GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

Research Report

Prepared by

Tanzania Media Women’s Association (TAMWA)
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<th>Full Form</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACP</td>
<td>Assistant Commissioner of Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DC</td>
<td>District Commissioner</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCD</td>
<td>District Community Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>DCDO</td>
<td>District Community Development Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FGM</td>
<td>Female Genital Mutilation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>GBV</td>
<td>Gender Based Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>JAG</td>
<td>Journalists Against Gender Based Violence</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>LHRC</td>
<td>Legal and Human Rights Centre</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MIACB</td>
<td>Mara Inter African Committee Bunda</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NBS</td>
<td>National Bureau of Statistics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NGOs</td>
<td>Non-Government Organization(s)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NHDS</td>
<td>National Health Demographic Survey</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RMA</td>
<td>Record Management Assistant</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RPC</td>
<td>Regional Police Commander</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SACP</td>
<td>Senior Assistant Commissioner of Police</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TAMWA</td>
<td>Tanzania Media Women’s Association</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNFPA</td>
<td>United Nations Population Fund</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HIV</td>
<td>Human Immunodeficiency Virus</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>VEO</td>
<td>Village Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>WEO</td>
<td>Ward Executive Officer</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1. INTRODUCTION

Between 2012 and 2013 the Tanzania Media Women’s Association (TAMWA) conducted trainings to journalists in the country so that they could write investigative stories on Gender Based Violence (GBV). The trainings were in response to the release of the National Health Demographic Survey (NHDS) data for 2010 that showed a high level of GBV for women and children.

The research by the National Bureau of Statistics (NBS) unveiled that 2.8% of girls were being married at the age of 15 – 19 years while no boys were married at that age. The research also revealed a high level of killings of old women, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), wife beatings and abandonment of families.

TAMWA conducted the GBV investigative journalism training with the support of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). Following the trainings, 30 journalists from across the country formed a Journalists Against Gender Based Violence (JAG) network.

During the months of November and December 2013, TAMWA sponsored JAG to go out in 20 districts in the country to do a thorough on GBV so as to give a detailed account of the same. They researched in 14 districts of Tanzania Mainland and other six in Zanzibar. The logic behind the research was to establish the extent of GBV acts in the mentioned districts by looking for data and narrative accounts relating to acts of GBV. The research centered on acts of rape, female genital mutilation, beatings, abandonment of women and children, killings of elders, child marriage and pregnancies. The outcome of the ten-day research by the journalists has proved without doubt that GBV is still rampant in this country.

Established facts include child marriages whereby they are being married off before having a clear and much needed knowledge of marriage, women are abused and beaten, men abandoning families and marrying other women, beatings and killings were also noted in huge numbers during the research. After the research, the journalists have written many news stories and feature articles that are annexed as part of this report.

News stories and feature articles that have been published from this research have also increased the understanding on the part needed to be played by the state apparatus and executives charged legally with related duties. The findings of the research have thus set a base for changing or amending laws as well as the mindset and the daily execution of duties by public officers so as to abolish GBV in the country.

In Tanzania Mainland, the research was carried out in the following districts and respective regions in brackets; Kahama (Shinyanga), Tarime (Mara), Sengerema (Mwanza), Newala (Mtwara), Mbulu (Manyara), Singida Rural (Singida), Bariadi (Simiyu), Busega (Simiyu), Nkasi (Rukwa), Dodoma (Dodoma), Babati (Manyara), Chunya (Mbeya) and Bunda (Mara). For Zanzibar, the research was conducted in six districts from regions of Mjini Magharibi, Kusini Pemba, Kaskazini Pemba, Unguja Kusini and Kaskazini Unguja.
2. RESEARCH OBJECTIVES

After the training, the journalists grasped the complex ideas on GBV issues and having formed JAG, they were supposed to put into practice the methodology they were taught.

The main objective of sending the journalists in different districts was, among other things, to find and consequently publish news stories and feature articles on the magnitude and dimensions of GBV. They would achieve that based on the narration of incidents as well as the use of reports on GBV from respective authorities and institutions in a specific area. The ultimate goal is to inform the public for a change in mindset in fighting GBV as well as for a change of laws and policies regarding GBV and finally for a change of attitude for those who deal with issues of GBV from the grassroots to the national level.

3. RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

The journalists who did the research in the districts used different methodologies in getting the information and data used to compile the report as shown hereunder:-

1. Cross-questioning
2. Interviews
3. District Reports
4. Texting
5. Telephone Communication
6. Tour in Different Villages and Wards
7. Observations

Through these methods, journalists were able to interview people of different categories and caliber, including district commissioners, district executive directors, chief medical officers in districts, head teachers, magistrates, village chairpersons, ward executive officers, officer commanders in districts and common people.
4. FINDINGS OF THE RESEARCH

Research findings differ from one district to another. There are districts that where female genital mutilation is a major problem, while in other districts abandonment of women is massive; others endure beatings; marrying off daughters at a tender age. Based on the data collected and given that the main objective of the research is to wage war on GBV, this report concentrates more on areas where the main issues that were being researched and have been found still to be problematic.

However, in some districts and regions, the report revisits problems such as raping, FGM and others so as to show the slow but yearly decline of GBV due to the empowerment of journalists through TAMWA’s trainings and partnerships with other institutions that wage war against GBV in the country.

5. RAPE

Rape is the crime committed by forcing another person to have sexual intercourse without their consent and against their will is still great in the country. Primary and secondary school children are being raped and should they conceive are being forced to drop out of school while old women are raped in different parts of the country for superstitious reasons or as a result of acts by drunkards. These events have caused GBV to persist with adverse effects psychologically to the casualties of these incidents.

According to two police officers of the Gender Desk, Singida, Mohamed Fakihi and Fortuna Sanga, rape incidents have been on the increase since the inception the desk three years ago. Despite the fact that there is more awareness and cases are being reported at Police Stations, most of these cases do not reach the courts of law due to either lack of sound evidence or those involved sort it out among them and do not to the police so that they can complete their investigations.

