women who lack financial autonomy are less likely to seek or hold political office, which diminishes their visibility and influence within the community. This lack of participation also affects the overall development of governance structures, as the voices and concerns of women, who are key stakeholders in the community, are marginalized. The informants stressed the need for comprehensive strategies to address economic abuse to enhance women's political participation and ensure more inclusive governance in Mukono Central Division. Some of the selected respondents reported that;

*“Economic abuse is among the most effective means of silencing women. How can they be expected to assume leadership roles in governance when they are unable to manage their own finances? That's right.....”*Gender Officer

“.....The financial dependencies created by economic abuse traps women in a cycle where they can't afford to be politically active or even think about leadership roles.....” Opinion Leader

4.4 Effect of emotional abuse on women's political participation in local governance

Table 5 used a Likert scale with the following response categories: SA (Strongly Agree), A (Agree), NS (Not Sure), D (Disagree), and SD (Strongly Disagree) to describe respondents' opinions regarding the impact of emotional abuse on women's political engagement in local governance in Mukono Central Division.

Table 5: Effect of emotional abuse on women’s political participation in local governance

Statements	Mean	Std. Dev.
Emotional abuse from my partner has diminished my confidence in participating in local governance.	3.99	0.967
Negative comments and psychological manipulation by my partner have discouraged my political involvement.	3.78	1.050
Fear of emotional repercussions has affected my willingness to engage in political activities.	3.68	1.187
Emotional abuse has made it difficult for me to express my political views freely.	3.61	1.208
My partner’s emotional abuse has created a hostile environment that limits my political participation.	4.12	0.406
The stress caused by emotional abuse has impacted my ability to focus on political responsibilities.	4.05	0.555

Source: *Primary data, 2024*

The analysis in Table 5 above examines the impact of emotional abuse on women’s political participation in Mukono Central Division local governance. The data was obtained through the use of a Likert scale, with responses on the scale representing Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Not sure (3), Agree (4), and Strongly Agree (5). The means and standard deviations are presented. The variables that were deemed to matter to a small extent were those with Strongly Disagree and Disagree ratings, which correspond to mean scores ranging from 0 to 2.4 on the continuous Likert scale. A variable that was considered to matter to a moderate amount was represented by the score of Not sure, which corresponds to a mean score of 2.5 to 3.4 on the continuous Likert scale. Strongly agree and agree scores, which translate to a mean score of 3.5 to 5.0 on a continuous Likert scale, have been interpreted as representing a variable that mattered to a Large Extent. When it comes to the impact of emotional abuse on

women's political engagement in local administration in Mukono Central Division, a standard deviation of greater than 1.5 indicates a substantial difference.

The Table 5 analysis showed that, on average, the majority of respondents agreed that emotional abuse from their partners has significantly diminished their confidence in participating in local governance. This is represented by (Mean = 3.99; Std. Dev. = 0.967), indicating a strong perception among respondents that emotional abuse directly impacts their self-esteem and willingness to engage in political activities.

The study findings also indicate that most respondents agreed that negative comments and psychological manipulation by their partners have discouraged their political involvement (Mean = 3.78; Std. Dev. = 1.050). This suggests that emotional abuse manifests through verbal and psychological tactics, creating an environment of fear and discouragement, which prevents women from actively participating in governance.

Additionally, the results demonstrate that most respondents (Mean = 3.68; Std. Dev. = 1.187) agreed that their willingness to participate in political activities has been impacted by their fear of emotional consequences. This mean score indicates that emotional abuse creates dread, which discourages people from participating in politics.

More so, most respondents agreed that emotional abuse has made it difficult for them to express their political views freely (Mean = 3.61; Std. Dev. = 1.208). This suggests that the psychological impact of emotional abuse suppresses women's voices in governance, restricting their ability to contribute effectively.

Additionally, majority of respondents strongly agreed that their partner's emotional abuse has created a hostile environment that limits their political participation (Mean = 4.12; Std. Dev. = 0.406). The high mean score and low standard deviation indicate a strong and consistent agreement that emotional abuse creates an environment that is not conducive to political engagement, further highlighting the detrimental impact of such abuse on women's involvement in governance.

Lastly, the findings indicate that most respondents agreed that the stress caused by emotional abuse has impacted their ability to focus on political responsibilities (Mean

= 4.05; Std. Dev. = 0.555). This reflects a strong consensus that the psychological burden of emotional abuse hampers women's ability to engage effectively in governance, as the emotional toll detracts from their capacity to concentrate on their duties.

