

**SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF SEXUAL AND GENDER
BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN RURAL COMMUNITIES - A CASE OF BUSIU
TOWN COUNCIL**

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**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
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DECLARATION

I **LUNYOLO BRENDA** declare that this research report titled “SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN RURAL COMMUNITIES - A CASE OF BUSIU TOWN COUNCIL” is my original work and to the best of my knowledge and understanding has never been submitted to any university or any other institution of higher learning for any award. All sources I have consulted have been duly acknowledged

Signature.....Date.....

LUNYOLO BRENDA (student)

APPROVAL

This is to certify that this research report titled “SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN RURAL COMMUNITIES - A CASE OF BUSIU TOWN COUNCIL” has been processed and completed under my supervision and is now ready for submission

Signature

.....Date.....

(Mr.ODONGO JOSEPH: University supervisor)

DEDICATION

I dedicate this research report to my esteemed university supervisor, whose guidance and mentorship have been indispensable throughout this academic endeavor. To my colleagues, I extend my deepest gratitude for their invaluable contributions and collaborative spirit, which enriched the research process. Special acknowledgment is reserved for my best friend, whose unwavering support and encouragement served as a constant source of motivation. I express profound appreciation to my parents for their unwavering love, sacrifices, and unwavering belief in my abilities. Additionally, I extend my gratitude to my siblings for their continuous support and encouragement. Lastly, I extend my gratitude to the esteemed faculty of Public Administration at Uganda Christian University for providing a conducive academic environment and fostering intellectual growth and development.

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In recognition of the collaborative efforts and unwavering support that have shaped this academic pursuit, I dedicate this research report. My esteemed university supervisor's guidance and mentorship have been indispensable throughout this journey, providing invaluable direction. To my colleagues, whose contributions and collaborative spirit enriched the research process, I extend heartfelt gratitude. Special acknowledgment is reserved for a dear friend whose encouragement served as a constant source of motivation. I am deeply grateful to my parents for their unwavering support and belief in my abilities, as well as to my siblings for their continuous encouragement. Lastly, I appreciate the academic environment provided by the Department of Public Administration, which fostered intellectual growth and excellence.

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed to investigate the impact of socio-cultural factors on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) against women in Busiu Town Council. Specific objectives included assessing the role of bride price practices, inheritance customs, and the composition of LC courts in perpetuating SGBV. Employing a descriptive case study design, 175 respondents were surveyed, determined by Krejcie & Morgan's mathematical table for a population of 320. The findings indicated a significant correlation between these socio-cultural factors and SGBV. Recommendations emphasized the need for community awareness programs, legal reforms, and support services. The study concluded that addressing these socio-cultural dynamics is crucial in combating SGBV effectively.

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

IV : INDEPENDENT VARIABLE

DV : DEPENDENT VARIABLE

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

The study examined socio-cultural factors that affected the Management of Violence against women in Busiu Town Council. Socio-cultural factors (bride price practices, cultural norms) were perceived as independent variables while the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (Protection of survivors of violence, reporting of cases and Apprehension of offenders) was perceived as dependent Variables, the Composition of LC Courts is perceived as an Intervening Variable (IV). The study focused on Busiu Town Council as a case study. Chapter one comprised of the Background to the study, Statement of the problem, Purpose of the Study, Specific Objectives, Research Questions, Scope of the Study, Justification, Significance of the study and Operational Definition of key terms and Concepts

1.1 Background to the Study

1.1.1 Historical Background

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) is a universal reality existing in all societies regardless of income, class and culture. An estimated one in three women worldwide has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence experienced by women globally. Sexual and gender based violence can also take the form of harmful traditional practices (Keesbury, 2006). Children (boys and girls) and women are particularly vulnerable to violence, especially sexual abuse. According to the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), almost 50 percent of all sexual assaults worldwide are against girls aged 15 and younger. In 2002, 150 million girls and 73 million boys under the age of 18 years experienced forced sexual intercourse or other forms of gender based violence (UNFPA, 2012). Violence against women and in particular sexual violence is also often used as a tactic of war during conflicts.

In the context of humanitarian crisis and emergencies, civilian women and children are often the most vulnerable to exploitation, violence, and abuse because of their gender, age, and status in society (ISIS WICCE, 2010).

Sexual and Gender Based Violence cuts across ethnicity race, class, religion, education level and international borders and it has become common practice in almost all societies and has many facets. Within the household this can include battering by an intimate partner, marital rape, dowry-related violence and sexual abuse. Violence outside the home can include rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and assault (Sundby et al, 2013).

Various socio-cultural and religious norms produce and reinforce gender inequality and stereotypical gender roles that underpin gender-based violence. Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) is pervasive human rights, public health, and a development problem (Sundby et al, 2013). SGBV is broadly conceptualized to comprise all forms of physical, psychological and sexual violence that are related to the survivors' gender or gender role in a society or culture (Keesbury & Askew, 2010).

Data based on the 2006 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) shows that 39% women and girls aged 15-49, had ever experienced sexual violence, compared to 11% for men, and 59.6 % of women have expressed physical violence compared to 53% of men. The majority of gender based violence in Uganda is committed by an intimate partner. For example according to the UDHS (2000), more than two thirds of women (68%) who have been in marital relationships had experienced one kind of gender based violence from the current husband or intimate partners while 8% of these experienced the violence from their former husband or intimate partner; 36% had experienced sexual violence (UBOS & Macro International, 2007). Similarly, a study carried out by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) in 2009, revealed that more than 80% women consulted have experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence at some point in their marriage or intimate relationships (ICRW, 2009).

The 2011 Uganda National Report on Sexual and Gender Based Violence also indicates that between one-third and two-thirds of known sexual assault victims are of age 15 or younger (MoGLSD, 2011). Girls' children have also been documented to be prone to abuse through socially constructed harmful norms and practices that are tolerated in some communities.

According to the Ministry of Health-Uganda and World Health Organization (WHO) the magnitude of forms of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Uganda is as follows; wife battering (30%), marital rape (12%), defilement (25%), rape (20%), sexual exploitation (13%). The magnitude of sexualized violence is high and its occurrence was reported to be quite often. However, most of the cases go unreported thus denying justice to the survivor. Many incidents of sexual violence are under reported, making it difficult to ascertain the exact magnitude of the problem. Nevertheless, the problem of SGBV is a serious and difficult one to handle. They largely go undetected or reported due to the fact that sometimes the person who is supposed to protect the potential victim usually turns out to be the perpetrator (ACFODE, 2012).

It is important to note that while relative peace and stability has returned in Busiu Town Council, the effects of the two decade violent conflict still linger. The region is yet to experience positive peace because although the guns have largely fallen silent, the structural and underlying causes of violent conflicts still remain prevalent (Galtung, 2011) in most parts of the region.

1.1.2 Theoretical Background

The study was underpinned by the Feminist Theory on domestic violence (Pence & Paymer, 1993). This theory notes that the root causes of intimate partner violence is as an outcome of living a society that condones aggressive behaviors perpetrated by men, while socializing women to be non-violent. It focuses on the societal messages that sanction a male's use of violence and aggression throughout life, and the proscribed gender roles that dictate how men and women should behave in their intimate relationships. The components of this theory for example societal messages that sanction a male's use of violence, aggressions and proscribed gender roles made this theory to be adopted for the study.

1.1.3 Conceptual Background

The study explored the concepts of socio-cultural factors and management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. Management of sexualize violence is understood as protection of a survivor of violence by following up an incident of sexual violence so as to ensure the physical safety of survivor and all actions are guided by the best interest of the survivor and her wishes must be respected at all times; (i) Apprehension of offenders meaning that the government or local authorities on that territory where the sexual gender based violence attack occurred is responsible for taking remedial measures, including conducting a thorough investigation into the crime, identifying and prosecuting those responsible; (ii) Protection of survivors of sexual and gender based violence is understood as protecting survivors from reprisal. Wherever possible, the identity of the survivor is kept secret and all information kept locked and secure from outsiders. In all cases, the wishes of a survivor are respected when pursuing the legal aspects of the case (iii) Reporting is understood as where a detailed history of the attack is documented, including the nature. The results of the attack however minor are documented are presented to concerned authorities or persons as evidence by a survivor, family or community members.

1.1.4 Contextual Background

The study was carried out in Busiu Town Council. Busiu Town Council is bordered by Sironko District to the north, Bududa District to the northeast, Manafwa District to the southeast, Tororo District to the south, Butaleja District to the southwest and Budaka District to the west. Pallisa District and Kumi District lie to the northwest of Busiu Town Council. Mbale, the largest town in the district and the location of the district headquarters, is located approximately 245 kilometres (152 mi), by road, northeast of Kampala, the capital of Uganda, and the largest city in that country. The coordinates of the district are: 00 57N, 34 20E. It has an area of 518.8 square kilometres (200.3 sq mi). The districts of Bududa, Manafwa and Sironko were part of Busiu Town Council before they were split off as independent districts of their own.

Sylvia and Friederica (2011) assert that, women face insurmountable obstacles in obtaining justice after having experienced gender-based violence in Busiu Town Council. This is related to fear of repercussion from perpetrators, high illiteracy rates which deter people from seeking support within a complicated legal framework and the financial and logistical implications of accessing limited and under-resourced legal institutions. More so, the high levels of stigma attached to rape survivors deter victims from seeking any form of medical or legal assistance. Despite efforts by government and NGOs to address violence against women in Busiu Town Council, survivors of violence still face a number of challenges in terms of access justice, reporting, cases and protection. The study therefore aim at assessing the effect of socio-cultural factors on the management of sexual and gender based violence against women

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Gender-based violence is a universal reality existing in societies where women in particularly are vulnerable to all sorts of violence as inflicted by their male counterparts. The women have lived in extremely precarious conditions and are discriminated against on the basis of race, language, ethnic group, culture, age, opinion, religion or membership in a minority group with less support from the concerned authorities (WHO, 2012). From the Ugandan context including Busiu Town Council, such violent acts have been to a number of socio-cultural factors for instance bride price where the boy or man's family is mandated to give bride price, a payment common cultural practice to the parents of the girl as a form of appreciation or validation of customary marriages. This has created recognition of marriages, stabilization of marriage relationships, and protection to wives against abuse and development of partnerships between families and control over women's lives (Uganda Association of Lawyers, 1996).

Additionally, cultural norms for instance vows, symbols, myth have been traditionally adhered to by most families and resulted into better marriages. However, much as such socio- cultural factors have positively led to stability in homes, a number of SGBV acts have been noticed attributed to such factors for instance women have been battered to death, raped, conflict

between bride and groom families has been created, divorces have risen and families have been subjected to law to refund bride price paid by the man's family. This has inflicted both physically and mentally pain on the side of women arises (World March of Women,2000).To further support the above, a considerable number of Government policy frameworks for example the Constitution of the Republic (ii) Succession Act (iii) Children's Act (iv) Marriage Act (v) Divorce Act (vi) Domestic Violence Act passed 11 November 2009 to help strengthen legal interventions for survivors of domestic violence)

If this situation persists in Uganda, then families will continue to break, of marriage was misinterpreted, gender inequality will rise and children will mentally and psychologically suffer due to less family support among others. It is upon such background that the study will investigate the extent to which socio-cultural factors (bride price practices, cultural norms and composition of LC courts) affect the management of gender based violence against women in rural communities in Busiu Town Council.

