

**ASSESSMENT OF MALE AND FEMALE  
GENDER ABUSE REPORTS IN MASERU  
DISTRICT: IMPLICATIONS FOR POLICE  
TRAINING**

**BY**

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## **DECLARATION**

I hereby declare that this dissertation which is submitted to the National University of Lesotho in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the award of the M. Ed Degree in adult Education is an original work done by me. I further declare that the work has neither been submitted to nor copied from any previous projects of any institutions and that all materials used herein have been duly acknowledged.

Student's Name.....

Signature.....

Date.....

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Date .....

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**May The Lord God Bless Them All**

**Clifford Fonono Molefe,**

**Adult Education Department, April, 2011**

## **ABSTRACT**

This study explores the experiences of male and female victims when they report gender-based abuse to the police or other authorities. This was done in order to compare how reports by men are addressed as compared to those by women in Maseru District. The motivation for the study was that men in particular do not appear to report abuse cases and when they do they experience unsympathetic responses from the authorities. However, in order to see if men are treated differently it was necessary to also see how women are treated when they report abuse cases. The study sought to see what kind of training is offered regarding gender abuse for men and women in order to make recommendations for improving future training and support for victims of abuse.

This was a qualitative study. A total of 22 purposively sampled respondents from two police stations included ten victims of abuse and two officers from the Police headquarters, namely human resource and the Coordinator of CGPU. Ten victims from Maseru and Mabote stations (Five victims from each station), formed the subjects who adequately responded to the interview guide questions.

The objective of CGPU is to tackle the violation of human rights of all citizens including children, women, and men, disabled as well as the elderly, to educate and inform the public about gender-based violence or abuse because they are criminal activities; hence they need to be dealt with by law.

The respondent's replies, once analyzed, showed the following results:

1. That amongst the respondents a larger proportion of women than men was deployed in CGPU.
2. That more female victims than men reported gender-based violence to CGPU.
3. That the victims used different approaches of style of reporting their cases to the police.
4. That most of CGPU police officers were not trained for the job they are doing.
5. That counseling, communication and customer care skills are needed in order for CGPU personnel to perform effectively.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS/ ACRONYMS**

AIDS	–	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
GBV	–	Gender – Based Violence
HIV	–	Human Immune Virus
CGPU	–	Child Gender Protection Unit
LMPS	–	Lesotho Mounted Police Service
LCS	–	Lesotho Correctional Services
C.I.D	–	Criminal Investigation Department
N.S.S	-	National Security Service
SARPCCO	-	Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation
Interpol	-	International Police Organization
PTC	–	Police Training College
RSA	–	Republic of South Africa
LDF	–	Lesotho Defence Force

# **CHAPTER ONE**

## **BACKGROUND TO THE STUDY**

### **1.0 Introduction**

Chapter one describes the historical background of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS). It also highlights the laws that have led to formation of the LMPS. Since this study is particularly concerned with gender based violence, the Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU) is described as the main body dealing with such cases. Statistics relating to gender based violence are also recorded in this chapter in order to highlight the extent of the problem, as well as an introduction to some of the context specific issues in Lesotho that exacerbate gender violence issues.

This chapter will include the statement of the problem, the purpose of the study, objectives of the study, scope of the study, significance of the study, definition of terms and the limitation of the study.

### **1.1 Historical Background of Lesotho Mounted Police Service**

Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS), as a gatekeeper to the justice system, is mandated to effectively prevent crime and reduce the fear of crime to all individuals in the country (LMPS 2007/2008). This organization dates as far back as 1872 and it has evolved through space and time spreading throughout the entire country.

In fact, the idea of policing in Lesotho was first conceived in 1869, a year after Lesotho became a British Protectorate. However, the idea could not be put into practice until 1872 when on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 1872 the Basotholand Mounted Police was formed. At its inception, there were 111 men (One Inspector, 100 men and 10 ranks) (LMPS 1997/98).

In 1898 the police had increased in size to 268 men and by 1918, it was 299. In 1946, a criminal Investigation Department (C.I.D) was formed and responsibility for convicted persons was passed to the new Department of Prisons. Later in 1953, the intelligence and signal branches were added. It was not until 1954 that the strength of the police force noticeably increased; a 40 percent increase was authorized over a four-year period. This took the force establishment to 519 in 1957. In 1964 was the establishment of the Police Mobile Unit from which the Lesotho Defence was later formed in 1977 along with the National Security Service (N.S.S.). From there, emerged the Police Intelligence Branch. The Stock Theft Branch was formed during 1967.

The Police were militarized in 1972. A legal Notice abolished the civilian ranks and replaced them with military titles. The Police Act of 1998 then changed those titles to the former ones in 1999.

After Independence in 1966, the first policewomen joined the service starting from 1970. Establishment of Finance, Traffic, Police Community Relations (1974) and Community Services Unit (1992) also took place.

In 1994, by a statement in the Parliament, and in 1996 by Legislation, the police lines of accountability moved from the Defence Commission, abolished by 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment to Constitution, (1996) to Ministry of Defence. The Police Act of 1998 then changed the name of the police to Lesotho Mounted Police Service.

The duties of the police have gradually evolved from their early border control role of collecting hut taxes, interpreting for magistrates in courts, carrying messages to chiefs and general guard duties to the full range and functions of a modern police service.

The return to democratization in 1998 placed further demands on the Police such as accountability, efficiency and effectiveness in delivering a quality service, transparency oriented results and democratic policing. LMPS affiliated itself to organizations such as Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation (SARPPCO) and International Police Organization (Interpol). The purpose of affiliation was to see to it that these organizations share ideas and are equipped with relevant skills and knowledge. Consequently, members of LMPS attend courses and workshops organized by the above mentioned bodies. Apart from that, Interpol plays a major role in combating crime worldwide including in Lesotho.

## **1.2 Mandate and Structure**

The main responsibility of the Lesotho Mounted Police Service (LMPS) as stipulated by Section 4 of the Police Service Act N0.7 of 1998 is:

- Prevention and detection of crime
- Maintenance of law and order
- Apprehension of offenders
- Protection of life and property
- Administration of police
- Information management
- Emergency services (Police Service Act, 1998:380)

For the execution of the said key functions or responsibilities, the Police Service has been divided into different services namely; Strategic Management and Support Services (SMSS), Operational Services (OPS), Criminal Investigation Services (CIS) and Inspectorate, Complaints and Discipline (I, C and D). This latter service is responsible for issues that relate to gender violence. In addition, for the execution of the latter services, the Police Service has been divided into three regions, namely South, Central and North. The Police Headquarters and Police Training College, which are both located in the capital city Maseru, are part of LMPS administration structures in the central region.

During the 1970s a number of acts were passed relating to protection of women and children. These included the Deserted Wives and Children Proclamation of 1959/1971, Marriage Act 1974, Maintenance Order Proclamation N0.75 of 1921

(Government of Lesotho) among others. In 2003 a more explicit piece of legislation relating to sexual abuse was passed, the Sexual Offences Act (GOL 2003). These acts all reflect a response to growing international awareness of issues of abuse. As a result, Lesotho signed and ratified Article 4 of the African Charter of Human and People's Rights and the Convention Against Torture (Starmer and Christou, 2005:746). Other conventions were signed earlier. For example, Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women and its Optional Protocol has the notion that:

The Universal Declaration of Human Rights proclaims that all human beings are born free and equal in dignity and rights and that everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth therein, without distinction of any kind, including distinction based on sex. (United Nations, 1979:17).

The issue of sex is something that should be done with consent by two parties, hence it relates to human rights. If performed without permission of either party it amounts to gender abuse or violence. In order to comply with the Conventions mentioned above, the LMPS initiated a new unit named the Child and Gender Protection Unit in 2004.

### **1.3 The Child and Gender Protection Unit (CGPU)**

The Child and Gender Protection Unit is the unit that was established in 2004 to deal with child and gender related offences. It is the mechanism to tackle the violation of rights of all citizens: children, women, men, disabled as well as the



elderly. According to the Marriage and Sexual Offences Acts, violence is not regarded as a family affair, rather it is regarded as a serious offence, and hence perpetrators end up before courts of law despite the fact that they may be family members.

### **1.3.1 The Main Objectives of CGPU**

- Investigate cases of children who suffer neglect, ill-treatment and abuse. The Children's Protection Act of 1980 (Government of Lesotho) is a tool that assists the office to protect abused children.
- Investigate cases of desertion in the families, maintenance, and assaults. Interventions draw on these pieces of legislation: Deserted Wives and Children Proclamation of 1959/1971, Marriage Act 1974, Maintenance Order Proclamation N0. 75 of 1921 (Government of Lesotho) and others.
- Investigate sexual offences against women, girls, boys and men, which are rife in the country, drawing on the Sexual Offences Act, 2003. The penalties provided by this act are largely implemented by court throughout the country.

It is observed that children are abused in different ways such as sexually, physically and spiritually. This issue therefore has to be taken into consideration and dealt with accordingly, recalling that in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the United Nations has proclaimed that "childhood is entitled to special care and assistance." (Convention on the Rights of the Child, 1990). The latter defines a child as follows: "A child means every human being below the age of eighteen years unless under the law

applicable to the child, majority is attained earlier” (Convention on the Rights of the Child, Article 1 1990 pages unnumbered).

The CGPU at the national level reported the following cases of child abuse during 2009/10 in 11 police administration districts. In fact there are 10 districts in the country but police management divided Maseru district into urban and rural areas:

**Table 1**

**Cases of Abuse Against Children (2009/10)**

<b>District</b>	<b>Sexual Offences</b>	<b>Neglect</b>	<b>Assault</b>	<b>Abduction</b>	<b>Total</b>
Maseru Urban	66	15	0	0	81
Maseru Rural	20	35	2	11	68
Thaba Tseka	34	0	2	6	42
Mafeteng	33	6	4	4	47
Mohale’s Hoek	46	1	1	0	48
Quthing	29	0	2	3	34
Qacha’s nek	13	1	3	2	19
Berea	40	4	3	4	51
Leribe	94	2	0	2	98
Botha Bothe	38	0	0	3	41
Mokhotlong	6	0	1	4	11
<b>Total</b>	419	64	18	39	540

Source: LMPS Annual Report 2009/10, Monitoring and Evaluation of the National OVC Response

The table above reflects escalating abuse in Lesotho. Lenka (2004 page unnumbered) in the paper he presented in Gender Forum in Mmelesi lodge, stated that “the effects of violence on children in Lesotho is particularly devastating, taking into account the daily reports that are received at Police stations throughout Lesotho”. Therefore, we could see that more efforts have to be put in place in order to curb the situation. CGPU has to be seen to be playing a pivotal role. In actual fact gender –based violence is significantly experienced too.

The gender-based violence cases reported to the police stations in the country showed that gender –based violence is escalating as depicted by the table 2 below. The following table shows the cases of gender-abuse handled by Lesotho Mounted Police Service in 2009.

Table 2

**Gender Abuse Cases Handled by the LMPS During the Year 2009 at the National level**

District	Sexual Offences		Neglect	Assault	Domestic Violence	Abduction		Desertion	Total
	Children	Women	Children	Children	Women	Children	Women		
<b>Maseru Urban</b>	45	125	10	4	21	0	0	0	205
<b>Maseru Rural</b>	25	60	33	6	45	9	1	0	179
<b>Thaba Tseka</b>	25	43	1	1	14	4	0	3	91
<b>Mafeteng</b>	32	86	5	2	7	6	2	0	140
<b>Mohale's Hoek</b>	46	60	0	1	3	3	2	0	115
<b>Quthing</b>	22	46	1	2	5	4	1	0	81
<b>Qacha'Snek</b>	14	34	0	3	2	4	5	0	62
<b>Berea</b>	36	106	6	3	8	6	0	1	166
<b>Leribe</b>	109	135	1	0	0	2	0	2	249
<b>Butha Buthe</b>	29	76	0	0	0	7	0	0	112
<b>Mokhotlong</b>	28	52	0	1	4	0	3	3	91
<b>Total</b>	411	823	57	23	109	45	14	9	1491

Source: Annual Report (LMPS) 2009/10

It has been earlier indicated that there are 11 administrative districts in as far as Lesotho Mounted Police Service is concerned as depicted by the above table. Therefore, it shows that the statistics of sexual abuse amongst women and children are very high, that is 823 and 411 respectively, and then followed by domestic

violence which is 109. The district that has the highest overall crimes is Maseru Urban (205) followed by Maseru rural (179). Mafeteng district is in position three with 140 cases.

### **1.3.2 Training Offered to the CGPU Personnel**

“Training refers to activities designed to provide learners with the knowledge and skill needed for their present job and or any other future engagement” (LMPS Training Policy, 2010:2).

Therefore, in order for the CGPU personnel to be effective in their job of equipping the community with adequate skills and knowledge they are accessed with professional and tactical training. It is important to note that, as is the case in any institution, department or unit, police officers who are working in CGPU are trained on different aspects. This is done in order to equip them with skills and knowledge (Informal interview with CGPU personnel in Maseru).

These officers are trained in play therapy, sand tray, psychosocial support, developmental touch. These are workshops designed to help children explain their experience of abuse. The training also includes informing the police of the contents of the Child’s Protection Act of 1980.

Since CGPU deals with adults and children (both sexes), police officers are also equipped with skills and knowledge on paralegal issues, counseling, restorative justice, guidelines on supporting the survivors of sexual abuse (Sexual Offence Act of 2003 is very instrumental in this regard). This is in addition to general police

training, which is offered at the Police Training College (PTC). Most of the training related to sexual abuse is provided through in-service training.

