

**AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHALLENGES AND SUCCESS OF POLICE
GENDER DESKS TO REDUCE GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN DODOMA
CITY**

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**A DISSERTATION SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE
REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEGREE OF MASTER OF ARTS IN GENDER
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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that she has read and hereby recommend for acceptance by the Open University of Tanzania a dissertation titled; *“An Assessment of the Challenges and Success of Police Gender Desk to Reduce Gender Based Violence in Dodoma City”* in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the degree or Master of Arts in Gender Studies (MAGS).

.....
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.....
Date

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DECLARATION

I, **Tulizo Lazaro**, declare that, the work presented in this dissertation is original. It has never been presented to any other University or Institution. Where other people's works have been used, references have been provided. It is in this regard that I declare this work as originally mine. It is hereby presented in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Master's Degree of Arts and Gender Studies (MAGS).

.....

Signature

.....

Date

DEDICATION

I dedicated this study to all Police Gender Desk Officers who devote their time to help gender victims/survivors.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

I would like to thank the Almighty God for the blessings He gave me from the time of my birth up to the moment. It is His mercy for me to be alive up to the moment, because He allowed this to happen.

Secondly, special thanks go to my supervisor, Dr. Betty Mntambo, who has read intensively this study and provided constructive comments. May God bless her abundantly. Thirdly, special gratitude goes to my relatives, friends, and close neighbors who kept inspiring me to proceed with studies even in the point where I got stuck. Therefore, their encouraging words and prayers proved to have strong impact towards my academic journey. Truly, I have to say this, may God bless them much. Fourthly, I would like to thank my employer, Ministry of Home Affairs, for granting me a permission so as to learn comfortably.

Lastly, if the respondents of the study would refuse to participate, this study would not be the way it is. For that matter, their participation brought information, which made this report readable. However, I bear any pitfalls found in this study.

ABSTRACT

Police gender desks were established in the police stations of Tanzania in order to address gender based violence (GBV) in the country. This study assessed the challenges and success of police gender desks to reduce gender based violence in Dodoma City. Specifically, the study described the causes of GBV and the issues that reported to the police gender desks, assessed on how the reported GBV are handled, determined the challenges encountered and recommend the strategies to eliminate gender based violence in the community. This study involved 80 respondents; 60 were women victims and 20 were the key informants. Data were collected using questionnaire and semi-structured interview. The findings indicate that gender based violence mainly occurs due to existence of bad customs and traditions, male dominance and patriarchal system, superstition belief and lack of economic resources. In exploring the way reported gender-based violence cases were handled from both women victims and key informants, the study revealed that the victims were given lawyer assistance and compensation and education on the impacts of gender-based violence to the victims, lastly bringing the GBV perpetrator to the court for case filing and hearing. The study revealed some success and challenges. The study finds success such as reduction in number of GBV cases, educating the mass and strengthens the relationship between PGDO and members of the society. The study highlighted the challenges facing the gender desk. The study recommended an increase in the budget allocation by the government and deployment of more police officers. Also, the community should cooperate with the government, NGOs and other stakeholders to put more efforts to fight against GBV.

Keywords: *Gender, Gender-Based Violence, Police Gender Desks, Police Gender Desk Designing.*

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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Gender-based Violence (GBV) is one of the most prevalent human rights violations globally, impacting millions of people regardless of socioeconomic status or geographical location. It manifests in various forms, including physical, sexual, emotional, and economic abuse, and it is rooted in gender inequality and systemic discrimination. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), at least one in three women worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence, predominantly by an intimate partner, highlighting the gravity of this issue (WHO, 2013). In Tanzania, GBV remains a severe public health crisis and a significant barrier to achieving gender equality, as the Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS, 2015/2016) reports that 45% of ever-married women have suffered violence from their spouses.

GBV takes multiple forms, such as physical abuse (including assault and beatings), sexual violence (such as rape and forced sexual acts), psychological abuse (emotional manipulation, threats, and intimidation), and economic abuse (withholding financial resources or economic exploitation). The consequences of GBV are devastating, affecting victims' physical, mental, and economic well-being. Survivors often suffer from injuries, trauma, depression, and in severe cases, loss of life. Additionally, GBV has far-reaching social and economic repercussions, contributing to lost productivity, healthcare costs, and intergenerational cycles of violence.

Despite numerous efforts to address GBV, such as legal reforms and public awareness campaigns, the prevalence remains alarmingly high in Tanzania. Various interventions have been introduced to combat GBV, including social measures like community education and awareness programs, political and advocacy campaigns led by NGOs, and the establishment of policy frameworks like the National Strategy for Gender Development (2005). Additionally, the government has introduced legal mechanisms, including the Law of the Child Act (2009) and the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act (SOSPA, 1998), to protect victims and prosecute offenders.

A key institutional intervention to address GBV is the establishment of police gender desks. These desks were introduced in Tanzania in 2012 as a collaborative effort between the government and development partners, including the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), to provide a safe and supportive environment for GBV survivors. Police gender desks are specifically designed to offer services such as case documentation, legal assistance, psychological support, and referrals to appropriate healthcare services. These desks are equipped with specially trained officers who handle GBV cases sensitively and maintain confidentiality to encourage survivors to report incidents without fear of stigma or retaliation.

However, the effectiveness of police gender desks is hindered by several challenges. These include inadequate infrastructure, insufficient training of officers, limited financial resources, and cultural attitudes that discourage reporting and perpetuate gender inequality. Studies, such as those by the Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC, 2014), reveal that many victims do not receive the comprehensive support they need due to systemic gaps in service delivery. Moreover, logistical constraints,

such as the lack of transportation for victims and delays in case processing, further undermine the efforts of these desks to curb GBV.

Given the persistent nature of GBV in Tanzania and the mixed success of existing interventions, this study seeks to assess the challenges and successes of police gender desks in reducing gender-based violence in Dodoma City. By examining the root causes of GBV, the methods of handling reported cases, and the obstacles faced by police gender desks, this research aims to provide actionable recommendations to strengthen the response to GBV and enhance support for survivors.

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a pervasive human rights issue and public health crisis globally. In an ideal scenario, mechanisms would exist to protect all individuals, particularly women and girls, from all forms of violence. Effective enforcement of legal frameworks, comprehensive support systems, and widespread societal awareness would collectively work to minimize GBV incidences. In Tanzania, the government has made efforts to address GBV, including enacting the Law of the Child Act (2009) and establishing police gender desks in 2012 to provide specialized and sensitive handling of GBV cases. The aim of these interventions is to create a safer environment and ensure victims have access to justice and support services.

Despite these efforts, GBV remains widespread in Tanzania, with significant evidence highlighting its enduring prevalence. The Tanzania Demographic and Health Survey (TDHS, 2015/2016) indicates that 45% of ever-married women have experienced physical or sexual violence from an intimate partner, and reports of

gender-based violence continue to rise. Previous studies, such as those conducted by Ndenje (2014) and Ndyamukama (2016), have documented cultural practices, economic dependence, and societal norms as key factors perpetuating GBV. Additionally, these studies highlight that police gender desks, while critical, face numerous challenges, such as limited resources, inadequate training, and a lack of privacy for victims, which hinders their effectiveness. However, these studies often provide a fragmented view of the problem, without a comprehensive assessment of the success and limitations of police gender desks in addressing GBV.

The research gap lies in the limited understanding of how well police gender desks have managed to reduce GBV in the context of persistent societal and systemic challenges. While existing research has identified several obstacles faced by these desks, there is insufficient exploration of their successes, strategies for improvement, and the perspectives of GBV survivors on the services provided. This study aims to fill this gap by assessing both the achievements and the shortcomings of police gender desks in Dodoma City, providing evidence-based recommendations to enhance their impact and improve the overall response to gender-based violence.

1.3 Research Objectives

1.3.1 General research objective

The general objective of this study is to assess the challenges and success of police gender desks to reduce gender-based violence in Dodoma City.

1.3.2 Specific research objectives

This study intended to;

- i. To examine the successes of police gender desks in reducing gender-based violence in Dodoma City.
- ii. To assess how GBV reported cases are handled by police gender desks in Dodoma City.
- iii. To identify the challenges encountered by police gender desks in Dodoma City.
- iv. To recommend strategies for improving the effectiveness of police gender desks in eliminating gender-based violence in the community.

1.4 Research Questions

- i. What are the successes of police gender desks in reducing gender-based violence in Dodoma City?
- ii. How are the reported GBV handled by the police gender desk at community level?
- iii. What are the challenges facing police gender desk in the study area?
- iv. What the existing strategies to eliminate gender-based violence in the study area?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study is significant in several ways, contributing to theoretical knowledge, methodological advancements, and practical applications for the community, government, and other stakeholders. Theoretical Significance: This research contributes to the body of knowledge on gender-based violence (GBV) and the effectiveness of police interventions. By assessing the challenges and successes of police gender desks (PGDs), the study enhances the understanding of gendered violence frameworks and provides empirical evidence that can inform future studies.

It explores the practical implications of gender-responsive policing, thereby contributing to theories on institutional responses to violence and gender equality. The findings may also help to refine existing theoretical models on community policing and victim support.

Methodological Significance: This study employs a mixed-methods approach, combining quantitative data with qualitative insights to provide a comprehensive analysis of police gender desks' performance. The methodological approach can serve as a model for future research on GBV interventions, demonstrating the importance of triangulating data sources to achieve more robust and nuanced findings. It also offers a framework for evaluating similar interventions in different contexts, adding to the methodological literature on research practices in gender and public safety studies.

Practical Significance: The study has critical implications for the community, as it seeks to improve the services provided by police gender desks. By identifying both successes and challenges, the findings can help ensure that GBV victims receive better support and justice. The research highlights areas where community collaboration can be strengthened to foster a safer environment for all, particularly women and children who are most vulnerable to GBV.

Policy and Government Significance: The research provides evidence-based recommendations that can guide policymakers in enhancing the effectiveness of police gender desks. It underscores the need for adequate resources, specialized training, and infrastructural improvements. The government can use these insights to

formulate policies that address the gaps identified and to allocate resources more effectively. Moreover, the study supports the implementation of gender-sensitive laws and frameworks, contributing to the government's broader efforts to combat GBV.

Contribution to Stakeholders and NGOs: The findings will also be beneficial for non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and stakeholders working to combat GBV. By providing an in-depth analysis of police gender desks, the research offers strategic insights that NGOs can use to complement government efforts through advocacy, education, and support programs for survivors. It fosters a collaborative approach between law enforcement, civil society, and the community in addressing gender-based violence comprehensively.

1.6 Organization of the Study

This dissertation is divided into five chapters. Chapter introduced the study whereby statement of the problem is detailed followed by research objectives and questions. Other parts of the study include rationale of the study, research gap, and conceptual framework. Chapter two reviewed literature, which is consisted of theoretical and empirical literature review. Methods and procedures used, in this study, are further explained in chapter three included research design, sample size and sampling technique, type of data collection, and data analysis technique. Chapter four is about the research results and discussion whereby all findings are presented and thoroughly discussed. The last chapter of this dissertation is chapter five describes all about the entire research in short starting with summary of the research, conclusion, recommendations and areas for further researches.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Overview

This chapter presents the review of the theoretical and empirical literature related to the problem under study. The aim of review was to find out what has already been done in GBV and Police Gender Desks to establish the research gap which the current study intends to fill.