1.4 Purpose of the study

The purpose of the study is to establish the effect of Socio-Cultural Factors causing Sexual and Gender Based Violence against Women in Busiu Town Council

1.5 Specific Objectives

The specific objectives to the study was:

- i. To assess the extent to which bride price practices cause Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Busiu Town Council.
- ii. To find out how inheritance causes Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Busiu Town Council.
- iii. To establish the extent to which the composition of LC courts affect management of sexual and gender based violence in Busiu Town Council.

1.6 Research Questions

- i. To what extent does bride price practices cause Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Busiu Town Council?
- ii. How does inheritance cause Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Busiu Town Council?
- iii. To what extent does the composition of LC courts affect management of sexual and gender based violence in Busiu Town Council?

1.7 Scope of the study

1.7.1 Geographical Scope:

The study was carried out in Busiu Town Council. Busiu Town Council is bordered by Sironko District to the north, Bududa District to the northeast, Manafwa District to the southeast, Tororo District to the south, Butaleja District to the southwest and Budaka District to the west. Pallisa District and Kumi District lie to the northwest of Busiu Town Council. Mbale, the largest town in the district and the location of the district headquarters, is located approximately 245 kilometres (152 mi), by road, northeast of Kampala, the capital of Uganda, and the largest city in that country. The coordinates of the district are: 00 57N, 34 20E. It has an area of 518.8 square kilometres (200.3 sq mi). The Town council constitutes of ; Bungokho North Subcounty, Bungokho South Subcounty, Bukiende Subcounty, Bumayoka Subcounty, Bufumbo Subcounty, Bunambutye Subcounty, Bukasakya Subcounty, Bungokho Central Subcounty, Busoba Sub county and Buwali Sub county. Each subcounty consists of parishes and villages, contributing to the diverse landscape of the area. Parishes such as Bungokho, Bumufuni, Buwabwala, Bunambutye, Bumayoka, and others, host numerous villages that form the fabric of community life. From Bufumbo to Bubulo, Busiu Town Council boasts a rich tapestry of cultural and social heritage.

1.7.2 Content Scope

The study was limited to socio-cultural factors affecting the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (dependent variable) against women. Socio-cultural factors were categorized into bride price practices and cultural norms as its sub indicators and Management of Gender Based Violence constituted apprehension of offenders, reporting of cases and protection of survivors.

1.7.3 Time scope

The research covered period of five years between 2019 and 2023. This is when Busiu Town Council received a high number of domestic violence cases. The research spanning the five-year period from 2019 to 2023 focuses on comprehensively understanding the surge in domestic violence cases within Busiu Town Council, situated within Mbale District, Uganda. This investigation involves a multifaceted analysis, beginning with contextualizing Busiu Town Council's demographic, economic, and cultural landscape. Data collection and analysis from various sources, including law enforcement, healthcare facilities, and social services, are paramount to discerning trends and patterns in reported domestic violence incidents over the specified timeframe. Delving deeper, the research aims to unearth the intricate web of factors contributing to this alarming trend, encompassing socioeconomic disparities, cultural norms, gender dynamics, and access to resources. Moreover, it examines the profound impact of domestic violence on individuals, families, and the broader community, shedding light on physical, psychological, and economic ramifications. Ascertaining the adequacy and accessibility of support services for survivors is pivotal, alongside identifying gaps and barriers that hinder help-seeking behaviors.

1.8 Significance of the Study

The research findings was of great help to various users namely;

Local Government Authorities:

The research may inform local government authorities in Busiu Town Council about the specific socio-cultural dynamics contributing to SGBV in their community, enabling them to tailor

policies and interventions that are culturally sensitive and responsive to the needs of survivors. This understanding can guide the allocation of resources towards effective prevention, intervention, and support programs targeting rural areas.

Community Leaders and Traditional Elders:

The research may empower community leaders and traditional elders in Busiu Town Council to address SGBV more effectively by raising awareness about harmful cultural practices, challenging traditional gender norms, and promoting gender equality and women's rights within their communities. This knowledge can facilitate dialogue and community engagement initiatives aimed at changing attitudes and behaviors related to SGBV.

NGOs and Civil Society Organizations:

The research may provide valuable insights to NGOs and civil society organizations working on SGBV issues in rural communities, guiding their advocacy efforts, program development, and capacity-building initiatives. By understanding the socio-cultural factors influencing SGBV, these organizations can design culturally appropriate interventions, provide support services tailored to local needs, and collaborate with community stakeholders to foster sustainable change.

Healthcare Providers and Social Workers:

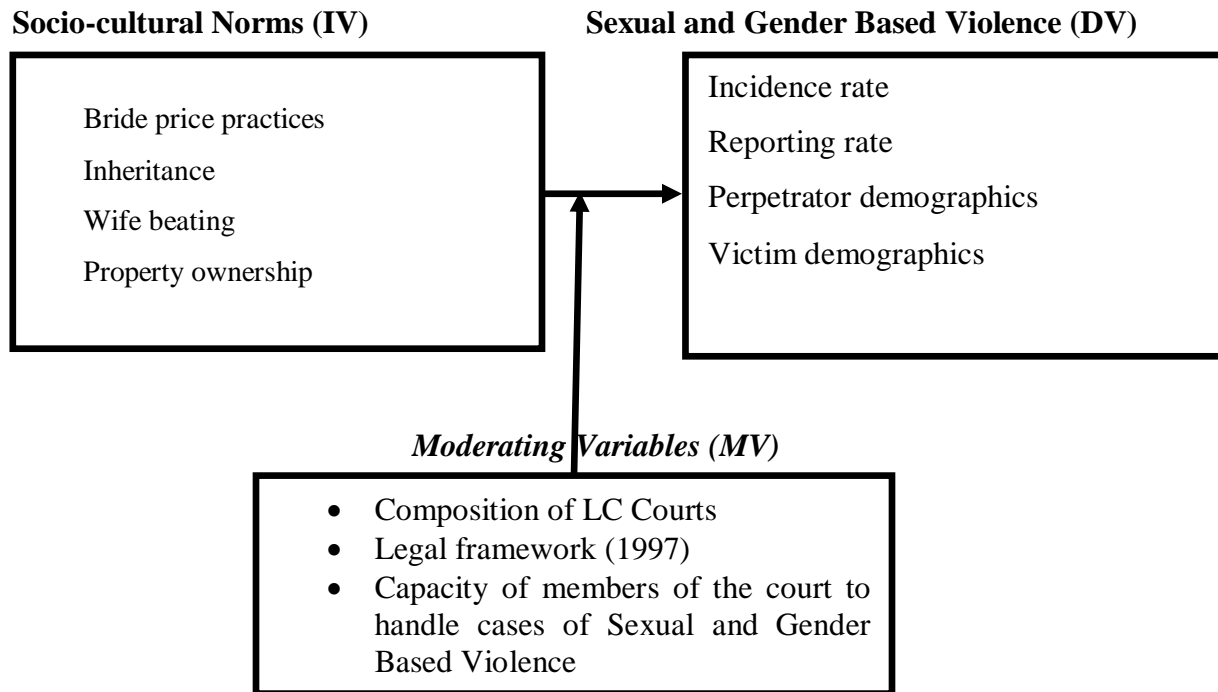
The research may equip healthcare providers and social workers in Busiu Town Council with a deeper understanding of the socio-cultural barriers that survivors of SGBV face when seeking help or accessing support services. This knowledge can enhance their ability to provide culturally competent care, offer appropriate counseling and referral services, and advocate for survivor-centered approaches within healthcare and social service settings.

Women's Rights Activists and Advocates:

The research may serve as a tool for women's rights activists and advocates to raise awareness about the intersection of socio-cultural factors and SGBV, mobilize community support for gender equality initiatives, and lobby for policy changes that address systemic barriers to preventing and responding to SGBV in rural communities like Busiu Town Council. By

highlighting the unique challenges faced by women in rural settings, this research can amplify the voices of survivors and contribute to the broader movement to end violence against women.

1.9 Conceptual framework



Source: Adopted from Otufale (2012) and modified by the Researcher 2024

In the conceptual framework above, the study presents the relationship between the variables of the study; socio-cultural factors as independent variable while sexual and Gender Based Violence as Independent variable. It was hypothesized that the socio-cultural factors presented as bride price practices and Cultural norms had an effect on the Management of Gender Based Violence operationalized as apprehensions of perpetrators of acts of sexual and Gender based, protection of survivors and reporting of cases. However, it was also perceived that if the composition of LC Courts (moderating factor) is not properly addressed, it had an effect on the management sexual and gender based violence even if other factors are addressed.

CHAPTER TWO LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter provides detailed explanations of the topic under study in relation to the study objectives while critically reviewing the literature and identifying gaps. These explanations were drawn from a variety of secondary sources which include: journals, publications, magazines, reports, text books among other sources. The information from the sources was directly related to the study objectives and this gave a clear understanding of the concepts under study. It provides the relationship between socio-cultural factors and the management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. The chapter has the following sections: Introduction, Theoretical review, Actual literature review and Summary of the literature reviewed.

2.1 Theoretical review

2.1.1 Feminist Theory

The study was theorized along the Feminist Theory developed by Pence & Paymer (1993). Feminist theory in domestic violence emphasizes gender and power inequality in opposite- sex relationships. It focuses on the societal messages that sanction a male's use of violence and aggression throughout life, and the proscribed gender roles that dictate how men and women should behave in their intimate relationships (Pence & Paymar, 1993). It sees the root causes of intimate partner violence as the outcome of living a society that condones aggressive behaviors perpetrated by men, while socializing women to be non-violent.

Proponents of feminist theory acknowledge that women can also be violent in their relationships with men; however, they simply do not see the issue of women abusing men as a serious social problem, and therefore, does not deserve the same amount of attention or support as violence against women (Kurz, 1997). The researcher found this theory relevant to this study in that the

component of this theory for example explained the correlation between socio-cultural factors and violence. This is in line with what this study seeks to investigate.

According to Nolet-Bos (1999), the Feminist Theory is limited for explaining abuse perpetrated by women. Feminist theory typically explains women's use of violence in the context of self-defense and retaliation for previous abuse. Yet, by doing so, a strictly feminist orientation denies that women can also feel angry and enraged without provocation in their relationships with men (Nolet-Bos, 1999). Additionally, while much of a woman's use of violence does exist within the framework of retaliation and self-defense, feminist theory does not explain why women perpetrate violence outside their intimate relationships (e.g., at work, with children, or with peers).

Aspects in the feminist theory such as societal messages that sanction a male's use of violence and aggression throughout life, and the proscribed gender roles that dictate how men and women should behave in their intimate relationships relates to socio-cultural factors. However, in adopting the Feminist Theory, the researcher is not ignorant of its shortcomings. It mostly empathizes intimate partner violence as a key factor affecting the management of gender based violence and ignores other factors like the composition of LC courts that also had equal influence on the management of gender based violence.

