

**Experiences of Abused Unemployed Young Women at Acornhoek Village,
Bushbuckridge Municipality, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa**

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DECLARATION

I, Doris Felicity Shai, student number 15016535, hereby declare that the research project entitled “Experiences of Abused Unemployed Young Women at Acornhoek Village, Bushbuckridge Municipality, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa” is hereby submitted by me to the University of Venda for the degree of Masters in Gender Studies. It has not been submitted to this or any other university for a degree previously. It is my original work in conception and execution. All cited sources have been properly acknowledged.

Signature



Date

25 February 2023

I hereby state that I have given my approval for this study project to be evaluated.

Supervisor's signature...



Date 27

February, 2023.

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Dedication

I would like to dedicate the study to myself, Felicity Shai. It was not easy, but I put in the effort, time and always showed up for myself at times when I wanted to give up. I would also like to dedicate the study to abused young women worldwide, to let them know that they matter and to give them the courage to free themselves from the unsafe and unhealthy environment, save themselves and break free to be able to narrate their own stories not to have others do that because they have died in the hands of their abusive partners.

LIST ACRONYMS

COVID-19= Corona Virus Disease 2019

GBV= Gender-Based Violence

GBVF= Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

IPV= Intimate Partner Violence

LGBTQI+= Lesbian Gay Bisexual Transgender Queer Intersex and more

NCADV= National Coalition Against Domestic Violence

NEPAD= The New Partnership for Africa's Development

NPO= Non-Profit Organisation

NNEDV= National Network to End Domestic Violence

PTSD= Post Traumatic Stress Disorder

SAHRC= South African Human Rights Commission

SAPS= South African Police Services

UN Women= United Nations Women

UN= United Nations

VFR= Victim Friendly Room

WHO= World Health Organisation

USA= United States of America

UK= United Kingdom

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Abstract

Domestic violence and the economic dependency of unemployed young women are inextricably intertwined. Hence, the most reason why women become victims of domestic abuse is because they are financially dependent on their partners. Therefore, the aim of the study was to investigate the link between domestic violence and the economic dependency of unemployed young women. A qualitative research method was embarked upon to solicit the views of young women who depend on their spouses for their survival. The population was abused, and unemployed young women aged between 28 to 35 years who are from Acornhoek village in Bushbuckridge Municipality. Non-probability purposive and snowball sampling was used as a method to select the participants. To choose the participants, a non-probability purposive and snowball sampling technique was adopted. Ethical considerations were considered for the sake of confidentiality and the safety of the research participants. Semi-structured interviews were employed in the study to obtain data. A thematic data analysis approach employing Atlas.ti software was used to systematically evaluate and report the data. The study revealed that economic independency does not give an individual immunity to abuse. However, it also revealed that economic dependency puts young women at a greater risk of being domestically victimized by their intimate partners. Men view financial support as a grant for entitlement over their partners.

Keywords: Domestic violence, Abuse, Unemployed Young women, Economic dependency.

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CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1. Introduction

The study explored the interplay between domestic violence and economic dependency and how unemployed young women continue to be at the receiving end of this scourge. The background of the study, problem statement, aim and objectives, research questions, significance, study delimitation, and definitions of key terms are all included in this chapter.

1.2. Background of the study

Domestic violence and economic dependency of unemployed young women are inextricably intertwined. The study has demonstrated that indicators of lower socioeconomic position, such as unemployment and poor income, are risk factors for greater rates of domestic violence (Morgan & Oudekerk, 2019). Despite having diverse definitions, economic abuse has generally been characterized as actions or attitudes that restrict women's access to, use of, and/or retention of economic resources, endangering their financial stability and capacity for self-sufficiency. Economic abuse includes the denial of a woman's most basic necessities, such as food, clothing, shelter, etc., as well as more complex ones, like her lack of financial independence and her inability to fully participate in household purchasing decisions (Krisberg, 2020; Postmus, Plummer, McMahan, Murshid, & Kim, 2011).

The United States of America (USA) has recorded that the domestic violence cases that were reported by American women were about seven times more frequently than by American men between 1993 and 2001 (Fabian, 2017). According to statistics for the year 2009, more women than men reported experiencing abuse from their spouses (Fabian, 2017; Anderson, 2015). While some sources allude that domestic violence among gay and lesbian couples occurs at the same rate as domestic violence among heterosexual couples, other sources claim that the prevalence of domestic violence among gay, lesbian, and bisexual persons may be higher but more underreported (Anderson, 2015).

In the USA, there were 42 percent more victims of domestic violence between 2016 and 2018. Every day, around 19,000 calls are made to domestic abuse hotlines across the country National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), 2020). When an abuser has access to a gun, the chance of intimate relationship femicide increases by 400 percent (NCADV, 2020). About twenty percent of violent crimes in 2018 involved partners. Women between the ages of 18 and 24 experience domestic abuse the most frequently. About 19 percent of domestic violence incidents involve a weapon (NCADV, 2020). In 2019, 19,669 domestic violence offences were reported, compared to 18 522 instances in 2018, representing an increase of 6.2 percent over the prior year (1147 crimes). The police have recorded 84 percent (2018: 82 percent) of all domestic violence crimes as crimes (32 percent), threats (22 percent), insults (19 percent), and simple injuries (10 percent)(The National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV), 2020).

In the USA, more than 10 million adults experience domestic violence annually and about 1 in 4 women and 1 in 10 men experience sexual violence, physical violence and/or stalking by an intimate partner during their lifetime with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)-related impact like being concerned for their safety, Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) symptoms, injury, or needing victim services NCADV, 2020). Due to domestic abuse, about 43,000 adults and children lived in emergency housing in the USA (NCADV, 2020).

Each year, 8,000,000 days of paid work equivalent of 32,000 full-time jobs are lost by victims of domestic violence. Between 5.8 billion and 12.6 billion dollars, or up to 0.125 percent of the country's GNP, are thought to be lost to domestic violence each year in the US. Between 21 and 60 percent of domestic violence victims lose their employment because of the abuse (Fridel & Fox, 2019). To add to the burden of the new COVID-19 is the public health crisis of domestic violence (Corona Virus Disease 2019). Increasing evidence indicates that domestic violence is operating like an opportunistic pathogen and thriving in the pandemic's settings (Perez-Vincent et al., 2020).

There was every reason to believe that the measures taken to stop the virus from spreading would have such an effect on the rising numbers of domestic violence. When

families spend more time together, such as over the Christmas and summer holidays, domestic violence increases. With the lockdown restrictions, it was inevitable that family violence would increase (Weiner, 2020). Before the COVID-19, some victims had stopped communicating with people outside of their households and stopped making financial contributions to the family. Several victims of domestic violence preferred to remain because they depended on the abusers for financial support due to lack of insurance or money rather than seek assistance (Moore, 2020).

The percentage of women who have ever experienced physical abuse at the hands of an intimate partner varies significantly among nations, according to several national polls. According to some surveys conducted locations, between 50 and 70 percent of women have experienced physical abuse from a husband (Iqbal et al, 2013). Some sources, like as polls conducted in the Philippines and Paraguay, report numbers as low as 10 percent (Iqbal et al, 2013). Almost 70 percent of women in India experience domestic violence. Gender discrimination takes the form of domestic violence, especially in Pakistan (Iqbal et al, 2013). Although Sunnis make up the vast majority of Muslims in Pakistan and Shia Muslims constitute the minority, prejudice based on religion or caste is also examined in this study. Pakistani society includes marriages between Shia and Sunnis, which can occasionally lead to prejudice based on gender (Bates et al., 2009). Indigenous women in Australia may experience domestic abuse at a rate that is 40 times higher than that of non-Indigenous women. This percentage may be even higher for those who are financially reliant on their spouses due to a lack of money. In Turkey, 42% of women older than 15 had experienced physical or sexual abuse (Anderson, 2017).

Since the COVID-19 outbreak, reports from China, Italy, the United Kingdom (UK), and other nations indicate an upsurge in domestic violence instances. (Taub, 2020). In China, after the government locked down cities in Hubei Province, which was the outbreak's epicenter, in early February 2020, calls to the support line of Beijing-based NPO Equality, which works to end violence against women, have exploded. Domestic abuse complaints increased in Jingzhou, a city in Hubei Province, in February 2020 compared to the same month the year before in 2019 (Taub, 2020). During the first two weeks of the shutdown, there were 18 percent more calls to the domestic violence hotline in Spain than there had

been at the same time a month earlier. Additionally, a 30 percent increase was recorded in France (Taub, 2020).

The early-March shutdown announcement was made first by Italy. Domestic abuse reports started to increase shortly after that, but there was nowhere for newly desperate women to turn (Taub, 2020). Measures to stop the spread of COVID-19, such as isolation, movement restrictions, and stay-at-home orders, have a particularly severe effect on women who are victims of domestic abuse and children who are at risk of abuse, particularly teenage girls and women who depend on their husbands for their livelihood (Mittal & Signh, 2020: Taub, 2020).

Five days into the lockdown, a lady in the coastal region of Valencia was killed by her husband in front of their children, marking Spain's first domestic violence fatality. The COVID-19 lockdowns had the expected side effect of increasing the threat to women and children, and domestic violence offences increased by 20 percent compared to 2019 (Perez-Vincent et al., 2020).

Although the quarantine restrictions present a particularly serious difficulty, increased abuse is a pattern that occurs in many circumstances, including conflict, economic crisis, and disease epidemics. percent. The UK's largest domestic violence charity, Refuge, reported a 700 percent spike in calls to its helpline in a single day, while another helpline for domestic abusers seeking assistance to improve their behaviour saw a 25 percent increase in calls following the start of the COVID-19 lockdown (Sapkota et al., 2020).

The COVID-19 outbreak, and related government actions have severely impacted some South American populations' most vulnerable groups. Women are forced by lockdowns to return home with their abusers without access to assistance or support services. Due to business closures, a lack of social interaction, unstable economic conditions, and rising unemployment, women were forced to depend on males for their financial security. This led to domestic violence since it increased tensions inside the home. Women's financial independence has been hampered by lockdown policies since they are more susceptible to losing their jobs. Because to the COVID-19 lockdown, women lost their jobs, which

made them more vulnerable to domestic abuse (Jaramillo, 2020; Sapkota et al., 2020). Brazil has seen an increase of domestic violence between 40 to 50 percent (Sapkota et al., 2020). Furthermore, according to data gathered by the United Nations (UN) in Argentina, Mexico, Colombia, and other countries in the region, domestic violence against women increased by between 30 and 50 percent in the year 2020 (Jaramillo, 2020).

There are no domestic violence-free societies, and this is also true of Africa. According to the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), over 45,6 percent of African women and girls over the age of 15 have been the victim of both stranger- and non-stranger-inflicted violence. According to 80% of the women polled in rural Egypt, beatings were frequent and frequently justifiable, especially if the wife refused to engage in sexual activity with her husband ((Adjei, 2017)).

Research in sub-Saharan Africa demonstrates the prevalence of economic abuse, which calls for immediate scholarly and policy attention. The rate of economic abuse against women is 23.2 percent, according to Fawole, Salawu, and Olarinmoye's study on the prevalence and perceptions of domestic violence in Ibadan, Nigeria (Adjei, 2017). Another study on female sex workers in Abuja found that economic abuse was experienced by roughly 37.7 percent of them, ranking second to sexual assault and third to physical and emotional abuse, respectively (Adjei, 2017).

Economic abuse has been shown to affect people from all kinds of backgrounds (Sedziafa et al, 2018), Nonetheless, a growing body of literature from various parts of the world indicates that patriarchy and poverty are intrinsically related to these types of abuse. Economic abuse and poverty have a complicated link (Adjei, 2017).

Poorer women are more inclined to rely on their male partners, and this reliance may be exploited as a strategy to abuse women by dominating them (Adjei, 2017). In contrast, abuse impairs women's ability to pursue their own businesses, stifles their entrepreneurial spirit, and keeps them from being financially independent (Sanders-McDonagh et al; Stylianou, 2018). In sub-Saharan Africa, where patriarchy is pervasive, socioeconomic disparity, poverty, and discriminatory cultural practices combine to expose women to a

range of exploitation, including economic exploitation (Adjei, 2017). In some villages in Nigeria's Lagos State, up to two-thirds of women reported being victims of domestic abuse (WHO, 2018).

Following the implementation of lockdown between March and April 2020, 23 out of 26 states in Nigeria have reported a monthly increase of 149 percent of domestic violence. Nigeria has recorded an increase of about 30 percent in violence against women during the COVID-19 pandemic for women and girls aged 15 and 49 (Young & Aref-Adib, 2020).

According to government figures from 2018, 45% of women and girls in Kenya between the ages of 15 and 49 had experienced domestic abuse. The prevalence of violence against women in Morocco is most prevalent among women between the ages of 25 and 29 (Young & Aref-Adib, 2020). The number of sexual assault incidents registered in Sierra Leone has almost doubled from 4750 in 2018 to 8505 in 2019, with victims under the age of 15. The COVID-19 lockdown regulation has caused an even greater increase in the number of violent incidents. According to a study conducted by the United Nations Development Programme, since the COVID-19 pandemic started, domestic violence has increased by 10 percent and sexual assault has increased by 27 percent in the Central African Republic (Young & Aref-Adib, 2020).

Since most domestic violence occurrences go unreported, it is difficult to collect precise figures. It is also clear that South Africa has exceptionally high rates of domestic violence, including violence against women and abuse against LGBTQI+ persons. Population-based surveys reveal extremely high rates of non-partner sexual assault and domestic violence, with the former being the most prevalent type of violence against women (Campbell, 2020).

While domestic violence and/or sexual assault are crimes committed and experienced by persons of both genders, men are more frequently the abusers while women and children are the victims. In 2018, 56 percent of all women who were killed did so at the hands of a close male companion. In South Africa, between 25 percent and 40 percent of women have experienced physical and/or sexual abuse throughout their lifetime (Campbell, 2020).

South Africa has a high rate of violent crime as a result of decades of institutionalized racism, sexism, exclusion, structural violence, and other problems that have hampered positive social cohesiveness and human development. South Africa, which ranks number 38 out of 163 in terms of violence, also has one of the highest murder rates outside of war zones, according to the Global Peace Index 2018 (GBVF-NSP, 2020; Campbell, 2020). According to a World Health Organization research, domestic violence affects 60,000 women and children in South Africa (WHO, 2018).

South Africa has acknowledged the epidemic of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) and its severe effects on the lives and well-being of survivors, children, families, communities, and society more and more during 2018 and 2019. According to the 2017 National Femicide Study, 1 024 women were slain by intimate partners, and 768 more were killed by non-partners. Hence, intimate femicide is the most common method of killing women, accounting for more than half (56 percent) of all fatalities.. The same study discovered that 1 in 5 deaths of women involved rape femicide (19.8 percent). Femicide is not diminishing, according to the recent rise in media coverage and rise in female homicides reported to police. According to a national strategy to address domestic abuse, almost 52000 sexual assaults and approximately 42000 rapes were reported to the police in 2019 (GBVF-NSP, 2020).

One woman is killed in South Africa every three hours, and domestic violence is still on the rise. In its 14th year, the 2020 Global Peace Index shows that South Africa has very high rates of violent crime, and homicide rates are a major concern in the safety and security field. As for the condition of peace, the nation ranks 123rd out of 163 nations. South Africa has a problem with security and safety indicators. It does particularly poorly when it comes to the homicide rate, which is the second highest in sub-Saharan Africa and the sixth highest in the world, behind only Lesotho Institute for Economics and *Peace* (IEP), 2020.

The homicide rate in South Africa is 35,9 per 100 000, about four times higher than the average for sub-Saharan Africa, which is 9,1 per 100 000. The price of violence in South Africa in 2019 was close to 100 million dollars. Only two of the nine regions of the world

saw increased peace in 2019, as the overall state of world peace continued to deteriorate (Institute for Economics and *Peace* (IEP), 2020; Sharma & Borah, 2020).

Only a little bit more than half of women claim to have experienced financial or emotional abuse in their marriages. Estimates of the proportion of women who have ever reported being raped in South Africa range from 12 to 28 percent. Between 28% and 37% of adult men admit to raping a woman (Sharma & Borah, 2020). Although it occurs frequently, relatively little non-partner sexual violence is reported to the authorities. According to one study, only one in twenty-five rapes in Gauteng were reported to the police, despite the fact that one in thirteen women there reported non-partner rape. Gang rape is another prevalent crime in South Africa (Selepe et al, 2020).

Almost all males who ever commit rape do it by their mid-twenties, and most men who do so do so for the first time as teenagers. There is a dearth of research on rape that targets women who have sex with other women. According to a poll done in four countries in Southern Africa, including South Africa, 31.1% of women had participated in forced sex (Selepe et al, 2020). Another group that has received little research is male rape victims (Selepe et al, 2020). 9.6 percent of women in KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape reported being sexually abused by a man, according to one survey (Solomon, 2018).