2.2 Conceptual Definitions

2.2.1 Gender

According to World Health Organization [WHO] (2019), gender refers to the socially constructed characteristics of women and men are such as norms, roles and relationships of and between groups of women and men. Furthermore, gender varies from society to society and can be changed. While most people are born either male or female, they are taught appropriate norms and behaviours, including how they should interact with others of the same or opposite sex within households, communities, and work places.

2.2.2 Gender-based Violence (GBV)

According to Femnet (2001), Cruz and Klinger (2011) and Arango *et al.* (2014), GBV is defined as any form of violence that happens to women, girls, men, and boys because of unequal power relations between them and perpetrators of such violence. Both women and men can be victims as well as perpetrators of GBV. However, women are more vulnerable to gender-based violence at different moments in their lives from childhood to adulthood (Ellsberge & Heise, 2005). The definition of

gender stated above is used in this study as it includes both female and male; however, the study considered only GBV, which is done to females.

2.2.3 Police Gender Desks

This refers to the desks or rooms or a unit in the police station where GBV cases are reported and investigated by the police officers or investigators assigned to carry out psychosocial issues including gender related issues. Usually, same police officers appear in civilian dresses. Some of the police officers working in the police gender desk are sociologists, gender experts, and social workers by profession.

2.2.4 Police Gender Desk Designing

According to UNFPA (2012), an ideal gender desk is supposed to have a minimum of the following infrastructures and equipment: a separate room for survivors to report the crime and where interviews could be conducted and evidence collected and recorded in an atmosphere of privacy. It is also supposed to have transportation means to respond to reported incidents of violence, a free telephone line for survivors of violence and others to report incidents of violence and follow-up on cases, a camera and forensic equipment to collect evidence needed for prosecution and a secure storage space. The investigating officers are supposed to be in civilian clothing to increase a survivors' comfort in approaching security personnel.

IEA (2009) explains that the government of India as a good example, which had a survivor friendly designing environment. For example, Shiprapath Gender Police Station is well equipped with computers, stationery, chairs and three rooms for interview, offices, and documentation (IEA, 2019). This enables the one who has

experienced GBV to speak in confidence to trained officers (Ndyamukama, 2016).

2.3 Cooperation between Community and Police Gender Desks

According to Ndyamukama (2016), the police gender desks were among the programmes established under the community policing in Tanzania. Community policing is in the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania under Article 146(2)(b), which involve the community with preventing and reducing crime, reducing disorder and anti-social behaviours, increasing feeling of safety, improving community accountability, reducing corruption in police services, and enhancing respect in human rights (Ndyamukama, 2016).

The main aim of involving community policing is to have a community centred force that supports maintenance of public safety and security in the country and its mission is to establish a more dispersed, visible, accessible, and service oriented police force, which interacts freely and gently with its community in protection of both life and property of all people all the time (Ndenje, 2014). Ndyamukama (2016) stipulates that police gender desk, which is the product of community police came into fully practice in the year 2012, after the establishment of Tanzania Police Female Network (TPFN). It is the network of women police in Tanzania and respond to cases of gender desks at police stations derived from the overall mandate of the force to safeguard the fundamental rights of people, ensuring security of people and their property, ensuring compliance with the law and maintenance of public order (ibid).

In addition, Ndyamukama (2016) states that police gender desks work in cooperation with several non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and law institutes, which deal

with anti-GBV in societies. Moreover, these anti-GBV organizations have the task to force gender desks to combat GBV by giving education about gender violence in the societies and give legal assistance to victims. Examples of these anti-GBV organizations are such as Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA), United Nations Development Programmes (UNDP), Legal and Human Rights Centre (LHRC), Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), and Tanzania Women Judges Association (TAWJA) (Ndenje, 2014).

2.4 Services Offered by Police Gender Desks to GBV Victims

Police gender desks are expected to improve the police response to victims and to refer them to organizations for professional services (Wanjohi, 2012). They are expected also to increase public awareness of, as a crime and, the role of the police in assisting victims (Ndyamukama, 2016). According to Bwalya (2010), police gender desks are established to ensure effective prevention, investigation and excellent service delivery when dealing with cases of gender-based violence.

Furthermore, UNFEM (2009) reports that Rwanda created a gender promotion desk for the aims of increasing police logistics for rapid response to reports of GBV, increasing police capacity in investigating GBV cases and increasing police capacity in counselling. In addition, there are other aims such as developing strategies and guidelines on the prevention of response to GBV, increasing awareness on GBV and the role of the police gender desk, assisting survivors in accessing appropriate health, legal and psychosocial support services; also collecting data and information on gender-based violence. National Gender and Elderly Committee (NGEC) (2014) of Rwanda states that the police gender desks are expected to prevent and respond to

gender-based violence.

For prevention, they are expected to educate community policing initiatives, conduct patrol and other measures that could deter and prevent sexual offences from occurring. In addition to that, they are expected to collect and disseminate data on the gender-based violence to inform policies, legislation and programming. In responding to cases of gender-based violence, they are expected to provide shelters and safe houses for victims, to complement government's effort in provision of various services, i.e., health, psychological, security and legal, to victims of gender-based violence. However, Ndyamukama (2016) explains that in Tanzania gender desks are also required to record the statements, prepare all the documents needed in the case, to collect all the forensic evidence and maintain the chain evidences. Furthermore, to contrary, the GBV cases are increasing. This left a research gap to assess on the challenges and success of police gender desks to reduce gender-based violence.

2.5 The Challenges Facing Police Gender Desks

Achievements made throughout the world to address GBV continue to be hampered by the absence of effective reporting mechanism. This is due to the limited capacities of law enforcement agencies and social-cultural issues (Kimani, 2007). UNIFEM (2005), in the study on gender desk in Rwanda, identified the challenges of lack of operational and logistical equipments, such as computers, printers and furniture. UNIFEM (2005) continues to identify the need of further training of the institutionalization of the information system to ease communication.

According to the IEA (2009), the Nairobi gender police desk officers faced various challenges, such as limited office or a room that could be used to ensure privacy. This made them to handle the GBV cases just like other ordinary cases, which can be handled with no privacy. The gender desks were poorly financed. There was also inadequate transport to and from police stations and courts. This made the investigation to last longer the 24 hour limit stipulated by law within which to detain a suspect before being arraigned in court. According to PBF (2012), the GBV report indicates that a frequent problem which showed up was that of officers attached to the police gender desks being given other police duties and were not available for the gender desk services. The report also shows that there were reports of women having waited a long time to register their complaints, and unavailability of resources to investigate complaints and arrest the perpetrators.

In Tanzania, Ndyamukama (2016) asserts that police gender desks are still challenged with lack of resources, such as offices for interviewing victims of gender-based violence, another challenge is shifting of trained police gender desk officers to other tasks which are not concerning gender-based violence, this causes the lack of human resources who have been trained for combating gender-based violence.

2.6 Empirical Analysis of Relevant Studies

2.6.1 Global Context

A study conducted by García-Moreno et al. (2015) titled *The Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence in High-Income Countries* utilized a cross-sectional design to analyze the prevalence and consequences of intimate partner violence across Europe and North America. The study collected data through structured interviews and

surveys, involving a sample size of over 20,000 women. The findings revealed that approximately 23% of women in high-income countries had experienced some form of intimate partner violence. The study concluded that despite legal frameworks and public awareness campaigns, intimate partner violence persists significantly, emphasizing the need for more effective interventions, including law enforcement reforms and community-based support services.

Another relevant study was conducted by Hegarty et al. (2019) titled *Barriers to Reporting Domestic Violence: A Qualitative Analysis in Australia*. This study employed a qualitative research design using in-depth interviews with 30 survivors of domestic violence. The findings highlighted that victims often faced multiple barriers when reporting violence, including fear of retaliation, lack of trust in police, and cultural stigmatization. The study emphasized the importance of creating more victim-friendly environments in police stations, such as dedicated gender desks, to encourage reporting and improve survivor outcomes.

2.6.2 Empirical Evidence from Africa

A study conducted by Oyediran et al. (2017) titled *Gender-Based Violence and Reporting Patterns in Nigeria* utilized a mixed-methods approach to explore the reporting behaviors of GBV survivors. The study sampled 500 respondents and conducted focus group discussions with key informants. The findings revealed that only 32% of GBV survivors reported their cases to the authorities, primarily due to fear of social repercussions and mistrust of law enforcement. The study concluded that police gender desks, though established in some regions, lacked adequate resources and trained personnel, affecting their effectiveness in handling GBV cases.

Similarly, a study by Ncube, et al., (2020) titled Evaluating the Effectiveness of Police Gender Desks in Zimbabwe used a case study design to investigate the role of police gender desks in addressing GBV. The researchers interviewed 40 gender desk officers and surveyed 100 GBV survivors. The findings indicated that while police gender desks played a crucial role in supporting survivors, challenges such as insufficient training, lack of psychological support services, and cultural resistance impeded their success. The study recommended comprehensive capacity-building programs and stronger community partnerships to improve the effectiveness of these desks.

2.6.3 Empirical Evidence from Tanzania

A study conducted by Ndenje (2014) titled The Effectiveness of Tanzania Police Gender Desks in Protecting Women from Gender-Based Violence in Kinondoni Municipality employed a cross-sectional research design. The study surveyed 75 women survivors and conducted interviews with key police officials. The findings revealed that gender desks were instrumental in raising awareness and providing initial support to survivors.

However, the study also identified significant challenges, such as the lack of privacy, inadequate funding, and insufficient training of police officers, which limited the impact of these interventions. The research highlighted the need for increased investment and comprehensive policy support. Another study by Ndyamukama (2016) titled Assessing the Role of Police Gender Desks in Reducing Gender-Based Violence: A Case of Katavi Region adopted a mixed-methods approach. The research involved 50 respondents, including GBV survivors and police officers.

The findings showed that while police gender desks had made some progress in addressing GBV, the lack of specialized training and logistical support hindered their performance. The study emphasized the importance of community engagement and the provision of adequate resources to strengthen the role of gender desks in curbing GBV.

2.7 Conceptual Framework

The study introduces the conceptual framework in Figure 2.1, which illustrates the content and expected outcomes of the study. In the conceptual framework it is assumed that, reduced gender-based violence (GBV) that is dependent variable is the product of the presence and success of police gender desk (independent variables). However, the conceptual framework illustrates also the background variables.

