

**THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN ADDRESSING GENDER BASED
VIOLENCE IN KAWEMPE DIVISION**

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DECLARATION

I, Katushabe Charlotte, hereby declare that this dissertation is my original work and was written entirely by me under the supervision of my supervisor and has never been submitted to another institution for consideration for any award.

Signature.......... Date.....20th sept 2024.....

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APPROVAL

This is to certify that this dissertation has been submitted by KATUSHABE CHARLOTTE for examination in partial fulfillment for the award of a Bachelors Degree of Social Work and Social Administration (BSWASA) at Uganda Christian University with approval as the University Supervisor

Signed: *Ellen*

Date: *20th Sept 2024*

MADAM ELLEN ASIIMWE KASOMA

DEDICATION

I dedicate this study to my parents, brothers and sisters and every one that has taught me and molded me from childhood to adulthood through offering support and guidance that has enabled me reach this far in my academic journey. Above all, I give thanks to Almighty God for his direction and assistance in helping me finish this dissertation.

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ABSTRACT

The study aimed at out the role of social workers in addressing Gender Based violence in Kawempe division. It specifically focused on; establishing the different forms of Gender Based Violence in Kawempe Division, evaluating the support services provided by social workers to gender based violence victims in Kawempe and examining issues that issues that social workers face in handling gender-based violence in Kawempe division.

The study was carried out using a descriptive survey research design where both quantitative and qualitative research approaches were also used. The data was collected using questionnaires and interviews during the data collection, both purposive, convenience and snowball sampling methods were used. A total of 63 respondents and the key informants participated in research .

According to the study findings, gender-based violence is due difficulties such as unemployment, poverty, corruption ,polygamy and bride price . This has mostly affected women especially those that go into marriage at an early age. This has caused them to suffer from sexual violence emotional, economic and physical violence. These issues have been exacerbated by issues such as lack of education about gender-based violence and strict laws among others. The government should therefore improve its efforts in various fields such as gender-based violence education to prevent women from being abused hence improving on their health.

Finally, the study therefore recommends focusing on underlying causes of gender based violence because the role of social workers is aimed at solving violence . interventions and programs that fight Gender Based Violence should be implemented after research is carried out to ensure its successful.Goverment services and resources should also be brought closer to the people of Kawempe division to help fight Gender Based Violence

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This study probes the role of social workers in addressing gender-based violence within Kawempe division. This chapter outlines the background to the study, states the problem statement, purpose and aims, research questions, justification, significance, and the conceptual framework. 1.1

1.1 Background of the Study

GBV is one of those pervasive concerns that have increasingly received much international focus in the past recent years. Social workers play a very critical role in addressing GBV through support and provision of services to the survivors of such violence. Indeed, internationally, through the raising of awareness by social workers, advocacy, counseling, and policy formulation, the International Federation of Social Workers has noted that social workers have a very important position in combating GBV. IFSW, 2020. In a study by the World Health Organization, it was found that globally, about 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence in their lifetime (WHO, 2021). This underscores the pressing need for effective interventions, and social workers are instrumental in implementing solutions to prevent and respond to GBV.

Gender-based violence is an international problem, affecting innumerable people both young and old regardless of one's gender and social economics. Social workers manage GBV through various means of interventions and service provisions. The International Federation of Social Workers acknowledges that the role of social workers in GBV is critical in prevention and responding to GBV, with approximately 92% of nations across the world having their social workers actively involved in actions against GBV. IFSW (2017). Their experience in counseling, advocacy, and community involvement also have great contributions to helping victims and survivors of violence.

According to the International Federation of Social Workers in a conducted study, social workers carry out the front-lining work in the world's response to gender-based

violence; they offer the much-needed support, counseling, and provision of advocacy and empowerment for violated women. An approximate 85 percent of social workers around the world are far and near into interventions concerning gender-based violence. IFSW (2018).

In Africa, GBV is a greater challenge because it is associated with some cultural factors and, as well, with some resource challenges. Their contributions to survivor empowerment and social change cannot go unnoticed. The AU recognizes this important role played by social workers in fighting GBV; hence, stakeholders are encouraged to coordinate efforts in addressing the vice across the continent (African Union 2019). Research carried out by UNFPA indicates that close to 45% of women aged between 15 and 49 years in sub-Saharan Africa have experienced either physical or sexual violence (UNFPA, 2020). It is in this regard that other services offered to these survivors are comprehensive with social workers in the front line and advocating for the needed reforms for the prevention of future occurrences.

Social workers have also been on the frontline in combating gender-based violence, which is still very high on the continent. In fact, 85% of reported and handled cases of GBV at different levels of intervention in Africa include one, African Union 2019. This cultural sensitivity, combined with a profound grasp of the local context, has gone a long way in addressing, sadly, the complex nature of violence against women and girls within African societies.

In the context of Uganda, social workers assume a crucial position in tackling gender-based violence (GBV) within community settings, notably within the Kawempe Division. The Uganda National NGO Forum acknowledges the contributions of social workers in delivering psychosocial support, legal aid, and referral services to individuals who have experienced GBV (UNNGOF, 2021). According to a report from the Uganda Bureau of Statistics, about 56% of women in Uganda have at one point in their lifetime faced violence (UBOS, 2018). It is on this note that social workers in Kawempe Division closely work with the probation and social welfare offices to strengthen protection systems for survivors, thus giving them access to justice and other comprehensive support services.

The social worker is basically an individual highly trained in the art and science of helping people, families, and even the community to get over and solve some of the common problems of life. They work in close relation with schools, hospitals, and other agencies offering social services, providing services like counseling, advocacy, or assistance. Social workers, according to the National Association of Social Workers, 2020, engage in direct practice, policy development, and mobilization on a wide range of critical social issues, such as mental health, child welfare, substance abuse, and poverty.

GBV is a harmful act directed at a person based on one's gender identity. It occurs in many forms, which include physical, sexual, psychological, and economic abuses. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees 2019, GBV "is violence that is directed against a person because of their gender or violence that affects persons of a particular gender disproportionately." Such violence emanates from inequalities in gender and power relations present between the genders within both the public and private domains.

It is the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or a group, either causing or highly likely to cause injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment, or deprivation. According to the World Health Organization, 2020, the WHO classifies violence under the three major categories, which include self-directed, interpersonal, and collective violence. It is hence regarded as a public health issue of high concern because of its outcomes not only to the individual involved but also at community levels.

Workers are persons who work in any capacity, whether paid or not, part-time or full-time, within the different economic sectors. According to the International Labour Organization (2020), workers can be defined as "all people who are of working age, who are engaged in an economic activity, whether for pay or profit, or in unpaid contributing family work." Actually, workers are the linchpin of the economy's system.

1.2 Problem statement

Social work is an international service given to victims of gender-based violence. It raises awareness of the problem and its prevention, and works in co-creation with even more important stakeholders. GBV is a global phenomenon that cuts across borders, leaving irreparable scars on individuals, families, and the community at large (Nakalyowa, 2012). Indeed, social workers are vital towards support provision, therapy, and safety planning among the survivors to prevent subsequent harm (Chilufya, 2023).

However, even as social workers are on the ground, one sees an insurmountable gap that exists when there is no clear recognition of the overall scope of their functions and performances concerning matters of addressing gender-based violence Edleson et al 2015. Social workers often find themselves at the mercy of being less recognized or poorly appreciated, either by their institutions or society in general. Aside from that, they also face other challenges, such as lack of resources, inadequate training, and scarcity of coordinated mechanisms (Azevedo, Carvalho, & Carvalhais, 2018). This circumstance has frustrated many of the social workers in Kawempe Division; hence, most of them may be thrown off track to act constructively against gender-based violence. In this study, the role of the social worker in addressing gender-based violence issues in Kawempe Division through understanding its prevalence and forms will be sought to be established.

1.3 Purpose of the study

The study was designed to determine the role of social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe Division.

1.4 Objectives of the study

- i. To establish the different forms of gender-based violence prevalent in Kawempe Division.
- ii. To evaluate the support services provided by social workers to gender-based victims in Kawempe Division.
- iii. Issues that social workers face in handling a case of gender-based violence in Kawempe Division.

1.5 Research questions

- i. What are the different forms of gender-based violence prevalent in Kawempe Division?
- ii. What are the support services provided by social workers to gender-based victims in Kawempe Division?
- iii. What are the challenges faced by social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe Division?

1.6 Scope of the study

The scope of the study will cover three dimensions that is; content, geographical and time and these are discussed in detail below.

1.6.1 Content scope

The study will focus on establishing the different forms of gender-based violence prevalent, evaluating the support services provided by social workers to gender-based victims and identifying the challenges faced by social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe Division.

1.6.2 Geographical scope

This study will be carried out in Kawempe division located in the Northern part of Kampala and it's one of the five divisions that make up Kampala city. Kawempe Division is chosen as a case for this study due to its high prevalence of gender-based violence incidents and the unique socio-economic challenges faced by its residents.

1.6.3 Time scope

Data for this study will be collected over a period of two months from July to August 2024. The review of the report and documents will focus at a range of five years that is 2019 to 2023 since this period will help in determining the prevalence of gender based violence in relation to the what the social workers have done to curb this vice down for the past five years.

