

THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES OF WOMEN IN THE VHEMBE DISTRICT OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE IN SOUTH AFRICA

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DECLARATION



I, FIKILE CRESCENT MADZIMBALALE, hereby declare that the dissertation for the Magister Curationis degree at the University of Venda for Science and Technology hereby submitted has not been submitted for a degree at this or any other university, that it is my work in design and in execution and that all reference material contained therein has been duly acknowledged.

Signature. *F. Madzimbalale*

Date. 31/08/07

THE This study is dedicated to my father, Nndwa Samson Madzimbale and in loving memory of my mother Tina Elsie Nkosi-Madzimbale

The purpose of this study was to explore and describe the domestic violence experiences of women in the Vhembe district. The research design was qualitative, descriptive and exploratory. The study population included all women who experienced domestic violence in the Vhembe district of Limpopo Province, South Africa. Purposive sampling was used to obtain a sample of 12 women who were abused by their husbands and admitted to unit A in a particular hospital.

Participation in this study was voluntary. Anonymity and confidentiality were maintained by using code numbers on participants' responses. Participants' responses were tape-recorded and then transcribed verbatim. The research question used read as follows: Share with me your lived experience of domestic violence. In-depth individual interviews were used to collect data from the participants. Data analysis was carried out using an open-coding method consisting of eight steps provided by Tesch. The findings of the study revealed that the following categories appeared to be most frequently experienced by participants:

- physical violence such as battering, being scarred, burning, suffering fractures and stab wounds;
- psychological/emotional violence including being sworn at, yelled at, mocked, and called names;
- economic violence revealed by money being withheld;
- social violence including isolation, not being allowed to visit or be visited;
- sexual violence such as rape and unprotected sex.

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beating and abuse of women as acceptable. Women need to be empowered through education, employment opportunities, legal literacy, and right to inheritance. Thank the Lord Almighty for providing me with the good health, strength, wisdom and courage to carry out this study.

In conclusion, the findings of the study provided valuable information on the domestic violence experiences of women in the Vhembe district.

I wish to thank my mother for her patience and encouragement throughout this research project. She facilitated all aspects of my study and contributed in no mean measure to its success. Her facilitation, which helped me to understand the issues of this study, will be cherished throughout my career.

I also wish to thank Dr. Lorraine C. O'Connell for editing my work even though she was contacted late to do this work.

I wish to thank my son, Lucky, who encouraged and supported me throughout the entire period of my studies.

Special thanks go to my daughter-in-law, Francinah, for her support throughout my studies.

A big 'thank you' to my grandchildren, Ntanganedzeni, Khathu'shelo and Phindulo, for their understanding and support throughout my studies.

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1.1 INTRODUCTION

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, violence against women continues to be a global epidemic that affects women physically, psychologically, sexually, and economically. It is one of the most pervasive of human rights violations, denying women equality, security, dignity, self-worth and their right to enjoy fundamental freedom (UNICEF, 2000).

Ellsberg (2006) asserts that violence against women is recognised as a grave global public health and development concern, as well as a violation of women's human rights. Violence against women has a devastating effect on women's sexual and reproductive health and is rooted in gender inequality. The most common and well-documented forms of violence against women are intimate partner violence known as *domestic violence*. Furthermore, the author indicates that physical, psychological, social, economic and sexual violence against women are rampant in every country. At least one in every three women experiences violence at some stage in her life, with violence by an intimate partner being reported as the most common.

Literature provides evidence that violence against women is present in every country, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age. Literature and the media report that women suffer physical violence and psychological trauma from their male partners. Violence against women can range from minor to major. Minor violence is, for example, phone calls, name calling, swearing and yelling. Major violence is, for example, gunshot wounds and killing. The family is often equated with sanctuary, a place where individuals seek love, safety, security and shelter. However, the evidence shows that it is also a place that imperils lives, and breeds some of the most drastic forms of

violence perpetrated against women. Most societies perpetuate violence against women, and the reality is that violations of women's human rights are often sanctioned in the name of cultural practices and norms, and through misinterpretation of religions tenets (Ellsberg, 2006; Goosen & Klugman, 1996; Morgan & Bjorkert, 2006; UNICEF, 2000).

Males who are or have been in positions of trust, intimacy and power usually perpetrate violence in the domestic sphere. They can be husbands, boyfriends, fathers, stepfathers or other relatives. In most cases domestic violence is violence perpetrated by men against women. Women can also be violent, but their actions account for a small percentage. When the violation of human rights takes place within the home, as is very often the case, the domestic violence is effectively condoned by the tacit silence of family members and the passiveness displayed by the government that is enforcing the laws (Goosen & Klugman, 1996; UNICEF, 2000).

1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

It is documented that countries are increasingly adopting legislative provisions that address violence against women and children. Laws on domestic violence, marital rape, trafficking in human beings and others have been implemented in many nations including South Africa (Sciencedirect.com/science-accessed on 02 November 2006). The domestic Violence Act (Act no. 116 of 1998) was introduced in South Africa with the aim of affording women protection from physical, psychological, economical, social, and sexual harm, by creating the obligation for law enforcement bodies to protect women as far as possible. The Act sets out a broad range of behaviours that constitute domestic violence, including physical, sexual, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse, stalking, intimidation, harassment, malicious damage to property, unauthorised access to the complainants' property, as well as other forms of controlling behaviour which may cause harm to the safety, health or wellbeing of the complainant. This is supported by the constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act (Act no. 108 of 1996) which states that everyone has the right to equality and freedom and

security. According to Joane (in Goosen & Klugman, 1996) the Domestic Violence Act (Act 116 of 1998) does not give women enough protection, as sometimes men do not honour the protection order. Women are still abused after the issuing of a protection order. Victims of violence often do not talk about their experiences. A woman who is abused may be too embarrassed and humiliated to speak out. It has been observed globally that failure to bring perpetrators to justice is also a major hurdle in tackling violent crimes. For example in England, only one out of 19 men accused of rape will ever be convicted (Sciencedirect.com/science-accessed on 02 November 2006).

Domestic violence results in physical, psychological, social, economic and sexual

For this researcher to build on existing knowledge, it was essential to understand the phenomenon of domestic violence as experienced by women in the Vhembe district of Limpopo Province. The results of the research will be discussed in the light of the relevant literature and information obtained from similar studies.

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1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

discrimination against women by their

husbands, honour or dowry-related violence and sexual exploitation which are

In 1996 the World Health Assembly declared violence to be a public health priority, and followed this up in 2002 with the publication of the World Report on Violence and Health, with in-depth discussions of intimate partner and sexual violence. The efforts of international women's movements to effect this change are reflected in the Millennium Declaration, adopted in September 2000 by the General Assembly of the United Nations which recognised "the promotion of gender equality and empowerment of women" as one of the eight Millennium Development Goals and resolved to combat all forms of violence against women (Ellsberg, 2006).

result of women. Ideally one's family should always exist in an

unit, a place that is safe and satisfying, where one can seek relief from all evil

Despite the implementation of the millennium goals to improve maternal and child health, domestic violence affecting women and children is a problem in many communities of South Africa. Women are exposed to domestic violence because of their vulnerability and dependence on their husbands to whom they

look for respect, protection and support. The socialisation of women as being passive and men as being dominant, sets the stage for abuse of the women. Being passive increases women's vulnerability to abuse. This vulnerability can be characterised in many ways such as by physical and emotional isolation from family and friends. Some women are not aware of their rights, such as freedom, security, and the possibility of a protection order, and this contributes to their being abused by their husbands (Clinard & Meier, 1995; Ellsberg, 2006; Fatter, 1989).

Culturally, for example in South Africa, black women are perceived as Domestic violence results in physical, psychological, social, economic and sexual harm to women and includes threats, coercion and arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or their private lives. Violence against women includes acts that take place in the home or the community as well as acts that are perpetrated by men. In many parts of the world domestic violence is expressed in different manners according to cultural and historical circumstances, for example, neglect and discrimination against women by their husbands, honour or dowry-related violence and sexual exploitation which are rooted in women's lack of power in relationships and in society relative to men (Ellsberg, 2006).

Historically, it has not been considered deviant for husbands to beat their wives on occasion and within certain limits. Ideologies that permitted husbands to be the "heads of the household", and to manage their wives' affairs, extended such control over them. Husbands, in some historical sense, were obliged to exercise physical control over their wives. It is a far cry from these historical roots to modern physical assault of women. Ideally one's family should always exist in an oasis, a place that is safe and satisfying, where one can seek relief from and aid in dealing with the often stressful demands of the outside world. In many cases today the family setting is just the opposite. It contains levels of tension, conflict and violence to which flight might be the only rational response (Neubeck & Neubeck, 1997; UNICEF, 2000).

Literature asserts that violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power between men and women which has led to domination of and discrimination against women by men, and to prevention of the full advancement of women. Women sometimes defend the men who beat them, saying they deserve to be beaten for not listening to their husbands. They argue that this is traditional and therefore acceptable behaviour (Goosen & Klugman, 1996; UNICEF, 2000).

Culturally, for example in South Africa, black women are perceived as subordinate and inferior and are not expected to take part in decision making. They are submissive, and as a result they are often unaware of the freedom they could experience. In the past women were assigned a low status in the community. Men from all walks of life, culture and races practise violence and harassment to oppress and control women. Cultural ideologies both in industrialised and developing countries provide “legitimacy” for violence against women in certain circumstances. Religious and historical traditions in the past have sanctioned the chastening and the beating of wives. The physical punishment of wives has been particularly sanctioned under the notion of entitlement and ownership of women. Male control of family wealth inevitably places decision-making authority in male hands, leading to male dominance and proprietary rights over women. The concept of ownership, in turn, legitimises control over women’s sexuality, which in many law codes has been deemed essential to ensure patrilineal inheritance (McKendrick & Hoffman, 1990; UNICEF, 2000).

The World Health Report (2002) indicates that intimate-partner violence is the most common form of violence against women and is performed by a husband or partner. Most victims of physical aggression such as women and children are subjected to multiple acts of violence over extended periods of time. They also tend to suffer from more than one type of abuse, for example, physical, psychological, and spiritual abuse. It is assumed that rates of abuse are higher

among women whose husbands had either themselves been beaten or had witnessed their mothers' being beaten.



Morgan & Bjorkert (2006) reveal that the issue of violence against women was highlighted by the second wave of feminism in the 1960s and 1970s when feminist writers, particularly radical feminists, made a valuable contribution towards highlighting the issue of male violence against women and its association with male power and control. Power came to be analysed by feminists as a relation that structured the interaction between men and women in all aspects of social life and explicit violence as a response to the failure of other forms of control. The researchers also reveal that violent men felt that they should control almost every aspect of the household organisation, from where the clock stood on the mantelpiece to how often the windows were cleaned. It is these perceptions and realities that result in women's experiencing domestic violence feeling that they have to be constantly aware of their environment, watching and checking the behaviour of their husbands, trying to predict their motives and actions.

According to Clinard and Meier (1995) and Haralambos and Holborn (2000), women make up about 95% of the victimisation from spouse abuse, because the greater physical size and strength of men makes them more dangerous abusers. As a result, women are more likely to be seriously injured in an incidence of domestic violence. It is reported that the family is another area where men express different types of masculinity and dominance over women. Powerless men use wife beating, violence, rape and even murder to reassert masculine control when women threaten their masculinity. It is assumed that much violence occurs when the man perceives that his wife has not carried out her duties, obeyed his orders, or shown him adequate respect. Such assertions of masculine control occur in all types of families, ethnic groups and classes.

Domestic violence has been associated with certain factors such as the presence of alcohol, husbands who are under economic stress, and families marked by interpersonal conflict. Another factor may be the proximity of the male family members. The nearer in distance the wife's family of origin, the less likely the wife is to be abused. Domestic violence may appear to be the product of a combination of frustration and lack of resources. It also seems that those people who resort to violence learn it from their parents (Clinard & Meier, 1995; Morgan & Bjorkert, 2006; Sullivan, Thomas, Wright, Gross & Spandy, 1980).

The World Health Report (2002) reveals that alcohol abuse, low income and conflict or discordant relationships are also important factors. Women are particularly vulnerable to being abused by their partners where there are marked inequalities between men and women, rigid gender roles and normal cultural support of the man's right to inflict violence on his partner. Young age, low income, low academic achievement and involvement in delinquent behaviour as an adolescent have been linked to a man's risk of being physically assaulted by his intimate partner.

Domestic violence could lead to consequences such as depression, suicide attempts and post-traumatic stress disorder. Abuse is used to diminish a person's sense of self-worth and independence. People that are told that they are "worthless" or "nothing" again and again, begin to believe that this is the truth. Many people do not realise that they are being emotionally abused. Because they have been brought up with it, they think it is a normal part of relationships and, in turn, they emotionally abuse others (Goosen & Klugman, 1996; Tyuku, 2000). The above statement is supported by Ngweni (2000) who cites that violence against women points to the disruption of family ties between children and parents. The woman is sometimes forced to flee from her own home because of violence. She becomes disoriented because her role has lost definition. Separation is sometimes necessary because family intimacy is no longer possible. However, women in relationships involving violence often find it

difficult to leave the household for a variety of economic and social reasons, including their responsibility for their children. On the basis of this background it is imperative to conduct research on the domestic violence experiences of women in the Vhembe district of Limpopo Province.

1.3 PROBLEM STATEMENT

The electronic media, press and other sources confirm that South Africa is a country ravaged by wide-spread violence against women. In many instances women, particularly in black communities, are abused because they have been socialised to play a dependent role which has been established and perpetuated by society. Society appears to condone women's being abused through its refusal to acknowledge the existence and severity of the experiences of abuse. The extent of male violence against women is not easy to measure. Quite often women do not report the attacks to the police, especially if the attacker is the husband, since they fear further violence from their abusers. In addition, it seems that police officers are reluctant to intervene in cases which they define as domestic violence.