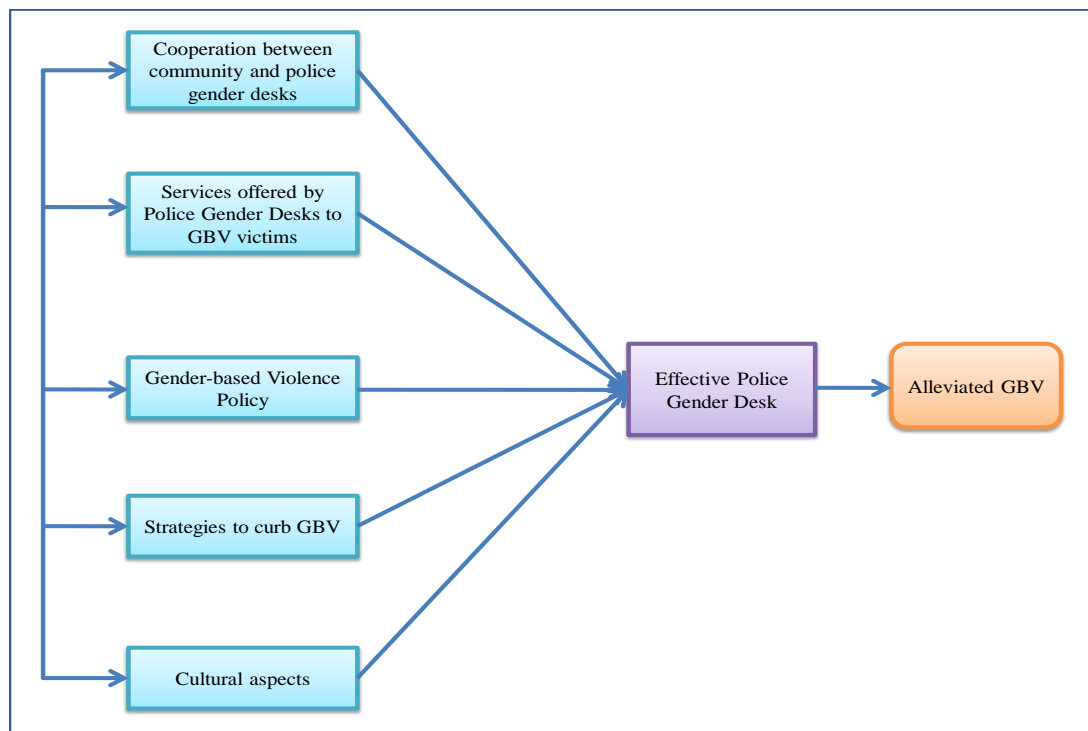


Figure 2.1: Conceptual Framework Illustrating the Intervention of Police Gender Desks in Reducing Gender-based Violence

2.8 Research Gap

Despite the significant body of research on gender-based violence (GBV) and police gender desks, critical gaps remain. From a knowledge perspective, most global and African studies have focused on the prevalence and barriers to reporting GBV but have not thoroughly examined the long-term effectiveness and impact of police gender desks, particularly in the Tanzanian context. For instance, while studies by García-Moreno et al. (2015) and Hegarty et al. (2019) have highlighted barriers and existing interventions, there is limited understanding of how these interventions can be adapted or improved within specific cultural and social settings, such as those in Dodoma City.

Methodologically, existing research has predominantly used either cross-sectional or qualitative designs, which provide limited insight into the nuanced interactions between police gender desks or the community they serve. Studies like those conducted by Oyediran et al. (2017) and Ncube et al. (2020) have identified resource constraints and cultural barriers but have not employed comprehensive mixed-methods approaches that could offer a more holistic understanding of the challenges and successes of gender desks. This study will bridge this gap by employing a mixed-methods approach, combining both qualitative and quantitative data to provide a deeper, multidimensional analysis of police gender desks' effectiveness.

Regarding findings, previous research, such as Ndenje (2014) and Ndyamukama (2016), has documented challenges like inadequate funding, lack of privacy, and insufficient training but has not provided concrete recommendations that are tailored to the realities of Tanzanian police practices and community engagement.

Furthermore, there is a lack of focus on the specific successes and achievements of police gender desks. This study will address these findings gaps by evaluating both the achievements and limitations of police gender desks and offering practical, evidence-based recommendations for improving their effectiveness in reducing GBV.

In summary, this research filled these gaps by providing a comprehensive assessment of police gender desks in Dodoma City, using a mixed-methods approach to explore their challenges and successes while generating actionable insights that contribute to both academic literature and practical interventions.

2.9 Summary

This chapter reviewed literature related to the current study. Some of views from the scholars, who had had ideals on related subject, were taken and put in this chapter. The chapter is mainly divided into theoretical and empirical literature review while other parts include research gap and conceptual framework. This chapter give clear image that the study is researchable following the concurrence to other scholars.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Overview

This chapter presents the research methodology used in this study. It describes research design, research approach, study area, target population, sample size and sampling technique, data collection and analysis techniques. Basically, it gives the blue print within which the study was conducted.

3.2 Research Design

This study adopted a case study design. Krishna (2006) defines case study as a strategy for doing research which involves an empirical investigation of a particular contemporary phenomenon within its real life context. Case study design helped a researcher to assess the challenges and success of police gender desks to reduce gender-based violence in Dodoma City.

3.3 Research Approach

This study used both qualitative and quantitative approaches to assess the challenges and success of police gender desks to reduce gender-based violence in Dodoma City. The mixed approach was used for the two main reasons; quantitative approach enabled a researcher to use statistical data as a tool for saving time and resources while the qualitative approach through observation, interview, or focus group discussion created a wider understanding of behaviour of a participant (De Vaus, 2014). Furthermore, quantitative information involved causes of gender-based violence and issues which are being reported to police gender desks and to determine community awareness of police gender desk for GBV and their perceptions towards

the effectiveness of gender desk. However, qualitative data involved information about how the reported gender-based violence are handled by police officers at gender desks, and who are responsible police officers for gender desk and why?

3.4 Study Area

The study was conducted at Dodoma City. This is because Dodoma was among the top five regions in Tanzania with high prevalence rate of women experienced physical violence. Therefore, the study randomly selected five (5) wards (Makulu, Kilimani, Nghong'ona, Hazina, and Majengo) among 41 wards of Dodoma urban as a sample size. There were two reasons for employing only 5 wards (Makulu, Kilimani, Nghong'ona, Hazina, Majengo) out of 41 wards were; first, manageability of selected wards. The researcher considered the fact that studying a few wards among many would be easy to manage. It would not be possible to study all 41 wards due to time and financial expense. The second reason was that of familiarity. The researcher was very familiar with some of the five wards which were involved in the study. This helped the researcher to gather data easily as she went straight to the streets and see the responsible persons without hesitating.

3.5 Target Population

The target population of this study were the survivors of GBV residing in Dodoma city in the central part of Tanzania. These were the people who had suffered gender based violence and their cases had been reported to police. This was the population that had information that was used to assess the challenges and success of police gender desks to reduce gender-based violence. The information from the target population was complemented by key informants who were drawn from the actors of

the gender violence justice systems. These were the police officers, government officers such as children's officers, probation officers, doctors/clinicians who filled the P3 forms and the Non-Governmental Organization (NGOs).

3.6 Sample Size, Sampling Technique and Sampling Procedures

The sample size is simply a representative of the population. Thus, in this study, a sample size of 80 (Table 3.1.) respondents were selected from 8 wards of Dodoma city. These were 60 survivors of GBV who formed the target population and 20 key informants. The survivors of GBV were purposively sampled from the list obtained from the gender desk at the police station. Due to the presence of only one police station with police gender desk with a total of 9 police gender desk officers, only 3 police officers from gender desk were randomly selected for the study. Moreover, the researcher included 10 community members were by 2 community members where drawn randomly from each of the 8 selected wards. In addition, 5 Community Development Officers one from each ward, and 2 representatives from NGOs that were active in advocating for justice and genders related issues were also included as key informants in the study.

3.6.1 Sampling Procedure

The sampling procedure refers to the step-by-step process used to select participants from the target population. This study employed a multi-stage sampling procedure. First, Dodoma City was purposively selected due to its high prevalence of gender-based violence, as reported in national statistics (TDHS, 2015/2016). Then, five wards were randomly chosen from the city's 41 wards: Makulu, Kilimani, Nghong'ona, Hazina, and Majengo. Within each ward, a list of gender-based

violence survivors who had reported cases to the police gender desks was obtained, and simple random sampling was used to select women victims as respondents. Key informants, such as Police Gender Desk Officers, Community Development Officers, and representatives from NGOs, were purposively sampled based on their relevance to the study.

3.6.2 Sampling Technique

The study used a combination of purposive sampling and simple random sampling techniques. Purposive sampling was applied to select key informants who had specific knowledge and experience related to gender-based violence and police gender desks. This technique was necessary to ensure that insights from knowledgeable individuals were captured effectively (Kothari, 2014). Simple random sampling was used to select women victims from the list provided by the police gender desks, ensuring that each survivor had an equal chance of being chosen, which enhances the representativeness of the sample (Creswell, 2014).

Table 3.1: Sample Size Composition

Target Population	Sample Size
Women victims of GBV	60
Community members	10
Police Gender Desk Officers (PGDOs)	3
Community Development Officers	5
Representatives from NGOs	2
Total	80

Source:

3.7 Sampling Procedures

Purposively sampling procedure was applied to get a police station with Gender Desk then all Police Gender Desk Officers were selected in order to get

representative information from the respondents of this study. In addition, purposive sampling procedure was employed because there is only one Police Station with Police Gender Desk Office in Dodoma City. Moreover, simple random sampling was employed in order to get a reasonable number of victimized women who were regarded as respondents of this study.

Simple random sampling was also employed as well in order to get community members who are not victims of gender-based violence from five wards whereby members of the household that is husband, wife, children and/or relatives were sampled. It is important to note that the five wards represented all other wards in Dodoma City with victims whereby simple random sampling employed to get those five wards. Furthermore, purposive sampling was used to select one Community Development Officer from each ward. Similarly 2 NGOs from the NGO Network for Dodoma (NGONEDO) was involved.

3.8 Data Collection Methods

In research, there are two types of data, namely: primary data and secondary data. The two types of data are essentially important for gathering information. Similarly, in this study, both primary and secondary data were employed. The following subsection gives the clarity on how each of the data type was used in the study.

3.8.1 Primary Data

Primary data are the first-hand information collected directly from the study respondents. Additionally, primary data are the factual and origin. That is to say, respondents are usually considered to have these data; that is why the researchers

seek them. For that matter, the primary data are collected for the first time from the respondents by the researcher. Moreover, these data are collected for the purpose of getting solution to the problem at hand. In this study, the primary data were collected by using questionnaire and semi-structured interview.

3.8.1.1 Questionnaire

A questionnaire is a data collection instrument composed of series of questions and other prompts for the purpose of gathering information from respondents (Abawi, 2013). The questionnaires that were used in this study consisted of both closed-ended and open-ended questions. Questionnaire collected data on causes of GBV and the issues which are reported to police gender desk, based on physical, psychological and sexual violence. Additionally, through questionnaires, the researcher collected data based on community awareness of gender desk factors contributing to the success/failure of gender desks that is focused on: knowledge and skills of gender desk officer, number of cases reported, and number of cases solved. It is also important to note that questionnaire was used to collect data from respondents that are women victims of gender-based violence. Moreover, each questionnaire took 45 minutes when filled in by the respondents.

