



TANZANIA MEDIA WOMEN'S ASSOCIATION (TAMWA)

Journalistic Survey on Gender-based Violence

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1.0 Introduction

The Tanzania Media Women Association (TAMWA) in collaboration with the Tanzania Gender Networking Programme (TGNP), the Tanzania Women Lawyers Association (TAWLA), the Zanzibar Female Lawyers Association (ZAFELA), and TAMWA's Crisis Resolving Centre (CRC), is implementing a two-year programme on Gender Equality and Women Empowerment (GEWE II) in 10 districts of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar.

In order to achieve GEWE II objectives, TAMWA spearheaded the formation of GBV community committees in ten districts of Tanzania mainland and Zanzibar with a total of 720 members. The main function of the committees is to monitor issues of Gender Based violence against women and children in the programme areas.

A total of 120 news gatherers, 120 paralegals and 120 animators were trained on GBV issues and how to deal with all kinds of gender based violence from the village to the ward level.

TAMWA sent journalist from various media houses to conduct a journalistic survey in the ten districts of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar to assess the people's attitudes and response after the establishment of the community GBV committees in April 2013. The intention was to get a true picture of GBV in those 10 districts.

2.0 Surveyed Districts

The survey was carried out in the following districts; Wete (Pemba North), Unguja Urban West (Unguja West), Unguja South, Kisarawe (Coast), Newala (Mtwara), Mvomero (Morogoro), Lindi Rural & Ruangwa (Mtwara) and Kinondoni & Ilala (Dar es Salaam).

3.0 Issues addressed

Issues investigated during the survey included rape, school pregnancies, forced marriages, wife battery, female genital mutilation, as well as abandonment of women and children. For each of these GBV issues, the survey aimed at investigating and exposing the problems, their causes, magnitude and impact, and to suggest viable solutions to end the problem.

4.0 Methodology

In conducting the research, journalists used questionnaires, face-to-face interviews with respondents and through observation. Conversations were also recorded as well as photos of some interviewees.

5.0 Findings

In general the findings in all 10 districts indicate that gender-based violence is still a big problem in our communities and society in general. Causes and circumstances of the violence were found to be similar from one district to another.

The survey has revealed that some of the reasons that led to the GBV incidents was a weak rule of law, lack of understanding of the laws and their corresponding sentences, traditions and customs of some tribes in the surveyed districts.

5.1 RAPE

Rape has a broad legal definition, including sexual intercourse with a child under the age of 18, but generally rape is forced sex.

In the surveyed districts it was observed that causes of rape are alcoholism, superstitious beliefs, and extreme poverty in families, and men's uncontrollable sexual desire.

In following-up of actions taken to the perpetrators of rape the survey revealed that some suspects were not being taken to court and while those who were taken court are released in controversial circumstances with the reason being lack of evidence. Corruption was also seen to play a part.

In certain circumstances, families of offenders and victims decide to mediate and settle rape cases at family level as a way of avoiding legal proceedings and averting stigma. This clearly showed people's lack of understanding of their rights.

The survey found that rape brings about negative effects such as the possibility of victims contracting sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV/AIDS, suffering from social stigma, students dropping out of school, increased poverty, unwanted pregnancies, forced marriages, and an increase of street children.

Rape cases are rife in almost every surveyed district. Between 2011 and March 2013, there were 341 rape cases reported in three districts of Wete, Unguja South and Kusini Magharibi.

Additionally, data from the police, shehia and social welfare office in Wete district show that in 2011 there were 22 cases, 43 cases in 2012 and 57 cases from January to March 2013.

Table I: Rape cases in Unguja West (2011/2013)

Unguja Urban West District	2013 (Jan- April)	2011-2012 (Jan – Dec)	2011 -2013 (April)
Bumbwisudi	4	12	16
Dole	7	13	20
Kianga	12	20	32
Mwanakwerekwe	2	10	12
Pangawe	7	14	21
Melinne	5	9	14
Total	37	78	115

(Source: Focal Persons & Shehia)

According to the statistics obtained at Unguja South District, rape is still a big problem whereby between 2012 and March 2013, 104 rape cases were reported in various areas. Of these, 12 cases are under investigations, 4 are in court and only in 7 cases have the perpetrators been found guilty.