**Table 1** Cases that were reported at Gender Desks at Police Stations and the ones that were instituted in courts and judgments delivered in 2011 to 2013;

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF GBV</th>
<th>REPORTED CASES AT POLICE</th>
<th>CASES INSTITUTED IN COURTS</th>
<th>JUDGEMENTS DELIVERED</th>
<th>DISMISSED CASES</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>YEAR</td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>12- 13</td>
<td>11-12</td>
<td>12-13</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Page 3 of 28
Cases that were reported at Gender Desks at Police Stations and the ones that were instituted in courts and judgments delivered.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of GBV</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>93</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>79</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>11</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>4</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>9</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

SUMMARY OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE INCIDENTS EMANATING FROM A RESEARCH CONDUCTED IN ZANZIBAR FOR JAN 2012 - NOV 2013

Table: 2 GBV incidents for six Zanzibar districts in 2012/2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type of GBV</th>
<th>Number of Cases</th>
<th>District</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Rape</td>
<td>242</td>
<td>Kaskazini B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Underage Pregnancies</td>
<td>228</td>
<td>Kati Unguja and Kusini (chake Chake Pemba)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Marriages</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>Kati Unguja and Kusini (chake Chake Pemba)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Abandonment of Women and Children</td>
<td>96</td>
<td>Kaskazini A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Beatings</td>
<td>388</td>
<td>Mjini Unguja</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>996</strong></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Rape Cases in Unguja north Region 2012/2013

Table: 3

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Area</th>
<th>Numbers</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mahonda Police</td>
<td>63</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gender Desk</td>
<td>66</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mfenesini Court</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mkono kwa Mkono (Kivunge) Station</td>
<td>81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In the District</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>242</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Mahonda Police, Kivunge Hospital)

5.1 OBSTACLES ON INSTITUTION OF CASES IN COURTS

The survey shows that only few cases out of 242 reported at Kaskazini Region were filed in court and among the obstacles mentioned is graft. The research reveals that Mahonda Police Station received 30 rape cases in 2012, only eight were filed in court for prosecution purposes but only one reached to the ruling stage. 30 rape cases were filed at Mfenesini Court but only seven in which culprits were adjudged guilty.

Table: 4 Rape Cases Filed at Mfenesini Court in 2012/2013

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Cases Filed in Court</th>
<th>Adjudged Accused Persons</th>
<th>Cleared Accused Persons</th>
<th>Ongoing Cases</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>16</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2013</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL</td>
<td>30</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Mfenesini Court)
5.2 OBSTRUCTION FOR DELIVERY OF JUDGEMENT

This systematic investigation has established that there is still a problem in delivery of judgements in rape cases. There is a pile of cases without any rulings and at times the cases end up arbitrarily.

A report from Mahonda Police Station for January to September 2012 indicates that out of 32 reported cases, only two of the accused persons were found guilty.

In 2013, out of 30 rape cases that were reported at the station, only one of those accused was adjudged.

One of the impediments for justice to be met is lack of education of how to keep and ultimately tender evidence in these cases. It has been found through the research that it is few people who know or have the courage to take their children to police stations/posts or hospitals without bathing them and this is done on customary reasons. By bathing them the evidence is erased and even if the case proceeds it will be lost.

The Office of Director of Public Prosecution (DPP) in Zanzibar says that some people do not know that once a child is raped she is not supposed to bath until she is taken to police or hospital. And, although there are some people who know of this, they find it difficult to leave the child in that state as they find it disgusting. As a result many involved in rape cases are bathed and evidence is lost.

Commenting on obstructions to judgement delivery, Mr Walid Mohd Adam, a lawyer with the DPP Office, said even in hospitals there are problems because some people take raped children and they often find doctors are absent or are directed to report back the next day. In that situation the adults have no option but to go back and bath their children.

Mr Walid says other obstacles are within the responsible institutions such as Police Force, Judiciary and hospitals. Giving examples, Mr Walid, he says some officers of the said institutions change what is written in PF3’s, hide or destroy them; are slow in paying witnesses their dues and the continuous adjournment of cases.

It has been revealed that a witness could be summoned more than three times to tender their evidence in courts of law only to the find cases being adjourned. The waste of their time and money and ultimately makes them lose heart and refrain from further court attendances, hence the cases stall.

Mr Nadhif from Prisons Department gives an example of a case involving his uncle. 12 summonses were issued but the case proceeded only three times and when it came up the other nine different days it was adjourned. The witness to the case, who happened to be the mother of the child finally got tired with the adjournments and declined to appear in court any more. This resulted in the case being closed.

Other impediments include the accused persons jumping bail and being on the run, witnesses refraining to appear in court to tender evidence for fear of being isolated by the community they come from or witnesses not having the fare to attend court hearings. Additionally some parents or guardians are ashamed to report or attend court cases for they do not like information of their raped children to be spread around the community and also decide to let the matter rest.
Another problem that prevents the course of justice is the law that makes it necessary for a doctor’s report that assures the court that there was actual penetration. Such evidence becomes impossible because too often the doctors do not inspect the raped person shortly after the act. Police and public officers have also proved that many cases of violence do not have sufficient evidence for a court of law to find them guilty and commit them to imprisonment.

“The rape acts in the country still constitute a big problem but citizens have not been sensitized enough to report the cases once they happen or they are obstructed legally or socially,” says Simiyu Regional Police Commander (RPC), Mr Salum Msangi.

RPC Msangi says the trend of GBV reports, including rape, is not satisfactory. He says many parents hold talks with the family of the culprit and agree not to take the cases to police or in courts of law.

“Once they do not agree then a parent will go to the Police but if they harmoniously find a common position the case is not reported, time runs out and hence evidence is wasted,” says RPC Msangi.