3.8.1.2 Interview

Kothari (2010) defines interviews as face to face conversations between the researcher and respondents conducted to get information, views and opinion from the respondents. In this study, the kind of semi-structured interview was administered to Police Gender Desk Officers to get detailed information about how reported GBV are handled by the police officers at gender desks. Also, semi-

structured interview was used to collect detailed information from the other key informants, such as community members, Community Development Officers, NGOs and ten (10) women victims of GBV's responses to validate the responses from the questionnaire. Furthermore, each semi-structured interview conducted took 45 minutes.

3.8.2 Secondary Data

Secondary data are the second-hand information already existing collected by other investigators in the past. That is to say, these data are found in the government publications, websites, books, journal article and internal records. In this study, the afore-said secondary data were involved during secondary data collection.

3.9 Methods of Data Analysis

3.9.1 Quantitative Data Analysis

The process of quantitative data analysis was based on descriptive statistics analysis by using a Statistical Packages for Social Science (SPSS) 16.0 Version. This kind of analysis was used to analyse the data which were gathered by using questionnaire method. The essence is that quantitative data are represented numerically. Therefore, all questions in the questionnaire demanded statistical analysis. Therefore, frequency and percentage are used in this study to show the extent to which women victims agreed or disagreed with particular notion(s), etc.

3.9.2 Qualitative Data Analysis

The qualitative data analysis involved thematic analysis whereby a six phase approach to the thematic analysis was applied as pointed out by Kothari (2010).

First, the researcher familiarized with the data by reading and re-reading textual data; second, initial codes were generated; third, searching for themes was done by shifting codes to themes; forth, reviewing of potential themes was done; fifth, a researcher defined and naming themes; and lastly, a report was produced. Moreover, thematic analysis was employed in this study because the researcher used qualitative method (i.e., semi-structured interview) which demanded some explanations during analysis. Therefore, verbatim and/or quotations are used in this study to represent the key informants' responses on various questions asked.

3.10 Validity and Reliability of the Study

Validity: Validity refers to the extent to which an instrument measures what it is intended to measure. In this study, validity was ensured through content validity and construct validity. Content validity was achieved by designing the questionnaire and interview guide based on established literature and consulting with experts in gender studies to ensure the relevance and comprehensiveness of the instruments (Fraenkel & Wallen, 2012). Construct validity was maintained by aligning the questions with the study's conceptual framework and research objectives. Additionally, a pilot study was conducted to refine the instruments, and necessary adjustments were made based on the feedback from the pilot participants.

Reliability: Reliability refers to the consistency of the research instruments in producing stable and consistent results. To ensure reliability, the study employed test-retest reliability and internal consistency measures. Test-retest reliability was assessed by administering the questionnaire to a small group of participants twice, with a time interval between the two tests, and comparing the results for consistency.

(Creswell, 2014). Internal consistency was measured using Cronbach's alpha coefficient for the questionnaire items, aiming for a reliability coefficient of 0.7 or higher, which is considered acceptable (Bland & Altman, 1997). The interview guide's reliability was ensured through rigorous training of the research assistants to standardize the data collection process.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

First, I sought research approval letter from the Open University of Tanzania then I applied a permit for data collection from Municipal Director of Dodoma Urban, Regional Police Commander (RPC) of Dodoma, and Ward Executive Officer (WEO). Moreover, in the process of data collection from respondents, I complied with the following ethical issues: Confidentiality, the researcher assured the respondents that whatever the information that was provided was kept confidential and not disclosed to the third party. Also, the researcher ensured respondents' anonymity by avoiding writing respondents' names on the questionnaire and privacy that was observed during data collection.

Moreover, there was no any respondent that forced to participate in the study without his/her consent. The consent was sought by explaining the importance of the research findings to the community and general public. And therefore, any respondent who wished to withdraw from participation in the study was allowed to do so. Lastly, the researcher acknowledged accordingly all consulted scholarly works.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Overview

This chapter presents the result and discussion based on specific objective of the study. The findings are presented in form of figures, charts and tables.

4.2 Respondents' Demographic Information

4.2.1 Respondents' Distribution by Age

The study findings show that majority of the respondents 66.25% were between 18 to 40 years of all respondents as illustrated in Table 4.1. This age bracket consists of early adults who are most economically active and mostly face violence in the study area. Similarly According to KDHS (2014) 45% of the violence took place to women aged 15 – 49 years. It is at this age bracket when there is high physical and emotional abuse. Minority of the respondents were between 41 to 50 years and 51 years and above equivalent to 15% and 18.75% respectively In that respect, the study encompassed all reasonable ages because they were able to give information on the effectiveness of police gender desk on curbing GBV in the community.

Table 4.1: Respondents' Distribution by Age (N=80)

Age of the respondents	Frequency	Percent (%)
Between 20 and 29 years	39	48.75
Between 30 and 39 years	14	17.5
Between 40 and 49 years	12	15
Between 50 and 59 years	13	16.5
Above 60 years	2	2.5
Total	80	100.0

Source: Research data, 2024.

4.2.2 Marital Status of the Respondents

The researcher wanted to establish if there was a relationship between the marital status and the occurrence of Gender Based Violence. Five categories of marital status were observed among the study respondents. Table 4.2 highlights the results of the respondents' marital status. The study findings indicated that majority of GBV survivors (40%) were divorced, the survivors who were married and those who were single were 11.25% and 32.5% respectively. Moreover, 16.5% of the respondents were separated. This showed that most survivors had failed marriages as a result of spouse violence. Also, the implication from these findings is that gender-based violence is prevalent among the society leading to divorced and separated. Similarly, 10-70% of women have been physically assaulted by an intimate partner at some point in their lives (Heise, Ellsberg and Gotten Moeller, 1999). Around 120 million girls globally have experienced some form of forced sexual activity at some point in their lives. According to UNICEF, 2014 the most common perpetrators of such violence are the current or former husbands, partners or boyfriends.

Table 4.2: Marital Status of the Respondents (N=80)

Respondents	Marital status	Frequency	Percent (%)
Women victims	Married	4	5
	Single	16	20
	Divorced	27	33.75
	Separated	11	13.75
	Widow	2	2.5
PGDOs	Married	1	1.25
	Single	1	1.25
	Widow	1	1.25
CDOs	Married	1	1.25
	Single	2	2.5
	Widow	2	2.5
Community members	Married	1	1.25
	Single	2	2.5
	Divorced	4	5
	Separated	2	2.5
	Widow	1	1.25
NGO representatives	Married	2	2.5
Total		80	100.0

Key: CDOs = Community Development Officers, PGDOs = Police Gender Desk Officers, and NGO = Non-governmental Organization

4.2.4 Respondents' Distribution by Education Level

Another parameter in the study's analysis was respondents' education level. The purpose of this was to investigate whether there was a link between the level of education and the reported of cases of gender-based violence. Education level of the respondents ranged from primary level to university. Table 4.3 describes a summary of the respondents' education level.

Table 4.3: Respondents' Education Level (N=80)

Respondents	Education level	Frequency	Percent (%)
Women victims	Primary education	22	27.5
	Secondary education	15	18.75
	Certificate education	16	20
	Diploma education	7	8.75
PGDOs	Diploma education	2	2.5
	Degree education	1	1.25
CDOs	Diploma education	3	3.75
	Degree education	2	2.5
Community members (Educators, Nurses, and Lawyer)	Certificate education	3	3.75
	Diploma education	5	6.25
	Degree education	2	2.5
NGO representatives	Degree education	2	2.5
Total		80	100.0

Key: CDOs = Community Development Officers, PGDOs = Police Gender Desk Officers, and NGO = Non-governmental Organization

The study finding shows 22 respondents' equivalent to 27.5% of the respondents had attained primary education while 15 respondents equivalent to 18.75% of the respondents attained secondary education. Furthermore, 19 respondents equivalent to 23.75% of the respondents, 17 respondents equivalent to 21.25% of the respondents, 7 respondents equivalent to 8.75% of the respondents had completed certificate education, diploma, and degree education respectively.

Based on the study finding majority of the respondents have attained certain level of education thus they were educated people who knew their rights and were ready to

report the violence. Similarly, Study done by Johnson & Gosselin, 2018 shows that the impact of education is well prominent in technological issues where many techniques are used to improve office performance in government and non-government organizations, particularly in insuring GBV is diminished. Moreover, Study done by Behrman, et al., 2017 in Uganda and Malawi revealed those women's levels of education reduced the likelihood of their experiencing sexual violence. Therefore, the number of years a person spends in school has a positive correlation with a decrease in both future victimization and perpetration of physical and sexual violence since Education increases women's employment opportunities and socio-economic status.

4.3 The Success of Police Gender Desk in Curbing Gender-Based Violence in the Study Area

This objective of the study was to explore the success of police gender-based violence in the study area. By using questionnaire and interview methods, the researcher explored respondents' information.

4.3.1 Gender Desk Success in Curbing the Occurrence of Gender Based Violence in the Study Area

The researcher aimed to identify how the gender desk succeeded in curbing the occurrence of gender based violence in the study area. Respondents were asked questions through questionnaire and interview methods to give their views. Figure 4.1 illustrate the results.

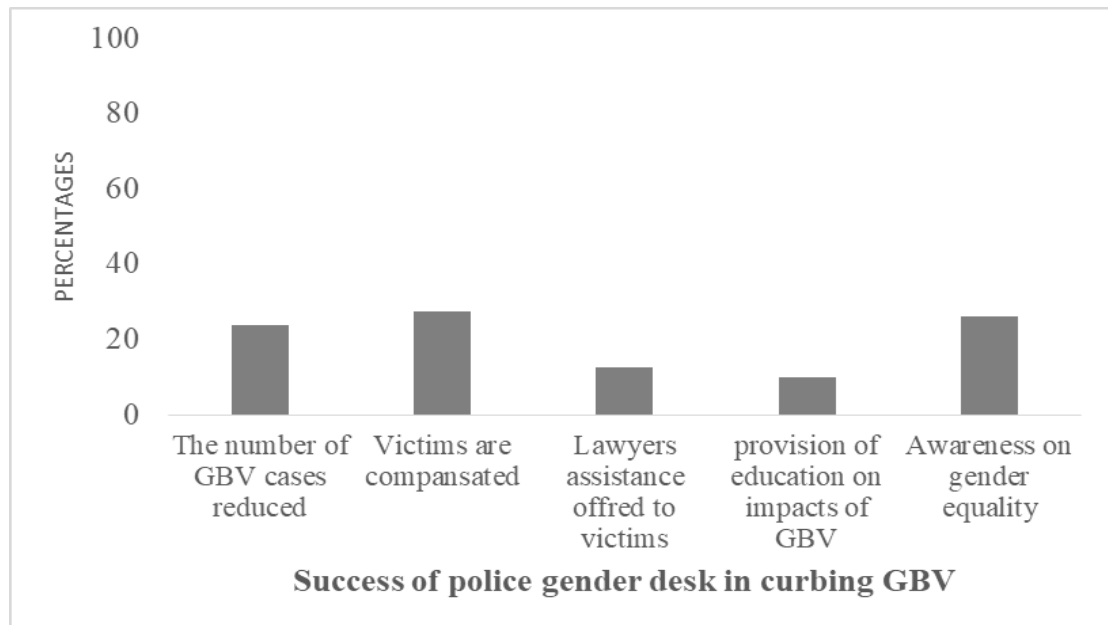


Figure 4.1: Success of Gender Desk in Curbing Gender-based Violence (N=60)

It was identified that, the desk managed to victims to be compensated as reported by 27.5% of women victims (see Figure 4.3). Awareness creation to the community on the impacts of gender-based violence was one of the police gender desk's missions to reduce the violence as reported by 26.2% of women victims involved in this study.