These results collectively imply that emotional abuse has a severe detrimental impact on women's political engagement in Mukono Central Division local government. It undermines their self-esteem, dissuades participation, instills fear, muzzles their voices, fosters a hostile atmosphere, and makes it difficult for them to concentrate on their political duties, all of which severely restrict their overall ability to contribute to governance.

4.4.1 Emotional abuse and women's ability to participate in local governance

The following responses were obtained from interviews with the district-level opinion leaders, the NGOs forum, and the district-level gender officer in Mukono District Local Government regarding the impact of emotional abuse on women's self-esteem and willingness to participate in political activities in Mukono Central Division:

The key informants from Mukono District Local Government, NGOs forum, and opinion leaders at the district level provided a comprehensive view of how emotional abuse significantly influences women's confidence and willingness to engage in political activities in Mukono Central Division. They collectively highlighted that emotional abuse often leads to a significant erosion of self-esteem among women, making them less likely to pursue leadership roles or participate actively in governance. The constant belittling, verbal harassment, and psychological manipulation by partners or family members create a pervasive sense of inadequacy, which discourages women from stepping into the political arena. This psychological barrier not only affects their current participation but also diminishes their long-term aspirations in political leadership.

Further, the respondents emphasized that emotional abuse instills a deep sense of fear and anxiety in women, which further hinders their political engagement. The fear of being undermined, ridiculed, or emotionally hurt in public spaces or by political

opponents exacerbates their reluctance to participate in governance. Women in Mukono Central Division, therefore, tend to avoid political activities as a means of self-preservation, choosing to remain in the background rather than risk emotional harm. This withdrawal from political spaces not only affects their individual potential but also weakens the overall representation of women in local governance.

Additionally, the informants noted that the pervasive nature of emotional abuse creates an environment where women feel unsupported and isolated in their political pursuits. The lack of emotional support from their partners or communities discourages them from taking bold steps in politics. The respondents pointed out that even when women overcome initial fears, the ongoing emotional abuse serves as a constant reminder of their perceived limitations, which stifles their ability to fully engage and contribute to political discussions and decision-making processes. This dynamic perpetuates a cycle of underrepresentation and marginalization of women in local governance. Some of the selected respondents reported that;

“.....Emotional abuse chips away at a woman's confidence over time, making her question her worth and abilities in leadership roles. It's a silent killer of political ambition.....” NGOs Forum

“.....Without the necessary emotional support, many women feel they are fighting a losing battle in politics. The psychological toll of abuse makes it hard for them to sustain their involvement.....” Opinion Leader

4.5 Effect of physical abuse on women's political participation in local governance

Table 6 presents a summary of the respondents' opinions regarding how physical abuse affects women's political engagement in Mukono Central Division local governance. The Likert scale includes the following responses: SA (Strongly Agree), A (Agree), NS (Not Sure), D (Disagree), and SD (Strongly Disagree).

Table 6: Effect of physical abuse on women’s political participation in local governance

Statements	Mean	Std. Dev.
Physical abuse from my partner has directly impacted my participation in political activities.	4.63	0.352
Injuries or threats of physical violence have prevented me from attending political events.	4.31	0.525
Fear of physical abuse has deterred me from pursuing leadership roles in local governance.	4.20	0.601
Physical abuse has created a sense of insecurity, affecting my political engagement.	4.58	0.475
My partner's physical violence has made it challenging to meet political obligations.	4.41	0.496
The threat of physical harm has restricted my movements and involvement in political processes.	4.19	0.607

Source: *Primary data, 2024*

Using means and standard deviations obtained from the use of a Likert scale represented as: Strongly Disagree (1), Disagree (2), Not sure (3), Agree (4), and Strongly Agree (5), Table 6 above presents analysis regarding the impact of physical abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division. The variables that were deemed to matter to a small extent were those with Strongly Disagree and Disagree ratings, which correspond to mean scores ranging from 0 to 2.4 on the continuous Likert scale. A variable that was considered to matter to a moderate amount was represented by the score of Not sure, which corresponds to a mean score of 2.5 to 3.4 on the continuous Likert scale. Strongly agree and agree scores, which translate to a mean score of 3.5 to 5.0 on a continuous Likert scale, have been interpreted as representing a variable that mattered to a Large Extent. When it comes to the impact of physical abuse on women's political engagement in local administration in Mukono Central Division, a standard deviation of greater than 1.5 indicates a substantial difference.

From Table 6, the majority of respondents agreed that physical abuse from their partners has directly impacted their participation in political activities, as represented by (Mean = 4.63; Std. Dev. = 0.352). This high level of agreement suggests that physical abuse presents a hinderance to women's involvement in political processes in Mukono Central Division, directly affecting their willingness and ability to engage in governance.