The law is clear that a raped person is to see a doctor for medical before bathing, so time used for discussion paves way for the affected person to have bath and ultimately loses important evidence.

He singles out another reason being poor communication infrastructure like roads and telephone.

“You find a village is situated more than 100 kilometres from police posts/stations so that the affected person finds it hard to make it,” says RPC Msangi.

Another reason is which is the outcome of poor infrastructure and communication systems is the accused persons being at large. PC Msangi says to counter this they have been educating communities on the importance of immediate reporting of incidents. He says the Police Force has put in place Gender Desks and initiated police reporting posts.

However, he says due to customs and traditions some of those who have been raped or family members decide to keep silent so as to avert shame on themselves and their families as they would not like people to know that they were once raped or a member of the family has been raped.

Head Clerk at Bariadi District Court, William Mbeke has this to say: “The complainants (in court) have to be close with the court. When evidence is needed they have to bring it promptly. Most of them do not do that, they just discuss the matter out of court with the accused persons and sort it out there.”

Leah Daniel is an officer with Kahama Legal Aid Centre who says there are many rape incidents in Kahama district and most of those raped are children of the age ranging from 13 to 15 years.
She is of the opinion that to great extent poverty causes the survivors’ failure of accessing their rights. This is because they do not have the money to make follow ups of their cases at Police or in courts of law while others are persuaded by the accused persons or their relatives not to tender evidence or seek justice.

Giving an account of events at Dongobesh Division Police Post in Manyara region, Corporal Charles says four rape cases were reported in July 2013.

One of them involved a 12 years old girl who was raped and the trial was underway at the district court and the accused person is remanded. However, he says the victim’s family reported that they do not have fare to make a follow up to the case and they would rather prefer it to be taken off the court’s files. They see it is easier for them to discuss the matter with the accused at home and finish off the matter. The police are yet to respond to their demand but it is obvious that if they fail to appear in court the case will be withdrawn.

The report has further come out with findings that some districts have no services for the people affected by GBV. In Busega district, Simiyu region, all hospitals and dispensaries that the journalists toured had no PEP drugs that are supposed to be given to raped persons within 72 hours so as to prevent infections of HIV and pregnancy.

Busega Chief Medical Officer, Dr Kasanza Msanja speaking at Nassa Health Centre says the Government has never been sent drugs there since he started work in 2010. “But we rarely get raped patients here. May be the Government’s concern is that the drugs will get expired without even being used because nobody needs it,” he notes.

5.3 EFFECTS OF RAPE

This research has found out that among the effects of rape is an HIV infection that causes Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) and that is because many of those who are raped are not provided with PEP drugs within 72 hours of the incident to prevent infections. Incidentally, this is also due to the failure of the affected people to report rape cases to police/hospitals or lack of understanding that this kind of prevention is available and that it can save lives of those who happen to be have been raped.

Another effect is pregnancies whereby young girls are forced to abandon school. Again, failure to report within 72 hours means the failure in stopping the pregnancy.
Data obtained from a research conducted by the Kahama Legal Aid Centre show that rape incidents in the district contribute to 10% of child pregnancies and 40% of HIV infections.

Apart from infections and child pregnancies many are also affected psychologically. They see the rape as a permanent wound in their lives and some decide to commit suicide rather than face society’s humiliation that they have been raped.

Kahama District Commissioner, Mr Benson Mpjesa advises parents not to let little children out of their houses at night especially in notorious areas.

He is of the opinion that society needs more education, whereby girls should be cautioned against desires for things or services they are unable to purchase. They should be contented with what their parents can afford. The DC also says it is high time that society brings back looks at the issue of ethical values and provide information and trainings on these to families.

6. CHILD MARRIAGES

Child marriages and pregnancies have been singled out as some of the problems that affect girls’ development in the communities they live in. The research carried out in Kati Unguja and Kusini Pemba districts came out with findings that this is an existing problem.

A total of 228 incidents of child pregnancies and 42 of child marriages were recorded in the two districts within Unguja and Pemba in a period of two years – 2012 and 2013. Out of those, 114 cases of pregnancies were reported from Pemba while 38 of child marriages were from Kati Unguja district.

Incidents of child marriages for the period of 2012 & 2013

Table 5

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Chake Chake</th>
<th>Kati Unguja</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Pregnancies</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>228</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marriages</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>42</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>152</td>
<td>118</td>
<td>270</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Ministry of Education, FAWE, Welfare, Gender Desk)
A One Stop Centre at Mnazi Mmoja Hospital has reported 74 cases of child pregnancies from Kati district in Unguja for a period of two years. 41 incidents happened in 2013 while 33 others occurred in 2012.

Reports from the Ministry of Education show that from 2012 to 2013 a total of 10 children became pregnant in Kati district. Out of those, five incidents were recorded in 2012 and others in 2013.

Furthermore four pupils were married at the age of 12 -13 years off in the period of 2013.

FAWE have recorded four cases of pupils getting pregnant, two incidents happened in Kusini Pemba and the other two in Kati district but say the actual incidents could be higher.

FAWE Project Officer, Ms Arafa Yahya says incidents of pupils getting pregnant are more common in rural areas but unfortunately they are not reported as required.

In Kati district a total of 29 parents (14 men and 15 women) were interviewed and confirmed that their children got pregnant in the last two years.

Fortunately, parents, village and district leaders who were interviewed showed conviction those problems of early pregnancies and child marriages were on the decline as compared to three years back and that is due to the work being done by some activists who inform and educate the society.

