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STATE AGENCIES AND STAKEHOLDERS' VIEWS ON STRATEGIES OF CURBING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN BUNGOMA COUNTY, KENYA

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Domestic violence (DV) has been on the rise in Bungoma County, costing the lives of many. The violence spilled over to the schools, which triggered the state agencies and stakeholders to establish strategies to curb domestic violence.

Purpose: The study was set up to investigate strategies to curb domestic violence in Bungoma County, Kenya. Establish a solution to the menace which was developing into a circle of abuse.

Methodology: Descriptive survey design was employed. The target population was 160,000 Forms 1 to 4 students, 400 head teachers and 400 guidance and counseling teachers. The study also targeted 1,125 parents registered as social groups within the Ministry of Social Services in Bungoma County. The study sampled 576 students randomly, purposively sampled 36 principles and 36 guiding and counseling teachers. Then two members (male & female) from the registered social groups were purposively sampled from the nine sub-counties. The instruments used for data collection were open and closed-ended structured questionnaires for the students, interview schedule for the principals and guiding and counseling teachers, and focus group discussion for the parents.

Results: The study established that as much as the highest (90%) of the respondents recommended police punishment for the perpetrators' other studies opined that it was not the best option. Hence the study settled on the second option of having open forums to sensitize people on the dangers of domestic violence.

Recommendations: The study recommended more emphasis on the establishment of practical strategies to eradicate poverty, which was exposed as one of the leading factors in domestic violence. Second, the public's awareness of the various dangers of DV should be increased. Thirdly to encourage the religious institutions to stress and facilitate the moral ethos to the people.

Keywords: Behaviour, Domestic violence, Perpetrator, Stakeholders



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PUBLIC INTEREST STATEMENT

The findings of this study will assist the state agencies and other stakeholders in developing a workable strategy to end domestic violence. Second, it will help schools' stakeholders to establish rehabilitation measures to give to the students victims of domestic violence.

INTRODUCTION

State agencies are the people and departments who act on behalf of the state. These are, for example, the policymakers and implementers. Moreover, the stakeholders are the people in different capacities who hold various offices in society to guide and foresee the smooth running of various activities. Studies have shown that strategies to minimize domestic violence differ from state to state due to the variation of certain factors surrounding it. The difference comes in because of the demographic characteristics of the victims, social, economic, and cultural characteristics, and other factors. For the case of Kenya, the passage of the Protection Against Domestic Violence Act (PADV) (Protection Against Domestic Violence Act, 2015) was a sign that the Kenyan government was serious about ending domestic violence. However, domestic violence still exists in families. This is evidenced by UN (2016), who argues that domestic violence needed to be declared a national disaster in Kenya because the legal systems established to handle it could not do much. The UN report suggested the need to put in place alternative justice systems to deal with different forms of gender-based violence. This present research was designed to establish how far the government had made efforts to implement policies to curb domestic violence.

The Kenya Gender-Based Violence Partnership (KGBVP) is an example of a body established to assist in addressing domestic violence. In partnership with other organizations, this institution is at the forefront of facilitating behaviour change to create equity as concerns gender both in policy formulation and service delivery at all levels. The KGBVP's mission is to reduce the incidence of gender-based violence (GBV). This is done through all-inclusive strategies of avoidance of domestic violence,

intercession for victims. However, the organization needs much more information on domestic violence prevalence to tackle the hazard satisfactorily.

In addition, we have Health Assistance Kenya (HAK), which in 2007 established the first 24-hour national GBV response call center and started Tel-Counseling services for women and girls in Kenya. Then in 2008, they initiated partnerships with various sectors that would provide free GBV services to survivors. Later, HAK achieved the license to operate shortcode 1195 from the Communications Commission of Kenya (CCK), now known as the Communications Authority of Kenya (CAK). In 2012 they made the hotline operational 24 hours. However, over 4000 domestic violence cases have been reported to the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) between Januarys to June 2016. This is a clear sign that domestic violence persists in our society. Therefore, this current study aims to establish the root cause of this persistent domestic violence and the best way to curb it.