The study findings also indicated that most respondents agreed that injuries or threats of physical violence have prevented them from attending political events, as represented by (Mean = 4.31; Std. Dev. = 0.525). This high mean score highlights the considerable deterrent effect that physical abuse has on women's participation in politics, as the fear of violence keeps them away from crucial political activities and opportunities for leadership.

Furthermore, majority of respondents agreed that the possibility of physical abuse has prevented them from pursuing leadership roles in local governance, as shown by (Mean = 4.20; Std. Dev. = 0.601). This suggests that the pervasive fear of physical harm significantly reduces women's aspirations for leadership positions, thereby limiting their representation in local governance structures.

More so, the study found that the majority of respondents agreed that physical abuse has created a sense of insecurity, affecting their political engagement, as represented by (Mean = 4.58; Std. Dev. = 0.475). This high level of agreement indicates that the constant threat of violence contributes to a lack of confidence and a reduced willingness to engage in political activities.

In addition, the findings revealed that, on average, most respondents agreed that their partner's physical violence has made it challenging to meet political obligations, as shown by (Mean = 4.41; Std. Dev. = 0.496). This implies that physical abuse has an impact on women's engagement in politics as well as their capacity to carry out their political obligations once engaged.

Finally, the study found that most respondents (Mean = 4.19; Std. Dev. = 0.607) agreed that the fear of physical injury had limited their ability to move around and participate

in political activities. This agreement further marginalizes women's participation in local administration by highlighting the detrimental effects of physical abuse on women's freedom to engage in political events and procedures.

All things considered, these results point to physical violence as a major barrier preventing women in Mukono Central Division from participating in politics. The high mean scores that are consistently found for all statements suggest that physical abuse fosters an atmosphere of fear and uncertainty that prevents women from actively participating in politics and holding leadership positions.

4.5.1 Physical abuse and women's ability to participate in local governance

The following responses were obtained from the interviews with the district-level opinion leaders, the NGOs forum, and the district-level gender officer in Mukono District Local Government regarding their observations regarding the impact of physical abuse on women's participation in local governance and political roles in Mukono Central Division:

The key informants observed that physical abuse significantly hinders the engagement of women in local governance and political roles in Mukono Central Division. Many women who have experienced physical abuse are often left with psychological scars that undermine their confidence and willingness to participate in public affairs. The trauma associated with abuse leads to reduced self-esteem and a lack of trust in their own abilities, which diminishes their political engagement and leadership aspirations. Consequently, these women may withdraw from public spaces, including political forums and decision-making platforms, which limits their representation and influence in local governance.

Additionally, the social stigma surrounding victims of physical abuse further exacerbates their exclusion from political roles. Women who have been abused often face discrimination and judgment from their communities, which can ostracize them and diminish their opportunities to contribute to governance. This stigma creates an environment where victims feel isolated and unsupported, discouraging them from

seeking public roles or participating in local governance. As a result, the involvement of women in political roles is not only diminished by their personal experiences but also by the societal attitudes that marginalize them.

The key informants also noted that the lack of adequate support systems for abused women compounds the problem. While there are some interventions in place, such as counseling and legal aid, they are often insufficient or poorly implemented. Without comprehensive support services, women struggle to overcome the barriers posed by physical abuse, which affects their ability to engage in governance and political activities effectively. Strengthening these support systems and promoting community awareness about the impacts of physical abuse on the participation of women in politics are crucial steps toward ensuring that all women have an equal opportunity to contribute to local governance. Some of the selected respondents reported that;

“.....Physical abuse leaves lasting emotional wounds that can severely impact a woman’s confidence and ability to participate effectively in local governance.....” NGOs Forum

“.....he stigma attached to being an abuse survivor often leads to social exclusion, which directly affects the level of women’s involvement in political roles.....” Gender Officer

4.6 Pearson’s Correlation Results and Hypotheses Testing

This study was set to investigate the relationship between gender based violence and women’s political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division, Mukono District. This was done by running a correlation analysis using Pearson Product Moment Correlation coefficient between the composite score of gender based violence in relation to women’s political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division, Mukono District. For a correlation to be considered significant, the P-value (Sig. (2.tailed) values must be less than 0.05 (for 95% confidence level) or less than 0.01 (for 99% confidence level) and the findings are shown in Table 7 below.

