

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

**PERSPECTIVES ON INTER-PERSONAL VIOLENCE AND ITS
IMPLICATIONS ON HUMAN SECURITY IN SELECTED COMMUNITIES
OF KASOA IN THE CENTRAL REGION OF GHANA**

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**A thesis in the Centre for Conflict, Human Rights and Peace Studies,
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Graduate Studies in partial fulfillment
of the requirements for the award of the degree of
Master of Philosophy
(Human Rights, Conflict and Peace Studies)
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NOVEMBER, 2022

DECLARATION

Student's Declaration

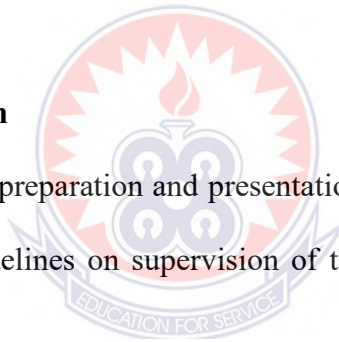
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I, hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this thesis was supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of thesis laid down by University of Education, Winneba.



Supervisor: Prof. David Zuure

Signature.....

Date.....

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my dad, the late Moses AtsuLavoe



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I give accolades to God for His divine providence and for granting me the knowledge and strength to start and complete this work, to Him is glory. I am sincerely appreciative to my supervisor, Prof. David Zuure for making time to supervise my work, his sacrifices and guidance has brought me to this feet. My profound gratitude to Dr. Harrison Kwame Golo for being an inspiration to me, his words of encouragement and fatherly support gave me reasons to complete this work.

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ACRONYMS

CCTV	Close Circuit Television
CDC	Centre for Disease Prevent Control
CHS	Commission on Human Security
GPS	Ghana Police Service
GIS	Ghana Immigration Service
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
MUSEC	Municipal Security Council
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation
WHO	World Health Organization



ABSTRACT

The study aimed at exploring perspectives on interpersonal violence and its implications on selected communities in Kasoa. The objectives of the study were to explore the inducers of interpersonal violence in Kasoa, ascertain the implications of interpersonal violence on human security in Kasoa and to examine the stakeholders' reactions to interpersonal violence in Kasoa. The study was guided by the Human Needs Theory and the Social Ecological Model with an empirical review of related literature. The study adopted the interpretivist research paradigm, it also employed the qualitative research approach with a case study design. Kasoa was the study area, the researcher drew accessible population from 3 communities, thus, Opeikuma, Zongo and Ofaakor, with a focused on Assembly members from the three communities and personnel of the Ghana Police Service, victims of interpersonal violence, the chair of the Municipal Security Council, and chiefs, food vendors, storeowners and mobile money merchants with a sample size determined by data saturation. Data for the study was collected using face to face interviews with the semi-structure interview guide. The data were analyzed qualitatively using the thematic approach to data analysis. The findings of the study revealed that, economic factors, the use of drugs, influence from peers, the dismissal of trained security officers, family background, and community influence, lack of formal education, get-rich-quick tendencies and psychological state were the factors inducing interpersonal violence in Kasoa. The findings also proved the adverse effect of interpersonal violence on human security and reactions of stakeholders to bringing interpersonal violence in Kasoa to check. The study recommended that stakeholders should create job avenues and economic opportunities for the youth. It also recommended that human security should be incorporated into the school curriculum at all level of education and stakeholders should intensify measure to curb crime in Kasoa.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0 Introduction

This Chapter introduces the study. The Chapter comprises the background to the study, the statement of the research problem which the study sought to address, the purpose for which the study was conducted. The chapter also contains the objectives that guided the study, the research questions, and significance of the study, the delimitation, operation definition of some key terms, as well as the organization of the study.

1.1 Background to the Study

Prior to the cold war, the traditional form of security had been about the resourcing of the state security agencies, especially, the military structure to ensure protection of the state and its architecture from external and international threat and infiltration as well as the non-interference into the domestic affairs of a state. From the beginning, security was about regime protection from internal and external opposition (Abdelhamid, 2006; Roznai, 2014).

The advent of globalization and the end of the cold war have called for a rethinking about the concept of security and a shift in the focus of security paradigm from that which prioritizes the protection of the territorial walls of a state (state-centred security) to that which is much concerned about protecting and safeguarding the well-being of citizens of a state (human security) (Henk, 2008; Ogata, 2002: Paris, 2001).

There is an explicit connection between violence and human security. Human security is about understanding the plethora of challenges that confront human beings in the

pursuit of their endeavours and reasoning into a multidimensional approach that can be adopted as a panacea to their plights (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2016). The principle of human security made human beings the subject of concern in the global security discourse. At the epicentre of human security are; the respect, protection and promotion of the welfare and interest of all human beings, starving the threats of their security and empowering the individuals to take charge of their lives and realize their potentials in dignity and prosperity (Browning, 2013).

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) (2016) define “violence being any act or behaviour where human beings abuse each other” (p5). Violence has three (3) forms thus; self-inflicted violence, interpersonal violence, and collective violence (Dahlberg & Krug, 2002). The inter-personal violence which is the focus of this study is the “violence among individuals, including violence among related individuals in the context of a family or extended family, and violence among unrelated individuals who may be friends, acquaintances, or strangers (American Academy of Family Physicians, 2020). Interpersonal violence involves the use of physical force against an individual in a form of armed robbery, sexual abuse or rape, bullying, assault, etc. (Mercy, Hills, Butchart, Bellis, Ward, Fang & Rosenberg, 2017).

In the views of Barnie, Nyarko, Dapaah, Appiah, and Awuviry-Newton (2017), crime and violent operations of all levels occur in every part of the world. Violence has pervaded the world and that no country or community has been left off the hook as it occurs in the street, in our homes, churches, institutions as well as every place where there exists human habitat (World Health Organization, 2002). The Commission on Human Security (CHS) (2003:5) states that “the exclusion and deprivation of whole

communities of people from the benefits of development naturally contribute to the tension, violence and conflict within countries”.

The 1994 United Nation Development Programme’s (UNDP) report on human security has created a global awareness on the challenges associated with the need to ensure the freedom of all persons against issues of war, terror and violence as well as ensuring that efforts are made to secure the basic needs of all human beings(Quinn, 2008). Across the globe, violence is seen also as a situation which poses menace to the human’s health, social, physical and psychological development and actualization as well as economic, climate change and environmental destructions (Jacquin, 2017). World Health Organisation (2014) posits that about half a million of people fall victim to homicide each year and as a result of interpersonal violence and it occurs across the world. Interpersonal violence encompasses all forms of violence and abuses such as child maltreatment, intimate partner violence, youth violence, armed violence, sexual violence and elder abuse. It also involves many other criminal related acts which compromise personal and societal security and also create huge economic burden on individuals and the larger societies (Widom, 2014).

Barnie et al(2017), affirm that many cities around the world are plagued with both random and organized crime and violence operations and those in Africa are no exception. South Africa has been mentioned among countries of incessant interpersonal violence or armed crime in the continent. It was recorded by the South African Police Service(2017) that 34.1 per 100,000 people are murdered each year in South Africa. It has also been unveiled that 25 percent of women in South Africa suffer intimate partner violence or abuse with a skyrocketing and astronomic increase in the number of non-partner violence witnessed in South Africa (Jewkes, Nduna.

Shai&Dunkle, 2010; Seedat, Niekerk, Jewkes, Suffla&Ratele, 2009). In the Sub-Saharan Africa, the rate of interpersonal violence in Nigeria cannot be over emphasized. Chinwokwu (2014) states that, the surging number of cases of violent crime in Nigeria is not only worrying but also terrifying as violent crimes such as robbery, rape, armed robbery do not only occur in the night but in the broad day at the full glare of the public. Chinwokwu (2014) reiterated that, armed robbery, murder and ransom-driven kidnapping in the country leave a huge indictment of the political will of people in the helm of affairs of the country. Ukoji and Okolie-Osemene (2017) mentioned that, total numbers of violent crimes in states by number of incidents are: armed robbery 4,268, cultism 2,363, kidnapping 457, rape 147, domestic violence 605, and assassination 675.

Lahtinen, Sirniö, and Martikainen (2020) reiterated, stating that the heightened threat of unemployment, socio-economic disequilibrium among the rich and the poor as well as the increasing rate of poverty and other structural factors such as bad governance, and weak state institutions, have exacerbated the incidence of interpersonal violence and related crimes in many developing countries. Violence has the tendencies to impede social services, stall community developments, increase the cost of healthcare services and decrease in community values (Fowler, Tompsett, Braciszewski, Jacques-Tiura, & Baltes, 2009).

Delving into the Ghanaian context, the situation of interpersonal violence or violent crime is no different. Over the years, there has been an increase in the incidence of violent crime in Ghana. Wrigley- Asante, Owusu, Oteng-Ababio and Owusu (2016) asserted that the heightened incidence of crime has left many Ghanaians in fear in their own country. Savage (2019) also affirms that interpersonal violence and

insecurity are on the hike as armed robbery, kidnappings and murders continue to affect the human security of Ghanaians. The Bureau of Public Safety (2021) indicated that, in Ghana, incidences of violent crime have increased by a margin of 40.8% with an increment in reported death to 53.7% compared to the year 2020. It also stated that the three most reported cases in 2021 include armed robbery, murder or manslaughter and aggravated assault. Braimah and Mbowura (2014), opine that the growing phenomenon of crime in Ghana has been centred on robbery, murder, defilement. Incidences of interpersonal violence (crime) were prevalent in the urban centres, especially in the cities of Accra and Kumasi (Appiahene-Gyamfi, 2011; Frimpong, et al., 2018). Ksoa has also been noted for the incidences of interpersonal violence as there are many news reports on the perpetration of various forms of interpersonal violence. Ghana Police Service Report 2021 has revealed that armed robbery and assaults and physical harm are the top crime events in Ksoa.

Since antiquity, human beings are expected to live in harmony with each other. Aristotle, a known Greek Philosopher affirms the gregarious nature of humans. Aristotle stated, Man is by nature a social animal; any individual who is unsocial naturally and not as a result of any form of accidental is either a demy God or beneath imagination or more than human. Society is something that precedes the individual (Shrivastava, 2019). This solidifies the conviction of the interdependence and the cordiality of humans. In 1948, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration on Human Rights (UDHR) as an international instrument. This was due to the bizarre and damaging effects and consequences of the World War II which took many lives, witnessed significant human rights abuse as well as posed a threat to human security. As an international law, the UDHR was anchored on two covenants, thus; International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). These covenants were envisaged to make life easy for all and ensure human beings are at peace with each other (United Nations, 2021). The standards for peaceful and harmonious living were premised on ensuring a fair and just society for all humans and also to help protect, respect and fulfil a better and prosperous life for human beings.

Although these standards of harmonious living have been stipulated, the increase in population and the quest to satisfy the insatiable needs of man in this contemporary world have become the conduit for many unrest and violence among humans. Sriram, Martin-Ortega and Herman (2014) posit that discrimination, marginalization, the struggle for resources as well as the disregard for the principles and tenets of human rights are the major causes of conflict that bedevil the human society. When human beings are denied political participation and discriminated against based on their ethnicity, religion, conflict erupts and peaceful co-existence is altered. For example; the conflict between the Hutus and the Tutsis of Rwanda was born out of gross discrimination on ethnic basis, marginalization and racism other forms of abusive treatments meted out to the Hutus (Millar, 2014).

The world has witnessed various forms of inter-personal violence. Mercy, et al. (2017) assert that the effects of interpersonal violence have impacted on families, communities, nations and across all generations of the world. The occurrence of interpersonal violence has shaped the behavioural, physical and mental disposition of individuals who are victims to it. Afolabi (2009) states that, violence across Africa, especially, in West Africa have been characterised by the destruction of lives and properties as well as the internal and external displacement of people. The violence

has also burdened African countries with its concomitant effects such as poverty, the proliferation of small arms and light weapon, the trading of illicit drugs and narcotics as well as the stagnation of national development, community growth and the exploitation of natural resources (Afolabi, 2009).

Proving this assertion, Walker (2012) agreed that the Boko Haram insurgencies since 2002 have been infiltrated by all kinds of violent crimes, leaving Nigeria in a state of jeopardy. He wrote that many lives had been lost, several thousands displaced, state properties destroyed with gross abuse and violation of human rights including the right to health care and education.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Ghana as a country is also faced with many cases of interpersonal violence ranging from domestic violence, gender-based violence to armed robbery, murder, kidnapping, rape, bullying (Appiahene-Gymafi, 2011; Braimah&Mbowura, 2014). The unremitting incidences of violence which is reported in Kasoa has become a great concern. Statistics from the Kasoa District Police Headquarters reveal that, in 2021, Kasoa recorded on total of 4,157 incidences of violent crime of which 1,191 occurred in form of robbery and stealing, 1,241 in assault and harm, with 4 being murder cases. There had been public uproar on violence in Kasoa. The community has made the headlines in both print and electronic media over the years not for good reasons but reportage on various forms and levels of interpersonal violence. The murder of a 42 year old hairdresser, Elizabeth by her boyfriend on 14th August, 2021 (Myinfoh, 2021), the killing of the 11 years old Ishmael on the 2nd April, 2021 in Kasoa (Citi Newsroom, 2021), The robbery and killing of a businessman, Steven Entsi at Opeikuma junction, Kasoa on 31st March, 2021, (Citi Newsroom, 2021) as well

another robberies and the various media reportage on crime in Kasoa indicated that Kasoa community has become prone to violent crime. The afore-mentioned incidences of interpersonal violence necessitated this study to fill the knowledge gap in literature as well as contribute to unravel the implications of interpersonal violence on human security in Ghana with a study of the situation in Kasoa as a case.

Available literature on violence and its impacts give attention to exploring protracted and intractable violence and communal armed conflicts that bedevil societies in a form of chieftaincy conflict, inter-ethnic conflict such as the Alavanyo-Nkonya conflict; Dagbon conflict; Kokomba-Nanumba conflict; and electoral violence (Brosche` & Elfversson, 2012; Tonah, 2012; Awedoba, 2009; Ahiave, 2013; Debrah, Alidu & Owusu-Mensah, 2016; Mahama & Longi, 2013; Adzomadi, 2015), than looking at the everyday interpersonal violence such as youth violence, rape, sexual assault, murder, robbery and institutional violence.

The body of existing knowledge also focused on looking at gender-based violence and domestic violence against women and children at the neglect of interpersonal violence involving acquaintance and strangers. There is, therefore, incomprehensive literature on understanding the case of interpersonal violence. As a result, much work has not been done to explore the lived experiences around interpersonal violence and their implication for human security and human rights in the case of Ghana and specifically Kasoa. It is also worth noting that little has also been done to explore the reaction of stakeholders and the efforts they make to manage interpersonal violence.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to explore and establish the implications of interpersonal violence on human security in Kasoa.

1.4 Research Objectives

The specific objectives that guided the study included to:

- (i) Explore the inducers of interpersonal violence in Kasoa.
- (ii) Ascertain the implications of interpersonal violence on human security in Kasoa.
- (iii) Examine the stakeholder reactions to interpersonal violence in Kasoa.

1.5 Research Questions

Taking cognizance of the purpose and objectives of the study, the research was guided by the following research questions:

- (i) What are the inducers of interpersonal violence in Kasoa?
- (ii) How does interpersonal violence affect human security in Kasoa?
- (iii) How are stakeholders reacting to interpersonal violence in Kasoa?

1.6 Significance of the Study

The findings of this study would provide a helpful framework that will guide government and its allied institutions such as the Police Service and other stakeholders in formulating and implementing policies that are geared towards curbing interpersonal violence and how to safeguard the human security of citizens of Ghana. It would also be of great benefit to law makers, criminologists, psychologists and other security professionals as they would get insight into the causes of interpersonal violence, its implications on human security as well as the reactions of stakeholder to it.

The study would also add up to the body knowledge and scholarship on human security and interpersonal violence. It would serve as a source of reference and a guide to other researchers who have interest in this research area.

More so, the findings of this study would be useful in other communities which have similitude with the Kasoa community in terms of socio-cultural characteristics.

1.7 Delimitation of the Study

With regards to content, the study was delimited to the implications of interpersonal violence on human security. The study geographically focused on only three communities in Kasoa, thus; Opeikuma, Kasoa Zongo and Ofaanko. The study was also delimited to only victims of the interpersonal violence living in these three (3) communities and the defined stakeholders such as the assembly members of the communities, chiefs, the Ghana Police Service and chairperson of Municipal Security Council of the Municipality.

1.8 Operational Definition of Terms

Human Needs: They are the basic necessities of life such as food, water, cloth, shelter, love, etc. that the individuals need for their wellbeing and development.

Human Security: Refers to security of people and communities, in other to ensure the wellbeing of human living in such societies.

Interpersonal Violence: A hostile relationship between two people or small group of people which is characterized by the intention to cause harm to one another. For the purpose of this study, interpersonal violence is referred to as violent crime which includes rape, murder or homicide, assault and armed robbery.

Stakeholders: Refer to people, groups and organisations that have interest in the community and can affect or be affected by the actions of the community.

Violence: Any behaviour that involves physical force intended to hurt, damage or kill someone or something.

1.9 Organization of the Study

The study was organized under five chapters. Chapter One presented the background to the study, the statement of the research problem which the study sought to address, the purpose for which the study was conducted. The chapter also contained the objectives that guided the study, the research questions, and significance of the study, the delimitation, operational definition of some key terms.

Chapter Two of the study focused on the review of relevant literatures. The literature review was presented in two sections; the theoretical framework and empirical review.

Chapter Three discussed the research methodology that guided the study. The chapter highlights the methodological framework comprising the study approach and design, population and sample and sampling technique that were adopted for the study and other relevant issues about the method and instrument for data collection and data analysis, as well as, ethical issues.

The Chapter Four of the study presented an analysis of the data that were collected on the field and a discussion on the research findings. The last chapter, Chapter Five gave a conclusion as well as a summary of research findings and also suggested recommendations based on the findings of the study.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

This chapter presents a review of relevant literature that was related to interpersonal violence and its implications on human security. Literature was reviewed under two sub-sections. The first section covers the theoretical framework that guided the study; a theory and a model were used to explain the phenomenon of interpersonal violence and its effects on human security. The Human Needs theory which was postulated by Burton (1990) was the principal theory. The Social-Ecological model by Dahlberg and Krung (2002) was used to support the Human Needs theory. The theory and the model highlight how the deprivation of needs of individuals can trigger them to inflict interpersonal violence and harm on others as a means of reaching their unmet needs and the attainment of their goals and interests. The second section captures an empirical review of relevant literature under the following sub-themes; Conceptualization of violence, Concept of Human Security, Human Security and Human Rights, Sustainable Development Goals and Human Security, The Nexus between Interpersonal Violence and Human Security, Factors Contributing to Interpersonal Violence, Implications of Interpersonal Violence on Human Security, and Stakeholder Reaction to Interpersonal Violence.

2.1 Theoretical Framework

This section of the review explains the theory which guided the study. The *Human Needs theory* and the *social ecological model* were employed to give a better appreciation and understanding to the study as issues of interpersonal violence and

human security boarder on human needs and the frustrations born out of the unsatisfied human needs and the social ecology of humans.

2.1.1 Human Needs Theory



Figure 1: Adapted from Short (2020)

The Human Needs theory, as postulated by Burton (1990) tries to draw the connection between human needs and human behavior. It is important to mention that even though Burton cannot be credited for being the father of the idea of basic human needs, his tremendous contribution to the understanding of the theory of human needs is that which deserves acknowledgement. Burton's idea on human needs has been identified with his publication on *Deviance, Terrorism and War: The Process of Solving Unsolved Social and Political Problems* (1979), which shared some similar thoughts as the Maslow's hierarchy of needs. Burton attempts to give a vivid account of the nexus that exists between human needs and conflict (violence). Whilst Maslow

aligned human needs to physiological, safety or security, love and belonging, self-esteem, self-actualization, Burton looks at a different dimension of human needs which shape human behavior and their social interaction with others. Burton identified nine human needs which include; *safe/security* (freedom from fear and anxiety and stability), *love/belongingness*; implying the needs for strong social cohesion and building interpersonal ties with families and friends etc. The needs according to Burton (1990) also include; *self-esteem*; building one's self-efficacy and how productive one is, *personal fulfillment*; where one sees him or herself as being fulfilled and having the potentials in all spheres of life. It also includes *identity*; thus knowing oneself, *cultural security*; concern with one's ability to appreciate his or her tradition, language and cultural values and beliefs. The needs by Burton encompass *freedom*: thus, having no restraints from political and civil choices, *distributive justice* which speaks to the need for fairness and being just to all in the society and *participation*; the need to be actively involved and participate in the civil activities of the community. "Human need means more than a decent and sustainable standard of living. It also means feeling safe on the streets and being able to influence political decision-making"(United Nations Development Programme, 2021).

The argument of Burton on the human needs theory has been that, all humans have a security of needs which are different from interest and cannot be compromised, traded off or suppressed since they form the cardinal point of human development (Marker, 2003). Holding a divergent view on Maslow's assertion on human needs, Burtons opines that human needs cannot be satisfied in any stringent order, hence have no hierarchy. He assumed that the needs of human are simultaneous, integrated and contingent, intensified and relentless as each is important at all times for the survival and development of humans(Short, 2020). The inability of humans to meet these

needs gives rise to frustration and become the conduit which engineers people's engagement in violent activities.

Burton believed that when these needs of the individual are met, their dispositions and behaviours are positively and objectively informed and they are less likely to be aggressive and inflict violence on others. This theory gives an explanatory account to the variables at play in this study. It explains the source of people's frustration and why people inflict interpersonal violence on others. It is argued that when people are unable to meet their needs, their behaviour becomes violent, they resort to unleashing varying levels of interpersonal violence on others as a way of meeting their needs.