The causes and conditions that support domestic violence are known as drivers of domestic violence. Ultimately, the core cause of domestic violence is gendered power disparity that is entrenched in patriarchy (Solomon, 2018). Domestic violence is more prevalent in nations where there is a culture of violence and when male superiority is seen as the norm. Signs of a belief in male supremacy include men's entitlement to have sex with women, the strict maintenance of gender norms and hierarchies, women's low social standing and power, and the relationship between masculinity and the control of women (Selepe et al, 2020).

Social norms (which may be cultural or religious), low levels of women's empowerment, a lack of social support, socioeconomic disparity, and substance misuse are some of the causes that interact with these issues. It is particularly difficult to properly address

domestic abuse because men's violence against women is socially accepted in many countries in specific contexts or circumstances. In South Africa in particular, domestic violence pervades highly patriarchal societal norms and complex, intersectional power disparities, including those of gender, racism, class, and sexuality, permeate society's political, economic, and social systems (Selepe et al, 2020; Solomon, 2018).

In South Africa, the unemployment rate is rising and is disproportionately affecting women (28.9%), especially black women (24.5 percent). The 2017 South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) report identified structural factors that have contributed to disease and violence, such as women's and girls' limited access to water and sanitation in underdeveloped communities (Solomon, 2018).

Several studies have revealed that problematic alcohol usage can predict domestic violence and domestic violence perpetration and that binge drinking is linked to the perpetration of domestic violence. Additionally, males who had previously experienced violence were more likely to struggle with self-control when it came to using violence against a partner in particular situations than men who had never experienced violence. (Solomon, 2018; GBVF-NSP, 2020).

About 2 771 women were killed in total during a year (2018) and there was a 3.9 percent increase in rape cases between 2018 and 2019 with 41 583 cases reported (Cohen & Vecchiatto, 2019). Almost 67 percent of the 1 306 women from three provinces who participated in the poll had experienced physical violence at the hands of a current or former intimate partner in Mpumalanga (Leddy et al, 2019). According to the same study, 50% of women in Mpumalanga reported experiencing emotional or financial abuse in the year before the study (Leddy et al, 2019).

Domestic violence in Acornhoek is largely caused by women's lack of economic independence. Women who are financially dependent on their partners find it difficult to exit these violent relationships. Domestic violence and poverty are closely related. However, other studies (Leddy et al, 2019) contend that there are other causes of domestic violence besides poverty. There are other additional factors that can significantly contribute to domestic violence, so the link between poverty and domestic

violence is not straightforward. Domestic violence against women in Acornhoek may decrease with changes in women's economic standing, but in some cases, it may also grow. According to research by Zimmerman and Kiss (2017), educated and financially independent women are less likely to continue living in abusive relationships. Due to their economic independence, they are more willing to leave abusive relationships or report it to the appropriate authorities than unemployed women are (Vetten, 2014).

According to numerous academics and researchers who have studied the issue of domestic violence, there is overwhelming evidence that women are still subjected to abuse in families because of their dependency on the economy since the majority of them either do not work or earn significantly less than their husbands. This circumstance calls for a study of this kind to examine the phenomena of domestic abuse and its effects on the lives of young women living in Acornhoek Village without jobs.

1.3. Problem statement

Domestic abuse affects everyone, regardless of their sexual orientation, and is a serious problem in the United States. The study hopes to determine the connection between economic dependency and the domestic violence victimization that women in Acornhoek Village face. Women are being abused by their partners; some of them choose to stay because they fear losing their lives if they break up with them, and this fear often prevents them from reporting crimes. This is especially true for young women who depend on their partners for their daily financial survival. The high rate of domestic violence committed against women by their spouses in Acornhoek Village is a result of men developing a sense of entitlement over women when they are dependent solely on their partners for survival and believing that nothing will be done to stop them from acting however they please. Women take time to report violence if they are economically depending on the men and find themselves forced to stay in those relationship for economic security.

The economic dependency of women on men is a contributory factor to the endless scourge of domestic violence. People at Acornhoek village are influenced by these patriarchal and religious notions of men's superiority. Domestic violence case reporting by victims are not taken seriously by the South African Police Services (SAPS) at

Acornhoek village. The Police Officers are mostly not well trained to handle such sensitive cases and they never refer the victims to the right personnel of victim-friendly services, but they are mostly sending the victims back home. Hence, the low statistics of reported violent cases perpetrated against women in this village.

This situation is exacerbated by women who still believe that being physically abused is an act of love because it is something they grow up being subjected to. Also, some police officials are not taking cases of domestic violence seriously. Victims are told they do not have a case when they report the abuse and are told to go back home to resolve their problems with their partners. In most cases, this results in the case of murder or physical abuse. Girls are also taught to depend on men as providers. They are discouraged from going to school and empower themselves more particularly when they fall pregnant while still at school. All this gives men power to rule over women. If men are challenged by women, they resort to abusing them emotionally, economically, or physically. This is done to get women's silence towards abuse which is viewed as a form of respect.

Due to women's economic dependency on men, they stay in abusive relationships. Unemployed women who solely depend on men for their basic needs find it hard to come out of an abusive relationship. This situation makes men to have a sense of entitlement over their unemployed women and to take advantage of them and treat them as objects. In this way, the life of young women who reside in Acornhoek is so compromised and they also cannot be active members of the society who contribute positively economically for the benefit of their families and Acornhoek village at large.

1.4. Aim of the study

Aim of the study refers to the general statement on the intent of conducting the research study (Gray, 2009). Aim is a specific and operationalized focus of research; thus, it should be a brief content statement of what the researcher plans to investigate (Babbie, 2014). The aim of the study is to investigate the link between domestic violence and economic dependency of women on their intimate partners.

1.5. Objectives of the study

The following are the objectives of the study:

- To determine the link between young women's economic dependency and domestic violence.
- To appraise the impact of domestic violence on unemployed young women of Acornhoek village.
- To develop strategies that can help in addressing domestic violence and economic dependency.

1.6. Research questions

Following below are the research questions formulated from the objectives:

- How does economic dependency of unemployed young women lead to domestic violence?
- What impact does domestic violence have on unemployed young women?
- Which are the strategies that can be used to address issues revolving around domestic violence and economic dependency?

1.7. Delimitation of the study

The study was focused on abused unemployed young women aged between 28 to 35 years in Acornhoek Village, Bushbuckridge Municipality in Mpumalanga Province.

1.8. Definitions of key concepts

- Domestic violence: This means intentional intimidation, physical harm, battery, sexual assault, and/or other abusive behaviour committed by one intimate partner against another as part of a regular cycle of power and control. Threats, physical assault, sexual assault, and emotional abuse are all included (NCADV, 2015).

- The study defines unemployed women as women without work, seeking work in a recent past period, and currently available for work, including people who have lost their jobs or who have voluntarily left work (Merriam-webster, 2017).
- According to this study economic dependency is defined as an extent to which a woman's standard of living (as determined by her share. of income) is derived from a transfer from her husband (Price et al., 2014).
- The study defines women as adult female human beings, who are distinguished from girls or men (Collins, 2015).
- This study defines domestic violence as a behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, and psychological abuse and controlling behaviours(WHO, 2017).

1.9. Summary

This chapter presents a general overview of the study, presenting a global domestic violence statistic. Provide a global overview of the prevalence of domestic abuse against women. Discussed the aim and objectives of the study in investigating the effect of domestic abuse on young women who are unemployed. The study's theoretical framework and pertinent literature are covered in the following chapter.

CHAPTER 2: LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1. Introduction

This section looks at domestic violence and economic dependency of young women based on existing literature from other scholars. The focus will be on the role economic dependency plays on domestic violence towards young women. This section will also discuss the theoretical frameworks that will be used to underpin this study. The first part of this section will define domestic violence and the forms of violence. Looking at what economic dependency is and how it may lead to domestic violence, it will be followed by the theoretical framework to be used to support the study.

2.2. Domestic violence

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive and threatening behaviours that might involve coercion, isolation, intimidation, and physical, financial, emotional, and sexual abuse. It is deliberate behaviour used to achieve dominance over another individual (Basinskaite et al., 2011). Domestic abuse, commonly referred to as dating violence or spousal abuse, is any mistreatment that takes place during a love relationship. As a result, it has an impact on everyone, whether they are straight, homosexual, or in a married or unmarried relationship.

Domestic violence is described as one person in an intimate relationship using any methods to subjugate or otherwise dominate the other. It can take the form of one or more of the following: emotional, psychological, physical, sexual, or economic abuse. More than 2 million women and 800,000 men are affected by domestic abuse, which is a significant public health issue (Basinskaite et al., 2011). Homelessness, victim harm or death, exorbitant medical expenses, and decreased productivity at work are the results. Although it affects couples of diverse racial backgrounds, religious beliefs, socioeconomic level, and sexual orientations. Poverty, a lack of a high school education, having witnessed family violence as a child, having a low feeling of one's own worth, attitudes of masculine dominance, and substance misuse, particularly alcohol abuse are risk factors for both men and women becoming victims or abusers. According to a research conducted by Azhar, Sohail, Yasin, Mahmood, & Mushtaq (2012), 61 percent of women

who were questioned whether economic dependency is the main reason for violence against women strongly agreed with the statement. Approximately 69 percent of respondents thought that women's limited employment opportunities in both the formal and unofficial sectors contributed to violence against women (Azhar et al., 2012).

The abuse of women It is the worst type of human rights violation that occurs in all nations, cultures, social classes, and ages (Azhar et al., 2012). Domestic violence is more prevalent in some countries than others around the world, and its severity varies in South Africa according to social and economic class as well as regional (rural/urban) location. Women of upper and middle class have more influence over their life because of their efforts to empower themselves through education and work, which results in a lower percentage of violence, even though rural areas have stronger patriarchal institutions than metropolitan ones (Ballantine et al, 2017).

2.2.1. Forms of violence

Violence amongst family members has always existed throughout history, both physically and figuratively taking place behind closed doors. Over time, it developed into a condition that is destructive to people's personal and societal well-being, a social issue, and a source of public concern. The existence of domestic violence in homes is now widely known. Doors to the family's citadel of violence have been slowly opening over the years, inch by inch (Gelles, 2016). One in three (30 percent) of all women have at some point in their lives experienced physical or sexual intimate partner abuse or non-partner sexual violence. Most of this violence takes place in close relationships. Around the world, 27 percent of women ages 15 to 49 who have been in a relationship at some point claim their intimate partner has harmed them physically or sexually (WHO, 2021). Below are the forms of violence:

2.2.1.1. Psychological abuse

Psychological abuse is the term used to describe the trauma that the victim experiences because of the abuser's verbal abuse, physical abuse, physical threats, or coercive methods. Psychological abuse is used by perpetrators to terrify, control, and dehumanize their victims. Most often, psychological abuse happens simultaneously with or before

physical or sexual violence (Karakurt & Silver, 2013). Abuse of the victim's emotions and words can cause psychological trauma, such as anxiety, sadness, or posttraumatic stress disorder. Behind closed doors, psychological torture occurs. Those in the neighborhood and children or family members are immediately impacted by the victim (Namy et al, 2017; Huizen, 2020). Because its effects may not manifest visibly right away, unlike those of physical abuse, psychological abuse is typically minimized and not recognized as a kind of abuse. It is seen as a type of violence since the victims suffer harm just like they would from any other form of abuse.

2.2.1.2. Economic abuse

The study was exploring the challenges or barriers faced by victims of domestic violence resulting from their economic dependence on their spouses. When one withholds money or credit cards, as well as needs like food, clothing, medication, and shelter, this happens. causing them to repeatedly call or miss work, stealing from them, or sabotaging their ability to earn a living. If family members are wrongfully denied access to financial and economic resources to which they are legally entitled, this may occur (Forke et al, 2018). This also happens when one intimate partner has control over the other partner's economic resources entitled under law or required out of necessity, resulting in them depending on the perpetrator financially (Namy et al, 2017). Economic dependence may lead one to be desperate and end up getting into a relationship just for survival. Such a person may ultimately become a victim of domestic violence. In most cases people who find themselves in abusive relationships are unlikely to get out of such a situation since they economically depend on the abuser. This is corroborated by Adams et al(2013) who argue that some people stay in abusive relationships and be subjected to domestic violence because of lack of financial freedom and economic self-sufficiency.

2.2.1.3. Physical abuse

This is any behaviours that injure the other person or to cause physical pain. Physical abuse can also include behaviours such as denying the person needed medical care, depriving the person of sleep or other functions necessary to live, or slapping, burning, and the use of a knife or gun to cause bodily harm. Physical abuse may also refer to any act or threat of physical violence towards another causing injury or trauma, including but not limited to, hitting, kicking, punching, pushing (Mash and Barkley, 2014). The study explored how physical abuse is viewed by society and ensure the public knows and understands that it is a form of violence that should not be viewed as a form of discipline to anyone as culture and tradition justifies the violence.

2.2.1.4. Sexual abuse

All actions that harm another person or give them physical suffering fall under this category. Besides these actions, physical abuse can also take the form of slapping, burning, or the use of a knife or pistol to inflict injury on the victim's body, as well as depriving them of sleep or other necessities of life. Any act or threat of physical aggression against another that results in trauma or injury, such as but not limited to hitting, kicking, punching, or shoving, is referred to as physical abuse (Mash and Barkley, 2014). In addition, there is sexual violence, such as rape, sexual assault, and sexual harassment. The study aims to raise awareness of sexual abuse because most men tend to think they are entitled to everything from their relationships, even if it goes against their wishes.

2.2.1.5. Emotional abuse

A form of abuse known as emotional abuse is when someone subjects or exposes another to actions that could cause psychological damage (Hamilton et al, 2015). a pattern of acting in a degrading or humiliating manner against another, including verbal abuse, threatening to hurt their feelings, manipulating them, invoking fear, and showing jealousy or possessiveness repeatedly. A victim is informed how worthless and useless they are, how nobody cares about them, and how the offender is doing the victim a favor by being with them (Namy et al, 2017). Emotional violence leaves longer-lasting scars and does more harm than physical assault. The purpose of the study was to examine

how society regards emotional abuse in order to warn people to be vigilant and to avoid becoming victims of it as well as perpetrators of it.

2.3. Economic dependency

Dependency on the economy, as well as a person's sense of security, contentment, and personal fulfillment, are all examples of economic dependency. It refers to how much someone depends on other people to meet their needs. The degree to which a woman's level of life is controlled by her portion of money, which is generated through a transfer of income from her partner, is known as economic dependency in women (Price et al., 2014). Economic dependency is a result of the sexual division of labor, in which males are primarily responsible for providing for the family's financial needs while women are primarily responsible for childcare and household duties. Financial reliance will be examined in this study to see if it plays a role in domestic violence. The purpose of the study was to determine whether a man might become violent against his partner just because the partner depends on him for financial support (Conner, 2014).

Most women, especially those living in rural regions, rely on their husbands or partners for financial support. Due to the patriarchal culture, women who earn a living are likewise not free to spend their money as they please. Women's mobility is limited because they are only expected to be mothers and caregivers, in addition to performing domestic duties. The social construction of gender. In families, males are preferred over daughters and girls are given separate spaces from boys. Boys receive more love and education in this way. Boys have a more assertive demeanor than girls do for all these reasons. Therefore, their lack of confidence prevents them from developing their economy (Conner, 2014). Gender disparity is a significant factor in domestic violence against women, according to Xu (2011). It causes women to become economically dependent on men. Gender inequality makes it less likely for women than for males to pursue higher education. In rural places, the situation is more dire. The issue of domestic violence in most households is exacerbated by a lack of financial independence. The economic situation is still steady in areas with low levels of domestic violence. Yet, domestic violence is more common in areas with greater economic challenges.

The loss of employment and a challenging economic situation within the family, according to Nichols, Mitchel, and Lindner (2013), can have a direct impact on the person who is responsible for the family. Stress causes men to drastically alter their family-related behaviours and attitudes, and they frequently act violently toward their loved ones. According to Anderberg et al(2015), domestic abuse is affected differently by male and female unemployment: a rise in male unemployment reduces the prevalence of intimate partner violence, whereas a rise in female unemployment increases domestic abuse.

Several authors, such as Howard and Skipp (2015) and Payne (2014), have backed the opinions. According to these researchers, the majority of abused people flee their abuser but eventually come back to them for financial support. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV), a sizable majority of people who stay in abusive relationships do so for financial reasons, which is frequently made worse by the abuser's complete economic and social control over the family's money (NCADV, 2016). When one partner is financially dependent on the other, exiting an abusive relationship can be extremely difficult. Women who have less education fully rely on their husbands, who have complete control over all financial resources, making it impossible for them to terminate the relationship. Some offenders prohibit their victims from working because they fear losing financial control if they do. Frequently, victims are forced to choose between returning to their abusive partners or becoming homeless or living in underprivileged and unsafe neighborhoods (Halket et al., 2014).

