



## Perspectives on Contributing Factors to Rape in the Selected Areas of Mankweng, South Africa

Sekwaila Naum Mamabolo<sup>1</sup>; Khomotjo Lekgau<sup>2</sup>; Witness Maluleke<sup>3</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Master of Arts: Criminology graduate, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Limpopo, South Africa  
Email: sekwailanaum7@gmail.com

<sup>2</sup> Lecturer, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Limpopo, South Africa  
Email: khomotjo.lekgau@ul.ac.za

<sup>3</sup> Senior lecturer, Department of Criminology and Criminal Justice, University of Limpopo, South Africa  
E-mail: witness.maluleke@ul.ac.za

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### **Abstract**

Rape has always been a thorny issue in our postmodern society and South Africa has been confirmed to be the rape capital of the world. Our current society has overlooked, normalised, and made rape invisible due to our societal norms relating gender and culture connotations. The objective of the study was to explore the perceptions of community members on contributing factors to rape in the selected areas of Mankweng. This qualitative study employed the 'Qualitative' [Q]-methodology research design, supported by the exploratory research design for the explorations of community members' perceptions on contributing factors to rape in selected areas of Mankweng. About Thirty (30) participants were purposively selected to form part of the Focus Group Discussions (FGDs). The findings of this study showcased that the contributory factors to rape incidences in the Mankweng policing areas can be categorised under these Three (03) themes: 1) Structural, 2) Socio-cultural, and; 3) Economic factors. These factors increase chances of women being raped. Therefore, primary preventative interventions should be more focused on re-building women's status in societies and implementing programmes to educate them about rape and the National government and Non-Governmental Programmes (NPOs) should aim at promoting both social and economic empowerment of young women, focusing on financing their intended projects to encourage their independency and avoid over reliance to man. The monthly programmes and awareness campaigns should be hosted to educate community members about the contributory factors to rape and related consequences thereof, as well as effective preventative measures.

**Keywords:** *Contributory Factors; Mankweng Policing Area; Perceptions; Rape; South Africa*

## 1. Introduction and Background

Rape is one of the issues that have been studied by most ‘Social Scientists’ (Richter, Norris & Ramjith: 2015; Mukanangana, Moyo, Zyoushe, Rusinga: 2014; and Van Decraen, Michelesen, Herbots, Van-Rossem & Temmerman: 2012). The underlying controversy is an escapable issue of what exactly causes rape to occur, or rather what drives the potential offender or perpetrator to go out willingly and find a suitable target to rape. Most of their research studies has been done from the developing countries such as South Africa, Zimbabwe, and Rwanda, and developed countries such as Denmark, Canada and America with the motive of investigating people who reported the experience of forced penetrative sex over the course of their lifetime. However, research on rape has also expanded over some years, where the focus was on both women and men to figure out what the causes of rape may be. The reviewed studies by the mentioned Social Scientist revealed that the motives and causes of rape might slightly vary between countries and between areas within countries. Some of these factors may be explained by structural, socio- cultural and economic factors; however, some factors may also be included besides those that have been mentioned. This research has not been undertaken to investigate all the factors that might be the causes of rape, rather it has been conducted to explore the perceptions of community members on contributing factors of rape in Mankweng selected areas.

Searles and Berger (1987) (in Cowan, 2000) provides that rape refers to a non-consensual sexual penetration of an adult or child obtained by threat, physical force or when the victim is not capable of giving consent due to mental retardation or mental illness, or intoxication. They further state that, there are four different types of rape, namely, acquaintance and date rape, stranger rape, and spousal rape, however, Cowan (2000) shares that acquaintance rape is the most common type of rape. The sections to be covered herewith include the nature of rape; the historical, social, and economic contexts of rape. That is how the past and current communities perceive rape and how does the monetary values in exchange of sexual pleasure bring about rape and to what extend does it have effect of the victims of rape and the community at large.

- **Historical context of rape:** South Africa before independence, had a substantial male’s population who were engaged in a military context where both males and many blacks were absorbed into the liberation struggle (Mudzana, 2016). They were, furthermore, taught violence behavior as a legitimate means of resolving conflict, a culture of being tough, aggressive, brutal, and competitive masculinity was also promoted. This is how culture of violence in men was initiated. Despite a peaceful change from apartheid to a democratic country that it is now, it is unfortunate that Gender-Based Violence (GBV) including rape cases continue to rise. The dehumanisation imposed by apartheid system as well as levels of force used, on one hand to enforce the policies and, on the other to resist them. (Rape Crisis, 2015) suggests that apartheid in one way or another affected every person in South Africa, the entire nation.