The number of gender-based violence cases was reported to have been reduced tremendously as reported by 23.8% of women victims, while lawyer assistance was also offered to victims with the same aim of reducing gender-based violence as reported by 12.5% women victims as per illustrations in Figure 4.6. The mission to offer education on the impacts of gender-based violence was one of the achievements of the policy gender desk as revealed from 10.0% of women victims. In fact, the police gender desk was appreciated to have been assisting the community of the battle against gender-based violence.

4.3.2 Effectiveness of Police Gender Desks in Addressing Cases of Gender-Based Violence

When asked about the effectiveness of PGDs, 42 respondents (70%) felt that the desks were effective in handling their cases, noting the assistance in legal procedures and case filing as helpful. Another 12 respondents (20%) found the desks only partially effective, citing the need for more consistent follow-up and faster response times. Meanwhile, 6 respondents (10%) expressed dissatisfaction, finding the PGDs ineffective, mainly due to resource shortages and case delays.

Table 4.4: Effectiveness of Police Gender Desks in Addressing Cases of Gender-Based Violence (N=60)

Level of effectiveness	Frequency	Percent
Effective	42	70
Partially Effective	12	20
dissatisfaction	6	10
Total	60	100.0

Source: Research data, 2025.

4.3.3 Specific Types of Support or Assistance Did Respondents Receive From the Police Gender Desks

Half of the respondents (50%) received legal assistance, which included help with filing cases and understanding the legal process. This support was widely valued for empowering respondents to pursue justice. Additionally, 18 respondents (30%) received psychological support, describing it as a significant help in coping with the emotional aftermath of violence. A smaller group, 12 respondents (20%), received referrals to external services, such as shelters or specialized counseling, indicating PGDs' role in connecting victims to broader support networks.

Table 4.5: Specific Types of Support or Assistance Did Respondents Receive From the Police Gender Desks (N=60)

Types of support	Frequency	Percent
Legal assistance	30	50
Psychological support	18	30
Referrals to external services	12	20
Total	60	100.0

Source: Research data, 2025.

Through semi-structured interview conducted with the key informants, various ways were explained regarding the success of Police Gender Desk Office in curbing gender-based violence.

Police Gender Desk Officers said that through Police Gender Desks, there is a good atmosphere and friendly environment for civilians to come and explain their cases.

During semi-structured interview, one Police Gender Desk Officer said:

“Tanzania Police Force is proud of the Police Gender Desks since its inception in 2012. Before the introduction of Police Gender Desk Office in the police stations, many people were afraid of speaking openly about the incidences or violence they saw, heard, or told. The environment was more open to the extent one person speak, while other police officers are walking and talking at the same time. In short, it was difficult listening to the complainant while some people nearby are talking – breached confidentiality. With PGDs, we now talk with our clients friendly because no disclosure of information given. At the same time, our clients enjoy when meeting Police Gender Desk Officers wearing civilian”.

This study findings is in line with UNFPA (2012) which recommends an ideal gender desk was supposed to have a minimum of the following infrastructures and equipment; a separate room for survivors to report the crime and where interviews could be conducted and evidence collected and recorded in an atmosphere of privacy. The investigating officers are supposed to be in civilian clothing to increase

a survivors' comfort in approaching security personnel. Additionally, Ndyamukama (2016) asserts that having a private room enables the one who has experienced gender-based violence to speak in confidence to trained officers.

On the other hand, NGOs representatives insist that have been educating the mass on the effects of gender-based violence. Such education has shown the positive effects since the incidences of gender-based violence have been lessened. During semi-structured interview, one NGOs representative who said:

“Actually, after the introduction of Police Gender Desk Office in 2012, the incidences of GBV have been lessened. This is due to the fact that the mass are educated on the effects of practicing GBV or any kind of violence. So, most of people are taking a step of not involving in the events or incidences of GBV. For instance, the number of killing elderly with accusations of being witchcrafts has been reduced. People now know the true reason for elderly to have red eyes”.

Additionally, community members said that Police Gender Desk Officers have succeeded to strengthen a relationship between them and the members of the society.

During semi-structured interview, one community member said that:

“Back in the days, when one is called to report to the police station, there were options came onto the mind: first, an offense has been committed; therefore, a person who is called is for the witness. Second, the person who is called is the one committed an offense. Currently, we are working very closely with the Police Force. They depend on us, and we depend on them for safety and security. Therefore, Police Gender Desk Office, which is a part of Police Force, strengthens the relationship between the Police Force and the society”.

According to Ndyamukama (2016), the police gender desks were among the programmes established under the community policing in Tanzania. Community policing was in the constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania Article 146(2)(b), which involve the community with preventing and reducing crime,

reducing disorder and anti-social behaviours, increasing feeling of safety, improving community accountability, reducing corruption in police services, and enhancing respect in human rights (Ndyamukama, 2016). Similarly, UNFEM (2009) reports that Rwanda created a gender promotion desk for the aims of increasing police logistics for rapid response to reports of gender-based violence, increasing police capacity in investigating gender-based violence cases and increasing police capacity in counselling.

In addition, there are other aims such as developing strategies and guidelines on the prevention of response to gender-based violence, increasing awareness on gender-based violence and the role of the police gender desk, assisting survivors in accessing appropriate health, legal and psychosocial support services; also collecting data and information on gender-based violence. National Gender and Elderly Committee (NGEC) (2014) of Rwanda states that the police gender desks are expected to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. For prevention, they are expected to educate community policing initiatives, conduct patrol and other measures that could deter and prevent sexual offences from occurring. Generally, it is observed that Police Gender Desk Officers have been successfully educating the mass/society, also they have been lessened the gender-based violence incidences as well as strengthened themselves with members of the society.

4.4 The Ways Reported GBV Cases were Handled by Police Gender Desk

The second objective of the study was to explore the way reported gender-based violence cases were handled by the police gender desk officers. By using questionnaire and interview methods, the researcher explored respondents'

information.

4.4.1 The Way Gender-Based Violence Cases Were Handled by the Police Gender Desk Officers

One of the roles of police gender desk is to give gender based assistance to GBV victims. Through questionnaire and interview methods respondents were asked about the way gender-based violence cases were handled by the police gender desk officers. The results are illustrated in Table 4.9.

Table 4.6: The way Gender-based Violence Cases Handled by the Police Gender Desk (N=60)

Ways used to handle GBV cases	Frequency	Percent (%)
Lawyer assistance offered to the victim	29	48.3%
Investigation of case magnitude	21	35%
The victim is sent to the representative assistance	5	8.3%
Ensure compensation to the victim	3	5%
Education on the impacts of GBV	2	3.4%

Key: GBV = Gender-based Violence

From this study, it was noted that the gender desk gave lawyer assistance to the victims as stipulated by 48.3% of women victims. The finding also revealed that police gender desk was dealing with investigations of case magnitude before taking other measures as reported by 35% women victims as illustrated in Table 4.9. Once the victims identified were sent to the respective assistance area through police gender desk as pointed out by 8.3% women victims. Furthermore, the study results revealed that police gender desk had a number of responsibilities including ensuring

compensation to the affected victims as outlined by 5% of women victims. Also 3.4% of the women victims said provision of education on the impacts of gender-based violence to be among the roles of police gender desk on handling the gender-based violence.

Thus, based on the study findings it implies that gender desk officer played their role to help the victims of gender based violence and thus availability of gender desk in police stations may be one of the effective way to reduce the occurrence of gender based violence in the community and country at large. Similarly, study done by Johor, 2018 reported that police gender desk performing its responsibilities to its best level to ensure the community gets service as they do expect helps to reduce and prevent gender based violence in our community.

Moreover, Findings from the key informant on the way gender-based violence cases were handled by the police gender desk was also collected through interview. One of the Police Gender Desk Officers said that:

“It is very true we [Police Gender Desk Officers] know how gender-based violence cases are handled. Other participant may say the way they know. This is our role. For instance a person is raped. After a victim reported to our unit, we make a follow-up by taking other police men/women to go and arrest the perpetrator. As usual, we dress civilian so that the perpetrator gets no time to identify us. After arresting the perpetrator, we take him/her to the police station or police post. After some arrangements to be done including opening the file and take all important data from the perpetrator, we send him/her to the court. At the same time, we collect other evidence including clothes worn during the event and doctor’s report. There, at the court, the perpetrator will be interrogated to provide evidence. If she or he has a lawyer, she or he can be assigned by his or her lawyer. Our role will continue up to the time magistrate makes a decision after hearing the two sides; offender and complainant”.

Generally, The way the GBV cases were handled matter a lot especially to community and person who commit the violence due to the fact that effectively handled case for example payment of large fines and heavy law punishment such as imprisonment may prevent the repletion of this action and in turn helps in preventing the occurrence of gender based violence in the community.

4.4.2 Police Gender Desk Officers' Efforts to Investigate Reported Gender-Based Violence

It is normal phenomenon to find a solution when a certain problem occurs (Cordon, *et al.*, 2018). Similarly, GBV victims normally find a solution when they find some difficulties. However, getting the reality on the significant problem pertaining to the gender-based violence is one of the responsibilities of police gender desk. Moreover, it was important to evaluate the performance of this desk, particularly on making investigation when a case is reported. Table 4.10 summarizes the opinions of women victims on police gender desk officers' efforts to investigate reported gender-based violence.

Table 4.7: Women Victims' Opinions on Police Gender Desk Officers' Efforts to Investigate Reported Gender-based Violence (N=60)

Perception	Frequency	Percent
Strongly disagree	6	10
Disagree	7	11.7
Uncertain	2	3.3
Agree	30	50
Strongly agree	15	25
Total	60	100.0

Source: Research data, 2025.

This was managed by using an attitudinal question of which 50% of women victims, as illustrated in Table 4.10, agreed that police gender desk officers used desirable efforts to make investigation for the reported GBV. The attitudinal questions, however, was asked to women victims only. Further analysis noted that, 25% of women victims 'strongly agreed' that police gender desk officer were using their extra efforts to ensure that the reported cases are put under investigations in order to come up with the truth on the case.