According to the Makunduchi Hospital Medical Officer, Dr. Haji Hafidh Fatawi, 21 cases of rape were reported at the hospital between January and March 2013.

Table II: Rape cases in Unguja South (2012- 2013).

Area	2012	Jan-March 20	Total
Mwera Police	57	12	69
Mzuri	1	-	1
Kijini	3	-	3
Kiongoni School	1	-	1
Nganani	2	-	2
Makunduchi Hospital	-	21	21
Programme Officer, Unguja South	-	7	7
TOTAL	64	40	104

Source: Mwera Police Station, Coordinators, Makunduchi Hospital

In Newala District, Mtwara Region, cases of rape are common place, but are rarely reported. Police and head of the gender desk, Rachael Andrew Mchopa say only 15 incidents were reported in 2012. From January to June 2013 only 14 incidents have been reported in the entire district.

Incidents in Mvomero, Morogoro:**Table III: Reported cases at Gender Desk in Mvomero District
January - December 2012**

Offences	Total	Suspects	Cases in court	Rulings	Set free	Cases under investigation	No action taken
Rape	21	8	7		1	13	
Defilement	5	1	1			5	
Injury	1	1	1				
Assault	8	5	5	1			
Abandoned children	1	1					1

*Source: Police Gender Desk, Mvomero District***Table IV: Reported cases at Gender desks in Mvomero District,
January - June 2013**

Offences	Total	Suspects	Cases in court	Rulings	Set free	Cases under investigation	No action taken
Rape	13	8	7		1	8	
Defilement	2	2	2			5	
Injury	1	1	1				
Assault	3	2	1			1	
Student pregnancies	1					1	

Source: Police Gender Desk, Mvomero District

Statistics show that in **Ilala** District, Dar es Salaam, an average of five children get defiled everyday.

However, the Ilala Regional Police Commander, Marietha Minangi, insists that defilement cases are higher than the recorded ones, because most of them are not reported.

The Gender Desk Coordinator for Ilala District, Bertha Masagasi, says reports obtained from Amana Hospital indicate that 55 and 23 percent of girls and women respectively who went to the hospital for medical treatment in 2008 had been raped. On the other hand, 21 and 24 percent of boys and men respectively, who went to the hospital in the same year, had been defiled.

Table V: Incidents reported at Gender Desks in Ilala Districts 2012-2013

Offences	2012	2013
	January – December	January - June
Sodomy	48	40
Rape	171	124
Wife Battery	71	60
Female Genital Mutilation	0	0
Total	290	220

Source: Police Gender Desk, Ilala

According to the statistics obtained from the Kisarawe District Gender Desk show that there were 21 incidents of rape in 2012 of which only nine (9) were prosecuted in courts of law.

Table VI: Incidents reported at Gender Desks in Kisarawe District 2011-2013

Offences	Year		
	2011	2012	2013
Rape	39	21	4
Wife battering	10	16	-
Student pregnancies	12	15	5
Abandoned children	-	5	-

Source: Police Gender Desk, Kisarawe District

5.2 CASE STUDIES

5.2.1 Zanzibar

A 30-year-old man raped a 22-year-old female resident of Kiungoni Ward in Wete District. She lost some of her teeth in the ordeal. The case is still in court. In Unguja South District, Mr. Hassan Bakari says a teacher raped his 11-year-old daughter. The case is in a court of law, but so far no proceedings have taken place; and the suspect is walking free.

5.2.2 Newala

Yusuph Khamis Salehe, raped an eight-year-old standard two pupil – his stepdaughter. Surprisingly, despite available medical evidence, the child's mother, Fatuma Maneno, decided to resolve the matter at the family level because she feared being divorced from the husband.

5.2.3 Mvomero

A form two student at Nassoro Seif Secondary School in Mvomero District (name withheld), was raped by her nephew Mathias Chandugu. Mtibwa police Station confirmed that there are many such

instances, but they go unpunished because no one is taken to court as most of the cases are resolved at the family level.

5.3 FORCED MARRIAGES

The survey revealed that most of the girls are married at the age of 12 to 16 years. It was discovered that some parents forced their daughters into marriage as soon as they discovered they are pregnant because they believed that it will bring shame to the family.