### Incidents of Early Pregnancies in Unguja District in 2012/2013

#### Table 6

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Institution</th>
<th>2012</th>
<th>2013</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Fawe</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mwera Gender Desk</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>One stop centre</td>
<td>33</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>74</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kati District</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Shehia</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>56</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>114</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Source: Respective Institution.*
Incidents of Underage Marriages in Pemba for the year 2012/2013

Table 8

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INSTITUTIONS WHICH COLLECTED THE DATA</th>
<th>UNDERAGE PREGNANCIES</th>
<th>UNDERAGE MARRIAGES</th>
<th>TOTAL</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Gender Desk, Police Kusini Pemba</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Education</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chakechake (Madungu, Kichungwani, Tibirinzi)</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>25</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ministry of Empowerment, Women and Children</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Point to Point Centre Chake chake</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>61</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>114</strong></td>
<td><strong>38</strong></td>
<td><strong>152</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(Source: Respective Institution)

Ministry of Education - Pemba has recorded a total of 23 cases from Kusini Region. Among those, 12 incidents regard underage pregnancies (Chakechake 5, Mkoani 7) and 11 are for child marriages whereby from Chakechake there were four (4) cases while seven (7) were recorded from Mkoani.

Gender Desk – Kusini Pemba recorded 13 cases whereby eight were for early pregnancies and five for underage marriages.

Point to Point Centre - Chake Chake. Research has come out with findings that a lot of 61 incidents related to early pregnancies from Chake chake. 33 incidents occurred in 2012 while 28 cases were reported for the period ending 2013.

Civil Societies – ‘JUKAMKUM’ AND WAMATA, these societies have explained that the problems of early marriages and underage pregnancies are on the decrease since the inception of civil societies that fight the vice by providing education to the citizens.

6.1 SOURCE OF THE PROBLEM

Child marriages and pregnancies is a chronic or habitual problem in the research area and consequently in the country. Many of those children who get pregnant are primary or secondary school pupils. As a result of pregnancies they drop out of school and some get married.

Many of them regret when they realise they are pregnant and that they have lost the opportunity to continue with their education.
Some parents are alleged to pressurize their underage daughters to get married so that they can get the bride price.

Research has unveiled that a number of such incidents happen in the rural areas but are kept secret.

Many girls end up greatly disappointed due to early pregnancies and now advise their peers not to fall prey to men’s lures.

Ester Benjamin (17), did her standard seven examination at Mwabasabi Primary School in Sengerema district while pregnant.

Ester has this advice to other girls: “I implore my fellow girls to concentrate in their studies and break bad habit of falling in love with men at tender age, this is dangerous for your health and it is going to be a burden to your families.”

She says she leads a very difficult life as she has no work and depends entirely on her parents while the person who is responsible for her pregnant is nowhere to be seen.

While the research came across a lot of incidents of child pregnancies in the areas covered, only few seemed to be reported in the state institutions or hospitals.

Nkasi district is surrounded by societies of farmers and pastoralists from the Sukuma tribe, who see it as normal to marry off their underage daughters.

Scholastica Milambo (40), a resident of Lunyala Village in Nkasi District, one of those villages surrounded by Sukuma pastoralists, says it is common for the Sukuma to marry off their young daughters.

She says that the daughters are married by old men without their knowledge because their bride price is paid when they are still at a tender age and do not even have an idea of what marriage entails.

What happens is that the groom-to-be or his family inform the parents of the bride-to-be, of their interest in the daughter. Then follows the negotiations whereby the daughter’s parents then set the bride price (cattle) to be paid. The groom-to-be or his parents then bring the cattle and take the daughter even if she is seven (7) years old or below that age.

Margaret Nkana (32) says Sukuma people who live in Nkasi district would even pay bride price before a child is born (foetus) on the agreement that if it is a girl then she will be married to their society/family.

“These people have very strange traditions because the groom to be could speak to the family (of a pregnant woman) so that if it happens is a girl will be his wife. This mostly happens to a family that is used to bring forth fair skinned girls,” Nkana is told by TAMWA researchers.

Nkana says that when it happens the daughter is too young she is kept in the home of groom’s mother and becomes part of the family until she attains the age of 15 years when she is presented to the groom and they start life as husband and wife. This Sukuma society does not see the importance of educating girls.

Lunyala Village Executive Officer (VEO), Mr Edger Nkoswe says it is common for pastoralist communities to marry off their daughters while still young. He says it is difficult to control that habit because the pastoralists live far from villages in the wilderness with their cattle.
Worse off, Mr Nkoswe says the two families tend to do the negotiation secretly so it is difficult for a person not involved to know.

Oscar Mdenye, a Social Welfare Officer in Nkasi District Council concedes that the problem of child marriages and early pregnancies exists and it is a serious one among the pastoralist societies.

“We are striving to educate the public through meetings, seminars and other opportunities we get. We have been going round a lot educating about child rights so that everyone understands and we are hopeful it will be easy to get reports and deal with those who marry off daughters at tender age,” says Mr Mdenye.

He is of the view that the greatest challenge is the society maintaining silence when these incidents happen. They do not give reports to state organs when child marriages occur, fearing being branded traitors of their families or villages.

On December 10th 2013 Police Force in Nkasi District through its Gender Desk arraigned in a court of law one Pius Jacob, a resident of Chala Village.

He was charged for marrying two blood sisters; one was aged 12 years studying in standard five at Kabwe Primary School in Nkasi District.

Police caught Jacob one week after he abducted the standard five pupil and started life with her as husband and wife while already living with her sister aged 16. The trial is going on at the court.

Kahama District Commissioner, Mr Benson Mpesya confirmed the scope of child marriages and early pregnancies saying:

“I have a good example to demonstrate how big the problem is in my district. We have a secondary school that had a lot of girls who enrolled for form one in 2010, but it is only one girl who has managed to complete form four this year (2013), so you can see how serious this problem is.”

As for Mbulu district in Manyara region, children have had a lot of trouble. Apart from the men making them pregnant, their traditions punish them mercilessly.

Acting Headmistress of Alexandra Saulo School, Ms Pamela Kisela says most of the girls who find out they are pregnant do not go back to their parents’ homes.