Table 7: Correlation Matrix

Correlation Matrix		1	2	3
1.	Economic abuse	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	1	
2.	Emotional abuse	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	-.636** .000	1
3.	Physical abuse	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	-.325** .000	-.316** .000
5.	Women’s political participation in local governance	Pearson Correlation Sig. (2-tailed)	-.675** .000	-.582** .000
a) 1= Economic abuse; 2= Emotional abuse; 3= Physical abuse; and 4= Women political participation in local governance				
b) ** $P < .05$, *** $p < .01$ level of Significance				

Source: *Primary data, 2024*

In relation to gender based violence and women’s political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division, Mukono District, results in Table 7 revealed that there is a strong negative significant relationship between economic abuse and women political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division ($r = -.675^{**}$, $p < .05$). This implies that economic abuse greatly affects women's capacity to engage in political activities. This strong correlation suggests that when women experience financial control, deprivation, or manipulation by their partners, it significantly undermines their autonomy, confidence, and resources, thereby limiting their ability to participate actively in local governance.

Furthermore, the results in Table 7 revealed that there is a strong negative significant relationship between emotional abuse and women political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division ($r = -.582^{**}$, $p < .05$). This implies that women who experience emotional abuse, such as belittling, humiliation, or psychological manipulation, are likely to suffer from diminished self-esteem and confidence, which discourages their active participation in leadership roles or political activities. The strong relationship highlights how emotional abuse can be a critical barrier to women’s political empowerment and representation in local governance.

Lastly, the results in Table 8 revealed that there is a strong negative significant relationship between physical abuse and women political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division ($r = -.524^{**}$, $p < .05$). This implies that women who experience physical abuse, including threats, violence, and restricted mobility, are less likely to participate in political processes due to fear for their safety and the direct physical and psychological toll of abuse. Consequently, physical abuse acts as a powerful deterrent, limiting women's representation and leadership in local governance.

Table 8: Overall relationship between gender based violence and women's political participation in local governance

		Correlations	
		Gender based violence	Women's political participation
Gender based violence	Pearson Correlation	1	-.594**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	32	32
Women's political participation	Pearson Correlation	-.594**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	32	32

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Primary data, 2024

The findings indicated in table above shows that overall, there is a significant negative relationship between gender based violence and women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division, Mukono District. This relationship is affirmed by r-values of -0.594^{**} with significant p-values of 0.000 at the level of 0.05 (2-tailed) ($r = -.594^{**}$, $p < .05$). This implies that the prevalence of gender-based violence, including economic, emotional, and physical abuse, negatively impacts women's ability to engage in and influence political processes, thereby undermining their political participation and representation in the local governance structures.

4.7 Linear Regression Results

Multiple regression analysis was carried out to establish the overall causal effect of gender based violence on women’s political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division, Mukono District using adjusted R² statistics. The linear regression analysis was conducted to establish which among the dimensions of the independent variable was the most significant in determining women’s political participation in local governance. The linear regression results were also used to make a decision on the study hypotheses and are presented in Table 9.

Table 9: Linear Regression Analysis Results

Model Summary						
Model		R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate	
1		.687 ^a	.562	.555	.31523	
ANOVA ^a						
Model		Sum of squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	11.947	3	2.987	68.081	0.000 ^b
	Residual	6.975	28	.044		
	Total	18.922	31			
Coefficients ^a						
Model		Un standardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	T	Sig.
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.545	.278		2.025	.045
	Economic abuse	-.235	.059	-.342	8.869	.000
	Emotional abuse	-.264	.035	-.323	8.264	.000
	Physical abuse	-.201	.047	-.222	2.423	.000
a. Dependent Variable: Women political participation in local governance						
b. Predictors: (constant), Economic abuse, Emotional abuse, Physical abuse						

P ≤ 0.05

Table 9 shows a coefficient of determination (R-square) of 0.562 at a significance level of 0.000 suggesting that women political participation in local governance was 56.2% at a standardized error of estimate of 0.31523. The correlation coefficient (R= 0.687 or

68.7%) indicated the strength of the association between gender based violence and women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division taking into considerations all interactions among the study variables. The adjusted R^2 of 0.555 or 55.5% was the variance in women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division explained by economic abuse, emotional abuse and physical abuse putting into consideration all the variables and the sample size of the study. The remaining variance of 45% is explained by other factors other than economic abuse, emotional abuse and physical abuse.

The standardized coefficient statistics revealed that, economic abuse ($\beta = -0.342$, $t = 8.869$, $p = 0.000$), emotional abuse ($\beta = -0.323$, $t = 8.264$, $p = 0.000$), and physical abuse ($\beta = -0.222$, $t = 2.423$, $p = 0.000$) are all not significant in determining women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division.

