

**SOCIO-CULTURAL FACTORS AFFECTING THE MANAGEMENT OF SEXUAL
AND GENDER BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN RURAL
COMMUNITIES - A CASE OF APAC DISTRICT, UGANDA**

BY

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DECLARATION

I, Agedo Immaculate, do hereby declare that the dissertation is a result of my effort (except in instances where scholarly literature was acknowledged) and it has never been submitted to any Institution of learning for any award.

Signed: _____ **Date:** _____

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APPROVAL

This is to certify that this dissertation entitled, “**Socio-Cultural Factors affecting the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against Women in Rural Communities - A Case of Apac District, Uganda**” is submitted for examination under our supervision and approval as Institute Supervisors.

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this book to my Father Mr. Josam Odeke Ebolu who has been a pillar in my life. My siblings Emmanuel Obela, Norman Ebolu, Luciana Alupo Ebolu and Veronica Hope Ebolu. Thank you for all the encouragement, good wishes and prayers during this time.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ACORD	-	Agency for Cooperation and in Research and Development
ACFODE	-	Action for Development
CDC	-	Centre for Disease Control
CEDAW	-	Convention on Elimination of All forms of Discrimination against Women
FGDs	-	Focus Group Discussions
LCC	-	Local Council Courts
HURIFO	-	Human Rights Focus
MGLSD	-	Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development
MIFUMI	-	A name of a village in Tororo- Uganda
SAQs	-	Self-Administered Questionnaires
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for Social Sciences
SGBV	-	Sexual and Gender Based Violence
UBOS	-	Uganda Bureau of Statistics
UNFPA	-	United Nations Population Fund
UNDAW	-	United Nations Division on Advancement of Women

ABSTRACT

The study established the effect of socio-cultural factors on the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) against women in Apac District, of Uganda. The specific objectives of the study were: to assess the extent to which bride price practices affects Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Apac District; to explain the effect of cultural norms on Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Apac District; and to establish the extent to which the moderating effect of the composition of LC courts affect the management of sexual and gender based violence against. Literature on socio-cultural and management of SGBV was reviewed. A case study research design was used supplemented by both qualitative and quantitative approaches. An accessible population of 320 elements was used to determine a sample size of 175 respondents. A 71% response rate was obtained. Key findings of the study include a positive significant relationship result for bride price practices (.355**), cultural norms (.580**) and composition of LC courts (.514**) on management of sexual and gender based violence.

The study concluded that SGBV acts led to splitting of more families. Fewer women reported domestic violence and women beaten were psychologically tormented and rarely were men apprehended when they beat their wives. However, many community members were not aware of violence in homes. Many women eloped as a result of domestic violence and many were isolated and neglected. Fewer LC courts adhered to a predefined mechanism, many women were dissatisfied with the court set up and injustice prevailed. The study recommends that locally guidelines for payment of bride be formulated, use ceremonies such marriage and naming ceremonies to deliver SGBV information and informing communities that SGBV was punishable under the laws of Uganda. There is need to introduce a women's desk for more work coordination, need to form a task force to review LC court composition and ensure a fair community evaluation exercise on the role played by the LC courts.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

The study examined socio-cultural factors that affected the Management of Violence against women in Apac District, Uganda. Socio-cultural factors (bride price practices, cultural norms) were perceived as independent variables while the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (Protection of survivors of violence, reporting of cases and Apprehension of offenders) was perceived as dependent Variables, the Composition of LC Courts is perceived as an Intervening Variable (IV). The study focused on the Northern District of Apac as a case study. Chapter one comprised of the Background to the study, Statement of the problem, Purpose of the Study, Specific Objectives, Research Questions, Scope of the Study, Justification, Significance of the study and Operational Definition of key terms and Concepts.

1.2 Background to the study

1.2.1 Historical Background

Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) is a universal reality existing in all societies regardless of income, class and culture. An estimated one in three women worldwide has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence experienced by women globally. Sexual and gender based violence can also take the form of harmful traditional practices (Keesbury, 2006). Children (boys and girls) and women are particularly vulnerable to violence, especially sexual abuse. According to the United Nations Populations Fund (UNFPA), almost 50 percent of all sexual assaults worldwide are against girls aged 15 and younger. In 2002, 150 million girls and 73 million boys under the age of 18 years experienced forced sexual intercourse or other forms of gender based violence (UNFPA, 2012). Violence against women and in particular sexual violence is also often used as a tactic of war during conflicts.

In the context of humanitarian crisis and emergencies, civilian women and children are often the most vulnerable to exploitation, violence, and abuse because of their gender, age, and status in society (ISIS WICCE, 2010).

Sexual and Gender Based Violence cuts across ethnicity race, class, religion, education level and international borders and it has become common practice in almost all societies and has many facets. Within the household this can include battering by an intimate partner, marital rape, dowry-related violence and sexual abuse. Violence outside the home can include rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and assault (Sundby et al, 2013). Various socio-cultural and religious norms produce and reinforce gender inequality and stereotypical gender roles that underpin gender-based violence. Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) is pervasive human rights, public health, and a development problem (Sundby et al, 2013). SGBV is broadly conceptualized to comprise all forms of physical, psychological and sexual violence that are related to the survivors' gender or gender role in a society or culture (Keesbury & Askew, 2010).

Data based on the 2006 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS) shows that 39% women and girls aged 15-49, had ever experienced sexual violence, compared to 11% for men, and 59.6 % of women have expressed physical violence compared to 53% of men. The majority of gender based violence in Uganda is committed by an intimate partner. For example according to the UDHS (2000), more than two thirds of women (68%) who have been in marital relationships had experienced one kind of gender based violence from the current husband or intimate partners while 8% of these experienced the violence from their former husband or intimate partner; 36% had experienced sexual violence (UBOS & Macro International, 2007). Similarly, a study carried out by the International Centre for Research on Women (ICRW) in 2009, revealed that more than 80% women consulted have

experienced physical, sexual or psychological violence at some point in their marriage or intimate relationships (ICRW, 2009).

The 2011 Uganda National Report on Sexual and Gender Based Violence also indicates that between one-third and two-thirds of known sexual assault victim are of age 15 or younger (MoGLSD, 2011). Girl's children have also been documented to be prone to abuse through socially constructed harmful norms and practices that are tolerated in some communities.

According to the Ministry of Health-Uganda and World Health Organization (WHO) the magnitude of forms of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Uganda is as follows; wife battering (30%), marital rape (12%), defilement (25%), rape (20%), sexual exploitation (13%). The magnitude of sexualized violence is high and its occurrence was reported to be quite often. However, most of the cases go unreported thus denying justice to the survivor. Many incidents of sexual violence are under reported, making it difficult to ascertain the exact magnitude of the problem. Nevertheless, the problem of SGBV is a serious and difficult one to handle. They largely go undetected or reported due to the fact that sometimes the person who is supposed to protect the potential victim usually turns out to be the perpetrator (ACFODE, 2012).

It is important to note that while relative peace and stability has returned in Northern Uganda, the effects of the two decade violent conflict still linger. The region is yet to experience positive peace because although the guns have largely fallen silent, the structural and underlying causes of violent conflicts still remain prevalent (Galtung, 2011) in most parts of the region.

1.2.2 Theoretical Background

The study was underpinned by the Feminist Theory on domestic violence (Pence & Paymer, 1993). This theory notes that the root causes of intimate partner violence is as an outcome of

living a society that condones aggressive behaviors perpetrated by men, while socializing women to be non-violent. It focuses on the societal messages that sanction a male's use of violence and aggression throughout life, and the proscribed gender roles that dictate how men and women should behave in their intimate relationships. The components of this theory for example societal messages that sanction a male's use of violence, aggressions and proscribed gender roles made this theory to be adopted for the study.

1.2.3 Conceptual Background

The study explored the concepts of socio-cultural factors and management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

Management of sexualize violence is understood as protection of a survivor of violence by following up an incident of sexual violence so as to ensure the physical safety of survivor and all actions are guided by the best interest of the survivor and her wishes must be respected at all times; (i) Apprehension of offenders meaning that the government or local authorities on that territory where the sexual gender based violence attack occurred is responsible for taking remedial measures, including conducting a thorough investigation into the crime, identifying and prosecuting those responsible; (ii) Protection of survivors of sexual and gender based violence is understood as protecting survivors from reprisal. Wherever possible, the identity of the survivor is kept secret and all information kept locked and secure from outsiders. In all cases, the wishes of a survivor are respected when pursuing the legal aspects of the case (iii) Reporting is understood as where a detailed history of the attack is documented, including the nature. The results of the attack however minor are documented are presented to concerned authorities or persons as evidence by a survivor, family or community members.

1.2.4 Contextual Background

According to the UDHS (2011), close to six in ten women (68%) believe wife beating is justified. This situation is worse in northern Uganda which is arising from the disruptions of the social fabrics following the long standing instability caused by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) rebels in the area.

Apac District is one of the districts in northern Uganda- Lango sub-region. It is located in the central southern part of the northern region of Uganda. Sexual and Gender Based violence (SGBV) remains a big problem in Apac District with over 70% of the families experience it. However, the majority of cases are not reported because people prefer to settle cases at community level. Apac District like any post conflict area, management of sexual and gender based violence in Lango sub region largely compromises the situation of women. Even for a region that experienced the brunt of the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) conflict, where both men and women struggled to survive the impact of conflict. Some formerly abducted women are experiencing family or community rejection or are being intimidated by demobilized ex-LRA combatants seeking to reclaim their wives (Carlsson & Dyan, 2008).

Sylvia and Friederica (2011) assert that, women face insurmountable obstacles in obtaining justice after having experienced gender-based violence in Northern Uganda. This is related to fear of repercussion from perpetrators, high illiteracy rates which deter people from seeking support within a complicated legal framework and the financial and logistical implications of accessing limited and under-resourced legal institutions. More so, the high levels of stigma attached to rape survivors deter victims from seeking any form of medical or legal assistance. Despite efforts by government and NGOs to address violence against women in Apac district, survivors of violence still face a number of challenges in terms of access justice, reporting

cases and protection. The study therefore aimed at assessing the effect of socio-cultural factors on the management of sexual and gender based violence against women.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Gender-based violence is a universal reality existing in societies where women in particular are vulnerable to all sorts of violence as inflicted by their male counterparts. The women have lived in extremely precarious conditions and are discriminated against on the basis of race, language, ethnic group, culture, age, opinion, religion or membership in a minority group with less support from the concerned authorities (WHO, 2012). From the Ugandan context including Apac district, such violent acts have been to a number of socio-cultural factors for instance bride price where the boy or man's family is mandated to give bride price, a payment common cultural practice to the parents of the girl as a form of appreciation or validation of customary marriages. This has created recognition of marriages, stabilization of marriage relationships, and protection to wives against abuse and development of partnerships between families and control over women's lives (Uganda Association of Lawyers, 1996).

Additionally, cultural norms for instance vows, symbols, myth have been traditionally adhered to by most families and resulted into better marriages. Furthermore, the existence of local LC courts within the district to handle domestic violence positively on the raise of gender-based violence acts promoting stability in families. However, much as such socio-cultural factors have positively led to stability in homes, a number of SGBV acts have been noticed attributed to such factors for instance women have been battered to death, raped, conflict between bride and groom families has been created, divorces have risen and families have been subjected to law to refund bride price paid by the mans' family. This has inflicted both physically and mentally pain on the side of women arises (World March of Women, 2000).

To further support the above, a considerable number of Government policy frameworks for example the Constitution of the Republic (ii) Succession Act (iii) Children's Act (iv) Marriage Act (v) Divorce Act (vi) Domestic Violence Act passed 11 November 2009 to help strengthen legal interventions for survivors of domestic violence) (vii) Trafficking in Persons' Act 2008 are in place with incidences of gender based violence especially against women are still high (Allen & Zahara 2009).

If this situation persists in Uganda, then families will continue to break, of marriage will be misinterpreted, gender inequality will rise and children will mentally and psychologically suffer due to less family support among others. It is upon such background that the study investigated the extent to socio-cultural factors (bride price practices, cultural norms and composition of LC courts) affected the management of gender based violence against women in rural communities in Apac District.

1.4 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to establish the effect of Socio-Cultural Factors on the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against Women in Apac District, of Uganda.

1.5 Specific objectives of the study

1. To assess the extent to which bride price practices affect Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Apac District.
2. To explain the effect of cultural norms on Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Apac District.
3. To establish the extent to which the composition of LC courts affects the relationship between socio-cultural factors and management of sexual and gender based violence.

1.6 Questions

The following research questions were investigated.

1. To what extent do bride price practices affect Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in rural communities of Uganda?
2. What are the effects of cultural norms on Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in rural communities of Uganda?
3. To what extent does the composition of LC courts affect the relationship between socio-cultural factors and management of sexual and gender based violence?

1.7 Hypotheses of the study

In the study, it was hypothesized that:

1. Existing bride price practices affect apprehension of perpetrators of acts of Sexual and Gender based violence cases to a low extent
2. Cultural norms affect protection of survivors of sexual and gender based violence.
3. The composition of Local Council Courts affects the relationship between socio-cultural factors and management of sexual and gender based violence to a low extent

1.8 Conceptual framework

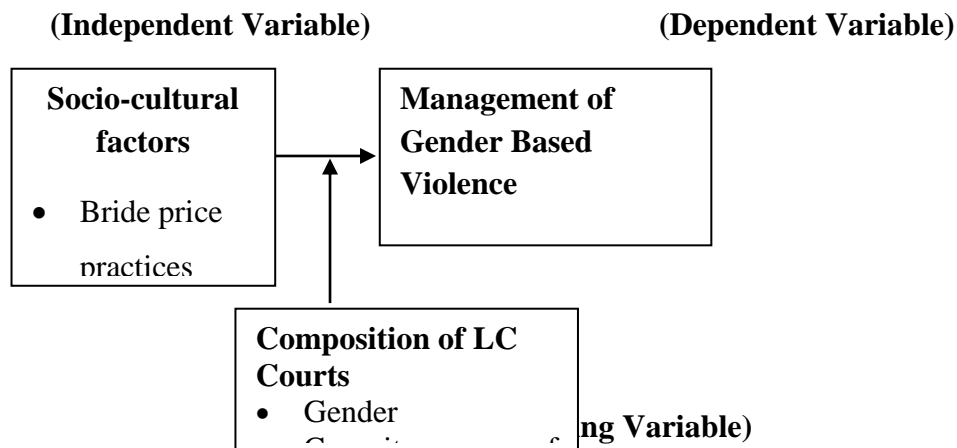


Figure 1.1: Conceptual Framework showing Socio-Cultural Factors affecting Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in rural communities of Apac district

Source: Adopted from Otufale (2012) and modified by the Researcher

In the conceptual framework above, the study presents the relationship between the variables of the study; socio-cultural factors as independent variable while Management of Gender Based Violence as Independent variable. It was hypothesized that the socio-cultural factors presented as bride price practices and Cultural norms had an effect on the Management of Gender Based Violence operationalized as apprehensions of perpetrators of acts of sexual and Gender based, protection of survivors and reporting of cases. However, it was also perceived that if the composition of LC Courts (moderating factor) is not properly addressed, it had an effect on the management sexual and gender based violence even if other factors are addressed.