Economic stability is a crucial safeguard against domestic violence, ensuring that survivors, especially women, have the financial means to leave an abusive partner or to seek assistance. However, when compared to men, women typically have a worse economic situation. The epidemic made this situation worse by increasing the danger of abuse and violence against women. According to Bleiweis and Ahmed (2020), financial stress on the provider is probably a major contributing factor in domestic violence among lower-income and financially dependent women. Furthermore, because of their financial dependence on their spouses, women who lack economic independence or status are more likely to experience ongoing violence (Bleiweis & Ahmed, 2020). However, Masaiti et al (2022) point out, that women with higher educational levels than their husbands were

more likely to encounter various types of domestic abuse than women with lower or similar educational levels to their husbands.

The study looked at how women are at a disadvantage in terms of economic independence and growth because they have fewer opportunities to complete their secondary education, especially in rural areas, due to teenage pregnancy, and because they must miss one week of school each month because they cannot afford to buy sanitary towels, which ultimately causes them to drop out of school. Women often must rely on their husbands for financial support, and other academics have found that such as Howard and Skipp (2014), Payne (2014) and Halket et al. 2014, this leads to domestic violence, making it difficult to leave battering relationships.

Sense of security is a need for one's wellbeing. Money is such a commodity which provides basic needs and, sometimes, leads to women staying in an abusive relationship for the sake of financial security. Economic dependency of women on men contributes to men feeling entitled to abuse women as they have nowhere to run to since, they are not financially independent. Consequently, the perpetrators manage to manipulate the victims to believe that they are nothing without them. Such abusers also make women to feel that and believe that they have no life outside them. Economically dependent women are always made to feel, that they are inadequate, and they that will not survive on their own without the financial support and backing of their male partners.

2.4. Patriarchy

Patriarchy is a social system in which males hold primary power and predominate in roles of political leadership, moral authority, social privilege, and control of property. In the domain of the family, fathers or father-figures hold authority over women and children (Mapuranga, 2010). In this study, patriarchy will be analysed as a role player in gender inequality leading to economic dependency and domestic violence. Patriarchal system plays a vital role in understanding domestic violence, as it gives more authority to men than to women, men can have the dominance on women.

Mapuranga (2010) argues that one thing which is certain is that if the lobola system exists as it does, women will never be free members of the society because men will not perceive them as such but as mere objects or the property that belongs to them to do

everything a man desires without objection. However, Holmes (2013) argues that women are being subordinated by men and they are stuck in such behavioural patterns. He indicates that women themselves value the use of the lobola system as they believe that it indicates appreciation, respect and security for the marriage and view it as a way of expressing love and commitment (Mapuranga, 2010).

Battering is the outcome of a relationship based on dominance and inequality. Domestic violence has its roots in patriarchy and the sexist attitudes that women are objects to be controlled. According to Sultana (2011), the institution of patriarchy, a system of male dominance, conditions women psychologically to accept a secondary status by embracing a process of sex-role stereotyping. Therefore, violence against women can be explained by the different patterns of socialization coupled with the structural relationship of power, domination and privilege existing between men and women. Furthermore, Chireshe (2012) stated that domestic violence against women is rooted in and is the logical conclusion of basic patriarchal assumptions about women's subordinate status. While patriarchy may not be the overarching cause of all abuse, it is an enormously significant factor, because in traditional patriarchy males have a disproportionate share of power. At its core, domestic violence is the abuse of male physical and often social/religious power.

Patriarchy is a contributory factor to domestic violence; it promotes an infliction of power from a man to a woman. Men view themselves as superiors and sovereigns of women instead of equals because of culture and religion. Women are viewed as servants of men from an early age that if that doctrine is opposed, they feel attacked and results in violence. It is patriarchy that says girls and women cannot be owners of properties and cannot inherit anything as they are viewed as a men's property, and it promotes dependency syndrome of women to men which is the beginning of oppression on women. It is the patriarchal system that says a man is a provider in a household while a woman is a nurturer and all she is good at is taking care of the household. In other words, women are good for the work which do not liberate economically, which leads women to depending on men for economic provision. Patriarch allows boys to go to school while says girls must learn domestic work, this system place boys ahead of girls to participate

economically and have economic freedom, this leads to women having to depend on men for economic provision and in a way this system gives men control over women.

Hereunder is the theoretical framework for this study.

2.5. Theoretical framework

This refers to a structure that can hold or support a theory of a research study. It explains why the research problem under study exists. Theories are formed to explain, understand, and predict phenomena to extend existing knowledge in the limits of critical assumptions (Swanson, 2013). The study made use of Intersectionality theory.

2.5.1. Intersectionality theory

The advocates of the Intersectionality theory are of a view that women experience oppression in varying configurations and in varying degrees of intensity. Crenshaw an African American legal theorist used intersectionality theory to discuss the unique position of black women in anti-discrimination law. This scholar argued that the experiences of black women have both race and class. In this way, this scholar challenged the assumption of universal gendered experience. Crenshaw maintained that the basic concern of intersectionality theory is to investigate how women of colour are subjected to gender and racial discrimination (Monk, 2011). Intersectionality theory is a method rooted in black feminism and critical race theory. It is an analytical tool that can move according to time, disciplines, issues and boundaries of gender and economic justice (Viruell-Fuentes et al., 2012).

Viruell-Fuentes et al(2012) further mentioned that intersectionality theory hypothesizes that inequality is a mutual constitution of different systems of oppressions. This means that oppression can be based on gender or race or class. This shows that oppression is multi-dimensional because of the multiple nature of oppression. This is the case because, for example, a black woman from the rural area may be discriminated against based on her gender, race, and class. This constitutes multiple oppressions. Proponents of the Intersectionality theory hold that the above black woman does not experience single oppression. Her gender, race and class constitute several social problems which are simultaneously experienced by the black woman. Intersectionality theory is preferred for this research because for many years in South Africa people, especially women and

children are disadvantaged. The same people are also vulnerable to economic, social, civil, and political discrimination. Intersectionality theory helps to show that one form of discrimination is intertwined with another form (Viruell-Fuentes et al, 2012: Monk, 2011).

Black African women at Acornhoek are subjected to discrimination for who they are. They get excluded on jobs that are/were viewed as masculine in nature. They find themselves oppressed by their male counterparts due to economic dependency. Women are in a disadvantage as far as economic participation is concerned because they are defined as people who belong to the kitchen and to take care of the household. They are made to believe that all they are good at is to give birth, while men must be the sole providers. Once a situation of this nature obtains, men feel entitled on women. In the end they may even subject their partners to domestic violence.

The approach is relevant for the study as intersectionality provides researchers with a comprehensive analysis of gender and feminism and recognizes feminist efforts and racism efforts that are intertwined together against discrimination, violence, and social justice (Ballantine et al, 2017).

A report by Carbado et al(2013) states that about 99 percent of housewives and 77 percent of working women in South Africa are battered by their husbands and report also added that parents, in-laws, and sons are also involved in battering women in the country. Rape cases also resulted in an escalation of domestic violence in the country as most of the cases of rape are not reported because of the sentiments of disgrace and if reported then they might not be taken seriously because of lack of evidence to support the victim's testimony and it is worse for married women as they are often sent back to fix their marital problems when seeking help (Carbado et al., 2013).

Intersectionality theory highlights the intersecting vulnerabilities of women in the socially disadvantaged economy (Carbado et al., 2013). Intersectional theory encompasses a wide range of experiences and power structures of different genders, ethnicities and sexual orientations that have an ability to analyse conflicting trajectories of equality (Carbado et al, 2013). The proponents of Intersectionality theory argue that this helps to highlight the oppressive structures and the women's struggles linked to those oppressions (Carbado et al., 2013: Chaplin et al, 2019).

Intersectionality theory also helps in creating connections around different experiences of discrimination, marginalization, and privilege by revealing the issues between different groups and the perspective of both victims and the privileged (Carbado et al, 2013). The use of Intersectionality theory in this study helps to analyse the intersection of gender, race and class in the discrimination and marginalisation of women in South Africa, especially women at Acornhoek village. In other words, this theory helps in showing how gender, race and class intersect in the discrimination of women. This theory helped to show the discrimination which exists between the under privileged social group and the privileged social group. This also helped to highlight the multiple layers of discrimination faced by women, especially those in rural areas.

Monk (2011) also identified that intersectional theory also recognised that woman may experience gender and race discrimination simultaneously. However, they were not equal to the real intersectional experience. McCall' (2005) and Carastathis (2014) also speak of the intersectionality of different factors on the discrimination and inequality in social groups. The intersectionality theory helps to interrogate the power of social relationship and its hidden dynamics (Carbado et al, 2013). Thus, the theory is helpful in constructing, deconstructing, and reconstructing of hidden circumstances of oppression of women (Hankivsky et al, 2009) linked to domestic violence perpetrated against women at Acornhoek village.

2.6. Summary

This section reviewed the literature of the study on domestic violence and economic dependence towards unemployed young women. Subsequently, it looks at the theoretical and conceptual framework of the study. Reviewed how economic dependency leads to domestic violence, the forms of violence present in a domestic setting. Legislative framework policies adopted in addressing issues concerning violence towards women. The following section reflected on the methodology that was used to examine the impact unemployment has on domestic violence.

CHAPTER 3: RESEARCH METHODOLOGY AND DESIGN

3.1. Introduction

This chapter outlined how the present study was conducted, and the process of implementing the research plan. The research methodology defines the research methods and logical steps the research undertook, what to do and how to solve the problem and achieve proposed objectives which includes sampling and sampling procedure, population, research instruments and data collection, data analysis as well as ethical considerations. Babbie (2014) defined research methodology as the methods, techniques, and processes used in the process of carrying out the research or research plan, as well as the guiding principles and presumptions that guide its use.

3.2. Nature of the study

Research methodology and design focus on study design, approach, and the process. It deals with planning and structuring of procedures in achieving the goal or objectives and the aim of the study (Babbie & Mouton, 2012). In this study, a qualitative approach was used. Qualitative research approach provides a complete and detailed description of a subject without limiting the scope of the participants' answers. In qualitative research, the data is basically in words or narrative form. It is also subjective depending on the participants' point of view about a subject (Langkos, 2015). It is useful in gathering information in an in-depth manner, using words not statistics for in-depth. However, the qualitative study cannot be generalized because of the small number of participants. According to Creswell (2013), qualitative research can be used to explore fresh angles on a more well-known subject. By concentrating on the participants' viewpoints and perspectives of their experiences, this enables one to understand how participants comprehend, interpret, and experience a phenomenon.

3.3. Research design

This study was exploratory in nature as it sought to investigate how unemployment of young women leads to domestic violence and explore the challenges faced by economic dependent women in their intimate partners phenomenon.

3.4. Population and location of the study

A research population is typically a sizable group of people or things that are the subject of a scientific inquiry. The term "population" refers to a collection of factors that the study

is focused on and to which the findings from the sample should be extrapolated (Neuman, 2006). The entirety of the people, things, organizational units, case records, or other sampling units that the research problem is interested in constitutes the study population. In other terms, a research population is a sizable group of people or things that are the subject of the investigation (De Vos et al, 2013). Population is defined as a set of individuals, subjects, events, or objects that possess the same characteristics for inclusion in the study (Neuman, 2006). The population of this study was unemployed, abused young women between the age of 28 to 35 years residing at Acornhoek village, Mpumalanga province.

3.5. Sampling procedure and sample size

According to Neuman (2011), sampling refers to the process used to reflect a portion of the population for study. Non-probability snowball and purposive sampling method was used to get the participants who were providing the researcher with the information about the abuse of unemployed young women. The participants were asked to provide the researcher with referrals of other participants to get sufficient information on the research topic (Bowers, House & Owens, 2011). The research participant helped the researcher to find another participant with similar characteristics (Bryman, 2016). The participants were found at a Victim Empowerment Programme, and some were referred to by the participants to the researcher after being granted permission to conduct the study by the body of directors from the Centre. This means that the research participants assisted the researcher to find other unemployed abused young women. The current study's sample size consisted of 10 abused, and unemployed young women of Acornhoek Village.

3.6. Research instrument and data collection procedure

According to Babbie (2014), data collection methods are procedures specifying techniques to be employed, measurement of instruments to be utilized and activities to be conducted in implementing a research study. Bryman (2012) states that data collection methods are a process through which empirical data are produced and collected through several different data sources. It is a tool that was used to generate and collect data for research. The devices can be questionnaires, observations, or surveys to gather data needed for the study to know more about the attitude, values, and perceptions. This study

used semi-structured interviews as a data collection technique. Open-ended questions were used on one-to-one interviews while voice recording because they allow and give the researcher an opportunity to probe for more richer information through the interaction with the participants. A comfortable and conducive place was chosen for the interviews and did not take much time of the participants. The safety and anonymity of the participants was prioritized throughout the interviews by only voice recording to avoid the participants' faces being virtualised.

3.7. Data analysis

This is the evaluation and analysis of the data gathered through data collection. Data analysis is the process of evaluating data according to its logical and analytical features to look at its individual components. Thematic analysis, which can be an iterative process to establish categories through coding and constant comparison between and within different examples, is the method most frequently employed for the study of qualitative data (Bryman, 2016). Thematic data analysis is the process of identifying patterns or themes within qualitative data after the collection of data. In this study, thematic data analysis make use of atlas ti coding software was employed in analysing the data. This means that data was organised according to themes or familiar subjects discussed then discuss the relationship between economic dependency and domestic violence.

3.7.1. Becoming familiar with the data

This phase involves reading and re-reading the data, to become deep and intimately familiar with its content. At this stage it was useful that the researcher jot down and transcribed data. The researcher had to familiarise oneself with the whole data by going through all the transcripts.

3.7.2. Generate initial codes

This phase involves generating concise labels (codes) that identify important features of the data that might be relevant to answering the research question. It entails coding the full dataset, followed by gathering all the codes and pertinent data extracts for further

analysis. It involves coding the entire dataset, and after that, collating all the codes and all relevant data extracts, together for later stages of analysis.

3.7.3. Search for themes

In this stage, the codes and collected data are examined to find substantially wider meaning patterns (potential themes). Next, it comprises gathering information pertinent to each prospective theme so that the researcher can use the information to examine each candidate theme's viability.

3.7.4. Review potential themes

In this stage, the dataset is compared to the potential themes to see if they accurately represent the data and provide a solution to the research question. Themes are frequently split, mixed, or eliminated during this phase, which is when they are refined. Themes are described in the Atlas ti Analysis technique as a pattern of shared meaning supported by a primary notion or idea.

3.7.5. Defines and naming themes

In this step, each theme will be thoroughly analyzed, its scope and focus will be determined, and its own "story" will be determined. Also, each subject must have a descriptive name chosen.

3.7.6. Write and producing the report.

At this final stage, the analytical narrative and data extracts are combined, and the analysis is contextualized considering previously published literature.

3.8. Ethical considerations

It is important to take special care when collecting data, especially on social sensitive topic for safety and protection of the participants. Ethics refers to the responsibilities that researchers bear towards those who participate in research, sponsor research and those who are potential beneficiaries of research (Neuman, 2011). Ethics in research are a set of moral principles or guidelines which offer rules and behavioural expectations about the most correct conduct towards research participants. These guidelines allow the

researcher to be more conscious during the interaction with the research participants and to avoid errors that hinder the research process (Monette et al, 2011).

Hereunder is a discussion of the ethical principles to be applied in this study to protect the participants.

- Permission from participants to be part of the study was obtained and their rights to withdraw or not be part of the study was respected. Informed consent is when the participants have rights to know what the research is about, and how it affects them, the risk and benefits of participation and the fact that they have the right to decline to participate if they choose to do so (Neuman, 2011). I honestly and thoroughly informed the participants about the purpose of the study and the investigation. I requested permission from the potential participants to participate in the study and be explained of everything to be known about the study.
- The purpose and objectives of the study were made known to the participants, explain how the outcome of the study may help in combating economic dependency and domestic violence on young women to get their willing participation. Neuman (2011) implies that people should explicitly and willingly agree to participate in a study. In this study, the participants were well informed that their participation is voluntary. Participation on the study was on their own free will and no one should be forced to participate, no matter what the circumstances (Babbie & Mouton, 2012). They were informed that they were not forced to be part of the study. It was the participants' choice to be part of the study and they can withdraw in any given period of the study if they are no longer comfortable in participating in the study.
- Identity of the participants was hidden and confidential. Anonymity means keeping participants' identities unknown (Neuman, 2011). The right of privacy in the study to the participants was maintained. The participants were asked not to include their names when collecting data. Pseudonyms were used to identify the participants. The participants were represented with the pseudonyms to avoid calling them by names and the data collected

were store separately from where the informed consent forms were stored and immediately after using the data they were destroyed.

