Impact of Gender-based Violence on Local Economy: A Case Study of Gasabo District

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Abstract

Aim: Gender-based violence (GBV) poses a significant challenge to economic development, particularly in regions such as Gasabo District in Rwanda, which has seen remarkable post-genocide recovery and growth. Despite progress, the intricate relationship between GBV and economic outcomes remains understudied, necessitating further investigation. This study addresses the gap in understanding the economic implications such as workforce productivity, healthcare expenditures, and educational attainment of GBV in Gasabo District.

Methods: Utilizing a mixed-methods approach, this research combines quantitative and qualitative research methodology to comprehensively assess the prevalence and consequences of GBV in Gasabo District. A sample size of 400 participants was selected using stratified sampling techniques, with data collected through self-administered questionnaires and in-depth interviews with survivors and stakeholders.

Results: findings reveal alarming statistics on the prevalence and economic toll of GBV in Gasabo District. Among the respondents, 58.5% reported no experience with GBV during their lifetime, with physical violence (35.5%) most frequent type. Economic consequences were substantial, with 28.8% reporting reduced productivity due to GBV. A significant association between GBV and economic consequences, with chi-square test results revealing a strong correlation (chi-square = 46.949, p < 0.001) between experiencing GBV and reported economic impacts.

Conclusion: The study highlights the urgent need for evidence-based interventions to address GBV and its economic repercussions in Gasabo District by implementing comprehensive awareness and education programs to increase understanding of gender-based violence (GBV) and promote zero tolerance for violence

Key words: Gender-based violence, Gasabo District, local economy, domestic violence.

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INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence (GBV) leaves an indelible mark on local economies across various levels. Globally, the economic cost of GBV is estimated to be in the trillions of dollars annually [1], with productivity losses, increased healthcare expenses, and the burden on social services accounting for a significant portion [1]. On the continental level, a study by the African Development Bank (AfDB) revealed that GBV undermines sustainable development, costing African nations approximately 1.25% of their GDP annually [2]. Regionally, the impact is more evident as GBV disrupts social fabrics and impedes economic cooperation. In Rwanda, despite commendable strides in gender equality, GBV persists. According to the Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey [3], 9% of women aged 15-49 years reported experiencing physical violence, indicating that challenges remain. These statistics emphasize the imperative of addressing GBV comprehensively to unlock the full economic potential of communities, nations, and continents.

The data from 2018 indicates that in Africa, 44% of women encountered Intimate Partner Violence, with an additional 14% experiencing non-intimate partner violence [4]. Emotional violence perpetrated by intimate partners is notable at 29.40%, and physical violence against women stands at 25.87%, while sexual violence constitutes 18.75% (ibid). On a regional scale, West Africa countries such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire reports a prevalence of 30%, and Eastern Africa follows closely with a 25% incidence of violence against women where Rwanda is among them [4].

Rwanda, a nation marked by resilience and determined recovery from a tragic history, has made commendable strides in economic development and social reconstruction. However, beneath this veneer of progress lies a persistent challenge, gender-based violence (GBV) that threatens the very fabric of the community. This study directs its attention to the Gasabo District, seeking to illuminate the intricate interplay between GBV and economic development [5]. The Rwandese government implemented policies and initiatives to combat GBV and support survivors. Rwanda has established one-stop centers to provide holistic support to survivors of GBV, including medical, legal, and counseling services. The Rwanda Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) provides valuable insights into various health-related indicators, including GBV. According to the 2019-2020 DHS, 12% of women aged 15-49 reported experiencing physical violence, and 6% reported experiencing sexual violence [3]. Gasabo, like many regions in Rwanda, grapples with the pervasive impact of GBV, a phenomenon that extends beyond the immediate harm inflicted on individuals. The repercussions of GBV reverberate throughout the socio-economic landscape, hindering progress and impeding the full realization of Rwanda's developmental aspirations [6].