1.9 Significance of the Study

Respondents constituting 88% suggested bride price practices in Apac served to limit women's control over their bodies. Bride price was linked to domestic violence, owing to women's fear of returning to their natal homes. Payment of it had also led to intimidation and isolation of women in society. These results are useful to policy makers, Local Governments and non-state actors in designing policies geared towards enhancing the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in rural communities of Uganda and Apac District in particular.

Another finding was that 62% respondents indicated that survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence were afraid of societal humiliation when they report cases of sexual violence. This finding serves as an eye opener to elected and non-elected leaders (politicians, technical personnel and cultural leaders) as far as Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Apac District is concerned.

The gender imbalance in the composition of LC courts increased women's vulnerability to being discriminated by LC courts while handling cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. According to findings 58% respondents suggested that women barely trusted the LC Courts in managing cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women. This finding is useful for policy makers at the national level as a reference in reviewing National Policies which directly affect the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Uganda.

In addition, the above findings can be used as a basis for further research and investigation by other researchers because the study gives a detailed insight on the understanding of Socio-Cultural Factors which affect the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in rural communities.

1.10 Justification of the Study

There is correlation between violence and socio-cultures within large, complex, and pluralistic societies, sub-groups learn and develop specialized norms and values through different associations and organizations that emphasize and justify the use of physical force above and beyond that which it regards as “normative” of the culture as a whole. Family and street violence, for example are viewed as the products of an exaggerated egos of masculinity or of machismo, characteristics of “lower class in society (Ferracuti & Wolfgang, 1969). Limited research however, focuses on the management of sexual and gender based violence in rural areas and the linkage between socio cultural factors and management of sexual and gender based violence. The study was justified because over the past decade, recognition of the scope and significance of management of SGBV globally has increased and there is growing body of evidence highlighting the magnitude of the problem of sexual and gender based violence in developing countries (IRIN, 2005) to which Uganda is. It was also evident that several factors were crucial for Management of Sexual and gender based violence. However, scholars looked at these factors in isolation whereas Apac District had a varying context. Secondly, some of their recommendations were not applicable to this study since somewhere conducted on different contexts of dimension other than socio-cultural factors. The study was conducted in Apac District where little if anything had been researched about socio-cultural factors affecting management of SGBV in rural communities.

1.11 Scope of the Study

1.11.1 Content Scope

The study was limited to socio-cultural factors affecting the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (dependent variable) against women. Socio-cultural factors were categorized into bride price practices and cultural norms as its sub indicators and

Management of Gender Based Violence constituted apprehension of offenders, reporting of cases and protection of survivors.

1.11.2 Geographical Scope

The study was carried out in two (2) sub counties of Apac (Apac and Aduku) district. Apac District is located in Northern Uganda, approximately 250 km (direct) from Kampala. It lies between longitudes 32° E and 34° E and latitudes 2° N and 3° N. It is bordered by the Districts of Kole in the North, Dokolo in the East, Masindi in the West and Amolatar District in the South through Lakes Kwania and Kyoga respectively.

1.11.3 Time Scope

The study focused on the time scope of 2008-2014 because this is the period (Trust Fund for Victims, 2014) during which cessation of hostilities by the LRA ended in Lango region and peace returned and therefore data was more reliable.

1.12 Operational definitions

Socio-cultural factors: In this study, Socio-cultural factors meant influence in the Apac derived from Langi customs, traditions, perceptions and beliefs.

Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women: was understood as the ability of a woman to avoid and leave violent relationships, ability of the community and authorities to report cases, provide psycho-social support and protection of survivors of sexual and gender based violence

Gender Based Violence: Gender-based violence is understood as any act of violence that results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women; including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life

Sexual violence: The researcher adopted the definition by Centre for Disease Control (CDC, 2005) of sexual violence being any sexual act that is perpetrated against someone's will.

Rural Community: According to Uganda Bureau of Standards (2010), a rural community is a population of people living in rural areas. For this study, a rural community meant people living in Aduku and Apac Sub Sub county.

Cultural norms: Norms/rules or expectations of behavior within the Langi Culture.

Bride price, best called 'bride wealth' also known as bride token, is an amount of money, property or other form of wealth paid by a groom or his family to the parents of the woman he has just married or is just about to marry. Bride price can be compared to dowry, which is paid to the groom, or used by the bride to help establish the new household; and dower, which is property settled on the bride herself by the groom at the time of marriage. The bride price agreed may or may not be intended to reflect the perceived value of the woman.

Local Council Courts: These are established under the Executive Committees (Judicial Powers) Act.13 of Uganda. They basically address light civil matters that arise out of daily activities in their areas of jurisdiction and matters arising out of infringement of by-laws duly made under the Local Government Act (CMR, 2006).

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter provides detailed explanations of the topic under study in relation to the study objectives while critically reviewing the literature and identifying gaps. These explanations were drawn from a variety of secondary sources which include: journals, publications, magazines, reports, text books among other sources. The information from the sources was directly related to the study objectives and this gave a clear understanding of the concepts under study. It provides the relationship between socio-cultural factors and the management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. The chapter has the following sections: Introduction, Theoretical review, Actual literature review and Summary of the literature reviewed.

2.2 Theoretical review

The study was theorized along the Feminist Theory developed by Pence & Paymer (1993). Feminist theory in domestic violence emphasizes gender and power inequality in opposite-sex relationships. It focuses on the societal messages that sanction a male's use of violence and aggression throughout life, and the proscribed gender roles that dictate how men and women should behave in their intimate relationships (Pence & Paymar, 1993). It sees the root causes of intimate partner violence as the outcome of living a society that condones aggressive behaviours perpetrated by men, while socializing women to be non-violent.

Proponents of feminist theory acknowledge that women can also be violent in their relationships with men; however, they simply do not see the issue of women abusing men as a serious social problem, and therefore, does not deserve the same amount of attention or support as violence against women (Kurz, 1997). The researcher found this theory relevant to

this study in that the component of this theory for example explained the correlation between socio-cultural factors and violence. This is in line with what this study seeks to investigate.

According to Nolet-Bos (1999), the Feminist Theory is limited for explaining abuse perpetrated by women. Feminist theory typically explains women's use of violence in the context of self-defense and retaliation for previous abuse. Yet, by doing so, a strictly feminist orientation denies that women can also feel angry and enraged without provocation in their relationships with men (Nolet-Bos, 1999). Additionally, while much of a woman's use of violence does exist within the framework of retaliation and self-defense, feminist theory does not explain why women perpetrate violence outside their intimate relationships (e.g., at work, with children, or with peers).

Aspects in the feminist theory such as societal messages that sanction a male's use of violence and aggression throughout life, and the proscribed gender roles that dictate how men and women should behave in their intimate relationships relates to socio-cultural factors. However, in adopting the Feminist Theory, the researcher is not ignorant of its shortcomings. It mostly empathizes intimate partner violence as a key factor affecting the management of gender based violence and ignores other factors like the composition of LC courts that also had equal influence on the management of gender based violence.

2.3 Actual Literature review

Sexual and gender-based violence includes domestic violence, sexual harassment, rape, sexual violence during conflict and harmful customary or traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, forced marriages , trafficking in women, forced prostitution and violations of human rights in armed conflict (in particular murder, systematic rape, sexual slavery and forced pregnancy), forced sterilization, forced abortion, coercive use of contraceptives, female infanticide and prenatal sex selection.

Violence against women is ‘all acts of gender-based violence that result in, or are likely to result in, physical, sexual, psychological or economic harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (UNFPA, 2012).

According to the Population Council (2011), Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence is understood as the ability of a woman to avoid and leave violent relationships, ability of the community and authorities to report cases, provide psycho-social support and protection of survivors of sexual and gender based violence.

In this study, the literature reviewed was examined under the sub-themes of Bride price practices and Management of Sexual and Gender Based violence, Cultural norms and Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, Composition of LC Courts vis-à-vis the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

2.3.1 Bride Price Practices and Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Historically, bride price exchange has been an important integral part of marriage rites and ceremonies in African culture. It involves exchange of materials or money from the man's to the woman's household, but practices differ between communities. In most, it is men folk who participate in discussions that determine what, how much and how such a payment is made. Bride price -related violence is a serious problem that affects the lives of women and girls. Dowry includes gifts, money, goods or property given from the bride's family to the groom or in-laws before, during or any time after the marriage (UN DAW, 2009).

In Africa, the acts used in dowry-related offenses include physical, emotional, and economic violence, as well as harassment and stalking as means to exact compliance or to punish the victim. Women often struggle with bringing successful claims of bride price-related violence, as emotional and economic violence are difficult to prove in a court of law. The most

common forms of bride price violence are battering, marital rape, acid pouring and other forms of violence. Perpetrators may also use methods of starvation, deprivation of clothing, evictions, and false imprisonment as a method of extortion (Praveen, 2000).

Silberschmidt (2002) asserts that, bride price payment has implications on gender relations, values, expectations and roles. In her ethnographic studies in Kiisi District in Kenya, Silberschmidt conceptualized violence as a problem of transition from traditional to modern society. She found that men seemed to have lost identity and their position was weakened by altered gender relations following modernization, resulting into gender antagonism regarding perceived roles.

A MIFUMI (2012) study also cites bride price as challenge to the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. Because men pay “highly” for the women they marry, concern is raised that men can do anything they want to women and get away with it. “A man will say he is beating his cattle -*“paid as bride price”*”.

A 2005 study on Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) by Gulu District Working Group on sexual and gender based violence established that pressure from parents and the community at large especially on the girl child for example “why are you still in school yet you already have big breasts, you are useless and a liability to the family”. Such statements have discouraged girls from continuing with school but instead choose to enter early marriages. In addition, this has made it difficult for defilers to be apprehended since the defilers do this with “blessings” from the girl’s family and community. The study further noted that forced marriages are a common phenomenon due to poverty. This is mainly due to the perception that girls of adolescent age can marry and reduce ‘the mouths to feed ‘in the household and other responsibilities. The girls are also a source of income due to dowry and other gifts in marriage (Isabella et al, 2005)

A 2011 report by ACFODE, ascertained that the community believes that men are the controllers/owners of resources that is culturally normal. In the family, the husband decides on how, when and where to use or not to use a particular resource regardless of the woman's consent. Equally, he does the same to determine when, where and how sex should be conducted. This means the case of marital rape is not recognized. Cases of marital rape and divorce are often dismissed as a 'family affair'. Women don't have any right to own/inherit property for they themselves are also a man's property.

Lesile (1998) demonstrated that, "dowry/bride price deaths" are not always what they seem. Leslie asserts that women and girls are dying and are being abused without perpetrators (abusers) being brought to book. Notably, Lesile acknowledges that dowry is often used as an excuse by perpetrators of violence against women and as a convenient label for those who wish to press charges. However, Leslie tries to identify other factors such as the institutionalization of the vulnerability of women, and the perceived internalized and socially reinforced ideology of the inferiority of women that constitute the real problem and not dowry.

Furthermore, Amnesty International (2012) study also cites other factors such as financial dependence on the perpetrators of sexual and gender based violence as fueling the vice. This is because the survivor of violence does not report to police or clan structures because doing so would be to their detriment as they depended on the perpetrators for financial support. In some cases it was the abusive spouse who depended on them and the domestic violence often entailed their husbands depriving them of their property and farm produce. This seems to confirm with a study by FAO, (2009) in Apac district which affirms that some women in rural areas are also forced to exchange sex for material goods, which in turn can be the cause of other forms of violence and abuse against them. The study concluded that economic

restrictions and gender inequalities were the main causes of Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

2.3.2 Cultural Norms and Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Cultural and social norms vary widely; some behavior acceptable to one social group, gang or culture may not be tolerated in another. Different cultural and social norms support different types of violence. For instance, traditional beliefs that men have a right to control or discipline women through physical means makes women vulnerable to violence by intimate partner and places girls at risk of sexual abuse with no alternatives for reporting such incidences (Jeannie, 2010).

According to Bloomquist (1989), Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence can be seen as the result of patriarchal social constructs which define the relationship between women and men as one of subordination and domination. If an individual's identity is based on exercising control over another then that individual is likely to be tempted to make sure that their sense of control is maintained. The feeling of powerlessness and societies emphasis on violent imagery increases the temptation to resort to violent control of women in order to assert manhood and a sense of personal power that is not being achieved outside of the home.

Chapell (1998) urges that, justification for violence is frequently based on cultural norms that is, social norms about the proper roles and responsibilities of men and women. These cultural and social norms socialize males to be aggressive, powerful, unemotional, controlling and contributing to a social acceptance of men as dominant. Similarly, expectations of females as passive, nurturing, submissive, and emotional also reinforce women's roles as weak, powerless, and dependent upon men. He further argues that the socialization of both men and women has resulted in an unequal power relationship between men and women.

ACGSD (2011) report affirms that one of the major obstacles to the prevention, reduction and eradication of gender-based violence is that it remains largely invisible and its victims largely silent, due to both a wide socio-cultural acceptance of this form of violence as well as the stigma attached to the victims of gender-based violence.