Additionally, fewer women victims (11.7%), as indicated in Table 4.10, 'disagreed' with the statement that police gender desk officers were using their efforts to make investigation on the GBV reported case, while 10.0% of women victims 'strongly disagree' with the statement, and 3.3% of women victims were uncertain. The afore-said views from women victims imply that about three quarters (75%) of women victims believed that the police gender desk used more efforts on fighting against gender-based violence in the study area. On the hand study done by Dustin, (2016) argued that it depend on the implementation strategies. Similarly, Study done by Bwalya (2010) claimed that gender desks are established to ensure effective prevention, investigation and excellent service delivery when dealing with cases of gender-based violence.

4.4.3 Immediate Response of Police Gender Desk Officers After the Occurrence of Gender-Based Violence

The researcher also wanted to determine whether the desk was responding to gender based violence occurrence quickly or not. Table 4.11 summarizes the responses of women victims on whether police gender desk officers responded immediately after

the occurrence of gender-based violence.

Table 4.8: Police Gender Desk Officers Responded Immediately to the Gender-based Violence (N=60)

Perception	Frequency	Percent
Strongly disagree	8	13.3%
Disagree	7	11.7%
Uncertain	5	8.3%
Agree	21	35%
Strongly agree	14	23.3%
Total	60	100.0

Source: Research data, 2025.

From this study findings, it was noted that 35% of women victims and 23.3% of the women victims agreed and strongly agreed respectively that the desk to have been responding instantly and immediately to the gender-based violence victims as illustrated in Table 4.11. Moreover, the finding revealed that 13.3% of women victims and 11.7% of the women victims strongly disagreed and disagreed respectively that they believed that the police gender desk was not performing its responsibility as required. The study finding also revealed that 8.3% of women victims were uncertain whether the gender desk responded immediately or not. Nevertheless, from these study findings more than half of women victim's equivalents to 58.3% showed up their appreciation on the good performance of the gender policy desk. This indicates that police gender desk is working and performing their roles especially on curbing the gender based violence in the community and the study area.

Similarly, study done by Cerrato & Cifre, (2018) agreed that an immediate response to gender-based violence by the policy gender desk is one of the expectations for the

community in order either to eliminate gender-based violence or save the life of the victim hence reduce the occurrence of GBV in the community. Through semi-structured interview, two opinions were given by the key informants in regard with whether Police Gender Desk Officers were responding immediately after the occurrence of gender-based violence or not; fewer of the key informants said Police Gender Desk Officers respond immediately after gender-based violence occurrence, whereas majority of key informants said it depends on the circumstances.

During semi-structured interview with Police Gender Desk Officers, with regard to their response on gender-based violence, all six Police Gender Desk Officers said they quickly or immediately respond when gender-based violence occurs. During semi-structured interview, one Police Gender Desk Officer emphasized that:

“It is one of our roles to take immediate actions toward helping gender-based violence victims; therefore, when we are informed about the occurrence of gender-based violence, we quickly respond. May be if other colleagues are relocated some roles, it is where we make some delays. But that appears once or twice sometime in a year. It is our tradition going to the incidence while delaying”.

Majority of key informants opined that Police Gender Desk Officers do not respond immediately to gender-based violence. Same key informants had some contrasting views. During semi-structured interview, a representative from NGOs said that:

There is no hurry among Police Gender Desk Officers. The fact is that they wait for the victims to present the cases in their Police Gender Desk Office. I am trying to imagine a case of a person who is living 18 km away from the Police Gender Desk Office. Police Gender Desk Officers will start giving their common reasons such as patrol car has no petroleum. That means the Police Gender Desk Officers can immediate, perhaps, respond to the person with a car simply because they can make use of that car to find the offender.

Additionally, a community member, who is also a nurse, said that:

“I am not sure if the Police Gender Desk Officers can respond quickly to the victim who is poor. I am saying this because there was a case [she didn’t mention that], which involved the offender – son of the rich vs. the complainant – daughter of the poor. That case, we can’t say much, but it seems like it is over, though the daughter’s side complains that they are not heard. Several times, at the court, the magistrate is sick; the case is postponed. On the ground, people are saying that this case could be dissolved if the offender would be a poor’s son and complainant would be a rich’s daughter because money [to be specific he talked about bribe] by any means would be provided to the Police Gender Desk Officers to arrest and make sure a poor’s son imprisoned a couple of years – thirty years”.

Thus, about a half of women victims said that Police Gender Desk Officers can respond immediately after the occurrence of gender-based violence; however, the majority of key informants were of the different view by considering some factors such as Police Gender Desk Officers’ ability to go and arrest a perpetrator if she or he stays far from the station. Similarly, key informants opined that a person with money may determine whether Police Gender Desk Officers to go the gender-based violence events or not. Therefore the government should create conducive environment for the police gender desk officers such as infrastructure like cars and offices so that they are in the position to offer immediate and timely services/help to the victims of GBV as reported by Cerrato & Cifre, (2018) in their study that it’s not only eliminating GBV in the community but also saving the life of the victims thus immediate and timely response is the key.

4.5 Challenges Encountered by Police Gender Desk

The third objective of the study was to explore the Challenges encountered by police gender desk. By using questionnaire and interview methods, the researcher explored respondents’ information. Through semi-structured interview, the researcher asked

the Police Gender Desk Officers on the challenges they get when fighting gender-based violence in their respective police gender desk offices. Police Gender Desk Officers explained several challenges.

During semi-structured interview with Police Gender Desk Officers, on the part of challenges, PGDOs focused on financial difficulty. During semi-structured interview, one Police Gender Desk Officer disclosed that:

“We have lots to do, but we face financial difficulty due to minimal budget allocation. It is difficult to make some patrols due to shortage of petroleum in the patrol car. Under that circumstance, we can’t do things which are above our abilities. This makes civilians to shout that when they need us, we fail to reach them the appropriate time because we are not considerate”.

The above statement is in line with IEA (2009) which insists that the gender desks were poorly financed. There was also inadequate transport to and from police stations and courts. This made the investigation to last longer the 24 hour limit stipulated by law within which to detain a suspect before being arraigned in court.

In addition, Ndyamukama (2016) asserts that police gender desks are still challenged with another challenge is shifting of trained police gender desk officers to other tasks which are not concerning GBV; this causes the lack of human resources who have been trained for combating GBV. Also, Wanjohi (2012) observed that police gender desks are expected to improve the police response to victims and to refer them to organizations for professional services. By referring victims to organizations for professional services, probably the author was thinking about psychology and/or counselling service, which is supposed to be carried out by a professional therapist and not otherwise.

Generally, women victims and the key informants provided their views on challenges facing Police Gender Desk Office. Some of the challenges need immediate intervention. For instance, that of financial difficulty must be resolved by the government by ensuring that the budget of the Ministry of Home Affairs is given as requested and some adjustments be made to ensure they get what they request.

4.6 Strategies to Eliminate Gender-Based Violence in the Study Area

The fourth objective of the study was to examine the strategies used to eliminate gender-based violence in the study area.

4.6.1 Assistance Received by Gender-Based Violence Victims in the Study Area

Table 4.7 illustrate the opinions of women victims on the kind of assistance and where they received the assistance from others when they experience gender-based violence.

Table 4.9: Women Victims' Opinions on the Kind of Assistance Received (N=60)

Assistance received by victims	Frequency	Percent
Police station assistance	12	20
Assistance from nearby leaders (Ten Cell Leaders)	30	50
Rushing to hospital	6	10
Lawyers from their firms	4	6.7
Human rights organization assistance	3	5
Reconciliation through local leaders (such as religious leaders)	5	8.3
Total	60	100.0

Source: Research data, 2025.

From the study findings 50% of women victims, as illustrated in Table 4.7, said that they were helped by the nearby government leaders (such as *Mtaa* Chairperson and Ten Cell leaders), while 20% of women victims received the assistance from the

police station especially gender desk. Rush the victim to hospital then police station for assistance when the case of gender-based violence was experienced was reported by only 10% of women victims. Moreover, very few women victims reported the case of gender-based violence to the police station then get human rights assistance from the recognized institution as reported by 5% of the respondents.

Similarly, fewer women victims (6.7%) reported to the police to get the lawyer assistance. This indicates, among other things, that some women victims felt shy to report the gender-based violence cases to the responsible persons ie the PGDOs for assistance. Additionally, some women victims feared to report their cases to the police to get assistance due to the notion that if they report those perpetrators who, in most cases, are their partners might be jailed. That is why some women victims go to the nearby government leaders, such as Ten Cell Leaders and Mtaa Chairperson who always advise the spouse to respect and forgive each other. Hence, they kept the secret while continue getting gender-based violence. Furthermore, during semi-structured interview with Police Gender Desk Officers, it was observed that gender-based violence victims perceive the gender desk of police as the second place after conducting some consultative dialogues with local leaders at first. This was clearly stated by one of the Police Gender Desk Officers as follows:

“It is very true that victims of gender-based violence come to us. Many victims come after consulting the local leaders in their respective locality such as ten cell leaders because of being closer at the grassroots. Very few people may come to us first before going to other places, which we recommend, for instance, victims of rape. These people usually come to us because they know Police Form No. 3 (PF3) is found at Police Station”.

On the other hand, representatives from NGOs stipulated that usually educated people seek legal advice from the available NGOs. During semi-structured

interview, one representative emphasized that:

“We [I and several NGOs officers] have identified that majority of people who are seeking legal advice from the NGOs are elites. This group knows exactly what they can get from us. It is the same belief that in the NGOs, there are lawyers and advocates who can provide legal advice. Therefore, whenever they are in trouble, especially experienced GBV, they come to us. We advise them on the legal grounds”.

Also, community members had similar view to those of Police Gender Desk Officers. During the semi-structured interview, community members agreed that the nearby local leaders have been helpful as they help to handle some of problems they experienced including gender-based violence. This is well explained by one of the community members as:

“Actually, when we experience any problem(s), we start seeking a help from our ten cell leaders. It is because of their quick responses upon our requests. When counting the available houses in this area [showing the researcher], the seventh house, which has a CCM flag, belongs to our ten cell leader. That is where we go when facing problems”.

Moreover, Community Development Officers said that they are sought by members of the society, especially those with marital conflicts to dissolve their problems after having done some initiatives such as consulting best friends, and relatives. During semi-structured interview, one Community Development Officer disclosed that:

Sometimes, we get people, especially victims of gender-based violence to our offices after failing to dissolve their problems by using other means such as using their close friends and relatives. For instance, a victim of gender-based violence may come after realizing that the efforts made by her close friends and relatives are not effective. Of course, we receive them, and we help them also.

Thus, study finding indicate that victims of gender-based violence seek different assistance such as from local leaders, police station or lawyers as stipulated by women victims as well as the key informants when experienced gender-based

violence however since majority seek assistance from government local leaders the perpetrator normally do not get punished by the law but rather they just reconcile this may be the main reason for the repetitive occurrence of gender based violence in the study area because no to low punishment for the respective person. Report by Abuja, (2020) agrees that in most cases perpetrators of gender based violence goes unpunished and government institutions are always looking for ways to settle the case out of court, despite the pain suffered by the victims.