This raises the research question: ***“What are the domestic violence experiences of women in the Vhembe district of Limpopo Province?”***

1.4 THE PURPOSE OF THE STUDY

The purpose of the study was to explore and describe the domestic violence experiences of women in the Vhembe district.

1.5 OBJECTIVES

The specific objectives of the study are to:

- explore and describe the domestic violence experiences of women in the Vhembe district;
- develop guidelines that will provide women with information on how to cope with domestic violence.

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The findings of the study will:

- contribute to the quality of life of individual women by making them aware of various forms of domestic violence;
- be communicated to various structures in the community by the researcher, for example trauma unit A, Vhembe district municipality, the police, social workers and health centres for the purpose of increasing awareness that they must participate in the prevention of domestic violence;
- contribute to formulating programmes against domestic violence, for example campaigns and demonstrations, and to influence hearing commissions where women will share their experiences.

1.7 DEFINITION OF CONCEPTS

Violence

Violence refers to anything that a person experiences which affects her physical, psychological, emotional and spiritual well-being (Fawler & Fawler, 1995).

This study refers to what women experience as unruly behaviour by their male partners, which affects their physical, emotional, social and spiritual well-being in their families.

Experience



Experience is actual observation of or practical acquaintance with facts (Fawler & Fawler, 1995). According to the Oxford English Dictionary, experience is an event or activity that affects one in some way and that has given one an unpleasant feeling. In this study experience is what women regard as events that affect their physical, emotional, social, psychological and spiritual well-being.

Woman

A woman is an adult human female (Fawler & Fawler, 1995).

In this study a woman is referred to as a person who lives with a male partner regardless of the type of relationship they are engaged in and who experience domestic violence.

1.8 ASSUMPTIONS

Meta-theoretical assumptions

According to De Vos (2001), assumptions are basic principles that are accepted to be true, based on basic logic or reasons without proof or verification. The researcher assumed that domestic violence lowered the health status of the women in Vhembe district. Women are exposed to psychological and physical trauma. The psychological trauma that women experience after domestic violence may include night terror and nightmares, fear and anxiety, depression, suspiciousness, social withdrawal, alienation, irritability, humiliation and embarrassment. Their physical trauma includes, for example, pain, nervousness, insomnia and weakness, tension headaches, and various gastrointestinal disturbances such as nausea and vomiting. The meta-theoretical assumptions will be evaluated to determine whether they support or refute the findings of the study (Carson, Butcher & Mineka, 2000).

Holistic approach

According to the social disorganisation theory used by Shaw and Mackey (2000), a family is viewed in terms of norms and behaviour. In this view the stability of any family depends on consensus about what is expected of individuals within the family. If the husband and the wife agree on what is appropriate and inappropriate behaviour, the family is stable, but when the consensus between the husband and the wife breaks down, and when the existing norms of behaviour no longer hold, the family is said to be in a state of social disorganisation. In this study it was established that women who experienced domestic violence were subjected to family disorganisation because their husbands had broken the norms of behaviour in the family (Lauer, 1995). The theory is supported by Wiedenbach in George (1985) who states that the human being basically strives towards self-direction and relative independence and desires to make the best use of his capabilities, potentialities, and to fulfil his responsibilities. Men as heads of families have the responsibility to love and respect their wives. They are to show *ubuntu*, and protect and support their wives. This study aims at exploring the women's lived experiences of domestic violence in their marriages.

1.10 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Research design

The research design of this study was qualitative, exploratory and descriptive. The researcher intended to describe the lived experiences of domestic violence by women in Vhembe district, using the phenomenological approach. The design should describe what women experience in regard to the phenomenon of domestic violence and what meaning the experiences hold for them (Brink, 2001; Babbie & Mouton, 2002).

1.11 POPULATION AND SAMPLING



Population

In this study the population consisted of all women who experience domestic violence in Vhembe district. The accessible participants were those who made use of the trauma unit A in the Vhembe district. The trauma unit A serves Thohoyandou, Mutale, Musina and Makhado regions. The participants were selected from clients who were still undergoing counselling sessions.

Sampling method

Participants were selected by means of purposive sampling. Only those who met the sampling criteria were selected, such as those who had experienced domestic violence, had been admitted at the trauma unit A and resided in the Vhembe district, so that it was possible to keep contact throughout the study and to facilitate the interpretation of the findings, had been living with a male partner and spoke and understood Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Isizulu, Sepedi or English, since these were the languages in which the researcher was conversant.

Sample size

The trauma unit admits an average of five (5) affected women per week. Two (2) women were interviewed per week. In this study twelve (12) women were interviewed over a period of six (6) weeks.

1.12 DATA COLLECTION

Arrangement was made with each participant for an interview. Some participants were interviewed in unit A but those who did not want to be interviewed in the trauma unit were interviewed under the trees. One central question was posed.

What are your experiences of domestic violence in your marriage?



In-depth interviews were conducted, using a tape recorder. The participants were shown the tape recorder and the button to switch it off if the participant did not want certain information to be recorded during the interview. The aim of these interviews was to allow the participants to speak freely and on their own terms about their lived experiences of domestic violence. Each participant was told that the duration of the interview would be one hour and thirty minutes because of the sensitivity of the question asked. Sometimes the participants cried or paused. The researcher used facilitating communication techniques such as minimal responding, clarification and rephrasing to encourage the abused women to speak openly and freely about their experiences (Minichiello, Aroni, Timewell & Alexander, 1991; De Vos, 2001; Babbie & Mouton, 2002).

Follow-up interviews were conducted with some of the participants to validate the participants' frame of reference. Field-notes were written which described the researcher's observations and experiences during the interviews, and were kept in the researcher's office drawer under lock and key (Minichiello et al., 1991).

1.13 ENSURING TRUSTWORTHINESS

The principles outlined by Lincoln & Guba (1985) were followed to ensure the trustworthiness of the study. Credibility was achieved through spending time with each participant to gain her confidence. The participant was instructed to turn the tape recorder off if she felt uncomfortable being recorded. Participants were purposively sampled and, entering into the third session of interviewing women, prolonged the engagement, increased probing of information and enhanced data saturation. Tape recordings as well as written dialogues during interviews increased the confirmability of the research. Transferability was ensured by complete description of methodology. In-depth literature control on the topic of

the study and verbatim quotes cited in the findings will enable readers to do self-evaluation of their own experiences of domestic violence.



1.14 PILOT STUDY

The pilot study was conducted using two participants found in the trauma unit A. The two participants did not form part of the main study. The pilot study was also conducted to determine whether the proposed study was feasible. The results added value, led to the refinement of the methodology, and to the rephrasing of the question posed (Burns & Grove, 2001).

1.15 DATA ANALYSIS

In this study data analysis started during the data collection process when interviews were conducted. Records were maintained and constantly reviewed. This view is supported by Streubert and Carpenter (1999) who indicate that analysis of qualitative data is a hands-on process and that researchers must become deeply involved in the data. The process of data analysis took the form of clustering similar data to develop themes.

In this study a data analysis guide developed by Giorgie (1985) and Tesch (in Creswell, 2003) was applied. Tesch provides the following eight steps that are to be considered when analysing qualitative data: getting a sense of the whole; picking one interesting document; making a list of topics; clustering together similar topics; looking for the most descriptive wording; making the final decision; assembling data belonging together and recording existing data.

1.16 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

The following ethical considerations were observed:

- Ethical clearance was sought from the Health, Safety and Research Ethics Committee of the University of Venda for Science and Technology.
- Permission to conduct research was sought from the Department of Health and Social Development of Limpopo Province.
- Individual participants were asked verbally to sign consent forms in order to participate in the study.
- Permission to interview the participants was requested from Trauma unit A in a particular hospital.

In this study the rights of the participants were protected by maintaining the ethical standards as stipulated in the ethical standards for nurse researchers set out by the Democratic Nurses Organisation of South Africa (1998).

1.17 SUMMARY

The chapter described the context of, introduction to and background of the study, problem statement, as well as the purpose, objectives and significance of the study. The research question was explained and concepts were defined. The assumptions of the study, its theoretical perspective, research methodology, population, sampling, data collection, how trustworthiness was ensured, the pilot study, data analysis, ethical consideration, summary and sequence of chapters all formed part of this chapter.

1.18 SEQUENCE OF CHAPTERS

The chapters were organised as follows:

Chapter 1 discussed the overview of the study, background of the problem, problem statement, purpose of the study, objective of the study, the significance of the study, the research question and the definition of terms.

Chapter 2 explained the research methodology used in the study.

Chapter 3 discussed the findings and literature control.

Chapter 4 provided guidelines to inform women how to cope with domestic violence, explained the limitations of the study and recommendations, and included a list of references and annexures.

2.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter the purpose of the study, its objectives, research design, population, and sampling method, data collection, ensuring trustworthiness, pilot study, findings, data analysis and ethical considerations are described. The purpose of the study was to explore and describe the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district.

The objectives of the study were to:

- explore and describe the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district; and
- develop guidelines that would inform women how to cope with domestic violence.

2.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

The research design of this study was qualitative, exploratory and descriptive in nature, and the phenomenological approach was used.

2.2.1 Qualitative research

Qualitative research is a systematic subjective approach used to describe life experiences and give meaning (Burns & Grove, 2001). Its subjectivity is due to the fact that participants are able to express their feelings and views about their

CHAPTER 2 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

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2.2.1 Qualitative research

Qualitative research is a systematic subjective approach used to describe life experiences and give meaning (Burns & Grove, 2001). Its subjectivity is due to the fact that participants are able to express their feelings and views about their

experiences. The methods of data collection involve active participation by participants and sensitivity to the participants in the study. The researcher seeks to build rapport and credibility with the individuals in the study (Creswell, 2003).

Qualitative research takes place in the natural setting. The qualitative researcher often goes to the site, for example, home or office of the participant to conduct the research (Creswell, 2003). In this study the right to privacy of the participants was respected by making arrangements with each participant to conduct interviews in a quiet place under the trees. This enabled the researcher to achieve a level of intimacy with the individual and to be highly involved in the actual experiences of the participants (Creswell, 2003).

The qualitative researcher uses multiple methods that are interactive and humanistic. The methods of data collection involve active participation by participants and sensitivity to the participants in the study. Qualitative researchers look for involvement of the participants in data collection and seek to build rapport and credibility with the individual participant in the study. The actual methods of data collection are traditionally based on open-ended observation, interviews and documents (Creswell, 2003). In this study rapport was established by making the participant feel at ease because it was the first contact. Communication techniques that were used were probing questions to elicit information.

Qualitative research is fundamentally interpretive. This means that the researcher makes an interpretation of the data which includes developing a description of an individual or setting, analysing data for themes and categories and finally making an interpretation or drawing conclusions about the meaning, personally and theoretically, stating the lessons learned and offering further questions to be asked (Creswell, 2003). In this study the researcher was able to collect information about the experiences of domestic violence by women, and to describe and interpret the phenomenon.

The qualitative researcher views social phenomena holistically. This explains why qualitative research studies appear as broad panoramic views rather than microanalyses. The more complex, interactive and encompassing the narrative, the better the qualitative study. Visual models of many facets of a process or central phenomenon aid in establishing this holistic picture (Creswell, 2003).

Exploration is scrutinizing an unknown phenomenon for the purpose of discovery.

The qualitative researcher systematically reflects on who he/she is in the inquiry and is sensitive to his/her personal biography and how it shapes the study. This introspection and acknowledgement of biases, values and interests typifies qualitative research today. The personal-self becomes inseparable from the researcher-self. It also represents honesty and openness to research, acknowledging that all inquiry is laden with values (Creswell, 2003).

Violence by women in the Vhembe district.

This study was concerned with exploring the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district. Each woman experienced each situation differently. Qualitative design was therefore suitable for the understanding of human experiences (Burns & Grove, 2001). Qualitative research enabled the researcher to explore the experiences of domestic violence as perceived and defined by women. It allowed women to speak for themselves, thereby emphasising their human capacity. Women experiencing domestic violence described their life experiences while the researcher listened to the experiences, comprehended and attached meaning to the information using intuition and bracketing. Creswell (2003) indicates that qualitative research utilises the researcher and participants as the main instruments for data collection and analysis. In this study women were the main people to generate information during interviews and the researcher asked questions. Women were given a chance to relate all their experiences without restriction. However, not all women were able to relate their experiences. Probing and encouraging the women to talk overcame this. Women view marriage and the family as the foundation for a healthy social order. Because of the relationship between the wife and the

husband, the wife sees herself as a bad person who deserves to be abused by her husband.



2.2.2 Exploratory research

Exploration is scrutinising an unknown phenomenon for the purpose of discovery. Explorative studies examine relatively unknown phenomena in order to gain new insights and to understand the phenomena with the aim to determine priorities for further research (De Vos, 2001). The challenge with this method is the preconceived ideas which the researcher might have. The researcher overcame this by preparing herself not to allow preconceived ideas to influence the research. This study was concerned with exploring the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district.

2.2.3 Descriptive research

According to Brink and Wood (1994), descriptive research is a process whereby the researcher is interested in the meaning and the understanding gained through words, tables and charts. Descriptive research is a means of discovering new meaning, describing what exists, determining the frequency with which something occurs, and categorising information. The researcher was able to collect information about experiences of domestic violence, describe and classify the phenomenon under study (De Vos 2001; Babbie & Mouton 2002; Burns & Grove, 2001). Based on the results obtained from the interviews, guidelines were described for the women in order to inform them about the forms of violence, their effects, and how to mobilise themselves, utilise the resources that are available in the community and to fight against domestic violence in the Vhembe district.

2.2.4 Phenomenological approach

Phenomenological studies examine human experience through the descriptions that are provided by the people involved. These experiences are called lived experiences. The purpose of phenomenological research is to describe what people experience with regard to some phenomena and how they interpret those experiences; or what meaning the experiences hold for them. The phenomenological method of data collection involves an attempt to reach the participants' lived-in world through the description of experience without consideration of its origin or causes, and results in an interpretative narrative that describes the meanings as comprehensively as possible (Burns & Grove, 2001). In this study the focus of phenomenology was to enquire what women experienced with regard to domestic violence and how they interpreted those experiences. Inquiry included learning about the experiences and gathering information from the women under study through in-depth interviews.