- **The social context of rape:** Most men are fixed in gender norms whereby they have traditional perceptions of masculinity, which resulted in gender inequality. Due to this gender inequality in South African societies, women have limited power and authority while males impose notions of masculinity, controlling and perceiving that they own women sexuality. This controlling power of men is also somewhat strengthened by women’s economic dependence on men. De Vries (2014) states that a man might be the sole provider of a woman in such that, a woman is forced to have sex with him so that he keeps on providing. Due to a man providing for basic needs, a woman may have no other way out of the relationship, leading to tolerance and acceptance of rape. This in turn, makes young females more vulnerable to rape because they find it difficult to protect themselves from sexual exploitation (Jewkes, 2002). Thus, the experiences of rape in South African societies at this stage have become a norm (Mudzana, 2016).

• **The economical context of rape:** Poverty and unemployment are one of the factors amongst other factors that expose mostly black females to socio-economic vulnerability such as engaging in transactional sex (Jewkes, 2002). This author further mentions that when people engage in transactional sex, they end up being raped and are afraid to seek help. The legacies of colonisation and apartheid legacies resulted in poverty and unemployment which in turn had and still has a great impact on adolescents particularly black adolescents because they are most socio-economically vulnerable as their parents are most likely unemployed or in menial jobs. As such, they cannot afford to live in high security areas where rape is less likely to occur.

In support of the presented discussions in this section, it can be deduced that poverty can increase people’s vulnerabilities to sexual exploitations in schools, workplace and to engage in prostitution, sex trafficking, as well as drug trade and those with lower socio-economic status are at greater risk for violence, including rape (Jewkes, Sen & Garcia- Moreno, 2002). In support of these assertions, majority of the selected participants to this study, agreed with the cited authors by indicating many people give-in to rape because of their economic status. If an individual does not find any means to provide for their needs, they often resort getting involved with a man for sexual intercourse in exchange of money, material things or other favours and even if rape takes place or sexual exploitation occurs during this period, such person does not have power to report it to the local police or close person, in fear of losing the gained favours.

**2. Problem Formulations**

There have certainly been a substantial number of articles written on sexual assault and rape (Mudzana, 2016). They, however, have not covered the entire field of possible topics for scholarly investigation. They have rather centred their focus on the reactions of the victim towards rape, police and NGOs’ interventions, the nature of the offence, treatment of the offender and treatment of the victim (Ghanotakis, Bruins, Peacock, Redpath & Swart, 2007). However, not much research has been done in the previous studies on perceptions of community members on contributing factors to rape. South Africa is among the countries with the highest rape incidents, with a total number of 206144 reported cases over the past 5 years, (Crime Statistics South Africa [Crime Stats SA], 2019), Limpopo Province with a record of 10 087 reported rape cases and Mankweng with a total of 552 reported rape cases for the past five years (Crime Stats SA, 2019).

Table 1. Rape reported cases from 2014/01/01 to 2019/12/31 at Mankweng policing area

Crime category	Scene of crime	Number of reported cases
Rape	Ga Makanye; Ga Thoka and Mamaakela	184
	Mentz; Malesa and Segoreng	173
	Nobody; Sekgapeng, Ngwanalaka, Matsiokwana, Mafeane, Moshate, Ramathope, Moruleng Extension, Morongoa Park and Nchichane	168
	Nobody Mothapo, Thakgalang, Madikoto and Reconstruction and Development Programme (RDP)	84
	Viking; Thabakgone, Mahlanhle, Komaneng, Sahara, Mongwaneng, Monywaneng, Thune, Ga Kgole, Mamphaka, Moshate and Kgwara	71
	Mankweng Zone A; B, C	71
		<b>751</b>

Source: Mankweng SAPS (2019)

Table 1 illustrates the number of reported rape cases in Mankweng area from the year 2014 to 2019. However, not all areas have been included in this table as other areas are regarded as 'mini rural-areas' although they fall under the Mankweng district.

