

THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

FACULTY OF HUMANITIES

**THE LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES OF WIDOWS ASSOCIATED WITH
FAMO MUSIC GANG CONFLICTS IN THE MAFETENG DISTRICT**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF DEVELOPMENT STUDIES
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DEVELOPMENT STUDIES**

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NUL

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DECLARATION

I hereby declare that this thesis is my original work and has not been presented for examination in any other university for the award of an academic certificate, except where otherwise indicated and due acknowledgement is given.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

BCP	Basotho National Congress
BDF	Botswana Defence Force
CCL	Christian Council of Lesotho
CDs	Compact Disks
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DFID	Department for International Development
DRC	Democratic Republic of Congo
DVDs	Digital Versatile Discs
EU	European Union
FAO	Food Agricultural Organizations
FDI	Foreign Direct Investment
FHHs	Female Headed Households
GOL	Government of Lesotho
ICRC	International Committee for the Red Cross
IEC	Independent Electoral Commission
ILO	International Labour Organization
IPA	Interim Political Authority
IPCC	International Panel of Climate Change
LAA	Land Administration Authority (LAA)
LCD	Lesotho Congress for Democracy
LCN	Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organizations
LDF	Lesotho Defence Force

LLA	Lesotho Liberation Army
LMPS	Lesotho Mounted Police Service
MNCs	Multi-National Corporations
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SANDF	South African National Defence Force
SAPs	Structural Adjustment programmes
SLA	Sustainable Livelihood Approach
SSA	Sub-Saharan Africa
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNFPA	United Nations Fund for Population Activities
UNICED	United Nations Conference on Environment and Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
US	United States
USAID	United States Agency for International Development
VDCs	Village District Councils
WB	World Bank

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ABSTRACT

Livelihoods making in the households of widows in the Mafeteng District is affected by the Famo music gang conflicts that led to the deaths of majority of men who are in their productive years. The killings left women as widows and children as orphans. Widows and their families face different challenges such as the loss of incomes due to the deaths of breadwinners. Most widows face the hardships of making a living. This is because many of them lack economic assets such as land due to discriminatory cultural beliefs and practices. Therefore it is not easy for widows to make a living after the passing away of their husbands. However, some widows established some small scale businesses to make a living while others work as domestic workers. In addition to economic hardships widows face social stigma and exclusion from some community members due to their status and high poverty levels. Another challenge faced by widows is property grabbing by their in-laws in terms of assets such as land, housing and others.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0. Background to the study

Conflict has been experienced over different parts of the world. At the global level, conflict can be traced as far as the First and Second Wars. The two World Wars were fought worldwide and almost half a dozen of states lost wealth and population (Broadberry and Harrison, 2008). During the wars African men were compulsorily recruited in large numbers as carriers to support European armies (Broadberry and Harrison, 2008). The recruitment targeted able bodied men in their productive years (Goldin, 1989). In World War I approximately 20 million or more people lost their lives, others were wounded while some were disabled (Broadberry and Harrison, 2008). Comparably, the World War II was mentioned as the deadliest military conflict in history whereby nearly 70-85 million premature deaths were experienced and many women were left behind as widows (Goldin, 1989). Broadberry and Harrison (2008) add that in both World Wars there were massive losses of lives of people which were accompanied by a huge destruction to property. However, human capital was impacted at a higher magnitude as compared to the physical capital. In poor countries agricultural sector was also affected leading to food scarcity (Broadberry and Harrison 2020). Furthermore, Vonyo (2020) notes that World War II resulted in labour shortages as there were changes in demographic structure in population of middle aged men in their productive years.

At the continental or regional levels conflicts are attributed mainly to civil wars. In Africa, there has been internal civil conflict in almost every nation. In all these prolonged civil conflicts to conventional interstate conflicts masses of Africans have been killed, especially men (Mumuni, 2016). The causes of all these conflicts are many and different, ranging from colonialism, coups d'états, unstable post-colonial African nations, the social cleavages such as ethnicity variations, religious conflicts, weak democracies, competition of over limited resources among others (Fouskas, 2007).

Olaosebikan (2010) indicates that millions of Africans comprising of the youth, elders, middle aged men and women civilians as well as members of armed forces equally, have lost their lives

to several wars and conflicts on the continent. This has been a case in the Rwandan genocide of the 1994, Somali, Angola, Kenya and many more (Global coalition for Africa, 2004). This extraordinary loss of lives in Africa because of wars and conflicts is having devastating effect on human resources available to Africa (Olaosebikan, 2010). This is due to the fact that these conflicts affect men in large numbers who are endowed with abundant skills, talents as well as potentials that are needed to be harnessed for Africa's development (Olaosebikan, 2010). As men die in large numbers due to conflicts of women were left as heads of the households, and were deprived of their legal rights and access to land (Sorensen, 1993).

Furthermore, Bruck and Schindler (2009) point out that widows and their families face different challenges and more severe limitations in earning incomes due to the loss of economic resources linked to men, as well as male labor and land ownership, together with the destruction of property. There is a tremendous challenge for women to adjust themselves to the new environment after the passing of their husbands (Ali, 2014). Absence of men forced women to engage in various income generating activities to in order to survive in the households (Hategekimana, 2011). They get involved in food for work programmes and producing food from their gardens to meet their dietary needs (Hategekimana, 2011). Women engaged in self-help organizations with the aim of accumulating capital through formation of credit schemes for financing of some income generating programmes (Sorensen, 1993).

1.2. Statement of the problem

In Lesotho conflict has been a persistent problem facing the country since the post-colonial Era. The post-colonial history of Lesotho has revolved around the following types of conflicts; post-election disputes, rangelands and currently the Famo music gang conflicts. In Lesotho there has been competition for power during and after elections, unsettled disputes of political impunity, including intermittent military intervention in the nation's political developments. There have been military coup d'états leading to changes of governments as well as attempted coups. There were also conflicts over rangelands due to limited grazing land. In the period of the Millennium Era, Lesotho is confronted with the Famo music gang conflicts. The most famous and violent gangs are established around the rivalry amongst the musicians, supporters including their hangers-on. The fightings were developed due to competition over shrinking market, popularity, radio-air play, recording time and influence as well as criticisms through songs,.

On the contrary, these crises have massive impacts on the country's economic opportunities; lots of lives were lost especially men in their productive years, an impaired international image, as well as deepened political strains with detrimental effects on the nation's social fabric. According to Basotho culture men are breadwinners and women are considered as minors. Conversely, as men die in large numbers due to conflicts, women are left without livelihoods and have to adopt various survival strategies. The responsibility of being the breadwinner normally creates hardships for majority of widows to make a living because many of them lack economic assets such as land due to discriminatory cultural beliefs and practices. Widows often suffer the consequences of grabbing of their husband's property by the in-laws.

1.3. Aim of the study

The aim of this study is to investigate the livelihood strategies adopted by widows associated with Famo Musicians gang conflicts in the Mafeteng District.

1.4. Objectives of the study

The study will be directed by the following objectives;

1.4.1. General objective

The main objective of the study is to investigate the different livelihood strategies adopted by widows after the death of their husbands due to music gang conflicts in the Mafeteng District.

1.4.2. Specific objectives

- To study the different livelihood strategies adopted by Famo related widows to make a living
- To investigate if the lives of Famo gang widows have changed for the better or worse after the passing of their spouses
- To study the contribution of the livelihood strategies in improving the living standards of the households of widows.

1.5. Research questions

The study addresses the following research questions:

1.5.1. Main research question

- What are the different livelihoods strategies adopted by women after the death of their husbands in Famo music gang conflicts in Mafeteng?

1.5.2. Sub-research questions

- How are the Famo music gang related widows make a living after the death of their husbands?
- Are the lives of widows better or worse off after the passing of their husbands?
- Does the livelihood strategies adopted change the living standards in the households of widows?

1.6. Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were tested in the course of the study:

- The Famo music gang widows engage in various livelihoods strategies for survival
- The lives of widows are worse-off after the death of their spouses
- The livelihood strategies adopted by widows improved the living standards in their households

1.7. Scope of the Study

The study was conducted in the Mafeteng district, which is home for most famo musicians and where music gang related killings are widespread.

1.8. Significance of the Study

There are various reasons for undertaking this study. The findings obtained in this study will not only positively help policymakers as well as development practitioners in planning interventions that will benefit widows including other female headed households but will also be of importance for formulation of adequate and effective developmental programmes for women in Lesotho. For the fact that poverty levels are increasing at an alarming rate in Lesotho and the national economy cannot cater for the rising population, it is therefore analytically significant to highlight through research issues pertaining to the impacts of poverty in widows households not only to raise national awareness about their grievances but also to include them in decision making on matters affecting their lives.

The study findings will also be used to cross-examine the strategies that are in place to reduce household poverty amongst widow's households with a view to streamlining and consolidating them with greater possibilities of incorporating them in poverty alleviation programmes

1.9. Definition of significant concepts

1.9.1. Widow

According to Ngwogu (2015) a widow as a woman whose husband is dead and has not re-married. The widow bears the responsibilities and challenges of the immediate family which was formerly borne by her and the husband all alone. Chitra (2017) describes widow as a woman whose spouse has died. Sossou (2002) defines a widow as any woman who has survived or outlived the husband.

1.9.2. Widowhood

Widowhood entails the observance of certain rites by the woman (Ngwogu, 2015). Widowhood is defined as a miserable moment in a woman's life, when her identity is exposed away because of the death of her husband (Standridge, 2019).

1.9.3. Livelihood

Edjei (2007) shows that the concept of livelihood is primarily acknowledged as important ways for understanding problems, aspects and requirements of poor households and low-income groups. Carney (2002) defines a livelihood as involving of the capabilities, assets comprising of material and social resources as well as activities necessary for a means of living. According to Chambers and Conway (1992);

“A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets and activities required for a means of living. A livelihood is sustainable when it can cope with and recover from stresses and shocks and maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets both now and in the future, while not undermining the natural resource base.”

1.9.4. Livelihood Strategies

Livelihood strategies consist of the diversity and combination of undertakings including choices that individuals engage in order to achieve their livelihood goals. It can also be understood as a livelihood process whereby communities combine activities to attain their numerous needs at different times (DFID, 2000). Livelihood strategies can be defined as improved well-being,

reduced vulnerability, and enhanced food security including sustainable use of natural resources base. It is mainly dependent on the availability of livelihood assets or capitals such as; natural capital, human capital, financial capital, physical capital and social capital (Sati, 2014). Vulnerability situation; for example shocks, inclinations and seasonality as well as institutional and policy framework are among other aspects of livelihood strategies (Sati, 2014).

1.9.5. Household

The World Bank (2013) describes a household to a number of family members or an individual earning a living by providing his or her own basic needs such as food without making contributions with other tenants. A household is also considered to be a group of two or a number of people living together and also combining efforts to ensure that dietary needs and other necessities are met (Edjei, 2007). This group may comprise of relatives and unrelated members or even include both. Mwangi (2017) adds that a household is a residential unit in which the inhabitants are bound by kinship and rely on the head of the household.

1.9.6. Famo music

Phafoli (2009) states that *famo* is a term used to describe Basotho and Sesotho music songs that originated with concertina as the key instrument and later accordion and drums. The *famo* music, which is currently known as accordion music, originated in the Republic of South Africa but, with migrant labour from Lesotho, it crossed into Lesotho and it was regularly played at shebeens (Phafoli, 2009).

1.9.7. Conflict

Musukubili (2009) defines conflict as a struggle over values as well as assertions to scarce status, power and resources in which the purpose of the opponents is to counterbalance, injure or eradicate their rivals. Conflict occur in a situation whereby groups of people are involved in a struggle concerning beliefs, assertions to status, supremacy including capitals in which the opponents are aiming to neutralize, damage or even eliminate the competitors (Herbert, 2017).

1.10. Theoretical Framework

This section outlines the theoretical framework that was used to understand the various livelihood strategies which widows affected by conflict adopt in order to survive in their households in developing countries.

1.10.1. Introduction

Creswell (2009) argues that the application of theories is very significant when carrying out a systematic research. This is because they provide a logical guidance and comprehensive explanations to social phenomena. Theories can also define how different variables in research could be related. This study will use the Feminization of poverty as articulated by Diane Pearce and the Sustainable livelihood approach (SLA). The two theories will be convenient in explaining the livelihoods strategies that widows adopt to survive in the households. The sustainable livelihood approach is considered to be relevant because it is dynamic and has diverse crosscutting characteristics. The feminisation of poverty theory will also be used to find out how widows exercise agency in their daily lives based on the available resources. In this study, the Feminisation of poverty will be discussed first, followed by the SLA.

1.10.2. Feminisation of Poverty

The term 'feminisation of poverty' originated in the United States in the late 1970s, because it was discovered that the female-headed household structure was growing at a faster rate (Pearce, 1978). Further, the discourse on "feminisation of poverty" embraces that due to recession and reduced public spending by regimes, women are in greater numbers among the world's poor (Pearce, 1978). According to Pearce (1978), across the globe two thirds of the poor were women over the age of 16 and many of them are from the economically deprived groups. Additionally, Medeiros and Costa (2008) argue that feminisation is a process of being more feminine. In this case, feminine refers to being more common even concentrated among women or female-headed households. The feminisation of poverty is a phrase that became popular in Development Studies (DS) in the 1980s and later adopted in the United Nations' Beijing Platform for Action (Russell, 2014). The term has been influential in providing a language with which to discover the gender-based division of paid and unpaid labour as well as the existence of dual labour markets (Russell, 2014). However, previously a more complex interpretation has been raised out and this interpretation acknowledged the main factors basing this phenomenon in the family structure, occupation track as well as the numerous models of work or life balance (Rissotto and Maurizio, 2012). It is further stated by Rissotto and Maurizio (2012) that one of the most significant instruments impoverishing women is defamiliarization, which refers to the torn apart of a family as a result of, separations and widowhood.

Chant (2006) asserts the feminisation of poverty involves the three most fundamental doctrines which indicate that worldwide majority of women experience extreme poverty (Russell, 2014). This tendency of expanding women's accumulative share of poverty is linked to increasing numbers of female household headship (Chant, 2006). The feminisation of poverty is also associated with migration. This is due to the increasing numbers in female household headship whereby women's role is to generate income to ensure survival in their families (Russell, 2014). In this respect, women in large numbers leave their homes to seek paid employment in developed nations or even in towns only to send remittances back home (Russell, 2014).

Chant (2008) points out that there are various aspects which are accountable for the feminisation of poverty and they are more related to gender inequalities in human rights, capabilities, feminized division of labour, as well as the destruction of kin-based support systems due to migration, conflict and many more. Furthermore, Medeiros and Costa (2008) show that feminisation of poverty results from gender inequalities which are embedded in cultural practices which favour men over the control of resources and gender based injustice. According to Chant (2006) women experience poverty due to discriminatory laws which needs to be eliminated to ensure gender equality. Another reason given to account for their poverty is that female heads have lesser social networks and they lack bonds with ex-partners relatives. Chant (2008) state that female heads typically distance themselves from their own family networks or others members of the societies because of their status of lacking.

Raniga and Ngcobo (2014), note that, poverty is recognised both quantitatively and qualitatively diverse for women due to organised biases that they encounter in basic standard of daily living for example in education, health care, food security, access to land including employment. It is further indicated by Neumark (2016) that women's attachment to labour market is also weak. The increase of female participation in low paid, urban, informal sector activities is also deliberated as an evident of the feminisation of poverty (Chant, 2014). The United Nations (UN) (2000) statistics show that the informal sector is the largest source of employment for women compared to men. In addition (BRIDGE, 2001) reports that the concentration of women in spontaneous labour of informal sector work with low wages conceals the fact that the legal frameworks have neither excluded women nor not been enforced.

The feminisation of poverty was launched to global agenda in 1995 during the Fourth United Nations Conference on Women (Chant, 2014). Therefore, unusual attention to women in international fora on poverty reduction was enhanced, through formulation and implementation of relevant policies focusing on feminisation of anti-poverty interventions that stress female empowerment as a crucial tool to poverty reduction (Chant, 2006). These interventions led to female empowerment approach which emphasizes women engagement in activities in order to solve their own problems through employment opportunities as well as entrepreneurial endeavors, in which micro lending plays a significant part (Chant, 2014). According to Kaseke (2010) the empowerment of women at an individual level, assist to build a base for social change as well as empowerment at their income level can increase the status in units and communities.

The word feminization can be used to show a gender-biased change in some of these dimensions (Medeiros and Costa, 2008). Women and economic development are at the centre of the discourse on feminization of poverty (Veeran, 2000). Furthermore, Wennerholm (2002) advocates for consideration of women in the development practice, including creating awareness of the existence and vulnerability of female-headed households. With poverty reduction being the concern of international development since the beginning of the 1990s, it is therefore justifiable for policymakers to advocate the allocation of resources to pro-gender equity and anti-poverty measures (Medeiros and Costa, 2008). Chant (2007) adds that the feminisation of poverty has led to the development of anti-poverty programmes. This was proven by efforts undertaken to provide women with vocational and literacy skills through education to enhance their access to micro- credit facilities, community work, and self-help organizations including offering support to the vulnerable female heads of household (Chant , 2007).

According to Wennerholm (2002), the feminisation of poverty does not only center on putting more emphasis on only women experiencing poverty, but also highlighted the effect of macro-economic programs on women for instance the Structural Adjustment Programmes (SAPS). Women are likely to be exposed as compared to men to stay in the poorest areas, where economic opportunities are scarce (Khuzwayo, 2016). Ngcobo and Raniga (2014) state that women are among the poorest because of the unfair sharing of assets and income; majority of women who normally engage in informal means of living hardly generate adequate profits to boost themselves and their families out of poverty. Women engage in informal income

generating activities in an effort to substitute social grants to endure their livelihoods (Khuzwayo, 2016). This appeared to be inadequate to fulfill their accomplishments, leading to the development of formal income generating ventures and their implementation with the application of Sustainable Livelihood Approach as the strategy to poverty reduction (Khuzwayo, 2016).

