



Issue Brief on Gender Based Violence in Kenya Report, 2014

Objective: To identify the prevalence rate of gender based violence by type

Methodology: The study adopted a triangulated methodology research survey design. Qualitative data was collected from key informants drawn from criminal justice agencies, gender and social development departments, children departments and Non-Governmental Organizations. 819 respondents were interviewed with women constituting 80% (n=656) and men 20% (n=163). Target population was composed of both male and female between the ages of 12 – 64 years. Questionnaires and interview guides were used to collect data. Quantitative data was analyzed through SPSS while qualitative data analyzed through interpretation of key informants' responses along research themes. Data collected was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics.

Counties of study: Busia, Mombasa, Vihiga, Nairobi, Samburu, Machakos, Migori, Kilifi, Nyeri, Kisii, Nakuru, Kiambu and Meru.

Findings: Gender Based Violence was reported to be prevalent in Kenya. The most prevalent forms of GBV reported per county studied were: hitting and battering/ beating which was experienced in all counties studied i.e Mombasa (95.2%), Machakos (95.2%), Kisii (92.9%), Meru (88.0%) and Nairobi (75.5%); domestic conflict was most prevalent in Machakos (90.5%), Migori (86.6%), Meru (66.3%), Kisii (64.3%) and Busia (61.5%); Verbal abuse/ Abusive language was the third most prevalent form of GBV and most common in Mombasa (95.6%), Busia (67.3%), Machakos (66.7%), Meru (66.3%) and Kisii (57.1%) respectively; Rape was the fourth form of GBV and was most reported to be prevalent in Kilifi (97.9%), Kisii (85.7%), Machakos (71.4%), Mombasa (66.7%) and Nairobi (64.9%); Economic abuse/ deprivation (financial restrictions) was another form of GBV and was reported to be most prevalent in Busia (65.4%), Nairobi (50.0%), Kisii (28.6%), Nakuru (27.7%), Nyeri and Samburu (22%) counties respectively. Other forms of GBV reported included; psychological humiliation which was reported to be prevalent in Mombasa (86.7%), Nairobi (51.1%), Meru (45.8%), Machakos and Kisii (21.4% each) and Nakuru at 13.8%;

early child marriages for girls under the age of 18 years was another form of GBV which was reported to be common in Samburu (76.2%), Migori (69.5%), Kilifi (60.4%), Busia (21.2%) and Kisii (14.3%); defilement was reported to be prevalent more in Mombasa (60.0%), Machakos (58.3%), Kisii (57.1%), Nairobi (24.5%) and Nyeri (17.5%); Forced marriages was common in Samburu (90.5%), Mombasa (40.0%), Kilifi (29.2%), Busia (21.2%) and Meru (12.0%); frustrations was most reported in Mombasa (75.6%), Nairobi (51.1%), Kisii (21.4%), Nakuru (10.6%) and Vihiga (7.5%); Sexual Assault was reported to be most prevalent in Samburu and Kisii (42.9% each), Mombasa (22.2%), Nairobi (21.3%) and Nakuru (20.0%); forceful initiation was reported to be prevalent in Samburu (51.7%) and Migori (26.8%); Killings and Murder was reported in Meru (34.9%) Nakuru (15.2%) and Nyeri (9.5%); Restrictions or denial of freedom of movement was common in Meru (15.7%) and Machakos (15.5%); and finally Discrimination was reported to be most common in Kisii (85.7%), Nairobi (13.8%) and Meru at (10.8%).

Conclusion:

The findings point out that all counties experience different types of GBV in varying proportions. The study recommends that focus needs to be in addressing all forms of GBV but with special emphasis on counties such as; Kilifi, Kisii, Machakos, Meru, Mombasa and Nairobi which featured prominently in terms of prevalence of most serious forms of GBV. Further, the critical factor underlying GBV is cultural beliefs supporting men's dominance over women and the prevalence GBV rate is relatively high with an apparent indication of increasing men's vulnerability.

References

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