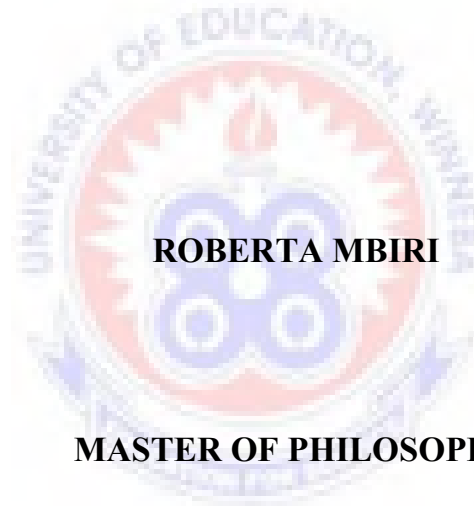


UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

**VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN WINNEBA IN THE EFFUTU
MUNICIPALITY**



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MASTER OF PHILOSOPHY

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

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MUNICIPALITY**

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**A thesis in the Department of Social Studies Education,
Faculty of Social Sciences Education, submitted to the
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**of the requirements for the award of degree of
Master of Philosophy
(Social Studies)
in the University of Education, Winneba**

JULY, 2020

DECLARATION

Student's Declaration

I, Roberta Mbiri, do hereby declare that this thesis, with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have all been identified and acknowledged, is entirely my own original research work, and it has not been submitted either in part or in whole for any other degree anywhere else.

Signature:

Date:

Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this work was supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of thesis as laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

Name of Supervisor:

Signature:

Date:

DEDICATION

I dedicate this thesis to my lovely family, most especially to my husband, Jonathan Tetteh and my son, Jonathan Mawudrome Okley.



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ABBREVIATIONS

ACHPR	The African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
BPfA	Beijing Platform for Action
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CHRAJ	Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice
CSO	Civil Society Organisations
DEVAW	The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit
DV	Domestic Violence
DVAM	Domestic Violence Against Men
GFLHS	Ghana Family Life and Health Survey
GHS	Ghana Health Service
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
IDS	Institute of Development Studies
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
VAWG	Violence against women and girls
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	The United Nations Children's Fund
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UDHR	The Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UNCHR	United Nations Human Rights Council
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNIFEM	United Nations Development Fund for Women's
UNDPI	United Nations Department of Public Information
WHO	World Health Organisation

ABSTRACT

Over the years, in addressing issues of violence against women, the focus had always been on men as the perpetrators and women as victims. However, that is not always the situation. Women also perpetrate violence against their fellow women. This study examined violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality. The study focused on woman as victims and perpetrators of violence against women. The study explored the forms, causes and effects of violence against women as well as the support seeking behaviour of victims. The study draws upon the ecological model which considers violence against women as an outcome of interacting factors at four levels and the social learning theory which explain the phenomenon as the effect of generational transmission of violence. The qualitative research approach was employed. The research design adopted for the study was phenomenology. A total population of seventeen (17) respondents were involved in the study. In obtaining data, the interview guide was administered to the respondents who were sampled using the purposive and snowballing techniques. The study revealed that unequal power relations, suspicion of infidelity, experiencing violence as a child were the main reasons why women perpetrate various forms of violence against women in Winneba while poverty and single parenting made other women victims of such violence. Also, there was a general consensus among the participants that violence against women had negative consequences on both victims and perpetrators. However, most victims of violence against women did not report to the appropriate quarters and the few who did found the whole process to be tedious and time consuming. Based upon these findings, the study recommended that stakeholders such as DOVVSU, Ministry of gender, child and social protection and CHRAJ formulate policies to address risk factors at the individual, relationship, community and societal levels. These stakeholders should also encourage victims of violence against women to report violence to the appropriate institutions by creating awareness on the existence of such institutions and making the process less tedious. Religious and non- governmental organisations within the communities in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality should embark on women empowerment programmes that will help reduce women dependency on others which will in turn help reduce violence against women.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Violence against women is a persistent and universal problem occurring in every culture and social group. Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, persuaded into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime, most often by someone she knows, including a member of her own family, an employer or a co-worker (Heise, Ellsberg & Gottemoeller, 2002). Violence against women has been called the most persistent yet least recognized human rights abuse in the world (WHO, 2011). Accordingly, the Second World Conference on Human Rights in Vienna in 1993 gave priority to this issue, which endanger women's lives, integrity and freedom (Fulu & Warner, 2018). Violence against women is a menace that is increasing all over the world and it is one of the most widespread human rights abuses and a public health problem (WHO, 2013).

The UN Declaration on the Elimination of violence against women in 1993 provided a comprehensive explanation to the concept. It stated that violence against women involves any act violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (United Nations, 1993).

Violence against Women (VAW) can take various forms and is experienced differently by women and girls around the world, but all forms have gender inequality at the core. The types of VAW can vary across cultures, countries and regions, but some of the more common forms include: sexual violence, sexual exploitation or abuse, domestic violence, trafficking, forced and/or early marriage and other

traditional practices that cause harm, such as female genital mutilation, honour killings, widow inheritance, etc. Violence against women occurs in both the public and private spheres. Such violence not only occurs in the family and in the general community, but is sometimes also perpetuated by the state through policies or the actions of agents of the state such as the police, military or immigration authorities (Haise & Kotsadam, 2015).

Violence against women happens in all societies, across all social classes. Estimates from the World Health Organization (WHO) signal that roughly one-third of women worldwide have experienced either physical or sexual intimate partner violence. The prevalence is lowest (23%) in WHO-defined high-income countries and highest in the African and Southeast Asian regions, at 46% and 40%, respectively. Thirty percent of women in the American region and 27% of women in the European and Western Pacific Regions have experienced intimate partner violence. Seven percent of women have experienced sexual violence by a non-partner. The highest estimates come from central and southern Africa (21% and 17%, respectively), and the lowest from South Asia (3%) (WHO, 2014).

Ghana is not exempted from this global crisis of violence against women. Scholars and victim advocates indicate that one in every three women in Ghana is a victim of Violence against women, including physical, economic, emotional and sexual violence (Ajayi& Soyinka-Airewele, 2018). Large numbers of women have also indicated experiences of psychological abuse, including threats, insults and destruction of property, all possibly linked to structures of domination and exploitation aggravated by the strong existence of patriarchal norms (Adjah &Agbemafle, 2016; Cusack & Manuh, 2009). Violence against women in Ghana often occurs in the context of patriarchal relations which perpetuates a system of

female subordination and male dominance. Tsikata & Kerr (2000) asserts that the subordinate position of women is reinforced by socio-cultural practices and a socialization process which socializes women to accept these practices and inequalities. Tsikata & Kerr further argued that in traditional Ghanaian society, men have been regarded as household heads and breadwinners and charged with the responsibility of the welfare of all household members. Women's roles and responsibilities as primary caregivers and frame takers have changed over the years and there are many women who contribute immensely to the family income in Ghana, yet violence against them keeps increasing. Bowman (2003) also adds that sexual harassment occurs widely in Ghana although it is not widely acknowledged or reported partly because of problems of its definition and problems associated with tradition and difficulty of proof. Bowman further adds that, non-sexual violence is equally prevalent in Ghana and takes many forms. According to him cultural practices such as widowhood rites, child betrothal, child marriage, female genital mutilation, the banishing of suspected female witches among others perpetuate violence especially against women. The 2008 Domestic and Health Survey conducted in Ghana revealed that 38.7 percent of women between the ages of 15 and 49 years reported experiences of psychological, physical and sexual violence by a male spouse at some point in their lives (Ajayi& Soyinka-Airewele, 2018).

Violence against women has shifted over recent decades from being considered a private or family problem to being identified as a public health concern with serious consequences for the health and wellbeing of victims (Krantz, 2002). According to the WHO report on violence and health, violence is globally the leading cause of death among people aged 15-44 years and hence a public health issue (WHO, 2002). Violence against women is not only a profound violation of human

rights, but also a pricey obstruction to a country's national development (Sida, 2015). Violence against women is a global health issue that cuts across boundaries of economic wealth, culture, religion, age, and sexual orientation. Wherever VAW occurs, it is a major impediment for the achievement of equal justice, posing a serious threat to democratic development and public health, and is a critical barrier to achieving sustainable development, economic growth and peace. If women and girls are not safe, they cannot be full citizens nor fully contribute their quota in the development of their society. Violence against women undermines efforts to realize the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as it hinders poverty reduction drive and has inter-generational consequences. It also abates women's ability to exercise their reproductive rights with serious consequences for maternal and child health in Ghana and other countries.

Over the years, whenever the issue of violence against women is raised, women are seen as only victims while men are always the perpetrators. Hence, most researches on violence against women have considered women as victims and men as perpetrators. According to Afari (2017), this view has shaped different stances and responses to violence as a social problem, in areas ranging from government policy to feminist groups campaigns. Most people have difficulty in believing whether females are capable of being perpetrators of violence (Hines, Brown & Dunning, 2007). A study conducted in Ghana by Afari (2017) has shown that women can be violent in intimate partner relationship. According to Medie (2019), while women are disproportionately the victims of gendered violence, they also use violence within and outside of the home. Within the home, women also commit acts of intimate partner violence. According to Robert (2012), the BBC reported that a men's group in Kenya named Maendeleo Ya Wanaume ("Progress for Men") announced an initiative to protest what is becoming a growing problem of female perpetrated domestic abuse in that country. This

pattern of violence by women is not only directed toward men but their fellow women. There are authentic stories around the globe on women who have been abused by other women. One of such instances is a case in Ghana where a 90 year old woman was beaten to death in the Savanna Region by a group of women including her granddaughter over the reason that she is a witch (Daily Graphic, June, 2020). Additionally, data obtained from the DOVVSU Unit revealed that a number of cases of various forms of violence against women by women have been reported in Winneba.

Studies has also shown that, women's use of violence is not limited to the home. Women have provided material and other forms of support to armed groups. For example, Nuba women supported soldiers of the Sudan People's Liberation Army with food and water during the conflict in the Nuba Mountains of Sudan between 1986 and 2005. Women have also participated in violence by joining armed groups. In Zimbabwe, female fighters fought alongside men in the country's anti-colonial war for independence. However, women's participation in violence has often been ignored and underestimated in the academic literature and in practice (Medie, 2019),

In order to decrease and eventually end VAW a paradigm shift is needed. Thus, it is essential to emphasize prevention and the direct involvement of both men and women, victims and perpetrators without which there can be no lasting change. This study therefore seeks to fill a gap in existing literature on violence against women by emphasizing on women as of both victims and perpetrators of violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

The severity of the issue of violence against women has led to the establishment of various institutions and policies both globally and locally to help curb the menace. In Ghana for instance, institutions such as the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service and the

Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ) have been established to deal with cases involving human rights abuses. Additionally, the Domestic Violence Act (Act 732) by parliament was passed to criminalise domestic violence of all kinds and give legal standing to the work of DOVVSU.

Notwithstanding these measures that have been taken by the state and increased awareness creation by civil society organisations (CSO), the incidence of violence against women appear to rise especially in the Effutu Municipality, Central Region and Ghana as a whole (Ghana Business News, 2019). For instance, according to the Central Regional Director of the Department of Gender, there has been an increase in cases of violence against women in the region. According to her, in 2016, 2017 and 2018 the region recorded 2,666, 3,409 and 3,419 cases respectively. To her, the level at which they are recording violence is not acceptable and that violence against anybody should be the concern of all (Ghana Business News, 2019). In Winneba the story is not different. Data obtained from the Winneba DOVVSU also showed that between 2010 and 2012, the unit received 1,465 cases of violence against women.

Whenever the concept of violence against women is mentioned, men are perceived as the only perpetrators. However, it is seemingly obvious that women are also perpetrators violence against each other in Ghana but this phenomenon is often underestimated. Hence, over the years most studies have focused women as only victims of violence against women. Observation made by the researcher has shown that women perpetrating violence against women is a common phenomenon in Winneba, especially in case of women and their foster children, co- tenants, rivals and in-laws which is worrying as long as the fight against violence against women is concerned.

Few related researches have been conducted in the Effutu Municipality concerning the issue. Most of these studies focused on the effects of domestic violence in the area and the institutional strategies for managing the menace of violence. An example is the study by Agyei and Wilson in 2018 on the effects of domestic violence in Winneba. However, none of them looked at the issue of violence against women in the Effutu Municipality specifically Winneba. Therefore, this study seeks to fill this gap in literature by looking at violence against women in Winneba with emphasis on women as both victims and perpetrators. Thus, in order to shed more light on the phenomenon and find a lasting solution to it, there is the need for a more holistic approach considering victims and perpetrators from another perspective which is the focus of this work.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to ascertain violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality focusing on women as both victims and perpetrators.

1.4 Objectives of the Study

The objectives that guided the study were to:

- i. explore the forms of violence women perpetrate against their fellow women in Winneba, in the Effutu Municipality.
- ii. examine the factors that cause women to perpetrate violence against each other in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality.
- iii. assess the effects of violence against women on women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality.
- iv. assess the support seeking behaviour of victims of violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality.

1.5 Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide the study:

- i. In what forms do women perpetrate violence against their fellow women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality?
- ii. Why do women perpetrate violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality?
- iii. How does the violence women perpetrate against women affect women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality?
- iv. What is the support seeking behaviour of victims of violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality?

1.6 Significance of the Study

This study is of immense benefit to many people. The growing body of literature on violence against women focuses on women as victims and men as perpetrators. Most studies in this area have therefore considered women only as victims. However, that is not always the case; there are instances where women perpetrate violence against their fellow women. This study helps fill this gap in existing literature on violence against women and also set the pace for further research in a similar direction.

Secondly, the study is useful to the members of the general public to enable them appreciate this social canker and change their attitude towards it, as the study sought to reveal the multiplicity of factors accounting for women perpetrating violence against each other and its effects on the individual as well as the society and the nation.

Also, the research is beneficial to policy makers, opinion leaders and institutions such as the Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit and the Department of Social Welfare as they would rely on the findings to incorporate various programmes that can prevent this menace from occurring. This would help them to provide appropriate remedial programmes as and when it occurs.

Finally, the findings of the study serve as a reference material for researchers who want to research into similar area.

1.7 Delimitation of the Study

The study was conducted in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality in the Central Region of Ghana. Specifically, it involved women who are victims or perpetrators of violence against women.

1.8 Organisation of the Study

The study is organised in five chapters. The first chapter discusses the background to the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives that guided the study, research questions, significance of the study and delimitations. Chapter Two reviews related literature and theories. Chapter Three focuses on the general methodology adopted for the study. It touches on the research paradigm, approach and design of the study, the population and the sample and sampling technique that were used. Additionally, the instruments for data collection, data presentation and analysis as well as trustworthiness of data and ethical considerations are discussed. Chapter Four concentrates on the presentation and analysis of data collected for the study. Chapter Five, the final chapter presents a summary of the

findings of the study, recommendations, the conclusion and the limitations of the study.

1.9 Operational Definition of Terms

Abuse: to treat someone wrongly in a way that can cause injury to the person.

Guardian: someone who takes care of another person's child.

Perpetrator: a person who abuses another person.

Violence: it is the deliberate use of force against someone with the aim of causing harm to the person.

Victim: someone who is subjected to maltreatment or abuse.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter has to do with the review of related literature. The review begins with the key concepts that would resonate through the work, the forms of violence perpetrated against women and the factors influencing violence against women. Again, the consequences, conventions and policies of violence against women were considered.

2.2 The Concept of Violence

The term violence is derived from the Latin word *vis*, which means force and refers to the notions of control and using physical supremacy on the other person. Violence varies, as it is influenced by different times, places, circumstances and realities. Violence is an extremely diffuse and complex phenomenon, whose definition cannot be precisely literal, since it is a matter of appreciation; it is influenced by culture and subjected to continuous review to the extent that social values and standards evolve. Violence has existed on Earth since time immemorial, assuming different, increasingly complex and at the same time more fragmented and articulated forms.

Violence is the use of force to control another person or other people. Violence can include physical, emotional, social or economic abuse, coercion, or pressure. Violence can be open, in the form of a physical assault or threatening someone with a weapon; it can also be more hidden, in the form of intimidation, threats or other forms of psychological or social pressure. The intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or

against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, under development or deprivation (WHO, 2002). Violence is “an act carried out with the intention or perceived intention of physically hurting another person” (Kuenyehia, 2000, p.6). Internationally, violence resulted in the deaths of an estimated 1.28 million people in 2013. In Africa, out of every 100,000 people each year an estimated 60.9 die a violent death (WHO, 2020).

2.2 Violence against Women

United Nations posits that the term violence against women means any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (United Nations, 1993, p.2).

United Nations, (1993, p.2) further declares that violence against women shall be understood to encompass, but not be limited to, the following:

(a) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation.

(b) Physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere, trafficking in women and forced prostitution.

Terry (2014) avow that violence against women is a broad term used to capture aggressive acts directed towards women, which consists of numerous types of violence with the most commonly known types of abuse being emotional, sexual, and

physical. Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, CARE (2013) maintains that violence against women is any harmful act or threat based on a person's sex or gender identity. It includes physical, sexual and psychological abuse, coercion, denial of liberty and economic deprivation whether occurring in public or private spheres. Thus, violence against women is any act of physical, psychological, sexual, social or economic violence directed at women.

Violence against women is an expression of unequal relations between men and women. This power imbalance is deeply rooted in our societies in virtually all facet of life; women and girls are overtly or implicitly considered to be inferior to men and boys. Power imbalance tends to be closely linked to economic dependence, financial insecurity and the expectations societies have of men and women (Heise & Kotsadam, 2015). Global statistics on violence against women show that, on average, 35% of women have experienced either physical and/or sexual violence by someone who is an intimate partner or sexual violence by someone who is not a partner (WHO, 2013, p.2). Similarly a study in Ghana by Ajayi & Soyinka-Airewele (2018), found out that one in every three women in Ghana is a victim of violence, including physical, economic, emotional and sexual violence. Similarly, Medie (2019) in her study found that, 38.7 per cent of ever-married girls and women between the ages of fifteen and forty-nine surveyed in Ghana reported having experienced either sexual, physical, or emotional violence, or all of these three acts.

Violence against women is one of the most pervasive human rights violations, denying women equity, protection, dignity, equality, their right to enjoy fundamental freedoms and self-worth (Solanke, Amoo & Idowu, 2018). According to WHO (2002) girls and young women are particularly vulnerable to certain forms of violence given their subordinate status within families and communities. These

include rituals relating to their reproductive functions, such as FGM or initiation rites. Violence makes an early appearance in women's intimate and sexual relationships. A report by the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) indicates that over 50% of ever-married girls have experienced IPV, with the highest rates in Equatorial Guinea, DRC, Gabon, Zimbabwe and Cameroon (United Nations Women, 2012).

Civil society and governments around the world have accepted that VAW is a violation of basic human rights and a global policy concern. In recognition of this, "eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls in the public and private spheres" is one of the targets against which Sustainable Development Goal number 5, aimed at achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls will be measured. To further underscore the importance of tackling VAW, the "elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls" was chosen as the review theme at the 60th Session of the United Nations (UN) Commission on the Status of Women in March 2016 (United Nations Women, 2018).

2.3 Forms of Violence against Women

Violence against women can take various forms and is experienced differently by women and girls around the world. According to the WHO (2002), world report on Violence and Health, violence appears in different forms and circumstances and involves distinct kinds of violent acts against women. According to the report, some of the common forms of violence against women include physical violence, psychological violence, sexual violence, economic violence and harmful traditional practices. A 2008 Domestic and Health Survey conducted in Ghana revealed that 38.7 percent of women between the ages of 15 and 49 years reported experiences of psychological, physical and sexual violence by a male spouse at some point in their lives (Ghana Statistical Service, 2009).

2.4 Violence against Women during the Life Cycle of Women

Table 2.1 shows the forms of violence to which women can be subjected to during the different stages of their lives.