A study conducted by Peterson et al. titled "Lifetime Economic Burden of Intimate Partner Violence among U.S. Adults," provides a comprehensive assessment of the economic impact of intimate partner violence (IPV) in the United States. Using a mathematical model that combines data from previous studies with the 2012 U.S. National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey, the research estimates a substantial lifetime cost associated with IPV, amounting to $103,767 per female victim and $23,414 per male victim. Extrapolating these individual costs to the entire U.S. adult population with a history of victimization, the study reveals a staggering population economic burden of nearly $3.6 trillion (2014 US$). The breakdown of costs includes medical expenses, lost productivity among victims and perpetrators, criminal justice activities, and other associated costs [7].

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The persisting challenge of gender-based violence (GBV) represents a critical obstacle to sustainable economic development. This research addresses a significant gap in understanding the profound and multifaceted impact of GBV on the economic landscape, aiming to unravel the complexities that hinder individual well-being and impede the progress of the entire community [6]. The existing research on GBV in Rwanda often tends to emphasize the national perspective or concentrate on social and health implications. However, there is a dearth of studies that comprehensively investigate the economic dimensions of GBV at the local level [8]. Gasabo District serves as a pertinent case study due to its diverse socio-economic landscape, including urban and peri-urban areas. By narrowing the focus to this District, the research aims to unravel the intricate ways in which GBV impacts local businesses, workforce dynamics, and overall economic productivity.

GBV manifested through various forms such as intimate partner violence, workplace harassment, and societal discrimination, not only inflicts immediate harm on individuals but also casts a long shadow over the economic prospects of Gasabo. The magnitude of the problem is underscored by the prevalence of GBV incidents. This not only reflects the harsh reality faced by many individuals in Gasabo but also highlights the urgent need for a comprehensive understanding of the economic repercussions of GBV. This research is not conducted in isolation but is intricately linked to national, regional, and global development priorities. Within the national strategies for transformation of Rwanda, addressing GBV aligns with the commitment to building an inclusive and equitable society. Furthermore, on the regional scale, the African Union's (AU) Agenda 2063 emphasizes gender equality and the elimination of violence as key drivers for sustainable development [9]. Globally, the research resonates with the United Nations' Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 8 on economic growth and decent work for all.

METHODOLOGY

Description of the Study Areas

Gasabo District, located in Rwanda, serves as the focal point for this study. The District encompasses diverse socio-economic landscapes, including urban and peri-urban areas. Gasabo District is the most populated District among three Districts of Kigali city with 879,505 population [10]. The study was conducted in three of fifteen sectors which represent the largest population size, the sectors are Bumbogo (112,899), Kinyinya (125,400) and Ndera (95,164) respectively.
Research Design
A mixed-methods approach was the research design, recognizing the complexity of the GBV and economic development relationship.

Sample Size
Yamane Taro (1967) formula was used to calculate the sample size required for this study. The sample size was equal to 400 population that was selected to participate in the study. The study employed a range of data collection techniques due to the mixed research design. Quantitative data was gathered through structured questionnaire using validated instruments, while qualitative insights was obtained through in-depth interviews and focus group discussions.

Data Analysis
Data analysis was conducted using the SPSS software, aligning with the specific objectives. To achieve objective 1, descriptive statistics such as frequencies and percentages will be applied to assess the prevalence of gender-based violence (GBV) in Gasabo District. For objective 2, cross-tabulations was employed to identify and describe the most frequent types of GBV. Regarding objective 3, regression analyses was performed using SPSS to examine the economic consequences of GBV on various indicators in Gasabo District.

Ethical Consideration
The study obtained ethical clearance from the university's research ethics committee before commencing any data collection. Informed consent was sought from all participants, emphasizing voluntary participation, confidentiality, and the right to withdraw at any stage without consequences. Privacy and anonymity were maintained throughout the research process, with
personal information securely stored. Additionally, the study ensured that the dissemination of findings respects the dignity and rights of the participants, contributing to ethical and responsible research practices.

RESULTS

Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

The socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents provide valuable insights into the composition of the study population.

