



Hacettepe University Graduate School of Social Sciences

Department of Peace Studies

**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV): ITS EFFECTS ON
DEVELOPMENT AND THE SOCIETY, INITIATIVES IN PLACE
FOCUS ON THE WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS OF THE FAR
NORTH REGION CAMEROON**

FAMANOU KAMPETE

Master's Thesis

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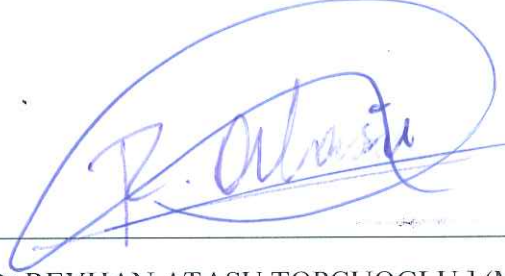
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ABSTRACT

FAMANOU KAMPETE, *Gender-based violence(Gbv): its effects on development and the society, initiatives in place, focus on the women and young girls of the far north region Cameroon*, Masters Thesis Ankara, 2019.

Gbv is a complex social problem and also a major barrier to development and affects all level of society , the study will focus on the far north region of Cameroon where these practices are done under the umbrella of culture religion or tradition ,a number of initiatives have been created to fight against these types of violence but it still prevails despite all these efforts . Violence against women has been called “the most pervasive yet least recognized human rights abuse in the world.” The far north region in Cameroon has a population of three and a half million majority of whom are women but it is a patriarchal and conservative society, and is one of the poorest and underdeveloped regions in the country, right from birth male children are given priorities and privileges while female children are believed to move to their husbands family sooner or later so anything done for them is seen as a waste of resources . The male children have more opportunities, some parents believe sending female children to school may affect her negatively even though primary education is free parents are still reluctant to send them. Some of these girls who stay at home finally are sent to forced or early marriages and find themselves at the mercy of these men where she is relegated to the role of housewife, without resources and without skills which makes it difficult for them to secure jobs and are therefore dependent .if girls are given the same opportunities as boys they could exploit their potentials by not only being autonomous but will also contribute to the society through skills, input and ideas . The violence may sometimes not be seen but its impact is felt on development and within the society, communities and the country as a whole.

Key Words

Gender-based violence ,violence against woment ,development

ÖZET

FAMANOU KAMPETE, *Cinsiyete dayalı şiddet :kalkınma ve topluma etkileri, mevcut girişimler, uzak kuzey bölgesindeki kadın ve genç kızlara odaklanmaktadır Kamerun, Yüksek Lisans Tezi Ankara, 2019.*

Cinsiyete dayalı şiddet, karmaşık bir sosyal problemdir , toplumun kalkınması konusunda büyük bir engel teşkil etmektedir ve toplumu birçok açıdan etkilemektedir.Bu Çalışma, cinsiyete dayalı şiddetin kültür, din veya gelenek gerekçe gösterilerek uygulandığı Kamerun Uzak Kuzey bölgesine odaklanacaktır.Bu tür şiddetle mücadele etmek amacıyla çözüm yolları bulunmuştur ancak tüm bu çabalara rağmen şiddet halen hüküm sürmektedir.Kadına yönelik şiddete “dünyadaki en yaygın ancak en az kabul edilen insan hakları ihlali” denmiştir.Ülkedeki az gelişmiş ve en fakir bölgelerden biri olan Kamerun Uzak Kuzey Bölgesi, üç buçuk milyon nüfusa sahiptir. Bu nüfusun çoğunluğunu kadınlar oluşturmaktadır ancak toplum ataerkil ve muhafazakardır.Doğumlarından itibaren erkek çocuklara öncelik verilirken, kız çocuklarının er ya da geç eşlerinin ailelerinin yanına taşınacaklarına inanılır. Bu nedenle kız çocukları için yapılan her şey, kaynakların israfı olarak görülmektedir.Ebeveynler tarafından erkek çocuklara özellikle eğitim alanında ayrıcalıklar sağlanmasının yanında, kız çocuklarının okula gönderilmesinin onları olumsuz etkileyebileceğine dair bir inanış vardır. İlköğretimin Kamerun’da ücretsiz olmasına rağmen ebeveynler kız çocuklarının okula gitmesi konusunda oldukça isteksizdir.Okula gidemedikleri için evde kalmak mecburiyetinde olan kızlar bu süreç içerisinde erken evliliklere zorlanırlar. Ev hanımı rolünü üstlenirler ve evlendikleri adamların insafına kalırlar. Eğitim haklarını kullanamadıkları ve maddi başka bir kaynakları olmadığından iş de bulamazlar. Dolayısıyla eşlerine maddi açıdan bağımlı olurlar.Kız çocuklarına da erkek çocuklarına sağlanan imkanlar sağlanırsa yalnızca bağımsız birer birey olmazlar, aynı zamanda topluma da fikirleri ve yetenekleriyle katkı sağlarlar.Şiddetin etkileri sadece görünür değil, psikolojik şiddetin etkileri toplumun kalkınmasını ve genel olarak ülkenin pek çok alanını derinden etkiler.

Anahtar kelimeler: Cinsiyete dayalı şiddet, kadına yönelik şiddet, kalkınma

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACCEPTANCE AND APPROVAL.....	I
YAYIMLAMA VE FIKRİ MÜLKİYET HAKLARI.....	II
ETİK BEYANI.....	III
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	IV
ABSTRACT.....	V
OZET	VI
TABLE OF CONTENTS	VII
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	XII
TABLES.....	XIV
INTRODUCTION	1
CHAPTER ONE: BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY	2
1.1. GBV and VAW/G.....	2
1.2. PROBLEM STATEMENT	3
1.3.RESEARCH QUESTIONS.....	4
1.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY	4
1.4.1. Main objective	4

1.4.2. Specific objective.....	4
1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY	5
1.6. MOTIVATION OF THE STUDY	5
1.7.CONTRIBUTION OF THE STUDY.....	5
1.8. STRUCTURE OF THE THESIS	6
CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW	8
2.1. DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS	8
2.1.1. Gender	8
2.1.2. Conflict.....	9
2.1.3. GBV	10
2.1.4. Development	12
2.2. TYPES OF GBV	13
2.3. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK	14
2.3.1. Ecological Framework	15
2.4. CAUSES OF GBV	17
2.4.1 Internal conflicts and GBV in Cameroon	19
2.4.2. GBV and Boko Haram in Cameroon	20
2.5. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK	22
2.5.1. Feminism	23
2.5.2 Waves of feminism	24

2.5.2.1. First wave.....	24
2.5.2.2. Second wave	24
2.5.2.3. Third wave	25
2.6. FEMINISM TYPES.....	27
2.6.1. Liberal feminism.	29
2.6.2. Social and Marxist feminism.	30
2.6.3. Radical feminism	31
2.6.4. African feminism	32
2.7. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS.....	34
2.8. WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT.	36
2.8.1. Why gender equality is important in development	37
2.9. KNOWLEDGE GAP	37
CHAPTER THREE: STUDY AREA	39
3.1. STUDY AREA	39
3.1.2. Cameroon map	41
3.1.3. Far north region map	43
3.2. CAMEROON LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON GBV.....	44
3.3. GENDER SITUATION	45
3.4. CAMEROON GENDER PROFILE FACTSHEET	46

CHAPTER FOUR: RESPONSES OF NGOS AND CAMEROON GOVERNMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GBV..... 48

4.1 WHAT ARE THE RESPONSES OF THE GOVERNMENT, NGOS AND LOCAL INITIATIVES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GBV?..... 47

4.1.1. The role of the state..... 47

4.1.1.1. MINPROFF (Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family).. 48

4.1.2. UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION 49

4.1.3. UNICEF 50

4.1.4. ALVF 51

4.1.5. ALVF national and international partners..... 52

4.1.6.APAD 53

4.2. TABLE1: TABLE OF ORGANIZATIONS. 55

4.2.1. Analysis of the organizations with feminism..... 59

4.3. HOW THE ORGANIZATIONS CORPORATE WITH THE GOVERNMENT. 66

4.4. CONSEQUENCES AND EFFECTS OF GBV ON DEVELOPMENT..... 68

CHAPTER FIVE: RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION 71

5.1. CHALLENGES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GBV. 72

5.2. RECOMMENDATIONS..... 73

CONCLUSION 77

REFERENCES 79

APPENDICES

APPENDIX 1. ETHICS BOARD WAIVER FORM 89

APPENDIX 2. ORIGINALITY REPORT..... 90

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ALVF : Association de lutte contre les violence faite aux femmes

APAD : Association pour la Promotion de l'Autonomie et des Droits de la Jeune Fille/Femme

CEDAW : Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

CSO : Civil Society Orgarnizations

CORDAIDS: Catholic Organization for Relief and Development Aid

DHS : Demographic and Health Survey

DSCE: Strategy Document for the Growth and Employment

FGM: Female Genital Cutting/Mutilation

GBV: Gender-based violence

IWHC : The International Women's Health Coalition

NGO : Non-governmental organization

SDGs: Sustainable Development Goals

STIS: Sexually Transmitted Infections

UN: United Nations

UNFPA: The United Nations Population Fund

UNHCR: United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNICEF: The United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund

UNWOMEN : United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of women

VAW/G: Violence against women and girls

WHO: World Health Organization

MINEPAT: The Ministry of Economy, Planning and regional development

MINPROFF: Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family

TABLES

TABLE 1: TABLE OF ORGANIZATIONS 55

TABLE 2: Analysis of the organizations with feminism 59

INTRODUCTION

This thesis presents findings from a documentary research that is conducted on GBV. It highlights how it affects development in Cameroon “it is experienced by the one-third of women worldwide” (UNICEF, 2009) and so it is imperative that the topic is brought to light. GBV is a complex social problem and also a significant barrier to development and affects all level of society , it is a worldwide theme very present in Africa and this case the far north region of Cameroon, which is a patriarchal and a traditionalist society, in these societies, women are viewed as properties, this amplifies the violence against them, therefore, reducing their independence and decision-making abilities hence sustaining unequal gender relations (Green, 1999; Kaye et al., 2005; Hague et al., 2011) it is observed that this violence is most common in societies with firm gender roles and where male dominance is established in the gender identity (Heise 1998). The study will focus on the far north region of Cameroon where these practices are carried out under the umbrella of culture religion or tradition, a number of initiatives have been created to fight against this types violence but it still prevails despite all these efforts, the study will shed light as to why change is so slow and difficult to implement also addressing why these practices are deeply rooted, and some solutions and recommendation that could be helpful in the future .

CHAPTER 1

BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

1.1. GBV AND VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS

Though it has evolved over time and includes both sex, women and girls are those that are the most affected by it, since the focus of this thesis will be on women and girls it is essential that the term violence against women should be defined as well to get a clearer picture and move towards a particular direction.

“Violence against women is perhaps the most shameful human rights violation. And it is perhaps the most pervasive. It knows no boundaries of geography, culture or wealth. As long as it continues, we cannot claim to be making real progress towards equality, development, and peace”. (Koffi Annan, 1999)

The UN defines violence against women and girls as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result 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 in private life” (CEDAW 1993).

It is a violation of human rights and systematic discrimination and people from all age groups and socioeconomic status could be faced with this form of violence, the reports on this issue may be problematic because violence of this type are sometimes not reported because of the stigma they could face in society for example rape is a crime that is often overlooked and most of the time not reported

This definition of (UN 1993) puts the gender-based violence of the far north region into this category, despite the importance given to this issue in the recent years research is relatively young and still evolving much more needs to be explored especially in the context of Cameroon, specific studies are hard to find and most research cover general issues all over the country and not on a region basis .

According to a population census carried out in the Country, “among women aged 14 to 49, at least 34 % had experienced physical violence, 8% had experienced sexual abuse, and 21 % had experienced both”. Women are survivors of violence in the whole country but some forms of violence predominant in some regions where they are guarded by tradition and religion of these regions.

1.2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The far north has a population of three and a half million majority of whom are women but it is a patriarchal and conservative society, and is one of the poorest and underdeveloped regions in the country, right from birth male children are given priorities and female children are believed to move to their husbands family sooner or later, therefore, anything done for them is considered as a waste of resources, so the male children have more opportunities, some parents believe sending female children to school may affect her negatively even though primary education is free parents are still reluctant to send them.

Some of these girls who stay at home finally are sent to forced or early marriages and find themselves at the mercy of these men where she is relegated to the role of housewife, without resources and without skills which makes it difficult for them to secure jobs and are therefore dependent. If girls are given the same opportunities as boys they could exploit their potentials by not only being productive but also contribute to the society through skills, input and ideas. The violence may sometimes not be visible but its impact is felt within the society, communities and the country as a whole.

This problem may be due to ancient traditional beliefs that see women as subordinates, this kind of perception should be changed. In rural areas all the weight of the household is shifted to the women they farm to take care of the home and sell their harvest to sustain the families where the husband are unemployed, this is because in the traditional perception a woman is not complete if she does not have a husband. The community should be sensitized on this issue it should start from a personal level than to a relational and structural level. Though things have evolved for the past two decades a lot still has to be done to have an equal society or where women could prosper.

This study however not only focuses on the general overview of GBV and its causes but it is specifically narrowed down on its effects on development in Cameroon. To the best of my knowledge, no such research has been conducted in Maroua, but there is evidence of written articles on the existence of GBV survivors amongst NGOs and initiatives through reports. This study explores also policies and legal frameworks.

1.3. RESEARCH QUESTIONS

In Cameroon ;

1/What are the responses of the government, NGOs and local initiatives in the fight against GBV?