2.2 Actual Literature review

Sexual and gender-based violence includes domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, sexual violence during conflict and harmful customary or traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, forced marriages, trafficking in women, forced prostitution and violations of human rights in armed conflict (in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy), forced sterilization, forced abortion, coercive use of contraceptives, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection.

Violence against women is „all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (UNFPA, 2012).

According to the Population Council (2011), Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence is understood as the ability of a woman to avoid and leave violent relationships, ability of the community and authorities to report cases, provide psycho-social support and protection of survivors of sexual and gender based violence.

In this study, the literature reviewed was examined under the sub-themes of Bride price practices and Management of Sexual and Gender Based violence, Cultural norms and Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Composition of LC Courts vis-à-vis the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

2.2.1 Bride Price Practices and Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Historically, bride price exchange has been an important integral part of marriage rites and ceremonies in African culture. It involves exchange of materials or money from the man's to the woman's household, but practices differ between communities. In most, it is men folk who participate in discussions that determine what, how much and how such a payment is made. Bride price -related violence is a serious problem that affects the lives of women and girls. Dowry includes gifts, money, goods or property given from the bride's family to the groom or in-laws before, during or any time after the marriage (UN DAW, 2009).

In Africa, the acts used in dowry-related offenses include physical, emotional, and economic violence, as well as harassment and stalking as means to exact compliance or to punish the victim. Women often struggle with bringing successful claims of bride price-related violence, as emotional and economic violence are difficult to prove in a court of law. The most common forms of bride price violence are battering, marital rape, acid pouring and other forms of

violence. Perpetrators may also use methods of starvation, deprivation of clothing, evictions, and false imprisonment as a method of extortion (Praveen, 2000).

Silber Schmidt (2002) asserts that, bride price payment has implications on gender relations, values, expectations and roles. In her ethnographic studies in Kiisi District in Kenya, Silber Schmidt conceptualized violence as a problem of transition from traditional to modern society. She found that men seemed to have lost identity and their position was weakened by altered gender relations following modernization, resulting into gender antagonism regarding perceived roles.

A MIFUMI (2012) study also cites bride price as challenge to the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. Because men pay “highly” for the women they marry, concern is raised that men can do anything they want to women and get away with it. “A man will say he is beating his cattle -“paid as bride price”.

A 2005 study on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) by Busiu Town Council Working Group on sexual and gender based violence established that pressure from parents and the community at large especially on the girl child for example “why are you still in school yet you already have big breasts, you are useless and a liability to the family”. Such statements have discouraged girls from continuing with school but instead choose to enter early marriages. In addition, this has made it difficult for defilers to be apprehended since the defilers do this with “blessings” from the girl’s family and community. The study further noted that forced marriages are a common phenomenon due to poverty. This is mainly due to the perception that girls of adolescent age can marry and reduce „the mouths to feed „in the household and other responsibilities. The girls are also a source of income due to dowry and other gifts in marriage (Isabella et al, 2005)

A 2011 report by ACFODE, ascertained that the community believes that men are the controllers/owners of resources that is culturally normal. In the family, the husband decides on

how, when and where to use or not to use a particular resource regardless of the woman's consent. Equally, he does the same to determine when, where and how sex should be conducted. This means the case of marital rape is not recognized. Cases of marital rape and divorce are often dismissed as a „family affair“. Women don't have any right to own/inherit property for they themselves are also a man's property.

Lesile (1998) demonstrated that, “dowry/bride price deaths” are not always what they seem. Leslie asserts that women and girls are dying and are being abused without perpetrators (abusers) being brought to book. Notably, Lesile acknowledges that dowry is often used as an excuse by perpetrators of violence against women and as a convenient label for those who wish to press charges. However, Leslie tries to identify other factors such as the institutionalization of the vulnerability of women, and the perceived internalized and socially reinforced ideology of the inferiority of women that constitute the real problem and not dowry.

Furthermore, Amnesty International (2012) study also cites other factors such as financial dependence on the perpetrators of sexual and gender based violence as fueling the vice. This is because the survivor of violence does not report to police or clan structures because doing so would be to their detriment as they depended on the perpetrators for financial support. In some cases it was the abusive spouse who depended on them and the domestic violence often entailed their husbands depriving them of their property and farm produce. This seems to confirm with a study by FAO, (2009) in Busiu Town Council which affirms that some women in rural areas are also forced to exchange sex for material goods, which in turn can be the cause of other forms of violence and abuse against them. The study concluded that economic restrictions and gender inequalities were the main causes of Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

2.2.2 Inheritance and Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Cultural and social norms vary widely; some behavior acceptable to one social group, gang or culture may not be tolerated in another. Different cultural and social norms support different

types of violence. For instance, traditional beliefs that men have a right to control or discipline women through physical means makes women vulnerable to violence by intimate partner and places girls at risk of sexual abuse with no alternatives for reporting such incidences (Jeannie, 2010).

According to Bloom Quist (1989), Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence can be seen as the result of patriarchal social constructs which define the relationship between women and men as one of subordination and domination. If an individual's identity is based on exercising control over another then that individual is likely to be tempted to make sure that their sense of control is maintained. The feeling of powerlessness and societies emphasis on violent imagery increases the temptation to resort to violent control of women in order to assert manhood and a sense of personal power that is not being achieved outside of the home.

Chapell (1998) urges that, justification for violence is frequently based on cultural norms that is, social norms about the proper roles and responsibilities of men and women. These cultural and social norms socialize males to be aggressive, powerful, unemotional, controlling and contributing to a social acceptance of men as dominant. Similarly, expectations of females as passive, nurturing, submissive, and emotional also reinforce women's roles as weak, powerless, and dependent upon men. He further argues that the socialization of both men and women has resulted in an unequal power relationship between men and women.

ACGSD (2011) report affirms that one of the major obstacles to the prevention, reduction and eradication of gender-based violence is that it remains largely invisible and its victims largely silent, due to both a wide socio-cultural acceptance of this form of violence as well as the stigma attached to the victims of gender-based violence.

The normalization of violence is partly reflected in the internalization by women of social cultures that tolerate abuse against women and girl children, for example, according to the UBOS and ICF Macro (2013), about "Six in ten women (58%) believed that neglecting a child, denying

a husband sex, burning food, disobeying their husbands or being unfaithful would justify a husband's violence (UBOS, 2012).

Christine et al., (2005) also noted that, the „blurred boundary“ between what is recognized and defined as SGBV and what used to be considered simply normal interaction between men and women tempers the reaction of many women and constraints the reporting of cases of SGBV in rural areas. In particular: defilement, wife inheritance is not considered as SGBV cases, because they are culturally acceptable. Women hesitate to identify sexually harassing behavior as inappropriate. For example, women may consider pushes, slaps unwanted touches and sexual remarks about body parts to be insignificant and fail to mention or report them.

Isabella & Gerald (2005) while in a study on justice for survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Pabbo camp established that the community regards rape as an abomination that needs traditional rituals to purify and cleanse the rape victim. The survivors can't report cases because it's regarded as a disgrace to the family and community. Other abominable cases include defilement, child molestation and marital rape. Findings from the study indicated that few of GBV cases are reported to the police/local leaders especially if it involves law enforcement officers and that forced widow inheritance according to culture is perceived as a normal practice and a woman has no stay over it.

According to Hartmann & Boyce (1983) most women, submission to physical beatings and verbal abuse is not too high a price to pay for social approval and physical survival. The internalization of prevailing attitudes, which view women as inferior and domestic violence as a "man's right", also explains why many cases of domestic violence are never reported. However, Hoteling & Sugarman (1986, 1990) more specifically showed that violence in men's family of origin and negative attitudes about women consistently predicted relationship violence in men. Little is known, however, about the origins of these associations between belief systems, violence against women and reporting of violent acts against women.

Lastly, Dutton (1994) further argues that it is the diagnosable psychopathology of batterers that leads some men to adopt patriarchal ideology after the fact of abuse to rationalize and justify their own behavior. Dutton focuses on the temporal links between domestic violence, a belief in patriarchal and stereotyped family values, and psychopathology in the individual and not necessarily cultural norms.

2.2.3 Effect of Composition of Local Council Courts (LCC) on Sexual and Gender Based Violence

In most African communities there have always been mechanisms to address sexual and gender violence against women. Clan heads, elders, religious leaders and family members play a big role in settling conflict in communities (ACFODE, 2012). In Uganda, the Local Council Courts (LCCs) structure was created to make justice more accessible to the grassroots communities. Like other courts of judicature, the LCCs empathize the principles of natural justice (fair hearing). Each party is given an opportunity to present or defend himself/herself. LCCs also allow appeals whereby matters from LCCI are referred to LCCII while LCCIII is the appellate court for LCCII.

The LCCs have powers to enforce the punishment as per the judgment. Their decisions are backed by a force of laws. The witnesses are normally called to help the court ascertain the truth. These include the neighbors and close members of the family in the community mentioned in the case or those deemed fit to give necessary information. Children are not invited but can be contacted for some information after the LCCs have concluded their investigations. Any party dissatisfied with judgment, is given a letter forwarding him/her to the LCCII as the laid down appeal process up to the LCCII (MGLSD, 2001).

Ordinarily, Local Council leaders are supposed to be the first ones to respond to complaints of sexual and gender based violence due to their accessibility. By virtue of their proximity, they know almost all people in a given locality and it can easily ascertain cases in given families.

They also command people's trust and if called upon, are likely to arbitrate in fighting families or couples (ACFODE, 2012).

However, a study by American Refugee Council (2005) in northern Uganda established that there is an overwhelming distrust of the authorities and the police by the local community who are conservative and prefer to settle the cases of sexual and gender based violence like defilement, rape without the involvement of the police or local authorities. The study particularly established that this distrust is as a result of the high level of corruption and nepotism associated with the police and local authorities.

In addition, the victims or the community is discouraged from reporting to the police or LC court because of the costs involved. For instance due to lack of resources, the police demands a fee of 30,000Shs to transport the perpetrators from Pabbo to Gulu town (Central Police Station), and the LC courts demand anon refundable fee of 5,000 for ones case to be heard. But because of the levels of poverty in the camp the cases are thus not reported and are instead solved traditionally through some cleansing rituals.

According to ACORD (2010), it is not just the composition of LC courts that limits the management of SGBV cases by Local Council Courts but other factors for example; harsh investigations of SGBV cases cause further psychological and sometimes even social injuries to the victims. The report further notes that court negotiations last a number of months during which the victim's name and all of the details of her personal life is made public, causing her repeated social damage, so to avoid this lack of confidentiality, the victims don't report the cases.

A Report on Accesses to Justice by women ACORD (2010) summarized the problems with the justice system and LCCs in northern Uganda as „the Local Councils Courts fraternity is not responsive to the needs and the constraints of the woman.“ A 2008 situational analysis by Uganda's Ministry of Gender Labor and Social Development also found that women

experiencing violence are most likely to have sought help from their own family (48%) followed by their in-laws (39%) with the rest from friends and neighbor. The report further eludes to the fact that despite the existence of a formal justice system, very few survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence access this path way (MGLSD, 2013).

