

**UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE**



**Male rape in Zimbabwe!**

**The lived experiences of male survivors**

**The case of Adult Rape Clinic at Parirenyatwa Hospital, Harare**

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**(R151663T)**

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## ABSTRACT

*This study analysed the lived experiences of male survivors of sexual violence perpetrated by women in Zimbabwe. It focused on the lived experiences of the adult male survivors who fall prey to female rapists. There are still beliefs that adult men cannot be raped by women. They are seen as the dominant players in the masculine field and therefore considered as perpetrators rather than survivors. Based on this background, to gather all the required data, qualitative method was used. These included perusal of newspaper articles and Adult Rape Clinic's records, in-depth interviews and focus group discussions. The key findings of this research demonstrated that male rape is common and a reality. Male survivors were raped after they were drugged with unknown substance. The male survivors were sprayed in the face, injected, drinks and water spiked and food ingestion and these unknown substances that were used facilitated for a strong erection against male survivors' will but at the same time powerless to defend themselves from being raped. Also the drugs enabled the male survivors to ejaculate more than usual allowing the female rapists to harvest the ejaculated fluid.*

*Meanwhile, men are socialised to be strong and to stand for themselves, protect themselves and also to protect women. Therefore, when a man is raped by a woman it is difficult for the male survivors to speak out hence the crime is not considered serious and it is hidden. Rape myths as postulated by feminism hinders the male survivors to speak out likewise female survivors and this inhibits the male survivors to look for the necessary support needed when they are sexually assaulted especially by women.. The study findings also confirmed that male rape by women is very possible. Recommendations were made on educating people especially men not to trust women anymore and also to speak out such that this type of crime is given much consideration in courts and in the society. It was also recommended that the police should work hard in bringing these female rapists to book.*

**Key concepts: male rape, survivor, victim, female rapists, Zimbabwe, feminism, masculinity, perpetrator**

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Most importantly I would like to thank the Lord for giving me the necessary strength during the research process.

## **DEDICATION**

I dedicate this study to all male survivors of female perpetrated sexual assault.

## **DECLARATION**

I declare that this dissertation is my own work. It is submitted for the Master of Science Degree in Sociology and Social Anthropology at the University of Zimbabwe. It has not been submitted for any other degree or examination in any other university

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(MEMORY MUSEVENZI)

\_\_\_\_\_Dayof\_\_\_\_\_2017

## **LIST OF ACRONYMS**

AIDS	-	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
ARC	-	Adult Rape Clinic
FDG	-	Focus Group Discussion
FST	-	Family Support Trust
HIV	-	Human Immune Virus
MSF	-	Medicines Sans Frontiers
STI	-	Sexually Transmitted Infection

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## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **1.1 Introduction**

This study analyses the experiences of male survivors and the effects of rape on their family and work life. The study focuses on the experiences of adult men in Zimbabwe who were sexually assaulted (raped) by women in the Zimbabwean context. Rape is commonly understood from the perspective that women are always survivors of rape perpetrated by men. Brown et al (2010) observed that in public opinion, rape and sexual assault have been regarded as the most serious crime after murder. Yet, sexual assault and rape crimes perpetrated by women against men bring out as much doubt and victim blaming, hence the male survivors of female perpetrated sexual assault are given less attention everywhere because they are regarded as the common perpetrators of rape. Recent reports in Zimbabwe allow an exploration of this phenomenon which this study seeks to do.

The main purpose of this study is to gain an understanding of the lived experiences of male survivors of rape perpetrated by women. The study investigated how the male survivors were sexually assaulted or raped by female rapists, the effects of sexual assaults on their daily lives and their families and work life.

To achieve this, the researcher employed qualitative research methodology where interviews, focus group discussions and document analysis were used to gather data. Respondents for the study were selected using purposive sampling and the gathered data was analyzed according to themes using feminism theory and in relation to existing literature which is reviewed in chapter two below.