2/Do these efforts/responses have a major impact or bring change in society?

3/What is the relationship between genders based violence and development?

1.4. OBJECTIVES OF THE RESEARCH

1.4.1 Main objective

-To show the social and economic implication of GBV on the population and how it affects the development of the area.

1.4.2 Specific objectives

-To show the relationship between GBV and development.

- give recommendations on how these practices could be reduced and in the future eliminated

1.5. SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

The results of the study would help to identify the possible causes of GBV and how it affects development. The results would also help to improve policy interventions that would also encourage enforcement on the part of the government. This would ensure that many of the GBV cases are prioritized and offenders are punished accordingly this will ensure justice for the survivors and encourage many more to report.

1.6. MOTIVATION OF THE STUDY

Having completed an internship in a non-governmental organization ALVF (association de lutte contre les violence faites au femme) and attended a seminar with amnesty international on the violation against human rights I realized how deep-rooted it was in the Cameroonian society and precisely in the far north part of the country, seeing the growing number of survivors of gender-based violence has prompted me a keen interest to investigate the factors which drive the widespread cases of gender-based violence and why this issue persist . My main motivation was that the lack of awareness of programs on gender-based violence in the far north region and to highlight the fact that tangible actions are not taken to help survivors.

1.7. CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE PRESENT STUDY

From all the above, it is clear that GBV is an aspect that cannot be excluded from developmental issues and is, therefore, a topic that could encourage further research and could contribute to the literature, current debates and discussions. It will examine how development issues originate from GBV, its impact on society and on a country. The argument is that it is an obstacle to development and as the girl child is not given equal access to education as the male child, if given she will make her impact in the society by being independent enough to make decisions for the future and be less likely to be faced with GBV as she is learned enough to know what measures to take if she is found in such situations and will participate in development.

This thesis will hopefully inspire government, private institutions, NGOs, CSOs and individuals to take action no matter how small, it will make an impact. It could also encourage the design of better intervention methods to develop and improve the fight against GBV and VAW.

1.8. STRUCTURE OF THE THESIS

Chapter one explains an overview of GBV and Cameroon showing the research questions, the significance of the study its causes and why this topic was chosen.

Chapter 2 is the literature review defining concepts like GBV, feminism and development, I reviewed the literature on the topic and showed how it was explained through different lenses of feminism but for this study liberal feminism was seen as the one with elements that suit the context of this thesis. The Lori Heise integrated ecological framework was used as the conceptual framework for understanding key factors that contribute to GBV and how they are interconnected. The literature review will lay a background to answer the research question and shows how development can be affected by GBV, that is how it can slow it down we see things from the health the economic and the social but the main focus here is on the development of the far north region.

Chapter 3 presents Cameroon where it is located and areas used for the research in the course of the thesis. This chapter presents the legal framework also discussing the socioeconomic and geographical position of the country.

Chapter 4 will reinforce the attempts of answering the research questions showing efforts done by different organizations and shows the different approach and strategies used by these organizations to fight against it, projects and various activities, how they cooperate with government and the shortcomings or areas neglected in this fight.

Chapter 5 brings out summary recommendation and conclusion will, however, point out certain gaps in these practices how it could be improved and bring recommendations to enable better practices and get better results to reduce its impact on the region.

This study is a documentary research, a desk review with the use of secondary sources like journals, websites and projects with certain perspectives of feminism used to explain why some practices still persist and as a theoretical framework it refers to a political, legal, cultural or economic movement or ideologies that advocates to make men and women equal politically, economically and socially, this is the core idea of all feminist theories. The ecological framework is used to explain the causes of GBV in the area and is the conceptual framework used in the paper, it is a concept drawn from the ecosystem the model provides a method for understanding key factors that cause gender-based violence and how they are interconnected. The study relied solely on secondary data and statistics used in this paper are obtained from some organization in the area.

CHAPTER 2

LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter will review the relevant literature with regards to the topic from different sources that were available like books, archives, reports, articles the internet and journals. In this review I outline what feminism is, highlighting central principles, the relationship between GBV and development, and its effect on society and people.

2.1. DEFINITIONS AND CONCEPTS

Definition of terms: Gender, violence, gender-based violence, violence against women, development, for a better understanding of the term gender-based violence it is important to start by defining the terms gender and violence.

2.1.1. Gender

The concept of gender became a popular topic in the early 1970s. Gender explains the differences between men and women. It is a social construct that involves norms and attitude adopted by society to determine what roles and behaviours are appropriate for men and women.

“Gender could be defined as the set of roles, rights, representations, expectations and values assigned to each sex this socio-cultural construction of what is feminine and masculine, gender is not something we are born with and not something we have, but something we do” (West and Zimmerman 1987) this differences create power difference amongst them and putting women at a disadvantage as it in the case of the Far North region of the country, gender differences is seen here as a the main feature of patriarchy a social system of society or government in which men hold economic, legal and political power or privileges over women, it is characterized by unequal gender relations and opportunities this system is oppressive and subordinates women

As Russo and Pirlott, (2006) stated in “Western society, gender is typically organized around the social categories of male versus female and assigned at birth on biological sex”. In this way, “gender defines the appropriateness of behavioral, psychological and social characteristics of males and females over the life cycle, and shapes the way we construe ourselves” So, children live their social lives according to roles and behaviours attributed to their sex, in most cases these roles place women in subordinate roles with less recognition, privileges and resources than men. So it is a continuous process, and this is portrayed in today's society because in the area in which the study is carried the males think it is an entitlement, this is a problem here because it causes the normalization of violence on both side because the women and girls also think it is their position to be dominated and they reinforce this hierarchy this may be due to religion, culture, and tradition.

The definitions of gender is evolving as it has become problematic for people who do not identify themselves with one gender and that these definitions do not encompass everybody but it is important not to confuse the terms sex and gender. On this note, this is not the main issue concerned in this thesis, so the definition of gender will be used for this research.

2.1.2. Violence

To understand GBV, and why it occurs, we have to understand violence and its origin. Johan Galtung is a Norwegian sociologist, the main founder of peace and conflict studies discipline and the peace research institute in Norway (1959), Johan Galtungs triangle will be used to define violence and its type, as a theory that is common use in peace studies his definition of direct, structural, and cultural violence is a framework where all type of violence are portrayed.

Fisher(2000) defines violence as “actions, words, attitudes, structures or systems that cause physical, psychological, social or environmental damage and prevent people from reaching their full human potential”.Also, violence is embedded in gender relationships, especially in economic, social, cultural and political structures of society.

According to Galtung's Violence Triangle (1969), “cultural and structural violence cause Direct violence, and direct violence reinforces structural and cultural violence”. Direct violence is visible and the most obvious type of violence, it could be insults, attacks and

behaviours, mostly physical it is also known as personal violence Galtung describes it as “avoidable impairment of fundamental human needs or life which makes it impossible or difficult for people to meet their needs or achieve their full potential. The threat to use force is also recognised as violence”.

Galtung defines “cultural violence as elements of culture that are used to legitimize violence in its direct or structural form”. It is violence built into culture although it does not kill or damage like direct violence or structural violence it reinforces both. These are norms or values in a society which hinders us from perceiving direct or structural violence. In this case, tradition also plays a role that cannot be neglected, religion is also used as an umbrella to make excuses for some practices like early marriages and female genital mutilation.

The Galtung violence triangle is the concept I agree the most with because it encompasses all elements of violence and portrays how it could not only happen on the personal level but also in the society at large, therefore it has various consequences, and one type of violence could lead to the other and that, it is not only physical but can be psychological or economic.

In this case gender-based violence could be structural, direct and cultural violence, Structural violence happens when some group of people, it could be race, class, gender or nationality ,have more access to resources and opportunities than other groups , this inequalities and injustice is embedded into the social, political and economic systems that govern the world and in this case men are given this advantage or privilege in the society .

2.1.3. Gender based violence (GBV)

Gender-based violence is used to describe violence that arises due to tolerance and socially attributed gender roles in societies this, in turn, creates inequalities between genders as one group is given an advantage in this power relationship creating a strain.

It could be both direct or indirect violence because it does not limit to physical violence but it is also when someone is deprived of their fundamental rights this is seen far north region of Cameroon as girls are given less priority when it comes to issues of education and

some are not allowed to choose whom and when to get married with. Although all children have the right to education, some are not given the opportunity to pursue or given start schooling.

The term GBV has only been well defined in the last few decades because advocates and activist fighting against it has emerged recently causing this area to gain some exposure ,research on this topic in Africa and Cameroon more precisely is limited but there has been a significant change in recent years as scholars have produced writings on this.

In 1993, the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defines the term Gender-based Violence as "Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life." Gender-based violence is a broad term used to describe any harm that is inflicted against a person's will and occurs as a result of inequalities that are embedded in gender roles. Around the world, GBV mostly affects girls and women, therefore the term Gender-based Violence is often used to describe or imply Violence against Women (VAW). It occurs in all cultures and also throughout a woman's lifecycle.

This definition lacks some essential elements even though it covers a broad range of acts and is the most complete among the definition brought up to date, but from 1993 up to date a lot has changed, and the meaning of Gbv has also shifted. Although gender-based violence does not directly refer to violence against women and girls they are the most affected by it, so all sexes could be subjected to Gbv depending on the context and the people, in this case, this definition is most suitable because the focus will be on women and girls. What could be seen as violent in one context may be seen as normal in another context but this does not imply it should be accepted, we have to be aware of ourselves, of others to bring any positive change.

Gender-based violence is situated as structural and cultural violence, the conceptualization and its relationship to structural violence is reflected in the UNHCR (1993) resolution in regards to the elimination of violence against women where it is recognized that "racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance reveal themselves in a

differentiated manner for women and girls and can be among the factors leading to a deterioration in their living conditions, poverty, violence, multiple forms of discrimination and the limitation or denial of their human right”.(UNHCR, 1993).

2.1.4. Development

Since the focal point of the thesis is GBV and development it is important to define it, Michael Paul and Smith (2011) define development “as not purely an economic phenomenon but rather a multidimensional process involving the reorganization and reorientation of entire economic and social system as a process of improving the quality of all human lives with three equally important aspects”.

“1. Raising peoples’ living levels, i.e. incomes and consumption, levels of food, medical services, education through relevant growth processes

2. Creating conditions conducive to the growth of peoples’ self-esteem through the establishment of social, political and economic systems and institutions which promote human dignity and respect

3. Increasing peoples’ freedom to choose by enlarging the range of their choice variables, e.g. varieties of goods and services Development is socially sustainable when it achieves social justice via equitable resource allocation, eradicates poverty, and provides social services, such as education, health and others to all members of the society, especially the neediest. It seeks to build a just and cohesive society.”

Though capital and natural resources of a country are important for development, it is the human resource that determines and contributes to the growth of its economic and social spheres and in this case a society affected with GBV, is one where women are hindered from reaching their full potential and cannot contribute in their own way to advancement of the country.

Frederick Harbison states that

“ Human resources constitute the ultimate basis for the wealth of nations. Capital and natural resources are passive factors of production, human beings are the active agents who accumulate capital, exploit natural resources, build social, economic and political organizations, and carry forward national development. Clearly, a country which is unable to develop, the skills and knowledge of its people and to utilize them effectively in the economy will be unable to develop anything else”.

GBV contributes to economic, political and social discrimination it causes poverty, health issues and unemployment which further affects development negatively, Terry and Hoare argue that it reduces human capital and productivity it also slows down economic growth because it limits women's abilities and productivity both within and beyond the household and this statement suits this particular context.

Also it does not limit itself to physical aspect it could be when someone is deprived of their basic needs this is seen in this part of the country as girls are given less priority when it comes to issues of education all children have right to this but some do not have the opportunity to pursue or given start schooling, and with no education these girls have little or no chance of securing a job that could sustain them or their families ,the situation has evolved over the recent years but these practices still happen are still ongoing and far from being eradicated.

2.2. TYPES OF GBV

“Its patterns vary from place to place, as do cultural and legal understandings of its tolerance. At the community and societal levels, definitions of wrongdoings through violence vary according to shifting patterns of class, race, and gender relations rather than being founded on a universal notion of intrinsic harm” (Green, 1999). According to Neft and Levine (1997), gender-based violence takes place throughout the life cycle, it falls into different categories, but the most recurrent in the far north region of the country are;

Physical violence is purposed and negligent actions against the women which results in physical harm this are actions done to the body of a person, some examples include woman Battering and breast ironing. Girls that go into early marriages also are more exposed to

physical acts of violence because they have limited ability to make decisions for themselves, also the age difference between the spouses and the older men often see their younger brides more like their property rather than their partners.

Psychological violence is any kind of voluntary action or omission it could be verbal threats, harassment, limitation of freedom, intimidation and manipulation that may result in psychological suffering, although this type of violence is not visible it can affect the psyche or mental health in the long run.

Economic violence is reduced access or unjust deprivation of economic resources of the woman or her family it could also be the denial of resources, opportunities or services; this may lead to physical or psychological effects on women as she is limited in her wants and needs.

There is no particular location where it takes place but we can observe that is it takes place most often in homes, in a professional circle, family, school, and even in public spaces. It could be perpetrated by spouses, family members, employers, or teachers.