1.10.3. The Sustainable Livelihood Approach

The sustainable livelihood approach was developed, immediately after the Brundtland Commission on Environment and Development, as a means of associating socioeconomic and ecological factors in a more interrelated, policy appropriate structure (Krantz, 2001). The 1992 United Nations Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) adopted the term basically in the setting of Agenda 21, and promoted sustainable livelihoods as a comprehensive aim for poverty eradication (Krantz, 2001). As defined by Chambers and Conway (1992);

“A livelihood comprises the capabilities, assets (stores, resources, claims and access) and activities required for a means of living; a livelihood is sustainable which can cope with and recover from stress and shocks, maintain or enhance its capabilities and assets, and provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for the next generation; and which contributes net benefits to other livelihoods at the local and global levels and in the long and short term” (Chambers and Conway, 1992).

The Sustainable Livelihoods Approach can be seen as one of a number of investigative frameworks that deal with the dynamic dimensions of poverty and well-being (Norton and Foster, 2001). This is done through establishing a typology of assets which poorer segments, households and societies deploy to preserve well-being under changing conditions (Norton and Foster, 2001). The livelihoods approach places people at the centre of development. This focus on people is equally vital at higher levels when thinking about the attainment of objectives such as poverty reduction, economic reform and sustainable development as it is at the community level whereby in a number of cases it is already well imbedded (Ashley and Carney, 1999). The SLA creates a straightforward and a practical viewpoint on how to reduce poverty and if applied appropriately it can be a better strategy of integrating the main pillars of sustainable development (DFID, 2000). Krantz (2001) states that for analysis purposes the SLA focuses more on the

various types of assets which people rely on to fulfill their livelihoods. According to Ellis (2000) assets are classified as natural capital which refers to land and other natural resources, physical capital (buildings), human capital (labour, skills, education and health), financial capital (stock of money, access to credits) as well as social capital which comprises of the community and varied social networks.

The DFID (2008) presents that the SLA is very important because it can be applied with many developmental strategies since it combines various methodologies and reconsider their strengths. The SLA emphasizes the importance of influencing policies and institutional engagements so that they promote the agenda of the poorer members of the society and a key step is their political participation (DFID, 2008). It also works to support societies to accomplish their own livelihood goals through taking into justification considerations concerning sustainability (DFID, 1997). In addition, the SLA portrays the different livelihoods strategies which people undertake to earn a living basically the poorer members of the communities who depend on various economic activities for survival (Chambers, 1995; Norton and Foster, 2001). This approach also assists in understanding the unforeseen causes of poverty by concentrating on various factors which can directly or indirectly influence or even restrain the destitute people from accessing resources of diverse kinds to sustain their livelihoods (Krantz, 2001).

Carney (2003), states that in various international organizations, such as the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and Department for International Development (DFID), the SLA has been engaged for analysis purposes. The SLA has been used in these agencies in order to understand the effects of poverty in different settings on which they operate with the aim of poverty alleviation (Carney, 2003). In this case, livelihoods of communities who are located in marginalized, underprivileged including poverty-stricken conditions are improved (Carney, 2002). The SLA paves the way for identifying theoretical priorities for undertakings that rely on the sentiments and the desires of those concerned; however they are not relevant because other tools; for instance participatory development, sector-wide methodologies, and even integrated rural development are not replaced (Serrat, 2017).

Norton and Foster (2001) indicate that the SLA is an analytical framework that can be used to understand the numerous factors which can affect choices surrounding subsistence, and to examine how these factors interact among themselves. Seguya et al (2009) note that the SLA is an outcome from the rural development debate; therefore it is more focused on examining the conditions for small-holders particularly those located in vulnerable environments. According to Scoones (1998) within the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach, three comprehensive collections of livelihood strategies are acknowledged and they are; agricultural intensification, livelihood diversification including migration. In addition, Scoones (1998) points out that these livelihood strategies used by individuals for their survival must be differentiated and require creativeness. The livelihood strategies should also be innovative ways in terms of attaining income to survive in times of shocks and stresses that one may face in the state where a livelihood strategy is not fulfilling the means of survival (Scoones, 1998).

The DFID (2008) state that the SLA put more emphasize on gender and ecological specific matters though it has failed to offer more details on gender inequalities and social exclusion. Carney (2002) notes that it can be employed to discover how females, males and children in their various social settings transact with the prevailing power relations in their daily lives with the purpose of meeting their anticipated livelihoods. The SLA is also applicable in validating the ways in which women in dissimilar social settings can attain sustainable livelihoods by adopting a combined number of assets to pursuit their varied livelihood strategies (Khuzwayo, 2016).

In conclusion, in this study the both the Feminisation of poverty and the SLA are very relevant when analysing how widows in Mafeteng manage to survive after the death of their husbands and the livelihood strategies which they adopt to earn a living.

1.11. Research Methodology

Research methodology is defined as a technique to solve research problems systematically and there are several logical steps involved (Desncombe, 2010)). Leedy and Ormrod (2010) define research methodology as an approach which a researcher engage in carrying out the research project and, eventually the approach dictates the certain tools that the researcher chooses. Therefore, in this section the following aspects are discussed; research design, population and sampling procedures, data collection, and data analysis. The processes to be undertaken to ensure the validity and reliability of data collection, limitations of the study and ethical considerations will also be included.

1.11.1. Research Design

Kumar (2011) defines a research design as a procedural strategy which is undertaken by the researcher to provide answers to questions validly, objectively, precisely as well as economically. Research design is also defined as a more comprehensive plan or way for attaining data scientifically (Schaefer, 2008). MacMillan and Schumacher (2001) note that a research design is a plan for choosing subjects, study sites, including data collection techniques to answer the stated research questions. The main objective of a comprehensive research design is to provide outcomes that are reliable (MacMillan and Schumacher, 2001). In this study, data was collected through the use of questionnaires and answers were recorded without being manipulated and thereafter a summary was made of all provided answers to the questions posed in percentages, tables and graphs. Conclusions were drawn on the data collected from the study areas.

1.11.2. Research Approach

This study used the mixed methods approaches. Desncombe (2010) defines the mixed methods approach as design which combines both qualitative and quantitative research data, methods including techniques in a single research framework. Mixed methods comprise multifaceted approaches that combine to get the most out of strengths and ease weaknesses that arise from employing a particular research design (Kabir, 2018). On the other hand, qualitative data are typically non-numerical and usually descriptive or nominal in nature meaning that the data collected is normally presented in words and sentences (Kumar, 2011). Additionally, quantitative research is associated with numerical and statistical analysis of research data (Saunders, et al,

2012). The main distinctive feature of qualitative research approach is that it is mostly applicable for small samples whereas its outcomes are not measurable and quantifiable (Creswell, 2003).

A mix of quantitative and qualitative approach institutes the conceptual configuration of the study including the operational implications of the final data analysis (Creswell, 2003). In this study quantitative approach was used to gather relevant information through the use of a questionnaire while qualitative approach was used to collect information about the experiences and opinions through interviews.

1.11.3. Population

Neuman (2007) refers a population to the whole set of characters or subjects with similar features in which the researcher is interested in. Population represents; individuals, objects, themes, a phenomenon and many more forms which are the subject under investigation (Setoi, 2009). Population refers to a group of entities of the same species living and reproducing within a particular area (Tarsi and Tuff, 2012). Then from a population a sample then is a selected (Rakotsoane and Rakotsoane, 2007).

The population in this study included widows from the Mafeteng District. Data was collected from widows located on the following regions; Likhoele, Thabana-Morena, Qalabane and Maliepetsana.

1.11.4. Sample and Sampling Techniques

Kumar (2011) defines a sample as a subset of the population the researcher is concerned with. Sampling is the method of choosing a representative of the whole population to lay a foundation for making estimations or predictions about the prevailing mysterious piece of information, or result concerning the bigger group (Kumar, 2011). Desncombe (2010) adds that there are two approaches can be employed in the selection of samples and they are probability sampling and non- probability sampling. In probability sampling, all individuals within the research population have equal chances being chosen (Dawson, 2009). Non-probability sampling includes a component of choosing subjects when the number of elements in a study population is neither unidentified nor cannot be known and therefore in such circumstances the choice of elements is dependent on other concerns (Desncombe, 2010).

This research used a mixed sampling approach comprising of; Simple Random Sampling and purposive sampling techniques. A mixed sampling design involves a combination of probability random sampling and non-probability techniques for selecting a sample (group of subjects) from a large population. In addition, a mixed methods design to sampling assist to lessen problems integral in certain techniques and enable the researcher to deal with problems associated with sampling bias. In a simple random every member of the entire population under study has the probability of being chosen in the sample (Creswell, 2009).

As a result, in this study simple random and purposive sampling were used to select a sample of eighty participants who were interviewed in order to get qualitative data. Purposive sampling method includes the selection of participants based of certain precise features such as their relevance and privileged knowledge of the topic under investigation (Desncombe, 2010). In this study widows were purposely identified through the assistance of social and community leadership who have worked and interacted with widows.

1.11.5. Research Instrument Validity and Reliability

To deliver proper sound, consistent, and appropriate evidence, the data given must be both reliable and valid (Neuman, 2007). Leedy and Omrod (2004) define research validity as the degree in which the instrument measures what it is entitled to measure. Validity in research is the matter of how effective the research is, meaning how logical, straightforward, robust, sound, sensible, significant and worthwhile the research is (Quinlan, 2011). The concept of reliability is related to a research instrument because once a research tool is said to be consistent, stable, as anticipated and accurate, then it is reliable (Kumar, 2011). Reliability is the degree to which findings are consistent over time, and are accurately represent the total population to be studied (Quinlan, 2011).

To guarantee the validity and reliability of the content of the questionnaires in this study, the preliminary pilot interviews were conducted to prove that the interview guide will be suitable for the entire interview. The main reason behind this was for the researcher to check that the instrument used will produce the necessary results; then errors can be recognized earlier and corrected.

1.11.6. Data Collection techniques

Data collection is the procedure of collecting and assessing information on variables of interest, in a planned logical manner which makes it easier to answer stated research questions, test hypotheses, and evaluate results (Kabir, 2016). The main objective for all data collection is to seek quality evidence which converts to rich data analysis and allows the constructing of a considerable as well as reliable answer to research questions (Kabir, 2016). Various methodologies can be used for data collection as well as analysis. Majority rely on a fundamental set of basic tools which include interviews, focus group discussions, observation, questionnaires and others. In-depth individual interviews were used in this study to collect information from the participants on how they make their living.

1.11.6.1. Primary data collection tools

Data collection tools that were used in this study to collect primary data are in-depth interview guides. Chaleunvong (2009) describes an interview as a data collection tool that comprises questioning of the respondents verbally, as individuals or a group. An interview includes a set of assumptions as well as clarifications of a certain situation which is not usually linked with a casual conversation (Desncombe, 2010). In this study face to face interviews were conducted to collect primary data from widows using structured interview guides comprising of similar questions. The interviews were held at the participants homes and their responses to the questions were recorded including those crossed from the guide. The open ended questions assisted to reveal how widows exercised agency on their livelihoods

1.11.6.2. Secondary data collection sources

The development of this research was depended on secondary sources of information such as books, reports, conference papers and electronic sources such as the internet. Electronic sources and other reliable tools were used to collect data on the causes and impacts of conflicts in developing countries as well as the livelihood strategies which widows adopt in order to survive. Data on Lesotho was also collected from various sources being; journal articles, books, newspapers, reports and other documents.

1.11.7. Data Analysis Method

Data analysis is the process of systematically examining and organizing the interview transcript, field records and other material that can be collected to enhance an understanding and to enable the researcher to present his or her findings from the field compared to others (Creswell, 2009).

Atkinson (1998) indicates that analysis of data is guided by particular stages of transcript and clarification although should be aligned with the stated objectives of the study.

This research used both quantitative and qualitative approaches to analyze data collected from the field. Qualitative was used to analyze the perception data that was collected from the primary sources. The main aim for collecting secondary data was for re-analyzing the data. Data analysis was done using descriptive statistics. Then raw data collected from the field was organized, classified, interpreted and conclusions were made through using tables and analysed or interpreted quantitatively. The data analysed indicated whether the stated objectives were achieved or not.

1.11.8. Ethical Consideration

In this study the researcher secured initial authorization to carry out the study from the National University of Lesotho. The researcher informed the participants that taking part in the study was voluntary and that they were free to withdraw at any stage of the interview. Then, the researcher will also try to acquire informed consent from the respondents before the study interview commences. The respondents will be assured that the information provided will be treated with absolute confidentiality and the identity of the household members will not under any circumstances revealed. Plagiarism will also be evaded through appropriate referencing.

1.11.9. Limitations of the study

There are some challenges faced during fieldwork which ascends from using the qualitative method of approach. In the course of the interviews, some of the questions were deliberated personal and heart-rending. This provoked some emotions to the widows and eventually broke down into tears. It can be drawn from the researchers experience that studying people's perceptions is not always easy, specifically when the topic is related to their emotions. Some experiences were hard to talk about as others were being evicted from their matrimonial homes by their in-laws and accused of plotting their husband's deaths.

Majority of widows are in very far places in the remote areas and travelling was not very easy as a result of poor road infrastructure. Majority of the widows are reported to have migrated to South Africa and Lesotho towns to seek for better employment opportunities to ensure survival in their households. Others have migrated because of fear of their lives; therefore finding widows

was not easy. A sample of eighty widows also is not representative of the entire population of widows in order to generate information about a certain country, region or even study area. As a result to the nature of the sampling techniques used in this study, the data analysed could only be applicable to the sampled population because it does not provide enough scope for wide-ranging representation.

1.11.10. Organization of the study

The thesis is divided into six chapters. In chapter one, provides background issues of conflict across the globe and the methodological approach. Chapter two discusses the causes of conflicts and consequences in developing countries on women. The impact of conflicts on women in developing countries is also dealt with in this chapter. Chapter 3 is focused on the livelihood strategies adopted by widows in developing nations. Chapter 4 is about the literature on the causes and consequences of conflicts in Lesotho, the impacts of conflicts on citizens including mediations measures. Chapter 5 presents the data analysis and presentation of the findings. Chapter 6 deals with the concluding remarks and the recommendations.

1.11.11. Conclusion

This section presented the background and statement of the study. The general aim of the study, objectives, and research questions were outlined. The significance of the study, the Feminisation of poverty and Sustainable Livelihood Approach as the key frameworks underpinning the study was discussed. The research methodology, which comprises the design, data collection, sampling, and data analysis, was also outlined.

CHAPTER TWO

THE CAUSES OF CONFLICT, IMPACT AND CONSEQUENCES ON WOMEN IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

2.1. Introduction

Fouskas (2007) indicates that exacerbating conflicts in Africa have effect on developmental activities because apart from the massive losses of human lives, infrastructure is destroyed, loss of investment prospects, and huge displacement of communities from their homes and thus resulting in the destruction of peoples livelihoods (Fouskas, 2007). This chapter is divided in to two sections. The first section provides an overview and the causes of conflicts in developing nations. The second section focuses on the impact and consequences of conflicts in developing countries.

2.2. An overview of conflict in African continent

In Africa, there have been internal civil conflicts in almost every nation. The causes of all these conflicts are several and vary, and range from colonial legacy, coups d'états, weak post-colonial African countries, the intervention of the military in political developments, social cleavages for example ethnicity, regional and religious conflicts, political intolerance, competition of societies over limited resources among others (Fouskas, 2007). In addition, Bowd and Chikwanda (2010) show that Sub-Saharan Africa countries which are involved in violent conflicts are normally perpetuated by extreme poverty, inequitable distribution of resources, poor service delivery, political instability, stunted economic growth and other additional consequences that impact on overall development of human security.

The literature indicates that in Africa conflicts attacks are predominantly accompanied by the damage of domestic and communal assets. Financial assets, such as livestock are affected too and physical assets which comprises of farms, households, including other household resources are also lost (Jaspars, 2006). In addition, human capital is massively affected by violent deaths while social capital is impacted by attacks on various groups and households leading to huge displacement of communities hence losing social networks (Jaspars, 2006, Zelesa, 2008). Natural capital is lost as well at times of conflicts; for instance wells are ruined and eventually surface

water is contaminated whereas trees are damaged then in the process land turn out to be occupied (Jaspars, 2006).

2.3. Section A: The causes of conflicts in Developing Nations

2.3.1. Economic factors

2.3.1.1. Poverty

Poverty and conflict are generally assumed to be thoroughly interconnected; because extreme poverty makes nations to be more susceptible to civil wars, and armed conflict hence weakening governance as well as economic activities (Goodhand, 2001). Olaosebikan (2010) notes that globally African continent is amongst the poorest in the world and this is caused by harsh weather conditions, corruption and massive foreign debt which worsen the increasing poverty levels. It is further stated that desertification has led to famines in certain parts of Africa and for that matter, ‘the saying is true that a hungry man is an angry man’; as a result conflicts will always prevail across the African continent due to this situation of absolute poverty (Olaosebikan, 2010). In African continent, nations which are at a high risk of conflict are mostly those that have high rates of unemployment especially amongst the youth, middle aged and basically in areas with low educational qualifications amongst men (Bujra, 2002).