2.1.2 Social Ecological Model

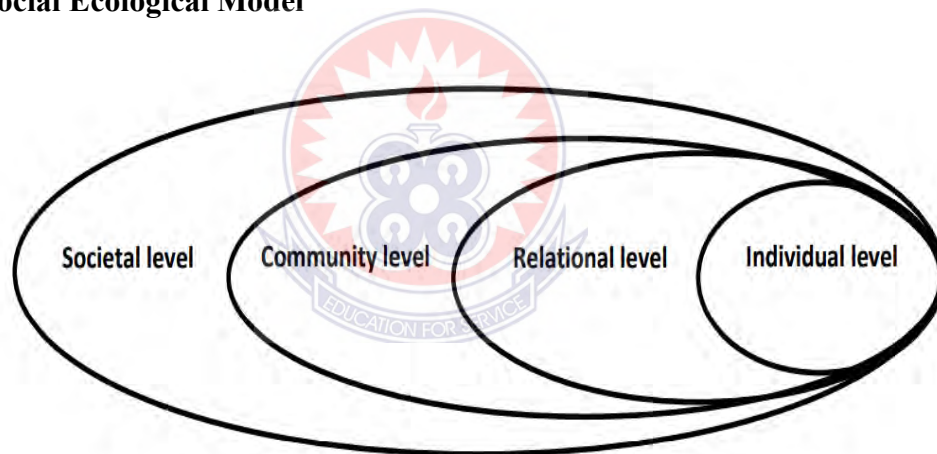


Figure 2: Adopted from Simmons (2015)

The Social Ecological Model was inspired by the Ecological System theory which was postulated by Bronfenbrenner in 1979. Bronfenbrenner(1979) in his theory, believes that the behaviour of people is shaped by a number of internal and external factors. The Social Ecological Model was propounded by Dahlberg and Krug (2002) to give an in-depth explanation to how interpersonal violence occurs in societies or communities. Stanko (2006) opines that, interpersonal violence does not occur in a vacuum but dependent on one's socio-cultural experience and perception about

interpersonal violence. It is believed that one's involvement in interpersonal violence is influenced by poor economic background, stress from home and workplace and from families and friends as well as other social norms and values and belief systems (Wilkins, Tsao, Hertz, Davis, & Klevens, 2014). The Social Ecological Model presents a multi-level analytical approach to the study of how violence ensues and its preventive mechanisms. This multi-level model includes, the individual level, the relationship level, the community level as well as the societal level (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), 2021).

At the *individual level*, the model explains that, some individual traits, the biological make up and history of people compels them to be violent. The preventive factors at the individual level includes measures to shape individuals attitude, beliefs social behaviours, etc. (Dahlberg and Krug, 2002).

The *relationship level* emphasizes the role of relationship in determining the occurrence of violence. It presupposes that, a person's close associates such as peers, partner, and families could influence their involvement in violence. The risk factors include domestic violence, association with delinquent peers, amongst others. The preventive strategies include; strengthening parent-child relationship, avoid delinquent peers, having positive relations, etc. (CDC, 2021).

The next level according to the model is the *community level*; this level is composed of schools, workplaces, neighborhoods, etc. The risk factors at this level are social and economic inequality, densely populated communities, lack of economic and recreational opportunities and easy access to alcohol. The preventive strategies are the actions improve physical and social environment in communities of violence (Dahlberg and Krug, 2002; CDC, 2021).

The last level is the Social Ecological Model is the *societal level*. At this level, the risk factors include those social and cultural norms that influence violent events and socio-cultural and economic background of people. The preventive measures are legislative initiatives, media campaigns against outmoded and bad social norms and practices (Dahlberg and Krug, 2002; CDC, 2021). This was also adopted as a guide to offer explanation to the factors that propel or induce people to inflict pains on others in an interpersonal violence relationship.

2.2 Empirical Review

Empirical literature was reviewed under the following sub themes;

- (i) Conceptualization of violence
- (ii) Concept of Human Security
- (iii) Human Security and Human Rights
- (iv) Sustainable Development Goals and Human Security
- (v) The Nexus between Interpersonal Violence and Human Security
- (vi) Factors Contributing to Interpersonal Violence
- (vii) Implications of Interpersonal Violence on Human Security
- (viii) Stakeholder Reactions to Interpersonal Violence

2.2.1 Conceptualization of Violence

Violence is a generic term which is understood differently by many people from different world views, perspectives and contexts. There has not been any consensus on a unanimous and universally accepted definition of this phenomenon (Saferspaces, 2021). However, many organizations have adopted the definition of violence by World Health Organization (2002) in its Global Consultation on Violence and Health where violence was defined as “the intentional use of physical force or power,

threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development or deprivation” (p4).

“Violence” and “Crime” are commonly used by many people to mean the same thing despite the little divergence. All forms of violence are crime but not all crimes are violent. Saferspaces (2021) posits that some types of crime are violent as per definition such as armed crime or contact crimes, including murder, assault and rape, kidnapping, whilst other crimes involve no direct violence at all (such as tax evasion or illicit drug use. For the purpose of this study, violence is conceptualised as an armed or contact crime which includes rape, murder or homicide, assault and armed robbery.

Violence can be broadly classified into three (3) categories thus; self-directed violence, interpersonal or group directed violence and collective violence (World Health Organization, 2002). The self-directed violence is the category of violence which occurs when a person inflicts harm on him or herself. It includes all the deliberate actions and inactions of a person to cause destruction or harm and injury to him or herself. In this category of violence, an individual shifts positions both as a victim and as a perpetrator. It includes self-abuse and suicide behaviours (Rutherford, Zwi, Grove & Butchart, 2007). The World Health Organization (2002) posits that “self-directed violence includes suicidal behaviour and self-abuse such as self-mutilation. Suicidal behaviour ranges in degree from merely thinking about ending one’s life, to planning it, finding the means to do so, attempting to kill oneself and completing the act” p5.

The self-directed violence could be physical, psycho-emotional, deprivation, starvation and personal neglect. In the work of Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (2019), self-directed violence includes; the cutting of self, the attempt or commission of suicide, head banging, self-biting, self-scratching, etc.

Interpersonal violence is another category of violence where an individual inflicts or causes harm or abuses another person or a small group of person. It involves the intentional use of physical force or power against another person by an individual or small group of individuals. Interpersonal violence may be physical, sexual, or psychological (also called emotional violence), and it may involve deprivation and neglect (Mercy, Hillis, Butchart, Bellis, Ward, Fang, & Rosenberg, 2017).

The interpersonal violence has many forms. It could be family or intimate partner violence. That is, violence between close relations example spousal violence, violence between children and parents (child abuse) or between close associates who might not necessarily share family ties. Interpersonal violence could also be a community based violence. Community violence occurs amongst individuals who do not know each other. The violence could be intentional and result in damages or has the potency of resulting in damages and destructions. It includes inflicting harm or pain on strangers. It may occur in the form of youth violence, rape, murder, and institutional violence such as violence in schools, workplaces, and prisons (World Health Organization, 2002; Saferspaces, 2021; Mercy, Hillis, Butchart, Bellis, Ward, Fang, & Rosenberg, 2017).

Another category of violence is the collective violence. The collective violence occurs between a group against other group or groups. Collective violence is mostly motivated by social, political and economic objectives. This comes in the form of

terrorist attacks, genocidal actions, human rights abuse and all other forms of organised crimes (WHO, 2002: Saferspaces, 2021).

There are four (4) types of violence which are incorporated into the three (3) broad categories of violence. These four types of violence include; Physical violence, sexual violence, psychological violence and neglect violence.

Physical violence involves the use of physical force against others mostly resulting in injury, death and disabilities. It includes face-to-face hostile confrontation which is ensued by the infliction of pain and harm. It comes in the form of fighting, snatching, hitting, slapping and other means of torture and also involves the use of weapons against other person or group of persons (Saferspaces, 2021). The Royal Australian College of General Practitioners (2014:3) added that, “injuries may range from minor trauma, which may or may not be visible, to broken bones and lacerations, head injuries and injuries to internal organs.” In a domestic setting, sharp objects such as knife and other harmful objects are used to harm victims of physical violence. The United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2013) reported that physical violence includes actions that are titled towards causing physical harm or injury to others, by pushing, grabbing, slapping, hitting, or assaulting with a weapon or thrown object.

Sexual violence is the type of violence which involves the use of force to indulge in or to attempt to indulge in any sexual activity with other people without their consent.

The World Health Organization (2002) in its chapter 6 defines sexual violence as:

“any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person’s sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim, in any setting, including but not limited to home and work.” p.149

The World Health Organization (2002) asserts that sexual violence is an act of rape, defilement or sexual harassment, which include;

“rape within marriage or dating relationships; rape by strangers; systematic rape during armed conflict; unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment, including demanding sex in return for favours; sexual abuse of mentally or physically disabled people; sexual abuse of children; forced marriage or cohabitation, including the marriage of children; denial of the right to use contraception or to adopt other measures to protect against sexually transmitted diseases; forced abortion and others include Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) and forced prostitution” p.149

Psycho-emotional violence is another type of violence which is tilted towards the psychological and emotional make up of a person. It involves actions of a person which inflict pains on the emotions of another person. Many people suffer emotional violence when they are embarrassed, discriminated against, segregated, insulted and abused using hate words. Psycho-emotional violence leads to the loss of self-efficacy, self-determination and self-esteem (Royal Australian College of General Practitioners, 2014). Gordon (2017) asserts that, emotional violence or abuse takes many forms, some of which include;

“Accusations of cheating or other signs of jealousy and possessiveness, constant checking or other attempts to control the other person's behaviour, constantly arguing or opposing, criticism, gas lighting, isolating the individual from their family and friends, name-calling and verbal abuse, refusing to participate in the relationship, shaming or blaming, silent treatment, trivializing the other person's concerns, withholding affection and attention”.

Neglect or deprivation has also been consider as a type of violence, this type of violence is about the shirking of responsibility of a person to care for and give attention to others who needed it. Neglect or deprivation includes the lack of support,

care and affection as well as enough supervision (Saferspaces, 2021). This results in low self-esteem, physical and mental illness, etc.

2.3 Human Security

The United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/290, defines human security as “an approach to assist Member States in identifying and addressing widespread and cross-cutting challenges to the survival, livelihood and dignity of their people.”

Giving credence to the definition of the United Nations General Assembly resolution 66/290, the African Union (AU, 2004) in African Non Aggression and Common Defense Pact also defines human security as:

The security of the individual with respect to the satisfaction of the basic needs of life; it also encompasses the creation of the social, political, economic, military, environmental and cultural conditions necessary for the survival, livelihood and dignity of the individual, including the protection of fundamental freedoms, the respect for human rights, good governance, access to education, health-care, and ensuring that each individual has opportunities and choices to fulfill his/her own potential. (p. 5)

Hudson, Carpenter and Kreidenweis (2013) wrote that, human security has emerged as a theoretical perspective and an operational framework for solving foreign policy problems in the post-Cold War era. The approach emphasizes on five (5) basic principles which include; people-centred, comprehensive, context-specific and prevention-oriented as well as protection and empowerment of all people. The principle argues that security should be concerned about the person. Any security measure or approach envisaged by any member state of the United Nations should be premised on building an enduring security across all the dimensions of the human life. The principle also campaigns for the livelihood and dignity of all persons. The approach is expected to be comprehensive in principle. This principle appreciates the

difficult nature of the problems that humans are confronted with. It therefore crusades for a holistic approach which is all stakeholders inclusive to effectively respond to the everyday challenges of humans (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2016). By principle, the approach is also expected to be context specific, addressing the challenges which are peculiar to a specific group of people at different times. The principle rejects generalization and a holistic approach to addressing challenges. It took into consideration the geographical and social variations, as well as the capabilities of various states and their governments.

The human security approach is also prevention-oriented. The approach is not merely focused on finding solution to the challenges of human societies. It is also by principle, poised to strategically institute measures that are responsive to latent stages of challenges and early warning indicators in the attempt to starve threats of the challenges and prevent the occurrence of such challenges (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2016). Approach to human security is also to help protect and empower the people for them to meet their needs and also to foster their prosperity and wellbeing. Consequently, governments are expected to ensure the availability of the enablers such as, the operation of rule of law, the respect for fundamental human rights, good governance and allow the people to be active participants in decision making.

Alkire (2003) postulates that, human security aims to safeguard the vital core of all human lives from critical pervasive threats, in a way that is consistent with long-term human fulfillment. The position of Alkire (2003) was drawn from the findings of some scholars who believe that human security is anchored on five pillars, thus; “safeguard”, “vital core”, “all human lives”, “critical and pervasive threats” and “Human fulfillment”. It is worthy of note that these pillars and their vitality in issues

of human security is seen to be the brain child of Alkire. Human security is to safeguard and protect the social, political, economic, personal wellbeing and freedom of all human beings. The Vital Core represents the beliefs, interest and needs of the people which must be respected and protected. Alkire (2003) views the vital core as the freedom and the rights of the individual which focuses on their survival, livelihood and dignity. Human security also focused on all human lives irrespective of their gender, race, religion, ethnicity, citizenship. The threats to human security are “critical and pervasive” as they hinge on the social, environment, economic, political, community and persons which are core issues that bother of human survival and wellbeing. The threats are also pervasive by nature; they are prevalent and spread across all spheres of human life and where life exists. Human security is also to allow and empower people to be fulfilled by giving them the opportunity to realize their potentials and prosper in their endeavours.

There are several spheres of human life which require security. In 1994, the Human Development Report identified seven (7) essential dimensions of human security. They include; economic, health, personal, food, environmental, community and political dimensions (UNDP, 1994).

Economic security is threatened by chronic poverty, surging rate of unemployment, and weak economic indicators. The economic dimension of the human security approach is about empowering the individuals to assert their economic freedom through the production, creation of job opportunities and congenial environment where private economic initiatives can thrive. This is to enable all persons to have a secured source of income and a decent living (Rachman, Yani & Aditiany, 2017: Srinivas, n.d).

The health security dimension of human security is targeted towards the elimination of all forms of health threat of all human lives; it is to curb the spread of epidemics, prevent mal-nutrition, poor sanitation and lack of access to health facility and primary health care, support of family, maternal health care as well as other health related conditions which pose menace to human safety, and survival (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2016: Rachman, Yani & Aditiany, 2017).

Personal security is to protect humans against the threat of physical violence and all other forms of abuses including crime, domestic violence, sexual abuse, torture, human trafficking, child labour, etc, which are inimical to human security (Rachman, Yani & Aditiany, 2017: United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2009).

Food security is about securing humans from the threats of hunger and famine, food shortage and astronomic increase in the prices of food. It is also to grant accessibility to healthy food and adequate supply of food (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2016: United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2009).

Environmental dimension of human security captures the need to eliminate all forms of environmental degradation, the depletion of natural resources as well as natural disasters. The environmental dimension to human security is to ensure the sustainability and the protection of air, land and water which may be affected by climate change for the sustenance of human life (Rachman, Yani & Aditiany, 2017: United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2016).

Another dimension of the human security approach is the community security. This dimension explains the security against discrimination and marginalization amongst ethnic groups, religions organizations and other forms of identity-based institutions as

well as crime and terrorism. The community security is expected to protect community groups, families and ethnic groups including all other minority groups (Rachman, Yani & Aditiany, 2017: United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2016: Srinivas, n.d).

Political dimension of human security approach covers the empowerment of humans in participating in political process and decision making both at community, national and international levels of governance. It is also concern about the protection of the fundamental human rights of all persons by guaranteeing their freedom of speech and expression on political issues, the right to vote and be voted for, and upholding to the tenets of rule of laws. It is to ensure the security of humans against human rights violation and curtailment of freedom of participation and decision making and compromising justice (Srinivas, n.d: Rachman, Yani & Aditiany, 2017).

2.3.1 Human Security and Sustainable Development Goals

This section of the review covers the nexus between human security and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) Agenda 2030 was a blueprint adopted by the United Nations in Resolution 70/1 on the 25th of September, 2015. The document christened “Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, enjoins leaders of all member states to institute measures to end poverty and foster peace and sustainable development (United Nations Department of Global Communication, 2020). The agenda has identified 17 goals, which include; Goal 1: No Poverty, Goal 2: Zero Hunger, Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being, Goal 4: Quality Education, Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation, Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy, Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 9: Industry, Innovation

and Infrastructure, Goal 10: Reduced Inequality, Goal 11: Sustainable Cities And Communities, Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production, Goal 13: Climate Action, Goal 14: Life Below Water, Goal 15: Life On Land, Goal 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions, Goal 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, 2021). These goals are relevant to transform the world and to ensure the global and harmonious wellbeing of all humans. All state parties are required to work collaboratively in partnership with each other to realize these goals (United Nations, 2021).

The objectives of the Sustainable Development Goals and human security are inextricably intertwined. Both agenda are geared towards curbing and mitigating the challenges that affect the safety and wellbeing of all persons. The idea of human security is to assist human beings to meet their needs and address threats of their survival as well as putting in place policy guidelines that offer them the opportunity to be prosperous and promote sustainable development across the world (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2017). The United Nations System State College (2018) posits:

The human security approach supports the country-led implementation of the 2030 Agenda by addressing the root causes of persistent poverty; strengthening resilience to climate change and natural disasters; promoting peaceful and inclusive societies; and bolstering the transition from humanitarian crisis to longer term sustainable development. As such the application of human security can significantly enhance actions taken by the UN and its partners to fully realize the transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Human security is people centred and essential to the attainment of the sustainable development goals. They are frameworks that are adopted to tackle the complexity of

human lives and the challenges that human beings face in their actualization (Steiner, 2019). Human security is about protecting humans and empowering them to be resilient in difficult times. The sustainable development goals are strategically positioned to help in bringing to life the achievement of the objectives for which the human security approach was adopted. It is imperative to appreciate the fact that sustainable development goals enjoin state parties with the responsibility to institute measures that will facilitate their responsiveness to the threats that hamper the freedom of all persons from fear, want and in dignity. Human security provides us with a focused, analytical lens and programming framework to aid the actions we are taking towards achieving the SDGs (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2017).

Goal 2: Zero Hunger, Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation and Goal 13: Climate Action were earmarked to ensure food availability which is largely dependent on access to clean water and which is also influenced by the climatic conditions. Climate change has a huge implication on food security. The World Food Programme (2020) in its report on Global Food Crisis states that 55 countries which home to 135 million people suffer acute food-insecure in the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic. Governments of various countries are encouraged to empower citizens grow their own food and eat what they grow (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2009).

Governments of various countries are expected to put up initiatives that will empower their citizenry towards the attainment of their economic freedom. The initiatives and flagship economic programmes of governments are envisaged to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals such as; Goal 1: No Poverty, Goal 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth, Goal 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure, Goal 10:

Reduced Inequality, Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. Governments are to assure access to basic income, creation of both Public and private sector employment (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2009).

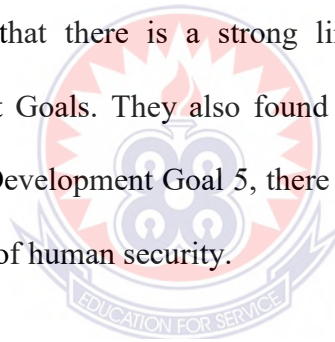
Goal 3: Good Health and Well-Being and Goal 6: Clean Water and Sanitation of the SDGs are pivotal to the attainment of the health security dimension of human security. Governments and their allied agencies are required to ensure that primary health care is accessible to all persons, anti-natal and post-natal care for children and their mothers, as well as, access to clean water and nutrition, and the elimination of all forms of harmful practices that are detrimental to the human health and well-being (Rachman, Yani & Aditiany, 2017).

Political dimension of human security also goes *pari passu* with the Education Goal, Goal 17: Partnerships to Achieve the Goal. Educating the individuals will make them become competent and concern citizens who can make meaningful contributions towards societal growth and development. Government are expected to ensure that governance is premised on the basic principles of rule of law and upholding to the fundamental human rights of all persons such as the freedom of speech and expression, etc. (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2017).

Personal security dimension of human security is coterminous with virtually all the Sustainable Development Goals as the goals are people-centred and geared towards the safety and the wellbeing of all persons. Community security is about the harmonious living and integration of all persons despite the diversities. It can also be aligned to Goal 5: Gender Equality, Goal 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities and Goal 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions of the SDGs. Government is expected to

put up initiatives that will foster oneness amongst her citizenry (Rachman, Yani & Aditiany, 2017).

The environmental dimension of human security can also be related to the Goal 13: Climate Action, Goal 14: Life Below Water, Goal 15: Life On Land and Goal 7: Affordable and Clean Energy. Governments are expected to develop Sustainable practices that take into account natural resource and environmental degradation (deforestation, desertification). Early warning and response and developing mechanisms for natural hazards and/or man-made disasters at all level (United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2009). A study by Rachman, Yani and Aditiany (2017) on the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 5 and Human Security found that there is a strong link between human security and Sustainable Development Goals. They also found that in the bid to implement and achieve the Sustainable Development Goal 5, there is the need to thoroughly consider and concentrate on areas of human security.