Similarly, a study conducted by Omondi (2020) shows that there has been a drastic increase in cases of domestic violence in Kenya despite the above efforts of different organizations. According to the study of Omondi, the Kenya National Bureau of statistics exposed that domestic violence by 2009 was 39 percent; however, by 2011, it had risen to 74 percent. The study noted the percentage (30%) of those who reported abuse incidences within one year of their marriages. According to another study done by Kenya Demographic Health Survey (KDHS) (2016), many homes in Kenya experience domestic violence. In the study, 38 percent of the female-targeted population who ranged between the ages of 15 to 49 had experienced domestic

violence, whereby 45 percent had suffered physical assault. The study also stated that another 20% had been subjected to physical assault in the previous year. The same KDHS study added on that among the male-targeted population, 7 percent of the married men confessed to being physically assaulted by their wives, and another fraction of 4 percent had experienced sexual abuse from their wives. The KDHS study concluded that the study findings indicated that domestic violence had sunk deep in Kenyan families.

Further evidence of domestic violence prevalence in Kenya was exposed by Oriale (2015). The study of Oriale established that 3,596 cases of defilement were reported to the Kenya Police Service. The cases comprised of 242 cases of incest and another 124 cases of sodomy in 2013. According to Oriale, the situation was wanting because 1 percent of the girls and 3 percent of the women living with disabilities. To add insult to Oriale exposed in the study, girls under 11 years of age constituted 24 percent of domestic violence survivors. The worst case, as cited by the study of Oriale was a ten-year-old girl. The girl had to undergo a Caesarean operation at the birth of her child in Kericho County. Unfortunately, exposure of her identity by the media drove the girl to depression. Oriale further argues that the worst-hit regions by domestic violence in Kenya were western (51.6%) and Nyanza counties (49.5%). In addition, the study stated that most of the perpetrators were family members and victims' close acquaintances. Concerning the above studies, the question remains: What triggers domestic violence in the society, who is to blame and what can be the remedy?

STATEMENT OF THE STUDY

In Kenya, UN (2016) reveals that domestic violence has been rampant despite interventions, notably by civil society actors and the government. Studies show that there has been a steady increase in the number of cases and the severity of domestic violence is in all regions. This is despite the Kenyan

government signing the 2015 Act to protect citizens against domestic violence. Many studies have been carried out and suggestions made, but domestic violence has persisted, affecting the whole society: socially and economically. Some studies have suggested further research into the problem. This study was carried out to establish the practical strategies that could help curb domestic violence to address this gap.

PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The study set to establish the strategies to curb domestic violence in society. This is to be sought through;

1. To establish the root cause of domestic violence.
2. To find out where domestic violence cases are reported.
3. The person to blame for the persistence of the prevalence of domestic violence.
4. Remedial suggestion for domestic violence

RESEARCH QUESTIONS

1. What is the root cause of domestic violence in Bungoma county, Kenya?
2. Where do victims of domestic violence report their cases?
3. Who is to blame for the persistence of the prevalence of domestic violence?
4. What are some of the suggestions on how to curb domestic violence?

METHODOLOGY

Research Design

A descriptive survey is a technique for gathering information by interviewing or administering a questionnaire to a population sample (Orodho, 2003). In the study, the researcher used a descriptive survey research design. The justification for selecting the design is that it involves more than just collecting data. It also involves measuring the intensity of the problem, classifying the data collected, analyzing the facts gathered, comparing and interpreting the data collected according to the research problem. Therefore, the researcher collected quantitative and qualitative

data using questionnaires and interviews, respectively. Both qualitative and quantitative approaches were used in the data analysis. Thus there is a mixed model research design approach to data analysis. As a survey type of design, this has facilitated the description of students' attitudes, opinions, and behaviour in the study.