In African continent conflict leads to food shortages and aggravates poverty since during conflict the human and physical capital which undertakes food production activities are damaged hence encouraging capital flight including diversion (Zezeza, 2008). Teodosijevic (2003) shows that in developing nation’s food insecurity as a result of drought and poor administration of agriculture as well as relief and development assistance contribute to uprisings and government downfall, followed by extreme food shortages in post-conflict years for instance; Rwanda, Ethiopia and Sudan. These conflicts create high incidence of premature male deaths hence adding to the number of widows who normally fail to cope with the factual concerns of widowhood (Chant, 1997). Human capital also flees from the conflict areas affected zones restraining opportunities for sustained growth (Zezeza, 2008). Significantly, food insecurity is due to unavailability, lack of access to and unaffordability of food stuffs because violent conflict affects the food sector. Agricultural labor supplies are also interrupted in times of conflicts because peasants are recruited into armed forces, farms as well as agriculture-associated infrastructure are also

impacted very badly (Zezeza, 2008). In most African countries farming activities are done collectively therefore the weakening of social cohesion as a result of conflicts as families and societies are dispersed affects production and leads to famine.

2.3.1. 2. Competition over natural resources

Natural resources play a fundamental part in generating and sustaining conflicts and the natural resources which cause lots of these challenges are mainly oil, gas, diamonds, gold, drugs including some other gemstones (Maphosa, 2012). In most African countries the colonial governments segregated local populations, and this was the main key cause of violent nationalist movements which also result in massive deaths (Collins and Burns, 2007). This has been a case in South Africa whereby the system of apartheid gave white people an opportunity to occupy eighty seven per cent of the land, while about seventy per cent of the black inhabitants lived in shanty towns and within regulated areas that composed of only thirteen per cent of the land (Collins and Burns, 2007). This resulted to liberation movements as less economic development tricked down to the blacks but many blacks were shot and wounded by members of the South African Police Service (SAPs) (Collins and Burns, 2007).

African resource conflicts persevere due to lack of knowledge and skills to overcome the risks pertaining to this environment including limited livelihood options force individuals into inordinate conflict with one another to possess resources (Fiott, 2009). Another challenge facing Africa concerns a long time roughshod over the prevalent attitude amongst different personalities, various groups and international organizations that African resources are part of the worldwide commons (Fiott, 2009). The sarcastic side behind global view entails that when access has been attained on natural resources they are regarded as private assets, hence alienating local populations from benefiting (Fiott, 2009). This global mindset of evicting citizens from accessing their resources fuels violent conflicts due to harsh treatment from the multinational companies system which exploits the lower class and denying equality in sharing of profits that derives from production (Boettger and Rathbone, 2016).

The exploitation of African resources by the capitalists system convert Africa's resource blessing to being a curse because the availability of natural resources and other commodities have eventually upset the prospects of numerous African national and regional states by inciting

political corruption, violent conflicts including rebellions (Maphosa, 2012, Fiott, 2009). The scarcity of resources under certain conditions also causes competition and violent conflict in developing nations (Goodhand, 2001). Inequality in accessing natural resources may also result from the state itself as the powerless groups in the community, are alienated from accessing certain resources and thus fuelling conflicts.

2.3.2. Social factors

2.3.2.1. Ethnicity variations

Opondo (2003) states that across the world, states are multi-ethnic in character and the different groups of communities reside in territories on which some nation's claims jurisdiction, therefore ethnic complications can be drawn from the historical formation of states and the means which variations of groups were founded within them (Yusuf, 1994). Globally, Africa has the highest number of different tribes and that has contributed to the highest number of conflicts as well as instability. This has been a case since in several African countries where political conflicts prevails, ethnicity has been found to be the main cause, apart from Algeria where there is religious stability (Opondo, 2003). Yusuf (1994) adds that racial discriminations concerning the blacks and whites in South Africa, Hutu and Tutsi relationships in Burundi and Rwanda and the class struggle in India claimed lives of many people. The revolts entail control of sectors of an economy, administration and security services in a discriminating manner among various ethnicities (Yusuf, 1994)

According to Bujra (2002) in several African countries, a number of ethnically grounded conflicts occurs in the remote areas concerning grazing land as well as livestock amongst the pastoralists. There are also ethnic conflicts regarding cultivable land among crop production farmers within the similar ethnic group members and also amongst different ethnic groups. Even though, ethnicity is a source of conflicts in other regions of Africa, but it is not applicable in the context of this study.

2.3.2.2. Religious Tensions

Religion as an institution has assisted to acquire particular needs within communities such as in conflicts mediation and resolution processes (Jegade, 2019). In developing countries religious conflicts may originate from the authority of society or even a particular governing religious

group with an intention of replacing civil law by religious law hence excluding some religions on the political including social institutions in order to suppress their religious freedom, identity and isolating from the entire nation (Zelesa, 2002). Religious tensions have been prevailing in a number of Africa's countries even in pre-colonial times, such as European colonialism in the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries which contributed to resistance movements as a result of religion (Moller, 2006). In post-colonial period religious conflicts have also been persistent for instance, in Uganda and Nigeria civil conflicts incited between the Christians and Muslims (Zelesa, 2002).

Jegade (2019) points out that in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) religious beliefs are of several forms because of practices which are diverse among communities. The inappropriate application of religious customs has led to excessive destruction of human lives and property. In the period of violent religious conflicts majority of people lose their lives injured as well as distressed and assets costing millions are damaged (Jegade, 2019). The literature reveals that a number of rebellions such as ; the Maji-Maji rebellion in Tanganyika, the Mau-Mau revolt in Kenya and others were instigated by religious beliefs leading to enormous loss of lives of people especially men (Zelesa, 2002). Ultimately, violent religious conflicts lay a foundation for national insecurity and ambiguity which are usually hostile to economic growth and development. Although, religious conflicts are persistent in various African countries but the context of Lesotho religious conflicts are not existent (Zelesa, 2002).

2.3.3. Political sources of conflict

2.3.3.1. Poor governance

Good governance denotes changes in political systems, the representation of public interests together with legislators (Grindle 2004). In developing countries poor governance is the main factor leading to armed conflicts (Yiew et al, 2016). According to Moller (2006) in most African economies conflicts and civil wars are caused by the statesmen among various clans for their own goodwill and political matters. This often replicate resentment concerning, social and economic issues among citizens. As a result of poor governance some African countries experienced a massive violence and prolonged political instability (Grindle 2004). In this case, citizens died in large numbers mostly men because they participate in conflict openly.

A regime's failure to design, implement, and administering comprehensive civic policy in concurrence with other economic as well as political flaws; for example economic growth, corruption including ineffective democratic structures, inspires soldiers and insurgents to take chances of the situation and therefore topple political leaders with the aim of pursuing community or private interests (Barka and Ncube, 2012). Moller (2006) indicates that some Africans nations such as Somalia, Angola, Rwanda and many more experienced coup d'état that resulted in mass murder of the civilian population including militants (Moller, 2006). Actually, states breakdown and failure causes distresses and desolation to the people because of lack of strong institutions and good governance, then citizens become susceptible to the rebels and insurgents (Barka and Ncube, 2012).

2.3.3.2. Corruption

The United Nation Children's Fund (UNICEF) (2004), reports that corruption and bad governance are amongst the leading factors to conflicts in developing countries. In addition, (Myint, 2000) notes that corruption in the third world nations is considered to be among the utmost aspects of poverty, development and domestic conflicts. According to Fiott (2009) corruption is a major concern because it is associated to the illegal act of extracting and the selling of natural resources. This illicit behavior is undertaken by a multitude of actors consisting of armed groups, administration bureaucrats at ministerial and public service ranks as well as transnational extractive corporations. Fiott (2009) states that corruption is widespread in Africa because policies governing resources are lacking and individuals with political networks are given the first priority when competing for resource affluence thus marginalizing the destitute members of the population. These illegitimate linkages of resource exchange are reserved for the reason that it is economically beneficial for traders to circumvent proper, lawful, arbitrarily and informal taxes in an effort to capitalize on their incomes (Myint, 2000).

2.3.3.3. Weak democracies

Rebellions and revolts normally persist for the reason that democratically elected governments especially in the context of African countries are mostly headed by an old-guard representative who struggle to accept political opposition, regularly cold-bloodedly (Owuor, 2011). In Africa a number of governance structures are highly centralized and use top down approach which includes divide and rule tactics among different clans and this added extensively to corruption and discrimination since resource distribution was based on political affiliation (Owuor, 2011).

In biased circumstances democracy is applied because democratic principles advocates for equal opportunities to all as economic growth has to trickle down to the entire citizens (Owuor, 2011).

Moller (2006) provides an example of some African nations whereby unusual violence occurred such as; Somalia where there was inter-clan civil war resulting to looting of properties and mass murder because of 'divide and rule system' whereby three hundred people had lost their lives. Forty four thousands deaths were specifically men and young boys who joined the fighting forces while others died due to famine and various diseases because of the war (Moller, 2006). As a result, community participation and involvement in voting processes including other political developments do not trickle down to the electorates then conflicts arises costing lives of many people. Significantly, people who are predominantly involved in political struggles are men, due to gender inequalities in many African countries that are deeply embedded in different customs, thus wars instigate widows (WB, 2013).

2.4. Section B: The impact and consequences of conflict on women in Developing Nations

2.4.1. Widowhood

Harma and Graaf (2016) asserts that in developing nations the main factors leading to premature male death are high levels of poverty, preventable diseases as well as conflict hence adding an extraordinary share of widows in the population pyramid who are not able to deal with the physical consequences of widowhood. During conflicts men in their productive years typically undergo the highest mortality rates, therefore causing shortages of working-age males (World Bank, 2013). This has been an incident in Sub-Saharan Africa whereby violent conflict has brought about millions of civilian deaths specifically men. They have also been victims of injuries (Zezeza, 2008).

Utz, et al (2004) indicate that the death of a spouse sets off a number of adjustments in which the widow has to cope with the grief and emotional distress resulting from the loss of a significant relationship but also redefining a social reality which portrays their new status of being a widow. According to Iruloh and Elsie (2018) widows are susceptible to experience several dimensions of stress, which regularly cause high stress levels in their lives for instance, lack of required emotional support and financial assistance especially at an age when their earning power is slowly declining. The high prevalence of premature male mortality in

developing economies because of conflicts is the main impediment to economic development and lead to an increase in poverty levels in the households of widows (Steward, 2011).

2.4.2. Displacement of families

Snoubar and Duman (2016) state that armed conflicts and wars cause displacement of households and communities from their places of origin to safer areas in the neighboring states as refugees or displaced individuals. During displacement processes women and children face numerous risks which is psychological and physical detrimental to their well-being (Snoubar and Duman, 2016). In the process women are not free to pursue their household chores and they feel useless because of limited job opportunities little or no education qualifications at all (Ornas and Salih, 1989).

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) (2007) reports that due to forced displacement, women become the main income providers in their households, they perform new economic and political responsibilities. At times of conflicts the communal component of human co-existence is completely lost (Ornas and Salih, 1989). Moreover, hostile surroundings as well as the lack of a social support network and an irregular mother-child relationship can exacerbate the psychological suffering felt by women (ICRC, 2004). The emergent new social bonds because of war regularly destroy or change the existing social networks (Jaspars, 2007). Social networks are affected during displacement of communities for instance; religious beliefs and others are worn out which help women to overcome severe stress related to the loss of their husbands through prayers and support systems (Winniefred, 2015).

2.4.3. Health status of Women and children

Snoubar and Duman (2016) point out that wars and armed conflicts are considerably the main causes of illnesses and high death rates amongst both children and women. During conflict facilities and health centers collapses and fail to deliver health services to the communities particularly to women as well as children and this contributes to the escalating and worsening health status. ICRC (2004) shows that conflict led to damages of physical capital such as; health care systems and others. In the period of armed conflict, those who are war-wounded are frequently provided the first priority in terms of treatment offered by parties to an armed conflict hence the emergency therapeutic as well as surgical essentials of war-impacted civilian people are also significant (ICRC, 2004). At the end of conflicts, a number of conflict-related health

concerns arise, for instance; war-associated injuries, post-traumatic stress, malnutrition, including the wounds of sexual abuse (USAID, 2007).

The health of apprehended populations can also be predominantly hazardous as a result of overcrowding, scarce resources including other likely deficiencies in the accessibility and valuable medical care (ICRC, 2004). In areas whereby rape among females has been used as an instrument of war, unwanted pregnancies occurs leading to the desertion of the resulting children (Moller, 2006). ICRC (2004) shows that war-affected women are faced with an additional burden of being heads of their families, for that reason they experience economic pressure of becoming the breadwinner combined with the emotional stress of a loss of a loved one which exert an adverse consequence on their health.

2.4.4. Psychological and emotional stress

According to the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA) (2002), globally conflicts have devastating consequences on people, societies and economies, with life-threatening effects on the lives of women and girls. Fauzi et al (2018) note that widowhood cause severe psychological and emotional stress to women because there is no woman who intends to become a widow in her life at any stage, whether due to the loss of a spouse or through divorce. The stress level is further increased by the negative community attitudes towards widows since an individual's position may impact on their relations with community members (Fauzi et al, 2018). Widowhood for this matter inclines to endure a lot of difficulties for widows because of their state of being independent, for their behavior and movement is always in the public interest (Fauzi et al, 2018).

Widows carry a heavy burden of the economic and psychological loads of their households and they are prime supporters of their societies (UNFPA, 2002). The challenges of widowhood do not affect widows only but also their children as well. The emotional and psychological stress results from the concern that female headed households are very poor and are not able to sustain their household livelihoods because of existing inequalities between men and women (Nnodim et al, 2012).

2.4.5. Gender inequalities and female-headed households

The effects of conflict are diverse and can neither increase nor decrease exacerbating gender inequalities (WB, 2013). The International Labour Organization (ILO) (2001) add that in times of conflict peoples experiences are not gender neutral. Moreover, armed conflicts have effect on individuals and also the livelihood approaches they adopt during disasters tend to differ between men and women because armed conflicts produce many limitations for women and also create other gender concerns (ILO, 2001). On the other hand, tolerant gender role changes and uncertainty also occur in such perspectives. Conflict draw attention to resourcefulness in adoption of livelihood and survival approaches which should be reinforced and sustained (ILO, 2001). Women are rigorously asset and land constrained due to cultural practices and that makes it challenging for them to manage farms including households in the absence or death of men therefore they face poverty (WB, 2013).

Mwangi (2017) shows that across the globe, gender discrimination is one of the leading factors of impoverishment causing unequal distribution of load between males and females. Discrimination involves time spend on consuming unpaid domestic work, lower levels of literacy and inequalities due to traditional norms as well as cultural practices (Mwangi, 2017). This has been a case in some African states, Indian and Bangladesh widows who are exploited as unpaid domestic helpers in relative's households (Harma and Graaf, 2016). The consequences of conflict brought changes in gender roles, and to the household income including decision making power on widow's and the household constellation they live in increasing their burden of work (Bruck and Schindler, 2008). This has been evident on widows who become heads of households as they become the main caretaker of other household members, thus assuming roles in decision making and productive chores (Bruck and Schindler, 2008).

2.4.6. Property theft and inheritance

According to the UN Women 2000 (2001) widows face masculinity dominance in customary and religious laws including confronting discrimination in inheritance rights. Majority of these widows are abused and exploited by their in-laws, based on the perspective of property disputes. In most African countries the inheritance of widows is secured by statutory law but cultural codes are constantly prohibiting this inheritance. Conversely, after the passing of their spouses widows lose their household income and are marginalized (Leathers and Mueller, 2020).

Widows are forced to participate in these rituals because they are being threatened of losing status as well as protection and of being driven out of the family home while in some cases take their children away taken from them (UN Women 2000, 2001).

The eviction of widows from their homes after their husband's death is habitually due to eagerness to theft of land, buildings and some other household necessities (Leathers and Mueller, 2020). This practice is very common in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia and the Middle East and widows are left deprived and homeless. Eviction transpires due to lack of inheritance rights in law or even limited law enforcement in areas where such rights do exist ((Harma and Graaf, 2016).

2.4.7. Exclusion and social stigma

The outcome of conflict includes new social restriction which is aimed at excluding other people from work or even access to credit as a result of their ethnicity or gender (WB, 2013). Due to a heavy burden of household chores widows are not able to take part in societal, social and political activities because they are busy striving to meet their daily needs (Mwangi, 2017). In developing nations the economic position of women is a substantial social issue because the passing of the spouse who provided for the family, pushes the entire household members into poverty since the widow has to deal with the hardships alone (Chitra, 2017).

Tipple and Speak (2009) show that in various countries widows face discrimination by patriarchy throughout their lives, especially in education and training whilst impacting negatively on their chances of generating income. Therefore, when the head of the family has passed away many widows along with their children are left homeless and have to engage in hazardous risks such as severe malnutrition due to a poor diet, commercial sex, devastating and fatal illnesses, as well as exposure to adverse weather conditions (Tipple and Speak, 2009). Moreover, Mwangi (2017) states that most of newly-widows are promptly disinherited illegally and legally by their in-laws, in the process they lose their means of livelihood either non-cash income or the spouse's cash income.

The UN Women 2000 (2001) report that due to the vulnerability widows self- confidence is eroded away and this result in exclusion which affects their well-being hence forcing them into extreme poverty thereby making it impossible to find ways to move out of poverty (Mwangi,

2017). Female headed households face stigma due to destitution, the humiliation is from their communities because poverty normally makes divisions between the non-poor and ultra-poor (UN Women 2000, 2001). Furthermore, the (WB) (2013) indicate that for the fact that women are rigorously asset and land constrained, that makes it impossible for them to manage farms and households in the absence or death of their partners.