The normalization of violence is partly reflected in the internalization by women of social cultures that tolerate abuse against women and girl children, for example, according to the UBOS and ICF Macro (2013), about “Six in ten women (58%) believed that neglecting a child, denying a husband sex, burning food, disobeying their husbands or being unfaithful would justify a husband’s violence (UBOS, 2012).

Christine et al., (2005) also noted that, the ‘blurred boundary’ between what is recognized and defined as SGBV and what used to be considered simply normal interaction between men and women tempers the reaction of many women and constraints the reporting of cases of SGBV in rural areas. In particular: defilement, wife inheritance is not considered as SGBV cases, because they are culturally acceptable. Women hesitate to identify sexually harassing behavior as inappropriate. For example, women may consider pushes, slaps unwanted touches and sexual remarks about body parts to be insignificant and fail to mention or report them.

Isabella & Gerald (2005) while in a study on justice for survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Pabbo camp established that the community regards rape as an abomination that needs traditional rituals to purify and cleanse the rape victim. The survivors can’t report cases because it’s regarded as a disgrace to the family and community. Other abominable cases include defilement, child molestation and marital rape. Findings from the study indicated that few of GBV cases are reported to the police/local leaders especially if it

involves law enforcement officers and that forced widow inheritance according to culture is perceived as a normal practice and a woman has no say over it.

According to Hartmann & Boyce (1983) most women, submission to physical beatings and verbal abuse is not too high a price to pay for social approval and physical survival. The internalization of prevailing attitudes, which view women as inferior and domestic violence as a "man's right", also explains why many cases of domestic violence are never reported. However, Hotaling & Sugarman (1986, 1990) more specifically showed that violence in men's family of origin and negative attitudes about women consistently predicted relationship violence in men. Little is known, however, about the origins of these associations between belief systems, violence against women and reporting of violent acts against women.

Lastly, Dutton (1994) further argues that it is the diagnosable psychopathology of batterers that leads some men to adopt patriarchal ideology after the fact of abuse to rationalize and justify their own behavior. Dutton focuses on the temporal links between domestic violence, a belief in patriarchal and stereotyped family values, and psychopathology in the individual and not necessarily cultural norms.

2.3.3 Composition of Local Council Courts (LCC) and Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence

In most African communities there have always been mechanisms to address sexual and gender violence against women. Clan heads, elders, religious leaders and family members play a big role in settling conflict in communities (ACFODE, 2012). In Uganda, the Local Council Courts (LCCs) structure was created to make justice more accessible to the grassroots communities. Like other courts of judicature, the LCCs empathize the principles of natural justice (fair hearing). Each party is given an opportunity to present or defend

himself/herself. LCCs also allow appeals whereby matters from LCCI are referred to LCCII while LCCIII is the appellate court for LCCII.

The LCCs have powers to enforce the punishment as per the judgment. Their decisions are backed by a force of laws. The witnesses are normally called to help the court ascertain the truth. These include the neighbors and close members of the family in the community mentioned in the case or those deemed fit to give necessary information. Children are not invited but can be contacted for some information after the LCCs have concluded their investigations. Any party dissatisfied with judgment, is given a letter forwarding him/her to the LCCII as the laid down appeal process up to the LCCII (MGLSD, 2001).

Ordinarily, Local Council leaders are supposed to be the first ones to respond to complaints of sexual and gender based violence due to their accessibility. By virtue of their proximity, they know almost all people in a given locality and it can easily ascertain cases in given families. They also command people's trust and if called upon, are likely to arbitrate in fighting families or couples (ACFODE, 2012).

However, a study by American Refugee Council (2005) in northern Uganda established that there is an overwhelming distrust of the authorities and the police by the local community who are conservative and prefer to settle the cases of sexual and gender based violence like defilement, rape without the involvement of the police or local authorities. The study particularly established that this distrust is as a result of the high level of corruption and nepotism associated with the police and local authorities. In addition, the victims or the community is discouraged from reporting to the police or LC court because of the costs involved. For instance due to lack of resources, the police demands a fee of 30,000Shs to transport the perpetrators from Pabbo to Gulu town (Central Police Station), and the LC courts demand anon refundable fee of 5,000 for ones case to be heard. But because of the

levels of poverty in the camp the cases are thus not reported and are instead solved traditionally through some cleansing rituals.

According to ACORD (2010), it is not just the composition of LC courts that limits the management of SGBV cases by Local Council Courts but other factors for example; harsh investigations of SGBV cases cause further psychological and sometimes even social injuries to the victims. The report further notes that court negotiations last a number of months during which the victim's name and all of the details of her personal life is made public, causing her repeated social damage, so to avoid this lack of confidentiality, the victims don't report the cases.

A Report on Accesses to Justice by women ACORD (2010) summarized the problems with the justice system and LCCs in northern Uganda as '*the Local Councils Courts fraternity is not responsive to the needs and the constraints of the woman.*' In particular, the report asserts that since men dominate many of the courts, few of the members are willing and have the capacity to help women. In addition, the courts do not have a women's desk to help in specific gender roles; and yet the issue of SGBV is very sensitive and thus victims or those who have been assaulted may feel more comfortable talking to a female officer than a male. The situation is worsened by the fact that culturally women do not feel free to speak certain things in the presence of certain people. Often, for example women feel constraint speaking about sexual matters in the presence of their father-in-law.

A 2008 situational analysis by Uganda's Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development also found that women experiencing violence are most likely to have sought help from their own family (48%) followed by their in-laws (39%) with the rest from friends and neighbor. The report further eludes to the fact that despite the existence of a formal justice system, very few survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence access this path way (MGLSD, 2013).

A 2012 HURIFO report on sexual and gender based violence in Northern Uganda sights that the LC courts that administer justice, including on sexual and gender based violence are often biased. In particular the report findings indicated that members of LC courts are elected from communities and often turn out to be relatives of the man against whom the woman may be claiming justice. The LCCs are reputed to be corrupt and have no knowledge of the laws let alone of human rights. The LCC structure often handles domestic violence with the clichéd response of which home has no violence. Lastly, American Refugee Council (2012) clearly shows that in 70% cases that come to ARC, the survivor declined legal action and protection or security services for fear of losing children, family, husband and sense of family.

2.4 Summary of the Literature

This chapter has reviewed several scholarly literatures on how socio-cultural factors which affect the Management of Sexual and Gender Based violence. The available literature generally reveals that a lot of challenges or gaps do exist in managing sexual and gender based violence for instance traditionally locals in remote place of Apac district believe more in their family set ups than the rule of law. The adoption of western cultural had time and again eroded the traditional values of our societies. Furthermore, women emancipation can be seen as another source of negativity in families. The literature also revealed the strong linkage between socio-cultural and management of sexual and gender based violence. Although there is rich literature on how bride price practices, socio-cultures and composition of LC Courts affect the SGBV in African and specifically Uganda, there is limited specific literature to this effect. A major gap in the literature was that, such studies had never been undertaken in Apac District which is a post conflict rural district. Lastly, it is for this unique context that this research sought to make findings on the management of sexual and gender based violence in rural communities- whether same results were found.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter describes the methodology that was used in carrying out the study. It covers the research design, population of the study, sample size, sampling techniques, data collection methods and instruments, validity and reliability of instruments and procedures the researcher used to collect and analyze data, data analysis as well as constraints that were encountered during the study.

3.2 Research design

The study adopted a descriptive case study research design described as an umbrella for family research methods (Bell, 1993), this research design was deemed appropriate for this study. According Jossey (1998) case studies allow a lot of detail to be collected that would not normally be easily obtained by other research designs. The data collected in case studies is normally a lot richer and of greater depth than can be found through other experimental designs. It is appropriate in cases where large samples of similar participants are not available. The research therefore adopted this design as it gave the researcher an opportunity to use qualitative methods to find out the socio-cultural factors affecting the management of sexual and gender based violence against women.

3.3 Population of the study

Apac District has 11 sub counties however, for the purpose of this study the researcher generalized the results in a target population of the 2 sub-counties of Apac and Aduku. The researcher randomly selected these sub-counties. Like the rest of the sub counties, the population here had difficult times during the LRA conflict and there was a breakdown of social-cultural structures and provision of services by government and NGOs were difficult. Though currently there is an improvement, this population is considered appropriate for the

study. Secondly, these two sub-counties were easily accessible to the researcher. The population for the study included 50 community members on average 25 persons per Sub County and 50 local leaders (Gender Officers, Community Development Officers, clan leaders, members of Local Council Courts, religious leaders and Police Child and Welfare Unit staff). The 25 persons per sub-county were selected because of the data collection method (focus group discussions) that the researcher used at least 8-12 persons. So with the 25 people, the researcher held at least 2 focus group discussions in every Sub County.

3.4 Sample size and Sample selection

A number of 175 respondents forming the sample size was determined using the mathematical table developed by Krejcie & Morgan of 1970 for determining sample sizes for research activities (see Appendix IV). Table 3.1 shows a population of 20 clan leaders purposively be selected, 20 religious leaders purposively targeted, 115 community members were using clustered sampling, 10 Local Government officials, 10 members of the LC courts leaders were purposively sampled for the study.

Table 3.1: Sample Population and Size of Study

Respondents category	Target population	Sample size	Sampling techniques
Clan Leaders	10	10	Purpose sampling
Religious Leaders	10	10	
Members of Local Council Courts	10	10	
District/Sub County LG personnel	10	10	
Civil Society Actors	10	10	
Law Enforcement Officers	10	10	
Community Members / Citizens	260	115	Stratified and Simple random sampling
Total	320	175	
Source: APAC District Social Economic Demographic Data June (2014) and determined based on Krejcie & Morgan (1970)			

3.5 Sampling techniques and procedure

The researcher used the simple random, stratified and purposive sampling techniques to select the sample size from members of population in Apac and Aduku Sub County. This was done so that they could act as representatives of that population.

According to Patton (1990), purposive sampling is convenient and enables the researcher to reach the population with expert knowledge. The purposive was used to select respondents including Clan leaders, Religious Leaders, Members of Local Council Courts, District and Sub county Local Government Personnel, Civil Society Actors and Law Enforcement Officers that were believed to have valuable information on socio-cultural factors and the management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence.

Stratified sampling another technique used is the process of dividing members of the population into homogeneous subgroups known as strata(s) before sampling. The strata drawn was mutually exclusive for the community members comprising of clan and religious leaders, local leaders, community members, law enforcers and other civic actors: where every element in the population was assigned to only one stratum. The strata was also collectively exhaustive: no population element was excluded. Then simple random sampling was applied within each stratum. These formed the sample. The technique was applied on community members. The choice to this is that stratified sampling is the most representative of a population. This technique was used to identify respondents that were to form the FDGs.

Lastly, the simple random sampling technique is one used to equally select a number of respondents to be included in the sample was used to identify community members were used by the researcher. The population in these two sub counties was too big thus it was not feasible to take into account each and every member of such population.

3.6 Data Collection methods

The researcher used both quantitative and qualitative methods of data collection. The methods included: questionnaire survey, interviews, focus group discussions and documentary review.

3.6.1 Questionnaire survey

This method allows the collection of data from a large number of study elements. (Amin, 2005). It entailed designing a questionnaire with mainly closed ended questions and fewer open ended questions on the socio cultural factors affect the management of sexual and gender based violence. This method called for administering the questionnaires to a group of respondents identified in the study thus community members or citizens.

3.6.2 Interviews

This method allowed the researcher to conduct a face to face interview with the interviewees. It involved the researcher designing a number of open ended questions upon which the conversation was based (Sekaran, 2003). This qualitative method of data collection allowed the research to obtain useful information behind a participant's experience. The interviewer can pursue in depth information around the topic. This was conducted based on a number of open ended questions pertaining to on the socio cultural factors affect the management of sexual and gender based violence.

Lastly, interviewing is useful as a follow up to certain respondents with questionnaires (McNamara, 1999). The choice of this method was that it helps the researcher obtain first-hand information from voices of key respondents marked for the study. The method was used to obtain reliable and factual information about the subject under investigation. This method

targeted clan leaders, religious leaders, members of local council courts, district and sub county local government personnel, civil society actors and law enforcement officers.

3.6.4 Focus Group Discussion

A focus group is a type of qualitative research in which a group of people discuss their perceptions, opinions, beliefs, and attitudes towards a culture, policy, product, service, concept, advertisement, idea, or packaging (Institute of Consumer Studies, 2012). The research used this method to collect data from females and male volunteers in the selected sub counties. These categories grouped into groups of 5 people discussed socio-cultural factors that affect management of SGBV in rural communities in an unstructured and natural way.

More to the above, the members were free to express their ideas and concerns while the ideas from the discussion were being recorded. The choice for this method is that it helps the researcher to measure attitudes of respondents and provide immediate solutions on the management sexual and gender based violence. In addition, 1 Focus Group Discussion was held in each of the 2 Sub Counties. The method was applied to community members.

3.6.4 Document Review

This method allowed the researcher to review a number of secondary sources of information for the study. The method is more cost effective than social surveys, in-depth interviews or participant observation. The use of documentary methods refers to the analysis of documents that contain information about the phenomenon we wish to study (Bailey, 1994). In addition, Payne & Payne (2004) describe the documentary method as the techniques used to categorize, investigate, interpret and identify the limitations of physical sources, most commonly written documents whether in the private or public domain.

3.7 Data Collection Instruments

The instruments that were used to aid the collection of both primary and secondary data were the interview guide, self-administered questionnaire, documentary review checklist and focus group discussion checklist as detailed below.