Population and sample

The study used three sampling techniques, namely purposive, stratified and random sampling, to get a population of five hundred and seventy-six (576) students, thirty-six (36) principals, thirty-six (36) guidance and counseling teachers, and eighteen (18) parents. Bungoma County has nine (9) sub-counties. Using purposive sampling, the researcher picked on four secondary schools from every sub-county: National school (if any), extra-county, county, and Sub-County; gender balance was emphasized, therefore a total of 36 schools. After that, using purposive sampling, the researcher picked the principal and the guidance and counseling teachers of these schools. From a random number table extracted from the class registers, the researcher randomly picked four (4) students from each class level, making sixteen (16) students from each school: 4 form ones, 4 form twos, 4 form three 4 form fours. Therefore, sixteen (16) times the nine (9) Sub-Counties adds up to 576 students. Lastly, purposive sampling was used to select two respondents registered in the social groups from each sub- County. To ensure gender equity, one male and one female parent were purposively sampled to participate in the study with eighteen (18) parents.

Instruments for data collection

The researchers used open-ended and closed-ended questionnaires. For the students, it was closed-ended questionnaires. Some questions had multiple choices to pick from, and others were Likert questions with a rating scale. The interviews schedules and the Focus Group Discussion (FGDS) schedule had

dichotomous open-ended questions where respondents had to say yes or no. The validity was tested through a pilot study, and reliability was assessed through a pre-test on a different sample of one (1) principle five (5) guidance and teachers, five (5) students, and one (1) parent.

Method of data analysis

Data collected from student questionnaires were subjected to suitable electronic analyzes using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Data analysis in this research involved data collected from both quantitative and qualitative methods. Qualitatively, this research critically evaluated the divergences and commonalities that emerged from the responses given in the collected data. Quantitatively, this research critically interpreted the numerical values collected and estimated the rationale behind the emerging findings. The research aligned the emerging patterns with the set objectives to establish an argument that led to a logical conclusion.

RESULTS

In their choices regarding the causes of domestic violence, the respondents prioritized loss of jobs and financial strain. The expert opinion confirms the need for concern on this original position of poverty in stubborn vicious circles that hold society back on every progress initiative. The police desk was preferred as a confidential domestic violence reporting destination over and above the religious leaders, family members, or even the elders. Civil societies carried the blame for the persistent dominance of domestic violence. The respondents proposed punishment or perhaps even open fora over and above the alternative of strengthening of religious institutions.

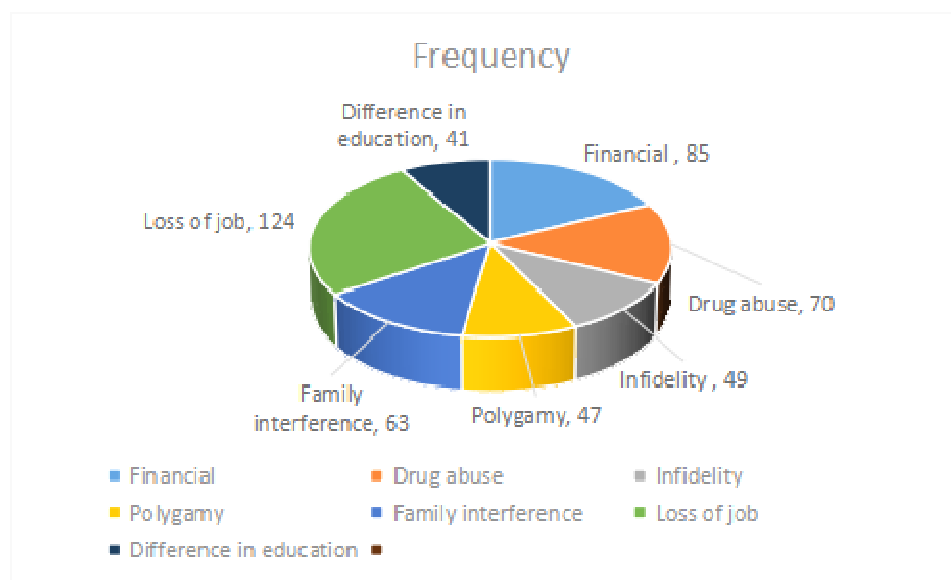
Research question 1. What is the root cause of domestic violence in Bungoma County?