The following points are particularly important to phenomenological research:

- the acceptance of the validity of the participants' descriptions of the experiences and the understanding that the stories emerge out of the unique context of their conversation;
- the use of the researcher's perspectives of the experience of the phenomenon;
- the use of other resources to understand and contextualise the phenomenon;
- the bringing together of participants, researcher and other sources in the interpretation of the phenomenon;
- the provision of an interpretative narrative illustrated by concrete examples in anecdotal form;
- recognition that the experience being described resonates with the reader's understanding of what it is, or what it might be, to experience a life in the context (Schneider, Elliot, Lo-Biondo-Wood & Haber, 2004).

Ethical issues related to phenomenological research



The ethical issues related to qualitative research are applicable to phenomenological studies. There are some specific concerns that need to be considered. Often the phenomena that researchers explore are sensitive human experiences. The timeliness of the research for the researcher needs to be considered. Researchers who undertake phenomenological studies are concerned about the research question. While immersed in the study, they need to be able to stand back enough to allow new perspectives to emerge. Researchers also need to consider the appropriate time for participants to be invited. The participants' sensitivity related to the experiences of the phenomena needs to be considered. The process of interviewing may be emotional for both the researcher and the participant. Participants in the phenomenological research often identify the fact that the process is therapeutic, but the researcher needs to consider how they will handle emotional distress if it arises (Schneider et al., 2004).

Skills required for phenomenological research

Many skills are required in the conduct of phenomenological research, including philosophical understanding, attention to detail relating to the study, interviewing skills, interpretative skills, and the ability to write descriptively (Schneider et al., 2004).

Philosophical understanding

Understanding phenomenological research requires a commitment to philosophical understanding. Researchers need to be able to:

- reflect on what it means to be a person in the world;

- reflect on one's own experience and explore one's own understandings of the phenomenon;
- think beyond the 'proving of facts' to a desire to understand the experiences of self and others, of a phenomenon, in a particular context;
- have sufficient understanding of the phenomenological framework in order to explicate how it forms the methods and the findings of the study (Schneider et al., 2004)

Attention to detail

Phenomenological research requires the meticulous recording of details related to the study, such as thoughts and decisions about the research question, the sources that are used to provide a background context, the researcher's own perspective, the selection of participants, the data collection process, and the interpretative process (Schneider et al., 2004).

Interviewing skills

Researchers need to have skills in interviewing. The researcher enters into a partnership with participants to explore the phenomenon within that person's experience. The researcher needs to keep the interview focused on the phenomenon while allowing the participants to explore what may be important to them about the phenomenon. The researcher needs to be able to encourage exploration of the meaning of the experience of the phenomenon for the person and to ask for concrete examples that can help illuminate its meaning (Schneider et al., 2004).

Interpretative skills

Phenomenological studies are interpretative from the beginning to the end. The researcher first of all identifies the phenomenon and asks the question, and in so

doing, interprets it as an important question to ask. The exploration of a range of sources related to a phenomenon is an interpretative process that refines the phenomenon and experience through which it can be revealed. The process of interviewing is an interpretative process that brings together the researcher's perspective and that of the participants. It is because of the researcher's perspective that the researcher can ask the questions that allow the experience of the phenomena to be explored. The researcher interprets the transcribed interview in the light of his/her understanding and that provided from other sources. The researcher uses the interpretative process to identify the implications of this new understanding of the phenomenon (Schneider et al., 2004).

Writing skills

Phenomenological research is a writing-skill project. The product of the research is the final written interpretation of the experience of the phenomena. Researchers need to be able to write descriptively, and have a strong affinity for the imaginative use of language in order to illuminate the phenomenon in such a way as to provide a new way of seeing this phenomenon (Schneider et al., 2004). In this study the focus of phenomenology was to enquire what women experience with regard to domestic violence and how they interpret those experiences. Inquiry includes learning about the experiences and gathering information from the women under study through in-depth interviews.

Bracketing



Bracketing is the process of identifying and setting aside any preconceived beliefs and opinions one might have about a phenomenon under study (Brink, 2001). In this study the researcher held in abeyance any preconceived beliefs and opinions that she might have had about the phenomenon under study in an effort to confront the data in pure form.

Intuiting

Intuiting occurs when the researcher tries to develop an awareness of lived experience without forcing prior expectations or knowledge in the process. Intuiting requires the researcher to become totally immersed in the phenomenon under investigation, and is the process whereby the researcher is beginning to know about the phenomenon as described by the participants (Brink, 2001). In this study the researcher remained open to the meanings attributed to domestic violence experienced by women in the Vhembe district.

2.3 POPULATION AND SAMPLING METHODS OF THE STUDY

Population

Population is referred to as the entire group of people that meet a designated set of criteria (De Vos, 2001; Burns & Grove, 2001). In this study the population was all women who experienced domestic violence in the Vhembe district.

Target population

Target population is the entire population or set of individuals in which the researcher is interested (De Vos, 2001). In this study the target population was women who lived with a male partner, irrespective of the type of marriage they

were engaged in and who experienced domestic violence. Women often regard 'home' as a haven of security and happiness. However, domestic violence in the context of the home is part of the experience of many women.

Accessible population

An accessible population is that portion of the target population to which the researcher has reasonable access. The population is accessible to the researcher as a pool of participants for the study (Burns & Grove, 2001). In this study the accessible population was those participants who used the trauma unit A in a particular hospital. Trauma unit A serves Thohoyandou, Mutale, Musina and Louis Trichardt regions. The participants were identified from those clients who were still undergoing counselling sessions at the trauma unit.

Sampling method

Sampling refers to a process of selecting a portion of the population to represent the entire population. Participants were selected by means of purposive sampling. Purposive sampling involves the conscious selection by the researcher of certain participants who meet the selection criteria (Burns & Grove, 2001). In using non-purposive sampling every element of the population has an equal opportunity of being selected as part of the sample, but the researcher decided purposely to select those participants who were typically abused by their husbands and admitted to trauma unit A.

Sampling criteria

For the women to be included in the sample they had to meet the following criteria:

- They had been admitted to the trauma unit.

- They resided in the Vhembe district as it would be possible to keep contact throughout the study and to facilitate interpretation of the findings.
- They were living with a male partner.
- They were able to speak and understand Tshivenda, Xitsonga, isiZulu, Sepedi or English, since these were the languages in which the researcher was conversant.

During the interview no problems were encountered in speaking and understanding the above-mentioned languages, therefore no interpreter was needed.

Sample size

Sample size is the number of participants needed in the study. In this study two women were interviewed per week. Twelve women were therefore interviewed over the period of six weeks. The sample size proved to be adequate when the researcher experienced redundancy in the participants' descriptions. Participants were interviewed until data saturation was reached as demonstrated by repetition of themes (Burns & Grove, 2001).

2.4 DATA COLLECTION METHOD

The unstructured interview was the method used in this study. An unstructured interview is sometimes referred to as an in-depth interview because it extends and formalises conversation between the participant and the researcher. The purpose of an unstructured interview is to allow the researcher to understand the experiences of other people and the meaning they make of that experience (Mckey, 2005). The interview were conducted without utilising any of the researcher's prior information, experiences or opinions in a particular area in order to understand women as human beings who deserve love, security and respect. In this study the unstructured interview was used for the researcher to

understand the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district. The advantages of an unstructured interview are that it is focused and allows the participants and the researcher to explore what it is like to be a victim of domestic violence which leads to disorganisation of the family. It is a challenge in an unstructured interview to maintain a balance between flexibility and consistency in data collection. Flexibility is essential for discovering and eliciting the participant's story. Consistency in the type of question asked is essential (De Vos, 2001).

2.5 DATA COLLECTION PROCESS

The phenomenological interviews were conducted to give the women the opportunity to describe their lived experiences from their own perspective. It was important that the method of data collection should allow women the freedom to talk (Minichiello et al., 1991; Burns & Grove, 2001). In conducting a phenomenological study it is necessary to pose one question and allow the participant to approach it from her point of view. The researcher's question used in this study was, **"Please share with me what your lived experience is of domestic violence."** It became clear, however, even before data collection was started, that the direct translation into Tshivenda meant different things to different participants. For example, when listening to the participants talking, the word "violence" meant only the physical aspect, leaving out the other dimensions of experience, for example experiences of psychological/emotional, economic, social and sexual violence. It became necessary during the interviews to rechannel the participants' attention to focus on whole experiences. It also became clear in all the interviews that it was impossible to complete the interview without interruption from the participants. This necessitated stopping the interviews for some time and then re-starting again. These inferences may possibly have given rise to the participants' forgetting useful information. The function of the researcher was to guide the interview around the research question and to encourage the participants to talk. The researcher created an

atmosphere conducive to allowing sufficient time to facilitate a complete description of the experiences by the women (Minichiello et al., 1991).

To identify problems early in the study, a pilot study was conducted using two

In this study the researcher adopted the methods suggested in the literature, which facilitated the creation of an atmosphere conducive to the needs of the research. The facilitative techniques were building rapport, and communication between the researcher and the participants. Rapport was established by making the participants feel at ease because it was the first contact. The researchers achieved this by first introducing herself and informing the participant about the study and what it involved. Before the real interview, the researcher conducted an informal conversation about general issues in order to gain the participants' confidence and trust, and then the central question was asked. The interview was conducted in the language preferred by the participant, that is, Tshivenda, Xitsonga, Zulu, Sepedi or English. Communication techniques that were used were probing questions to elicit information. Information was clarified to make sure that there was mutual understanding between the researcher and the participant.

Following the question, it was found to be at the participants' level. The

interviews were followed up with the participants to validate the information that Summarising what the participant had said was important and minimal verbal response was given to encourage the participant to continue talking. Conversation between the researcher and the participants was recorded on a tape recorder. The recordings were later transcribed verbatim in the language used in the interviews. This was necessary in order to retain the original concepts and the linguistic structure of the responses. Since this study was conducted in Tshivenda it was necessary to translate the data that was collected into English. The translation might result in losing and distorting the originality of the participants' everyday life as expressed in the original language. This was further complicated by the realisation that the researcher's writing skills in Tshivenda were not perfect and reliance on the transcription alone was not enough. It was necessary at times to refer to the original tape recordings.

to ensure the quest for quality in qualitative research.

To identify problems early in the study, a pilot study was conducted using two participants found in the trauma unit A that met the sampling criteria. The two participants were randomly selected from the potential participants who indicated willingness to participate in the study. The two participants who took part in the pilot study did not form part of the main study. The pilot study was done in order to establish whether the question put to the participants elicited the information required. In the pilot study it was necessary to rephrase the central question in order to avoid bias and the reflection of the participants' feelings on the part of the researcher. The question was rephrased from: "What are your experiences of domestic violence that you encounter in your marriage?" to "Please share with me what your lived experience is of domestic violence."

The findings of the study

After rephrasing of the question, it was found to be at the participants' level. The interviews were followed up with the participants to validate the information that had been recorded and interpreted to find out whether their experiences of domestic violence were correctly reflected. During the collection of data the researcher took field notes on the whole process. This was a record of certain aspects of the interview, for example, observations of body language. The field notes were written in a notebook immediately after the interview and organised according to the stages of data collection.

2.7 ENSURING TRUSTWORTHINESS

According to Lincoln and Guba (1985) in Krefting (1991), trustworthiness is a method of establish rigour in qualitative research without sacrificing relevance. Lincoln and Guba (1985) suggest that the concept of trustworthiness be utilised to guide the quest for quality in qualitative research.

2.7.1 Truth-value



This is used to assess the extent to which the findings of the study are a true representation of the world of the research participants as described and experienced by them. Truth-value is established through credibility (Schurink, Schurink & Poggenpoel, 2000).

2.7.2 Credibility

This establishes how confident the researcher is with the truth of the findings including an accurate understanding of the context. Prolonged involvement means spending enough time to learn about the phenomenon and to build trust with those participating in the research because they can only be understood when the researcher has invested more in the setting (Schurink et al., 2000). In this study credibility was achieved through one hour and thirty minutes' involvement with each participant because of the sensitivity of the question asked. Participants paused and cried. When they were stressed and crying, the researcher gave them tissues to wipe their tears and consoled them by touching their hands and encouraging them to be calm. Credibility was also achieved through achieving a thick description in the data collection. Triangulation of the study allows the use of different approaches and methods in collecting data. For instance, the researcher could both observe and interview participants. In this study triangulation of data collection was achieved through transcribing interviews verbatim, taking field notes and conducting a literature control of the findings. Peer debriefing and member checking were also used as methods for establishing the credibility of the data collected. Member checking is achieved by returning to the participants and having them check that their input has been correctly captured (Gillis & Jackson, 2002). In this study, after transcription of the interviews, the researcher returned to the participants for six days to verify that what had been written down was what the participant really meant. All the participants confirmed that the transcribed information represented what they had said.

2.7.3 Applicability



Applicability refers to whether particular findings of a qualitative study can be applied in other similar contexts or situations and still retain the particularised meanings, interpretations and inferences of the completed study. Applicability is established through transferability (Leininger, 1994). In this study transferability was achieved through purposive sampling of participants, and assurance of confidentiality throughout the study. Individual in-depth interviews were used to collect data. Field notes were also documented to ensure that the findings of the transcriptions corresponded. An audio-tape recorder was used in order to record everything that was said during the interviews, and dense descriptions of the methods were given.

2.7.4 Consistency

An inquiry must provide its audience with evidence that if the study were to be repeated with the same participants in a similar context, its findings would be similar (Schurink et al., 2000). Lincoln and Guba (1985) are of the opinion that the consistency of the study is illustrated if it can be checked. That is, external checks are conducted to determine whether the research process was followed. In this study, consistency was established through dependability, which was achieved through keeping a dependability audit, triangulation, peer examination, keeping of field notes and audio-tape recordings. Observations and methods of data analysis were recorded to illustrate the research process that was followed.