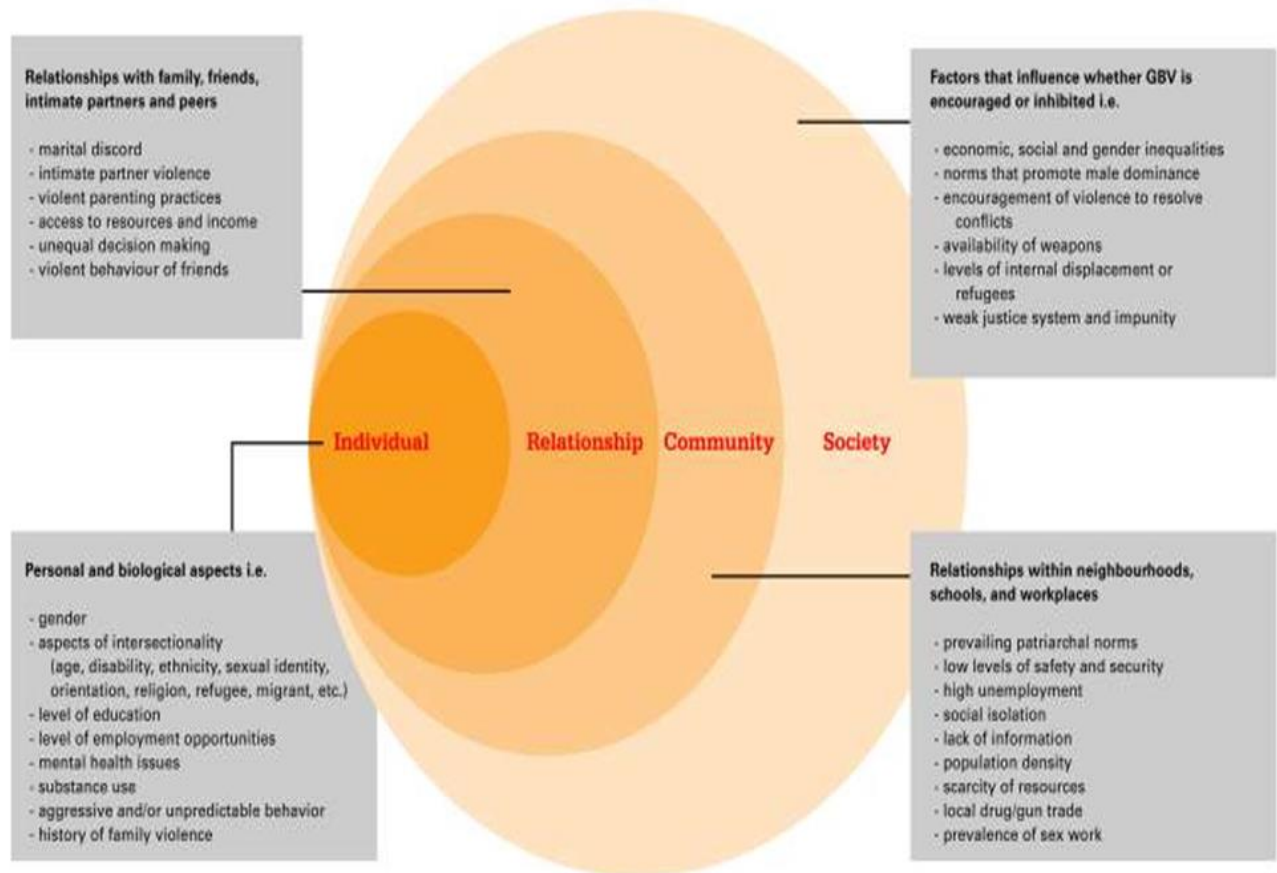
2.3. CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

2.3.1 Ecological framework; Lori Heise integrated ecological framework and gender-based violence

Lori Heise is an advocate and a researcher on women's health in the field of VAW and HIV, she plays a major role in getting VAW/GBV in health agendas around the world she developed the ecological model in 1998 which is drawn from the natural ecosystem that is a linked interaction between organisms and the environment. This model provides a method for understanding key factors that cause gender-based violence and how they are interconnected, it also shows that it is not an isolated act but rather affects everyone and it is a phenomenon that has a pattern, the objective is to stop violence before it happens. The model portrays four levels where it could take place, and also acknowledge there is intersectionality between these levels as a person can go through more than one aspect of violence or discrimination the ecological framework is often tailored to explain causes of

GBV, examples on each level will be highlighted to portray how it is in context of this thesis.

FIGURE 1: Ecological framework and GBV



SOURCE: *A learning paper*

Ireland

The Figure above puts gender-based violence into context bringing out points that explains each level of the ecological framework.

Individual level: refers to the biological and personal history of the survivor and perpetrators that increases the probability of violence happening, for example, children that witness violence at home from parents and family members that affects a person throughout their life as these acts of violence scars a person psychologically in the long run.

Relationship level: refers to social relationships, most importantly those between spouses and within families in this context it could be disparities between spouses when the household is dominated by the husband and the wife has no say in decision making. This is a culture where people have adopted dominance or patriarchal tendencies that limit women chances.

Community level: the areas in which social relationships are deeply rooted, including peer groups, schools, workplaces, and neighbourhoods, also the lack of sanctions in regards to the perpetrators of violence and stigmatization of survivors makes it possible for these practices to continue.

The societal level is the societal factors that create tolerance for violence to happen and reduced sanctions against violence. Like to an extent enabling it, some cultural norms such as male dominance and patriarchy in this context explains why violence may be seen as an acceptable way of discipline and resolving conflict as there are gender, social and economic inequalities in this area.

According to Coomaraswamy (1994), “there are three general areas where women are particularly vulnerable to violence; in the family (due to domestic violence and traditional practices on women like FGM), in the community (rape and labour exploitation) and by the state mostly in cases of war and refugee women”.

Here the model will be used to understand the origin or causes of violence, how one could lead to another and also how these violence's could be prevented and reduced, it may not bring out all the gender-based violence faced by women in various settings, but it brings out critical aspects of it. This model also suits the context of this thesis, here the ecological framework is used to explain its causes in Cameroon especially in my area of interest in the far north region.

2.4. CAUSES OF GBV

Gender-based violence can affect both the life and activities of the survivors and his or her family and the entire community in the long run. It also affects a person physically and psychologically. Generally, it could be noticed that it is most often practised in homes, in family, schools and also in the work environment, it is perpetrated by spouses, family members, employers and sometimes teachers. In a patriarchal society, women are subordinates this means the male has a monopoly of culture, knowledge sexual politics of everyday life, and this here indicates that patriarchy and power, facilitate the oppression of women in the society.

Existing traditions and factors such as poverty have contributed to forced and child marriage. “ A forced marriage is a marriage conducted without the valid consent of one or both parties and is a marriage in which threats whether physical or emotional is a factor”, It also includes people below the legal age to marry, with disabilities or under emotional pressure. (Anitha and Gill 2009), in this case, these marriages are forced as the girls are not of age to give their consent. For example, in Cameroon, any person under the age of 18 is not allowed to marry. This law states that any person under the age of 18 does not have the ability to make knowledgeable decisions but the ages here is a problem because girls can get married when she is 15 and a boy when he is 18, child marriage must be seen as forced which in many cases involves violence.

Girls are being forced into marriages at young ages to settle financial debts owed by male family members. Rich and influential men often take advantage of these situations and get married to young girls, although the practice is mostly done in rural areas, it also occurs in urban areas as well, sometimes these marriages are carried out to maintain good family ties as it is possible in this part of the country to get married to some members of your family for example cousins can get married. In this context, marriage is an obligation, not a choice.

Also, the attitude towards women in the society places them as inferiors compared to men when it comes to human rights because there are certain beliefs and practices in the society which influences people, Some people justify this perception, attitudes and actions by using

religion or tradition to interpret it in their favour. People in the name of a tradition believe one has the right to exercise violence on others particularly on women. Sometimes leaders in the society especially traditional leaders use religion as an umbrella to cover up or justify certain traditional practices, the low literacy rate in the far north region makes it easier to manipulate aspects of tradition and religion and the population at large because there is lack of awareness by women of their rights.

However, women also participate in these negative traditional beliefs and practices, whereas they are expected to influence or shape them positively. Unfortunately, this does not happen because in most cases of cultural violence some women are beneficiaries of the perpetrated acts, reason why they promote some of these cultural practices such as the female genital mutilation where the woman is a force behind it as most of those who carry out this acts are female traditional doctors and mothers of the children as well. It can be therefore said here that violence is explained by the tolerance it receives from women themselves and the way it is normalized in the society.

It is caused by sexist prejudices and stereotypes, portraying women as being of lower status in the society and in some cases paid less than the male for the same job done. This is what sustains GBV and their low representation of women in decision making positions, this is seen in Cameroon by the number of women in Cameroon who are in decision-making post for example ministers, governors and parliamentarians though it has increased in recent years there is relatively a few women in this position and a lot of efforts to be done in this area of the society.

Economically, the low access to resources and their control, the economic dependence of women towards the male members of their family this is in most cases their parents or their spouses are factors that contribute to all forms of violence and exploitation against them. As they depend on male members of their family for livelihood and therefore they are at the beck and call of their caregivers.

Women are subjected to these violence in all regions of Cameroon. However, some forms of violence are prevalent in some regions where they are encouraged by customs, tradition and religion often it is viewed as very important to the community life.

2.4.1 Internal conflicts and GBV in Cameroon

The Boko Haram group is a religious extremist group with aims to convert the people to Islam and fight against western education, the word means “western education is sinful”. The group has two main objectives fighting against secular Nigeria, and the creation of Islamic states in the country. “Boko Haram is an Islamic sect that believes politics in northern Nigeria has been seized by a group of corrupt, false Muslims. It wants to wage a war against them, and the Federal Republic of Nigeria generally, to create an Islamic state ruled by sharia law”(Andrew Walker, 2012)

Cameroon due to its geographical location is at the centre of many conflicts, and this is one of the conflicts the country faces presently and poverty, has enabled Boko Haram to develop. The Far North Region shares borders with Nigeria, and is the refuge of the Islamist insurgency, the country also shares borders and has historical, cultural and religious similarities with Nigeria.

With the influx of refugees into Cameroon some members of the sect moved to Cameroon as refugees to recruit new members and create a base in the Far North, attacks took place in that same year along the borders, some of the attacks included abductions of Western expatriates and local elites, carjacking and raids in villages (Saibou Issa, 2006; 2010).

Also“the arrival of displaced persons in towns closest to the conflict zones like Kousseri, Mora and Mokolo has led to agro-pastoral conflicts about the use of water points, pastureland and firewood” (UNDP, 2015) The Cameroonian government, did not want to get involved but seeing how it became a threat to national security and they decided to take measures by officially declaring war on the sect in 2014 .

2.4.2. GBV and Boko Haram in Cameroon

In a conflict context, gender-based violence is an act of domination, pressure and control over women already in distress and in a vulnerable state (MINPROFF, 2017) because conflict subjected them to varied and multiple experiences of loss in these situations. It is also used to torture and humiliate an individual, a group or a community or even an entire country to achieve goals by putting pressure.

According to "l'Œil du Sahel" a local newspaper in the far north region more than 2000 civilians have been killed since 2012, "gender rights violation is fast becoming an important part of Boko Haram's tactics of messaging and violence". (Jacob et al), they kidnapped women in Nigeria to pressure the government. Kidnapping is a tactic used by groups, the first abduction in Cameroon was in 2013 it was seven members of a French family in northern Cameroon.

Women and girls were not considered a threat at first, as they could circulate freely in government-controlled areas more easily as spies and undercover agents, messengers, recruiters and trafficker, in the same light the extremist group turned to use women for suicide bombers they are also raped, forced into labour, marriage and religious conversion and when they succeed in escaping captivity they come out scared physically, psychologically and often pregnant with health issues and even when released they remain vulnerable (Ntude Ebode et al 2017).

Women and girls were in some cases the only survivors after the group had either forcefully recruited or killed men and boys of the community or the military had arrested them. As the war spread, it caused nearly two million people to move into Cameroon, hundreds of thousands of women live with their children in government camps where food and healthcare are often not enough as they camps are over-capacitated, therefore women are left with the burden to fend for themselves and their families.

Again it comes up as a result of poor treatment of those displaced due to previous attacks carried out by women and young girls in the country, distrust of women either known or suspected having any link with Boko Haram, the group use of women, results in increasing

GBV. The use of women is also done by security forces in detentions from 2012, as family members of the group leaders are detained to pressurize them into releasing people they abducted.

Also in Cameroon little is known about the conditions and treatment of women and girls held as hostages as they are taken to Nigeria, but an interview of escapees by human right watch in 2014, stated that for resisting to convert to Islam, they were to physically and emotionally abused, forced to labour, forcefully married to their abusers and raped. “Others served as carriers to the properties stolen by the insurgents from villages and towns they had attacked”.(Segun et al 2014).

2.5. THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

Unable to cover all of GBV comprehensively, I will focus on the economic, social and developmental aspects of it. Connecting social and economic perspectives on existing evidence regarding its impact to contribute to the conversation about reducing its impact in the far north region of Cameroon.

GBV is a socially tolerated human rights violation, it happens in all societies regardless of origins, race, class and religion. The impact of gender-based violence is felt all over the world. The women who are survivors of such violence often experience psychological and poor health issues, that could have long life consequences on them.

Again, the cost to women, their families, and communities as a whole makes it a significant barrier to reducing poverty, this together with the socioeconomic, psychological and physical health consequences of gender-based violence, impacts on a country's potential to develop and build a stable, productive society as not everyone is given a fair chance .

Feminism in the subsequent paragraphs will be used to dissect different aspects of it and how it affects personal growth and hinders not on people as individuals but the whole society regardless of gender.