Apart from the courses provided from Police Training College, police are trained in other institutions locally and abroad. During the year 2008/09 the following training activities were relevant to issues of gender abuse:

**Table 3****Courses and Workshops Attended by LMPS Staff Members During Year 2008/09**

S/NO	COURSE/WORKSHOP /SEMINAR	NO. of Participants	INSTITUTION/VENUE	DATES
1	Policing Violence Against Women & Children Train the Trainers' Course	1	Maputo, Mozambique	19- 23/05/08
2	SARPCCO HIV/AIDS Trainers' Course	1	Matsapha, Swaziland	23-27/06/08
3	Customer Care	10	CFS	19-23/05/08
4	Conflict Management & Resolution	5	CFS	07-11/07/08
5	Workshop on dealing with Children with disabilities	2	PTC	25/11/08
6	Seminar on Child Trafficking & methods of addressing	2	US Embassy (Maseru)	14/11/08
7	Human Trafficking & Crimes Against Children Seminar	2	Lehakoe Recreational	18-19/02/09
8	Customer Care Management	22	Mmelesi, Gold Bond	26-28/01/09
9	HIV/AIDS Monitoring and Evaluation workshop	4	Achievers Africa, Malawi	18-20/03/09

**Source: LMPS Annual Report, 2008/09**

As is indicated earlier almost all of the above-mentioned types of training are performed in workshop mode. There is no long-term training done, such as university education, apart from a few officers who might have been in the universities doing social welfare courses and adult education programmes, mostly in the National University of Lesotho.

The providers of the stated trainings are the stakeholders in as far as CGPU/LMPS are concerned. These include FIDA, magistrates and National University of Lesotho, to mention a few. The founder of all of them is the United Nations Children Education Fund (UNICEF). It has the interest of protecting children and gender issues in the world. It not only assists in training and development, it also provides computers and offices for the CGPU in most districts in the country.

Apart from arresting and prosecution of offenders, in order to reduce gender-based violence the Maseru police conduct lectures and hold public gatherings in order to educate the community about the crime prevention efforts. This year they have managed to conduct lectures and CGPU personnel held public gatherings; these are some of the strategies used to prevent crime by the CGPU office. They also visit churches, schools, sports activities to mention a few. They train and sensitize the community on criminal issues including gender-based violence.



## **1.4 Women and Gender-Based Violence**

According to Kimane et al's (1999:85) report "violence is also on the increase, particularly domestic violence", many domestic violence cases are reported in the police stations as shown by the table 2 above. This indicates that there is a lot to be done by the Lesotho Mounted Police in order to reduce this situation.

Gender-based violence has been a concern in Lesotho like in other countries in the world. "Available information indicates that rape and assault have been prevalent and are increasing over time" (GOL, 2003:4). While gender-based violence has human rights as well as health implications for women and men, girls and boys, these are more serious for women than men. According to Kimane et al's report (1999:85) "In Lesotho violence is also increasing, particularly domestic violence". Women are subjected to gender-based violence and as a result there are many unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections such as STIs, including HIV/AIDS. There are a number of historical and cultural reasons for this as follows:

### **1.4.1 Economic Disparities**

The history of Lesotho tells us that for many years women have been economically abused (GOL, 2003:5). It was said that a woman married in community of property in Lesotho by law did not qualify for a loan from commercial banks or credit from hire purchase stores. They needed consent from their husbands or guardians. This was due to their legal status as a minor. But the present Act, namely Legal Capacity of Married Person (GOL 2006), has changed that

perception. It encourages the couple to work together for the development of the family. This Act explains equal powers thus:

Spouses married in community of property have equal capacity to do the following in consultation with one another – a) dispose of the assets of the joint estates, b) contracts debts for which the joint estates are liable, and c) administer the joint estate (GOL 2006: 463).

Therefore, by implication these former economic disparities should now be avoided. If the married woman is employed and wishes to apply for a loan she is at liberty to do so without the consent of her husband, because sometimes the husband may be working in the mines of Republic of South Africa, as a result it is not possible for him to come home immediately when the wife desperately needs money.

The above issue of gender disparity is supported by Nafukho et al (2005) who observe that, “the male is associated with masculinity, leadership, decision-making, superiority, and the control of economic resources, such as land, money, and houses (production)” (Nafukho et al, 2005:88). This means that men have power and are in charge of the valuable resources, while women have to stay home and look after children, cook, do the washing and take care of the partner (man). The latter is supported by Nafukho et al (2005) when he says:

On the other hand, the female gender carries the expectation of femininity guidance (mostly by males), subordination and

focuses on economically unaccounted for chores, such as giving birth, nurturing children as well as other family members, cooking, cleaning and reproduction (Nafukho et al, 2005:88).

This notion tends to aggravate gender-based violence, because if the woman does not comply with the cultural norms stated by Nafukho et al (2005) above, then the conflict between the woman and the male partner occurs, that is where assaults occur. For example, the man would stop giving money to the woman claiming that the female does not respect him, saying that she behaves like a man.

#### **1.4.2 Customary Disparities**

Some aspects of this culture have been incorporated into customary law; therefore this practice perpetuates the place of women to be under the custody and protection of men. Men are considered decision-makers and heads of the households. For the women who are married into the community of property they only own part of the estate, but men possess the whole estate and the man is at liberty to do as he wishes with it such as to sell, donate or otherwise without consulting the wife. This practice is used to perpetuate gender-based violence and that is what the Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act of 2006 is addressing to some extent.

The payment of lobola (money or livestock paid to the parents of the married wife by the husband's family) aggravates gender-based violence. Many people take the paying of lobola wrongly to mean buying of a woman, and as result she is supposed to be treated as bought property. The current laws are designed to

encourage this perception to be revisited so that Sesotho marriage is to have the respect it had originally. The Legal Capacity of Married Persons Act, of 2006, clearly stipulates that Spouses married to the community of property have equal capacity to do the following in consultation with one another:

- a) Dispose of the asserts of the joint estate
- b) Contract debts for which the joint estate is liable, and
- c) Administer the joint estate (GOL 2006:464).

The implication in this regard is that powers of the married persons should be equal. Both parties have to be involved in any decision reached in the family.

In practice, however, there is evidence that these rights are violated in marriages, as evidenced by the Ministry of Gender (informal conversations 2010). In as far as women are concerned, the officers showed that they report gender based violence cases frequently. Such cases indicate how men neglect their families, commit assaults, and deprive women of their conjugal rights and much more.

### **1.5 Gender Violence Against Men.**

Although there is very limited documentary evidence, the Ministry of Gender personnel indicated that men experience gender based violence as well as females. However, the cases reported by males are very low compared to those reported by women. The Ministry, prior to formal data collection, stated that the ratio of men to women reportage is 3 to 10. Nevertheless, men, like women, are psychologically, physically, sexually and economically abused (Ministry of Gender personnel, 2010).

They further stipulated that men do not want to speak out whenever they are involved in gender-based violence. They perceive that this issue is because of the perception that men should be strong and accommodate problems. This is exemplified in the Sesotho saying that “monna ke nku ha lle” (man is a sheep he supposed not to cry). They anticipated that culture is playing a major role in this regard.

For the few men that report gender-based violence to the Ministry of Gender offices, it is normal for them to refuse to be referred to the police stations where they supposedly lodge their cases for criminal actions. They prefer their concerns to be discussed at the community relations level, but not to be taken to police with the aim of being taken to court for sentences.

The Ministry of Gender officers stipulated that in fact the marriage law is not clear. The example they made was that there is no law that binds men to take care of the family. It is only the common law that is used to make the men take care of his children. Another issue is that Deserted Wife Proclamation only caters for men. However, many women desert their husbands and children and go to the Republic of South Africa, or migrate from the rural to the urban centers in the country without the consent of their husbands. As a result, they are involved in extra marital partners. These gender disparities and issues are reflected in other sectors of society and will be discussed in more detail in chapter two.

However, in Lesotho the way these abuse cases are treated, according to the Ministry of Gender, differ. They showed that when one of the partners reports gender based violence such as where the other party is neglecting his or responsibility, they call the wife or husband to find out their two sides of the story. For instance, in the case where a partner would be complaining that the male partner is not supporting the child; they would cause the men to support the child by telling him to bring the money to the office monthly where the mother of a child would collect it. But for other cases or the ones that they had tried to sort out but failed, they would refer the complainant to the legal Aid office. But as far as assaults are concerned the complainant is advised to go to the police to report the matter. Apart from that, the Ministry of Gender works hand in glove with the CGPU.

#### **1.6 Why the Researcher is Interested in this issue (Gender–Based Violence)**

The researcher has served in the Lesotho Mounted Police Service for 22 years since 1988. He worked in different units including Traffic, Stock Theft, Investigation Office, Charge Office (Reception) to mention a few. As a junior police officer the researcher attended and dealt with gender based violence cases on a number of occasions.

Therefore, the experiences he had acquired showed that women report gender–based violence frequently, to an extent that the male partners are put before the courts of law and punished. Cases that are usually reported by women include assault, murder, sexual offences, maintenance, and deserted children and wives. But in contrast few men report gender–based violence, and most of those who

reported it did not want the cases to be taken to the courts of law, they just wanted them to be dealt in a community relations situation and end there. This notion has been supported by the Ministry of Gender personnel. They said that the few men who do report gender-based violence to their offices refuse to go beyond that office when they are referred to the police stations.

Apart from that, the researcher - since he himself frequently deals with gender-based violence, -perceives that culture plays a major role in as far as men are concerned when they are supposed to report crimes in relation to gender abuse. As a result, they are even victimized by the police officers at the reception desk in the charge offices when they lay charges. They have been observed to be mocked and laughed at. They are regarded as stupid. For example, if a man reports that he has been sexually harassed, it would not be believed by the police.

In contrast, police officers are perceived by the researcher to be more sympathetic when dealing with women victims of gender-based violence, than when dealing with men victims. Hence, they are unethical in performance of their duties. The issue here is that both categories of people are involved in gender-based violence, therefore they need the same treatment by all sectors that is chiefs, communities and police. The question that the researcher is asking himself is where did it go wrong that the police should compromise the law when dealing with men, while they do not do the same for women? Is it because they are not properly trained? Does this concept emanate from the Basotho proverb that “Monna ke nku ha lle” (Man is a sheep he does not cry)? The researcher’s observations needed to be verified through systematic research by finding out how the victims themselves

perceive they are treated, and how other police officers report their reactions to male and female victims.

In conclusion, the law regarding sexual offence is clear in this regard. For example, the Sexual Offences Act shows that sexual offences could be experienced by both males and females (GOL 2003). Before this law was enacted rape was the criminal act. Rape was defined as penetration of a man's organ to the woman's organ. But the difference as far as sexual offence is concerned is that, sexual offence is any act that could be tantamount to a sexual act and harassment to the victim regardless of gender.

This study seeks to explore in more detail the abused victims' experiences of police responses for both sexes, in order to get a clearer picture of how the police behave in such cases, and also to ascertain more information about the nature of police training regarding cases of gender violence.

### **1.7 Problem Statement**

There is anecdotal and some material evidence to suggest that when men report cases of gender violence they are not dealt with sympathetically because of gender prejudices and cultural attitudes towards the notion that men should not experience abuse.

However, there has been no in-depth study in Lesotho of what happens when men report abuse cases. This study therefore needs to explore the circumstances that surround abuse of males, as well as women and children, in order to raise



awareness of how abuse cases are handled so as to provide an informed understanding of how to train the police to handle such cases more sensitively.

The findings may also lead to an improvement in the quality of treatment of abuse against women as well as men since issues of what motivates abuse, and the consequences of abuse in both sexes may be revealed.

Throughout this study the word “victim” has been used for people who have been abused. However it is recognized that this may be interpreted as insensitive and “survivor” is sometimes preferred. No offence is intended in using the word victim only.

### **1.8 The Purpose of the Study**

This study is aimed at bringing awareness and education to the nation that both men and women can experience gender-based abuse and that both men and women are entitled to sensitive treatment and justice. The consequences of abuse affect both men and women victims and the impact of insensitive reporting needs to be examined in order to help men and women to understand importance of reporting cases relating to gender-based violence.

### **1.9 Objectives of the Study.**

1. To compare how the police, respond to reported cases of abuse, particularly gender violence for both men and women.
2. To compare experiences of victims who report abuse in relation to support and prosecution of male and female perpetrators, particularly in relation to gender violence.
3. To examine the kind of training the police receive regarding how to deal with abuse, particularly gender violence- particularly in relation to how police are expected to respond to the different sexes.
4. To explore what improvements could be made in training in order to support both men and women equally when they report gender violence cases.

### **1.10 Scope of the Study**

The delimitation of the study is primarily in some selected urban areas of Maseru district. These areas are in the central part of Lesotho. They are in the capital town of Lesotho namely Maseru. The central part consists of Maseru and Thaba-Tseka. The Northern region consists of Berea, Leribe, Butha Buthe and Mokhotlong. The third region is composed of Mafeteng, Mochale's Hoek, Quthing and Qachas'nek districts.

Even though gender-based violence is a country-wide issue, due to time and financial constraints, the study will focus on Maseru district only. The study will cover Maseru Central Charge Office, Mabote Police Station and the Ministry of Gender.

### **1.11 Significance of the Study**

The police management will benefit from the outcomes of the study because it will be provided with evidence that can inform how to improve their training on abuse cases. The study may also act as monitoring and evaluation process on the consequences of abuse and how it is treated, aimed at effecting a behavior modification among the Basotho.