2.4 Human Security and Human Rights

Human security is anchored on the freedom of people from fear and freedom from want and freedom to live in dignity. Both human security and human rights share a popular objective of ensuring the safety and well-being of all human beings. The violation of the fundamental human rights and liberties of individuals is seen to be a menace to the promotion of human security (Pathak, 2014). Human security crusades the agenda for identifying the specific rights that are at risk in a particular situation of transitional security (Pathak, 2014). Dersso (2008) asserts that human rights seek to promote and safeguard the norms, processes and institutions which are prerequisites to ensuring the realization of human security. Human rights are also to guarantee the

rights of humans to participate in decision making, to promote the freedom of all persons and to assert their independence and actualization. It must also be mentioned that all human rights instruments or treaties such as the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights, the covenants, thus; the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), International Covenant of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and other conventions, protocols, charters are earmarked with the agenda to ensure human prosperity and security. Ngira (2018) found in his empirical study that, human rights and human security are similar in that they both have the same point of reference, (the individual) and are focused on achieving the same end results- the improvement in human well-being.

2.4 Motivations for Interpersonal violence

The researcher agrees with the position of Tranchant and Müller (2017) that the motivators of interpersonal violence in available studies concentrate on domestic and gender based violence with little attention on other forms of interpersonal violence which are committed by acquaintances, friends, strangers which are out the remit of gender based and domestic violence as evidenced in Capaldi et al., (2012) and Butchart, Mikton, Dahlberg and Krug, (2014). Nonetheless, the list of risk factors to the interpersonal violence; be it domestic or non-domestics are the same and general and are applicable in each case or situation to examine the causes or the factors accounting for interpersonal violence (Tranchant & Müller, 2017). Under this theme, the researcher looks at the common factors that motivate individuals to inflict various forms of interpersonal violence on others in all human societies across the world.

The Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) (2011) opines that no one factor can explain why people are triggered to become aggressive

and perpetrate interpersonal violence. Interpersonal violence is motivated by a wide range of factors. Some of the factors stated by the OECD include; individual factors, relationship factors, community and societal factors.

Jacobson (2011) asserted that:

The most common motivations for violence can be viewed as inappropriate attempts to handle emotions. Often, violence is the medium used by an individual to openly express their feelings such as anger, frustration, or sadness. Other times, violence can be considered as a form of manipulation for individuals to try and get what they want or need. Aggressive behaviour can also be used as a form of retaliation; a means by which one uses to even the score.

A study conducted by on South Africa by the Brankovic (2020) found that violence is caused by some factors which include socio-economic inequalities, gender and frustrated masculinity, lack of social cohesion and the availability of drugs and firearms. Andresen (2013) found that relative economic hardship is a motivation for engaging in criminal behaviour.

Wu and Wu (2012) in their quantitative study, *Crime, inequality and unemployment in England and Wales*, found that, crimes motivated by economic gain are highly correlated with income inequality and unemployment. Thus, an increase in the rate of unemployment comes with crime or interpersonal violence as a less opportunity cost. This implies, interpersonal violence becomes less attractive when the rate of unemployment is significantly reduced. In a news report by Kwafo (2022), Mumuni was said to have indicated that increase in interpersonal violence (crime) is not entirely surprising and claimed it has been caused by the hard economic realities which are experienced in Ghana. Interpersonal violence always becomes an incentive of a country or society when such country is faced with dire economic situations.

2.4.1 Family factors

The family remains the major agency of socialization of its members. The family's actions and omissions largely shape the character and the behavioural formation of its members. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)(2014)has enumerated some family factors that induce interpersonal violence. CDC posits that the family factors include, "authoritarian childrearing attitudes, harsh, lax, or inconsistent disciplinary practices, low parental involvement, low emotional attachment to parents or caregivers, low parental education and income, parental substance abuse or criminality, poor family functioning and poor monitoring and supervision of children." A qualitative study by Ramezankhani, Vedadhir, Alhani & Mohammadkhah (2021) *Family Factors Affecting Adolescent Violence: A Qualitative Content Analysis* concluded that, families with poor and improper parenting practices nurture children who do not fit well into the communities and societies. Their study also found that families where there are absence of parents from home, where parents and relatives engage in abusive actions against each other (chaotic families), children have the high risk of emulating such actions and becoming aggressive and violent towards people in the communities in which they find themselves. The study of Ramezankhani, Vedadhir, Alhani & Mohammadkhah (2021) further espoused that personality formation, manners and behaviours are influenced by genetic inheritance from family, thus, children from families with aggressive behaviour exhibit such traits when they grow up.

A quantitative study by Pourmand, Mohsenzadeh & Ghaedniay (2017) also revealed that, parent-child relationship forms adolescent behavior patterns. Beating of children by parents and relatives, the lack of care and affection and the absence of good child-

parent relations as well as poor economic status of families also contribute to why people become violent in the communities where they belong.

In the views of Witmer (2020), children who live with violence in the home learn by example and can become violent people as they grow up. Witmer added that maltreatment, neglect and rejection of children affect their emotions and the effect of the deprivation of their emotional needs leads to aggression within. Such children grow with it and become violent in their societies or communities. Safe, stable, nurturing relationships and environments are essential to prevent child maltreatment and to assure that children reach their full potential (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) 2014). This reduces the likelihood of their aggression and involvement in violence. It has also been revealed that lack of supervision and firm discipline of children makes them to grow and become deviant and violent in their societies (Bahrami, Miri & Azizi, 2015).

2.4.2 Socio-economic Factors

Many socio-economic factors also account for why people become aggressive and inflict violence on others. American Psychological Association (APA) (2010) states that socio-economic status of an individual is not just about his or her income, but rather a wide range of other social factors such as social status, educational background, social class, financial security amongst others. Imbalance socio-economic status sparks violence. People who are below the socio-economic ladder are unable to live up to their socio-economic responsibilities and demands. OECD, (2011) agreed that socio-economic factors that can precipitate violence are:

“rapid social change; economic and gender inequalities; social policies that create and sustain or increase economic and social inequalities; poverty; weak criminal justice systems that allow the excessive use of force by police with

impunity; the availability of firearms; and social or cultural norms that support violence” p. 18

The longevity of unemployment brings about frustration amongst individuals, people who are unemployed have little or no source of income, the frustrations born out of this compels most of them to engage in violence such assault, armed robbery, kidnapping, ritual killing, etc., to make a living (Pappas, 2020). A quantitative study by Khan, Ahmed, Nawaz and Zaman (2015) on the topic *The Socio-Economic Determinants of Crime in Pakistan: New Evidence on an Old Debate* found that there is a long term relationship between crime rate and explanatory variables such as education, unemployment, poverty and economic growth in Pakistan. This study concluded that there is positive correlation between level of unemployment and per capita income on the crime rate in Pakistan. Brankovic (2020) posits that inequality is a major driver of violence. It has been identified that the socio-economic marginalization of people in communities has many implications on all spheres of life of persons.

In Ayamga (2021), the Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Security, Disaster and Emergency Studies, Dr. Ishmael Norman asserts that increased incidence of crime, which is referred to in this study as an interpersonal violence is motivated by the surging numbers of unemployment in Ghana. Dr. Ishmael Norman added that the youth are in search of jobs through which they can earn a decent living and also care for their families. Thus, the absence of these paid jobs will compel them to resort to violent means to meet their needs and demands.

Adinkrah (2014) asserts that socio-economic status of individual has a huge impact on their behaviour and that majority of the homicides and suicides that occur in Ghana

erupts amongst individuals of low socio-economic backgrounds in Ghana. Ward, Van der Merwe and Dawes (2013) asserted that, amongst the youth, socioeconomic disequilibrium impacts on the pursuit of their academics and its attending effects include limitation of life opportunities and endorsement of violence as a way to secure social standing and access material goods, often through gang-related activities. A quantitative study by Lobont, Nicolescu, Moldovan and Kulogu (2017) has generally established in a 2 directional result that, an increase income inequality has a big and robust effect of increasing crime rates and that urban residence agglomeration is a generating factor for crime in Romania.

2.4.3 Community and Environmental factors

The community or environment in which an individual lives has also been identified as an influencer of the eruption of violence in communities. CDC (2022) has identified some community or neighborhood causes of violence, these include; diminished economic opportunities, high concentrations of poor residents, high level of transiency, high level of family disruption, low levels of community participation, socially disorganized neighborhoods and the exposure to violence in community. OECD (2011) added that the factors that contribute to interpersonal violence in communities or neighbourhoods are high residential mobility; high unemployment; high population density; social isolation; proximity to drug trade; ease in access to alcohol; and weak social welfare policies and programmes in schools. A study by Witmer (2020) asserted that, people who live and grow in communities with low socioeconomic status are likely to believe that the alternative and most convenient means of survival is to form or join gang groups with the sole motive of using violent means to attain their goals and meet their needs. This position was also confirmed by CDC (2020) which posits that, people from socially disorganized communities and

neighborhoods are exposed to the possibility of engaging in violent activities as well because, perpetuation of violence in such communities has become a social issue and a norm that they have imbibed in themselves. Wrigley- Asante, Owusu, Oteng-Ababio and Owusu (2016) in their study sampled communities under three categories of socio-economic status, thus high socio-economic status, middle socio-economic status and low socio-economic status. The sample was drawn from four Ghanaian cities: Accra, Kumasi, Sekondi-Takoradi, and Tamale, the study found that neighbourhoods with middle socio-economic status are prone to crime than neighbourhoods of high socio-economic status and those with low socio-economic status.

Bushman, Newman, Calvert, et al. (2016) in their study found that violence ensues in communities where social order is compromised. The weakness of state mandated agencies such as the police service and their inability to work effectively and serve fairly compel people to indulge in what is referred to as “street justice.” Individuals therefore forms gangs and perpetuate violence as a way of ensuring social order and serving justice.

Peer pressure can also be identified as another community factor that can compel people to engage in violent activities. Peers play a significant role in shaping the behaviours of individuals in their societies. Associating with risk-taking, deviant and socially misfit peers influences people to also venture into taking such unhealthy risks (Saxbe, Piero, Immordino-Yang, Kaplan & Margolin, 2015; Elam, Chassin, Lemery-Chalfant, Pandika, Wang, Bountress, et al., 2017). Esiri (2016) in his study, *The Influence of Peer Pressure on Criminal Behaviour*, found out that dimensions of peer pressure have huge influence on why adolescents exhibit criminal behaviour. Peer influence is also the conduit through which gangs are formed to

perpetuate violence. CDC (2020) also established that association with delinquent peers, involvement in gangs and social rejection by peers also are factors for engaging in violent activities in communities. Onoyase and Ebebuwa (2018) in their study, *Relationship among Adolescents' Characteristics, Peer Group Influence and Anti-Social Behaviours*, found that peer pressure is one of the profound and significant variables that influence anti-social behaviour amongst adolescents.

The proliferation and easy access to firearms and other forms of weapons in communities have increased the likelihood of violence amongst individuals. A body of research found out that in communities where there is the availability of firearms which are not properly kept, people are compelled to use such firearms to indulge in violent activities (Shetgiri et al. 2016; Williamson, Guerra, and Tynan, 2014; Johnson et al., 2010). In the study of Siegel, Ross and Charles King III (2013) where they examined the relationship between levels of household firearm ownership and the rate of homicide in the United States, 1981–2010, they found that, there is a robust relationship between gun ownership and firearm homicide rates.

Witmer (2020) in her study uncovered that, the media also has an influence on the causes of violence in the community. To him, media reportages on violence also make people aggressive towards one another. These media could include; movies, the internet, television, video games, magazines, social media, amongst others. Shao and Wang (2019) in their study asserted that, as much as violent video games escalate aggressive behaviours, they also have the potency of increasing angry thoughts among people.

2.4.4 Individual factors

There are some biological and natural factors that are inherent in individuals and which trigger their engagement in violent activities. Aside from the natural factors, individuals themselves engage in actions that make them aggressive and motivate them to act violently. OECD (2011:17) opines that, “traits such as hyperactivity, impulsiveness, poor behavioural control and attention problems; a history of early aggressive behaviour; early involvement with drugs, alcohol and tobacco; antisocial beliefs and attitudes; low intelligence; low commitment to school and school failure; and exposure to violence and conflict in the family motivate violence among people.” CDC (2020) asserts that individual factors that cause violence stem from their experiences as victims of violence, hyperactivity, when exhibit early aggressive behaviour, when they are into the usage of drugs, alcohol, when they lack self-control and consciousness. Individual also become violence when they show signs of high emotional distress, when they share antisocial beliefs and attitudes and when they are exposed to violence and conflict in their families.

The use of drug and alcohol can cause people to engage in violence activities. People who use drugs and alcohol are most likely to be aggressive, fearless and perpetuate violence. Vertava Health (2018) opines that the use of drugs and alcohol weakens people’s consciousness and self-control, making them to exhibit violent behaviours which are atypical of them if they are sober and are in their conscious state of mind without the influence of drugs and alcohol. Parker and Auerhahn (2008) assert that the use of drugs and alcohol has a close link to property offenses, public order offenses, drug offenses and domestic violence. Avelardo, Kaplan and Curtis (2007) in their study found that, illegal drug use has a negative relationship with aggressive criminal behaviour. A study titled "The Relationship between Drug Use and Crime: A

Prospective Study of Adults" conducted by Swartz, Lurigio, &Chitwood(2019) explores the longitudinal connection between drug use and criminal behavior. The study found that drug use significantly increases the likelihood of engaging in criminal activities, especially property crimes and drug-related offenses.

People with mental illness are volatile to committing violence. Thornicroft (2020) reiterate that persons with some form of mental illness or disorder especially schizophrenia and bipolar disorder have the higher likelihood to get involved in violent crime. According to a study conducted by Canadian Mental Health Association, (2021), people with mental health disorder are 2.5 times likely to commit violence than others in their communities.

2.4.5 Situational Factors

People also inflict violence on others, regarding the situations they are confronted with. Bowman, Whitehead & Raymond (2018) concur that there are some situational factors that mechanize and motivate people to inflict violence on others. They also stated that, there are situation-sensitive contexts that shape the production or inhibition of aggression and violence. There are situations that increase the tendency of people to become violent. Situations such as loud noise making, unhealthy state of events, unpleasant smells, crowded places, etc provoke people's engagement in violent activities against each other (Wareham, 2015).

In situations where security officers are dismissed from services, they sometimes use their expertise to recruit and train gangs to perpetrate crime as a means to make a living. A case study published in the "Journal of Criminal Justice" titled From Security Officer to Criminal: A Qualitative Analysis of Factors Contributing to Occupational Deviance (Smith, Norris & Kroner, 2017) gave credence to these

finding as it provides insights into the factors that may drive dismissed security personnel to commit crimes. The study found that factors such as financial pressures, a perceived lack of alternatives, and familiarity with security procedures were often cited by former security personnel as reasons for their involvement in criminal activities.

2.6 Implications of Interpersonal violence

Mercy, Hillis, Butchart, Bellis, Ward, Fang, & Rosenberg (2017) opine that information on the magnitude, nature, and consequences of interpersonal violence is critical for program and policy development. United Nations Women (2013) also assert that the implications of violence on the individual and the community spread widely just as the violence itself. Interpersonal violence is said to have huge negative effects on human security. These implications have direct implications on the victims who suffer the abuse and also indirectly affect the communities in which such acts of violence are perpetuated. The researcher reviews literature on the implications of interpersonal violence under these themes.

2.6.1 Health and Psycho-emotional Implications

CDC (2021) opines that violence affects people's physical, mental, and social health. British Columbia (2021) asserts that violence has both physical and mental health implications on those who suffer it. It outlines; injury, disability, sexually transmitted diseases, drinking of alcohol and drug use, depression, anxiety and trauma as some of the health effects of violence on individuals whom violence is inflicted upon. Interpersonal violence has also led to the loss of lives of victims. The health implications of interpersonal violence are enormous as the effects ranging from the immediate relationship with children, spouses, elderly and other members of the

society. A study by Rivara, Adhia, Lyons, Massey, Mills, Morgan, Simckes & Rowhani-Rahbar, (2019) revealed that some implications of interpersonal violence on health include; increased incidences of depression, anxiety, posttraumatic stress disorder, and suicide; increased risk of cardiovascular disease; and premature mortality.

CDC (2021) also agreed, indicating that people who experience violence become more frustrated and are prone to putting up undesirable behaviours and mental health challenges, and are also likely to become the perpetrators of violence in future. They indulge in smoking, substance use; they get more depressed with high possibility of committing suicide. The health impacts also include physical injuries, shock, confusion, fear and anger (Jackson & Gouseti, 2015). Another health implication of violence is the loss of life of the victim. Waters, Hyder, Rajkotia, Basu and Butchart (2005) in their study found that, the ultimate cost in an unfortunate event of violence is the death of a victim.

2.6.2 Socio-Economic Implications

Young children who fall victims to such violent acts lose consciousness and self-control resulting in academic difficulties and school dropout (CDC, 2021). Victims of violence are likely to have trouble with their concentration or memory, reduced performance at work or school, withdrawing from others, feeling like they have lost control (CDC, 2021). Eidell and Ellis (2010) in their study identified that victims who suffer physical injury incur huge cost for their medical treatment. Such costs may include; emergency transportation, payment for medications and many other treatment charges and hospital stay. Other victims who may be disabled by the violent act may also loss of wages due to incapacitation, families who also lost their love ones also incur huge financial burden of burial expenses. In a study by Waters, Hyder, Rajkotia,

Basu and Butchart (2005), it was revealed that the socio-economic impact of violence on the individual has both short and long-term effects, these socio-economic effects could be medical costs, property losses, and loss of income. Rikosuhripäivystys (2019) added that, the experience of violence makes victims to become insecure with the fear of possible recurrence of the sad event. In the same vein, Jacquin (2017) in her study asserted that people who are affected by violent actions have poor anger management, poor social skills, pathological lying, manipulative behaviour, impulsiveness, and lack of empathy. Socially, violence cause victims to show less interest in social activities and also make them to isolate from others as they perceive themselves to be alien to the communities in which they are (Waters, Hyder, Rajkotia, Basu & Butchart, 2005).

2.6.3 Implications on the Community

Incidences of violence do not only have dire effects on the victims who suffer it but also it stretches its infectious consequences to the larger community or society. Fowler, Tompsett, Braciszewski, Jacques-Tiur & Baltes (2009) in their study found that, there is a strong link between violence and how it affects communities. Violence impedes community safety, peoples' willingness to participate in community events, youth's school attendance, and viability of businesses. McDaniel (2012) asserts that communities that are characterized by incidence of violence witness theft, economic downturn, vandalism, cases of assault, illegal drug trading, homicide, etc. The recurring acts of violence within a community heighten the fear and insecurity amongst the community dwellers. People fear for their lives and the security of their children, family and friends as well as their business and properties with the reason that they will become victims to such violent activities (Howell, 2006). Violence reduces safety, disrupts order and creates chaos in communities.

Violence prevents the proper function of society as it breaks down the fundamentals and the social order on which a peaceful society or community is built. Violence is said to have huge economic effect on local economies in diverse ways. Such areas become unattractive for investment due to the fear of insecurity (Universal Class, 2021). A study by Jeke et al. (2021) found that, the effects of violence in societies have economic implications as it propel communities and government to spend on the repairing of damaged properties, and well as the maintenance and rehabilitation of prisons.

2.7 Responses or reactions of Stakeholders on Interpersonal violence

Governments and other stakeholders across the world have made enormous attempts to curb the occurrence of interpersonal violence. In America, Wagenaar, Tobler and Komro (2010) as cited in Lopez (2016) identified that alcohol use among people is a great inducer of interpersonal violence in the various societies. Lopez (2016) added that 40 percent of the violent crimes recorded in America can be attributed to the excessive use of alcohol as indicated by the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. In correcting this situation, Wagenaar, Tobler and Komro (2010) recommended an increase in the alcohol tax rate as a measure to reduce the intake of alcohol amongst the people. It also recommended that attempts should be made to revoke the drinking right of alcohol offenders. Lopez (2016) also stated that the policing of hotspot could help as a surest way to limiting violence crime in such areas. Lopez also emphasized on deter policing as a tool to fighting violence crime in societies.

In Nigeria, an NGO called the Step Up Nigeria in collaboration with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) have been working assiduously with the

Federal Ministry of Education as well as the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in order to integrate and incorporate the study of crime prevention and other rule of law related topics into the educational curriculum at all levels. This was done through the sensitization of major stakeholders in the educational terrain of Nigeria (United Nations Office on Drug and Crime, 2021).

As a way of reacting to the incidences of crime in South Africa, the South African government has developed a four pillar approach for violent crime prevention. These pillars include; The criminal Justice Process, Reducing Crime through Environmental Design, Public Values and Education and Trans-national crime (Republic of South Africa, 2021). The first pillar *criminal justice process* talks about the impartial delivery of justice and the respect for the fundamental rights and liberties of all citizens. The second pillar, thus *Reducing Crime through Environmental Design* believes the occurrence of violent crime becomes rampant in an environment which seems fertile for it. The pillar focused on a design of a security based approach in designing of buildings, shopping centre so as to curb the incidence of violence or armed crime. The third pillar is the *Public Values and Education*; it is to help improve the public's understanding of the criminal justice system and to promote the use of non-violent conflict resolution mechanism among the citizens. The fourth pillar, *Trans-national crime* is focused on the restriction on the smuggling of commodity across borders, it also includes promotion of effective border guarding as well as improving intelligence capability on the borders (Republic of South Africa, 2021).