3.9. Summary

This chapter discussed research methodology that was used in the study. The study is qualitative in nature, and exploratory study was used as a research design. The population was unemployed young women who have experienced domestic violence around Acornhoek area. The research used non-probability snowball sampling. The data was collected using semi-structured interviews.

Chapter 4: Data Analysis

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presented results which stemmed from the semi-structured interviews conducted with the young women who are survivors of domestic violence. Demographic information of the participants was outlined in detail. The themes developed in the current study were as follows: Economic dependency and domestic violence linkage, Domestic violence impact, and domestic violence coping strategies suggested by the victims of domestic abuse. The sub-themes which were identified are also discussed below.

4.2. Description of participant's demographic information

This study covered 10 unemployed young female participants that are survivors of domestic violence at Acornhoek Village between the ages of 28 and 35. Participants were also assigned pseudonyms to help ensure anonymity.

Table 4.2: Demographic information about the participants

Pseudonym	Age	Socio-Economic status	Marital status	Educational Status	Population group
Grace	31	Unemployed	Single	Grade 10	African
Lethabo	33	Self-Employed	Divorced	University graduate	African
Mologadi	28	Employed	Divorced	University graduate	Africa
Maria	35	Employed	Married	University graduate	African
Xiluva	29	Unemployed	Single	University student	African
Dineo	32	Unemployed	Single	University Graduate	African
Pearl	29	Unemployed	Single	Grade 11	African
Felicia	31	Unemployed	Single	University dropout	African

Mahlogonolo	29	Unemployed	Single	University student	African
Judith	35	Self-employed	Married	College graduate	African

According to Table 4.2 the majority of the participants reported being in their thirties (six), with a few (four) reporting to be in their late twenties. In addition, the results revealed that many participants were unemployed (six), with only a few (two) being employed and only two being self-employed. In terms of marital status, most of the participants (six) were never married and are still single, with two separated from their abusive spouse (divorced), with few (two) still married. Moreover, most participants (five) stated to have post Grade 12 qualifications as the highest educational level, with only two participants stated to still being students of higher learning, while one being a university dropout and others (two) reported to not having grade 12. Furthermore, all participants (ten) described themselves as Africans.

Following below is the presentation of the results followed the interviews.

4.3 Results

This section provided the results that emanated from the analysis of data.

4.3.1 Economic dependency and domestic violence linkage

This section provides the subthemes that emerged as follows:

4.3. 1.1 Abuse as a human right violation

According to the participants in this study, they acknowledge abuse as a violation of human rights. The participants, however, find themselves being subjected to violence and staying due to different reasons. The following submissions were made to support this by participants.

“We get physically, sexually, emotionally, and financially abused, and our basic rights are violated.” (Grace)

“Because it resulted in me getting a beating and stripped off naked.” (Maria)

“It makes them vulnerable to abuse because they will stay just so they can be supported financially and be taken advantage of by their intimate partners, knowing no official action will be taken against them.” (Maria)

“Depending on a man for sustainability gives him power in your life, he begins to behave like a higher entity in your life and wants to control you which is wrong and end up physically abusing you.” (Maria)

“Your dignity gets stripped away from you, you become a thing that anyone can play with” (Xiluva)

“Feeding someone turn to make you feel like they belong to you, and they have to be grateful for what you do for them, as a result you as a dependent you get exploited” (Xiluva)

“They know that we need them, you get beaten then have your needs covered, more like getting bribed into not opening a case and make themselves feel better for the unethical act they just did” (Xiluva)

“You don’t have the liberty to say no to sex or anything that you get told you must do.” (Pearl)

“Not having money robs us of the opportunity to live freely, at times we get involved with people we are not in love with or get to stay longer than we feel or want to in relationships just because we don’t have the means to survive outside the relationship, at times we get abused because they know we will be given money and stay” (Mahlogonolo)

Based on above-mentioned responses from the participants, it can be stated that abuse is a violation of human rights and young women who are not economically independent are at the higher risk of being victims of abuse. The participants alluded that they become more prone to emotional, physical, financial, and sexual abuse within their relationships and the dependency on their partners makes them more vulnerable and makes it difficult

to leave their relationships because they need the money they get bribed with after being beaten. The economic dependency of young women to their partners infuses abuse, and they find it hard to leave the abusers despite the violation of their human rights. Azhar et al., (2012) report that violence against women it is the worst form of human rights violation and is present in every country, culture, class, ethnicity, and age.

Violence does not happen to women by mistake or because of an innate weakness. Instead, institutional, entrenched discrimination is what causes violence, thus it is important to prevent and rectify this violation of human rights. Legislative, administrative, and institutional reforms are necessary, as well as the eradication of gender stereotypes that support or prolong gender-based violence against women and serve as the foundation for the structural inequality between women and men and it is a moral and legal requirement (Reddock, R. 2022). It can be concluded that abuse as a human right violation provides the premise of economic dependency and domestic violence linkage.

4.3.1.2 Economic dependency infusing abuse.

Participants in the study reported that economic dependency contributed to them being victims of domestic violence. There were different reasons that led participants to being financially dependents for instance low education, abuse, lack of and being an unemployed graduate. These findings are supported by the following quotations:

“Men take it as a form of purchase when they financially support women they are in a relationship with, and they are entitled to doing anything that they want because they know we can’t live as we need money to take care of our needs” (Grace)

“They sometimes fail to make ends meet at home. You then become a punching bag to release their stress.” (Grace)

“A small disagreement and not following orders by women to their men usually results in a beating because they feel like they are losing ownership of their property.” (Lethabo)

“With the fact that most of us as young women we are unemployed, makes us most vulnerable to abuse because we will stay just so we can be taken care of financially.” (Dineo)

“You would boldly say no to that, but you don’t get to do so because they are supporting you” (Judith)

The participants submitted that economic dependency puts you in a disadvantage of being at the receiving end of abuse. They cannot defend themselves or say no to the abusers because they are afraid that they will not get money that they need to cover their basic needs. The abusers capitalize on the financial desperation of their partners and abuse them as they know that the victim will not leave or report the abuse, so they do as they please because there will be no consequences for their action as the victims will need the financial support they provide.

The participants indicated that they cannot disagree and share their thoughts freely with their abusers without fearing being beaten up, they get abused so that they can get food and shelter, and they cannot do anything about it because getting basic needs is more important to them even though they come with abuse. This is in line with Thobejane (2014) and Conner (2014) who stated that economic dependency perpetuates abuse and provides the basis for domestic violence.

4.3.1.3 Economic independency to combat abuse.

Participants in this study reported that economic independency can be a contributory factor in combating abuse in the lives of young women. Economic independence is the emancipation tool that can free victims of abuse from the unhealthy relationships they are in, this conclusion is supported by the following statements from the participants.

“Having money of our own as a woman will not stop GBV but it will reduce the level of us remaining in those relationships which are toxic.” (Grace)

“Yes, this can help in staying away from an abusive relationship.” (Lethabo)

“With less dependency on a man, a woman can be relieved of abuse as the man may be afraid to abuse and lose you because he knows you can survive on your own.” (Mologadi)

“I believe financial independence can minimize abuse. If I was earning enough money, I would have not stayed for so long but the little I was getting gave me some confidence to attempt leaving him. He then apologized and since I went back, he has not abused me.” (Maria)

“Financial independence will restore the dignity of a young woman and will help with reducing the level of abuse experienced by young women. We won’t feel indebted to these men because we will be able to provide for ourselves” (Xiluva)

“Yes, to a certain extent, independence will give you the power to stand up for yourself, even when you are independent you can still be abused but this rarely happens.” (Dineo)

“Being independent would have reduced the number of abused females at Acornhoek” (Pearl)

“I believe it is men who must change their attitude towards abuse, but yes, independency can minimize the higher rate of GBV.” (Felicia)

“Yes, men find it hard to abuse women who are not depending on them financially because they don’t feel that sense of ownership they usually feel when they are dating women who are not working” (Mahlogonolo).

“Independency it can help in having low statistics of GBV, I was fully depending on her financially until I started my own business, since then he doesn’t beat me up as much as he used to when he was the only one who was the bread winner.” (Judith)

The above-mentioned points indicate that economic dependency infuse abuse in the lives of the dependents and to combat domestic abuse amongst young women, they must be economically independent. The participants alluded that economic independency could

have saved them from the battering situations they found themselves in and suggest that if they were not economically depending on the perpetrators, they would have left instead of continuing to stay in abusive relationships.

It can be concluded that poverty and the need for financial support is the reason young women find themselves in battering relationships and financial freedom can liberate them from abuse and economic independency can reduce and combat abuse amongst young women of Acornhoek. It can be decided that economic independency to combat abuse provides the evidence of economic dependency and domestic violence linkage, this is in line with what Xu et al (2011) elaborated that lack of economic independence contributes to the problem of domestic violence in most families and gender inequality plays an important role in domestic violence against women. Where the level of domestic violence is low, the economic state is still stable.

4.3.1.4. Financial support as a source of entitlement

Participants have highlighted that financial support was a contributing factor to domestic violence as it infuses entitlement from the perpetrators they experienced. These findings are supported by the following statements:

“Yes, everyone is owned by whoever holds the economic power, so they have the money that we need and as wrong as it is, we sometimes tend to justify this misnomer. We make them feel as if they are our kings and masters and that is why they are easily getting away with their abuse.”
(Grace)

“Fighting for survival will make anyone to do anything, having some financial needs may make you wholly dependent and vulnerable.” **(Grace)**

“Life is hard. It gets harder when you have someone you depend on. You start developing some dependency syndrome to the provider to an extent that he/she soften feels that they are owning you.” **(Lethabo)**

“Depending on someone for money somehow gives them power over you and treats you as their possession, leading to jealousy. This then is followed by bouts of abuse.” (Mologadi)

“Yes, having no means of survival gives the next person power over you” (Mologadi)

“Depending on the next person gives them power over you and they start being possessive over you and want to keep you away from others and control you. This usually ends in abuse.” (Mologadi)

“Words such as “I own you”, “I paid lobola for you and you belong to me, if you dare leave, I will kill you, no one can have you besides me, being thrown at you are a painful reminder that to be hopelessly dependent on someone often leads to abuse.” (Mologadi)

“At some point I felt like I belonged to him as a mere property to be played around with. Because I married him, I felt obligated to do anything he wanted me to do without questioning him.” (Maria)

“They are behaving like our masters or lords. You don’t have the freedom to do anything you want but must follow orders of the perpetrator because they are providing for you” (Pearl)

“The abusive men take advantage of the fact that they are giving us money and they beat us for no reason, I don’t know if this is their way of making us pay for the money we are given or what.” (Mahlogonolo)

“I was still a student doing my practical work and would knock off late sometimes. This day was not a good one for me. He told me that I am cheating on him and that I was hiding behind long working hours at work as a pretext to cheat. He said I should quit, and he will double my stipend so that I can stay at home. I politely said I can’t do that. He got agitated and started beating me up until he was tired.” (Mahlogonolo)

“When you depend on someone for financial support, you are seen as weak and people take advantage of weak people, they misuse and treat them badly because they feel like they are doing you a favour when they are taking care of you. You are an easy target to abuse with no consequences to their actions” (Judith)

According to the mentioned responses above it can be deduced that financially supporting an individual can make you feel entitled to that person’s life, you want to have ownership over them, want to control them because you are feeding them. Being a financially dependent young woman leads to being controlled, owned, and abused because you are an owned property due to the financial support you receive, must live according to the standards set for you and you do not do so then you get beaten as a form of discipline by the provider as participant ten has outlined. Perpetrators use financial support as a source of entitlement, and they will do everything in their power to ensure that as a victim you remain dependent on them so they can have control over you.

Mahlogonolo indicated that the abuser wanted her to quit her job because he can support her, and he needs her to do what he wants. Financial support given to a woman is viewed as ownership or some form of purchase by the provider and even the victim deems the possessiveness and abuse as a justification. Conner (2014) indicates that economic dependency is the outcome of sexual division of labour in which primary responsibility for childcare and family work falls to women and charge of securing an income for family falls to men, resulting in a man may turn violent and entitled to his partner just because he is the one on whom the partner depends on financially.

According to Mologadi, the perpetrator viewed the financial support and dowry as some form of ownership. This led to obsessive tendencies and later resulted in abuses. It can therefore be concluded that abusive men view financial support as a source of entitlement in support of Conner (2014) indicated of men feeling entitled to a woman’s life because of the financial support.

4.3.1.5. Poverty regarded as a devaluing life factor.

Financial dependency is considered a demeaning life factor to dependents, reason being that because of poverty the participants outlined that they withstand bad treatment and engage in demeaning activities just so they can have basic needs. These findings are supported by the following statements:

“A lot of us fail to meet our day-to-day needs as women and this challenges our dignity as women and mothers” (Grace)

“Yes, we believe as they support us, we are theirs and we must do anything they demand us to do without argument” (Lethabo)

“You get abused and immediately get some money as if you are being compensated for this ill-treatment. You then become so weak that you cannot go to the police station to open a case against him.” (Maria)

“You must do everything they want you to do or else you get beaten up for disrespecting “the hand that feeds you! You don’t get to be seen as a human being but an object that belongs to the husband.” (Xiluva)

“Yes, financial independence is what we lack which is keeping us in bad relationships because we want money. I wouldn’t still be with my abuser if I had the means of survival” (Pearl)

“They abuse us because they are having power over us and there is nothing that we can do about it as the government is not doing enough to protect us as well.” (Felicia)

“When you don’t have money, you don’t have a voice. This is where the abuser starts to oppress and abuse you.” (Felicia)

“If you show some resistance to their abuse, you will be denied the money to buy cosmetics and some other needs.” (Mahlogonolo)

“You get degraded and not recognized as a fully functioning human being because you don’t have money” (Judith)

The participants' responses suggest that poverty devalues your life as someone who lives within the poverty line, they get to do demeaning activities for provision of basic needs. Lack of money forces young women to stay in toxic relationships so they do not have to worry about what they must eat and wear. Poverty has made the victims believe that they are worthless in life since they must withstand abuse, insults, and shame because they cannot fend themselves.

The desperation results in the victims not valued and taken serious as human being for the mere fact that they need men to take care of their needs. The abusers use money to get away with lot of offences because of having money that they use to bribe the victims not to take actions against them and forces them to choose between standing up for themselves and get justice for the abuse or take the money and buy food, the perpetrators are not viewing the victims as human beings but mere objects that can be bribed with money that they desperately need.

Mologadi alludes that poverty makes them stay in relationships despite the abuse so they can get money to feed themselves and they must live under a shadow of the abuse, do all that pleases them and ensure not to upset the perpetrators so they can continue to be provided and taken care of and have security. The lives of the victims of abuse are deduced to being properties of the men with money, the victims must always please the abusers and not complain, their dignity and voices as individuals is not taken into consideration because to the abusers the lives of the young women means nothing and that results into all kinds of abuse.

Howard and Skipp, (2015) elucidate that most abused individuals leave the abuser, but later return to them for financial support. The victims leaving the abusive relationships reason being they hate the situation they are in but end up going back it shows how financial dependency lowers the value of the victim's life by going back to eat their vomit. It can be concluded poverty as a life devaluing factor provides the ground for economic dependency and domestic violence linkage.

4.3.1.6. Women perceived as objects.

The findings have shown that women are perceived as objects by their financial supporters, this conclusion is validated by the following statements quoted below from the participants:

“We find ourselves having to fulfil men’s sexual dreams and fetish. This leads to the men taking advantage of us. We are looked at as sexual objects and not as human beings” (Grace)

“Failing to fend for yourself is a torture on its own especially when you are old and have children to support. At times you feel that you are being sexually violated rather than being loved.” (Maria)

“No one takes you seriously because you don’t work, and you get sexually exploited in exchange for basic needs like food, clothing, and shelter.” (Xiluva)

“You get to see yourself as an object made to serve and satisfy men for them to give you money. You get easily bullied and your body ultimately gets used to this maltreatment. You are often told to do what they need you to do without questions asked because you have no money”(Pearl)

“Some of the men don’t take women seriously and when you are not working it is worse. They will abuse you and leave you dry and cold.” (Pearl)

“We end up looking like slaves to our men because of no means of income. They know we depend on them for our livelihood, and this is bad.” (Felicia)

“You get to be made to do things that are weird and crazy sexually just because you need their support.” (Judith)

According to the above-mentioned responses from the participants it can be established that men see women as objects and slaves to serve them regardless of how they feel and whether they feel comfortable and want to do it or not. The perpetrators see the dependent young women as the objects to serve them sexually and emotionally. They would like to be served and disregard the feelings of the victims. The level of objectifying

the economic dependency of young women is so high in the country and it needs the intervention of the government.