Table 2.1: Violence against women during the Life Cycle of Women

Stage	Type of violence experienced
Pre-birth	Sex-selective abortion; battering during pregnancy; forced pregnancy.
Infancy	Female infanticide; emotional and physical abuse; differential access to food and medical care.
Childhood	Child marriage; genital mutilation; sexual abuse by family members and strangers; differential access to food, medical care and education.
Teenage years	Violence during courtship; economically coerced sex (e.g. for school fees); sexual abuse in the workplace; rape; sexual harassment; arranged marriage; trafficking.
Reproductive age	Physical, psychological and sexual abuse by intimate male partners and relatives; forced pregnancies by partner; sexual abuse in the workplace; sexual harassment; rape; abuse of widows, including property grabbing and sexual cleansing practices.
Elderly	Abuse of widows, including property grabbing; accusations of witchcraft; physical and psychological violence by younger family members; differential access to food and medical care.

Source: Ganley(1998); Heise(1998).

2.4.1 Sexual violence

According to Population Council (2008), sexual violence is defined as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments and advances, or acts to traffic women's sexuality, using coercion, threats of harm or physical force, by any person regardless of the relationship to the survivor. It occurs in any setting including but not limited to home and work. The 2007 domestic violence act of

Ghana defined sexual violence to encompass sexual abuse, namely the forceful engagement of another person in a sexual contact which includes sexual conduct that abuses, humiliates or degrades the other person or otherwise violates another person's sexual integrity. It also includes a sexual contact by a person aware of being infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or any other sexually transmitted disease with another person without that other person being given prior information of the infection.

Heise *et al.* (2002) asserts that sexual coercion and abuse also emerge as defining features of the female experience for many women and girls. To Heise *et al.* (2002), forced sexual contact can take place at any time in a woman's life and includes a range of behaviours, from forcible rape to nonphysical forms of pressure that compel girls and women to engage in sex against their will. Heise *et al.* (2002) further argue that the touchstone of coercion is that a woman lacks choice and faces severe physical or social consequences if she opposes sexual advances.

Sexual violence can occur in a wide range of relationships and locations. They can be perpetrated by family members, current and former sexual partners, other relatives and friends, acquaintances, those in positions of authority, and strangers. The ages of the perpetrator and the victim may be similar or vastly different, and many combinations of race, ethnicity, class, status, and sexual orientation can occur. Sexual violence can be in private or public locations. A report by UNDP, (2011), showed that 40-50% of women in European Union countries have also experienced unwanted sexual advances, physical contact or other forms of sexual harassment at their workplace. Surveys conducted in Asia-Pacific countries indicate that 30-40% of women workers report some form of harassment – verbal, physical or sexual. Thus, this form of violence has to do with using any means against an individual's will to

engage in any form of sexual activities. Sexual violence comes in diverse shades including unacceptable sexual comments and rape.

2.4.2 *Physical violence*

This type of violence against women is the most evident and difficult to hide, as it affects the physical appearance of victims. WHO (2017), recognise physical violence as the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing death, injury or harm. According to Fulu and Heise (2014), physical violence is the premeditated use of physical force that results in bodily injury, pain, or impairment. The severity of injury ranges from minimal tissue damage, broken bones to permanent injury and death. Fulu and Heise (2014), maintains that acts of physical violence include slapping, shoving, pushing, punching, hitting, beating, scratching, hair pulling, strangling, biting, spitting, grabbing, shaking, spitting, kicking, burning, throwing, twisting of a body part, forcing the ingestion of an unwanted substance. It also include restraining a woman to prevent her from seeking medical treatment or other help; and using household objects to hit or stab a woman, using weapons like knives or guns.

The 2007 Domestic Violence Act of Ghana defined physical violence to embrace physical abuse, namely physical assault or use of physical force against another person including the forcible confinement or detention of another person and the deprivation of another person of access to adequate food, water, clothing, shelter, rest, or subjecting another person to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

2.4.3 *Psychological and emotional violence*

This type of violence is more intricate to detect, as the impact on the victims are sometimes more difficult to observe and prove. This form of violence is most

often endured or tolerated usually occur prior to or concurrently with other forms of violence against women. WHO, (2017), explained psychological violence is an action or set of actions that directly blight the woman's psychological integrity. Acts of psychological violence include threats of violence and harm against people or somebody close to the person. It also entails words or actions, harassment at the work place, critical, humiliating and insulting comments meant to undermine a person's sense of self-worth and self-esteem. The use of children by a violent intimate partner to control or hurt the other partner (e.g. through attacking a child, forcing children to watch attacks against their mother, threatening to take children away, or kidnapping the child) constitute violence against women. Women March Global (2018) explains that psychological abuse involves trauma to the victim caused by verbal abuse, acts, threats of acts, or coercive tactics. To Women march global, perpetrators use psychological abuse to control, intimidate, and malign their victims.

The 2007 Domestic Violence Act of Ghana defined emotional and psychological violence as any action that makes another person feel constantly unhappy, miserable, humiliated, ridiculed, afraid, nervous or depressed or to feel inadequate or worthless. Harassment including sexual harassment and intimidation by inducing fear in another person also constitutes this form of violence. Reasonable numbers of women have also indicated experiences of psychological abuse, including threats, insults and destruction of property, all possibly linked to structures of domination (Adjah & Agbemafle, 2016; Cusack & Manuh, 2009).

It is important to emphasize that victims of psychological violence often think that what happens to them is normal and most often do not decide on attitudes to impede these acts, including reproving them to competent institutions. Some victims believe that they would not be considered worthy if they denounced their attackers. In

other cases, someone the woman respect may tell her that she should continue in this abusive relationship for the good of her children or to secure the rights acquired through marriage (Institute for Development Studies, Ghana Statistical Service & Associates, 2016). A study by IDS *et al.* in 2016 revealed that psychological violence was the most common type of violence experienced by women and men across Ghana. In their study they found out that about half of the respondents (48 per cent of women) experienced an act of psychological violence at least once in their lifetime.

2.4.4 Harmful traditional practices

Harmful traditional practice is also a form of violence perpetrated against women. A Ministry of Health study of VAW confirmed that it is still tolerated in most communities in Namibia. These include practices such as female genital mutilation, early marriage, forced marriage, honour killing, infanticide and widowhood rites (United Nations, 2008). These practices are carried out by traditional practitioners and supported, condoned and assisted by families, religious groups, entire community and some states.

2.4.5 Socio-economic violence

This form of violence can be both a means to make the victim more vulnerable to other forms of violence, but can also be the reason why other forms of violence are inflicted (WHO, 2005). Saravanan (2000) asserts that this is the discrimination or denial of opportunities, services, exclusion, and denial of access to education, health assistance or remunerated employment and denial of property rights. Social exclusion based on sexual orientation which is the denial of access to services, social benefits or exercise and enjoyment of civil, social, economic, cultural and political rights, imposition of criminal penalties, discriminatory practices or

physical and psychological harm and tolerance of discriminatory practices. According to Saravanan (2000), this kind of violence may be perpetrated by family members, society, institutions and organizations, government actors. Obstructive legislative practice is another form of socio-economic violence which amount to denial of access to exercise and enjoyment of civil, social, economic, cultural and Political rights, mainly towards women. Key perpetrators are usually the woman's family, community, institutions and the State.

According to the 2007 Domestic Violence Act, economic abuse encompasses the deprivation or threatened deprivation of economic or financial resources which a person is entitled to by law. It also involves the disposition or threatened disposition of moveable or immovable property in which another person has a material interest. Social violence entails acts of controlling behaviour, such as preventing someone from seeing friends or family, stopping someone from leaving the house, requiring to know where someone is at all times. Stalking, spreading false information, videos or photos without permission, or forcing women to have an abortion also forms part of social violence.

The literature have shown that women experience various forms of violence be it physical, psychological or sexual across the various stages of their lives. The violence is usually perpetrated by people she knows including a family, friend or members of the community. Some these forms of violence are not only perpetrated by men against women but women against their fellow women as well.

2.5 Factors Accounting Violence against Women

Five main sets of factors have historically been used to describe the determinants of violence against women: individual psychological factors, sociological factors, male aggression, poverty and the prevalence of cultures of

violence (Bowman, 2000). The following are some of the factors that account for violence against women.

2.5.1 Unequal power and gender relations

Gender-based discrimination against women and inequality of power and resources are the root causes of violence against women and girls (Fulu & Heise, 2014). International agreements recognize that violence against women is characterized by the use and abuse of power and control in public and private spheres and is intrinsically linked with gender stereotypes that underline and perpetuate such violence (United Nations, 2013). There is general agreement that unequal gender power relations and discrimination against women and girls are root causes of violence against women. However gender inequality does not look the same in every country and context (Our Watch, 2015). In almost all societies around the world, men have greater access to power, status, opportunities, and resources than women and people of other genders (World Economic Forum, 2014). Gender inequality is maintained by restrictive norms that dictate the social expectations of women and men, and is reinforced by structures organized around unequal distribution of power and resources between women and men (Our Watch, 2015).

United Nations (2010) opines that women's subordinate status to men in many societies, coupled with the general acceptance of interpersonal violence as a means of resolving conflict, renders women disproportionately vulnerable to violence from all levels of society. Similarly, Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (2013) emphasize that violence against women is a fundamental human rights violation, rooted in unjust, unequal power and gender relations and structures in our societies. These are upheld by rigid and unjust social, economic, legal and cultural norms that determine a woman's unequal role in her home, community and workplace.

According to Our Watch (2015), evidence has found that communities with higher levels of violence against women share the following expressions of gender inequality, condoning of violence against women, men's control of decision-making and restrictions to women's independence, stiff gender roles and identities, and male peer relations that emphasize aggression and disregard towards women. Ellsberg, Janse, Heise, Watts & Garcia-Moreno (2008), contend that rationalisation for violence normally evolve from gender norms that is, social norms about the proper roles and responsibilities of men and women. Many cultures hold that men have the right to control their wives' behaviour and the wide range of studies agree on several factors at each of these levels that increase the likelihood that a man will abuse his partner.

2.5.2 Patriarchal norms

Patriarchy is understood as those structural relations and cultural constructs that take advantage of the idea of the masculine gender in regulating the existence of others (Rydstrom, 2010). Several theories have suggested patriarchy as a justification for the prevalence of violence against women, whereby violence is a way in which men exercise control over women (Eswaran & Malthotra, 2011). This system of male dominance creates an avenue to grant power to them and further entails the disempowerment and subordination of women (Kakar & Poggendorf-Kakar, 2009). For instance in the Ghanaian context women are socialise to be submissive, respectful, subservient, empathetic, sympathetic and caring. On the other hand men are trained to have masculine features such as assertiveness, aggressiveness, authority and leadership.

According to Qayum and Ray (2010) the more the gendered role of masculinity is incorporated by the man, the more likely the woman is to experience

violence by default. A number of studies have reinforced the notion of Ghana as a patriarchal country. For example, cultural traditions, such as wife inheritance and dowry payments, forced marriages, widowhood rites and FGM, have reinforced the belief in men's superiority and encouraged violence against women (Adu-Gyamfi, 2014; Amoah, 2007). This is particularly true when women are reliant on men because of limited education and training opportunities, and limited access to money, credit and employment (UNICEF, 2000). Mann & Takyi (2009) found further that respondents from matrilineal groups were less likely to condone spousal abuse than those from patrilineal backgrounds (Panda & Agarwal, 2005). In the Ghanaian context, patriarchy is clearly visible as an underlying factor encoded in the various ways in which female victims of VAW have sought to explain the abuse they have endured. Patriarchy prescribes roles and power within the domestic setting, permits and legalises the use of violence (Ajayi & Soyinka-Airewele, 2018).

2.5.3 *Socio-economic status and education levels*

Although violence against women affects everyone, existing literature indicates that the prevalence of violence against women is usually connected with low income and wealth levels (Bobonis, Gonzalez-Brenes, & Castro, 2013). Aizer (2011) claimed that poor women were at a higher risk of abuse in the USA. In contrast, Amoakohene (2004) reported violence against women in Ghana to be widespread among all socio-economic gamuts. The study by Adinkrah (2008) showed that homicides occurred across the whole socio-economic scale but were more common among individuals with lower socio-economic background. Education levels are also typically associated with prevalence of violence against women.

Similarly, Panda and Agarwal (2005) reported that in many of the countries they analysed the prevalence of violence against women decreased with rising

education levels in Zambia, Peru, Thailand and Tanzania. The prevalence of domestic violence was lower only among women with education levels above secondary school. This may mean that, at higher levels of education, women are equipped to bargain sovereignty and control of resources within their marriage or families. Takyi and Mann (2006) acknowledge that younger men and women with little education or social status are more likely than other socioeconomic groups to believe that violence is justified. Also, a study by IDS *et al.* 2016, revealed that in Ghana low asset levels were found to be strong determinants of psychological and economic violence among women, but high asset levels were associated with higher levels of social and sexual violence among men. Tensions and fights over money or property were found to be leading determinants of all forms of domestic violence across all regions. Institute of Development studies *et al.* (2016) further argued that, women with no education were generally between 0.5 and 2.5 times less likely to experience domestic violence than women with some level of education. This result may be due to the fact that women and men with more education may also be more likely to report domestic violence, as emphasized in previous studies conducted internationally and in Ghana.

2.5.4 Attitudes condoning violence

In many countries, individual attitudes justify men's violence as a way for men to discipline women who do not adhere to the gendered expectations of their behaviour (United Nations Women forthcoming, 2018). In the WHO Multi country Study, for example, female infidelity and disobeying a husband were the most commonly accepted reasons for a man to use physical violence against his wife (García-Moreno *et al.*, 2005). Studies have found out that in many countries in Asia and the Pacific, physical violence is acknowledged as a form of discipline for women

who do not fulfil their roles of being obedient, faithful, fertile, and performing household chores (Schuleretal, 2011).Both women and men condone violence in certain situations, but refuse justifications for violence in other circumstances (Fulu & Heise, 2014). What types of violence condoned varies greatly between and within, countries and among different groups and gender. Studies from more than 35 countries around the world show that condoning intimate partner violence is highly associated with women's victimization (Fulu & Heise, 2014). Across Asia and the Pacific, evidence suggests that women's and men's attitudes towards intimate partner violence function independently to shape a woman's risk of experiencing abuse or a man's likelihood of perpetrating violence, however, men's attitudes may be a stronger predictor of violence than women's attitudes (United Nations Women, 2018).

2.5.8 *Shift from traditional to modern, urbanised societies*

A related approach has argued that violence against women can be attributed to the shift from traditional to modern, urbanised societies, a process that may result in some men feeling threatened and more likely to find ways of exerting their power through violence (Bowman, 2003). Abane (2003) has found that socio-economic change in Ghana has been accompanied by increasing economic strain within households. As a result, some men faced increased difficulties in supporting multiple wives and households while women took on waged employment to subsidize the family's income. However, women were expected to do both household and paid work. If they are unable to meet their partner's expectations, they could be abused. Similarly, Amoakohene (2004), has found that a change from traditional gender roles, where women worked at home, to new roles, where women took on paid employment has contributed to the increases in domestic violence. While Bloch and Rao (2002) showed that domestic violence was a means used by perpetrators (males in their

study) in India to ensure the maintenance of their bargaining power within the household.

In studying the factors that leads to violence against women, most studies have focused on how men take advantage of social, cultural, economic and historical factors to exploit and abuse women. However, there is the need to consider these factors from the perspective of both men and women taking into consideration the various factors at the various levels of the ecological model.

2.6 Effects of Violence against Women

Violence against women has both short-term and long-term detrimental consequences on the social, economic, physical and emotional wellbeing of women. It also comes with devastating consequences for individuals, families, communities, societies and nations. These consequences range from minor to grave effects.

2.6.1 Health consequences of violence against women

A growing number of studies documents the ways in which violence against women undermine women's sexual and reproductive health and endanger their physical and mental health (WHO, 2005). The most widely reported consequences of gender based violence are poor physical and mental health.

According to Heise *et al.* (2002), violence against women causes profound health problem, draining women's energy, compromising their physical health and reduce their self-esteem. They highlight that in addition to causing injury, violence increases women's long-term risk of other health problems, including chronic pain, physical disability, drug and alcohol abuse and depression. To them, although violence can have direct health consequences, it also increases women's risk of future ill health. Physical violence and sexual abuse can put women at risk of infection and

unwanted pregnancies. Sexual abuse of girls can lead to unwanted pregnancies and STDs by increasing sexual risk-taking in adolescence and adulthood. A study by WHO (2014) also found out that sexual violence can lead to unintended pregnancies, induced abortions, gynaecological problems, and sexually transmitted infections. According to them, sexual violence, particularly during childhood, can lead to increased smoking, drug and alcohol misuse, and risky sexual behaviours in future. It is also related with perpetration of violence and being a victim of violence later in life. They further assert that violence against women who are pregnant also increases the likelihood of miscarriage, stillbirth, pre-term delivery and low birth weight babies. Other health effects can also include headaches, back pain, abdominal pain, fibromyalgia, gastrointestinal disorders, limited mobility and poor overall health. García-Moreno *et al.* (2013) reported that women who had experienced physical or sexual abuse by their partners were 16 per cent more likely to give birth to low-weight babies than women who did not experience intimate partner violence. Recent studies from Ghana have shown how violence against women negatively affects women during pregnancy and the health of babies born (Adu-Gyamfi, 2014).

2.6.2 Economic and social consequences of violence against women

Violence against women has both direct and indirect economic and social cost on the individual family, community and nation. Costs of violence against women, either direct or indirect, are incurred by women and their families, by perpetrators and their families and by state and non-state institutions.

Direct costs are in relation to goods and services for which there is a monetary exchange. Indirect costs are those costs for which a monetary value can be calculated even though there is no monetary exchange, such as foregone benefits or opportunity costs (Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere, 2013, p.5).

Women who survive the violence bear the costs as much as six times the cost to the State (Walby, 2009). Walby maintains that direct financial costs include the costs of providing a range of facilities, resources and services to victims-survivors as a result of being subjected to gender based violence. Examples are the costs of crisis services, accommodation services, legal services, and income support and health services. For instance in the UK the total annual cost of domestic violence services (direct costs include the criminal justice system, health (including mental health), social services, housing, civil legal services has been estimated to amount to £3.1billion.

In 2016, the global cost of violence against women was estimated by the UN to be US\$1.5 trillion, equivalent to approximately 2% of the global gross domestic product (GDP)(UN Women, 2016). According to the world bank report in 2017, an estimated 3.7% of GDP is lost due to violence against women. This is more than double what governments spend on education (World Bank, 2017).

Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (2013) is of the view that inaction results to an immense global cost. Highlighting costs and the potential benefits shows the pressing need of increasing efforts to prevent and respond to violence against women across the world. In addition, according to Bott, Morrison & Ellsberg (2009), violence against women poses significant costs for the economies of developing countries, including lower worker productivity and incomes, lower rates of accumulation of human and social capital, and the generation of other forms of violence both now and in the future. Siddique (2011) supported this assertion and argued that the overall costs of violence against women are comparable to state budgets for essential services. In Bangladesh, the cost of violence against women is estimated at US\$2.3 billion (equivalent to 2.1% of GDP in 2010) was equal to the

health and nutrition budget for the whole country in that year. In Zambia, the cost of violence against women was at 2.27% of GDP or US\$473 million was comparable to the entire health budget for the country in 2016 (Zulu, Kanyinji, Schone, Mvula, & Rasing, 2017). Research by the World Bank shows that violence against women has significant impact on a country's GDP. Conservative estimates of lost productivity from violence against women range from 1.2 per cent of GDP in Brazil and Tanzania to 2 per cent of GDP in Chile GBV is often hidden from view and perpetrators are rarely brought to justice (World Bank, 2017).