### **3. Research Methodology**

From the qualitative standpoint, this study adopted Q-methodology research design. According to Rhoades and Brown (2019), this research design refers to a unique, flexible methodology for exploring people's opinions, perspectives, and attitudes. However, van Exel and de Graaf (2005) state that Q-methodology (Also known as the 'Q-sort') is the systematic study of participant's viewpoints. Van Exel and de Graaf (2005) further state that this research design is often used to explore perspectives of participants who represent different stances on an issue. As a result, the researchers used this research design to explore perspectives of community members on the contributing factors to rape in selected areas of Mankweng. This study also adopted the qualitative study as it can be used to understand how a person subjectively perceives and gives meaning to social reality.

The employed research design was supported by the exploratory research objective. Creswell, Kassen, Plano Clark and Smith (2011) define this research objective is often used for under researched areas, mainly focusing on problems that has not been overly studied to contribute to the new body of knowledge. This research objective helped the researchers to determine suitable data collection method for this study; this included informal qualitative approaches, such induction of discussions with the selected participants (Shields & Rangarjan, 2013). This research objective was applied to solicit participants' experiences, perceptions and opinions using the FGDs.

Furthermore, the basic idea of collecting data in any study is to gather information to address the objective(s) and questions guiding a specific study (Polit & Beck, 2012). The researchers continued to gather, examine, and interpret data, made decisions about how to proceed based on what will be discovered using the FGDs. Overall, 30 participants were purposively selected to form part of the FGDs. The participants were approached in their private homes to ask for participation in this study. A criterion for this selection was that they should be 18 years old and above and be permanent native resident of Mankweng policing area, with rich information on study subject.

The inductive TCA was adopted, according to Braun and Clarke (2006), this data analysis approach focuses on the identification and classification of patterns or themes in qualitative data. Therefore, the researchers used the inductive TCA to analyse accumulated data. The employed data analysis technique consisted of Six (6) phases of classification of identified study themes, namely; 1) The familiarisation with data, 2) Generating codes, 3) Identifying themes, 4) Reviewing themes, 5) Defining themes, and; 6) Report [article] writing (Salkind, 2010).

### **4. Review of Literature on Contributing Factors to Rape**

Violent crime in South Africa is rife and horrific, but the prevalence of sexual assaults and rape has led to South Africa being dubbed "the rape capital of the world" (De Vries, 2014). There is also a widespread perception of an increasing number of individuals committing sexual offences (Rape) against victims that are the most vulnerable members of society [Women and Children] (Chiremba, 2015). Unfortunately, the Criminal Justice System (CJS) is failing rape victims/survivors as few cases are reported, with limited prosecutions and convictions (Mudzana, 2016). The literature review provides a comprehensive summary of previous research on the topic under investigation. This section brings an insight on the nature of rape as well as the contributing factors of rape.

#### 4.1 The probable contributing factors of rape

Based on the study conducted by Kann (2008), many men rape due to the various risky behaviours that some girls display. For instance, going home with boys after a clubbing, accepting gifts from them, and dressing in revealing clothing or even drinking alcohol. From the above statements, it appears that there is often an assumption made by the boys that by partaking in these high-risk behaviours like wearing revealing clothing or drinking alcohol that the male bought, the female is consenting to sexual relations with him. Consequently, the boys see her withdrawal prior to the act as irresponsible. In support of the contributory factors that Kann (2008) outlined, (Freccero, Harris, Carnay & Taylor, 2011), also highlight that culture and gender, to mention the Two (02) are touted as contributing factors of rape in many communities. Kann (2008) also emphasizes on peer pressure and alcohol as also being major contributing factors to rape in communities, while the Centers for Disease and Control Prevention (2019) outlines the individual, relational, community, and societal contributing factors of rape, which may also not be direct causes of rape.

##### 4.2.1 Alcoholism

Pilgrim, Ahmed, Gray, Sakasvu, Lutalo, Naligoda, Serwadda and Wawer (2012); and Lawyer, Resnick, Bakanic, Burkett and Kilpatrick (2010) suggest that studies conducted show that there is a relationship between unreasonable consumption of alcohol and a sexual victimization. According to a study conducted by Van Decraen *et al.* (2012), alcohol has different effects on both girls and boys. He further states that when girls are drunk, they become submissive, weak, and less able to resist sex. On the other hand, men are more likely to commit rape when they have consumed excessive alcohol (Jewkes, Sikweyiya, Morrell & Dunkle, 2011). However, research findings by Elwood, Mott, Lohr and Galovski (2011) contradict with the above research findings about rape and alcoholism. According to Elwood *et al.* (2011), there is evidence that substance abuse increases woman's risk of sexual victimisation and not alcohol. Equally, Elwood *et al.* (2011) states that alcohol problems did not predict any risk of rape occurrences.