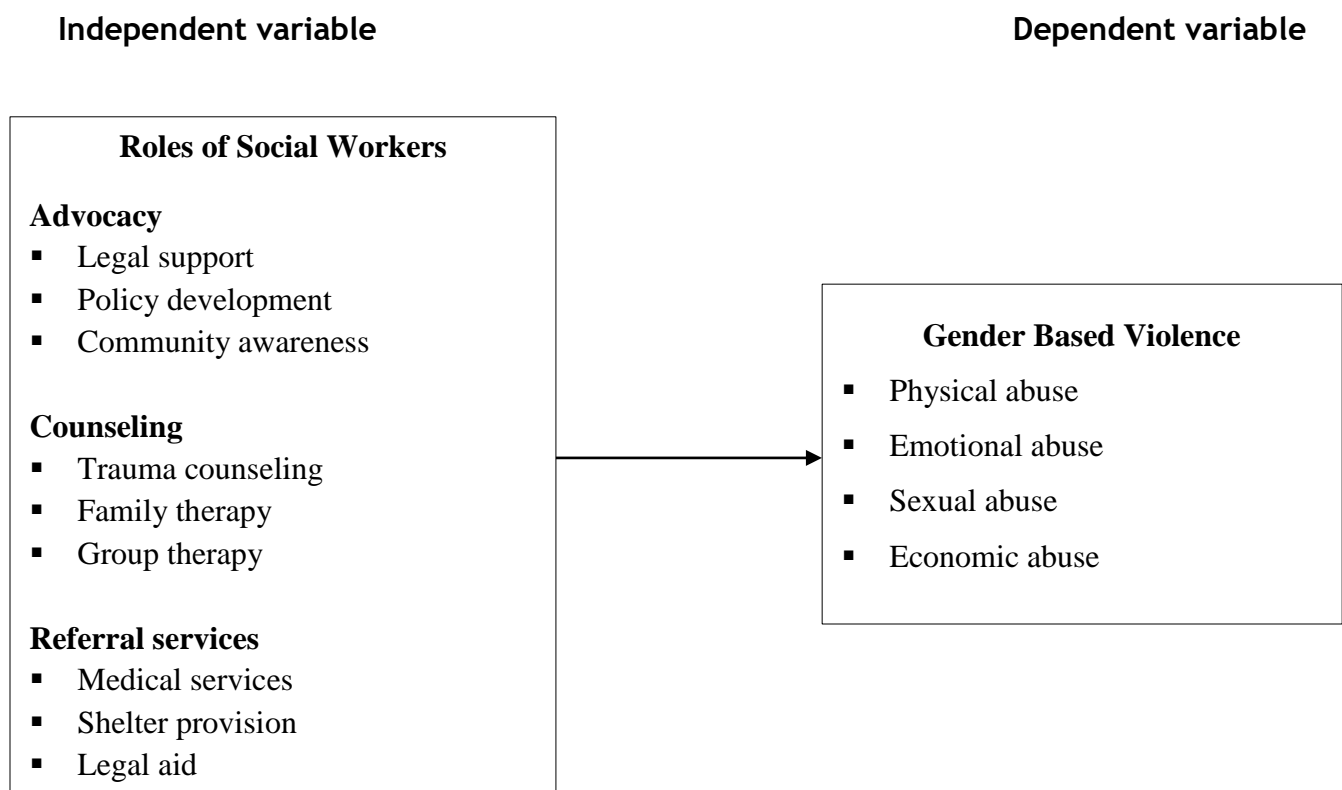
1.7 Justification of the study

The justification of this study lies in the urgent need to address the pervasive issue of gender-based violence in Kawempe Division, which significantly impacts the physical,

emotional, and economic well-being of victims. Despite numerous interventions, there remains a gap in understanding the specific roles and effectiveness of social workers in mitigating this violence. By examining the dimensions of advocacy, counseling, and referral services provided by social workers, this study aims to fill this research gap, offering valuable insights into enhancing support systems and policy development to better protect and empower victims.

1.8 Conceptual Framework

Figure 1: Conceptual framework



Source: *Adopted from Costa (2024) and modified by the researcher (2024)*

The conceptual framework of this study posits that the roles of social workers, encompassing advocacy (legal support, policy development, community awareness), counseling (trauma counseling, family therapy, group therapy), and referral services (medical services, shelter provision, legal aid), directly impact the reduction of gender-

based violence, which includes physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse. Additionally, community support systems serve as a moderating variable, potentially enhancing or diminishing the effectiveness of social workers' interventions in addressing gender-based violence.

1.9 Significance of the study

Social workers, with their required knowledge, awareness, and empathy that help them support the survivor and further the healing process, will continue to play a very important role in addressing gender-based violence. The study shall highlight the importance of interventions conducted by social workers in providing psychosocial support, counseling, and rehabilitation to survivors will also enable social workers to be more recognized by stakeholders and given the means to empower them in the fight against gender-based violence.

These results will complement the government's work to strengthen existing policies and practices on gender-based violence in the Kawempe Division. This study will also advocate that evidence-based changes be made within the legislation, enforcement, and funding of programs in social work that prevent violence, support victims, and bring offenders to account. The study is important for helping the government take necessary measures, which ascertain that priorities of intervention on issues regarding gender-based violence are executed and appropriate resources are assigned to strengthen the social work effort.

This is important to the authorities in Kawempe Division, for it elaborates ways through which social workers can be better helped by local government agencies to handle gender-based violence. The results will show how partnerships, referral mechanisms, and coordination are effective and important in providing the best practices for effective intervention. The local authorities shall recognize the partners of the social workers and place them in a better position with strengthened roles and responsibilities to comprehensively address issues of gender-based violence within their division. This will give regional and national-level policymakers some help and provide evidence-based results for the justification of critical reforms in the policies.

The focus on the centrality of the social worker in the interventions in cases of gender-based violence could arguably have the effect of persuading policymakers to include social work-based interventions in general legislative and strategic mechanisms. Improved policies will enable social workers to be effective, bridge the gaps in services, and meet the needs of various survivors to promote gender equality and social transformation.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This chapter will discuss literature that has been written, along with theories used by other researchers that are similar or widely related to this research, and include the role or work of social workers in solving or handling gender-based violence. The organization of the literature will be around the specific objectives and research inquiries of the paper.

2.1 Concept of Social Workers

Social workers are bound by their profession to practice activities that advance the well-being of persons and communities. According to O'Hare, social workers apply evidence-informed practice in tandem to inform complex issues that require multidisciplinary interventions in order to comprehensively care for their clientele. Their roles are directly providing service, advocating in policies, and organizing within the community, which have been very instrumental in addressing systemic social problems. Jacobs et al. go on to emphasize the point that social justice can only be invoked at the time when social workers challenge such oppressive structures and become active in the advancement of marginalized populations.

The concept of social work is critically attached to the principles of human rights and social justice. Ife, Soldatic' & Briskman (2022) contend that human rights frameworks must underpin the basis on which social work methods are designed and applied to enable them to manage the complex needs of vulnerable groups. Allan & Briskman (2020), while still attached to critical social work theories and practices, rely on such concepts as the authors believe that those tenets pose serious challenges to inequalities both at personal and social levels. The mentioned authors underline that social workers should possess the knowledge and skills to engage with the complex social milieus and thereby be able to advocate successfully for changes within.

Besides an advocacy role, social workers also play a vital role in the support services that are essential for meeting both the immediate and long-term needs of their

clientele. For instance, Wahler et al. (2020) illustrate how social workers can be placed even in non-traditional settings, such as libraries, while providing essential support through direct access to valued resources and referral services among vulnerable populations. According to Baines, anti-oppressive practice is centrally based on the identification of power imbalances and systemic injustices that influence clientele-a comprehensive approach whereby social workers can help individuals while working toward broader social change.

2.2 Concept of Gender-Based Violence

GBV is violence against an individual based on either their gender or a restricted view of what the gender should be, coming in many forms, including physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuses. According to Dvorak et al. (2020), GBV gets manifested through the inequalities of gender and system-wide imbalances of power manifesting in domestic, community, and institutional settings. McLindon et al. (2021) support the fact that GBV is not only a human rights violation but also a significant public health issue because it affects the physical and mental health among survivors. For Chauke (2021), this omnipresent violence constitutes one of the major impediments to gender equality and social development.

The concept of GBV is complex and influenced by various cultural, social, and economic variables. Chauke gives GBV as "an act of behavior that involves physical violence, coercion, threats, and psychological manipulation-but mostly, it is a way to keep the victim in subjugation." McLindon et al. argue for understanding the dynamics of GBV on grounds of a holistic, multilayered approach-one which takes into consideration the intersections of gender with other identity markers such as race, class, and sexuality. According to Dvorak et al. (2020), to be effective, interventions need to consider these intersecting factors and mitigate the impact of GBV.

Research into GBV suggests that specialized training among social workers plays a key role in meeting survivors' needs from a multidimensional perspective. According to Dvorak et al. (2020), there is a need to adopt a transformative approach toward competencies concerning gender within social work education-one that shows critical

awareness and the skills to advocate. McLindon et al. (2021) further state that the negligence of GBV in current educational programs calls for the application of full participation of social workers with the right arsenal to support survivors. According to Chauke (2021), youth workers and community advocates play a very important role in the prevention of GBV. This means joint collaboration across different sectors in fighting this scourge.

2.3 Different forms of gender-based violence

Physical violence: In this study, Heise & Kotsadam, 2015, stated that the prevalence of GBV was documented through physical violence like hitting, slapping, beating amongst other prevalent means. Similarly, the study showed the prevalence of IPV as very high and stated that socio-economic factors and cultural norms are identified as playing a significant role in this prevalence. Another study, focusing on youth, by Chauke (2021), emphasizes that among young ladies, prevention is urgently needed, while in the gender violence prevention programs, physical violence comes first. The study reflects on the important position of the youth workers in providing information on risks and warning signs to the young women for a reduction in the incidence of physical violence. Both have presented comprehensive plans that involve community education, more stringent laws on enforcement, and supportive services for survivors.

Sexual violence: Banarjee 2020 categorizes sexual violence as one of the most extreme forms of GBV. The forms include rape, sexual assault, and forced sexual acts. A study by Banarjee investigates the drivers of sexual violence against women in Bangladesh, emphasizing the contribution of patriarchal attitudes and incomplete legal protection. A study undertaken by Wirtz et al. (2020) on sexual violence against transgender people in the United States also argued that more research is needed, along with targeted programming. Wirtz and her colleagues found that transgender people suffer disproportionately high rates of sexual violence, often layered onto social stigma and discrimination. Both studies raise a call for tailored interventions which should address the particular vulnerabilities of various populations affected by sexual violence.

Psychological violence: According to John et al. (2020), GBV is psychological violence characterized by emotional abuse, threats, and coercive control. In crisis situations-natural disasters-what is evident in John's research is that such acts of psychological violence have actually increased in crisis situations due to an overall condition of heightened stress and disruption of social networks. The study by Izugbara et al. (2020) focuses on the experiences of refugee community workers in Kenya who are making tremendous efforts toward curbing psychological violence in refugee camps. Izugbara and colleagues argue that precarious living conditions and poor availability of mental health services help further degrade psychological violence in these settings. Both studies advocate that more mental health support and protective measures should be taken in such individuals who are victims of psychological violence.

Economic violence: Farkas & Romaniuk (2020) discusses economic violence, an act that entails a person controlling another one's access to financial resources, jobs, and education. In the study by Farkas and Romaniuk, it is brought forth how economic violence became more pronounced during the COVID-19 pandemic, since for many people, there was a loss of jobs and a further financial instability that made them more prone to economic abuse. Another paper, written by Rezwana and Pain (2021), researches economic violence before, during, and after cyclones in Bangladesh. It illustrates how disaster amplifies economic control and exploitation. As stated by Rezwana and Pain, disasters usually reduce women's economic opportunities and make them dependent on abusive partners. Both studies bring forward that it is very critical to empower women economically with corresponding legal support in order to reduce the impacts of economic violence.