The government of Lesotho can also be in a position to have more information, which could be used in the formulation of the policies of the government that will benefit the Basotho. Not only the police department will provide evidence to inform their training, even other government and non-governmental organizations may be better informed about how to deal with cases of abuse because of the findings of this report.

The stakeholders, as far as legal processes are concerned, are the police, chiefs and others who would be in a position to advise, guide and create room for men as well as women who have been abused without mocking them or labeling them as stupid when they report abusive acts.

### **1.12 Definition of Terms**

**Abuse** – Pearsell (2002:6) advocates that abuse is to “use to bad effect or for a bad purpose; treat with cruelty or violence”. It is also described that abuse, “of someone is cruel and violent treatment of them: ... in a wrong way or for a bad purpose”, (Cobuild, 2006:6).

**Gender** – “Gender refers to the interaction between men and women and draws our attention to those issues that have brought about unequal relations”, (Preece J. 2009:109). Gender is “the significance of being female in a given society and its corresponding attributes roles and positions”, (Nafukho, Amutabi and Otunga, 2005:87).

**Information** – “Facts or knowledge provided or learned as a result of research or study”, Pearsell (2002:727), while Cobuild, (2006:744) says it refers to “someone or something [and] consists of facts about them”,

**Police** - It is the combination of six words, which describe how police officers should behave in executing their duties. They are Politeness, Obedience, Loyalty, Intelligence, Courtesy and Exemplary (LMPS Annual Report, 2008/09). “The police are the official organization that is responsible for making sure that people obey the law”, (Cobuild, 2006:1104).

**Violence** – “is behaviour which is intended to hurt, injure or kill people”, (Cobuild, 2006:1623). Pearsell (2002:1600) further defines violence as “behaviour involving physical force intending to hurt damage or kill: Strength of emotion or an unpleasant or destructive natural force”.

### **1.13 Limitations of the Study**

Because the scope of the study is limited to two areas in Maseru the findings may not be generalizable. The study was done in Maseru district. The attitudes of the interviewees to the interviewer since he was a police officer too might have contributed to the information given. Others may not have wanted to say negative things against police's performance.

Whilst there is no guarantee that these latter concerns were avoided, the researcher emphasized that all data would be treated confidentially and that any information provided would not be attributed to any named individual in the report.

# **CHAPTER TWO**

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **2.0 Introduction**

In this chapter, the researcher is expected to look for the related literature in support of his work. The focus is on the comparison of reported gender abuse cases by men and women. Therefore, concepts of gender, crime, child abuse, adult abuse and its consequences are explored, with particular reference to the Lesotho context.

### **2.1 Gender**

Gender relations refer to a complex system of personal and social relations of domination and power through which women and men are socially created and maintained and through which they gain access to power and material resources or are allocated status within society (IFAD, 2000:4).

World Health Organization says that, “Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behavior, activities and attributes that a particular society considers appropriate for men and women”, (WHO, 2009 page unnumbered). WHO sees gender as what either a man or a woman should do in a society. All these tasks are

determined by the society. To some extent these roles and behaviors are culturally oriented as indicated in chapter one and discussed later in this chapter.

Borgatta and Montgomery (2000) view gender as the division of people into two categories that is men and women. They also stress that the roles of either division are influenced by the interaction and socialization of a child in the family and the society (Borgatta and Montgomery (2000:1057).

World Health Organization (WHO 2002) differentiates gender from sex. WHO indicates that gender is person-made, while sex is natural. This means that a male cannot be biologically changed to be a female. But as far as gender is concerned the role of other could be easily changed. Consequently, a male can abuse a female and a female can abuse the male, therefore both categories are entitled to report any gender-based violence to the police stations or posts.

By the same token Hesse-Biber and Carger define gender as:

Gender is determined socially; it is the societal meaning assigned to male and female. Each society emphasizes particular roles that each sex should play, although there is wide latitude in acceptable behaviors for each gender (Hesse-Biber, and Carger, 2000: 91).

The above authors, even though they agree with the previous one that gender exists in a society and is governed by societal expectations, claim that different populations have different roles to play. For example, Nafukho et al (2005:87) opine that males play the roles of leadership, decision-making, superiority and the

control of economic resources such as land, money and houses. While females are expected to be guided by males, subordinated and focus on economically unaccounted for work.

Larson, Mapetla and Schyter (2003) share the same sentiments with their colleagues above, but Larsson, Mapetla and Schyter see gender as the phenomenon that either a male or female perceives himself or herself in the cultural and social setting (Larson, Mapetla and Schyter (2003:1). The above authors defined gender from a different angle. They excluded the self perception by an individual. They all agree, however, that gender is socially determined.

This notion is supported by Brettell and Carolyne (2005) when they say:

When issues of gender are considered in cross-cultural context, we explore whether women are universally subordinated to men and to what extent biological differences explain the allocation of roles and responsibilities between men and women (Brettell and Carolyne, 2005:1).

In essence the above quotation implies that in some cultures woman is undermined, Lesotho is an example.

The other issues as far as IFAD (2000:4) is concerned are the material resources and allocation of status in the society to men and women. Normally in the Lesotho scenario men have more access to the material resources such as



economic ones. Again men are given leading statuses like chief, managers, and head of the family and so on. Women are minors, children, and subordinates according to “Molao oa Lerotholi” (Basotho Law).

Mapetla and Schyter (1998:1) discuss gender as a social phenomenon, but they also believe that there are social inequalities between women and men. The example in Lesotho is that before the Legal Capacity of Married Woman Act (GOL 2006) was enacted women were denied their rights of suing another person or being sued as a person, but only the husband could sue or be sued on behalf of the wife. In the Republic of South Africa women were not allowed to work in the mines, because that was the work of men.

The above writers agree that gender is a socially constructed issue, but IFAD brings in the aspects of domination and power which the other authors did not depict. It is evident that in our society it is normal that men dictate all activities in the family, sex included. These are a result of men having power to dominate the wife.

Recently laws have begun to change the legal relationship between men and women. For instance, women are now allowed to work in the mines like men, and the salary is the same to the people who perform the same job regardless of whether it is a man or woman. Both sexes solicit bank loans without the approval of the other (Legal Capacity of the married Woman Act, 2006).

In support of the above law, Dowd (2000) stipulates that:

Women soldiers broached the battlefield in such varied arenas as the 1991 Persian Gulf War where 41,000 American women were deployed, and Eritria's war with Ethiopia, where women carried AK 47s and fought and fell alongside men. Meanwhile, Col. Eileen Marie Collins in 1999 became the first woman to command a U.S space shuttle mission (Dowd, (2000:299).

The same scenario is evident in Lesotho. In 2005 the first woman Commissioner of Police was put in place. Apart from that, "As has been shown, women did migrate to mining areas (Not only to coalfields, but also to Kimberly and even the Witwatersrand). On the Transvaal Coalfields, females usually engaged in beer-brewing and prostitution, and were also involved in food production" (Glaser, 2007:214).

In conclusion gender objectives in any organization should address the needs and the wants of the gender related environment. The above statement is supported by Moser (1994) who quotes Levy (n.d) when he advocates that, "Gender objectives are the guide to action at particular points in the process of making policies, programmes and projects more gender aware" (Moser, 1994:98). It is therefore crucial that in the gender mainstreaming process both men and women should be availed with the same opportunities that will address their needs such as protection from their violation of human rights which includes gender-based violence.

## 2.2 Culture and Gender Violence

According to the speech of Botha (2006 page unnumbered) “culture is a way of life”, he shows that in different societies there are different cultures that are adopted. Even though culture is accepted, does it mean that even if that culture has the element of abuse it should be allowed to take place or to be reviewed? For instance, there is often resistance to changing cultural practices: “Sadly, what we experience today is the marginalization of the culture of the indigenous people of this country which is regarded by some people as backwards and their practices antiquated”, (Speech of Botha, 2006 page unnumbered). This is supported by Nafukho et al:

A typical cultural practice in many African contexts is the tendency for many African societies to be based on a predominantly patriarchal base, where the elders are on top of the hierarchy, with children at the base (Nafukho et al, 2005:65).

It is not all the time that culture is accepted without question by its society. For example the culture that promotes gender-based violence is highly discouraged. “Those who are most vulnerable to violence are those who are less powerful either physically, economically or otherwise. Gender-based violence too is about power and control” (Speech of Botha, 2006: No page number). It is assumed that men have power therefore they use it to control the families and their wives, hence, sometimes gender – abuse takes place. The Ministry of Gender stipulates that:

Payment of “Bohali” (Money or animals given when Sesotho marriage takes place by the relatives of the husband) is one of the contributing factors to gender – based violence where by many people wrongly consider that as buying women and as a result treat them as bought property (Ministry of Gender, Sports and Recreation, 2010 – interview).

But in the same token women also abuse their partners for various reasons such as retaliation or defence mechanisms. It is suggested by the researcher, however, that it is not in all situations that women abuse in order to protect themselves, they sometimes do it deliberately like men do to their wives. These assumptions need to be verified by evidence from victims of abuse.

### **2.3 The Lesotho Context**

Landlocked and entirely surrounded by South Africa, Lesotho is one of smallest countries in Africa with an area of 30,344 square kilometers and a population of approximately 2.1 million people. Formerly a British colony known as Basutoland, Lesotho gained its independence in October 1966.

Lesotho is highly dependent on the health of the South Africa’s economy. Lesotho's mineral resources are meagre, but the country's mountain water resources are its most valuable natural asset. The Highland Water Project, which is financed by external sources, was completed by the year 2003. Besides supplying water to South Africa's densely populated Gauteng region, the Project is

expected to diversify Lesotho's economy. At present, the economy is dependent on remittances from Basotho migrant workers in South Africa, the production of a variety of manufactured products for the South African market, and the country's share of income from the Southern African Customs Union. Lesotho's political stability has been adversely affected by authoritarian rule from 1970 to 1986, followed by the problems of dissidents within the army and friction between the army and the government in the 1990s.

It is commonly expected in African societies that a female born child is associated with the responsibility of domestic housekeeping. A male child is associated with business and mathematics. "These are cultural practices that have persisted from traditional African societies to contemporary societies," (Nafukho et al, 2005:65). Female children also continue to play socially determined roles. The examples are: to fetch water from the well, washing clothes, carrying a baby, cooking and many more.

Expectations based on gender vary by location, but most cultures and religious teachings still encourage traditional gender roles for women and men (Nafukho et al, 2005:88). But it is very crucial that both parties are protected by law, because they enjoy human rights alike as clearly depicted by the constitution of Lesotho (GOL 1993:14-45).

In the culture of Lesotho, especially in the rural setting, the word of man is final; he is the only one who dictates what should be done in the family. The wife is submissive and has to comply. The culture also states that "monna ke nku ha lle"

(men are sheep they do not cry), (Sesotho proverb). The implication in this regard is that men should be strong. When they encounter problems, they should not complain or cry because they will undermine their manhood. Therefore, men should be patient. This implies that they should not report gender abuse to police.

There is also anecdotal evidence from the Ministry of Gender that there are woman who abuse their husbands or partners by assaulting them, preventing them from their conjugal rights, not giving them pocket money to buy lunch while at work especially in urban areas like Maseru. Sometimes they do it in order to respond to the violence done to them by their husbands/ or partners. It becomes retaliation or a defence mechanism.

## **2.4 Crime**

Since gender-based violence actions are criminal activities, it should be understood that women that are in prison form only seven percent of the prison population while 93 percent are men (Jacobson, 2004:6). The implication as far as the above author is concerned is that men engage themselves more than women in crimes. However low percentages of women do crimes and are prosecuted like men.

It is also crucial to note that, “in considering differences, it is important to differentiate between ‘statistics significance’ and differences. Given a large enough sample of persons, almost any difference, no matter how small, can be said to be measured with confidence as existing”, (Jacobsen, 2004:6). If we consider the scenario of Lesotho where we have a population of 2.1 million, it means that seven percent that represent women is a significant figure. Hence

something has to be done in order to curb that situation. One of the efforts that could be made is education on gender-based violence by both male and female categories.

Visser and Macmare (1990) define crime in a general sense as “every punishable violation of the laws, done willfully, and with an evil intention” (Visser and Macmare, 1990:3). The implication is that this country is governed by a series of laws that the society should abide by. Therefore, if an individual or a group of people breach any law, a redress of some kind should be done. It is also critical that the criminal act should be willfully and intentionally performed.

Visser and Macmare (1990) further indicate that “a twofold obligation arises from crime; one of punishment and fine for prosecutor, the other to make compensation to the person injured” Visser and Macmare 1990:3). The implication here is that the state has an interest when the crime has been committed; therefore if the accused person has been found guilty a sentence will be imposed by the magistrate or a judge. At the same time the person who has been offended deserves to be compensated, depending on the nature of the offence. The accused person could voluntarily pay all the damages incurred by the victim, but at the same time the accused could be sued in order to compensate a complainant. This will be a civil case, not a criminal case.

Visser and Macmare are supported by Bekker et al (1998) when they say, “most modern states perceive the commission of a crime as a violation of the public interest. Punishment is in principle sought on behalf of the society, and only in an

incidental way in respect of an individual who has suffered some personal harm or damages in consequence of a crime” (Bekker et al, 1998:90).