Table 1: Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Variables</th>
<th>Frequency (N=400)</th>
<th>Percent (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Gender</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Male</td>
<td>113</td>
<td>28.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Female</td>
<td>287</td>
<td>71.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Age Group</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 20</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>9.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-30</td>
<td>78</td>
<td>19.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-40</td>
<td>119</td>
<td>29.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>40-50</td>
<td>104</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-60</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Above 60</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Marital Status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Single</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>24.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Married</td>
<td>283</td>
<td>70.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Divorced</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>2.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Education Level</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No formal education</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Primary</td>
<td>230</td>
<td>57.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>24.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tertiary</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Employment status</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>10.8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unemployed</td>
<td>72</td>
<td>18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Student</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>4.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-employed</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>38.2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Farmer/Livestock</td>
<td>114</td>
<td>28.5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author, 2024

The gender distribution among respondents reveals a notable majority of females, constituting 71.8% of the sample, compared to males who represent 28.2%. This gender skew aligns with
existing literature indicating higher prevalence rates of gender-based violence (GBV) among women. Predominance of female respondents suggests a critical focus on understanding and addressing the unique challenges and vulnerabilities faced by women within the Gasabo District context.

By examining the age distribution of respondents, it becomes apparent that individuals in their thirties are the most, comprising 29.8% of the sample. This suggests that this age group may be particularly relevant for understanding the dynamics of GBV and its intersection with economic development. Additionally, while there is relatively even representation across other age groups, the lower representation of respondents above 60 years old indicates potential limitations in capturing the experiences of older individuals, which could be significant given their unique vulnerabilities.

Marital status among respondents reveals a clear majority of married individuals, accounting for 70.8% of the sample. This underscores the importance of considering the marital context in understanding GBV dynamics, as married individuals may face distinct challenges compared to single, divorced, or widowed individuals. Moreover, the significant proportion of single respondents (24.8%) highlights the importance of exploring GBV experiences among unmarried individuals, who may also be vulnerable to various forms of violence.

Education level emerges as another crucial socio-demographic factor, with the majority of respondents having completed primary education (57.5%). This suggests that while a substantial portion of the sample possesses foundational education, there may be disparities in educational attainment that could influence their experiences of GBV and economic opportunities. Furthermore, the presence of respondents with no formal education or tertiary education underscores the need for tailored interventions addressing the diverse educational backgrounds within the community.

Finally, the employment status of respondents reflects a diverse range of economic activities, with self-employment and farming/livestock activities being the most common (38.2% and 28.5%, respectively). This distribution highlights the importance of considering the economic context in understanding GBV dynamics, as individuals engaged in different employment sectors may face distinct vulnerabilities and economic impacts. Understanding these socio-demographic characteristics provides a foundational understanding of the study population, setting the stage for further analysis of the relationships between GBV, economic development, and socio-demographic factors within the Gasabo District.

The Prevalence of Gender-based Violence (GBV) in Gasabo District

Figure 1: Prevalence of GBV in Gasabo District

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The findings reveal that a significant proportion of respondents, constituting 41%, reported having experienced some form of gender-based violence in Gasabo District. Conversely, 59% of respondents indicated that they had not encountered GBV. This stark division underscores the pervasive nature of GBV within the community, with a considerable number of individuals affected by various forms of violence. While the study in Mombasa, Kenya, finds varying prevalence rates among different subgroups of adolescent girls and young women (AGYW). Specifically, the prevalence of lifetime physical violence in Mombasa is reported as 18.0%, and recent physical violence is reported at 10.7%, with lifetime and recent sexual violence at 20.5% and 9.8%, respectively. Moreover, the prevalence of lifetime and recent police violence is reported at 34.7% and 25.8%, respectively, among AGYW in Mombasa. These disparities highlight the diverse nature of GBV experiences within different populations and contexts, underscoring the need for tailored interventions to address the specific challenges faced by each subgroup effectively [11].

The Most Frequent Types of Gender-based Violence in Gasabo District

In this section, the analysis focuses on the prevalence of various types of gender-based violence (GBV) within Gasabo District.