Table 8 also presents the analysis of variance (ANOVA). The findings reveal that on average, the mean score on the forms of gender based violence tended to differ significantly. With the computed F-statistic ($F=68.081$) large enough as its accompanying P-value = $0.000 < 0.05$. Thus, since the significance or p-value, 0.000 is less than $\alpha = 0.05$, then at 5% level of significance, it is deduced that the computed or observed F is large enough to infer that the responses differed significantly. This means that when economic abuse, emotional abuse and physical abuse are in place and inflicted on women, it will greatly affect the overall capability of women to participate in local governance.

Table 10: Coefficients between gender based violence and women’s political participation in local governance (overall)

Model		Unstandardized		Standardized	t	Sig.
		Coefficients		Coefficients		
		B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.555	.248		4.133	.000
	Gender based violence	-.233	.106	-.296	5.011	.000

a. Dependent Variable: Women’s political participation

P ≤ 0.05

Overall, the regression analysis results indicate that gender-based violence is not a significant predictor of women’s political participation in local governance. This is affirmed by ($B = -0.296$, $t = 5.011$, $p = 0.000$). This therefore implies that for every unit increase in gender-based violence, women's political participation decreases by 23.3 units. Therefore, overall, it can be concluded that as gender based violence increases, it is more it becomes difficult for women to fully participate in the politics of their local governance in Mukono Central Disivion. This shows the great need of reducing gender based violence among women in this area.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter addresses every conclusion from chapter four in light of the study's research questions, which are listed below.

5.1 The effect of economic abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division

The results of the study showed that, in Mukono Central Division, economic abuse significantly reduces women's political participation. There are several obstacles in the way of women who are financially controlled by their partners getting involved in politics, running successful campaigns, and going to political gatherings. This result is consistent with Dahlum et al. (2022) research, which highlights how economic abuse can limit women's financial independence and impede their capacity to engage in political processes. Furthermore, Milazzo and Goldstein (2019) contend that economic limitations and other power disparities reduce women's autonomy and decision-making authority, which in turn prevents them from participating in politics.

The findings also highlight that economic abuse creates barriers to political participation by restricting access to essential resources. This resonates with the observations of Bashford-Squires et al. (2022), who note that economic empowerment is crucial for ending gender-based violence and enhancing the political engagement of women. Without financial resources, women struggle to overcome the practical challenges associated with political participation, thus reinforcing existing gender disparities in governance.

Furthermore, the study found that economic abuse diminishes women's confidence and autonomy, reinforcing gender disparities in local governance. This is consistent with the work of Anyidoho et al. (2021), who discuss how economic abuse and financial dependence can negatively impact women's self-esteem and confidence, further

limiting their involvement in political roles. The lack of financial independence contributes to women's reduced influence and representation in political arenas, as highlighted by Bardall et al. (2020), who emphasize that economic control can be a significant barrier to women's political empowerment.

Lastly, interviews with key informants corroborate the findings, noting that economic abuse exacerbates gender disparities by reinforcing existing societal attitudes that marginalize women. This supports the arguments of Ahikire & Mwiine (2019), who explore how economic abuse and associated stigmas can diminish women's opportunities to engage in political and governance roles. The study's findings about the total impact of economic abuse highlight the urgent need for all-encompassing approaches to combat economic abuse and advance inclusive governance practices.

5.2 The effect of emotional abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division

The study findings revealed that emotional abuse significantly undermines women's political participation in Mukono Central Division by eroding their confidence and willingness to engage in governance. Women experiencing emotional abuse report diminished self-esteem, heightened fear of emotional repercussions, and difficulty expressing their political views freely. This abusive environment creates barriers to political involvement, hampering their ability to focus on political responsibilities. The results are consistent with the research conducted by Bardall et al. (2020), who contend that emotional and psychological abuse can significantly limit women's participation in public and political life. Their research demonstrates how this kind of abuse damages women's self-worth and keeps them out of politics, which lowers their representation and influence in government.

Additionally, the findings corroborate with the work of Milazzo & Goldstein (2019), who emphasize that emotional abuse impacts women's political participation by creating hostile environments that deter their involvement. Their research indicates that emotional abuse often results in diminished self-confidence and political ambition, aligning with the study's observation that fear and diminished self-esteem are critical

barriers to women's political engagement. The study's insights align with their assertion that emotional abuse not only limits women's immediate participation but also perpetuates long-term disparities in political representation.

Moreover, the results align with the research conducted by Anyidoho et al. (2021), which examines the contribution of women's movements towards addressing gender-based violence and its consequences for political engagement. The analysis conducted by the authors highlights the enormous influence that emotional abuse has on women's ability to participate successfully in political settings. Specifically, it inhibits women's autonomy and perpetuates gender inequities. According to the study, emotional abuse causes people to withdraw from political activities, which emphasizes the need for supportive structures to confront and lessen these abuses.