Therefore, the society is potentially in a position to help in the prevention and fight against gender abuse. The community members report the incidences of abuse to the chiefs, priests and police stations. Other people, however, fear to report but give information in and do not want to be exposed, such as to be invited to give evidence in the courts of law. As a result, this practice makes it difficult for the police to prosecute the offenders. Consequently, more people become victims of gender violence. This applies to men and women alike. Sometimes the perpetrators are not exposed due to their status in the community. For example, he/she is a senior officer, a priest or a breadwinner.

This scenario is noticed in the villages or locations where either a man or woman is abusing a partner. For example, if they are fighting every time when they are drunk the community around would be interested and take action or report the matter to the chief or police so that there would be a remedy of some kind. Apart from that the children of the family that is affected by gender based violence are negatively affected on their education, their performance becomes bad (Ministry of Gender personnel, 2010).

As indicated earlier, Visser and Macmare (1990) and Bekker et al (1998) agree in principle that the state should perform its prosecution functions in order to normalize the situation. When this process is performed the accused person has certain rights that have to be observed. One is that he/she has a right to find the



lawyer who will represent him/her in court of law. He/she is also entitled to a bail application as his/her case is in process. In essence, the accused person should be given a fair trial as stipulated by the constitution of Lesotho.

It is also very crucial that the words crime and offence are used interchangeably in the legal fraternity. This notion is supported by Joubert (2001:46) when he advocates that, “An offence is unlawful and blame-worthy conduct which is defined by law as a crime and for which a punishment is prescribed, (Joubert, 2001:46).”

According to Joubert (2001) it is also important that there are essential elements that need to be proved by the prosecution desk to have taken place simultaneously. These elements are legality, conduct, or act, unlawfulness and capability. This means that there should be a law that has to be breached by a certain act which is unlawfully committed, and finally the person who committed this offence should be capable of committing a crime. For example, a child who is less than seven years old is not capable of committing a crime. Therefore, the issue here is that in the Lesotho context a person above that age who is involved in gender based violence is assumed to have had intention of what he or she was doing at the time of commission; hence he or she deserves to be punished by law accordingly. The implication is that laws of Lesotho are in place to discourage gender violence. The example is the Sexual Offence Act of 2003.

It is also very crucial that the words crime and offence are used interchangeably in the legal fraternity. This notion is supported by Joubert (2001:16) when he talks

about, “conduct, or act, unlawfulness and capability”. This means that there should be a law that has been breached by a certain act, which is unlawfully committed, and finally the person who committed this offence should be capable of committing a crime. This shows that acts of abuse in Lesotho are criminal activities that should be treated accordingly by the courts of law, regardless of whether they have been committed by a man or a woman. Therefore, if a crime is performed by man or woman to either party, it has the element of gender based violence, hence it should be dealt with accordingly by the society and the courts of law by being reported and prosecuted.

It should be noted that the administration of criminal law is divided into three crucial parts namely investigative, adjudicative and penal or correctional measures (Sallmann and Willies, 1984:1).

Gender-based violence is a criminal activity or an offence. It does not matter to whom is directed, whether a man or woman they are both human beings. But for this study we are going to compare how gender-based violence is reported to police by men and women, and to find out whether their human rights are addressed equally, and if not, how and why. The authority that is mandated by the law to perform that task is the Lesotho Mounted Police Service. This body is legalized and its functions are clearly set up by the Police Act of 1998.

As far as the investigation of a crime is concerned, it is the task of the police department. The police bring the offenders to courts when the investigations are completed. The adjudicative refers to the magistrate and judges who have powers

to impose the sentences to the persons who have been found guilty and release the innocent ones. The magistrates or the judges punish the accused person after they scrutinized the evidence and find it worth passing any sentence. The correctional measures are maintained by the correctional centers. They make sure that each and every convicted people abide by the punishment imposed to them. They affect parole systems that are in place and so on (Sallmann and Willies 1984:1).

The punishments that are imposed by the courts range from a certain number of years' imprisonment to the payment of a stipulated amount of money. The current case is the one that took place in Mafeteng, where a woman of 40 years was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment when found guilty of abusing a boy of 15 years old sexually; this was heard from Radio Lesotho news bulletin on the 11<sup>th</sup> October 2010. But it should be noted that according to Sexual Offence Act of 2003 when a person is found guilty and it is discovered that s/he had sex intentionally knowing that s/he is infected with HIV/AIDS, that person could be sentenced to death penalty. This is the indication that even the law makers are sick and tired of this evil act by the perpetrators. Hence, they have to impose harsh sentences in order to curb this phenomenon.

In a nutshell gender-based violence is a criminal activity. Therefore, it needs to be reported to the police by men as well as women when they are abused. The environment of the legal system should be conducive for men as well as women so that justice will play its role in punishing abuses irrespective of whether they are men or women.

## **2.5 Abuse**

According to Macmillan English Dictionary (2002:6) “abuse is cruel, violent, or unfair treatment, especially for someone who does not have power to prevent it”.

An assumption here is that in most cases the abuse is inflicted on the person who has less power than the actual perpetrator.

It is also crucial to note that violence as an act of abuse takes place in a close relationship:

This intimate partner violence can be physical (shoving, punching, kicking, etc), emotional (threats, extreme controlling behavior, jealous, social isolation, ridicule, etc), finance (forcing economic dependence, damaging or stealing property, preventing partner from accessing financial resources, going to work or school), or sexual (sexual coercion or forced sex), These different types of violence often occur together (Paludi 2004:83).

Abuse could also take place within the same sex:

Many other inmates, however, are forced to become homosexuals against their initial will. According to Wadley (another inmate), everyone is tested. The weak- of personality, personal power, willingness to fight, physical frailty, timid - are

especially susceptible. Respect is given to one who can control the life of another (Haviland, Gordon and Vivanco, 2002:118).

There are many causes of the above abuses. Krammer (1977:95) quoted by the above, says "Krammer found that both sexes believe men are more demanding, loud, authoritarian, forceful and blunt, while women are more polite, gentle, and emotional, and smile a lot when talking (Paludi 2004:135).

### **2.5.1 Consequences of Abuse**

It is evident that abuse impacts negatively on both men and women. For example, the Ministry of Gender stipulates that consequences of abuse do not produce the good fruits for both females and males including children.

#### **2.5.1.1 Social consequences**

The Ministry of Gender said the partners separate and children do not know where to live. The ministry further shows that social life performances are affected; people do not inter act with others. They feel incompetent as compared to other family members in the community/society.

There is sufficient evidence in the literature to show that men also suffer the consequences of abuse psychologically, physically, mentally and socially. But there are additional identity problems for men who are abused:

Sadly, many men who were sexually abused by women are locked in silence, shame, and self-loathing. Society tells them

that not only was their experience not abuse, but that they should have enjoyed it, and if they didn't there must be something terribly wrong with them (Munro, 2002 page unnumbered).

The implication above is that men do not report abuse because they are reluctant and feel ashamed of doing that. If they do report the community does not approve of it, instead the expectation is that they should enjoy that (Munro, 2002 page unnumbered). They are regarded as stupid or abnormal if they do not comply. This issue that men cannot be abused emanated from the cultural background of many nations. If men disclose that they have been sexually abused they are mocked, humiliated and laughed at (Munro, 2002 page unnumbered).

The implications of the above statement are that women are more easily able to report these abuses to the police and are dealt with accordingly by Child and Gender Protection Unit. But when men disclose that they have been sexually abused the response is different (Munro, 2002 page unnumbered).

The same issue even applies to abuse against boys. Munro (2002) states that, "The reality that boys are sexually abused by women is not widely accepted. Some people view it as an impossible act that a male cannot be sexually assaulted by a female" (Monro, 2002 Unnumbered.).

There are many myths about domestic abuse against men for, example, it is said that," only men who are wimps allow themselves to be abused by women"

(Domestic Abuse Helpline for Men and Women. 2005 page unnumbered). This myth depicts that wimps are not over powered by women, but instead they allow themselves to be abused.

This concept is supported by Medical Review Board (2007:15) by saying that, “one reason men do not report abuse is that they feel people will not believe them”. The fact that this person’s human rights have been violated is not taken into consideration.

#### **2.5.1.2 Health consequences**

The fact that the wife and the husband are not staying together, they start to be engaged in multiple partners, hence they become contaminated with HIV/AIDS, as a result a healthy environment is tampered with. “sexually transmitted diseases; gynecological problems; pelvic inflammatory disease; chronic pain (pelvic, headache, etc.); irritable bowl syndrome; alcohol or drug abuse; self-destructive behaviors (smoking, unprotected sex, etc.); permanent disability; asthma; and general vulnerability to diseases or severe health problems”, (Farlex, 2011 page unnumbered)

#### **2.5.1.3 Physical consequences**

Farlex, (2011 page unnumbered) further stipulates that:

Recently, WHO (1998a, 1998b; 1999 pages unnumbered) established the following categories of repercussions of

violence against women:  
A. Fatal outcomes: suicide, homicide.  
B. Non-fatal outcomes: physical health: injuries; unwanted  
and/or early pregnancy; abortion or other injuries  
occurring during pregnancy”

The above author concludes that, “Victims of domestic violence suffer physical and mental health consequences, the latter concentrated in depression and post-traumatic stress disorder” (Farlex, 2011 page unnumbered).

#### **2.5.1.4 Psychological consequences**

Children are psychologically affected; hence there is poor performance at schools, because sometimes they would not be taken care of their school fees would not be paid up timeously or not being paid at all. This is alluded to by the Ministry of Gender.

Abuse against women is more widely recognized than for men, so the next two sections look specifically at the literature for each sex in turn. It will be seen that both men and women suffer stigmatization in relation to this issue, but in different ways.



### **2.5.2 Abuse Against Women**

On the one hand abuse of women and children attracts media interest. According to Retief (2000):

The problem of domestic violence is receiving increasing media coverage as the abuse of women and children is given the attention it deserves. The horrendous trauma of this crime is cause of great concern, and complexities, humiliation and pain are great (Retief, 2000:183).

This shows that women and children abuses are covered by the media because they are societal issues that need to be known and be addressed. For example, a newspaper that is published by the Lesotho Mounted Police Service named “Leseli Ka Sepolesa” reported that at Ha Thamae in Maseru on the night of the 25<sup>th</sup> December 2010, a girl of five years old was raped by an unknown man, as a result she was admitted at Queen II hospital. The same production further stipulated that on the above mentioned day at Thetsane (Still in Maseru area) a girl of 13 years old was sexually abused by two men, but fortunately they were arrested and brought before the Maseru magistrate court, where they will be dealt with and get punishment that they deserve if found guilty as charged (Leseli Ka Sepolesa, 2010:5).

In the meantime, Lesotho Times has reported that two women aged 23 and 25 years have been arrested for allegedly recruiting and trafficking young girls as sex workers. Once recruited these girls were allegedly used to provide sexual services

to cross-border truck drivers (Lesotho Times, 2011:2, Volume 3 issue 42). The LMPS spokesperson quoted by this newspaper said, “The two women face charges of recruiting minors to have sex with adults and failing to report sex between minors and adults”. In the same article, the Assistant Minister of Home Affairs and Parliament Lineo Molise-Mabusela, speaking on the Lesotho Television said that, “If found guilty a person trafficking in humans will be fined M2 million or 15 years imprisonment or both”. Since this is a serious abusive act its punishment is also notable.

Sexual violence is a crime and an act of abuse; the media reports it in order for the community to be aware that it occurs in different situations; therefore, they should take precautionary measures in order to avoid or fight against it. It is also crucial that these reports discourage those who may wish to be engaged in such evil acts not to do them. Sexual violence like any other type of abuse deprives the woman of her human rights.

Violence against women has also received international attention with high profile women’s groups highlighting the issues. MacLwain and Datta quoted Molyneux and Craske, (2002) when they point out that:

The recognition of women’s rights as human rights and of violence against women as a violation of women’s rights was first formally acknowledged at the UN Vienna Conference on Human rights in 1993. This was then reiterated and developed at the Cairo conference in 1994 on population, and again Beijing Platform in 1995 (MacLwain

and Datta quoted Molyneux and Craske, 2002 page unnumbered).

The Beijing Platform for Action highlighted women and gender violence; they reviewed and maintained macro-economic policies and development strategies that address the women's needs. The laws that discriminated against women were also discussed and discouraged.

However, women, too, are still expected to be submissive and not draw attention to their abusive experiences. For instance, according to Sweetman 1995:2 women are criticized for fighting for their rights. She says that:

Women who challenge notions of women inferiority risk being ostracized by their communities, since such subordination goes unquestioned by the majority of men, as well as by many women (Sweetman, 1995:2).

The observation in this regard is that women who fight for their rights are outcast from the society. It is therefore noted that there are some women who do not report gender-abuse done by men to them.

In contrast, abuse against men does not receive the same media coverage or international recognition.

### **2.5.3 Abuse Against Men**

Munro (2002 page unnumbered) highlights sexual assault on men as abuse. He also opines that some people do not believe in the latter. Sometimes this issue is driven by culture or belief that men are stronger than women, therefore they cannot be sexually assaulted by women.

One example of sexual abuse against men is cited by Hoff (2001 page unnumbered) who quotes Struckman-Johnsons:

Another common approach of sexually aggressive women is to take advantage of a man's intoxicated state. A typical scenario, according to male victims, involves a predatory woman who encounters an inebriate man (or contributes to his drinking) and pursues him until he falls asleep or passes out. The woman then manually or orally stimulates him to erection and mounts him for sexual intercourse (Hoff, 2001 page unnumbered).