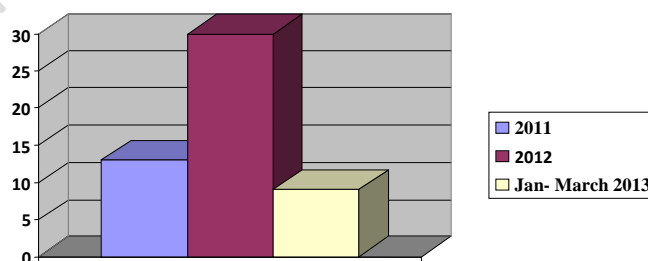
The Marriage Act of 1971 which allows a girl child to be married at the age of 14 or 15 years together with customs and tradition of some tribes in the surveyed districts and across the country are some of the contributing factors that forced girls under 18 years to be married.

Other factors that contribute to the increase of this form of GBV in the communities are poverty which has led some parents to forcing their daughters into marriage as a way out of poverty through the dowry and have made guardians avoid their responsibilities of looking after children left by the death their parents. Lack of awareness on the benefits of education, especially to daughters, among community members, marital conflicts which contribute to children's insecurity and failure in schools, pregnancy and despair among the students themselves.

Between 2011 and March 2013 there were 102 reported cases of forced marriages in the three districts of Zanzibar: Wete - **66**, Unguja Urban West - **28**, and Unguja South - **8**.

In Pemba, school dropouts cases due to forced marriage were **13** in 2011. The number rose to **30** In 2012. Between January and March 2013, the figures were **23**.

Incidents of forced marriages in Pemba



In Newala district, Mtwara region, cases of child marriage that have been reported in the gender desk during the month of January to June 2013 were as shown in the table below;

Table VII: Gender-based violence Incidents in Newala District (January - June 2013)	
GBV Type	Total
Rape	14
School pregnancies	7
Forced/Child marriages	1
Students cohabiting with men (kupoka) ¹	4
Total	26

Source: Police Gender Desk, Newala, June 2013

Magnus Munyuku, the Newala Education Officer, responsible for secondary education, says 30 students were expelled from school due to pregnancy.

Similar cases are reported in Mvomero district Morogoro region, where forced marriage of school girls who become pregnant was a major challenge in all villages reached during this survey, as verified by the Executive Officer for Mtibwa Ward, Charles Msimbe.

However few incidents get reported and it was thus difficult to get statistics of the number of cases, though the Village Executive Officer for **Kunke, in Mvomero District**, Ally Hassan, gave an example of a mother who attempted twice to take her daughter by force to Zanzibar in an effort to force her into marriage.

The **Mtibwa** Ward Executive, Msimbe, said they are now amending the bylaws as a way of taking stern action against parents who force their daughters to drop out of school and get married.

The **Ruangwa** Ward Executive Officer in **Lindi Rural District**, Ally Katoto says that in between February and March 2013, 11 students became pregnant, dropped out of school and forced into marriage, in Lindi Rural District. In the same village it was reported that some of the pregnant girls lost their lives due to pregnancy complications during delivery.

Effects of forced marriage include; complications during delivery, marriage break up, increased illiteracy and poverty in the society.

¹ **Kupoka** is a local term used in Newala to describe a young girl living in cohabitation.

5.3.1 Newala

Two girls aged 16 and 17 (names withheld), both Form Two students at Makote and Nambunga Secondary Schools respectively, became pregnant and were forced into marriage.

In 2010, the Mikumbi Ward Executive Officer in Newala District, Rashid Abdallah Mtungwe was convicted and sentenced to 30-year imprisonment for marrying a form two schoolgirl. Having sex with a girl who is below 18 years old is regarded as rape in accordance with the Sexual Offences Special Provisions Act, 1998.



A school drop-out breast feeds her baby

5.3.2 WIFE BATTERING

The survey has shown that incidents of wife battering are rampant in the surveyed districts. The reasons for this are sexual jealousy, alcoholism, lack of trust among couples, matrimonial conflicts, poverty and polygamy.

Despite the existence of the penal code chapter 16 (principal legislation) of 2002, section 240, which states any person who unlawfully assaults another is guilty of a misdemeanour, and, if the assault is committed in circumstances which do not cause bodily harm, punishment is liable to be imprisonment for one year. Section 241 of the same law states that any person who commits an assault resulting in actual bodily harm is guilty of a misdemeanour, and is liable to imprisonment for five years. However, people either do not know the law well or it is ignored.