### **1.2 Background**

Scacco (1982) is of the view that in every society rape is a problem and it is impossible to say how many rapes occur since most of them go unreported. For the UNFPA (2010) there is a universal agreement that many women are the survivors of rape perpetrated by men but, however, this study is agreeing from a different perspective that the same societies have failed to acknowledge that a significant proportion of men have become survivors of rape perpetrated by women. As argued by Scacco (1982) most people realize in theory that men can be raped by women as well, but it is just not seen as that of a problem unless the survivor is a child. In the same vein it is also well accepted that sexual assaults against men take place in settings where men have no access to usual female partners such as in prisons. However, there is unwillingness to acknowledge that male sexual assault extends beyond these situations as argued by Stemple (2009), because men in prisons are deprived of their usual

sexual rights since they are always of the same sex. It is still extensively believed that the words 'rape survivor' and 'survivor of sexual assault' apply only to women. It is against this background that this study shows that the same words also apply to male survivors of rape perpetrated by women.

Mezey and King, (1992) noted that rape has received publicity as a feminist issue meaning that male survivors of sexual assault perpetrated by women have been neglected by both research and the wider public. Rogers (1998) estimated that researches that help and support male survivors of sexual violence in general, are still more than 20 years behind that of female survivors. Grubb and Harrower (2009) found out that people believe that male sexual assaults that are most likely to be perpetrated by women usually happen during the period of adolescence and young adulthood. Davies and Rogers (2006) conducted a research in America on the age of men who were sexually assaulted (anally raped) from the age of 16. The research found out that the average age of the assault was 24 years and only one man was raped in his 50s. These sexual assaults were perpetrated by other men not women. This is the main gap that is being closed by this research by proving that adult men are indeed sexually assaulted (raped) by women.

Generally speaking, rape of males by females is a taboo subject for public discussion, so that for most women and many men feel that it does not exist. This explains why there is scant literature showing the lived experiences of male survivors of rape perpetrated by women. This is a huge gap particularly in Zimbabwe that this study is going to plug. Johnson (2008) observed that among the male population, there are numerous mistaken beliefs. These beliefs include the notions that male rape perpetrated by women is very rare; that to be raped indicates a weakness which is not to be found in a "real" male, hence "real men" cannot be raped; that rapists of males are necessarily homosexual; that being raped turns the victim into a homosexual; and most importantly, that for a man to be raped is to "lose his manhood" permanently. According to Mezey and King, (1992) these beliefs focus on socially constructed gender role expectations, which dictate that men must enjoy all forms of sexual pleasure. It is because of these beliefs, which gave an impression of total humiliation for the male survivors and develops attitudes around men that it is unusual for an adult male rape survivor to acknowledge his victimization by a female perpetrator even to his family or friends, much less to the police.

There are many myths that exist that make it difficult for males to disclose instances of sexual assault especially that are perpetrated by women. The myths continue to perpetuate the

stigmatization attached to the topic. For example, due to stereotypical gender expectations, men are expected to be strong at all times. Therefore, they should not be in a situation where they are taken advantage of. Peterson et al., (2011) argues that men may be less likely to report negative consequences as a result of sexual assault due to male gender role expectations. When these men do not report these sexual assaults that are perpetrated against them especially by women, the crimes are hidden by curtains of silence.

Given such pervasive silence, the sexual assaults perpetrated by women are not taken serious and no action is being taken. In the event that the male survivor has reported the case to the police, the law enforcement does not see the importance of seriously investigating the cases resulting in no convictions done. Women perpetrators are protected from even being accused like what happened in Zimbabwe when three ladies were caught with a cooler box full of condoms with semen. The women were acquitted even though there were male survivors who identified them. It is not abstract or a notion but a lived reality that has been ignored over years. Pollard (1992) noted that the attitudes that the society shows towards male survivors have a direct influence on whether or not the survivor reports the assault to the police or medical services. This research is aimed at demystifying these beliefs and encouraging male survivors to speak out whenever they are sexually victimised by anyone and also to take into task the law enforcement so that more efforts is given in investigating these sexual assaults perpetrated against men by women.