2.4.8. Gender based violence

Violence against women also increases throughout conflict situations (Qayoom, 2014). In a predominant form of modern armed conflict all sections of the population are affected, even though mostly men engage in the conflict openly, women and children are the ones mostly impacted of such conflict (USAID, 2007). Mass rape has regularly been used as a war tactic to wear away people relations and community as well as family structures and therefore, women experience increased psychological trauma, unwanted pregnancies from rape including high-risk abortion practices rigorously impact women's reproductive health (Qayoom, 2014).. At war times sexual assault and exploitation are used as tools; victimizing leads to segregation, disaffection, persistent emotional trauma, and unplanned pregnancies which may eventually result in abandoned children (USAID, 2007). Conflict and post-conflict settings lay a foundation for trafficking due to poverty that the war causes. Due to being in a vulnerable state, human traffickers recruit widows into trafficking through illegal procedures (Leathers and Mueller, 2020).

The increased manifestation of gender-based violence may be linked to broad-spectrum climates of violence in conflict settings; the insufficiency of social order, police enforcement, as well as limited employment opportunities can also led to this problem (USAID, 2007). Gouw (2010) show that this has been a case in South Africa whereby there has been several cases of xenophobic violence which was aimed at foreign migrants. Foreigners were accused of stealing employment opportunities for South Africans in a difficult economic climate while in Somali small scale traders and entrepreneurs were also blamed of underpricing and majority of migrants were killed in the xenophobic attacks. In both attacks both men and women were victims but migrant male traders were prime targets therefore they perished and women remain as widows subjected to various forms of oppressive behaviours (Gouw, 2010).

2.5. Conclusion

This chapter is comprised of two sections, section A was aimed at discussing the causes of conflicts in developing nations whereas section B dealt with the impacts and consequences of conflicts on women; therefore it can be concluded that the various types of causes of conflicts either economic, social or political have immense impacts on people but women suffer more from the short and long duration impacts of conflicts when males are trapped up in fighting or even in cases of death. Consequently, women are left with the vagaries of life alone and had to sort out on adopting several types of livelihood strategies for survival.

CHAPTER THREE

THE LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES OF WIDOWS OR FEMALE HEADED HOUSEHOLDS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

3.1. Introduction

The livelihood strategies which widows households adopt to cope with economic and social crises as a result of conflict differs regarding the opportunities and constraints posed in each setting (Chitra, 2017). For women, some approaches may advance their economic position while others may be socially unacceptable and hazardous to their wellbeing (Chitra, 2017). In addition, Iruloh and Elsie (2018) state that the development of appropriate livelihood strategies depend on some particular aspects such as, the age of the widow, period of marriage, her religious beliefs, ethnic group, socio-economic status including level of educational achievement. This section deals with the livelihood strategies which are adopted by widow's namely; exploitative informal labour, migration, involvement in social networks, subsistence farming, begging and prostitution.

3.2. Informal labour participation

The lack of male income support and labour compelled women's to join waged work (Chitra, 2017). Widows also became self-supporting and engaged in entrepreneurship, running small and medium enterprises, farming, taking care of their children including other members of the households. The World Bank (2013) report that in order to increase household income women also work overtime, join the labor force and by adjusting their time including effort at home. Chant (2006) points that female heads normally engage in informal activities which are usually in the lower tiers of the sector which are poorly paid, lacking in marginal benefits, social security coverage as well as pensions. Chitra (2017) indicates that some developments were beneficial, as in Lebanon where widowed women changed their domestic skills into commercial ones for example catering while in Lebanon, and Mozambique widowed women engaged in petty trade.

Mulugeta (2009) points out that majority of female heads failed to succeed as informal sector workers since they are regularly observed diversifying and shifting to news jobs from time to time searching for better income. The UN Women 2000 (2001) show that the rising numbers of women participating in the informal sector with low paying jobs in the urban areas is also deliberated as an evidence of the feminisation of poverty. This is due to neither lack of security;

low wages and their concentration divulge that legislative policies have neither excluded nor not being obligatory in relation to many of women's economic activities (UN Women 2000, 2001).

3.3. Farming as a livelihood strategy

Most women are also engaged in subsistence farming for survival (Mulugeta, 2009). Even though, the World Bank (2013) show that in most countries women face barriers in asset and land ownership due to cultural practices, therefore they are unable to manage huge farms in the absence or death of their husbands. Kaseke (2010) points out that in other places women support their families through agriculture and make a large part of farming labour, although their efforts and participation are not recognized when shaping states policies. Furthermore, to sustain their livelihood women are involved in rearing of domestic animals process especially in the rural areas (Kaseke, 2010). They normally herd for themselves in cases whereby they cannot afford to pay herders and also perform extra works associated with livestock care.

Further, female heads also acquire additional income through selling part of their livestock to meet household's needs. Winniefred (2015) notes that those female heads that are hard hit by poverty usually provide labour to people who own assets and in paid after harvesting with part of the produce or with cash. In addition, women are also involved in some other farming activities such as, poultry including piggery care without anybody's assistance (Ornas and Salih, 1989). In many countries in Africa women perform over 80 percent of the farm work as compared to men. In the pastoral communities where the source of subsistence is milk, females are responsible for carrying out sporadic cultivation to add-on their food and they are accountable for vegetable growing and marketing of food hence increasing household earnings (Ornas and Salih, 1989). Women use part of their households units for selling or on the streets in the urban areas (Winniefred, 2015)

According to Parpart et al (2000) women face discrimination in the agricultural sector because they as crop workers with low pay which is non-mechanized for example weeding, transplanting and harvesting. For that reason, female heads fail to meet their families necessities like men who are employed as drivers of agricultural machines. Ali (2014) women also engage in the vending of vegetables they have cultivated from their family gardens. They use the income gained from

the sales for other household purposes in their families for instance; food, health including education requirements (Ali, 2014).

3.4. Involvement in social networks

Lemke, et al (2003), show that social ties and networks are very important in promoting the empowerment of widows by helping them to deal with the challenging conditions in their lives. Social ties and networks may embrace relationships with relatives and neighbours, which offer mutual support during times of need (Lemke et al, 2003). Widows also sort to join women groups where they borrowed money timeously and pay back on agreed time (Mwangi, 2017). Winniefred (2015) adds that social networks such as churches provide support widows through prayers and encourage them for the bright future throughout their entire lives. Further, Winniefred (2015) states that interaction with other church members helps in building widows mental capital because they are able to exchange ideas, share their grievances and happy moments.

The UN Women 2000 (2001) points out that majority of widows have shown incredible determination and bravery in the face of tragedy neither independently or in collaboration with other widows, have become self-reliant and entrepreneurial, operating small enterprises, farming, and supporting their children and dependants. The reliability of the livelihood mechanism is depended on how often they help individuals accomplish beneficial emotions for instance; family gatherings can provide an atmosphere that induces happiness and hope (Standridge, 2019).

3.5. Migration

Adepoju (2002) note that over a long period of time migration has been a way of life in Africa, individuals have migrated because of demographic, economic, political and interrelated issues such as population pressure, poor economic circumstances, environmental calamities, conflicts as well as the consequences of the Structural Adjustment Programs (SAPs). Therefore, people resort to migration in order to seek for work opportunities which they can find in any place with any payment (Adepoju, 2002). Ajaero and Onokala (2013) add that migration has been known as a survival strategy employed by the vulnerable people such as women mostly those residing in the rural areas. Migration instill changes in community areas not only the fate of individual migrants but also to the situations of their family members at home, members of the entire communities, and their countries of origins (Ajaero and Onokala, 2013). The developments are

brought by migrant remittances because they become fundamental capitals for the sustenance mechanisms of receiving family's and catalysts of regional and national development (WB, 2005). Households use these remittances mainly for consumption; for instance for improving diet, buying clothes including investing in human capital; in children's education, health services, and others (Ajaero and Onokala, 2013).

Female migration is linked to both push and pull factors. The push factors embrace severe gender based violence towards women because of civil wars, food scarcity, economic uncertainty, human rights violations, corruption and the desire to escape human trafficking (Crush and Williams, 2001). The pull factors are associated with opportunities for female as traders particularly those willing to establish their own enterprises in economic environments which are highly conducive. In a number of African countries women used to depend on subsistence farming but recommendations of structural adjustment programmes have changed what farming used to offer then they prefer to migrate (Gouw, 2010). However, Gouw (2010) adds that female migrants engage in survival accomplishments where there is no capital accumulation including incorporation into the formal market. Joeke (1995) indicates that women migrate in large number from their home villages as a result of international trade and the effects of globalization which have created opportunities for participation in paid employment. In Sub-Saharan Africa due to increasing poverty levels women migrate from rural areas to the urban areas to seek employment into manufacturing sector and they are the most preferred workers in manufacturing (Crush and Williams, 2001).

Majority of women migrate in order to advance their economic situation, to have freedom and to escape stress existing in the rural families although female migrants are likely tend to occupy low paying jobs, low skilled market sectors whereby they have to be familiar with discrimination, restricted access to credit facilities and political marginalization (Adepoju, 2002). In Southern Africa migration is deeply gendered even women who migrate have acquired higher educational qualifications are engaged in less skilled and informal work. This subordination is due to inability in accessing legal migration channels. Nevertheless, in response to escalating levels of poverty women consider migration as the most fundamental livelihood strategy. Gouw

(2010) adds that long time ago migration was male dominated but currently it has been gradually feminized.

Nuri (1992) shows that majority of women do not succeed as informal sector workers as from time to time they change jobs searching of better income in the urban informal sector and the main activities which female migrants participate comprise of petty trading, domestic work, daily pay labour and prostitution. Even though, female migrants are being underpaid in the urban areas but with the little pay they get, they are able to send the remittances back home and more importantly, invest in their children's education. Gouw (2010) states that for the fact that migration is feminized; it is highly correlated to the feminization of poverty as a result of an increasing destitution of women and children owing to severe economic instability in certain developing nations, and precisely in sub-Saharan Africa.

3.6. Prostitution

Conflict-affected women may also engage in prostitution as one of the strategies of generating income for their families. This strategy is mostly undertaken by female heads who found their only option for survival as their bodies for commercial sex work (Mwangi, 2017). Therefore, in absence of a male partner women normally migrate to other destinations because normally they do not get engaged in prostitution especially in areas where they originate (Nuri, 1992). In the process women are obviously in high risks of being exposed to sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) for instance, HIV/AIDS (Nuri, 1992). In addition, through their involvement in informal relationships they also experience social problems such as unwanted pregnancies and abortion (Mwangi, 2017). Due to poverty their children at a young age also engage in child labour, early marriages, as well as prostitution (Harma and Graaf, 2016).

3.7. Remarriage of widows and early Child marriage

Remarriage of widows after the passing of the husbands help them to restore their livelihoods security and to avoid the persistent challenges of widowhood (Thomas, 2008). The most significant behind widow's marriage is also to find a soul mate that will reduce a burden of raising and supporting children alone (Thomas, 2008). Widowhood greater effects on women it may be evicted from their household, farm land and assets. In addition, as a result of deprivation their children are withdrawn from school because of the poverty and girls resort to early marriage while boys usually engage in child labour (UN Women 2000, 2001). Widows who are

from low-income backgrounds or with insufficient financial assets often encourage early child marriage in order to safeguard their daughters' economic and physical security (UN Women 2000, 2001). Nnodim, et al (2012) show that the drop in family income because of loss of their income provider denotes that the needs of the children are no longer fully met and that might have adverse consequences on children behaviour and decency (Nnodim, et al, 2012).

3.8. Conclusion

In this chapter livelihood strategies which conflict affected widows adopt to meet their household's needs were discussed. The conclusion that can be drawn from the literature is that even though women engage in different survival strategies, they are not able to maintain their household's needs and some strategies are hazardous to their lives.

CHAPTER FOUR

CAUSES OF CONFLICTS, EFFECTS AND RESOLUTION MEASURES IN LESOTHO

4.1. Introduction

In Lesotho the political structure is prone to violent conflict especially during elections period, which eventually have a tendency to misrepresent the electoral procedures and its results. Finally, this behaviour weakens the democracy development which began in 1993. Fareed and Ojo (2002) note that these election-related conflicts in Lesotho seem not to be solved peacefully because aggressive opponents normally find out violent ways of resolving them and this contributes to intensification instead of scaling down of the conflict.

At local level mediation procedures have been undertaken by civil society including faith-based organisations, but all the initiatives have failed because Lesotho's democracy still remains fragile and respectively, incapacitated, merits which demonstrated themselves specifically in political uncertainty including violent conflict amongst the main governance structures, namely; the monarchy, the executive, the parliament, the judiciary, the public sector, political parties, the military as well as the police (Fareed and Ojo, 2002). In due course, the state is not only rigorously destabilized but also paralysed and ineffective. There are three key issues which make Lesotho conflict-ridden country such as; firstly, power struggle within and among the political leaders which are contesting over state power, secondly, struggle over control and access of resources which is enabled by controlling state equipment, and thirdly, individualizing, instead of institutionalization, of the political progression (Fareed and Ojo, 2002). This chapter provides a brief background of Lesotho, the causes of conflicts within communities, effects of conflicts and mediation processes undertaken.

4.2. Section A: A brief background of Lesotho

In Africa, Lesotho is not an exception because in the nineteenth century she experienced environmental conflicts with the Boer trekkers that lead to the eviction of Basotho from the Orange Free State occupying the flat arable land and this led to land shortages for the growing Basotho population (Sibanda, 2003). As a result there was competition for the scarce resources within members of the same communities and conflicts also arose between neighbouring

societies over use of insufficient resources like grazing areas, water resources as well as trees resources for fuel-wood and roofing (Sibanda, 2003). Communities fought over limited resources as they could not get enough and there were enormous losses of lives.

In Lesotho household headship is classified into three classes namely; male de jure head, female de jure head as well as female de facto whereby the man is a migrant worker (Wason and Hall, 2004). However, the state of chronic poverty is absolutely interrelated with household headships that have de jure female heads (Wason and Hall, 2004). Gounden (2015) notes that at South African Development Community (SADC) summits and extraordinary summits, Lesotho is the most important conflict agenda point owing to regular experiences pertaining to political disturbances including internal conflicts earlier than 1974 to date. In Lesotho conflict can be traced back from the country's historical context since over a period Lesotho encountered political instability accompanied by high levels of factionalism, political tautness, including violent conflict specifically in times of and after elections ever since its independence in October 1966 (Gounden, 2015).

Sibanda (2003) shows that as a result of political instability facing the country since independence Lesotho experienced several coups that claimed lots lives of militants and civilians. These conflicts predominantly affect men at a young age therefore their families are left without breadwinners. Moreover, election results normally lead to widespread rioting, deaths and destruction of livelihood assets for instance; after the 1998 elections a violent conflict occurred leading to burning of properties and loss of lives (Likoti, 2007). This also resulted in a dramatic drop in Gross Domestic Product (GDP) because the rapid growth was partially to Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) especially in the manufacturing sector which employs a large proportion of women in the labor force left the nation hence increasing poverty levels in the households too (Gouden, 2015).

4.3. Section B: Factors leading to conflicts in Lesotho

4.3.1. Environmental changes, and food insecurity.

The Intergovernmental Panel for Climate Change (IPCC) (2014) report that in the past decades the past century, the whole world has experienced substantial environmental changes, as well as variations in climatic circumstances, land degradation including the deprivation of coastal and

marine ecosystems. Climate is changing and the effect is recognized at numerous dimensions such as; rising temperatures in sea levels, variations in tropical storm as well as cyclone intensity, varying rainfall configurations, droughts and heavy floods, and intensifications in average temperature systems (IPCC, 2014). FAO (2011) shows that Lesotho is faced with environmental problems due to changes in climatic conditions for example; land degradation, soil erosion, drought and others. This also poses an enormous impact on crop production, water sector and livestock production because in Lesotho only ten per cent of land is appropriate for cultivation while the remaining two-thirds is for grazing.

Wason and Hall (2004) indicate that conflicts in Lesotho also arises because of the declining rangeland in Lesotho has promptly deteriorated as a result of overgrazing for the fact that Basotho are keepers of huge numbers of cattle. Pule and Thabane (2004) note that rural land disputes occur in occasions where two or more societies quarrel over a certain agricultural, pastoral and fuel resources. This is caused mainly by overstocking as a result Lesotho's land carries more load than its capacity. This exert more pressure on the land, hence causing a severe tension on the past practices in which people under the rule of one principal chief or from various village headmen use to share pasture (Pule and Thabane, 2004).

Maile (2001) indicates that in Lesotho rapid population growth is the main impediment in the cycle of increasing environmental degradation including extreme poverty facing the country. The major impact of population growth is in reduction in per capita available arable land as well as the application of inappropriate agricultural practices and overgrazing. These issues contribute to decrease the capability of the land to support the present population (Maile, 2001). In this case, communities struggle to meet their needs because of limited resources to cater for the entire population and that causes instability as people fight for the fewer they have such as disputes over land.

4.3.2. Conflicts over natural resources

Thabane (2000) designates that conflict over natural resources transpired in the beginning of the 1960s, individual prospectors called 'Liphokojoe' which refers to foxes or jackals because of their way of life came from numerous parts of Lesotho and South Africa inclined on a diamond deposit at Kao mine, anticipating earning a livelihood from diamond mining. On the other hand,

the government leased the mining deposit to a private excavating company from abroad and then locked to them (Thabane, 2000). Having been deprived of prospecting rights by the local societies on government orders, these people lived in nearby caves and hills. However, in the mid-1960s; they rebelled and chased out the foreign company and occupied the deposit. They were sporadically tortured by members of the police forces (Thabane, 2000). In the beginning of the 1970, Liphokojoe engaged in an uprising against the Lesotho government. They revolted in cooperation with the local community, harassing and killing policemen and the employees of multinational Corporations (MNCS) mining in the region, and eventually burned a state clinic and police station (Thabane, 2000).

Thabane (1998) states that conflicts over land resources persisted over a long period in Lesotho and the effects of these disputes are countless and are a source of underlying instabilities within societies and displacements. Thabane (1998) adds that reports on different disputes entail the spilling of blood among communities due to chiefly disagreements over land assets. This occurred in various villages for instance; in a dispute amongst residents from Ha-Nkhabu and Ha-Petlane in the Rothe region, eleven households belonging to fifteen people were looted and four people were killed in the 1980s while in the 1990s two people died and fourteen were injured in a conflict between inhabitants of Pulela and Mahlasane around Tajane area due to the struggle among chiefs disagreeing over land (Thabane, 1998).