Based on the reviewed literature such as Mapuranga (2010), one thing which is certain is that if the lobola system exists as it does, women will never be free members of the society because men will not perceive them as such but as mere objects or the property that belongs to them to do everything a man desires without objection. Pearl stated that as victims, they end up viewing themselves as object as the abusers have conditioned them to believe about themselves, they end up not see anything wrong with being objectified for as long their needs are provided and they do not go to bed hungry.

Unemployment has devalued the lives of young women, made them believe that they are objects and properties to men, and it results mostly into abuse and possessiveness of the victims. It can be agreed that women perceived as objects lays a foundation for the linkage of economic dependency and domestic violence.

Following below figure emanated from the objective of economic dependency and domestic violence linkage:

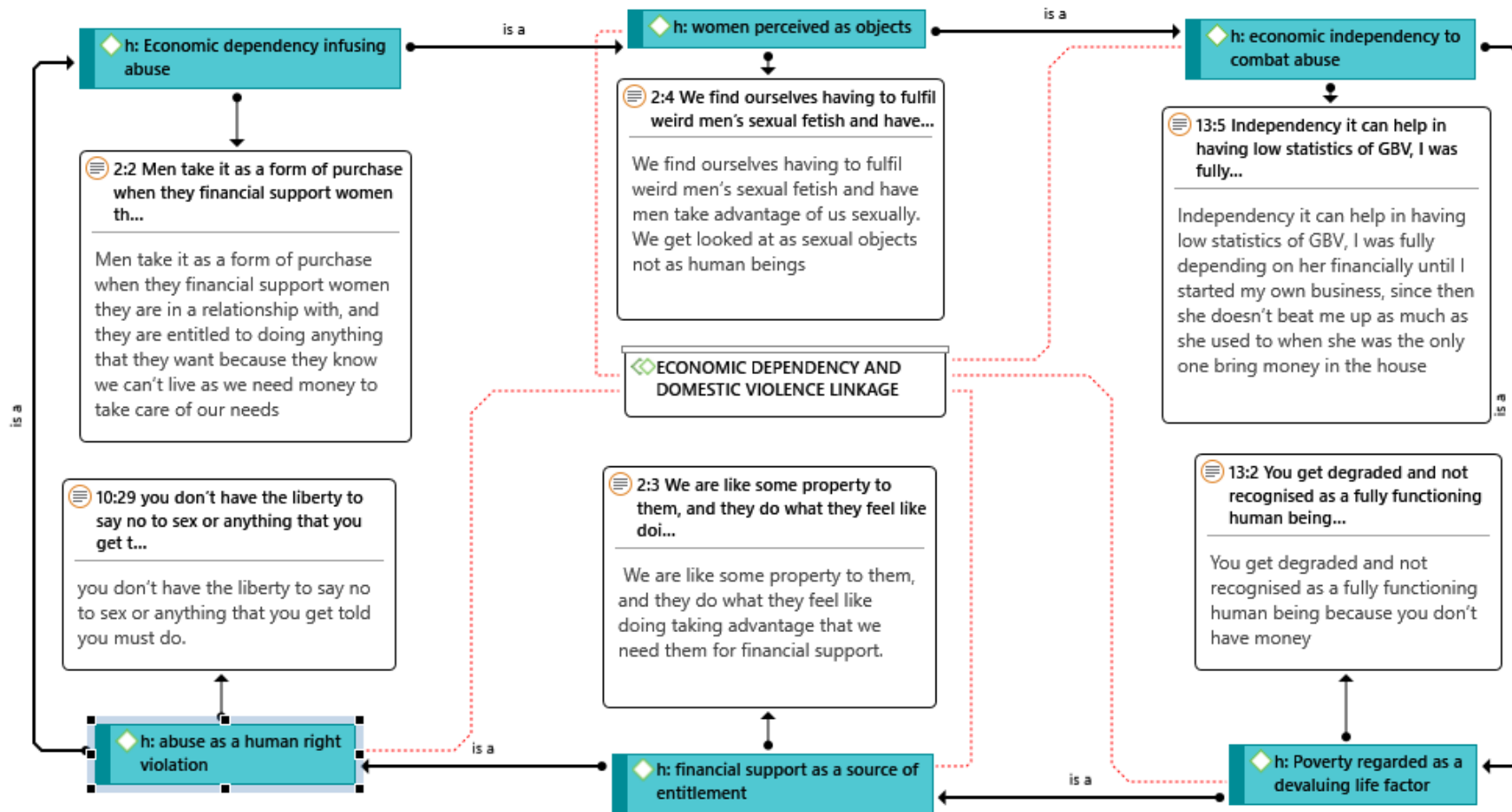


Figure 4.3.1: Economic dependency and domestic violence linkage

Source: Economic dependency and domestic violence linkage using Atlas.ti

4.3.2 Domestic violence impact on the abused unemployed young women

With regard to domestic violence impact the subthemes that emerged from the analysis of data are abuse as a factor for continuous economic dependency, abuse as a psychologically damaging factor, Stopping perpetrators from using Stopping perpetrators from using bribery to avoid accountability, Economic dependency infusing abuse, Economic independency not immunity to abuse, Economic status on the first abuse occurrence, Financial support as a source of entitlement, Poverty as a reason for relationships, Poverty regarded as a devaluing life factor, Responsibilities and hope for change reason for battering, and Women perceived as objects. These are explored or presented in this section.

4.3.2.1 Abuse as a factor for continuous economic dependency

The results revealed that abuse as a factor for continuous economic dependency is an indication of domestic violence impact. This was evidenced by the expressions of Grace, Lethabo, Mologadi, Maria, Dineo, and Felicia. Shown in the following quotations.

“I used to do piece jobs like domestic jobs, and I continuously got fired as I would skip days without going to work because I will be injured, and my phone broken making it impossible to contact my employers and make an apology for my absenteeism and it looked like I was not respecting my job”
(Grace)

“I have not lost a job due to it, but it has affected my academics because a lot of times I missed classes and tests because I was hurt and cannot attend classes” **(Lethabo)**

“I would miss work and not make enough money because I get paid on commission base, I was almost fired as I work with people you need to be presentable and beautiful, and the blue eye was working against me”
(Mologadi)

“I would miss work; thankful I didn’t get to lose my job but got paid lesser because of not going to work for days” (Maria)

“I have never worked before, I used to sell things and I stopped because my confidence got knocked down, I couldn’t sell with blue eyes and all the injuries” (Dineo)

“I lost my job, and I am struggling to find another job.” (Felicia)

With reference to the above quoted responses from the participant, it can be reasoned that domestic abuse plays a role in young women being economically dependent on their partners. Some of the participants lost their jobs and others had to stop doing activities that enabled them to be economically emancipated due to the abuse they are experiencing. Forke et al (2018) articulate that abusers sabotage their victims’ jobs by making them miss work or calling constantly, stealing, or taking money from them, the act resulting in the victims being unreasonably deprived of economic and financial resources to which they are entitled so they are prone to dependency and at a greater chance of being abused and made more vulnerable.

Some perpetrators prevent their victims from going to work because they will no longer have control over them financially (Halket et al., 2014), with this, a conclusion can be drawn that domestic abuse aggravates economic dependency in young women by resulting in job loss and business shutdown which leads to economic dependency in their intimate partners.

4.3.2.2 Abuse as a psychologically damaging factor

The results revealed that abuse as a psychological damaging factor is an indication of domestic violence impact. This was evidenced by the expressions of Grace, Lethabo, Mologadi, Maria, Dineo, and Felicia as shown in the following quotations.

“I started being suicidal and the scars that I sustained affected my self-esteem and made me feel worthless and self-blaming because I started believing what he used to say that I am to be blamed and it is my fault that

he is beating me, as a result I lack self-love though I am trying to make peace and accept the new me who is covered with scars” (Grace)

“With the scars I have now I can’t even think of going back to school because I ask myself who will hire me with the disorganized face” (Grace)

“I lost friends and failed at school. This meant adding another year of poverty to my life. I was and still emotionally damaged because of the abuse. The little self-esteem I have always had got crashed to rock bottom, but I am working on redeeming myself for peace and confidence, I cannot continue letting the experience to negatively define me” (Lethabo)

“You live on survival mode, and it crashes your soul, you sometimes see no point in being alive, no one wants to associate with you because you are poor” (Lethabo)

“I just stopped caring about lot of things and become depressed for a long time, until I learnt to love myself and put me first, and now I am happy.” (Mologadi)

“You get psychological damaged, mostly find that have kids to take care of and you fail to even provide for the kids” (Mologadi)

“It impacted my mind in such a way that I have trust issues in general, see people as opportunists. Seeing my children terrified and scared from the first incident it still haunts me to this day, feel like a failed mother who is forever sick because of the emotional torture I suffered affecting my body.” (Maria)

“I started seeing life different, I told myself I need to do anything to survive, ethics were a thing of the past, I stopped believing in love and started to enjoy being hurt, sometimes I would do something knowing he will be angry just because I wanted to be beaten, I became a slave to physical pain” (Xiluva)

“You lose that little identity you have of who you are, you get damaged even further because being poor affects you in a negative way so getting a beating makes things worse, you end up with no hope for better moments and start believing that you are born to suffer until you die, I am stressed and with job hunting it even makes things worse when you don’t succussed.” (Xiluva)

“There is, you get psychologically harmed first because you are not working, and it ends up with being physically harmed” (Xiluva)

“It affected me psychologically and emotionally; I started losing myself in the process. At school I could not concentrate, and I failed that same year he stated abusing me. It made me have trust issues towards men and I lost interest in relationships after leaving the first relationship, unfortunately I got into more abusive relationships which makes me believe that men are abusive creatures especially when you depend on them for money. I have zero interest in relationships and love, I don’t have good experiences and I made me a toxic partner” (Dineo)

“I started loving abusive relationships that when a man doesn’t beat me, I felt like he is not a man enough and relationships without a fight bore me. I am in love with chaos that peace in relationships scare me because I don’t know how to handle it” (Pearl)

“I didn’t report the incident because I loved him, and I blamed myself as well for going there unannounced” (Felicia)

“My confidence moved to zero, I lost interest in life at one moment I wanted to kill myself because I saw no value in living” (Felicia)

“It makes you lose confidence in yourself, and the society does not support you, but you are seeing as that girl who is dating men for money who beat her up because she sells her body” (Felicia)

“The little love I had for myself faded, I couldn’t see myself beyond the physical and emotional scars I sustained. Self-esteem was and still low, though I am working on rebuilding myself, to get my power back”
(Mahlogonolo)

“It made me be a laughingstock and I hated that, I detached from lot of people because I didn’t want them to see the imperfect side of my marriage especially as a same sex marriage, started being a people’s pleaser. I suffered depression” **(Judith)**

Karakurt and Silver (2013) pinpoint that perpetrators use psychological abuse to control, terrorize, and denigrate their victims and psychological abuse occurs mostly prior to or concurrently with physical or sexual abuse and it mostly result in psychological trauma, including anxiety, depression, or posttraumatic stress disorder for the victims. Therefore, it can be argued that indeed abuse is a psychological damaging factor building the ground of domestic violence negatively impacting the psychological well-being of the victims and how they view and respond to life.

The argument is accompanied by what Xiluva detailed that she started seeing life different and told herself that she need to do anything to survive, ethics were a thing of the past, and stopped believing in love and started to enjoy being hurt, and at sometimes she would do something deliberately knowing that he will be angry and she will have to be beaten which is what she will be desiring, she became a slave to physical pain and would do anything to have pain inflicted.

4.3.2.3 Stopping perpetrators from using Stopping perpetrators from using bribery to avoid accountability.

Participants emphasized that perpetrators are not held accountable for their brutal actions because of corruption in the police services, the abusers escape accountability by paying bribes to the officials. The finding is backed up by the following responses from the participants.

“I get abused and I must suck it up because there is nothing I can do, can’t even open a case because they have money to get themselves out of the justice system” (Grace)

“It makes us vulnerable to abusers as they know there is nothing that we can do, we cannot leave them as we need their financial support and lack of money and skills makes it hard to go into business” (Grace)

“But it didn’t even get to court because he bribed the police to make a docket disappear” (Pearl)

“He is a known businessman, opening a case for him was going to be a waste of time, so I didn’t bother. He apologised and we moved past it.” (Mahlogonolo)

Corruption is a challenge in winning the fight against domestic violence in Acornhoek, criminal activities turn to go unpunished because the offenders have money to throw at their problems to disappear and not be held accountable for the crimes that they commit. Many victims of domestic violence have lost faith in the SAPS in Acornhoek because their cases most do not see the light of day results of the Officers being corrupt to make cases go away, making it easy for people to commit crime and not get scared of being arrested.

Grace stated that she gets abused and she suck it up because there is nothing she can do, can’t even open a case because they have money to get themselves out of the justice system. The perpetrators should be held accountable and those officers who take bribery to escape the justice system. Bobonis et al, (2016) state that the government audits should be able to spot corrupt practices for public and the legal system to properly commend or punish those who committed the infraction, to instill order and regain trust from the people.

4.3.2.4 Economic dependency infusing abuse.

The young unemployed women have outlined that economic dependency infuses abuse in their lives, they get subjected to bad treatment and they find themselves in a lot of

compromising and deadly moments. Below are the responses that they participants had to stated:

“When you don’t have money to provide for your needs you end up settling for anything to have financial security even when it means having to stay in an abusive relationship you have factors that forces you to stay” (Grace)

“Depending on someone gives them power to mistreat you and with the lack of financial muscles to survive on our own we become subject to the mistreatment” (Lethabo)

“Yes. If you are depended on someone for money, then they mostly abuse you, many abused women are financially dependent individuals” (Mologadi)

“You get desperate and end up using men for money and they use you for sex just makes the relationship toxic and results in abuse” (Dineo)

“You stay because you tell yourself that it is better to be beaten and given the little, I get than lacking something to eat. You see that you are not loved or wanted but you have no other choice than to stay and be abused” (Dineo)

“Being unemployed is a contributory factor to us being abused” (Pearl)

“Not having money makes you lack a backbone, you get tossed to any side and you move, so someone seeing the amount of power they have on you, they take advantage of that and isolate you and abuse you” (Felicia)

“Yes, unemployment leads to financial dependency especially when you are not doing anything that will give you financial freedom from a man you are in a relationship with, and that dependency has power to lead you to battering relationship. That person has power over you, making it easy to abuse you” (Felicia)

“We had a little disagreement because she came back drunk after we had an agreement that we will stop drinking to save money for some projected we wanted to do, the altercation ended with her slapping me and I think even fists were thrown and told that it’s her money if I want to make decisions in the house, I must get my own money. She apologised and let it be in the past” (Judith)

“I believe there is a link, most of my incidents of physically being beaten were because of finances, she sometimes felt overwhelmed by the financial responsibilities and unfortunately, she could only voice out her frustrations using hands and not words” (Judith)

“Being poor makes you be desperate and be a beggar, making it easy to be abused because you end up being like a playing ground of evil people who likes to use others to make themselves feel better” (Judith)

According to the stated responses above and in line with Nichols, Mitchel, and Lindner (2013), who argue that the loss of jobs and a difficult economic standard within the family can directly affect the individual with the responsibility of the family. The behavioural patterns and attitudes of men in the family change radically because of stress and tend to act violently towards their family members.

It can be stated that truly economic dependency infuses abuse in family settings and intimate relationships. Men are not taught and conditioned to verbalize their feeling and emotions, as a result they keep everything good or bad bottled inside them which one day it explodes and hurt those around. With the men facing financial difficulty they find it easier to take out their frustrations to their partners physically because they are dealing with a lot that the only way to deal with it is abusing the weaker vessel at their disposal.

4.3.2.5 Economic independency not immunity to abuse.

Domestic violence affects people regardless of race, ethnicity, socio-economic class, sexual and gender identity, religious affiliation, age, immigration status and ability.

Financially freedom does not exempt one from being a victim of domestic violence, and this is supported by the following findings quoted below from the participants:

“When you are working as a woman you are not abused as someone who doesn’t work” (Grace)

“It was bad. He used to beat me like I wasn’t his wife and the mother of his kids. I was employed and sell things on the side to make extra money as he was working but not financially present in the house” (Mologadi)

“However, that does not mean that when you are independent woman you are exempted from being a victim” (Mologadi)

“I was doing my practical and he was the one taking care of the bills as I was staying with him at that time.” (Mahlogonolo)

Based on the above-mentioned responses, it can be concluded that economic independency does not immune young women to abuse, however it does decrease the likeliness of them experiencing abuse and battering. Ballantine et al (2017) state that rural areas have strong patriarchal structures than urban areas, women of upper and middle class have more control over their lives because of their efforts in empowering themselves through education and employment hence have a lower percent of violence.

As Mologadi has alluded that she was working and having an extra source of income, but she was abused by her husband, this shows that abuse defiles the socio-economic status of the potential victims, anyone can be abused and no one is safe from domestic violence as long as they are in intimate relationships they can be victims.