Women and their families bear the highest burden of social and economic costs such as disgrace and stigma. Violence against women affects women's participation in education, employment, civic life and politics, and hinders their access and control over resources thereby increasing poverty and inequality. WHO (2014) maintains that the social and economic costs of violence against women is enormous and has ripple effects throughout societies. Women may suffer isolation, inability to work, loss of wages, lack of participation in regular activities and limited ability to care for themselves and their children. Violence against women, especially by their partners, represents a challenge to health services due to the associated costs (United Nations, 2008).

The Cooperative for Assistance and Relief Everywhere (2013) believes that violence against women is a fundamental human rights violation and deserves condemnation. This in itself is sufficient justification for action against the menace. Understanding the costs of violence against women provides additional arguments for why preventing and responding to violence against women should be a top priority for governments and non-governmental agencies.

Some studies have also noted a close alliance between experiences of violence against women and constrained access to livelihood options, fewer skills and lower productivity among victims (García-Moreno, Jansen, Ellsberg, Heise, & Watts, 2005). Lloyd (1997) found that female victims of domestic violence in the USA were more likely to have been unemployed, had multiple jobs, had lower personal incomes and were significantly more likely to receive public assistance than women who did not experience domestic violence. In Colombia, Ribero and Sanchez (2005) showed that domestic violence against women caused increased unemployment by 6.4 percentage, a 40 per cent reduction in earnings, and adverse health outcomes. VAW is not only a human rights abuse but it is also an economic drain.

2.6.3 Emotional consequences of violence against women

Violence against women also has psychological and emotional effect on women. Millions of women have suffered psychological distress as a result of violence against women (Our Watch, 2015).

The Victims of violence against women are at high risk of serious psychosocial problems. The potential for debilitating long-term effects of emotional and psychological trauma should never be underrated (United Nations, 2008). WHO(2014) affirms that violence against women can lead to depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, sleep difficulties, eating disorders, emotional suffering and attempts of suicide. The same study found that women who have experienced violence from someone they know were almost twice as likely to experience depression and alcohol abuse. The rate was even higher for women who had experienced non partner abuse. United Nations (2008), also asserts that the consequences of VAW can be psychological and behavioural such as alcohol and drugs abuse, depression, anxiety, eating and sleep disorders, feelings of shame and guilt, phobic disorders and panic

syndrome, physical inactivity, low self-esteem, post-traumatic stress disorders, smoking, suicidal behaviours and self-punishment, unsafe sexual behaviour. A study conducted in Ghana by Amoakohene (2004) reported widespread adverse psychological and emotional effects as a result of violence against women. Women in the study mentioned being in constant fear when their husbands returned home, experience depression, and suffering from stress, tension and low self-esteem.

2.6.4 Effect violence against women on child development and behaviour

Violence against Women within families has direct and indirect negative effects on the development of children. The most prominent consequences include lower birth weight, lower academic performance and increased emotional and behavioural problems (Aizer, 2011). Carrell and Hoekstra (2010) have also shown that children who suffered from social and emotional problems related to exposure to gender based violence experienced lower academic achievement. This violence does not only affect women physically and psychologically, but also implies risks for their children. Children who experience violence in the family have increased tendencies of depression, anxiety, behavioural disorders and delayed cognitive development in children. Moreover, it increases the risk that they will turn into victims of mistreatment or future perpetrators themselves (United Nations, 2008). Our Watch, (2015) affirms this assertion and argued that children who grow up in families where there is violence may suffer a range of behavioural and emotional disturbances. These can also be associated with perpetrating or experiencing violence later in life.

Jaffe as cited in IDS *et al.*(2016) noted that children exposed to partner abuse also have a number of school adjustment difficulties, including dropping out of school. Jaffe in his study reports the results of a study by Hughes of children residing in shelters and found that children who witnessed higher frequencies and intensities

of partner abuse, performed significantly less well on a measure of interpersonal sensitivity than those children exposed to less frequent and intense partner abuse behaviours. This is particularly the case for male children, whereas girls witnessing violence are more likely to end up as victims of violent relationships. Thus, it becomes difficult to separate causes from consequences, as growing up in a family where the mother is abused becomes an important way in which the cycle of gender based violence gets perpetuated. Furthermore, it serves to reinforce and perpetuate gender stereotypes and unequal gender relations, which in turn will contribute to violence against women. Witnessing domestic violence also contributes to the individual being violent, in that these children learn violence as the means of solving disagreement (Kishor & Johnson 2004). Thus, children from violent homes are likely to be either victims or perpetrators of violence whether male or female.

Violence against women affects victims physically, emotionally and economically as well as their families. It also affects stakeholders and nations since they have to spend huge sums of money in managing the menace.

2.7 Women's Rights and Violence against Women

For the past few decades violence against women has moved from being considered a private issue to being recognized as a public health concern with serious consequences on the health and well-being of victims (Krantz, 2002). According to WHO (2005), violence is globally the leading cause of death among people aged 15-44 years and hence a global health concern. Also, violence against women is one of the most prevailing expressions of gender discrimination worldwide, which violates and undermines women's human rights and their fundamental freedoms. These fundamental human rights are inalienable to be enjoyed equally by all irrespective of one's sex, gender, social class or race.

For centuries women have occupied a subordinate position in relation to men. It was in 1948 that the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted by the general assembly of the United Nations. The human rights of all were to be recognized regardless of sex, race, colour, language, religion among others. However, despite the Universal Declaration of Human Rights women have continued to occupy lower positions and discriminated against in their homes, society and the nation at large.

In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s, women of different cultures, religions, race, and geographical areas came together to demand their fundamental human rights with the motive of improving their living conditions. Women's Right Conferences were held in different parts of the world including Mexico 1975, Copenhagen 1980, Nairobi 1985, Beijing 1995, and Hanoi 2008 with the support of the UN. Historical milestone were the "Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)" approved in 1979 and the Worldwide Conference of Human Rights in Vienna in 1993" along with the recognition of human rights of women and girls as inalienable. All these efforts have yielded significant results. However, these advances have not yet been sufficient nor have they been implemented equally globally.

2.7.1 International conventions, agreements and policies to fight against violence against women

There are a number of international conventions which have been dedicated to the fighting of violence against women. Most countries around the world have vowed commitment to these convention of which Ghana is no exception. Some of these Conventions include The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women, Beijing Platform

for Action, Solemn Declaration on Gender Equality in Africa, Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Rights of Women in Africa, and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

2.7.2 The Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR)

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights is a landmark document in the history of human rights drafted by representatives with different legal and cultural backgrounds from all regions of the world. The Declaration was proclaimed by the United Nations General Assembly in Paris on 10 December 1948, as a common standard of achievements for all peoples and all nations. It sets out, for the first time, fundamental human rights to be universally protected. Ghana became a Member State of the United Nations on the 8th March, 1957 and is consequently bound by the UDHR.

2.7.3 The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW)

The Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination against Women was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly and came into force in 1981. CEDAW is usually referred to as the international bill of rights for women. It spells out what constitute discrimination against women and girls and sets out a comprehensive framework for tackling gender inequality. The preamble and thirty articles define discrimination against women and establish an agenda for governments across the globe to end discrimination against women. The government of Ghana signed the CEDAW on 17th July 1980 and ratified it on 2nd January, 1986.

2.7.4 *Beijing Platform for Action (BPfA)*

The Beijing Platform for Action is an agenda for women's empowerment. It aims at accelerating the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women. It also aimed at eradicating all the hindrances to women's active participation in all aspects of public and private life through a full and equal access in economic, social, cultural and political decision-making. The principle of shared power and responsibility were established between women and men at home, the workplace, the wider national and international communities. Establishing equality between men and women is an expression of human rights, and a necessary condition for social justice, development and peace. The Beijing Platform for Action adopted at the Fourth World Conference on Women, labels violence against women as an obstruction to the achievement of the objective of equality, development and peace. It highlights that violence against women violates and impairs women's enjoyment of their human rights and fundamental freedoms. The Platform thus endorses the classification of violence against women as a human rights issue and hence demanding accountability of States to prevent, investigate and punish acts of violence against women, whether perpetrated by the State or by private persons. The consideration of violence against women as a fundamental human rights violation gravely enhances earlier approaches to addressing all forms of violence against women. A sustained and long-term commitment is essential in that women and men can work together for themselves and their children and their society to make the world a better place for all.

2.7.5 *Solemn declaration on gender equality in Africa*

The Heads of State and Government of Member States of the African Union, meeting in the Third Ordinary Session of their Assembly in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia,

from 6-8 July, 2004 reaffirmed their commitment to the principle of gender equality. The principles were enshrined in Article 4 (1) of the Constitutive Act of the African Union. Other existing commitments, principles, goals and actions set out in the various regional, continental and international instruments on human and women's rights were reaffirmed. Thus, the head of states of member states saw the need to protect the right of all irrespective of one's gender for optimum development of their countries hence their commitment in protecting the rights of all their citizens.

2.8 *Efforts Being Made to Curb Violence against Women*

There have been significant advances in understanding and addressing violence against women and girls globally in the past few years. After years of advocacy and programming by women's movements and feminist activists, violence against women and girls is now widely acknowledged as a fundamental infringement of human rights, and a crucial development and public health issue. This has resulted in increasing financial investments and several conventions, policies and frameworks to address violence against women. The following are some the actions taken, both globally and locally to end gender based violence;

The international community has recognized the importance of addressing violence against women and girls through several conventions, policies and frameworks, including the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Beijing Platform for Action, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol, which were adopted in 2006, take into account the greater risk of violence and discrimination that women with disabilities face (Spratt, 2012).

The African Charter established the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR). The Commission was inaugurated on 2nd November, 1987 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. In addition to other responsibilities which may be assigned to it by the Assembly of Heads of State and Government, the Commission is legitimately charged with three major functions. These functions are the protection of human and peoples' rights, the promotion of human and peoples' rights and the interpretation of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. Ghana endorsed the ACHPR in 1989. In September 2000, 189 heads of state and governments gathered at the United Nations in New York at the Millennium Summit and adopted what became known as the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Eight goals were set to encourage all countries whether rich or poor, to concentrate on human development problems. These goals were about basic human rights, the rights of every woman, man and child to health, education, shelter and security as pledged in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN Millennium Declaration. Ghana joined other countries in a transparent exercise of accountability, providing regular progress reports and budget statements to the Parliament, as well as to the international community in many global meetings. Ghana infused the MDGs into the national development framework that has driven the national socio-economic development agenda. The UN system partnered with the Government of Ghana to ensure that national priorities were linked with the Millennium Development Goals. The Ghana Shared Growth and Development Agenda 2010-2013 guided the country's efforts to reach the MDGs.

In September 2015, the 193 Member States of the United Nations adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, comprised of 17 SDGs, 169 targets and 232 indicators. The 2030 Agenda tackles a broad range of global challenges, aiming

to eradicate poverty, reduce multiple and intersecting inequalities, address climate change, end conflict and sustain peace. Through the persistent efforts of women's rights advocates from across the globe, the commitment to gender equality is prominent, comprehensive and cross-cutting. The SDGs provide a new global consensus for action through the stand-alone goal on gender equality, alongside clear targets to end violence against women and girls.

According to WHO (2017), at the World Health Assembly in May 2016, Member States endorsed a global plan of action on strengthening the role of the health systems in addressing interpersonal violence, in particular against women and children (Every Woman Every Child, 2015). The global plan of action will contribute towards the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) including Goal 5 (Achieve Gender Equality and Empower all Women and Girls), Goal 16 (Promote Peace, Justice and Inclusive Societies), and Goal 3 (ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages).

The World Bank Group currently supports with over \$150 million in development projects aimed at addressing violence against women and girls. With the Sexual Violence Research Initiative, the World Bank also supports teams from around the world to evaluate and strengthen innovative violence prevention and response programmes as part of their Development Marketplace.

Locally, governments and stakeholders over the years have put in place legislations and policies to help reduce gender based violence in Ghana. Some of these legislations and policies include the 1992 constitution that prohibits discrimination based on sex; the 1998 criminal code Amendment Act; and legal amendments criminalizing certain harmful traditional practices, such as widowhood rites (1984), female genital mutilation (1995) and child abuse (1998).The legislations

and policies also include the Domestic Violence Act (Act 723) in 2007 by the parliament of Ghana, the establishment of Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU) of the Ghana police service in 1998 which is currently referred to as the domestic violence and victims support unit (DOVVSU).

2.9 Relationship between Victims and Perpetrators

The individual who suffer violence is usually referred to as the victim or survivor while the individual, group or states that perpetrate, support or condone the violence is known as the perpetrator. Perpetrators are often in a position of real or perceived power, decision-making or authority and can thus exercise control over their victims. According to Hall (2001), a victim is a person who discriminatorily suffers harm and therefore deserves sympathy, care, support. It is mostly perceived that violence is perpetrated by strangers. However, in reality violence against women is usually perpetrated by relatives and friends of the victim. In fact, most acts of violence against women are perpetrated by someone known to them, and many violent incidents are deliberate.

Violence against women can also be perpetrated by community members, States and institutions. States and institutions sometimes condone and perpetrate violence against women when unjust practices are not challenged and prevented to the extent of using legal and policy instruments (WHO, 2013).

In the Ghanaian society women are mostly educated from their childhood to be cautious of stranger. However, studies have proved that women are more likely to be abused by intimate partners, friends or family members than a stranger. In a study by Rennison (2001), he found out that 54% of abuses reported by women were perpetrated by someone they know compared with 45% with strangers. Similarly, a survey conducted in Ghana revealed that 38.7 per cent of women between the ages of

15 and 49 years reported experiences of psychological, physical and sexual violence by a male spouse at some point in their lives (Ghana Statistical Service, 2009). According to Coomer (2010), studies indicate that the majority of violence against women takes place among individuals known to each other, including spouses, family members, courtship partners, or acquaintances. A ten-country study on women's health and domestic violence by WHO found that depending on the country, between 15 per cent and 71 per cent of women reported physical or sexual violence by a husband or partner and that significant numbers of women experience more than one form of abuse. In fact women most often describe patterns of abusive behaviour and repeat victimisation in these relationships.

One particular issue of interest is that their perpetrators tend to have been victims themselves during childhood. These perpetrators either witnessed or suffered violence. For instance, Dery and Diedon (2014) found that males tend to be perpetrators of violence if they were beaten when they were children or witnessed their mothers being beaten by their fathers. Perpetrators believed that their anger should be unleashed on their wife and children. Also, usually victims are financially dependent on their perpetrators and therefore find it difficult to leave an abusive relationship.

Thus, with regards to violence against women, the victims are likely to suffer abuse from someone they know including a family or relative who is either a male or female.

Support seeking behaviour of victims

The ties of family, economic and emotional dependence that often surround perpetrators and their victims distinguishes violence against women from most violence against men, and therefore requires distinct strategies for prevention and

protection of victims(Garcia-Moreno,2002). Similarly, Amoakohene (2004) found that victims of domestic violence in Ghana generally did not report abuse. Most victims do not get the requisite support when victims approached family, friends and others in authority. The main explanation for these findings was the widespread view that violence against women was normal. Other barriers that have prevented victims of violence against women in Ghana from seeking help from outside the family included concern for the children's economic and emotional well-being, lack of family support, fear of being further abused, lack of information or economic means to pursue legal rights and the belief that women have to obey their husbands (IDS *et al.*, 2016).Most often perpetrators of violence against women are the very people upon whom survivors depend for assistance and protection hence making it difficult for victims to report perpetrators.

2.10 Theoretical Framework on Violence against Women

This thesis adopted two theories in explaining the phenomenon of violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality.

2.10.1 Social learning theory

The social learning theory was propounded by Albert Bandura in 1963. It integrates behavioural and cognitive theories of learning in order to provide a comprehensive model that could account for the wide range of learning experiences that could occur in the real world (Bandura, 1963). The social learning theory emphasizes the nature verses nurture argument (Viano, 1992). It states that aggression and violence are learned behaviour that can be passed on from one generation to the other. These aggression and violence manifest within particular social contexts, such as households where alcohol or drug abuse is prevalent. Social learning theory posits

that violence is learned through observation. Thus, the basic argument of this view is that physical aggression between family members provides likely model for the learning of aggressive behaviour, as well as for the appropriateness of such behaviour within the family.

This theory also proposes that a violent background may reinforce early signs of violent behaviour not only by exposing individuals to violence but by teaching approval for the use of violence. As a result, children may grow up concluding that violence is sometimes a necessary and effective mechanism for achieving behavioural change in family and intimate relationship (Simons, 1998). According to Ackers (1988), social learning theory account for individuals becoming prone to deviance just as its account for the individuals conforming to society. It allows for an understanding for the changes in individual behaviour and is influenced directly by the individual's history in learning situations of criminal behaviour. This theory serves as a dictum to explain the persistent incidence of violence against women. The society due to the numerous interactions in the different setting and the perceptions each of these social groups has about violence against women and relationships. Women who are seen as their subordinate to their male counterparts and seem to submit to the men are always at the threshold of suffering varied degrees of violence attacks in relations and cover some of these acts in secrecy due to society's perception to avoid a third party to mediate in issues of marital affairs. Since children learn through societal interaction and modelling females are equally likely to learn violence behaviours from the family and perpetrate it later in life. This phenomenon further increases the tendencies of females becoming victims. This and other supporting evidence discussed strengthen the consistency and stability of this theory when explaining violence against women.

This theory is relevant to the study in the sense that it tries to explain the effect of generation transmission of violence. Thus, children who grow up in a violent and abusive home may learn violent or abusive behaviour, imitate those behaviours and then repeat it in future relationships. In summary, when applied to violence against women, social learning theory states that we model behaviour that we have been exposed to and turn to learn them. Violence is learned, through role models provided by the family, either directly and indirectly, and reinforced in childhood and continued in adulthood. This theory maintains that offenders are not born with the urge to engage in violence but rather offenders learn to engage in violent acts by observing others (Siegel, 2005). When inappropriate behaviours are modelled for young children especially when reinforced elsewhere such as the media, these patterns of interaction can become part of their lives. Hence, female children who grow up in violent homes are likely to be perpetrators of violence, either against their fellow women, men or children.

2.10.7 The ecological model

The Ecological Model is a model used to understand the phenomenon of violence against women. This thesis adopted the ecological model with the aim of studying and getting to understand why some women perpetrate violence against other women and what makes other women victims of these violence.

The ecological model propounded by Heise in 1998 is based on evidence that no single factor can explain why some people or groups are at higher risk of interpersonal violence, while others are more protected from it. This framework views interpersonal violence as the outcome of interaction among many factors at four levels. These levels include; the individual, the relationship, the community, and the society (WHO, 2020). Thus, the model looks at how several factors at various

levels interact to cause interpersonal violence, be it in the home, community, work place or even in the nation. The ecological model focuses on violence as an outcome of factors interacting among its distinct levels. These factors work together to protect one from violence or make one more exposed to it. Understanding these interacting factors help to identify the causal agents of the phenomenon and ways to advance in violence prevention and specific interventions. Thus, the model helps us to understand the fact that no single factor really account for people committing violence against each other. It would therefore help me as a researcher to examine what causes women to perpetrate violence against other women in Winneba. It would further help evaluate why some individuals or groups are at higher risk of interpersonal violence, while others are more protected from it.