Finally, research by Ahikire & Mwiine (2019), which examines the relationship between gender violence and political participation in Uganda, is in line with the study's conclusions. They contend that emotional violence weakens women's sense of agency and self-efficacy, which in turn leads to their exclusion from political arenas. This viewpoint is consistent with the study's finding that emotional abuse reduces the overall representation of women in local government and deters involvement. The results emphasize how critical it is to address emotional abuse in order to promote more welcoming and equal political situations.

5.3 The effect of physical abuse on women's political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division

According to the study's findings, physical violence severely hinders women in Mukono Central Division from participating in politics by fostering a climate of fear and insecurity. Women who are physically abused frequently have low self-esteem and heightened fear of violence, which prevents them from participating in politics, running for office, and carrying out their political duties. The results are consistent with the research conducted by Bardall et al. (2020), who contend that hostile environments caused by political violence, including physical assault, discourage women from participating in politics and seriously impede their ability to be politically empowered.

Their research confirms the study's findings about the disincentive effects of physical abuse on political engagement by highlighting the impact such violence has on women's capacity to engage fully in political processes through instilling dread and insecurity.

The study also showed that physical abuse limits women's freedom of movement and participation in politics, creating a climate of insecurity that prevents women from taking on leadership roles. This result is consistent with the research of Milazzo & Goldstein (2019), who investigate how gender-based violence—including physical abuse—can worsen already-existing obstacles that prevent women from participating in politics. Their analysis makes clear that violence against women not only prevents them from participating in politics but also feeds into larger structural injustices that disproportionately affect the representation of women in politics. This viewpoint is in line with the study's finding that physical violence lowers self-esteem and causes social stigma, all of which make it harder for women to participate in politics.

The report also emphasizes how physical abuse lowers one's self-esteem and creates insufficient support networks, both of which push women out of local government. Research by Anyidoho et al. (2021), who stress that the absence of sufficient support networks for women facing gender-based violence has a significant negative influence on their political involvement, lends credence to this conclusion. Their research supports the idea that insufficient support worsens the marginalization of abused women in political arenas by showing that women who experience violence frequently lack the tools and assistance needed to get beyond obstacles to political participation.

Ultimately, it was discovered through key informant interviews that physical abuse negatively impacts women's self-esteem and contributes to social shame, which keeps women from participating in politics. This finding is consistent with the research of Ebron et al. (2024), who describe how gender-based violence fosters a climate in which women's access to leadership roles and political participation are severely limited due to social shame and a lack of support. Their study supports the findings of the research on the effects of physical abuse on women's political participation and representation

in Mukono Central Division by indicating that the stigma attached to being a victim of violence plays a role in the marginalization of women in leadership positions.

CHAPTER SIX

SUMMARY OF FINDINGS, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.0 Introduction

This chapter summarizes all of the findings presented in Chapter 4 in relation to the study's questions, makes conclusions, offers suggestions, and suggests a few areas for additional research.

6.1 Summary of findings

The findings reveal that economic abuse significantly hampers women's political participation in Mukono Central Division. Women experience financial control and restriction by their partners, limiting their ability to engage in political activities, campaign effectively, and attend political meetings. This abuse creates barriers to their participation by hindering their access to crucial resources and their decision-making power. Interviews with opinion leaders and key informants corroborate these findings, highlighting how economic abuse diminishes women's financial independence, confidence, and autonomy, thereby reinforcing gender disparities in local governance. The overall impact is a notable reduction in women's influence and representation in political roles, underscoring the need for strategies to address economic abuse and foster more inclusive governance.

Furthermore, the findings indicate that emotional abuse profoundly affects women's political participation in Mukono Central Division by undermining their confidence and willingness to engage in governance. Women experiencing emotional abuse report diminished self-esteem, fear of emotional repercussions, and difficulty expressing their political views freely. The abuse creates a hostile environment that discourages political involvement and hampers their ability to focus on political responsibilities. Interviews with opinion leaders and key informants confirm that emotional abuse erodes self-esteem, instills fear, and isolates women from political activities, significantly limiting their participation and weakening overall female representation in local governance.

Lastly, the findings reveal that physical abuse significantly obstructs women's political participation in Mukono Central Division by creating an environment of fear and insecurity. Women subjected to physical abuse experience diminished confidence and increased fear of violence, which deters them from attending political events, pursuing leadership roles, and fulfilling political responsibilities. The abuse not only restricts their movements and engagement but also fosters a sense of insecurity that undermines their ability to participate actively in governance. Interviews with key informants further highlight that physical abuse leads to reduced self-esteem, social stigma, and inadequate support systems, all of which contribute to the marginalization and diminished representation of women in local governance.