4.3.3. Post-elections related disputes

Lesotho's post-colonial history has mostly originated from the contestation for power in the period of and after elections, unsettled disputes of political insusceptibility, including periodic military mediation in the state's political procedures (Matlosa, 2008). Since the beginning of independence in 1966 up until now, there have been several military coups d'état comprising changes of government and attempted coups (Matlosa, 2008). This is due to hatred between the ruling and opposition factions hence paralyzing Lesotho (Maudeni, 2010). During the 1970 election aftermath BCP leader and other members of the party went into exile; there was mass subjugation, political killings as well as detention of its followers (Likoti, 2007).

Gouden (2015) argues that preceding the 1993 elections the Deputy Prime Minister, Selometsi Baholo was assassinated, and there was a revolt within the state army and police. Rosenberg

(2008) indicates that in post 1998 elections there were contentions of electoral fraud from the opposition parties which also led to violent protests and political tension. Likoti (2007) adds that the 1998 election results led to a mutiny among the military bases of Lesotho Defence Force (LDF). In post-elections of 2007 electoral conflicts persisted as well, violence, killings including attempted assassinations (Gouden, 2015). In this case the SADC Troika facilitators intervened between the main stakeholders in the Lesotho conflict namely; the Government of Lesotho, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), the opposition parties as well as the leading party (Gouden, 2015).

4.3.4. Famo Music gang conflicts

Coplan (1995) asserts that famo music originated at the shebeens in South Africa in the 1920s. Famo derives its meaning from '*ho re famo*' which means to flare up the nostrils as well as throwing up someone's skirt'. Phafoli (2009) adds that famo music was played in the shebeens as a practice for entertainment by Basotho miners after working hours. The most prominent form of conflict in Lesotho which massively impacts on the nation concerns the Famo music gang factions which caused inhuman death countrywide causing displacement and premature male deaths and innocent family members from the year 2000 to 2021 (Mayo, 2018). The conflict is widespread in Lesotho and also rife in the neighboring South Africa, significantly the mining towns in Free State, Welkom and lately into the Johannesburg whereby illegal miners from the Southern region of the Mountain Kingdom (Lesotho) attempt to make a living from the extracted mineral deposits (Mayo, 2018).

There have been various artists and groups ever since the 1920s but instantly the formation of two groups which are domains of famo music namely; Seakhi and Terene from Mafeteng district has led to spilling of blood among Basotho men (Mohloboli, 2019). The dispute between the two factions concerns supremacy in the famo music industry because of increasing competition over market (Maama, 2010). Therefore hatred over artists and supporters developed leading to escalating conflicts (Maama, 2010). The most prominent famo gangs (Seakhi and Terene) have disagreements on everything for instance on whose music is played over radio stations, air play, influence over market and others. This Famo music gang conflicts country involve destruction of capitals as lives are lost and looting of properties (Mohloboli, 2019). These Famo musician's killings are now spreading across the entire nation and this reveals that

enough mediation procedures have not been done by the authorities (Mayo, 2018). The shootings affect economic development of the nation since young men in their productive years leaving women as widows and children as orphans (Mohloboli, 2019). Consequently, women are left with a burden of ensuring survival of their families in the absence of the household main income provider.

4.4. Effects of conflicts in the context of Lesotho

4.4.1. Loss of human capital and food insecurity

Pule and Thabane (2004) indicate that the likely effect of the disputes in Lesotho is the loss of agricultural land as well as a household, because of boundaries which are normally drawn for the expediency of chiefly entitlements over land. In some cases communities do not only lose land but instead chiefly conflicts can be challenging for them in harvesting their produces and this affected the people of Ha-Nkhabu who had planted wheat through ‘Mants’atlala’ which referred to a government scheme of the 1980s. During harvesting season people were prohibited from harvesting their yields by community members of Ha-Petlane (Pule and Thabane, 2004). This resulted in a fighting between the two villages and many lives were lost leading to land alienation for a period exceeding twelve years. This was due to the principal chief’s order and the consequent slow procedures in courts of law in solving the matter between the two villages (Pule and Thabane, 2004). This leads to land shortages and the poverty among rural populations.

4.4.2. Destruction of Physical assets

Thabane (2000) points that in the 1970s conflicts arisen at Kao and Lets’eng diamond mines between individual diggers and the Multinational corporations (MNCS) contributing to the harassment of state officials and the staff of MNCS, in the process a geologist and two policemen were killed while a Roman Catholic priest was kidnapped. The police station was destroyed and a looting of the state health sector in that region. Rosenberg (2008) adds that conflict led to damage of properties in the post second democratic elections of 1998, as opposition parties made accusations that the elections results have been fixed. The whole country was shut down as they assembled on the grounds surrounding the palace and apprehended state’s vehicles, enforcing blockades on the streets of the capital town of Lesotho (Maseru) and even unlawful stay aways (Rosenberg, 2008).

The explosive situation was accompanied by looting of businesses and massive damage of infrastructure countrywide. The intensity of 1998 violent attack was aggravated by the fact that junior officials from the military pressurized the senior officers who were given authority of ending the scuffle to resign and escape the country (Gill, 1993). In the process the Prime Minister's Mosisili's household situated around Roma was also allegedly firebombed by the protesters and therefore he pleaded for mediation from the neighboring South Africa (Rosenberg, 2008).

4.4.3. Dislocation of communities

In Lesotho the most persistent form of dislocation of residents from their homes results from political instabilities particularly in the aftermath of elections. This has been evident in post elections of 1970 on which the Basotho Congress party won majority seats in parliament (Coplan, 1995). The BNP government opposed the outcomes of the elections, in that regard the Prime Minister declared the state of emergency and there was no rule of law. The Lesotho Liberation Army (LLA) which was the army established by the BCP supporters in exile launched a rebellion against the BNP government. Consequently, they failed to win the battle as the troops dealt with them accordingly and there were massive losses of lives of both civilians and militants (Gill, 1993). In the process the BCP supporters became victims of torture by the government militant's officers, approximately over seven hundred people left the country to seek for safety in South Africa (Coplan, 1995).

At community level, Thabane (1998) indicates that displacement also occurred in Ha-Chele and Ha-Thoahlane in 1959 as judgment from the High Court due to conflicts changed boundaries of the two villages and the homes of societies from Ha Chele including their fields fell under the jurisdiction of two varied chiefs. In addition, Pule and Thabane (2004) state that in Lesotho boundary dispute settlements encompassing changes in jurisdiction consistently force rural inhabitants to choose between their fields and their households. This form of ruling was also functional in 1987-1988 in a dispute between the communities of Ha-Petlane and Ha-Nkhabu whereby the Minister of the Interior requested people to displace themselves and follow their fields in another chiefs area or either they stay in their home environment and leave their fields (Thabane, 1998).

4.5. Section B: Conflict resolution mechanisms in Lesotho

4.5.2. Land Dispute Resolution in Lesotho

In Lesotho land disputes are resolved through adopting two fundamental mechanisms which comprise of mediation and litigation (Leduka, Takalimane and Ntaote, 2018).

4.5.2.1. Mediation by Local government and traditional leadership

In Lesotho land disputes persisted due to the land tenure system which is usually referred to as communal and this is predominantly to differentiate it from individual ownership and leasehold systems (Thabane, 1998). The communal land tenure system intensified the condition in the grazing areas, as it entails a free for all status quo (Sibanda, 2003). This is because tenants have exclusive rights throughout the crop-cultivating season and after harvesting the land is communally owned since everyone can graze animals freely as well as collecting resources such as dung and wild vegetables (Sibanda, 2003). On the other hand, Mokitimi (2006) adds that in Lesotho land disputes occur because of the customary land tenure system which comprises of; inheritance, double allocation, as well as field boundaries while in other circumstances a chief may claim a certain land which is under jurisdiction of another chief and this causes in fighting between them. Societal boundary conflicts typically results in destruction of property such as houses and huts are burnt whereas human lives lost (Mokitimi, 2006). This normally occurs in the Mafeteng district and disputes concerning fields usually involve individual field's boundaries.

The government of Lesotho has developed community councils under the Ministry of Local government and Chieftainship to deal with the disputes of village boundaries. Thabane (1998) notes that findings from various studies show that most conflicts are aligned with arable land concerning inheritance rights of land previously owned by a dead person. This is in regardless of a number of laws, which have been publicised. Majority of the land disagreements were among relatives, chiefs including neighbours and in this situation land dispute mediation strategy includes relatives (Thabane, 1998). Typically if the dispute concerns family members it is solved by the elders failing which is then taken to the chief. Then if the dispute is has failed to find sustainable solution it will therefore be taken to the magistrate court which has vested power to deal with land issues (Mokitimi, 2006).

4.5.2.2. The Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) and conflict resolution approaches

The LMPS employ several mediation mechanisms in dealing with conflicts among parties such as; provide counseling, forming a base for intervention and in quest of agreements amongst disputants (Bard and Zacker, 1976). The LMPS also encouraged the formation of village based community policing programs known as ‘Mahokela’ which refers to night watchmen who patrols around villages for crime prevention. The Police can apply force in cases where peace restoration is not easily maintained.

The police officers on a regular basis are being entitled to solve conflicts; they have considerable freedom of choice in the behaviours they adopt to deal with different kinds of these disputes (Kabi, 2016). In the case of the Famo music gang conflicts which claimed hundreds lives of men and innocent people ever since the year 2000, the LMPS with Ministerial task team intervened even though it seemed to failure (Kabi and Motsamai, 2015). In 2016 the police officers held operations across the nation which its main purpose was to eliminate the offensive, intimidating and abusive famo music in the country and above six hundred Compact discs (CDs) as well as Digital Versatile Discs (DVDs) were confiscated (Kabi, 2016). The police officers also arrest the murders and put them in custody in order to face the justice system. However, Mayo (2018) points out that the justice system in Lesotho is not an effective strategy to solve the conflict.

4.5.2.2. Legislation procedure

The Land Act 2010 replaces the Land Act 1979 and associated laws. It also presents reforms in land administration and land tenure security with a vision of promoting efficiency in land amenities and development of land as an economic asset in Lesotho (Assan and Sibanda, 2015). However, the Act revokes the 1979 Land Act. The Land Act 2010 vest allocation powers to the Local government Authorities through the Village District Councils (VDCs) (Assan and Sibanda, 2015). The VDC Act entails that chiefs work in cooperation with the local council’s representatives to allocate land. In Lesotho, the land dispute legal action process was established by section 73 of the Land Act 2010 which includes the land court and district land courts. The land court specializes with jurisdiction on land and interrelated issues and is a detachment of the High court of Lesotho while the Districts land court are subsidiary courts concerned with land allied conflicts at district level (Leduka, Ntaote and Takalimane, 2018). As evident of efficiency and effectiveness of Land Act 2010 in dealing with land disputes the Land Administration

Authority (LAA) thirty seven cases which were lodged with the land court were dealt with accordingly and the solution was attained (Leduka, Ntaote and Takalimane, 2018).

The formal land mediation practice evolved during the formation of the Land Administration Authority (LAA) under the Land Administration Act 2010. The main objective of the LAA is to decrease the cost and time obligatory in resolving land disputes, with the goal of finding solutions to disputes (Leduka, Ntaote and Takalimane, 2018). During mediation proceedings particular steps has to be undertaken by the complainant until the mediator carry out a joint meeting then after solution a mediation agreement is signed failing which the matter is referred to the land courts (Leduka, Ntaote and Takalimane, 2018). Customary land tenure favored men over women because they are not allotted rights to ownership of land. In customary law women are considered as minors without rights of owning assets (Pule and Thabane, 2004). Comparably, the land Act 2010 was aimed to disempower chiefs on controlling land resources and to empower women through issuing land ownership rights (Fogelman, 2019).

More importantly, since the establishment of the land Act 2010 the problematic issue of land inheritance by widows after the death of their spouses has not been totally solved by land Act 2010 but has changed the situation since land can be inherited by widows and sold. However, Fogelman (2019) cite an example of widows of Ha-Mohapi in Maseru who were entitled to land owned by their husbands but because of poverty they sold the land very cheaply to foreign companies.

4.5.3. Intervention by Civil society Organizations

Rakhare (2019) states that in Lesotho Civil Society organisations (CSOs) have been established and spread quickly through the whole nation ever since the 1993 elections and they are controlled under an umbrella body called the Lesotho Council of Non-Governmental Organizations (LCN). In Lesotho the main actors in key local civil society institutions in Lesotho comprise of; Non-Governmental organizations, the National University of Lesotho (NUL), Development for Peace Education (DPE), Transformation Resource Centre (TRC), and the Lesotho Network for Conflict Management (LNCM), faith based institutions such as the Christian Council of Lesotho (CCL) including local government as well as traditional leadership in conflict conversion and peace maintaining efforts Rakhare (2019). According to Edwards

(2004), civil society and the state are inseparable for the reason that they are both responsible in solving social conflict. Therefore civil society has an important role in the process of development (Edwards, 2004).

Rakhare (2019) points out that some CSOs are politically-oriented and have added to the progression of good governance in the country although Lesotho's democracy is not stable and the government structures lacks effective policies to solve the complications facing the country, for instance poverty, famine and hunger including lack of economic diversification. Selinyane (1997) designates that the LCN intervened for the period of the short-lived palace coup of August 1994 which causes several lives of both militants and civilians by leading two countrywide raids by forcing the king to reinstate the elected Basotho Congress Party (BCP) government. The coup was a turning point in the history of the LCN since in December 1997 it organized a workshop which was very successfully in brokering conciliation among the parties concerned.

4.5.4. Faith-based institutions

The Council of Churches in Lesotho Report of 2017 show that religious based organizations also engage in conflict resolution in the country, for instance at the local level prior the 2017 elections the (CCL), backed up by some other native CSOs as well as international and regional allies such as the European Union (EU), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and SADC called for a special meeting at the United Nations (UN) embassy in Lesotho (CCL, 2017). The main aim of the meeting was that all political parties contesting for elections were urged to sign a pledge on which they declare to admit the election results and then event was followed by a prayer (CCL, 2017). Mayo, (2018) notes that the churches around Ribaneng in the district of Mafeteng allied with the local councilors and traditional authorities in maintaining peace and stability between the parties of Famo music conflicts.

Maundeni (2010) states that Lesotho's history of being naïve about both external mediation and their Christian Churches, combining with the historical background of armed conflict hostility denote that political facilitation is aliened to the nation's political culture, and the political elites might consider the recommendations provided they entails their own desires. Eventually, this

makes reconciliation process a problematic endeavor whose outcomes are unreliable, hence leading to unending armed political unrest (Maudeni, 2010).

4.5.5. Regional and International community

Regional cooperation has also been shown by the South African Development Community (SADC) mediation in the post-election conflict in the 1990s. The first SADC intervention in the affairs of Lesotho was in the aftermath of the 1993 elections which were won by the Basotho Congress Party (BCP) whereby the government was toppled by the King in 1994 leading to instability across the nation (Weisfelder, 2015). The military, the BNP and the Marematlou Freedom Party which was also opposition, supported the dismissal of the BCP government by the King in 1994 leading to a palace coup which claimed lives of people (Matlosa, 1999). This led to SADC's mediation in Lesotho with South Africa, Botswana and Zimbabwe troops facilitating the return of the BCP to office by restoring law and order (Matlosa, 1999). In post-elections in 1998, there was a prolonged violence that almost plunged the nation into an overwhelming civil war (Gouden, 2015).

The post-election conflict of 1998 was solved by SADC through a combined team of internal and external initiatives together with the military and diplomatic intermediations by South Africa National Defence Force (SANDF) and Botswana Defence Force (BDF) (Motsamai, 2015). Internal efforts meant to deal with the 1998 conflict comprised efforts by civil society organisations to bring the aggressive parties to the negotiation table to find an agreeable settlement and the outcome was the establishment of the Interim Political Authority (IPA) (Matlosa, 2008). In 2014 there was an intensifying pressure on Lesotho and the related actors to deal with conflict, as various worldwide organisations and the international community showed an interest and aversion concerning the alleged coup d'état in the country (Gouden, 2015). The international community intervened in 2014, for instance the United States (US) State Department, through its ambassador, Jen Psaki, indicated that the US was genuinely concerned by clashes amongst security forces in Lesotho, and therefore urged state officials and all parties to endure devoted to a peaceful political negotiation and always adhere to democratic practices aligned with the Lesotho Constitution and principles of rule of law in resolving conflict (Motsamai, 2015). The United Nations (UN) Secretary-General Ban Ki Moon and Kamallesh

Sharma, Secretary-General of the Commonwealth of Nations, also doomed the reported coup and pleaded to the parties to abide by the rule of law and advocate democracy (Motsamai, 2015).

4.6. Conclusion

In this chapter, the literature indicates that various causes contribute to conflict in Lesotho and they impact negatively on the livelihoods of communities as over hundreds lives were lost due, destruction of properties and in some cases individual relocate from their home towns or even country for security purposes. Efforts have been undertaken by the Government of Lesotho (GOL), traditional authorities, CSOs, regional and the international community to find sustainable solution to solve the prevailing conflicts but it all the mechanisms have failed.

CHAPTER FIVE THE LIVELIHOOD STRATEGIES OF WIDOWS IN MAFETENG DISTRICT

5.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the analysis and interpretation of data collected from widows in the Mafeteng district in Lesotho. The first section of the chapter presents demographic characteristics of the informants while the second section looks at the challenges facing widows. The last section of the chapter looks at the livelihood strategies of widows. In this study a combination of quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis are used; descriptive statistics are employed to analyze the perception and quantitative data. In this regard, frequency distribution tables, bar charts as well as pie charts are used to summarise and present data in relation to the study objectives.