The diagram below illustrates the ecological model

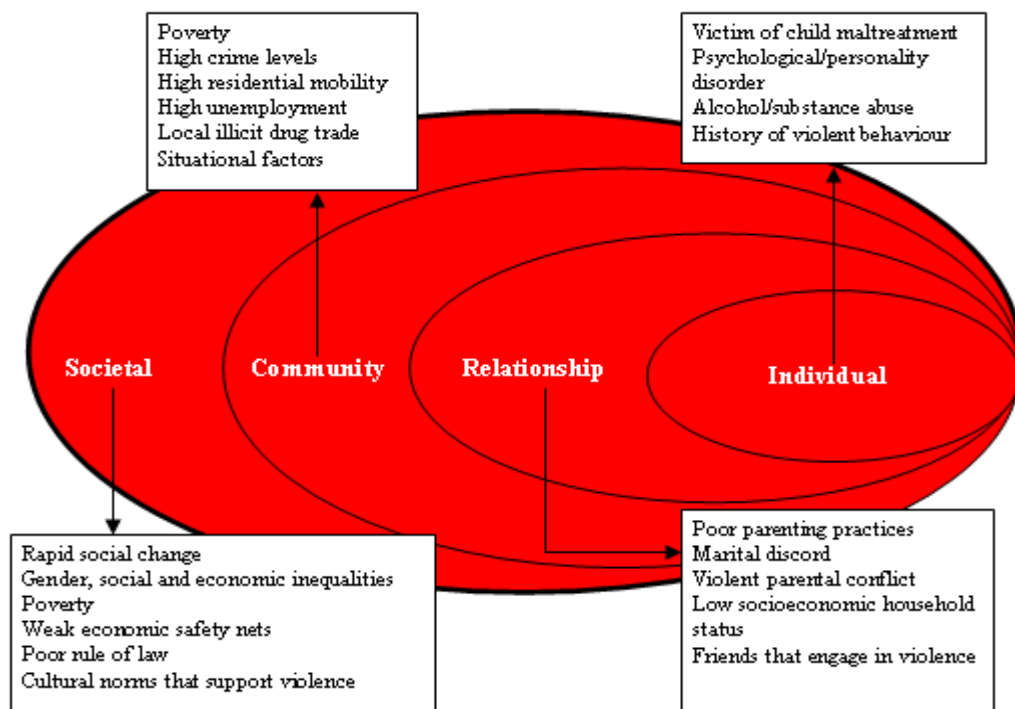


Figure 2.1: Ecological model

Source: Heise, L. *Violence Against Women: An integrated, ecological framework*, 1998, cited in Population Reports/CHANGE, Volume XXVII, No. 4, December 1999, available at <http://www.jhuccp.org/pr/111edsum.stm>.

The ecological model, as illustrated in the figure is classified into four levels. This makes it possible to analyse the factors influencing people's behaviour and factors increasing the possibilities of people turning into victims or perpetrators of violent acts.

The first level makes out biological, individual characteristics and personal historical factors that increase risk of perpetration or victimization. These factors include antecedent of victim of child abuse, harmful use of alcohol and drugs, background of aggressive or self-devaluation behaviours, mental or personality disorders and substance abuse. Thus, an individual who experienced or witnessed child abuse, marital violence in the home, having an absent or rejecting father and frequent use of alcohol by parents is likely to be a perpetrator of violence when he or she becomes an adult. This affects the development and behaviour of women who come from abusive homes and make them likely to perpetrators of violence against women.

Also, the second level includes closer relations, such as those between couples and partners, other family members and friends. Risk factors at this level include poor parenting, low socio-economic household status, and violent friends. Thus, having friends and relatives who indulge in or incite violent acts can increase the risk that one will suffer or execute violence. It also help to explain factors such as unequal power relations, socio-economic status and educational levels as a cause of violence against women.

Moreover, the third level looks at the community contexts where social relations are constructed, such as schools, work places and neighbourhoods. The nature of the environment plays a crucial role to determine whether people become victims or perpetrators of violence. This implies that, a community characterized by

risk factors such as high unemployment, traditional gender norm such as patriarchal norms, illicit drug abuse, high residential mobility and high crime levels has possibility of contributing to violence against women and vice versa.

The fourth level considers general factors related to the structure of society. These factors contribute to create a climate that incites or inhibits violence, such as the possibility of obtaining arms due to social and cultural standards. These include poverty, rapid social change, poor rule of law, cultural norms that support violence, gender, social and economic inequalities. This level also includes other facts, such as sanitary, economic, educative and social policies, which contribute to maintain economic or social inequalities among groups. At the societal level studies around the world have found that violence against women is most common where gender roles are rigidly defined and enforced and where the concept of masculinity is linked to toughness, male honour, or dominance. Other cultural norms associated with abuse include tolerance of physical punishment of women and children, acceptance of violence as a means to settle interpersonal disputes, and the perception that men have control of women (Haiseet *al.*, 2002). It illustrates how factors at different levels reinforce or modify each other. Thus, for example, the probability that a person with an aggressive behaviour will act violently in a family or community that is used to solving conflicts through violence is higher than if he is in a more peaceful environment. Hence, women who are abusive are likely to perpetrate violence against women or use violence to resolve conflict that arises between them and other women when they find themselves in such environment.

2.11 Gap in Literature

Taking into account the numerous studies that has been conducted on the issue of violence against women; most of them have concentrated on women as victims and

men as perpetrators. Most people have difficulty in believing whether females were capable of being perpetrators of violence and much more against their fellow women. Kaluyu, (2006) asserts that women can also be violent and many men may not be violent. Empirical evidences depict women can equally and sometimes even more violent than their male acquaintance. However, the abusive pattern of female perpetrators has only recently emerged from its cloak of secrecy (Babcock & Siard, 2003). One of such instances is a case in Ghana where a 90 year old woman was beaten to death in the Savanna Region by a group of women including her granddaughter with reason being that she has been accused of witchcraft (Daily Graphic, June, 2020). Similarly, a woman was arrested at Fetteh-Kakraba for abusing her son physically and psychologically because her son was accused of being a wizard and hence responsible for all her woes (The Mirror, 31, July 2020). According to Carney, Buttell & Dutton (2007), female perpetrators constitute the fastest growing segment of the criminal justice system in America. Female perpetrators are now being arrested for perpetrating violence against their partners. Women now account for a quarter of arrests for gender based violence. Society's on-going debate on female use of aggression and possible gender favouritism within the criminal justice system has begun to be recognized within the criminological research (International Journal on criminal Justice, 2010).

According to Watson and Parsons, (2005) and Gadd, (2000), the studies that are available consistently indicate that violence is experienced by both women and men. However, to date the emphasis in most research has been on men's violence towards women. To them this inclination has severely limited the extent to which issues relating to violence against women are addressed. On the 3rd of August, 2020,

it was reported by Peace FM online that a woman was been persecuted at court in the Eastern Region for the murder of her two children.

According to Oronzot *al.* (2012), studies on the causes of violence against women have mainly focused on the perspectives of females who have usually been the victims. It has been suggested that it would be appropriate to study this phenomenon also from a different angle of the perpetrators and victims.

Therefore this study seeks to close this gap in literature by looking at women as perpetrators and victims of violence against women. I believe that in order to overcome this social canker there is the need for a more holistic approach that will consider the issue of violence against women from every perspective by looking at and women as possible perpetrators and victims. This study will therefore help add up to the limited literature on female perpetrators of violence. Additionally, it will help close a gap in literature by looking at women perpetrating violence against women and set the pace for further studies into the area.

2.12 Summary of Literature Review

Violence against women refers to any act of violence which results in physical, sexual and psychological harm to women. Violence against women comes in various forms such as physical violence, sexual violence, psychological or emotional violence as well as harmful traditional practices. In many societies around the world, women are expected to be submissive and sexually available to their husbands at all times. It is also considered both a right and an obligation for men to use violence to correct women for perceived wrong doings. Thus, violence against women is sometimes condoned by the family, society and the state. For most married women violence is sometimes considered normal and mostly endured. For unmarried women, violence, most especially sexual violence is so stigmatizing that most women

prefer to suffer in silence than to risk the shame and discrimination that would result from disclosure. Violence within the family has been traditionally considered a private matter in which outsiders should not intervene. In most cases of violence against women, the victims know their perpetrators. According to Garcia-Moreno (2002), the bonds of family, economic and emotional dependence that often surround perpetrators and their victims distinguishes violence against women from most violence against men and therefore requires distinct strategies for prevention and protection of victims.

Over the years several theories have tried to explain why people perpetrate violence either against themselves or others. Among these theories are the social learning theory and ecological model which was adopted by this study.

Violence against women has damaging consequences on victims and perpetrators as well as the society and the state. These effects can be psychological, physical, social and economic. It also affects children, as studies have shown that children from violent homes are likely to be violent or perpetrate violence and also be victims of violence.

Violence against women is a major public health and human rights concern. For this reason the United Nations has designated November 25 as the international day for the elimination of violence against women. Violence against women is a crucial human rights issue often swept under the carpet as if it does not matter especially in Africa and Ghana. Worldwide governments and various organizations are actively working to combat this menace through a variety of programmes and policies. However, although there have been a number of policies and conventions to curb this menace the problem still persist. This is partly due to inadequate resources, culture dynamics and some government lack of commitment in working towards this

wealthy course. Women are crucial to the growth and development of any nation therefore violence against women is a major threat to social and economic development. There is therefore the need for governments and various stakeholders across the world to rise to the call of ending violence in any form. Hence, the need for more holistic approach in understanding the phenomenon.



CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the methodology that was adopted to guide the study under themes such as the research paradigm, approach and design of the study. Other areas that are discussed include population, sample and sampling technique that were used. In addition, the instruments for data collection, data presentation and analysis as well as trustworthiness and ethical considerations are discussed.

3.2 Research Approach

A research approach presents the plan and procedures and illustrates the steps from broad assumptions to detailed methods of data collection, the analysis, and the interpretation of the study which is based on the research problem being addressed. Traditionally, research approaches are grouped into two main types. These are qualitative and quantitative (Creswell, 2013). However, recent studies and literature suggest that a mixed-method approach has become the third approach (Creswell, 2013). This study employed the qualitative research approach to address the study objectives in order to achieve the purpose of the study.

A qualitative research approach is underpinned by the view that knowledge is socially constructed by individual actors who interact with their world (Merriam, 2002). According to Kusi (2012), human experience is shaped in a particular context and cannot be understood if removed from those contexts hence the researcher's presence in the socio-economic context of the participants is requisite. A qualitative research approach seeks to broaden and enhance the understanding of the emerging phenomena in a society by equipping the researcher with rich and complex

understanding of people's experience. In a qualitative study, the researcher collects the views or opinion, experiences and feeling of participants as data (Kusi, 2012). In this study, the qualitative approach was used to study the phenomenon of the lived experiences of women who have experienced violence either as victims or perpetrators. In line with the demands of approach the researcher selected participants using snowballing and purposive sampling techniques. The participants that were selected were interviewed and their views and experiences were collected and interpreted thematically.

3.3 Research Paradigm

“A paradigm is a set of assumptions about how the issue of concern to the researcher should be studied” (Henn, Weinstein & Ford, 2006, p.10). There are many paradigms that guide research work. Common among them is the positivist paradigm which is normally used in quantitative studies and interpretive and critical paradigms which are also mostly used for qualitative research (Kusi, 2012). This study was guided by the critical paradigm. The proponents of the critical paradigm purports that social reality is better understood when researchers take into consideration the socio-political and historical dynamics which restricts the actions and notions of individuals and groups within a society (Cohen, Manion b& Morrison, 2007). To Johnson (2018), critical paradigm assumes that there is a reality that is acceptable, this reality is shaped by social, political, cultural, economic, ethnic and gender based forces that have reified or resolved itself over time into social structures that are taken to be normal or valid. This paradigm was considered suitable because it aims at exposing inequalities, malpractices, injustice and exploitations. It also helps to explain acceptable domination in order to bring about social change (Kusi, 2012). According to Kivunya and Kuyini (2017), this paradigm when used in research seeks to address

social, economic and political issues which lead to social oppression, inequalities and power struggle at whatever levels these might occur. Thus, the critical researcher's work is transformative in that it seeks to change people and society (Clough & Nutbrown, 2002). This research paradigm assisted in the achievement of the objectives as it guided in exploring an understanding of factors such as social, cultural and economic inequalities that some women exploit to perpetrate violence against their fellow women. It was in this context that the critical research paradigm was adopted for the study.

3.4 Research Design

A research design is the set of methods and the procedures used in collecting and analysing measures of the variables specified in the research problem (Creswell, 2014). According to De Vaus (2006), research design is the overall strategy that you choose to incorporate the various components of the study in a consistent and rational way, hence ensuring the research problem is effectively tackled. There are a number of research designs within the qualitative research space. The various qualitative designs include case study, ethnography, grounded theory, phenomenology, action and narrative (Creswell, 2014; Kusi, 2012).

This study adopted the phenomenological design as a guide for the collection of data to answer the research questions. Phenomenology is an approach to qualitative research that focuses on the commonality of a lived experience within a particular group (Creswell, 2013). Phenomenology according to Starks and Brown (2007) is a qualitative research design that is used to describe how human beings experience a certain phenomenon. It is a direct inquisition and description of phenomena as consciously experienced by people living those experiences. The design was used to explore the experience of women who have suffered violence from women as well as

women who have perpetrated violence against women in Winneba. I engaged the participants in a face to face interview where I presented questions to them orally, as it is considered an appropriate instrument in this study to elicit information from them. The phenomenological design was employed because it allows the researcher to delve into the perceptions, perspectives, understandings, and feelings of those women who have actually experienced violence against women either as victims or perpetrators in Winneba (Giorgi, 2006). This helped the researcher to explore the factors that shapes the phenomenon in its real context. Additionally, data collected from individuals' personal accounts provided an insight into life experiences that other research designs may not give. The use of this design was not without a challenge because some participants refused to answer questions that were too personal or difficult for them. Also, although, time consuming the phenomenological design helped the researcher achieve the study's objectives as the researcher was able to work within the stipulated time.

3.5 Population

Amoani (2005) defined population as the totality of whatever objects or measurements one is investigating. The population therefore refers to the total set from which the individuals are chosen and measured (Strydom, 2005). According to Best (2007), a population is any group of individuals who have one or more characteristics in common that are of interest to the researcher. Thus, the population may include all the individuals or objects that are of interest to the researcher based on certain features they possess. For the purpose of this study, women in the Winneba Township of the Effutu Municipality constituted the study population. The target population comprised all women who perpetrate violence against other women in the Winneba Township and women who were victims of such violence. The accessible

population include victims who have reported cases of violence against women to Winneba DOVVSU of the Ghana Police Service, those who have observed by the researcher and those identified through snowballing.

3.6 Sample and Sampling Techniques

According to Neuman (2006) sample is a transfer of a set of cases a researcher select from a large pool and generalize to a population. This implies that a sample is the representative selected for a study whose characteristics represent the large good from which they were selected. To Patton (2002) the samples for a qualitative study are assumed to be selected purposefully for locating information rich key informants or critical cases. A sample size of twelve (12) women who are victims of violence against women, three women who are perpetrators of violence against women and two (2) personnel at Winneba DOVVSU were selected for the study. A total of seventeen (17) participants were selected for the study. This sample size was considered adequate for the purpose of phenomenological study such as the context in which this study was conducted. The small number enabled me to get an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon.

According to Patton (2002), the adoption of a sampling strategy is influenced strongly by a research problem and the types of research objectives and questions. This study employed purposive and snow balling sampling strategies in selecting the participants. Applying the purposive sampling, the researcher carefully chooses participant(s) owing to their quality and expertise (Tongco, 2007). According to Creswell, (2008, p.214) „the standard used in choosing participants and sites in purposive sampling is whether they are information rich“. This study adopted the purposive sampling technique to select eight (8) women who are victims of violence against women, two (2) women who are perpetrators of violence against women and

two (2) officials at the DOVVSU unit in Winneba. The participants share certain similarities regarding experience, perspective, or viewpoint (Kusi, 2012). In this study, some of the participants were judged to have had shared experiences and were thus located and selected. The purposive sampling technique was adopted because it enabled me to select the most suitable candidates for the study. The snowballing technique was used to select four (4) victims and one (1) perpetrator of violence against women. Thus, the researcher with the help of some participants located others. The snowballing technique was used as it is cost effective and also made it easier to identify participants.

3.7 Data Collection Procedure and Instrument

The instrument for data collection was an interview guide. This instrument was used because of „the flexibility and freedom involved, which helped unearth detailed and relevant as well as sensitive information through probing“ (Kusi, 2012, p. 48). In this study, I employed the interview approach to generate qualitative data from the participants. Thus, the phenomenological approach influenced the selection of instruments for the data collection. The interview was a face-to-face discourse between the researcher and the participants, out of which data about the phenomenon was educe for the study (Harrell & Bradley, 2009). An unstructured interview technique was used because according to Kusi (2012), the flexibility and freedom involved in the use of this technique helped unearth detailed and relevant as well as sensitive information through probing. Hence, this technique helped me to gather data on the experiences, feelings and perceptions of participants. However, because of the flexible nature of the instrument, Wragg (2002) admonishes that interviewees should be guided to prevent „aimless rambling“.

At the beginning of the data collection process, participants were given information in both written and oral forms which explained the nature and purpose of the study. They were presented with a consent form on which they notified their willingness to participate in the study freely. Also, the participants were informed that the face-to-face interview would be audio recorded and that the information they provided would be confidential. Participants were further told about their right to quit their participation any time as the study was a voluntary project. The face-to-face interview with each of the participants was done at places that were convenient for them.

Before the discussion, participants were given open ended questions to familiarize themselves with some of the issues they will be responding to (Kusi, 2012). During the discussion, I introduced the topic to them and guided them through the discussion. The participants were encouraged to share their experiences and this strengthened the rapport and created a context where the participants felt comfortable to provide in-depth information about their experiences. Furthermore, time and safe places of convenience were agreed between researcher and participants to ensure minimal distraction during interviews. The advantage of using the interview approach for the data collection was that it involved personal interaction and I was able to probe for more information (Harrell & Bradley, 2009). In this study, the researcher showed agility for interviewing to unearth the appropriate information (Patton, 2005).

3.8 Data Analysis

Data analysis is the process used to organise data in order to determine pattern of uniformity within it, to structure data to find meaning within it (Bless & Higson-Smith, 2000). According to Marsell & Rossman (1995), data analysis is the procedure of categorizing and making meaning out of the bunch of data collected. The process

of analysing data depends on the research questions, research design and the nature of data with the aim to understand the element of data by comparing the relationship between concepts, construct and variables to observe the patterns in the information (Bless & Higson-Smith 2000). The data collected through the interview was analysed using emerging themes and patterns. With this the researcher transcribed the data, coded it and organized the data to generate themes. According to Chetty, Hendren & Katz (2016), thematic analysis can either present experiences, meaning and the reality of participants. They further underscore, thematic analysis can be used to examine the effects of those experiences, events and realities operating within society.

In doing this, I recorded the response of the participants. The recording of the interview and focus group discussion were then carefully listened to and transcribed (Creswell, 2008). The transcription was compared to the audio tape recordings in order to confirm accuracy (Chetty 2016). After the transcription I read through the data for several times to familiarize myself with it (Rossman, 2006). I took notice of the pattern of the responses and grouped them into theme. Thus, the analysis involved categorizing and filtering the data in order to identify the dominant themes. The links and relationships between responses were explored.

3.9 Trustworthiness of data

Bless and Higson-Smith (2000) states that reliability of an instrument is the degree of consistency with which its measures the qualities it supposed to measure. Validity on the other hand is the degree to which an account truthfully represents the social phenomenon to which it refers. However, reliability is usually useful in quantitative research. Since reliability in a qualitative research method cannot be established as in a quantitative research method, alternative approaches to measure the authenticity of study such as credibility, that is, the validity of the findings,

confirmability, that is, the objectivity of the researcher while carrying out the research, transferability, that is, the applicability of the findings in other contexts and dependability, that is, the reliability of the findings at another time need to be used (Guba, 1992). Guba (1992) argues that trustworthiness is used to judge the quality of a study located within the qualitative framework.

3.9.1 Credibility

Shenton(2004), explains that in order to establish credibility, one must ensure that their study measures or tests what is actually intended. Bradley (1993) referred to credibility as the adequate representation of the construction of social world under study. In the study, interviews of participants were conducted to enable me make a better interpretation of the phenomenon. The researcher had one on one conversation with the participants to develop a good interpersonal relationship with them before the data collection began. In this way, I was able to build trust between myself and the respondents, which made it possible for respondents to readily open up for the discussion of most sensitive issues during the interview for the study.

3.9.2 Transferability

Transferability is the degree to which results of a research study can be generalized to other groups, settings or situations (Lincon & Guba, 1985). The general methods and procedures of this study were vividly described so that anyone who would want to conduct the same research, using the same methodology will get the same results.