##### 4.2.2 Gender

Gender plays a prominent role in the perpetuation of rape. Regardless of what rape it is, female gender is at a greater risk that is most likely to be raped by a male. According to Reyes and Foshee (2013); where males are perpetrators, only females perpetrate a negligible rate of rape. Rasmussen (2013) purports that children of both genders are affected by child sexual abuse as both perpetrator and victim. However, early adolescent women are at the utmost great risk of being raped (Davies, Austen & Rogers, 2011). Not to ignore that men also may suffer from rape, but the domination is mainly on women, hence the focus is mostly on women.

##### 4.2.3 Parental structure

Some of the reviewed studies examined the role that parental structure, gender, religion, attitude, and culture plays on rape. In a study conducted by Pilgrim, Ahmed, Gray, Sekasvu, Lutalo, Nalugoda, Sarwadda and Wawer (2012), suggested that in Uganda, attitudes of young adults played a vital role, whereby their attitudes were based on parental and gender structure. Males had more positive attitudes towards rape than females. Even married girls and those living in polygamous with household husband were two times more likely to experience sexual coercion. It furthermore indicated that it was more ideal to live with a single mother because one is protected against sexual coercion than living with a stepfather in the same home.

##### 4.2.4 Marital causes

With the findings provided in previous discussions on patriarchal society that we live in, women are supposed to be submissive to men and it is of societal norm that women are inferior while men are

known to be superior. As such, it is also clear that the societies do accept this arrangement and would do anything to ensure that they always uphold their respect to men. With acceptance of such norms, it now become easier for men to exercise anything on women, even if it is rape because he is the 'man,' and a woman should submit to him (Cherry & Hategekimana, 2013). It is further revealed that some women are forced by their partners to have sex with them because they believe that by marrying them, they now become their own 'chattel property' (Peacock, 2013). This violent nature of sexual initiation ranges from emotional intimidation, threats to physical beatings (Cherry & Hategekimana, 2013). Moreover, inequality among men and women with men having control power over women predispose adolescent women to rape.

#### 4.2.5 Normative acceptance of cultural norms and lack of awareness of what constitutes rape

Mudzana (2016) asserts that some studies examined the role of attitudes, parental structure, religion, gender, and culture. Aderemi and Lawal (2011) suggest that attitudes of young adults or adolescents about rape are based on gender and parental structure whereby females have fewer positive attitudes towards rape than males. Likewise, adolescents raised in monogamy family have less positive attitude towards rape than those brought up in a polygamous marriage. The positive attitude of the majority towards rape result in the rape cases not reported and it being solved behind doors (Pilgrim *et al.* 2012). Oshiname, Ogunwale and Ajuwon (2013) and Van Decraen *et al.* (2012) share that girls are raped because of the normative acceptance of certain cultural norms in the society. Below are the accepted beliefs and cultural norms that contribute to rape:

- When a girl sleeps around with multiple boys, she deserves to be raped because she does not value her body, if a girl slept with a boy before, a boy can sleep with the girl again.
- A boy cannot be blamed for his actions when he gets sexually excited and cannot control himself.
- When a girl is raped when she is under the influence of a substance, it is her fault.
- When a girl accepts gifts from a boy, a boy can expect sex in return.
- A family would arrange a marriage for a girl child because they want the husband to financially support both the girl child who is the 'wife' and the family, and that is not rape (Mudzana, 2016).

While some members of the communities give in to the cultural norms and beliefs of the society, Van Decraen (2012) adds that most cultures, especially religious beliefs, do not permit girls to have sex before marriage or come into any sexual contact with another gender and girls are encouraged to preserve their virginity until marriage, therefore men do not take women seriously when they say 'No.' Often, men feel like girls want to consent to sex but are afraid of the norms or rules of the society; hence, boys believe that girls can say no to sex when they actually want it too. Society promotes the way a girl should dress and how she should cover most of her body while prohibiting wearing revealing or short garments because it is not culturally accepted and because by revealing most parts of one's body, it entices boys and they begin fantasising.