A 2012 HURIFO report on sexual and gender based violence in Northern Uganda sights that the LC courts that administer justice, including on sexual and gender based violence are often biased. In particular the report findings indicated that members of LC courts are elected from communities and often turn out to be relatives of the man against whom the woman may be claiming justice. The LCCs are reputed to be corrupt and have no knowledge of the laws let alone of human rights. The LCC structure often handles domestic violence with the clichéd response of which home has no violence. Lastly, American Refugee Council (2012) clearly shows that in 70% cases that come to ARC, the survivor declined legal action and protection or security services for fear of losing children, family, husband and sense of family.

2.3 Conclusion

This chapter has reviewed several scholarly literatures on how socio-cultural factors which affect the Management of Sexual and Gender Based violence. The available literature generally reveals that a lot of challenges or gaps do exist in managing sexual and gender based violence for instance traditionally locals in remote place of Busiu Town Council believe more in their family set ups than the rule of law. The adoption of western cultural had time and again eroded the traditional values of our societies. Furthermore, women emancipation can be seen as another source of negativity in families. The literature also revealed the strong linkage between socio-cultural and management of sexual and gender based violence. Although there is rich literature on how bride price practices, socio-cultures and composition of LC Courts affect the SGBV in African and specifically Uganda, there is limited specific literature to this effect. A major gap in the literature was that, such studies had never been undertaken in Busiu Town Council which is a

post conflict rural district. Lastly, it is for this unique context that this research sought to make findings on the management of sexual and gender based violence in rural communities- whether same results were found.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

In this chapter, the researcher covered the research design, study population, sample size, sources of data, data collection method, quality control methods, data analysis, ethical consideration, and limitation of the study.

3.1 Research Design

The study employed a descriptive case study research design, which is characterized as an umbrella for family research methods (Bell, 1993). This approach is deemed suitable for the investigation at hand as it allows for a comprehensive exploration of the socio-cultural factors influencing the management of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women. Case studies afford researchers the opportunity to delve deeply into the subject matter, yielding rich and nuanced data that may not be attainable through other experimental designs, particularly when large samples of similar participants are not readily available. By utilizing qualitative methods within this design framework, the study aims to provide a thorough understanding of the complex dynamics surrounding SGBV management

3.2 Study population

The population for the study included 50 community members on average 25 persons Per Town Council and 50 local leaders (Gender Officers, Community Development Officers, clan leaders, members of Local Council Courts, religious leaders and Police Child and Welfare Unit staff). The 25 persons Per Town Council was selected because of the data collection method (focus group discussions) that the researcher used at least 8-12 persons. So with the 25 people, the researcher will hold at least 2 focus group discussions in every Sub County.

3.3 Sample size

A number of 175 respondents forming the sample size was determined using the mathematical table developed by Krejcie & Morgan of 1970 for determining sample sizes for research activities. Table 3.1 shows a population of 20 clan leaders purposively was selected, 20 religious leaders purposively targeted, 115 community members was using clustered sampling, 10 Local Government officials, 10 members of the LC courts leaders was purposively sampled for the study.

Table 3.1: Sample Population and Size of Study

Respondents category	Target population	Sample size	Sampling techniques
Clan Leaders	10	10	Purpose sampling
Religious Leaders	10	10	
Members of Local Council Courts	10	10	
Subcounty Chiefs	10	10	
Civil Society Actors	10	10	
Law Enforcement Officers	10	10	
Community Members / Citizens	260	115	Stratified and Simple random sampling
Total	320	175	

Source: Busiu Town Council report (2024)

3.4 Sampling procedures

Gilmore (2018) elucidated sampling procedures as the systematic approach to selecting a representative subset of individuals, events, or behaviors from a larger population for study purposes. In alignment with this definition, the sampling procedure for this study will encompass several key considerations, including:

3.4.1 Purposive sampling

Hayes, R. (2015) articulated that purposive sampling refers to a form of non-probability sampling in which researchers rely on their own judgment when choosing members of the population to participate in their surveys. The study used purposive sampling procedure targeting the key information with the experience of the Town Clerk, Assistant Accountants, Revenue Officer, auditors this is because it enabled researchers to squeeze a lot of information out of the data that they have collected. This allows researchers to describe the major impact their findings have on the population.

3.4.2 Simple random sampling

According to Mugenda (2013), Simple random sampling is the procedure where by all respondents have equal chances of being selected. It minimizes biasness in sample selection. The procedure was used in sampling opinion leaders, councilors. The use of simple random sampling removes all hints of bias. Because individuals who make up the subset of the larger group are chosen at random, each individual in the large population set has the same probability of being selected.

3.5. Primary Data collection.

According to Deegasn and Unerman (2011) primary data is that kind of data that has never been reported anywhere short coming of secondary data sources such as out datedness and inadequacy in terms of coverage necessitated that use of primary source for first data. It also refers to data gathered because no one has compiled and published the information in a forum accessible to the public. Organizations generally take the time and allocate the resources required to gather primary data only when a question, issue or problem presents itself that is sufficiently important or unique that it warrants the expenditure necessary to gather the primary data. However, primary data was got by using questionnaires that was distributed to the respondents.

3.5.1 Secondary data collection

According to Dennis, A. (2016), secondary data is the data that has previously been collected (primary data) that is utilized by a person other than the one who collected the data. Secondary data is often used in social and economic analysis, especially when access to primary data is unavailable.

Lowe, D.M. (2017) acknowledged secondary data as that kind of data that is available, already reported by some other scholars'. Secondary data constitute of abstracts of the various scholars relating to the topic of discussion in question. Secondary data for this study is got from sources like libraries, archived records from the pride micro finance bank, records of selected business, government publication, online information, text books, newspaper and unpublished research reports this is because it was readily available and easier to complement, as it comprises of extensively researched work.

3.6 Data collection procedure

Data collection is a tool that is used to collect data (Dilworth 2018). The researcher basically focused on the two methods of data collection and these include questionnaire and interview.

3.6.1 Questionnaires

According to Lowe, D.M. (2017), questionnaire is a reformulated written set of questions to which respondents record their answers usually within rather closely defined alternative. A questionnaire is a series of questions asked to individuals to obtain statistically useful information about a given topic and when properly constructed and responsibly administered, questionnaires become a vital instrument by which statements can be made about specific groups of people or entire populations. An open and close ended questionnaire was used to collect information from the Assistant Town Clerk, accountants, auditors, and cashier from Busiu Town Council where the researcher will allow the study respondents to fill the questionnaire in the study population. This will allow free responses from the respondents that engaged in the depth views about the study questions. The closed ended questions include alternative answers for

selection and also were used in getting required information about the study. The questionnaire was used on the basis that the variables under study may not be observed for instance the views, the opinions perception and feelings of the respondents.

3.6.2 Interview guide

According to Coase, R.H. (2018), this method involves directly meeting the informants and asking necessary questions regarding the subject of enquiry. Usually a set of questions or a questionnaire is carried by him and questions are also asked according to that. The interviewer efficiently collects the data from the informants by cross examining them.

3.7 Validity and reliability

According to Ndifon Ejoh and Patrick Ejom.(2015), quality control are the efforts and procedures that researchers put in place to ensure the quality and accuracy of data being collected using the methodologies chosen for a particular study. Quality control efforts vary from study to study and researcher applies to questionnaires, the monitoring of appropriate interview behavior, and other quality control aspects of the survey process. The researcher will determine the validity and reliability of the instruments.

3.7.1 Validity

Validity refers to how well an instrument measures what it is intended to measure (Mallery, 2013). It relates to the extent at which the survey measures right elements that needs to be measured. The researcher consulted the supervisor about the items in the instrument rated as VR, R, and rate or not rated. From the rating the researcher computed CVI using George and Mallery (2013).

3.7.2 Reliability

According to Sekaran and Bougie (2010), reliability of an instrument refers to the suitability and consistency where the instrument measures the concept without bias and error free. Reliability

also refers to the consistency and validity of tested results determined through statistical methods after several trials. According to Sekaran and Bogie, the researcher will test the inter item consistency of the respondents answer to all items in the questionnaire and the reliability of the instruments is tested and determined using Cronbach's Alpha test (2014) using SPSS software if the reliability test is closer to one.

3.8 Data presentation and Analysis.

Data Processing and Analysis

Analysis of Quantitative Data

Statistical package for the social science (SPSS) software version 20 was applied to generate descriptive and inferential statistics. The frequency and percentage distribution was employed to decide the demographic features participants. While mean and SD was used for different points of agreements in relation to the questions are asked on the Likert scale. Tax administration and revenue collection in local governments was evaluated using a simple regression analysis. The stated variables in the questionnaires was analyzed using descriptive statistics of reactions that can be categorized. Where strongly agree=1, Agree=2, Neutral=3, Disagree=4, Strongly disagree=5

Analysis of Qualitative Data

The inductive method was helpful as it helps to regularly replicate reported patterns that was used in qualitative data analysis. The assumptions of inductive method are data analysis is established through research objectives and multiple readings and interpretation of raw data. Therefore, results was got from both the research objectives outlined by the researcher and results arising from analysis of raw data" (Thomas, 2003).

According to Robinson (2014) data analysis is the process of systematically applying statistical and logical techniques to describe and illustrate, condense and recap, and evaluate data. Resnik (2018) various analytic procedures "provide a way of drawing inductive inferences from data

and distinguishing the signal (the phenomenon of interest) from the noise (statistical fluctuations) present in the data”.

While data analysis in qualitative research can include statistical procedures, many times analysis becomes an ongoing iterative process where data is continuously collected and analyzed almost simultaneously. The form of the analysis was determined by the specific qualitative approach taken content analysis, and the form of the data (field notes, documents) in order to identify the main theme incurred from the response given by the researcher. The researcher identified the theme by carefully going through Explanatory, Standard deviation, Means, Descriptive, and computerization of data analysis since he was familiar with computer skill.

3.9 Procedure of Data Collection

After writing the research proposal to the satisfaction of the supervisor, an introductory letter for seeking permission to proceed for data collection was obtained from Uganda Christian University, and this was used to make respondents believe in the researcher. This letter was taken to the Assistant Town Clerk of Busiu Town Council to seek for permission before engaging the population for the study.

3.10 Ethical Considerations.

Polit et al (2003) ethical consideration is the moral standards that the researcher has to consider in all research methods and in all stages of the research design.

The researcher will respect the dignity of the respondents and treats the information given with uttermost confidentiality and for the research purpose only.

The researcher used prerogative questions to the respondents especially questions concerning private life and even those which dig down the respondent’s dignity.

Participant in a study was protected from an adverse situation. They was assured that information that is provided to the researcher and their participation could not affect them.

Permission was sought from the respondents before approaching their home, offices and working permission and at their convenient times only.