6.2 Conclusions

In conclusion, the study shows that women's political engagement in Mukono Central Division is severely hampered by a variety of abuses, including financial, emotional, and physical abuse. Emotional abuse damages women's self-esteem and deters them from participating in politics, while economic abuse limits women's access to necessary resources and impairs their ability to make decisions. Physical violence significantly restricts women's participation in governance by fostering an atmosphere of fear and insecurity. When taken as a whole, these abuses lead to a decrease in the representation and power of women in local government, underscoring the pressing need for focused initiatives to combat these abuses and advance more inclusive and equitable political engagement.

6.3 Recommendations

The impact of gender-based violence on women's political engagement in local governance has led to the recommendation that follows, based on the study's findings: a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District.

The study recommends the need for implementing comprehensive financial support programs and legal protections to address economic abuse. By giving women keys to financial resources, independence, and legal recourse against economic control by

partners, barriers to political participation created by economic abuse can be mitigated. Additionally, increasing awareness and training for both women and policymakers on economic abuse and its impact on political engagement is essential for fostering an environment where women can participate more fully in governance.

The study also recommends the need for targeted emotional support services and counseling programs for women experiencing emotional abuse. Establishing support networks and creating safe spaces for women to express their political views and engage in governance activities can help rebuild their confidence and reduce the psychological barriers to participation. Educational campaigns and workshops aimed at both men and women should also focus on the detrimental effects of emotional abuse and promote healthier interpersonal relationships to enhance women's political involvement.

Furthermore, the study recommends the need for stringent enforcement of laws against physical abuse and the establishment of robust support systems for survivors. This includes creating secure environments for women to participate in political activities without fear of violence, providing protective measures, and ensuring that survivors have access to health and psychological support. Additionally, community-based initiatives and advocacy efforts should aim to change societal attitudes towards physical abuse and empower women to engage actively in local governance without the fear of violence.

Furthermore, the study suggests that community-based education and awareness initiatives that tackle gender-based violence and its consequences on women's political engagement are necessary. Getting local communities talking about the negative impacts of gender-based violence can help create a more welcoming atmosphere for women. These initiatives ought to enhance gender equality, dismantle negative social norms, and build community support for women's active participation in governance.

Finally, the study suggests that in order to address systemic challenges associated to gender-based violence, lobbying and policy reform are necessary. It is imperative that policymakers devise and execute all-encompassing approaches that encompass more robust legislative structures, enhanced services for survivors, and steps to guarantee

the security of women in political arenas. The main goals of advocacy work should be to reform laws to support women's participation in local government and to address the underlying causes of gender-based violence.

6.4 Areas for further research

This study examined the impact of gender-based violence on women's political participation in local governance through a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District. As such, the study makes the following recommendations for future research: similar studies should be conducted on other related topics.

Further research should explore the intersectionality of gender-based violence and other socio-economic factors, such as poverty and education, to provide a more comprehensive understanding of their combined impact on the participation of women in politics.

Additionally, studies could investigate the effectiveness of different intervention strategies and support systems in mitigating the impact of violence against women on political participation.

Research could also focus on comparative analyses across various regions or countries to identify best practices and successful models for increasing women's political participation despite experiencing gender-based violence.

Lastly, examining the long-term effects of gender-based violence on women's political careers and leadership development could offer insights into sustained challenges and opportunities for improvement.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Questionnaire

For selected women elected leaders in Mukono Central Division

Dear sir/madam

My name is Kirabo Cindy; I am a student of BGIR at Uganda Christian University. I am conducting a study on “the effect of gender-based violence on women’s political participation in local governance: a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District.” You have been chosen on purpose to take part in this study, and all data gathered will be used only for academic purposes and kept completely private. The outcome of this research will be largely reliant on your response. Your assistance will be much valued.

Instruction: Tick or Write answers in full where applicable.

Section A. Bio Data

Please tick the most appropriate answer

1. What is your age?

a) 18-30 years

b) 31-40 years

c) 41-50 years

d) Above 50 years

2. What is your level of education?

a) Primary

b) Secondary

c) Tertiary

d) No education

3. Which position do you hold in Mukono Central Division?

.....