Table 1: The Root Cause of Domestic Violence

Root cause of DV	Frequency	Percent	Cumulative percent
Financial	85	18	18
Drug abuse	70	15	33
Infidelity	49	10	43
Polygamy	47	10	53
Family interference	63	13	66
Loss of job	124	26	92
Difference in Education	41	8	100
Total	480	100	

The researcher set out to establish the root cause of domestic violence.

There were seven alternatives for the respondents as captured in Table 1 above



Source: Research Data, 2019.

Table 1 and Figure 1 capture these frequencies as percentages of the total. The pattern that emerges from these instruments shows that job loss is the leading cause of domestic violence at 26%. This is followed closely by financial issues at 18%. Drug abuse comes in as the third cause, having attracted 15% of the response. Infidelity and polygamy tie at 10%, while the disparity in the Education of members in the family also contributes to domestic violence even though minimally, at 8%. A closer look into this pattern reveals questionable financial management, moral integrity, and educational balance as the root cause of domestic violence. Loss of jobs

is directly connected to the loss of financial ability, while polygamy, infidelity, and drug abuse speak volumes about the levels of moral integrity. These two categories attracted the attention of the respondents rather spontaneously and provided solid grounds for causality to domestic violence cases. Though balance in Education counted only minimally, one would say that it is directly implied in the first two categories. This highlights the capacity of domestic violence to spawn a poverty-ignorance-immorality vicious circle, often at the root of all social evil.

In the responses of the 28 principals interviewed, 54% agreed that financial strain is the major cause of DV. One respondent said:

Tension develops when we call both parents, and none of them is ready to commit himself /themselves to the fee payment of the student. This weighs on student retention in class, and many end up dropping out of school.

Another minimal percentage (36%) of the principals introduced culture as another important cause of domestic violence. One respondent said:

The communities socialized the members to perceive men as superior to their women counterparts subjecting the women to be demoralized by

the men making them vulnerable to domestic violence.

The focus group discussion introduced poverty as the root cause of domestic violence. the majority (70%) supported the position that poverty had led to domestic violence. One respondent said:

Many family breakups have been caused by poverty. Most women do not tolerate a poor man, so be sure of remaining a bachelor when one loses the job.

Research question 2: Where do victims of domestic violence report their cases?

Table 2: Where cases of domestic violence are reported

Reports of DV	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative percent
Police	176	36.7	36.7
Elders	48	10	46.7
Religious leaders	80	16.6	62.7
Family members	47	9.8	73.1
Head teachers	45	9.4	82.5
Don't know	84	17.5	100

Source: Research Data, 2019.

This subsection presents an exciting test of functional social support systems known as reprieve or rescue destinations, to which victims voluntarily prefer to report incidents of violence in their homes. According to the data above, up to 37% of the student respondents identified the police service as the destination where most victims preferred to report domestic violence cases. 17% of the respondents pointed to religious leaders, while family members and elders attracted 10% of the respondents' preference. The headteachers provided the least alternative destination attracting only 7% of the respondent's attention.

The responses gathered from Focus group discussion accent the pattern visible in the primary data above. The

majority (75%) of the focus group discussion said:

Many victims of domestic violence report their cases to the police. However, it is said that the police are always compromised, and they never pursue the cases to the latter.

Another respondent said:

At times, some of the elders are also corrupted, and they withdraw domestic violence cases from court proceedings claiming they will settle the matter at home, but once the perpetrator is set free, no step is taken by the clan men.

Research Question 3: Who is to blame for the persistence of the prevalence of domestic violence?

Table 3: Who is to blame

Blame person	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative percent
Civil societies	143	29.7	29.7
Government	114	23.8	53.6
Religious institutions	103	21.4	75
Elders	117	25	100
Total	480	100	

Source: Research Data, 2019.

The scope within which this analysis considers the strategies for curbing DV includes the opinion of the respondents on the person(s) or institutions they thought carried more responsibility for the current levels of domestic violence. The frequency with which the respondents identified their preference is captured both in number and in representative percentages in Table 3. In the order of this presentation, civil societies take a more significant portion of the blame, reflecting 30% of

respondent consensus. Traditional elders follow in blame closely followed by concerned Government agencies reflecting 25% and 24%, respectively. Religious institutions seem somewhat exonerated once more. The least number of respondents accounting for 21% only, pointed the finger at Religious institutions for comparative blame.