4.6.2 Efforts to Reduce Gender-Based Violence

Women victims were asked on their awareness on government's efforts towards the battle against gender-based violence in particular. Figure 4.1 summarizes the responses given by women victims.

Table 4.10: Efforts to Reduce Gender-Based Violence

Government Efforts to Handle GBV	Percentage
Advocacy on gender equality	28.8%
Establishment of policy gender desk	45%
Equal seat in parliament	10%
System of education for all	10%
Not sure	6.2%
Total	100.0

Source: Research data, 2025.

The study findings (figure 4.1) indicate that majority 45.0% of women victims said that one of the strategy to reduced gender based violence by the government is establishment of police gender desk in the police station, which is responsible for taking care of all issues related to the Gender issues including GBV. According to Sineiro, 2020 the government need to ensure survivors and those at risk of violence have access to comprehensive support including quality health services, psychosocial support, justice and legal services, shelters and safe spaces and economic assistance.

Additionally, 28.8% of women victims said that the government encourage gender equality which implies that encouraging gender equality may at most cases helps to reduce gender violence. Similarly study done by Sida 2015 report that GBV is linked to gender-based power inequalities, key in GBV prevention are efforts to increase gender equality and transformation of gender norms. It was also noted from 10.0% women victims as illustrated in Figure 4.3, the government set an equal seats in parliament with the same aim of fighting against GBV (Johor, 2018).

Moreover, 10.0% of the victims said that the system of Education to all was one of the government's efforts to eliminate gender-based violence in the study area. Another group of women victims constituted 6.2%, as indicated in Figure 4.3, were not sure of the strategies imposed by the government. In fact, the responses from women victims indicate how they were keen on following issues related to the gender-based violence in their respective area because it is not a common phenomenon for them to know the government's effort towards curbing gender-based violence as with this case. On the other hand, Police Gender Desk Officers, they said that there are many efforts taken by different stakeholders in handling gender-based violence. Some of the highlighted efforts are such as efforts by the government, NGOs, individuals, and the Police Force. During semi-structured interview, one Police Gender Desk Officer states that:

Generally, the efforts to handle gender-based violence can be grouped into several levels, such as government, NGOs, individuals, and Police Force under Police Gender Desk. The government is responsible to safeguard the rights of people, including right to life. NGOs are there to bring awareness about certain challenges people face, for instance, discrimination against women. Individuals are also bringing a good move about mistakes done by people. For the case of gender-based violence, such individuals are expected to speak loudly and condemn the

accusers of the violence. In addition to that, the Police Force, which is the law enforcer, is responsible for safeguarding citizens and their properties as stipulated in Police Government Order as well as Constitution of the United Republic of Tanzania of 1977. Therefore, we safeguard citizens; we ensure that they are safe. In so doing, we handle their cases including those of gender-based violence under Police Gender Desk.

Similarly, NGOs representatives were of the same thoughts as said by the Police Gender Desk Officers. One representative from NGOs said that:

“First of all, understand that NGOs are there to bring the voice of voiceless people before other instrument does. As such, we [referring to NGOs] are handling various matters including gender-based violence because we have a variety of experts working in the respective areas of expertise. When victims of gender-based violence come to our [NGOs] offices, we introduce them to Social Worker, Psychologists, and Sociologists who know more about human behaviours by considering different dimensions. Also, the government is another important instrument of handling gender-based violence cases. It is the government, which enacts laws and enforces them at the same time using the legal instrument, Police Force”.

On the other hand, community members identified government, Police Force, Community Development Officers (CDOs), and elderly in handling gender-based violence cases. During semi-structured interview, one female community member, who is also an educator, emphasized that:

“The government struggles more to end if not to reduce gender-based violence because its role is to make sure people are not humiliating one another. Police Force is empowered legally to enforce all enacted laws by the government. I know one of the laws, which is, however, enacted in Education Act of 2016 S 22, among other things, specifies those law breakers, especially the ones who impregnate either primary school or secondary school girls to be liable to imprisonment for thirty years. Also, Community Development Officers have been handling various matters including gender-based violence through their public awareness and education to the mass. Lastly, elderly cannot be underscored in handling gender-based violence cases; these adults play their part by advising people not to engage in harmful activities, including creating violence to other human beings”.

Furthermore, Another Community Development Officer said that:

The government is there to ensure that there is order. As such, the government through Police Force ensures people and order in the country. This is well-known by everyone who reads our National Constitution (Constitution of United Republic of Tanzania of 1977). As stated, the Police Force is responsible for keeping peace; therefore, the task, among others, they do is to ensure that no one is taking others for granted to deprive others' rights. We [referring Community Development Officers] are also in the same truck working with other instruments (e.g., government and Police Force) to disseminate information to people on getting rid of deviant behaviours including violence (i.e., gender-based violence). So, we bring awareness to the people.

Therefore, the study findings implies that different stakeholders including Government, NGOs and community in general have to come together in enforcing laws and orders, proving education and awareness concerning gender related issues in this way we can easily reduce and prevent gender based violence within our community and country at large. Similarly study done by Sida, 2015 argued that in order to effectively prevent GBV we need to improve existing legislation directly and indirectly linked to GBV, Bridging the gap between law and practice, Strengthening and enhancing multi-sectorial services at all levels such as health sector response to GBV including reproductive health, medical and psychosocial support and adequate police and justice response including legal aid to survivors.

4.6.3 Time taken by the Victims to Report the GBV Event to the Respective Body

In order to know how the community perceived the impact of gender-based violence, it was important for the researcher to examine women victims on the time taken to report the GBV event occurred as this could give the real picture on how they care.

Table 4.8 illustrates time taken by victims of gender-based violence to report the events of gender-based violence.

Table 4.11: Time Taken to Report the Gender-based Violence Event(s) as Explained by Women Victims (N=60)

Time taken	Frequency	Percent
Immediately	21	35%
After a while	12	20%
No specific time	7	11.7%
Depends on the nature of GBV	9	15%
Can either be reported or not depends	6	10%
After proof of all evidences	5	8.3%
Total	60	100.0

Key: GBV = Gender-based Violence

The study findings (Table 4.11) shows that 35% of women victims reported the GBV event immediately as it occurred, this implies that the victims are aware of their gender based rights and are against the gender based violence while 20% of women victims reported the violence after a while unlike those who were specific to act immediately. Furthermore, 15% of women victims had not specific time to report the violence to the authorized destination, but it also depends on the nature of gender-based violence occurrence. The study finding also revealed that from, meanwhile 10% of women victims, as indicated in Table 4.11, said the victim can either be reported or not depending on the nature of the GBV and 8.3% of women victims reported that the case can be reported after proof of all evidences.

Through semi-structured interview, the key informants were asked to state the time taken by the victims to report the gender-based violence events. All groups (i.e., Police Gender Desk Officers, NGOs representatives, community members, and Community Development Officers) constituting the key informants had similar

opinion.

Police Gender Desk Officers said that victims of gender-based violence are reporting the events of gender-based violence following certain intention. One Police Gender Desk Officer said that:

There are no specific times for the victims to report the gender-based violence incidences/events. Others may come immediately after the occurrence of the incidence, whereas other victims come after being told that it is a must to come to us. Additionally, those who quickly come to us; usually, they are either raped or bitten by their spouse(s). So, they come immediately so that we provide them with PF3 in order to go to the hospital for medical check-up. On the other hand, victims, who after a while come to us, are the one forced by their family members. Under that circumstance, the victims come to seek advice or open the file case.

Additionally, NGOs representatives believed that the victims of gender-based violence have different time to report depending on gender-based violence understanding. During semi-structured interview, one NGOs representative said that:

Assume that a person is raped, and she doesn't know where to report. Such person needs to be educated before going to the Police and hospital respectively. However, for a person, who knows legal actions, when bitten by his/her spouse may go directly to police station for PF3.

Other circumstance may include a victim of GBV who does not want to take action towards the perpetrator. Such a person needs advice first so that she/he makes good decisions.

Generally, all the opinions given by the key informants were not different from those opined by the women victims, though stated in different ways. This indicates that respondents, to a very large extent, know when to report, however, time of reporting varies from one victim to another. Thus, there is a need for the community to be educated to understand that GBV occurrence should be reported immediately to the respective body in order to prevent continues occurrence of GBV in the community.

Similarly, Study done on the guidelines for reporting gender-based violence prepared by UNICEF, 2002 the potential positive impact of reporting on GBV for survivors and others within the affected population must be clearly articulated beyond simply raising awareness, promoting an organization to increase their visibility and/or generating greater donor interest.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

This study examined the challenges and successes of police gender desks (PGDs) in reducing gender-based violence (GBV) in Dodoma City. The research aimed to understand the effectiveness of PGDs, identify barriers faced by survivors, and suggest strategies for improvement. It focused on four objectives: assessing awareness and perceived success of PGDs, evaluating the handling of GBV cases, identifying challenges encountered by PGDs, and recommending strategies to enhance their effectiveness.

The findings from the questionnaire responses of 60 women survivors of GBV provided insights into various aspects of their experiences with police gender desks. All respondents were aware of the existence and purpose of PGDs, largely due to community programs and NGO outreach initiatives. This high level of awareness highlights the impact of local efforts in informing the community about resources available for GBV victims.

In terms of perceived effectiveness, 70% of respondents felt that PGDs were effective in addressing their cases, particularly appreciating the legal guidance and support provided. However, some respondents reported limited follow-up, which affected the continuity of support. Half of the respondents received legal assistance, while 30% received psychological support, and 20% were referred to additional services. Although these services were valued, some participants felt that the PGDs needed more resources to ensure consistent support.

When asked about the success of PGDs in reducing GBV within the community, about 25% of respondents rated them as very successful, while 45% felt they were moderately successful. Many noted that PGDs had contributed to increasing community awareness of GBV, although additional resources would further enhance their impact. A smaller portion of participants felt that the PGDs were only slightly or not successful, often due to persistent cultural stigma and logistical constraints that hinder effective service delivery.

The study also identified significant challenges faced by survivors when seeking help from PGDs. A majority of respondents reported issues such as long waiting times, a lack of privacy during consultations, and societal stigma associated with reporting GBV. Transportation difficulties were also mentioned, which often delayed or prevented follow-up visits. These findings indicate that while PGDs provide crucial services, resource limitations and social barriers continue to impact their effectiveness. Respondents offered several suggestions for improving the operations of PGDs. Many recommended increasing the number of trained officers and creating private consultation spaces to protect confidentiality. Additionally, expanded community outreach and stronger partnerships with NGOs were suggested to promote awareness and reduce stigma around GBV reporting. Improved resources, such as transportation and additional funding, were also emphasized to help PGDs facilitate follow-up services and better meet the needs of survivors.

In conclusion, the findings show that police gender desks play an essential role in supporting GBV survivors, providing guidance, and assisting with legal processes. However, limitations related to resources, privacy, and societal attitudes need to be

addressed to improve their effectiveness. Enhancing funding, training, and community engagement are critical steps toward strengthening PGD operations and advancing efforts to reduce gender-based violence in Dodoma City.