4.3.2.6 Economic status on the first abuse occurrence

The following findings emanated from the responses of the study participants stating their economic status during their first occurrence of domestic violence dose, these are their responses below:

“Unemployed” (Grace)

“I was financially independent.” (Mologadi)

“I was working” (Maria)

“I was a student and unemployed.” (Xiluva)

*“I was a high school learner, unemployed; I was about seventeen years”
(Dineo)*

“I wasn’t working or at school.” (Pearl)

“I was unemployed and not generating income.” (Felicia)

“I was fully dependent on my wife” (Judith)

A conclusion can be drawn from the above-mentioned responses that being economically independent does not exempt you from being abused in any form, as Mologadi and four have alluded that during the first occurrence of abuse they were financially independent, they were employed young women and that did not stop them from being abused.

However, a conclusion can also be drawn that unemployment or rather economic dependency puts young women at a greater risk of being prone to abuse given that six out of the 10 participants were economically dependent on their partners when they experienced their dose of abuse. This is also in agreement with what Bleiweis and Ahmed (2020) suggest that lower-income and financially dependent women are more likely to experience domestic violence.

4.3.2.7 Financial support as a source of entitlement

The findings reveal that men perceive financial support as a source of entitlement to their dependents, resulting in abuse experienced by the dependents leading to oppression of the victims and taking away their individualism. Below is what they stated during the interview:

“Yes, when you are depending on a man financially, he gets tired and start seeing you as a toy that he owns, and he can do anything that he desires.”

(Grace)

“I feel like when you are unemployed you become vulnerable to men with bad intentions, they use and abuse you knowing that you will stay regardless of what they do to you” **(Lethabo)**

“All of that because you are unemployed and not bringing in money in the family or relationship, you are practically owned” **(Lethabo)**

“Giving someone too much power and control over your life they start loving the control and end up not knowing when to stop and let go” **(Mologadi)**

“Yes. Man thinks they own you if they give you money, and if you are unemployed or not earning enough money, you will stay throughout the abuse” **(Maria)**

“Being financially dependent on a man increase your likelihood of being abused as compared to when you are working” **(Xiluva)**

“Yes. Men thinks they own you if they give you money and they can do anything they feel like doing with you” **(Dineo)**

“I had visited him, I was using my phone the whole time and refused to have sex with them, he let that go, he become angry when I didn’t want to cook either because I was angry about him cheating. He started asking who I am talking to that is making me to disrespect him, he smashed my phone saying that he bought it and started slapping me then fists followed, he ended up forcing himself on me after beating me saying it is my duty to satisfy him and he will have sex with me by force because I am his” **(Xiluva)**

“Yes, unemployment leads to dependency and when you depend on somebody, they feel entitled to you, like they own you and when you try to tell them that they don’t own you that’s when they start with their manipulative

*and abusive tendencies just because they are putting food on your table”
(Pearl)*

“Depending on men financially they take advantage of you, they treat you so badly because you are not contributing financially to the relationship. They want to treat you like a child because they are providing for you, they beat you up and sometimes not give you that very some money you are staying for” (Pearl)

“Men love dominion so they can control you, so when you are not working it makes it easy for them to abuse you, the one with an economic power turn to misuse the one who does not, and abuse is brewed easily in such circumstances” (Mahlogonolo)

A conclusion can be drawn from the findings that financial support enables abuse from the supporter to the supported person and because the victims will need the financial support, it forces them to stay and be mistreated especially when they do not have some financial muscles to stretch and sustain themselves without the support of the abuser. Pearl explains that men think they own you if they give you money and they can do anything they feel like doing with you.

A belief in male superiority can manifest in men feeling entitled to sex with women, strict reinforcement of gender roles and hierarchy, women having low social value and power, and associating masculinity with control of women (Selepe et al, 2020). Societal norms, customs, and financial support in favour of men over women are a breeding ground for domestic violence in the community, men get a sense of entitlement over women, seeing them as their properties.

4.3.2.8 Poverty as a reason for relationships

Having no money is a crime against humanity, it leads one to having to do absolutely anything to survive whether it is illegal or unethical just so they can survive and being in unwanted relationships so they can survive and not live in lack. The participants exclaimed as follows:

“It is hunger that got me into the relationship and that kept me there, I had no means so survival and had to make a plan, so I don’t go to bed with an empty stomach” (Lethabo)

“You find it hard to have meaningful relationship because you get into one with the mindset of getting a meal ticket not affection” (Lethabo)

“Being poor is torture to one’s soul or what more when you get inflicted with pain and having to decide whether you protect yourself or get the needs of the children taken care of, and you stop loving and nurturing yourself” (Lethabo)

“Having no money to survive on your own and have no family members to assist you financially results in you being in unnecessary relationships with no love just to get money and they beat up because they feel like you were taking advantage and using them” (Maria)

“Having needs that need money or not having enough money to cover the basics of life, you get to be cornered to stay in unpleasant situations just to temporary escape poverty” (Maria)

“Getting an opportunity to escape hunger and poverty you grab it with both hands and do absolutely anything to keep things that way, get beaten and treated like a slave but I consoled myself that at least I get to feed my family as there is nothing nice with sleeping hungry” (Xiluva)

“We were out drinking and he saw me talking to some guy, he pulled me to the corner outside where we were drinking and slapped me I think 15 times until someone saw that and called people to come to my rescue, I left home

with no food and I was hungry, despite people telling me to go to the police station I couldn't because I didn't want to go back home to nothing and empty handed, from there it was an every weekend thing until I saw that I will die here, then I left.” (Xiluva)

“Looking for stability in provision pushes you to stay in toxic relationships or be in potentially dangerous situation just because you want money to provide for your needs” (Dineo)

“Needing consistency in financial support makes one to stay in abusive relationship, lack of money makes us compromise and stay in bad relationships” (Pearl)

“Being an unemployed graduate was hard and I thought being in a relationship will be my escape of reality, but it made my life more miserable” (Felicia)

“You stay until you come up with a plan of how you will make provision for them” (Mahlogonolo)

“Not having money can make you stay because you have needs to cater for” (Judith)

Based on the above responses, a conclusion can be drawn that lack of financial freedom is a contributory factor and a reason for young financially dependent women to stay in battering relationships. As Pearl stated that needing consistency in financial support makes one to stay in abusive relationship, and lack of money makes the dependents to compromise and stay in bad relationships, this backed up by Adams et al(2013) who argue that some people stay in abusive relationships and be subjected to domestic violence because of lack of financial freedom and economic self-sufficiency. It can be concluded that poverty and economic dependency builds a base for staying in abusive relationships.

4.3.2.9 Poverty is regarded as a devaluing life factor.

The findings reveal that poverty is regarded as a devaluing life factor, those who live below the poverty line do not consider themselves valuable and deserving of respect as a human being. Below is what they stated during the interview:

“Living in poverty makes us vulnerable in the society, we end up having transactional relationships and get to be made to do unspeakable things just so I can be able to put food on the table” (Grace)

“They have the upper financial freedom hand and us getting money from them they don’t see us as their fellow human beings but as an animal” (Lethabo)

“The guy was a real meal ticket for me, and I had to stay through the abuse as he was my survival nest” (Lethabo)

“Not working or having an income will result in someone not valuing you but see you as a toy they can kick and punch whenever they want and stressed” (Mologadi)

“Human beings have physiological needs that need to be gratified, you can do anything to meet those needs and if the needs need money you are forced to stay in dead situation just for the benefits.” (Mologadi)

“Being poor disadvantages you in a lot of things, and it makes you more likely to be taken as a non-human being, you get beaten, get told that you are nothing and you being given money they are doing you a favour” (Dineo)

“It forces us to be fine with anything the provider wants, and no one takes us seriously, we are the first to be blamed for anything and when there is a fight in the relationship you are automatically the one at fault, get to why not be grateful for having someone to take care of you by that time that person beats you like you are not a living person” (Pearl)

“You get your power taken off from you when you need to be taken of and people can take advantage of that and treat you badly because they know you are not going to do anything about the abuse, your rights get violated easily and you are expected to be okay with it because you are getting fed”
(Judith)

Living in poverty is a violation of human rights as it degrades the lives of the individuals who are financially supported by their intimate partners, it takes away the humanly element in the life of the individual especially having to beg and plead with someone to give you something to at least eat. Not having money to fend yourself it impacts how you see yourself and how the world sees and receives you, your life is not worth anything if you do not have money. People abuse you and have you do things that they cannot do themselves taking advantage of the fact that you can do anything for you to get money.

The life of a poor individual gets denoted to a level of currency, even when they complain they are not taken seriously or get heard, their emotions are not catered for instead when they voice out their problems, they get money thrown their way because the supporters do not care about their well-being because to them if they get money, they should be fine. As Maria revealed that they finds themselves having to stay in abuse to avoid poverty, because they do not have a backup plan or other options to run to, that abusive situation ends up being a better choice just to put food on the table, this is in line with what Azhar et al., (2012) argue that the abuse of women It is the worst type of human rights violation that occurs in all nations, cultures, social classes, and ages.

4.3.2.10 Responsibilities and hope for change reason for battering

The results revealed that responsibilities and hope for change are the reason for battering in relationships and initiating relationships for economic sustainability. This was evidenced by the expressions of Grace, Lethabo, Maria, Xiluva, Felicia, Mahlogonolo and Judith. Shown in the following quotations.

“It has been happening since 2011 until 2020, I stayed with a hope that he will change.” (Grace)

“I was completely dependent on him financially to provide for the family. We were fighting all the time, there was no peace, one slap led to another until I ended up on a hospital bed. I filed for divorce after year of staying because of hunger and hoping he will change with no luck of that happening” (Lethabo)

“I continued to stay before even my siblings and extended families are depending on my provision which I needed from a man” (Lethabo)

“It happened when he was drunk and accused me of being unfaithful to him, this followed the verbal abuse he subjected me to, I didn’t tell anyone or open a case because I expected it to happen as got to grow up being told a man should beat you to show his love and care” (Maria)

“I stayed because I needed to provide for my family” (Xiluva)

“Yes, on my side it also because I loved him, and I hoped that he will soon change but he got worse” (Felicia)

“Needing financial support when you are not getting an income can be a factor into staying in an abusive relationship, more especially when there are kids involved because you will want them to go to bed have eaten” (Mahlogonolo)

“I didn’t open a case because I thought we was unnecessary especially because it was for the first time, and I was not too hurt” (Judith)

“Financially dependency is not the reason I stayed in my marriage, it was out of fear of starting afresh and because I love her, I hoped that she will change” (Judith)

The above expression explains that responsibilities and hope for a change or betterment of the abusive relationship they are in and as a result they are not leaving those relationships because they have responsibilities to take care of and some have believed that the perpetrator will change, and they live in peace at the end of the day. Having to choose whether to stay to get provision for yourself as a woman and at times children being involved influences the decision as a victim or abuse make and at times one stays because they believe that their partners will change and be remorseful.

Victims find themselves choosing between homelessness, living in disadvantaged and unsafe communities, or returning to their abusive partners (Halket et al., 2014). This supports that women at times they do not stay in battering relationships because they want to, but situations and responsibilities influences such decisions, with this argued it can be concluded that poverty disadvantages young unemployed women and put them at a risk for experiencing domestic abuse.

4.3.2.11 Women perceived as objects.

The findings reveal that women are objectified by the men who support them financially. The participants outlined how women are perceived as objects by their financial sponsors. Below is what they stated during the interview:

“As you grow men take advantage of you and have sexual relationship then give you money then assist each other like that” (Lethabo)

“I only told our families about it after I landed in hospital, and that was the first time the police were involved, and nothing happened” (Lethabo)

“You get to be seeing as a slave and you must take care of the boss, you get beaten for not doing chores even when you are not feeling well” (Xiluva)

“By making us vulnerable to predators who see us as sex toys who must please them whenever they want or else, they won’t give us money or keep the end of the deal” (Dineo)

“I didn’t even open a case because I knew it was going to be a waste of time because even the nurses that attended to be were not professional at all, the comments they made in front of me were not good I knew I will get victimised for the third time” (Dineo)

“The following morning, I went to the police station to open a case and I was told I should go and get a rape kit and everything they wanted, this was happening when my face was swollen and couldn’t walk properly, told that I am faking it. I went and got reports and the kit, I was still turned back and luckily there was a social worker there who assisted with opening a case” (Pearl)

Based on the above responses a conclusion can be drawn that when men give a women money, they interpret that act as a form of purchase and they can do anything that they want and desire to fulfil in their emotional, physical, and sexual or in any way that they desire. They view such services as an exchange arrangement, they are buying the human rights of the young women with the money that they are giving them. Taking away the young women’s right to say NO to what they do not want and like simply because the men are having the economic power.

As Xiluva revealed that as a recipient of financial support you get to be seeing as a slave and you must take care of the boss, you get beaten for not doing chores even when you are not feeling well, this happens because you are getting financially sponsored by an abuser.

Women who are objectified are less than completely human, to have less mental capacity for reasoning or decision-making, and to be less deserving of moral treatment. It has been discovered that objectifying women has harmful effects, including a rise in the readiness

of men to act sexually aggressively toward them and a decrease in the perceived suffering in situations of sexual assault (Kellie et al, 2019). It can be concluded that receiving financial support from an intimate partner leads to one being objectified in relationships.

Following figure resulted from the data analysed:

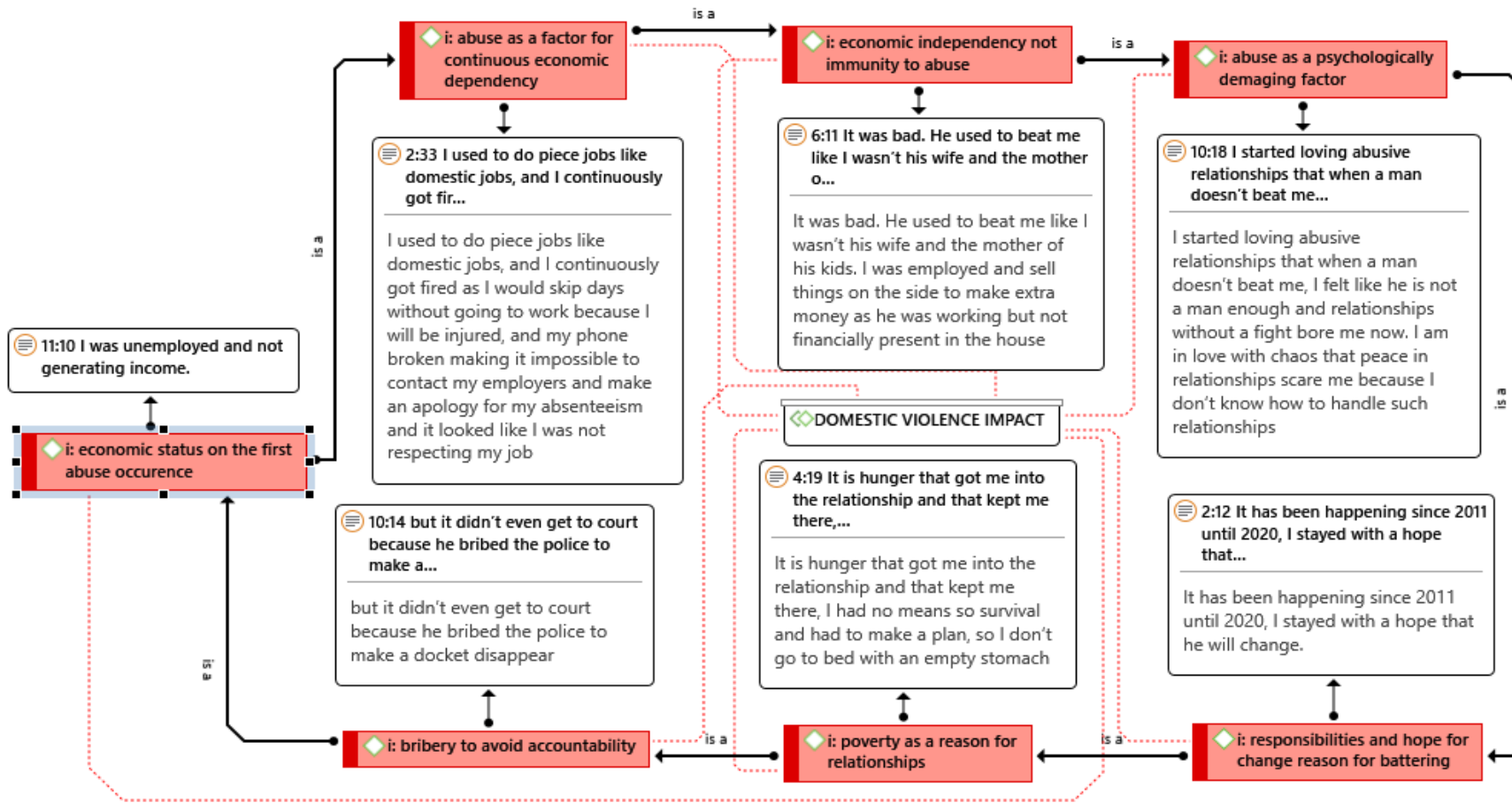


Figure 4.3.2: Domestic violence impact

Source: Domestic violence impact using Atlas.ti

4.3.3. Domestic violence coping strategies for the abused unemployed young women

The young women participants of the study have experienced a lot of challenges during their ordeal. The participants have stated their proposed way of handling and dealing with ordeal, and how desire to be assisted. Following are coping strategies that they outlined with:

4.3.3.1 Abuse punishment

According to the participants in the study, they acknowledge that there are legislations in place to hold perpetrators accountable. The participants, however, and they expressed that harsher punishment for abusers should be implemented as a strategy to combat domestic violence. The following submissions were made to support this by participants:

“By teaching young women to take charge of their lives and the abusers know the certainty of them being punished and made to pay, that way they will stop abusing us or limit as the consequences will be harsh” (Grace)

“They must have zero-tolerance to domestic violence implementation, not an act that they are currently doing” (Mologadi)

“Work with law enforcement to expose perpetrators and take the cases serious when reported” (Dineo)

“Introduce death penalty as a verdict for these crimes, that way the perpetrators won’t be comfortable with hurting and killing us” (Dineo)

“Have strong law/ rules against GBV and sentencing and ensure that the victims are treated with dignity when they go to report the crime” (Judith)

A conclusion can be drawn from the above-mentioned responses that punishment for abuse should be harsh to reduce the frequency of the crime being committed. There should be no chance of escaping punishment for perpetrators, this will ensure that they get scared of committing crime because they know that they will not get away with their crime. They take advantage of corruption in the community and commit criminal offenses knowing that they will not be prosecuted or charged.