Cultural violence: Dvoriak et al. (2020) discuss cultural violence, which is a kind of injury done through cultural norms and behavior that sustain the perpetuation of gender inequality. Dvoriak and colleagues present changing harmful cultural practices in social work students' gender competencies require a transformative approach. Another recent study, that of McLindon et al. (2021), examines current developments in education and training on cultural violence and makes a case for comprehensive inclusion of gender-based violence education within professional training settings. McLindon et al. further

note that cultural violence interventions demand deep understanding of their cultural context and active engagement at the leadership levels within communities to forward gender equality. Again, both studies point toward culturally sensitive intervention and educational reforms as indispensable tools in the struggle against cultural violence.

2.4 Support services provided by social workers to gender-based victims

Crisis intervention services: Immediate crisis intervention services are about the provision of critical support to the victims, be it medical, legal, or psychological, states Carrington et al. (2020). According to their study, the women's police stations in Latin America ensure immediate safety and legal protection, thereby empowering women and expanding access to justice. The specially trained personnel operating at these facilities dealing with gender-based violence cases played a vital role in gaining confidence and increasing reporting. A similar study by John et al., 2020, reiterated that during crises, such as natural disasters or pandemics, crisis intervention services should be flexible. Realizing this during the COVID-19 pandemic, they said, "Lack of timely support increased their vulnerability, hence making it important for them to have a solid crisis response mechanism which could work in the course of an emergency.".

Counseling and psychological support: O'Hare 2020 also illustrated that through counseling, psychological support helps the victims overcome trauma and reconstruct their lives. Evidence-based practices in social work include trauma-informed care that has positivistic outcomes in the mental health and wellbeing of survivors. McLindon et al. 2021 also emphasize the integration of GBV into the curriculum for training healthcare providers and social workers. They also believe that an understanding of the psychological impacts of GBV helps social workers to provide improved and more empathetic counseling services, hence enhancing the recovery process for the victims.

Legal assistance: According to Allan & Briskman (2020), the social worker's role is among those of legal assistants that help the victim of GBV to understand their rights and navigate most of the time through complicated legal systems. They noticed that the availability of legal aid considerably increases the chances for justice and

protection for the victims. Izugbara et al. (2020) also discuss the critical role of legal support in refugee settings, where GBV victims face additional layers of vulnerability. The study noted that community workers who have received training and can provide legal information and advocacy are crucial in enabling the victims to pursue legal action and obtain protective measures.

Shelter and safe housing: Heise & Kotsadam (2015) go to show that shelter and safe housing are one of the core support services in handling victims of GBV by providing them refuge from the immediate harm. Shelters guarantee protection and with this, a range of supportive services such as counseling, legal assistance, and job training. Rauhaus et al. (2020) emphasize that during the COVID-19 pandemic-a time when the need for shelters is quite high-shelters must be funded and supplied appropriately with workers and resources in order to keep safe places open and expand into new ones. The authors further state that a coordinated planning and response approach enables overall shelter effectiveness for protection and support of victims.

Economic empowerment programs: Accordingly, economic empowerment programs are vital in ensuring that the victims of GBV recover and eventually maintain a decent livelihood in the long run. Most of the programs include employment training, microfinance, and entrepreneurship support, through which the victims can rebuild their lives with lesser dependency on abusive partners. Jacobs et al. argue that defunding from police and further investment in social services include economic empowerment, helps create a more supportive and sustainable environment for survivors of GBV. They have also found that such programs not only restore financial stability but also help restore dignity and a sense of self-worth to their victims.

Health services: Ussher et al. (2020) reiterated that integrated health services were necessary for victims of GBV; these included other services such as reproductive and mental health care. The providers of full health services address both immediate and long-lasting physical and psychological results of violence. In contrast, another study by Wirtz et al. (2020) called for more research to be done to improve health needs pertaining to transgender victims of GBV in the United States who always face more

barriers to care. The findings suggest that the provision of health services for this population should be customized to include necessary support and protection.

Community-based support: Wahler et al. (2020) listed community-based support services among key players that support the victim against GBV. Libraries and other local community centers manned by social workers are safe places where victims can access resources and support confidentially. This model encourages community-level involvement in the prevention of GBV and support for victims. Rezwana & Pain (2021) discuss how effective such community-based interventions are in disaster-prone areas where formal support structures may be deficient. Their study found that community solidarity and local support networks are essential in the protection and support of GBV victims during and after crises.

Advocacy and awareness programs: Banarjee 2020 affirms that amongst the strategic formulas to prevent GBV and protect victims is advocacy and awareness programs. Such programs offer insight into how GBV functions within a community, break down unsafe gendered social norms, and thus foster equality between genders. The programs also help the victims by informing them about their rights and any services available for them. A similar argument on support for victims of GBV through systemic change and the impact that this can have on human rights-based approaches in social work has also been advanced by Ife et al. (2022). According to them, such awareness and advocacy activities play a critical role in creating an enabling environment that ensures proper wellbeing and empowerment of the GBV survivors.

2.5 Challenges faced by social workers in addressing gender-based violence

Insufficient training and education: McLindon et al. (2021) revealed that many social workers lack adequate training in addressing gender-based violence (GBV), which hampers their ability to provide effective support. It came out clearly from the study that training programs hardly cover comprehensive modules on GBV; therefore, social workers are ill-prepared for the complexities involved in attending to such cases. The findings have been supported in another study by Chauke (2021), who intimates that youth workers feel ill-equipped in preventing and addressing GBV among young women

since they lacked adequate education on the subject. Such lack of training may lead to inefficient treatment and failure to provide support to victims, thus worsening trauma for survivors.

Resource constraints: Izugbara et al. (2020) established that social workers in these refugee camps have to work under strained resources that limit their scope of effectively addressing the occurrences of GBV. Such resources include financial, personnel, and facilities. In another study, John et al., 2020 also echoed the same challenges, noting that in crisis events such as natural disasters, resources allocated for GBV services are often deprioritized. In other words, this can lead to a shortage, which may further bring about overwhelmed social workers, a reduction in the quality of care, and limited access to such desperately needed services for victims of GBV.

Cultural and societal barriers: Ramírez-Ayala et al. (2021) identified that the cultural and social norms may badly impede the performances of social workers for the eradication of GBV. In several cultural contexts, the victim of GBV is burdened with stigma, while societal attitude frequently blame the victim instead of taking the offender to task. Dvoriak et al. (2020) have also established that social work students lack gender competence in their performance due to biased societal norms which always keep men and women in a biased framework. These cultural barriers stand in the way of seeking help by victims and also make it tough for social workers to challenge these norms and advocate for change.

Emotional and psychological toll: As indicated by Rezwana & Pain, 2021, social workers view the process of dealing with GBV cases as emotionally and psychologically draining. For example, constant exposure to traumatic stories and high demands eventually result in burnout and compassion fatigue among workers. A study by Wirtz et al. (2020) indicates that social workers who support transgender individuals facing GBV have a high level of stress since this is usually an area that faces intense stigma and increased challenges. This stress can impact the mental health of a social worker and make them less effective in support provision.

Legal and policy constraints: Carrington et al. (2020) identified various ways in which legal and policy constraints minimize the role that can be played by social workers in the response to GBV. In many regions, there is a serious lack of legal protection for the victims of GBV, and whatever policies exist may not always be enforced properly. Further illustration can be seen in Jacobs et al. (2021), where it was indicated that the criminal justice system provides very little, if any, help to victims of GBV, hence survivors hold very little faith in the facilities. These are potential limiting factors that would hinder social workers in pursuing justice and the protection of victims desired.

Safety concerns: In this respect, Rauhaus et al. (2020) pointed out some dangerous conditions in which social workers work with GBV cases. Very often, social workers have to be involved in dangerous situations, including threats from a perpetrator. Alston (2020) also identified insufficient institutional support and the lack of safety policies in putting social workers at risk. These safety concerns make social workers practice with lots of caution and therefore less likely to fully engage in GBV cases, hence reducing the level of support available to the victims.

Lack of collaboration: As Allan & Briskman, 2020 assert, collaboration in the area of health and law between social workers and other service providers is sometimes lacking, thus hindering further efforts in overcoming the problem. GBV is best dealt with on an intervention basis that necessitates coordination; however, most settings present fragmented pieces due to operating in silos and lack of communication. A more recent study by Farkas & Romaniuk, 2020 also highlighted interdisciplinary collaboration to achieve comprehensive care; however, a number of barriers stand in the way to effective joint efforts, including professional culture and priorities.

Institutional barriers: Banarjee (2020) conducted research to investigate how institutional barriers within social work organizations hinder support for victims of GBV. Bureaucratic impediments, besides organizational inflexibility, hinder timely intervention. In the study by Baines (2020), it was found that anti-oppressive practice frameworks are rarely operationalized at the level of social work institutions, and therefore social workers are rarely positioned or equipped to challenge systemic issues

contributing to GBV. These are institutional barriers that can frustrate social workers and dampen their initiatives to effectively advocate for and support victims.

2.6 Literature gap

The literature review will summarize various aspects of GBV and social workers working on it, including its forms, the support services provided, and challenges being faced. It addresses the types of violence, which include physical, psychological, economic, and sexual, and support services like counseling, legal aid, and crisis intervention. Social workers face significant challenges ranging from inadequate training, limited resources, and cultural barriers to safety concerns. Whereas these extensive insights have been gained, the research gap still lies in the effective and context-specific interventions that respond to these challenges, as well as to the comprehensive needs of the victims of GBV in diverse cultural settings and crises. There is a need for more studies to develop and test integrative strategies that will further raise the effectiveness of social work in combating GBV.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter presents research design, area of study, sources of information, population and sampling techniques, variables and indicators, measurement levels, data collection procedure, data collection instruments, quality control, data processing and analysis, ethical considerations and methodological limitations.

3.1 Research Design

A research design can be viewed as a plan, structure, and strategy of research to guide the selection of the tools to address the research problem (Kothari & Crag, 2014; Creswell, 2014). It girdles the logic of the entire research process (Creswell, 2014). Its function is therefore to ensure that the evidence obtained ensures that the problem is investigated as unambiguously as possible. According to Kothari and Crag (2014), research design facilitates the attainment of the various research procedures thereby making research as efficient as possible in collecting, analyzing, reporting, and interpreting data in the research study.