5.2. Socio-demographic data of widows

The socio demographic characteristics of the widows are presented in this section of the study. These comprise of the social factors such as; age, level of education, occupation status, type and length in marriage and in the number of children and dependents among others. However, the gender variable was not looked at because all the subjects were widows.

5.2.1. Age distribution of widows

The age of widows is very significant in this study because it provides an idea of the diverse age groups of widows who are affected by the Famo music gang killings in the Mafeteng district. Age as a factor also influences the choice of livelihood strategies that widows are engaged in order to survive in the households. The distribution of the age of widows is shown in the Table below.

Table 5.1: Age category of widows in the Mafeteng District, 2021

Age category of widows	Frequency	Percentage (%)
18 – 25yrs	10	12
26 – 35yrs	25	31
36 – 45yrs	14	18
46 – 50yrs	3	4
Above 50yrs	28	35
Total	80	100

Source: Field data

As shown in Table 5.1, majority of the widows (35%) aged between 50 and above. It can be drawn from these findings that majority of widows are of mature age. Some people in this age bracket are close to retirement if employed in the formal sector. However, many married women are not working. They depend on their husbands for income and maintenance of the family. Some widows who are in their fifties lost their husbands at a younger ages, and they have been widows for quite some time. In this regard, it was observed by Turner et al (2001) that ageing widows had lost most of their human and physical assets that were accumulated over years.

It can be observed from the above table that a small percentage of (4%) of widows are found in the distribution 46-50. The findings show that widows found in this group are mature. Many of them are in a position to take care of the family members during the absence of their husbands. However, as indicated before in this section, women in Lesotho and elsewhere in some African countries depend on their husbands as breadwinners.

It can be concluded in this part that, Famo gang killings do not leave only the mature and elderly women as widows. This also affects young women who have just joined marriage. For instance, it can be observed from Table 5.1 that women who are in age between 18 and 25 years are not exceptions. Unlike the mature women, widows found in this age group often migrate into towns and South African countries to seek employment as domestic workers (Crush, Dodson, Gay, Green and, Leduka, 2010).

5.2.2. Educational level of widows

According to the UNICEF (2011) education is considered as the main goal in development. Good quality education is seen as contributing to empowerment and protection in livelihood making. This can in the long run contribute to poverty reduction in the household. Education is commented for enhancing an individual's awareness of his/her environment as well as ability to gain and processing information including detecting changes in it (UNICEF, 2011).

In this study one considers education to enhance widow's ability to identify relevant livelihood strategies and exercise agency to overcome problems experienced in the households. On the other hand, literate people are tend to be inventive and are likely to be in a better position to implement best survival strategies (Karanja, 2003). On the other hand, less educated people are

associated with lack of capability to understand or adopting the best mechanisms without the complete assistance of experts or extension officers (Karanja, 2003). It is also observed that education is important in most income generating because it helps people in areas such as pricing and marketing of the produce. In the light of these, the discussion below looks at the educational background of widows in the Mafeteng District.

Table 5.2: Educational level of widows in the Mafeteng District, 2021

Educational level of the widows	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No education	4	5
Primary	47	59
Secondary	26	33
College	1	1
University	2	2
Others		
Total	80	100

Source: Field data

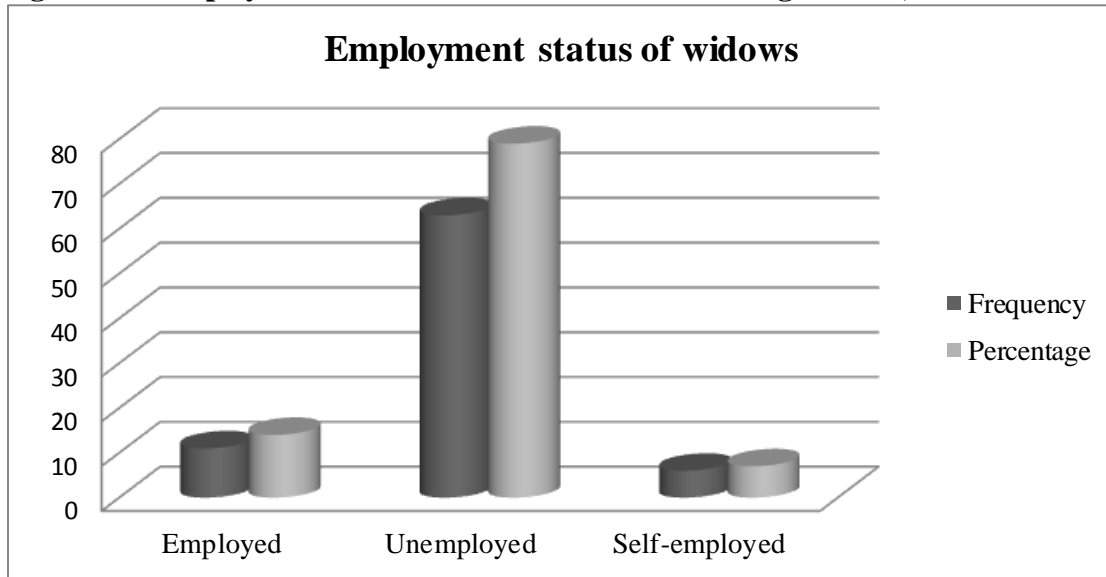
The results from Table 5.2 suggest that many widows in the study area have low level of education. For instance, 92% of widows have low level of education (primary and secondary). These results suggest that, many of the widows are not in a position to be absorbed in the formal sector due to their lack of formal education. Many of them were dependent on their husbands for survival. According to Basotho culture and some African countries, women are restricted to the household's duties only while men can go and find paid employment. This causes dependency of women on their men, and this affects them (women) negatively in the absence of their husbands due to death. It can also be noted that from the above table that, about 5% of the widows have tertiary education. Although men are considered as breadwinners in many African cultures and particularly in Lesotho, educated women are able to contribute to the maintenance of the households of families. In this regard, widows with tertiary education are in a position to provide for family members during the absence of their husbands due to death.

It can be inferred from the above discussions that, many famo-gang related widows are facing the hardships of making ends meet after the passing away of their spouses. This is caused by the cultural practices where men are breadwinners, while women are just performing domestic chores for their husbands to provide everything.

5.2.3. Employment status of widows

It is imperative to study the employment status of the widows. Considering the educational level of widows in the study area (that is discussed in the above Table 5.2), it is not easy for less educated people to get employed in the formal sector. Therefore it is worth investigating whether widows are currently employed or not. Data showing employment status of widows is presented in the following Figure 5.1.

Figure 5.1: Employment status of widows in the Mafeteng District, 2021



Source: Field data

Figure 5.1 above clearly demonstrates that the majority (79%) of the widows are currently unemployed. High unemployment is a national crisis in Lesotho, and this affects mostly women and youth. For instance, according to the Bureau of statistic (2021) female unemployment in the Mafeteng District is estimated at 23.2% compared to their male counterparts that is 22.1%. These results suggest that, female unemployment is a challenge, and this is aggravated by low levels of education among the female (see Table 5.2).

The results of the study further reveal that (7%) of widows are self-employed and they are involved in different income generating projects such as piece jobs, petty commodity trading, farming activities and others. These results show that lack of formal employment in Lesotho, and failure to less educated people to secure employment has forced them to engage in self-

employment activities. These results suggest that most of unemployed widows have to seek different ways of maintaining their families.

5.2.4. Duration of employment of the widows

The study sought to identify the duration of employment of the widows in their various settings. In this study this variable is very significant because it reveals the stability of employment between the current employers and widows. The findings of the study are presented in Table 5.3 below.

Table 5.3: Duration of employment of widows in the Mafeteng District, 2021

Duration in employment	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Below 12months	1	9
1-2yrs	3	27
3-4yrs	4	36
5-6yrs	3	27
Other (Specify)		
Total	11	100

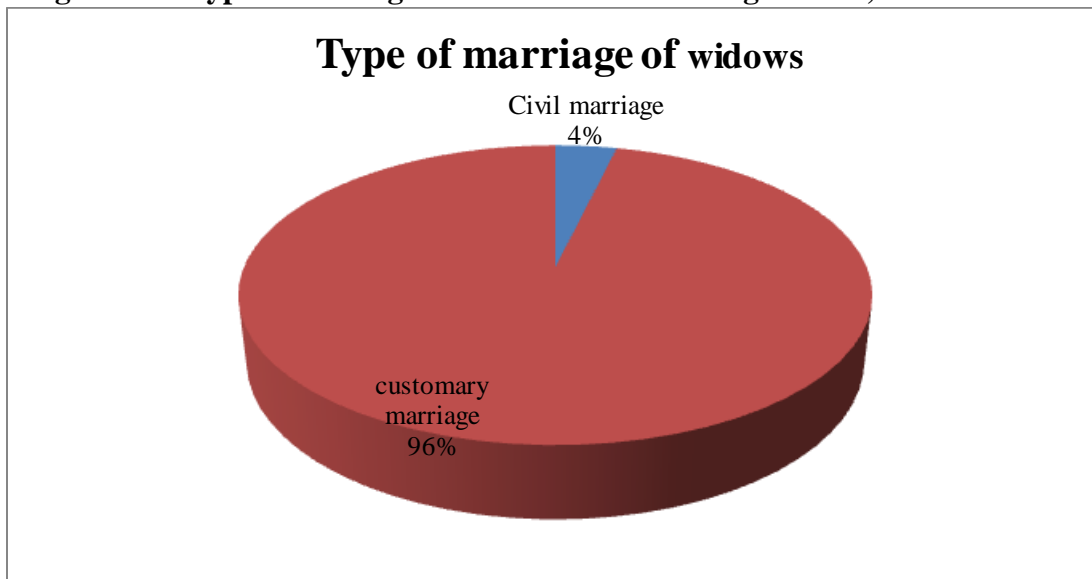
Source: Field data

As observed in Table 5.3 above, 36% of the widows have worked for 3 to 4 years. However, there are some who have worked for a year and less. In this case, 9% of widows worked for less than 12 months. Widows keep changing amongst various jobs as a result of harsh treatment from their employer which is accompanied by low wages. Employment is regarded to be source of income for widows, but it can be noted that unstable employment cannot ensure sustainable source of income.

5.2.5. Type of marriage of the widows

It is important to know the type of marriage widows are involved in. In the context of Lesotho there are two types of marriages namely; customary and civil (Bureau of statistics, 2012). Marriage through alteration is not legally practiced Lesotho. Figure 5.2 below presents the findings as obtained from the field.

Figure 5.2: Type of marriage of widows the Mafeteng District, 2021



Source: Field data

From the results in Figure 5.2 above, it is evident that 96% of widows are in customary type of marriage while 4% are in civil marriage. None of the widows is married through alteration. Comparably, civil marriage provides partners with legal benefits which are applicable only to people who are legally married (Juma, 2011). The remunerations protect both partners throughout their entire marriage and most importantly during times of death and divorce while in customary marriage an heir of assets in the household is the first born male child. As a result, according to customary system a female is not eligible to any land inheritance after the passing of spouse but a widow only has usufructuary rights (Juma, 2011).

5.2.6. Length of time in marriage

The survey item sought to find the number of years that widows spent in marriage before the death of their spouses. The underlying assumption for this variable is that the length of time spent in marriage means the more experienced a widow was in order to adopt diverse strategies to improve their livelihood to maintain the household. Iruloh and Elsie (2018) note that the development of appropriate livelihood approaches is determined by specific aspects such as, age of the widow, period of marriage, and others. The results showing the period spent in marriage for widows are presented in the following table.

Table 5.4: Length of time in marriage of widows in the Mafeteng District, 2021

Length in marriage	Frequency	Percentage (%)
1 - 5yrs	15	19
6 - 10yrs	27	34
11 - 15yrs	9	11
16 - 20yrs	12	15
Over 20yrs	17	21
Total	80	100

Source: Field data

Table 5.4 shows that the highest percentage (34%) of widows were married for 6 -10 before the passing of their husbands. The lowest percentage (11%) of widows has been in marriage for a period between 11-15 years in marriage before their spouse's death. The research findings indicate that widows have not spent a lengthy period in their marriage. The World Bank (2013) report that during conflicts, men in their productive years die in large numbers leaving their wives in their youthful stage as widows and children as orphans.

5.2.7. Date when the widows became widowed

In this study it is fundamental to look at the date of when the widows became widowed. It is reported that the high prevalence of premature male mortality in developing economies is an impediment to economic and social well-being of widows (Harma and Graaf, 2016). In relation to this study, it is evident that the Mafeteng District has been affected by Famo music gang conflicts and killings since from the year 2000. Therefore, after the death of husbands women face a heavy burden of taking the roles as breadwinners. Data from the field was presented in Table 5.5 below.

Table 5.5: Date when the widows became widowed in the Mafeteng District, 2021

Date when widows became widowed	Frequency	Percentage (%)
2000-2005	11	14
2006-2010	13	16
2011-2016	26	32
2017-2021	30	38
Total	80	100

Source: Field data

The findings from Table 5.5 demonstrate that the highest percentage (38%) of women became widowed between 2017 and 2021. This shows that the Famo gang killings were rife in this

period leading to increasing numbers of widows. The lowest percentage (14%) of widow's husbands passed away in between the year 2000 and 2005. This is because the Famo music gang conflicts were at their earliest stages. Mohloboli (2019) adds that Famo musician's killings are increasing at an alarming rate in Lesotho. This has affected the country's economic development due to deaths of young and productive men. Most of men die leaving wives as widows and children as orphans. Odekon (2015) indicates that a change in household structure because of the death of husbands in large numbers contributes to increasing poverty.

5.2.8. Number of children of the widows

It is important for this study to look at the number of children of widows. This is because the UN Women 2000 (2001) report that premature widowhood in developing nations is a concern because it has intergenerational concerns, characterized by women with dependent children. These widows have been incompletely or solely dependent on their husbands for survival. The deaths of breadwinners leave widows with a heavy burden of taking care of the children in terms food, education and health. The number of children of widows is shown in Table 5.6 below.

Table 5.6: Number of children of widows in the Mafeteng District, 2021

Number of children	Frequency	Percentage (%)
None	1	1
1-2	35	44
3-4	29	36
Above 4	15	19
Total	80	100

Source: Field data

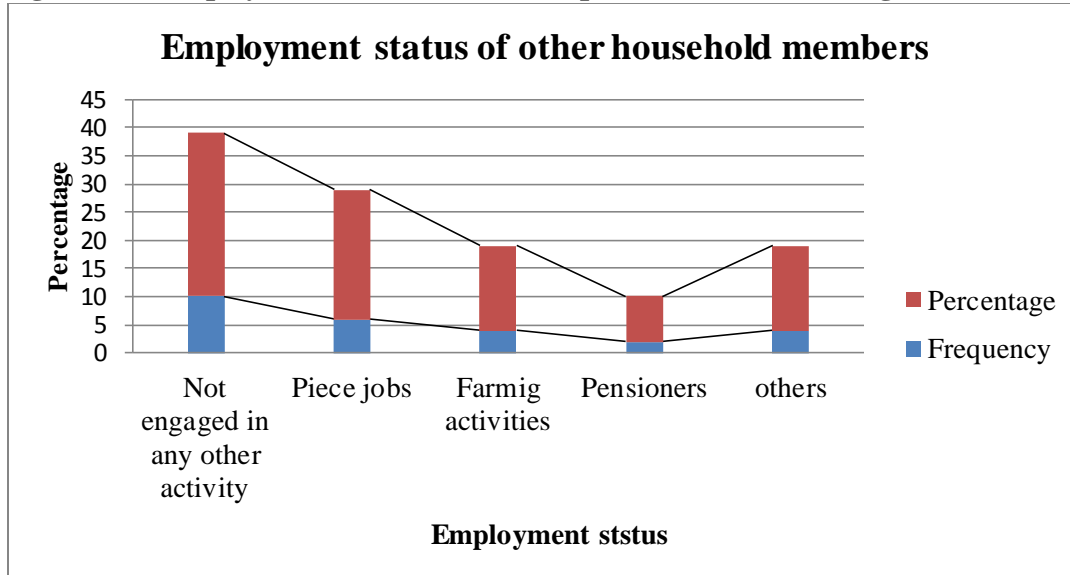
It can be observed from Table 5.6 above that, majority of widows (44%) have between 1 and 2 children. The highest percentage can be linked to early mortality rates of their husbands. The research findings show that men have left their wives in their youthful ages. Only 1% of widows reported to have no children at all. This is because their husbands died at an earlier stage of marriage. In this case, widows have to sustain a heaviest burden to cater for the needs of their children.

5.2.9. Employment status of other dependents of the widows

It is important to study employment status of family members living in the households of widows. This is because when other family members are working can reduce the burden of the

widow for the maintenance of the household. On the contrary, unemployed members can also add to a burden to widows who are struggling to make ends meet. This is the case where there are few assets owned by widows used to make a living. Dungumaro (2008) notes that female headed households (FHHs) comprising of many dependents experience some challenges to make a living. The data from the field is presented in the Figure 5.3 as shown below.

Figure 5.3: Employment status of other dependents the Mafeteng District, 2021



Source: Field data

The research findings in Figure 5.3 above show that 29 % of widows who stay with members who are not engaged in any form of livelihood activity. According to Bureau of Statistics (2021), unemployment in Lesotho is estimated at 26.6%. This negatively impacts on households that do not have other sources of making a living. Odekom (2015) indicates that Female-Headed Households (FHHs) with many dependents experience poverty because they share very fewer resources. The large percentage of widows with no other members of household working elsewhere is also linked with too many dependents with low levels of education. Furthermore some widow’s households have some elderly people who are not eligible for social grants such as old age pension. In Lesotho, elderly all citizens ageing 70 years old and above earn old age pension (Old Age Pension Act of 2005). Widows who leave with their members who earn old age pension make 8%.