Last year the school ran medicals and noted that two girls were pregnant; they were ordered to go and summon their parents to the school but never returned and were also not found at their homes either.

Their traditions stipulate that once a girl is pregnant has to be sent away from her parents’ home until she gives birth or get someone to marry her.

The results of this research in different areas of the country have established that reasons that lead to child marriages and early pregnancies are customs and traditions in respective tribes and parents who are eager for bride price.

Other reasons are the failure to adhere to moral standards, parents not having the time to spend with their children to teach them moral and ethical values and the need for good conduct and what it means; girls’ desire for expensive things and riches which their parents cannot afford.
Furthermore, some officers in state organs are negligent and unwilling to take the required actions and on time against culprits who are known for drunkenness, use of illicit drugs such as cannabis, especially the youth. Some of these youths are the cause of a number of early pregnancies.

The study has further found out that in the recent years there has been an alarming rate of women giving birth by caesarean section, the reason being that the child mothers cannot deliver naturally.

According to the doctors the young mothers’ body cannot sustain the process of a normal delivery due to their tender age and a caesarean section is the best option.

7. **FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION- FGM**

The research has discovered frightening circumstances as regard to reasons leading to Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Apart from customs and traditions of some tribes, it has been learnt that poverty is forcing many families to have their daughters undergo genital mutilation as a means to raise some income.

In Mara region, members of a Kurya tribe have well-to-do families. They have set themselves with qualities and types of women they would like to marry.

For the Kurya, a girl or woman who has not undergone FGM is unfit to marry. To that end they make the bad customs and traditions sustainable by setting up a big bride price for those who undergo FGM.

Consequently, to ensure that their girls fetch a big number of cattle as bride price from the Kurya men other tribes in Mara region to make sure their daughters undergo FGM so as the families could.

The research conducted in Mihingo and Hunyari wards in Bunda district, Mara region, found that in recent years FGM incidents among many tribes in Bunda is on the increase for the simple reason of fetching a hefty bride price from the Kuryas.

Being so wealthy, Kurya men are ready to offer a bride price from 10 cattle upward but they would not give even one for a girl who has not undergone the genital mutilation.

Ikizu and Ngoreme tribe members have now joined suit by making sure their daughters undergo FGM, anticipating their families will one day get wealthy through marrying off the daughters to the Kurya men.

“When the new circumstances, other tribes have decided to make their daughters undergo FGM so that they ‘qualify’ to be married by the Kuryas and consequently families get the many cattle,” says Eliza Kasinge, a resident of Mihingo ward.

However, Ms Eliza Kasinge notes that because Kurya members know very well of the existence of campaign against FGM, they have turned stealthy and the whole thing is done in secrecy.

Gonda Kimumbe is Chairperson of Mihingo Village who says the war against FGM is getting harder because it is done in secret and without attracting attention.
According to Kimumbe three quarters of his population are of Kurya tribe and they cannot do away with FGM for their daughters.

“These people (Kurya) do FGM every year,” says Kimumbe, adding that at least 21 girls were sent for the ceremony but he is sure that the number is greater. However, it has turned out that only one case was reported to the Police.

A Circumciser (known as Ngariba) who was identified as Nchagwa told the TAMWA researcher that she performs two kinds of operation; in one she removes the whole clitoris but in the second she makes an incision on the clitoris.

She says the second type is preferred to the first because when the children are taken to clinic, the nurses cannot notice that they have undergone FGM, because they just see the incision.

“Incising is what is mostly used nowadays. By doing this doctors and police officers cannot find out the children have undergone FGM because what they are after is to see if the clitoris is removed or not. This tactic has been very helpful for us as it blinds Government officers,” says Nchagwa.

The circumciser enjoys 10,000/- for every girl she initiates and the process takes place at her home secretly as opposed to what it used to be in previous years when a big number of girls who would be singing in a ceremony as they went into the forest for the ceremony.

Another testimony comes from Damian Wegina who spoke of the FGM practice among the Wataturu who live in Mariwanda village, Hunyari ward in Bunda district.

In 2000 they decided to look into the matter at Steven Wassira Secondary School and found out that 124 students were casualties of that.

He says that in 2012 they repeated the survey and found only two girls had gone through FGM, thanks to a campaign against FGM ran by Mara Inter African Committee Bunda (MIACB).

However, the Chairperson of Kibumbu village, Kiteta Thomas says the matter is contentious because it has emerged that Wataturu initiate their babies into FGM just after birth.

He says after the success of the initial information campaign against FGM what was needed is to make sure that every mother delivers in hospitals or health centres to make sure no FGM is done on the newborn babies by those women who assist in deliveries outside these centres.

Dr Yusuf Makanga works at Mugeta and Mihingo health centres. He says FGM is very harmful because apart from making the girls lose their sexual desire all their lives, it causes cancer.

He says that to date a girl who dies during FGM is not buried but rather thrown in the forests so that wild animals consume her. The belief is that such death is a curse to her society, so her body does not deserve the honour of a burial ceremony.

Tarime district used to be at the forefront as far as FGM is concerned and although available data show that the problem is on the decline, thanks to campaigns from professional bodies such as TAMWA and efforts of Government, the problem still persists.
FGM activities in Tarime district are seasonal and they depend on rituals carried out by elders from the Kurya tribe to appease the dead, but every ritual is specific for a certain clan.

According to Director of Tarime Legal and Human Rights Centre (SHEHABITA), Bonni Mato, out of every 10 girls six of them undergo FGM and it is very rare for legal cases against those responsible to be filed in court.

Acting Police Commander for Tarime/Rorya Special Zone, Assistant Commissioner of Police (ACP) Sweetbert Njewike says reported cases of GBV indicate that females are the casualties of this rather than men.

He says the situation is like that because of the unjust system in the large community in Tanzania and Africa as a whole.