The research will employ a mixed-methods design. This will include both qualitative and quantitative approaches to comprehensively explore the social workers' interventions and effectiveness. Data collection will involve semi-structured interviews with social workers, focus group discussions with affected individuals, and surveys targeting community members to quantify the prevalence and perception of gender-based violence. Additionally, the study will review existing case reports and intervention records from local social work agencies. The analysis will integrate thematic analysis for qualitative data and statistical techniques for quantitative data, providing a holistic understanding of the social workers' roles, challenges faced, and impact on mitigating gender-based violence in Kawempe Division.

3.2 Area of study

This study will be carried out in Kawempe division located in the Northern part of Kampala and it's one of the five divisions that make up Kampala city. Kawempe Division

is chosen as a case for this study due to its high prevalence of gender-based violence incidents and the unique socio-economic challenges faced by its residents.

3.3 Study population and sample size

According to Hensen, M.C. (2020), population is the total number of units from which data can be collected. The seven target populations for the research on the role of social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe Division include: social workers, victims of gender-based violence, family members of victims, community leaders, police officers, healthcare providers, and local government officials. The population, sample size and sampling methods are presented in the table below as follows;

Table 1: Showing population, sample size and sampling techniques

Respondents	Population	Sample size	Sampling methods
Social workers	15	14	Purposive sampling
Community leaders	7	5	Purposive sampling
Victims and family members	20	18	Snowball sampling
Local government officials	11	8	purposive sampling
Police officers	9	7	Convenience sampling
Healthcare providers	13	11	Convenience sampling
Total	75	63	

Source: *Kawempe Division (2024)*

The researcher will use the formula of Slovin’s (1960) which include;

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N(e)^2}$$

“n” is sample size, “N” is population, “e” is error (0.05) or level of confidence 95%

“N” (population) = 75 category of respondents in Kawempe division

$$n = \frac{75}{1 + 75(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{75}{1 + 75(0.0025)}$$

$$n = \frac{75}{1 + (0.1875)}$$

$$n = \frac{75}{1.1875}$$

$$n = 63$$

Therefore, the sample size of the study will be 63 respondents

3.4 Sampling methods

In this study, three types of sampling methods which include purposive sampling, snowball sampling and convenience sampling will be used. Purposive sampling will be used to select social workers and key informants like community leaders and local government officials, ensuring participants have relevant experience and insights. Snowball sampling will be used to reach victims and their family members, starting with known cases and expanding through referrals. Convenience sampling will target police officers and healthcare providers available and willing to participate within the study timeframe. This mixed-method approach will ensure a comprehensive and representative sample for the research.

3.5 Sources of data

Primary data: Primary data are important for all areas of research because they are accurate information about the results of an experiment or observation. Primary data from the field will be obtained through personal interviews and self-administered questionnaires to selected respondents in order to get their opinions. Primary data will help the researcher in collecting information for the specific purposes of their study. The researcher will collect the data herself, using questionnaires, focus group discussions and interviews.

Secondary data: Secondary data refers to handling, collecting and possibly processing data by people other than the researcher in question. For the purposes of a historical research project, secondary sources are generally scholarly books and articles. This

source will be used to collect data from already written literature for example e-books, journals, published articles and periodicals.

3.6 Variables and indicators

This consists of independent and dependent variables as below

3.6.1 Independent variables

Social workers serve as crucial agents in addressing gender-based violence by leveraging a robust conceptual framework that includes policy advocacy, safety planning, and empowerment as independent variables. Policy advocacy allows social workers to strive for systemic change by influencing legislation and policies that extend greater protection to victims and help prevent further incidents of violence. Safety planning is implemented with the clients to develop personalized plans that contribute to protecting them from violence and improving well-being. Empowerment is an essential factor behind many practices of social work, as it encompasses building self-efficacy, autonomy, and agency among survivors of gender-based violence. Social workers, by incorporating these components in practice, can address GBV against women, care for survivors of the violence, and advocate on behalf of sustainable solutions to ensure safety, justice, and equality.

3.6.2 Dependent variable

As a dependent variable, gender-based violence involves practices such as forced marriage, reproductive coercion, and emotional and psychological abuse. Forced marriage may be understood as a marriage performed without the full and free consent of one or both partners, with various forms of abuses involved. Reproductive coercion is considered the act of taking away control over aspects of one's reproductive health- for example, forcing pregnancy, refusing to use condoms, or otherwise interfering with contraceptive use. While emotional abuse is perpetrated through means of humiliation, intimidation, and isolation, for example, psychological abuse causes trauma through more subversive means of manipulation and threat. Taking gender violence as a dependent variable is an embedded feature in any research or analysis that shows these types of violence as systemic and humans within a gendered context.

3.7 Measurement levels

The various levels of measurement will be applied in the study of the role of social workers in addressing gender-based violence at Kawempe Division, as explained in a number of dimensions of data. For instance, nominal measurement will classify the respondents by roles, such as social workers, victims, and police officers. Ordinal measurement will grade responses to attitudinal questions, for example, the effectiveness of the interventions on a Likert scale. The standardized questionnaires about frequency and types of services provided will use interval measurement. Last but not least, tangible data, including the number of cases that social workers deal with or how long a certain intervention has taken, will be quantified as ratio measurement. This will provide the various levels of measurement that allow the qualitative and quantitative aspects of the research to be elaborated on in minute detail.

3.8 Data collection methods and instruments

In this research project, data will be gathered with the help of a structured questionnaire, interview guide, and focused group discussion guide.

3.8.1 Questionnaire

Quantitative data shall be obtained from a large number of respondents during the administration of the questionnaire, including police officers and healthcare providers. It shall carry structured questions that try to obtain the frequency and type of service provisions, number of cases handled, and perceived effectiveness of interventions. The data collection instruments will be a combination of closed-ended questions and Likert scale items with some open-ended questions to permit brief elaboration. This tool will enable data collection in a standard form that will allow statistical analysis to reveal patterns and trends in the role of social workers regarding responses to gender-based violence.

3.8.2 Interview guide

These will be used for in-depth interviews with social workers, victims of gender-based violence, and key informants such as community leaders and local government officials. This tool will consist of open-ended questions which will enable the researcher to get the detailed qualitative data on experiences, perceptions, and views of the participants

concerning the effectiveness and challenges facing social work interventions. The interviews will probe into strategies employed by the social workers, mechanisms of support for victims, and coordination that takes place across various sets of stakeholders. The flexibility of the interview guide gives the prerogative to the interviewer to keep questioning on any issue as it arises for detailed information; hence, data is obtained that can be substantial and complex in nature.

3.8.3 Focus group discussions

Qualitative information will be obtained from respondents grouped together in focus groups, including community leaders and relatives of the victims. These discussions will be guided by a moderator in a semi-structured format to ensure that all issues are discussed while keeping the interaction among participants dynamic. The focus group discussions will delve into issues of collective views, social dynamics, and perceptions at the community level regarding gender-based violence and the role of social workers. This approach shall enable the detection of communal attitudes, shared experiences, and group-specific challenges that create a broader context for individual perspectives gathered through interviews and questionnaires. Discussions will be recorded, transcribed, and subjected to thematic analysis to make a worthwhile contribution to the comprehensive understanding sought from the research problem.

3.9 Procedure for Data Collection

Data collection for the research will be begun with a letter of collection from the Head of the Department for Social Sciences at Uganda Christian University, which is a necessity in affording the researcher official permission and introduction to concerned stakeholders. Once this letter is acquired, the researcher will reach out to the Kawempe Division and request permission and fix appointments. The key informants, such as social workers and office administrators in preliminary meetings, will be informed about the purpose of the study and procedures. Subsequently, data collection will be done through in-depth interviews, focus group discussions, and surveys. Private interviews with social workers, victims, and other relevant stakeholders will be scheduled and conducted, guaranteeing confidentiality. Focus group discussions will also be organized with community leaders and family members to gather different perspectives.

Quantitative data will be retrieved through the survey questionnaires that will be requested to be filled out by police officers and health care providers. Throughout the research, the process of informed consent by all participants will be taken into consideration, while ethical considerations like confidentiality and volunteerism will be adhered to.

3.10 Quality control

To ensure quality control in the research on the role of social workers in addressing gender-based violence at Kawempe Division, several measures will be implemented. The questionnaires, interview guides, and focus group discussion guides will be pretested to refine the questions in terms of clarity, relevance, and reliability. The data collection process will be standardized through comprehensive training for all research assistants, ensuring consistency in administering questionnaires, conducting interviews, and moderating focus groups. Additionally, regular supervision and random checks will be conducted to monitor adherence to protocols and address any issues promptly. Data collected will be cross-verified through triangulation, comparing findings from different sources and methods to enhance validity. Finally, all data entries will be double-checked for accuracy, and qualitative data will be independently coded by multiple researchers to ensure consistency and reduce bias.

3.11 Data processing and analysis

Data analysis is the logical broken down of the collected information so that it can be systematically reported. Data analysis depends on whether it is qualitative or quantitative (Creswell, 2009).

3.11.1 Qualitative data analysis

Consequent to the interviews, the voice and video recordings will be transliterated accurately. Information will be cleaned, revised, and analyzed following the objectives of the study. The audio recordings will be played several times as transcription is going on so as minimize information loss. After assurance of the completeness, the transcripts will be assembled for data analysis.

Open codes will be developed using a sample of 3 scripts to allow the researcher to be reflexive, critical, and rigorous with the findings. This will be arrived at by

familiarization with data through severally reading and revising the data to get engrossed with information embedded in it. This approach will be emphasized by Braun and Clarke (2013) as a necessity to attain quality findings. The process of familiarization will provide a coding frame. This will facilitate the conceptual collating of the entire data. The analysis, however, will remain open to new coding. Meaningful themes related to research questions will be identified and constructed. The themes will be revised and revisited severally for robustness and versatile reporting purposes. The themes will finally be redefined and paraphrased to fit well into the research problem and research questions. This will be followed by a coherent narrative. The convincing expressions of participants will be earmarked and extracted verbatim for reporting purposes.

3.11.2 Quantitative data analysis

The researcher will use statistical methods to identify patterns, relationships, and trends. Descriptive statistics, such as means, medians, and standard deviations, summarize the data, while inferential statistics, like t-tests, chi-square tests, and regression analysis, help determine the significance of the findings. Data can be analyzed using software tools like SPSS, R, or Python, which facilitate complex calculations and visualizations. The analysis may involve comparing responses from different groups (e.g., victims vs. non-victims), examining the impact of social workers' interventions, and assessing correlations between variables such as the frequency of social worker visits and changes in reported violence. This approach offers evidence-based insights into the effectiveness and scope of the roles that social workers can take in mitigating gender-based violence.