The statistics obtained from the Police Women and Children's Desk, shehia coordinators, social welfare in three districts surveyed in Zanzibar give the total of 78 wife battering incidents. Figures for each district are shown in the table below;

Table VIII: Wife battering	
Districts	Total
Wete	50
Unguja Urban West	23
Unguja South	5
Total	78

Source: Gender Desk in Wete, Unguja Urban West and Unguja Sout

While most incidents of women battering remain unreported, the Zanzibar Ministry for Women and Children Affairs was able to provide statistics that contradicted with the police report. Ministry reports show that between 2011 and 2013, the department of social welfare in Wete district registered 30 incidents of wife battering; 13 in 2011, nine in 2012 and eight between January and March 2013 as shown below;

Table IX: Wife Battering in Wete (2011-2013)	
Year	Total
2011	13
2012	9
2013	8
Total	30

Source: Gender Desk, Wete

Salma Khamis Haji, the Zanzibar Women and Children Development Officer, says: "Incidents of wife battering are currently on the decline, but they may increase if no action is taken to stop men from beating women."

Likewise, the problem of wife battery is still high in almost all the communities of the surveyed districts in Tanzania mainland. This indicates that it is a national problem.

In **Kinondoni** District, Dar es Salaam, the survey discovered that married women and those in relationships are the main victims of this type of violence. Juma Katogoro, the Street Chairman for Minazini, **Makumbusho** Ward, says; "many women in this street are beaten up because of jealousy and drunkenness." Yet most victims do not report these incidents to authorities due to ignorance of the law, and the fear of breaking their marriages or relationships. The situation is brought about because people are ignorant about their rights and or the laws that prevail on the issue of wife battery.

For example, among 70 women interviewed, 10 said they would sue their husbands when beaten, 30 said they are willing to withstand beatings for the sake of protecting their marriage and 30 said they have children and they could not leave because they cannot afford to care for the children.

An assistant party branch leader at Mwinjuma Street, Makumbusho Ward, in **Kinondoni** District, Sherita Mwingizi, says it is a common practice for men to beat their wives.

"Sometimes women are beaten because of refusing to have sex with a husband at a time when children are not yet asleep," he says.

Although many such incidents go unreported, the Councillor for Makumbusho Ward, Ally Haroub, says: “We would like to see such incidents reported to police.”

Table X: Gender Based Violence in Kinondoni District, January 2012 - June 2013

Crime	Numbers	Cases taken to court	No Evidence	Under Investigation	Decision
Rape	689	588	73	28	-
Sodomy	197	190	3	4	-
School Pregnancy	2	-	-	-	-
Smuggle child under the protection of parents	15	10	-	5	-
Attack	26	25	-	1	-
Attack to the Wife/husband	81	32	37	12	-
Abandonment of children and women	38	14	12	12	-
Total	1048	859	125	62	-

Source: Police Gender Desk

In **Mvomero** district, the police gender desk registered eight incidents of wife beating in 2012 and only one case was decided in the court of law.

Lydia Raphael, a resident of **Mlumbilo** Village, says some victims are scared of reporting these incidents for fear of being beaten by their husbands or getting divorced but she says the presence of the established community committees has to a certain extent helped because now some GBV survivors report to the police for help.

Kifuru village Chairperson, Joseph Lusinde, said some women do not report GBV incidents so that legal action can be taken against the perpetrators; the Kisarawe village executive officer, Mwashamba Genda, said although there were many incidents of women battering in her village the survivors do not report.

Kisarawe Ward Secretary Godfrey Ambele says some of the GBV survivors meet and resolve the matter with the perpetrators.

A Doctor at the Ruangwa district hospital, Dr. Gideon Omary, says most of the affected women do not report. He says one of the contributing factors is that many couples cohabit instead of getting married to avoid wedding costs. According to Dr. Omary between January and April this year he received 5 cases of women who were beaten by their partner while he was on the night shift.



Zainabu Nasoro the scars on her hand after being beaten by her husband Mr. Salum Peter in Dodoma Village, Ruangwa District



Eveline Thomas, at the Ruangwa District Hospital after being beaten by her husband

However, according to the Newala District Hospital Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Athanas Emmanuel, **Newala** district has fewer incidents of wife battering.