2.5.1. Feminism

GBV in this thesis will be seen through the lens of feminism as it fits in perfectly and highlights the exact current situation of the area studied. Feminism refers to a political, legal, cultural or economic movement or ideologies that advocates to make men and women equal politically, economically and socially, this is the core idea of all feminist theories. The word feminism comes from the French word “feminisme” though it originated from the west the struggle is manifested worldwide. In the United, it was used to describe a group of women which affirms the unique traits of women, the experience of motherhood a (Jaggar 1983: 5). It shifted to imply a political movement of someone/people devoted to changing the social position of women.

The term nowadays refers to people who believe that women are oppressed because of their gender, and that they deserve equal rights. The use of the term feminism is recent and has become common to refer to some early writers and thinkers that, to acknowledge the connections they made to modern feminism, for example, the writer Mary Wollstonecraft, although all feminists may share the same objective to put an end to female oppression and domination, their approach to the problem or priorities are different, and this lays on a diversity of positions and opinions.

The major problem with defining feminism is that people of different backgrounds have created their definition and understanding of the idea of feminism to best suit them or their context. The definitions here are theoretical, and are an example of the diversity of opinion among feminists around the world, on another hand making feminism a reality is a source of conflict because there is a gap between theory and practice within the feminist movement as the context and situation varies, and this makes it difficult to have a universally accepted definition of feminist because all societies have a different reality, but feminists agree on one issue, and that is striving towards gender equality.

Feminism through the years and in history are labelled as waves depending on the year it started, the motives behind it, and when it ended, the concept is still evolving and other ideas and arguments are being brought to the table.

2.5.2. Waves of feminism

Maggie Humm and Rebecca Walker point out that feminism happens in three waves and still ongoing with the emergence of new ideas. Feminism came up as a result of these various feminist movements.

2.5.2.1. First Wave

First-wave feminism refers to the 19th century and 20th century in the United Kingdom and the United States of America with the period of feminist activities. Its objective was to fight for equal pay and property rights for women and fight chattel marriages and against the domination of married women by their husbands but by the end of this period, it shifted its focus to advocating the right to vote (suffrage movement). Also, feminists such as Margaret Sanger advocated for women's sexual, and economic rights at this time.

Representation of the People Act of 1918 was passed and it gave some women the right to vote. In 1928 it included all women over the age of twenty-one. In the United States, feminist that were actively engaged in this fight were Lucretia Mott, Lucy Stone, and Susan Anthony, in addition to the right to vote they also fought against slavery. First-wave feminism is considered to have ended after the women were given the right to vote in all states (1919) after the 19th amendment, granting as much on fighting social, cultural and political inequalities.

2.5.2.2. Second Wave

Second-wave feminism occurred from the 1960s to the 1980s. Imelda Whelehan a scholar implied that the second wave was an “extension of the first wave of feminism involving the suffragettes in the UK and USA”. It existed from then and coexists now with third-wave feminism. Estelle Freedman a historian states that the first wave objectives were to fight for the right to vote, while the second wave aim was to end discrimination altogether.

The activist and author Carol Hanisch came up with "The Personal is Political" as the slogan to define the second wave because of the connection between personal experience and larger social and political structure this implies that many personal experiences can be traced within a system of power relationships. Second-wave feminists saw women inequalities as connected to the political and argued women should understand aspects of their personal lives as being a reflection of sexist power structures. Another important work in this era is "second sex" by Simone de Beauvoir which attempts to locate the source of imbalanced gender role and why women as seen as the other sex, in part 4: "justifications" she portrays some of the ways women reinforce their dependency by saying "only in work can she achieve autonomy, if a woman can support herself she can also achieve a form of liberation".

2.5.2.3. Third Wave

Third-wave feminism started in the 1990s, came up to respond or react to the setbacks of the second wave and also as a result of resistance movements created by the second wave. Third-wave feminism differs from second wave's definitions of the discourse, which focus was on the experiences of upper-middle-class white women it seeks to be more inclusive and racially diverse therefore intersectional in nature.

The definition of gender and sexuality is the focus here. Third-wave feminists often challenge the second wave on what is convenient or not for women. The third wave began in the 1990s. Feminist leaders of the second wave like Kimberly Crenshaw, Audre Lorde, Bell Hooks, and other black feminists, sought to create thought for of race-related topics as it was often overlooked.

Third-wave feminism is current and involves issues like ethnicity and sexual orientation.(Aapola et al. 2005) described, this wave as "more individual, complex and imperfect than previous waves. It is not as strictly defined or all-encompassing especially about personal choices".

Through these waves, the ideology of feminism changed, and opinions diverged and from these waves emerged different types of feminism fighting for various causes. Even though

the concepts in feminism differ they provide a framework for the discussion of gender issues related to development.

“Why the word feminist? Why not just say you are a believer in human rights or something like that? Because that would be dishonest. Feminism is, of course, part of human rights in general but to choose to use the vague expression human rights is to deny the specific and particular problem of gender. It would be a way of pretending that it was not women who have, for centuries, been excluded. It would be a way of denying that the problem of gender targets women. That the problem was not about being human, but specifically about being a female human. For centuries, the world divided human beings into two groups and then proceeded to exclude and oppress one group. It is only fair that the solution to the problem acknowledge that”. (Chimamanda Adichie,2014).this quote goes to reinforce the reasons why feminism was chosen as the theoretical framework of this thesis it is suitable for the context, the choice of feminism because here I am speaking on few perspectives that have emerged from some theorist and not the whole discourse.

2.6. FEMINISM TYPES

Three major types of feminism are radical feminism, liberal feminism and socialist feminism other forms of feminism take their roots from this three types that people identify themselves with various other forms of feminism are also emerging as this field is still open for debates and new ideas.

These three are fundamental, for a better understanding it is classified regarding their objectives , liberal feminism is focused on equality in pay ,education, and political rights(gender equality), radical feminism explains how domination and inequalities stems from patriarchy(ideology) , and “socialist feminism is the connection between this ideology and economic strength”(Stromquist1990a:146).

The paragraph below will go in depth to further show the similarities and differences of the feminist theories mentioned in prior sections and how they are related to gender-based violence, it is a global common phenomenon, and at the same time, it is linked to local cultural issues. At the level of ideas and ideology, there are already proposed global solutions is gender equality, but to achieve it at the concrete level there should be local concrete intervention.

2.6.1. Liberal Feminism

Liberal feminism stems from the diversity of liberal thought in western societies and shows that political systems can address women's less privileged social position under democracy. This fight is about equal access to education for women. Mary Wollstonecraft argued “if men and women are educated equally, then it follows that they will get equal access to society equal job opportunities and equal position” though this not be the case in all societies when equal access to education is given it gives both genders equal opportunity to succeed.

Liberal feminists do not use the terms revolution as the radicals and Marxist , they believe democracy itself is adaptable to equality for both sexes. Besides, liberal feminists agree to

some extent that women and men might well be suited to in certain areas of a home and the workplace and advocate for greater recognition of housework and caring.

Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1799) marks the era of the liberal feminism. She wrote "A Vindication of the Rights of Woman" published in 1792, in which she argued that women should pursue education so she can be independent and fend for herself and also be able to make her own decisions. Also, Harriet Taylor wrote about how women should be more involved in society, She argued that women should work outside the household in addition to raising children, John Mill believed that women should "be recognised as fully rational and worthy of the same civil liberties and economic opportunities as men".

In societies like the far north region of Cameroon education will enable young women and girls to be autonomous and this will lead them to give back to the society rather than sit back and depend on or their spouses which often is not in their best interest and does not encourage autonomy, growth, and development. So if the girl child is given equal access to education as the male child she will make her own impact in the society by being independent enough to make decisions for the future and be less likely to be faced with violence as she is learned enough to know what measures to take if she is found in such situations . In the context of this thesis, this will be the most suitable as it is the most flexible and adapt to various less developed societies actually. This thesis will be seen from the perspective of liberal feminism because men and women will work together here to create a space where they achieve fulfilment, although education will not change everything it is an important element and a better girl education can make a change in the society, as this best suits a society that resists change due to values, tradition, and beliefs .GBV requires social and not individual solutions.

Three major objectives of liberal feminism are equal opportunities, socialisation and sexual discrimination (Acker 1987:423). Here the aim is not to change society as a whole but to improve it with the ongoing system, and this clicks in perfectly with the context of the thesis, change brought like this will be most welcome and have a long-term impact. Equality in legal terms and at acceptance as a human is critical because it is through this

loopholes that people carry the act of violence in this region as they are no major consequences as the perpetrators are not held accountable for their actions.

2.6.2. Social and Marxist feminism

Here the solution to gender inequality are economic(socialism), in order to eliminate patriarchy we need to tackle capitalism because it is the origin of women's oppression in the first place, the difference with other perspective is that they argue oppression originates from the system in place in addition to gender division while other feminist gender division as the most important source of conflict in relation to women's oppression . They have become skeptical about the thought of this revolution bringing a change in the lives of women in any way.

Socialist and Marxist feminists have also always taken into consideration the way society is ruled by class, gender and race distinctions this comes from the analysis of structure of capitalism, in this structure housewives are included and highlight that they are vital to any economy though their work is unpaid it enables their partner to be workers and bosses .social feminism for the labour market proposes “comparable worth” which encourages “equal pay for work and equal value” as a way of correcting gender imbalances in wages . Similar to liberal feminism, socialist feminism, due to its connection to Marxist thought, recommends including men and allowing men to be part of any movement for change.

If the women are let into the labour market and allowed in position where they could have better job opportunities will make more money and be able to fend for themselves, in certain areas in the far north region girls are not given the opportunity to go to school because priority is given to the boy child so they cannot find a job that can make enough revenue as they are not educated, and even sometimes when they are educated their spouses do not agree they go into the labour market but rather prefer them to be full-time housewives . On another hand even those in the labour market are still survivors, they may have the same job with the same job value but may not get the same pay due to discrimination in the workplace.

Though social and Marxist feminism include other factors of discrimination like race and class they do not address the GBV directly, there is a valid point where the women could be more successful if they are in the labour market, they can do well for themselves and also create job opportunities themselves and in this case employ more women, therefore, empowering them .

2.6.3 Radical Feminism

Radical feminism is the origin of many ideas arising from feminism. Radical feminism was the backbone of feminist theory from 1967-1975. It is no longer universally accepted now, due to its extreme nature, as years went by different concerns arose and a lot of different ideas and debates has emerged with various opinions and therefore it only serves to define it.

Radical feminist describes the domination of women as the major form of oppression because it exists in all race, culture, and economic class. This movement aims to bring major social changes. Radical feminism argues why women are attributed to certain roles based on their gender, it also questions why men take certain roles based on gender. Radical feminism tries to clearly differentiate between sex and gender to free both men and women from their previous narrow gender roles and views.

Rose Marie Putnam Tong(2013) defines a radical feminist as one who “insist the sex/gender system is the fundamental cause of women's oppression”. different from the liberal feminists who work with the system in place to bring change, the radical feminists demand a new system. “The current state of affairs promotes sexism which is the first, most widespread and deepest form of human oppression,” so it has to change .

Even though feminist agree on the main causes and general solution to women's oppression, they have some demands like other feminists ,they tend to propose extreme solutions like the creation of an androgynous society and liberating women from childbirth which is unrealistic because these are personal choices and everyone should have the liberty to do what they want with their bodies and it calls for a change in the whole societal structure in order to overthrow patriarchy and gender inequality.

In my opinion radical feminism is problematic because the ideas behind it are not realistic for a developing country as it goes as far as questioning certain things that cannot be changed like biological roles, in the context of my thesis if this is applied it will be wastage of resources because the main problem is to get women and girls know their fundamental rights are baffled and enable them to have a better status in the society, radical feminist sees reproduction as a weakness whereas in the Cameroonian society and most African society a child is seen as a blessing and a woman's strength. This may be possible or realisable in a developed society, but in a community striving to develop which is the context of the thesis, it is not realistic. One thing that can be useful from radical feminism is the reduction of the phenomena within the context of this thesis is stereotyped in terms of gender role, as it is believed in some areas of the far north that all house chores are for women, these roles are not defined to the women and girls and as such can be done by men to relieve or reduce the burden on the women.

In these three main feminist theories, the central premise is to fight for equality of genders, though they diverge towards different ideologies and goals they agree on the fact that if women are given equal opportunities and rights they will not be subdued and therefore play an important part in the society and will be more independent.

2.6.4. African feminism

African feminist claim and think it is wrong to say feminism was an ideology copied from the west, African women strength and activism is often overlooked or neglected as they are portrayed as weak helpless and oppressed by the system which was not always the case, the history and tradition of African women's resistance to patriarchy or colonial rule in Africa shows it, for example, the 1929 Abas women revolt in the south-east of Nigeria that resisted against high taxes and economic oppression by colonial masters, another example is the fight for independence in South Africa and the fight against apartheid with women like Sibonghile Mkhabela and Winnie Mandela being actively involved and played an important role. So feminist movement in Africa have dated even before any waves of feminism, African feminist claim the right to make theories for themselves, write for

themselves, identify themselves, creating strategies for themselves and speaking for themselves as they are often misrepresented , this suits the context of Africa taking into account different traditions in place which is very different from the cultural context of the west.

Ama Ata Aidoo, a Ghanaian author, speaking in the Women of Africa and the African diaspora conference ;

“I should go on to insist that every man and every woman should be a feminist especially if they believe that Africans should take charge of African land, African wealth African lives and the burden of African development ,it is not possible to advocate independence of African development without also believing that African women must have the best that the environment can offer . For some of us, this is the crucial element of feminism ”.

.This implies African feminism is not only advocating for a group of people but driving towards a just and equal society which will be positive for everyone in the fight for independence the place of the women should not be left out, she has a voice and also contributes and therefore should be given this opportunity to contribute.