In some administrative regions of Tanzania, the research findings show that the on-going campaigns are bearing fruits.

Babati District Commissioner, Mr Khalid Mandia says because of the war against FGM, those committing such acts are changing the way of doing the operation to girls.

He says more education is necessary to combat the problem. He did that when he was DC for Simanjiro and was successful to the extent that girls used to run away from their families and go to Arusha to report that their families were geared towards initiating them to FGM.

Acting Chief Medical Officer for Babati district, Dr. Ayo Afitwa says such incidents were rampant in yesteryears but now the trend is not so bad, thanks to the campaigns of the activists.

“When you assist women at childbirth who are aged from 30 to 40 years you find that 80% of them have undergone FGM and most of them are in the rural areas.

“But those ranging from 18 to 20 years you might find only 10% of them are FGM casualties,” says Dr Afitwa.
8. **ABANDONMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN**

The study that was carried out in different parts of the country has come out with findings that there is a massive problem of men abandoning their families.

Almost in all districts that the research was done, it came out that such incidents are common during the harvesting seasons.

The men in question use to sell all the harvested crops and use the proceeds to get drunk or marry new wives.

In such a situation families lack the much needed care of a father/husband and as a result children drop out of school and even go without health needs they deserve.

The research has shown that this problem is huge because of male chauvinism, whereby family possessions are entrusted under the father instead of a mother or under joint ownership.

Most casualties of abandonment say that their husbands have the last say on their harvested crops and on whether to sell them and on how to spend the money.

It is under such circumstances that some of the men sell all the crops and disappear and return at the onset of the new season, ready to till the land and plant. At this juncture, as they are in most cases empty handed, they tend to be very meek, begging their wives to pardon their errors. Their wives actually do so and so this sort of destitute life continues indefinitely and is the norm for some families.

In Nkasi district it has been found that it is a common thing for men to abandon women and children and this happens mostly during harvesting season.

Acting Ward Executive Officer (WEO) for Kirando and Village Executive Officer (VEO) for Mtakuja, Revocatus Tinga says the problem is massive in Rukwa region.

He says a lot of cases related to abandonment of women and children are reported in his office during harvesting seasons and some go with beatings.

Research shows that the problem of women and children being abandoned is much experienced in Songambele hamlet, Kipimi village, Makote ward in Newala district.

Ms Mwajuma Mfaume lamented that her first husband abandoned her so she does not have any help in taking care of her child and grandchildren. The scope of the problem is such that even the grandchildren are under the care of their father.

The Chairman of Songambele hamlet in Newala, Mtwar, Mr Mohamed Akika Mbahira says there is a big problem of wife and child abandonment in their village and implores the Central Government to propose a law that will take stern action against such people as local governments do not have the authority to punish them.

Mbulu District Social Welfare Officer, Melkiori Niniko says that in 2011 a total of 377 cases were recorded in his office. These concerned men accused of not taking care of their families, chasing away their wives and children and abandoning their families.
He says the situation has still not changed and many of there still many such incidents in his district. The effects of family abandonment are that some children to miss out on the joint care of their parents, children disappearing from homes and some becoming street children where they start using illicit drugs, and engage in criminal activities.

Babati District Social Welfare Officer, Mwanaidi Bakari says the scope of the problem increases during harvesting season. She says during that season her office records up to two cases per day of families being abandoned by men.

Magreth Nkana (32) is a resident of Lunyala village in Nkasi district and is a casualty of such acts. Her husband abandoned her and their three children since 2003 and now she carries all responsibilities supposed to be borne by a father and a mother.

“My husband left in 2003 just after harvesting our crops. His relatives and I looked for him in vain, but later, much to our dismay we found that he was living in another village and he does not have passion for his family at all.

“I have tried to report him but I have failed to accomplish my purpose to bring him back so I have decided to carry on with life carrying all responsibilities … some of the relatives say he now lives in a certain area known as Mto Wissa,” says Nkana.

She says the burden keeps growing as now one of their children has passed standard seven and is supposed to go to secondary. She has spoken to some of his relatives so that they can help but she has so far not received anything from them.

Honorata Fungama, a resident of Chala ‘B’ village in Nkasi district says in their geographical area, many women have been abandoned by their husbands.

These women lead a lonely and miserable life, trying to engage in agriculture and also depending on family members for help or waiting hopefully for some men to take them as their wives, but sometimes they find it a favour to get other men and go to live with them as husbands and wives. Honorata admits that very few of them report being abandoned to state organs.

Chausiku Lucas, a resident of Nyehunge in Sengerema district regrets dropping out of school because of her involvement with men.

“I knew him (the one who made her pregnant) because he used to visit his aunt who lives near our place … I was in form three at the time. “Juma Matata told me he loved me so much and promised to marry me. We then secretly started having a sexual relationship and then I found out I was pregnant. When I was expelled from school, I went to tell Juma that I was already pregnant.

“He told me we should elope, so we eloped to Katoro, Geita where we got a room and lived for five months and I was selling green maize. One day Juma told me he was going to Mganza to see his father promising to be back after three days.

He returned after a month and he found me selling maize. He went in the room, took everything from there and disappeared!
“I begged for help from our neighbour, one Mama Sofi who gave me a sack so that I could sleep on with my baby because Juma made away with even our mattress and other utensils.

“I had no means but had to live with Mama Sofi while I was planning to go back to Sengerema, ultimately I turned out to be a beggar. I became weak so I decided that I had to go back home with my child who had malnutrition for lack of a proper diet. I went back to my parents, begged for forgiveness and now I am working on rice fields. I regret! Other girls who got pregnant at the same time as I did are Marieta Mathias, Paulina James and Jessica Manyama, but I do not know their whereabouts,” she says sadly.