2.7.5 Neutrality

Neutrality refers to the degree to which the findings are the product of the focus of the inquiry and not of the biases, or motivations and perspectives of the researcher (Schurink et al., 2000). In order to establish neutrality in this study, the researcher continuously reflected on her own values and beliefs and

examined how they could influence the data collection and analysis. The researcher also used bracketing and inductive reasoning during data collection and analysis. Responses were transcribed verbatim and direct quotations were included in the findings. Collected data will be kept safe in a locked drawer in the researcher's office while awaiting the outcome of the evaluation of the study so that anyone wishing to confirm the details may have access to the data.

2.8 DATA ANALYSIS

Data analysis proceeded together with data collection, data interpretation and narrative reporting. Data collected by means of tape recordings were transcribed verbatim and the data collected in the notebook were organised into analytic form, with detailed examination of the research question asked and ideas that emerged as the study progressed.

2.8.1 Method of data analysis

The data was first analysed in the language in which interviews were conducted, using the method of data analysis adapted from Giorgi and Tesch (1985) in Cresswell (1994). Tesch provides eight steps that are to be considered when analysing qualitative data and those steps were applied as follows:

- getting a sense of whole, namely, the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district. All the transcripts were carefully read while some ideas were jotted down as they came to mind. This exercise was carried out in order to get a sense of the experiences of domestic violence in the Vhembe district;
- picking one interesting document; this was carried out and thoughts that emerged were underlined and notes written in the margin;
- making a list of topics; several transcribed interview documents were analysed to determine the primary idea and meaning of the data. Ideas were

- 2.1 written in the margin of the documents. By the time the researcher had completed the task, a list of topics had therefore been compiled;
- clustering together of similar topics; all topics were listed and those that were similar were clustered together. These topics were then listed in columns and arranged as major topics, unique topics and leftovers. Leftovers were placed in a separate file in case they were needed during the writing of the research findings;
 - looking for the most descriptive wording; the most descriptive wording for the topics was found, and those were turned into main theme, categories and sub-categories. For example, the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district as a main theme, categories, sub-categories and effects of domestic violence on the health and wellness of women will be discussed in chapter 3;
 - making the final decision; a final decision was made on the main theme, categories and sub-categories;
 - assembling data belonging together; data materials belonging to each sub-category were assembled together and preliminary analysis was then performed;
 - recording of existing data; existing data was recorded.

2.9 LITERATURE CONTROL

Literature control was carried out simultaneously with data analysis to verify the results of the interviews. The literature concerning experiences of domestic violence by women was discussed in the light of relevant literature and information obtained from similar studies.

2.10 ETHICAL CONSIDERATIONS

In conducting this study the following ethical considerations were taken into account:

Before commencing the study ethical approval was sought from the Health, Safety and Research, Ethics Committee of the University of Venda for Science and Technology. Permission to conduct the study was also sought from the Department of Health and Social Development of Limpopo Province. The Ethics Committee of the province requested the researcher give a presentation in person in order for the committee to obtain clarity about procedures of data collection and the purpose of the study. Ethical clearance from the Health, Safety and Research, Ethics Committee of the University of Venda for Science and Technology was also submitted to the Ethics Committee of the province as part of the process of obtaining ethical clearance. After these events had taken place the committee finally gave the researcher permission to conduct the study. Permission to interview the participants was asked from the trauma unit A in a particular hospital.

2.10.2 Informed consent

This is a process whereby information is given about the study, for example the purpose, objectives, and methods of data collection. Sufficient information regarding individual participants was provided in the informed consent form. The information enabled the participants to give informed consent, which is required before any study may be carried out (Burns & Grove, 2001). The following information was provided to the participants:

2.10.3 The purpose of the study

The purpose of the study was to explore and describe the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district.

2.10.4 The method and procedure to be followed



The method used in the study included exploratory, descriptive and phenomenological methods because the researcher did not have any information regarding the topic to be researched. Participants were required to give their informed consent before taking part in the study. Data obtained from interviews were recorded by tape recorder during data collection. It was explained that the information would be recorded in order to explore their experiences (Burns & Grove, 2001).

2.10.5 The nature of the participation expected from the participants

Participants were required to give consent before taking part in the study. Informed consent meant that prospective participants were informed about the study and they gave their voluntary consent. It was explained to each participant that the information would be recorded in order to enable the researcher to explore their perceptions regarding experiences of domestic violence and to ensure that data was not lost. The participants consented to the use of the tape recorder. Participants were also informed that the audio-taped information was confidential and would be discarded once it was transcribed (Burns & Grove, 2001).

2.10.6 Voluntary participation

It was emphasised that participation in the study was voluntary without any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress or other form of constraint or coercion. The participants could decide to participate in the study or not. A decision to discontinue participating in the study would not jeopardise their welfare. This explanation enabled the participants to give their informed consent which was required before any study could be carried out (Burns & Grove, 2001).



2.10.7 Freedom of choice



Participants were regarded as autonomous beings with the right to make choices without being coerced. The participants were also informed that they had the right to withdraw from the study at any time without fear of being victimised (Burns & Grove, 2001).

2.10.8 Freedom from harm

When research is conducted on any sensitive issues, the researcher must be concerned about the safety of the participants (Morgan & Bjorkert, 2006). In this study freedom from harm was ensured by carefully phrasing questions to avoid psychological harm. In the situation where participants experienced deep sorrow and were crying, the researcher calmed them down by holding their hands and consoling them. On a few occasions the participants became distressed during interviews, but it was possible to talk through their emotions and they declined the offer to terminate the interviews. Freedom from exploitation was ensured by the researcher's avoidance of abusing her privileged position. For the right to privacy, arrangements were made individually with each participant. Interviews were conducted under the trees. Participants were identified by numbers.

2.10.9 Assurance of confidentiality and anonymity

Confidentiality refers to the researcher's responsibility to protect all the data within the scope of the project from being divulged or made available to any person, unless the researcher had been given explicit permission to make it known (Burns & Grove, 2001). The participants were informed that all information given to the researcher would be kept confidential. Total anonymity was maintained where even the researcher, the supervisor and the coders could not link the names of the participants with any information that was given to the researcher. This was done to protect the participants. In this study, the



participants were given numbers, for example, participant 1, 2, 3, until the 12th participant (Burns & Grove, 2001).

2.10.10 Privacy

Throughout the study it was ensured that the self-respect and dignity of the participants were maintained. Collecting only enough data that was absolutely necessary to achieve the objective of the study also ensured this (Burns & Grove, 2001).

2.11 CONCLUSION

The research design described in this chapter, research method, the criteria and the strategies to ensure trustworthiness will reveal the everyday world of women experiencing domestic violence in the Vhembe district. In chapter 3 presentations, discussion of findings and literature control will be discussed. The results revealed experiences of domestic violence by women in Vhembe district, i.e. physical violence, psychological/emotional violence, economic violence, emotional violence and sexual violence.

The following table (Table 3.1) shows the main theme, categories and sub-categories identified from the interviews on experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district. The results were prioritized, based on the number of participants who experienced the same theme.

PRESENTATION, DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS AND LITERATURE CONTROL

3.1 INTRODUCTION

Chapter two of this study discussed the objectives, research design, population and sampling method of the study. Data collection, ensuring trustworthiness, the pilot study and its findings, data analysis and ethical consideration were also described. In this chapter the results of interviews conducted with women on their experiences of domestic violence are presented and discussed according to identified themes, categories and sub-categories. Relevant data from the literature were incorporated. The purpose of the study was to explore and describe the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district of Limpopo in South Africa. Qualitative methods were used to explore and described the experiences of domestic violence by women in Vhembe district. The interviews were based on the following research question:

“Please share with me your lived experience of domestic violence.”

3.2 RESULTS

The following table (Table 3.1) shows the main theme, categories and sub-categories identified from the interviews on experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district. The results were prioritised, based on the number of participants who experienced the same theme.

Table 3.1 Main themes, categories and sub-categories of experiences of domestic violence by women.

Main theme	Categories	Sub-categories	Effects of domestic violence on the health and wellness of women under study
The experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district	1 Experiences of physical violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Battering ▪ Scars ▪ Burns ▪ fractures ▪ Stab wounds 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Deformities ▪ Disability ▪ Irritable bowel syndrome ▪ Gastrointestinal disorders ▪ Nightmares ▪ Anger ▪ Fear
	2. Experiences of psychological/emotional violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Swearing ▪ Yelling ▪ Mocking ▪ Calling names 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Depression ▪ Post-traumatic stress Disorder ▪ Anger ▪ Anxiety ▪ Humiliation
	3.Experiences of economic violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Lack of money 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Poverty ▪ Hunger ▪ Humiliation
	4.Experiences of social violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Isolation ▪ Not allowed to visit or to be visited ▪ Not allowed to go to church 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Loneliness ▪ Stress ▪ Anxiety ▪ Anger
	5.Experiences of sexual violence	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Rape ▪ Unprotected sex 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Humiliation ▪ Sexually transmitted Infection ▪ HIV/AIDS ▪ Unwanted pregnancy

From the data that was collected the following types of violence emerged and are categorised as experiences of:

Physical violence

Psychological/emotional violence

Economic violence

Social violence

Sexual violence

All the participants experienced some form of battering, such as kicking, slapping and choking. The majority of participants indicated that alcohol and drugs were the factors contributing to physical violence. The participants also indicated that their husbands became violent when they were drunk and if they were sober they shied away and talked little, showed love, respect and understanding.

3.3.1 Battering

According to literature, battering of women is described as the violence a woman suffers from a man or a woman with whom she is intimately involved. Battering includes physical abuse such as kicking, slapping, punching, choking or any other physical attack with or without a weapon. A woman who is battered is often also abused in other ways for example psychologically/emotionally, economically, socially and sexually. Goosen and Klugman (1996), Schaefer & Lamm (1995) and Van Dyk (2003) state that battering begins even before marriage in the form of violent behaviour within the dating and courtship relationship. The author also states that in other developed countries dating is characterised by violence, bullying and date rape.

One participant said: ***“My boyfriend physically abused me while I was expecting his baby. He claimed that he was not the owner of the pregnancy, therefore he did not want to see me being pregnant. He started beating and kicking me. During the beating and kicking, yoo! He was targeting my stomach. After six months I aborted. I was very much hurt to lose my baby”***. The participant paused and looked down. The researcher encouraged her to continue to relate the story. ***“My boyfriend indicated that he was very happy because I have aborted. I love my boyfriend very much but because of his behaviour I am not going to fall pregnant as long as I am still in love with him. I am afraid that he is going to repeat the same thing of refusing the pregnancy and physically abuse me while I am pregnant. If I happened***

to leave him and fall in love with another man I will fall pregnant very quickly because I want to have my own children.”

This finding is supported by Women’s Health Victoria Report (2005), which cited that it is common for women to experience violence during pregnancy. Astbury, Atkinson, Duke, Kurrle, Toit & Turner (2000) also support the findings by indicating that the number of unwanted or unplanned pregnancies and terminations are high among women experiencing domestic violence. The authors also indicate that pregnancy itself is a time of heightened risk and the abdomen is targeted more frequently and more severely in pregnant woman. The strongest predictor of violence occurring during pregnancy is a prior history of abuse. Furthermore, women who were abused during pregnancy were at even greater risk of violence in the post-partum period. The finding is also supported by Ellsberg (2006) who indicates that violence during pregnancy is as common, or even more so than many other conditions that are commonly screened for in antenatal care. Recent studies from dozens of countries found the prevalence of physical abuse during pregnancy to be between 3% and 11% in industrialised countries, and approximately 4% to 32% in developing countries.

Another participant said, ***“My husband battered me almost every day when he is drunk. He will start a conversation. If I answer he will be angry and beat me indicating that I do not respect him. If I keep quiet and listen to what he is saying, he will accuse me of making him a fool by not answering him, he will also beat me. Hey! It is very difficult to stay with such a husband. I could not tell anyone because nobody will believe my story, because a normal husband cannot beat his wife for not answering him. Eh.... I have made up my mind and left him I thought that he would follow me. No he did not. I heard that he is staying with another woman and he is doing the same thing of beating her, just like what he was doing to me.”***

These findings are supported by the study carried out by Hyden (2005) that revealed that victims of violence and other kinds of abuse hesitated to come

forward because they were afraid of not being believed or being blamed for the abuse they suffered. Jeffe, Crooks & Poisson (2003) in their studies reveal that many women who experience domestic violence in their intimate relationships have contact with a wide variety of front-line health care and social service providers but not all women disclose intimate-partner violence.

3.3.2 Scars

One participant said, ***“One day I cooked porridge and spinach. The spinach was going to be the relish for the day. When my husband came home, he was drunk. I gave him porridge and spinach. Then he asked me where is meat because he do not eat leaves, he is not a goat. When I explained that I did not buy meat because he did not give me money to buy meat, he took a stick and beat me with it. I sustained a gaping wound on my upper lip. When my husband saw that I have a gaping wound, he took black cotton and a needle and sutured the wound on my upper lip. Yo! Two days later my upper lip was swollen and very painful. I went to the clinic; the nurse gave me the letter so that I can go to the hospital. In the hospital the doctor cleaned the wound and sutured it again, hei! It was painful. That is why I have got this scar.”*** The participant cried bitterly while showing the scar. I calmed her down by touching her shoulder, and giving her a tissue to wipe her tears. I observed the scar on the upper lip of the participant. The scar was a major disfigurement because the participant was unable to cover her upper teeth with her upper lip, and it was difficult for her to talk because of the deformity.

Around the world women suffer the harmful and life-threatening effects of traditional and cultural practices that continue under the guise of cultural and social conformism and religious beliefs, which lead to family disorganisation (UNICEF, 2000).