Peterson et al., (2011) declared that a higher percentage of sexual assaults against men are most likely to happen during wars and conflicts and these assaults are obviously perpetrated by men not women. Hovarth and Brown (2010) proclaimed that in cases of sexual assaults perpetrated by women outside conflicts, makes it difficult to be acknowledged because females are given the role of gate keeping sexuality. Wall (2011) cited that men are socialised to be strong, sexually aggressive and always in control, therefore the experience of being a survivor of sexual assault during conflicts is dominant with masculinity notions. Therefore, Davies and Rogers, (2006) found the society disallowing men to deny sexual access to women whilst it is accepted for women to refute sexual access to a man. Rape of men by women is something that is regarded as in non-existence especially when it involves adult men. This result in many women who perpetrate sexual assaults against men not arrested and convicted. The male survivors will end up not seeking the necessary help they need so that they recover from the sexual assault. This research is aimed at providing the

evidence that women are also committing sexual crimes against adult men not to only children and young adult as perceived by other researchers.

As argued by Grubb and Harrower (2009), the effects of sexual assaults on male victims are more or less the same what women victims feel. Men are often severely affected by the sexual assaults that are perpetrated by women in comparing with. Walker et al (2005) explained that male survivors suffer from long term psychological problems, mainly depression, drug abuse and sexual dysfunction. This study is also helping in understanding the effects of sexual assault on male survivors and their families and how they are coping to the experience.

### **1.3 Problem Statement**

Given the above foregoing, it is clear that despite vast knowledge on gender based violence in broad against men by women in the Zimbabwean context, many researches concentrated on women who bartered their husbands. Male rape perpetrated by women has not been accepted as a lived reality not only in Zimbabwe but in a number of countries in the world. The policy and legal framework in Zimbabwe on sexual violence simply focus on women as only survivors of rape and sexual assault and men as perpetrators ignoring the reality that men have equally been raped by women. This has created a huge knowledge gap limiting the understanding of the existence of male rape.

### **1.4 Hypothesis/General Research Questions**

1. To what extent is male rape perpetrated by women a lived reality?
2. How has experiences of the assault affected male survivors and their family?
3. What actions did the male rape survivors take after the assault?
4. To what extend have these actions been useful to survivors?

### **1.5 Objectives**

1. To examine men's experiences of sexual assault (rape) perpetrated by women
2. To analyse the effects of sexual assault on male survivors and their family

### **1.6 Justification of the study**

It is expected that the study would help in coming up with ways of dealing with sexual violence against men particularly at the policy and legal level as there is no legal framework similar to the one that protects women. The study would help show that in a postmodern society the masculinity of men is fast changing as most of them are being feminised due to increasing sexual violence (rape) perpetrated by women against them.

The study provides more opportunities for further studies in understanding the nature and key factors influencing rape against men perpetrated by women. The study would provide information on the women perpetrator such that men and others became cognisant enough especially when travelling to minimise chances of being survivors of rape and sexual assault. Women are no longer the trusted human being; the kindness they are associated with has changed to aggressiveness that was usually associated with men.

### **1.7 Study area**

The research focused on the male survivors who were assisted at Adult Rape Clinic (ARC) at Parirenyatwa Hospital. Although the participants were sexually assaulted from different areas outside and inside Harare, the nature of the research allowed the researcher to concentrate on cases that were referred and reported at ARC at Parirenyatwa Harare. Also focusing at ARC enabled easy recruiting of participants and the selected participants were relaxed to participate in the study at a hospital set up because they were already familiar with the place and they were self-confident of their safety.

### **1.8 Outline of the study**

The following is how the whole study is organised. Chapter two is literature review that examines the world view of male sexual assaults perpetrated by women. It proffers the regional view of male rape highlighting key gaps in the body of knowledge regarding the subject under study. The literature review concludes by examining the linkages of male rape with witchcraft and the consequences of the sexual assaults to the male survivors and their families.

Chapter three is the theoretical framework which provides the analytical framework guiding the study. Feminism theory was used in this study. It helped to understand male rape by bringing out the stigmas that are associated with male rape but the theory fails to recognise that men can also be survivors of sexual violence perpetrated by women.

The fourth chapter of the study details the methodology used in the research process. It chronicles how the research process was conducted. Interviews and Focus group discussions were used to collect the detailed data on the lived experiences of male survivors. The research site and the respondents are introduced within this chapter and an overview of the interviews and the process of analysis (narrative analysis) are given.

The fifth chapter gives detailed study findings responding to the key study questions and answering the research objectives. Chapter six provides a critical analysis of the findings in

the context of the adopted conceptual framework, making use of the literature review and theoretical framework.