African feminism goes with the premise that "we need to restore women, those on the continent of Africa as well as the better-known women of the African diaspora to their rightful place as leaders. Even more important, we should ensure that our future research agenda promotes gender equity in the knowledge it produces and disseminates. If we fail to do so, all the action we take based on this future knowledge will only reinforce gender injustice, the most intractable of injustices of our times" (Djodzi Sikata May 2013).

Though there is a lot of debate and counter argument on feminism, a Nigerian philosopher Chielozona Eze points out that “for many Africans, feminism is a curse word” (Eze, 2015,) and sometimes a label some activist refuse to use or avoid because it is perceived as “unaffrican” , a copied concept from the west or has a negative connotation to it .

Some prominent Cameroonian feminists include SIKE Billé, co-founder of ALVF and founding of the ALVF Far North branch. Siké is a sociologist, Cameroonian feminist and activist for women's rights. She attended a Parisian university in the 1970s. During her stay in France, she joined the Liberation Movement of the woman. Along with several other women, she founded the ALVF in 1991, in Yaoundé, the capital city of Cameroon, with a worldview where men and women can live together as equals in the public and private spheres. In 1996, Siké as state staff was assigned as a sociologist in village water projects in the Far North. Upon her arrival in Maroua, she meets other women including Doumara Aissa, and they set up a local branch of the ALVF in the Far-North. She wanted to create a location in a region where gender-based violence was commonplace, and women had little control over their own lives. Two years later these women opened the first Women's Life Center of the ALVF.

AISSA Ngatansou Doumara is a Cameroonian an activist for women's rights, she hails from the far north region. She has been involved for nearly 20 years in protecting, promoting, empowering and fighting for the rights of women. With a background in computer science, she has taken several other courses in Sociology, Human Rights, sexual education, mental health and psychosocial domains. In April 1996 when she met Mrs Sike in Maroua, she got involved in the fight for integrity and respect women's rights and has given for the cause of girls and women of her country particularly those of Africa in general. Together with Ms. Sikè and other women, she participated in the creation of the ALVF Far-North in 1996, the opening of the Women's Life Centers of Maroua and Kousseri, the opening of the Documentation Center of ALVF in Kousseri in 1998, the birth of APAD in 2001, denunciation of violence against girls Associations from 2006, the establishment of the Women's Network for Local Governance in 2007, and the Collective to fight VAW in 2015. She is currently the coordinator of the Association in the Far North of Cameroon and sits in some committees of management of projects for women in Cameroon and some African countries.

The list of types is much more extensive as studies are still going on in this area of research but for this study it has been narrowed down to these few chosen in line with the

context of the thesis, which will be essential to enable us to understand it and furthermore come up with recommendations on how it could be reduced in future . For the purpose of this research I think liberal feminism will be the most suitable because it is more on the economic and the developmental aspect of feminism it advocates for the independence of women and if the women of the far north have some more economic independence they will be able to take of themselves and not be stuck in marriages because they cannot fend for themselves.

Due to the importance is given lately to gender-based violence in the international scene the sustainable development goals of the united nations include women empowerment as one of its primary goals this further shows how it could be the cause of poverty or a hindrance to development and following this logic if women are empowered and the girl child educated. Most of the times when policies are taken or drafted on the international scene countries tend to adopt it, sign or ratify it and in this case, Cameroon is not an exception.

2.7. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) OF THE UNITED NATIONS

In September 2015 191 member countries of the UN signed an agreement to achieve sustainable development goals in their respective countries with a 2030 agenda to be adopted, it includes 17 points which emphasis is on social, developmental and environmental areas to be achieved by 2030. The goals provide guidelines for shared action "for people, planet, and prosperity", to be implemented by "all countries and all stakeholders acting in a collaborative partnership."(UN.2015)

Economic empowerment and gender-based violence are linked, and these 17 goals are interconnected, efforts done by NGOs and the government on one will definitely affect other goals and the main aim with the SDGs is to reduce poverty and improve the conditions of women in the society. The 17 SDGs include ;

1. “No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and wellbeing
4. Quality education
5. Gender Equality
6. Clean water and sanitation
7. Affordable and clean energy
8. Decent work and economic growth
9. Industry, innovation and infrastructure
10. Reduced inequality
11. Sustainable cities and communities
12. Responsible consumption and consumption
13. Climate action
14. Life below water
15. Life on land
16. Peace and justice strong institution
17. Partnerships to achieve the goals and Production”.

SDG 5 and 10 shows inequalities when it comes to gender exists in all societies, it deprives girls of their basic human rights and opportunities to create a society where both genders can be free and have equal opportunities and to drive towards this it is imperative to create frameworks, to fight deeply rooted gender inequalities that comes from patriarchal attitudes and related social norms and this is one of the objectives of the SDGs.

Economically dependent women tend to undergo violence because they totally rely on the perpetrators for revenue. GBV has a negative economic impact on the regional and national level. “Strategies for empowering women economically to give women greater autonomy in securing livelihoods, including through self-employment, collective income-generating arrangements within households and communities, formal employment and entrepreneurial market activity, have shown some of the best-evaluated outcomes in terms of reducing

participating women's future experience of violence," (WHO 2010; Fergus 2012: Asia Foundation 2013).

2.8 WOMEN IN DEVELOPMENT (WID)

2.8.1. Why gender equality is important in development.

Highlighting the importance of women in development is necessary because they are a force in the quest for national development of any nation. In Cameroon, women are yet to be fully involved in this process as many still lack the educational, economic and political power to do so.

This approach was chosen because this study is seen through the lens of liberal feminism and also because it addresses women's practical needs, for example, creating employment and income-generating opportunities, and to education. WID evolved in the early 1970s from a liberal feminist framework. Its main purpose was to integrate women previously viewed as passive beneficiaries of any advancement into the development process and since the main concern of this study is that women of the far north region of Cameroon are not given equal access to basic human rights and as social beings humans can only realize their potential when they are increasingly free to engage in the life of their community.

This approach is to show that economic, legal and social inequality is GBV and that these inequalities are deeply rooted ensuring that gender is examined and integrated into any development projects/process, agenda or any gender mainstream. Damiano K. Manda and Samuel Mwakubo state the importance of addressing the role of women in economic development:

“Gender equality matters as an instrument for development as it enhances economic efficiency and improves other development outcomes in three ways. First, it removes barriers that prevent women from having the same access as men to education, economic opportunities and productive inputs resulting in broad productivity gains. Second, it improves women's absolute and relative status which feeds in many other development outcomes, including those for their children. Third, it levels the playing field with women

and men having equal chances to become socially and politically active, making decisions and shaping policies”.

If gender equality is encouraged in the political, legal, economic and social domains, in this part of the country it will lead to growth and development, policies for development can lead to a developmental outcome this will boost in the living standards. The goal of development is to enhance the ability of people to provide for themselves and their families. Inequality is a barrier to reaching human welfare due to the fact that it causes uneven political, social and economic control. The aim here is to include women by legislatively reducing discrimination and by promoting their involvement in education and employment.

In terms of GBV, and development there is a lot that could be done, Cameroon has made progress in a number of key areas, for example, the ministry of women empowerment and family was created in 2002 so that a focus and importance is given to the difficulties the women face. If Cameroon continues to fight against inequality and violence against women, improve and update current policies the social and economic results will be fulfilling in the long run.

2.9. Knowledge gap

The reviewed literature has dealt with the notions used by the researcher which included dimensions of gender-based violence, economic, developmental and social effects. However, certain studies failed to interconnect the notions and further does not provide solutions to the problem of gender-based violence. This study seeks to fill this gap by relating the effects of gender-based violence on the development of a society and furthermore bring some recommendations.

-The main aim of the literature review was to attempt answers to the research questions which are

- What are the responses of the government, NGOs and local initiatives in the fight against GBV?

-Do these responses efforts have a major impact or bring change in society?

-What is the relationship between genders based violence and development?

The literature review furthermore confirms the fact that it is a barrier to development as women cannot reach their potential and therefore cannot contribute in their household and in society as a whole .it is a barrier not only to personal growth but also hinders development ,the review also underlines the fact that though it is a deep-rooted issue in the society there's a possibility of reducing and eliminating some of these practices as a way to decrease gender inequality and its many forms of violence .

The following chapters will go furthermore to portray this point and give recommendations that will be a beginning towards solving this problem, realistically it is an issue that cannot be fixed in days or immediately but starting from somewhere and making people in the community part of the change needed is a part of the solution.

CHAPTER 3

In the last chapter I reviewed the literature on the topic and showed how GBV was explained through different lenses of feminism but for this study liberal feminism was seen as the one with elements that suit the context of this thesis. The Lori Heise integrated ecological framework was used as the conceptual framework for understanding key factors that contribute to it, presents Cameroon where it is located and areas used for the research in the course of the thesis. This chapter introduces the legal framework, the socioeconomic and geographical position of the country, gender mainstreaming and the gender profile of the country.

3.1. STUDY AREA

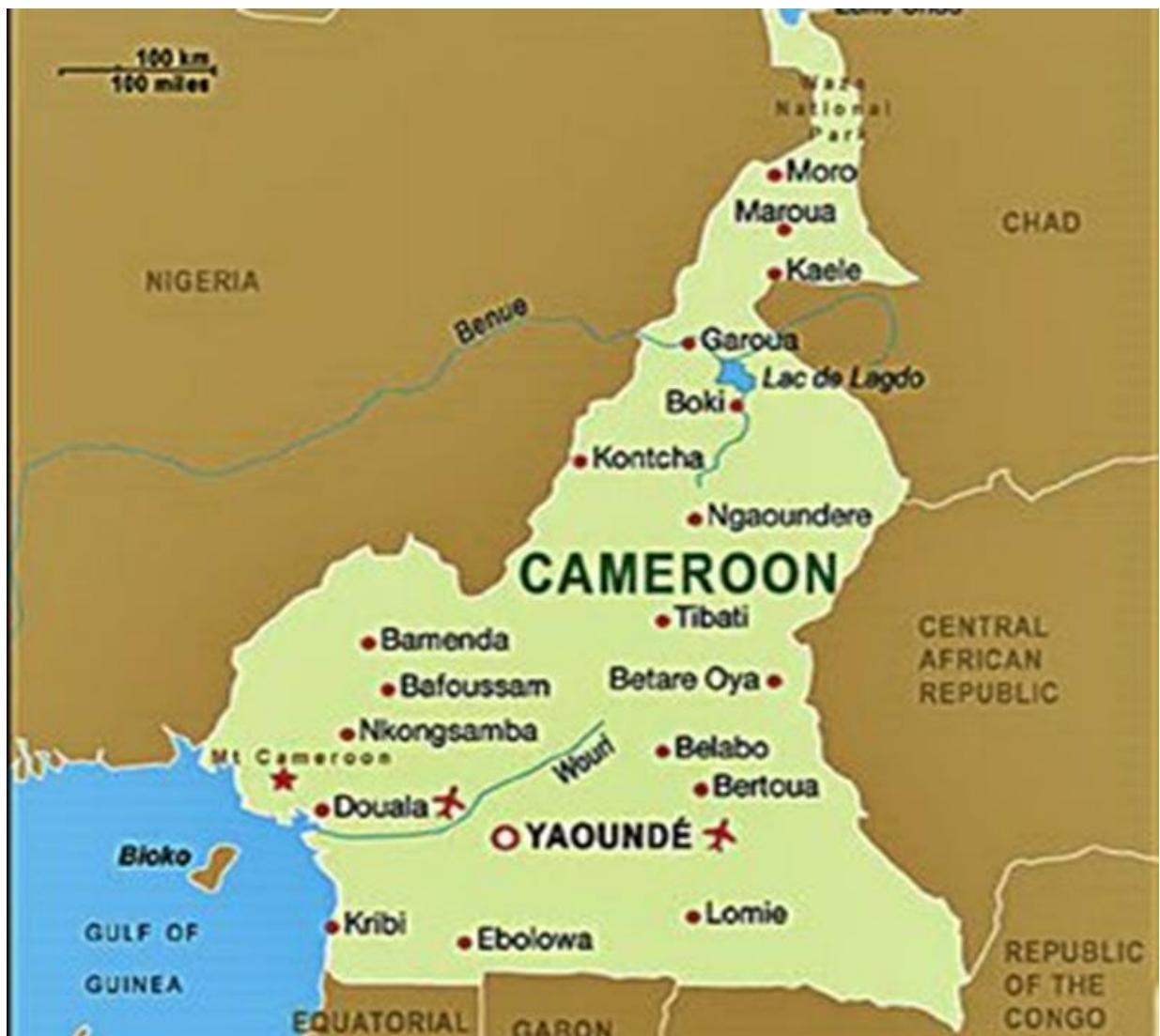
Cameroon is a country in central Africa. It covers 475,650 km² of surface it is surrounded by the Atlantic Ocean in the south-west, with an estimated population of 22 million with 250 ethnopolitical groups, 52 per cent of the total population are women. The religions practised are Christianity 40%, Islam 20% and traditional and other beliefs 40%. The official languages are English and French, with 8 francophone regions and 2 anglophone regions but in addition, the country has 270 tribal languages, it inherited of both English and French legal systems due to its colonial past Cameroon's complex dual legal system originates from its diverse colonial past. Initially a Portuguese colony, then taken over by the Germans, the country was divided after World War I between the British and the French.