The participant said, ***“My image is ruined because of this scar. When I walk in the streets people look at me and they laugh at me. Those people who knew that my husband assaulted me gossip and pass remarks saying that I asked for it.***

Others feel pity for me and asked what happened. I just tell them that I was involved in an accident. It is embarrassing to tell people that I was beaten by my husband, and frustrating to explain one thing every day to different people. To avoid being asked what happened to my upper lip I put on a scarf when I go out of the house or if there are visitors. So since then I do not have a problem because I hide my scar, but I do not know until when I will hide my scar.”

Another participant said, *“My husband abuses alcohol and comes home during the night being drunk. One night he came home being drunk. He knocked at the door I woke up and open the door for him. He was furious accusing me of delaying to open the door for him, indicating that I was giving a chance to my boyfriend to escape through the window and run away. When I tried to explain to him that there was nobody in the house he did not listen. Yo! You know he kicked me and beat me with fists and throw me into the bath in the bathroom. I sustained a cut on my left cheek. Do you see this scar?”* The participant showed the scar. It was on her left cheek. The scar was a major disfigurement and ugly because there was a proliferation of tissue. The participant said, *“The scar is itching a lot when it is hot, and I scratch it that is why it is swollen like this. I went to see the doctor who said that I must stop scratching the scar because I am causing more damage. He gave me some ointment to apply on the scar when it is itching. After application of the ointment, the itching was better.”*

Clinard and Meier (1995) and Ellsberg (2006) indicate that historically, it has not been considered deviant for husbands to beat their wives on occasion and within certain limits. Ideologies that permit husbands to be “head of the household” and manage their wives’ affairs extend such control over them. This implies that husbands in some historical sense were obligated to keep their wives in line behaviourally and to exercise certain physical control over them. Shaw and Mackey (2000) indicate that social disorganisation is a state of signal change between the husband and the wife for one reason or another, and they no longer share a set of expectations about behaviour. In this study women who experience domestic violence indicated that the behaviour of their husbands was

stressful particularly after consumption of alcohol or drug abuse. The finding is also supported by Kgosimore (2004). In his study he revealed that men use physical violence individually and collectively to control, subjugate and dominate women as well as violate their dignity, integrity and sovereignty. The purpose of using violence against others has always been to further one's self-interest and goals to the detriment of others. Men have lost respect for their wives.

3.3.3 Burns

One participant said, ***"Do you want to see? Look at this"***. The participant took off her clothes and showed her left breast with a burn scar. ***"My husband threw a kettle with boiling water at me. He was angry with me because I chased his girlfriend away. His girlfriend used to come and visit him every Friday night and leave on Monday morning. So I beat her and chased her away before my husband returned from work. When he returned from work and heard that I have beaten and chased his girlfriend away, he went into a fit. That is why I have sustained this scar of burns."*** The researcher observed a burn scar on the left breast of the participant. The scar was major because the whole upper part of the breast was burned and the nipple was also affected. The nipple had a dimple. The participant also said, ***"I have a problem with this scar because I have a small baby whom I am breastfeeding. I cannot breastfeed her on my left breast because of deformity. Ee.... I reported the matter to the South African police. Unfortunately when he was arrested he escaped from the police van and ran away. The police are still looking for him. I am afraid what is going to happen to me when he decides to come back home because I made him to be arrested by police."***

This incident is supported by Dissel and Ngubeni (2003) who mention that women suffer physical and emotional violence because their partners sleep with other women, which is seen as acceptable conduct for an African man in their

culture. UNICEF (2000) reveals that deaths in kitchen fire are also on the rise, for example in certain regions of Pakistan. The Human Rights Commission of Pakistan reports that husbands, as a result of domestic violence, burn at least four women to death daily.

3.3.4 Fractures

One participant said, *“One evening my husband came home being drunk. He just started shouting and swearing at me. When I asked him what was wrong. He took “luswielo” pertaining to a broomstick and chased me out of the house. I ran out of the house thinking that he will leave me alone, but he continued chasing me. He hit me on the head with a broomstick and I fell on the ground and broke my leg. I screamed and shouted for help. He! My husband left me lying there crying with pain. After a while a motorist took me to hospital where the doctor put the cement on my leg helped me. This means the plaster of Paris. I stayed two weeks in the hospital. Now I cannot walk properly I am still limping although the doctor has taken off the cement.”* The researcher observed that the participant was walking with difficulty as she was limping and her right leg was still swollen. Clinard and Meier (1995), Pareti (2001) and Watson (2002) support the finding. In their studies they cite that women make up about 95% of the victims of spouse abuse, because the greater physical size and strength of men makes them more dangerous abusers, and as a result women are more likely than men to be seriously injured in incidences of domestic violence. This is supported by the WHO report (2002) which states that where there is intimate-partner violence, which is the most common form of violence against women, it is performed by husband or partner.

Most victims of physical aggression are subjected to multiple acts of violence over a period of time. They also tend to suffer more than one type of abuse. For example, it can be psychological and spiritual abuse. The rate of abuse is higher among women whose husbands had either themselves been beaten or

witnessed their mothers being abused (Gibson* 2005). This is supported by Herbert and Silver (2000). In their study they reveal that men, who either experienced violence themselves or witnessed violence between their parents, are more likely to use violence when they grow up.

3.3.5 Stab wounds

One participant took off her clothes and remained in her underwear. The researcher observed scars all over her body, on the back, buttocks, neck, between the shoulder blades, on the chest, stomach and between the thighs. She said, ***“You see these scars? My husband stabbed me with a screwdriver. He accused me of falling in love with his friend. I never fell in love with his friend, and I do not talk to his friend. I reported the matter to the police and he was arrested. He was jailed for seven years. I am happy because he is going to stay in jail for a long time. This is the time now that I am going to fall in love. I am not going to wait for a person who is in jail.”***

Another participant said, ***“My husband stabbed me with a knife accusing me of stealing his money when he is drunk. When my husband receives his salary, he spends it all on liquor and his friends. He will come home without a cent. He will be without his jacket or shoes. Sometimes he will accuse me of stealing his jacket and shoes. Accusation and stabbing happens every month-end after he received his salary”***. The participant covered her face with her hands and cried. The researcher touched the participant and calmed her down so that she could continue to tell about her ordeal. She continued and said, ***“I reported the matter to the “koroni ya-Mutavhatsindi “pertaining to the headman’s committee. I showed the scars to the members of the committee. The headman called my husband and he was found guilty and fined one cattle, which was given to the headman, and a goat was to be slaughtered and eaten by the members of the headman’s committee. My husband cried and apologised to me, to the headman and to the members***

of the headman's committee. Because *he did not have cattle he paid R2000.00 and bought the goat. Yowee! I was very happy seeing him paying such a lot of money. Since that day I am living a better life, thanks to the headman's committee.*"


3. 4 EXPERIENCES OF PSYCHOLOGICAL/EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE

The participants also experienced psychological/emotional violence. According to the Domestic Violence Act, No.116 of 1998, psychological/emotional violence refers to a pattern of degrading or humiliating conduct towards a complainant (woman) including repeated insult, ridicule or name calling.

3.4.1 Swearing and yelling

One participant said, *"My husband drinks a lot. When he is drunk he swears and yells at me and at my children. He also yells at visitors. He does not care whether the person he swears and yells at he knows him or her. People are now afraid to come and visit our home because of my husband's behaviour."*

Another participant said, *"My husband smokes dagga. After smoking it he will be swearing and yelling at me for no apparent reason. He has a tendency of chasing me out of the house. He usual chases me out of the house during the day with an axe, while all the neighbours are looking at me. People did not intervene because they were afraid of an axe that my husband was chasing me with. Sometimes he will chase me out of the house very early in the morning and I will be running in the street with a nightdress. Hei! All people will be looking at me. Other people will be asking him why is he chasing me away? He will tell them that, he is chasing a witch out of the house. Mn... My husband makes me angry because I have built the house alone while he was away, staying with another woman*

 **the guts to chase me out of the house.**” The researcher observed tears running down the participant’s cheeks. The researcher calmed the participant by touching her shoulder so that she could tell more about her story. **“I have reported him to the chief who gave him a strong warning, that if he can chase me out of the house again, he will be reported to the police. He apologised to the chief and also to me. Although he had apologised to the chief, he always tells me that he is going to chase me out of the house but he has not, I am sure he is afraid of the police. Since then he never chased me out of the house. I am happy now because I received help from the chief and I am no more chased out of the house with an axe.”**

Excessive consumption of alcohol and other drugs has been noted as a factor in provoking aggressive and violent male behaviour towards women. A survey of domestic violence in Moscow revealed that half the cases of physical violence were associated with the husband’s excessive alcohol consumption (UNICEF, 2000).

Another participant said, **“My husband was having a fleet of taxis, two private cars, one van and three shops. He left my children and me and go and stay with another woman. The woman whom he was staying with chased him away. He is back without all those cars and shops. I do not know what happened to those cars and shops. I did not ask him what happened. He was so aggressive, yelling and shouting at me everyday. He chased the children and me out of the house. I went and stayed with my parents. He came to my parent’s home, he beat me and chased me out of my parent’s home and threatened to beat my parents if they allowed me to stay with them again. I went and reported him to the police. The police told me that they were not there to separate couples but to settle the matter so that they can stay together. Ee.... Now I am staying in the mission house with the priest and my children. I am so hurt and hopeless. The priest negotiated**

with the chief that if possible the chief could give me the place so that I can build a house and stay with my children. Up to now I am still waiting.” I observed that the participant was silent and seemed to be far away. I touched her hand to bring her back to the conversation. Kgosimore (2004) reveals that psychological injuries include feelings of vulnerability, helplessness, fear and concerns for safety, triggering prior trauma. Astbury et al. (2000) argue that if the idea of “home” implies physical and psychological safety and security as well as shelter, then women who are affected by domestic violence experience “homelessness”. Short (2000) reveals that it is clear that housing is a critically important factor in women’s decision to leave abusive relationships. Neubeck and Neubeck (1997) indicate that ideally one’s family should always exist in an oasis; a place that is safe and satisfying where one can seek relief from dealing with often-stressful demands of the outside world. In many cases today the family setting is just the opposite. It contains a level of tension, conflict and violence from which flight might be the rational response. Martz and Saraurer (2005) reveal that women leave their abusive partners when the violence begins to escalate and the need to protect children intensifies. They face many problems in leaving including poverty, fear of increased violence and the loss of their homes and community. In his study, Hassouneb-Phillips (2005) reveals that when an abusive relationship becomes unbearable, the woman reaches breaking point and decides to leave her abuser. When leaving, the threats that face the abused woman increase as her abuser attempts to maintain power and control.

“because my children are still very young, I cannot just leave them alone.” Brownridge (2006) cites that the attack on the woman and violation of her rights in which her partner seeks to prevent her from leaving, results in retaliation for separation and forces her to return. It aims at dominating her regarding where and with whom she will live and coercing her in order to enforce connection in the relationship. It is an attempt to gain and retain power in a relationship in order to punish the woman for ending the relationship. According to UNICEF (2000), the police are particularly well positioned to provide assistance to victim-survivors, but very often their own prejudices and lack of training in dealing with women

who are experiencing domestic violence and reluctance to intervene, hinder them from dealing with domestic violence.

One participant said, "The situation is terrible. If you are not working you suffer a lot because you are waiting for everything to be done for you by your husband. Just like now I am not working. The person who is working in the family is my husband. I was happily married with three children and my husband use to take care of us as a family. He even bought me a car. This was an indication of love to me. Things started to go wrong when my husband fell in love with a widow. He took the car that he bought for me and gave it to his girlfriend. When I asked him why is he taking away the car that he bought for me? He yelled at me and told me that I must go and look for work so that I can be able to buy my own car and stop worrying him about his car. I was devastated because I never worked in my life. If it happened that he comes home, he will be having swinging moods, yelling and swearing at me for no valid reason. Mn... Sometimes he will be a nice caring husband showing love and understanding." The researcher observed that the participant was smiling. "Sometimes he will take me and the children out to sleep and eat in the hotel for a week-end. I end up believing that he will not repeat his behaviour. Eish! But I will be wrong because within a few days he will be yelling and swearing at me. Hei! My husband is a kind and dangerous man at the same time. I cannot divorce him and go away because my children are still very young. I cannot just leave them alone." The researcher observed that the eyes of the participant were full of tears and she was shying away, avoiding eye contact. The researcher gave the participant a tissue to wipe her tears. De Beer, Poggenpoel and Myburgh (2005) cite Short (2000) who indicates that a man's extreme charm and excessive gestures to please his family, his jealousy, blaming others, criticism, testing limits, possessiveness and his efforts to control and isolate his wife from her social support system, are signs of abusive behaviour.

The finding is supported by De Beer et al. (2005) in their study conducted in the district of Middleburg in Mpumalanga Province. This study revealed that feelings of uncertainty are prominent in women experiencing psychological/emotional violence and abuse due to a perceived confusion about the present and the future, creating a situation from which these women cannot escape.

De Beer et al. (2005) cite Loring (1994) who supports the finding by indicating that the abuser's continuous degrading comments, insults and projections of blame influence the victim's self-esteem in such a way that she may be confused about the relationship. This finding is supported by Gage* (2005) in her study conducted in Haiti which reveals that domestic violence has been found to occur among women with little schooling, who do not work outside the home and have low social support.

The Family violence and sexual assault Institute (2000) reveals that when women decide to leave an abusive relationship at a particular point in time, they often identify the fact that their understanding of the best interests of their children was a major factor in making the decision. Artz (2005) states that women who experience domestic violence may have relationships with their husbands/partners that can be loving as well as dangerous. The ties that bind them, however, are powerful, intricate and multifaceted. Abusive relationships follow a pattern, for example, a tension-building phase, an acute battering phase, and a tranquil and post-violence loving phase. The victim develops methods of survival in the relationship, which appear to be protecting her abuser. She may use tactics, such as placating the abuser by avoiding him, or being apologetic, docile, and by covering up his behaviour in an attempt to win his favour. Over time the tension-building period gets shorter and acute violence occurs. At the end of an acute incident the "honeymoon" phase begins. The tension and violence stop and sometimes, within hours, the abusive partner may begin to exhibit warm, loving behaviour. The victim may collude in this illusion of love and non-violence and may even convince herself that her partner will not do it again.