Figure 2: Type of gender-based violence experienced

Physical violence emerges as the most common form, reported by 35.5% of respondents, highlighting the pervasive nature of physical aggression in the community. Sexual violence closely follows, with 30.7% of respondents reporting experiencing it, indicating significant instances of sexual abuse and assault. Emotional/psychological violence is reported by 27.7% of respondents, underscoring the psychological harm inflicted through verbal abuse and manipulation. Economic violence, while less prevalent at 6%, sheds light on instances of financial control and exploitation as forms of GBV. The results closely conforms with study in Ethiopia provides a detailed breakdown of GBV types, with physical violence being the most common (35.5%), followed closely by sexual violence (30.7%) and emotional/psychological violence (27.7%). This suggests that while the overall prevalence of GBV in Gasabo District is high, the specific distribution of GBV types may vary across different contexts [12].
Figure 3: The perpetrators of the most frequent GBV incidence

The analysis reveals that intimate partners emerge as the primary perpetrators of the most frequent GBV incidents, accounting for 65.1% of reported cases. This finding underscores the significant role of domestic relationships in perpetuating GBV and highlights the urgent need for interventions targeting intimate partner violence within the community. Additionally, a notable proportion of incidents involve strangers, comprising 12.2% of reported cases, suggesting instances of GBV occurring outside of familiar social circles. While less common, family members are implicated in a small percentage of cases (2.2%), emphasizing the complex dynamics of violence within familial relationships.

The Economic Consequences of Gender-based Violence (GBV) in Gasabo

This section delves into the reported local economic consequences of gender-based violence (GBV) within Gasabo District. By examining the impacts on productivity, employment, and healthcare costs, this analysis elucidates the economic toll of GBV on individuals and the broader community.

Figure 4: The economic consequences of GBV

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The analysis reveals that a significant proportion of respondents’ report reduced productivity as a consequence of GBV, accounting for 68% of reported cases. This finding underscores the adverse impact of violence on individuals' ability to engage in productive activities, thereby hindering economic participation and development within the District. Furthermore, job loss is reported by 14% of respondents, indicating the direct economic repercussions of GBV on employment opportunities and livelihoods. Additionally, a notable proportion of respondents report increased healthcare costs as a consequence of GBV, comprising 18% of reported cases. This highlights the strain on healthcare resources and the financial burden imposed on individuals and the healthcare system due to GBV-related injuries and medical treatment. The study on workplace gender-based violence (GBV) among university women in Enugu, South-east Nigeria, reveals alarming prevalence rates of workplace civility, bullying, and sexual harassment (SH) among female staff, with rates of 63.8%, 53.5%, and 40.5%, respectively [13]. This finding underscores the significant challenges faced by women in higher educational settings and the detrimental impact of GBV on their mental and physical health, as well as work productivity.

The Relationship between Gender-based Violence and Local Economic Development

Table 2: Bivariate analysis of relationship between gender-based violence and local economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Observed Economic Consequences</th>
<th>Experienced GBV Experienced GBV</th>
<th>Chi-Square</th>
<th>P-value</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>No</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>No</td>
<td>34 20.5</td>
<td>132 56.4</td>
<td>46.949 &lt;0.001</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>132 79.5</td>
<td>102 43.6</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author, 2024

The chi-square test reveals a statistically significant association between experiencing gender-based violence (GBV) and reported economic consequences in Gasabo District. Notably, among those who experienced GBV, a striking 79.5% reported economic consequences, while among those who did not experience GBV, only 20.5% reported such consequences. This stark difference underscores the profound impact of GBV on individuals' economic well-being. Highlighting the complex and varied experiences of GBV survivors. The chi-square statistic yielded a value of 46.949 (p < 0.001), indicating a strong association between GBV and reported economic consequences.