Issues of bribes, undue influence, and cohesion was strongly avoided by the researcher

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA ANALYSIS PRESENTATION AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

4.0. Introduction

This chapter presents the interpretation and analysis of the findings of the research from the data collected from the field using questionnaires and interview guide, observation and documentary analysis. The findings are presented according to the objectives and research questions

4.1. Biological Data of the respondents

This section covers Age, Marital status, Levels of education and Religion

Table 4.1. Showing the age of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percent
15-30 years	102	58.3%
31-45 years	60	34.3%
46-60 years	13	7.4%
Total	175	100.0%

Source: Primary Data 2024

According to Table 4.1, the age distribution of respondents reveals that the majority, constituting 58.3% of the total sample size, fall within the 15-30 years age group, indicating a significant representation of younger individuals. Following this, the age group of 31-45 years accounts for 33.3% of the sample, representing a substantial portion of respondents. Conversely, respondents aged 46-60 years constitute the smallest proportion at 8.3% of the total sample size. This

distribution underscores the predominance of younger individuals in the study population, suggesting potential implications for under

Table 4.2: Showing sex of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percent
Male	88	50.3%
Female	87	49.7%
Total	175	100 %

Source: Primary data 2024

Table 4.2 illustrates the sex distribution of respondents in the study, revealing an equal representation of male and female participants, each accounting for approximately 50% of the total sample size of 175. This balanced representation suggests that the study captures perspectives and experiences from both genders, enhancing the comprehensiveness and validity of the research findings. The equitable distribution of male and female respondents facilitates a more nuanced understanding of the research topic, allowing for gender-specific analyses and insights into how sexual and gender-based violence is perceived and experienced across different genders within the context of Busiu Town Council.

Table 4.3: Showing marital status of the respondents

Response	Frequency	Percent
Single	121	69.1%
Married	20	11.4%
Divorced	20	11.4%
Separated	14	8.0%
Total	175	100.0%

Source: Primary Data 2024

Table 4.3 presents the marital status of the respondents, indicating a diverse representation within the study sample. The majority of respondents, accounting for 69.4%, report being single. This suggests a predominant presence of unmarried individuals within the study population. In contrast, married respondents constitute a smaller proportion, comprising only 11.1% of the total sample. Similarly, individuals who are divorced or separated each represent 11.1% and 8.3%, respectively, indicating a comparable prevalence of these marital statuses within the sample. Overall, the data underscores the varied marital status composition of the respondents, reflecting different relationship statuses among individuals participating in the study. Understanding these marital dynamics is essential for contextualizing the research findings within the broader socio-demographic landscape and exploring potential correlations with other study variables.

Table 4.4: Showing levels of education

Response	Frequency	Percent
None	10	5.7%
Primary	20	11.4%
Secondary	68	38.9%
Tertiary and Above	77	44.0%
Total	175	100.0%

Source: Primary data 2024

The findings presented in Table 4.4 depict the educational attainment levels of respondents in the study, reflecting a diverse range of educational backgrounds within the sample of 175 individuals from Busiu Town Council. The majority of respondents have attained education beyond the secondary level, with 44.0% reporting tertiary education or higher, followed closely by 38.9% having completed secondary education. Meanwhile, 11.4% of respondents have attained primary education, indicating a significant portion of the sample with foundational schooling. Interestingly, a small proportion, constituting 5.7%, reported having no formal education. This distribution highlights the varied educational profiles within the study population, suggesting a potential correlation between educational attainment and perceptions or experiences related to sexual and gender-based violence. Further analysis could explore how differing levels of education influence awareness, attitudes, and access to resources relevant to addressing such issues within the community.

4.2. Influence of bride price practices on Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Busiu Town Council

Table 4.5 provides insights into the influence of bride price practices on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against women in Busiu Town Council, offering a quantitative exploration of this complex societal phenomenon within the context of marriage customs and cultural traditions.

Table 4.5: Showing the Influence of bride price practices on Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Busiu Town Council

Statement	SA	A	U	D	SD
Bride price expectations often create financial burdens on the groom's family, leading to tensions and conflict within marital relationships.	16 (44.4%)	15 (41.7%)	3 (8.3%)	2 (5.6)	0%
Women may face pressure to endure abusive behavior from their husbands or in-laws due to fear of being labeled as 'ungrateful' if bride price was paid.	11 (30.6%)	17 (47.2%)	4 (11.1%)	0%	4 (11.1%)
The perception of women as 'commodities' exchanged through bride price can reinforce harmful gender stereotypes and contribute to the justification of violence	12 (33.3%)	7 (19.4%)	0.0%	6(16.7%)	11(30.6%)

against them.					
Disputes over bride price payments or non-payment can escalate into physical or emotional abuse towards women, as they are often caught in the middle of familial conflicts.	7 (19.4%)	14(38.9%)	4 (11.1%)	3 (8.3%)	8 (22.3%)
In communities where bride price is prevalent, women's autonomy and decision-making power within their marriages may be undermined, increasing their vulnerability to SGBV.	11(30%)	9 (25%)	5(13%)	2 (7%)	9 (25%)
Information on Gender and domestic violence has been passed on different social media handles	8 (22.2%)	10 (27.8%)	5 (13.9%)	9 (25%)	4 (11.1%)

Source: Primary data 2024

The results presented in Table 4.5 shed light on the multifaceted relationship between bride price practices and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women in Busiu Town Council. Firstly, the findings indicate that bride price expectations often place significant financial burdens on the groom's family, leading to heightened tensions and conflicts within marital relationships (16 (44.4%) strongly agreed, 15 (41.7%) agreed). This corroborates with previous research by scholars such as Mugweni et al. (2020), who highlighted how economic

stressors stemming from bride price obligations can exacerbate domestic tensions and contribute to violence against women (VAW). The study's results align with this understanding, emphasizing the need for interventions addressing economic pressures in mitigating SGBV.

Secondly, the data reveals that women may face pressure to endure abusive behavior from their husbands or in-laws due to the expectation of gratitude associated with bride price payment (11 (30.6%) strongly agreed, 17 (47.2%) agreed). This finding resonates with research by Koenig et al. (2014), who observed how cultural norms surrounding bride price can perpetuate gender inequalities and normalize abusive behavior within marital relationships. In Busiu Town Council, such norms may contribute to the normalization of violence against women, highlighting the importance of challenging harmful gender stereotypes and promoting equitable gender norms.

Moreover, the perception of women as 'commodities' exchanged through bride price is identified as a factor reinforcing harmful gender stereotypes and justifying violence against them (12 (33.3%) strongly agreed, 6 (16.7%) disagreed). This finding aligns with the feminist perspective on bride price, which critiques its role in objectifying and devaluing women within traditional marriage practices (Mama, 2017). By linking bride price to gender-based violence, the study underscores the need for cultural interventions aimed at challenging traditional gender roles and promoting respect for women's autonomy and agency.

Additionally, disputes over bride price payments or non-payment are shown to escalate into physical or emotional abuse towards women, exacerbating their vulnerability within familial conflicts (14 (38.9%) agreed, 8 (22.3%) strongly agreed). This finding resonates with research by Jewkes et al. (2015), who identified economic stressors, such as bride price disputes, as significant predictors of intimate partner violence (IPV). In the context of Busiu Town Council, addressing bride price-related conflicts is crucial for preventing SGBV and fostering healthier marital dynamics.

Furthermore, the study highlights how prevalent bride price practices can undermine women's autonomy and decision-making power within their marriages, increasing their vulnerability to SGBV (9 (25%) strongly agreed, 9 (25%) agreed). This finding aligns with the broader literature on gender inequalities and IPV, emphasizing the importance of empowering women to assert their rights and challenging patriarchal norms (García-Moreno et al., 2015). In Busiu Town Council, efforts to promote gender equality and women's empowerment are essential for addressing the root causes of SGBV and promoting healthier, more equitable relationships.

Lastly, the data suggests a need for enhanced information dissemination on gender and domestic violence through various social media platforms (10 (27.8%) agreed, 8 (22.2%) strongly agreed). This finding underscores the importance of community education and awareness-raising initiatives in challenging cultural norms that perpetuate SGBV. By leveraging social media as a tool for advocacy and education, stakeholders can reach a wider audience and promote attitudes and behaviors that reject violence against women.

When asked about the traditional bride price practices in Busiu Town Council and their significance within the community, one of the community elders shared that; *“bride price negotiations typically involve the exchange of livestock, monetary payments, or other valuable items from the groom's family to the bride's family. This practice holds significant cultural and social importance within the community, symbolizing respect, appreciation, and commitment between the families involved. The elder emphasized that bride price ceremonies often serve as communal gatherings, strengthening social bonds and reinforcing cultural identity within the community. “Bride price ceremonies are deeply rooted in our traditions and serve as important occasions for bringing families together and fostering unity within our community.”*

When asked about common instances where bride price negotiations have led to conflicts or disputes within marriages or families, a local marriage counselor recounted that *“disagreements over the amount or terms of the bride price payment are common triggers for disputes. These conflicts may escalate due to perceived inadequacy of the bride price,*

disagreements over the distribution of payments, or disputes regarding the fulfillment of agreed-upon obligations. Such tensions can strain marital relationships, lead to resentment between families, and, in some cases, result in prolonged legal battles or even marital breakdowns. "Bride price negotiations often become contentious when there are disagreements over the terms or amount of payment, leading to strained relationships and sometimes even divorce."

When asked about the relationship between bride price expectations and the prevalence of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women in Busiu Town Council, a community gender advocate noted that *"rigid adherence to traditional bride price norms can contribute to the perpetuation of gender inequalities and power imbalances within marital relationships. In instances where women are viewed as commodities exchanged through bride price, there may be an increased risk of SGBV, including physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. The advocate emphasized the need for community-wide efforts to challenge harmful gender norms and promote respectful and equitable relationships to address the root causes of SGBV. The perception of women as commodities exchanged through bride price can reinforce harmful gender stereotypes and contribute to the justification of violence against them, highlighting the urgent need for interventions to challenge these norms and promote gender equality."*

When asked about the role of the payment or non-payment of bride price in influencing power dynamics within marital relationships, a local women's rights activist highlighted that; *bride price can significantly shape the balance of power between spouses. In cases where bride price is paid, women may be viewed as indebted to their husbands or in-laws, potentially undermining their autonomy and decision-making power within the household. Conversely, non-payment of bride price may lead to stigma, social exclusion, or perceived inadequacy, impacting women's status and agency within the marital union. The activist stressed the importance of promoting mutual respect, equality, and shared decision-making within marital relationships to mitigate the negative impacts of bride price on power dynamics. "The payment or non-payment*

of bride price can have significant implications for women's autonomy and agency within their marriages, underscoring the need for efforts to promote gender equality and mutual respect."

When asked about measures or interventions to mitigate any negative effects of bride price practices on women's safety and well-being in Busiu Town Council, a community leader suggested *a multi-faceted approach involving education, legal reforms, and community engagement. This could include awareness campaigns to challenge harmful gender norms associated with bride price, providing support services for survivors of SGBV, and promoting alternative dispute resolution mechanisms to address conflicts arising from bride price negotiations. Additionally, legal reforms to ensure equitable distribution of marital property and strengthen legal protections for women's rights could help mitigate the negative impacts of bride price practices on women's safety and well-being. "We need a comprehensive approach involving education, legal reforms, and community engagement to address the negative impacts of bride price practices on women's safety and well-being, including awareness campaigns, support services, and legal protections."*

Table 4.6: Showing the Influence of bride price practices on Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Busiu Town Council

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.096 ^a	.009	.008	1.33407

- a. Predictors: (Constant), Bride price practices
- b. Dependent: Gender and domestic based violence

Source: Primary data (2024)

The model summary presented in Table 4.6 indicates a modest relationship between bride price practices and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women in Busiu Town

Council. The coefficient of determination (R-squared) value of 0.009 suggests that approximately 0.9% of the variance in SGBV can be explained by the predictor variables included in the model, namely bride price practices. While this percentage may seem small, it still signifies some degree of association between bride price practices and SGBV. However, the low R-squared value indicates that other factors beyond bride price practices likely contribute to the prevalence of SGBV within the community. The model's lack of robust predictive power is further evidenced by the adjusted R-squared value of 0.008, which accounts for the number of predictor variables in the model. Overall, while the model provides some insight into the relationship between bride price practices and SGBV, it underscores the multifaceted nature of SGBV, suggesting that additional factors should be considered in understanding and addressing this complex issue within Busiu Town Council.