Lack of punishment results in lawlessness and disorder, and because of no punishment for abuse the problem is increasing in momentum than decreasing because there are no consequences for harming and hurting the next person. The participants expressed how they do not get justice served by getting the abusers being punished, as Mologadi expressed that the government should have zero-tolerance to domestic violence implementation, not an act that they are currently doing.

Offenders get it easy; they hardly get arrested and prosecuted and if they do they get the best services in health, education, food, electricity, and water for free. This kind of treatment leads to potential offenders not getting scared of being arrested because it will be more of a vacation than a punishment, they get served and get out sooner than they are sentenced. Rights should be accompanied by responsibility for effectiveness and goodwill, lack of punishment and accountability leads to lawlessness which leads an unsafe environment to live in especially for women.

Violation of women should be accounted for and punished to avoid the reoccurrence. Domestic Violence Act No 116 of 1998, Act to ensure that domestic abuse victims receive the best legal protection possible, as well as measures to ensure that the relevant state institutions give the Act's provisions full effect to demonstrate the State's commitment to the abolition of domestic violence. The Act should be utilized for all persons regardless of who the perpetrator is, to give the victims confidence in the justice system (Preamble to the Domestic Violence Act No 116 of 1998). A conclusion can be drawn from the expressions of the victims that there is no harsh punishment or even a mild punishment for the offenders, hence there is a continuous commitment of the violent crime.

4.3.3.2 Stopping perpetrators from using Stopping perpetrators from using bribery to avoid accountability

Lack of accountability aggravates crime because there are no consequences for their actions, perpetrators of domestic violence pay bribes to the SAPS Officers in Acornhoek Village to escape being held accountable for actions by the justice system. The following quotations are the submissions made to support this by the participants:

“Monitor the police officers so they can do their work well because now they hardly take cases seriously and some get bribed because of lack of monitoring” (Grace)

“Should ensure that all cases are taken seriously and are prosecuted not be bribed to make a docket disappear” (Xiluva)

“Have strong policy against bribery because many perpetrators are bribing Police Officers to destroy their dockets” (Pearl)

“They can’t just walk free just because they know someone who works at the police services.” (Mahlogonolo)

Violence in Acornhoek Village is increasing yet the victims of those criminal activities are not getting justice served because the SAPS Officers take bribes from the perpetrators of abuse, leading to the victims not getting the necessary help that they need. The victims have lost faith and trust in the SAPS in Acornhoek because they find it hard to open criminal cases for the perpetrators and if they do, they do not get justice served because of the corruption that is happening in the station.

The officers turn to not be taking GBV cases seriously and give them the necessary attention that they need for different reasons and because they get paid to make cases disappear. When elected politicians, bureaucrats and taxpayers are not held accountable for their wrongdoing, citizens may lose trust in their government. To function properly, government audits need to be able to identify corrupt behaviours and allow citizens and

the justice system to appropriately reward or punish whoever was responsible for the wrongdoing (Bobonis et al, 2016).

4.3.3.3 Capacitated personnels

Training for personnels who work with victims of domestic violence is important so that they get capacitated to handle such delicate cases with so much care, to avoid mediocre service provision.

“Have servant who understand and are passionate about dealing with GBV cases assigned to that section those who will be able to make follow up, so justice get to be served and restore hope for us victims” (Grace)

“Get Police Officers to take these cases serious” (Lethabo)

“Have trained Officers to handle GBV cases to avoid the insensitive continuous way of handling these cases, that way they will take the cases serious and stop turning us back home to fix things” (Felicia)

“Get the police to do their work well” (Mahlogonolo)

“The police officers refrain from turning people back and fix things with their perpetrators” (Judith)

The above-mentioned responses a conclusion can be drawn that there is a need for capacity building for the officials who are to deal and handle the cases of domestic violence because the victims outlined that they were not satisfied with how the Officers handled their cases, to equip them to be responsive, care and give adequate support to the victims. As Grace revealed that it is important to have servants who understand and are passionate about dealing with GBV cases assigned to that section those who will be able to make follow up, so justice get to be served and restore hope for us victims.

There is a need for capacity building for the Police officers. This is supported by the Commission 5 presentation that stated Training and Capacity Building for SAPS Members, Law enforcement officials from Other environment – for example traffic officers,

municipal police, Volunteers in the Victims Friendly Rooms (VFR) and GBV Desks members is needed (SAPS, 2022).

4.3.3.4 Capacity building

Capacity building in form of skills transfer, economic freedom, receiving necessary psychological help, and funds for businesses to be opened and operated by young women is necessary in addressing the scourge of domestic violence. Following quotations are what the participants revealed:

“Be capacitated in skills and knowledge needed to be economically independent, those who want businesses should get services aligned to their goals and those looking for jobs should be assisted” (Mologadi)

“Create opportunities and developmental programmes especially vocational related skills, equip, and see them through the process so they can stand for themselves” (Mologadi)

“Have opportunities available at their disposal and accessible to ordinary citizens with no inside connections. Help them in starting up businesses and finding jobs” (Maria)

“By creating jobs and teaching men that they don’t have to beat up women so they can feel manly” (Xiluva)

“Have sustainable establishments that will focus on skills development and knowledge transferring projects” (Xiluva)

“More places of safety for the victims that will also enable skills transferability” (Mahlogonolo)

“Also, they should be allowed to continue with their studies even when they fall pregnant because there are schools that chases girl children from school when they are pregnant, it makes it hard for them to finish high school and

be skilled so they can be independent mothers or young women”
(Mahlogonolo)

According to the mentioned responses above it can be deduced that capacity building for the victims is a tool to be used to curb the scourge of domestic violence, it will allow them to exercise their power and individualism without fearing losing the hand that feeds them. Getting skill to be employable or funding to start businesses will reduce the statistics of battered women or how often they go back to their abusers because they need financial support.

The victims do not only need financial capacity but need a holistic capacity, catering to the psychological aspect and all spheres of a human being will be effective in giving the abused individual the fighting chance and not stay in unhealthy environments. Having psychological capabilities is essential because it will activate the Willpower to survive the abuse experience and not subject yourself to the abuse longer. Getting young women capacitated and being economically independent will reduce the oftenest of intimate partner violence in Acornhoek because it will reduce the rate of economic dependency on their partners which enables abuse.

Conner (2014) reports that economic dependency is the outcome of sexual division of labour in which primary responsibility for childcare and family work falls to women and charge of securing an income for family falls to men, resulting in a man may turn violent and entitled to his partner just because he is the one on whom the partner depends on financially. Mologadi exclaims that create opportunities and developmental programmes especially vocational related skills, equip, and see them through the process so they can stand for themselves, capacity building is a need in combating violence in the houses and communities and promoting independency.

4.3.3.5 Community involvement to fight abuse.

Participants in the study reported that community involvement in fighting against abuse is a strategy to be used in combating violence in the communities and avoiding the reoccurrence of this ordeal. In support of this, following are submissions from the participants:

“Victims should be offered counselling and encourage the community to not turn a blind eye when they witness a situation of abuse, we should be each other’s keepers and fight against abuse” (Grace)

“Work with law enforcement to expose perpetrators and stop this thing of protecting abusers in the name of wanting to deal with GBV issues as a family because mostly it results in the victim being killed” (Maria)

“Encourage the community to be part in fighting violence, should not act as if they are not aware of what is happening” (Xiluva)

“Have churches and the community as a whole in fighting against GBV, they should protect and be there for the victims by being whistle-blowers” (Felicia)

“Have zero tolerance of GBV and protect one another, never let another person suffer while you are witnessing, if you can’t physically do something at least contact the police and they should take these issues as a serious crime that they are” (Judith)

Based on above-mentioned responses from the participants, it can be stated that the use of Gender Transformative Approach is necessary in the elimination of domestic violence, it is not a fight to be championed by one person, but it needs a collective response to win against this criminality. Men and women in the community should work together to win against this scourge of abuse, the entire community needs to work as a collective to win this war.

Women by themselves cannot win against this beast and subsequently men cannot do it by themselves, the society needs to be on the lookout and protect one another. Felicia states that churches and the community in fighting against GBV, they should protect and be there for the victims by being whistle-blowers. This is in line with what Banks et al, (2008) expresses that major societal issues can't be solved by one agency alone; numerous agencies must work together to solve them. When issues develop, one agency

can only deal with the symptoms; but, when efforts are coordinated throughout agencies, the underlying issue can be dealt with.

4.3.3.6 Economic independency to combat abuse.

Dependency robs an individual of the opportunity to exercise their basic human right, with economic independency one can regain their power back. Hereunder are some of the responses that emerged from the interviews that were conducted for the study:

“Create more skills development opportunities and offer financial support for those who want to start businesses and create more employment opportunities for those who want to be employed and send them to school. Share the importance of financial independence, how it can free them from the abuse.” (Grace)

“We should be assisted with starting up businesses, be in skills, mentorship, and financial support because there is no hope for us without formal education to be employed with this high graduate unemployment” (Grace)

“Do something that they can survive with and not depend on others” (Lethabo)

“Create opportunities and developmental programmes especially vocational related skills, equip, and see them through the process so they can stand for themselves” (Xiluva)

“By having programmes focusing and implementing empowerment projects, skilling the youth and capacitating them to work using their hands or talents to generate money to avoid focusing on getting money from other people” (Judith)

The participants outlined that economic independency put you in a pedestal of being less likely to being at the receiving end of abuse. They can defend themselves or say no to the abusers because they are able to provide for themselves and are not afraid that they will not get money that they need to cover their basic needs from external help. The

abusers get stripped off their “power” when their victims are not sole dependent on them for financial provision, they tread carefully because they know that the victims are not with them because they are in desperate need of their financial support and there might be consequences for their actions.

Independency is necessary in combating abuse in the lives of marginalised group in the country, independency gives them a backbone to be able to stand up for themselves against the abuse. Xiluva revealed that creation of opportunities and developmental programmes especially vocational related skills, equip, and see them through the process so they can stand for themselves and not go back to their abuser because of hunger. Lack of women’s economic standing or independency put women at greater risk for continued violence due to financial dependency on their partners (Bleiweis & Ahmed, 2020). To combat abuse in the society women, need economic independency to reduce the risk of being abused.

4.3.3.7 Support for survivors

Human beings are not islands, support from the next person is an important fact for the full functioning of the individual, more especially for those who are abused. The following are some of the expressions from the participants in support of this:

“People should be encouraged to report the crime and see results of their efforts and should be encouraged to leave abusive relationships and have support offered to them not to go back to the abuser” (Grace)

“Have protected organisations that deals with GBV cases where victims can run to in times of danger and when we need support” (Grace)

“Create safe spaces where victims can open up without being judged and be supported with all kinds of help, they need, their loved ones must not give up on them as much as its boring especially when we keep going back” (Lethabo)

“Create support groups for victims” (Mologadi)

“Have more of GBV prevention campaigns and support groups for the victims and their families” (Xiluva)

“Counselling for victims is important I believe that it will assist victims not to be continuous victims because it will give us courage to walk away.” (Pearl)

Based on the above responses a conclusion can be drawn that holistic support for survivors is essential in combating abuse and for the wellness of the survivors to be well functioning individuals after the ordeal. Emotional support and counselling are a coping strategy that the victims of abuse find effective and necessary for dealing with the experience of abuse. They need motivation and support so they can get their power back and be independent, they need help with getting skills to sustain themselves and live without waiting for handouts from men who take advantage to abuse them. Grace stated that people should be encouraged to report the crime and see results of their efforts and should be encouraged to leave abusive relationships and have support offered to them not to go back to the abuser.

This is congruent with Adams et al(2013) who argue that some people stay in abusive relationships and be subjected to domestic violence because of lack of financial freedom and economic self-sufficiency. The survivors getting financial independency will help the victims of abuse to not stay or go back to abusive environments just for survival and getting sufficient support from family and professional will reduce the rate of victims going back to pain.

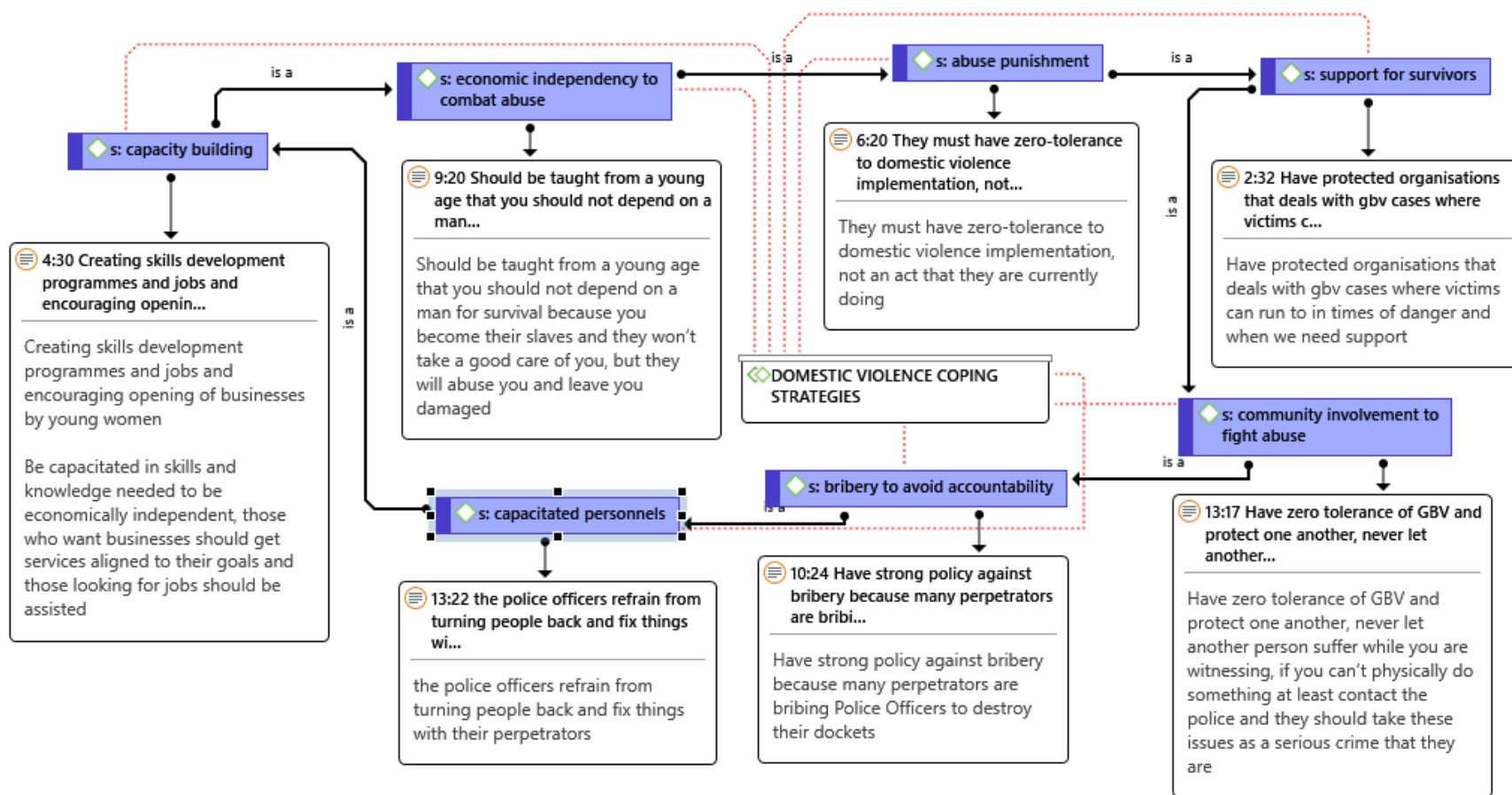


Figure 4.3.3: Domestic violence coping strategies network

Source: Domestic Violence coping strategies using Atlas ti

4.4. Conclusion

This chapter presented the findings which were obtained from ten unemployed abused young women who experienced domestic violence. The demographic information of the participants and a summary of each theme and sub-themes were presented accordingly. Moreover, the major themes and sub-themes that emerged from the study are discussed based on the quotations from the participants supporting the sub-themes which are presented in detail and presented the networks for each theme. The dialogues from the study confirm that people have different views on domestic violence, how to handle the ordeal and the challenges that led them to being victims and the challenges they are facing as survivors of domestic violence, and the kind of help needed to combat violence in the society. The government and the communities need to stand together to fight this scourge of domestic violence.