Some women start to believe that they are responsible for their abuser's emotional instability; and this is why many women withdraw charges against their abusive husbands. The finding is supported by UNICEF (2000) which indicates that women are still unaware of their rights when reporting abuse. Even informed women traumatised by an assault are unlikely to be assertive and insist on their rights. Many women are afraid of further violence from the perpetrator if legal action is attempted. This is compounded even further by the introduction of the new Domestic Violence Act No.116 of 1998 that many women have not yet grasped.

3.4.2 Calling names and mocking

One participant said, *"My husband called me "Gimba" which means a person who eats too much. At first I did not know what 'Gimba' means, I thought that it was a Christian name. One day my friend asked me why my husband calls me 'Gimba'? Then I asked her, what does 'Gimba' mean?. A! She told me that it means a person who eats too much. Hei! I was shocked and embarrassed to hear the meaning of the name...but anyway God knows"*.

Another participant said, *"My husband called me "Nyamungozwa mme a domba" pertaining to a woman who will be sitting down wearing Vhavenda traditional attire looking at other women dancing. In other words it implies a very lazy woman. He calls me by this name even during the presence of visitors. It hurts me to be called a lazy person because I am the only person in the house who is doing the household chores. I also clean the yard and do gardening. He is the one that is supposed to be doing gardening, but instead he will be drinking the whole day with his friends and calling me names. If he called me by "Nyamungozwa" and I do not respond, he will beat me in front of his friends. I have left him because I used to have a swollen face every day because of his fists. Since I have been married for five years to my husband it was a situation that I lived in. I reported the*

matter to the police. To my surprise he was not arrested. When I asked the police why they did not arrest him, the police said that this is the family matter they cannot arrest him.”

Human Rights Watch (2006) reveals that the reluctance of the state officials to intervene in domestic violence matters and to undermine male authority in the home ensures that battered women are left unaided and condemned to endless abuse. Kgosimore (2004) states that people who are told they are “worthless” again and again begin to believe they are hearing the truth. Many people do not realise that they are being psychologically abused because they are brought up with it. They think it is a normal part of relationships, and in turn they psychologically abuse others, for example, their children or partners. The finding is supported by Artz (2005) who reveals that in an intimate relationship there is a spiral of violence. With each cycle the abuse becomes more frequent and violent and could lead to injuries or death. This spiral galvanises the idea that it is dangerous to leave a violent relationship. Fear of retaliation, concern for the welfare of the victim and her children and lack of support are concerns of the victim. The finding is also supported by the study that was conducted by Martz and Saraurer (2005) among rural women in East Central Saskatchewan. The study revealed that many of the women stayed in abusive situations for many years because they had come to accept the abuse as normal. They had been convinced that the abuse was their fault.

Women remain silent about their being abused because of lack of knowledge, embarrassment, fear of reprisal and fear of not being believed. This finding is also supported by Burney (2001) who reveals that women subjected to domestic violence experience many negative emotions. This leaves them in a state of confusion, where they think like victims, talk like victims and sometimes may behave like victims even before they realise that they are victims. Emotional violence leads to devastation and debilitation of heart and soul. This mutilation with its crippling effect on self-esteem traps these women in vicious circles of

shame and suffering. The finding is also supported by Morgan and Bjorkert (2006). They reveal that women who experience domestic violence often find psychological violence more debilitating than physical violence, because it results in scars that one does not see and is therefore underestimated.

3. 5 EXPERIENCES OF ECONOMIC VIOLENCE

The participants experienced economic violence. The Domestic Violence Act, No.116 of 1998 refers to economic violence as the unreasonable deprivation of economic or financial resources to which a (complainant) a woman is entitled under law or which the (complainant) a woman requires out of necessity. When the husband is fighting with his wife, he ends up punishing his wife by not giving her money for food, clothes and family health care.

3. 5.1 Food

One participant said, *"It is difficult to live with a husband who cannot buy a bag of mealie-meal. My husband is working and earning a lot of money every month. I am saying this because my husband is getting R5 500 every month. I saw this amount from his salary advice. Every month end my husband disappears. He will come home when his money is finished. The person who is supporting us is my mother-in-law who buys a bag of mealie-meal and gives me some money to buy meat and vegetables for the family. I once reported my husband to the social worker. When we were called by the social worker, yoo! My husband brought along many receipts, which showed that he buys grocery for the family. I was shocked to see so many receipts. I was also hurt because my husband was telling lies to the social worker. The social worker decided to visit our house to find out who was telling the truth between my husband and myself. The social worker found that there was no grocery, except the bag of mealie-meal that was bought by my mother in-law. The social worker said that R800.00 is going*

to be deducted from my husband's salary for maintenance. Ee... When my husband heard that R800.00 was going to be deducted from his salary he was very angry and he said that I wanted to eat his money with the social work, therefore I must go and stay with the social worker. The social worker indicated that if he can chase me away I must report him to the police. He did not chase me away, but he always passed remarks that I want to eat his money with another man. I am still waiting for the social worker to process the deductions."

Another participant said, "My husband does not buy food or give me money to buy food for the family, but he is working. For the family to eat I must go out with a tin to my friends to beg for mealie-meal. Sometimes I go to my parents and ask for money so that I can buy food for the family. I am living in poverty with a working husband. My children are going to school with empty stomachs and I am afraid that myself and my children will suffer food-related diseases for example pellagra."

Sapolsky (2005) cites that poverty means bad or no food, unhealthy living conditions and endless other factors that lead to illness. According to the constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 (Act 108 of 1996) section 27 (1) (a), everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water. Shaw and Mackey (2000) indicate that financial problems put enormous strain on marital and family relationships. Income is one of the best predictors of family stability. In this study women who experience domestic violence indicated that their husbands squandered money on liquor and women. This resulted in interpersonal problems that may lead to family disorganisation. The finding is supported by Boonzaier (2005) who cites that within the changing society men attempt to maintain their hold on hegemonic forms of masculinity. These forms of masculinity involve the maintenance of economic control through the roles of "provider" and "breadwinner." The finding is supported by Gage* (2005) who cites that in settings where men are expected to be dominant in the family, but lack

to be deducted from my husband's salary for maintenance. Ee... When my husband heard that R800.00 was going to be deducted from his salary he was very angry and he said that I wanted to eat his money with the social work, therefore I must go and stay with the social worker. The social worker indicated that if he can chase me away I must report him to the police. He did not chase me away, but he always passed remarks that I want to eat his money with another man. I am still waiting for the social worker to process the deductions."

Another participant said, *"My husband does not buy food or give me money to buy food for the family, but he is working. For the family to eat I must go out with a tin to my friends to beg for mealie-meal. Sometimes I go to my parents and ask for money so that I can buy food for the family. I am living in poverty with a working husband. My children are going to school with empty stomachs and I am afraid that myself and my children will suffer food-related diseases for example pellagra."*

Sapolsky (2005) cites that poverty means bad or no food, unhealthy living conditions and endless other factors that lead to illness. According to the constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 (Act 108 of 1996) section 27 (1) (a), everyone has the right to have access to sufficient food and water. Shaw and Mackey (2000) indicate that financial problems put enormous strain on marital and family relationships. Income is one of the best predictors of family stability. In this study women who experience domestic violence indicated that their husbands squandered money on liquor and women. This resulted in interpersonal problems that may lead to family disorganisation. The finding is supported by Boonzaier (2005) who cites that within the changing society men attempt to maintain their hold on hegemonic forms of masculinity. These forms of masculinity involve the maintenance of economic control through the roles of "provider" and "breadwinner." The finding is supported by Gage* (2005) who cites that in settings where men are expected to be dominant in the family, but lack

education and social resources or occupational prestige, they are more likely to choose violence as a means of maintaining the dominant position in the family. De Beer, Poggenpoel and Myburgh (2005) cite Herbert & Silver (2000) who reveal that women fail to leave their abusive husbands or partners because they have no money and nowhere to go. The finding is also supported by Human Rights Watch (2006), which reveals that women's economic dependence compounds their vulnerability to violence and HIV infection, and leaves them unable to escape from potentially deadly marriages.

3.5.2 Clothes

One participant said, ***"My family does not have clothes to put on even blankets to sleep with at night. Friends and relatives are giving us clothes and blankets. My husband is working. He buys clothes for himself alone. One day I went to my mother-in-law to complain about the issue of my husband not buying clothes and blankets for the family. Yoo! I was surprised by the response from my mother-in-law. Instead of supporting me, she accused me of bewitching her son by using "korobela", a herbal medicine given by a woman to make her husband soft and compliant or to subdue him. That is why her son is behaving strangely even to her. When I went to my mother in-law I thought that she would help me by talking to her son. But instead I was called a witch"***. The researcher saw the participant wiping tears from her eyes. ***I gave the participant a tissue to wipe her tears and comforted her by holding both her hands so that she could tell me more about her experiences.*** The finding is supported by McCosker, Bernard and Gerber (2003) who cite that some women experience economic control, where partners have the power to control all the money in the family. UNICEF (2000) reveals that lack of economic resources underpins women's vulnerability to violence and their difficulty in extricating themselves from a violent relationship. This leads to family disorganisation.

3.5.3 Family health care

One participant said, *“Although the clinic is now free, there are times when I need to see a doctor. Then I have to pay for transport because the hospital is far, I cannot reach it on foot. My husband cannot give money so that I can board the bus or taxi. As I am not working I borrow money from my friends or neighbours.”*

The researcher observed that the nearest hospital is about 8 km away. To reach the hospital one has to board a bus or a taxi. The bus fare costs R3.00 and the taxi R4.00 per single trip.

It can be seen that healthcare for people living in rural areas involves more than paying for the actual consultation. Transport costs add further strain. The findings are supported by Fawcett (1993) who cites that transportation problems, poverty and a high level of unemployment are stressors that face families in the rural areas.

3.6 EXPERIENCES OF SOCIAL VIOLENCE

The participants experience social violence as isolation and loneliness. According to this study social violence is the deprivation of mutual relations with other human beings.

Some participants revealed that their husbands did not allow them to socialise with other people. If they visited or were visited by friends or family members their husbands beat them. The participants indicated that they therefore stayed at home.

3.6.1 Isolation and loneliness

One participant said, ***“My husband does not allow any visitors in the house, for example my relatives and my friends are not allowed. His relatives are also not allowed in the house. He usually locked me in the house and pulled the phone from the plug, he will come back during the night being drunk. It was very bad because I used to sit in the house alone the whole day and half of the night. If I want to buy something from the shop, for example bread I will call somebody through the window, then I will get bread.”***

According to the constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 (Act 108 of 1996) section 12 (1) (b), everyone has the right to freedom and security, which includes:

- not to be deprived of freedom arbitrarily or without cause;
- not to be detained without trial.

Another participant said, ***“My husband does not want to see me with a friend or a relative because he believes that we are talking about him. He even refused me to go to church. If he learned that I had been with a friend, relative or I went to church, he would beat me until I passed out”.***

In terms of the constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 (Act 108 of 1996) section 15 (1), Shaw and Mackey (2000) indicate that human nature itself comes from participation in the family between the husband and the wife. Man does not have it from birth; he cannot acquire it except through fellowship. Isolation of the wife by her husband causes the human nature that came from participation to decay. The authors also indicate that domestic violence represents an extreme example of the failure of supportiveness. It is found in nearly every kind of family and it can reach extreme levels which lead to social disorganisation. Mabotja (2005) cites that everyone has the right to freedom of conscience, religion, and thought, belief and opinions. Weinberg and Richardson (1981) also support the

finding. They indicate that lack of freedom for oneself; lack of time with the spouse and lack of time with other adults is a problem because of restrictions with socialisation. Jordan and Le Roux (2004) regard loneliness as a painful emotional condition that can be ascribed to a lack of friends and satisfying social contact.

The author indicates that loneliness is the core of the psychological pain that lies in a deep longing for love, warmth and acceptance by others including husbands or partners.

De Beer et al. (2005) support the finding. They reveal that women subjected to social violence experience feelings of alienation and isolation related to a trapped situation. Gerard (2000) also supports the finding. He says that women who experience social violence usually feel powerless and lonely, and are ashamed to seek help. Lynch (2000) also supports the finding. He reveals that women perceive themselves as inferior and shameful because they are not able to control the violence, and their sense of self is damaged.

3.7 EXPERIENCES OF SEXUAL VIOLENCE

The participants experienced sexual violence, such as rape. According to the Domestic Violence Act No.116 of 1998, sexual violence/abuse means any conduct that abuses, humiliates, degrades or otherwise violates the sexual integrity of the (complainant) woman.

3.7.1 Rape

UNICEF (2000) reveals that sexual violence and rape by an intimate partner is One participant said, ***“I broke up with my husband two years ago, but he refused to accept that our marriage has come to an end. For two years he stalked me. He would arrive at my house and threaten to kill me. One day***

he broke into my house while I was at work and waited for me to arrive. I arrived at half past six in the evening with my friends. When we entered the house and he saw my friends, Hei! He went into a fit. He drew his pistol and threatened to shoot them if they do not leave. Indeed my friends left and I remained with him. Without saying anything he started whipping me with his pistol on my head and face until my eyes were swollen. After that he raped me. When he left he said that he will come back the following day. I reported the matter to the police and told them that he said that he will come back the following day. The police came the following day and waited for him in my house. He came and he was arrested. He was later charged with house-breaking, assault and in possession of illegal firearm. He was sentenced to seven years. I am so relieved I will go on with my life now.”

Peter, Jaffe, Clair and Crooks (2005) indicate that most laypersons assume that domestic violence ends when an abuse victim finally leaves her partner. In reality, separation may be a signal to the perpetrator to escalate his behaviour in an attempt to continue to control or punish his partner for leaving. Every year in the United States of America as many as 1600 women are killed by their intimate partners, most often after a history of violence and attempts to end the relationship.