There exist also customary law predominantly used in rural areas which is sometimes a source of injustice to women as they are seen as subordinates and most of the rulings are in favour of the men and some issues like forced marriages and property grabbing of widows are overlooked by these customs this is because gender roles are embedded and socially constructed. In the northern part of the country, there is a mixture of all of these traditional

and religious practices. Here rural areas are more populated and the most lucrative activity in these villages is farming which is sometimes not enough to sustain the needs of the family.

Cameroon put a national development in to place in order to realize the SDG goals set up by various countries in the UN, the policy is named “Cameroon’s long term vision by 2035”, it is about gender and national issues, its aim is to include people from different groups in decision-making processes and give equal opportunities to people of all origins, genders and beliefs .

3.1.2. Cameroon map



The research will be carried out in the far north region of Cameroon where there is the prevalence of this kind of violence, an advantage I may have in this area is that I am

familiar with the people and the city, but an obstacle is that some people do not believe this situation could change so may be very hesitant to give information that they think may compromise them in any way

3.1.3. Far north region Cameroon map



3.2. CAMEROON LEGAL FRAMEWORK ON GBV

Some women's rights protection instruments in Cameroon

It is important to point out that Cameroon signed and ratified the CEDAW, the government signed the Maputo Protocol on the human right as well, some laws are drawn from this CEDAW. To begin, the preamble of the Cameroonian constitution guarantees freedom for every individual and the national legislation contains a number of provisions against abuse and all forms of gender-based violence.

Apart from this preamble, many laws and regulations embody the rights and liberties enacted in the constitution. This is the case with Law No 98/004 of 14 April 1998 on education in Cameroon, where article 7 provides that “the State shall guarantee equal educational opportunities for all regardless of gender, political, philosophical, religious, social, cultural, linguistic and geographical backgrounds” efforts have been put in this sector as primary education on the public sector is free for everyone and it has encouraged more parents to enrol their children in school especially the girl child .

Decree No 2005/088 of 29 March 2005 providing for the organization of the MINPROFF, which provides specialized technical institutions (Women's Empowerment Centers) with the aim to support women, girls and families and Order No. 16/MTLS/DECREE of May 27 1969 relating to women's labor and specifying at the level of its appendix other forms of work prohibited for women and children.

Other legal texts like the Cameroonian penal code equally provides punishment relating to attacks on the physical and mental integrity of every citizen. Some articles included also makes various provisions as pointed out in articles 296 section 4 on rape, article 297/298 on forced or early marriage, 343 on prostitution, 292 on forced labour, 345 on threats and abuse of power, 347 on abuse of minors and 356 on forced marriages. These measures are essential because they make it an obligation to respect citizens' rights especially women's right in the Cameroon legislation and create conditions that encourage development.

Though some of these laws and regulation are put in place to protect the rights of the citizens especially the women there is a gap between theory and practice this means though the laws exist sometimes the perpetrators of gender-based violence in the far north region of Cameroon are not punished accordingly when this cases are reported measures are not taken immediately the survivors are encouraged to treat it as a private or a family affair and this laissez-faire attitude often does not encourage them to come out or denounce the perpetrators of these violence, more emphasis should be laid on applying the text rather than signing and ratifying conventions and not putting it into application and enforcement.

3.3. GENDER SITUATION.

There is a gender gap when it comes to education. The World Bank states that, “the primary net enrolment was 97% for boys and 86% for girls (2012), primary completion rate was 76% for boys and 68% for girls (2014), lower-secondary gross completion rate was 41% for boys and 38% for girls (2013), and tertiary gross enrolment rate was 14% for boys and 10% for girls(2011). There is a gender gap in literacy rate (adult men 81%, adult women 69%, young men, 87%, and young women 80% ” (2015). The document analyzes some reasons why this gap exists; some families do not value girls education as they are reduced to roles attributed to them at home with a famous saying that goes “ a woman's place is in the kitchen”. Parents give domestic and agricultural work to girls also there is also the idea that if the girl child goes to enough to know her rights she may reject early marriages so some guardians prefer leaving them uneducated.

The national gender policy document (MINPROFF), shows that GBV in Cameroon depends on regions, ethnicity, culture and religion, and there is a preconceived gender situation where men have the privileged, productive and public roles while women are relegated to reproductive and domestic roles. This document also explains gender roles, attitudes and behaviours in Cameroon has evolved. It also points out differences between genders in the cities and those in villages, There is a stereotype on gender roles, in which a man is the main source of income and the woman handles domestic chores, this gender disparity exists in both village and cities.

.3.4. Cameroon gender profile factsheet.

“In Cameroon, sex offenders are not punished if they marry their victims”
(Centre for Civil and Political Rights, 2010,).

“Girls in Cameroon are often sent to early marriages. The mean age of first marriage is 17.6 countrywide, but in some regions, girls are married as young as 11” (Takwa, 2009).

55% of women and girls are survivors of violence ,24% of girls between 8-12 years have undergone of breast ironing (MINPROFF 2006).

from January to august 2016 there was 36 rape cases and more than 318 cases of violence due to the Boko haram conflict in the far north region(UNFPA)

56.4% of married women undergo either emotional,physical or sexual violences from their partners(MINEPAT 2015)

The following chapter will go in depths on the gender mainstreaming system in the country activities and projects carried out by various organizations their role in the fight against it and their different strategies and also coming up with the shortcomings how issues could be handles productively in the future.

CHAPTER 4

Chapter 2 the literature attempts to answer the research question and shows how development can be affected by GBV that is how it can slow it down ,we see things from the health the economic and the social but the main focus here is on development of the far north region ,chapter 3 shows the Cameroon where it is located and areas used for the research in the course of the thesis, this chapter will reinforce the attempts by showing efforts done by different organization and if these efforts are enough and its consequences on development .

RQ1/ What are the responses of the government, NGOs and local initiatives in the fight against GBV?

4.1 RESPONSES OF NGOS AND CAMEROON GOVERNMENT IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GBV.

Initiatives, organisations and associations

4.1.1. The role of the state

The Constitution of Cameroon states explicitly that “every person has a right to life, physical and moral integrity and humane treatment in all circumstances” and that the state “shall ensure the equality of all citizens before the law”.

Gender-based violence in Cameroon is addressed through the Constitution, the Penal Code and the Civil Code. Moreover, it has also signed international conventions and protocols like the UN Universal Declaration on human rights, the Maputo Protocol, the Nairobi world conference on GBV, the Beijing Platform and the African Charter on the protection of human and people's rights. Cameroon is also a state party of CEDAW, the convention states that VAW is a violation of human rights, also in the country human rights frameworks are included into national law simply by ratification.

4.1.1.1. MINPROFF (Ministry of Women's Empowerment and the Family)

The president of Cameroon Paul Biya created MINPROFF in 2002 which mandate is to fight against all forms of GBV against women, girls, and the family as a whole.

Following the texts establishing the MINPROFF, the primary missions of this ministry are to

- Ensure the fight of all discrimination against women
- Ensure equality for women in the political, economic, social and cultural domains
- Study and submit to the Government conditions facilitating the employment of women in administration, agriculture, commerce and industry;
- Liaise with national and international political organizations promotion of women
- Ensure the guardianship of women's training organizations, except for educational institutions.

This ministry validates operational control procedures. These procedures have been developed with the aim of strengthening coordination and response for the prevention and care of survivors of gender-based violence Cameroon is setting up a framework for the development of strategies for prevention and effective intervention against it in the Far North region.

At the national level, 43.2% of women in unions undergo GBV. They are 39.8% and 14.5% respectively suffer emotional and sexual violence. Overall, 56.4% of Cameroonian women in a union have undergone at least one of the three types. These statistics are in a document entitled “Gender-based violence in Cameroon: spatial analysis, risk factors and linkage to marital control” published in 2015 by demographers in the Ministry of Economy, Planning and regional development (Minepat).

All of which prompted MINPROFF in collaboration with UNFPA, UNHCR and UNWomen to develop the standard operating procedures. These procedures detail the essential methods for preventing and responding to gender-based violence, specifies the roles and responsibilities of each actor in the four main sectors: health, legal-judicial, security and psychosocial, Support of the education sector, as well as the fundamental role of the community itself and how communities contribute to it.

4.1.2. UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATION

UNWOMEN ;(United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of women).Cameroon is a member state to this organization, established in 2010 it is the branch of the UN that works for the:

- a) elimination of discrimination against women and girls
- b) empowerment of women
- c) to achieve equality between both genders in social, economic, human rights, domains.

They promote a country's accountability to these issues by regular control and audit of system-wide progress, its mandates is to support government bodies in the formulation of policies and strategies ,they also ensure that its member countries respect global standards, in these efforts they also assist them to attain and apply these standards providing financial support where necessary .

In the far north region of Cameroon, UNWOMEN works in partnership with other local organization and the government in the fight against it, their scope is broader as they do not only work to assist and empower locals but also internally displaced persons and refugees. They carry out projects that enable some women to be independent financially and fend for themselves and their families.

Four tools for gender mainstreaming are

- Policymaking to improve regulations and budgeting
- Institution to support MINPROFF in the gender focal points
- To raise awareness in the country
- Creating projects to show how gender mainstreaming is effective.

4.1.3. UNICEF: The United Nations Children's Fund

This organization advocates for the rights of the children by providing humanitarian and developmental assistance to children of third world countries, Cameroon is a beneficiary of this assistance. UNICEF works in more than 70 countries to ensure that girls and children, in general, have equal educational opportunities, to make families and communities aware of the serious risks of early marriage for girls, to convince legislators and works with the government to prohibit this practice and set up a reception and counseling system to accommodate abused girls. The organization does not advocate solely for the girl child but children in general but in communities like Maroua where girls are not given equal opportunities as boys to go to school some programmes are put in place to enable equal access to education.

UNICEF fights against early marriage as a broader approach to ensuring children an environment that protects them from this practice. Early marriage may have consequences on children, including health problems, episodes of domestic violence and the inability to learn. Once married, the girls hardly ever go back to school. In the north of Cameroon, the prevalence of child marriage is as high as 73%. (UNICEF).

Promoting women's empowerment has multiple effects in all aspects of development and should be a prerogative at all levels and sectors. “ Women who are more educated are less likely to die during the pregnancy or childbirth and more likely to send their children to school” (UNICEF) “Most deaths of children under the age of 5 can be avoided if women know when to ask for help and have better access to health care”(UNICEF) this shows the importance of education as in this case it is crucial and can save lives .

4.1.4. ALVF : (Association de lutte contre les violence faite aux femmes).

ALVF was created in 1991 and founded by seven Cameroonian feminists, worried by the upsurge of violence against women in Cameroon, the privilege given to aggressors as they are not punished, the silence of the society and the despair of the survivors, it has four (4) branches based in the following regions: Center, Far North, Littoral, and West. Each branch has different structures and a direct support structure for women facing violence, called Center Vie de Femmes (CVF) a women life centre. The ALVF has four Women's Life Centers, which welcomes women survivors s of violence)and a Youth Centre. They carry out receptions, interviews, and often set up mobile clinics that carry out medical consultations (sexual and reproductive health) and also give women psychological assistance.

The objectives of the women life centre in Maroua are to follow up survivors in their responsible choices and the empowerment of the women victims of gender-based violence. To achieve these objectives, the following activities are carried out

- the supervision and follow-up of women/girls survivors of gender-based violence,
- the process of empowerment.

These activities are part of the project “Contributing to the Significant Elimination of the Prevalence of Rape, Early and Forced Marriage and Incest in the Far North Region of Cameroon”. The women life centres are based in the following cities:

- Central region: Yaoundé
- Region of the Far North: Maroua
- The region of Littoral: Douala
- Western region: Bafoussam

The other structures are ;

- 2 Documentation Centers in the cities of Yaoundé and Maroua;

- 1 Counseling and Listening Center for Reproductive Health for Adolescents and Women Yaounde;
- 1 Women's Information and Education Center in Kousséri.

4.1.5. ALVF national and international partners

- Foundation for a just society
- CORDAIDS
- UNFPA
- UNWOMEN
- MINPROFF
- From the people of Japan

The activities of ALVF and its focal points are mainly ;

- Coaching, counselling and support for women victims of violence
- Education of the victim regarding his rights; Education of victims in the use of competent structures and appropriate tools for protection against violence experienced;
- Public information, sensitisation, awareness and education on violence against women;
- Lobbying and advocacy with institutions in general and more particularly with the media, NGOs and national and international associations;
- Research on violence against women
- Group training on Gender-Based Violence
- Training of social workers in Gbv interventions.

The Maroua branch is an operational structure, and its main mission is to promote the fight against all forms of VAW with the aim of promoting equity and equality between women and men.

Its objectives are:

- Contributing to the elimination of sexual violence against girls and women,
- Contribute to improving the sexual and reproductive health of girls and women.

4.1.6. APAD

Association pour la Promotion de l'Autonomie et des Droits de la Jeune Fille/Femme (APAD) is a youth-led organization based in Maroua, Cameroon, APAD's objective is to teach young mothers and survivors of forced and early marriages their rights, promote their autonomy, and empower these women and girls to share their experiences and support other survivors, its members and leaders consists solely of survivors of early and forced marriage. APAD is putting efforts in this part of the country to prevent child marriage. This organization also teach girls how to read and write and provide skills-building programs to empower survivors of early and forced marriage to fend for themselves and live an autonomous life.

APAD was founded by Siké Billé, and presently managed by Danedjo a survivor of early marriage. When She set out to open a centre for survivors of GBV, she found out many girls had been forced to marry at very young ages and left to support themselves and their children when left by their spouse. She then put in efforts to eliminate the phenomenon and empower survivors.