### **1.9 Conclusion**

This chapter gave the overall aim of the study, specific objectives, the problem under study and the significance of the study. The chapter has also given the background that prompted this study to be conducted. The chapter also gave the glaring gaps in the body of knowledge regarding the changing dimensions of sexual violence that are proving difficult to cover. The chapter then concluded with an overview of the entire research report. The next chapter presents the literature review showing available knowledge and the gaps that this study sought to cover.



## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.1 Introduction**

RAU (2013) observed that sexual violence (rape) cases in Zimbabwe have largely been associated with men raping women presenting a view that women are the only survivors and men the perpetrators. Several studies in this area show rape crimes in the context of only women as survivors. This chapter provides an analysis of literature that largely ignores male rape perpetrated by women in the region. The available literature on sexual assaults against men does not provide a comprehensive picture of the reality as most studies down play the role of women as perpetrators thus creating a huge gap in literature on sexual assaults perpetrated by women against men. The analysis of the available literature reflects gaps that this study plugs as sexual assaults are not unidirectional.

#### **2.2 A world survey of male rape**

Ratner (2003) views male sexual assaults committed by females as an important area to be studied but however to him it is largely “overlooked, dismissed, or ignored” (p. 73). This is because most of the male sexual assaults go unreported. There is limited published literature in the world concerning sexual crimes perpetrated against adult men by women. Most researches on female perpetrated sexual assaults against men are mostly on adolescence and young adulthood as cited by Grubb and Harrower (2009) where these boys have not reached the age of consent. The prevalence of male rape documented suggests that the majority of sexual assaults against men are committed by men, with studies showing an average of 15% of assaults involves a female perpetrator as argued by Stermac, Del Bove and Addison (2004).

In America, studies reported that women commit around 4% of reported sexual offenses but these offences are against children not adult men (US Department of Justice, 2006). In the United States (US), 6% of offenders who sexually assaulted juveniles were female compared with just 1% who sexually assaulted adults (US Department of Justice, 2006). Therefore, adult male rape perpetrated by women is seen as insignificant when looking at the statistics hence the sexual crimes perpetrated by women against adult men are ignored. Davies (2002) stresses that when female commit sexual crimes against men, in most cases they tend to use persuasion rather than force or the threat of force during their crimes. This study is showing that women are also using force and threats when committing sexual crimes against adult men.

Cook and Hodo (2013) confirmed male rape researches that were done in United Kingdom that they indicate that the most common sites for male rape that involves post-puberty victims are outdoors in remote areas and in automobiles usually involving hitchhikers. They also argued that the researches showed that boys in their early and mid-teens are more likely to be victimized than older males and the studies indicate a median male victim age of 17. The form of the assault usually involves penetration of the victim anally and/or orally, rather than stimulation of the victim's penis. This is slightly different from the focus of this study that is focusing on adult men where the adult men are forced to penetrate the women. Gang rape is more common in cases involving male victims than those involving female victims. According to Porter (1986) multiple sexual acts are more likely to be demanded, weapons are more likely to be displayed and used, and physical injury is more likely to occur, with the injuries that do occur being more serious than with injured female rape victims. These sexual assaults are perpetrated by men against men themselves.

Smith et al., (1988) quoted one experimental study that was done in England in the 1980s. The study found that male victims who claimed to be sexually assaulted by women are the ones who encouraged the incident and sexual pleasure was obtained from the act. This presents different experiences from the ones under study where sexual pleasure is absent. Smith (1998) further claims that men's views about sexual assaults that are perpetrated by women were due to their approved male sexuality views which includes that men should be always prepared to enjoy sex with a willing woman. Such men are seen as a fortunate person especially by other men. Davies et al. (2005) noted that men themselves put more blame on men who are sexually assaulted by women. Gay male victims are less blamed than heterosexual male survivors. Davies and his colleagues also noted that men ridicule other male survivors of women perpetrated rape.

As given by Sarrel and Masters (1982), usually women are not supposed to force a man to have sex but this is the focus of the study. It is difficult to imagine women driving unwilling men to have sex because according to Smith, Pine and Hawley, (1988) society was made to believe that men are the ones who should initiate sex and women are always the receivers. Most scholars in this field as observed by Sarrel (1982) argue that men are not supposed to deny the opportunity of having sex with a woman. In cases where a man is said to be raped by a woman, it is a blessing in disguise because men are said to be ready for sex anytime, therefore the sexual assault is not regarded as a crime.