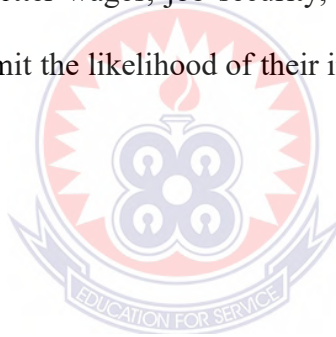
As part of reactions to interpersonal violence in Ghana, several attempts were made by various stakeholders at national, regional and district levels to control violence in

the Ghanaian society. In reacting to situations of interpersonal violence across the country, the Ghana Police Service (GPS) has put some mechanisms in place to help check the situation. The acting Director-General in charge of Public Relations of the Ghana Police Service, ACP Kwesi Ofori affirms the service's readiness to fight interpersonal violence in the country. The GPS has earmarked on the installation of Close Circuit Television (CCTV) on major streets in order to have a visual evidence of offenders who attempts various forms of interpersonal violence. The GPS has also deployed 30 motorbikes within the enclaves of the national capital, Accra with plans to replicate same in all nooks and crannies of the country. The service has also integrated horse patrols in its operations in order to help go after offenders and to also intensify the service's surveillance (Boakye, 2021).

The unremitting incidences of interpersonal violence within the Tamale metropolis have propelled the Mayor, Hon. Sule Salifu and other stakeholders to enumerate some swift measures to curb such occurrences. As co-operate social responsibility, the Mayor in liaison with financial institutions and other stakeholders have been able to make provision for street lights on major streets within the metropolis. Attempts were also made to ensure police stations and police vehicles are been put across the metropolis to boost police visibility (Dabre, 2021).

More so, the incidence of interpersonal violence within the Akatsi South Municipality in the Volta Region of Ghana has triggered the Municipal Security Council (MUSEC) in a stakeholder consultation to institute some pragmatic measures to mitigate the occurrence of interpersonal violence within the municipality. The MUSEC in one of its meetings chaired by the Municipal Chief Executive (MCE); Hon. Kofitsey Martin Nyahe, resolved that, time will be slated for the closure of all drinking spot

and churches to prevent crimes at night. Attempts were also made to ensure the closure of all drinking spots which deal in the sale of illicit drugs that motivate people to commit all forms of interpersonal violence. The local media were also tasked to promote sensitization of the public on police-civilian relationship; this is to help the citizenry build confidence in the police institution (Ghana News, 2022). Gaduga (2022) opined that the rapid response to incidence of interpersonal violence by the police and judicial system and the attempt to apprehend and punish offender or perpetrators reduces the incentive for individuals to commit various forms of interpersonal violence. Akinyede, Tohozin and Toko (2021) asserted that the provision of job opportunity and skills training to economically vulnerable in the society help to provide better wages, job security, better access to self-development schemes and these will limit the likelihood of their involvement in perpetrating acts of interpersonal violence.



CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter outlines the overall methodological processes and stages which the researcher employed to unravel the issues which the research objectives sought to achieve. The chapter discusses the philosophical assumption which the study aligns itself to, the research approach and design. The methodology also encompasses the population of the study, the sample and sampling technique, the data collection method and technique as well as the data analysis method and procedures. The chapter further covers issues on trustworthiness of data, positionality, ethical considerations which were considered by the researcher in the conduct of the study.

3.1 Philosophical Assumption

Philosophical assumption, which is also referred to as the research paradigm or the philosophical world view, presents a framework which serves as a premise on which knowledge is filtered (Lincoln, Lynham, & Guba, 2011). Creswell (2014) posits that the “worldview as a general philosophical orientation is about the world and the nature of research that a researcher brings to a study” (p.35). It is therefore the researcher’s meaning to the world view that informs the research approach a study should adopt, be it a qualitative, quantitative or mixed method. Depending on what the researcher seeks to know and how to know it, one of the philosophical orientations is used to guide such a study. Yadav (2021) opines that, it is the ontological, epistemological and methodological beliefs of the researcher that determines his or her choice for an appropriate and preferred philosophical paradigm or assumption which should be adopted for a study. Leavy (2017) opines that the ontology position

of a research primarily defines the belief system about the nature of the social world either objective or subjective. To Leavy (2017), epistemology states how knowledge is obtained in the natural world. This study is purely a qualitative one and the researcher associates with the ontological believe that social reality could be socially constructed and subjectively experienced with the epistemological belief that participants have the ability to construct knowledge subjectively.

Against this backdrop, the study identified itself with the interpretivist philosophical assumption since the focus was for the researcher to immerse himself into the study in order to have a naturalistic understanding of the issues that the study seeks to address and to present the social reality and experience of the victims and stakeholders in relations to the inducers and the implications of interpersonal violence on human security in Kasoa.

Lincoln and Guba (1985), and Morgan, (2007), posit that there are some characteristics that a research which employs the interpretative paradigm should possess. The characteristics include;

- (i) The admission that the social world cannot be understood from the standpoint of an individual.
- (ii) The belief that realities are multiple and socially constructed
- (iii) The acceptance that there is inevitable interaction between the researcher and his or her research participants
- (iv) The acceptance that context is vital for knowledge and knowing.
- (v) The belief that knowledge is created by the findings, can be value laden and the values need to be made explicit
- (vi) The need to understand the individual rather than universal laws.

- (vii) The belief that causes and effects are mutually interdependent.
- (viii) The belief that contextual factors need to be taken into consideration in any systematic pursuit of understanding.

According to Cohen, Manion and Morrison (2007), the interpretivist paradigm is concerned about the individual and is interested in understanding the subjective world of human experience. Hesse-Biber and Leavy (2011) assert that this philosophical belief system is developed in a disciplinary context in the social sciences and emphasizes people's subjective experiences, which are grounded in social-historical contexts.

This paradigm allows the researcher to use interactive and interpretive processes to help assign meaning to activities, situations, events, gestures, and so forth of the research participant. The paradigm is based on the premise of a close collaboration between the researcher and the researched. Greener (2008) wrote, that interpretivist philosophy allows the researcher to have multiple views and to also see the world through the eyes of the participants.

3.2 Research Approach

Creswell (2014) posits that research approach is the plan and procedure that the researcher uses to detail methods of data collection, analysis, and interpretation. Taking cognizance of the philosophical underpinning, the researcher employs qualitative research approach for this study. Bhandari (2020) posits that the qualitative research approach is an approach which is earmarked for the collection and analysis of non-numerical data in a form of text, video, or audio to help understand concepts, opinions, or experiences of issues under investigation. Dawson (2002:14) states that qualitative research seeks to “explore attitudes, behaviour and experiences through

such methods as interviews or focus groups. It attempts to get an in-depth opinion from participants.” Qualitative research is generally characterized by inductive approaches to knowledge building which is aimed at generating meaning (Leavy, 2014). Researchers use this approach to explore; to robustly investigate and learn about social phenomenon; to unpack the meanings people ascribe to activities, situations, events, or artefacts; or to build a depth of understanding about some dimension of social life (Leavy, 2014). To Creswell (2014:32), qualitative research “is an approach for exploring and understanding the meaning individuals or groups ascribe to a social or human problem.” Researchers who employ the qualitative approach conduct the study in the natural setting of the participants with data primarily collected through the interview process (Creswell, 2012).

The choice for the qualitative approach for this study was informed by the researcher’s interest to deeply explore and gain in-depth understanding of the situation of interpersonal violence and its implications on human security from the perspectives and narrations of the people who are directly involved and affected. The researcher also deemed it imperative to move within the Kasoa enclave and have an appreciation of the dynamics of the situation of interpersonal violence as well as to generate a firsthand feeling from the people about the situation under study in Kasoa.

3.3 Research Design

Caldas (2009) opines that a research design presents a plan that guides the data collection and analysis segment of a research. Research design is the overall strategy that provides linkage or connection between the conceptual research problems to the pertinent (and achievable) empirical research (Toledo-Pereyra, 2012). The study adopted the case study research design; Baskarada (2014) affirms that the case study

design is the most widely used method in academia for researchers who are interested in qualitative research. The researcher used the case study in order to explore the views of small group of participants residing at the setting of research which is of interest to the researcher. In agreement, Yin (2017) stated that case study focuses on individual or small group. According to Cooney (2010) case study is an in-depth, detailed study of an individual or a small group of individuals resulting in a narrative description of behaviour or experience.

Gaille (2018) enumerated some advantages of the case study design. He states that the use of the case study design affords the researcher with the opportunity to turn the observation of participants into a verifiable data as the researcher picks clues from observing the research participant. It also becomes a means by which the researcher checks credibility using the triangulation of data. The case study is said to be less expensive and cost effective as compared to some other forms of research design since it uses just a small sample size for a study. The case study design also produces a data which is very accessible to the readers. Case study also allows for different type of data collection technique. It thus, allows for the use of observation, open-ended questionnaires among others. Case study design also turns opinions into facts. Gaille (2018) also added that the case study is relevant to both parties, thus, the researcher and the participants. As the researcher has the opportunity to explore the phenomenon in-depth, the participants are also able to further their knowledge growth because of their interest in the outcome of the study.

Amongst the various types of case study designs, the researcher employed the critical instance case study design. The critical instance case study as explained by Hayes, Kyer and Weber (2015) has the focus on thoroughly exploring a single or particular

instance and having a deeper understanding to it. Seyss (2022) asserts that the critical instance case study offers the researcher the opportunity to examine the causes and effects of a phenomenon or instance in the environment where it exists. Kasoa was chosen as a critical instance case to study. The increasing reports on interpersonal violence within the communities of Kasoa make it suitable for consideration in a study of this nature.

3.4 Research Setting



Figure 3: Map of Kasoa

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, GIS (2014)

Kasoa is a peri-urban community and the municipal capital of the Awutu Senya East Municipality in the Central Region of Ghana. It is situated along the Accra-Cape Coast road. Kasoa is a heterogeneous society which is inhabited by people of different ethnic groups such as the Hausas, Gas, Akans, Ewes, Dagartis, Moshies and other tribes include foreign nationals from Nigeria, Liberia, Cameroon, etc. This confirms the presence of foreign nationals and culture diversity of people residing in the community. The setting also gives a sense to how community factors could probably contribute or account for why people inflict interpersonal violence on others.

3.5 Study Population

Population of a study simply describes all elements that are fit to be used to study a phenomenon. According to Neuman (2014), population is the abstract idea of a large group of several cases from which a researcher draws a sample and to which results from the sample are generalized. To Johnson and Christensen (2014), a research population is the total group that a researcher is interested in learning more about. Explorable (2009) assert that, “research population is generally a large collection of individuals or object that is the main focus of a scientific enquiry”.

The population of a study includes those individuals, institutions or the set of units with similar characteristics and who are of interest to the researcher and who finding of a study can be applied to (Shukla, 2020). Population composed of two groups or types; the target population and the accessible population. The target population refers to the entire group of people of objects which are of interest to the researcher. The target population for this study was the victims of interpersonal violence and the stakeholders in Kasoa.

The accessible population on the other hand could be defined as the portion of the target population which is reasonably accessible or at the reach of the researcher. The accessible population is of the sub-set of the target population from which the research draws its sample (Explorable, 2009). The accessible population was drawn from the victims of interpersonal violence, storeowners, mobile money operators and stakeholders in three major communities in Kasoa, thus, Opeikuma, KasoaZongo and Ofaako.

3.6 Sample and Sampling Technique

Kenton (2021) defines sample as the small, manageable version or the subset which has similar characteristics of the larger group or population which a researcher is interested in studying. The researcher sampled the victims of interpersonal violence, officers of the Ghana Police Service, chiefs, Assembly Members of the communities under study, the chairperson of the Municipal Security Council(MUSEC), mobile money merchants and storeowners. Patton (2015) opines that qualitative researcher is interested in the use of purposeful sampling which is premised on seeking the best cases or participants for the study which will intend produce the best data for the study. A qualitative researcher considers “information-rich cases” that best address the research objectives and questions (Morse, 2010; Patton, 2015, p. 264).

The sample size for this study was determined by data saturation. Data saturation according to, Guest, Namey and Chen (2020) is the conceptual yardstick for estimating and assessing qualitative sample sizes. Guest, Bunce and Johnson (2006) stated that saturation is the gold standard by which purposive sample sizes are determined in research.

The pioneering ideas about what data saturation is, is said to have originated from Glaser and Strauss (1967). In their book, *The Discovery of Grounded Theory*, they opined that;

The criterion for judging when to stop sampling the different groups pertinent to a category is the category's theoretical saturation. Saturation means that no additional data are being found whereby the sociologist can develop properties of the category. As he sees similar instances over and over again, the researcher becomes empirically confident that a category is saturated. He goes out of his way to look for groups that stretch diversity of data as far as possible, just to make certain that saturation is based on the widest possible range of data on the category

Given (2016) corroborated that, data saturation is as very important stage in the data collection process where a researcher becomes fully aware that additional data collected does not bring any new ideas or does not lead the researcher to any new emerging theme that is relevant to the study or the phenomenon that the researcher explores. Morse (2015) noted that saturation is adjudged by many researchers to be the guarantee of qualitative rigor.

Sampling was done using purposive sampling technique and convenient sampling technique. According to Johnson and Christensen (2014) sampling is the process of drawing a sample from a population. Before the stage of data collection, the researcher used the extreme or deviant case sampling strategy as the purposive sampling strategy. Creswell (2015) affirms that under the purposive sampling, the researcher used sampling strategy or technique before and at the start of data collection. Purposive sampling which is also known as the judgemental or selective sampling is the one where the selection of units for a study is determined by the judgement and discretion of researcher (Laerd, 2012).

The Extreme or deviant case sampling refers to the type of purposive sampling that is centred on situations which are special or unusual or is notable for failure or success (Laerd, 2012). The case in Kasoa was seen to be an extreme case as there were always reportages on incidence of interpersonal violence in the Kasoa communities.

The researcher also employed the convenient sampling technique as this technique allowed him to easily choose participants who were at his reach (McCombes, 2021). The researcher interviewed any victims of violent crime within the categories as his visited the field to collect data. The victims of interpersonal violence, mobile money operators or merchants, storeowners and food vendors were conveniently selected for the study, whilst, the chiefs, the Ghana Police Service, MUSEC, Assembly members were purposively sampled for the crucial roles that they play in ensuring orderliness and peace in the country, they were also selected purposively because, the researcher believes these categories of people have in-depth information to give on interpersonal violence and its implication on human security in Kasoa.

These individuals and institutions purposively sampled were deemed as suitable and significant to provide information-rich data for the study because they are key institutions that are clothed with the mandate of managing the security and ensuring the wellbeing of people living within the study area. For instance, Section 1 of the Police Service Act, 1970 (Act 350) enjoins the Ghana Police Service to take frantic steps to “prevent and detect crime, to apprehend offenders and to maintain public order and safety of persons and properties”. The Municipal Security Council (MUSEC) is an auxiliary body of the National Security Council and its overarching responsibility is to safeguard the internal and external security of Ghana and the municipality in the case of the MUSEC as stated in the Section 4 (a) of the Security

and Intelligence Agencies Act 1996 (Act 526). The Assembly members were also chosen for the study because they are the grassroots leaders and immediate link between the people in their electoral area and the District Assembly. The Local Government Act 1993 (Act 462) in its Article 16 Section 1 (a) states that assembly members shall “maintain close contact with, and consult the people of the electoral area on issues to be discussed in the District Assembly and collate their views, opinions and proposals”. The chiefs are also regarded as the gatekeepers. They play a very crucial role in the administration of the communities where they have authority over and also coordinate between the people and state institutions. The victims were also used as informants for the study because they are those with direct impact of the experience they had on interpersonal violence and how it has implicated their lives.

3.7 Sources of Data

Data source is where data is obtained, in an academic research, the researcher is exposed to the use of two (2) sources of data, thus, the primary and secondary sources. Primary data is the source where data is gathered from a primary source, thus, a firsthand data which is collected from interviews, questionnaire, observations, survey and other raw sources. The secondary source is the source where data is obtained from already documented sources such as articles, policy documents, magazines, etc. The researcher relied on primary source of data which was obtained from the fieldthrough interview sessions.

3.8 Research Instruments

Method for data collection is about the wide range of technique(s) or strategies which the researcher adopted in collecting or obtaining data that will be analysed for a study

(Johnson & Christensen, 2014). Instrument is a term which refers to any tool that is used by a researcher to collect or obtain data, measure data and analyse data that is relevant to the subject of research (Kuranchie, 2021). Creswell (2014) posits that, there are four (4) types of data collection methods in a qualitative study, these are, observation, interviews, qualitative documents and audio and visual materials.

According to Leavy (2014), researchers conducting a qualitative study should choose the method of data collection that will assist them to find best answers to the research questions to best address the research purpose and objectives. Leavy (2014) also added that researchers should be guided by factors such as time, resources, and the researcher's skill set when selecting data collection method for their study.

For the purpose of what the researcher sought to study and the convenience of the researcher, the face-to-face type of interview was used as a method for data collection for this study. Johnson and Christensen (2014) state that, an interview is a data collection method in which an interviewer (the researcher or someone working for the researcher) asks questions to elicit responses from an interviewee (the research participant). That is, the interviewer collects the data from the interviewee, who provides the data. "In-depth interviewing involves conducting intensive individual interviews with a small number of respondents to explore their perspectives on a particular idea, programme, or situation" (Boyce and Palena, 2006:21). The face-to-face interview requires of the researcher to meet and interview the research participants in-person. This helped the researcher to have first-hand information from the participants and an in-depth understanding of the situation under study. The face-to-face interview is very beneficial to a researcher as it helps to create rapport, pick up on visual cues, and the use of gestures (Leavy, 2014).

In line with this method of data collection, the researcher designed a semi-structured interview guide as the instrument for data collection. Hesse-Biber (2013), opines that “interview guides can be helpful to researchers who are conducting semi-structured in-depth qualitative interviews” (p. 29). Interview guide could be described as the set or list of questions that is prepared by the interviewer (researcher) to help collect data from the interviewees. The researcher therefore designed a semi-structure interview guide as an instrument for data collection for this study. Semi-structured interview gives the interviewer the opportunity to ask open-ended questions of multiple participants in ways that allow participants to generate descriptions in their own words.

In this study, the researcher prepared a semi-structured interview guide to elicit responses from the participant on the various research objectives and questions. The researcher obtained an introductory letter from the Centre for Conflict, Human Rights and Peace Studies as an authority legitimising the interview session before the participants. In furtherance, the researcher first went to the field for familiarisation and later went to collect data through the interviews. With the kind permission from the participants, the researcher was able to tape record some of the interactions as well as took detailed notes on the information received from them in his note pad during the interview phase of the study as some of the participant asked not to be tape recorded.

3.9 Data Analysis

Hesse-Biber (2010), opines that the focus of a qualitative analysis is to “analytically reduce data by: producing summaries, abstracts, coding, and memos; finding ways to display data (matrices, frequency counts, etc.) and finally drawing conclusions and

testing their validity”(p. 13). The researcher employed the thematic method of data analysis for the study. Braun and Clarke (2006) assert that the thematic analysis of data should be seen by researchers as the foundational method for qualitative analysis as it provides core skills for conducting many other forms of qualitative analysis. King (2004) concurs that thematic analysis is also useful as it helps the researcher to summarise key features of a large data set, as it forces the researcher to take a well-structured approach to handling data, helping to produce a clear and organized final report.

Gay, Mills and Airasian (2009) posit that every researcher resorting to the use of thematic method for data analysis has to follow some stages for an effective analysis. These stages include, the organization or the preparation of data, the transcription of data, immersing of the researcher into the data, the generation of themes or categories, coding of the data, and the description of the data and this should be done in consonance with the sub-themes and the research objectives as well as questions guiding the study. In following these stages as identified by Gay, Mills and Airasian (2009), the researcher conducted the interview, following clearly the questions in the instrument. In the interview session, the researcher audio-tape recorded the participants except in cases where the participants objected to audio recordings, the researcher took note of the interviews by jotting down salient points of the interviews with the participants in a notepad. After collecting the data, the researcher carefully listened to the audio-tape recordings and transcribed them into written forms. After the transcription, major themes were developed based on the comments that run through the data collected after the researcher rigorously immersed himself in the data by carefully listening to the tape recordings severally to make some meanings out of

them. Codes were designed from the themes; thus verbatim quotations were stated, presented, described and analysed under the themes and other sub-themes.

3.10 Trustworthiness

Trustworthiness is what is known in a quantitative research as research validity and reliability. Polit and Beck (2014) opine that, trustworthiness which is also referred to as the “rigor of a study” is “the degree of confidence in data, interpretation, and methods used to ensure the quality of a study. Lincoln & Guba are said to be originators of the idea of trustworthiness in 1985 as a means of measuring the integrity of a research data and findings. To them, trustworthiness can be measured using four criteria, thus; credibility, transferability, confirmability and dependability.

The “credibility” helps to measure the genuineness of the data used for the study. Gibbs (2007) opines that, the purpose of credibility is to account for how believable and appropriate the study’s findings were. In ascertaining the credibility of this study, the researcher ensured triangulation of data. The purpose of the data triangulation was to ascertain the authenticity of data. Data triangulation refers to the use of multiple sources of data to examine an assertion (Hesse-Biber & Leavy, 2011, p. 51). The researcher generated responses or data from diverse groups of people. As stated above, data were harmonized from the responses from victims of interpersonal violence, storeowners, mobile money merchants, food vendors, the chair of the MUSEC, personnel of the GPS, chiefs and Assembly Members of some three (3) selected communities within the Kasoa township. Also the instrument which was design to elicit views from the participants was vetted by colleague students who have in-depth knowledge in research. The researcher also presented the instrument to his supervisor to ensure the accuracy of instrument in response to research objectives that

the study sought to achieve and the questions the study was to answer. The analysis of data was also given to colleagues who have knowledge in data analysis to examine and ascertain the credibility of the findings of the study.