In this regard it is evident that the sexual intercourse which is taking place here might not be the protected one, that is to say condoms might not be used regarding the situation of this drunken man. Hence, there is a high possibility that sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and AIDS would be transmitted to either party. In the context of Lesotho, the Sexual Offence Act of 2003 clearly stipulates that a person who intentionally contaminates a partner with HIV would be sentenced to

the death penalty. This is the indication of seriousness of courts' attitude to the epidemic and how dangerous the pandemic is.

## **2.6 Summary**

In this chapter it is learned that children, males and females suffer abuse in one way or the other. It has been discovered that gender-based violence is a criminal activity; hence the courts of law should perform their work in dealing with it. The responsibilities and roles of courts were identified and discussed.

Consequences of gender-based violence were found to have negative impacts on the children, men and women, such as physically, psychologically, economically, socially and, in as far as health related issues are concerned, such as contamination of HIV/AIDS epidemic.

Men are supposed to be strong and keep quiet even if they are abused by their partners. This notion is aggravated by the cultural practices that men should be strong and adapt to the abuse, while women are considered vulnerable to gender-based violence, hence they should be addressed more sympathetically. The community is discouraging men to report gender-based violence, because they are mocked and laughed at as being stupid.

We have seen that since gender-based violence is a serious phenomenon; it is widely covered by the media such as Leseli ka Sepolesa, Lesotho Times and the radio stations. But by the same token the incidences of gender-violence that are mostly covered are for women. As far as men are concerned there is little done in order to enlighten the nation that men are also abused and need to be attended to.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.0 Introduction**

The researcher used a qualitative design and multiple methods for triangulation purposes, such as police documents, interviews with police officers mostly who are dealing with gender abusive cases such as those in the Child and Gender Protection Unit. It was important that victims of abuse, both males and females, would be interviewed.

#### **3.1 Research Design**

According to Jackson (2008:88), qualitative research is “A type of social research based on field observations that is analyzed without statistics”. She further says that:

Qualitative research focuses on a phenomenon that occurs in natural settings, and the data are analyzed without the use of statistics. Qualitative research always takes place in the field or wherever the participants normally conduct their activities and is thus often referred to as field research (Jackson, 2008:88).

One of its advantages is that:

Researchers using this approach may not necessarily believe that there is a single truth to be discovered, but instead that there are multiple positions or opinions and each has some degree of merit. It entails observation and/or unstructured interviewing in natural settings (Jackson, 2008:88).

The other advantage as indicated by Jackson, (2008:88) is that, “They believe that participants eventually adjust to the researcher’s presence (thus reducing reactivity) and that, once they do, the researcher is able to acquire perceptions from different points of view”.

By the same token, Bless, Higson-Smith and Kagee (2006:44) in defining qualitative research advocate that, “they might speak about their practical knowledge and their understanding of their world. Here language is the tool by which social reality is recorded and research is qualitative”. They further stipulate that “research uses qualifying words or descriptions to record aspects of the world,” Bless, Higson-Smith and Kagee (2006:43).

Qualitative research is the:

Inquiry in which researchers collect data in face-to-face situations by interacting with selected persons in their settings (e.g. field researchers). Qualitative research describes and analysis people’s individual and collective

social actions, beliefs, thoughts, and perceptions. The researcher interprets phenomena in terms of the meanings that people assign to them” (Macmillan and Schumacher, 2006:315).

The advantages highlighted by the latter are that, “Qualitative studies are important for theory generation, policy development, improvement of educational practice, illumination of social issues and acts,” (Macmillan and Schumacher, 2006:315). The other advantage is that:

Qualitative studies can provide detailed descriptions and analysis of particular practices, process, or events. Some studies document happenings, and or other studies increase participant’s own understanding of a practice to improve that practice (Macmillan and Schumacher, 2006:318).

However, Jackson (2008) continues to say that one of the disadvantages of qualitative research is that, “Researchers who prefer qualitative method often regard this tendency towards flexibility and lack of control as a threat to the reliability and validity of a study; numbers are small and not generalizable” (Jackson, 2008:88).

To counteract the difficulty of bias the researcher used more than one method for purposes of triangulation, such as police documents, interviews with police officers mostly who are dealing with gender abuse cases such as those in Child



and Gender Protection Unit. It was important that victims of abuse, both males and females, would also be interviewed and relevant staff from the Ministry of Gender. The researcher also asked about how people are trained in order to deal with the abuse cases.

The researcher needed to look at a particular issue of how victims of abuse are treated at police stations. The fact that this is a qualitative approach means that it needs to be illustrative rather than generalizable about the problem. Gender abuse particularly for men is a rare phenomenon that needs close scrutiny which is not achievable by the survey method.

### **3.2 Research Population**

Population according to Shaughnessy, Zechmeister and Zechmeister (2003:128) “is the set of all cases of interest”. While Mcmillan and Schumacher (2006:119) advocate that “A population is a group of elements or cases, whether individuals, objects or events, that conform to specific criteria and to which we intend to generalize the results of the research. The group is also referred to as the target population or universe”.

The population in this case consisted of abuse victims and police officers in the Maseru districts. The population of the study covered Maseru Central Charge Office and Mabote Police Station. The population of victims was those known to have reported gender abuse cases at the police stations. The population of the study was 12 police officers involved in gender abuse cases and a sample of 10 victims of abuse.

### **3.3 Sample and Sampling Techniques**

According to Welman and Kruger (2003):

The sample should be representative of the sampling frame, which ideally is the same as the population but which often differs due to practical problems relating to availability of information (Welman and Kruger, 2003:90).

In this instance the sample was purposive because a particular population cohort was required - male and female victims of abuse and police officers directly involved in such cases. The sampling method for victims was through snowball technique in view of the sensitive nature of the topic. Snowball sampling is the "building up a sample through informants" Blaxter, Hughs and Tight (1996:79).

According to Welman and Kruger (2003), when discussing snowball technique, they say that, "In the first phase of this kind of sampling, we approach a few individuals from the relevant population. These individuals then act as informants and identify other members (for example acquaintances or friends) from the same population for inclusion in the sample. The latter may in turn identify a further set of relevant individuals so that the sample, like a rolling snowball, grows in size till saturated" (Welman and Kruger 2003:63).

For the police officers the whole population was sampled from the eight police officers from Gender Protection Unit at Mabote and Maseru stations and the CGPU Coordinator and the human resource officer who are based in Police headquarters

in Maseru, including two students from the National University of Lesotho who were attached to CGPU in Mabote station. A target number of 12 officers and 10 victims were approached.

### **3.4 Research Methods**

The main research methods were interviews. In view of the exploratory nature of the study - that is the need to obtain personal experiences, perceptions and interpretations - face to face interview was deemed to be most the appropriate data collection method (Chillisa and Preece, 2005:147). Its advantages as indicated by the above authors are that:

Each main open-ended question focuses on a particular research question, there are sub-questions under each main question that assist the researcher to probe for more information, there is a close relationship between the interview guide questions and the researcher question, and the interview guide questions solicit information that addresses the initial research question (Chillisa and Preece, 2005:147).

Since there are two sides of the coin, likewise this method has got pros and cons as articulated by the above authors thus; “As early as 1930s researchers started critiquing the interview technique, arguing that the researcher played a dominant role, whereas the researched played a passive role, with the result data obtained from the interviews were most likely to embody preconceived ideas of the

interviewers and their attitude towards the researched,” (Tyreli 1998 in Chillisa and Preece, 2005:148).

However, in view of the exploratory nature of this particular study, it was felt that the face to face interview was the most reliable way of obtaining the required information. The interviews were conducted informally to provide opportunity for the interviewee to relax and talk freely.

Interviews may be structured, unstructured or semi structured (Chillisa and Preece 2005:147). Unstructured interviews allow the respondent to talk freely with few interventions from the interviewer, while structured interviews follow a fixed line of questions. A semi structured interview follows a set of questions as a guide but allows for further probing where appropriate. In view of the need to explore un-researched material, but nevertheless with a clear focus to examine the experience of reporting gender abuse cases to the police, a semi structured interview method was chosen. Whilst the questions were similar for police, victims and ministry of Gender, they were tailored to suit each category of respondent. For example, the questions that were asked to the police and the victims were worded as follows:

How do police respond to the reported cases of gender-based violence for both men and women? What are the experiences in relation to support and prosecution of men and women who report abuse? For the police further questions included: What kind of training do the police receive regarding how to deal with gender-based violence cases and victims? What improvements could be made in training in order to support men and women when they report gender violence?

### **3.5 Validity and Reliability of the Instrument**

According to Shaughnessy, Zechmeister and Zechmeister (2003:151) validity refers to the truthfulness of a measure: “Does it measure what it intends to measure?” in as far as reliability is concerned; the above authors advocate that, “reliability refers to the consistency of measurement, and is frequently assessed using the test-retest reliability method”.

Since this is a qualitative exploratory study, the preferred approach is to test instruments for “trustworthiness”, (Chilisa and Preece, 2005: 171) .

Trustworthiness implies checking to see if the answers given are believable. One way of ensuring trustworthiness is through multiple interview and triangulation and examining relevant documents to see if the answers that emerge seem to indicate a common pattern.

Test-retest as discussed by Welman and Kruger (2003), “refers to the degree to which a measurement / test is immune, so that scores obtained on one occasion may be generalized to those that could potentially have been obtained on other comparable occasions” (Welman and Kruger, 2003:139). In this case the questions were piloted to ensure they were reliable for the intended purpose and to ensure that respondents understood the questions. The revised questions were then applied to the target populations.

### 3.6 Data Collection

According to Welman and Kruger (2003):

In the final analysis, all measuring and data collection procedures are based on systematic observation, by systematic observation we mean that it should be replicable, in other words, that independent observers other than ourselves should also be able to observe and report whatever we as researchers observe and report (Welman and Kruger, 2003:128).

Shaughnesey, Zechmeister and Zechmeister 2003) advocates that, "data of course do not come out of thin air; we can assume results were obtained using a particular research method (e.g. observation, survey, experiment). If serious errors were made in the data collection stage, then there maybe nothing we can do to save the data and it may be best to start again" (Shaughnesey , Zechmeister and Zechmeister, (2003:361).

Basically there are four general approaches to data collection: "non-personal interaction with a subject (person) who provides data, personal interaction, observation of a setting and examination of the documents and artifacts" (Anderson, 1998:164). Anderson further says that, "the data collection itself requires some sort of instrument such as a test, questionnaire or the researcher" (Anderson, 1998:164).

The researcher undertook to ensure that the methods used were replicable for similar situations or units of analysis. The data collection process took a period of one month.

The data collection approach was through personal interaction and the instruments were the researcher and interview schedule. Interviews were conducted face to face and answers were recorded by hand, since tape recording would have been threatening for some interviewees.

### **3.7 Data Analysis Method**

“There are three distinct, but related stages of data analysis: getting to know the data, summarizing the data, and confirming what the data tell us” (Shaughnesey J.J., Zechmeister E. B. and Zechmeister J.S.) (2003). By the same token Welman and Kruger (2003:184) state that, “there are two basic approaches, namely, ethnographic summary and systematic coding through content analysis that may be used to analyze data from qualitative research” (Welman and Kruger (2003:194).

Anderson (1998) advocates that, “data analysis implies evaluating and weighing data according to the extent to which the primary source observer was a witness. It implies identifying key issues or themes then organizing and interpreting the data on that bases,” (Anderson (1998:97-98).

As this is an exploratory qualitative study, the research questions were examined in depth, using a process of reading and re-reading the data, looking for themes that emerge, that is through systematic coding.

### **3.8 Research Questions**

In order to achieve the requirements of this study, the research questions focused on the following:

1. How do police respond to reported cases of abuse, particularly gender violence, for both men and women?
2. What are the experiences in relation to support and prosecution of men and women who report abuse, particularly gender violence?
3. What kind of training do the police receive regarding how to deal with abuse, particularly gender violence – particularly in relation to how police are expected to respond to the different sexes?
4. What improvements could be made in training in order to support both men and women equally when they report gender violence cases?

An interview guide was prepared that provided prompts and expanded on these core questions.

### **3.9 Ethics**

Anderson (1998) says that:

The specific considerations and acceptable standards for ethical research are as follows:



- That risks to participants are minimized by research procedures that do not unnecessarily expose them to risks;
- That the risks to participants are outweighed by the anticipated benefits of the researcher;
- That the rights and welfare of participants are adequately protected;
- That the research will be periodically reviewed; and
- That informed consent has been obtained and appropriately documented (Anderson, 1998:18).

This is a sensitive topic requiring close monitoring, using ethical procedures of confidentiality, respect and empathy. In all cases there was an introductory letter explaining in simple language the purpose of the study, with a consent form which each interviewee signed to indicate that they understood their information would be treated confidentially, no real names would be used in any reports and the interviewee was free to withdraw from the study at any time.

Malan and Smith (2001:3) further say that, “It must be stated that in the democracy, where the electorates place their faith, trust and well-being in the hands of elected officials, it is the inalienable right of the people to expect the highest standards of conduct, honest and dedication from those elected to public office”. Likewise, the respondents to the researcher’s questions should be optimistic that their rights would be protected such as freedom of expression, confidentiality and

privacy as stated by the Constitution of Lesotho (1993:14-35). The information provided was given in confident understanding that no one's rights would be jeopardized.

### **3.10 Summary**

In this chapter research design was discussed. It was mentioned that qualitative approach would be used. Research population was highlighted and different authors defined population, likewise sample and sampling techniques were interrogated. The target number of officers and victims to be interviewed were clearly stated, as 22.