3.7.1 Interview guide

This instrument allowed the researcher to use a list of open ended questions on socio-cultural factors and management sexual and gender based violence. This involved the researcher reading the question to the interviewee as she/he provided answers to the conversation (Amin, 2005). These verbal answers were recorded and were used later to supplement on the numeric data obtained using the Self-administered questionnaire. In addition, the guide was used to ensure that the same general areas of information were collected from each interviewee; this provided more focus than the conversational approach, but still allowed a degree of freedom and adaptability in getting the information from the interviewee. Clan leaders, Religious leaders, Members of Local Council Courts, District and Sub County Local Government personnel, civil society actors and Law Enforcement Officers (see Appendix B)

3.7.2 Self-Administered Questionnaires

The self-administered questionnaires with closed ended were printed out and administered to key respondents. The respondents had choice of answers upon which to base while answers the questionnaire. These were based on a Likert scale of five items. Self-Administered Questionnaires were used to collect data in a statistical form Ackroyd & Hughes (1981). The Likert scale used had dimensions including: Strongly Agree=5, Agree=4, Not Sure=3 Disagree=2, Strongly Disagree=1. The choice for this instrument is that it provides a large amount of information from a big group of people within a short time possible, it is less

cheap and easier to administer. This instrument was applied to the local community in Apac district (see Appendix A)

3.7.3 Documentary Review Checklist

This instrument guided the researcher in obtaining information about Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. The documents reviewed include: Apac and Aduku Sub county LC Courts Case Files for 2008-2014, Apac District Probation Office records (2011-2013), Apac District Social Economic Demographic Data June (2014), Uganda Association of Lawyers (1996) and Judicial Powers Act.13 of Uganda (see Appendix E)

3.7.4 Focus Group Discussion Guide

Respondents (members) were grouped in 5s and up to 25 groups were created. Each of these groups had a leader. Through the leader, constructive views and ideas were provided on socio-cultural factors that affect management of SGBV in rural communities in an unstructured and natural way. The members freely expressed their ideas and concerns as these ideas were recorded. Interaction within each group lasted 30 minutes. The method was applied to local community members (see Appendix C)

3.8 Quality control

To ensure quality control of the instruments, both the validity and reliability techniques were appropriately applied with the details provided below.

3.8.1 Validity

Validity is defined as the degree to which an instrument measures what it purports to measure (Mugenda, 2008). A research instrument is therefore said to be valid if it measures what it actually measures what it is supposed to measure (Amin, 2005). To ensure validity the research used the Content Validity Index (CVI) where the researcher contacted her supervisor

and another SGBV expert to review the content of the instruments. These persons performed a thorough check on the instrument, making the invalid questions and retaining the valid ones and in the end, the CVI was calculated as follows.

$$\text{CVI} = \frac{\text{Number of judges who declare instrument valid}}{\text{Total number of judges}}$$

$$\text{CVI} = \frac{(27)}{(37)}$$

$$\text{CVI} = \frac{(27)}{(37)}$$

$$\text{CVI} = 0.72$$

The CVI result of 0.72 was obtained. According to Amin (2005), for the instrument to be acceptable as valid, the CVI should be equal or greater than 0.7 as reflected above.

3.8.2 Reliability

Reliability is the measure of the degree to which a research instrument yields consistent results if administered at different occasions. Reliability of instruments in the study were tested by carrying out a test-retest technique. According to Amin (2005), the internal consistency technique specifically Cronbach Alpha was used to obtain the required result. The exercise involved identifying 10 respondents not part of the study upon which the instrument was administered. Thereafter the data was entered into SPSS to obtain the test result. Below are results in Table 3.2 that were obtained.

Table 3.2: Reliability results

Variable name	No. of items	Cronbach alpha
Bride price practices	5	.718
Cultural norms	6	.508
Composition of LC courts	9	.924
Sexual and Gender Based Violence	7	.879
		$\Sigma(\text{alpha scores})$ 3.029

Source: Primary Data

Table 3.2 above shows reliability results for the study. The average reliability scores were computed using Σ (alpha) and divided by n; where summation obtained was (3.029) and n was number of study variables hence 4. Therefore (3.029/4) with 0.8 obtained which reveals that the instrument was reliable as the score was close to 1 (above 0.5) as supported by Sekaran (2003).

3.9 Procedure for data collection

The researcher obtained an introductory letter from Uganda Management Institute, School of Management Science in October 2014. The introductory letter was presented to the Chief Administrative Officer, Resident District Commissioner and the leadership (appointed and elected) in the 2 Sub counties of study. Upon receiving the letter, permission to conduct research in the 2 Sub Counties was granted on 29th October 2014. With the help of 4 Research Assistants, the questionnaires were administered and FGD conducted while the researcher personally obtained data from the interviews. The exercise lasted 2 months (November and December 2014). In addition, the researcher reviewed some District reports at the Office of the Community Development Officer and Probation Officer to ascertain the status of Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the District

3.10 Data Management and Analysis

Data was managed and analysed using qualitative and quantitative means as explained below.

3.10.1 Qualitative data analysis

Primary data obtained from the interviews and FDGs was analyzed using the content analysis technique. The technique involved analysis of recorded data and drawing conclusions and inferences of the narrative data while relating the findings to the specific objectives of the study. This information was used to complement on numeric data that was obtained using the questionnaire. This information was presented in themes put in quotes. Finally, a number of documents were reviewed for information. The researcher developed a list of documents from which information was to be obtained and used the list to actually access the secondary documents for information. The information was used to complement on both findings from the questionnaire and interview held sessions.

3.10.2 Quantitative data analysis

Quantitatively data was analysed based on a number of processes or several distinguished. After the distribution and administering of the questionnaires, these were collected, sorted, coded and entered into SPSS for analysis. In addition, the numeric data collected was checked for completeness and was analyzed in two levels i.e. descriptively and inferentially. Descriptively, a generation of summaries including means, frequencies and percentages done to enable the study have a descriptive understanding of quantitative data that had been obtained from the field of study. These extracts were further presented using graphical for instance pie charts and tabular format.

Inferentially, the correlation coefficient significant at 95% ($p < 0.05$ or > 0.05) was used to test the relationship between the socio-cultural variables and SGBV. The correlation co-efficient fall between +1 to 0 (positive relationship) and from 0 to -1 (negative relationship). In

addition, the study had interest in determining the variance that socio-cultural dimensions as the independent variables had on SGBV using the regression technique.

3.11 Ethical Considerations

Research that involves human subjects or participants raises unique complex ethical, legal, social and political issues (Walton, 1987). Since ethics refers to analyzing ethical issues such as fairness, voluntary participation, confidentiality and rights that are raised when people are involved as participants. The researcher observed research ethics such as the principle of voluntary participation by first ascertaining the consent of a participant. This was done through briefing respondents about the purpose of the data, procedures and risks involved in research before they give in their consent. Participants were also assured about the high confidentiality observed as failure to do so would expose how specific clans operated, how they were shaped to observe and adhere to their existing norms, symbols, taboos and myth among others as well as violation of society secrets. This necessitated ensuring sensitive of such and especially respondents' names or names of the perpetrators of sexual and gender based violence in their communities remained optional or not publicized at all as information obtained was used for only academic purposes.

CHAPTER FOUR

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF RESULTS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents, analyses and interprets results based on the specific objectives of the study. The section is arranged starting with the response rate, personal information of respondents, descriptive as well as inferential statistics and closes with answering of the hypothesis statements.

4.2 Response rate

The researcher ensured the distribution of 40 questionnaires, out of which 29 were returned fully answered constituting 73%. Additionally, 60 interviews were planned, with 45 sessions held constituting 75% while a total of 25 groups each of 5 respondents (75) were set for the focus group discussions; however with only 10 groups of 5 respondents (50) engaged in the discussion constituting 67%. Table 4.1 below shows the response rate for the SAQ, FGDs and Interviews as instruments that were used to obtain data.

Table 4.1: Response rate

Instrument	Issued/planned	Returned/ held	Percentage realised
Interviews	60	45	75%
FGDs	75	50	67%
SAQ	40	29	73%
Total	175	124	$(75\%+67\%+73\%/3)=$ 72%

Source: Primary Data

Based on the results presented in the table above an overall response rate representing all the instruments was 72% was realized. The obtained result is above 50% as recommended by

Amin (2005) who acknowledges that a 50% response rate is good enough to represent a survey population.

4.3 Personal Information of respondents

Participants of this study were requested to provide valuable information about their sex, age, education level and employment status with details obtained in the field presented in the following sub sections below.

4.3.1 Sex of respondents

Sex is a key factor in the socio-cultural factors affecting the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence among women in rural communities of Apac District. For this reason, the researcher identified a group of respondents whose facts on sex distribution obtained are presented in the Table 4.2 below.

Table 4.2: Sex distribution of respondents

Sex	SAQ		Interviews		FGD	
	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Male	19	65%	21	47%	19	38%
Female	10	35%	24	53%	31	62%
Total	29	100%	45	100%	50	100%

Source: Primary Data

Table 4.2 shows that out of the questionnaires administered, 65% constituted a majority male respondents and 35% were female respondents while 47% respondents who engaged in interviews were male and 53% were female. Additionally, 38% of the respondents who engaged in FGDs were male as compared with 62% female respondents. First, it can be argued that, both male and female respondents had socio-cultural attachment and in one way

or another were engaged in management of sexual and gender based violence or acts therefore an important group to the study. Secondly, the results suggest an almost equal collection of respondents' views on socio-cultural factors on the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence (SGBV) against women in Apac District by the researcher. However, it can still be observed that, female fell more victims of SGBV as compared to their male counterparts hence expressed more interest and participation in the study.

4.3.2 Age of respondents

Respondents who answered the questionnaire, engaged in the interviews and participated in FGDs were of varying age categories. The reason for finding out such was to establish whether age was a contributing factor to the Sexual and Gender based violence on the women in Apac. The results that were obtained are presented in Table 4.3 below

Table 4.3: Age category of respondents

Age of respondents	SAQ		Interviews		FGDs	
	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)
20 – 24 years	6	21%	4	4%	6	12%
25 – 30 years	11	40%	13	13%	7	14%
31 – 35 years	5	16%	8	8%	5	10%
36 – 40 years	4	14%	7	7%	11	22%
41 – 45 years	1	3%	3	3%	13	26%
46 – 50 years	0	0%	1	1%	2	4%
51 – 55 years	0	0%	1	1%	1	2%
56 – 60 years	1	3%	3	3%	2	4%
Above 61 years	1	3%	5	5%	3	6%
Total	29	100.00%	45	100.00%	50	100.00%

Source: Primary Data

Table 4.3 shows the age category of respondents who engaged in the study. Based on the questionnaires administered, the majority respondents 40% fell between the age categories of 25 – 30 years, 21% were between 20 – 24 years of age, 16% fell between 31 – 35 years, 14%

were between 36 – 40 years of age, 3% each fell between 41 – 45 years of age, 56 – 60 years and above 61 years of age. Additionally, results from interviews reveal that the majority respondents 13% fell between the age categories of 25 – 30 years, 4% were between 20 – 24 years of age, 8% fell between 31 – 35 years, 7% were between 36 – 40 years of age, 1% fell between 41 – 45 years of age, 3% fell between 56 – 60 years and 5% above 61 years of age.

In addition, FGDs members' age results who included the majority respondents 14% fell between the age categories of 25 – 30 years, 12% were between 20 – 24 years of age, 10% fell between 31 – 35 years, 22% were between 36 – 40 years of age, 26% fell between 41 – 45 years of age, 2% of respondents fell between 51-55 years, 4% fell between 56 – 60 years and 4% above 61 years of age.

Based on the age results obtained from the SAQ administered, interviews and FGDs held, it can be said that, respondents who formed the study were adults engaged in social relationships or affairs and therefore were aware of socio-cultural factors including bride price practices, cultural norms as well as the composition of LC court. Further still, it can be observed that, all respondents were adults above 18 years of age, family heads and actively engaged in domestic violence resolving matters issues which were as a result of gender violence. Lastly, the researcher was able to obtain valuable information that was required for the study thus which was representative of issues at hand.

4.3.3 Education level of respondents

Respondents were requested to indicate their education levels. The reason for this was to establish whether respondent's education level had a bearing on the violence of women in Apac District. The results obtained are presented in the Table 4.4 below

Table 4.4: Education distribution of respondents

Education level	SAQ		Interviews		FGDs	
	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)
Bachelors' degree	7	24%	23	51%	0	0%
Diploma	6	21%	5	11%	11	22%
Certificate	10	35%	4	9%	15	30%
Primary education	5	17%	3	7%	5	10%
No education	1	3%	7	23%	19	38%
Other	0	0%	3	0%	0	0%
Total	29	100.00%	45	100.0%	50	100.0%

Source: Primary Data

Table 4.4 shows results that were obtained from the SAQ, interviews held and FGDs on respondents' education level. Findings as obtained from the questionnaire show a majority 35% of the respondents being certificate holders, 24% of the respondents were Degree holders, 21% respondents were Diploma holders, while 17% had attended primary school education and 3% had never attended school and were illiterate. Similarly, findings from the interviewees revealed that, 51% of the respondents were degree holders, 11% respondents were diploma, 9% of the respondents were certificate holders, while 7% had attended primary school education and 23% had never attended school and were illiterate.

Findings as obtained from the FGD participants revealed that, 30% of the participants were certificate holders, 0% of the respondents were degree holders, 22% participants were diploma, while 10% had attended primary school education and 38% had never attended school and were illiterate. The general observation was that majority were literate, fully

understood the socio-cultural and SGBV questions that were asked. They were able to provide answers and their views on this topic under investigation.

4.3.4 Employment status of respondents

Respondents who participated in this study were requested to indicate their employment status. The reason to this request was to establish whether their employment status specifically the male had a bearing on the increased violence acts against the women in Apac district with results presented in Table 4.5 below.

Table 4.5: Employment status of the respondents

	SAQ		Interviews		FGDs	
	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)	(N)	(%)
Unemployed	2	6%	9	20%	17	34%
Peasant	13	45%	25	56%	11	22%
Employed	14	49%	11	24%	21	34%
Total	29	100.00%	45	100.0%	50	100.0%

Source: Primary Data

Table 4.5 shows results as were obtained from the Self-Administered Questionnaire, interviews held and FGDs on respondents' employment level. The findings obtained from the questionnaire revealed that majority 49% of the respondents were employed while 45% were peasants and 6% were unemployed. While results obtained from the interviews held revealed that, 56% were peasants, while majority 24% of the respondents were employed and 20% were unemployed. More still, findings obtained from the FGDs held revealed that majority 34% of the participants were employed while 22% were peasants and 34% were unemployed meaning a fairly good representation of a cross section of society which was a reflection of the composition of community members in Apac District.