Research Question 4: What are some of the suggestions on how to curb domestic violence?

Table 4: Suggestions to curb domestic violence

Remedy	Frequency	Percentage	Cumulative percent
Have open forums	112	23.3	23.3
Strengthen religious institutions	78	16.2	39.5
Punish perpetrators	200	41.7	81.2
Review law on divorce	42	8.8	90
Create awareness of DV on social media	48	10	100
Total	480	100	

Source: Research Data, 2019.



Source: Research Data, 2019.

Figure 2: Remedial Suggestions from Student Respondents

Ultimately, the researcher challenged the respondents to propose a possible remedy to domestic violence. Data displayed in Table 4 and Figure 2 above reveal the wish of many respondents (41.7%) that perpetrators be punished as a priority remedy. The subsequent preferred remedies were an open forum (23.3%) and a strengthening of religious institutions (16%). Arrangements for awareness on domestic violence and review of the relevant laws attracted minimal preference at only 10% and 9%, respectively.

DISCUSSIONS

The study findings revealed that financial stress and loss of employment were the leading causes of domestic violence. According to the analysis, financial strain and loss of the job are majorly the root causes of domestic violence. This finding agrees with a study carried out globally by Pinotti et al., (2020). It was established that financial strain and increased duration of being together in a family create domestic violence. Therefore, first, the lack of financial ability contributes to socioeconomic factors to the levels of domestic violence. Similarly, Pinotti et al., (2020) stated that job loss and unemployment led to violence in society. The finding also agrees with a report by the Women's Task Force (2000) which stated that work-related financial stress is among the causes of domestic violence. The study further exposed that the lack of empowerment of women also contributed to the prevalence of domestic violence.

However, the findings differ from a study by Soriano (2017) in Los Angeles, which asserted that most of the perpetrators were nurtured in homes of domestic violence and were once victims of domestic violence at a young age. Soriano observed that most of the perpetrators claimed they learned domestic violence from their various families of origin. He was implying that the social-economic status in the family

dictated every aspect of the life of its members. In addition, Soriano quoted one of his respondents who asserted that whenever an individual was subjected to domestic violence, it became a leeway of justification of doing the same abuse to another person when one grew up. Financial strain remains the root cause of domestic violence.

The study findings also exposed that most of the victims reported their cases to the police. Overall, the pattern that emerges in this presentation exposes three important observations deserving particular attention: First, the preference for the police service is disproportionately conspicuous, closely followed by the choice for religious leaders. This pattern articulates the respect victims have towards law enforcement agencies and their respective religious leaders. It also points at the seriousness these two institutions have been perceived to undertake to defend the victims. On the other hand, this pattern points to the growing distrust the victims have toward the persons or institutions expected, under normal circumstances, to provide the first line of protection to the victims.

Second, and quite interestingly, it is clear from Table 2 above that family members, elders, and teachers, often considered the closest to victims of domestic violence, are not the immediate choice for the refuge of victims. The UNICEF Study (2016), carried out in Kenya, also confirmed that while domestic violence was rampant in Kenya, very few people were willing to talk about it. According to the study, victims do not know where to seek help because no one volunteers to guide them. This contrasts sharply with the NPC study (2009), carried out in Nigeria, where barely 1% showed the willingness to inform the police compared to over 28% who accepted to share with in-laws, and 26% with spiritual leaders. As alluded to by the narration report of the principals considered earlier in this analysis, cases

of incest, lesbianism, homosexuality, and pedophilia now compound domestic violence, and their effects have begun to be felt, gradually raising the problem to another level.