Ethical considerations

During the study on social workers' responses to gender-based violence, ethical issues will be put into great consideration.

It will be important to acquire informed consent from the respondents where the researcher makes sure participants understand the goals, methods, risks, and benefits of the study, that they are not obliged to agree by any means.

One will strictly protect confidentiality and anonymity to protect the identity of participants and sensitive information by storing data in a secure way with very careful handling of personal information.

The research design minimizes the risk of harm or re-traumatization; this involves the researchers undertaking training on trauma-informed approaches and being prepared to offer support and referrals in case participants become distressed.

This will ensure that ethical standards and legal requirements are met, with any research needing to be scrutinized and approved by the appropriate IRB or ethics committee.

In addition, researchers will be ready to deal with the disclosure of on-going violence with suitable responses to cover participant safety and access to services. This holistic approach ensures that in the conduct of research, participants' rights, dignity, and welfare are accorded utmost respect.

3.13 Study Methodological Constraints

Response will be limited by questions that were not answered, and this may constrain the guiding questionnaire. The interview guide shall be constrained by limited response. The interview guide will limit because they require enough time to be answered.

Availability of research material: Since the researcher has access to very few research materials, this may compromise the study's extent. However, the researcher will find a workaround through internet searches for more study-related material.

Those that are uncooperative and hesitant to provide information will be encountered by the researcher. To address this, the researcher will show them a copy of an introductory letter, assure them that the information they provide will be kept private, and solve the problem.

Time: Because the researcher had to juggle exams, part-time work, and other academic obligations, the study's allotted time span did not allow for a larger coverage. The researcher intends to address this by allocating additional time for research and attempting to maintain a work-life balance in accordance with the work schedule.

Finances: Due to resource constraints brought on by the researcher's potential need to pay additional academic expenses, the study project was not able to cover as much ground as it could have. We'll solve this by asking friends and family for soft loans.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION, INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents and discusses the results of analysis that has been done to look at the specific objectives of the study and in relation to the reviewed literature. The study was carried out using questionnaire and interviews with residents of Kawempe Division who include; social workers, victims of gender-based violence, family members of victims, community leaders, police officers, healthcare providers, and local government officials. The findings are presented with the help of tables for purposes of clarity and interpretation.

4.1 Response rate

Table 1: Response rate for questionnaires

Response Rate	Sample Size	
	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Received	60	95.2%
Non Response	3	4.8%
Expected Response	63	100.0%

Source: *Primary data*

According to table 1 above a total of 63 (100%) respondents who are residents of Kawempe Division who include; social workers, victims of gender-based violence, family members of victims, community leaders, police officers, healthcare providers, and local government officials were expected to respond to the survey, however, 60 (95.2%) responded to the survey leaving out 3 (4.8%). Ahuja (2009) argued that a response rate of 70% is excellent, 60% is good and 50% is adequate for analysis. Thus the response rate of 95.2% was considered reliable and appropriate for the study. The reason as to why the researcher was unable to collect from the one of the respondents was because there was limited time to collect data since the researcher had to beat the deadline of dissertation submission yet some of these respondents were delaying to give response.

4.2 Findings on demographic characteristics of respondents

The background information of respondents solicited data on the samples and this has been presented below categorized into; gender, age, level of education and profession of the selected residents of Kawempe Division who include; social workers, victims of gender-based violence, family members of victims, community leaders, police officers, healthcare providers, and local government officials and interpreted below.

Table 2: Background Information about the respondents

Item	Description	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Gender	Male	25	41.7
	Female	35	58.3
	Total	60	100.0
Age	21-30 years	16	26.7
	31-40 years	21	35.0
	41-50 years	13	21.7
	Above 50 years	10	16.7
	Total	60	100.0
Education level	Certificate	22	36.7
	Diploma	20	33.3
	Bachelor's degree	15	25.0
	Master's degree	3	5.0
	Total	60	100.0
Profession/ category of respondents	Social workers	13	21.7
	Community leaders	5	8.3
	Victims & family members	18	30.0
	Local government officials	8	13.3
	Police officers	6	10.0

	Healthcare providers	10	16.7
	Total	60	100.0

Source: Primary data

According to table 2 above, the gender distribution among the respondents reveals a higher female representation, with 58.3% of the participants being female compared to 41.7% male. This indicates that women are more predominant in the sample, which may reflect the higher involvement of women in addressing gender-based violence or the higher representation of female victims and family members in the study.

The age distribution shows that the majority of respondents are between 31 and 40 years old, constituting 35.0% of the sample. This is followed by those aged 21-30 years at 26.7%, indicating a strong representation of young adults and early career professionals. The 41-50 years age group makes up 21.7% of the respondents, suggesting a significant middle-aged presence. Those above 50 years represent 16.7%, indicating a smaller proportion of older individuals in the sample.

Moreover, regarding education, the results indicated that most of the participants held a certificate by 36.7%. This is followed by those holding a diploma at 33.3%, hence indicating that most participants fall in the middle category of qualifications. The next are the bachelor's degree holders, who take 25.0%, while 5.0% hold a Master's degree, hence indicating the higher education status to be not that common among participants.

Lastly, in terms of profession or category, victims and their family members constitute the largest group at 30.0%, highlighting their significant presence in the study. Social workers follow with 21.7%, reflecting a notable representation of professionals directly involved in addressing gender-based violence. Healthcare providers are represented by 16.7%, while local government officials make up 13.3%. Community leaders and police officers are the smallest groups, at 8.3% and 10.0% respectively. This distribution shows a diverse range of perspectives from different stakeholders involved in the issue.

4.3 The different forms of gender-based violence prevalent in Kawempe division

Table 3 summarizes respondents' responses on the different forms of gender-based violence prevalent in Kawempe division by using a Likert scale where SA (Strongly Agree), A (Agree), NS (Not Sure), D (Disagree) and SD (Strongly Disagree).

Table 3: The different forms of gender-based violence prevalent in Kawempe division

Statements	Extent of agreement & disagreement				
	SA	A	NS	D	SD
	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)
Physical violence (e.g., hitting, slapping) is a common issue in Kawempe Division.	28 46.7%	22 36.7%	2 3.3%	8 13.3%	00
Sexual violence (e.g., rape, sexual assault) is frequently reported in Kawempe Division.	24 40.0%	24 40.0%	2 3.3%	8 13.3%	2 3.3%
Emotional abuse (e.g., verbal insults, humiliation) is prevalent among victims in Kawempe Division.	20 33.3%	18 30.0%	12 20.0%	8 13.3%	2 3.3%
Economic abuse (e.g., controlling financial resources) is a significant concern in Kawempe Division.	24 40.0%	22 36.7%	00	12 20.0%	2 3.3%
Forced marriage is a notable problem in Kawempe Division.	20 33.3%	22 36.7%	2 3.3%	14 23.3%	2 3.3%
Reproductive coercion (e.g., forced pregnancy) is present among the cases in Kawempe Division.	12 20.0%	22 36.7%	8 13.3%	16 26.7%	2 3.3%

Source: *Primary data*

As shown in table 3 above, 83.4% of the respondents agreed that physical violence such as hitting and slapping is a common issue in Kawempe Division, while 3.3% of the respondents were not sure and 13.3% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. This high percentage of agreement indicates that physical violence is highly prevalent

in the area. This high recognition of physical violence suggests the urgent need for focused interventions and support services in addressing and reducing such violence in Kawempe Division.

The findings of the study indicated that 80.0% of respondents agreed to the statement that rape and sexual assault are among the most common incidents of sexual violence reported in Kawempe Division. A total of 3.3% were not sure, while 16.6% of the respondents agreed with the statement. This postulates that the respondents strongly agreed that sexual violence is among the most commonly reported incidents within the area. It also constitutes a high level of consensus that support systems and mechanisms of prevention need to be improved in order for the fight against sexual violence to be effective.

It was also established in the study that 76.7% of the respondents agreed to the statement that one major concern in Kawempe Division is controlling the financial resources. On the contrary, 23.3% disagree with the statement. This large majority agreement indicates the awareness of economic abuse being a common issue. This level of agreement also tends to reveal that economic abuse is an identified concern that calls for attention with interventions.

In addition, the results indicated that 63.3% agreed that emotional abuse, such as verbal insults and humiliation, was common among victims in Kawempe Division. However, 20% were undecided, while 16.6% did not agree with the statement. This is a fairly high acknowledgment regarding emotional abuse as a common issue. These results also indicated that the problem of emotional abuse was identified, though the perceptions about the level were markedly variable, thus suggesting that further awareness and support in this area were needed.

Further, the study established that 70.0% of the respondents agreed to the statement that forced marriage is an issue of concern in Kawempe Division. On the contrary, 3.3% of the respondents were not sure, whereas 26.6% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. High agreement indicates that forced marriage is commonly recognized as a major issue. This high level of agreement establishes the need for targeted

interventions and support mechanisms required in addressing and effectively preventing forced marriages.

The study findings showed that 56.7% of the respondents agreed that reproductive coercion, including forced pregnancy, is there among cases in Kawempe Division. However, 13.3% of the respondents were not sure, and 30.0% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. This was moderate agreement, showing some recognition of reproductive coercion as a concern. The mixed responses found in the variation suggest that while some of this reproductive coercion is recognized, further investigation and enlightening information is needed to understand its prevalence and effect.

Overall, the findings show different forms of gender-based violence are commonplace in Kawempe Division; there is greatest concern for physical and sexual violence and economic abuse. Emotional abuse and forced marriage are also recognized as issues, although perceptions vary. Reproductive coercion is less evident. The following findings further outline the support and intervention strategies that need to be inclusive to address and alleviate different forms of violence in this community.

4.3.1 The most common forms of gender-based violence reported in Kawempe

In the interviews with key informants, social workers, community leaders, police officers, health workers, and local government officials were asked for their views on the most reported forms of gender-based violence in Kawempe Division.

Indeed, physical violence tends to be one of the major gender-based violence activities that are experienced within the area. This involves hitting and slapping, among others. The physical violence is common in such a way that social workers, community leaders, as well as healthcare providers observe it is the most frequently encountered form of violence in daily interaction with victims. Commonly, this leaves them with serious physical injuries and psychological trauma. The violence is very pervasive and affects many people irrespective of their socio-economic status, thereby setting the community back through this important urgent issue.