4.4 Empirical findings

This section of the study presents both descriptive and inferential findings based on the specific objectives of the study and it is at this point that the research questions and hypotheses are answered.

4.4.1 Bride price practices affect Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence

Objective one of the study was to assess the extent to which bride price practices affect Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Apac District. Bride price practices questions were based on a five item Likert scale that included SA (5), A (4), U (3), D (2) and SD (1).

Table 4.6: Statements on Bride Price practices

Statement on Bride Price Practices	Percentage Scores (%)					Mean
	SA (5)	A (4)	U (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	
Bride price paid in Apac District often serves to limit women's control over their bodies both sexually and in terms of their labor.	28% (8)	46% (13)	3% (1)	17% (5)	6% (2)	3.69
Bride price in this area has long been linked to domestic violence, owing to women's fear of returning to their natal home without being able to repay the bride price	24% (7)	64% (18)	3% (1)	0% (0)	9% (3)	3.55
Bride price limits women from reporting their spouses to Local Councils and Community members when they are beaten.	24% (7)	35% (10)	0% (0)	24% (7)	17% (5)	3.21
Bride price is also considered as a payment for reproductive capabilities hence causing conflicts when a woman fails to reproduce.	38% (11)	40% (12)	0% (0)	22% (6)	0% (0)	3.93
Payment of bride price causes intimidation and isolation of women in Apac society	22% (6)	55% (16)	0% (0)	14% (4)	9% (3)	3.59

Source: Primary Data

For purpose of quantitative interpretation the following can be noted that mean score above (>3.00) three reveals agreed responses and that less than three (<3.00) reveals disagreed response. Additionally, Agree (A) and strongly agreed (SA) responses represent agreed while

disagreed (D) and strongly disagreed (SD) represent disagreed and the undecided scores are not grouped. For qualitative coding the following represent the key informants interviewed namely CL represents clan leaders, RL represents religious leaders, MLCC represents members of local council courts, DSSLGP represents district and sub county local government personnel while CSA represents civil society actors and LEO represents law enforcement officers.

A proportion of respondents 28% strongly agreed and 46% agreed to the statement that bride price that was paid in Apac District served to limit women's control over their bodies both sexually and in terms of their labor however, 17% of the respondents disagreed as 6% disagreed and (3%) were indecisive. The results can suggest that most people within Apac District seem to hold that women have a financial attachment on them in form of bride price paid and so the male still own the mentality that since they toil to raise the required bride price therefore must assume control of these women. Further still, the vows made during the introduction/weeding ceremonies have tended to traditionally link women to man control hence a social danger (sexual and violent acts) to their existence in families.

In addition, 24% and 64% strongly agreed and agreed respectively that bride price in their area was linked to domestic violence, owing to women's fear of returning to their natal home without being able to repay the bride price while (3%) of the respondents were undecided and none disagreed as 9% strongly disagreed. The results would mean that, bride price is locally given to bride's family, it is wealth transferred from the groom's family and seen as a payment being made to own human and have control over it hence subjecting the woman or girl to any sorts of violent acts in case they failed to agree on family matters.

To complement the findings obtained above, was an interviewee's comment on bride price practices and women control over their bodies that,

“In Apac District today, the marriage customs have influenced bride price, social customs and rituals. Besides, parents’ dowry expectations have of late risen. This social-cultural factor has been seen to have a positive effect on the rise in women based violence” (RL).

The material bride price extended to a woman’s family tends to have a financial constraint on the man’s side and in the process that the wife or woman fails to execute her expected roles within a family setting, she will always be subjected to more gender violence. This has however, not increased the apprehension of offenders, fewer reporting of cases has been done with no protection of survivors

While another responding official (CL) observed the following on gender domestic violence,

“In Apac District, bride price practices are very common since it is considered a requirement for marriage and as a result of this, sometimes the practice subjects’ women to harsh treatment at home, and sexually harassed hence their right are highly abused”

To answer the above theme, it can be argued that bride price as a requirement for marriage has lost its traditional value and image and only viewed as a commercial platform for extracting material wealth from a man’s family to that of the woman and in such a scenario, it has become more harder than ever to manage gender based violence and only led to fewer apprehension of offenders and fewer cases reported.

FGD results obtained from one of the FGD held revealed that, beating women was a common practice, grabbing of properties from the widow when the husband has passed on was another and refusal to send girls to school that they are not going to help the family in future.

A mean score of 3.21 complemented with 24% strongly agreed and 35% agree compared to 24% who disagreed and 17% who strongly disagreed reveals more agreed score to the statement that dowry limited women from reporting their spouses to local councils and community members when they were beaten meaning that bride price practices in this study area may have been perceived as a platform for stealthily hiding violent domestic acts exhibited on girls and women, although in practice control often bride price transfers to the brides' family is seen as sometimes involving extortion of large bride prices. Similarly, the ongoing reality of bride price practices-related violence can be attributed to the fact that it is an example of what can happen when women are treated as property. This is in line with a statement given on spouses and reports made to the local authority by an official (MLCC) observed that:

“In Apac District, local experiences and cases obtained the local authorities reveal dissatisfaction of how the some of the women have handled domestic issues exposes the entire family. This in turn has resulted into violence against such women as they fail to privately settle their differences with their home”

In response to the above paragraph, it can be said that failure of affected parties to internally manage their domestic issues within a family setting means no reconciling to both a man and his wife, all this could be tagged to the fact that bride price practices have already be paid with one family being a beneficiary this creates disability within a family including frequently quarreling, arguing and hurting one another in the event hence a gesture of failed management of gender based violence within families

In addition, a mean of 3.93 coupled with a 38% strongly agree and 49% agree score can reveal the fact that more of the respondents agreed that dowry was considered as a payment

for reproductive capabilities hence causing conflicts when a woman fails to reproduce. On the other hand, none were undecided and 22% disagreed respectively meaning that bride price was mandatory and a sign of reproductive capabilities as the women or girls are expected to bare children in return as a sign of appreciation. Its implication is that such perception of bride price only increased violence against women in the communities as they are fully controlled and dictated to domestically.

Another respondent (CL) said,

“Bride price is paid according to the worth of the girl, who is highly educated fetches 10 cows or more among other material requirement. The more the bride price, the more one is violence is expected because she is considered a man’s property”

Based on the above extract, it can be interpreted that a number of people perceive bride price as indicating that a woman has been ‘bought’ into the man's household, which reduces woman’s decision-making roles to only cooking and child rearing among others. Bride price has only limited women's independence and perpetuated unequal gender power relations a trend that is reflecting more female discrimination

While another FDG group had its members stress that it was normally the LCs and if they were defeated (fail to settle) such bride price related cases, they normally referred them to NGOs or Police. This reveals the levels of disagreement existing within homes.

Lastly, 22% strongly agreed and 55% strongly agreed that bride price caused intimidation and isolation of women in Apac society. In addition, 14% disagreed and 9% strongly disagreed to the question. These statistical findings can reveal that a number of violent acts directed to women were frightening, massive causing or inflicting pain to their body parts yet they had to

associate with the society or their surroundings. This seemed to have direct psychology impact on their right to peacefully living.

To complement on these findings were qualitative statement put across on intimidation and isolation where a responding civil society actor said,

“Bride practices payments in Apac District have caused intimidation and isolation especially among the illiterate women given their level of judgment hence Sexual and Gender Based Violence is very rampant for this case”
(CSA).

Based on the extract above, bride price payment was viewed as an indication that those who pay it are more likely to sustain the marital relationship however, the trend has seemed shifting where numerous misunderstanding have been faced and in the event, fewer apprehensions of offenders has been done, fewer cases reported and fewer women are protected.

“Bride price is expensive in Apac District, marred with poor communities where raising dowry means sacrificing several things. This only translates into being a source of violence against women” (RL)

In answering the statement above, it can be seen that more time and efforts have been vested by the man’s family to raise the required bride price may mean that one side is financially over stretched. Here it can be seen that woman expected support by a man is high only to be later on disappointed. The men’s disappointment and anger are translated into physically harming their partners, abuse and other sorts of issues hence making the Management of Gender Based Violence really un attainable.

4.4.1.1 Correlation coefficient results (Bride price practices)

The correlation coefficient test was used to measure the strength of a linear association between bride price practices and Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women with the results that emerged presented in Table 4.7 below.

Table 4.7: Correlation coefficient results for Bride price practices

		Bride Price Practices	Gender based violence
Bride Price Practices	Pearson Correlation	1	.355**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.004
	N	79	79
Gender based violence	Pearson Correlation	.355**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.004	
	N	79	79

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Primary Data

Table 4.7 shows correlation coefficient results including $r=.355^{**}$, sig as .004, ($p<0.05$, 99%). The result reveal a positive significant relationship between bride price practices and management of sexual and gender based violence on women suggesting that a unit increase in bride price practices subjected the women, girls to more Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women by 35.5%.

4.4.1.2 Linear regression results (Bride price practices and Sexual and Gender based violence against women)

The coefficient of determination (denoted by adjusted R^2) a key output of regression analysis was used to determine whether bride price practices were significant in predicting Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Apac District.

Table 4.8: Linear regression results for bride price practices

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.355 ^a	.126	.093	.78449

a. Predictors: (Constant), bride price practices

Source: Primary Data

Table 4.8 comprises of the model summary with scores including R as .355, R squared as .126, Adjusted R square as .093 and standard error of the estimate as .78449 using the predictor; bride price practices. The coefficient of determination measures the proportion of variation in the dependent variable that is predictable from the independent variable.

The coefficient of determination is equal to adjusted R^2 ; in this case, (0.093) or 9.3%. Therefore, 9.3% of the variability in Management of Sex and Gender Based Violence against women can be explained by bride price practices with the remaining percentage of 90.7% suggesting proof of other factors contributing to Sex and Gender Based Violence against women. Additionally, hypothesis statement one that, existing bride price practices affect apprehension of perpetrators of acts of Sexual and Gender based violence cases to a low extent is upheld and the null hypothesis rejected.

4.4.2 Cultural norms and Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence

The second objective of the study was to explain the effect of cultural norms on Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Apac District. For purpose of interpretation the following can be noted that mean score above (>3.00) three reveals agreed responses and that less than three (<3.00) reveals disagreed response. Additionally, Agree (A) and strongly agreed (SA) responses represent agreed while disagreed (D) and strongly disagreed (SD) represent disagreed and the undecided scores are not grouped. For qualitative coding the

following represent the key informants interviewed namely CL represents clan leaders, RL represents religious leaders, MLCC represents Members of Local Council Courts, DSSLGP represents District and Sub County Local Government Personnel while CSA represents Civil Society Actors and LEO represents Law Enforcement officers. A number of questions were asked on cultural norms with the answers obtained presented in Table 4.9 below.

Table 4.9: Statements on Cultural norms

Statement on Cultural norms	Percentage Scores (%)					Mean
	SA (5)	A (4)	UD (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	
In Apac rural areas, violence against women is culturally considered to be normal	28% (8)	28% (8)	0% (0)	31% (9)	13% (4)	3.21
Women are always considered to be subordinate to men hence men are not apprehended when they beat their wives	28% (8)	38% (11)	0% (0)	21% (6)	13% (4)	3.38
In rural Apac District, it is traditionally believed that men have a right to control or discipline women through physical means	0 (0)	64% (19)	0% (0)	21% (6)	13% (4)	3.37
Families in Apac District try as much as possible to keep violence against women to themselves as private as possible hence interfering with outside intervention	24% (7)	58% (16)	0% (0)	12% (4)	6% (2)	3.69
Survivors of sexual gender based violence are not afraid of societal humiliation when they report cases of sexual violence.	17% (5)	45% (13)	0% (0)	21% (6)	17% (5)	3.21
Women in Apac District are usually supported by their families and community in case of sexual and gender based violence.	21% (6)	45% (13)	0% (0)	21% (6)	8% (3)	3.45

Source: Primary Data

Table 4.9 above reveals that a majority respondents reflected by 28% strongly agreed and 28% agreed scores coupled with a mean score of 3.21 agreed to the question asked on whether in Apac rural areas, violence against women was culturally considered to be normal, however, 31% disagreed and 13% strongly disagreed meaning that the traditional or cultural settings subjected women to more gender violence in terms of severe or physical acts because of their the inferiority complex tendency that their husbands or men had towards them. Its implication is that there are increases chances that more women and girls will still be subjected to the violent acts as a result of cultural norms hence poor management of gender

and sexual violence. The findings can be supplemented by the interviews held where an interviewee (CL) emphasized that norms favor men as noted:

“The norms are in most cases in favor of their the men and other norms conflict with the country’s laws for instance beating as a punishment for violation of the set norms”

In addition, interesting results including 28% strongly agreeing, 38% agreeing to the fact that women were always considered to be subordinate to men hence men were not apprehended when they beat their wives, nevertheless, 21% disagreed and 13% strongly disagreed. The results meant that tradition setting of the local settings in Arua District seem to favor male family dominance than female hence a source of gender-sexual violence and creating family instability.

More still, some women seem subjected to severe beating amongst other violent domestic acts because of their inferiority complex tendency that their husbands or men have towards them. On the other hand, violence against girls/women is punishable according to the laws of Uganda thus men have been subjected to local court and police for such cases.

To support the findings above, another interviewee had the statement below on violence against women as culturally being considered normal that,

“The cultural norms in Apac District are mostly based on the clan system where a particular clan has it is own norms that its members must follow” (MLCC).

The differences in cultural norms among communities make the Management of Gender Based Violence difficult and equally harder to understand. This is to say what might be important in one community might be perceived as minor in another. The indifferences do not clearly define how continued women battering can be stopped, their harassment and eventually their stability.

Respondents constituting 64% agreed while 36% disagreed that in rural Apac District, it was traditionally believed that men had a right to control or discipline women through physical means. These findings suggest that as heads of the family, some of the men took advantage of such an attachment or situation to physically hurt or inflict pain on their women and girls as a way of expressing dissatisfaction and anger over domestic issues that had failed to be mutually settled within themselves hence only contributing to more sexual-gender based violence. To further boost the findings were interviews held where one of the respondents (CL) stressed:

“They believe that a married woman is an asset on the rights or discipline of women”

In response to the qualitative information, it can be argued that our cultural norms regarding married families is that a husband will always remain a head of a family while their female counterparts act as their deputies expected to execute less tasks. In the event, this has provided more powers to the husbands in home which at times are abused continuously hence making the Management of Gender Based Violence less valued as women fear of being chased divorced thus a gap.