This trend spells a bleak future for Kenya as an African society owing to the breakdown of essential family networks depicting elders who had lost moral authority to protect victims of domestic violence. On the global level, however, this trend designates the emerging centrality of the respect for the rule of law and the corresponding need for relevant legislation on domestic violence. The pattern seems to exhibit, first, a form of conspiracy of silence in the face of appalling levels of domestic violence and then, secondly, the spontaneous rising attention for, and refuge in, the law. A study carried out by the Department for Education (2017) in England revealed that of the 646,120 referral cases of 'children in need' to the Children's Social Care Unit based in England in 2016-2017, police had the highest referrals: 27.5%. Coincidentally, the assessment done to establish the cause of their vulnerability identified domestic violence as the common factor, then attracted a preference of 50%. This included domestic violence directed at the children and that of adults in their environments.

However, this finding differs from a study done by Novisky and Peralta (2014). In their study entitled 'When Women Tell', which was carried out in the USA, it was established that there were different reactions to invoking the law to intervene in domestic violence scenarios. Novisky and Peralta, 2014, established that as victims' backing for mandatory arrest increased, the notification on the prevalence went low. The study found that some did not support the policy on law enforcement assistance when it came to domestic violence. Therefore, according to the study, when the mandatory arrest was embraced, the people preferred to keep quiet on domestic violence cases. The third observation concerns the surprising level of ignorance of respondents who are unsure where to seek help. 18% of the

students could not even guess but rather confidently acknowledge that they do not know where to report domestic violence cases or seek help. This observation underscores the hopeless situation of some of the victims of domestic violence.

The study findings exposed that civil societies are at the center of the blame. In the respondent's option, 30% pointed at Compromise in the prosecution process where law enforcement agencies are corrupted by interested parties to ignore law provisions. Government agencies and civil society organizations suffered the same fate in this regard. Looking at the same issue, the UN report (2016) observed that domestic violence needed to be declared a national disaster in Kenya. The report exposed that the laws established to defend the victims of domestic violence had been rendered ineffective because the systems had been compromised. Relating this case to the situation in Malawi, experts observe that various precautions have been taken to protect children, but countries are not keen to observe the laws (Kanchiputu & Mwale, 2016). International bodies like the UN try to intervene for victims of domestic violence and children, but still many countries do not adhere to the acts of protection enacted. However, given the significance of these persons and institutions in the integrity of the fabric of society, this observation points at a weakening moral fabric of society that sustains domestic violence and the repair of which is urgent.

The third observation critically highlights the role of religious leaders in curbing domestic violence. Although one cannot exonerate this institution from blame in line with the 21% option, this analysis sees why religious leaders resonate with society's aspiration to curb domestic violence. Corruption and Compromise came out rather clearly from the responses of the Principals. 93% of the 28 principals put blame squarely on the victims' parents, Clan elders. One of the respondents said:

Many of us principals have been threatened by clansmen and politicians when we try to

follow up on cases of domestic violence where our students are victims.

Another respondent said:

Sometimes our teachers are left alone with our student victims in courtrooms after the parents go into hiding after taking bribes from the perpetrators.

The finding of this study agrees with the study by Igbal (2018), which observes the same trend from the point of view of gender equality. The refusal to observe gender equality guidelines facilitated the prevalence of domestic violence, making women more vulnerable to their male counterparts. Many laws and policies have been agreed on, which could facilitate the aspect of equality globally in gender, yet no country was observing the set regulation. The supposed defenders of human rights, at times, turn out to be accomplices, they accept to be compromised, making the whole process end up in a game of victim-blaming, and the cycle of abuse continues.

The study findings revealed that the respondents preferred punishment for the perpetrators. The last two options too can be interpreted to represent fatigue and a level of impatience expressed by the respondents on processes and procedures implied on tiring public talk about so-called awareness or tedious pursuits of ineffective laws. The Department of Education (2017), the study attributed the continued experience of domestic violence not in any failure to see the evil, but failure to act in response to early signs of domestic violence, unclear records, and poor transmission of information.