5.2 Conclusions

The study described the causes of GBV and the issues which are being reported to the police gender desks, assessed on how the reported GBV are handled by the police gender desk, determined the challenges encountered by the police gender desk and recommend the strategies to eliminate gender based violence in the community in the study area. Conclusions are made based on the findings of the specific research objectives. The study results concluded various caused of gender based violence in the study area such as bad customs and traditions, male dominance, male stereotype and patriarchal system, superstition belief, behavioural inheritance from ancestors and lack of economic resources possessions such as wealth possession which make women weak over men.

With respect to the second research objective, the study concluded that on handling the GBV cases the PGDO provided assistance to the victims of GBV such that they were given lawyers assistance and compensation as well as the education on the impacts of gender-based violence and lastly perpetrator of GBV were brought to the court for case filing and hearing as well as punishment. Moreover, the third objective sought to determine the challenges encountered by the gender desk the highlighted challenges facing the gender desk are information disclosure, financial difficulty, lack of psychology knowledge among PGDO, corruption, and lack of cooperation from the victims.

Lastly, the study conclude numerous strategies to eliminate gender-based violence in the study area including creating advocacy to the community on gender equality which will eventually make the entire community aware of the impacts of gender-based violence and ways to overcome, provision of GBV impacts as well as cooperation with other stakeholders.

5.3 Recommendations

The recommendations of this study are made based on the conclusion from research findings. With respect to the causes of the gender-based violence, the community should be educated first on the impacts of gender-based violence to the economic and human welfare, but also the government should address this issue to the entire community and put strategies to fight against it. All other human rights' stakeholders should be involved in fighting against gender-based violence.

As it was noted that the community have their own initiatives to fight against gender-based violence in the study area, it is therefore high time for government, non-government organizations and other stakeholders to put more efforts on this issue including finding out the way to overcome its. Furthermore the government should provide adequate infrastructure such as cars, offices and establishing more police gender desk at police station in order to provide timely and immediate assistance to the victims and lastly helping in preventing gender based violence among the families and community member at large.

5.4 Areas for Further Studies

This study could not tackle all issues related to the police gender desk on fighting against gender-based violence due to number of reasons including limited resources,

but also time constraint. It is therefore believed by a researcher that, other areas of research can continue be researched by other scholars. These areas include the reasons for existence of cultural norms which allow gender-based violence, the common relationship between police and the community on fighting disastrous issues.

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APPENDENCES

Appendix 1: Questionnaire for Women Victims of GBV

A: BACKGROUND OF RESPONDENTS

1. What is your age? (Years)

2. Sex.....

i. Male

ii. Female []

2. Your marital status is

i. Single.

ii. Married.

iii. Separated.

iv. Widow/widower.

v. Divorced. []

3. Your highest level of education is.....

i. Non formal .

ii. Primary.

iii. Secondary.

iv. College.

v. University []

vi. Others (specify).....

B: SUCCESS OF POLICE GENDER DESKS IN REDUCING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

4. How successful do you believe police gender desks have been in reducing gender-based violence in your community?

.....

5. In what ways do you feel the police gender desks have been effective in addressing your case of gender-based violence?
6. What specific types of support or assistance did you receive from the police gender desks?

.....

C: REPORTED ISSUES OF GBV

4. What kind of assistance you received from others when you experienced violence?.....

5. What efforts would you do to handle the situation after experienced violence?

6. Did you able to report immediately after violence?
 How.....

D: CHALLENGES

7. Do you think police gender desks have got challenges which affect them to function effectively? If “yes” explain

.....

8. Do you have any other opinions about gender-based violence and police gender desks?

.....

.....

.....

E: STRATEGIES

9. What are the strategies and efforts made to reduce Gender Based Violence?

.....

.....

.....

.....

Thank you for your cooperation!

Appendix 2: Interview guide to Community Members

Section A: Personal Particulars

- a) Age.....
- b) Gender.....
- c) Education level:
- d) Department/Section:
- e) Marital status.....
- 1. Do you know about GBV? What is it?
- 2. Had you seen any woman victim who had experienced GBV? If “yes” what assistance did you provide to her?
- 3. What kind of GBV had you seen a woman victim to experience?
- 4. What were the causes of such kind of GBV to that woman victim?
- 5. Did you facilitate her to report that GBV to police gender desk?
- 6. In your opinion, how the police gender desk officers responded about reported GBV?
- 7. In your opinion what are the success of police gender desks in reducing GBV?
- 8. Explain about the challenges which face police gender desks in minimizing GBV.....
- 9. Any other opinions.....

Thank you for cooperation

Appendix 3: Interview guide to Representatives of NGOs

A: Personal Particulars

- (a) Age.....
- (b) Gender.....
- (c) Education level:
- (d) Department/Section:
.....
- (e) Marital status.....
- (f) Work experience (in terms of years).....

Section B: Interview questions guideline

1. Do you aware with the most kind of GBV which occur in your area?
2. What are the causes of that kind of GBV?
3. What do NGOs do to educate community to be aware with police gender desks?
4. Do you think that community people are aware on how to report to police gender desks when are violated? Explain about how they do?
5. As a representative of NGOs which combat with GBV, do you know how GBV cases are handled in police gender desks? Please explain how they are managed.....
6. How do you cooperate with the community to minimize gender-based violence?
7. Does the community understand the procedures to follow after being violated? How?

8. To what extent have police gender desks succeed to reduce gender-based violence in your area?
9. Are you aware with the challenges which face police gender desks in reducing GBV? Explain them.....

Thank you for cooperation

Appendix 4: Interview guide to Police Gender Desk Officers

Section A: Personal Particulars

- (a) Age.....
- (b) Gender.....
- (c) Education level:
- (d) Department/Section:
- (e) Marital
status.....
- (f) Work experience (in terms of years).....

Section B: Interview questions guideline

1. What are the most kind GBV reported to police gender desk?
2. What are the causes of that kind of GBV?
3. Can you explain how reported issues of GBV are managed on the desk?
4. Can you explain about who is the responsible police officers for gender desks and how?
5. Can you talk more about the success of police gender desks in reducing GBV?
6. Are there any challenges which affect the success of police gender desk to avoid GBV? Explain.....

Thank you for cooperation!


Appendix 5: Budget for Research Activities

No	ITEMS	NUMBER OF ITEMS	AMOUNT (Tshs)
1	Note books	3 @ Tsh. 5 000/=	15 000/=
2	Clear bags	3@ Tshs. 7 000/=	21 000/=
3	Pens	10@ Tshs 500/=	5 000/=
5	Rim paper	1@Tshs 12 500/=	12 500/=
6	Photocopy and printing		200,000/=
7	Tape recorder	1 @450 000/=	450 000/=
8	Soft binding		300 000/=
9	Hard binding		600 000/=
10	Transport		250 000/=
11	Accommodation		400 000/=
12	Research assistants	3@ Tshs. 300 000/=	900 000/=
13	Lap top	1 @Tshs 800 000/=	800 000/=
	TOTAL		3 153 500/=

Appendix 6: Working plan


[illegible]

Appendix 7: Clearance Letter



THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA
DIRECTORATE OF POSTGRADUATE STUDIES

P.O. Box 23409
Dar es Salaam, Tanzania
<http://www.openuniversity.ac.tz>



Tel: 255-22-2668992/2668445
ext.2101
Fax: 255-22-2668759
E-mail: dgps@out.ac.tz

Our Ref: PG 201702597

19th August 2020

Director,
Dodoma City Council,
P.O BOX 1249,
DODOMA.

RE: RESEARCH CLEARANCE

The Open University of Tanzania was established by an Act of Parliament No. 17 of 1992, which became operational on the 1st March 1993 by public notice No.55 in the official Gazette. The Act was however replaced by the Open University of Tanzania Charter of 2005, which became operational on 1st January 2007. In line with the Charter, the Open University of Tanzania mission is to generate and apply knowledge through research.

To facilitate and to simplify research process therefore, the act empowers the Vice Chancellor of the Open University of Tanzania to issue research clearance, on behalf of the Government of Tanzania and Tanzania Commission for Science and Technology, to both its staff and students who are doing research in Tanzania. With this brief background, the purpose of this letter is to introduce to you Ms. LAZARO, Tulizo with Reg No: PG 201702597 pursuing Master of Arts in Gender Studies (MAGS). We here by grant this clearance to conduct a research titled "An Assessment of the Challenges and Success of Police Gender Desks to Reduce Gender Based Violence in Dodoma City ". She will collect her data at your area from 19th August 2020 to 09th November 2020

In case you need any further information, kindly do not hesitate to contact the Deputy Vice Chancellor (Academic) of the Open University of Tanzania, P.O.Box 23409, Dar es Salaam. Tel: 022-2-2668820. We lastly thank you in advance for your assumed cooperation and facilitation of this research academic activity.

Yours Sincerely,

Prof. Hossea Rwegoshora
For: VICE CHANCELLOR
THE OPEN UNIVERSITY OF TANZANIA

JAMHURI YA MUUNDANO WA TANZANIA
HALMASHAURI YA JIJI LA DODOMA
(Barua zote zipelekwe kwa Mkurugenzi wa Jiji)

MKOA WA DODOMA

Tel: 2354817
Fax: 2354817/2321550

Unapojibu tafadhari taja:

Kumb Na. HMD/1.10/5

Mkuu wa Idara/Mtendaji wa Kata ya
DAWATI LA POLISI LA TINKA
Halmashauri ya Jiji

SLP 1249
DODOMA



Ofisi ya Mkurugenzi wa Jiji

1 Mtaa wa CDA,

S.L.P. 1249

baruapepe:cd@dodomacc.go.tz

Tarehe: 22/08/2020

YAH: KIBALI CHA UTAFITI/KUKUSANYA TAARIFA

Husika na somo tajwa hapo juu.

Namtambulisha kwako NDUG. TULIO JOHN LAZARO ambaye
ni mwanafunzi kutoka Chuo. KIKUU HURIA TANZANIA Amekuja kufanya

Utafiti /kukusanya taarifa za kimasomo katika Halmashauri ya Jiji la Dodoma, Utafiti
huo unahusu: " AN ASSESSMENT OF THE CHALLENGES
AND SUCCESS OF POLICE GANDER DESK TO REDUCE
GANDER BASED VIOLENCE IN DODOMA CITY.

Utafiti huo utafanyika kwa muda wa MBEJI MIWILI kuanzia tarehe
Agosti 2020 hadi tarehe Novemba 2020

Kwa barua hii, naomba apokelewe na kupatiwa ushirikiano ili aweze kufanikisha
utafiti wake kama ilivyoielezwa hapo juu.

Ahsante.

Kny: MKURUGENZI WA JIJI
DODOMA



Nakala:

Mkurugenzi wa Jiji

DODOMA

-Aione ndani ya jalada

Mkuu wa Chuo

Chuo... KIKUU HURIA TANZANIA