Issa Hamisi, a resident of Nangwala Village explains why this is the case, "Men in Newala marry and divorce. They don't beat women. When one behaves badly, he divorces and marries another one."

According to the Gender Desk in Kisarawe district, there were 10 recorded incidents of wife battering in 2011, 16 in 2012 and four between January and March 2013.

Kisarawe District community Development Officer, Loyce Kerenga, cited some of the factors contributing to the rise of wife battery incidents in her district as jealousy and poverty while some men beat their wives when asked to give money for buying food.

5.4.1 Zanzibar

"In my ward, Kiungoni, way back in 2011 a man hit his pregnant wife, hanged her and locked her in the house. I ordered the door to be broken and we saved the lady. But the incident was not reported to police until after we followed it up," says Omar Khamis Othuman, the ward leader.

5.4.2 Kisarawe

Hellena Sikombe (40), a mother of two and a resident of Kifuru Village, says that on April 10, 2013, as she was enjoying her drink with her friend Edina Gazula in a bar, she was beaten up by her husband's friend. But when she told her husband, Mathew Lubida, about her intention to report the

incident to police, he advised her to refrain from doing so as to avoid creating enmity with their neighbours.

5.4.3 Kinondoni

Asha Chande, a resident of Mbuyuni in Makumbusho, had one day early in the morning, accompanied by her friend, gone to fetch water from the well. They came across a burst water pipe whose owner they did not know.

She says: "We approached the pipe to tap the gushing water. Suddenly, two young men approached us and ordered us to stop tapping water and leave, saying the burst water pipe/pump was theirs. Before we left they started beating us, we ran for safety with water buckets on our heads. Unfortunately, I fell down. The guys attacked, beat and injured me with a knife on my leg.

She said, she screamed out for help and the boys were arrested and taken to a Mianzini police station and later to Oysterbay.

However, after several days, the boys were released on bail while she remained in pain nursing her wounds.

Asha Chande is asking the government to speed up the investigation and for justice to prevail in cases of GBV. This she says will not give room to those who such cases to me mediated at family level instead of taking them to court.

5.4.4 CASE STUDY – Ilala

A resident of Kivule, Ilala District, Dar es Salaam, Victoria Alphonse (34), narrates how her husband used to beat her when she was pregnant, causing her severe pains especially in the jaws.

"It has seriously affected me; I feel the pains whenever I carry a water bucket on my head," she says.

5.5 ABANDONMENT OF WOMEN AND CHILDREN

Another practice that is rampant in the society is that of men abandoning their wives and children. According to the survey there are number of reasons for the cause of this practice. These include infidelity, incessant fights between a husband and wife and poverty.

Other reasons that contribute to wives and children being abandoned is the lack of understanding of the **Law of the child Act 2009**, limited knowledge of the marriage laws, wife battery, family conflicts, corruption in law enforcing organs and lack of proper upbringing within the society.

Effects of children being abandoned include denying them the right to be cared and live with both parents, dropping out of school, children turning into streets beggars and increased child labour. On the part of women, they end up taking care of families on their own, facing abject poverty, and being denied of their rights.

In the three districts surveyed in Zanzibar the situation is as shown in the table below;

Table XI: Abandonment of Women and Children in Zanzibar

District	Total
Wete	131
Unguja Urban West	239
Unguja South	11

Source (*Gender Desk*)

Few of these incidents are reported to the authorities. Police sources say in 2011 they registered eight incidents in North Pemba, and six incidents were recorded in 2012. Between January and March 2013 only one incident had been reported.

But information from the social welfare department in Wete district show that 21 cases were received between 2011 and 2012 while from January to March 2013 only 3 cases were received.

This study also revealed that divorce has greatly contributed to women and children being abandoned. Pemba police force confirmed that the problem is significant due to victims not reporting events to the relevant authorities.

In Newala district, Mtwara region, the CSOs network secretary, Halima Nambunga, says 60 percent of families in the district are being cared for by a single parent due to divorce or abandonment of women and children.

The Newala district Commissioner, Christopher Magala says the “*safisha ghala culture or kuanua*” has contributed a lot to the problem, “this is the culture whereby a man in Newala gets money especially during the cashew nuts harvest, he decides to replace old things in the house including the woman and puts new things and a new woman” he added.