Table 3: Logistic regression analysis of relationship between GBV and local economy

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Independent</th>
<th>Variables in the Equation</th>
<th>Wald</th>
<th>df</th>
<th>Sig.</th>
<th>Exp(B)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GBV experienced</td>
<td>1.507 0.228 43.525 1 &lt;0.001 4.512</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Constant</td>
<td>-0.258 0.132 3.825 1 0.05 0.773</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Source: Author, 2024

This suggests that individuals who have experienced GBV are approximately 4.5 times more likely to report economic consequences compared to those who have not experienced GBV, after

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controlling for other factors in the model. Additionally, the constant term represents the odds of experiencing economic consequences when GBV is absent, which is 0.773 with a significance level of 0.05. This implies that even in the absence of GBV, there is still a significant likelihood of experiencing economic consequences, although this effect is weaker compared to when GBV is present. This concurs with the findings from the study conducted by Beyene et al. (2021) which mentioned that there a significant association between gender based violence and economic empowerment of women.

The Perception of the Overall Impact of GBV on Economic Development in Gasabo District

Respondents highlighted various interconnected challenges. A prevalent theme emerging from their responses centered around the detrimental effects of GBV on individual and familial well-being, ultimately impeding broader economic progress. Many participants identified family conflicts as a significant repercussion of GBV, underscoring how interpersonal violence disrupts household harmony and stability. Furthermore, respondents cited instances of depression and psychological distress resulting from GBV, which not only affect individuals' mental health but also hinder their capacity to engage effectively in economic activities. Moreover, respondents emphasized how GBV contributes to hunger and malnutrition within households, as resources that could have been allocated towards food and nutrition are diverted to address the aftermath of violence.

Another prominent concern raised by respondents was the correlation between GBV and school dropout rates, highlighting how the trauma and disruption caused by violence negatively impact educational attainment among youth, consequently limiting their future economic prospects. Additionally, participants pointed to the increased healthcare expenditures incurred due to GBV-related injuries and trauma, placing additional financial strain on households and healthcare systems. Overall, respondents' perceptions underscore the multifaceted and pervasive impact of GBV on economic development in Gasabo District. This highlights the urgent need for comprehensive interventions to address the root causes and mitigate the far-reaching consequences of gender-based violence on individuals and communities alike. One of respondents said.

"When violence happens at home, it affects everything. I've seen friends drop out of school because they couldn't cope with the trauma. And then there's the constant worry about healthcare costs – it's like a dark cloud hanging over us, draining our resources and hopes for a better future."

Respondent A

"GBV doesn't just hurt individuals; it tears families apart. The conflicts and tension it brings make it hard for anyone to focus on work or earning a living. It's like a poison that spreads through every aspect of our lives, leaving us struggling to make ends meet."

Respondent B

The Measures could be Taken to Mitigate the Economic Impact of GBV in the District.

In addressing the economic impact of gender-based violence (GBV) in Gasabo District, respondents emphasized the importance of proactive measures aimed at prevention and support. Community mobilization emerged as a key strategy, with participants highlighting the significance of collective action in raising awareness, challenging harmful norms, and fostering a culture of support and solidarity. Additionally, respondents underscored the importance of identifying and reporting vulnerable families at risk of GBV, advocating for early intervention and targeted assistance to prevent violence before it escalates. The concept of "being an eye to your neighbor"
resonated strongly among respondents, reflecting the value of community surveillance and mutual support networks in identifying signs of GBV and providing timely assistance to those in need. Furthermore, participants emphasized the critical role of early reporting in addressing GBV incidents promptly and effectively, enabling timely intervention and support services for survivors. By implementing these measures, communities in Gasabo District can work towards mitigating the economic impact of GBV, fostering a safer and more supportive environment for individuals and families affected by violence, and ultimately promoting inclusive economic development and prosperity.