“Dependability” is also another strand of the idea of trustworthiness in qualitative study. Polit and Beck (2012) opine that dependability measures how consistent data can be employed for a similar condition under which this study was conducted. According to Kuranchie (2021) the focus is to ascertain whether the same result will be attained if the same research is replicated at the same setting with the same participants. In checking the dependability of this study, the researcher employed what is referred to as the “audit trail”. Audit trail speaks to all the methodological processes as well as the procedures that guide the researcher in conducting a study (Merriam, 2002). Kuranchie (2021) asserts that, “audit trail shows the records of the research process that others can follow to conduct the same research and arrive at similar result” (p.155). The researcher gave the research findings and the research methodology to a colleague who has knowledge in the field of research. The purposes were for the colleague to cross-check and authenticate the dependability of this study.

Another criterion to check the trustworthiness of the study according to Lincoln and Guba(1985) is “transferability”. The transferability focuses on the generalisability of the study, it is to determine the extent to which the study can be applied in other similar situations for which the study was carried out (Bitsch, 2005; Merriam, 2009). The researcher ensured transferability by clearly stating the categories of research participants that were used for the study as well as a better description of the research setting. The study would be transferable when the same categories of participants are purposely sampled to respond to the same research situation in a setting with a similar geographical description as Kasoa where this study was conducted.

The other criterion of measuring trustworthiness of a research is “confirmability”. Confirmability is concerns about the researcher’s ability to show that data collected and analysed for the study is based on the participants’ own narratives and viewpoints and not by the biases and the whims and caprices of the researcher (Polit & Beck, 2012; Tobin & Begley, 2004). In this study, even as data were harmonized and interpreted with the researchers construction, attempts were made to show that the submission in the analysis were from the research participants. The researcher also provided quotations verbatim as a proof that the findings in this study reflect the views, opinions and narrations and perspectives of the participants who were purposively selected for the study.

3.11 Positionality

Positionality “reflects the position that the researcher has chosen to adopt within a given research study” (Savin-Baden & Major, 2013:71). In generality, research positionality speaks about the researcher’s relation to the research with regards to the context of the research and how the researcher views himself in relation to the phenomenon under study as well as how the participants view the researcher.

The researcher viewed himself as an outsider; he has not fallen victim of interpersonal violence and does not reside in Kasoa or any of its environs. He is not familiar with the dynamics of the phenomenon or the instance which the study sought to explore and therefore, his biases are not in place as far as this study is concerned.

3.12 Ethical Considerations

Ethical considerations were taken into accounts by first seeking permit approval from participants to conduct the interviews. The researcher introduced myself to the

participant with my introductory letter to build trust with the participant and also affirm the genuineness of the purpose of the study. The researcher gave briefing to the participants as to the purpose of the research, their relevance in the research process, and expectations from them. The participants in the study were also allowed to decide whether to participate in the interview session or withdraw from it. In answering the questions in the interview guide, the anonymity of the participants were taken into consideration. The researcher also gave consent form to the participants to sign. Also, information collected was not revealed to any third party and the rights of the participants to privacy were respected.



CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents an analysis of the data collected on the field. The data were analyzed in line with the research questions that the study sought to answer. The analysis was presented under the following research questions; what are the inducers of interpersonal violence in Kasoa? How does interpersonal violence affect human security in Kasoa? And how are stakeholders reacting to interpersonal violence in Kasoa? The analysis was done from the data gathered from the participants in this study. Data were transcribed and organised under common themes which were drawn from the data with presentation done and discussed under such themes.

4.1 The Inducers of Interpersonal Violence in Kasoa

This section of the analysis presents a discussion on the views of participants regarding the factors that have triggered or induced perpetrators to inflict various forms of interpersonal violence on other people. The inducers that emerged from the field included; economic factors, drug use, peer influence, situational factors, the dismissal of trained security personnel, family background, presence of foreign nationals, community influence, lack of formal education, get-rich-quick tendency and psychological state. These factors are expatiated below.

4.1.1 Economic Factors

It was communicated by the participants that the commercial nature of Kasoa has made it attractive for people across the country to troop in to Kasoa. A participant submitted that:

Most of these people who indulge in interpersonal violence in Kasoa are not natives. They are people who come from other places but are only motivated to come to Kasoa because it is a business center with the believe they can survive in Kasoa. When they come and have no place to sleep, they sleep at the frontage of shops. They start to form thugs and gang groups with the motive to engage in various forms of interpersonal violence such as armed robbery, theft and assault in order to cater for their needs (Field interview with participant P1, 2022).

The comment above suggests that, places that have a lot of commercial activities taking place are prone to experiencing various form of interpersonal violence, especially; armed robbery, assault and theft. This is because once there are commercial activities there will also be money, as such; people are then motivated to move to Kasoa to take advantage through inflicting interpersonal violence on others in order to make some money. It could also be deduced that some people come to Kasoa with no settlement plan. Thus; no arrangement for shelter, food and other necessities, the hardship they meet on reaching Kasoa made them to resort to engaging in interpersonal violence such as armed robbery, murder, etc. as a means to making a living.

It also emerged from the study that high rate of unemployment was one of the economic factors that contributed to interpersonal violence in Kasoa. This position was held by all the participants. They indicated that the hiking incidence of unemployment rendered most people in the Kasoa township jobless.

A participant noted:

It is because of unemployment, my brother; most of the youth in Kasoa are not gainfully employed even as they have some form of formal education. There are even degree holders who are still unemployed. Some are underemployed with meager salaries and allowances which cannot take care of them and their

families so they go into robbery to add up (Field interviews with participant A2, 2022).

Another participant buttressed the point by saying:

The rate of unemployment has been the source of frustration for many of the youth; they choose to commit various forms of interpersonal violence to meet their needs and wants. Clearly, the absence of decent paid jobs compels unemployed youth to resort to violent means to meet their needs and demands (Field interview with participant P2, 2022).

These comments suggest that unemployment creates a huge gap between income of citizens and their wellbeing. Clearly, inferences can be drawn from the above comments that the level of unemployment amongst the people of Kasoa has deepened the incidences of interpersonal violence in the various communities within the Kasoa enclave as citizens have little or no means of generating their own income in order to meet their basic essentials of life. The researcher deduced from the comments also that, once people are unemployed, their source of livelihood is also cut off. They rely on the benevolence of others to meet their needs or look for alternative means of making a living.

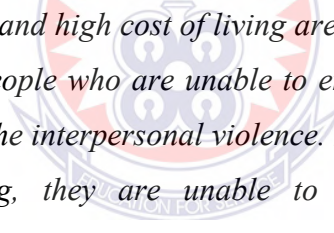
These alternative means may not be legitimate but dubious. Thus, these unemployed individuals may try as much to inflict various forms of pains on others to meet their needs. These attacks may include; armed robbery, defrauding and murder. From these attacks, the unemployed persons may forcibly take people's money from them or other valuables which they may sell for money in order to buy the necessities of their lives.

The comments as reported affirms the news reported by Ayamga (2021) where Dr. Norman asserted that increased incidence of crime, which is referred to in this study as interpersonal violence is motivated by the surging numbers of unemployment in

Ghana. This is also in conformity with the claims of Andresen (2013:5) that “relative economic hardship is a motivation for engaging in criminal behaviour.” It also resonated with the assertion of Wu and Wu (2012) who believe that an increase in the rate of unemployment comes with crime or interpersonal violence as a less opportunity cost, implying that interpersonal violence becomes less attractive when the rate of unemployment is significantly reduced.

It was also uncovered from the study that the living standard of individuals becomes an inducer for the perpetration of interpersonal violence. People’s difficulty in making ends meet and their inability to get their basic essentials compel them to inflict interpersonal violence on others.

For instance; a participant stated:



The low standard and high cost of living are making life very unbearable to us here in Kasoa. People who are unable to endure the hardship are those who usually resort to the interpersonal violence. Since some people are not of good financial standing, they are unable to marry and take care of their families. They therefore resort to rape as the means for their sexual satisfaction even though it is an offense (Field interview with participant P1, 2022).

Another participant mentioned that:

You should also know that hardship and economic downturn which most people experienced have killed their conscience. They kill their fellow humans to make ends meet which means nothing to them (Field interview with participant A1, 2022).

Inferences can be drawn from the comments above that people who are financially handicapped are more likely to start hatching the idea of using illegitimate means to sort themselves out of their financial crises. The researcher also deduced from the

comments that general issue of economic meltdown and hardships make it extremely difficult for people to be capable of meeting their needs and demands. An astronomical increase in the prices of goods and services become the major sources of frustration for many people because they see life to be unbearable at the moment as they are unable to meet up their needs for their comfort. Such individuals may find solace in using inappropriate means to make life better for themselves.

It was noted from the comments that when others become frustrated, they vent their anger on others by unleashing various forms of interpersonal violence on them. Meaning can also be made from the comments that, when people practically cannot afford the little things that keep them running, they become frustrated and aggressive, they channel their frustrations on others by inflicting various forms of interpersonal violence on them. The comment fits into the central idea around which the Burton's Human Needs Theory (1990) was postulated. The theory drew the linkage between human needs and human behavior. It holds the assumption that; people are more likely to be violent if they are unable to meet their needs. The comments also agreed Mumuni's assertion that increase in interpersonal violence (crime) is not entirely surprising. It is caused by the hard economic realities which are experienced in the country as reported by Kwafo (2022). Interpersonal violence always becomes an incentive when a country or society is faced with dire economic situations.

It emerged from the study that people will naturally not put up any aggressive behaviour unless it is triggered by a frustrating event that occurred in their terrain.

A participant stated:

Yes, a hungry man is an angry man, anyone who is hungry will definitely be frustrated and will look out for any means to get money and make a living. People who are gainfully employed will not even have the time to mingle with

bad friends and be convinced to indulge in interpersonal violence for money (Field interview with participant C1, 2022).

The above comment suggests that, when people are economically distressed by higher cost of living and debilitating living conditions, what they look out for is the available and cheap means which are always incriminating to make a better living. These acts of interpersonal violence are at the detriment of others who fall victims to them. The researcher also inferred from the comment that, interpersonal violence could be reduced if the menace of unemployment is tackled head on.

The inability of humans to meet their needs gives rise to frustration and become the conduit which engineers people to engage in violent activities. It could be deduced that, people become very much aggressive once they are frustrated over the economic hardship situations that they are confronted with in their communities. This also solidifies the claims of Burton's 1990 human needs theory which has the assumptions that people put up aggressive behaviour when they are unable to satisfy their needs, the actions they take thereof is to inflict pains on others in order to meet their necessities.

4.1.2 Drug Use

Majority of the participants mentioned that the use of drugs by people is one of the major reasons why people inflict interpersonal violence on others. The use of drugs amongst people, especially the youth in Kasoa, contributes to the incidence of interpersonal violence in Kasoa.

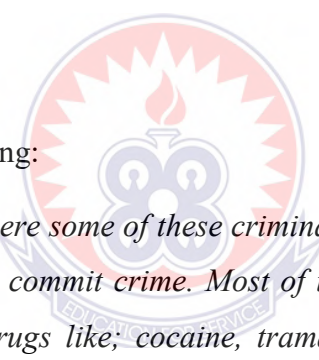
A participant added that:

Normally, people who use drugs are very abusive and violent especially when they are addicted to the drugs they use (Field interview with participant P1, 2022).

The comment above suggests that, when people habituate the use of drugs, they are exposed to exhibiting traits of violence and inflict various forms of interpersonal violence on others who they found around them. The researcher inferred from the comment that the intake of illicit drugs breeds the tendencies of people inflicting interpersonal violence on others. People usually put up socially misfit behaviours when they are under the influence of illicit drugs and alcohol.

Singh et al, (2020) in their study found that, users of illicit drugs are exposed to committing various forms of interpersonal violence including sexual abuses. Parker & Auerhahn (2008) alluded to this comment. They added that, the use of drugs and alcohol has a close link to property offenses, public order offenses, drug offenses and domestic violence.

A police also revealed saying:



There are cases where some of these criminals confessed that they were led by the use of drugs to commit crime. Most of the youth especially, are now into the use of illicit drugs like; cocaine, tramadol, cannabis or marijuana and other hard drugs. These drugs when taken made them high and they become highly exposed to the tendency of inflicting all forms of interpersonal violence on others (Field interview with participant P3, 2022).

This comment also suggests that, the use of illicit drug increases people's propensity to indulge in the perpetration of interpersonal violence of any kind. The researcher inferred from the comment that it is easy to inflict interpersonal violence on other when one is vulnerable to the use of illicit drugs. These drugs when taken make it difficult for people to decipher the right from the wrong, hence, are easily swayed off by the drugs to indulge in many acts of interpersonal violence. These assertions drawn from the comment concretized the findings of CDC (2020) which opined that people

lack self-control and exhibit acts of violence when they have habituated the usage of drugs and alcohol.

Another participant stated:

Here in Kasoa, most of the drug addicts are not gainfully employed, they try to use illegal means to get some money to purchase these drugs. The illegal means include unleashing acts of armed robbery on others (Field interview with participant C3, 2022).

This comment suggests that, when people who abuse drugs do not have the means to purchase their drugs, they rob or steal from others to get some money for the drugs. It could also be deduced from the comment that, addiction to drug use has the potency of exacerbating the incidence of interpersonal violence. This implies that, the strong urge and the bid to get drugs at all cost trigger many drug addicts to employ any alternative means that are always illegitimate to sponsor their habit of using illicit drugs. It could largely be noticed from the study that drug addicts have high tendency of exhibiting acts of interpersonal violence. This finding confirms the study titled "The Relationship between Drug Use and Crime: A Prospective Study of Adults" conducted by Swartz, Lurigio, & Chitwood (2019) which explores the longitudinal connection between drug use and criminal behavior. The study found that drug use significantly increases the likelihood of engaging in criminal activities, especially property crimes and drug-related offenses.

4.1.3 Peer Influence

The study found that, the influence from friends and peers is largely one of the key inducers of interpersonal violence in Kasoa. The study reveals that the actions of some of the perpetrators of interpersonal violence were born out of the friends they make or the associations they found themselves in. One of the participants stated:

The truth is, most of the discussions that the youth engage themselves with are those that hover around how to make money. In often times, they heed to bad advices from peers who are already indulging in interpersonal violence in the community (Field interview with participant P2, 2022).

This expression as found by the study suggests that, some people are influenced by their colleagues to act violently against others. Some friends give bad advices to their peers, their influence lures others to indulge in various forms of interpersonal violence. The researcher also deduced from the above comment that, friends and companies in which an individual find him or herself could be a major influencer in terms of the behaviour that an individual puts up. The likelihood of perpetrating interpersonal violence is higher when one keeps company with people who act in a violent way. The motivation to indulge in any act of interpersonal violence is drawn from people around.

It could be inferred from the above comment that, it is easy to heed to advices given by peers because they are close associates and people who give attention to issues that affect each of them. This was confirmed in the study of CDC (2020) which established that association with delinquent peers, involvement in gangs and social rejection by peers also are factors for engaging in interpersonal violence activities in communities. This comment also falls in line with the relational level as identified by the Social Ecological Model which was propounded by Dahlberg and Krug (2002). The assumptions of the relational level of the model were that, relationship plays a crucial role in determining the occurrence of violence. It presupposes that a person's close associates such as peers, could influence their involvement in violence. Another participant mentioned:

With peer influence, people are pushed to try new things and engage in adventures which are mostly tilted towards bad behaviours. Some of these influences include the use of hard drugs, indulging in illegitimate and forceful sexual activities, armed robbery, etc. which form part of the acts of interpersonal violence (Field interviews with participant P1, 2022).

This comment suggests that, mostly, young people out of youthful exuberance and curiosity are easily swayed to heed to pieces of bad advice from their peers. They are landed into the pleasure of indulging into acts of interpersonal violence. It could be inferred from the comment that, young people push each other into trying new things, it is not always the goods things that they are motivated to learn. Also, they are pushed to indulge in bad behaviours such as armed robbery, rape and other forms of interpersonal violence. It could also be deduced from the comment that, peers confine in each other and are highly likely to take decisions based on their influences. Saxbe, Piero, Immordino-Yang, Kaplan & Margolin (2015) and Elam, Chassin, Lemery-Chalfant, Pandika, Wang, Bountress, et al. (2017) agreed in their studies that, associating with risk-taking, deviant and socially misfit peers influences people to also venture into taking such unhealthy risks as confirmed in the study.

A participant also said:

A person who sees his friend succeeding in making money out of fraud and armed robbery and through the commitment of other forms of interpersonal violence would definitely be influenced to engage in such activities (Field interview with participant A3, 2022).

Inferences could be drawn from this comment that, peers look up to each other. They learn and draw motivation from each other. When individuals perceive their friends and peers as successful through the perpetration of interpersonal violence, they are

more likely to look beyond the legitimate means and try the use of interpersonal violence as a means to flourish and live a luxurious life style.

Another participant added:

You know something, sometimes people may not want to indulge in interpersonal violence but they are only lured by their friends to assist them in executing their violent activities. With this, these innocent people end up becoming perpetrators of various forms of interpersonal violence (Field interview with participant P2, 2022).

This comment reveals that peers tend to owe allegiance and loyalty to each other, they always have the drive to support and protect and promote each other's interest. Inferences could be drawn from the above comment that, some people are only coerced to join their colleagues into committing interpersonal violence just because of the friendship they share and how loyal they are to each other, they see it as solidarity. All these communicate that, engaging in the acts of interpersonal violence can sometimes stem from the influences that friends or peers have on each other.

Situational Factors

It was revealed in this study that some situational factors propel people to be violent and offensive. In frustrating situations, people are compelled to act in violent ways. A participant communicated:

You can see that major recent incidents of murder and assault are partly emerging from the perpetration of interpersonal violence by people who keep sexual relationship with the victims. They try to abuse each other in the little situations they found themselves (Field interview with participant M, 2022).

Another participant affirmed this position, stating:

Heated arguments amongst couples and others in any form of sexual relationship on issues of cheating, and breakups are frustrating situations that

trigger partners to commitment assault and murder against each other (Field interview with participant A3, 2022).

The study identified that some situations trigger violence amongst individuals. Compelling and frustrating situations make people very aggressive with thoughts of committing interpersonal violence running through their minds. These are individuals who will not consciously think of inflicting any form of pain on each other, but such situations compel them to be driven by their emotions and a strong urge to reactive violently.

The above comment confirms the assertion of Bowman, Whitehead and Raymond (2018), who in their study found that certain situations in which individuals find themselves become factors that mechanise and motivate people to inflict interpersonal violence on others. People become aggressive when they are frustrated. As such people who are confronted with these dire situations are pushed to inflict pain on others when they reach their coping limit. One of the participants also stated:

Situations that make people aggressive always lead them to perpetrating interpersonal violence against others. People who are also frustrated by challenging situations are also prone to unleashing interpersonal violence on people they come across. Some people even go to the extent of committing murder due to frustrating situations they are caught up with (Field interview with participant M, 2022).

One of the police officers also mentioned:

A perpetrator who has just been granted bailed, stole a television set out of frustration. He is a barber who could not pay for his rented barbershop. He could not also pay his electricity bills because of the slow pace at which his business was running. He had virtually no money on him to even go back to his hometown. He therefore resorted to stealing the television set to get some transport fare back to his hometown (Field interview with participant P1, 2022).

It could be inferred from the above comments that sometimes, confrontational situations are hard moments where people who will not indulge in acts of interpersonal violence find themselves abusing people who live around them. Such compelling situations have led to people perpetrating murders, armed robbery, assault, etc. against others. This sides with the findings of Wareham (2015) at states that situations such as loud noise making, unhealthy state of events provoke people's engagement in violent activities against each other.

4.1.4 Dismissal of Trained Security Personnel

The study uncovered that the dismissal of trained security personnel may also contribute to the increasing incidence of interpersonal violence within the Kasoa Township.

A participant stated:

You know, people who are dismissed from the various security services are those who are well groomed and equipped with the skills in handling weapons. Upon their dismissal, such security personnel may use the knowledge and expertise they have acquired in terms of security to inflict interpersonal violence on others within the communities **(Field interview with participant P1, 2022).**

Another participant also mentioned:

Yes, security personnel who are dismissed from the various security services may unleash several forms of interpersonal violence on others to make a living since they are out of job. The question is, where will they get money to feed and take care of their families? They are now rendered jobless and so, they may resort to armed robbery and the likes to survive with their families **(Field interview with participant P1, 2022).**

Inferences from the above comments could establish that, when these trained security personnel are out of job, their source of livelihood is taken away from them, making

their living standard very low and life unbearable. It could also be deduced from the comment that if all other legitimate avenues to making a livelihood fail, these dismissed personnel of the security services are likely to leverage on their skills they have acquired on the use of weapons together with other security strategies and competencies they have acquired to inflict pain on others as a way of making a living.

Another police disclosed:

Dismissed officers from security services may later recruit or form thugs who perpetrate interpersonal violence within the communities in order to make money out of such interpersonal violence (Field interview with participant P3, 2022).

This comment suggests that, when trained security personnel are out of job, the attending effect is that they lose their source of income and livelihood and therefore will think of finding an alternative means to make a living. The researcher also deduced from the comment that, the dismissed security personnel often resort to training and recruiting other people who work for them as gangs and thugs with the prime motive of using dubious means, thus, unleashing various forms of interpersonal violence on others in order to make money. A case study published in the "Journal of Criminal Justice" titled From Security Officer to Criminal: A Qualitative Analysis of Factors Contributing to Occupational Deviance (Smith, Norris & Kroner, 2017) gave credence to these findings as it provides insights into the factors that may drive dismissed security personnel to commit crimes. The study found that factors such as financial pressures, a perceived lack of alternatives, and familiarity with security procedures were often cited by former security personnel as reasons for their involvement in criminal activities.