The research method which was used was discussed at length and the types of interviews. It was noted that there are structured, unstructured or semi structured interviews. Their advantages were also identified. Validity and reliability of the instrument to be used was discussed and data collection and data analysis were discussed. Research questions were also listed and the ethics were analyzed. Questions were categorized and formulated as detailed in the appendix (Appendix no. 1, 2 and 3).

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **THE FINDINGS**

#### **4.0 Introduction**

The researcher interviewed 22 respondents. The officials such as the police officers were interviewed in both English and Sesotho, while the victims of gender based violence were interviewed in Sesotho. They are comprised of 10 victims of gender-based violence, five from each station. Eight police officers from Maseru and Mabote stations were interviewed, four police from each station. They are men and women, but the majority is women. Two pastoral care and counseling students from the National University who were attached to CGPU at Mabote station were also interviewed, plus the CGPU coordinator and LMPS human resource officer.

The researcher included the students because they have been observing and participating in what had been transpiring in the unit in dealing with the victims of abuse. They are also independent people who might not defend or hide some information, which could be the case as far as the police are concerned. It was anticipated that within the time that they spent in the office, which was two months, they were part and parcel of the system in addressing the problems of the victims of gender - abuse cases. They did everything that the police do except that if the case was supposed to be opened and investigated they (Students) would refer the victims to the police.

The Coordinator of CGPU at the national level who is based at police headquarters was interviewed because she is the implementer of the policies that are related to CGPU in the country. One of them is the training plan.

The human resource officer (HRO) was approached and asked to respond to questions related to training of personnel in the LMPS, CGPU included. The same questions were asked of the CGPU coordinator. The HRO is the one responsible for training and development of the entire organization and CGPU personnel. The HRO and the CGPU Coordinator had different opinions about some aspects of training, but agreed about other aspects. The following seven tables provide brief information about all the interviewees. They show the gender, age, occupation, nature of abuse and the abusers. The tables are followed by the findings that are categorized in different themes and sub-themes.

**1) List of Victims from Maseru Central Charge Office**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Gender of victim</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>occupation</b>	<b>Nature of abuse</b>	<b>Abuser</b>
1	Male	34-39 years	Banker	Sexual harassment, abusive language and assault	Wife
2	Female	25-29 years	Clothing Industry	Husband does not maintain two children	Husband
3	Female	25-29 years	Not employed	Took away family property and involved with multiple partners (Girl friends)	Husband
4	Female	40-44 years	Professional Counselor	Assault, not responsible to children and have multiple partners (Sleep out)	Husband
5	Female	17- 20 years	Unemployed	Raped and Threatened to be killed	By a Husband of her sister

**2) List of police officers of Maseru Central Charge Office**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Gender</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>occupation</b>	<b>Work location</b>	<b>Role in abuse cases</b>
A	Female	50-54 years	Police	CGPU Maseru Central Charge office	Investigate cases, give advice and provide counseling sessions
B	Male	40-44 years	Police	CGPU Maseru Central Charge Office	Investigate cases, give advice and provide counseling sessions
C	Female	25-29	Police	CGPU Maseru Central Charge office	Investigate cases, give advice and provide counseling sessions
D	Male	25-29	Police	CGPU Maseru Central Charge office	Investigate cases, give advice and provide counseling sessions

### 3) Police Human Resource

Item	Gender	Age	occupation	Work location	Role in abuse cases
aa	Male	30-34 years	Police Human Resource	Police at Police headquarters Maseru	Deployment of personnel working in CGPU office, training and development

### 4) Child and Gender Protection Unit Coordinator

Item	Gender	Age	Occupation	Work location	Role in abuse cases
bb	Female	45-49 years	Police Coordinator	CGPU Police headquarters Maseru	Investigate cases, training and counseling victims of gender- base violence

### 5) List of victims from Mabote Police Station

Item	Gender of victim	Age	Occupation	Nature of abuse	abuser
i)	Male	45-49 years	miner	Assault	Wife and his children
ii)	Female	16-20 years	Unemployed	Sexual abuse	Married man
iii)	Female	17-20 years	Domestic worker	Sexual abuse	Married man
iv)	Female	20-25 years	Unemployed	Insulted, does not take of the baby, phone calls from the wife were not answered	Husband
v)	Female	34-39 years	Civil service	Assaulted, sexually abused	Husband



**6) List of Police Officers of Mabote Police Station**

Item	Gender	Age	occupation	Work location	Role in abuse cases
a)	Male	45-49 years	Head of CGPU	CGPU Mabote	Investigation, counseling and giving advices
b)	Female	30-34 years	Police	CGPU Mabote	Investigation, counseling and giving advices
c)	Male	30-34 years	Police	CGPU Mabote	Investigation, counseling and giving advices
d)	Female	20-25 years	Police	CGPU Mabote	Investigation, counseling and giving advices

**7) List of Students from National University of Lesotho (Pastoral Care and Counseling) attached to Mabote CGPU Office**

Item	Gender	Age	occupation	Work location	Role in abuse cases
e)	Female	30-34 years	Student at NUL	CGPU Mabote	Give advice and counseling victims of abuse
f)	Female	18-25	Student at NUL	CGPU Mabote	Give advice and counseling victims of abuse

**4.1 The style adopted in reporting**

The victims of abuse used different modes of reporting their cases or claims. Some went directly to the police where they were referred specifically to Child and Gender Protection Unit, so that their claims would be attended to accordingly. But

others reported to the relatives of the persons whom they are working for. The example is the victim iii) who is 17 years old who was impregnated by a man who decided not to take the responsibility to support the subsequent child. She indicated that, *“I wanted this man to pay medical expenses and support the child”*.

The same girl reported to her mother, and then action was taken. The parents took the matter to the police of Mabote Police station. Likewise they were referred to the CGPU office. Even though this is a case of abuse which the girl only acknowledged later, her interest was the maintenance of the child. Apart from that this man was not prepared to accept accountability; the girl was a minor and the man was married.

Two girls, victims ii) and iii) who were 16 and 17 years old were sexually abused by married men for months and the other one (iii) got pregnant and the man avoided liability. From there the case was reported to the police.

As for victim 5 from Maseru Central Charge office the CGPU reported to her mother that her sister’s husband fastened her feet and hands on the bed and raped her, then threatened to kill her if she told anybody that she was raped by him. This girl was staying with her sister and her (sister’s) husband. At the time of the rape her sister was attending a funeral in other village and did not come back home that day, so the victim was left with the husband of her sister at home. She was still attending school. She was being financially assisted by them. She said, *“They give me money for school requirements such as school fees and money for lunch”*.

From there after she told her mother that she was raped by her sister's husband she went with the mother to report to Roma Police. But unfortunately she was not assisted because the Roma police (CGPU) did not arrest her abuser. That is why she came to report to Maseru CGPU and she was optimistic that she would be helped there. She said, "*I believed that Maseru Police would help me arrest the suspect*". Her assumption is that she was not helped by police at Roma because one of the police officers was the friend of this man. This police officer even suggested that this matter should be treated out of court. At the time of interview the Maseru police were in a process of arresting this man.

Victim iv) of Mabote police station reported to her grandfather that the husband does not take care of the baby who was born while this woman was at her home as agreed by her husband. She said, "*I went home to give birth, my husband approved that as it is normal procedure for Basotho to do that*". This sharing of responsibility for a new born baby is a normal activity as far as Basotho culture is concerned. When the newly married woman has to give birth for the first baby she goes to her home until she has given birth and comes back home after sometime after the baby is born. There are rituals that are performed first, and then the woman and the baby would be sent back to the husband or where they stay. After the grandfather did not help she reported the matter to Mabote Police and was referred to Mabote CGPU.

There are people who also report to the employers of their husbands when the partner deserts the family. One such case is the husband (Soldier) of victim 2 who deserted his children and wife. The husband was involved with sex workers. He

would call them and put on the loud speaker of his cell phone and chat with them in the presence of his wife. The victim is also infected with HIV. She believes that her husband got it from the sex workers since he sleeps with them frequently.

There are victims who report to the relatives and the in laws of the partner such as the victim 4 who reported the abuse to her in-laws and her parents, but no resultant action was taken.

Victim 4, who is also a counselor by profession, then reported to the station commander after there was no assistance from the in-laws. She was nicely received and attended to. Her case was taken very seriously. Then she was referred to the CGPU. But things changed when she got to that office. She was attended to by three officers at the same time. They were not serious when dealing with her case. She said they were talking to her while they were still attending the other victims. What she was saying was therefore taken very lightly. It was a different scenario compared to the way she was treated by the station commander. She said, *“I spoke to three police officers, there was no privacy at all compared to the way I was treated by the station commander”*.

#### **4.2 The impact of abuse**

All the victims noted that the abuse is not good and it has the negative impact in one way or another. They showed that they are affected emotionally, psychologically, sexually and physically.

For example, victim 5 got pregnant due to the rape she experienced and gave birth to an unexpected and unplanned baby.

#### **4.2.1 Emotional**

Victim 4 said, “*I am worried especially when it affects my child and its education*”. She said this because as a result of the conflicts between her and her husband the child had to stay with the brother of her husband and he was not taken care of properly. She indicated that, as a result of the abuses, she becomes worried and emotionally hurt.

As far as victim 5 is concerned she indicated that due to the fact that she had a child unexpectedly she felt like killing herself when she was pregnant. She drank paraffin in order to commit suicide but she was taken to hospital and saved. She did not want a baby since she was young and wanted to further her studies.

#### **4.2.2 Psychological**

Two victims out of ten said they sometimes feel very angry. They also feel that maybe they are treated in that manner because they deserve it. If they do not deserve it they should have done something in order to protect themselves. This could be to report the matter to the police or effect divorce. “*I felt very angry when I was abused*”, they said.

Children of victims’ families tend to perform poorly at school, because they are affected by the way their parents live and behave. Victim 1 said when they had

conflicts with his wife he would opt to sleep in the children's bed room. When the wife comes she would attack him right there. Sometimes he felt incompetent as compared to family members and colleagues.

Victim iv) was also psychologically affected when the grand father did not take seriously the issue of her and her husband when she complained to him. She felt isolated. The baby was in ill health and she had no one to assist her financially to take the baby to hospital. She said, "*I was under stress and asked myself so many questions that I could not get answers*".

#### **4.2.3 Sexual**

Apart from that, victim 1 from Maseru Central Charge office would be insulted by his wife; she would also be naked and demand sex in the presence of the children. The victim calls this sexual harassment.

Three victims out of ten indicated that they were sexually abused by their husbands and the other one by her sister's husband.

#### **4.2.4 Physical**

Four victims were assaulted. Victim 1 who reported his case to Mabote said that he was arrested by the aforementioned police because his wife had claimed that he has threatened to kill her, but when he was at charge office since he had a scald on his cheek the police inquired as to what happened. After he had told them that his wife assaulted him, they empathized with him and encouraged him to report the

matter to the CGPU. His assault criminal case is still pending in court since 2006, but the divorce has been granted.

The Ministry of Gender Sports and Recreation in an informal interview prior to the data collection phase supports these issues of abuse consequences. The ministry in question states that for both males and females their social life performances are affected, people do not inter-act with others effectively after their experiences. Aside from that, after the separation of wife and husband people become engaged with multiple partners and hence get contaminated by sexual diseases including HIV.

#### **4.3 The experience of treatment by police when victims report the abuse**

Even though most of the victims interviewed stipulated that they were respected and taken seriously, there were incidences where they had to report to more than one officer and they felt uncomfortable doing that.

Victim 4 (Professional Counselor) said that apart from being interviewed by three police personnel there were customers in the same vicinity who were also going to report their cases. The lady stipulated that she was not at all happy speaking so publicly. Hence, she recommended that privacy should be maintained when CGPU police deal with victims of gender-based violence cases, because most of them are sensitive and confidentiality should be maintained. She further indicated that older people should be deployed in this unit as compared to the young officers that are working in CGPU.

#### **4.4 Types of cases of violence**

There are many types of gender-based violence cases and they affected the victims in different ways as indicated earlier in this section. These are assaults, domestic violence, sexual violence, desertion of the children and wife. Officials e) and f) (Students who come from the National University), who were attached to CGPU at Mabote station indicated that the types of abuse that CGPU is dealing with included emotional, physical and psychological ones. One of them said, *“Types of abuse include emotional, physical and psychological on a social level”*. This notion was supported by the eight police officers, human resource officer and the CGPU Coordinator who were interviewed. The HRO indicated that, *“We deal with victims emotionally, psychologically and physically”*.

#### **4.5 Abuse/violence as act of criminality**

Nine victims of abuse interviewed opined that abuse/violence is a criminal act. They said that this is why they have to report these incidents to the police when they have occurred.

However, one woman was not aware that she had been the victim of a crime, but she was advised by the friends and relatives to take action. Victim iii) said *“When I was pregnant I told my boyfriend, he said he is married he would therefore like to take the child when it is born he cannot marry me”*.

Other victims would request the police to mediate and go back home after the partner has apologized and promised not to commit the same offence again. But



victims are still told by the police that if things do not get better they should come back and further steps would be taken by the police officers to try to remedy the situation. This was said by the police officers that were interviewed from Mabote and Maseru stations. The police officer a) said, *“It is not always that we take culprits to court for punishment, but other partners would request us to intervene instead by reprimanding the person who victimizes the partner”*.