**DISCUSSION**

This study and that of Chadha et al. (2022) underscore the significant economic impact of gender-based violence (GBV) in the workplace. Chadha et al. (2022) focused on the perspectives of senior management executives in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), this study delved into the direct experiences of individuals within Gasabo District in Rwanda. Chadha et al.’s findings revealed that 25% and 36% of senior executives had witnessed intimate partner violence and non-partner sexual violence against their female colleagues, respectively. Additionally, one in three managers acknowledged the impact of VAWG on productivity and day-to-day operations. In comparison, our study’s results indicated that 78.1% of individuals who experienced GBV reported economic consequences, emphasizing the substantial impact of GBV on economic well-being. Despite differences in methodology and context, both studies highlight the pervasive nature of GBV and its detrimental effects on workplace productivity, underscoring the universal need for comprehensive interventions to address this issue.

Comparing the findings from the study by [14] to this study’s findings, both results underscore the profound consequences of gender-based violence (GBV) on individuals’ physical, mental, and educational well-being. While [14] focused on female high school students in eastern Ethiopia, our study examined the multifaceted impacts of GBV on individuals within the Gasabo District in Rwanda. Beyene et al.’s findings revealed that more than half (55%) of the female high school students surveyed had experienced some form of GBV during their lifetime. Notably, students who experienced sexual violence reported physical health consequences such as swelling around genitalia (33.7%) and mental health consequences such as self-blame (35.7%) and anxiety (23.3%). Educational consequences included poor school performance (36.1%), absenteeism (34.6%), and dropout (28.9%). Similarly, this study highlighted the significant economic costs of GBV, with 78.1% of individuals reporting economic consequences. Both studies underscore the urgent need for primary and secondary prevention efforts to address the pervasive impact of GBV on individuals’ well-being and educational attainment. These findings emphasize the critical importance of comprehensive interventions to mitigate the adverse effects of GBV and promote a safe and supportive environment for individuals affected by violence.

Comparing the findings from the study by [12] to this study’s findings research, both studies underscore the prevalence and determinants of gender-based violence (GBV) among female students, highlighting its significant impact on individuals’ well-being and educational attainment. While [12] focused on Baso high school female students in Debre Berhan town, Ethiopia, this study examined the prevalence and consequences of GBV among female students in the Gasabo District in Rwanda. Basazin Mingude and Dejene's findings revealed a prevalence of 36.2% of GBV during the lockdown period and a lifetime prevalence of 47.2%. Notably, sexual violence
and physical violence were prevalent, with lifetime rates of 27.99% and 37.99%, respectively. Similarly, this study highlighted the prevalence of various forms of GBV among female students in Gasabo District, indicating a significant impact on individuals' physical, mental, and educational well-being. Both studies identified factors associated with GBV, such as educational performance, financial support from parents, free discussion about reproductive issues, and experience of sexual intercourse. These findings underscore the urgent need for governmental and non-governmental organizations to address GBV as a critical sexual and reproductive health issue. Additionally, further large-scale studies are recommended to estimate the national figure of GBV and identify root causes, emphasizing the importance of comprehensive interventions to prevent and respond to GBV effectively.

CONCLUSION

This study provides valuable insights into the prevalence, types, economic consequences, and relationship of gender-based violence (GBV) with local economic development in Gasabo District. The findings underscore the urgent need for comprehensive interventions to address GBV effectively and foster a safer and more economically vibrant environment in the region. By recognizing the pervasive nature of GBV and its adverse impacts, policymakers, stakeholders, and community leaders can implement evidence-based strategies to mitigate the effects of GBV and promote inclusive economic development in Gasabo District and beyond.

RECOMMENDATIONS

To address gender-based violence (GBV), comprehensive awareness programs targeting community members, enhancing support services for survivors through improved access to counseling, legal aid, healthcare, and shelters, and fostering collaboration among governmental agencies, NGOs, community leaders, and religious institutions should be implemented to prevent GBV and promote gender equality.

Authors contribution

Avelin Nsabimana contributed to the conceptualization, methodology, and writing of the original draft. Denys Uwimpuhwe was responsible for review and editing of the manuscript.

Conflicts of interest

The authors declare no conflict of interest. This research was conducted in the absence of any commercial or financial relationships that could be construed as a potential conflict of interest.

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