Another participant said, *“One day my husband raped me because our sexual relationship had not been good and I had not been willing. I have sometimes been a quiescent partner, but there were times when I said ‘No, I do not want to have sex now for this and that reasons’ and he would just ignore what I said and go ahead with sex”.*

UNICEF (2000) reveals that sexual violence and rape by an intimate partner is not considered a crime in most countries, and women in many societies do not consider forced sex as rape if they are married or cohabiting with the perpetrator. The assumption is that once a woman enters into a contract of marriage, the

husband has the right to unlimited sexual access to his wife. Surveys in many countries have revealed that approximately 10 to 15 per cent of women report being forced to have sex with their intimate partner.

Arries (2005) indicates that people should treat and respect each other as human beings. This means that husbands or partners should demonstrate respect towards their wives or partners. To demonstrate respect is to demonstrate sensitivity to the differences in the views that people as human beings might hold and learn to understand them even if there are some disagreements. This implies that people should respect the autonomy of others. The finding is supported by Rasool (2005) in his launching speech of a commission on Gender Equality. He indicated that there should be a move away from a model of masculinity that **dictates to women. Women should be treated with kindness** in a paradigm where women are treated as equals at all levels, from home to the work place. People need to take on the traditional values that prioritise men in order to move to a situation where women are truly equal at every level.

3.7.2 Unprotected sex

One participant said ***“I usually fight with my husband when it comes to sex because he does not want to use condoms and he has got a lot of girlfriends. I know some of his girlfriends; in such situation it is easy to contract HIV/AIDS and also sexually transmitted infections. I do not always win the fight we end up engaged in unprotected sex which is very dangerous to me.”***

Another participant said, ***“My husband was involved in a car accident and he died. He left me with two children. I was traumatised by his death. After my husband’s death I was forced to re-marry, the elder brother of my husband. My new husband had three wives and girl friends, I do not know how many. I was the fourth wife. I was commonly the one who was beaten. He raped me and beat me persistently. He would beat me to the point that he was too***

ashamed to take me to the doctor. He would force me to have sex with him without a condom, and beat me if I refused. Even when he was HIV positive he would still want sex with me without a condom. He said that he cannot eat sweets with the paper "wrapper" on. He died of HIV/AIDS. After his death I went for blood test, I was found negative. The nurse told me to come for testing for the second time. I went for testing still I was found negative. I left my in-laws because I was afraid to be forced to be re-married for the third time to another brother of my late husband. I am staying with my parents. I am not going to marry again because I am afraid of being abused and infected with HIV infection by men."

The finding is supported by Human Rights Watch (2006) which reveals that traditional practices such as widow inheritance, "the inheritance of the widow by the brother of the late husband", exposes women to unprotected sex with male in-laws, while the payment of the bride price by a man to the family of a woman he wishes to marry "establishes women as a physical property of their spouses, and underscores men's authority to dictate the terms of sex".

Tyuku (2000) in her study that was conducted in an Adult Education Unit in Soul City reveals that women with abusive partners are frequently unable to refuse sex with their partners or to negotiate any form of safer sex including monogamy, abstinence, or the use of condoms for fear of a violent response. These groups of abusive men, who are often also promiscuous, pose a risk to their female partners who are thus denied the right to protect themselves against infections.

Human Rights Watch (2006) reveals that domestic violence is the result of historically persistent restraints on women's equality and sexual autonomy. Women all over the world are confronted with a social environment that sustains unequal power relations. They are forced to contend with persistent social pressure to tolerate violence and are routinely subjected to coercion and emotional abuse from their husbands. The studies also reveal that unremediated

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domestic violence which is itself a widespread and chronic abuse of women all over the world plays a critical role in exposing women to sexually transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS. The fear of violence prevents women from negotiating condom use. The finding of men not wanting to use condoms is supported by Sethosa and Peltzer (2005). They mention that most of the time men control sexual decisions, and therefore women are likely to report coercive sex with their partners. Men indicate that they do not like condoms therefore they are not going to use them. Women are also unable to discuss safer sex with their husbands or sexual partners because of gender imbalances in sexual decision making. This is a particular problem for married women who depend on their husbands for food, clothes, children's education and security.

According to the constitution of the Republic of South Africa 1996 (Act 108 of 1996) section 12 (2) (a), everyone has the right to bodily and psychological integrity which includes the right to make decisions concerning reproduction and security, and control over their body. A study carried by Boonzaier (2005) on sexual violence in South Africa, supports the findings by indicating that within the South African context marital sexual infidelity seems to be very common.

Sexual infidelity has also been described as a common feature of adolescent relationships and is associated with violence and coercion in these relationships. Relationship power and control by the male partner and infidelity in intimate relationships are also related to the high rates of HIV infection among South African women and the spread of the HIV/AIDS pandemic in South Africa. Ellsberg (2006) reveals that a growing body of research indicates that violence may increase women's susceptibility to HIV infection. Studies carried out in Tanzania, Kenya and South Africa found that seropositive women were more likely than their seronegative peers to report a physical partner. It is also suggested abusive men are more likely to have HIV and impose risky sexual practices on their partner

CHAPTER 4

3.8 CONCLUSION

In this chapter the findings of the field research with women in the Vhembe district were discussed and grouped according to identified relationships. The grouped information was categorised and contextualised against the background of the literature control. The experiences of domestic violence by women in Vhembe district were identified as physical violence, psychological/emotional violence, economic violence, social violence, and sexual violence.

Provides guidelines to inform women how to cope with domestic violence, the limitations of the study, recommendations and conclusions.

The purpose of the study was to explore and describe the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district. The specific objectives of the study were to explore and describe the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district and to develop guidelines that would inform women how to cope with domestic violence. The research methodologies used in the study were qualitative, exploratory and descriptive. The researcher intended to describe the lived experiences of domestic violence by women in Vhembe district, using the phenomenological approach. The design should describe what women experienced with regard to the phenomenon of domestic violence and what meaning the experiences held for them (Bink, 2001; Mouton & Marais, 1998).

4.1 GUIDELINES TO INFORM WOMEN HOW TO COPE WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

4.1.1 Experiences of psychological/emotional violence

Women may seek help from the following support systems:

- social workers who are found in different institutions like hospitals and health centres well attuned to the situation.

CHAPTER 4

GUIDELINES TO INFORM WOMEN HOW TO COPE WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE, LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSIONS

Chapter three of this study detailed the findings of the interviews regarding the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district. This chapter provides guidelines to inform women how to cope with domestic violence, the limitations of the study, recommendations and conclusions.

The purpose of the study was to explore and describe the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district. The specific objectives of the study were to explore and describe the experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district and to develop guidelines that would inform women how to cope with domestic violence. The research methodologies used in the study were qualitative, exploratory and descriptive. The researcher intended to describe the lived experiences of domestic violence by women in Vhembe district, using the phenomenological approach. The design should describe what women experienced with regard to the phenomenon of domestic violence and what meaning the experiences held for them (Brink, 2001; Mouton & Marais, 1996).

4.1 GUIDELINES TO INFORM WOMEN HOW TO COPE WITH DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

4.1.1 Experiences of psychological/emotional violence

Women may seek help from the following support systems:

- social workers who are found in different institutions like hospitals and health centres will attend to the social needs of women;

- psychologists who are found in hospitals will attend to psychological/emotional problems, for example, by counselling the women;
- priests or clergymen who are found at hospitals, health centres and in the community will attend to the spiritual needs of the women (UNICEF 2000).

4.1.2 Experiences of economic violence

To fight against economic violence the women can do the following:

- grow vegetables and fruit so that they can generate money by selling their produce to improve their nutritional status and also to buy clothes;
- form groups and undertake projects, for example making bricks, or keeping chickens or selling fat cakes to generate money to improve their health status;
- practise family planning in order to have the desired number of children whom they can afford to maintain (UNICEF, 2000).

4.1.3 Experiences of social violence

To fight against social violence women can:

- form tea-clubs where they can come together and share their experiences of domestic violence; they can also invite their husbands or partners to join them in the tea-clubs;
- get men's organisations to provide leadership in the local communities to oppose violence against women, working in collaboration with women's organisations that have expertise in the area;
- attend (munna ndinyi) workshops pertaining to 'who is the man?' with their husbands or partners where they can learn to maintain good relationships between husband and wife (UNICEF 2000).

4.1.4 Experiences of sexual violence

To prevent sexual violence women can:

- report to the police if they have been raped, and not wash or change their clothes before reporting the matter to the police;
- encourage their husbands or partners to attend sexually-transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS workshops (UNICEF, 2000).

4.2 LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

Assessing participants who were discharged from the trauma unit was hindered by long distances and fear of victimisation by their husbands.

4.3 RECOMMENDATIONS

4.3.1 Experiences of physical violence

Women should indicate to their husbands or partners that men have no right to touch their bodies with the intention of harming them. Women should not encourage their husbands or partners to beat them. For example (Ee! nthweni ni mbulahe) pertaining to, 'yes beat me, and kill'. This makes the husband more violent. Community information and education programmes regarding the nature and unacceptability of domestic violence should be developed. Such programmes should address cultural forms of behaviour that uphold male aggression, beating and abuse of women as acceptable. Women need to be empowered through education, employment opportunities, legal literacy, and rights to inheritance. Human rights education and information regarding domestic violence should be provided to them because this is their absolute right (UNICEF, 2000).

4.3.2 Experiences of psychological/emotional violence

Women can attend workshops, conferences and seminars where they can learn how to deal with domestic violence. Demonstrations and matches can be staged, which will send a message to the society that domestic violence against women is wrong and unacceptable. Men can be invited to take part in such events. Women and men can take part in the '16 days of activism' campaign that sends a clear message to the society that violence against women is not acceptable. Stakeholders should work together with other sectors particularly at a community level to strengthen local networks for support of survivors of domestic violence. Prevention of domestic violence is critical to those that seek to change cultural norms and laws that encourage violence against women (Ellsberg, 2006). Men should receive one consistent message from all sectors and levels of society, that those who perpetrate violence against women and children will be held accountable. The crime justice system should act to reinforce the message by taking action against perpetrators, as well as providing rehabilitation options for those who offend. Training and sensitisation of the police at all levels must be instituted and guidelines must be developed to monitor police response. Police must be held accountable for their own behaviour towards victims/survivors in order to prevent victimisation of women in their hands (UNICEF, 2000).

4.3.3 Experiences of economic violence

Women can attend workshops, conferences and seminars where they learn how and where to cultivate the land. For example, it is not advisable to cultivate on top of the mountains because all the crops will be washed away during the rainy season. The women can consult the agriculture officers on what type of seeds they can sow in which seasons. Women in abusive situations need information on their rights and on financial issues (Martz & Saraurer, 2005).

4.3.4 Experiences of social violence

Religious leaders need to re-examine the interpretation of the religious texts and doctrines from the perspective of promoting equality and dignity for women. For example, many men who abuse women justify such behaviour on religious grounds, and many cultural practices that abuse women and violate women's rights are justified in the name of religion. Religious leaders at all levels have a responsibility to ensure that religious interpretations are not used to oppress women. Consistent support for women who experience domestic violence should be provided by all sectors, for example, the criminal justice system, health and welfare and the private sector. Support should also be available to women from informal networks such as family, friends, neighbours and local community groups (UNICEF, 2000).

4.3.5 Experiences of sexual violence

Husbands or partners should be encouraged to attend workshops on sexually-transmitted infections and HIV/AIDS so that they can be aware of the danger of contracting such infections. Men will also learn that sex can be negotiated between husband and the wife and sexually-transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancy can be prevented by wearing a condom. Harmful traditional practices that subjugate women in marriage and subordinate them sexually to their husbands should be eradicated (Martz & Saraurer, 2005).

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4.4 CONCLUSIONS

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The study sought to obtain the lived experiences of domestic violence by women in the Vhembe district by asking, **“Please tell me what lived experiences of domestic violence you encounter in your marriage.”**

November 17.

The following experiences were related:

Women subjected to domestic violence expressed their experiences of the physical violence their husbands. The findings of the study revealed that battering, scarring, burns, fractures, and stab wounds resulted in imbalances in health and wellness that were characterised by deformities, disabilities, nightmares, anger and fear. Women subjected to domestic violence experienced psychological/emotional violence by their husbands. The findings of the study revealed that swearing, yelling, mocking and calling names also resulted in imbalances in health and wellness that were characterised by depression, post-traumatic stress, anger, anxiety and humiliation.

Women subjected to domestic violence experienced economic violence inflicted by their husbands. The findings of the study revealed that lack of money resulted in imbalances in health and wellness characterised by poverty, hunger and humiliation.

Women subjected to domestic violence also experienced social violence inflicted by their husbands. The findings of the study revealed that isolation, not being allowed to visit or to be visited and not being allowed to go to church resulted in imbalances in health and wellness characterised by loneliness, stress, anxiety and anger. Women subjected to domestic violence experienced sexual violence inflicted by their husbands. The findings of the study revealed that rape, and unprotected sex resulted in imbalances in health and wellness characterised by humiliation, sexually-transmitted infections, HIV/AIDS and unwanted pregnancy.

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P = Participant

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P. To tell you the truth I do not know why.

R. Mh.

P. What I have realised is that my husband is impatient, jealous and inlabile since he was transferred to Polokwane.

R. Mh.

P. I strongly believe that my husband is jealous because he is always away from home but i am not sure of what I am telling you. I am saying this because one day he called me and I took time to attend to him. He was very onry with me and indicated that I took time to attend to him and he knows that I was having a boyfriend that is why I am ignoring him.

ANNEXURE A

TRANSCRIBED INTERVIEW WITH A PARTICIPANT INTERVIEW REPORT

KEYS R =Researcher

P = Participant

Research question: Share with me what your lived experience is of domestic violence in your marriage.

P. Things are not going well in my marriage since my husband was transferred to Polokwane. When he comes home on Fridays he is always angry, and he likes to beat me over nothing, as he did one day.