3.9.3 Dependability

Dependability of qualitative research findings corresponds to reliability of findings in qualitative research (Kusi, 2012). Dependability requires an audit trail of

clear documentation of all research decisions and activities in a chain of evidence from the time of data collection to the conclusion of the research (Bryman, 2001). The researcher had a personal interaction with the respondents from whom the data was collected through clear and unambiguous questions. Also, an independent audit of the research method was carried out by a Senior Lecturer at the Department of Social Studies Education of the University of Education, Winneba.

3.9.4 Confirmability

Confirmability is the extent to which the data and interpretations are grounded in events rather than the researcher's personal construction (Lincoln & Guba, 1985). The researcher was aware of the personal biases, assumptions and subjectivity that could easily affect the outcome of the study and hence placed herself on a neutral ground, seeing her respondents as independent individuals in order to obtain accurate data devoid of biases. Also, the confirmability of the study was ensured through thick description and reporting of the processes. Thick description was used to substantiate and illustrate the assertions made by respondents elucidate the context. The researcher presented the exact views expressed by the respondents. During the interview, respondents were probed further when the need arose for clearer explanation and deep understanding.

3.10 Ethical Consideration

In conducting any research, it is important to consider ethical issues. Measures were taken in order to respect and protect the rights of participants and other parties associated with the study (Reynolds, 1992). To apply this ethical underpinning, the researcher obtained a letter of introduction from the Head of Department of Social Studies, University of Education, Winneba. This was presented to the DOVVSU Unit

of the Winneba Police Service. As violence against women is an issue that is particularly personal and sensitive it was clear that my research needed to be conducted with respect to those involved. Payne and Payne (2004) asserts that ethical practice is not a switch that can be turned on or off when one feels like it, but that it is the core of every research, from start to finish. It is the responsibility of the researcher to maintain moral conduct throughout the research. The informants were made aware that they were taking part in a research and also told the purpose of the research. Consent was sort from the informants to be involved in the study. Also, those who agreed were considered and those who did not agree were not pressured to participate. The researcher ensured anonymity and confidentiality of respondents. Participants were also assured of protection of their identity (Bless & Higson-Smith, 2000).



CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings and discussion of data on violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality. The chapter has two parts and starts with the demographic characteristics of participants. The second part presents the data and discussion of the emerging themes from interviews conducted.

The data from the interview conducted with the seventeen (17) respondents have been transcribed, edited, categorised and examined in relationship to the research questions of the study. The findings are presented in four broad themes in accordance with the specific research questions of the study. The first theme deals with the forms of violence perpetrated by women against women in Winneba. The second theme looks at causes women to be victims or perpetrators of violence against women in Winneba. The third theme considers the effects of violence against women on women in Winneba while the last theme looks at the support seeking behaviour of victims.

4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This subsection summarizes the demographic characteristics of the participants. These include occupation and level of education of the participants. These results are presented using tables for good visual display.

Table 4.1: Educational level of victims (N=12)

Educational level	Frequency	Percentages %
Non formal education	-	-
Primary	-	-
Middle School/JHS	6	50
Secondary	5	42
Tertiary	1	8
Total	12	100

Source: Field Data, March, 2020

Table 4.1 shows that 6(50%) of the respondents' level of education was J.H.S/Middle school. Then 42% had secondary school level of education, and 1(8%) had tertiary education. The data shows that all the victims have had some level of education. However, the probability of experiencing violence was high with lower levels of education but decreased as the level of education increased. This could be due to the fact the more informed a person is about her right, hence, the ability to defend one's self as well as increased one's ability to engage in meaningful economic activity to earn reasonable income. These results were consistent with findings from Demographic and Health Survey data on Ghana which revealed that women who had attained SHS education or higher were less likely to approve domestic violence against women compared to women with lower or no education (GSS, GHS, IFC Macro, 2009).

Table 4.2: Educational level of Perpetrators (N=3)

Educational level	Frequency	Percentages %
Non formal education	-	-
Primary	2	67
Middle/JHS	1	33
Secondary	-	-
Tertiary	-	-
Total	3	100

Source: Field Data, March, 2020

The data from the Table 4.2 depicts that most of perpetrators have low level of education. Majority of them 2(67%) had primary education and 1(33%) of them had J.H.S education. This shows that women with low levels of education have high probability of using violence as a means of solving problems. This implies that there was higher rate of violence in families with low education level. The result also affirms the ideas of Wilkinson and Pickett „people with more education earn more, are more satisfied with their work, are less likely to be unemployed, more likely to be healthy, less likely to be criminal.....“ (2010, p. 103).

Table 4.3: Employment Status of Victims (N=12)

Employment Status	Frequency	Percentage %
Employed(government)	-	-
Self-employed	3	25
Unemployed	2	17
student	7	58
Total	12	100

Source: Field Data, March, 2020

The study also looked at the employment status of the participants and the findings from the research show that majority of the participants 7(58%) were students.2(25%) are self-employed and 17% were unemployed. This implies that majority of them were students and those who are unemployed depend on others for survival hence increasing the probability of them being abused by those they depend on. These results were consisted with findings from previous studies which concluded that in families where there is poverty, violence is likely to occur due to stress and struggle to make a living. They also observed that low income and poverty in general are risk factors for victimization and abuse (García-Moreno *et al.*, 2005).

Table 4.4: Employment Level of Perpetrators (N=3)

Employment Status	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Employed(government)	-	-
Self-employed	2	67
Unemployed	1	33
student	-	-
Total	3	100

Source: Field Data, March, 2020

The information given by the perpetrator revealed that most of them 2(67%) of the respondents were working. This implies that most perpetrators have access to resources and hence control over other women. Some perpetrators take advantage of this to abuse those who depend on them. On the contrary one perpetrator (33%) representing 33% was unemployed. The response from the unemployed perpetrator showed that she has engaged in violence with a number of women in the name of

protecting her marriage. This confirms the saying that the „devil finds work for the idle hands“.

4.3 Forms of Violence Perpetrated against Women in Winneba

The first objective of the study sought to find out the forms of violence perpetrated against women by women in Winneba. In the quest to achieve this objective, questions were designed to solicit for the views of participants. Data gathered from participants revealed various forms of violence. The themes that emerged were physical violence, psychological and emotional violence and socio-economic violence.

4.3.1 Physical violence

The findings revealed that women suffered various kinds of physical violence in Winneba. The findings indicated that women did not only suffer physical violence but also perpetrate physical violence against women. For instance, P1, a 16 year old girl who suffered physical violence from her guardian narrated her ordeal. She indicated:

She beats me almost every day. I remember one day she beat me to a point she felt she was fed up with the beatings and told me if not for God that she feared, she should have held my head and hit it against a tree. Beatings and insults became part of my everyday life (Field interview data, 2020).

Similarly, P2 a 17 year old girl who is living with and abused physically by her guardian shared her experience and said:

She gets angry over trivial issues and beat me mercilessly with anything her hands get hold of such as cane, stick, ladle, belt, brooms and others. Sometimes, she kicks me with her leg or ask me lie down, then she steps on me (Field interview data, 2020).

P14, a 42 year old woman and perpetrator of violence affirmed this and said:

The woman and her daughter (rival) started abusing me verbally but I kept mute. I entered my kitchen, boiled water and added pepper. I came out and poured the mixture of hot water and pepper on them. The hot water with pepper landed on my rival's face (pregnant woman) and her mother's hand (Field interview data, 2020).

Also, P9, a 48 year old woman who was engaged in violence with her sister lamented:

The next thing she did was to hold my head and bit my lower lip off and also bit my fingers and removed my finger nails. Those around started shouting for help (Field interview data, 2020).

The responses from the participants showed that girls and women were abused physically by other women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality. This was confirmed by P17. According to her, some women in Winneba abuse others physically when there is misunderstanding between them. These women perpetrate acts which constitute physical assaults such as beating, fighting, hitting each other with object, slapping, pulling of hair, burning and the use of threats against other women. This finding is in line with the findings made by Ghana Family Life Health Survey (2015). They found that in Ghana, the most common forms of physical violence experienced by women over their lifetime include being slapped, beaten or being hit by thrown objects. According to Ghana Family Life Health Survey, this form of violence affected 32.7% of women. They further maintained that the incidence of physical violence occurs across different population groups and characteristics.

4.3.2 Psychological and emotional violence

One of the sub-themes that emerged from the findings was emotional and psychological violence. It is the most common form of violence experienced and

perpetrated by women in Winneba. The participants shared their experiences of their share of this form of violence.

P1 who suffered psychological and emotional violence shared her experience and said:

She abused me verbally. She insulted me often and disgraced me in the public. She talked ill of me to others. She went to the extent of removing my pants in public because she felt I have gone to have sex because I delayed in returning from an errand. This made me felt very bad. (Field interview data, 2020).

In another instance P6, an 18 year old girl who was abused by her guardian indicated:

She used to insult me and my parents. She told me “the one who gives birth to the fool does not suffer as the one who trains her”. It was one of the insults I will never forget for the rest of my life. She complained about me to others to an extent that she once went to church, during the testimony time, she went forward and told the whole congregation to support her with prayers for God to take her burden off her shoulders (referring to me). In fact, that day I wept at church and I was emotionally traumatized (Field interview data, 2020).

Similarly, P12 a 28 year apprentice who was abused by her madam indicated:

She insults me and often humiliates me in the presence of customers. I remember one day she humiliated me in the presence of the customers to a point that I could not hold my tears so I started weeping. She then sacked me to go outside and cry (Field interview data, 2020).

From the findings, it can be deduced that psychological and emotional violence is common occurrence against women in Winneba. These women use harsh and degrading words against other women with the aim of making one feel bad and worthless. The result was also affirmed by P17, she averred that the most common among the cases of violence that are reported to the unit is emotional violence which includes incineration, character defamation and insults. She indicated:

Whenever they have issues, they mostly want people to know that they are good in violating others. They therefore made sure they used harsh words against their fellow women and humiliate them (Field interview data, 2020).

This finding supports a study conducted by Institute of Development Studies *et al.* in 2016 which found that psychological violence was the most common type of violence experienced by women across Ghana. In their study they found out that about half of the respondents (48 per cent of women) experienced an act of psychological violence at least once in their lifetime. Large numbers of women also indicated experiences of psychological abuse, including threats, insults and destruction of property, all possibly linked to structures of domination and exploitation exacerbated by the strong presence of patriarchal norms (Adjah & Agbemafle, 2016; Cusack & Manuh, 2009).

4.3.3 Socio-economic violence

The findings revealed socio-economic violence as one of the violence women are subjected to in Winneba. The data disclosed that women perpetrated this form of violence against others in Winneba. This claim is evident in the experiences they shared. For instance, P3 a 28 year old woman and a victim who was learning a trade shared her experience and said:

When I am going to work, I am given 70p for feeding but that amount is not enough. This made life unbearable for me and affected studies negatively. With regards to this issue of economic abuse, most often I do not get money to buy my personal needs including sanitary pads. I don't want to engage in any deviant behaviour so most often I seek for assistance from friends. When am very hungry and there is no food for me in the house I go to my friend's house in the name of visit but to look for something to eat (Field interview data, 2020)

Also, P4 who was subjected to economic violence by her guardian indicated:

When I am going to school she does not give me money or food unless her husband is around. Every morning at 5:00 am I go to town for hawking and have to make sure I sell everything before I come. I am often late for school because of the hawking. Sometimes, I don't go to school at all (Field interview data, 2020).

According to the women who are living with or have lived with other women, they were subjected to economic hardship. Most of them complained that their guardians do not give them money when going to school; others complained they are not allowed to go to school and they are used by their guardians to make money. Additionally, they complained they are not provided with their basic needs such as food, sanitary pad and panties. Saravanan (2000) asserts that economic violence is the discrimination or denial of opportunities, services, exclusion, denial of access to education, health assistance or remunerated employment; denial of property rights.

In other instances, victims were subjected to social violence by their perpetrators. For instance, P13, a 28 year old woman who was abused by her landlady stated:

Most often, by the time I return from work in the evening, the main door would be locked. I would have to knock for hours before she would come and open the door and even with that she would be murmuring. I am not able to go for evening church service because she locks the main door by 7:00 pm. Also, when my friends and relatives come around to visit me she complains. This made me feel embarrassed in the presence of my visitors. For this reason I don't allow people to visit me in the house (Field interview data, 2020).

Similarly, P8 victim of social violence affirmed that:

My guardian denied me my freedom of worship. She prevented me from going to church without any reason but always loaded me with house work. She

attends church every Sunday. She does not allow me to visit my friends. She makes sure she gives me so much work so that I wouldn't have time to go out (Field interview data, 2020).

These views expressed by the victims give credence to the fact that they were restricted and were unable to socialise with people as expected. They feel they have been isolated from friends and social activities. The 2007 Domestic Violence Act defined social violence to entail acts of controlling behaviour, such as preventing someone from seeing friends or family; stopping someone from leaving the house; requiring to know where someone is at all times; stalking; spreading false information, videos or photos without permission.

4.4 Causes of Violence against Women in Winneba

The second objective of the study was to examine the causes of violence against women in Winneba. The purpose of this objective was to find out what causes women to perpetrate violence against other women. This objective also sought to look at the factors that cause violence against women. Two major themes emerged, namely; factors that caused women to perpetrate violence and factors that made women victims of such violence. The following were identified as the factors that caused women to perpetrate violence against other women;

Firstly, unequal power relations and unequal access to resources was seen as one of causes of violence against women in Winneba. This was more evident among the women who depended on their guardians for their basic needs. Most of these women came to stay with the guardians because their parents did not have the resources to cater for them. Their guardian who mostly were well to do than their parent, use this opportunity to abuse them. These girls however endured the violence they suffered because they had no alternative. On the other hand it was also revealed

that some women use their power to abuse their subordinates. This assertion was spelt out clearly by participants. For example, P3 indicated:

I only had to endure the violence I suffered. My mother is a single parent. My father is not working and not ready to cater for us (Field interview data, 2020).

P7 also shared her experience and said:

I went to stay with my guardian because we were having financial challenge at home. Although, both parents were alive, my father is irresponsible. It is my mother who is struggling to take care of us. When I went there I had completed S. H. S. My parents did not have the means to support me further my education. The agreement was to stay with her for five (5) years then she will help me. When I went to stay with my guardian, I experienced at least one form of abuse every day from her and her children (Field interview data, 2020).

In another instance, P12 explained the violence she experienced from her madam at work. She stated:

I had an issue with my madam at work. I was learning a trade from her. Anytime she comes to work and something has gone wrong, she wouldn't ask who is responsible. She would rather hit my fingers with comb till they became red or blood oozed out. Apart from this, she insults me and often humiliates me in the presence of customers (Field interview data, 2020).

This was confirmed by P17, according to P17 unequal power relation and access to resources is one of the factors responsible for violence against women in Winneba. P17 purports that some women were engaged in menial jobs that earned them small and insufficient income. For this reason, they bought things on credit from other women. When it was time for payment and they were unable to pay, they were abused by their creditors; this led to violence against women. Others also borrow money from their neighbours and when it was time for repayment it became an issue

which led to violence. For this same reason some women gave out their children to live with other women. These children were mostly abused but because the parents didn't have the money they allowed the children to suffer in the hands of their guardian. Thus, women who had power and access to resources took advantage of their situation and abused other women. This finding supports the findings by Afari (2017) that women who satisfy their need for power have an impact on, or control over their counterparts. In Afari's study, out of the 20 participants, 45% agreed that women show off their power and control men in marriage or relationship, while 40% strongly agreed. Out of the total participants, only 15% disagreed. This shows that women by nature can be violent as men are perceived to be. According to Swart (2001), the commonest cause of domestic violence among women in Nairobi is misunderstandings resulting from money matters.

On the contrary, according to Fulu & Heise (2014) violence against women is often rooted in women's lack of power in relationships and in society relative to men. From the findings of this study and other related literature this inequality of power relations and resources is not only between men and women but among women as well. Thus, all women do not have equal access to resources hence resource distribution and power relations vary among women. International agreements recognize that violence against women is characterized by the use and abuse of power and control in public and private spheres (United Nations, 2013). Additionally, other factors combine to protect some women. For example, when women have authority and power outside the family, rates of abuse in intimate partnerships are less (Heise *et al.*, 2002).

Also, influence of alcohol was seen as one of the contributing factors to violence among women. Some of participants claimed that their actions were due to

the influence of alcohol. For instance, P15 a 32 year old woman who perpetrated violence against her neighbour, argued:

That day I went for a naming ceremony and I took some alcohol. It wasn't deliberate that I wanted to hurt her. I think I did that because I was drunk (Field interview data, 2020).

During the interview with P17 she confirmed that some of the perpetrators when reported claimed that they acted the way they did because they were drunk. She further explained that when the women attend social gatherings such as funerals, marriage and naming ceremonies they get drunk. This drunkenness sometimes results in violence. She said:

We have had a number of cases where the perpetrator will tell you "I was drunk". Sometimes, the victims themselves are drunk which make it possible for them to be abused. With the influence of alcohol, trivial issues can trigger violence (Field interview data, 2020).

From the data gathered, alcohol is seen as contributing factor to violence. Kaufman (2001) in a related study also perceives alcohol and drug use contribute to violence. Alcohol is thought to decrease self-consciousness, obscure judgment and blight ability to construe social cues.

On the contrary, a part of the finding could not show a direct link between alcohol consumption and violence. According to some of the participants, although their guardian or perpetrator drinks, they do not abuse them when they are drunk. This view was expressed by P7. She explained that although her guardian drinks, she does not act violent when drunk neither does she abuse her. She stated:

My guardian drinks, she mostly drinks gunnies and other foreign alcoholic drinks on Fridays in the evening. After drinking she goes to her room to rest. I don't remember any instance where she abused me because she was drunk (Field interview data, 2020).

However, establishing connections between alcohol and violence are complex. Research on social anthropology suggests that alcohol drinking suggests that connections between violence and drinking and are socially learnt (Afari, 2017). Mitchell (2003) suggests that alcohol and drugs do not necessarily cause abuse as it is believed, but it serves as an excuse for perpetrators to blame alcohol or drug use as causing abusive reactions. In a related study, Gelles and Cornell (2007) maintain that although the connection between alcohol consumption and drug use and violence remains somewhat contentious, there is a notable shift and growing recognition that alcohol is not a direct cause of domestic violence. In another research by Institute of Development Studies *et al.* (2016) that results do not indicate a causal relationship between alcohol consumption and violence but strongly suggest that the risks of violence incidence increases when alcohol consumption is high. For instance a related study by Malambo (2016) found that alcohol intake was found as one of the inducing factors of violence against women a significantly greater proportion of men who drank alcohol in the 12 months prior to the survey were more likely to perpetrate violence than men who did not drink alcohol. This finding is in line with the assertion of the ecological model by Haise 1998, which states that personal factors such as influence of alcohol can incite one to cause violence or even be a victim of violence.

Additionally, suspicion of infidelity accounted for violence against women. Some of the women are co-habiting; because of this they feel unsecured in their relationship and are often suspicious of their husbands. Their husbands also feel they have the right to marry more than one since our culture as Ghanaians permit it. However, for religious and personal reasons, most of the men prefer to engage in extra-marital affairs at the blind side of their wives. Their wives often use violence as

a means of protecting their so called marriage. They end up abusing other women in the process. P1 a victim of violence against women shared her experience and said:

During Bible discussion, her husband always commended me for my insightful contribution. The woman became suspicious of me and her husband. Meanwhile there was nothing between us. The woman developed hatred for me and started maltreating me. She has always suspected her husband to be a womanizer (Field interview data, 2020).

Similarly P4 shared similar sentiments and said:

My guardian quarrels with persons who are free with her husband because she suspects him of womanizing. She likes to use violence to tackle every problem. Sometimes, she fights with her husband and destroy some of their belongings like Television set, bowls and others. She fights with some of the members of the community (Field interview data, 2020).