Other major concerns were cases in connection with sexual violence, such as rape and sexual assault. The police officers and service providers reported handling such cases very frequently. Cases of sexual violence were described as serious and tragic. These types of cases are certainly quite common and typically involve a significant amount of trauma and stigma, impacting the victims' physical health as well as their emotional well-being. The frequency of such reports indicates how necessary effective intervention and support services for victims should be.

Other notable issues which have emerged from the responses are economic abuses, characterized by control of the financial resources. According to the responses, local government officials and community leaders have noted that this form of abuse is increasingly being reported, with many victims having some limits to their financial independence. This form of abuse contributes not only to affecting the financial stability of the victim but also to a cycle of dependency and control. One important empowerment strategy for victims would involve addressing economic abuse, which includes access to financial resources and support. On the other hand, verbal insults and humiliation are examples of emotional abuse currently experienced by the respondents.

This violence, even though it might be less visible at times than physical or sexual violence, causes extensive damage to the mental health and self-esteem of victims. Social workers and health professionals report that emotional abuse is often consistently linked with other forms of violence, which further exacerbates the overall trauma that a victim experiences. Support and healing must, therefore, be holistic, which brings in the need for holistic community strategies for intervention. Some of the selected respondents reported that;

“.....Physical violence is distressingly common in Kawempe Division; this is something we encounter quite often in servicing the survivors.....” **Social worker**

“.....Cases of sexual violence are so frequent, often characterized by serious emotional and physical trauma that demands immediate attention.....”

Healthcare provider

“.....Economic abuse is on the increase, and it is of importance that we find ways to ensure support for such victims to regain control of their economic lives.....”

Community leader

4.4 The support services provided by social workers to gender-based violence victims in Kawempe Division

Table 4 summarizes respondents’ responses on the support services provided by social workers to gender-based violence victims in Kawempe Division by using a Likert scale where SA (Strongly Agree), A (Agree), NS (Not Sure), D (Disagree) and SD (Strongly Disagree).

Table 4: Support services provided by social workers to gender-based violence victims

Statements	Extent of agreement and disagreement				
	SA	A	NS	D	SD
	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)
Social workers provide adequate emotional support to victims of gender-based violence.	26 43.3%	26 43.3%	4 6.7%	4 6.7%	00
Social workers offer effective safety planning and risk assessment services to victims.	18 30.0%	24 40.0%	6 10.0%	4 6.7%	8 13.3%
Social workers are successful in connecting victims with legal assistance and protection services.	14 23.3%	28 46.7%	10 16.7%	6 10.0%	2 3.3%
Social workers facilitate access to healthcare services for victims of gender-based violence.	18 30.0%	24 40.0%	4 6.7%	14 23.3%	00
Social workers provide useful counseling and psychological support for recovery.	26 43.3%	24 40.0%	6 10.0%	4 6.7%	00

Social workers are effective in helping victims with economic support and rehabilitation services.	28 46.7%	22 36.7%	2 3.3%	8 13.3%	00
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Source: *Primary data*

According to the study in table 4 above, the majority of respondents, represented 83.4% agreed that social workers are effective in helping victims with economic support and rehabilitation services. On the contrary, 13.3% of the total respondents did not agree to this statement, while 3.3% were undecided. This therefore reflects a strong perception in the belief that social workers play an important role in providing economic sustenance and facilitating rehabilitation among victims of gender-based violence. This not only leaves very little room for deviation but also denotes that such services are regarded as a very necessary element of recovery and empowerment of victims. The emphasis is placed on financial and rehabilitative support being an integral part of the whole response to gender-based violence.

Equally, 83.3% of the respondents agreed that social workers provide useful counseling and psychological support for recovery, while 6.7% of the respondents were not sure and 10.0% of the respondents did not agree to the statement. Such a high level of agreement reflects a positive view toward the counseling and psychological services provided by the social workers to emphasize the place of mental health support in the process of recovery. It reflects that successful counseling is considered an essential part of the healing process and serves to strengthen a survivor from gender-based violence.

Also, from the findings, 86.6% of the respondents agreed that social workers provide enough emotional support to the victims. However, 6.7% of the respondents were not sure, while 6.7% of the respondents also disagreed with the statement. This result, therefore, indicates that the greater percentage of the respondents considers emotional support given by the social workers as adequate and social workers are therefore seen to be in a position to address the emotional needs of the victims.

In addition, the study results showed that 70.0% of the respondents agreed that the social workers aid the victim in gaining access to health facilities. However, 23.3% of

the respondents disagreed, and 6.7% of the respondents were not so sure of the statement. It would therefore hint at a mixed perception of whether social workers are effective in facilitating access to health care-that is, just as many view their efforts positively, there is also a fair proportion who may feel shortcomings or limitations characterize their efforts.

The findings also indicated that fully 70.0% agreed that social workers effectively offer safety planning and risk assessment services, while 20.0% disagreed, and 10.0% of the respondents were not sure of the statement. This shows a general positive view towards the effectiveness of the safety planning and risk assessment services that are offered by social workers. On the other hand, disagreement suggests that indeed there is room for improvement that will eventually result in the fulfillment of safety concerns.

Lastly, the findings of the research revealed that 70.0% of the respondents agreed that social workers are effective in linking victims to legal aid and protection services. Conversely, 16.7% of the respondents were not sure, while 13.7% of the respondents disagreed with the statement. This means that although most respondents regard the linkage to legal aid and protection services positively, there is some uncertainty and dissatisfaction as far as the effectiveness of such a linkage is concerned.

The findings generally indicate that in Kawempe Division, social workers are perceived to give the much-needed support services to victims of gender-based violence: emotional, psychological, economic, and counseling. High levels of agreement to the effectiveness of these services suggest that among survivors, social workers were viewed as the general key support system. While there are areas, such as health facilitation and legal assistance, where perceptions are mixed, pointing to opportunities for increased effectiveness and expanded services.

4.4.1 Types of support services commonly offered to gender-based violence victims

Following the interviews with the key informants who are social workers, community leaders, police officers, healthcare providers, and local government officials, their views were asked on types of support services, which are mostly offered to gender-

based violence victims by social workers in Kawempe division, and their responses were as follows;

Social workers in Kawempe Division offer support services to victims of gender-based violence. Common support services include emotional and psychological support, which is important for the victim to face and overcome their traumatic experiences. Social workers will often provide individual and group counseling; this allows victims to talk about how they are feeling in a safe environment and allows them to begin the process of healing. They also render very important services in the form of safety planning and risk assessment by helping a victim come up with ways of protecting themselves from further harm and negotiating perilous situations. Such support lies at the heart of access for victims who need to get out of abusive environments in search of help.

Social workers also link victims with health care services quite often. This may include hospital examinations, treatments for injuries sustained during incidents of violence, and reproductive health services. In many instances, victims have been helped by social workers to obtain legal services in the form of linking them with legal aid services and explaining their rights. This is a dual approach that focuses on health and legal support so that the victims get necessary care and support in claiming their rights.

Social workers also contribute to economic support and rehabilitation services. Most of the workers try to connect the victim with basic economic resources that will help them recover and lead an independent life. This may include referring the victim to a job training program or giving them financial assistance in order to rebuild their life after abuse. Social workers also facilitate referrals to community resources and support networks so that the victims can access a range of services that offer long-term recovery and stability. Some of the selected respondents reported that;

“.....Social workers are imperative in providing not only immediate emotional support but also helping the victim navigate through the complexities of their situation pertaining to safety planning, access to much-needed medical and legal services.....” **Local government official**

“.....The counseling is only the beginning of the services that we are able to provide. We work hard to connect victims with healthcare providers and legal services so they can get holistic care and take further action toward justice.” **Social worker**

“.....Economic support is, therefore, the base of our work since most of the victims need financial aid to get a new start in life. Social workers become important in linking them with resources or support systems that will help in their recovery.....” **Healthcare provider**

4.5 Challenges faced by social workers in addressing gender-based violence

Table 5 summarizes respondents’ responses on the challenges faced by social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe Division by using a Likert scale where SA (Strongly Agree), A (Agree), NS (Not Sure), D (Disagree) and SD (Strongly Disagree).

Table 5: Challenges faced by social workers in addressing gender-based violence

Statements	Extent of agreement & disagreement				
	SA	A	NS	D	SD
	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)	Freq. (%)
Social workers face significant challenges in securing adequate resources for gender-based violence cases.	28 46.7%	22 36.7%	2 3.3%	8 13.3%	00
Social workers encounter difficulties in coordinating with other agencies and stakeholders involved in addressing gender-based violence.	24 40.0%	24 40.0%	2 3.3%	8 13.3%	2 3.3%
Social workers struggle with high caseloads, which affect their ability to provide comprehensive support.	20 33.3%	18 30.0%	12 20.0%	8 13.3%	2 3.3%

Social workers experience challenges in dealing with victims' reluctance to report or seek help.	24 40.0%	22 36.7%	00	12 20.0%	2 3.3%
Social workers face barriers in accessing training and professional development on gender-based violence.	20 33.3%	22 36.7%	2 3.3%	14 23.3%	2 3.3%
Social workers encounter difficulties in navigating bureaucratic and systemic obstacles in providing effective support.	12 20.0%	22 36.7%	8 13.3%	16 26.7%	2 3.3%

Source: *Primary data*

According to the study in table 5 above, 83.4% of the respondents agreed that social workers face significant challenges in securing adequate resources for gender-based violence cases. However, 13.3% of the responding populations disagreed, while 3.3% of the respondents were not sure about the statement. This means there is a major concern on resource availability, which is a core issue in supporting and intervening on behalf of victims effectively.

The research findings also showed that 80.0% agreed that social workers face challenges in coordinating with other agencies and stakeholders who also deal with issues of gender-based violence. However, 16.6% of the respondents disagreed and 3.3% of the respondents were not sure about the statement. The lack of effective coordination is a prerequisite for a complete response to genderbased violence and may be characterized by fragmented and less effective support to the victim.

These findings also established that 63.3% of the respondents agreed to the statement that social workers have heavy caseloads, hence limiting the full support they can give to people suffering from CMD. However, 16.7% of respondents disagreed, and 20.0% of respondents were not sure about the statement. High workloads result in burnout and lower quality of care, consequently affecting the effectiveness of the support services provided.

More so, the results showed that 76.7% of the respondents agreed to the statement that social workers find it difficult to handle or deal with the reluctance of victims to report or seek help, while 23.3% of the respondents did not agree with the statement. The reluctance of victims might arise from many factors such as fear and stigma that make intervention very difficult. How to address these barriers forms the core of how support services can best be provided.