#### **4.6 Abuse against women and children**

The female victims noted that they were abused by their partners in different ways. They were assaulted, sexually assaulted; women and children were deserted, with no one to take care of them. The women’s health was negatively affected, such as suffering from sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS included, as highlighted by the victim 2. She said, *“I am infected by HIV and it is obvious that it is my husband who infected me, because he has sex with prostitutes that he calls and put the cell phone on the loud speaker so that I could hear what they are talking about”*. According to the CGPU police officers that were interviewed, all of them stipulated that mostly they interview women victims. One of them said, *“We interview men and women daily, but women are the ones that come frequently as compared to men”*.

#### **4.7 Abuse against men**

Two victims, victim that were interviewed at Mabote and Maseru police stations indicated that they were abused by their wives. They were beaten and insulted by their partners. One victim (victim i) from Mabote said *“I was beaten by my wife*

*and children with a stick while I was asleep, they were complaining that I do not give them money and I fight them when I am drunk*". He was injured on the head and the body. *"It was the first time that they beat me, but they insult me frequently"*, he said. He was skeptical about living with this caliber of persons. He said his life was in jeopardy because they might kill him in future. He said *"I am afraid that they might kill me when I am asleep, in actual fact they could have killed me if they had dangerous weapons like knives when I was assaulted"* He indicated that they could have killed him if they had weapons in their possession when he was assaulted.

Secondly, victim 1 who was harassed by his wife is the one who has divorced his wife because he was insulted, bitten and sexually harassed by her. He said, *"My wife would insult me and beat me, when we had conflicts I opted to sleep in the children's room, she would come there and demand sex in the present of children. My wife was jealous and suspected me with any woman I talked to, and she would use abusive language to those women, and then fight me"*, he said.

All the police officers from CGPU, including human resource officers and the CGPU coordinator, alluded to the fact that few men report gender based violence in their office. This perception was also witnessed by two students from Nation University of Lesotho who are doing Pastoral Care and Counseling. They believed that this is so because in Basotho culture there are phrases that say "a man is a sheep he does not cry". Hence sayings like this one aggravate gender – based violence, because most men do not report the abuse to anyone especially police officers.

#### **4.8 The role of CGPU in dealing with abuse/violence cases**

According to all ten police officers who were interviewed, the priority of their work is to protect children, women and men. They also deal with sexual offences cases. They are guided by the Sexual Offence Act of 2003 in this regard. They conduct public gatherings in the villages, visit schools, business persons, and churches and so on. They educate the communities on issues related to child and gender abuse, as to how to avoid them and where it has occurred victims should report to the chiefs, relatives, priest and the police officers.

They also insisted that they operate as mediators where need arises if abuse cases have occurred. But where mediation does not suffice, they take the offenders to court especially in the case of sexual offences and assaults. They provide counseling sessions; refer the victims and partners to professional and private counselors. They also refer victims to legal aid, Women's Lawyers (FIDA) and other agencies for help. They work hand in glove with the health centers such as Queen II hospital and clinics. The victims of sexual offences are examined in health centers and HIV tested too to facilitate the magistrates' work when the time comes to pass appropriate sentences as punishments to the accused persons. The issue of testing for HIV on the side of the perpetrator of sexual violence is dictated by the Sexual Act of 2003.

Officials e) and f) said *"The victim has to be counseled in order to have a better life rather than living in a shadow of being abused or fear to be in a society. The victim should find a way of not being abused again"*.

The students interviewed the victims with colleagues. But it would depend, if the victim said he or she wanted to be interviewed by one person, then they would comply. They said they interviewed them alone (that is one to one conversation); they would only involve the second person if there is another crime to be investigated by the police. However, they believe that it helps to interview a victim with more than one person because a colleague might come up with a question that they had not thought of. But in as far as the children are concerned, especially those who were sexually abused, they deal with them privately.

The students discouraged threatening and shouting at the victims when they are reporting their cases. However, official f) said, *“Sometimes it works to shout at the victims because when they lie about what happened to them shouting can make them speak the truth.”* Infrastructure was also said not to be good, for example, there were not enough offices for private interviews.

#### **4.9 Training offered to CGPU officers**

CGPU personnel are trained on CGPU related issues such as how to deal with the victims of abuse and paralegal information (such as the sexual offence Act of 2003). But responses showed that out of the five police officers interviewed at Ha Mabote two of them had not received any training. Their services in the unit ranged from a few months to two years.

In the Central Charge office three officers out of five have not received any kind of training. One officer who worked in CGPU since it started in 2003 indicated that

he only attended a workshop on how to deal with sexually abused persons/victims in 2007. After that he never attended any workshop or course. This police respondent stipulated that he has never been in counseling courses or workshops; but he has been supported by his colleagues in this regard.

They all agreed that they should be trained on communication skills, customer care services and counseling, since their daily work is all about counseling. He continued that they also need to be provided with their own counseling support frequently, maybe quarterly, since what they hear from the victims also affects them negatively, and hence counseling could help them a lot.

#### **4.10 Mode of training of the LMPS, particularly CGPU personnel**

The CGPU police officers who managed to get training said their training sessions were conducted in the form of workshops which range from a week to two months. There is also a form of in-service training which goes on within the unit. For example, for those who did not attend any workshop they are trained by their co-workers during the performance of their work.

The Coordinator of CGPU who is based in police headquarters stipulated that her office offers training to all officers attached to CGPU office. She said training is done at least once a week. The areas that are covered include interview techniques, play therapy, management of victims/survivors of sexual offences and human trafficking. She alluded that training is done in workshop form and ranges from a day to two months, not beyond that period. Methods used in the workshops include

discussions and group work. The training initiatives emanate from the training plan of the unit.

The Human Resource Officer (HRO) also supported the Coordinator's claim that CGPU officers are provided with training, but he could not draw a line of demarcation between a course and a workshop. According to him they are just the same. He said courses/workshops are not systematically provided, but they come randomly and are highly influenced by the budget allocation to training. The contribution of the LMPS partners such as UNICEF, WILSA, FIDA and others play an important role in funding the training. However, he claimed that CGPU personnel are highly trained. The duration of the trainings as mentioned by HRO is one week. The reason being that the partners realize the need for experts' availability on handling gender – based victims due to the fact that it is a new phenomenon.

The training sessions do not follow the usual good practice such as to invite participants to do role plays, discussion groups and evaluate what they have learned. There are no control measures. It is simply believed that they get the proper training; the lead role is given to the Coordinator. HRO said *“Even though I am in charge of the training, but the person who is implementing is the Coordinator of CGPU”*.

The coordinator indicated that all the 98 police officers they have in the unit in Lesotho get at least one training once a year or even have repeat training. The police officers that are trained are the ones that are experienced in general police

work and assigned to CGPU. This notion was echoed by the HRO. They take 35 personnel per training session. According to HRO at least half of the existing police officers in the unit have been trained.

There are professional counselors in CGPU and they are police officers. They investigate cases and counsel the victims of gender-based violence. As for any gap that the unit may encounter, the coordinator said there is none, because as far as training is concerned they are supported by the United Nations, UNICEF Global Fund and other organizations. She suggested that for the improvement of the CGPU nation-wide the role of CGPU should be included in the Police Training College (PTC) curriculum. At present recruits at PTC are not offered training on gender –based violence.

But by the same token, the HRO believed that it is not possible to say there are or no gaps because in order to say that requires an evaluation or needs analysis of some kind (That is, a scientific method of doing things). Sometimes one could say there is no gap in a certain part, while the other area has not been covered or scientifically evaluated. Therefore, if a study has never been conducted it is not safe to conclude that gaps are closed or not.

There is no clear relationship between HRO's office and the heads of CGPU and the District Commissioners. As a result, they see people who are trained, but they are not sure whether the training they have acquired is the relevant one or not. They are supposed to have a clear training plan which will achieve its objectives. In essence, the HRO wants to be entirely involved in the whole process of training,

which appears to be different at the moment. He said *“I should have the clear training plan which achieves its objective, that is to say to be involved in the whole process of training, to have the same perception with the heads of CGPU”*.

He further said they should have professional counselors who are not police officers. There are police officers who do not want to share their experiences with other police officers; so the use of external counselors would be a more professional way of helping police officers who are in need of support. The professional counselors would be also utilized to attend to victims of gender – based violence and the people who are arrested by the police in order to help them refrain from repeating the criminal activities such as gender–based violence.



# CHAPTER FIVE

## DISCUSSION

### 5.0 Discussion

Gender-based violence has been identified to be an existing phenomenon in any society, Lesotho included, and it impacts negatively on both females, males and within the same sex. This notion is supported by the Ministry of Gender, Sports and Recreation. The ministry in question states that consequences of abuse do not produce good results for either females or males. Their social life performances are affected, people do not inter-act with others effectively after their experiences. Aside from that, after the separation of wife and husband people become engaged with multiple partners and hence get contaminated by sexual diseases including HIV. In essence a victim of abuse is affected psychologically, sexually and physically and emotionally (Paludi, 2004:83). This means that the consequences of gender-based violence do not bear good fruits for the victims of abuse. This is supported by Farlex (2011) who identifies outcomes as “Fatal outcomes: suicide, homicide, and non-fatal outcomes as: physical health: injuries; unwanted and/or early pregnancy; abortion or other injuries occurring during pregnancy” (page unnumbered).

This study suggests that gender-based violence is an act of abuse, and it sometimes takes place in a close relationship. The example is by a husband to the wife, wife to husband, parent to a child and close relative to a victim. For example, a victim is kicked, punched and harassed. According to Macmillan

Dictionary (2002:6) “abuse is cruel, violent, or unfair treatment”. In actual fact this is inhuman practice.

The abuse is reported in different ways by the victims including relatives, chiefs, villagers and CGPU. But findings revealed that most victims are referred to the police and they will be dealt with by CGPU, since they are specializing in this regard.

The issue in this regard is that abuse is reported to the police because it is a crime. Crime is defined by Visser and Macmare (1990:3) as “every punishable violation of laws, done willfully, and with evil intention”. Therefore, it is proper that if any person is breaking the law he or she should be reported and all the government agencies such as, police, prosecution and courts of law that deal with the protection of human rights should take action as soon as possible. Bekker et al (1998:90) support Visser and Macmare (1990) by saying that “commission of a crime is perceived as a violation of the public interest”. That is why when crime occurs in any situation (gender – based violence included) even if the victim does not report it to the relevant structures, the community will take action and report it to the chiefs or police. Others would however, request not to be disclosed for fear that they would subsequently be victimized by the perpetrator. This attitude is not encouraged by police because it is argued that any witness of a crime should come forward and give evidence to court when the offender has been prosecuted.

## **5.1 Who Reports Abuse**

Findings revealed that women report abuse more frequently than men. This is supported by Retief (2000:183) when he says that, “domestic violence is receiving media coverage as the abuse of women and children is given the attention it deserves”. For example, Radio Lesotho reported that in a public gathering which was held in Mafeteng Thabana-Morena on the 27 February 2011, Manthabeleng Maime, a police officer who works in CGPU at Mafeteng indicated that “gender-based violence affects all groups of people although men are reluctant to report when they have been abused by their wives. By the same token, there are many reports of abuse that are publicized over the media such as Lesotho Times, Leseli Ka Sepolesa, Public Eye, Lesotho Television and others in the country. They disclose the activities of abuse such as those on women and minors who have been sexually abused and human trafficked.

The role of CGPU in dealing with abuse/violence cases was also identified in the findings. It is to protect children, women and men equally. They deal with sexual offence cases. In this regard, their powers emanate from the Sexual Offence Act of 2003. They conduct public gatherings in the villages, visit schools, business persons, and churches and so on. They educate them on issues related to child and gender abuse, as to how to avoid them and where it has occurred they should report to the chiefs, relatives, priest and the police officers. The work of CGPU is very crucial and sensitive; hence it needs to be addressed seriously with caution by well trained and informed officers.

## 5.2 Training

When it comes to training of the personnel assigned to CGPU there are many discrepancies realized in the findings. Training is discussed as “Training refers to activities designed to provide learners with the knowledge and skill needed for their present job and or any other future engagement”, (LMPS Training Policy, 2010:2). Lesotho Correctional Services supports LMPS Training Policy by saying that “carefully recruited, properly trained and well informed staff members are essential to an effective correctional system”, (a quotation on the programme of the pass out ceremony of the Lesotho Correctional Service on the 4<sup>th</sup> March 2011).

It is a fact that police officers are trained for this office, but very few officers have actually been given any kind of training. First of all what is shocking is that there are officers that have been in the unit since it was established in 2003, but they have only been offered one workshop on dealing with victims of abuse. Apart from that, others served more than two years in the unit and they have not been offered any training. This contradicts what has been said by the CGPU Coordinator. She states that her office conducts trainings frequently and almost every officer has been accessed with a training of some kind, and others have even had repeat training. It could be possible that some officers have had repeat training. But the observation is that only a few officers that have been taken to the workshop are the ones who benefit. Apart from that, other police officers who were trained are transferred to other units.

Secondly, the training offered in a workshop mode varies from a day and above, but not more than two months. Even though the CGPU coordinator said her office

has got the training plan, there is nothing said about the need for long term training in her endeavours.

In view of the fact that CGPU training is supported by the United Nations, UNICEF Global Fund and other organizations, as alluded to by the Coordinator, one would anticipate that all officers would be trained for short and long term courses in and outside the country, but the scenario seems different in reality.