Form the submissions it can be seen that some of these accusations made by the women were false. This was confirmed by P17, she pointed out that false accusation is common phenomenon among women in Winneba. Speaking with her, she indicated that there are a number of cases of that nature reported to the unit. Where one woman is fighting another because she feels her husband is being taken away from her. She gave this instance:

I remember there was a case where a wife picked a woman's number from her husband's phone and called the person and abused her verbally. As if that was not enough, she traced her residence and went there to abuse her in her house to violate her. She called her names such husband snatcher, prostitute which is character defamation and also humiliated her in public which is an emotional abuse and offensive conduct. The issue was then reported to the station by the victim. I had wanted to take the case to court but the perpetrator came with her family to plead with us for the issue to be settled amicably at the unit (Field interview data, 2020).

In other instances, the allegations made by the women were true. For example P11 explained:

I was informed by my husband's co-worker that my husband was having an extra marital affair with a client. His fiancée had five children with different men. When I asked my husband about it he denied. Later, I got to know that the woman is pregnant for my husband but when I asked he denied again. However, I kept mute because I didn't want to have issues with my husband but he later confessed (Field interview data, 2020).

The assertion was confirmed by P14 who tried using violence to protect her marriage lamented that:

I have fought with a number of women in the name of protecting my marriage. I have been to court once, reported to the police station four consecutive times. I remember at least eight women I have abused in an attempt to protect my marriage. All my efforts proved futile. I ended up developing medical complications. I was then advised by the doctor to stop worrying or else I may lose my life. When I ask him about it he does not deny it, he tells me he goes into agreement with women before they start the relationship. He makes it known to them that he is married. It hurts so much to hear this from your husband but I cannot complain because I am not working. I and my children depend on him for everything. He does not want me to work. In fact my husband is a serious womanizer (Field interview data, 2020).

This finding is in line with the assertion of Fowler & Wade (2002). Fowler & Wade maintains that infidelity contributes largely to violence perpetrated by women against men and women. Some men allegedly cheat on the wives with their wives friends and even house girls. They make their wives bitter and angry.

The responses from participants further identified witnessing violence as a contributing factor to violence against women in Winneba. One of the reasons why women are violent towards other women is the fact that they themselves are

witnessing or have witnessed violence in their childhood or even as adults. For instance; P2 who was suffering from her guardian shared her experience:

Whenever she is beating me, she tells me her mother hate nonsense so she also does not tolerate nonsense. She talks about how the mother beat them when they go wrong. According to her she has taken after her mother. She brags about it to others, how she feels satisfied when she disciplines us using violence (Field interview data, 2020).

In other instances girls abused other girls and women because they witnessed how their mothers were engaged in violence with other women. P7, a 20 year old woman who experience violence from a woman and her eight years old twin daughters shared her ordeal. She lamented:

Anytime the children complained about me not acting according to their wish she abused me in their presence. She tells me always that even if I do not want to obey her wish she does not care but for her children I should do everything they want for them. Because of this, the children often abuse me. The children insult me and insult my parents as well. They talk to me anyhow and command me around like a robot (Field interview data, 2020).

P15 a 32 year old woman who was engaged in violence with another explained how the daughter of her opponent joined the fight. In her narration she said:

While I was fighting with one of the women the others were looking on hoping that the woman would beat me. Her daughter joined in the fight when she noticed I was beating her mother. I threw my hand and it hit her daughter's eye. Her eye swelled up and they reported me to the police station (Field interview data, 2020)

P14 also confirmed this assertion and said: I had an issue with my brother's wife. While she was abusing each other verbally her daughter intruded and started insulting me. Her daughter called me a prostitute.(Field interview data, 2020).The findings show that some women are violent because they witness the violence

perpetrated by their mothers. This finding supports the views of the proponents of the social learning theory. The social learning theory states that aggression and violence are learned behaviour that can be passed on from one generation to the other. Social learning theory posits that violence is learned through observation. The basic contention of this view is that physical aggression between family members provides likely model for the learning of aggressive behaviour, as well as for the appropriateness of such behaviour within the family (Bandura, 1963). This theory maintains that offenders are not born with the impulse to engage violent acts but rather offenders learn to engage in violent acts by observing others (Siegel, 2005).

In a related study by Afari (2017) she found that women who assault their husbands also had dominant and aggressive parents, who engaged in domestic violence. This finding is in line with Arriaga and Foshee (2004) who found out that when individuals have experience with parents who were violent toward one another, there is an increased likelihood of perpetrating violence to their partners in the future. They continue to say that the concept of witnessing parental abuse and causing intimate partner violence later is a trend found throughout violence literature.

Another cause of violence against women that emerged from the responses of the women was jealousy. This view was predominantly upheld by victims. For example P2 a victim of violence argued:

She abused me out of jealousy. My guardian is fat woman, who complains about her size and how it has affected her beauty. I mostly want to look neat but whenever I dress and wore something nice she begin to complain. When people give me their used clothing she gets furious and insults me and throw the cloths away (Field interview data, 2020).

In the same vein, P9 whose lower lip and finger were bitten off by her sister indicated:

When my sister was questioned why she did that to me? She said I am her younger sister and had taken her glory. She does not understand the reason why I am prospering than her. My own sister was jealous of me and abused me despite the fact that I was taking care of her and her children. She had the notion that when she kills me she will inherit my property (Field interview data, 2020).

This was affirmed by P17, she made it known that Jealousy is also a contributing factor to the phenomenon. To her, she cannot really tell what is wrong with them. Sometimes, because of jealousy they gossip about each other or incinerate each other which end up in violence.

Marital challenges were identified as one of the reasons that made women perpetrators of violence. The findings revealed that most of the women who abused their foster daughters were having challenges in their marriages. Most of them were abused by their husbands, others were divorced. It was noticed that the challenges these women were having in their marriages made them emotionally unstable hence the little mistake committed by their foster daughter or other women triggers violence.

P5 shared her experience and purported:

I notice she was having marital problem with her husband who is my brother. She normally complained that my brother was not taking good care of her and he also brought her sister to add up to her burden. I get worried but I have no alternative (Field interview data, 2020).

Similarly, P7 expressed her opinion about how their driver confirmed her observation about her guardian. She stated: The driver of my guardian said he thinks she was affected by the divorce. She takes decision and act without taking others into consideration (Field interview data, 2020).

P14 a perpetrator of violence confirmed this and said:

My husband was abusing me because I wasn't working. He asked me to be a house wife. I couldn't complain about his actions because he was taking care for my children and I. The only option left for me was to engage in violence with any women who try to meddle in my marriage. I am abused by husband because of these women. So when I get the opportunity I make sure I don't spare them (Field interview data, 2020).

From the data some women abuse others because they themselves were abused by others. This finding supports the assertion of the ecological model by Heise 1998, which states that personal factors such as being a victim of abuse can cause someone to perpetrate violence. Also, Pizzey (as cited in Afari, 2016) has long recognized that there are women involved in emotionally or physically violent relationships that express and enact disturbance beyond the acceptable scope of distress. Such individuals, urged on by feelings of bitterness and acrimony, behave in a manner that is destructive to themselves as well as to some of the family members, making an already bad family situation worse. These women have been described as „family terrorists“. Such women often become even more violent as their partner try to break away.

Views expressed by respondents in relation to marital problem as a cause of violence, they argued that they perpetrate violence against other women because of the actions of their husbands. According to them their husbands spend their money on their „side chicks“ and neglect them and their children. P11 shared her experience and said:

I asked my husband to give me money but he told me he doesn't have money but I later found out that he had gone for loan to open a shop for his fiancée meanwhile I have been doing all forms of menial jobs to support the family financially. Initially, I didn't want to ask him about the money he gave to the

woman but later I decided to ask him. He got furious and abused me. Anyway I am grateful to God his fiancée shop caught fire and was burned into ashes (Field interview data, 2020).

P14 a perpetrator of violence reiterated:

When I asked my husband about it, he told me went into a three months contract with the woman and that he has paid her for her service. What hurts me most is that my husband has never given me that amount of money since we got married (Field interview data, 2020).

P14 further lamented that the most annoying part of this whole experience is that, her husband „side chicks“ normally tells her that they are not as foolish as she is. She has decided to wear a ring and stay with one man and that it pays to be a side chick than to be a wife.

This claim was confirmed by P16. According to the Officer another leading factor that cause violence against women in Winneba is rivalry. Most of the men especially in the villages and along the coast give birth with more than one woman. They normally reject the first one and stay with the other, especially their second wife. When this happens, the first wife feels cheated and dejected. They normally go to the residence of second wife to insult and threaten her. This finding was further confirmed by P17, speaking with this officer, she indicated the inheritance system (matrilineal) has influence the men in the performance of their responsibility as fathers. She said:

A man was reported to unit over neglect of her family for her girlfriend. When I questioned the man, he asked me whether I have ever seen a hawk followed by chicks. And that the children are the assets of the woman so it is her responsibility to cater for them (Field interview data, 2020).

This finding is in support of the assertion made by Fowler & Wade (2006). Fowler & Wade (2002) maintains that women abuse their husbands and other women

because some men just run away from their responsibility like paying school fees for their children and upkeep having spent money elsewhere. In a related study by IDS *et al.* (2016) they emphasize that the failure of men to provide for their family is a major cause of conflict within families. To Institute of Development Studies *et al.* (2016), the failure of men to provide adequate economic resources for the family causes women to become abusive. Additionally, it was reported by Peace FM online on the 4th of August, 2020 that a woman beat her supposed rival to death at Koforidua.

One of the factors that came up was litigation. This assertion was made by P16 and P17. They indicated that the women in Winneba are litigant and that with reference to the numbers of cases of violence reported to the unit, those among women are higher than those among men. P16 purported:

In fact some of the women in Winneba are litigant. They harbour sentiment and try to retaliate. For instance, when there is an issue between a relative of one woman and the other person reports and the culprit is arrested, the next time there is an issue with the relative of the opponent, they also retaliate by reporting the person to the unit (Field interview data, 2020).

On the contrary, the women did not want to agree to this assertion but their responses confirmed it. For example, P15 a perpetrator of violence declared:

As for me when I have an issue with you, I don't care to even go naked and fight you. In fact, I get insane when it comes to violence. I can be at loggerheads with someone for more than five years, I don't care. I don't fear anybody except God. Currently as I am speaking with you I am not in talking terms with my neighbours in the next house. I had an issue with one of them and the whole family got involved so I am not in talking terms with any of them. The day they would fall in trap, they would be in hot waters (Field interview data, 2020).

Similarly, P14 a perpetrator of violence indicated:

I think she reported me, not just because her daughter was hurt but because my sister has reported them to the unit before. I think they did that just to revenge my sister's action (Field interview data, 2020).

The views expressed by the participant confirmed the assertion made by the DOVVSU Officials that some women in Winneba are litigant. According to P17, among all the station she has been to, the women in Winneba are comparatively litigants. According to her, some women report others to the unit just for revenge. Even trivial issues that can be overlooked are reported to the unit just because they or their relative had an issue with their opponent and it was reported to the unit, they would also make sure they pay back their opponent in their own coin.

On the other hand, responses from the participants on the causes of violence revealed that the following factors contribute to women being victims of violence perpetrated by women in Winneba. The finding showed that single parenting is one of the factors that majority of the women who were victims of violence from their guardian revealed. Most of them were catered for single headedly by their mothers. Their fathers had either neglected them for other women or they were in the house but unwilling and unable to cater for their children. This result was obvious from the responses of the participants.

P1 a victim of violence lamented:

I have lived with eight different women since my childhood. I went to live with these women because my mother was a single parent and a trader. She could not support all of us financially. I did not know my biological father personally and my step fathers were not ready to support me. I have suffered various forms of violence from these women (Field interview data, 2020).

P2 shared a similar experience and said:

I lost my mother at a tender age. I was in my village when my guardian came looking for people to come and stay with her at Winneba. I was nine (9) years by then. She came for three (3) of us. My family was happy because I was going to live in Winneba which they considered bigger and better than my village. My father was a single parent and he was struggling to cater for me (Field interview data, 2020).

P3 shared her sentiments and said:

I came to stay with my guardian when I completed J.H.S. My mother is a single parent. I have four siblings. My mother single headedly catered for us. When I completed J.H.S, I stayed in the house for four years because my mother didn't have the money for me to further my education. I later came to stay with my guardian in Winneba (Field interview data, 2020).

P17 affirmed the situation and stated:

Single parenting, either with or without the presence of the father is a contributing factor to violence in Winneba. Some of the men do not take responsibility of their children because of the matrilineal system of inheritance. They claim the children are the property of the mother so it is the responsibility of the mother to cater for them. Most of these women are engaged in economic activities that earn them insufficient income. They end up giving their children out to their friends, relatives and even strangers outside Winneba to live with them. However, some of these children end up being abused by their guardian (Field interview data, 2020).

The views from the participants imply that single parenting is a factor accounting for women being victims of violence in Winneba. In other views expressed by participants indicated that, poverty is one of the factors that make women victim of violence in Winneba. This view was widely expressed by the participants, as exemplified in the following statement:

P7 a victim of violence shared her experience and said:

I went to stay with my guardian because we were having financial challenge at home. Although both parent are alive, my father is irresponsible, it is my mother who is struggling to take care of nine (9) of us. When I went there I had completed S. H. S but my parents do not have the money to further my education. The agreement was to stay with my guardian for five (5) years then she will help me (Field interview data, 2020).

In the same vein P6, stated: I went to stay with her because we were many in the family and parent could not cater for us (Field interview data, 2020).

On the contrary P15 a perpetrator of violence argued:

When they buy things on credit and it's time for payment they begin to abuse you. It is therefore up to you to be hard on them and take your money or else you would lose your capital. As for me if I come and I realized you don't give me the money. I would make sure I stay with you till you give me the money or else we will wear the same shorts that day. The most annoying part is while they owe you, they get money to go and buy the same product from a different shop(Field interview data, 2020).

Speaking with P16, he expressed his view and said:

Poverty is one of the factors responsible for violence among the women in Winneba. People buy things on credit and when it is time for payment it leads to violence among them. Others also borrow money from their neighbours and when it time for repayment it becomes an issue that leads to violence. Poverty is one of the core reasons why some women give out their children to live with other women. These children are mostly abused but because the parents don't have the means they allow the children to suffer under their guardian (Field interview data, 2020).

The findings revealed poverty as one of the factors that makes women victims of violence. This is similar to the notion of Fedler and Tanzer (2000) that economic and social factors such as low wages, unemployment, lack of economic resources and

inadequate housing augment women's vulnerability and contribute to violence against them. Correspondingly, a study by Institute of Development Studies *et al.* (2016) has shown that in Ghana low asset levels were found to be strong determinants of psychological and economic violence against women. In their study they found out that women and men in households with lower levels of assets were more likely than individuals in higher asset quintiles to have experienced physical, psychological and economic violence. Similarly, the fourth level of the Haise ecological model suggests that a community characterized by risk factors such as poverty and unemployment has possibility of contributing to violence.

4.4 Effect of Violence against Women

The third objective of the study focused on assessing the effects of violence against women in Winneba. Base on this several themes came up. The themes include health, emotional, economic and social consequences.

4.4.1 Health consequences

Responses from participants showed that violence against women have daring consequences on the health of the victims and in some cases the perpetrators. For instance, P1 who is a victim of violence shared her experience on how she sustained injuries from the violence she suffered from her guardian. She said:

The beatings resulted in sores and marks at my back and other parts of my body. When I am bathing and water touches that part I feel pains but because I cannot see my back I just apply ointments. She starved me because of that I later developed stomach ulcer (Field interview data, 2020).

Similarly, P2 a victim shared her experience on how she got injured while her guardian was beating her. She stated:

The physical abuse affected my health negatively. One day while she was beating me, the stick she was using hit my eyes and it swelled up so I had to be taken to the hospital. When we got to the hospital she lied to the medical doctor about the cause of the problem. I was given some medication and my guardian spent a reasonable amount on my treatment. Because of that, I am currently using medicated glasses but sometimes I feel pains in my eye (Field interview data, 2020).

On the other hand P13 a woman who was abused by her sister lamented:

The next thing I saw was she held my head and bit my lower lip off and also bit my fingers and removed my finger nails, those around started shouting for help. People came around and took me to the hospital (Field interview data, 2020).

P14 a perpetrator of violence explained how she injured someone in the name of protecting her marriage. She stated:

The woman and her daughter (rival) started abusing me verbally but I kept mute. I entered my kitchen and boiled water and added pepper. I came out and poured the hot water and pepper on them. The hot water with pepper poured on my rival face (pregnant woman) and her mother's hand. It resulted in burns on their bodies (Field interview data, 2020).

In other instance some of the victims complained of experiencing body pains and headaches. For example, P2 indicated:

I normally experience body pains and headache because of the numerous house chores I am forced to do. Whether I am sick or not my house chores are compulsory. Whenever I complained of headache and body pains she do me a favour by providing body pain killer such as paracetamol, but she forced me to sell and render account (Field interview data, 2020).

In the case of P11, a pregnant woman who was engaged in violence with her husband's finance, she gave birth pre-maturely and the baby died after delivery. She expressed her sentiments and said:

When she came to the house, she started abusing me verbally. I also replied and it led to physical violence. I was seven months pregnant by then. People came around and separated us. The next day I started experiencing body pains and pains in my tummy. I reported to the hospital. Upon series of examination the doctor decided to perform a caesarean session on me. The baby was then removed but he passed away the next day (Field interview data, 2020).

The findings further revealed that violence against women does not only affect the physical health of victims but their perpetrators as well. This was seen in the case of P14 who engaged in a number of violence with her husband's „side chicks“. She lamented:

I was seriously affected after the violent confrontation I had health complication. I developed high blood pressure. When I went to the hospital the doctor cautioned that if I didn't stop the violence and worrying I might end up getting stroke (Field interview data, 2020).

The findings indicate that violence against women have damaging effects on their physical health. This finding supports the assertion of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2009), who maintains that violence against women results in abdominal or thoracic injuries, bruises, chronic pain syndrome, invalidity, fibromyalgia, fractures, gastrointestinal disorders, headache, abdominal pain, irritable bowel syndrome, burns, lacerations and abrasions, eye damage, reduced physical functioning, chronic fatigue, abrupt weight changes, long-term risk of a number of other health problems, including chronic pain, physical disability, drug and alcohol abuse and depression. Although violence can have direct health consequences, it also

increases women's risk of future ill health. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, further assert that violence against women in pregnancy also increases the likelihood of miscarriage, stillbirth, pre-term delivery and low birth weight babies.

4.4.2 Emotional consequences

On the effects of violence, the views expressed by participants point out that violence do not only affect their physical health but also their emotions and mental health. The effect of violence on the emotions and psychological health are sometimes not so obvious hence difficult to detect. Therefore, most of the victims and even perpetrators suffer silently. Majority of them agreed that their psychological health was affected. A good number of them admitted that they were emotionally stressed and depressed most of the time. This manifested in the responses given by participants. For instance, P3 a victim of violence indicated:

The violence I suffered from my guardian made me worried and kept me thinking always. Sometimes, I felt and thought if my parents were wealthy enough to take care, of me I wouldn't go through this situation. I have been thinking and worrying so much that I keep losing weight. Sometimes, I wonder why my parents are alive and I am suffering like they are dead (Field interview data, 2020).

Similarly, P2 lamented and said:

At times, I get worried and ask myself why I am in this terrible situation. If my mother was alive, would she treat me the way I am being treated by my guardian? When I think about these things, then I begin to weep bitterly (Field interview data, 2020).

P8 a victim who suffered violence from her guardian shared a similar experience and said:

I was affected psychologically because sometimes when I reflect, I realized the life I was living in the village is better than what I am experience in the city.

When I was in the village I was treated well by my parent but my guardian treated me like a slave she bought for the family(Field interview data, 2020).