Magala clarifies that *Kusafisha ghala* culture undermines women and plays havoc on the children's welfare. This is because when a woman is divorced, the children remain with her or, as in most cases, they are sent to their grandparents. These children thus grow up without their parents.

In Mvomero, it was found that men normally abandon families during famine, mainly between March and May and the women are left with the burden of caring for the family. The men return home during the harvest season and assume all the responsibility and authority over the produce. Worse still, though they did not play any role in cultivating the crops, they sell the produce, leave home and go on to marry another wife.

Kidudwe Village Executive Officer, Marco Makatundu says he has been receiving complaints of men abandoning their families during famine. Ally Kingu of Lukende village in Mvomero districts says there is a need to educate women on their rights.

5.5.1 CASE STUDY - Ruangwa

A resident of Nachingwea Ward in Ruangwa District, Lindi region, Darlin Hassan, popularly known by the name of Bibi Dogo narrates how she was abandoned by her husband Mohamed Said Ndende.

"I and my husband have five children. We have been living together for over 40 years. He has been advised several times, through arbitration meetings with elders, to take care of the children, but he has always refused, he has told my relatives that he has got another wife. He doesn't want to change his habit, but I cannot take him to court. All I want is my right. So far, he has married three wives. The second wife passed away. He currently lives with the third wife. I have been insisting him to let the two of us live together, but he is not willing."

However, for his part, her husband, Mohamed Said Ndende acknowledged that Bibi Dogo is his wife and they lived for many years.

Ndende says he has been helping to cultivate crops but Bibi Dogo what is complaining because he does not fulfill his marital obligations with her.

"I do not sleep at her home because she does not give me sex ... and I cannot sleep there as if I am a security guard, I will never accept that. If there is a place where my wife get her marital fulfillment she should tell me," Ndende said this in front of the Nachingwea Ward Executive Officer in Ruangwa district Mr. Rajab Macholilo.

However, Nachingwea Ward Education Coordinator, Mr. Benedict Barnabas Nyuchi, says the tendency of some women to use abusive language against their husbands is the major reason for men to abandon their spouses.

For example, says Barnabas Nyuchi Benedict, the woman who tells her husband that he is infertile and the children do not belong to him; the man is definitely going to be angry.

"In the circumstances like these, it is obvious the man is going to be angry and decides to leave the house and abandon the wife and the children," he insisted.

5.6 FEMALE GENITAL MUTILATION

Female genital mutilation is still a problem and continues to exist in the society although in some surveyed districts it seems to be on the decline due to the presence of laws that prohibit GBV.

In Kivule, Kitunda Ward, Ilala District, Dar es Salaam region, the survey found that FGM is practised differently from the way it was done in the past. That, instead of removing the entire clitoris, practitioners just cut off its tip, as a symbolic action. And, unlike in Mara region where it is done with public celebrations, in Kivule it is done secretly and the celebrations are muted.

But because in the process the mutilated girl bleeds, the side effects could be equally disastrous. So far, the main practitioners are natives of Dodoma and Mara regions to whom, according to Ward Executive Officer for Kivule, Eligius Mulokozi, FGM is not deemed a problem. However, due to intensive anti-FGM campaigns by the government and human rights organisations the practice is done secretly in fear of criticism.

These anti-FGM campaigns have empowered many women and girls; some boldly refuse to undergo FGM when their parents tell them to do so. A member to the Ward Council of Kipunguni Sabai Sabai, confirmed the decline of the practice as a result of the on-going campaigns.

According to Dr. Aisha Mahita, the Chief Medical Officer for Ilala Municipality, FGM's side effects include profuse bleeding which sometimes leads to death, insensitivity during sexual intercourse, infection of sexually transmitted diseases caused by the use of the same tool for all who are undergoing FGM.

Apart from the Kurya and Gogo tribes in Ilala District, others who practise FGM include the Maasai, Mang'ati, Wanguu and Wazigua in Mvomero district, Morogoro region. It is done mostly in remote areas to avoid public attention and undue intrusion.

However, the survey found out that the practice, particularly for the Wanguu and Wazigua, is done during the harvest season when money from the selling of crops is used for celebrations that follow FGM ceremonies.

Magdalena Langasi, a Maasai lady popularly known as Mama Moringe, says her leave in the bushes, far from heavily populated areas and that is where they secretly perform FGM.