Other findings in this study showed that 70.0% of the respondents agreed to the statement that there are barriers in accessing training and professional development related to gender-based violence, while 26.6% of the respondents disagreed and 3.3% of the respondents were not sure about this statement. Lack of access to training and professional development makes it hard for a social worker to keep themselves current with best practices and, consequently, address gender-based violence accordingly.

Finally, according to the result of statements that social workers face challenges in managing bureaucratic and systemic barriers, it was discovered that 56.7% of the respondents accepted the statement while 30.0% of respondents refused the statement and 13.3% of the respondents are not sure about the statement. Bureaucratic barriers can definitely delay or obstruct service delivery and thus, the effectiveness and efficiency in service to victims.

The findings, therefore, attest that in an effort to reduce gender-based violence, social workers in Kawempe Division are confronted with gigantic challenges. Funding resource constraints, coordination challenges, high caseloads, victim reluctance to seek help, limited access to training, and bureaucratic hurdles have surfaced as key issues that stand in the way of providing effective support. Overcoming these challenges will require a multi-dimensional approach: increasing resources, improving interagency collaboration and better caseload management, gaining the confidence of victims, and providing training. Simplifying bureaucracy may also promote the delivery and effectiveness of the support services provided to victims.

4.5.1 Challenges social workers face when addressing gender-based violence

During the interviews with key informants, who include social workers, community leaders, police officers, healthcare providers, and local government officials, they were asked for their views regarding the main challenges faced by social workers in addressing gender-based violence in the Kawempe Division. Their responses were as follows;

Key informants in Kawempe Division identified a number of major challenges facing social workers in response to gender-based violence. Most outstanding among them is a general deficiency in resources. When it comes to social workers who are supposed to offer assistance, even the most basic needs, resources are remarkably underprovided. As stated by some informants, a lack of sufficient funding and narrow access to essential material and services constitute barriers for comprehensive intervention and treatment of victims. This resource constraint therefore affects everything from immediate support to long-term recovery efforts, hence the area of concern becomes so crucial.

Another commonly reported challenge is coordination with other agencies and various stakeholders who respond to cases of gender-based violence. It is particularly difficult in most instances for social workers to bring into harmony actions and responses by the police, health providers, and community-based organizations, which often create situations characterized by fragmentation and inefficiency. Without this coordination, interventions are delayed, and the effectiveness of the support system as a whole is seriously compromised because clear communication and collaboration among the different entities involved seldom occur.

Finally, social workers are also at risk due to high case loads and bureaucratic red tape that reduces efficiency in case management. High case loads bring about burnout and reduce the quality of support given to each victim, while bureaucratic obstacles make the process of delivering aid and accessing various services even more complicated and slower. These systemic problems further heighten the difficulties in the operations of the social workers and weaken their efforts toward effectively addressing gender-based violence. According to some of the selected respondents,;

“.....The biggest obstacles we face are unavailability of resources. We have to cope with less most of the time and adjust in whichever way so that the victim of gender-based violence gets limited support.” **Social worker**

“.....Coordination between different agencies is often problematic. We need better communication and collaboration to provide a unified response to gender-based violence cases.....” **Police officer**

“.....High caseloads and bureaucratic obstacles are a significant issue. They not only overwhelm social workers but also slow down the process of providing timely and effective support to victims.....” **Healthcare provider**

CHAPTER FIVE

DISCUSSION, SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter includes the discussion of findings in relation to the literature. It also summarizes all findings reported in chapter four according to questions of the study, draws conclusions, suggests recommendations and also proposes some areas for further study.

5.1 Discussion of findings

5.1.1 The different forms of gender-based violence prevalent in Kawempe division

The study findings revealed that physical violence, including hitting and slapping, is the most common form of gender-based violence in Kawempe Division. This aligns with literature that emphasizes the prevalence of physical abuse in various contexts. For instance, Heise and Kotsadam (2015) highlighted that physical violence is among the prevalent issues in different regions, having a greater magnitude of impacts on the health and well-being of victims. The fact that physical violence is one of the major issues in Kawempe Division calls for immediate, effective interventions that deal with both the short and long-term consequences of such abuses.

The findings have also indicated that sexual violence, such as rape and sexual assault, is one of the most reported forms of violence because it is critical and warrants effective intervention. This agrees with Banarjee (2020), who identified sexual violence as a critical concern that has widespread impacts on the psychological and physical health of victims. The high prevalence of sexual violence within Kawempe Division calls for a great need for support services and effective prevention strategies that take into consideration the complexity of sexual violence to ensure comprehensive survivor care.

It is of particular concern that economic abuse, which consists of the use of financial resources as an instrument of control, has a very big bearing on the victim's experience of financial dependence. Allan and Briskman (2020) described how economic abuse deprives victims of their autonomy and was used to create ongoing dependency. Any attempt toward addressing economic abuse will require a multi-elementary approach

to include financial support services, legal aid, and empowerment programs in trying to help the victims regain control over their financial resources toward long-term stability.

Emotional abuse mainly includes verbal insults and humiliation, which are important concerns since they will be observed in relation to the mental health and self-esteem of the victims. For this observation, I will bring it into context by citing Baines, 2020, who observed the fact that emotional abuse has a serious psychological impact on the victim. Reproductive coercion is noted, though less reported compared to other forms of violence. This disparity calls for increased awareness and research in reproductive coercion, as noted by McLindon et al. (2021), who cried out that all forms of gender-based violence should receive more attention to ensure comprehensive support and intervention strategies.

5.1.2 The support services provided by social workers to gender-based violence victims

The findings showed that social workers in Kawempe Division work to provide critical support services for the victims of GBV, most of them being oriented toward emotional and psychological support, which includes counseling and risk assessment. This finding relates to the literature reviewed by Farkas and Romaniuk 2020, who noted that social workers play a vital role in the provision of emotional and psychological support to vulnerable populations. They have, however, underlined that such support is of paramount importance for the mitigation of consequences of trauma and for better recovery results. Social workers' multifaceted work in Kawempe Division reflects this view, even further emphasizing how critically they can contribute to responding to emotional needs of GBV survivors.

The findings also indicate that social workers are ranked as positive contributors to the distribution of economic support and facilitating access to health care and rehabilitation services. This observation aligns with the work of Carrington et al. (2020), who established that social workers make a great contribution to ensuring improved wellbeing among survivors of GBV through being involved in economic support distribution and healthcare facilitation. This research underlines the effectiveness of

the social workers in guiding the victims through complex systems and in accessing some of their much-needed resources. This reflects from the good service levels observed in Kawempe Division in respect of economic and healthcare support.

However, on the mixed response on the facilitation of healthcare and legal assistance, these two seem to have room for improvement. This is similarly echoed by John et al. (2020) as they discuss how social workers go through an uphill task in providing comprehensive health care and legal support to victims of GBV. They note that there is a gap in the integration of health and legal services so as to ensure malleable and comprehensive support for the victims. Varied responses in this study regarding these issues point out the need to address gaps in healthcare and to facilitate legislation for building better overall effectiveness of social work interventions.

Generally, in Kawempe Division, social workers are appreciated for being holistic in their provision of services to the victims of GBV but need improvement in some aspects. This assertion finds support in Allan and Briskman (2020) as they agitate for a critical social work approach that questions continuously in return its strategy and tactics for what is useful to the clients. Identifying strengths and weaknesses in practicing social work is consistent with current efforts to sharpen social work and its effectiveness in communities.

5.1.3 Challenges faced by social workers in addressing gender-based violence

The findings from the study also showed that social workers in Kawempe Division are very challenged in handling cases of GBV, mainly because of deficiencies in resource allocation, coordination with other agencies, and high caseloads. This assertion brings into play the literature by McLindon, Fiolet and Hegarty, 2021, who observe that resource constraints and issues of coordination are very key complications in the effective management of GBV cases. Indeed, their study noted that inadequacy of resources leads to social workers who cannot give full support, and difficulties in coordination with other stakeholders lead to fragmented and ineffective responses. The study findings now point out the identified barriers that must be addressed for improvement in service delivery and support for GBV victims.

These findings also found high caseloads and bureaucratic obstacles as some of the factors that pose major barriers to effective service delivery. A finding that tallies with what Alston, 2020, refers to when he says that high workloads associated with complicated bureaucratic procedures often overwhelm workers to the extent that timely and effective support for clientele could hardly be availed. Alston asserts, the smoothing of administrative procedures and better caseload management are very significant in enhancing the practice of social work. The emergence of these issues indicates a wider problem of social workers' ability to maintain service delivery in conditions of increasing demand and administrative elaboration.

Besides this are problems of managing victims' resistance and a lack of training, which further complicate work matters for the social worker. This agrees with a study done by Banarjee (2020) that identifies victim reluctance and lack of training as critical elements affecting the efficiency of GBV interventions. He points out in his work that the fears of victims should be put aside, and better training of social workers will enhance their capacity to handle the cases effectively. These challenges are reiterated in the findings of this study, which again point to the need for targeted strategies to overcome such victim reluctance and to make sure that social workers are better equipped through training to deal with GBV cases.

These challenges require improvement in resource utilization, inter-agency coordination, and case management and bureaucratic processes. This systemic improvement, therefore, becomes necessary in the handling of cases of GBV and, therefore, aligns with the research done by Rauhaus, Sibila, and Johnson, 2020, where he argues that effective responses towards GBV necessitate careful planning, collaboration, and resources. Their study emphasized the need for more integrated and effective systems in handling GBV cases for effectiveness. Recommendations on how to enhance resource allocations and inter-agency collaboration in the study also align with those findings, emphasizing that a properly coordinated and well-resourced approach is essential in solving GBV challenges." bungamasiga.

5.2 Summary of findings

The findings showed that physical violence includes hitting and slapping; it is the most rampant form of gender-based violence within Kawempe Division. Sexual violence, which involves rape and sexual assault, is also reported in high proportion, to the extent that it is of equal importance to intervene effectively. Economic abuse, with its practice of using economic resources in order to control, is very disconcerting because it deprives victims of their financial freedom and makes them dependent. Verbal insult and humiliation are found to be in line with the definition of emotional abuse, which makes victims lose their mental balance and self-esteem. Reproductive coercion is duly recognized but not as promptly reported like other forms of violence. These findings demand comprehensive support with immediate action and targeted interventions on the diverse and pervasive forms of gender-based violence in this community.