This experience was not limited to only those who suffered violence from their guardian but also women who engaged in violence with other women. P9 shared her ordeal and said:

I was physically challenged; emotionally disturbed and I pitied myself a lot. Suffering from a deformity that you were not born with it is not an easy experience. Again, I was affected psychologically. Whenever I remember how I helped her and how she paid me back it was not easy for me. Whenever I think about it, it hurt the more. This caused me to developed hatred for my own sister. It took the intervention of God through a Rev. Minister for me to forgive her (Field interview data, 2020).

Similarly, P13 a victim who suffered violence from her landlady lamented:

The issue really affected me. Although I was not physically injured, emotionally and psychologically I was. I was so traumatized to the extent that I was always thinking about the issue. This made me lose weight drastically. My weight loss was so obvious that people kept questioning me about it. Thinking and worrying about the issue resulted in headaches. Anytime I think about the issue I experience severe headache. I didn't seek for help from counsellor but rather I visited pharmaceutical shop to get drug with my own money to ease the pain (Field interview data, 2020).

The findings revealed that participants were affected psychologically and emotionally from the abuse they suffered. This finding supports the results of a related study by World Health Organisation (WHO) in 2014. WHO affirms that violence against women can lead to depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, sleep difficulties, eating disorders, emotional distress and suicide attempts. The same study found that women who have experienced intimate partner violence were almost twice as likely to experience depression and alcohol intake problem. The rate was even

higher for women who had experienced non partner sexual violence. In this type of violence, the wounds inflicted upon the mind take much long time to heal though the body may mend soon afterwards. Each time the victim re-lives these moments, they start bleeding again. The broken spirit takes the longest time to mend, the damage to the personality may be the most difficult to overcome (Aboagye & Boadu, 1997).

More so, the views from the participants revealed that emotional effects of violence against women in Winneba was not only limited to victims but perpetrators as well. This is evident in the responses given by some perpetrators. For example, P14 open up and said:

I was affected psychologically. I was always thinking and distressed. This nearly affected my mental health. I had to go and stay with my mother for some time before I recovered. Nobody hurt me physically but my health and emotions were affected. Just image how people would see you, when you are always engaging in violence with others (Field interview data, 2020).

P10, who perpetrated violence against the mother of her foster child, indicated:

Both I and my mother were affected psychologically and emotionally because we knew when the issue is taken to court we would be found guilty. We were scared because we did not know the penalty we would be given for the crime committed. Until the case was withdrawn from the police station our mind and hearts were not at peace (Field interview data, 2020).

This assertion was affirmed by P15 who perpetrated violence against a neighbour. She said: When I was reported and arrested, I was scared because I knew I was guilty and I didn't know the penalty I was going to be given (Field interview data, 2020).

This was also confirmed by P17. She indicated that:

The perpetrators also suffer psychologically, because when the issue is reported to the unit and they are arrested, they get scared. They wonder what the outcome is going to be. They are stigmatized in their communities when

they are arrested by the police. This affects them emotionally and psychologically (Field interview data, 2020).

The findings revealed that perpetrators were affected emotionally and psychologically, usually due to fear of the outcome of their actions especially when the issue is reported to the police station. P16, also said that perpetrators are made to sign a bond of good behaviour. This adds up to their problems and put fear in them. There were also instances where perpetrators go into hiding for fear of being arrested. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2009) asserts that the consequences of violence against women can be psychological and behavioural such as alcohol and drugs abuse, depression, anxiety, eating and sleep disorders, feelings of shame and guilt, phobic disorders and panic syndrome, physical inactivity, low self-esteem, post-traumatic stress disorders, smoking, suicidal behaviours and self-punishment and unsafe sexual behaviour. These consequences of feeling of shame and guilt, anxiety and sleeping disorders are not limited to victims but perpetrators as well.

4.4.3 Economic and social consequences

Based on the third objective, another theme that came up is how violence against women in Winneba affects them economically. The responses from participants showed that violence have daring economic consequences on victims. Victims bear both direct and indirect cost. With regards to the direct cost the victims spent money on medication and transportation among others. Some of the victims shared their experiences. For instance: P9 shared her experience and said:

It really cost me financially. I paid hospital bills, transportation cost and cost of prescribed drugs which affected me financially. Also, I had to go for daily dressing for about one and half month. I have kept all the receipts till date. My husband and I spent a lot on medical bills. My sister who deformed me

didn't pay a penny. She cannot even cater for her family so we cannot ask her to pay medical bills (Field interview data, 2020).

Similarly, P11 indicated:

We also spent a reasonable amount of money on the caesarean session and other medications. The money I used in buying the baby's things was wasted and I couldn't go for hawking for sometime because I wasn't well. Even today I cannot work as I used to because of the caesarean session (Field interview data, 2020).

On the other hand perpetrators were also made to pay for the medical bills of victims. For example, P14 lamented:

It was concluded that the women didn't do well coming to my house to abuse me. I and my husband were made to pay for their medical bills. They had burns on their bodies so they went to the hospital for medication (Field interview data, 2020).

Relatively P15 shared her sentiments and said:

When they went to the hospital they brought a medical bill of 250 Ghana cedi but my husband did not have the means so my family pleaded with the unit and the victim to allow us settle the issue at home. They agreed but insisted we bring them the feedback. A month later my husband had the money and we settled the debt (Field interview data, 2020).

These views indicate that medical bills were paid for by both victims and perpetrators. This was affirmed by P17 who explained that the victims would have to use their own money to pay for medical bills and the perpetrators are made to refund the money when the case is settled. Also, when the case is taken to court and the victim feels she needs a lawyer she can hire one but that is her cost to bear. In extreme cases the unit writes to a government hospital to provide free medical care for victims. United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2009) maintains that

survivors of violence bear the highest burden of costs while states bear significant costs in terms of service delivery after violence occurs. The public and private sector bear the brunt of reduced productivity resulting from violence against women. Violence against women represents a burden to health services due to the costs associated with it.

In another instance P13 who suffered abuse from her landlady complained of how she had to pay processing fee before her case was handled. She stated:

I was affected economically because I was made to pay an amount of 40 cedis at rent control before the issue was processed. After the case was settled, they took 100 cedis from me. I used my own money to buy drugs (Field interview data, 2020).

P10 shared similar views and said:

The violence affected us economically. Apart from the payment of hospital bills, we were also made to compensate her with an amount of 100 cedis when the issue was settled at home. We also gave the elders who handled the case an amount of 20 cedis as a token of appreciation. In fact, we were really affected considering the cost of transportation, hospital bill, compensation and money given to elders who settled the case at home (Field interview data, 2020).

Additionally, some victims and perpetrators had to take time off work to report to the police station or meeting place for the settlement of the case. According to them this affects them financially. For instance, P9 a victim indicated:

I am a food vender but because of the injury sustained I could not sell the food for over four months. This really affected the livelihood of my family (Field interview data, 2020).

A similar experience was shared by P10 a perpetrator, she lamented that:

It affected my business. I am a shop keeper but I couldn't open my shop for a number of days because I had to report to the police station till the issue was withdrawn from the police station. You can imagine the money I lost (Field interview data, 2020).

In a related study in Ghana by Institute of Development Studies *et al.* (2016) they found that violence against women affected the daily lives of those who had experienced violence, in terms of their absence from or ability to work, go to school or do domestic work, their ability to concentrate on daily activities, their levels of confidence and on reporting feelings of living in fear. WHO (2014) maintains that the social and economic costs of violence are enormous and have ripple effects throughout society. Women may be unable to work, loss of wages, lack of participation in regular activities and limited ability to care for themselves and their children.

Moreover, the responses from the participants revealed that their educational advancement and skill acquisition were affected. For instance, P1 indicated:

In terms of effect, I don't get time to study. I was not allowed to take part in extra classes in school. This affected my academic performance and my B.E.C.E results. When my results came I was asked to stay at home for some time before I would be taken to learn a trade. I stayed in the house for a long time without been taken to learn the trade. At a point I lost interest in education. Till date my dream of becoming a professional teacher still remains a dream (Field interview data, 2020).

On the same view, P3 stated:

When I am going to work I am given 70p for feeding but that amount is not enough. This made life uneasy for me and affected my studies negatively. Although, I have graduated from learning the trade, I am not very good at the sewing. I wish I would get support so that I can further and improve my skills

and become independent. I am 28 years but I am still living with my guardian (Field interview data, 2020).

P5 affirmed this assertion and said:

What she did to me really affected me. I was not able to further my education. So when ever my husband abuse me , I remember my experience living with my sister. I feel if I am gainfully employed my husband would not be able to abuse me this way. I always blame my sister for putting me in this situation. I wanted to be a nurse. If I was to be working and taking monthly salary do you think my husband can abuse me this way? (Field interview data, 2020)

Some studies have also noted a close association between experiences of violence against women and constrained access to livelihood options, fewer skills and lower productivity among victims (García-Moreno *et al.*, 2005). In a similar study, Lloyd (1997) found that female victims of domestic violence in the USA were more likely to have been unemployed, had multiple jobs, had lower personal incomes and were significantly more likely to receive public assistance than women who did not experience domestic violence.

The finding further showed that apart from the economic cost, victims and perpetrators were also affected socially. Some victims could not engage in social activities while perpetrators were stigmatized for their action. For example, P9 who is a victim shared her sentiments and said: In addition I felt shy whenever I go for social gathering. For this reason I do not like attending social gatherings (Field interview data, 2020).

P14 a perpetrator also shared her ordeal and said:

Sometime, I feel stigmatized. Two or three weeks after the incident, people pointed fingers at me and gossip about me in the neighbourhood because I was arrested by the police. It was not an easy experience. I had stay in the

house for a number of days. I could not attend social gatherings for some few weeks (Field interview data, 2020).

This assertion was also affirmed by P17 a DOVVSU Officer. She explained they are stigmatized in their communities when they are arrested by the police. This affects them emotionally and psychologically and their ability to socialize. Women and their families bear the highest burden of social and economic costs, including shame and stigma. „It affects their participation in education, employment, civic life and politics, and impedes their access and control over resources increasing poverty and inequality“ (Our Watch, 2015, p.8).

4.4.4 Effect on child development and behaviour

Additionally, the finding revealed that violence against women does not only affect the women involved but their children as well. The responses from the respondents showed that there were instances where the children got involved in the violence between their mother and other women. Also there were situations where the child perpetrated violence against others. This assertion manifested in the following responses given by participants, for example, P5 shared her experience and lamented:

When her children are doing something wrong and I try to correct them, they will insult me and say that their mother is using her money to take care of me so I should keep quite or else they will force their mother to sack me. I am older than the children but sometimes use cane on me but I cannot complain. I remember one day they poured water on me while lying in my bed because they asked me to come and play with them but I was tired and feeling sleepy(Field interview data, 2020).

P14 also confirmed this assertion and said:

I had an issue with my brother's wife. While we were abusing each other verbally her daughter intruded and started insulting me. Her daughter called me a prostitute. I got furious and hit her and she fell to the ground. Her

mother reported me to DOVVSU and I was arrested (Field interview data, 2020).

This finding is in line with the assertion of United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (2009), that witnessing violence inside the family increases probabilities of depression, anxiety, behavioural disorders and delayed cognitive development in children. Moreover, it increases the risk that they will turn into victims of mistreatment or future aggressors themselves. Our Watch (2015) maintains that children who grow up in families where there is violence may suffer a range of behavioural and emotional disturbances. These can also be associated with perpetrating or experiencing violence later in life. In addition to witnessing violence, childhood victimization also perpetuates the cycle of violence in other ways (Kishor & Johnson, 2004).

According to the social learning theory, children who grow up in a violent and abusive set up may learn violent behaviour, imitate those behaviours and then repeat them in future relationships. In a nutshell, when applied to violence against women, social learning theory states that we model behaviour that we have been exposed to as children. Violence is learned, through role models provided by the family, either directly or indirectly, and reinforced in childhood and continued in adulthood as a coping response to stress or a method of conflict resolution (Bandura, 1973).

4.5 Support Seeking Behaviour of Victims

The fourth and last objective of the study sought to access the support seeking behaviour of victims. For the past few decades violence against women has moved from being considered a private issue to being recognized as a public health concern (Krantz, 2002). There have been several convention made to recognize and protect the rights of women against violence. All these efforts have yielded significant

results. However, these advances have not yet been sufficient nor been implemented equally globally. Some women and girls still suffer violence in secrecy. Most women in Winneba do not report cases of violence to the appropriate quarters due to a number of reasons given by the participants. This was glaring in the responses given by participants. For instance some of participants noted that they do not report their perpetrators because they depended on them for their livelihood. According to P3, a victim of violence:

I didn't complain to my parents and any relative because even if I tell them they cannot help me in any way because they do not have the means. Moreover, my mother is a single mother who cannot cater for me. My foster parent is helping me learn a trade (Field interview data, 2020).

P2 share her experience said:

My mother is dead and my father does not have the means to cater for me. My guardian is catering for me so I cannot report her. If I report her to the police and she is arrested where will I go from there? Who will cater for me? Whatever I am going through is now normal I'm used to it (Field interview data, 2020).

In other instances some of the participants claimed that they did not report perpetrators to others because they did not know how the people they report to would communicate the information to their guardian and for fear of being abused by their guardian. For example P2 lamented:

When I became an adolescent I reported it to her relative. When I reported it for the first time to my guardian's brother he asked her. She poured out her anger on me and his brother. So this time around everybody was afraid to ask her anything about me. When I tell them, they encouraged me, then it ends there (Field interview data, 2020).

This was further affirmed by P4 who stated:

My teachers asked me and I told them about my condition in the house. The teachers asked her about my condition and she got offended. She insulted and she starved me. Anytime my teacher tried to talk to her about my lateness to school and absenteeism she abuses me verbally and starves me. So I informed the teachers about it and they stopped asking her. I could not report it to any family member because none of them are around. I cannot go back home on my own because I cannot not trace my way back home because I was young when she came for me. (Field interview data, 2020)

In other instance, P13 who was abused by her landlady did not want to report the issue because she feared her landlady was going to harm her physically and spiritually. She expressed her fear and said:

She is older than me, old enough to be my mother and she has been in Winneba for a longer period than me. What if she organise people to harm me? I am also afraid that she may even harm me spiritually; I have heard that some of the women in Winneba like cursing people. I am young and not ready to die. (Field interview data, 2020)

Additionally, some of the victim felt that the issue is a family issue so they would prefer to report it to family members or neighbours. They did not want to bring disgrace or cause confusion in the family. P1, a victim who suffered abuse from her uncle's wife indicated:

I could not report to any relative because I did not know any of them around and I did not have a phone. I just had to endure. I did not want to report to the pastor because my uncle is a leader at church, so I did not want it to be like I'm disgracing them (Field interview data, 2020).

Also, P8 shared her experience and said:

I was affected by what she did but I was scared of my father. So I could not report. Also because she is my aunty I did not want my father to have issues with her which can lead to family dispute. I decided to endure and ensure

peace in the family. I kept mute because I know no condition is permanent (Field interview data, 2020).

In another instance P9 who was engaged in violence with her sister, indicated:

My husband refused to report my sister to the police because he did not want this to lead to family dispute. While I was at the hospital my sister had already escaped to Kumasi. I didn't want it to be a disgrace to my sister and the family. Although those in the neighbourhood encouraged me to have her arrested I did not (Field interview data, 2020).

The responses from the participants pointed out that most of the victims did not seek for help because they depended on their guardian for survival and others for fear of being further abused by their perpetrator. Additionally, some victims did not report because they did not want to bring confusion and disgrace to their family. This finding is in line with the findings in a related study by Garcia-Moreno *et al.*(2005). The study found that most victims of domestic violence did not report their abuses because domestic violence was often considered for fear of further violence or causing shame to the family. Concurring with this widespread perception of domestic violence as a private matter, even within public services set up to deal with domestic violence, the majority of respondents who sought help did so in the first instance by approaching family members or a friend. Poorer victims and those worried about personal social stigmatisation and reputational loss for the whole family may have preferred not to access formal justice processes. Also, the study found that participants were more likely to withdraw a case from prosecution and sought customary mediation when the family or the community is involved (Institute of Development Studies *et al*, 2016).

However, most of those who reported to family members and friends did not get the expected outcome. P13 who was abused by her landlady, indicated:

When she refused to give the change to me, I reported it to an elderly person but when we confronted her, she still refused. Later, a neighbour suggested I take the issue to rent control because my landlady is litigant and she wouldn't pay the change (Field interview data, 2020).

P9 affirmed this and said:

Although, my brothers were informed about how my sister has deformed me they never sat down to settle the issue between us. When the incident occurred my sister went into hiding at Kumasi. She returned a year later when she came back my relatives had forgotten about the incident (Field interview data, 2020).

The findings revealed that those who reported the issue to the appropriate quarters did so because they were encouraged by others. However, these participants complained about the time consuming and tedious nature of the whole process. However, there were a handful of victims who were encouraged to report to the appropriated quarters and they had the expected outcome. P13 shared her experience and said:

When I took the issue to rent control I had the expected result but the whole process was very tedious and time consuming. When I went to rent control instead of them to send the letter to my landlady they gave it to me to send it to her but because I was scared, I gave it to a male friend to be given to her. I didn't know what she would do to me when I go to her personally (Field interview data, 2020).

She further explained:

When the letter was sent to her a set date was given and we met at the rent control office. After, a long discussion she was asked to give me my change. Three months later I was called from the office that she had brought the money. I went for the money but the officer at rent control told me they had taken hundred cedis from the money as their percentage. Initially, when I went

to the office to report the case they took forty cedis from me as processing fee (Field interview data, 2020).

This was affirmed by P11, who is perpetrator, she stated:

In about an hour time, she came with the police to have us arrested. We then headed to the police station. When we got to the police station, we were asked to narrate our part of the story. I and my mother were found guilty. We were later bailed. We were made to pay for her hospital bills since she sustained injuries from the beating. The to and fro movement involved in the whole process is tedious and expensive (Field interview data, 2020).

This finding is in line with the results by Institute of Development Studies et al. (2016). They maintain that, a large number of the participants of the study mentioned three key challenges that is the costs of the services, lengthy or ineffective delays in the handling of cases and corruption.

P16 and P17 suggested that they wish trivial issues would be settled in the house and serious one reported to the unit. According to them every now and then women are reporting violence. They indicated that the number of violence among women cases reported to the unit is more than those between male and female. According to them a lot of these cases can be settled in the house without necessarily reporting it to the unit. For instance, P16 explained:

When these incidents of violence occur among them you see them running bear footed to the unit especially when someone gets hurt. Mostly, when the issue is reported to the Unit, a summon letter is sent to the perpetrator asking her to report to the Unit. Other times, police officers are sent to have the perpetrator arrested. Whenever a perpetuator is reporting to the unit, you will see an entourage of people with them and because of this, the unit is often crowded (Field interview data, 2020).

P16 and P17 further indicated that cases of violence between a guardian and foster child are not reported to the unit. P16 explained:

Since I came to Winneba, only one or two of such cases has been reported to the unit. In one of those situations a foster child came to report her guardian with the help of a friend. When we went to the house to confront her guardian, the foster child turn around and said her guardian treats her well since then we have not had such cases reported to the unit. However, the day you came to the unit a guardian came to report her foster child of stealing her money and giving it to her boyfriend. She reported the girl to the station. When the girl was summoned to the station she confirmed it. After a series of deliberations, it was concluded that the parents of the girl should pay the money (one thousand cedi) to her guardian (Field interview data, 2020).

On the other hand, the responses from the participants showed that most of the cases of violence are not reported to the unit. The findings indicated that most women do not report cases of psychological and emotional but rather physical violence and even that, it's mostly when one person get hurt in the process. This is exemplified in the following responses. P14 a perpetrator stated that:

The hot water with pepper poured on my rival face (pregnant woman) and her mother's hand. It resulted in burns on their bodies. They rushed to the police station to report me. I was arrested and we were taken to DOVVSU (Field interview data, 2020).