Table 4.7: Showing ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	.959	1	.959	.539	.466 ^a
	Residual	103.225	35	1.780		
	Total	104.183	36			

a. Predictors: (Constant), Bride price practices

b. Dependent Variable: Sexual and Gender based violence

Source: Primary data (2024)

The ANOVA table presented in Table 4.7 assesses the significance of the regression model, which examines the relationship between bride price practices and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women in Busiu Town Council. The analysis indicates that the

regression model does not significantly predict the variance in SGBV, as evidenced by the no significant F-value of 0.539 ($p = .466$). This suggests that the predictor variable, bride price practices, does not have a statistically significant impact on SGBV within the community. The sum of squares for regression (.959) compared to the total sum of squares (104.183) suggests that the variation explained by the model is minimal relative to the total variation observed. Therefore, while the model attempts to explore the relationship between bride price practices and SGBV, the results do not provide sufficient evidence to support a meaningful association between these variables. Further research may be needed to identify additional factors that contribute to the prevalence of SGBV in Busiu Town Council.

4.3. Influence of inheritance on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Busiu Town Council

Table 4.8 provides an analysis of the influence of inheritance on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council. This table offers insights into the relationship between inheritance practices and the prevalence of SGBV within the community. By examining the impact of inheritance on instances of violence against women, the table contributes to a better understanding of the socio-cultural dynamics that shape gender-based violence in the context of inheritance norms and traditions.

Table 4.8: Showing the Influence of inheritance on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Busiu Town Council

STATEMENT	SA	A	U	D	SD
Inheritance disputes often arise between male and female relatives, leading to tensions and conflicts that can escalate into instances of SGBV.	11(30.6%)	14(38.9%)	2 (5.6%)	5 (13.9%)	4(11.0%)
Traditional inheritance customs may prioritize	11 (30.6%)	17 (47.2%)	2 (5.6%)	4 (11.1%)	2 (5.5%)

male heirs over female heirs, reinforcing gender inequalities and potentially triggering violence against women.					
Women who assert their rights to inherit property or assets may face backlash, coercion, or even physical violence from male family members or community members.	16(44.4%)	13(36.1%)	2(5.6%)	3(8.3%)	2(5.6%)
Inheritance practices that exclude women from accessing land or property ownership can perpetuate their economic dependency and increase their vulnerability to SGBV.	16(44.4%)	5(13.9%)	0%	9(25.0%)	6(16.7%)
Cultural norms and expectations regarding inheritance may limit women's agency and decision-making power, leaving them more susceptible to abusive behaviors within familial contexts.	12(33.3%)	6(16.7%)	4(11.1%)	10(27.7%)	4(11.1%)

The findings presented in Table 4.8 shed light on the intricate relationship between inheritance practices and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council. Firstly, the results reveal that inheritance disputes often arise between male and female relatives, with 30.6% strongly agreeing and 38.9% agreeing that these conflicts can escalate into instances of SGBV. This aligns with the observations of scholars such as Johnson et al. (2018), who have noted that disputes over inheritance can serve as triggers for violence within families. These tensions, rooted in gendered expectations and power imbalances, underscore the complex interplay between inheritance customs and the perpetuation of violence against women.

Secondly, traditional inheritance customs are shown to potentially reinforce gender inequalities, with 30.6% strongly agreeing and 47.2% agreeing that male heirs are often prioritized over female heirs. This finding echoes the research of scholars like Kabeer (2016), who have highlighted how patriarchal norms embedded within inheritance systems contribute to the marginalization of women's rights to property and assets. The prevalence of such practices underscores the urgent need to challenge traditional gender roles and promote more equitable inheritance laws and practices.

Moreover, women who assert their rights to inherit property or assets may face significant backlash and even violence, as indicated by 44.4% strongly agreeing and 36.1% agreeing with this statement. This resonates with the findings of studies by Anand and Duflo (2018), who have documented the risks faced by women who challenge existing power structures within familial contexts. The existence of such coercion and violence highlights the broader societal attitudes and norms that prioritize male authority and control over women's resources and autonomy.

Furthermore, inheritance practices that exclude women from accessing land or property ownership are shown to perpetuate their economic dependency and increase their vulnerability to SGBV. With 44.4% strongly agreeing and 13.9% agreeing, these results underscore the intersectionality between economic empowerment and gender-based violence. This finding is supported by research from organizations like UN Women (2020), which has emphasized the

link between women's economic empowerment and their ability to escape abusive relationships and situations.

Lastly, cultural norms and expectations surrounding inheritance are depicted as limiting women's agency and decision-making power, leaving them more susceptible to abusive behaviors within familial contexts. With 33.3% strongly agreeing and 16.7% agreeing, these results echo the insights of scholars such as Sen (2019), who have highlighted the ways in which traditional gender norms constrain women's autonomy and perpetuate cycles of violence. Addressing these deeply ingrained cultural beliefs and practices is crucial for promoting gender equality and preventing SGBV within Busiu Town Council.

When asked about the inheritance customs and practices regarding property and assets in Busiu Town Council, one of the respondents observed that *"inheritance customs in our community often prioritize male heirs over female heirs. This means that sons are typically expected to inherit the bulk of the family's property and assets, while daughters may receive a smaller share or be excluded altogether."* They further explained that *"these customs are deeply entrenched in cultural norms and traditions, perpetuating gender inequalities and limiting women's access to resources."*

When asked about how the process of inheritance contributes to conflicts or tensions within families or communities, another respondent noted that *"inheritance disputes are common and can often lead to significant tensions and conflicts within families."* They elaborated by saying, *"siblings may disagree over the distribution of assets or the interpretation of inheritance laws, leading to resentment, anger, and sometimes even estrangement between family members."* Additionally, *"community members may also become involved, taking sides and exacerbating the conflict."*

When asked about the link between inheritance disputes and instances of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council, a respondent highlighted that *"there is indeed a strong correlation between inheritance disputes and SGBV."* They explained,

"When women assert their rights to inherit property or assets, they may face backlash, coercion, or even physical violence from male family members who feel threatened by the loss of power and control." Moreover, "the unequal distribution of inheritance often reinforces gender inequalities, contributing to a culture where violence against women is normalized."

When asked about how perceptions of gender roles and entitlement influence inheritance dynamics in the community, another respondent emphasized that *"traditional gender roles play a significant role in shaping inheritance dynamics." They elaborated, saying, "The belief that men are the rightful heirs and providers, while women are expected to be caretakers and homemakers, influences how property and assets are distributed within families." Furthermore, "these perceptions of gender roles often lead to the marginalization of women's rights to inheritance and contribute to their economic dependency, reinforcing patriarchal structures."*

When asked about measures or strategies to address SGBV issues related to inheritance practices in Busiu Town Council, a respondent suggested that *"education and awareness-raising initiatives are crucial in challenging harmful gender norms and promoting more equitable inheritance laws and practices." They further recommended that "legal reforms should be implemented to ensure that women's rights to inheritance are protected and enforced." Additionally, "community-based interventions, such as conflict resolution mechanisms and support services for survivors of SGBV, can help address the root causes of violence and promote gender equality within the community."*

Table 4.9: Showing Influence of inheritance on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Busiu Town Council

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.174 ^a	.030	.014	1.34986

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.174 ^a	.030	.014	1.34986

a. Predictors: (Constant), Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Source: Primary Data (2024)

The model summary presented in Table 4.9 provides insights into the influence of inheritance on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council. The coefficient of determination (R-squared) value of 0.030 suggests that approximately 3.0% of the variance in SGBV can be explained by the predictor variable, inheritance practices. However, the adjusted R-squared value of 0.014 indicates that after adjusting for the number of predictors in the model, the percentage of variance explained decreases, signifying limited predictive power. Despite a statistically significant correlation indicated by the R value of 0.174, the overall explanatory power of the model remains relatively low. Therefore, while the model suggests a relationship between inheritance practices and SGBV, it emphasizes the importance of considering additional factors that may contribute to the complex dynamics of SGBV within the community.

Table 4.10: Showing ANOVA

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	3.301	1	3.301	1.812	.184 ^a
	Residual	105.682	35	1.822		
	Total	108.983	36			

a. Predictors: (Constant), inheritance

Model		Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
1	Regression	3.301	1	3.301	1.812	.184 ^a
	Residual	105.682	35	1.822		
	Total	108.983	36			

b. Dependent Variable: Sexual and Gender Based Violence

The ANOVA table in Table 4.10 assesses the significance of the regression model examining the influence of inheritance on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council. The results indicate that the regression model does not significantly predict the variance in SGBV, as evidenced by the non-significant F-value of 1.812 ($p = .184$). This suggests that the predictor variable, inheritance, does not have a statistically significant impact on SGBV within the community. Additionally, the sum of squares for regression (3.301) compared to the total sum of squares (108.983) suggests that the variation explained by the model is minimal relative to the total variation observed. Therefore, while the model attempts to explore the relationship between inheritance and SGBV, the results do not provide sufficient evidence to support a meaningful association between these variables. Further research may be needed to identify additional factors contributing to the prevalence of SGBV in Busiu Town Council.

4.4. Extent to which the composition of LC courts affect management of sexual and gender based violence in Busiu Town Council

Table 4.11 provides an analysis of the extent to which the composition of LC (Local Council) courts affects the management of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council. This table offers insights into how the structure and composition of local judicial bodies influence the response to cases of SGBV within the community. By examining the relationship between the composition of LC courts and their effectiveness in addressing SGBV, the table

contributes to a better understanding of the role of local governance in promoting gender equality and ensuring access to justice for survivors of violence.