4. How long have you been in this position?

a) 1-5 years

b) 6-10 years

c) Above 10 year

Section B: The effect of economic abuse on women’s political participation in local governance in MCD

Rate your degree of agreement on the effect of economic abuse on women’s political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

No.	Please indicate the rate at which you rank these statements. Tick the scale	5 Strongly agree	4 Agree	3 Not Sure	2 Disagree	1 Strongly
1	I have experienced financial control or restriction by my partner which limits my ability to engage in political activities.					
2	Lack of access to personal or family funds has hindered my participation in local governance.					
3	Economic abuse has affected my ability to campaign effectively for political positions.					
4	Financial threats or manipulation by my partner have discouraged me from pursuing political roles.					
5	Economic dependence on my partner has limited my decision-making power in political matters.					
6	Economic abuse has prevented me from attending political meetings and events.					

Suggest any other effect of economic abuse on women’s political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division other than the ones mentioned above?

.....

.....

Section C: The effect of emotional abuse on women’s political participation in local governance in MCD

Rate your degree of agreement on the effect of emotional abuse on women’s political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

No.	Please indicate the rate at which you rank these statements. Tick the scale	Strongly agree	Agree	Not Sure	Disagree	Strongly
		5	4	3	2	1
1	Emotional abuse from my partner has diminished my confidence in participating in local governance.					
2	Negative comments and psychological manipulation by my partner have discouraged my political involvement.					
3	Fear of emotional repercussions has affected my willingness to engage in political activities.					
4	Emotional abuse has made it difficult for me to express my political views freely.					
5	My partner's emotional abuse has created a hostile environment that limits my political participation.					
6	The stress caused by emotional abuse has impacted my ability to focus on political responsibilities.					

Suggest any other effect of emotional abuse on women’s political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division other than the ones mentioned above?

.....

.....

Section D: The effect of physical abuse on women’s political participation in local governance in MCD

Rate your degree of agreement on the effect of physical abuse on women’s political participation in local governance in Mukono Central Division using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

No.	<i>Please indicate the rate at which you rank these statements. Tick the scale</i>	<i>Strongly agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Not Sure</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly</i>
		5	4	3	2	1
1	Physical abuse from my partner has directly impacted my participation in political activities.					
2	Injuries or threats of physical violence have prevented me from attending political events.					
3	Fear of physical abuse has deterred me from pursuing leadership roles in local governance.					
4	Physical abuse has created a sense of insecurity, affecting my political engagement.					
5	My partner's physical violence has made it challenging to meet political obligations.					
6	The threat of physical harm has restricted my movements and involvement in political processes.					

Could you propose any other impact of physical abuse on women's political involvement in Mukono Central Division local governance, aside from the ones already mentioned?

.....
.....

Thank you for your cooperation

Appendix 2: Interview Guide

For the key informants

Dear respondent,

My name is Kirabo Cindy; I am a student of BGIR at Uganda Christian University. I am conducting a study on “the effect of gender-based violence on women’s political participation in local governance: a case study of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District.” You have been chosen on purpose to take part in this study, and all data gathered will be used only for academic purposes and kept completely private. The outcome of this research will be largely reliant on your response. Your assistance will be much valued.

Questions on the objectives

1. How do you perceive the impact of economic abuse on the ability of women to participate in local governance in Mukono Central Division?
2. In what ways do economic constraints hinder the engagement of women in politics and effectiveness in local governance?
3. Can you describe the influence of emotional abuse on women's confidence and willingness to engage in political activities in Mukono Central Division?
4. How does emotional abuse affect the ability of women to express their political views and participate in decision-making processes?
5. What are your observations on the effect of physical abuse on the involvement of women in local governance and political roles in Mukono Central Division?
6. In what ways does the threat or experience of physical abuse impact the participation of women in political events and leadership positions?

Thank you for your cooperation



UGANDA CHRISTIAN UNIVERSITY

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

July 30th, 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: INTRODUCTORY LETTER FOR RESEARCH

This is to introduce to you KIRABO Cindy Registration number S21B56/025, a student of Uganda Christian University, pursuing Bachelor's degree in Governance and International Relations. She is expected to carry out research in the final year under the guidance of a university supervisor in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the above mentioned award.

Topic: The Effect of Gender Based Violence on Women's Political Participation in Local Governance: A Case of Mukono Central Division, Mukono District."

The purpose of this communication is to request your office to allow her collect data from your organization. Any assistance rendered to her will be highly appreciated.

Yours faithfully,
30 JUL 2024
Doreen Kukugiza

Coordinator, Research & Fieldwork Programmes
Tel: 0773395349
Email:dkukugiza@ucu.ac.ug

FOR LABANDA ROBERT
C/P L. C. III
MUKONO CENTRAL DIVISION
AUG 2024
MUKONO MUNICIPALITY
P. O. BOX 201, MUKONO

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