Therefore, if a girl dresses in revealing clothes and is raped, it is believed that she always wanted to be raped because she knew the correct way of dressing (Van Decraen, 2012). The research conducted in Tanzania by Abeid, Muganyizi, Olsson, Darj and Axemo (2014) reveals that the majority of young female participants were not aware of what really constitutes rape and who the perpetrators or survivors are. Thus, even if one commits what is categorised as rape legally, some people do not know that rape has occurred.

#### 4.2.6 Drug use

Like alcohol, drug use is also considered one of the contributing factors of rape because it has the same effects that alcohol have on people. Family drug problems do have a double risk to individual rape. Family drug use could be highly influential for adolescent rape as parental substance use maybe

associated with less supervision, exposure to dangerous situations and poor development of social and coping skills. In fact, research shows that reported parental alcoholism and drug use increase the levels of rape (Mudzana, 2016). Furthermore, this can be someone they are dating or with whom they are acquainted or even a stranger. On the other hand, individual drug use predisposes a person to rape as the individual might have friends or partners who use drugs making them vulnerable to rape (World Health Organisation, 2015). As suggested in WHO (2015) after an initial incident of rape, adolescent's risk of subsequent incidents of rape increase more and more.

## **5. Theoretical Framework Applications**

### **5.1 Differential Risk Model**

This study adopted a Differential Risk Model that was developed by Ezzat Fattah in 1991. The theory was developed based on the shortcomings of the Lifestyle/exposure Model by Hindelang, Gottfredson and Garofalo (1978), the Routine Activities Theory by Cohen and Felson (1979) and the Opportunity Model by Cohen, Kleugel and Land (1981) (Peacock, 2013). As indicated by Fattah (2000), the Differential Risk Model attempts to integrate different models into a comprehensive system, which consists of ten categories, which could influence the risk of criminal victimisation. The ten categories include the following: Opportunity, Risk factor, Motivated offenders, Exposure, Associations, Dangerous times and places, Dangerous behaviour, High-Risk activities, Defensive/ Avoidance behaviour, and Structural / Cultural process.

Peacock (2013) states that although this model highlights the categories that could assist in determining why criminal victimisation occurs, it does, however, not specifically focus on the demographics or lifestyle of the victim. It rather combines some of the elements of existing theories in the victimology field (Saponaro, 2013). Walklate (2003) stipulates the fact that the model still reflects the central influence that the model has had on victimology. Unlike the Lifestyle Exposure Model for Personal Victimisation and the Routine Activities Theory, as well as the Opportunity Model, this model correctly encapsulates the most pertinent elements of the mentioned theories (Peacock, 2013). The theory highlights the importance of socio-demographic characteristics such as age, gender, and residential areas as some of its contributing factors.

Furthermore, it reflects the importance of opportunities within particular settings. This implies that criminals/offenders often weigh up opportunities prior to the commission of a crime. In the context of this study, this model was deemed more relevant as it further reflects the importance of associations in a sense that the victim knows the potential offenders or vice versa, whether their relationship is social or professional, that it could put them at a greater risk of victimisation (Peacock, 2013). Importantly, this theory will direct the researchers to the hotspot areas in Mankweng that could place the community members at a greater risk of criminal victimisation, as Fattah (1991) notes that the Differential Risk Model rests on explanations of dangerous times and places. This is to indicate how often crimes occur, whether in the morning, at night, during the day, or on weekends at taverns and clubs, whether on the streets or at recreational areas such as parks.

## **6. Study Findings and Discussions**

This study has focused mainly on exploring the community's perceptions on contributing factors of rape in Mankweng selected areas. The gender distributions of the selected participants are shown in table 2, followed by how the data was transcribed to identify study themes. Furthermore, discussions of these themes were triangulated with the consulted literature studies, theoretical framework and empirical findings of this study.

Table 2. Gender distribution of participants

Gender	Females	Males	Total
Mentz (FGDs 1)	5	5	10
Ga- Makanye (FGDs 2)	8	2	10
Ga- Thoka (FGDs 3)	3	7	10
<b>Total</b>	16	14	30

Source: Researcher’s illustrations (2020-2021)

### 6.1 Process followed for transcribing of collected data

According to (De Vos, Delpont, Fouché & Strydom, 2011), qualitative research is more about experiencing a specific topic or idea instead of finding objective, concrete or specific answers. Qualitative research focuses on culture, groups, and individuals, hence the research utilised. Qualitative research is measured by interviews, *FGDs*, open-ended questionnaires and direct and indirect observations. All this can make data more difficult to record and copy compared to quantitative data (Polit & Beck, 2012). The researchers were more focused on exploring the community’s perceptions on the nature and contributory factors to rape. The researchers also captured and preserved the resulting data with an audio recording (Smartphone).