This research came across a lot of such tales of abandonment of mothers and children in different areas of the country. Many of the abandoned are pupils or students who dropped out of school and went on to be married at early ages. These former students are now sending strong messages to other girls on the danger of involving themselves with boys thinking they were in love. They warn that they will end up dropping out of schools and that the boys are incapable of taking care of a family.

The research has found out that some of reasons for men abandoning their wives and children are hardships of life, whereby they cannot make ends meet. Other reasons are that the laws of the land are lenient on such behaviours such that the culprits are not afraid of being taken to court. Should they be taken to court and found guilty of a particular case, the magistrates are too lenient in sentencing them and the ones who took them to court become laughing stocks.

Another reason for some men to leave their wives is when they are unable to conceive. Excessive drinking by some men also contributes to abandoning their wives and children. But there are also incidents where men abandon their families because of lack of respect from their wives.

The research has come out with findings that the abandoned individuals lead miserable lives, children miss love and care of their parents, some women engage in sexual activities for payment so as to make ends meet. In so doing, some find themselves infected with HIV. Many children end on the streets, mothers and children are affected psychologically while others lose the will to live.

Basically a lot of legislations in relation to social welfare and family care are overtaken by events and need to be amended so that severe punishment is given to those found guilty, including an increase in the monthly financial support for family care from a man who abandons his wife and child/children.

The current law stipulates that a man has to pay 100/- or 850/- per day for child care is too little and does not reflect the economic reality of the country.

On the other hand, there is a need for women to stop their arrogance at home whereby they sometimes deny their husbands their basic rights to the extent that the men decide abandon them.

The study has come out with findings that a long lasting solution might be to empower women economically so that they stand on their own instead of being totally dependent on their husbands.
9. WIFE BEATINGS

This research has found out that wife beating in marriages is another big GBV issue in the country. However, it has been established that these acts are considered normal, especially in rural areas where married women have been beaten, abused to the extent of becoming disabled.

Grace Mwangazini (25), a resident of Lunyala village in Nkasi district, Rukwa region, says being beaten is a non-issue in their village as men usually beat their spouses.

“Wife beating is a normal thing in our village. I myself am subject to such beating almost every day and I have nowhere to go. My husband is a drunkard, he can beat you anytime and anywhere even in public and he does not care,” says Mwangazini carrying her baby.

Scolástica Milambo (40) is a resident of Lunyala village and endures beatings and abuse from the men.

“Recently I was beaten and after the quarrel I had to run away for my dear life but I was abused verbally to the extent that I cannot repeat the words to anybody. You get insulted to the point that you cannot imagine that you can return to live with that person as his wife. But we have to persevere because of the children. I have seven children with my current husband, if I say I should run away because I am beaten or insulted, then the children will suffer most”.

“That is why when a man beats you he sometimes tells you; ‘if you are tired of beatings get away from my home.’ We suffer a lot. Apart from the beatings, I am the one who looks after the children as well. You have to do all you can to make sure you have something for the children and even your husband,” she says.

Sergeant Devotha who serves at Babati Police Gender Desk says men chauvinism continues in all spheres of life within the district and Manyara region as a whole and that there are so many incidents of wife beating going unreported in the region.

Records show that at least 80% of women get beaten but do not report the incidents to the Police because they take the beatings as a form of legal reprimand from their husbands.

“They get thoroughly beaten but they decide to consult with the elders in their own families. They say any woman who reports to the Police for an incident it is because her husband has not slaughtered a goat for her so that she can get some soup. When a husband slaughters a goat the women do not report. Their belief is that by slaughtering a goat for her the culprit has asked for pardon,” says Sergeant Devotha.

She says many such cases are heard and decided in family meetings. Even when they are taken to court it is in secret. And, when they are reported to Police no witness will come forth, because women are afraid of being known that they have reported their husbands to the Police. In such a situation cases cannot proceed.

In Mtwara region, the Secretary to the Reconciliation Council at Mkunya Ward in Newala district, Mr Mustafa Ibrahimu Libaba says in that region, cashew nut harvesting season goes hand in hand with wife beatings.
“Once the season for harvesting cashew nut arrives men get busy cleaning their warehouses for the new crop. But the ‘cleaning’ process also means doing away with their wives and bringing in new ones. But until that happens the wife suffers continuous beatings,” says Mr Libaba.

In Shinyanga region, Rahel Charles (30) who resides at Majengo ward, Kahama district, says she could not stand his husband’s beatings so she decided to divorce him and live alone. She says her husband was an alcoholic so he used to beat her even for minor mistakes.

Ward Executive Officer of Malungu in Kahama district, Mr Cosmas Bukango admits that there are many incidents of men beating women.

He says the beatings arise from feelings of being cheated, extra marital affairs and men not providing basic needs at home and when they are requested for the same their temper gets the better of them.

Additionally, he says, excessive use of alcohol and illicit drugs lead to wife beating as well as out dated customs and tradition whereby it is believed that women only respect husbands who beat them. For example, in Musoma district, Mara region, women say that a man who beats his wife shows true love.

10. KILLING OF ELDERLY

While Government authorities show that killing of elderly incidents are on the decline, information available show that the fear of being killed had not gone away among elderly women. In Kisole village, Bariadi district killing of elderly women was at its peak from 2000 to 2010, threats still continue.

Emmanuel Ndiganya says to date he has not learnt the reason behind his mother’s killing in 2007.

“Few days before the fateful day when my mother was murdered we had heard of a letter had been picked up which had four names of people, including my mother, who were to be executed.

“I remember on that day I was doing some construction works. Sometime back I had asked my mother if she had done anything wrong to justify her being in the ‘death sentence’. She replied that she did not know anything. Furthermore, mother was religious and had never been accused of being a witch.

“On that day at 2000hrs, I was with my mother and my siblings waiting for dinner to be served. We were discussing how to get cows to plough our filed as the farming season was approaching. We did not know that the killers had arrived and were in the kitchen where my sister was cooking. They asked whereabouts of our mother and she directed them to the sitting room where we were.