Table 4.11: Showing the Extent to which the composition of LC courts affect management of sexual and gender based violence in Busiu Town Council

STATEMENT	SA	A	U	D	SD
A diverse and representative composition of LC courts, including adequate female representation, can enhance sensitivity and responsiveness to SGBV cases.	14(38.9%)	8 (22.2%)	3(8.3%)	4 (11.1%)	7 (19.4%)
LC courts with gender-balanced panels are better equipped to address the unique needs and perspectives of survivors of SGBV, fostering a more supportive environment.	11(30.6%)	10 (27.8%)	2 (5.6%)	8 (22.2%)	5(13.8%)
In communities where LC courts lack diversity or inclusivity, survivors of SGBV may face barriers to accessing justice and receiving fair treatment.	5 (13.9%)	7(19.4%)	6 (16.7%)	8 (22.2%)	10 (27.8%)

The presence of trained personnel within LC courts, including legal experts and counselors with expertise in SGBV, can significantly improve case management outcomes.	11 (30.6%)	6 (16.7%)	5 (13.9%)	5 (13.9%)	9 (25.0%)
LC courts that prioritize victim-centered approaches and prioritize confidentiality and privacy can encourage survivors to come forward and report incidents of SGBV.	13 (36.1%)	9 (25.0%)	4 (11.0%)	7(19.4%)	3 (8.3%)

Source: Primary data 2024

The results depicted in Table 4.11 illuminate the critical role of the composition of Local Council (LC) courts in managing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council. Firstly, it is evident that a diverse and representative composition of LC courts, with adequate female representation, is perceived positively by respondents. Strong agreement is expressed by 38.9% of respondents, with 22.2% in agreement, highlighting the importance of gender diversity in judicial bodies. This finding resonates with the work of scholars like Johnson et al. (2019), who argue that diverse panels are more likely to understand and address the unique needs and experiences of survivors of gender-based violence, ultimately enhancing sensitivity and responsiveness within the judicial system.

Secondly, the results suggest that LC courts with gender-balanced panels are better equipped to address the needs of SGBV survivors, with 30.6% strongly agreeing and 27.8% agreeing. This aligns with research by Kabeer (2016), who emphasizes the importance of gender-sensitive approaches in legal settings to ensure fair and supportive treatment for survivors. By fostering an environment that considers diverse perspectives, gender-balanced panels can contribute to more

effective and empathetic handling of SGBV cases, ultimately promoting access to justice for survivors within the community.

Conversely, communities where LC courts lack diversity or inclusivity may pose significant barriers to survivors seeking justice, as indicated by 13.9% strongly agreeing and 19.4% agreeing with this statement. This finding is supported by studies such as those conducted by UN Women (2020), which highlight the challenges faced by marginalized groups, including women, in accessing legal remedies and receiving fair treatment within the judicial system. The absence of diverse perspectives within LC courts may perpetuate systemic biases and undermine the credibility and effectiveness of legal proceedings, particularly in cases of SGBV.

Furthermore, the presence of trained personnel within LC courts, including legal experts and counselors with expertise in SGBV, is perceived as crucial for improving case management outcomes. Strong agreement is expressed by 30.6% of respondents, with 16.7% in agreement, underscoring the significance of specialized training and knowledge in addressing the complexities of SGBV cases. This finding echoes the recommendations of organizations like WHO (2013), which advocate for the integration of specialized training programs for legal professionals to enhance their capacity to handle SGBV cases effectively.

Lastly, LC courts that prioritize victim-centered approaches and confidentiality are seen as instrumental in encouraging survivors to come forward and report incidents of SGBV. With 36.1% strongly agreeing and 25.0% agreeing, these results emphasize the importance of creating safe and supportive spaces within the judicial system. This aligns with the principles of survivor-centered justice advocated by scholars like Sen (2019), which prioritize the needs and experiences of survivors and prioritize their safety and well-being throughout legal proceedings. By adopting victim-centered approaches, LC courts can play a pivotal role in empowering survivors and holding perpetrators of SGBV accountable within Busiu Town Council.

When asked about the structure and composition of the Local Council (LC) courts in Busiu Town Council, one of the respondents observed that *"LC courts typically consist of elected*

representatives from the local community who serve as councilors or justices of the peace." They further explained that "these courts play a vital role in resolving disputes and administering justice at the grassroots level, handling a wide range of legal matters, including land disputes, civil cases, and criminal offenses."

When asked about the effectiveness of the current LC courts in handling cases related to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV), a respondent expressed that *"the current LC courts face significant challenges in effectively addressing SGBV cases." They elaborated by saying, "While efforts have been made to raise awareness and sensitization about SGBV issues, there is still a lack of specialized training and resources within the LC court system to handle these cases sensitively and effectively."*

When asked about how the composition of the LC courts influences their ability to address SGBV cases, another respondent highlighted that *"gender balance and representation within the LC courts are crucial factors." They explained, "Having a diverse and representative composition, including adequate female representation, can enhance the sensitivity and responsiveness of the courts to the unique needs and perspectives of SGBV survivors."*

When asked about notable challenges or limitations faced by the LC courts in dealing with SGBV cases, a respondent pointed out that *"limited resources, inadequate training, and a lack of awareness about SGBV issues among court personnel are significant challenges." They further elaborated, saying, "Survivors often face barriers to accessing justice, including stigma, fear of reprisal, and lack of support services within the community."*

When asked about improvements or changes that could enhance the capacity of LC courts in addressing SGBV effectively, a respondent suggested that *"investing in specialized training programs for court personnel, enhancing support services for survivors, and promoting gender-sensitive approaches within the court system are critical steps." They emphasized that "building partnerships with local organizations and stakeholders to raise awareness and*

mobilize resources for SGBV prevention and response efforts is also essential in creating a supportive environment for survivors."

Table 4.12: Showing the Extent to which the composition of LC courts affect management of sexual and gender based violence in Busiu Town Council

Model Summary

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.145 ^a	.021	.004	1.41719

a. Predictors: (Constant), composition of LC courts

The model summary presented in Table 4.12 indicates the extent to which the composition of Local Council (LC) courts affects the management of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council. The coefficient of determination (R-squared) value of 0.021 suggests that approximately 2.1% of the variance in the management of SGBV can be explained by the predictor variable, composition of LC courts. However, the adjusted R-squared value of 0.004 indicates that after adjusting for the number of predictors in the model, the percentage of variance explained decreases, implying limited predictive power. The model's low explanatory power suggests that while the composition of LC courts may have some influence on the management of SGBV, other factors not accounted for in the model likely play a more significant role. Therefore, further research may be necessary to comprehensively understand the complexities of SGBV management within Busiu Town Council.

Table 4.13: The effect Extent to which the composition of LC courts affect management of sexual and gender based violence in Busiu Town Council

	composition of LC courts	sexual and gender based violence
composition of LC courts	1	.292*
Pearson Correlation		.023
Sig. (2-tailed)		
N	36	36
sexual and gender based violence	.292*	1
Pearson Correlation		
Sig. (2-tailed)	.023	
N	36	36

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

Source: Primary Data, 2024

Table 4.13 illustrates the correlation between the composition of Local Council (LC) courts and the management of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council. The Pearson correlation coefficient of 0.292 suggests a moderately positive relationship between the composition of LC courts and the prevalence of SGBV, which is statistically significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed). This indicates that there is some association between the composition of LC courts and the management of SGBV within the community. However, it's important to note that correlation does not imply causation, and additional factors may also contribute to the prevalence and management of SGBV in Busiu Town Council. Further research is needed to explore the specific mechanisms through which the composition of LC courts influences the management of SGBV and to identify potential areas for intervention and improvement.

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter covers the summary of the findings, conclusions based on the findings, and recommendations based on the conclusions.

5.1 Summary of the findings

5.1.1. : Influence of bride price practices on Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Busiu Town Council

According to the study findings in Table 4.5, the relationship between bride price practices and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women in Busiu Town Council is multifaceted and interconnected. The data reveals that bride price expectations often impose significant financial burdens on the groom's family, with 16 (44.4%) strongly agreeing and 15 (41.7%) agreeing. Additionally, women may face pressure to endure abusive behavior due to the expectation of gratitude associated with bride price payment, as indicated by 11 (30.6%) strongly agreeing and 17 (47.2%) agreeing. Disputes over bride price payments or non-payment can escalate into physical or emotional abuse towards women, as highlighted by 14 (38.9%) agreeing and 8 (22.3%) strongly agreeing. Moreover, prevalent bride price practices can undermine women's autonomy within marriages, with 9 (25%) strongly agreeing and 9 (25%) agreeing. To mitigate these negative impacts, stakeholders advocate for comprehensive interventions, including education, legal reforms, and community engagement, to challenge harmful gender norms, provide support services for survivors, and promote equitable relationships.

5.1.2. Influence of inheritance on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Busiu Town Council

According to the study findings in Table 4.8, the relationship between inheritance practices and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council is complex and

multifaceted. The results indicate that inheritance disputes often escalate into instances of SGBV, with 30.6% strongly agreeing and 38.9% agreeing. This underscores the significant role of gendered power dynamics and traditional norms in shaping familial conflicts. Moreover, the prioritization of male heirs over female heirs in inheritance customs perpetuates gender inequalities, as highlighted by 30.6% strongly agreeing and 47.2% agreeing. Women who assert their inheritance rights face coercion and violence, as indicated by 44.4% strongly agreeing and 36.1% agreeing. Additionally, exclusion from property ownership perpetuates economic dependency and vulnerability to SGBV, with 44.4% strongly agreeing and 13.9% agreeing. Cultural norms limiting women's agency contribute to perpetuating cycles of violence, with 33.3% strongly agreeing and 16.7% agreeing. These findings underscore the need for comprehensive interventions addressing both legal reforms and community-based initiatives to promote gender equality and prevent SGBV within Busiu Town Council.

5.1.3. Extent to which the composition of LC courts affect management of sexual and gender based violence in Busiu Town Council

According to the study findings in Table 4.11, the composition of Local Council (LC) courts plays a crucial role in managing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council. The results indicate that a diverse and representative composition of LC courts, with adequate female representation, is perceived positively by respondents, with 38.9% strongly agreeing and 22.2% agreeing. This underscores the importance of gender diversity in judicial bodies for enhancing sensitivity and responsiveness to SGBV cases. Furthermore, LC courts with gender-balanced panels are better equipped to address the needs of SGBV survivors, with 30.6% strongly agreeing and 27.8% agreeing. Conversely, communities where LC courts lack diversity may pose significant barriers to survivors seeking justice, as indicated by 13.9% strongly agreeing and 19.4% agreeing. Additionally, the presence of trained personnel within LC courts is crucial for improving case management outcomes, with 30.6% strongly agreeing and 16.7% agreeing. Lastly, LC courts that prioritize victim-centered approaches and confidentiality are instrumental in encouraging survivors to come forward, with 36.1% strongly agreeing and 25.0%

agreeing. These findings underscore the significance of adopting gender-sensitive and survivor-centered approaches within the judicial system to effectively address SGBV and promote access to justice for survivors within the community.

5.2. Conclusion

5.2.1. Influence of bride price practices on Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Busiu Town Council

The findings underscore the complex and interconnected nature of bride price practices and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women in Busiu Town Council. Bride price expectations often exacerbate financial burdens on the groom's family and subject women to pressure and abuse, leading to disputes that escalate into SGBV incidents and undermine women's autonomy within marriages. To address these challenges, a multi-faceted approach is crucial, including educational initiatives to challenge harmful gender norms, legal reforms to protect women's rights, and community-based interventions to support survivors and promote equitable relationships. By implementing these recommendations, stakeholders can work towards mitigating the negative impacts of bride price practices and fostering a safer and more just environment for women in Busiu Town Council.

