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AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE PERCEPTIONS AND EXPERIENCES OF MALE VICTIMS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE: A CASE OF MARAMBA WARD 6, UMP.

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ABSTRACT
Gender based violence (GBV) is a global problem that greatly impact on health, causes social predicament and violates human rights. Male victims of GBV emerge as a micro, meso and macro problem that have been neglected, as such, it was imperative to uncover the experiences, perceptions and coping strategies of male victims. Such experiences are exacerbated by male repulsive policies coupled with females misconstruing the support to mean being abusive. Cultural traits on the other hand have burdened men with responsibility yet this era of globalization have resulted in unemployment racking havoc on men while offering better opportunities for women through affirmative action. The reversal of roles at family level results in men being viewed as weak, unable to play the fatherly figure of fending for the family. Men are not immune to abuses thus; adopting coping strategies enable them to be resilient to the abuses. The coping strategies lean on how they perceive their victimization. What remained unproven was how the victims are affected by the dormant stance taken by communities, societies, family and themselves as individuals which is the genesis for their victimization. Therefore the study sought to make an investigation of perceptions, experiences of male victims in Maramba Ward 6 in UMP. The research utilized triangulation research methodologies. Questionnaires were purposively administered to 35 respondents while 10 in-depth interviews were selected through snow balling. The FGDs were done with men such that specifically their plight would be attended to. The results showed that men too are vulnerable to GBV and refuted the claim that GBV by women is in self-defense since promiscuity, poverty, jealousy were popular reasons that exacerbated victimization of male victims. Their negative coping strategies were not only affecting the victims but could also affect the abuser and the children, leading to family breakdown. A multi sectoral approach which embraces male victims through improving service provision and increasing resources allocated to male victims is worthwhile. The approach will cease GBV to be a permanent feature and its effects in dismantling the family will be less likely to be experienced thus, a GBV free and just society.

Keywords Gender Based Violence, male victims, experiences, perceptions