The results also showed that social workers in Kawempe Division provide essential support services to victims of gender-based violence, where emotional and psychological support is a significant practice area for social workers, entailing counseling and risk assessment, among other practices. Most of the respondents feel that social workers are effective in providing economic support and facilitating access to healthcare and rehabilitation services. However, health facilitation and legal assistance received some mixed reviews, indicating these areas needed more attention. In all, social workers are appreciated for their comprehensive services provided to the victims; however, there is always room for betterment of particular service areas for enhanced outcomes.

Last but not least, the findings showed that social workers in Kawempe Division face severe challenges in responding to gender-based violence because of limited resources, coordination with other agencies, and heavy workloads. Many of the respondents reported resource constraints as the major challenge. This makes it difficult to provide holistic support. Besides, responses undertaken in coordination with stakeholders result in fragmented pieces, while high caseloads and bureaucratic hurdles cause further impacts on the effective delivery of services. Further difficulties arise with how best to manage victims' reluctance to report incidents and a lack of training. All these

challenges, and many others, require increased resources, improved collaboration between agencies, more effective case management, and smoother bureaucracy.

5.3 Conclusions

Conclusion The finding from Kawempe Division portrays that GBV is a very complex issue and the role of social workers in the handling of GBV cases is core. All manifestations of violence, including physical, sexual, economic abuse, and emotional abuse, are prevalent and urgently call for comprehensive interventions. Social workers have been highly regarded in the providing of emotional and psychological support; however, there was a mixed review over healthcare facilitation and legal assistance. The specific challenges faced by social workers include a lack of resources, coordination problems, and high workloads, together with reluctance on the part of victims and limitations in training that are difficult to handle. In view of these, improvement of resource allocation, interagency collaboration, and streamlining of processes becomes necessary. This will no doubt enhance effectiveness in GBV interventions and offer more full-bodied support to victims at grassroots level.

5.4 Recommendations

Based on findings from the study, the following recommendations have been found necessary in regard to the role of social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe division.

The recommendation of the study is that more resource allocation needs to be ensured for social workers in Kawempe Division to better position them to fully support victims of GBV. In this regard, funding and resources are needed to ensure an improvement in the provision of basic services such as counseling, legal support, and facilitation of health care. It would, therefore, allow more investment to be made to make social workers respond in a more appropriate manner to meet various needs of victims and reduce the impact of resource constraints on their capability for timely, effective interventions.

The study also advocates for improved coordination by agencies and stakeholders involved in the response to GBV. This calls for an enhancement of inter-agency

collaboration and communication such that services are given to victims within a more integrated supportive system. Improved coordination will make sure that there is a rationalization of services and fewer fragmented responses, such that comprehensive care for the victim in the respective supportive sectors will ensure more effective interventions.

It further goes on to recommend good practices in case management and reduction in bureaucratic bottlenecks within the practice of social work. Simplification of administration and coming up with efficient systems of case management will be important in enabling social workers to handle their caseloads with ease and due attention to each case. This will also ease some operational pressures that social workers face and improve service delivery.

This leads to the conclusion that specific training and capacity-building programs for social workers are needed because they have a number of limitations with regard to dealing with GBV cases. Specialized training in the handling of reluctant victims, promotion of legal and healthcare facilitation, and refreshment of skills to cope with emerging issues on GBV can make social workers effective performers of their duties. Their professional development could be enhanced with better training as well, as this would go toward improving the overall influence on GBV interventions.

5.5 Areas for further research

Since this study aimed to investigate the role of social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe division, the study recommends that similar studies be done on other areas that concern this topic, and these areas of further research needed include the following:

The future research shall study the effectiveness of specific intervention strategies used by social workers in Kawempe Division, employed in responding to various forms of gender-based violence.

Further research is needed on quantifying the effect that resource allocation has on the quality of GBV services, and trying to ascertain examples of best practice for inter-agency coordination.

Finally, more research is needed that would probe into victims' experiences and outcomes when they come into contact with social workers in order to understand more fully the practical successes and challenges facing the current systems of support.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: Questionnaire For selected respondents in Kawempe division

Introduction

Dear Respondent,

I am Katushabe Charlotte a bachelor's student of Social Work and Social Administration from Uganda Christian University-Mukono researching "the role of social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe division". You have been selected to participate in this study because the contribution you make to your organization is central to the kind of information required. The information you provide is solely for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality.

Please kindly spare a few minutes to respond to the following questions.

SECTION A: BACKGROUND DATA

Please TICK the numbers representing the most appropriate responses for you in respect to the following items:

1. What is your gender?

a) Male

b) Female

2. What is your age?

a) 21-30 years

b) 31 -40 years

c) 41-50 years

d) Above 50

3. What is your education level?

a) Certificate

b) Diploma

c) Degree

d) Masters

e) Others specify:.....

4. What is your profession?

.....

Guide for Completing the Questionnaire:

Please answer questions by making a tick (✓) and explain where necessary.

Section B: The different forms of gender-based violence prevalent in Kawempe Division

Rate your degree of agreement on the different forms of gender-based violence prevalent in Kawempe Division using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree), and 1(Strongly Disagree).

s. no	Statements	5	4	3	2	1
1	Physical violence (e.g., hitting, slapping) is a common issue in Kawempe Division.					
2	Sexual violence (e.g., rape, sexual assault) is frequently reported in Kawempe Division.					
3	Emotional abuse (e.g., verbal insults, humiliation) is prevalent among victims in Kawempe Division.					
4	Economic abuse (e.g., controlling financial resources) is a significant concern in Kawempe Division.					
5	Forced marriage is a notable problem in Kawempe Division.					
6	Reproductive coercion (e.g., forced pregnancy) is present among the cases in Kawempe Division.					

Suggest any other forms of gender-based violence prevalent in Kawempe Division other than the ones mentioned above?

.....

Section C: The support services provided by social workers to gender-based violence victims in Kawempe Division

Rate your degree of agreement on the support services provided by social workers to gender-based violence victims in Kawempe Division using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

s. no	Statements	5	4	3	2	1
1	Social workers provide adequate emotional support to victims of gender-based violence.					
2	Social workers offer effective safety planning and risk assessment services to victims.					
3	Social workers are successful in connecting victims with legal assistance and protection services.					
4	Social workers facilitate access to healthcare services for victims of gender-based violence.					
5	Social workers provide useful counseling and psychological support for recovery.					
6	Social workers are effective in helping victims with economic support and rehabilitation services.					

Suggest any other the support services provided by social workers to gender-based violence victims in Kawempe Division other than the ones mentioned above?

.....

Section D: The challenges faced by social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe Division

Rate your degree of agreement on the challenges faced by social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe Division using a scale of 5(Strongly Agree), 4(Agree), 3(Not sure), 2(Disagree) and 1(Strongly Disagree).

s. no	Statements	5	4	3	2	1
1	Social workers face significant challenges in securing adequate resources for gender-based violence cases.					
2	Social workers encounter difficulties in coordinating with other agencies and stakeholders involved in addressing gender-based violence.					
3	Social workers struggle with high caseloads, which affect their ability to provide comprehensive support.					
4	Social workers experience challenges in dealing with victims' reluctance to report or seek help.					
5	Social workers face barriers in accessing training and professional development on gender-based violence.					
6	Social workers encounter difficulties in navigating bureaucratic and systemic obstacles in providing effective support.					

Suggest any other the challenges faced by social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe Division other than the ones mentioned above?

.....

Thank you very much for your cooperation

Appendix 2: Interview Guide

For the key informants

Dear Respondent,

I am Katushabe Charlotte a bachelor's student of Social Work and Social Administration from Uganda Christian University-Mukono researching "the role of social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe division". You have been selected to participate in this study because the contribution you make to your organization is central to the kind of information required. The information you provide is solely for academic purposes and will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Please kindly spare a few minutes to respond to the following questions.

Section A: Introductions

1. Tell me about yourself (*gender, age, level of education*)
2. What position do you hold in Kawempe division?

Section B: Questions on the research objectives

3. What are the most common forms of gender-based violence reported in Kawempe Division?
4. Can you provide examples of specific incidents of gender-based violence that are frequently encountered in this area?
5. How effective are the support services provided by social workers to victims of gender-based violence in Kawempe Division?
6. What types of support services are most commonly offered to gender-based violence victims by social workers in this area?
7. What are the main challenges that social workers face when addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe Division?
8. How do systemic or resource-related issues impact the ability of social workers to effectively support victims of gender-based violence?

Thank you for your cooperation

Appendix 3: Focus Group Discussion

For the selected respondents

Dear sir/madam

Good morning/afternoon. My name is, Katushabe Charlotte, a student of BSWSA at Uganda Christian University. I am conducting a study on “the role of social workers in addressing gender-based violence in Kawempe division.” The information given will be used only for academic purposes and will be treated with the highest level of confidentiality.

I will ask you a series of questions. There are no right or wrong answers. I only want to learn what you think. If I ask a question that you would prefer not to discuss, you do not need to discuss that topic. If you find the discussion topic uncomfortable, you are welcome to withdraw from the discussion at any time. I will be recording this discussion so that we can be sure to have your opinion in your own words when I analyse the information later. OK, let’s get started.

Questions on the objectives

1. Tell me about yourself (*gender, age, level of education, and position held in Kawempe division*)
2. What are the most common forms of gender-based violence you have observed in Kawempe Division?
3. How do these forms of violence typically manifest in the community, and are there any particular trends or patterns?
4. What types of support services do social workers currently provide to victims of gender-based violence in this area?
5. How effective do you believe these support services are in addressing the needs of victims, and what improvements could be made?
6. What are the main challenges social workers encounter when dealing with cases of gender-based violence in Kawempe Division?

7. How do these challenges impact their ability to effectively support victims and address gender-based violence?

Thank you for your cooperation

APPENDIX 4: INTRODUCTORY LETTER



**UGANDA CHRISTIAN
UNIVERSITY**

A Centre of Excellence in the Heart of Africa

August 23rd, 2024

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

Re: INTRODUCTORY LETTER FOR RESEARCH

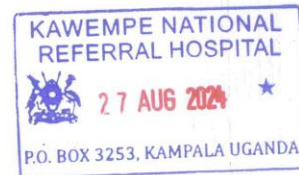
This is to introduce to you **KATUSHABE Charlotte** Registration number **J22B15/116**, a student of Uganda Christian University, pursuing Bachelor's degree in Social Work and Administration. She is expected to carry out research in the final year under the guidance of a university supervisor in partial fulfillment for the requirements of the above mentioned award.

Topic: "The Role of Social Workers in Addressing Gender Based Violence in Kawempe Division."

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



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



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