The responses from the principals highlighted two strategies: 75% stressed the need for people to change positively and shun domestic violence. The highest preference of 42% on punishment, as a remedy, disposes of it for reasonable consideration among the solutions against domestic violence. About 10% of the principals agreed that if the community can re-socialize the members,

it could help them live positively and avoid domestic violence. Expert opinion weighs in with caution in the pursuit of any of the strategies identified. The suggestion to hold responsible and ultimately punish the perpetrators of domestic violence essentially implied reasonable use of law and its enforcement agents to correct this ill in society. On its own, this option has its weakness; apart from the costs involved, the result may not address what it set out to achieve. A study report given by UNICEF (2014) in Kosovo, Europe, looked into how civil societies and other stakeholders would be encouraged to assess each case on its merit to establish the best remedy for the domestic violence experienced, including proportionate punishment law. According to the report, however, there were some cases where if the perpetrators were jailed, it would be the best option, and yet to another case, that would mean being homeless for the woman and the children forever. Consequently, the report observed that it was not possible to provide a ready fix for domestic violence victims. Instead, civil societies need only to guide the victim through the various suggestions and allow the victims to suggest the best option that would suit their state. The above suggestion by UNICEF (2014) may be the best option, as cautioned in a study by the same organization UNICEF (2016). The study established that 75% of the victims faced severe problems when seeking alternative measures to their problems. The study exposed that even some victims were murdered in the process.

The second option for an open forum enjoys preference in many contexts but not without its hurdles. An expert study in London on domestic violence called upon the social workers, the police, and schools to have forums where people can be enlightened on child protection (Ofsted *et al.*, 2017). In the report, evidence from six local authorities in England proved that having open forums yielded good results. The facilitators of these forums would distribute helpful guide material such as posters and booklets that would give

support service information. The school staff would then be informed concerning services and agencies that can take care of the students after disclosing domestic violence in their environments. The apparent huddle in this choice appears to be its close alternative: facilitation of awareness on the knowledge deemed necessary for the individual victim, the perpetrators, and the persons concerned. The Department of Education report carried out in London (DFE, 2016), emphasized the need for everyone to accept the responsibility. On the same issue, Holt (2014) observed that for children to be well protected, collaborative understanding duties both on an individual level and teamwork are required. Nevertheless, perhaps this attention to specific individuals or groups was more elaborate in Mariri (2009), who suggested that the survivor's empowerment was supposed to be the first tenet of recovery. According to this study, the victims must be the author and judge of their recovery. The intervention must and should not seize power away from the victim-survivor. Those living with the survivors can only offer support, backing, or remain concerned but cannot offer a cure. This appears more to create awareness to the individuals or groups concerned than the open public forum option. To this effect, the expert opinion seems to be more in favor of the former.

CONCLUSION

In conclusion, this discussion underscores caution about the otherwise popular remedy of punishment. The effort to remedy domestic violence could easily lead to a bigger problem never envisaged. It highlights the need of keen attention to individual recovery and re-integration into a healthy society. This also implies making an effort to reform and make society a healthy place for all. Consequently, continuous information to the public through open public forums coupled with specialized awareness drive targeting the victims, the perpetrators, and groups emerge as the way to go. However, actors in this effort may need to learn something from religious leaders

or work with religious institutions to advance the war against domestic violence. Therefore, the law and legal recourse can serve as a long-term measure to establish and defend good practice.

RECOMMENDATIONS

The research findings recommended that:

1. more review of the laws on perpetrators' punishment;
2. creating more awareness on the dangers of domestic violence and where to report the domestic violence cases;
3. further research is recommended based on the fact that domestic violence affects all the social institutions in society.

Conflict of interest: The authors declare that they have no conflict of interest.

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Authorship and level of contribution

Ruth Lusike Nyaranga came up with the topic and did all the writing, but with the guidance of the supervisors.

Prof. Lewis Ngesu approved the research instruments and corrected them after the pilot study.

Dr. Atieno Kili K'Odhiambo came in at the beginning stages to guide the development of the proposal writing.

Dr. Alice Masese joined the group after the proposal writing and guided Ruth very much on the methodology.

Disclaimer statement

This work is part of a thesis submitted to the University of Nairobi for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Sociology of Education. The title is; Influence of domestic violence on students' classroom behaviour in secondary schools in Bungoma County Kenya. The areas included in the thesis are: introduction, literature review, methodology, recommendations and conclusion. Supervisors: Prof. Lewis Ngesu, Dr. Atieno Kili K'odhiambo, and Dr. Alice Masese.

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