R. Can you please tell me why your husband likes to beat you as you have indicated?

P. To tell you the truth I do not know why.

R. Mh.

P. What I have realised is that my husband is impatient, jealous and irritable since he was transferred to Polokwane.

R. Mh.

P. I strongly believe that my husband is jealous because he is always away from home but I am not sure of what I am telling you. I am saying this because one day he called me and I took time to attend to him. He was very angry with me and indicated that I took time to attend to him and he knows that I was having a boyfriend that is why I am ignoring him.

R. After your husband accused you of having a boyfriend what did you say?

P. I told him that I do not have a boyfriend.

R. Mh.

R. You have indicated that your husband likes to beat you over nothing as he did one day. Will you please share with me what happened that day when he beat you?

P. My husband came home as usual on Friday at about 20 hours from Polokwane.

R. When I tried to explain why I did not finish what I was saying...

R. Mh.

R. Please tell me what happened then?

P. When he arrived at home I was busy preparing supper for him.

R. As I have indicated to you that I found him standing in the middle of the...

R. Mh.

P. My husband ate his supper and told me that he was tired and he wanted to have a shower and go to bed.

R. No I did not.

R. Mh.

R. Then what happened?

P. When I was busy cleaning up in the kitchen he called me in the bedroom. I told him that I was finishing washing dishes I will be coming.

R. He started kicking me all over my body until I fell on the floor. I screamed and cried for help.

R. Mh.

R. While you were screaming and shouting for help, did he stop beating you?

P. When I finished washing dishes I went in the bedroom.

R. No he continued kicking, and beating me with a cane.

R. Mh.

R. Did you get help?

P. When I entered the bedroom I found my husband standing in the middle of the room with his hands behind his back.

R. Can you tell me why people did not come and help while you were

R. Mh. for help?

P. He asked me why it took so long to come in the bedroom because he had called me long ago.

R. Mh.

P. When I tried to explain why I did not finish what I was saying ...

R. Please tell me what happened then?

P. As I have indicated to you that I found him standing in the middle of the bedroom with his hands behind his back, he was having a cane.

R. Tell me what happened then?

R. Did you know that there was a cane in the bedroom?

P. What I regained consciousness was lying in the back of my husband's van

P. No I did not.

R. Then what happened?

P. He beat me with that cane. I tried to defend myself, I was kicked all over my body until I fell on the floor. I screamed and cried for help.

R. What happened to you at the back of the van?

R. While you were screaming and shouting for help, did he stop beating you?

P. Nothing happened to me.

P. No he continued kicking, and beating me with a cane.

R. Where you were going with your husband at that time?

R. Did you get help?

- P. No I did not get help the director, what we were going because it was dark and drizzling.
- R. Can you tell me why people did not come and help while you were screaming for help?
- P. I think people do not want to interfere with problems of the husband and the wife and they believe that it is the right of the husband to beat his wife.
- R. Mh.
- P. I continued screaming, he squeezed my throat until I fell unconscious. of the car and pulled me by my legs and banged my head on the ground. I passed out.
- R. Ha!
- R. After that what happened?
- P. Ee.
- P. I woke up with my head and half of my upper body in water. I was
- R. Tell me what happened then? begging him not to kill me.
- P. When I regained consciousness I was lying in the back of my husband's van feeling cold, shivering, bleeding and scared.
- R. Who was driving the van? he was thus beating and kicking me.
- P. My husband was driving.
- R. What happened to you at the back of the van?
- P. Nothing happened to me.
- R. Where you were going with your husband at that time? take up at my parents' gate.

P. I did not figure out the direction, which we were going because it was dark and drizzling.

P. I thought he drove away because I heard a sound of a car moving away.

R. Mh.

R. What did you do then?

P. My husband drove for some time on the tarred road and he suddenly turned into a gravel road in the forest and still drove for a while.

P. I managed to knock at the door and called my mother who came

R. my Mh.

P. All of a sudden the van came to a standstill. My husband came out of the car and pulled me by my legs and banged my head on the ground. I passed out.

P. She screamed and called my father who came running. When he saw me he

R. After that what happened? the whole story. It was difficult to talk because my lower jaw was hanging

P. I woke up with my head and half of my upper body in water. I was kicking, screaming and gasping for air, begging him not to kill me.

R. Au! When your husband was busy immersing you in water was he talking to you?

R. Please tell me more about this.

P. No he was not talking, but he was busy beating and kicking me.

P. My parents helped me into the house. My mother tried to wipe my face. I

R. What happened then? My father drove me to hospital where I was admitted and stayed for three weeks.

P. He beat me until I passed out again.

R. Please tell me what happened to your hanging jaw?

R. Mh.

P. My jaws were wired. It means that my teeth were clenched together. To eat I

P. From there I do not know what happened because I woke up at my parents' gate.

R. When you woke up at your parents' gate where was your husband?

P. I thought he drove away because I heard a sound of a car moving away.

R. What did you do then?

P. I tried to stand up but I fell on my back, then I decided to crawl up to the veranda where I managed to knock at the door and called my mother who came to my rescue.

R. Mh.

R. What did your mother do when she saw you?

P. My husband said that he saw me... and he asked for... She screamed and called my father who came running. When he saw me he asked what happened. I told him the whole story. It was difficult to talk because my lower jaw was hanging.

R. Ah!

R. Ha!

P. Yes.

P. Yes.

R. Please tell me more about this.

P. In spite of all what he did to me, I will forgive him because I love him. He is... My parents helped me into the house. My mother tried to wipe my face I refused because it was hurting. My father drove me to hospital where I was admitted and stayed for three weeks.

R. Thank you very much for this interview, I am so grateful indeed.

R. Please tell me what happened to your hanging jaw?

P. I am also thankful to share my story with you and thank you so much for... My jaws were wired, it means that my teeth were clenched together. To eat I used a straw to drink fluids.

ANNEXURE B

CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPATION IN A STUDY

I.....VOLUNTEER TO BE A PARTICIPANT IN
A STUDY ON EXPERIENCES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY WOMEN
IN THE VHEMBE DISTRICT OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE.

IT IS TO BE CONDUCTED BY MISS FC MADZIMBALALE, A MASTERS
CURATIONIS STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF VENDA FOR
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

I WAS TOLD THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PAYMENT OFFERED FOR
PARTICIPATION AND THAT I AM FREE TO DISCONTINUE
PARTICIPATION AT ANY TIME WITHOUT FEAR OF BEING PUNISHED
BY THE RESEARCHER.

SIGNED AT.....ON THIS DAY OF.....MONTH.....YEAR.

SIGNATURE.....

WITNESS.....



University of Venda
Creating Future Leaders

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

Dr. ...
Tel: 013 291 5000
(013) 291 5007
Fax: (013) 291 5061
(013) 291 5145

ANNEXURE C

LETTER OF PERMISSION

Enqotes: Makwane EL
Ref: Research Approval

11 May, 2005

Ms Madzimbalele FC
University of Venda

Dear Ms Madzimbalele FC,

TITLE: THE EXPERIENCES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY WOMEN IN THE VHEMBE DISTRICT OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Permission is hereby granted to Ms Madzimbalele FC to conduct the study as mentioned above

1. The Department of Health and Social Development will expect a copy of the completed research for its own resource *after* completion of the study.
2. The researchers should be prepared to assist in interpretation and implementation of the recommendations where possible.
3. The Institution management where the study is being conducted should be made aware of this.
4. A copy of the permission letter can be forwarded to Management of Institution concerned.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
HEALTH AND WELFARE
LIMPOPO PROVINCE

cc Dr Nkashong M: Senior General Manager, Health Services

ANNEXURE D

DR. LARANE C O'CONNEL LANGUAGE PRACTITIONER

Enquiries: Malomane EL

Ref: Research Approval

11 May, 2005.

Ms Madzimbale FC

University of Venda

Dear Ms Madzimbale FC.

TITLE: THE EXPERIENCES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BY WOMEN IN THE VHEMBE DISTRICT OF LIMPOPO PROVINCE

Permission is hereby granted to **Ms Madzimbale FC.** to conduct the study as mentioned above

- 1 The Department of Health and Social Development will expect a copy of the completed research for its own resource centre after completion of the study.
- 2 The researcher/s should be prepared to assist in interpretation and implementation of the recommendations where possible.
- 3 The Institution management where the study is being conducted should be made aware of this.
- 4 A copy of the permission letter can be forwarded to Management of Institution concerned.

HEAD OF DEPARTMENT
HEALTH AND WELFARE
LIMPOPO PROVINCE

cc Dr Nkadimeng M: Senior General Manager Health Branch

ANNEXURE D

DR. LARAINÉ C O'CONNELL LANGUAGE PRACTITIONER

(SAIL Member No.: 1001-87)

TEL: 015-3072028
CELL: 083 2289 801
FAX: 015-3072028
E-MAIL: laraine@uvenda.ac.za

PO BOX 4166
0950 TZANZEN
10 March 2007

INVOICE

TO: Ms Fille Madzimbalele
University of Venda for Science and Technology
School for Health Sciences
TPOBOYANDOU

Editing of dissertation: THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES OF
WOMEN IN THE VHEMBE DISTRICT OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE IN
SOUTH AFRICA

23 965 words @ R40.04 per word: R959.40

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TO: Ms Fikile Madzimbale
University of Venda for Science and Technology
School for Health Sciences
TOHOYANDOU

Editing of dissertation: **THE DOMESTIC VIOLENCE EXPERIENCES OF
WOMEN IN THE VHEMBE DISTRICT OF THE LIMPOPO PROVINCE IN
SOUTH AFRICA**

23 985 words @ R0.04 per word:

R959.40

Banking details:
Account name: Dr L C O'Connell
Account no.: 230363512
Bank: Standard
Branch: Tzaneen
Branch No.: 052749

Prof XG Mhonyane
Acting Executive Dean

Faculty of Agriculture, Rural Development and Forestry

University of Venda

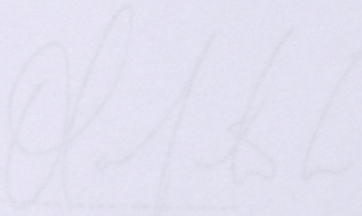
09 November 2004

ANNEXURE E

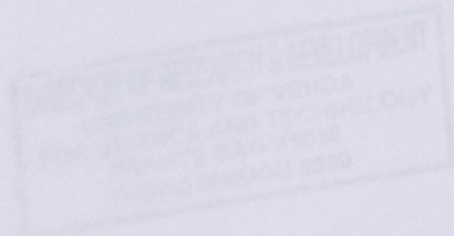
ETHICAL CLEARANCE

Re: Application for Ethical Clearance - Ms PC Madzimbalala

The Health, Safety and Research Ethics Committee met at its meeting on the 05 November 2004, approved Ms Madzimbalala's project entitled: *"Experiences of Violence by Women in the Venda District."*



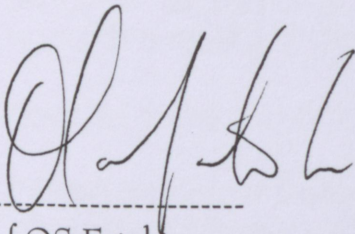
Prof OS Patold
Director: Research and Development



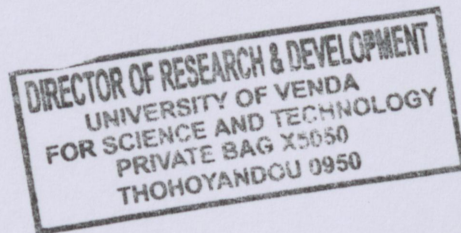
Prof XG Mbhenyane
Acting Executive Dean
Faculty of Agriculture, Rural Development, Forestry & Health Sciences
University of Venda
09 November 2004

Re: Application for Ethical Clearance - Ms FC Madzimbale

The Health, Safety and Research Ethics Committee has at its meeting on the 05 November 2004, approved Ms Madzimbale's project entitled: "*Experiences of Violence by Women in the Vhembe District.*"



Prof OS Fatoki
Director: Research and Development



ANNEXURE F

17 JUNE 2004

SENEX

MS F.C. MADZIMBALALE
P.O. BOX 5010
THOHOYANDOU
0950

RESEARCH PROPOSAL: F.C. MADZIMBALALE; STUDENT NO. 11502763

Senex at its meeting, which was held on 31 May 2004, has approved the research proposal of the above-named student.

The title of the research proposal is:

"Experiences of Domestic Violence by Women in the Vhembe District of Limpopo Province".

The purpose of the research is to meet the requirements for the degree of Magister Curatensis.

Thank you.



M. MABIDI
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR.





17 JUNE 2004.

MS F.C. MADZIMBALALE
P.O. BOX 5010
THOHOYANDOU
0950

RESEARCH PROPOSAL: F.C. MADZIMBALALE: STUDENT NO. 11502763

Senex at its meeting, which was held on 31 May 2004, has approved the research proposal of the above-named student.

The title of the research proposal is:

"Experiences of Domestic Violence by Women in the Vhembe District of Limpopo Province".

The purpose of the research is to meet the requirements for the degree of Magister Curationis.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Mabidi".

.....
M. MABIDI
SCHOOL ADMINISTRATOR.



R. What happened to your husband?

P. He was arrested.

R. Mh.

P. After six months I went to court with my parents. Before the magistrate passed the sentence he asked if my husband had anything to say.

R. Mh.

P. My husband said that he was sorry to all what he did to me and he asked for forgiveness. He also asked me not to divorce him. He was sentenced to four years behind bars.

R. Au!

P. Yes.

R. How do you feel about you husband's request of not divorcing him?

P. In spite of all what he did to me, I will forgive him because I love him. He is my husband, the father of my children and I am not going to divorce him. I just hope that after serving his sentence he will have learned a lesson.

R. Thank you very much for this interview, I am so grateful indeed.

P. I am also thankful to share my story with you and thank you so much for listening to me.