Additionally, 24% and 58% respondents both agreed and strongly agreed to the findings that families in Apac District tried as much as possible to keep violence against women to themselves as private as possible hence interfering with outside intervention meaning that women as a way on concealing privacy and discrimination amongst community members had to keep some of the violence including beatings a secret. On the other hand, some of the women seemed not to have bothered about any prevailing situation and only went ahead to call for resolutions hence making the solution less private. Its impact was that the women would be perceived as not having respect for their husbands hence being subjected to more domestic violent acts in the due course or as a result.

Another respondent had the following about keeping violence against women as private as possible:

“Marriage issues are private and a sensitive issue to understand, any attempt to interfere may result into failed marriages. The tradition here calls for a married man to have control over their family including woman thus any attempt to discipline women might sound funny however, it’s a private issue” (RL)

In response to the extract above, it can be reasoned that, marriage is a union of two partners including a man and woman hence a private arrangement and only made public during a ceremony. The ceremony has vows upon which both a man and woman adhere to however, in a home context, the relationship is doomed private will domestic challenges failure to handle such challenges by either party results into misunderstandings that might translate into violence acts against the woman thus making the Management of Gender Based Violence difficult.

Further still, 17% agreed, 45% strongly agreed that survivors of Sexual Gender Based Violence were not afraid of societal humiliation when they reported such sexual violence cases, none were undecided while 21% disagreed 17% strongly disagreed respectively. The results can suggest that some women were not afraid of being exposed to the social pressure, however, most seemed not mentally strong, a possibility for divorce among others.

Furthermore, 21% of the respondents strongly agreed while 45% agreed to the question on whether women in Apac District were usually supported by their families and community in case of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. In addition, none were undecided and 21% disagreed as 8% strongly disagreed meaning that some of the women were warmly

welcomed by families and communities hence reducing in gender-sexual violence against women. On the other hand, social pressure including anger were directed by close friends to the men and other convinced family members towards the women hence a sign of encouraging gender-sexual based violence within the communities. In addition, it can be argued that physical hurting, accusations, rumors and gossips among others were directed towards the women. These findings can be supported with a qualitative statement on family support that;

“Our women have experienced isolation, psychological torture coupled with increased fear when interacting with other society members as they thought that such members got to know what took place in their homes. They always expressed their dissatisfaction based on the way their husbands conducted themselves while running families” (MLCC).

It can be seen that, of late married families have tended to handle their domestic differences in a more privately defined manner with fewer engaging extended family members. In the event that the matter is so private, it made difficult for another extended member to know what takes place in one’s home. This situation has only created more a venues for hate, harm and disobedience amongst wives and husbands hence making the Management of Gender Based Violence difficult.

And another interviewee (MLCC) made a statement that;

“In instances where the women are innocent of any crime committed in a home, they are harbored well by relatives”

Harboring a woman by a relative is a good issue in one way or another however, the situation is tagged to a specific period of time when the woman is harbored. In the event, a husband is seen to have relief that they are no longer at logger heads. However, for how

long can a relative harbor some one's wife? Is another trick incident. The affected women are allowed advised to return to their marriages this a sign of weakened cultural norms and only exposes woman to less support and more violence against women

4.4.2.1 Correlation coefficient results (Cultural norms)

The correlation coefficient test was used to measure the strength of a linear association between cultural norms and management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women with the results that emerged presented in Table 4.10 below.

Table 4.10: Correlation coefficient results for cultural norms

		Cultural norms	Management of Gender based violence
Cultural norms	Pearson Correlation	1	.580**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.001
	N	79	79
Gender based violence	Pearson Correlation	.580**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.001	
	N	79	79

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Source: Primary Data

Table 4.10 shows correlation coefficient results including $r=.580^{**}$, $sig = .001$ ($p<0.05$, as $.001$ at 99%). The result reveal a positive significant relationship cultural norms and management of sexual and gender based violence on women suggesting that, a unit increase in cultural norms increase gender based violence against women by 58%.

4.4.2.2 Linear regression results (cultural practices and Sexual and Gender based violence against women)

The coefficient of determination (denoted by adjusted R^2) a key output of regression analysis was used to determine whether cultural norms were significant in predicting Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women in Apac District.

Table 4.11: Linear regression results for cultural norms

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.580 ^a	.336	.312	.68360

a. Predictors: (Constant), cultural norms

Source: Primary Data

Table 4.11 comprises of the model summary with scores including R as .580, R squared as .336, Adjusted R square as .312 and standard error of the estimate as .68360 using the predictor; cultural norms. The coefficient of determination measures the proportion of variation in the dependent variable that is predictable from the independent variable. The coefficient of determination is equal to adjusted R²; in this case, (0.312) or 31.2%. Therefore, 31.2% of the variability in Management of Sex and Gender Based Violence against women can be explained by cultural norms with the remaining percentage of 68.8% suggesting proof of other factors contributing to Sex and Gender Based Violence against women. Additionally, hypothesis two that, “Cultural norms affect protection of survivors of sexual and gender based violence upheld and null hypothesis rejected”.

4.4.3 Composition of LC courts and Management of sexual and gender based violence

Third objective of the study was to establish the extent to which the composition of LC courts affects the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence. For purpose of interpretation the following can be noted that mean score above (>3.00) three reveals agreed responses and that less than three (<3.00) reveals disagreed response. Additionally, Agree (A) and strongly agreed (SA) responses represent agreed while disagreed (D) and strongly disagreed (SD) represent disagreed and the undecided scores are not grouped as presented in Table 4.12 below.

Table 4.12: Statements on Composition of LC Courts

Statement on Composition of LC Courts	Percentage Scores (%)					Mean
	SA (5)	A (4)	UD (3)	D (2)	SD (1)	
The LC courts have a mechanism of addressing sexual and gender based violence in Apac District	28% (8)	48% (14)	0% (0)	21% (6)	3% (1)	3.72
The Gender composition of LC courts helps to handle sexual and gender based violence without discrimination against women	13% (4)	24% (7)	0% (0)	28% (8)	35% (10)	2.55
Women trust in the LC courts in handling gender based violence issues	21% (6)	21% (6)	0% (0)	30% (9)	28% (8)	2.83
The LCs courts are effective in making justice more accessible to SGBV victims	3% (1)	35% (10)	0% (0)	45% (13)	17% (5)	2.76
The LCs courts in Apac District emphasize the principles of natural justice (fair hearing) when handling SGBV cases	10% (3)	21% (6)	0% (0)	41% (12)	28% (8)	2.97
The LCs in the area have the capacity to enforce punishment to perpetrators of gender based violence in the society	9% (3)	42% (12)	3% (1)	25% (7)	21% (6)	3.17
LCs officials are quick in responding to complaints of SGBV in the society	13% (4)	48% (14)	0% (0)	28% (8)	11% (3)	2.66
The community members have trust in the LCs to handle gender based violence	10% (3)	24% (7)	6% (2)	35% (10)	25% (7)	2.62
LC courts are very sensitive and responsive to the needs and constraints of females in their society	3% (1)	27% (8)	14% (4)	38% (11)	18% (5)	2.60
LC Court members are trained to handle SGBV cases	0% (0)	6% (2)	18% (5)	41% (12)	35% (10)	1.97

Source: Primary Data

For qualitative coding the following represent the key informants interviewed namely CL represents clan leaders, RL represents religious leaders, MLCC represents members of local council courts, DSSLGP represents district and sub county local government personnel while CSA represents civil society actors and LEO represents law enforcement officers.

First, results obtained reveal that 28% respondents strongly agreed while 48% agreed with the question that the LC courts have a mechanism of addressing Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Apac District and 21% of the same respondents disagreed and 3% strongly disagreed meaning that the local authorities had well stipulated local formal guidelines in place upon which all violent domestic or family case judgments were based, adhered and

followed time and again. To appendage on the findings was another interviewee who stressed that:

“For any society or social setting to realize peace and stability, there must be legal means. This is what our LC court offer to the families and locals including management of domestic encounters on Sexual and Gender Based Violence” (MLCC).

With local authorities managing community challenges including domestic issues is a reminder that no member should operate outside predefined local laws and any attempt to do so could result into prosecution however, most domesticated cases seem not to have been quickly resolved. The argument is that a community and a family differ even in the way matters are handled where the local authorities time and again have seemed to resolve fewer than many of such cases making the management of Gender Based Violence against women meaningless.

Secondly, 35% respondents strongly disagreed, followed by 28% that disagreed while 24% agreed and 13% strongly disagreed to the question about gender composition. The results could mean that the composition of LC courts in terms of gender was well balanced hence handled Sexual and Gender Based Violence without discrimination against women, however, 37% of the respondents disagreed indicating a worrying situation for women in families.

Similarly, 30% disagreed and 28% strongly disagreed that women in the area had trust in the LC courts in handling gender based violence issues and 42% disagreed. The results obtained suggest weakness with the way the LC courts were composed. The weaknesses can be attributed to the fact that these male dominated courts would tend to benefit the male as compared with their female counterparts and this conflicts with the goal of such courts. In

addition, as a result of the indifferences in composition of these courts, women abused seem to feel injustice whenever such cases are presented for judgment.

To support the findings was a comment put forward in an interview about gender equality:

“The imbalance court composition tends to affect the hearing and management of domestic violence in their way that women (victims) are afraid of narrating or giving their ordeal/ story of how they were abused since the composition of the court is occupied inappropriately by men hence blocking the room for openness” (LEO).

In response to the above paragraph, it can be noted that, any court composition imbalances translates to dominance of a single group in terms of decisions made among others. The issue tends to create numerous gaps in the delivery of expected local legal services which are time and gain exploited. This has made the Management of Gender Based Violence really difficult.

Another FGD stressed that women have problem because their voices are less heard right from the clan to LCs, because very few women are on these committees and even when the woman is supposed to win the case, she loses instead or are counseled without penalizing the men

In addition, 45% respondents disagreed and 17% strongly disagreed of the respondents disagreed that the LCs courts were effective in making justice more accessible to the survivors of sexual and gender based violence, however, 35% agreed while 3% agreed and none were undecided meaning that pockets of unfair justice were still evident in the pursue of better SGBV practices among families within Arua District hence a bad gesture for family stability.

Further still, 41% of the respondents disagreed that the LCs courts in Apac District emphasized the principles of natural justice (fair hearing) when handling cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence, however only 10% strongly agreed and 21% agreed meaning that a lot of discriminative acts are common especially in instances where domestic violence cases have been presented for Judgment by the local LC court. Secondly, it can be argued that the issue of inferiority complex is still alive and dividing the society in Apac District as most domestic cases tend to favor husband over the women hence a contributing factor to more and more domestic abuse.

To complement about justice was a comment that,

“Since only men are always appointed as LCs, their composition affects GBV in that even if a woman goes with their problems to be solved for the LC courts you find that is not being handled appositely since she is a woman” (DSSLGP).

In light with the above, it can be observed that the issue of gender discrimination has continues to prevail even within the local communities. This inferiorly present issue within any community opens the door for more violence against women making it difficult to properly manage Gender Based Violence against Women

Additionally, 42% of the respondents agreed that the LCs in the area had capacity to enforce punishment to perpetrators of gender based violence in the society, 9% strongly agreed, 3% neither agreed nor disagreed while 25% had disagreed and 21% had strongly disagreed meaning that the local authorities including LC were mandated to make fair judgment on SGBV matters and be able to create stability in disgruntled and struggling families hence a good gesture for reduced SGBV.

Majority of the respondents 48% agreed to the statement that LCs officials were quick in responding to complaints of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the society, 13% strongly agreed, none of the respondents were neutral while 28% disagreed and 11% strongly agreed. These facts can be attributed to the fact that meaning that a number of penalties based on the magnitude of the violent act were in place and frequently adhered to as a means to limit or reduce on SGBV within the communities in Apac District. The findings are supported by a qualitative statement below that,

“I feel the composition of LC Courts is fair and representative enough to have a positive change in handling sexual and gender based violence” (CSA).

The ability of LCs officials to quickly respond to a number of complaints on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in the society as a result of fair gender distribution reveals a good foundation for more family balanced views or solutions to any exposed cases. This has made it easier to manage Gender Based Violence against Women.

In another FGD, members expressed dissatisfaction linked to the fact that some LCs were given bribes in advance including being given tips and bought alcohol/drinks by the perpetrators or men in cases of violence hence making the man to win the case at the expense of a woman.

Further still, a mean score of 2.62 supported by 35% disagreed and 25% strongly disagreed reveal that community members had lost trust in the LCs who were in charge of handling gender based violence meaning that the local community’s belief to be locally served by authorities had all but perished meaning that issues pertaining to SGBV were only piling and remaining unresolved only contributing to more violent acts against women.

Additionally, 38% respondents disagreed while 18% strongly disagreed to the question that LC courts were sensitive and responsive to the needs and constraints of females in their society. On the other hand, only 3% strongly agreed, 27% agreed and 14% were undecided respectively. These revelations can be linked to the fact that based on the previous cases that had been handled, had assessed and judged by the LCs, the local community were not satisfied or pleased.

The inability to be unsatisfied meant that the victims and accuser had a softer ground to argue their cases and for this case the LCs hence creating possibilities of the men winning the cases hence a continued reflection of failed handling of SGBV within families. One responding interviewee (MLCC) said:

“Women voices are not heard and they are not seen as part of decision making and their decision making and their decision if any is not respected at all”

The inability to realize women voices including participating in decisions making can only pave the way for more violent acts against them. This could translate into women being harassed, harmed and eventually divorced in the long run as a result, it could only halt the progress for the management of Gender Based Violence against Women.