The *FGDs* conducted created important data, however, the data was unstructured and needed to be sorted and organised before the researchers could make sense of it. The researchers transcribed the data, that is, the researchers also created a text- based version of the original audios recorded. This was done to help the researchers to make patterns or themes easier to find, and to make the data easier to analyse. It also helped the researchers to preserve the accuracy and integrity of the data and to focus on observation and participants instead of note- taking. After the researchers transcribed the data in a text format, they further read through the transcriptions to conceptualise and analyse the data to conduct inductive analysis. From there, the researchers found it much easier to connect or link the data collected and write it down in a form of a study.

### 6.2 The identified study themes

Based on the responses by participants of this study, the researchers identified Four (04) study themes, which will be discussed. These themes include structural, psychological, sociocultural, and economic factors. Explanations of these themes is in table 3. The researchers believed that identification of the study themes is one of the most fundamental tasks in qualitative research. These are the features of participants’ characterising community’s perceptions on rape that the researchers saw as relevant to the research aim and questions.

Table 3. Identified study themes

Study objective	Categories	Sub- categories
Contributing factors to rape	1) Structural Factors. 2) Socio-Cultural Factors. 3) Economic Factors	1. Gender roles. 2. Culture 3. Mistrust in the police officers. 4. Secondary victimisation. 5. Patriarchal society

Source: Researcher’s illustration (2020-2021)

From table 3, it can be confirmed that several categories and subcategories arose from the findings to address the study aim and objectives. Rape is a type of sexual assault that usually involves sexual intercourse or any other form of sexual penetration that is carried out against an individual without that person’s consent (Blondeel, De Vasconcelos, García-Moreno, Stephenson, Temmerman & Toskin 2018). This act is carried out by physical force or having sexual intercourse with someone who is



intellectually disable, unconscious or below the legal age of consent. These findings are from the Three FGDs that fitted to be part of the study. Data was gathered from three one-hour to one-hour thirty minutes focus groups conducted in February and March in each of three selected areas in Mankweng: Mentz, Ga-Makanye and Ga-Thoka. Three FGDs were conducted in each area, with participants drawn from three generic areas in Mankweng:

- A formal township (Ga- Thoka, FGD 1).
- A rural area (Mentz, FGD 2).
- A rural area outside a formal township (Ga- Makanye, FGD 3).

The total of 30 participants took part in this discussion. The participants were recruited by purposive sampling and were approached in their homes and asked to participate in the study. Most were between the ages 19 and 30, which the eldest was in the early forties. A criterion for selecting participants was that they were 18 years and above and a second criterion was that they lived in those Mankweng selected areas as they would be able to relate to whatever is happening in those areas. Of the 30 that participated, only a few were open to the topic and participated in the discussion on the nature of rape. Some of those that did not participate, reported that they were a bit shy to talk openly about rape but as we moved to the second discussion, they got comfortable and started to engage.

Apart from that, the discussion opened quite well, and the participants welcomed the researchers into their communities. Questions were asked in both English and Northern Sotho and the participants were at liberty to respond in whichever language they were comfortable with. The researchers allowed the discussion to develop naturally, however, some participants dominated more than the others. The researchers received the warmest welcome from all participants from different areas. The following questions were asked during the FGDs (The motivations for framing these questions are given herewith):

- **What are the contributory factors of rape in Mankweng?** The intention was for the participants to provide their viewpoints on the factors that they think could contribute to rape in their areas. In this section, the researchers presents primary findings (Discussion of the findings is done in a separate section based on the identified study themes in table 3). For the most part, the findings were similar across all FGDs, regardless of the area of residence.