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APAD has trained survivors to be voices against this practice, also they train traditional leaders to convince parents of young girls to stop practising early marriages and keep them in school. They have built a network with traditional and religious leaders in Maroua that

supports APAD's work by encouraging parents to keep their girl children in school, stop early marriages and attend discussion groups.

I attended a get together organised by APAD in Maroua a number of 50 girls were present and the theme was sex education and reproductive health enabling young girls to know more about their body, hygiene and the reproductive system though this was the theme at the end the floor was open to any questions from participants on any other topic there was exchange of ideas and their questions was answered recurring theme were on VAW , issues of early marriages and their rights it was an interesting get together as girls and women opened up about personal issues they were facing on daily basis and some challenges it is a safe space and I was informed by the coordinator of APAD that these types of meetings were regular throughout the year .

4.2. TABLE1: TABLE OF ORGARNIZATIONS

ORGARNIZATION	OBJECTIVES	PROJECTS
APAD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Prevent child marriage and support married girls -Educates girls on their basic human rights, including the right to choose who and when to marry. -Provides literacy and skills-building programs to empower survivors of early and forced marriage 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Knitting hairdressing sewing and embroidery training of survivors -Seminars workshops and Talks on reproductive health counselling
MINPROFF	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -To promote equal opportunities with employment. - To rehabilitate survivors of GBV and hold perpetrators accountable. -To ensure implementation and improve national laws to protect women’s rights and respect regional standards. - -To encourage women to participate in decision-making by developing their leadership skills. To strengthen the institutional framework for the promotion of gender policies. 	<p>“Central African Backbone” in Centers for the Promotion of Women and the Family</p> <p>“Promotion of Gender and Acceleration of Women's Economic Empowerment”, officially launched in 2017 in Batchenga by MINPROFF</p>

	<p>-To train experts in GBV/VAW.</p>	
<p>UNWOMEN</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Supporting women in economic activities: entrepreneurship skills, property rights , and technology in farming for rural women. - Prevention, legal support and economic empowerment of the survivors. -Assistance for the promotion of gender mainstreaming in the government of Cameroon. 	<p>-UN Women Cameroon and “FEICOM (special council support fund for mutual assistance) has signed a three-year partnership agreement (2018 – 2020) towards the attaining of SDG 5 relative to gender equality and women empowerment especially at local levels in Cameroon”.</p> <p>-H4+ / AIDS Collaboration on Maternal, Newborn and Child Health Fund for Gender Equality</p>

ALVF	<p>-It aims to improve laws to create equality in society.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To advocate women’s rights and relevant laws. • To reduce the percentage of women who experience VAW. <p>-It supports survivors of violence by providing shelters, economic support for legal actions and medical care.</p>	<p>-Gender mainstreaming project in humanitarian response - (humanitarian project) - UN Women - Cameroon and Japan Fund - 2015-2016</p> <p>-“Breaking the silence, lifting taboos, better informing about gender-based violence in West” - IPAO - European Union - 2014-2016</p> <p>-Countering extremism through adequate support for Boko Haram hostages women and girls Far North region of Cameroon - 2017-2018</p>
UNICEF	<p>-Advocates for the rights of the children by providing humanitarian and developmental assistance to children</p> <p>fighting against early marriage</p> <p>Promoting women's empowerment</p> <p>Emphasizes on the education of children especially young girls.</p> <p>Protect children against GBV.</p>	<p>-Protection of displaced children affected by Boko Haram and children presumed or associated with armed groups in the Far North Region.</p> <p>-Provide sustainable child protection assistance for CAR refugees children</p>

		and vulnerable host children in host villages in east and adamaoua regions
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4.2.1 Analysis of the organizations with feminism

In this table the activities of the organization are grouped into different types of feminism and how they intervene in the fight against it, also this will serve as analysis to the premise, activities, intervention and projects and see if it is enough or sufficient and where it is lacking .

TABLE 2 : Analysis of the organizations with feminism

Feminism	1 st Wave	2 nd Wave	Radical feminism	3 rd wave
	Liberal feminism	Socialist Marxist feminism		Black and African feminism
Central premise	Political equality, equal opportunities, education, employment	Social, economic and political equality e.g equal pay and having agency over their body	ideological force, fighting patriarchy and a movement to bring change of revolutionary proportions	Inverting sexist racist and classist ideologies
Organizations	MINPROFF			To strengthen institutional framework for promotion of gender policies.
Intervention	-To improve national laws to protect women's rights . --To encourage	-To correct gender inequality in employment		-To develop women's leadership

	women to participate in decision-making by developing their leadership skills .			
	UNWOMEN Humanitarian support for the refugees	Prevention, legal actions, support for survivors ,economic empowerment of the survivors.		-To develop women's leadership and entrepreneurship
	UNICEF fights against early marriage Promoting women's empowerment	Advocates for the rights of the children by providing humanitarian and developmental assistance to	strengthening national capacity to deliver quality GBV prevention and response	

		children	services	
	<p>ALVF</p> <p>It supports survivors of violence by providing shelters</p>	<p>-funding for legal actions and medical support. -It also runs campaigns to</p> <p>Raise awareness on VAW</p>		<p>- To advocate women's rights and relevant laws.</p> <p>- To reduce the number of women experiencing VAW</p>
	<p>APAD</p> <p>-Educates girls about their rights, including the right to choose their spouse and when to marry.</p>	<p>-Provides reading and skills-building programs to empower survivors of early and forced marriage</p>		
Projects and	MINPRO	-“Promotion of Gender		high-level

activities	<p>FF</p> <p>Organizational of 10 sessions of training of 200 stakeholders on prevention of GBV - sensitization on GBV</p>	<p>and Acceleration of Women's Economic Empowerment”, officially launched in 2017 in Batchenga</p>		<p>advocacy for the integration of the fight against GBV in school, university, professional and business</p>
	<p>UNWOMEN</p> <p>- sensitization on GBV</p>	<p>-UN Women Cameroon and “FEICOM (special council support fund for mutual assistance) have signed a three-year</p>		

		<p>partnership agreement (2018 – 2020) in view of the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG 5 relative to gender equality” and women empowerment at local levels in Cameroon.</p>		
	<p>UNICEF - Protection of IDPs children affected by the Nigerian</p>	<p>-Emphasizes on the education of children especially young girls</p>		<p>-fight against sexism in public spaces especially schools</p>

	<p>crisis and children presumed or associated with armed groups in the Far North Region</p>			
	<p>ALVF</p> <p>- sensitization on gender-based violence</p>			<p>-Breaking the silence, lifting taboos, better informing about gender-based violence in West Africa "- IPAO - European Union - 2014-2016</p>
	<p>APAD</p> <p>-</p>	<p>-Knitting hairdressing sewing and</p>		<p>-Seminars workshops</p>

	sensitization on GBV	embroidery training of survivors to make a living.		and Talks on reproductive health counselling
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RQ2 Do these responses have a major impact or bring change in society?

4.3. HOW THE ORGANIZATIONS CORPORATE WITH GOVERNMENT

The analysis above shows the sectors in which each organization intervenes in the country their strategies and projects, it shows that efforts are put in place and that it is a threat to both individual and societal development.

It is not realistic to think that the government can solve all the ills in a society, so cooperating with various organizations make it easy to tackle the issue from different angles and strata of society.

MINPROFF in Cameroon is a branch of the government and oversees most issues concerning the wellbeing of women in the country it works in partnership with all of the organizations above to intervene not just on issues of women but GBV, VAW and also encourage entrepreneurship. It liaises between the government and the UNWOMEN which in turn is in liaison with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, as well as with all national and international political organizations promoting women. It exercises guardianship over women's training structures and sometimes grants financial assistance to these organizations, with the exception of institutions reporting to the ministries of education.

The organizations do not only work with the government directly but also with external and foreign partners as well as donors they work with police, healthcare providers and social workers to build their capacity to respond to GBV. Also by investing in local partners, the government aims to improve the quality of services and contribute to longer-term, more sustainable solutions to it in Cameroon.

Most organizations are working hard to reduce GBV in Cameroon and have come up with short and long time strategies to enable them in this task there are projects, activities and campaigns in this light but most of them are on the reactive rather than the preventive side, again reactive solutions and approaches to it will be suitable as, it is necessary to develop mechanisms of primary prevention avoidance of the issue, secondary prevention can be used to reduce the prevalence or its effects and finally work on the consequences with those directly affected and currently most of the solutions or assistance put in place is reactive, preventing these cases from happening is a better approach so the solutions should

be at the two ends. More should be invested in researches so as to know the extent of the problem and handling it from the source before it gets to a stage where it is difficult to solve, the knowledge of the problem will enable solutions or strategies that are better suited to this context, its effects in this part of the country require a need for more integrated early intervention.

The whole chapter shows that the phenomena prevail in the country but the highest rate is in the far north region, it also highlights that this region is one of the poorest of the country this is because certain practices like early marriages FGM still exist there the girls are not given equal opportunities in terms of education and find it difficult to go in to the labour market and make a living for themselves, the chapter also showed the different approach and strategies used by these organizations and the to fight against GBV, successes and challenges faced.

The overall objective of this study was to research and inform on the nature of current aspects and levels of gender-based violence in the far north region and develop an appropriate strategy to inform and improve NGOs, CSO and government intervention and corresponding framework by seeing and highlighting areas that are already covered by these organizations.

After bringing out the concepts in the study we can see how it affects development in Cameroon below.

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RQ3 WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN GBV AND DEVELOPMENT?

4.4. CONSEQUENCES AND EFFECTS OF GBV ON DEVELOPMENT

It has direct and indirect consequence, not only to survivors and their families but also to businesses and the development of the country as a whole. It also has a considerable impact on women's health, education and participation in public life, the economic costs include health care and legal services, lost productivity as when faced with violence a person cannot be productive or as productive, and the costs of prosecuting perpetrators on both the individual and also the state. “7 in 10 women experience physical and sexual violence in the world, at some point in their lives, and three out of 10 at the hands of proximal relatives”(UNDP, 2013).

Another consequence is that children who witness violence are likely to have emotional and psychological problems or post-traumatic stress and may be at risk of perpetrating or experiencing violence and this often turns out to become a cycle of violence that is repetitive because it is perceived by society as something normal. Businesses and employers can face financial losses or bankruptcy due to absenteeism which could be because of health consequences preventing the survivor from productively working(Bott et al 2005).

A report by the world bank points out areas of cost. “Studies for developing countries conclude that the health impacts on women can be as high as some of the leading causes of physical harm consequences are especially serious in the area of reproductive health”. showing the impact on earnings due to death, lost productivity, job loss, and loss of tax revenues due to these violence, both on the survivor and the abuser.

The consequences do not apply to only women and girls because “Women who are survivors of physical violence whether at the hands of their partners or husband and male relatives are more likely to use violence in the future. Various researches have shown that children exposed to such violence are themselves more likely to engage and have violent tendencies” ,children who also witness domestic violence are more likely to perpetrate violence themselves, because it is perceived by them from a young age as a normal reaction

and this continues to be a threat to women's empowerment, autonomy, personal and economic development as a whole in the long run .

Also when a person is abused it limits their ability to knowledge, skills, opinion and energy as they cannot access their full potential and therefore cannot be as productive so this is to show that GBV affects manpower not only the survivor but also the perpetrator, for example, the survivor may on one hand suffer physical injuries or even death, on the other hand, the perpetrator, on the other hand, may suffer imprisonment or trauma due to these events so GBV affects productivity and wellbeing negatively.

It has a ripple effect on the economy, this implies that its consequences are far-reaching it goes beyond the survivors as involve the community as a whole as there is no real progress if a group of people are left out. It overburdens the country's systems with growing rates of GBV and therefore countries have to allocate resources and budgets to fight this phenomenon this is resources that could be allocated in different areas of the economy. Although there is no exact way to calculate accurately it affects psychological, educational and career performance negatively and this could be observed both in the short and in the long run.

Also Gbv reinforces inequalities in the far north region the girl child is conditioned or socially constructed to know that men are superior this tells them that they do not have the same rights, privileges and opportunities growing up with that mindset undermines their ability to make choices or be autonomous this inequality extend right to the workplace because women are often paid less for the same jobs done by their male colleagues.

In Cameroon, if more preventive actions are carried out violence against women and girls will be reduced and this will, in turn, will reduce state expenditures and increase productivity. Though it has a negative impact on development, gender-based violence remains minimised or not taken into consideration in strategies to create economic growth or reduce poverty. Though it is difficult to quantify GBV especially on development it is prevalent and its consequences on individuals affect the economy in the long run, therefore,

NGOs, CSOS, government, and international organizations need to prioritize GBV and its effects or put at the top of the development agendas.

CHAPTER 5

CHALLENGES, RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

The study began by highlighting the background of the study ,then define the aspect of GBV used in the study that is violence against women and girls ,the problem statement is discussed to better understand the scope of the study,this chapter also presents the research questions the objectives, the significance, motivation and the contribution of the research . In chapter 2 key concepts, such as gender, violence, VAW and GBV, are defined to show the relevance of this topic, It then detailed the specific models used to address it in this study the ecological framework is used to explain the causes and areas where it is more likely to occur. Waves of feminism and types of feminism were discussed in the theoretical framework to show how it affects women and the country as a whole. Chapter 3 present the country of study Cameroon and more precisely where it is located and areas used for the research in the course of the thesis. This chapter introduces the legal framework, the socioeconomic and geographical position of the country, gender mainstreaming and the gender profile of the country. Chapter 4 showed the government and how it fights against it, presents various organization both local and international on the gender mainstreaming system in the country ,activities and projects carried out by various organization their role in the fight against GBV ,their different strategies and how they cooperate with government this chapter reveals certain shortcomings and how issues could be handles productively in the future discussed the limitations of gender mainstream in the country.