4.1.5 Family Background

The study noted that family background of perpetrators is also a major influencer in perpetration of interpersonal violence. It was uncovered by the study that families where parents and other family members are unable to take up their responsibility, children are likely to exhibit various acts of interpersonal violence.

A participant said:

Broken home, bad parental control as well as weak parental discipline could make children become socially misfit in the society as they indulge in interpersonal violence (Field interview with participant C4, 2022).

It could be inferred from the comment above that, there are some family factors that influence how people behaviour in the community or society in which they live. It was also deduced from the comment that when the needed monitoring and upbringing is not given to children, they grow up to become deviant in their communities. Such children are not given the require training on how to peacefully co-exist with others, they end up exhibiting unacceptable behaviours at home and in their communities. These findings of the study gave credence to the study of Pourmand, Mohsenzadeh and Ghaedniay (2017), where they opined that beating of children by parents and relatives, the lack of care and affection and the absence of good child-parent relations, as well as poor economic status of family contribute to why people become violent in the communities when they grow up.

Another participant disclosed:

Children born in families of domestic violence are likely to be at greater risk of perpetrating interpersonal violence. Also in families where there is weak financial standing where children cannot be catered for, children may resort to illegitimate means to care for themselves. Some of these survival strategies that the children employ may include armed robbery and even murder (Field interview with participant A2, 2022).

From this comment, the study found that perpetration of interpersonal violence can be traced from the family history of some perpetrators. There are families which have history of being violent and engaging in all kinds of interpersonal violence. Children born to these families may grow up to put up violent behaviours and also unleash interpersonal violence on others.

A participant mentioned:

In often times, when a family has criminal records, there may be the possibility of members also becoming criminals. When a father makes living and support his family out of inflicting interpersonal violence on others, some of the children may exhibit such characteristics of interpersonal violence as they grow up (Field interview with participant C2, 2022).

Another participant said:

Some people have records of interpersonal violence and such records may be traced from families. I know a hardened criminal whose father was a thief and has records of perpetrating crime or interpersonal violence (Field interview with participant P1, 2022).

One of the participants also added:

In families where there is child labour, children may be engineer to become violent. In such families, children may flee from their homes to find comfort and relaxation elsewhere (Field interview with participant C5, 2022).

The comments above also pointed to the fact that, when children are not cared for or given the affection they deserve from their relatives, they grow up with some hatred and perception that no one loves them, as such, they tend to inflict varying forms of interpersonal violence on others. The researcher also inferred from the comments that when children are raised in homes where relatives, especially, the immediate family members abuse each other, children grow up to become abusers in the communities

they live. These findings of the study affirmed the study of Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) (2014) which posited that:

Authoritarian childrearing attitudes, harsh, lax, or inconsistent disciplinary practices, low parental involvement, low emotional attachment to parents or caregivers, low parental education and income, parental substance abuse or criminality, poor family functioning and poor monitoring and supervision of children make children to show sign of perpetrating interpersonal violence.

Another participant stated:

Child neglect is also part of the family factors which may be responsible for why people engage in interpersonal violence. Neglected children do not have anyone to advice them, they try to do what they think is right. They also see their lives as being miserable and they may be ready to do anything that will give them enjoy and love (Field interview with participant C3, 2022).

These comments reveal that child labour compels children to seek shelter and care from stealing, armed robbery and perpetration of various kinds of interpersonal violence. The upbringing of an individual was pointed to as part of family factors that put people into the position of causing interpersonal violence. This agrees with the study of Ramezankhani, Vedadhir, Alhani & Mohammadkhah (2021) where they found that families with poor and improper parenting practices are likely to nurture children who do not fit well into the communities and societies.

4.1.6 Presence of Foreign Nationals

It emerged from the study that, the heavy presence of foreign nationals in Kasoa has also contributed to the high waves of interpersonal violence bedeviling the communities.

One of the participants noted:

The presence of these foreigners in Kasoa is also increasing the issues of interpersonal violence in the Kasoa township. Some of these foreign nationals

are criminals who have been able to flee their countries and relocated to the Kasoa for the want of a hiding place (Field interview with participant P1, 2022).

A participant also stated:

Some of the foreigners here are bad people they are the ones causing the criminal things in Kasoa. They come and connive with Ghanaians in Kasoa to indulge in various forms of interpersonal violence within the Kasoa enclave (Field interview with participant A2, 2022).

It could be inferred from the comments above that, foreigners' presence in a particular area have the possibility of increasing the occurrence of interpersonal violence in such areas. It could also be deduced that presence of foreigners in its entity does not mean a doom to such communities. Whilst some foreign national are bring legitimate business and innovation to the areas where they reside away from their home countries, others are presence in such areas with their criminal motives.

The comments above suggest that some foreign nationals have used Kasoa as a safe haven. Some of these foreigners have committed criminal offenses in their home countries and have fled to Kasoa for cover. The study found that, some of the foreigners in Kasoa were said to have records of criminal activities in their home countries, they move to Kasoa with some motive to perpetrate interpersonal violence and so assist native of Kasoa to do same. This position is supported by a report published by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) (2013) titled *Transnational Organized Crime in West Africa: A Threat Assessment*, provides insights into the issue of criminals moving across borders to engage in illegal activities. The report highlights how criminal groups exploit weak governance structures and porous borders to establish operations in other countries, engaging in activities such as drug trafficking, human trafficking, smuggling and armed robbery.

One of the participants mentioned:

Most of the interpersonal violence that occur in Kasoa are been masterminded by some of these foreign nationals who reside in the communities. (Field interview with participant A3, 2022)

This comment suggests that, foreigners have the tendency to influence the rate of interpersonal violence in the communities where they live. It could be inferred that some of these foreign nationals relocate to other areas to inflict interpersonal such as armed robbery and murder on others for their survival. It could be indicated that some of these foreign nationals tend to influence the natives to assist them in perpetrating interpersonal violence in communities they live. It was also deduced that some of these foreign nationals are in the business of being hired to commit murder since they could not easily be recognised.

These findings of the study confirms the news report of Boagyan (2020) published by Kapasafmonline.com on the lamentation of residents of Budumburam, a suburb on Kasoa in their call on government to institute swift measures to close down Liberia Camp due to the claims of foreigners indulging in various activities of interpersonal violence such as killing and injuring of Ghanaians. This came following the killing of an informant by a Cameroonian.

4.1.7 Community or Neighbourhood

It has emerged from the study that, the communities in which people live influence their way of life and how they behave. People born in communities where interpersonal violence occurs, have the high potency of becoming perpetrators of interpersonal violence. The act of interpersonal violence is largely seen in such communities as normal and part of life which everyone has to experience.

One of the participants has this to say:

The heterogeneity of Kasoa makes it a breeding ground for hardened offenders who have perpetuate interpersonal violence in other areas. They come to Kasoa on a hideout with the conviction that they cannot be easily identified (Field interview with participant P2, 2022).

A participant also mentioned:

The community plays a crucial role in shaping the behavior and attitude of its members, density of the population in Kasoa makes the communities fertile for interpersonal violence (Field interview with participant A1, 2022).

Another participant reiterated by stating:

A child may become a criminal when he or she grows up in a community that is known for surging incidence of crime or interpersonal violence. A child born and brought up in Kasoa Zongo may exhibit traits of aggressiveness and may be hard and harsh as compared to a child brought up in East Legon and Cantoment who may look calm and more disciplined. This is because of the nature of the two environments (Field interview with participant A2, 2022).

The comments above suggest that, a community or neighbourhood which is note for incidence of crime or interpersonal violence has the possibility to become a place for criminals or perpetrators of interpersonal violence, thus, once the place is noted for interpersonal violence, it becomes attractive for criminals. This exacerbates the situation of interpersonal violence in such areas. I also deduced from the study that, once a person lives in interpersonal violence prone communities, they are always exposed to it, they experience it always and it becomes a way of life. It therefore becomes easy for them to indulge in any act of interpersonal violence.

These findings of the study confirmed the social ecological model by Dahlberg and Krug (2002), the model postulates that, there are some internal and external factors that influence the character formation of people. The community level of the model

which focused on schools, workplaces and neighbourhoods, etc states that, social and economic inequalities and population density expose individuals to risk factors and also shape the way they behave and react to situations in their communities.

4.1.8 Lack of Formal Education

It was uncovered by the study that, the lack of formal education has contributed to increasing the rate of interpersonal violence in Kasoa. Most of the youth who are the major perpetrators of the interpersonal violence are those who have acquired little or no formal education.

One of the participants stated:

The inability of most of the youth to attain higher formal education does not place them in any better position to secure well paid jobs. They only depend on hawking, running errands, menial jobs etc. for their up keep which often do not attract any lucrative pay. They try to indulge in armed robbery to support **(Field interview with participant A1, 2022).**

Another participant mentioned:

The quests to get more money lure many youth into engaging in acts of interpersonal violence. Also the inability of most of these people to attain high formal education makes them ignorant of the consequences of the interpersonal violence that they inflict on others **(Field interview with participant C2, 2022).**

A participant also stated:

People who are highly educated are less likely to become perpetrators of interpersonal violence because they have decent jobs and will not have the time to be in the company of people with bad influence and they are also very much aware of the consequences of indulging in the acts of interpersonal violence, hence would not want to indulge in them **(Field interview, 2022).**

From the study, the level of academic literacy has a role to play in determining the extent to which an individual can perpetrate interpersonal violence. It was identified in the study that people with low or no level of formal education are more likely to indulge in acts of interpersonal violence. Reasons being that, people who pursue higher formal education often secure decent jobs and are therefore, able to earn enough from what they do as compared to people who are less educated and often see illegal means as resorts to making additional income to support themselves and their families.

The researcher also inferred from the comments that, interpersonal violence is on the ascendency because many of the youth have little or no formal education and therefore the available options with regards to jobs are apprenticeship, trade, artisanal activities and other menial jobs. However, the desire of the youth to live luxurious lifestyles makes them to resort to unhealthy means of getting money and owning properties. These findings confirm the assertion of Lochner (2020) that there is an explicit link between formal education and criminality (interpersonal violence). Hjalmarsson, et al. (2015), in agreement also opine that people with criminal records have less educational qualification, indicating that an increase in formal education could contribute to a sharp decrease in the rate of interpersonal violence.

A study conducted by Laura (2021) agreed with the position of the above comments of the study, it affirms that the influence of education on the perpetration of interpersonal violence is very significant. Formal education increases the opportunity of people to get well-paid jobs with enough remuneration, making the indulgence in interpersonal violence not an option, more so, people who are formally educated are much aware of greater weight of punishment that will be meted out to them when they engage in any form of interpersonal violence.

4.1.9 The Get-Rich-Quick Tendency

The study revealed that the tendency for young people to get rich quickly has contributed to the issue of interpersonal violence that Kasoa has to battle with.

One of the participants added:

One thing we have to know is that, most of these youth that are not ready to do any of menial job, rather, they think of illegitimate means to get rich within the shortest time possible (Field interview with participant C1, 2022).

Another participant stated:

The unhealthy material competition amongst the youth and the unquenchable desire to live in affluence compel many of the youth to resort to inflicting interpersonal violence such as armed robbery, murder, etc. on others as a way of getting rich and owning properties (Field interview with participant T1, 2022).

Inferences could be drawn from the comments above that; the youth are caught up in the competition to acquire material wealth. They struggle amongst themselves to achieve much affluence and luxury than their peers. The researcher deduced from the comments that, the income of these youth is not always enough to keep them in such an unhealthy competition for material gains. They then tend to resort to alternative or supplementary means to fund or sponsor their luxurious lifestyles. These alternative means are always through inflicting interpersonal violence on others and taking advantage of them. A news report by Annang (2021) in pulse.com.gh confirmed these assertions of the study as two teenagers; Eric Nyarko and Nicholase Kini were reported to have murdered their friend Ishmael Mensah, 11 years for money ritual.

4.1.10 Psychological State of an Individual

The study found that the psychological state of a person also counts as an inducer of interpersonal violence in Kasoa.

A participant affirmed:

People who are mental unstable have the likelihood of inflicting interpersonal violence on others. No one with a stable mind may want murder his wife or children out of nothing (Field interview with participant A2, 2022).

Another participant as stated:

I am not sure that this man who assaulted me is mentally stable, he would not have done this to me if he is psychologically sound (Field interview with participant C5, 2022).

The comments above indicate that, people suffering mental health and depression are equally at the risk of inflicting interpersonal violence on others. It could be inferred from the comments that people who are mentally unstable are not in any right frame of mind, they have high potency of inflicting various forms of interpersonal violence on others. Thornicroft (2020) reiterates the findings of the study by stating that persons with some form of mental illness or disorder especially schizophrenia and bipolar disorders have the higher likelihood to get involved in violent crime.

4.2 Implications of Interpersonal Violence on Human Security in Kasoa

This section of the analysis discusses the implications of interpersonal violence on human security. The study discovered that interpersonal violence has serious human security implications on six (6) of the seven (7) dimensions of human security outlined by the United Nations (UN): personal security dimension, economic dimension, community dimension, political dimension, health dimension, food dimension, excluding the environment dimension because it was revealed from the study that interpersonal violence does not have any direct and major implication on the environment.

4.2.1 Personal Security Dimension

The study disclosed that the personal security of victims is questioned when interpersonal violence is been inflicted on them. Personal security is a dimension of human security which protects humans against the threat of physical violence and all other forms of abuses including crime, domestic violence, sexual abuse, torture, human trafficking, child labour, etc, which are inimical to human security (Rachman, Yani&Aditiany, 2017; United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security, 2009).The study found that people feel their personal security is left in the state of jeopardy when there are hiking incidence of interpersonal violence in the communities they live.

One of the participants stated:

Victims believe their security is threatened, hence not guaranteed.They fear for their lives, their properties, their income and anything around them (Field interview with participant P1, 2022).

Avictim also stated:

Yes, because of the past armed robbery incident I suffered and insecurity, I always send my children to myneighbours so they can be cared for, instead of leaving them in the room alone when going out (Field interview with participant C4, 2022).

Another participant revealed:

Victims always employ the services of security agencies for their personal safety, or ask their neighbours or relatives to watch over their belongings whilst they have left for work (Field interview with participant P3, 2022).

The comments above point to the fact that,people feel unsafe and threatened when they know of some occurrences of interpersonal violence in their communities. The researcher inferred from the comments that,generally, in areas that are prone to

interpersonal violence people become aware of the fact that their security and safety have been compromised as they witness acts of interpersonal violence, thus; armed robbery, murder, kidnap, rape, etc. on daily basis. They therefore find alternative means of protection for themselves. The revelations from the study affirmed the propositions of Rikosuhripäivystys (2019) who added that, the experience of interpersonal violence makes victims to become insecure with the fear of possible recurrence of the sad event. It was mentioned that, for the fear of insecurity the victims find it difficult to relate with others in the community.

4.2.2 Economic Dimension

The study found that interpersonal violence affects the economic dimension of human security in enormous ways as victims to such incidence of interpersonal violence are made to suffer some economic upheavals that ensued the excruciating incidence of interpersonal violence that befell them.

A participant stated:

Hmm, money is hard to come by, because of this armed robbery attack and the money the perpetrators took, it is extremely difficult for me to recover financially (Field interview with participant C6, 2022).

Another participant also mentioned:

You, imagine a situation of murder, the victim to the act might have been a bread winner for a family. The dependants of the victim stand the likelihood of remaining in perpetual economic hardship and abject poverty (Field interview with participant T2, 2022).

These comments from the study express that, interpersonal violence has the heavy toll on victim's economic gains. It is such that people lose their capital asset when they become victims to several forms of interpersonal violence. The researcher could infer

from the comments that, incidences of interpersonal violence truly cripple the victims economically as the victims may even beg for support. Some of these victims are robbed off their business start-up capitals, others with huge investments; these make a lot of business owners go bankrupt because the only income that could keep their businesses running are forcibly taken away from them. It could also be deduced from the comments that people who fall victim to these acts of interpersonal violence rely on alms and the kindness of others to survive.

A participant who was a victim of armed robbery stated:

I have lost a lot, I couldn't get a place of rent, my landlord keeps chasing me and I have to find a hideout since my rent has expired and I have to pack out. I am not having money on me, my business plans were put on hold and I am totally shattered. I virtually have nothing on me and the little I have saved is what I am using on this police case, transportation and other additional expenses **(Field interview with participant C7, 2022).**

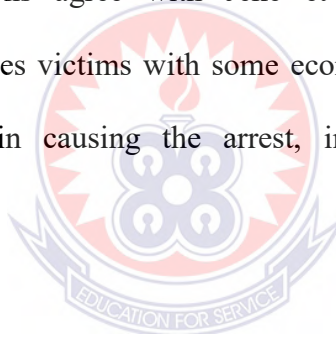
Another participant in his response mentioned:

Perpetrators of this interpersonal violence especially those who engage in armed robbery, always monitor business women, attack and rob them off their business capitals. An incidence like this happened last week where market women were robbed off their money. Armed robbery also put business owners at distressful economic conditions. That is why I always close my store early **(Field interview with participant C6, 2022).**

A participant buttressed the point by saying:

Me, I am a mobile merchant as you can see. The criminals are not allowing us to rest, they are always attacking our business. Just yesterday my friend on the other stretch of the road was robbed and he is now out of capital **(Field interview with participant C8, 2022).**

The comments above reveal that the act of interpersonal violence in one way or the other has reduced the economic gains of businesses in the Kasoa. In a special case, Mobile Money merchants and big shop owners were said to have been badly affected in this regard. It could be inferred from the comments that for safety of these businesses, the business owners are forced to close earlier than expected. The attending effect is that these business owners experience diminishing returns, they are unable to make the expected profit that they deserve. Also, meaning can be made from the comments that people spend a lot even in ensuring the perpetrators of this interpersonal violence are apprehended as some of the victims indicated that, they spend huge sums of money on transportation to visiting police and other expenses that come with it. It asserts agree with Jeke et al, (2021) who affirmed that, interpersonal violence lives victims with some economic burdens. Thus, victims lose huge sums of money in causing the arrest, investigation and prosecution of perpetrators.



A participant said;

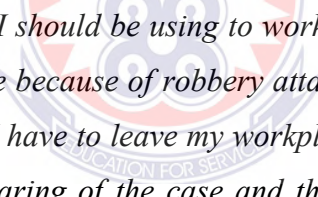
I am a mobile money merchant. The gains or the proceeds of my business and that of Storeowners depend largely on the working hours we spend in transacting our businesses, however, the rampant acts of armed robbery and the murder of Mobile Money merchants and storeowners in Kasoa have grossly affected how we work as most of us now close our businesses very early than expected. This is done for the fear of robbery attacks on us. The concomitant effect is that, we lose revenue that could have been accrued if we had stayed much longer at work (Field interview with participant C9, 2022).

The researcher inferred from the comment that there is a cut in revenue for some businesses due to various acts of interpersonal violence especially armed robbery within the Kasoa enclave. It was noted that regular attack on businesses is not any

incentive for business owners to stay longer into the evening. Many of these business owners have to close down their stores very early to prevent possible attack of all kinds of interpersonal violence which might led to the loss of working capital. These findings agree with the study of Folorunsho and Rufus (2017)who opined that the occurrence of interpersonal violence always leads to the inefficiency of businesses as their operations are reduced in the attempts to avoid possible attacks from perpetrators of interpersonal violence. This gives further explanation to why business owners like mobile money merchants in Kasoa will reduce their working hours and close early than they use to.

The study unveiled the fact that productive or work hours of victims are spent on issues of seeking justice.

A participant states:



Now, see, the time I should be using to work for money is what I am spending here with the police because of robbery attack onme. Now that the perpetrator has been arrested I have to leave my workplaces and go through the litigation process for fair hearing of the case and this certainly has a huge economic implication on meand my business (Field interview with participant C9, 2022).

One of the participants also added:

The money I am spending in this situation has put me in difficult economic position. I have spent a lot on medical care and on transportation for medical checkups and reviews. I have to spend money on transportation to the police station whenever I have been invited by the police (Field interview with participant C7, 2022).

It emerged from the above comments that there are many financial expenses that victims have to make aftermath the bizarre circumstances of interpersonal violence against them. These include; seeking of medical care after the incidence of

interpersonal violence and visiting the police for investigation and apprehension of the perpetrators. This development delays their time and also takes them away from their business.

It could be inferred from the above comments that, acts of interpersonal violence put a huge financial burden on those who fall victim to it. When there are pains from physical harms, victims spend huge sums of money to seek medical treatment. It could also be deduced from the study that when some of these victims incur varying degrees of physical harms, they are unable to go by their normal day-to-day activities from which they make a living. The effect therefore is that, the entire household suffers the economic consequences thereof.

These findings confirmed a study by Eidell and Ellis (2010) who stated that victims who suffer physical injury incur huge cost for their medical treatment. Such costs may include; emergency transportation and payment for medications as well as other incidental charges and that, victims who may be disabled by the violent act may also lose wages due to incapacitation. Families who also lost their loved one also incur huge financial burden in burial expenses.

4.2.3 Health Dimension

It emerged from the study that, there is a connection between interpersonal violence and the health security of victims. The participants stressed on the fact that, interpersonal violence has so much psychological and emotional effect on the victims. Victims of interpersonal violence especially, rape, armed robbery, assault, etc. go through a lot of psycho-emotional stress.

A Participant stated:

Most victims find it difficult to let go of the horrendous situation in which they found themselves. The incidences of interpersonal violence live with them even

throughout their live time and this affects their way of life and how they react to situations around them (Field interview with participant P1, 2022).

Another participant stated:

When people are physically hurt and assaulted, they sometimes live with life time health complications. Depending on the kind of harm, the victims may face a lot of short and long term health implications. (Field interview with participant A1, 2022).