### 6.2.1 The possible contributing factors to rape in the selected areas of Mankweng

The researchers went on to find out from the participants what kind of challenges they encounter in addressing rape in their areas. The same number of participants was intact as the discussion moved from the first theme to the second one. Most participants engaged more in the second theme than the first one. The second theme discussed the possible contributing factors, namely: Structural, socio-cultural, and economic, as discussed below:

- **Structural factors**

In this study, structural factors have shown to be the most contributing factor that contributes to rape. The focus according to residents of Mentz, Ga- Makanye and Ga- Thoka was on the CJS. As indicated by the following verbatim expression, some of the selected participants indicated that they do not believe in the CJS as they feel like it is an entire joke to community and the country.

*“How is it possible for a person to be accused of rape and be walking in the same streets with the victim the following day? We can start there before we go any further. How do we trust the system that favors the accused/ perpetrator more than the victim? (Mentz, A rural area, FGD 2)*

This showed frustration and anger on participants, and they failed to understand how possible it is for an accused person on rape to be let out on bail. Participants also went on to discuss how it increases

the chances of secondary victimization to the victim. The theoretical framework confirms this finding as stated by Peacock (2013) in paragraph 5.1 of this study by stating that, associations in a sense that the victim knows the potential offenders or vice versa, whether their relationship is social or professional, it could put them at a greater risk of victimisation.

Participants also felt like it was not fair for all the attention to be diverted to the accused/perpetrator instead of the victim. The others further went on to mention that the CJS is so inclined to 'criminals' and the name says it all 'The CJS'. They reported that there is almost no justice for rape victims. One lady from the FGDs 1, went on to provide an explanation of what had happened to one of her closest friends, quoted verbatim:

*"She went to the police station to report a rape case as she believed that she would get all the help she needs. Instead, when she got there, the police officers made a deal with her that when they get to the accused, she should demand a certain amount of money in order for her to not report the case. The two police officers reassured her that they will pressurize and ensure that the accused pays up that amount so that they can split it amongst the three of them (deep sigh). Indeed, she got there and demanded that amount of money and with the threats from the police officers, the accused paid the money. After splitting the money, one of the police officers asked the lady out and that is how they ended up being an item even though he has a family. How many rape cases go unreported because of such things?(The participant said all this with teary eyes)"* (Ga- Thoka, A formal township, FGD 1)

This finding reads with paragraph 4 of this study when Mudzana (2016), revealed that unfortunately, the CJS is failing rape victims/survivors as few cases are reported, with limited prosecutions and convictions. The participants continued to relate with this statement as they found it extremely ridiculous for the police officials to receive material things in exchange of an accused person's freedom. It was deemed as unfair and corrupt. While other participants reported how CJS was a joke, some spoke of how they got secondary victimised when they decide to go and report cases. This verbatim expression offer more explanation on this discourse:

*"I remember how I got mugged and went straight to the police station in December. When I got to the station, there was a lady with a similar case to mine. I was so amused by how I got a different treatment from hers and kept on myself how that was possible. She got all the attention, and they even took her to the back offices in order for her case to be assigned to a specific police officer. I was asked by the other officer, how it is that I got mugged when I was a man, I should fight back and continued having her glass of cold- drink. So, the question is if a case of theft is being handled in that manner how about rape? Should men even bother reporting it?"* (A formal township, Ga-Thoka, FGD 1)

This expressed views by the participants reads with paragraph 4 of this study when (Mudzana, 2016) revealed that rape is a serious crime, but the CJS seems to be failing rape victims as few cases are reported and only a limited prosecutions and convictions are made. The participants repeatedly shown that too often the victim have been the "forgotten person" in the CJS.

#### • Socio- cultural Factors

Sexual assault such as rape is a major issue that affects women in world. It occurs within homes, schools, workplaces and even churches. As the literature covered the scope or nature of rape, it has also shown that gender and culture play a significant role in our lives and has also shown to be an emerging factor that contributes to rape. It has been embedded within culture that women are lesser than men are and viewed as inferior. It has also been normalised that women should bear the responsibility and blame themselves for their assault rather than the attacker. The participants agreed with each other and said, as the quoted verbatim below:

*“Culture has the power to shape us on who we become in the future. If you live in a culture where a man is the only one seen as a superior being who provides for the family and sets rules in the family, it is more likely that female children will grow to give their boyfriends/ husbands power over them and male children are more likely to follow their father’s footsteps. There are greater chances for such families to even be abused and not even be aware of the abuse because they grew in an environment whereby women were required to be submissive to men”.* (Ga- Makanye, A rural area outside a formal township, FGD3)