This study leads to the conclusion that certain factors such as financial dependency and patriarchy are responsible for the outbreak of domestic violence. There is no such escalation of factors as compared to literature. The prevalence of violence domestically and publicly is because of having the economic power, patriarch leading to toxic male dominance and lack of accountability for the crimes committed because of Police Officers' incompetence and bribery. Other factors like lack of competency and skills, education, poverty, and unemployment lead to dependency and enable the infusion of abuse.

Chapter 5: Study Findings, Coping Strategies, Recommendations and Conclusions

5.1. Introduction

This chapter discusses the findings of the study and presents these by integrating them with the existing literature. The chapter also outlines the limitations, recommendations, and conclusion of the study.

5.2. Overview of the Study

This study explored the experiences of abused unemployed young women who are and were victims of domestic violence. Moreover, the study explored the implications of economic dependency and the uncountable stories of domestic violence survivors. This study further explored the writings of other authors regarding domestic violence around the world. It also included the cultural factors and gender scopes that influence domestic violence.

The current study found that majority of young women who are victims of domestic violence are between the ages of 28 and 35. The study findings are validated by what WHO (2021) indicated that worldwide almost one third (twenty seven percent) of women aged 15-49 years who have been in a relationship report that they have been subjected to some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner. Furthermore, the current results revealed that majority of females who experienced domestic violence were unemployed. This is in line with what Anderberg et al, (2015) stated that there is a positive relationship between unemployment and intimate partner violence, they state that male and female unemployment have opposite effects on domestic abuse. An increase in male unemployment decreases the incidence of intimate partner violence, while an increase in female unemployment increases domestic abuse.

Wives with a higher level of education than their husbands were more likely to experience different forms of domestic violence than those with a lower or the same educational level as their husbands (Masaiti et al, 2022). The above quoted findings from the authors are supported by the findings of the current study. The present study found that most of the

survivors of domestic violence are educated with higher education qualification, but they are unemployed, and it results in them being financially dependent on their spouses which increases their chances of being in an abusive relationship or marriage. The study revealed that unemployment is a challenge and contributory factor to domestic violence, and further revealed that young women stay in battering marriages and relationships to preserve and save the unions for the sake of the children and families to avoid demeaning comments of being a failure and not worth of marriage.

Furthermore, the findings revealed that the victims found it hard to open domestic violence cases because the Police Official at Acornhoek Police Station would turn them back to fix issues as a family and if they manage to report the crime, justice is not served, as the perpetrators bribe Officials to make the docket to get lost. The findings further revealed that the victims go back, and some do not attempt to leave their abusers for economic security.

The following figure outlines the overview of the themes that emerged from the data analysis

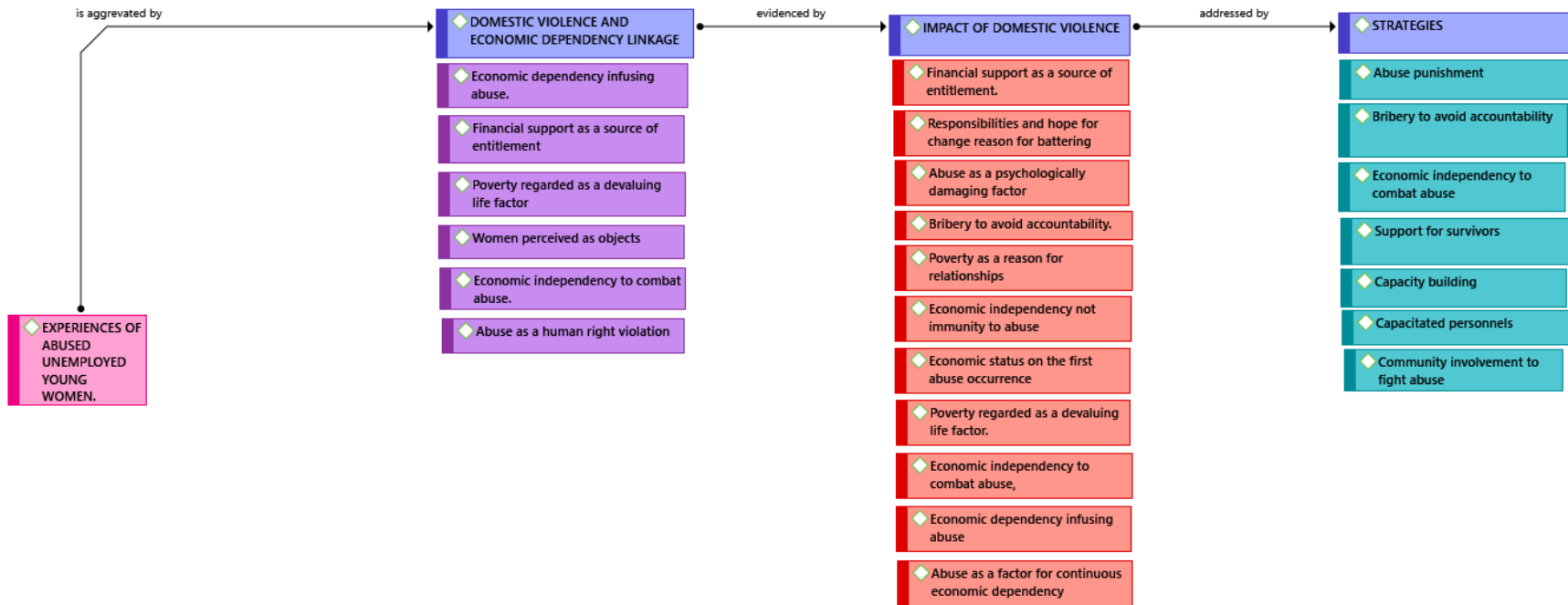


Figure 5.2: Experiences of Abused Unemployed Young Women Model

Source: Experiences of Abused Unemployed Young Women at Acornhoek Village using Atlas ti

5.3. Coping Strategies of Domestic Violence Victims

Following below are some of the coping strategies that emerged from the interviews with the participants.

5.3.1 Support for victims

The study's findings indicate that most participants need support from their social circle and the government to cope with the ordeal they are faced with. The support from their families and friends is vital in coping with the abuse and getting their power back. The families should always have the victims' back and ready to welcome them back home when a need arises. The study findings are in line with what Douglas and Hines, (2011) stated that survivors of domestic violence largely get access to informal sources of help such as friends, relatives and neighbours, and anonymous online support, and ninety percent of the beneficiaries of the services found family and friends helpful. Provision of counselling sessions and more safety shelters or victim empowerment programs is the support the government can provide for the survivors of domestic violence, to be capacitated psychologically to deal with the after effect of the abuse and have somewhere to run to for safety. The participants found the services of Vuwiselo Victim Empowerment Programme very helpful and desire to have more of them for moral support and skills transfer.

5.3.2 Capacitated Police Officials

The present study found that victims of domestic violence were not satisfied with the treatment from the Acornhoek Police Service and would like for the government to provide capacity building to the Officials, so they are able to provide necessary services with compassionate and understanding manner and support the victims than sending them back and being insensitive in a manner that they handle their cases. Freeland et al, (2018) argue that formal services are mostly not readily available or cannot be used by victims experiencing intimate partner violence in a relationship. The stated above builds a ground for the need to build capacity for the officials to be able to provide necessary services to the victims of domestic violence.

5.3.3 Community involvement

The findings of this study reveal that the victims view community involvement as a mechanism to fight and deal with domestic violence. The community members should not look away in an event of violence happening in their space, the community should call the police and report the crime and try to stop the perpetrators from victimizing their partners. There should be forums in the communities that handle domestic violence cases, the tribal committee should be involved in the fight against domestic violence experienced by their residents.

5.3.4 Capacity building

The study's findings reveal that young women are marginalized because of lack of self-economic sustainability. Some are higher learning graduates, but they are not economically independent, and they see a need for skills transfer programmes that will equip them to be financially independent, they need skills to run businesses or help in finding a job so they can be self-sufficient and not stay in battering relationships for economic security.

5.4 GENERAL CONCLUSIONS

This study revealed that the scourge of domestic violence in young women is characterized by physical, psychological, physical, and financial abuse. The ordeal of domestic violence in young women is escalating at an alarming rate both globally and in Acornhoek village. The findings of the current study revealed that economic independence of females as breadwinners seem challenging since in an African perspective a man is a provider and when that does not happen in according to the societal standards it perpetuates to domestic violence, meaning whether a woman is economically independent or not it does not exempt them from being victims of intimate partner violence. The findings reveal that domestic violence at Acornhoek on young women is because of economic dependency, economic frustration from the perpetrator and infidelity in some cases. The social environment is the ground for perpetrating domestic violence and how the victims deal with the ordeal, the perpetrators might have learned their behaviour from their childhood development surroundings that a woman should be beaten in demonstration of love and how the victims react is also grounded by what they grew up being exposed to, that a woman should stay married and not return home once married and should withstand every hardship in marriage because once a woman is married she should die in her matrimonial home instead of divorcing.

In the study, some of the participants did not report their cases of abuse on the first occurrence due to fear of being judged and social stigma, also scared of being turned back to their abusers which was going to aggravate the intensity of the abuse when they do not get help from the South African Police Service facilities. Lack of support from families, the government officials, and responsibilities such as children, subject young women to keep quiet about their experiences of abuse and end up not having the courage to leave the battering relationships and marriages. It is observed from the study that young women are exposed to losing their source of income because of the abuse there are experiencing, some getting destructed at school and not do well academically.

Due to lack of support from service providers such as the Law Enforcement Agents and Psychological Professionals, and the community, the study observed that young women resorted to staying in unhealthy relations for economic sustainability and in fear for their lives when they leave those abusive relationships. Moreover, the study concludes that coping mechanisms such as visiting the victim empowerment centers and seeking support from family and friends are beneficial to the victims. It will further recommend that effective and meaningful awareness campaigns about domestic violence should be

implemented all year long, not only during the 16 days of activism against abuse of women and children only so the victims can receive the necessary psychosocial support and start reporting their cases. Strategy must be developed to address all challenges faced by all survivors of domestic violence in an equal way despite their gender and sexuality. All survivors of domestic violence deserve all necessary concerns, societal assistance, and empathy.

5.5 Limitation of the study

Due to the nature of the study, it was difficult to reach the target of participants at once as some would withdraw from the study without letting the researcher know of such decisions, making it difficult for data gathering as they would disappear. The study used a qualitative research methodology which uses a small sample in nature, hence, it focused on ten young women who experienced domestic violence at Acornhoek Village. Possibly, the use of quantitative study would have increased the sample size and provided a wider experience from the young women who experienced domestic violence. The study used non-probability sampling technique, particularly, purposive to select the samples of the study. In non-probability sampling technique, the researcher selects participants to be included in the study based on the purpose of the study with the full knowledge that the sample may not represent the wider population. The generalizability of this study, therefore, is limited due to the number of participants and the nature of the sampling techniques.

The study did not produce an immediate solution to the social problem of domestic violence that was being investigated. In its place, the study explored on the issues which contribute and influence the existence of domestic Violence and by studying the roots of the problem, it becomes easier to lay a foundation for solutions. Moreover, this study made use of unstructured interview and interviews were conducted in English which is a second language for most of the participants and consequently participants found it difficult to fully express themselves, even after they switched to their home language that limited their expression and voice in the study the switch might have daunted their self-esteem and being comfortable.

5.6 Recommendations

The researcher recommends that the community and the police should actively work together in helping the victims of domestic violence to get out of the abusive relations and taking their power and zeal of life back and not stay in battering situations. overcome their irrational thinking that is combed by remaining in abusive situations. There should be more programmes that support victims of abuse. The researcher further recommends that there should be effective legislation to curb domestic violence against women and children in place and capacitated law enforcement agents who will be professional in handling such sensitive cases and seeing them to completion and justice served and avoiding secondary victimization of the survivors.

More research should be conducted to study the influential factors for young women to stay in unhealthy environment despite their self-sufficiency and what prompts man to be perpetrators of violence, that will help in curbing the scourge of domestic violence. The future research should study the childhood development of the perpetrators to understand more about the root causes of abusive behaviours. The researcher further recommends that awareness campaigns should be implemented about the stigma which is faced by victims of domestic violence especially the married, so that they could be encouraged to seek help, support, counselling and have a healthy way of coping with abuse.

5.7 Summary

This chapter provided the overview of the study, coping strategies, general conclusions, limitations, and recommendations of the study. Even though it is difficult to find willing participants at a go that can participate in a study as victims of abuse the research questions have been answered. Research on domestic violence should be conducted beyond the experiences faced by unemployed young women to uproot the root cause of domestic violence on women and increase more literature which will see financially independent women as also victims of domestic violence because currently literature is limited. It is enough with violence against young women and everyone in South African and the world at large. Communities, churches, and organisations should be ready to listen to the stories that are kept in the closet and a safe space created for the victims to speak up and be safe as they receive the help they need.

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Appendices

Appendix A: Work Plan

ACTIVITY	TARGETED MONTH OF COMPLETION											
	J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
2019												
Draft of research proposal to the supervisor				■	■	■	■	■	■			
Rework and submit research proposal to the supervisor				■	■	■	■	■				
Consultation with the supervisor and departmental presentation												
Working on the corrections from the departmental presentation									■			
Consultation with the supervisor and departmental presentation											■	
Working on the corrections from the departmental presentation											■	■
2020												
Consultations	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■				
Departmental presentation									■			
Working on the correction from the departmental presentation									■	■		
Submission of the corrected and approved proposal by the department to the supervisor and HOD for SHDC presentation.											■	
Sending documents needed by the Research Professor for the SHDC presentation											■	
2021												
Waiting for the SHDC presentation date	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Submission of the proposal to the FHDC for approval										■		
Received feedback from FHDC												■

2022											
Preparing for the ethical clearance application	■										
Submission of ethical clearance application		■									
Waiting for the application's outcome		■	■	■	■	■	■	■			
Submission of proposal for approval by UHDC							■				
Data collection								■			
Data analysis									■		
Discuss results of analysed data									■		
Consultation with the supervisor									■	■	
Submit electronic copy of first draft to the supervisors										■	
Make corrections of comments from supervisors										■	
Submit spiral bound copies of dissertation for examination										■	
2023											
Reworking dissertation using examiner's report and proofreading	■										
Final submission			■								

Appendix B: Budget

Item description	Quantities	Unit cost	Total cost
Travelling expenses			
Travelling from University of Venda to Acornhoek for request of permission and submission of inform consent	1	R480	R480
Travelling from University of Venda to Acornhoek for data collection	2	R480	R960
Subsistence			
Accommodation for Researcher and research assistant	2	R1100 x 15 days	R16500
Meals and refreshments for researcher & assistant	2	R350 x 15 days	R5250
Assistance			
Stipend for research assistant	1	R170/day x 15 days	R2550
Data capturing	1	R260 x 7 days	R1820
Data analysis	1	R350 x 7 days	R2450
Stationary			
Voice records	2	R1000	R2000
External hard drive	1	R1550	R1550
Writing pads	10	R 15	R150
Files	5	R100	R500
Consumables			
Proposal editing	47 pages	R50	R2350
Language editing	120 pages	R50	R6000
Printing			
Research proposal printing	47 pages	R3	R141
Interview guide	10 x 7 pages each	R3	R210

Spiral binding and printing	5	R450	R2250
Final research printing	120 pages X5	R3	R1800
Leather binding	5	R470	R2350
Total			R 49 311