Similarly, P15 confirmed this and said: I threw my hand and it hit her daughter's eye. Her eye swelled up and they reported me to the police station (Field interview data, 2020). This finding is supported by the findings of Institute of Development Studies et al, 2016). Institute of Development Studies et al, 2016) purports that women were more likely to have sought help if they experienced physical violence (52.8 per cent) than for other forms of violence These findings suggest that domestic violence is still largely considered a private family matter. The GFLHS 2015 reported that 81.1 per cent of respondents believed that family issues should only be discussed with people in the family. Women and men who

experienced domestic violence seemed to only resort to external help in more extreme circumstances.

Additionally, most perpetrators did not like it when they are reported to the unit wished cases are settled at home. However, responses from participants revealed that even when the cases are reported to the unit, most perpetrators plead, and it is withdrawn and settled at home. For example, P10 a perpetrator stated:

We were scared of going to court. So we went with two elders to the woman to plead with her to allow us settle the issue amicably at home. She agreed to our petition. The next day we went with her and the elders to the police station to withdraw the case (Field interview data, 2020).

P15 a perpetrator shared a similar experience and said: When I was reported and arrested, I was scared because I knew I was guilty and I didn't know the penalty I was going to be given (Field interview data, 2020). This finding was confirmed by the DOVVSU Officers. They explained that they agreed to this plea depending on the gravity of the issue. For instance P16 pointed out:

When the issue is reported or those involved are summoned to the station. After a day or two they come with an elderly person to plead for the case to be settled in the house. Mostly the issues are not taken to court. They are settled either at the unit or in the house and the feedback is brought to the unit when both parties are satisfied with case settled (Field interview data, 2020).

Institute of Development Studies et al, 2016) in their study found that respondents were more likely to withdraw a case from prosecution and seek customary mediation when the family or the community encouraged victims to do so.

According to the officers majority of the cases of violence against women that are reported at the unit are settled at the unit and that only a few are taken to court depending on the gravity of the offense and the personalities involved. They further indicated that because the numbers of cases reported to the unit are many, they have

set up groups within the community who settle some of the cases depending on the gravity and bring the feedback to the unit. P17 explained:

Not all the cases of violence among women are reported to the unit. There are groups within the community who have been mandated to handle such issues. Some of the issues are handled by the chiefs. However, some of them are referred to the unit when need arises (Field interview data, 2020).

The findings further revealed that supports available for victims are inadequate. The officer also complained of both victims and perpetrators making their work tough. They explained that some of them do not speak the truth. The officers have to dig deep into the issue to unearth the truth. Some perpetrators also run away and go into hiding for a number of years the issue is therefore left unresolved for a number of years.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY OF MAJOR FINDINGS, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

This chapter presents summary of the findings; the forms, causes and effects of violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality as well as the support seeking behaviour of victims. It also presents the conclusions, recommendations and the limitations of the study.

5.2 Summary of Major Findings

The objective of the study was to explore the forms, causes and effects of violence against women in Winneba and support seeking behaviour of victims of violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality. The study adopted a qualitative research approach and phenomenological design. Purposive and snowballing sampling techniques were used to select a sample size of seventeen (17). This included twelve (12) victims, three (3) perpetrators and two (2) officers (male and female) of DOVVSU Unit of the Ghana Police Service in Winneba. This sample size was chosen because it was manageable and this ensured rich and detailed information from participants. The data obtained was transcribed, coded and organised to generate themes.

5.2.1 Forms of violence perpetrated against women in Winneba

The study revealed that women perpetrated various forms of violence against women in Winneba. The main forms that were identified included physical violence

which entails beating, fighting, slapping, dragging of hair, burning and the use of, or threats to use object or weapon against others.

Also, emotional or psychological violence was the commonest and most prevalent violence perpetrated against women by women in Wiinneba. Examples include using abusive words that make people feel bad and intimidated, using harsh and degrading words against each other, insults and humiliation with the aim of making one feel bad and worthless.

Moreover, the participants revealed that they experienced economic violence from other women which encompasses denial of food and money, their guardian preventing them from going to school and engaging them in economic activities to make money. The participants also indicated that they experienced social violence which comprised isolating victim from friends, families, and other relations.

5.2.2 Factors that cause women to perpetrate violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality

The responses from the participants revealed a number of factors that made women perpetrate violence against women. Two main themes emerged, namely factors that caused women to perpetrate violence and factors that made women victims of violence.

With regards to the factors that caused women to perpetrate violence against other women, it was identified that unequal power relations and access to resources is one of causes of violence against women in Winneba. This was more evident among women who depended on their guardians for their basic needs. Most of these women came to stay with the guardians because their parents did not have the resources to cater for them. Their guardians who mostly were well to do than their parent used this opportunity to abuse them. The women had to endure the violence because they had

no alternative. On the other hand it was also revealed that some women use their power in terms of status to abuse their subordinate. This assertion was spelt out clearly by the participants.

The data gathered further indicated that alcohol was seen as contributing factor to violence. This opinion was held by a section of the participants who believed that they abused others because they were drunk. On the contrary, the finding could not show a direct link between alcohol consumption and violence. According to some of the participants although their guardians or perpetrators take alcohol, they did not abuse them when they were drunk.

Another, major cause of violence was suspicion of infidelity and marital problems. It was noticed that most of the women were co-habiting hence felt unsecured in the marriage. For this reason when other women get close to their husband, they become suspicious and abuse those women they consider as intruders. There are also instances where the men were actually engaged in infidelity and neglected their families. This further triggered violence against women.

Exposure to violence in childhood was also found to be related to the likelihood of an individual being a perpetrator of violence in adulthood. Thus, violence against women emanate from the fact that they had once lived in an abused environment during their childhood days. It was further revealed that women become victims of violence because of poverty; it was revealed that some of the women earn lower incomes which was inadequate to cater for them and their families. Hence, they normally borrowed from other women who earn comparatively higher than them. When they were unable to pay the amount within the stipulated time they were abused by their creditors.

Also, single parenthood, most of them were catered for single headedly by their mothers. Their mothers who usually felt burdened gave them out to other women who ended up abusing them. Lastly, rivalry was also seen as a factor that made women victims of violence against women. Thus, women who were married to the same men were often abused by their rivals.

5.2.3 Effects of violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality

Violence against women was seen to have detrimental consequences on both victims and perpetrators. The findings revealed that violence against women have negatives consequences on their health. Responses from participants showed that violence among women have daring consequences on the health of the victims and in some cases perpetrators. Women, who are abused sustained injuries, get bruises, headache, abdominal pain, burns, eye damage, chronic fatigue, abrupt weight changes. In the case of pregnant women, it increased the likelihood of miscarriage, pre-term delivery and low birth weight babies.

The findings further indicated that violence affected the emotions of both victims and perpetrators. Victims experienced, depression, anxiety, eating and sleep disorders, low self-esteem and they lived in fear while perpetrators also lived in fear, shame and guilt. Violence against women was found to have adverse economic consequences on daily life in terms of the victim's ability to work, go to school or do domestic work, their ability to concentrate on daily activities, payment of medical bills and other related expenses. These effects were not limited to victims but perpetrators since they were made to refund medical bills of victims and also take time off work until the issue is settled. Socially, some victims could not engage in social activities while perpetrators were stigmatized for their action.

Violence against women did not only affect women but was also seen to have adverse effects on child development, educational opportunities among children. It also led to youth deviant behaviour because of the direct exposure of children to violence within the household resulting in those children being more likely to experience or perpetrate violence later in life.

5.2.4 Support seeking behaviour of victims

The findings suggested that women who experienced violence against women only resort to external help in extreme circumstances, and that violence against women may still be considered largely a private family matter. Reasons for seeking help included not being able to endure the abuse further, encouragement by friends and family and the extent of injuries sustained. Reasons for not seeking help included predominantly the fact that individuals depended on their perpetrators for their livelihood, others claimed that they did not report perpetrators because they did not know how these people they report to would communicate the information to their perpetrators and for fear of being further abused. Additionally, some victims did not report because they did not want to bring confusion and disgrace to their family. Some considered the violence as normal or not serious and others do not know the appropriate quarters hence reporting to their family and friends. Most of the victims were encouraged to endure; only a few had the expected outcome. Others were directed and encouraged to report to the appropriate quarters such as DOVVSU. Most of those who reported to the appropriate quarters had the expected outcome but regarded the process as tedious, time consuming and expensive.

In contrast, the officers at the DOVVSU unit claimed that the numbers of cases reported to the unit are too much. They indicated that the number of violence against women cases reported to the unit is more than those between male and

female. The officers viewed women in Winneba as litigants. The responses from participants revealed that the rate of reporting cases is not equal to the rate at which women engaged in violence in Winneba. Also, the study found out that perpetrators did not like it when issues are reported to the appropriate quarters. They prefer issues are settled at home. Therefore, they mostly pleaded with the unit and victims to withdraw cases and settle it at home. However, the DOVVSU unit agrees to the plea depending on the gravity of the issue. Some perpetrators ran away and go into hiding for a number of years. The issue is therefore left hanging without being addressed.

5.3 Conclusion

Based on the outcome of the findings, the study concludes that women perpetrate various forms of violence against women in Winneba. The common types of violence against women included physical, emotional, psychological and socio-economic violence.

Women perpetrators of violence mostly took advantage of factors such as unequal power relations and access to resources to abuse women who were vulnerable. Additionally, alcohol consumption, suspicion of infidelity, marital problems, jealousy and witnessing violence were seen as cause for perpetrators to abuse victims. Among the conditions that made some women vulnerable to this violence included poverty, single parenthood and rivalry.

Violence against women had harmful consequences on the health, emotions, social and economic lives of victims as well as perpetrators. The effects of violence against women was not only limited to the women involved but also had adverse effects on the development of their children and increase the probability of them becoming future victims or perpetrators.

Many victims of violence chose to endure the violence they suffered due to fear of being further abused and also because they depended on their perpetrators for livelihood. Others saw the violence they suffered as a private and family issue. Only a handful of victims were directed and encouraged to report to the appropriate quarters and even with that it was so in extreme cases where the effects of the violence was so glaring. Victims who were directed to report their cases to DOVVSU often got the expected results but are further discouraged by the tedious, time consuming and expensive nature of the whole process. Women who perpetrated violence discouraged the idea of being reported to the appropriate quarters. They mostly pleaded with the officials at DOVVSU for the case to be withdrawn and settled at home. The pleas of perpetrators were accepted by Officers depending on the gravity of offense. Some of the cases of violence are settled at the unit while a few of the cases were taken to court. Although, there were institutions that offer services to reduce the incidence of violence, most victims seem not know about them neither do they understand their work. On the contrary, the officials at the DOVVSU Unit felt the rate of reporting violence against women was too much. However, the findings have shown that the rates at which violence against women by women occurred was not equal to the rates at which it is reported, either to relatives or appropriate quarters.

5.4 Recommendation

In order to curtail the menace of violence against women, the researcher suggests a more holistic approach by looking at women as possible perpetrators and victims. Hence, the following recommendations are made for DOVVSU, CHRAJ, Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection, Social Welfare, NCCE and the government.

First of all, in order to address the phenomenon of violence against women by women, there is the need for stakeholders such as DOVVSU, CHRAJ to understand the factors that cause women to perpetrate violence against women considering the four levels of the ecological model. Thus, individual, relationship, community and societal factors that cause women to be either victims or perpetrators of violence against women. This will help stakeholders to understand the factors that put people at risk of violence or protect them from experiencing or perpetrating violence and hence, make policies to address these factors.

Secondly, to help prevent violence against women by women, it is necessary that stakeholders act across the multiple levels of the model at the same time. For instance at the individual level, specific approaches such as conflict resolution, life skill training and social-emotional learning can be given to help women to avoid the use of violence against women in and outside the home in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality. Also, the second level which is close relationship, stakeholders can roll out parenting and family focused prevention programs and problem-solving skills that help promote healthy relationship in the family and prevent women from being victims or perpetrators of violence either now or in the future and also help address factors such as single parenting, suspicion of infidelity and marital challenges which cause women to perpetrate violence against women in Winneba. Furthermore, at the community level in addressing factors such as poverty, the Department of Social Welfare, The ministry for gender, child and social protection can plan and execute programmes that would empower women financially and reduce the potential of them becoming victims of violence against women. Additionally, at the societal level, efforts can be made to manage factors such as unequal power relations and access to

resources and poverty by strengthening household financial security, education and employment opportunities for women in Winneba.

Moreover, DOVVSU, CHRAJ and the Department of Social Welfare should encourage victims of violence against women to seek support from the appropriate quarters by creating awareness on the available abuse related resources in the local area at the community-level. They should also make the processes involved in seeking help less tedious for victims and give them the needed assistance be it legal or health. This would aid victims' utilization of such services when they are in need.

Furthermore, DOVVSU, NCCE, CHRAJ and The Ministry for Gender, Child and Social Protection should put in place sensitisation programmes so that the general population will be educated on the adverse effects of violence against women by women and the need to seek more appropriate and acceptable means of settling disputes when they arise. They must also provide temporal shelters so that victims can seek refuge when the violence occurs at home especially in the case of foster children and when a case of violence reported is still undergoing investigation. The DOVVSU unit should employ professionally trained counsellors to provide counselling services for both victims and perpetrators. The unit should improve their support for victims such as paying their medical bills and refunding the monies from perpetrators. They should also make sure that they do follow up on every case that is withdrawn from the unit for home settlement. There should be a hotline so that non-victims of violence can also call and report abuse cases that they may witness in their communities to the police and other appropriate institutions.

Finally, the Ministry for Gender, Child and Social Protection should organise series of workshops to disseminate the findings and recommendations at workshops

for the various DOVVSU, CHRAJ, Social Welfare and NCCE officials throughout the country. By so doing, the practicality of the study will be realised. The government's measures should be combined with awareness-raising campaigns targeting the public, media, police, health, legislators and other decision makers and stakeholders about the need to curtail the menace.

5.5 Limitation of the Study

The researcher encountered challenges during the study. This study encountered some hindrances as a result of the sensitivity of issues regarding violence against women. As this phenomenon is a particularly private and sensitive issue that remains difficult to penetrate. Some participants had to be convinced beyond doubt that the work is purely for academic purpose before participating especially in the case of perpetrators. The researcher wanted to organise a focus group discussion for the women who have engaged in violence with other women but because of the COVID-19 pandemic the researcher had to resort to one on one interview. For this same reason the researcher had to wait for the situation to calm down before conducting the one on one interview. However, this did not affect the results of the study.

5.6 Suggestion for Further Studies

The purpose of this study is to examine the forms, causes and effects of violence against women as well as the support seeking behaviour of victims. The finding revealed that violence against women is a prevalent issue in Winneba and this is a serious phenomenon as long as the fight against violence against women and the rights of women are concern. There is therefore the need for further studies into the following areas;

- i. Explore further the incidence, causes and effects of domestic violence against women in districts in other parts of the country. The finding revealed in this study can serve as reference for researchers who wish to study the phenomenon of violence against women.
- ii. Examine the incidence, determinants and consequences of non-domestic forms of violence among women in other parts of Ghana.
- iii. The findings suggest that some families and communities in Winneba experience transmission of norms and attitudes across time and generations that reinforce the persistence of violence. Addressing this issue will require more knowledge about the incidence violence against women, determinants and consequences of domestic violence against children .This was outside the scope of this study. However, the findings indicate an urgent need for further research in this area.
- iv. Additionally, research into the forms, causes and effects of women perpetrating violence against men and support seeking behaviour of male victims is needed. This finding was outside the scope of this research, but it was noticed that some female perpetrators are involved in violence against their husbands. Hence their husbands cannot complain when they are abusing others.
- v. Lastly, further studies can be conducted on women as perpetrators of gender based violence.

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APPENDIX B

Questionnaire for Victims

**UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION
FACE TO FACE INTERVIEW GUIDE**

Introduction

The research explores violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality. I would be much grateful if you could provide me with the necessary information needed to achieve the objectives of the research. Information provided would be kept confidential and anonymous.

Background Information

Age: 15-24 () 25-34 () 35-44 () 45-55 ()

Employment Status:

Employed (Government) ()

Self-employed ()

Unemployed: ()

Student ()

Level of education: Tertiary () Secondary () Basic () No education ()

Other (Specify)

Interview questions for girls who are staying with or have stayed with women who are not their biological mothers

Forms of violence perpetrated against women in Winneba

1. Have you been subjected to any form of violence by your guidance before?
2. How often are you abused by your guardian?
3. What are some of the forms of abuse you have suffered?
4. Can you share some of your experiences with regards to the forms of abuse you suffered?
5. What has been your worse experience?
6. What have been your best moments with her?
7. Have you ever been abused in the presence of her husband? If yes, what was his reaction?
8. How do you react when you are abused?

Examine the factors that cause women to perpetrate violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality.

9. Why did you come to live with your guardian?
10. How long have you been living with your guardian?
11. How would you describe your relationship with your guardian?
12. How would you describe your relationship with your guardian's husband?
13. Have you ever been abused because of your guardian's husband?
14. How would you describe your relationship with your guardian's children?
15. Have you ever been abused because of your guardian's children?
16. Does your guardian sometimes abuse you because of other issues?
17. What do you think you do that cause your guardian to abuse you?
18. Why do you continue to live with your guardian despite the abuse you suffer?

Effects of violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality

19. Did the abuses you were subjected to affect you in any way?
20. Did you ever get hurt physically?
21. Where you affected emotionally?
22. Where you affected economically?
23. Did these abuses affect you in other ways?

Support seeking behaviour of victims in Winneba

24. What are the support systems available for victims of violence in Winneba?
25. Do you talk to friends and relatives about these abuses?
26. Did you complain to your guardian?
27. Did you complain to your guardian's husband?
28. Did you complain to your guardian's relatives?
29. What was their reaction?
30. Did you ever report elsewhere?
31. What happened?

APPENDIX C

Questions for Perpetrators

**UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCE EDUCATION
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES EDUCATION
FACE TO FACE INTERVIEW GUIDE**

Introduction

The research explores violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality. I would be much grateful if you could provide me with the necessary information needed to achieve the objectives of the research. Information provided would be kept confidential and anonymous.

Background Information

Age: 15-24 () 25-34 () 35-44 () 45-55 ()

Employment Status:

Employed (Government) ()

Self-employed ()

Unemployed: ()

Student ()

Level of education: Tertiary () Secondary () Basic () No education ()

Other (Specify)

Research questions for women who have engaged in violence with women (victims and perpetrators)

Forms of violence perpetrated against women in Winneba

1. Have you engaged in violence with any woman before?
2. Can you share some of your experiences with regards to the forms of violence you have engaged in?

Examine the factors that cause women to perpetrate violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality

3. What brought about violence?
4. What is your relationship with the person you engaged in the violence?

Effects of violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality

5. Did you ever get hurt physically?
6. Where you affected emotionally?
7. Where you affected economically?

8. Did these abuses affect you in other way?
9. Did this violence affect the person you engaged in the violence with in any way?

Support seeking behaviour available to victims of violence in Winneba.

10. Did you talk to friends and relatives about the violence?
11. What do they do?
12. Did you ever report elsewhere?
13. What happened?



APPENDIX D

Interview Guide for DOVVSU (Winneba)

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL STUDIES

This research explores violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality. I would be much grateful if you could provide me with the necessary information needed to achieve the objectives of the study. The information provided would be kept confidential and anonymous.

Forms of violence perpetrated against women in Winneba

1. In what forms do women engage in violence against their fellow women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality?
2. At what rates are the various forms reported?

Factors that cause women to perpetrate violence against each other in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality

14. What are some of the factors that cause women perpetrate violence against each other in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality.

Effects of violence against women in Winneba in the Effutu Municipality

3. What are some of the effects of the violence on the victims?
4. Does it affect the perpetrators? If yes, how?

Support seeking behaviour of victims of violence against women in Winneba

5. Are cases of violence among women reported to the unit?
6. How often are these cases reported?
7. Can I get the data on the number of cases reported over the last five years?
8. What are some of the actions taken by the unit to address these cases?
9. What are some of the support mechanisms available for victims?