Thirdly, the findings revealed that most of the training that occurs in this unit is through on-the-job in-service training. They learn by doing, drawing on their understanding of basic police work, or the experience they have acquired in the police service. For example, the one lady who was interviewed, had been working in this office for about seven months, but she is about to retire from the LMPS. The same person has never been taken to any training. One could see that her experience in the LMPS would play a major role in dealing with the victims of abuse. But still, she has not been provided with any special skills in performing her work efficiently, because she has never attended any course or workshop. In a nut shell there is a too much risk taking with regard to relying on experience alone and which is not supported by education and training.

Fourthly, there are no control mechanisms as far as training is concerned. For example, there is no study conducted to find out whether what the CGPU personnel have been trained on has resulted in betterment of the unit or not. In actual fact the Coordinator is the only one playing a major role in determining the training needs, because there are no scientific methods used to identify the needs and to asses the trainings offered.

Fifthly, the Coordinator said they have trained almost every police officer in the unit, but the HRO indicated that only half of them have accessed training. This study suggests that most police officers working in the CGPU office are not trained at all, meaning that the HRO is right to say many people are not trained. They only received in-service training, which might not be adequately done. Half of the entire police population in Lesotho who are attached to CGPU is a significant figure; hence something needs to be done in order to close this gap. Apart from that, lack of training means that unethical handling of victims of gender–abuse is likely to be experienced frequently. The living example from this study is the one stipulated by one of the victims who is a professional counselor and who said that there is no privacy and that she was attended by more than one police officer. There are also examples of how police have treated victims very unsympathetically, such as the victim who said what she was talking the police officers took it very light and unsympathetic.

Training of police officers comes under the remit of adult education. It can play a major role in equipping the police personnel with skills such as customer care, communication and counseling. Adult education methods include workshops, discussions, role play etc, which enable adults to understand and relate their learning practically to real life situations, (Merriam and Brockett (1997).

### **5.3 Counseling**

The issue of counseling has been highlighted as a very important tool in dealing with the victims of abuse. Even though the Coordinator said there are professional counselors in the CGPU which are based at Police headquarters most of them, almost all of the personnel working in CGPU, are not trained in counseling. Police

officers dealing with abuse cases are also not provided with counseling support as they need to be counseled too, bearing in mind the kind of work they are doing. They listen and address sensitive issues which affect them negatively, both psychologically and emotionally. That is why sometimes they become violent, or angry as well as sympathetic when they listen to such cases.

This issue is an area of concern since the work of CGPU personnel is all about counseling and giving advice. The study revealed that the CGPU personnel do not have professional counselors; they are not also equipped with counseling skills. The police officers also suggested that it would be proper that they are also counseled at least four times in a year.

#### **5.4 Culture**

Lastly, the study revealed that culture plays an important contribution in aggravating abuse as far as men are concerned. As a result men are reluctant to report crime of gender-abuse. The example, is that there is a Sesotho saying that “Mona ke nku ha lle” (Man is a sheep he does not cry). This means that a man should be strong enough not to report abuse, and it becomes a taboo if a man reports that he has been sexually abused by a woman. Sometimes a man is said to be stupid if he reports. In essence he supposes to submit to sexual abuse and do what the woman want him to do even if he does not like it.

## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **6.0 Summary**

It is worth noting that the five chapters above dealt with different issues. The first one addressed the historical background of the LMPS which dated as far back as 1872. This chapter also highlighted that, as the police service matured, a special unit was set up to deal with gender abuse and violence. However, the researcher noted that gender abuse cases were not always dealt with professionally and, indeed, male reports of abuse against them by women are rarely reported. The study therefore aimed to explore in more depth the experiences of reporting abuse from the point of view of victims and police.

The second chapter dealt with the literature review. The following concepts were defined and discussed at length by the various authors. They were, abuse, crime, gender, culture and gender violence, consequences of abuse, abuse against women and abuse against men. It was revealed that both men and women suffer physical, emotional and psychological consequences from abuse, though the plight of male victims is often less understood in this regard.

Chapter three dwelt on the research design and the methodology, this included research design, research population, sample and sampling, techniques, research methods, validity and reliability of the Instrument, data collection, data analysis, research questions and ethics. It was explained that a qualitative interview approach was the best way to deal with the sensitive nature of this topic.



Chapter four has addressed the findings of the study. This included the views of the respondents that were interviewed. Themes covered were: the style adopted in reporting, the impact of abuse, the experience of treatment by police when victims report the abuse, types of cases of violence, abuse/violence as act of criminality, abuse against women and children, abuse against men, the role of CGPU in dealing with abuse/violence cases, training offered to CGPU officers and mode of training of the LMPS, particularly CGPU personnel. It was revealed that both men and women have reported insensitive responses to their stories by police, but for men the experience is exacerbated because of cultural attitudes to violence against men. Therefore, few men actually report gender abuse. It was also revealed that training is infrequent and inadequate.

Chapter five is the discussion of the study looking into the findings as stipulated in chapter four. The researcher had an opportunity to include his conclusions and perceptions based on the literature reviewed on various aspects as indicated earlier. Therefore the recommendations of the study were made as follows:

### **6.1 Recommendations**

In order for the CGPU to improve its services and master its role the following recommendations are made based on the findings of the study:

- ❖ More education should be provided in the community about the role of CGPU through adult education e.g. public gathering, workshops, campaigns, school visits, church visits and the usage of media. This includes better information about types of gender-based violence.

- ❖ Men should be encouraged to report gender-based violence to the same extent that women do.
- ❖ Police should be encouraged to be more empathetic and discourage cultural attitudes that men who report gender – based violence are stupid.
- ❖ The local community leaders (Community counselors) should be trained on gender – based violence related issues, so that they would be in a position to train their communities and identify quickly the acts of abuse in the villages.
- ❖ CGPU should be offered training frequently in order to equip them with skills that would enable them to deal with the victims of abuse easily.
- ❖ Police officers should be trained on communication skills, customer care, counseling and interviewing skills.
- ❖ More officers should be deployed in CGPU.
- ❖ Up-to-standard and adequate offices should be built in the police charge office in order to maintain privacy when dealing with victims of abuse.
- ❖ At least one professional councilor should be available in any CGPU office in the country.
- ❖ All police officers attached to CGPU should be offered with counseling sessions frequently, for example, in every quarter of the year.
- ❖ CGPU Coordinator should be provided with clear monitoring mechanisms regarding whether everyone has been trained or not so that she can see where to take action.
- ❖ The agencies that assist CGPU on training issues such as Global Fund, UN, UNICEF and others should be approached and be made aware that

there is a necessity for long term training, e.g. to fund for people who wish to further their education on gender – based violence issues at universities, colleges and other tertiary institutions.

- ❖ Confidentiality should be maintained in CGPU offices
- ❖ Older and more experienced police should be deployed in CGPU offices.
- ❖ Police Training College should offer gender–based training sessions
- ❖ A scientific study should be conducted in order to assess the effectiveness of the training on handling gender–based cases offered by the LMPS
- ❖ More offices should be built in order to create enough space for interviews and maintenance of privacy.

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## APPENDICES

### 1. Questions to ask a victim of abuse

1. Age range: 25- 29, 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, and 60+
2. What is your occupation
3. Are you married, single or divorced
4. How long have you been with the person who abused you?
5. What form of abuse did you experienced (Tell the story of what happened)
6. How long has the abuse has been going on – weeks, months, years,- is it one incidence or several incidences?
7. What made you decide to report the case on this occasion? (e.g. Got tired of abuse: friends persuaded you to say something; you felt it was your rights to get justice)
8. Where did you go to report the case/incident?
9. Tell the story of how you reported the case – who you spoke to, how you were received by the first person; who you were referred to (how many people did you have to speak to before you reported your case)?
10. What is your general impression of how you were assisted – in other words, did you feel people listened respectfully, took you seriously – what kind of things were said to you when you tried explain what happened?

11. What advice were you given about how case should be dealt with (e.g. given name of the solicitor, told what would happen, what would be your chances so success etc.)
12. How did you feel in yourself
  - a) About the experience of abuse
  - b) About how you were treated/responded to by police
13. What recommendations would you give for improving the police service in dealing with such cases of about?

Thank you

## **2. QUESTIONS TO ASK POLICE OFFICERS:**

1. Age range: 30-34, 35-39, 40-44, 45-49, 50-54, 55-59, and 60+
2. What is your rank in the police service?
3. Have you ever received any training in how to interview victims of abuse?
  - a) If so what form did the training take?
  - b) What did you learn? (E.g. about types of abuse; who gets abused; how to handle reported abuse crimes; how to interact with the victim)
4. Have you ever interviewed or taken part in an interview with an abuse victim?
  - a) If so – was it/were they a male or female; what part did you play in the interview/s?
  - b) What forms of abuse were related? (Describe the different cases)
  - c) What questions did you ask the victim?
  - d) Did you believe the victim? - explain why
  - e) How confidently did you feel you were dealing with the case? explain/elaborate
  - f) Was there any other officer present and how did they interact with the victim?
  - g) What happened when the interview ended – what action did you/others take.
  - h) How did you feel in yourself?
    - 1) about the experience of hearing about the related abuse
    - 2) about how you responded to the victim
- 5) What recommendations would you give for improving the police service in dealing with such cases of abuse? – E.g. training and what kind of training police should receive; procedures for processing the claim; procedures for supporting officers who listen to abuse claims.

Thank you

### **3. POLICE INTERVIEW QUESTIONS ON TRAINING ISSUES**

1. Age range: 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, - 40-44, 45-49, 50-54 and 55 and above
2. Do you offer training to CGPU personnel?
  - a) If yes - how often? If not - who does offer training?
  - b) What types of training do you provide (e.g. courses (short or long)/workshops etc)? How long is the training?
  - c) Which subjects or topics do you cover?
3. How is the training provided [e.g. Are participants invited to do role plays, discussion groups, do they just get information etc.
4. Do you have the training plan for each year for CGPU or the entire LMPS?
5. How many personnel from CGPU do you train each year?  
Who receives the training? e.g. just new recruits, experienced officers, people who are assigned to the CGPU]
6. Do you have professional counselors amongst CGPU staff? What is their role?  
Are they also police officers?
7. Do you know of any gaps in the training which fail to cover the needs of officers who are working in the CGPU?
8. What recommendations do you wish to make that you think could contribute in improving the CGPU as far as training is concerned.

Thank you.



#### 4. THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO

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INSTITUTE OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES (IEMS)

P.O. Roma 180,

Lesotho.

### RESEARCH PROJECT INFORMATION LETTER

#### 1. Study title and Researcher Details

- **Department:** Adult Education, IEMS

**Project title:** Experiences of gender abuse and how they are dealt with by Lesotho Mounted Police Service

- **Principal investigator:** Mr. Clifford Molefe
- Supervisor/s: PROF. J. PREECE

**Degree for which the research is being undertaken:** Masters in Education (Adult Education)

#### 2. Invitation paragraph

You are being invited to take part in this educational study. Before you decide it is important for you to understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully and discuss it with other community members if you wish. Ask me if there is anything that is not clear or if you would like more information. Take time to decide whether or not you wish to take part.

Thank you for reading this.

#### 3. What is the purpose of the study?

The purpose of this study is to examine the experiences of victims of gender abuse and how they have been treated by the police. This study is a part of my Masters in Education programme at the National University of Lesotho.

**4. Why have I been chosen?**

You have been chosen because your experiences are important for this study. I am proposing to interview both victims and police officer who deal with abuse cases.

**5. Do I have to take part?**

It is up to you to decide whether or not to take part. If you do decide to take part, I will give you this information sheet to keep and I will ask you to sign a consent form. If you decide to take part you are still free to withdraw at any time and without giving a reason.

**6. What will happen to me if I take part?**

The study will focus on Maseru district.

I will use interviews and take notes during the interviews. I will also look at official documents.

The study will take place between November 2010 and January 2011

**7. Will my taking part in this study be kept confidential?**

I will not include your name or your address in this study. I will do this so that no body can recognise you from the information that you will give.

I may wish to come back and ask further questions to help clarify the findings.

**8. What will happen to the results of the research study?**

The final research report will be made available at the National University of Lesotho.

The results of this study may also be presented at a conference and published in a journal. I will not write your name or address in any report or book.

**9. Who is organising and funding the research?**

The National University of Lesotho and myself.

**10. Who has reviewed the study?**

My supervisors at the National University of Lesotho.

**11. Contact(s) for Further Information**

If you have any concerns regarding the conduct of this research project please contact:

Professor Julia Preece: Professor of Adult Education and Coordinator of the Masters Programme at Department of Adult Education, Institute of Extra Mural Studies, National University of Lesotho, Email: [j.preece@nul.ls](mailto:j.preece@nul.ls)

Dr Mantina Mohasi: Head of Department, Department of Adult Education, Institute of Extra Mural Studies, National University of Lesotho, Email: [mohasivm@yahoo.com](mailto:mohasivm@yahoo.com)

**Thank you!**

Name.....

Date .....

5.

**THE NATIONAL UNIVERSITY OF LESOTHO**

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P.O. Roma 180,

Lesotho.

**INSTITUTE OF EXTRA-MURAL STUDIES (IEMS)**

**CONSENT FORM**

**Title of Project:**

Experiences of gender abuse and how they are dealt with by Lesotho Mounted Police Service

**Name of Researcher: Mr. Clifford Molefe**

1. I confirm that I have read and understand the information letter for the above study and have had the opportunity to ask questions.
2. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving any reason.
3. I understand that no real names will be used in any report or publication arising from the research.

4. I agree / do not agree (delete as applicable) to take part in the above study.

\_\_\_\_\_

<b>Name of Participant</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature</b>
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\_\_\_\_\_

<b>Researcher</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Signature</b>
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