In addition, results obtained from one of the FDGs reveals that women or wife beating is not taken as a private issue unlike in the past where the community and clan were very active in promoting rights of women for instance handling the right of women; for instance less access to justice

Lastly, 41% of the respondents disagreed and 35% strongly disagreed to the statement that the LC Court members were trained to handle cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in full while 18% were undecided and 6% agreed respectively meaning that most local

authorities had not been allocated funds or even identified for training to better their skills, technicalities, knowledge, competence and therefore qualifications to support in the continued execution of domestic cases including SGBV hence resulting into more and more pilling of domestic cases backlog of cases. In one of the interviews held, one interviewee said:

“They are people who in most cases work on experience and mostly elders who are rigidly ruined to older ways of handling issues” (CL).

The enhance of any gender based violence training against women is intended to ensure that any persons tasked with handling gender based cases have the right skills, competence, abilities and wider knowledge else failure to possess the above would only ruin the chances of managing Gender Based Violence against Women.

4.4.3.1 Correlation coefficient results (Composition of LC courts)

The correlation coefficient test was used to measure the strength of a linear association between composition of LC courts and management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women with the results that emerged presented in Table 4.13 below.

Table 4.13: Correlation coefficient results for cultural norms

		Composition of LC courts	Management of Gender based violence
LC courts	Pearson Correlation	1	.514**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	29	29
Gender based violence	Pearson Correlation	.514**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	29	29

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Table 4.13 shows correlation coefficient results. The result reveal a significant ($p < 0.05$, as .000 at 99%) positive .514** correlation between composition of LC courts and Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence on women. Based on the results obtained, it can be suggested that, a unit increase in composition of LC courts increase gender based violence against women by 51.4%.

4.4.3.2 Linear regression results (Composition of LC courts)

The coefficient of determination (denoted by adjusted R^2) a key output of regression analysis was used to determine whether composition of LC courts were significant in predicting management of sexual and gender based violence against women in Apac District.

Table 4.14: Linear regression results for composition of LC courts

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.514 ^a	.265	.237	.56388

a. Predictors: (Constant), Composition of LC courts

Source: Primary Data

Table 4.14 comprises of the model summary with scores including R as .580, R squared as .336, Adjusted R square as .312 and standard error of the estimate as .56388 using the predictor; composition of LC courts. The coefficient of determination measures the proportion of variation in the dependent variable that is predictable from the independent variable. The coefficient of determination is equal to adjusted R^2 ; in this case, (0.237) or 23.7%. Therefore, 23.7% of the variability in management of sex and gender based violence against women can be explained by composition of LC courts with the remaining percentage of 66.3% suggesting proof of other factors contributing to sex and gender based violence against women. Additionally, hypothesis statement three that, “The composition of Local

Council Courts affects management of sexual and gender based violence to a low extent” an alternate hypothesis was accepted and the null rejected.

In summary, both descriptive and inferential findings tend to reveal that the traditional socio-cultural factors contributed less to sexual and gender based violence against women. However, with the current trend of modernity tending to be contributing more to increase gender violence including bartering women, physically harming them, less fear of the law all linked more to material dowry, abandonment of cultural norms and imbalanced composition of LC courts.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, DISCUSSION, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The chapter comprises of the summary, discussion, conclusions and recommendations based on the specific objectives of the study. Additionally, it presents the limitations to the study and closes with areas for further study.

5.2 Summary of the study

This section provides a summary what was actually found during the study. It is arranged based on the specific objectives of the study including the following.

5.2.1 Bride price practices and Management of SGBV against Women

There was a significant positive relationship (.355**) found between bride price practices and Management of SGBV against women. With this, it can be summarized that bride payments in Apac District often served to limit women's rights within family settings and community. In addition, bride price meant women's fear of returning to their natal homes without being able to repay bride price. It also means that women are restricted from legally reporting their spouses to the authorities and bride price practices were found to cause intimidation and isolation of women.

5.2.2 Cultural Norms and Management of SGBV against Women

Key numerical findings reveal a significant positive relationship (.580**) between cultural norms and Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against Women with the following summarized that violence against women is culturally norm, Women are culturally regarded as subordinate and subjected to violent beating. Survivors of Sexual Gender Based

Violence are afraid of societal humiliation and rarely supported by their families and communities.

5.2.3 Composition of LC courts and Management of SGBV against Women

Based on the inferential statistics obtained earlier, a significant positive relationship was established between composition of LC courts and Sexual and Gender Based Violence against Women. With the following concluded summarized including Sexual and Gender Based violence issues were locally addressed to LC courts whenever domestic resolving of such matters failed while most LC courts discriminated women than male despite female reporting more of the SGBV cases. In addition, fair SGBV cases hearing discrepancies were common and found to negatively affect more women. Finally, some of SGBV complaints were delayed affected by fewer LC Court members who had not been trained to handle cases.

5.3 Discussion of the findings

This section provides a detailed account of findings as presented in chapter four while linking these findings with scholarly literature presented in chapter two and identifying the gaps. This is arranged based on the specific objectives of the study including the following.

5.3.1 Bride price practices and Management of SGBV against Women

The study established that a significant unit increase in bride practices increased sexual and gender based violence against women. This can be supported by the positive responses that were obtained from the interviews, SAQ and FGDs that were conducted. For example many respondents agreed that bride price had long been linked to domestic violence, owing to women's fear of returning to their natal home without being able to repay the bride price. This finding is supported by UN DAW (2009) which highlighted that bride price-related violence was a serious problem that affected the lives of women and girls. It further stipulates

that bride price includes gifts, money, goods or property given from the bride's family to the groom or in-laws before, during or any time after the marriage. Furthermore, Praveen (2000) argues that, most common forms of bride price-related violence were battering, marital rape, acid pouring and other forms of violence. He further noted that dowry had become a socially forced fate that had limited victims of violent relationships to speak out for fear of being excommunicated from the society.

The researcher totally agrees with the findings presented above as bride price given by a husband to the bride's family tends to pave way for continuity of their existing tradition or cultural practices, create family stability and mutual bonding between families of the bride and groom. However, it can be noted that much as bride price practices are associated with positive rewards for instance material things including herds of cattle, goats and sofa seats among others, on the other hand, these have been associated with negative acts that have ruined good families. Some of these negative acts can be attributed to the absence of formal bride price guidelines (not documented any-where) upon which basis can be made while practicing such an act. The lack of formal bride price guidelines in Apac District seems to create more instability in families and widening marital relations in families than before. This has resulted into brutal inflict of physical pain to the women/ girls in such families hence a great danger to their lives.

In addition, many respondents agreed that bride price was considered as a payment for reproductive capabilities hence causing conflicts when a woman failed to reproduce and the majority respondents indicated positively that dowry paid in Apac District served to limit women's control over their bodies both sexually and in terms of their labor. This concurs a 2011 Report by ACFODE, which ascertains that the community believed that men were the controllers/owners of resources that is culturally normal. In the family, the husband decided

on how, when and where to use or not to use a particular resource regardless of the woman's consent. The researcher disagrees with the above statement about dowry payment being used as a basis for women reproductive capabilities. The disagreement can be linked to the fact that given the remote locality of Apac District and lack of exposure by some men to more modern ways of handling women and girls other than beating them. This discrepancy seems to create more of a widening knowledge-perception gap among newly established marriages, courtship and already established married families existing within the tradition settings hence continuous marriage wrangles.

Similarly, 88% respondents agreed that bride price limits women from reporting their spouses to Local Councils and community members when they are beaten. In addition, a majority respondents showed that payment of dowry caused intimidation and isolation of women in Apac society. This concurs with an author Lesile (1998) who demonstrated that "bride price deaths" were not always what they seemed. Leslie asserted that women and girls were dying and were being abused without perpetrators (abusers) being brought to book. The researcher agrees to the fact that the presence of the law upon which every person adheres to helps in the prevention of more crime including SGBV within our communities. However, dowry as being a means of limiting women from reporting their spouses to the LC and community members, tends to only discredit the laws attached to domestic violence and exposes the authority that the local leadership or authority should exhibit when such problems arise. It can be said that this kind of discredit only increase domestic violence and instability within the community where they all live.

Conclusively, the feminist theory on domestic violence adopted for the study reveals that the root causes of intimate partner violence is as an outcome of living a society that condones aggressive behaviors perpetrated by men hence as found out, engaging in giving bride price

practices and failure for a woman to comply accordingly would result in violence which links well with the hypothesis statement one which was accepted and the null rejected.

5.3.2 Cultural Norms and Management of SGBV against Women

Based on the findings obtained earlier in Chapter Four, it was established that cultural norms were found to have a significant effect on SGBV in Apac District. This is evidenced by the number of responses that were collectively obtained during the course of the study on this matter. Some of the findings include the majority of the respondents who agreed that violence against women is culturally considered to be normal. This finding can be tagged to the scholarly write up by Jeannie (2010) who found out that there are traditional beliefs that men have a right to control or discipline women through physical means makes women vulnerable to violence by intimate partner and places girls at risk of sexual abuse with no alternatives for reporting such incidences. Similarly, Chapell (1998) urges that that justification for violence is frequently based on cultural norms thus, social norms about the proper roles and responsibilities of men and women.

These cultural and social norms socialize males to be aggressive, powerful, unemotional, controlling and contributing to a social acceptance of men as dominant. However, much as these traditional beliefs are in place for the men to adhere to while managing their families, weaknesses in such beliefs have eroded away chances of the girls and woman from enjoying their freedom in homes. Some of these weaknesses (in beliefs) can be attributed to the fact that these beliefs seem outdated or rudimentary and therefore contributing to the increase violence in homes hence needing a quick fix.

In addition, many of respondents indicated that women were considered to be subordinate to men hence men were not apprehended when they beat their wives. This can be supported by

Bloomquist (1989) who asserts that sexual and gender violence can be seen as the result of patriarchal social constructs which define the relationship between women and men as one of subordination and domination. The researcher agrees with the fact that the presence of a man in a home clearly qualifies a woman to deputize in the varying roles that they play. However, in the communities where we live, the trend seems different as people tend to oppose feminism on the grounds that they believe it is contrary to traditional values or religious beliefs. This has only increased chances of women being oppressed time and again hence increase in the SGBV.

Further still, respondents constituting a majority positively responded that women in Apac were usually supported by their families and community in case of sexual and gender based violence. This statement coincides with ACGSD Report of (2011) which affirms that one of the major obstacles to the prevention, reduction and eradication of gender-based violence is that it remains largely invisible and its victims largely silent, due to both a wide socio-cultural acceptance of this form of violence as well as the stigma attached to the victims of gender-based violence. The researcher agrees that extending emotional, psychological and mental support to the victim of violence (girl-women) tends to ease pain that they face during this tragic time. The victims tend to have a sense of warmth and happiness during this prime time. However, some of the families and community tend to express dissatisfaction over the intention of such abused woman and girls to leave their husband and instead harbor at their families or community. The support gap can be attributed to the fact that they (families and community) think at the dowry vows would have been broken hence turning into a social threat.

Lastly, the feminist theory on domestic violence as used for the study reveals that the traditional or cultural settings still favour men oppression over women meaning that a heads a

family and can dictate and use violence and aggression on a woman while intimate relationships. The findings concur with hypothesis results where the alternate hypothesis was accepted and null rejected.

5.3.3 Composition of LC courts and Management of SGBV against Women

The composition of LC courts was found to have a positive bearing on the management of SGBV in Apac District. To complement the findings were positive opinions given during the course of the study as presented in the discussion below.

Many respondents in the two sub counties agreed that the LC courts had a mechanism of addressing Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women. This is in line with ACFODE (2012) which highlights that Local Council leaders as supposed to be the first ones to respond to complaints of Sexual and Gender Based Violence due to their accessibility. By virtue of their proximity, they know almost all people in a given locality and it can easily ascertain cases in given families. They also command people's trust and if called upon, are likely to arbitrate in fighting families or couples.

While many of the respondents agreed that composition of LC courts in terms of gender were well balanced and handled sexual and gender based violence without discrimination against women. According to ACORD (2010), it is not just the composition of LC courts that limits the Management of SGBV cases by Local Council Courts but other factors for example; LC Courts practice discriminatory justice guided by unfair cultural values, harsh investigations of SGBV cases cause further psychological and sometimes even social injuries to the victims. The researcher agrees to the statement as having effective and operational SGBV mechanisms in place tends to delivery warning messages to the culprits of women violence. However, the respondents who disagreed to the above statement on the LC courts having a mechanism adhered to with providing judgment (sexual gender based violence) to the

community might have seen a number of gaps. Some of these gaps might have been that the given the trend in legal issues, the mechanism seemed obsolete and held no value in ensuring proper local justice to the woman or girl. This has in the end resulted in more violence and instability within the communities.

In addition, many of the respondents agreed that the LCs courts in Apac District emphasize the principles of natural justice (fair hearing) when handling cases of sexual and gender based violence. However, this is contrary to a HURIFO Report of 2002 on Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Northern Uganda which states that the LC courts that administer justice, including on sexual and gender based violence are often biased. American Refugee Council (2012) clearly shows that in 70% cases that come to ARC, the survivor declined legal action and protection or security services for fear of losing children, family, husband and sense of family. The researcher concurred with the fact that access to fair justice shows how transparent any legal system can be and how it provides value for better judgment. Nonetheless the principles of natural justice tend to be overcome by a number of discriminative acts. These tend to stall quick access to a fair legal system among others. Some of these discriminative acts may include delay in the execution (judgment) of cases and constant threats to key witnesses among others. Such acts have consistently contributed to the increased piles of SGBV cases as well as violence.

Lastly, with the use of force and aggression towards women, it can be noted that fewer courts and gender composition support women violence which is in line with the findings. These findings support the alternate hypothesis that the composition of Local Council Courts affects management of sexual and gender based violence and rejects the null hypothesis.

5.4 Conclusions of the study

This section concludes the study discussion based on the specific objectives of the study including the following.

5.4.1 Bride price practices and Management of SGBV against Women

Based on the earlier discussions held on bride price practices and Management of SGBV, the following can be concluded that the more bride price given to a woman's family meant men's assumption of powers over their spouses. While bride price practices were partly to blame on domestic violence, reporting of domestic violence cases was uncommon with women fearing to be associated with socially exposing/failing family bondages.