5.2.10. Training and acquisition of skills

This variable is important in this study because it provides information on whether the widows have attended any skills development training in order to acquire knowledge and skills in income generating projects. The results showing skill development of widows are as shown in the following Table 5.7.

Table 5.7: Trainings and acquisition of skills by the widows in the Mafeteng District, 2021

Trainings on income generating activities	Frequency	Percentage (%)
No formal training offered	74	92
Formal training offered	6	8
Total	80	100

Source: Field data

As observed from the Table 5.7 above, the results indicate that 92% of widows are not trained in any type of income generating activity/project. Only a small percentage of 8% of widows have skills in income generating activities. Trainings and skill development were mainly by local community councilors and the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). The conclusion that can be drawn from these findings is, majority of widows are on their own without any training services from either the GOL or private sector. This is despite the importance of income generating projects in helping reduce poverty, unemployment and also achieving Goals one and two of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Research in developing countries also shows that poverty among women can be associated to the ineffectiveness of poverty alleviation programs to solve problems of the poorest citizens (Odekon, 2015). In this case, new ideas through trainings on income generating projects (IGP) might be better implemented especially when widows are equipped with skills by qualified extension personnel from either government or private sector.

5.3. Section B: Challenges facing widows in Lesotho

According to Iruloh and Elsie (2018) widows are susceptible to experience several dimensions of stress, which regularly cause high stress levels in their lives. Widows can face challenges such as; lack of required emotional support, social and financial assistance especially at an age when their earning power is slowly declining. Furthermore, the emotional and psychological stress results from the concern that female headed households are very poor and are not able to sustain

their household livelihoods because of existing inequalities between men and women (Nnodim et al, 2012).

5.3.1 Constraints faced by widows households

Widows in Lesotho and elsewhere in developing countries are faced with many challenges. These range from social, economic, and others in the communities they live in. It is against this background that this part looks at challenges faced by Famo music gang related widows in Mafeteng District. The results are presented in Table 5.8 below:

Table 5.8: Challenges facing widows in the Mafeteng District, 2021

Type of challenge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Food scarcity	56	43
Lack of income	45	34
Unemployment	17	13
Burglary	2	2
Insecurity from male counter parts in the area		
Others	10	8
Total	130	100

Source: Field data

The results in Table 5.8 reveal that 43% of widows face the challenge of food scarcity. It was discussed in the previous sections that many widows do not work. As a result, lack of enough income to purchase food for families/households. There are also other factors that hinder widow's access to adequate food stocks. These include among others; lack of land and finance. At this point, research shows that these are the major factors that affect widows in some parts of developing countries. Furthermore, widows fail to balance tedious household chores together with food production. According to Chant (1997) premature male deaths have left many women stranded and failing to cope with some dimensions accompanying widowhood.

As observed from the results in the table above, only 2% of widows experience burglary in the households. This has left emotional and psychological stress on widows. The data suggests that burglary mainly occurs because of poor housing conditions which expose widows to some criminal acts such as house breaking. This inflicts anger, fear, worry and shock to widows and their dependents.

5.3. Section C: Livelihood strategies of widows

The main objective of this research is to study the different livelihood strategies adopted by widows to survive in the household. This section therefore looks at some livelihood strategies used by widows to make a living. This analysis is based on, the Feminization of poverty and the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach (SLA). The main areas of analysis in the livelihood strategies include among interlia; land acquisition, farming activities, casual jobs, petty trading, involvement in social networks and neighborhood and relative relations, support from the Lesotho government and Non-governmental Organisations (NGOs).

5.3.1. Livelihood strategies adopted by widows

According to Long (1997) livelihood can be described as the idea of individuals and groups struggling to make a living, making an effort to meet their numerous consumption and economic requirements. It is important to look at the livelihood strategies adopted by widows after the death of their spouses/breadwinners. In this regard, the research findings show multiple livelihood strategies used by widows. The results show that 51% of widows participate in casual or piece jobs to maintain their families/households. Some widows are hired to help in times of heavy seasonal work in washing clothes, clerks, domestic work, tailoring, hair dressing and others. It can be noted from these findings that, casual work has too short duration, and does not provide sustainable source of income for family of household maintenance. According to some studies, female heads are often engaged in informal employment activities which are paying too low incomes (Chant, 2006).

5.3.1.1. Farming as a livelihood strategy

Farming is an important for livelihood making among widow's households. According to Mulugeta (2009) reveals that majority of women are engaged in subsistence farming for survival. In case some widows do not own land they render their services to the ones who own land and get paid after harvesting with part of the produce or cash (Winniefred, 2015). Widows in the study area are involved in two farming practices namely; livestock and crop production.

5.3.1. Livestock farming

Livestock ensures food security and income generation in the families through the sale of milk, meat, mohair and skins. Livestock provide financial security to farmers since they are a store of wealth, guarantee for credit, used for draught power as well as vital safety net during crisis (FAO

2009). Research studies show that many female heads considers the significant role of assets such as; livestock rearing because it can be easily liquidated during economic deprivation for the payment of medical bills or school fees for children (Winniefred, 2015; Dolan, 2002). In this study the major types of livestock from which data was collected are cattle, sheep and goats as well as poultry and piggery production. In this study the findings of the major types of livestock from which data was collected are as follows;

One, the field work data that show that (100%) of widows reared cattle in between 1-5. This is most likely to be slightly smaller quantity of stock-holding in the households of widows. it can be noted that ownership of cattle is predominantly amongst the most matured households of widows. Widows are involved in small-scale rearing of cattle because they cannot afford to pay herding labour especially those without adult sons. Stock theft is also a problem to rearing large herds of cattle. It is evident from the findings that from a significant percentage of households owning cattle none had a required number to make up a ploughing team of two or four beasts.

Two, (81%) of widows in the study area reared sheep and goats in between 1-10. The study found out that widows reared a small proportion of sheep and goats because majority of them cannot afford to pay herders and also perform extra works associated with livestock care. Small-scale sheep and goats farming in the households of widows is related to the scarcity of animal feed as a result of deteriorating grazing areas because of environmental factors. The study results indicate that only 6% of widows are in sheep and goats farming between, 21-30. The increasing numbers is relative to economic reasons and for consumption in their households. High returns from the sale of wool and mohair also motivate widows to increase their. The findings are in line with Mochebelele and Ranko (1992) that in Lesotho the livestock sector is faced with problems of range lands deterioration, and therefore has led to low productive rates in the number of stock-holding in the households.

Three, results of the study show that some widows in the study area are involved in piggery and poultry production. Firstly, about (56%) of widows are involved in poultry production. The study found out that majority of widows reared village/traditional chickens while widows have resorted to small-scale intensive poultry production that rely more on proper feeding schemes and management. Secondly, (44%) of the widows are engaged in piggery production. The research findings show that in both modes of production widow's raise pigs and chickens in small

quantities because of; insufficient income, lack of proper housing and limited markets for their produce. In most cases widows are forced to sell at the lower prices, therefore the returns in both modes of production (piggery and poultry) are very low. However, the field work data show that widows have formed associations and sell piglets, meat and chickens to its members.

5.3.2. Crop farming in the households of widows

Crop farming is another farming activity performed by widows in the Mafeteng district. The field work data shows that (35%) widows are involved in small- scale farming of crops such as; maize, sorghum, beans and peas. Some widows are growing vegetables for consumption in their households on their small plots to meet their dietary needs. The study findings show that those involved in crop farming activities have other sources of income such as; remittances left by their deceased spouses from former employment. Some widows have matured sons and other household dependents that contribute to the farming labour. Widows depend on networks by borrowing of cattle during cultivation season (as discussed in 5.3.1 above) they reared cattle from 1 to 5. Crop farming in the households of widows is accompanied by low productivity. The results of the study show that low yields is linked to lack of access to improved seeds, draught power and the lack of knowledge and skills on farming activities.

5.4. Social problems and networking

In this study, social capital includes many features that one tends to adopt while engaging in a livelihood they prefer. According to Lemke, et al (2003) social ties and networks are very significant in promoting the empowerment of widows by helping them to deal with the challenging conditions in their lives.

5.4.1. Social problems facing widows

It is important to look the social problems that are faced by widows. The inferences of the social dimension are very important in the establishment of livelihood strategies and therefore bore heavily on the widows. The findings relative to social problems are shown in Table 5.9 below.

Table 5.9: Social problems faced by widows in the Mafeteng District, 2021

Social problems	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Exclusion and stigma	34	89
Property grabbing	4	11
Total	38	100

Source: Field data

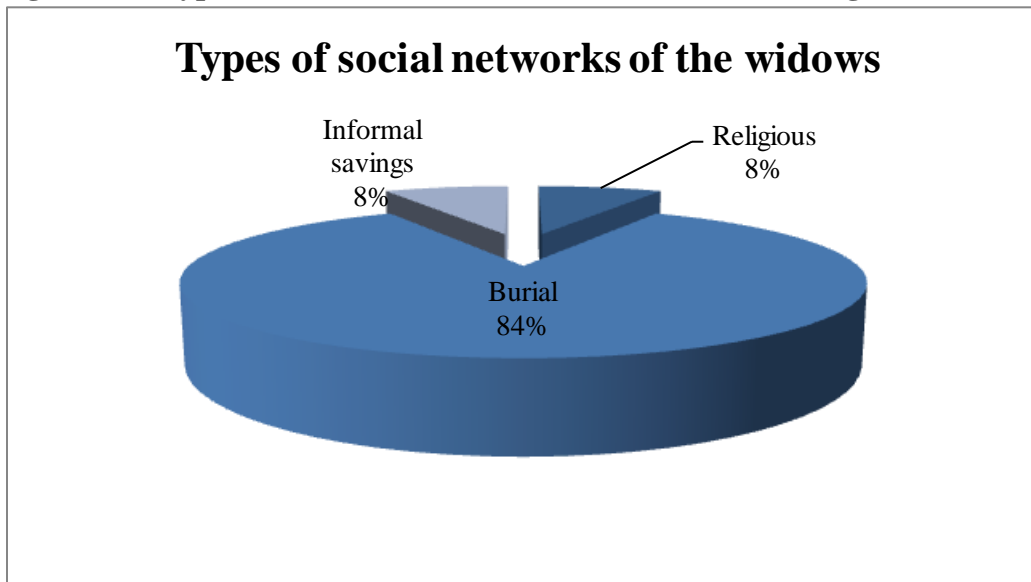
Table 5.9 above shows that 89% of widows experience exclusion and stigma to be a major social problem. Social exclusion and stigma stem from the tendency of some of the household's heads and their dependents that used to borrow/beg for help from other families because of the status of lacking. In most cases widows families are not considered by many community members especially those that are headed by men because of patriarchal structure embedded among Basotho nation. Some widows are excluded in the formations of women's associations because they are perceived not to be capable of making required contributions and savings. The study by the UN Women 2000 (2001) states that female headed households face stigma due to destitution, the humiliation is from their communities as a result of poverty which makes divisions between the non-poor and ultra-poor.

In this study 11% of widows are victims of property grabbing. Their properties were taken away by their in-laws after the passing of their husbands. Some widows have lost their shelter, means of livelihoods and as a result became destitute. According to Leathers and Mueller (2020) forced evictions of widows from their homes after their spouses death is habitually due to eagerness to theft of land, buildings and some other household necessities. Evictions are accompanied by mental and physical harassment and some widows had returned back to their parental homes for safety.

5.4.2 Different types of social networks of widows in Lesotho

Social networking is very important for this study. According to Scoones (1998) social capital comprises; social networks, kinship relations, links and societal groups, among others. The research study by (Turner, 2001) show that widows are active in a number of associations namely; burial societies, religious groups, grocery clubs, and money lending called "stockvel" such as "pitiki and mochaellano" to borrow to the members and other people to enable them earn a livelihood. Data from the field was presented in Figure 5.5 below.

Figure 5.4: Types of social networks of widows in the Mafeteng District, 2021



Source: Field data

Figure 5.3 above shows that 84% of widows have joined burial societies due to their importance in offering emotional and financial support at time of grieving for the loss of a family member. Community based burial societies are affordable to widows from as little M5.00 to M10.00. Through joint efforts members of the burial societies help with burial processes when one of their members has passed away. This promotes social cohesion and equality amongst community members. About 8% of widows have joined women’s savings groups. These savings groups loans cash to members and other people on a fixed interest rates in times of crisis. On the other hand, the percentage of widows that participate in informal local savings groups is low because some widows lack ability to make contributions.

Another 8% of widows have joined religious groups because church services provide support and counseling. The lowest percentage results from the stigmatization that widows experiences from church members and pastors that refer to them as prostitutes. Some widows do not join church groupings because they are not able to afford contributions. Widows that are members of groupings felt comfortable to talk to God through prayers in church about their daily problems and they meet with some widows that have similar widowhood experiences. In church services widows meet with their long-lost childhood friends, relatives including other members from other societies. According to Winniefred (2015) interactions with other church members helps in building widows mental capital because they are able to exchange ideas, share their grievances

and happy moments. The findings agree with the SLA that religious and other social groups help to build social capital.

5.4.4. Support from relatives and friends

It is fundamental for this study to examine the support of relatives and friends to widows. This is because friends and relatives are also used as a strategy to lessen financial constraints in times of hardships. According to Winniefred (2015) kinship ties are very significant in the utilization of resources in sustaining livelihoods in the households of widows. Social relationships involve distribution of assets such as; land for housing and farming amongst members (Turner, 2001). At this point, research shows that good relations also include borrowing of cattle to widows for ploughing on the farms including other gifts that are provided to show support and to build up social bonds (Turner, 2001).

The research findings reveals that majority of widows (76%) have not received any type of social support from relatives and friends. This shows that widows are on their own in dealing with widowhood challenges. This inflicts emotional and psychological problems to widows in coping with the loss of their spouses. The findings are in line with the feminisation of poverty theory that female heads have lesser social networks, this because they lack bonds with their friends and relatives. Widows are marginalized in their communities. Therefore they distance themselves from other people because of the status of poverty in their households. On the other hand, some widows have fewer consequences concerning social support. This is linked to the fact that they have children that are matured enough to provide any form of support in to their household's.

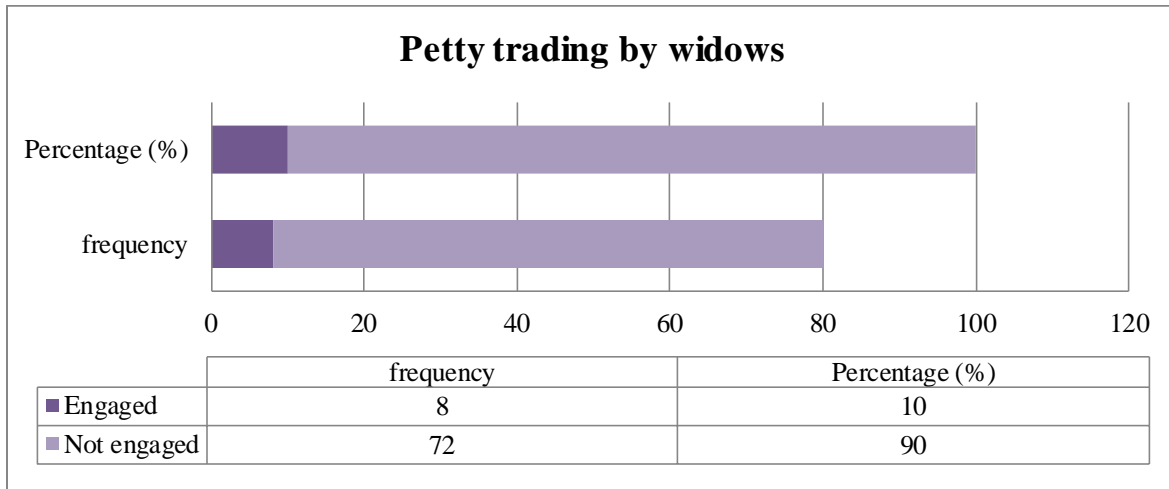
About (24%) of widows receive support from their extended family members and friends. Some widows have relatives who assist them with some essential goods necessary for making a living. Others have social ties with their friends, neighbours, and relatives and managed to get help by means of household needs such as; clothing, foodstuffs and others. The study concludes that some widows used kinships relation as a livelihood strategy.

5.5. Petty commodity trading

It is important to look at petty commodity trading in this study because livelihood strategies are centered on production and exchanges of cash and goods among various households. In Africa,

women's income-generating activities are greatly intensely in petty trading. This type of trading contributes to the economic well-being of the poor people in Africa and also alleviated poverty levels in the families of many women in local communities (UN Habitat, 2009). Data from the field is presented in the Figure 5.5 below.

Figure 5.5: Petty trading as a household strategy for widows in the Mafeteng District, 2021



Source: Field data

As observed in figure 5.5 above, majority of widows (90%) are not involved in petty trading activities. The high percentage of widows is associated to lack of start-up capital. Majority of widows depend on wages from piece jobs, therefore they are not able to make savings to start a small business. The research findings from this study show that lack of business skills and finance have hindered widows to engage in meaningful income generating activities. This is evident by some widows who have abandoned petty trading activities due to lack of finance.

The results from the above table also show that 10% of widows are involved in petty commodity trading. Some of these widows own small retail shops while others are involved in hawking, selling of homemade liquor, food vending and others. Widows used income attained from petty trading activities for improving their health, nutrition as well as proper housing. Research in developing countries reveals that petty trading ensures sustainable livelihood in the households especially when the financial returns accomplished from it is sufficient to cater for the basic needs of the women and their families (Mbisso, 2011).