The literature respectively confirms this finding as stated by (Oshiname *et al.* 2013) in paragraph 4.2.5 of this study by indicating that rape continues to prevail and yet not reported because of the cultures that people come from. They further state that, it is a problem that is under- recognised due to the tacit cultural normalisation of sexual coercion in intimate relationships. This is what participants had to say, quoted verbatim example:

*“It is sad that women have to settle in relationship where they are sexually abused simply because they do not have any means to provide for their needs, and so they depend on their partners for such. I want to believe that there is a certain percentage on women who get raped daily, and they will not come forth to report it because they are provided by their partners. How will they survive if they send ‘the provider’ to prison? It is an ongoing thing for as long as there is a high rate of unemployment in our country.”* (Mentz, A rural area, FGD 2)

The literature confirms these findings as stated by Jewkes (2002) in paragraph 1 of this study, who indicated that poverty and unemployment make most black females to settle in unwanted relationships because of the money that they are given by their unwanted partners. There are also some cultures that allows a girl child to be sold to older men for financial benefits against the will of the child. In support of the given submission, one of the participants went on to states in verbatim:

*“I do not think that some women are aware that they experience rape because of how they were brought up. I always knew in my upbringing that there is a saying that goes by ‘le ge mosadi a kwata, ga a kwate ka mmele’ which is translated to ‘even if a woman gets mad at her husband, her body is still her husband’s’. So, we are also brought up in a cultures that allow for such and I think this is also one of the factor that might contribute to rape in deeply rooted cultured societies”.* (Ga- Makanye, A rural area outside a formal township, FGD 3)

This expressed views by the participants also reads with Van Decraen *et al.* (2012) in paragraph 4.2.5 of this study by revealing that the family would arrange a marriage for a girl child because they want the husband to financially support both the girl child who is the ‘wife’ and the family. A number of participants reported that because of these socio- cultural factors, some people are not even aware that they are sexually victimised due to how were raised in their families and societies. Participant strongly felt that they still live in a patriarchal society whereby men still lead and claim all the power in the households.

#### • Economic factors

Some participants do think that men sexually abuse men because they believe that after paying the dowry, a man has full ownership of the woman. Women also tend to overlook that because they might be from the rooted cultured families that holds of the same belief. This is what one participant with support of others had this to say in verbatim:

*“Marriages and relationships are supposed to be a beautiful thing whereby two people come together for the purpose of love. We were taught from a young age that when a man pays dowry (Lobola) for a woman, the man has full ownership over that woman, and I think this is what brings about high rates of rape rates”.* (A formal township, Ga- Thoka, FGD1)

According to the participants, economic factors do not differ much from socio-cultural factors because it is mainly based on, superiority and chattel property. These findings read with the study of Jewkes (2002) in paragraph 1 of this study, when it was revealed that poverty and unemployment are one of the factors amongst others that have shown to expose females to socio-economic vulnerability as engaging in transactional sex. While individuals engaging in transactional sex end up getting raped and afraid to seek help, others are forced into marriages where the man will be able to support the girl child and her family as well.

### **Conclusions and Recommendations**

In conclusions, this study affirms that rape has always been a part our societies, but some people do not report it because of myths that surround rape. Rape can happen to anyone, but it is most common to happen to women. Although there may be different definitions to rape, there has been an agreement that rape involves sexual intercourse or other forms of sexual penetration carried out against a person without that person's consent. Rape and sexual assault have been a growing epidemic all around the world and people choose to not report it because of their unemployment status and acceptance of rape in their communities or cultures.

- Recommendations on the possible contributing factors of rape

Regarding rape in Mankweng selected areas, the researchers noted that there are no campaigns that community members are aware of that educate them about rape. The researcher also notes that people cannot tackle a problem whereas they do not know the definition of a specific term. Therefore, the researcher makes specific recommendations that people should be learned and understand what constitutes rape for them to be able to tackle the issue of rape in their area.

- *Awareness programmes and campaigns:* While conducting this study; the researchers saw that rape is a very difficult topic to address due to multitude of myths and misinformation the communities have on the topic. Some people believe that women indirectly ask to be raped because of how they behave or dress. The researchers recommends that there be programmes and campaigns put in place and hosted every month to educate the community members of the topic of rape and what it entails. The community members should be enlightened on the possible factors contributing to rape and the effects that rape both on the individual and on the community.

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