These comments suggest that, interpersonal violence of any kind does not leave the victims with only financial or monetary consequences, but also, victims in most cases battle for their health when they suffer attacks both physically and emotionally from interpersonal violence especially through physical assault and armed robbery. It could be deduced from the comments that, victims are left with complicated health conditions, some throughout their lifetime. The researcher also inferred from the comments that, the attack of the victims has some psychological implications on them. They tend to detach or isolate themselves from the public and also exhibit signs of mental instability depending on the severity of the violence they suffered.

These findings of the study agree with the study by Jackson and Gouseti (2015), who opine that, the act of interpersonal violence poses a short and long-term emotional and psychological effect on the victims. The health impacts include physical injuries, shock, confusion, fear and anger.

A participant who was attacked with knife resulting in the cut on his neck stated:

I bled profusely and I still feel the pains. It has affected how I turn my neck, how I talk and even how I eat (Field interview with participant C5, 2022).

A victim whose husband was also kidnapped hold strong affirmation on the influence of interpersonal violence on the health dimension of human security. The participant said:

Look at me, I was not like this. This incident has put me in this current state. I have to be forcefully taken to seek medical attention because at some point, I use to talk to myself like a mentally derailed person. I was traumatized and was even diagnosed of having high blood pressure (Field interview with participant C4, 2022).

Another participant said:

Physical attacks on victims of interpersonal violence leave them with some deformities that they have to live with for the rest of their lives (Field interview with participant A2, 2022).

The above comments connote how the health of victims is implicated in incidences of interpersonal violence. It could be inferred from the comments above that some victims get exposed harmful conditions of interpersonal violence. Some people are exposed to other excruciating health conditions; these are conditions that these victims may sadly have to endure in their entire life.

It could also be inferred from the comments that interpersonal violence has the potency of leading to the loss of life of victims depending on the severity of the harm inflicted on the persons. These findings of the study on health dimension were concretized by the study of Rivara, Adhia, Lyons, Massey, Mills, Morgan, Simckesand Rowhani-Rahbar (2019) who believe that some of the victims of interpersonal violence go through some post-traumatic stress disorders which are very debilitating to their state of health including increased incidences of depression, anxiety, suicide, increase risk of cardiovascular disease and premature mortality.

4.2.4 Community Dimension

The study revealed that the impact of interpersonal violence is also felt by the communities where they are perpetrated. It was mentioned that the entire community becomes insecure for the dwellers when interpersonal violence is recurring in a community.

A participant stated:

People become furious about the state of security and are very anxious over the likelihood of suffering the same fate just as the victims of interpersonal violence (Field interview with participant P1, 2022).

Another participant mentioned:

When there is an increasing rate of interpersonal violence, the entire community lives in the state of fear, insecurity and anxiety in as much as members of the community see themselves as the next targets of these offenders (Field interview with participant M, 2022).

The comments above suggest that the community takes its share of the suffering when there are incidences of interpersonal violence. The researcher deduced from the comments that there is a general security threat in communities where there are incidences of interpersonal violence. People living in such communities feel unsafe and are always restless because they feel the security system is compromised and they can easily fall victims to interpersonal violence activities. This finding affirms the study of Fowler, Tompsett, Braciszewski, Jacques-Tiura and Baltes (2009) who reiterated that there is a strong link between interpersonal violence and how communities are affected by it. Interpersonal violence impedes community safety, people's willingness to participate in community events and viability of businesses.

A participant added that;

People are philanthropist in their communities; they pay school fees of children, pay medical bills and also give monies as startup capital to people to venture into all kinds of businesses, apprenticeship and job opportunities in both the public and private sectors. They also embark on other developmental projects in their communities, so when they fall victims to any form of interpersonal violence, especially murder, the entire community may feel the emptiness and this may lead to the underdevelopment of the community (Field interview with participant T2, 2022).

The comment above suggests that interpersonal violence retards the development of communities in diverse ways. It could be inferred from the comments that everyone in the community contributes his or her little to the development of the community and once they fall victim to interpersonal violence, their role is missing and this could result in underdevelopment. It could also be deduced from the comments that, sometimes, victims to interpersonal violence are people who play some major roles to ensuring the development of their communities. Thus, they give scholarships to students to further their education; they help in the provision of social amenities to their communities, to mention but few. It could also be inferred that victims of interpersonal violence find it difficult to make any positive impact towards the development of their communities.

The study found that the incidence of interpersonal violence has left a bad dint and a huge indictment on the image of Kasoa.

A participant submitted by stating:

The perpetration of interpersonal violence has tarnished the image of the town. Armed robbery has brought the name "Kasoa" into disrepute. People now see Kasoa as an unsafe place. This has scared some people away from investing in Kasoa (Field interview with participant T1, 2022).

A participant also stated:

When there is too much incidence of interpersonal violence in the community like that, everyone becomes careful to the extent that they try to be very much protective of themselves. They end up inflicting more incidence of interpersonal violence. This makes the community very unsafe to live in (Field interview with participant P3, 2022).

These comments suggest that, whenever there are incidences of interpersonal violence, the image of such communities in which they occur are tarnished. Inferences could be drawn from the comments that the occurrence of interpersonal violence make is unattractive for many people to come and either stay or make investment in such communities. The bad name given to the communities out of interpersonal violence draws the developmental agenda on such communities back. Such communities are just not safe to live or invest in.

It was also evidenced from the study that interpersonal violence negatively affected communities where they occur. The study revealed that, communities noted for rampant interpersonal violence suffer retardation in terms of development. It could also be inferred from the comments that, due to the recurrent of interpersonal violence, people become over-protective. They choose to inflict pains on others as a way of escaping attacks from them. This makes the community unsafe and makes it more prone to further incidences of interpersonal violence. This assertions found by the study agree with the views of Folorunsho and Rufus (2017) who espouse that the occurrence of interpersonal violence negatively affects the entry of business to communities in which such incidences of interpersonal violence occur. This gives further explanation to the fact that violence prone areas are not fertile for businesses, hence, will not be attractive for any investor to invest in. They added that interpersonal

violence affects business climate and de-motivates business owners to open businesses in such areas.

Another participant who fell victim to fraud stated:

I use to assist the women with soft loans to cushion their businesses, now that he duped me of a whopping Six Thousand and Six Hundred Ghana cedis, GHC6,600.00, I will not be able to help the women and this will bring down their businesses and also affect the development of the community (Field interview with participant C2, 2022).

A participant also mentioned:

People who fell victims to interpersonal violence may not want to remain in such communities, they move away from the communities to find security elsewhere. This also brings underdevelopment to the said communities since the victims loss confidence in the communities and have move with their investments and others which could have inured to the development of the communities (Field interview with participant T1, 2022).

It could be deduced from the above comments that some persons who are victims to interpersonal violence offer various forms of assistance to other people with the prime focus of ensuring the growth and development of the communities. Some of them give loan facilities to support businesses in the bid to generate more revenue and help in the development of the community. When these people are being robbed off their money, they are unable to help in boosting businesses of others and the short and long-term effects are that, businesses collapse and communities get underdeveloped.

It was also inferred from the comments that, since the security of these communities are threatened, investors withdraw their investment and also move out of such communities, these actions by investors have their own attending effects on the community, social intervention by these investors are taken away and the resultant effect is that, the developmental drive in those communities are left on their knees.

The findings of the study agree with McDaniel (2012) who opined that the recurring acts of interpersonal violence within a community heighten the fear and insecurity amongst the community dwellers. It was indicated from the study that, the incidence of interpersonal violence hardens the youth and grooms them to become violent in all instances so they do not become victims in interpersonal violence circumstances they found themselves.

4.2.5 Political Dimension

From the study, the political dimension of human security has witnessed a mixed reaction and divergent views and varying thoughts amongst the participants. The study found that the effects of interpersonal violence on a victims' participation in political activities are not absolute but are subjectively relative. Political dimension dwells much on people's involvement in decision making and participation in community activities. It is dependent of the form of interpersonal violence which is unleashed on the victims as some of the interpersonal violence get people more involved in participating in political activities whilst others turn people away from engaging or involving themselves in political activities. The study brought to light that the interpersonal violence inflicted on victims does not really affect their participation but rather draws them closer to participate in community activities.

A participant who fell victim to armed robbery stated:

This cannot stop me from participating in community activities and decision making; I will rather integrate myself very well into participating in decision making activities of the community so I can enjoy maximum protection and recognition from the community and also help in making decisions that protect me and others (Field interview with participant C5, 2022).

Another participant who also fell victim to interpersonal violence stated:

With my experience as a victim of armed robbery, I am rather awakened to ensure my participating in political activities for the entire community to know that I am one of them (Field interview with participant C2, 2022).

The comments above suggest that, victims of interpersonal violence are not deterred from participating in political activities of their communities; rather, they capitalize on their victimization to actively in the activities of the community. Meaning could also be made from the comment that victims think they were attacked because of poor decisions and action taken by their leaders and also because they were not known in the community; these give them the reason to commit themselves in taking part in communities' activities and decision making so they can be protected from incidence of interpersonal violence.

On the contrary, other victims opined that the horrifying experiences they had, shy them away from being engrossed and actively participating in community activities.

A participant stated:

I became a victim to armed robbery, and I feel the community didn't really support in my call for help so I am reserve in associating with the community in terms of activities (Field interview with participant C1, 2022).

Another participant says that:

I was assaulted right here but many of the community members were just onlookers in my ordeal situation, so I have advice myself. I prefer not to engage in any of their activities since they didn't see the need to come to my rescue (Field interview with participant C5, 2022).

Inferences could be drawn from the comments that, the experiences and the impacts of interpersonal violence deter people from participating in political activities within their communities, this is primarily on the ground that, some of this victims feel they

do not enjoy any support from the community and therefore do not see the need to be part of the communities activities. The comments agree with the assertion Waters, Hyder, Rajkotia, Basu & Butchart (2005) who found that, violence cause victims to show less interest in social activities and also make them to isolate themselves from others as they perceive themselves to be alien to the communities in which they are in. Ralph (2006) agrees stating that the social and psychological effects of interpersonal violence on the victims make them to lose interest in social activities of their communities; including less participation in local affairs and mistrust for neighbours and less collaboration with others.

4.2.6 Food Dimension

The study uncovered that; the occurrence of interpersonal violence has many implications with regards to availability of food and food supply. It was noted that, even though generally food is in supply since this is just an interpersonal violence occurring between two individuals or relatively small group of persons, food security is still threatened.

A participant who fell victim to fraud mentioned:

Now I struggle to feed myself since he has defrauded me of the money I have on me. I barely feed if I don't call my families to send my some money which also delays **(Field interview with participant C4, 2022).**

Another participant stated:

People who lost their properties and monies may be deprived of their right to food for themselves and their families since they don't have the money to buy food **(Field interview with participant P2, 2022).**

The study also discovered that foods vendors also close early than expected due to the fear of armed robbery, this results to difficulty in the supply of food.

One of the participants also added:

There are some places here in Kasoa, from 6:30pm you will not get food to buy. By 6:30pm some of the vendors might have closed because they don't want anybody to come and attack them and take their money from them. So, we sometimes have to go hungry till the next day (Field interview with participant A1, 2022).

A participant who is a food vender stated:

First, I use to stay here till 9:00 pm but the armed robbery on this road is becoming rampant so now, I make sure I close by 6:00pm. I don't want to lose this little money to armed robbery, my family needs me, I will not waste my life because of this petty food vending (Field interview with participant C8, 2022).

The comments above point to the fact that, people who suffer interpersonal violence especially armed robbery find it difficult to fend for themselves, most especially in the quest to feed themselves and their families. It could be deduced from the comments that most often when these people are robbed, their monies are taken away from them and this hinders their ability to feed themselves and families, this affects their food security. It could also be inferred from the comments that, because of the fear of attacks, some food vendors in some areas of Kasoa township close very early in the evening. The result is that people in some vicinities of Kasoa do not get food to buy in the night, this has some toll on the food security of people living in Kasoa. A study in the "International Journal of Economics, Commerce and Management" titled *Crime and Business in Nigerian Urban Centers: An Empirical Investigation of the Nexus* by Okorie and Ezeoke (2016) sheds light on the adverse effects of crime on small businesses, including food vendors. The study found that criminal activities, such as robberies and theft, have led to a decline in economic activities and the closure of

businesses earlier than usual in order to avoid becoming victims of crime. This study confirms influence of crime on the behavior of food vendors, prompting them to close early and avoid staying out late at night to mitigate the risk of criminal incidents.

4.2.7 Environmental Dimension

The study found that, there is no direct effect of interpersonal violence on the natural environment. The environment is mostly destroyed in protracted and intractable violent conflicts where there is mass killing and destruction of the environment including the pollution of the air and water bodies as well as land degradation.

4.3 Stakeholders' Reacting to Interpersonal Violence In Kasoa

In this section, the study sought to understand how the various stakeholders in Kasoa are responding to the incidence of interpersonal violence in the communities. From the analysis of data, it emerged that the stakeholders (Ghana Police Service, member of the Municipal Security Council, Traditional Authority, Assembly Members) are responding to interpersonal violence by taking some security measures or actions, public education and sensitization, social and economic interventions as well as the taking of rapid prosecutorial actions. These responses are well captured below.

4.3.1 Security Measures

The study revealed that the stakeholders have taken various security measures targeting incidence of interpersonal violence in Kasoa. As a way of reacting to the hiking incidence of interpersonal violence in Kasoa, attempts were made to ensure police visibility in Kasoa.

A participant who is a police officer stated:

Where I am now is a newly commissioned police station in Ofaako–Jei River. It was commissioned to help curb interpersonal violence in this area and you

can see it is very close to the Municipal Assembly. At first, the rate of interpersonal violence was high. It was difficult for people to move all the way to the Divisional Police Command to report cases of interpersonal violence. Now the presence of the police station here has helped in checking interpersonal violence in the area (Field interview with participant P2, 2022).

Another participant also mentioned:

The Ghana Police Service has liaised with the various communities to form community watchdog members to augment the efforts of the Ghana Police Service in various communities in Kasoa (Field interview with participant P1, 2022).

One of the chiefs also stated:

We have also been able to liaise with the GPS to ensure the rate of interpersonal violence is reduced to its minimum. Also, we institutionalized a community check taskforce to ensure the security of the citizens in their communities (Field interview with participant T2, 2022).

Inferences could be drawn from the comments above that, attempts are being made by the security services to respond to interpersonal violence in Kasoa. The comments suggest that the Ghana Police Service has taken frantic steps to beef up their visibility in the Kasoa township in the bid to curb the occurrence of interpersonal violence. Also, the comments pointed that arrangement were made to supplement the effort of the police with other security establishments such as the community police and the taskforce.

The study also found that, as part of the reactions to interpersonal violence, the Ghana Police Service within Kasoa enclave has its patrol team on night patrols.

A police officer stated:

Our men are always on patrols both day and night. The team interrogates unusual scenes in the night and in the day to ensure the safety of the citizens. They make arrest when it must be done and this has also helped in reducing the increasing wave of interpersonal violence within the Kasoa enclave (Field interview with participant P2, 2022).

The MUSEC chairperson stated:

The Municipal Assembly is in the process of procuring extra motor bikes to argument what has been given by the Member of Parliament in a form of logistics to aid police visibility in the Kasoa township (Field interview with participant M, 2022).

The comments suggest that, major stakeholders are committed to fighting against interpersonal violence in Kasoa. The police administration has provided some logistics to intensify their patrols, same as the Member of Parliament for Awutu Senya East. This could mean that once there are police patrols, attempts to indulge in interpersonal violence will be reduced as the law enforcement agency is always around to check and apprehend the perpetrators of interpersonal violence.

Another security measure that the Ghana Police Service in Kasoa took was to call for support from other divisions of the service to beef up and intensify security within the enclaves of Kasoa.

One of the police officers had this to say:

The Ghana Police Service has introduced a joint team which drew personnel from Accra, Cape Coast and Kasoa Divisions of the police service to take up operations and patrols including many other security duties on rotational basis (Field interview with participant P3, 2022).

The chairperson of the MUSEC and MCE stated:

Ghana Police Management Board has created a Regional Command in Kasoa. This initiative implies beefing up the presence of the police since more personnel will be assigned to ensure security in Kasoa is not compromised (Field interview with participant M, 2022).

Another participant who is a police officer also said:

Kasoa now has two Police divisions. Giving the status of a Regional Command is a great move because the Regional Command status means more logistics, thus; vehicles, arms and others accoutrements, will be brought to Kasoa. Now there are also patrol vehicles from the 2 Divisions and vehicles from the Regional Command. There is also the supply of more arms to the GPS in Kasoa. This has helped in putting the interpersonal violence situation in Kasoa under control (Field interview with participant P2, 2022).

As part of the security measures, the study also found that, the GPS in Kasoa has formed an intelligence team in the bid to curb the happenings of interpersonal violence in Kasoa.

An officer of the Ghana Police Service, Kasoa Divisional Command stated:

The Police Service in Kasoa has instituted an intelligence team. Members of the team dress like ordinary citizens but are police operatives. They are tasked with the responsibility to move within the Kasoa township and pick intelligence on any conspiracy to commit any form of interpersonal violence and relay same to the Criminal Investigation Department (CID) of the police command for swift actions (Field interview with participant P1, 2022).

It could be inferred from the above comments that the Police Service, as part of its security intervention, has given Kasoa a Regional Command status. Its implication could be that there will be the deployment of more personnel and the additions of more security installation to intensify security in Kasoa. It could also be inferred from the comments that the Ghana Police Service in Kasoa has also instituted its own

intelligence team which is strategically placed within some catchment areas to pick intelligence on plans to commit interpersonal violence within Kasoa. This initiative has a higher possibility of reducing the rate of interpersonal violence in Kasoa.

4.3.2 Public Education and Sensitization

It has emerged from the study that the stakeholders have taken the measure to educate and sensitize the public on security and safety precautions. A participant from the Ghana Police Service in Kasoa had this to say:

We are not able to organize citizens for the purpose of safety education by ourselves. Rather, the Police service attends public programmes, durbars and other forums to give security briefing and also educate the public on some security tips **(Field interview with participant P3, 2022).**

Another participant from the GPS stated:

Yes, we educate them, for example we tell vehicle owners to drive to the nearest police station when they suspect some groups of people are chasing their vehicles. Sometimes too, we sensitize and educate victims and complainants of interpersonal violence on safety precautions whenever they come to report cases of interpersonal violence to the police **(Field interview with participant P1, 2022).**

It could be deduced from the comments above that, education and sensitization on safety arrangements play a crucial role in curbing incidence of interpersonal violence. Stakeholders engage the various communities to give security tips. The comments also suggest that these public sensitization is not only left under the auspices of the security agencies, especially the Ghana Police Service rather, other stakeholders leverage on the incidences of interpersonal violence that they are aware of to educate the public.

The study also found that the MUSEC has also been working with its allied security agencies and institutions to educate and sensitize people residing in Kasoa on safety measures.

The Municipal Chief Executive (MCE) who doubles as the chairperson for the Municipal Security Council (MUSEC) stated:

The Security Council holds consistent engagements with the Landlords Association on how well to act and keep Kasoa free from interpersonal violence since they are the ones who give out their apartments to people who sometimes turn out to be perpetrators of interpersonal violence in the communities. There have also been education and sensitization programmes going on in schools and community gatherings on how to curb the occurrence of interpersonal violence in Kasoa (Field interview with participant M, 2022).

The study also discovered that education was also done on issues of immigration since Kasoa has become a habitat for foreigners. The chairperson of the MUSEC stated:

The Immigration Service in Kasoa also educates the people on the issues bothering on the presence of foreigners in Kasoa and also gives them tips on what to do if they notice a foreigner misbehaving in the communities (Field interview with participant M, 2022).

One of the assembly members said:

As a way of educating my people on their security, I use my van to move around my community and give them information pertaining to how to keep their things safely and why they should avoid staying late in town at night before going home. I also give them phone numbers they could reach out to whenever they notice any security attack on them (Field interview with participant A1, 2022).

These comments speak to the fact that, education and sensitization is pertinent to curbing the occurrence of interpersonal violence. It could also be deduced from the comments that once people are given constant education and sensitization, they become well informed and security conscious. They are thus, exposed to possible ways to ensuring their personal safety and security.

4.3.3 Social Interventions

The study found that, there are some social interventions that the stakeholders have put in place as an intervention to curb interpersonal violence in Kasoa. It was revealed that the chiefs have instituted a scheme to award well behaved citizens and best performing students in their academic pursuit.

One of the chiefs stated:

We put up award scheme where we award and honour the youth who are of good behaviour and who have excelled in their examinations. This is done to encourage education amongst the youth in the communities and also instill morals in them (Field interview with participant T1, 2022).

The comment above suggests that social supports and interventions could help avert the menace of interpersonal violence in Kasoa. It could be inferred from the comment that, rewarding people for their up-right behaviour becomes an incentive and a source of motivation for them to keep up good behaviour and also awaken others to live a morally accepted lifestyle. Center for Disease Control and Prevention (2019), has espoused that good behaviours are likely to be repeated when they are rewarded. It was indicated that rewards have the potency of increasing one's self-esteem and also boost ones quest to put up an upright or good behaviour.

It was also noted from the study that, the GPS has also been expediting actions to ensure that possessions that were stole are retrieved and given back to their owners. The GPS has also been collaborating with victims to apprehend perpetrators. A participant stated:

The GPS has played a vital role in helping to retrieve the money that I was defrauded of. The police have really been helpful to me. When I came, the police officers were willing to go with me to the man's place for investigation and to arrest him. They are always there to help the community if only you contact them (Field interview with participant C5, 2022).