She says, "FGM is done to girls from the age of 12. According to the Maasai tradition, a girl who has undergone FGM has a higher dowry than the one who has not".

However, Magdalena who is a community police in Kidudwe village, says education and religion have contributed to the decline of the practice among the Maasai.

...of Mtibwa, Msimbe, said the decline in the area is due to educating communities on the negative effects on FGM. He spoke of the need of reaching out to communities in the remote areas doing the same, especially to women and girls who he says are the most affected by the practice.

It was a challenge to get statistics on the magnitude of the problem because of the remoteness of the areas and also because of the secrecy surrounding the FGM practice.

6.0 CHALLENGES

Some of the challenges that the surveyors faced include;

- i Absence of relevant personnel who could give information of GBV incidents. For those that were found in their offices or their work areas, they asked the surveyors to wait until they completed their other responsibilities. This contributed to some researchers leaving the survey areas without obtaining the required information making it impossible to complete some of the research components.
- ii Some police officers were uncooperative, refusing to speak to the surveyors on the grounds that the official spokespersons are Regional Police Commanders.
- iii In some places, government officials made sweeping statements and responded without supporting facts, figures or statistics.

- iv Long distances between survey areas and poor infrastructure meant spending more days than planned to reach destinations.
- v The fear of expressing themselves among some women or victims of GBV. These women feared being beaten by their husbands and some claimed the matter has been settled at the family level
- vi Lack of mobile phone connectivity in some rural areas made the availability of some sources difficult or impossible.
- vii Difficulty in getting access permits access from the relevant authorities to enable researchers to conduct their work in different parts of the designated district.
- viii Minimal awareness of GBV and related laws in the communities. Some thought that GBV was a normal thing and saw no reason of reporting such incidences to relevant authorities so that justice can be done. They therefore saw no reason to talk to the researcher.
- ix Some respondents asked for payment as a condition for giving information to the surveyors.

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS

In efforts to combat acts of GBV in the community and in the society in general, it is recommended that:

- i. The marriage Act of 1971 and the laws that deal with child care should be amended to cope with the existing situation. For example, the laws that deal with child care (the marriage act of 1971 and the child act of 2009) stipulate child care expenses at only Tshs 10,000. It is obvious that the laws are outdated because that amount is not enough to meet monthly necessary requirements such as cloth, food and medical care.
- ii. The National Education Act of 1978 amended in 2002 that allows a pregnant student to be expelled from school should be reviewed so that students who become pregnant are given an opportunity to continue with their studies after delivery. This Act identifies the offences that can make a student expelled from school as; if a student has committed a crime offence such as theft, malicious damage to property, prostitution, drugs or an offence against morality. Pregnant students are expelled from school incorrectly because even the penal code does not describe pregnancy as an offence against morality.
- iii. More cooperation and action of all stakeholders in order to win the battle against gender based violence and the issue should be made a national agenda.

- iv. The culture silence surrounding acts of GBV must stop. Everyone in the society must take part in the fight against GBV.

8.0 CONCLUSION

According to this survey, gender-based violence is still a problem in Tanzania communities. The main victims are women and girls - some of them very young.

However, despite the continuations of such acts, most victims do not report to the relevant authorities so that action can be taken against the offenders. This is due to fear of being discriminated in the community they live in.

Likewise, the survey found that communities have little understanding of their rights while in rural areas poverty is used as an excuse for Gender based violence against women and children. - **It is the responsibility of the government to ensure that rural residents are empowered to fight GBV; to build the infrastructures that will alleviate poverty among the people so that poverty is not used as the reason committing violence against women and children.**

The GEWE II programme has begun to raise the awareness of the people about GBV, this is due to the fact that before the implementation of GEWE II programme and establishment of community committees to monitor cases of Gender Based Violence very few people reported while some were abused without realizing that GBV is a crime and therefore saw no reason for reporting to the relevant bodies for action to be taken against the perpetrators.

After the establishment of such committees in ten districts across the country, people are now aware and have started reporting GBV cases to the committee members whenever such incidents occur.

The establishment of anti-GBV committees in the ten districts has created awareness on the issue and has encouraged people to speak out and take action. The fact that the committees are within communities has contributed to the reporting mechanism.

It is recommended that the established committees should be further empowered to create better mechanisms for faster provision of information about GBV incidents for the timely prosecution of the perpetrators.