5.4.2 Cultural Norms and Management of SGBV against Women

It was found out that the community perception that a man has powers over his wife would only increase gender violence. It was found out that men in Apac District are rarely apprehended when they beat their wives and were found to over control their women with the perception that they are "disciplining" their wives.. Some women eloped/divorced citing domestic violence by men in Apac communities.

5.4.3 Composition of LC courts and Management of SGBV against Women

Although LC Courts are accessible to communities, the gender imbalances in terms of numbers in the composition of the courts only discouraged women from reporting cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Apac District. The gender imbalances left women dissatisfied with the court set up, the Courts are male dominated further diminishing women's confidence and access to them. Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women was on the increase in Apac District as most of the perpetrators are rarely apprehended. In addition, LCs courts were unequipped and unskilled to enforce punishments to perpetrators of Sexual

and Gender Based Violence against women and the local community in Apac District had lost trust it's the Local Council Courts.

In addition to the composition of the courts, the study found that there are broader factors that contribute to women's inability to access justice. These include; women's economic dependence on men and overall gender inequality.

5.5 Recommendations of the study

This section provides recommendations based on the specific objectives of the study. These include:

5.5.1 Bride price practices and Management of SGBV against Women

The following were recommendations made for bride price practices

- The researcher recommends that cases / incidences of Sexual and Gender Based Violence be handled through engaging clan elders, local leadership in formulating more local family bride price guidelines upon which such practices should be based. This will ensure equal family justice including rights for both the men and women thus drawing stability in such families.
- The researcher recommends that the technocrats in Apac District train clan leaders and members of LC Courts on the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women. This is because these are highly respected by community members are easily accessible by survivors of Sexual and Gender Based Violence
- Lastly, the researcher recommends that the clan leaders, local community and LC in Apac District in line with the religious leaders use ceremonial days including burials, Sunday church services and introduction ceremonies among others to deliver information women's rights and how to Manage SGBV within the local communities. The

sensitization is likely to better community perception towards women as a “Men’s property”.

5.5.2 Cultural Norms and Management of SGBV against Women

Several gaps were identified during the discussion held earlier between cultural norms and management of SGBV against women with the following below forming some of the recommendations that the research came up with:

- The local leaders should work hand-in-hand with the elders as well as local LC courts and sensitize the local community stressing that domestic violence is punishable according to the Laws of Uganda and stability should be adhered to by both parties (married men and women) as this will limit on the level of SGBV within families.
- The researcher recommends that awareness creation/sensitization activities be strengthened in the varying cultures within the several sub-counties. This should commence right from the Sub-County officials down to the local leaders, zonal and cultural elders. More frequent sensitization workshops should be organized for all beneficiaries including the girl child among other as this will help to strengthen coordination mechanism for the Management of SGBV activities in Apac District.

5.5.3 Composition of LC courts and Management of SGBV against Women

A number of composition of LC court discrepancies were evident during the discussion held earlier with the researcher coming up with the recommendations below to address the issues including:

- The researcher recommends that Political Leaders (Council) of Apac District should pass a by-law which requires revising the composition of all its LC Courts to ensure that all gender (female and male) are equally represented.

- The researcher recommends that, elders supported by the local council and spearhead by the community should call for the establishment of a Women's desk to handle urgent SGBV cases before they are forwarded at a higher level. This is intended to legally prepare the women and address valuable information that would have been hidden as they seem disadvantaged all time. The establishment of such a desk will send shock waves across the potential and existing SGBV culprits and limit on any tendencies they might possess in an attempt to commit domestic violence with the district.
- The researcher recommends that a combination of the local community, local leaders as well as elders and sub county leaders form a task force whose role will include ensuring that current LC court composition is reviewed and come up with remedies to curb the legal discriminative representation of Women. This is likely result into legal equality, better local justice and stability in their homes.
- Finally, the researcher recommends that a fair evaluation criterion such as a performance evaluation exercise pertaining to the handling of complaints, offences and SGBV be introduced. This will encourage local community to express their right on the nature services that the consume pertaining to domestic violence. In addition, the exercise is likely to close gaps and better legal services to the key beneficiaries.

5.6 Limitations of the study

This section in the study provided the limitations that might have prohibited the researcher from generalizing the study findings. Below are some of the limitations:

- 1) First, not all interviews were held, FGDs conducted and SAQ returned, meaning that much as the researcher seemed not to have fully exhausted all possible methods of data collection based on these methods used, the researcher could not generalize the study finding.

- 2) Secondly, the study was restricted to only bride price practices, cultural norms and composition of LC courts as key variables that explain socio-cultural factors as affecting the management of SGBV against women. However, it can be observed that there are other factors other than these that affect the Management of SBGV in Apac District.
- 3) Lastly, the study interpretation held and conclusions drawn in this study are based on the positive or agreed results realized as compared to the disagreed and undecided scores. The researcher found it complicated to draw meaningful conclusions on these findings hence did not generalize the findings of the study.

5.7 Areas for further study

The researcher identified the following as areas that need further study:

1. Political factors that affect the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Apac District.
2. Economic factors that affect the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Apac District.
3. Administrative and procedural factors that affect the Management Of Sexual and Gender Based Violence on Apac District.

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APPENDIX A: Questionnaire For Respondents

Dear respondent,

I am Immaculate Agedo a student of Uganda management institute, pursuing a Masters in Management Studies. I am carrying out a study on “**Socio-Cultural Factors Affecting the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence among women in Rural Communities - A Case of Apac District.**”

You have been chosen as a respondent because the information you will provide is very vital for this study. The information provided will be treated with utmost confidentiality, and will be used exclusively for academic research purposes. Thank you for your time and co-operation.

SECTION A: PERSONAL INFORMATION

(Please tick what is most appropriate to you)

A1: Sex

Male	Female
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A2: Respondent's age:

Age (years)	20 – 24	25 - 30	31 – 35	36 – 40	41 - 45	46-50	51-55	56-60	Above 61
Tick	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

A3: Educational level attained

Educational Level Attained	No education	Primary education	Certificate	Diploma	Bachelor's Degree	Other(specify)
Tick						

A4: Employment status

Working Status	unemployed	peasant	employed	Others (Specify)
Tick				

A5: Position in the community

Clan leader	
Religious leader	
Community member / citizen	
Member of LC court	
District and S/C county Local government staff	
Law Enforcement Officer (Police, Security personnel etc)	

B: Socio cultural practices and the management of sexual and gender based violence

Tick (✓) on the scale of 1-5 how strongly you agree or disagree with the statements given in the table below

1) I strongly disagree (DA) 2) I disagree (D) 3) Not Sure 4) I agree (A) 5) I strongly agree (SA)

No	Bride price practices and management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women	SD	D	U	A	SA
1.	Bride price paid in Apac often serves to limit women's control over their bodies both sexually and in terms of their labor.					
2.	Bride price practices in this area has long been linked to domestic violence, owing to women's fear of returning to their natal home without being able to repay the bride price					
3.	Bride price practices limits women from reporting their spouses to Local Councils and Community members when they are beaten.					
4.	Bride price is also considered as a payment for reproductive capabilities hence causing conflicts when a woman fails to reproduce.					
5.	Payment of bride price causes intimidation and isolation of women in Apac society					

C. Cultural norms and the management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women

No	Socio-cultural norms and the Management of Gender Based Violence	SD	D	U	A	SA
1	In Apac rural areas, violence against women is culturally considered to be normal					
2	Women are always considered to be subordinate to men hence men are not apprehended when they beat their wives					
3	In rural Apac, it is traditionally believed that men have a right to control or discipline women through physical means					
4	Families in Apac try as much as possible to keep violence against women to themselves as private as possible hence interfering with outside intervention					
5	Survivors of sexual gender based violence are not afraid of societal humiliation when they report cases of sexual violence.					
6	Women in Apac are usually supported by their families and community in case of sexual and gender based violence.					

D: Composition of LC Courts and Management Sexual and Gender Based Violence against women

No	Composition of LC Courts and Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence Against women	SD	D	U	A	SA
1.	The LC courts have a mechanism of addressing sexual and gender based violence in Apac district					
2.	The composition of LC courts in terms of gender is well balanced and can handle sexual and gender based violence without discrimination against women					
3.	Women in the area have trust in the LC courts in handling					

	gender based violence issues					
4.	The LCs courts are effective in making justice more accessible to the survivors of sexual and gender based violence					
5.	The LCs courts in Apac district emphasize the principles of natural justice (fair hearing) when handling cases of sexual and gender based violence					
6.	The LCs in the area have the capacity to enforce punishment to perpetrators of gender based violence in the society					
7.	LCs officials are quick in responding to complaints of sexual and gender based violence in the society					
8.	The community members have trust in the LCs to handle gender based violence					
9.	LC courts are very sensitive and very responsive to the needs and constraints of females in their society					
10.	LC Court members are trained to handle cases of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Full					

E: Management of Sexual Gender Based Violence against women by other stake holders

No		SD	D	U	A	SA
1.	NGOs and other stakeholders are efficient when carrying out referrals for gender based violence victims					
2.	NGOs and other stakeholders efficiently help victims of gender based violence to report their problems to the necessary authorities in society					
3.	NGOs and other stakeholders are effective in assisting victims of sexual and gender based violence in apprehending those who commit sexual and gender based violence					
4.	The LCs, NGOs and other stakeholders are effective in providing legal services to victims of gender based violence in Apac district.					
5.	The services of NGOs and other key stakeholders are very visible and accessible by victims of gender based violence					
6.	Stakeholders effectively create awareness amongst the community members about the evils of gender based violence.					
7.	The community members have trust in the NGOs and other stakeholders in handling sexual and gender based violence matters					

F: What are the challenges faced in the attempts to combat sexual gender based violence in your society

.....

G: Can you recommend how best sexual and gender based violence can be combated in your society?

.....

.....

Appendix B: Interview Guide for key informants

1. How rampant are cases of sexual and gender based violence in Apac district?
2. Can you please comment on how the following socio cultural aspects affect to the management of sexual and gender based violence against women in Apac District
 - a. Bride price practices
 - b. Gender norms in Apac district
 - c. Composition of LCs courts

1. Bride price Practices	
Tell me about bride price practices in Apac District and the management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence Against women in Apac	
Those whose bride price practices is not paid do they face sexual and gender based violence	
2. Cultural norms	
Briefly tell me about cultural norms in Apac	
How do these cultural norms affect the management of sexual and gender Based	
3. Composition of LC Courts	
What is the composition of LC Courts in your Sub County in terms of gender	
How does the composition of the LC Courts affect the management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence Against Women in Apac	
How is the capacity of members of LC courts and how does it affect the management of sexual and gender based violence	

4. What other socio-cultural challenges are faced in the management of sexual and gender based violence in this district?.....

5. How best do you think stakeholders can tackle the problem of sexual and gender based violence in this society?.....

Appendix C: Focus Group Discussion Guide

Good morning. My name is Immaculate Agedo a Student of Uganda Management Institute. As part of a requirement for the course am pursuing, am required to carry out a research. Am are very pleased you have agreed to join us today.

Am here to talk about how the socio-cultural factors affect the Management of Sexual and Gender Based Violence in Apac District.

The discussion we are going to have is called a focus group discussion. For those of you who have never participated in one of these sessions I would like to explain a little bit about this type of research.

Focus groups are used to gather information informally from a small group of individuals who have a common interest in a particular subject-in this instance, you all stay Apac district and have common cultural beliefs and practices.

In focus groups, there are no right or wrong answers. I would like to hear from everyone. Am pleased you can be part of this group because I think you have important ideas regarding the management of sexual and gender based violence. Don't hesitate to speak up when you have a point you would like moderated the session and moving us along so that we touch on all of the key subjects on our agenda.

My role today is to see that we have a productive discussion and to summarize the group's feelings. I will not refer to any participant by name in the reports I prepare.

The information will be kept confidential and used only by our Library to develop new services and programs that will better address your needs and those of other families in the future.

Focus Group Discussion Guide

Ages of Participants

Marital Status of each participant

Religious affiliation of each participant

Education Level of each participants

1. What is your understanding of sexual and gender based violence Against Women?
2. Have you heard any incidences of sexual and gender based violence against women in your community
3. Are there any cultural norms with Apac that encourage such incidence?
4. Which categories of women experience these incidences more (Those married or unmarried?)
5. When such incidences happen, how do the survivors access justice?
6. Do men sometimes feel it their right to beat women?
7. Does the community play any role in helping the survivors of these incidences to access justice?
8. Briefly explain how the community and LC courts manage incidences of sexual and gender based violence against women in Apac.
9. Does the composition of LC courts in terms of gender affect the management of sexual and gender based violence against women in Apac?
10. Do you feel the current structures for managing incidences of sexual and gender based violence in Apac district are doing enough?
11. Are there any subjects, topics or thoughts on the management of sexual and gender based violence that have not been discussed which might be useful to this study. Please talk about it.

Appendix D: Table for Determining Sample Size from a Given Population

N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S	N	S
10	10	100	80	280	162	800	260	2800	338
15	14	110	86	290	165	850	265	3000	341
20	19	120	92	300	169	900	269	3500	246
25	24	130	97	320	175	950	274	4000	351
30	28	140	103	340	181	1000	278	4500	351
35	32	150	108	360	186	1100	285	5000	357
40	36	160	113	380	191	1200	291	6000	361
45	40	180	118	400	196	1300	297	7000	364
50	44	190	123	420	201	1400	302	8000	367
55	48	200	127	440	205	1500	306	9000	368
60	52	210	132	460	210	1600	310	10000	373
65	56	220	136	480	214	1700	313	15000	375
70	59	230	140	500	217	1800	317	20000	377
75	63	240	144	550	225	1900	320	30000	379
80	66	250	148	600	234	2000	322	40000	380
85	70	260	152	650	242	2200	327	50000	381
90	73	270	155	700	248	2400	331	75000	382
95	76	270	159	750	256	2600	335	100000	384

Note: “N” is population size
 “S” is sample size.

Appendix E: Documentary review checklist

The documents reviewed included:

- Apac and Aduku Sub county LC Courts Case Files (2008-2014)
- Apac District Probation Office records (2011-2013)
- Apac District Social Economic Demographic Data June (2014)
- Uganda Association of Lawyers (1996) and Judicial Powers Act 13 of Uganda