“They came right in, ordered us to give them money. I told them I had nothing and that the money was with my sister outside. I thought I could use that diversion to run but as it turned out they were not in need of any money. By that time mother had gone to her room, so they asked for her. ‘Where is your mother?’ I told them that she was not around but as we were arguing mother returned to the sitting room. I heard them saying; ‘this is the one we want’ and they attacked her with machetes to death,” says Ndiganya.

He says he decided to run after them, throwing stones at them while they threatened to attack him with the machetes before they ran and disappeared.
Police arrived at the scene the next afternoon and looked at the body before she was buried. The other two mentioned in the letter were also killed while the fourth managed to flee from the village and to date no one knows her whereabouts.

Simiyu Regional Police Commander (RPC), Mr Salum Msangi says the problem exists and blames it on old traditions of the Sukuma tribe.

“In their old traditions they had an Elders Council called Dagashida which was like a court led by a ‘Nyangogo’ and under him were elders called ‘Kidaguka’ and under them a Security Committee, that is the Sungusungu.

“Now that system has changed from being a reconciliation body of society’s quarrels and problems to becoming a group of conmen whose job is to falsely accuse people and impose hefty fines on them and sometimes even kill them,” says the RPC.

Kahama District Commissioner, Benson Mpesya says the killing of women has resurfaced. That a District Security and Defence Committee has began to bring in village governments leaders and even councillors from areas where the killings are happening.

“The incidents of killing women have resurfaced in our district, but they have changed the style. Originally they were killing old women with machetes but now even women below 40 years are being brutally killed. It is so frightening.

“Every month now not less than three have incidents are being reported. This is a problem that has shocked us very much. They used to kill the old people accusing them of witchcraft but what we have discovered now has nothing to do with witchcraft,” said Mr Mpesya.

The DC reveals that the current wave of killings is because of quarrels over property ownership, feelings of being cheated and exacting of vengeance.

He cites an example of a Shunu Secondary School student who was slain recently by a person thought to be her lover.

People are also in contention over ownership of farms, livestock and inheritance matters. Incidents of killings have been reported to resurface at an alarming rate in Isakajana, Ngaya, Bulige and Mwalugulu villages whereby killers are paid between 300,000/- and 500,000/-.

“We have undertaken a thorough investigation and some of those people who believe in witchcraft do so because they are ignorant and to them when a person dies they attach the death to witchcraft and not to an illness or natural causes. They do not understand that death can be caused by things like illness, natural death due to advanced age, pneumonia for children and even failure to access health services in rural areas because of the long distances between their residences and health facilities,” says DC Mpesya.
11. ACCESS TO LEGAL SERVICES:

Despite the serious nature of the GBV and their atrocities against women, in almost all areas of the research, most of the accused persons are not brought to justice. This research has established this beyond doubt.

Even when the state organs arraign some of the accused persons to court, the same courts fail to bring about justice because complainants and the accused come to an agreement outside the courts of law not to give evidence.

As for rape cases, courts of law let free a lot of accused persons because nobody goes forward to tender evidence against the culprits.

One of casualties of this, Elizabeth Ezekiel (36) who resides in Malunga ward, Kahama district says she reported her case to Police but did not receive any assistance to ensure the one who had abused her was caught. Elizabeth says on October 27th 2012 she narrowly escaped death as her ex husband, Kulwa Joseph, tried to slay her like a chicken by using a knife.

She reported the matter to Police and a file number KAH/IR/4465/12 was opened but until now the culprit has not been captured. She says she has decided to let the matter rest in the hands of God.

Lucia Lazaro, a resident of Dagire village, Mamire ward in Mbulu district says though they would like to report when their husbands beat them, they cannot do so not only because of the male chauvinism system in their families but also because some of the leaders in the institutions that are supposed to oversee justice do beat their wives.

“You may go to report a case (wife beating) to an executive and find that the leader is alcoholic and is beating his wife as well. In that case you cannot get solution to your problem,” she says.
12. RESEARCH CHALLENGES

- Victims of GBV do not like to report the incidents that have befallen them. Some think is is humiliating to volunteer such information so decide to remain silent.

- Some citizens have a misconceived notion that researchers are supposed to pay them in cash before putting forward what they know regarding the subject matter. This has happened in many areas where citizens alleged that sponsors have dished out much money so they are supposed to be paid.

- Time set for the research was not enough. Some journalists had to travel for five hours to and from the field, so most part of the ten days was spent en route.

- Availability of data. In many areas, be it at police stations/posts, ward, council offices or gender desks, the record keeping was appalling making it difficult to get the required data. At times police gave general data sometimes not even related to some incidents.

- The legislation that governs rape offences (SOSPA) is complicated whereby a victim should not take bath before going to a doctor for a medical check-up. Many citizens who were interviewed questioned the propriety of the legislation. They ended up saying the very legislation promotes rape incidents. Those interviewed said it is not easy for a rape victim to stay for more than one hour without bath if they have water nearby. They proposed that amendments to the law should be done soon.

- Leaders, Government executives and those from the Judiciary feel it is not important for them to give information or news to journalists but rather see it as a favour. In order to address this issue and have it sorted once and for all, media houses should unite so as to make sure a legislation that will give journalists right to get news and information is enacted by Parliament.
13. CONCLUSION

- Through the media the will help in give out information of the researched districts.

- The information gathered from the research will increase awareness among the people on the scope of GBV incidents in the country and ultimately persuade them to support the war against GBV.

- Political leaders and legislators will use the findings of this research and have a realistic picture of the situation which should ultimately lead to the amendment of the relevant laws and policies.

- Non Governmental Organisations such as TAMWA and UNFPA will use this research to advocate for amendment of laws and policies that perpetuate or give room to GBV. Where possible, this research will help to highlight areas that are in urgent need of legal aid so that stakeholders in that domain promptly take action.