This chapter will, however, point out certain gaps in these practices how it could be improved and bring recommendations to enable better methods and get better results to reduce the impact of GBV on the region,the list of types is much more extensive but for this study, it has been narrowed down to these few which will be important enable us to understand it and furthermore come up with recommendations on how it could be reduced.

5.1. CHALLENGES IN THE FIGHT AGAINST GBV

These are some barriers or difficulties encountered in the fight to reduce its impact, Survivors do not denounce their perpetrators, and when they sometimes they do not go to the end of the procedures they are either convinced or threatened by the perpetrators or family members to drop the charges and for fear of repercussion they comply. Few convictions recorded caused by severe lapses by the police and judiciary in responding to the survivors' plight because sometimes the perpetrators bribe their way out and have a clean record because they also encourage arbitration VAW is seen and treated as a private issue.

Also, there is lack of information, statistics and research on the issue in Cameroon making it hard to understand and evaluate where the issue is more prevalent or why it is on the rise and where certain strategies put in place is successful or failing.

However, there are still many people who have a very conservative view and uphold social norms which can be harmful or discriminatory to women and girls because the far north region is patriarchal and most tradition and practices put men in the forefront and confirm their places as leaders this is something we all know does not change in one day it is take a lot of effort time and resource to make people understand how certain practices like early marriages are harmful.

The support system is limited and unevenly deployed across the country, people and other professionals in the field are not well informed about what is in place. No formal system exists to detect early signs of abuse, violence or discrimination against women and children.

Despite the challenges, the literature and findings do suggest that it has a negative impact on the far north region of the country , The following recommendations have taken in to account what is already done and this is to better bring up practices and intervention taking into consideration the situation of the people their mentality culture and current environment, following the premise of this study, the following recommendations have been formulated.

5.2. RECOMMENDATIONS

This thesis will hopefully inspire government, private institutions, NGOs, civil society and individuals to take action no matter how small it will make an impact. It could also encourage the design of better intervention methods to broaden, develop and improve the fight against GBV.

In regards to the conceptual framework with the ecological framework strategies or intervention should be tailored and be at the individual, relationship, societal, community level this means a multisectoral approach is necessary for a sustainable response to the problem as it acknowledges that no single type of response or sector can adequately address it. The four main sectors show, that all have individual responsibilities and resources to respond to the specific needs of survivors, so the recommendations made below are made bearing this in mind.

Firstly more proactive rather than reactive solutions and approaches to GBV will be suitable as, It is necessary to develop mechanisms of primary prevention avoidance, secondary prevention which should aim to reduce the prevalence or effects of GBV and finally work on the consequences with those directly affected and currently most of the solutions or assistance put in place is reactive, preventing these cases from happening is a better approach so the solutions should be at the two ends.

Cameroon also should give an exact situation analysis and decide on which intervention is suitable for a particular context and not expect all solutions to come from foreign organizations, it should be more like a partnership sharing of ideas and knowledge to come up with suited and tailored intervention. Different sectors should intervene at their level education, health, justice and the police so training of different agents of this sector should include so when they are faced with this situation they should know exactly what to do thereby integrating services of GBV in these various sectors.

Coordination between other sectors is also crucial to check progress on each sector by improving the relationship and exchanges between survivors and professionals for example Doctors, police officers, lawyers, or administrative staff and also bringing out their strength

and weaknesses. Working together comes with many advantages as the exchange is healthy because contradictory policies and procedures between different sectors may hinder survivors access to support systems. It is also important that professionals concerned get appropriate training to better support and accompany them.

Create awareness at a community level on its effects in general and how it is rooted in unequal gender relations because when you are living it you do not realize it is a problem, also by adding harmful practices and their consequences to the curriculum students will be aware of those practices and various channels of support, it could be combined into subjects like civics that already exist so that children know what practices are wrong, knowing their rights and know exactly whom to turn to in case of this violence at home and in school.

Telephone hotlines could be a preventive measure as I believe the police should have a hotline where victims could call directly for help before the violence escalates and in these cases, agents that are trained for this can be dispatched and know the necessary steps for helping out the survivors especially those who are being battered and assaulted. Emergency shelters, legal assistance, counselling services, psychological care, programs, programs for batterers and child welfare services, institutions could be directly accessible when needed.

Another recommendation is encouraging cases reporting whenever they occur, making sure GBV service providers are responsive and effective by discouraging family mediation in cases of sexual violence, involving more specifically rape because in most cases where there is no punishment or measures, the perpetrators tend to go back to their old ways.

Again Civil Society Organisations and local initiatives working on it should continue awareness-raising campaigns on the different forms focusing on the least known ones, including psychological and economic violence because some people may be going through these violence without being aware, sensitization through TV and radio stations, also the state should effectively engage in awareness-raising campaigns on the justice system with comprehensive institutional framework that connects various bodies with well-defined

responsibilities by informing the population about the organizations and services available, as the fight against it should be multisectoral.

Besides, the state should update its legal instruments because it is through these loopholes that perpetrators go scot-free, no law can directly protect victims or the punishment given is lenient and they get away with it as it is socially and legally tolerated. A record can be opened in the police and judiciary for multiple offenders so it will be easy to track them and also fine and punish repeated domestic violence offences, even if they are not physical violence, as the legislation should be enhanced for repeated offences in Cameroon.

Cameroon's national penal code does not classify FGM as a criminal offence. For now, this gap enables those who still practice it as they know no charges can be held against them at most they are warned and arrest are never made this just like a slap on the wrist knowing fully well that it is carried out and exposes young girls and put them at risk with their health as probability of having an infection with these practices are high.

The law sets the minimum age for marriage at 15 for women and at 18 for men this is also a problem because at 15 the young girl will still be in her secondary education stopping education at this level and when they are married most spouses do not enable them go back to school and therefore no job a system should be put in to place to give the opportunity for the girls to get married at the legal age of 18 and therefore she will be able to make choices for herself but not through her parents, most of the girls that marry at the age of 15 do it without their consent .

men, but 17% of women are in union before age 15 and 6% of men

before 18 years old. ;

The average age of the first union is 15.9 in the northern regions and it is necessary that service providers for medical care, family planning services ask women about violence and are prepared to address the specific needs of survivors and also making reports that could be used and accessible to the judiciary or with the police.

Though primary education is free not enough material like books pen and other school equipments are attributed to children, scholarships could be given to the girl child to enable her to get the opportunity to pursue secondary education and the university. For education, more vocational training school should be opened to enable those who drop out know how to read and write and make money through their crafts workshop can also be carried where these girls and women can put forth what they are learning and sensitive other women who are hesitant.

Creating income-generating activities for survivors and girls and women in general, so they do not have to rely on someone and also train uneducated women on how they could make their revenue from small businesses classes on entrepreneurship can be offered to them to enable them to acquire knowledge.

In addition, perpetrators should not be left out in the strategies put into place as they are the key to understand why these acts of violence still take place they should be given psychological assistance as well to avoid going back or keep perpetrating these acts of violence.

The contribution of the thesis is discussing gender-based violence in a specific rather than a general way, and the focus is on a region of the and not the whole country, written resources on these violence are limited and very few publications, or documentation on this topic so this will shed light and bring awareness to it. Some recommendations were given in the course of the work to enable state, and different organizations improve women and girls condition but also to foster new ideas and development in this area

I connect social, economic, and development aspects of GBV with strategies put into place with the government and organization in order to contribute to the conversation about reducing all forms of GBV and its effect. While the research gives some recommendations it also provides some response with strategies, it does not encompass all set of approaches to fit every possible situation but is a contribution towards eradicating some practices. This study, although new, is a start compared to the journey ahead. More studies should be carried out to examine the various models utilised by policymakers to determine the

strengths and weaknesses of each and to develop new and better models that address the issue, though this study attempts it there is still room for more.

CONCLUSION

In general, people and organizations are aware that the issue exists, however, they tend to limit it to cases related to physical, sexual and economic violence. Psychological violence is often overlooked in strategies by various organizations involved. GBV is a common phenomenon but most important forms are physical and economic violence. This implies that these are the most visible and denounced cases. These types are also the most frequent and also children are at higher risk as they are the most exposed. It is embedded in social and cultural norms the response or strategies towards it can make a difference when it is subtle and in respect to some tradition (not the harmful ones) so a contextualized approach should be the way to go.

Although it is believed that many cases are not reported, studies show that women and girls are more at risk. The study revealed that reporting is still low although various efforts to encourage reporting and wide awareness of its consequences, the reason being that there is the feeling that nothing will be done after reporting as it is observed. Most people that say they have experienced GBV did not report after being faced with it. In most cases, it occurs at home, or in social circles both for children and for adults.

The key contribution of this study was to focus on one specific area and come up with things not in general but specifically on Gbv and development which aspects are sometimes neglected, in the academic fields of peace and conflict studies.

In conclusion, it appears that violence against women in this part of the country requires that we pay immediate interest because of its prevalence which remains significant, and especially the consequences it has on development. Its severe consequences for the health of women, children and development of the country and also survivors bear substantial financial costs for accessing justice and health services. States also bear financial costs

when they allocate resources to provide legal services and medical care to survivors. These are all factors that should prompt quick and long-term or sustainable actions because it is seen in this study as a major barrier to development both at the personal and the societal level and therefore cannot be neglected, the way forward is taking actions to reduce this cost and focus on some other aspects like women empowerment while bearing in mind the challenges in the domain and the recommendations made in this study to overcome them.

Finally, though imperfect this research helps us understand how GBV affects the region and also data and statistics are not the key to justifying strategies or response, if its presence is observed in the society actions should be taken to reduce and eliminate these practices. The study contributes in its little way to the existing literature on the subject matter. For me, this research could not capture everything about GBV and development in a swoop, but it has opened a new vision for me in a future research project.

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
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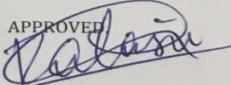
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APPENDIX 1. ETHICS BOARD WAIVER FORM

	HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES ETHICS COMMISSION FORM FOR THESIS
HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES PEACE STUDIES DEPARTMENT	
Date: 10/06./2019	
Thesis Title GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV): ITS EFFECTS ON DEVELOPMENT AND THE SOCIETY , INITIATIVES IN PLACE FOCUS ON THE WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS OF THE FAR NORTH REGION CAMEROON.:	
My thesis work related to the title above:	
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Does not perform experimentation on animals or people. 2. Does not necessitate the use of biological material (blood, urine, biological fluids and samples, etc.). 3. Does not involve any interference of the body's integrity. 4. Is not based on observational and descriptive research (survey, interview, measures/scales, data scanning, system-model development). 	
I declare, I have carefully read Hacettepe University's Ethics Regulations and the Commission's Guidelines, and in order to proceed with my thesis according to these regulations I do not have to get permission from the Ethics Board/Commission for anything; in any infringement of the regulations I accept all legal responsibility and I declare that all the information I have provided is true.	
I respectfully submit this for approval.	
Name Surname: FAMANOU KAMPETE Student No: N15129035 Department: PEACE STUDIES Program: Status: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MA <input type="checkbox"/> Ph.D. <input type="checkbox"/> Combined MA/ Ph.D.	Date and Signature 10/06/2019 
<u>ADVISER COMMENTS AND APPROVAL</u>	
 Doç. Dr. REYHAN ATASU TOPCUOGLU	

APPENDIX 2. ORIGINALITY REPORT

 <div style="display: inline-block; vertical-align: middle; text-align: center;"> <p>HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES MASTER'S THESIS ORIGINALITY REPORT</p> </div>								
<p>HACETTEPE UNIVERSITY GRADUATE SCHOOL OF SOCIAL SCIENCES PEACE STUDIES DEPARTMENT</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Date: 10/06/2019</p>								
<p>Thesis Title: GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV): ITS EFFECTS ON DEVELOPMENT AND THE SOCIETY, INITIATIVES IN PLACE FOCUS ON THE WOMEN AND YOUNG GIRLS OF THE FAR NORTH REGION CAMEROON.</p> <p>According to the originality report obtained by myself/my thesis advisor by using the Turnitin plagiarism detection software and by applying the filtering options checked below on 15/04/2019 for the total of 87 pages including the a) Title Page, b) Introduction, c) Main Chapters, and d) Conclusion sections of my thesis entitled as above, the similarity index of my thesis is 9 %.</p> <p>Filtering options applied:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Approval and Declaration sections excluded 2. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Bibliography/Works Cited excluded 3. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Quotes excluded 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Quotes included 5. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Match size up to 5 words excluded <p>I declare that I have carefully read Hacettepe University Graduate School of Social Sciences Guidelines for Obtaining and Using Thesis Originality Reports; that according to the maximum similarity index values specified in the Guidelines, my thesis does not include any form of plagiarism; that in any future detection of possible infringement of the regulations I accept all legal responsibility; and that all the information I have provided is correct to the best of my knowledge.</p> <p>I respectfully submit this for approval.</p>								
<table style="width: 100%; border: none;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%;">Name Surname: _____</td> <td style="width: 40%; text-align: right;">Date and Signature</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Student No: _____</td> <td style="text-align: right;">10/06/2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Department: _____</td> <td style="text-align: right;"></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Program: _____</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	Name Surname: _____	Date and Signature	Student No: _____	10/06/2019	Department: _____		Program: _____	
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<p>ADVISOR APPROVAL</p> <p style="text-align: center;">APPROVED  _____ Doç. Dr. REYHAN ATASU TOPCUOGLU</p>								