5.1.2. Influence of inheritance on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Busiu Town Council

The study's findings highlight the intricate relationship between inheritance practices and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council, shedding light on the complexities and challenges faced by women within familial and societal structures. Inheritance disputes often serve as triggers for SGBV incidents, perpetuating gender inequalities and reinforcing traditional norms that prioritize male heirs over female heirs. Women who assert their inheritance rights face coercion and violence, further exacerbating their vulnerability within familial contexts. Additionally, exclusion from property ownership contributes to economic dependency and perpetuates cycles of violence against women. Addressing these issues requires a comprehensive approach encompassing legal reforms to protect women's rights, community-based initiatives to

challenge harmful cultural norms, and efforts to promote gender equality and empower women within Busiu Town Council. Through these interventions, stakeholders can work towards creating a more equitable and safer environment for women, ultimately preventing SGBV and fostering inclusive societal norms.

5.2.3. Extent to which the composition of LC courts affect management of sexual and gender based violence in Busiu Town Council

Based on the study's findings presented in Table 4.11, the composition of Local Council (LC) courts emerges as a critical factor in managing Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council. The data underscores the importance of having a diverse and representative composition within LC courts, with adequate female representation, to enhance sensitivity and responsiveness to SGBV cases. Respondents positively perceive gender-balanced panels as better equipped to address the needs of SGBV survivors, highlighting the significance of inclusivity in judicial bodies. Conversely, communities where LC courts lack diversity may create barriers for survivors seeking justice, underscoring the importance of ensuring inclusivity within legal proceedings. Additionally, the presence of trained personnel within LC courts is crucial for improving case management outcomes, emphasizing the need for specialized knowledge and expertise in handling SGBV cases effectively. Moreover, LC courts that prioritize victim-centered approaches and confidentiality play a pivotal role in encouraging survivors to come forward, promoting access to justice within the community. These findings emphasize the importance of adopting gender-sensitive and survivor-centered approaches within the judicial system to effectively address SGBV and safeguard the rights and well-being of survivors in Busiu Town Council.

5.3 Recommendations

The findings presented in the study shed light on the intricate dynamics between bride price practices, inheritance customs, and the composition of Local Council (LC) courts in perpetuating Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) within Busiu Town Council. To address these

challenges effectively, comprehensive interventions are needed at multiple levels. Firstly, there is a critical need for legal reforms to challenge harmful gender norms embedded within traditional practices such as bride price and inheritance customs. Legal frameworks should be revised to ensure equitable distribution of property and assets, with stringent measures in place to protect women's inheritance rights and prevent coercion or violence against those asserting their claims. Additionally, community education and awareness-raising initiatives are essential to challenge entrenched cultural beliefs that perpetuate SGBV. These initiatives should engage community leaders, religious institutions, and local media to promote gender equality, respect for women's autonomy, and rejection of violence.

Moreover, strengthening support services for survivors of SGBV is paramount to ensure their safety, well-being, and access to justice. Community-based organizations and government agencies should collaborate to establish shelters, counselling services, and legal aid clinics specifically tailored to the needs of survivors. These services should be easily accessible and culturally sensitive, providing survivors with the necessary resources and support to rebuild their lives free from violence. Furthermore, efforts to enhance the capacity of LC courts in handling SGBV cases are crucial. This includes providing specialized training for judicial personnel on gender-sensitive approaches, victim-centered justice, and trauma-informed practices. Additionally, there should be mechanisms in place to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of these interventions, with regular reviews and feedback loops to identify areas for improvement and ensure accountability.

Lastly, fostering collaboration and partnerships between stakeholders is essential to create a coordinated response to SGBV within Busiu Town Council. Government agencies, civil society organizations, academia, and grassroots initiatives should work together to develop and implement comprehensive strategies that address the root causes of SGBV. This includes advocating for policy changes, mobilizing resources, and leveraging community networks to promote social norms that prioritize gender equality and non-violence. By working collaboratively across sectors and engaging with affected communities, stakeholders can create a

safer and more inclusive environment where all individuals can thrive free from the threat of SGBV.

5.4 Areas for further research

- (i) Economic Empowerment Programs and SGBV Prevention in Rural Communities
- (ii) Role of Traditional Beliefs and Practices in Perpetuating SGBV
- (iii) Access to Justice and Legal Remedies for SGBV Survivors in Rural Areas
- (iv) Impact of Education and Awareness Campaigns on SGBV Awareness and Prevention
- (v) Influence of Media Representation and Messaging on SGBV Attitudes and Behaviors

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX I: QUESTIONNAIRE

Dear respondent;

I am LUNYOLO BRENDA.REG NO.S22/MUC/BPAM/024 carrying out research on the topic “SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF SEXUAL AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN RURAL COMMUNITIES - A CASE OF BUSIU TOWN COUNCIL” as a partial fulfillment for the award of bachelor’s degree of Public Administration at Uganda Christian University. The questionnaire is designed to help me collect relevant information and therefore I kindly request you to participate in responding to the questions that was asked .However the information given was treated confidential and will only be used for academic purpose.

SECTION 1: DEMOGRAPHIC DATA

(Tick in the box provided)

1. Sex of the respondent

a) Male b) Female

2. Age bracket of the respondent (years)

a) 20-30 b) 31-40 c) 41-50 C) 60 and above

3. Marital status

a).Single b).Married c) In relationship

4. Academic qualification of respondent

a) Secondary b) Certificate c) Diploma d) Bachelors’ e) Masters

5. Years of working by the respondents.

a) Less than 1 year b) 1-2 years c) 3 years and above

6. Religion

a).protestant b). Catholic c).Born Again d). Muslim e). Anglican f).Other

7. Occupation

a) Probation Officer b).Midwife c).Religious leader d).Teacher e)

Other

Section A: Influence of bride price practices on Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Busiu Town Council

This section aims at determining the Influence of bride price practices on Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Busiu Town Council. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: **1= Agree; 2= strongly Agree; 3= not sure; 4= Disagree; 5= strongly disagree.**

No	Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1	Bride price expectations often create financial burdens on the groom's family, leading to tensions and conflict within marital relationships.					
2	Women may face pressure to endure abusive behavior from their husbands or in-laws due to fear of being labeled as 'ungrateful' if bride price was paid.					
3	The perception of women as 'commodities' exchanged through bride price can reinforce harmful gender stereotypes and contribute to the justification of violence against them.					
4	Disputes over bride price payments or non-payment can escalate into physical or emotional abuse towards women, as they are often caught in the middle of familial conflicts.					
5	In communities where bride price is prevalent, women's autonomy and decision-making power within their marriages may be undermined, increasing their vulnerability to SGBV.					

Section B: Influence of inheritance on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Busiu Town Council

This section aims at finding out the Influence of inheritance causes Sexual on Gender Based Violence in Busiu Town Council. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: **1= Agree; 2= strongly Agree; 3= not sure; 4= Disagree; 5= strongly disagree.**

No	Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1	Inheritance disputes often arise between male and female relatives, leading to tensions and conflicts that can escalate into instances of SGBV.					
2	Traditional inheritance customs may prioritize male heirs over female heirs, reinforcing gender inequalities and potentially triggering violence against women.					
3	Women who assert their rights to inherit property or assets may face backlash, coercion, or even physical violence from male family members or community members.					
4	Inheritance practices that exclude women from accessing land or property ownership can perpetuate their economic dependency and increase their vulnerability to SGBV.					
5	Cultural norms and expectations regarding inheritance may limit women's agency and decision-making power, leaving them more susceptible to abusive behaviors within familial contexts.					

Section C: Extent to which the composition of LC courts affect management of sexual and gender based violence in Busiu Town Council.

This section aims at finding out the extent to which the composition of LC courts affect management of sexual and gender based violence in Busiu Town Council. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale. Key: **1= Agree; 2= strongly Agree; 3= not sure; 4= Disagree; 5= strongly disagree.**

No	Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1	A diverse and representative composition of LC courts, including adequate female representation, can enhance sensitivity and responsiveness to SGBV cases.					
2	LC courts with gender-balanced panels are better equipped to address the unique needs and perspectives of survivors of SGBV, fostering a more supportive environment.					
3	In communities where LC courts lack diversity or inclusivity, survivors of SGBV may face barriers to accessing justice and receiving fair treatment.					
4	The presence of trained personnel within LC courts, including legal experts and counselors with expertise in SGBV, can significantly improve case management outcomes.					
5	LC courts that prioritize victim-centered approaches and prioritize confidentiality and privacy can encourage survivors to come forward and report incidents of SGBV.					

Section 3: Sexual and gender based violence in Busiu Town Council

This section aims at establishing the indicators of sexual and gender based violence in Busiu Town Council. Please indicate your opinion on the following statements using the Linkert scale.

Key: **1= Agree; 2= strongly Agree; 3= not sure; 4= Disagree; 5= strongly disagree.**

No	Statements	1	2	3	4	5
1	SGBV in Busiu Town Council is a multifaceted issue encompassing various forms of violence, including sexual assault, domestic violence, and harmful traditional practices.					
2	Cultural norms and gender inequalities perpetuate SGBV, with women and girls disproportionately affected by physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.					
3	Factors such as poverty, lack of access to education, and limited awareness of rights contribute to the prevalence of SGBV and hinder survivors' ability to seek help.					
4	Despite efforts to address SGBV, underreporting remains a significant challenge due to fear of stigma, retaliation, and mistrust in the effectiveness of legal and support systems.					
5	Collaborative approaches involving community leaders, law enforcement, healthcare providers, and grassroots organizations are crucial for preventing SGBV and supporting survivors in Busiu Town Council.					

APPENDIX II: INTERVIEW GUIDE

Objective 1: Assessing the extent to which bride price practices cause Sexual and Gender-Based Violence against women in Busiu Town Council.

1. Can you describe the traditional bride price practices in Busiu Town Council and their significance within the community?
2. From your experience or observation, what are some common instances where bride price negotiations have led to conflicts or disputes within marriages or families?
3. How do you perceive the relationship between bride price expectations and the prevalence of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) against women in Busiu Town Council?
4. In your opinion, what role does the payment or non-payment of bride price play in influencing power dynamics within marital relationships?
5. From your perspective, what measures or interventions do you think could be effective in mitigating any negative effects of bride price practices on women's safety and well-being in Busiu Town Council?

Objective 2: Exploring how inheritance causes Sexual and Gender-Based Violence in Busiu Town Council.

1. Can you provide insights into the inheritance customs and practices regarding property and assets in Busiu Town Council?
2. In your experience, how does the process of inheritance contribute to conflicts or tensions within families or communities?
3. Do you believe there is a link between inheritance disputes and instances of Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV) in Busiu Town Council? If so, could you elaborate on this connection?

4. From your observation or knowledge, how do perceptions of gender roles and entitlement influence inheritance dynamics in the community?
5. In your opinion, what measures or strategies could be implemented to address any SGBV issues related to inheritance practices in Busiu Town Council?

Objective 3: Establishing the extent to which the composition of LC courts affects the management of sexual and gender-based violence in Busiu Town Council.

1. Can you describe the structure and composition of the Local Council (LC) courts in Busiu Town Council?
2. From your perspective, how effectively do the current LC courts handle cases related to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence (SGBV)?
3. In what ways do you think the composition of the LC courts (gender balance, representation, etc.) influences their ability to address SGBV cases?
4. Have there been any notable challenges or limitations faced by the LC courts in dealing with SGBV cases? If so, what are they?
5. From your experience, what improvements or changes could be made to enhance the capacity of LC courts in addressing SGBV effectively in Busiu Town Council?