The comment above could mean that, swift response by stakeholders to dealing with incidence of interpersonal violence could help reduce it in the communities. The willingness of the police to assist victims has been a great response to curbing interpersonal violence. It could also be deduced that stakeholder concern in issues of interpersonal violence and their cordial relationship with victims can also fasten the effort to ensuring apprehension of perpetrators of interpersonal violence. One of the chiefs stated:

We try as much to mobilize the youth and give them advise and counseling on how to live decently and stay away from indulging in interpersonal violence of all kinds (Field interview with participant T2, 2022).

The researcher deduced from the comment that, sometimes all that people need is someone to give them counseling or advice. Being counseled or given advice could help prevent people from indulging in acts of interpersonal violence. It could also draw people away from joining bad companies and being influenced by the delinquent peers who could influence and motivate them into committing several acts of interpersonal violence. This buttresses Keith's (2017) assertion that talking to people and assisting them to think and decide on challenges that confront them and the

problems they face could help them change their minds on committing any form of interpersonal violence.

4.3.4 Economic Intervention

The study found that the stakeholders have introduced some economic measures to ameliorate the economic condition of the people in order to curb incidences of interpersonal violence which are born out of difficult economic conditions.

The chairperson of the MUSEC stated:

Economic factors are the principal factors that induce people to perpetrate various forms of interpersonal violence on others, so we have taken few steps to address the issues of unemployment. We have identified dams within the communities in the Kasoa and we are lobbying the Ministry of Fishery and aqua culture through the Member of Parliament who doubles as the sector Minister to help the youth who have interest in fish farming. This will be a source of livelihood for them **(Field interview with participant M, 2022).**

As part of the economic interventions to curb incidences of interpersonal violence, one of the assembly members stated:

I have instituted free apprenticeship programme for 50 youth living within my jurisdiction. Attempts were made to engage some Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) to provide skills training for people from financially distressed homes in hairdressing, tailoring, decoration, as well as training some of them who have interest in becoming beauticians **(Field interview with participant A2, 2022).**

The chairperson of the MUSEC also stated:

The agricultural department of the Municipal Assembly is also training and educating the youth about organic farming. This is to introduce the youth to various modern ways by which farming can be done **(Field interview with participant M, 2022).**

The Chairperson of MUSEC also mentioned:

The Municipality is also optimistic in readiness that the YouStart flagship programme which will soon be rollout will provide various forms of employment opportunities and sources of livelihood to the youth in Kasoa. All these will help alleviate hardship and bring down the ballooning rate of unemployment and also help to check interpersonal violence at last (Field interview with participant M, 2022).

The comments suggest that, the initiation of some economic interventions could be the prerequisite to curbing and checking the occurrence of interpersonal violence within the Kasoa enclave. It could also be deduced from the comments that, once the people are exposed to economic opportunities and are economically empowered, they are less likely to indulge in some major forms of interpersonal violence in the communities since they are put in the position to make a living from what they do and also eschew the company of bad influences since they are grossly engaged by their economic activities. These findings sided with the study of Akinyede, Tohozin and Toko (2021) which found that, the provision of job opportunity and skills training to economically vulnerables in the society help in providing better wages, job security and better access to self-development schemes. Their study revealed that these economic arrangements tend to limit the likelihood of their involvement in perpetrating acts of interpersonal violence.

4.3.5 Improved Prosecutorial Measures

The study found that, in reacting to the incidences of interpersonal violence, the Ghana Police Service is fast-tracking measures to ensure perpetrators and are processed for court, and other prosecutorial measures rapidly instituted.

A participant stated:

The GPS, Kasoa has now initiated frantic step to process perpetrators to court in order to face full recourse of their actions as compared to the past. This is helping to build trust and confidence in the police service (Field interview, 2022).

The comment above suggests that, the occurrence of interpersonal violence could be addressed in Kasoa if prosecutorial measures are rapidly put into force. It could be deduced from the comment that the Ghana Police Service in Kasoa, unlike before, are concerned with ensuring timely arraignment of perpetrators of interpersonal violence to face the recourse of their actions. This has rejuvenated the trust and the coordination between the police and the citizens of Kasoa and it is a good sign to curbing interpersonal violence in Kasoa. This finding reaffirms the study of Gaduga (2022) which revealed that the rapid response to incidence of interpersonal violence by the police and judicial system and the attempt to apprehend and punish offender or perpetrators reduce the incentive for individual to commit various forms of interpersonal violence.

4.4 Summary

This chapter of the study presented an analysis of data on the inducers of interpersonal violence in Kasoa, its implications on human security and the reactions of stakeholders. The study found that, the occurrence of interpersonal violence in Kasoa were induced by some economic factors, drug use, peer influence, situational factors, the dismissal of trained security personnel, family background, presence of foreign nationals, community influence, lack of formal education, get-rich-quick tendency and psychological state of individuals. The study also revealed that interpersonal violence in Kasoa has implications on six (6) of the seven (7) dimensions of human

security namely, personal security, economic security, community security, political security, health security, food security. It also emerged from the study that stakeholders employed frequent patrols, timely investigation and prosecution, public education and sensitization on safety tips and social and economic interventions as measures to help in curbing the occurrence of interpersonal violence in the study locality.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the summary, conclusions and recommendations to the study. The chapter gave a brief on the procedural steps that the study followed in meeting its objectives. The chapter also detailed some key issues in the various chapters from Chapter One to Chapter Four. Chapter One highlights the introduction of the study, stating the background and the statement of the problem, the purpose for which the study was conducted, the objectives of the study as well as the various research questions that guided the study. Chapter Two discusses the literature review while Chapter Three was devoted to the methodological processes which the study adopted. Chapter Four discusses the findings of the study.

5.1 Summary

Chapter One captures the purpose of the study which sought to explore perspectives on implications of interpersonal violence on human security in Kasoa. The study designed three (3) research objectives to help in achieving the purpose for which the study was conducted. The objectives included; exploring the inducers of interpersonal violence in Kasoa, ascertaining the implications of interpersonal violence on human security in Kasoa and examining the stakeholder reactions to interpersonal violence in Kasoa. The research questions that guided the study were; what are the inducers of interpersonal violence in Kasoa? How does interpersonal violence affect human security in Kasoa? and, How are stakeholders reacting to interpersonal violence in Kasoa?

Chapter Two focused on the review of related literature that was relevant to the study. The literature review was in two sections, the first strand was dedicated to present a theoretical framework which was used to confirm the existence of the problem and how applicable the theory was to the study. A theory and a model guided the study; thus, the study employed John Burton's (1990) Human Needs theory and the Social Ecological Model by Dahlberg and Krug (2002). The Human Needs theory by Burton (1990) explains how violence ensues when humans are unable to meet their basic needs. The human needs theory according to John Burton was inspired by the postulations of Abraham Maslow which revealed that when human beings are not exposed to the possibilities of meeting their needs and attaining their goals, there is high potency that they will indulge in violent and illegitimate means to meet their demands. Burton (1990) human needs theory looked beyond the mere human needs recorded by Abraham Maslow to include the individual's ability to assert his or her freedom, assured of personal safety and security, cultural security, distributive justice and participation, amongst others. The study also employed the Social Ecological Model to support John Burton's (1990) Human Needs theory. The Social Economic Model by Dahlberg and Krug (2002) postulated that there are some levels of factors that influence the ways the individual acts in the society or community. These factors include the individual level, the relational level, the community level and the societal level. There are conditions or situations at each level that force individuals to take certain decisions which will mean inflicting pain on others to gain one's fulfillment and actualization. The findings of the study confirmed the applicability of the theory and the model in the study. The second section of the literature review presented an empirical review of literature which covered the concept of violence, the concept of human security, human security and human rights, sustainable development goals and

human security, the nexus between interpersonal violence and human security, factors contributing to interpersonal violence, the implications of interpersonal violence on human security, and stakeholder reactions to interpersonal violence.

The Third Chapter discussed the methodological procedures that were employed by the study. The study adopted the interpretivist philosophical paradigm. Taking cognizance of the research paradigm, the study employed the qualitative approach to have an in-depth understanding of the phenomenon which the study sought to explore and to also generate first-hand information from the research participants. The study also used the case study design to critically ascertain the dynamics of the situation in Kasoa. The population of the study included victims of interpersonal violence, the Ghana Police Service, the chair of the Municipal Security Council, the Assembly Members, mobile money merchants, storeowners and chiefs of Kasoa. Purposive and convenient sampling techniques were used to sample participants for the study. The purposive sampling technique was used to sample stakeholders for the study whilst the convenience sampling technique was used to sample victims and food vendors, mobile money merchants and storeowners. Data saturation which is considered as the gold standard was used to sample participants for the study. A semi-structured interview guide was designed to elicit information from the participants on the objectives that the study sought to achieve. The chapter also stated the data analysis method and procedures. The thematic analysis method was used to analysis data. The chapter also stated the positionality of the research and highlighted the ethical issues that were observed in the study.

The chapter four of the study presented analysis on the data collected for the study. The analysis was done in line with the research objectives. Chapter Five highlights the key findings as below;

5.2 Major Findings

The following were the major findings that emerged from the study:

- (i) The inducers that emerged from the study included the following; economic factors; unemployment or lack of jobs, hardship and economic meltdown, drug use, peer influence, situational factors, the dismissal of trained security personnel, family background; the lack of parental control, neglect, child labour, domestic violence, etc., presence of foreign nationals, community influence, lack of formal education, get-rich-quick tendency and psychological state of individuals, as evidenced in the chapter four of the study.
- (ii) The interpersonal violence has serious human security implications on six (6) of the seven (7) dimensions of human security: personal security, economic security, community security, political security, health security, food security. It was revealed from the study that interpersonal violence does not have any direct and major implications on the environment.
- (iii) It emerged from the study that the stakeholders; Ghana Police Service, the Municipal Security Council, Chiefs and Assembly Members are responding to interpersonal violence in several ways. The study found that the stakeholders have put in place some security measures or actions including provision of security logistics, constant patrols by the police, deployment of more police personnel to Kasoa, building of new police stations, giving Kasoa a Regional Police Command, formation of taskforce and Intelligence Team, etc., public education and sensitization on safety tips and precautions, social intervention

such as the provision of award schemes and good working relations with the police and victims) and economic interpersonal interventions including apprenticeship, opportunity for youth in fish farming and organic farming as well as the taking of rapid prosecutorial actions. These have been rolled out to address the menace of interpersonal violence.

5.3 Conclusions

From the findings of the study, the following conclusions were reached:

- (i) Except for drug use and family background of perpetrators, it could be concluded that economic conditions stand out as the principal inducing factor for the perpetration of interpersonal violence in Kasoa, this is because it was evidenced from the findings that, all other factors such as dismissal of trained personnel, situational factors, presence of foreign nationals, get-rich-tendency, etc., were all influenced by the economic conditions of the perpetrators of the various forms of interpersonal violence.
- (ii) It could also be concluded from the findings that, interpersonal violence has a lot of dire consequences on six (6) of the seven (7) dimensions of human security of victims. Human beings are denied the right to assert their freedom and wellbeing when interpersonal violence erupts, many lives are lost, others with challenging health conditions and economic conditions that cripple their quest for self-fulfillment and actualization.
- (iii) It could be concluded that, despite the reactions and attempts that stakeholders are making, there are still profound incidences of interpersonal violence in Kasoa. This implies that, the reactions and attempts of stakeholders are not extremely effective and sufficient in responding to incidences of interpersonal violence in Kasoa.

5.6 Recommendation

Based on the conclusions of the study, the following recommendations were made to help in curbing the incidence of interpersonal violence in Kasoa;

- (i) The researcher recommends that stakeholders should create more job avenues and economic opportunities for the youth, both in the public or private sectors for economic empowerment of the youth, especially. Attempts should be made to liaise with Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) to provide skills training and apprenticeship programmes for people from financial distressed homes. Government should also give much attention to developing National Technical Vocational Training so that the youth especially school drops and those who have not attained any formal education will be able to acquire the technical trainings in craftsmanship and artisanal skills in order to generate enough income to care for themselves and their families as this will help alleviate poverty and ameliorate the economic conditions of the people and also help in reducing the occurrence of interpersonal violence in Kasoa.

The researcher recommends that other stakeholders such as the Narcotics Control Board (NACOB) should also collaborate with the MUSEC and GPS to put in place some stringent measures to regulate the sale and use of illicit drugs within the Kasoa enclave. Attempts should also be made to educate parents on some good and practical parenting practices since family background was identified as an inducer of interpersonal violence in Kasoa.

- (ii) The researcher also recommends that, Human Security should be incorporated in the school curriculum at all levels of education, thus; from the basic level to the tertiary level. This is to help in exposing students to what human security is about, its benefit for individual, community and national development as well

as the negative implications of interpersonal violence and possible strengthening of Human Security. Aside, the National Commission on Civic Education should promote public education and sensitization on human security and interpersonal violence.

(iii) The researcher recommends that, stakeholder should intensify the measures they are putting in place to curb interpersonal violence in Kasoa. The Government should resource the GPS enough to be able to combat interpersonal violence in all areas of Kasoa. All police stations should be given a vehicle to ensure police visibility in all areas at all times in order to ease their delivery of service. Also the government through the GPS should fast-track measure to ensure the installation of Close Circuit Television (CCTV) or Close Circuit cameras on major streets of Kasoa. There is also the need to revive the community policing in Kasoa. Attempts should also be made to recruit more police assistants for effect community policing. Government should also ensure proper lightening system in Kasoa, thus, there should be street light in all areas in Kasoa, and this will prevent people from hiding in the dark to inflict any form of interpersonal violence on others.

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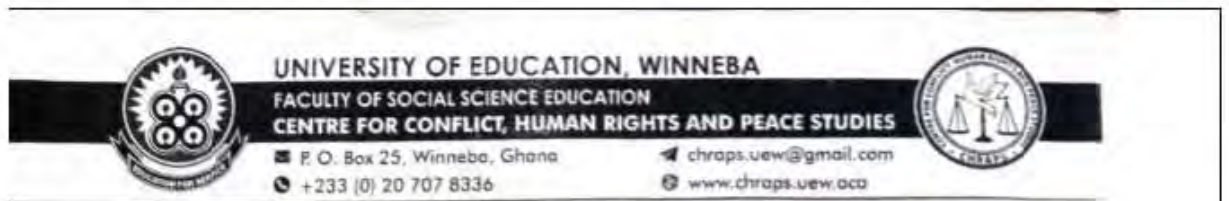
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APPENDIX A



Our Ref: CHRAPS/M.PHIL.44/VOL. 2/8

Your Ref:

24th May, 2022

**Ghana Police Service
Kasoa Regional Command
Kasoa**

Dear Sir,

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

KINGSFORD KWAKU LAVOE - 202122776

We write to introduce to you, Kingsford Kwaku Lavoe with index number 202122776 pursuing Master of Philosophy (M.Phil) in Human Rights, Conflict and Peace Studies at the Centre for Conflict, Human Rights and Peace Studies of the University of Education, Winneba.

He wishes to collect data for his thesis on the topic **"Interpersonal Violence and Its Implication on Human Security in Ghana: A case study of some selected communities in Kasoa"**.

We would be grateful if he is given the needed assistance from your outfit, please.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

**Dr. George Hikah Benson
Ag. Director**

APPENDIX B

INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Dear **Participant**,

I am Kingsford KwakuLavoe, a student from the Centre for Conflict, Human Rights and Peace Studies of the University of Education, Winneba. This interview is to elicit information from you on the topic; **Perspectives on Interpersonal Violence and Its Implication on Human Security in Ghana: A Case Study of Selected Communities of Kasoa in the Central Region of Ghana**. The participants in this interview will be the victims of interpersonal violence in Kasoa, police officers of the Regional Police Command (Kasoa) and the Assembly members of three (3) selected communities in Kasoa, a member of the Municipal Security Council (MUSEC) and the chiefs in Kasoa. The interview is strictly for academic purposes and each participant in this interview session has the prerogative to willingly participate or decline to participate as well as discontinue his or her participation. Be rest assured that your identity, personal information and any sensitive information you will share in this interview will be held anonymous and confidential.

Thank you.

Signature/ Thumb Print of Participant

.....

Date

Signature of Interviewer

.....

Date

APPENDIX C

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Perspectives on Interpersonal Violence and Its Implication on Human Security in Ghana: A Case Study of Selected Communities of Kasoa in the Central Region of Ghana.

VICTIMS OF INTER-PERSONAL VIOLENCE IN KASOA

In this interview, interpersonal violence would mean any armed or contact crime in which a person inflicts violence on the other. The interpersonal violence includes rape, murder or homicide, assault and armed robbery, to mention but few.

Section A: Research Question 1: What are the inducers of interpersonal violence in Kasoa?

1. How did you become a victim of interpersonal violence?
2. In your opinion, how do social factors motivate the perpetrator to inflict this form of interpersonal violence?
3. In your opinion, how do economic factors motivate the perpetrator to inflict this form of interpersonal violence?
4. Does the family background of person influence him their interpersonal violence behaviour?
5. In your view, how does the community of the perpetrator also contribute to the cause of the interpersonal violence?
6. Are there some personal/biological factors that could motivate the people to perpetrate interpersonal violence? If **Yes**, how?
7. Could there be some situational factors that might have caused the perpetrator to inflict the interpersonal violence?

8. Do you think peer-influence contributes to the perpetration of interpersonal violence? If **Yes**, how?
9. What other factors motivate people to unleash interpersonal violence on victims?

SECTION B: Research Question 2: How does interpersonal violence affect human security in Kasoa?

10. How has the Interpersonal Violence affected your personal security?
11. Has the Interpersonal Violence had any economic effect on you? If **Yes**, How?
12. How did the Interpersonal Violence affect your participation in activities of the community?
13. What are some of the implications of the Interpersonal Violence on your health?
14. How has the Interpersonal Violence affected the security of your entire community?
15. Has the Interpersonal Violence affected food supply and availability? If **Yes**, In what way?
16. Has the Interpersonal Violence in anyway led to the destruction of the environment? If **Yes**, How?

SECTION C: Research Question 3: How are stakeholders reacting to Interpersonal Violence in Kasoa?

17. What has been the Ghana Police Service's (GPS) response to Interpersonal Violence in Kasoa?
18. In your opinion, has the Ghana Police Service equipped itself to deal with Interpersonal Violence in Kasoa?

19. What actions has the assembly member of this electoral area taken to deal with Interpersonal Violence in the area?
20. What has the traditional authorities also done to deal with interpersonal violence in the area?
21. What measures has the Municipal Assembly taken to deal Interpersonal Violence in the area?
22. Has attempts been made to ensure quick trial of perpetrators of interpersonal violence in the community?
23. Has there been any public sensitisation on personal security in the community?
24. What other attempts have been made to curb interpersonal violence in the community?

Thank you



APPENDIX D

INTERVIEW GUIDE

Perspectives on Interpersonal Violence and Its Implication on Human Security in Ghana: A Case Study of Selected Communities of Kasoa in the Central Region of Ghana.

STAKEHOLDERS

In this interview, interpersonal violence would mean any armed or contact crime in which a person inflicts violent on the other. The interpersonal violence includes rape, murder or homicide, assault and armed robbery, to mention but few.

SECTION A: Research Question 1: What are the inducers of interpersonal violence in Kasoa?

1. In your opinion, how do social factors motivate the perpetrator to inflict this form of interpersonal violence?
2. In your opinion, how do economic factors motivate the perpetrator to inflict this form of interpersonal violence?
3. Does the family background of person influence him their interpersonal violence behaviour?
4. In your view, how does the community of the perpetrator also contribute to the cause of the interpersonal violence?
5. Are there some personal/biological factors that could motivate the people to perpetrate interpersonal violence? If **Yes**, how?
6. Could there be some situational factors that might have caused the perpetrator to inflict the interpersonal violence?

7. Do you think peer-influence contributes to the perpetration of interpersonal violence? If **Yes**, how?
8. What other factors motivate people to unleash interpersonal violence on victims?

SECTION B: Research Question 2: How does interpersonal violence affect human security in Kasoa?

9. How has the Interpersonal Violence affected your personal security?
10. Has the Interpersonal Violence had any economic effect on you? If **Yes**, How?
11. How did the Interpersonal Violence affect your participation in activities of the community?
12. What are some of the implications of the Interpersonal Violence on your health?
13. How has the Interpersonal Violence affected the security of your entire community?
14. Has the Interpersonal Violence affected food supply and availability? If **Yes**, In what way?
15. Has the Interpersonal Violence in anyway led to the destruction of the environment? If **Yes**, How?

SECTION C: Research Question 3: How are stakeholders reacting to International Violence in Kasoa?

GHANA POLICE SERVICE

14. What attempts are been made to ensure police visibility in Kasoa?
15. In your opinion, has the Ghana Police Service equipped itself to deal with Interpersonal Violence in Kasoa? How?

16. Has there been any attempt to educate the public on police-citizen relationships?

17. What other attempts have been made to by the GPS to curb interpersonal violence in Kasoa?

MUNICIPAL SECURITY COUNCIL

18. Has there been any public sensitisation on personal security in the community?

19. What by laws or policies are being put in place to curb Interpersonal Violence in Kasoa?

20. What other interventions have been put in place in by the MUSEC to curb or manage Interpersonal Violence in Kasoa?

ASSEMBLY MEMBER

21. As the grassroots leader, what have you done to sensitize the public on their personal security in your electoral area?

22. What other actions have you taken to curb Interpersonal Violence in your electoral area?

TRADITIONAL LEADERS

23. What other actions have you taken to curb Interpersonal Violence in your electoral area?

Thank you