The major problem facing widows in petty trading activities is stocking in small quantities due to insufficient capital. The findings are in collaboration with others in developing studies which suggest women lack access to credit facilities and financial tools for setting and beginning operations in petty trading (Okoro, Deborah, Mmamel, Zita, Okolo, Victor, Obikeze, Chinedum, 2020). Data from the field indicates that widows lack ownership of assets to provide as security as against which they can access financial capital in terms of loans. The findings show that some widows used their housing for as the main livelihood strategy for income generation. They located their businesses in their households. The study concludes that, widows use their physical capital as a resource for improving their livelihoods.

5.6. External support from Government of Lesotho and Non-Governmental Organizations

Political assets are deliberated very important in the SLA. Therefore it is an important component to be considered when designing interventions which will advance the sustainable livelihood outcomes in the households of widows. According to Scoones (1998) institutional procedures paves the way for identification of limitations, barriers and offer the opportunities that are existent for sustainable livelihoods.

About 51% of widows do not receive any form of support from both the Government of Lesotho (GOL) and the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). This adds to increasing poverty levels in the household of widows because many of them are not educated. For this reason they are unable to handle the consequences of widowhood due to limited job opportunities. The data from the field indicates that widows are not economically empowered by the relevant stakeholders. The GOL and NGOs do not to provide widows with knowledge and skills on any form of income generation in order to expose them to suitable economic prospects, limited employment opportunities, as well as poverty.

The findings show that only 49% of widows get support from GOL. The support is involves the payment of fees for their children at primary school level. This is due to Free Primary Policy of Education which was implemented in the year 2000. Conversely, widows still face economic hardships because they do not afford to buy school uniforms for their children. Some widows received assistance from GOL through social security benefits (orphanage grants) while others get support from the NGOs such as the World Food program (WFP) which provide donations in

terms of food parcels. The support in terms of food packages is not beneficial in the households of widows' households because it is not sustainable. The findings disagree with the proposition that the feminisation of poverty has led to the development of anti-poverty programmes. This is because no efforts were undertaken by the relevant structures to provide the vulnerable widows with vocational and literacy skills through education to improve access to micro- credit facilities, community programs and many more. On the other hand, the study concludes that widows exercised agency and empowered themselves through adopting various livelihood strategies to improve the living standard in their households.

5.7. Conclusion

According to the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach, the livelihood strategies for survival should be able to sustain lives in the households. This study findings show that some strategies adopted by widows proved to be sustainable to their livelihoods while others were not able to ensure survival in their households. The study concludes that widows used diversified income generating strategies to alleviate poverty in their families.

CHAPTER SIX

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. Introduction

This chapter presents the discussion of the study findings, conclusion and makes some recommendations to improve livelihoods in the households of widows. The aim of the study is to investigate the livelihoods strategies of widows associated with Famo music gang conflicts in Mafeteng District. The livelihood challenges and achievements of widows were also explored in the study. The main objective of the study is discussed under the specific objectives based on the study findings.

6.2. Summary

The summary is built on the most important elements of the study relative to the objectives of the study. Firstly, to investigate the livelihood strategies adopted by the Famo music gang related widows in making a living. Secondly, to assess whether the lives of widows have changed for the better or worse after the passing of their spouses is given. Finally, to study the contribution made by the livelihood strategies in improving the living standards of the households of widow's households is provided.

The study investigated the livelihood strategies adopted by the Famo music gang related widows to make a living. The study concludes that widows developed multiple livelihood strategies in their households after the passing of their spouses. The research findings reveal that the majority of widows are mostly involved in the informal livelihood strategies to support their household members. This was due to lack of formal education, which is fundamental for human capital, which was not accessed by many of the widows. This affected their employment opportunities in the formal sector which could have led to improvement in their living standards. They are involved in various income generating activities such as occasional piece jobs which comprises; washing of clothes for payment, domestic work and many more. The study results reveal that incomes earned from these informal activities are not satisfactory to meet their household needs

and these has not reduced their hardships in terms of obtaining sufficient food that is important for poverty reduction. Widows used the available resources within their reach to exercise agency for the betterment of their households needs. This study concludes that some of the strategies used by widows such as occasional piece jobs and others are not sustainable to improve their lives in the long run.

Although widows experience risks in their lives that may have brought stress and shocks but they have devised several strategies to reduce their vulnerability in order to strengthen their financial capital. They are involved in a combination of small-scale businesses in petty commodity trading activities, farming activities and migrant work to ensure survival in their households. It is evident that widows established social groupings and empower one another by making savings on monthly basis whereby they lend cash to each other in times of crisis. Kinship and neighborhood relations are also used as a livelihood strategy as some widows were assisted with household necessities such as; clothing, foodstuffs and others. The study found out that other widows have resorted to migration as a strategy for survival in their households. They have migrated to towns of Lesotho and South Africa to seek for employment opportunities as domestic workers, farm labourers and factory workers. According to the feminisation of poverty and the SLA women migration is associated to increasing variety of family units in which women are the only financial providers and this resonates the study findings. For the fact that widows changed from one income generating activity to another based on availability and other part time basis. The study concludes that livelihoods strategies adopted by widows were not effective in sustaining lives in the households.

One of the objectives of the study was to find out if the lives of Famo gang widows have changed for the better or worse after the passing of their spouses. The study findings show that widows are unable to meet their household needs after the passing of the main income providers. Data obtained from the field indicates that widows are involved in cheap exploitative labour with low payment in the informal sector. The research findings show that some widows who are engaged in migrant work stay in rental housing in towns and the remittances they sent back to their original homes are not sufficient to alleviate poverty in their households. Majority of widows in this study stay in underprivileged environments, therefore the nature of the trading activities is

similarly of a deprived nature for those who are engaged in small-scale businesses. The results of the study show that some widow's households appear to engage in small-scale farming activities which are accompanied by poor productivity. The study found out that due to lack of ownership of assets widows face barriers in having access to credit facilities and they are not able to engage in a commercialized farming that have high returns. The findings support the feminization of poverty that women are among the poorest because they engage in informal income generating activities which hardly generate adequate profits to boost themselves and their families out of poverty.

The study found out that some widows engage in sharecropping agreements with members from well-off families because lack of farming equipment and input and they are being cheated out of their fair share. Conversely, widow's that are involved in crop farming still meet nutritional status from the little acquired output. The poor productivity is associated with lack of physical assets in terms of machinery such as mechanized traction and others. Limited marketing opportunities for agricultural goods are also affects widows as in most cases prices are determined by the buyers. In this regard, the study concludes that profit made from the sale of agricultural products is not able to sustain the livelihoods in their households.

The study further looked at the contribution of the livelihood strategies in improving the living standards of the households of widows. The study results established that some strategies which are adopted by widows appear to be beneficial to their households. Widows who engaged in petty trading activities such hawking, small-business and home-brewing have shown that their business ventures are the most profitable ones and that income gained contribute to the means of survival in their households in terms of, payment of fees, better health, nutrition as well as decent housing. On the other hand, some widows that engaged in petty trading for example food vendors and others have failed to prosper from the little returns they get. The study concludes that even with the limited resources accessed such as; natural, physical and financial capitals majority of widows are still disadvantaged and unable to meet their household needs.

The findings from farming activities indicate that majority of widows are engaged in crop production. Widows cultivate vegetables for consumption on their small plots to meet their

dietary needs. Regarding crop production on the fields, the study findings indicate that majority of widows were discouraged by low yields due to environmental degradation therefore the cost of farming input exceeded the output. Nonetheless, the findings show that some widows still maintain their households from the low output through consumption and sales of the surplus. Widows who are involved in small-scale livestock rearing make a living from income earned through sales during crisis and from high returns from wool and mohair. The study concludes that widows' needs to increase the herd size to meet the demand, depending on the available resources and financial capacity of their households.

6.3. Challenges

About the challenges faced by widows' households, some households lacked basic needs such as simple proper housing. As a result of poor housing conditions burglars eventually broke in to their houses to assault them and steal their properties. This imposed anger, anxiety, including shock to widows and their dependents because in some cases they are badly injured. This study also reveals that scarcity of resources in the form of capitals and assets greatly contributed to the livelihood constraints in the widows' households. Reviewing human capital in this study, majority of widows were found to have no or low levels of formal education. This added to high unemployment rates in the households of widows. This lack of education among the heads of households can be associated to poverty as well as gender discrimination amongst females and traditional values. In conclusion the lower levels of education among widows' households critically contributed to their livelihood challenges.

Another challenge found by the study is property grabbing by their in-laws after their husbands' death. Some widows' properties such as land had been taken away with allegations from their in-law of plotting the death of their partners. They have lost their shelter, means of livelihoods and as a result became vulnerable and returned back to their parental homes for safety because evictions are typically complemented by mental harassment and physical abuse. The study also concludes that widows had faced discrimination and stigma attached to their widowhood status and high poverty levels in their households. Social exclusion and stigma result from the tendency of some widows and their dependents that used to beg from other families because of the status

of lacking. The findings indicate that widow's households are not considered by many community members specifically those that are headed by men owing to patriarchal structure embedded among the Basotho nation.

6.4. Concluding remarks

This study investigated the livelihoods strategies adopted by widows after the death of their spouses. Based on the data collected and analysed in chapter five, several conclusions can be made.

Firstly, the study found out that widows were faced with financial, psychological and social challenges mainly arising from the status of widowhood. The data of the study show that many widows faced problems with; food scarcity, fees, as well as upkeep for themselves and other members of their families. Nevertheless, widows anticipated for better livelihoods and therefore exercised agency as a form of empowerment to adopt different livelihood strategies for their households. They engaged in various combinations of other income generating activities such as savings groups, occasional jobs, farming activities, petty trading, and hawking. Some widows even used part of their housing units as small-retail shops with the aim of betterment of their livelihoods. The study established that widows were able to come up with beneficial strategies for enhancing their financial capital and livelihoods. This shows widows were able to find possibilities to deal with stress and shocks that exposed them to vulnerability.

This study findings show that, widows have limited access to assets or capitals for their livelihoods and this inhibited their access to credit facilities for improving their livelihoods. This is due to the fact that their ability to pay back loans was mistrusted by financial institutions. In addition, natural capital was significant to the livelihoods of widows in this study. The findings indicate that some widows did not own land to grow crops from and lacked sufficient space for rearing domestic animals. Regarding social capital, the study findings reveals that widows tend to experience social stigma and exclusion in a number of ways. This resulted from low income and their marital status of female headship that increases their economic poverty. Exclusion and stigma found in this study is from internal sources such close family members as well as the community members. Some of the livelihood strategies that are adopted by widows such as

informal social relationships are too risky as they are exposed to HIV and AIDS and other related sexual transmitted diseases.

6.5. Recommendations

Following the literature review, the findings of the study and the conclusions made above, some recommendations that may be made for promoting livelihoods in the households of widows in Lesotho are pointed as shown below;

One, the Lesotho government through the Ministry of Gender, Sports and Recreational services need to put in place structures that will assist in the identification of widows and to help them to deal with the challenges of widowhood. This will help in discouraging hazardous practices such as; alcoholism and informal sexual activities among widows.

Two, widows need to be empowered with financial support for them to be freed from stigma and discrimination. Financial institutions should provide credit to widows in order to improve survival in their households. Moreover, this can be accomplished when widows have access credit facilities to develop their multiple income generating activities. Empowered widows are capable to adopt new technologies when they are introduced in the market place.

Three, Government of Lesotho, Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs) and religious organizations need to equip widows with skills and knowledge on income generating projects. This can be done through provision of vocational skills through trainings and workshops in order to expose widows to the relevant economic opportunities and supportive services that can free them from extreme poverty, unemployment as well as economic depression.

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APPENDIX QUESTIONNAIRE

Section A: Demographic information of widows

1. Indicate your age category

- | | |
|-------------|-----|
| 18 - 25yrs | { } |
| 26 - 35yrs | { } |
| 36 - 45yrs | { } |
| 46 - 50yrs | { } |
| Above 50yrs | { } |

2. What is your level of education?

- | | |
|------------------------|-----|
| No education | { } |
| Primary | { } |
| Secondary | { } |
| College | { } |
| University | { } |
| Others (specify) | |

3. What is your occupation?

- | | |
|---------------|-----|
| Employed | { } |
| Self-employed | { } |
| Unemployed | { } |

4. If your employed, how long have you been working?

- | | |
|----------------|-----|
| Below 12months | { } |
| 1-2yrs | { } |
| 3-4yrs | { } |
| 5-6yrs | { } |

Other (specify).....

5. Which type of marital status are you involved in?

Civil marriage { }

Customary marriage { }

Married through alteration { }

6. How long have you been in marriage?

1-5yrs { }

6-10yrs { }

11-15yrs { }

16-20yrs { }

Over 20yrs { }

7. When did your husband pass away?

8. How long have you been a widow?

1-5yrs { }

6-10yrs { }

11-15yrs { }

16-20yrs { }

Over 20yrs { }

9. Have you ever considered remarrying?

Yes { }

No { }

10. If YES or NO to question 9 above, please explain

.....
.....

11. How many children do you have?

None { }

1-2 { }

3-4 { }

Above 4 { }

12. Do you have children attending school?

Yes { }

No { }

13. If yes to Question 12 above, in which level are they at school?

Nursery { }

Primary { }

High school { }

Tertiary { }

14. Do you afford paying school fees?

Yes { }

No { }

15. If No to the above question, how do you cope with the payment of the school fees?

.....
.....

16. Are there any other family members who are living with you?

Yes { }

No { }

17. If Yes to Question 16 above, what do they do for a living?

.....
.....

Training and acquisition of skills

18. Are you involved in any programs for skill development?

Yes { }

No { }

19. If yes in the above Question, who provided trainings or workshops? Specify

.....
.....

20. Which types of skills were provided?

.....

Section B: Challenges facing widows

21. Do you come across any challenges as a female head of the house?

Yes { }

No { }

22. If yes to Question 21 above, indicate the type of challenges in the table below;

Type of challenge	Tick [x]
Food scarcity	
Lack of income	
Unemployment	
Burglary	
Insecurity from male counter parts in the area	
Others	

23. How do you overcome the challenges stated in the above question?

.....
.....

24. What can be done to overcome challenges facing widows in Lesotho?

.....
.....

Section C: Livelihood strategies of widows

25. Are you able to maintain your household after the passing of your spouse?

Yes { }

No { }

26. If Yes to the above Question, indicate the type of livelihood activities you engage in order to make a living

Type of livelihood activity	Tick [x]
Casual / piece jobs	
Home Brewing	
Domestic work	
Wages from jobs	
Small business	
Sale of farm produce	
Migrant work	
Others	

27. Is your current livelihood strategy in a position to sustain your family life?

Yes { }

No { }

28. If No to Question 27 above, what do you use to supplement the meagre income?

.....

.....

.....

29. Are there any other livelihood activities that other family members are involved in?

Yes { }

No { }

30. If YES to Question 29 above, what are there alternative means of living?

.....

.....

.....

Land accessibility and agricultural production

31. Do you have a garden?

Yes { }

No { }

32. If yes, state the size of the garden?

1-2 hectares { }

3-4 hectares { }

Above 4 hectares { }

33. Besides owning a garden, do you have fields (land)?

Yes { }

No { }

34. If yes, state the number of fields you have.....

35. How did you obtain fields (land)?

Inheritance { }

Formal allocation { }

Buying { }

Others

36. Are you involved in farming?

Yes { }

No { }

(i) If no, explain why you are not engaged in farming?

.....
.....
(i) If yes, which type of crops do you produce?

.....
.....
37. Are you able meet your household needs if you produce crops for selling?

.....
.....
38. Do you keep livestock?

Yes { }

No { }

39. If yes, what is the size of livestock?

(i). If cattle:

1-5 { }

6-10 { }

11-15 { }

Other (number).....

(ii). If sheep and goats

1-10 { }

11-20 { }

21-30 { }

31-40 { }

41-50 { }

Other (number).....

40. Are there any other income generating agricultural activities which your household/family members are engaged in?

Yes { }

No { }

41. If yes, what kind of income generating agricultural activities?

.....

42. Has farming activities changed your life for the better?

Yes { }

No { }

43. If YES or NO, to the above question please explain

.....

.....

Social problems and networking

44. Are there any social problems you face as the head of the household?

Yes { }

No { }

45. If yes, state the kind of social problems you come across?

.....

.....

46. How do you solve these challenges?

.....
.....
47. Are you engaged in any social networks in this place?

Yes { }

No { }

48. If the YES in Question 47 above, what type of social networks?
.....
.....

49. Explain the importance of these social networks to your life?
.....
.....
.....

50. Is there any form of support you get from relatives and friends?

Yes { }

No { }

51. If yes to the above Question, indicate the type of support you get?
.....
.....

Petty commodity trading

52. Do you engage in commodity trading?

Yes { }

No { }

53. (i) If yes, what type of goods do you sell?
.....

(ii) If no, explain why are you not engaged in petty trading?
.....

54. If you engage in petty commodity trading, where do you purchase your retail goods?

.....

55. Where did you get the start-up capital?

.....

56. Was the start-up capital enough to establish a small desired enterprise?

Yes { }

No { }

57. If No to the above Question, is the current stock bringing satisfactory returns?

.....

58. Where do market your goods?

.....

59. Is petty trading a profitable business?

Yes { }

No { }

60. If NO in Question 59 above, what can be done to develop your trading activities?

.....

.....

External support for widows

61. Do you get any other help from the GOL or NGOs?

Yes { }

No { }

62. If yes, indicate the kind of support and explain how it is obtained?

.....
.....

63. How useful is the aid to your to household needs?

.....
.....

64. If No to Question 63, what do you think can be done by the government and other stakeholders to assist widows left by Famo related gang conflicts?

.....
.....

Thank you for your time!!!