Stemple (2009) is of the view that sexual assaults against men explain that the majority of male rape occurs in prison and not in society in general. Struckman-Johnson and Struckman-Johnson (2006) argues that the perpetrator and victim of sexual assaults in prisons are always of the same sex due to the gender-segregated nature of prison confinement. In prisons the sexual attacks are done when the victims are lured with drugs, gifts or favours and sometimes the victims are tricked into a debt and then make them repay it with sex. In other times it can start with a beating or stabbing by other powerful prisoners. However, Lipscomb (1992), argue that there is a study of incarcerated and non-incarcerated male rape victims in Tennessee which shatters this belief. The study concluded that the similarities between these two groups would suggest that the sexual assault of men may not be due to conditions unique to a prison and that all men are potential survivors.

Whatley (1993) explained that men are considered as common perpetrators of sexual violence because they commit most sexual crimes against women. He views cases of sexual crimes perpetrated by women as very rare because men face a number of obstacles to report sexual crimes perpetrated by women against them. When male survivors do not report cases of rape perpetrated by women, men are regarded as not being sexually violated by women. Whatley (1993) further argues that it is widely considered that men are more likely to be the aggressors and women the survivors, as a result the researches are not capturing the whole collection of sexual crimes since men are viewed as only perpetrators and women as only victims. Roy and Van Berlo (2004) contend that the belief that a man is seen to have wanted sex if he gets an erection or has an orgasm is not true. The two authors argue that a man may have an erection when he is put under pressure or painful sexual situations. When men are intimidated and scared, erection may also occur and it does not mean that men have consented to the sexual act. Therefore the female perpetrated sexual crimes are beyond doubt seen as a taboo.

Generally speaking, most studies present a picture that views sexual assaults of men perpetrated by women as somewhat doubtful. The above analysis provides a one dimensional view of rape that only considers men as perpetrators and not as survivors. It is therefore the purpose of this paper to show that men are also survivors of sexual assault perpetrated by women by documenting their lived experiences and effects on their family and work life.

### **2.3 General overview of male rape**

Sexual violence against men is a huge problem and it has been so greatly ignored. Some African countries are now considering sexual violence against men as a reality, but the male

rape that is being taken into consideration is the one that is perpetrated by men. Whilst in Southern African region male rape is viewed as a reality because of war, human trafficking and gang culture in some countries, in Zimbabwe it is not yet recognized as a real phenomenon. This has prompted this study to be carried out to provide evidence and dispel the views and perceptions that women are always the survivors of sexual violence and men the perpetrators.

Robertson (1998) shows that South Africa is often described as the rape capital of the world, but what often goes unmentioned is the high incidence of male rape in South Africa. Stemple (2009) asserts that sexual violence against males continues to flourish in prison and other forms of detention. He proclaimed that male rape is extremely rife in South African prisons. It often goes undetected as survivors lives are threatened by fellow inmates.

Robertson (1998) noted that in Uganda male rape is often associated with homosexuality, and it is condemned and stigmatised. Men do not speak out because they are afraid of being labelled homosexuals, and victims cannot get proper support because they are accused of being gay. Men have been abused and sexually humiliated during situations of armed conflict in Congo, Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Somalia, Ethiopia and Eritrea, and the majority are from the Democratic Republic of Congo (Stemple, 2009). Of course this shows that male rape in conflict situations is tolerated but the male rape is perpetrated by men. Therefore, the focus of this study shows that men are also sexually assaulted in peaceful situations and the sexual crimes are perpetrated by women.

Reports of male rape began to escalate in Zimbabwe in 2010. The Zimbabwean law is silent in its books on regulations that criminalise male rape perpetrated by women. The terminology that is used in Zimbabwe to acknowledge the possibility of male rape by women is viewed by the public as minimising the weight of the crime. The Zimbabwean Criminal Law Codification and Reform Act [Chapter 9:23] Section 65 defines rape as a sexual offence perpetrated by a male person towards a woman when the male person knows that the female person has not consented to the sexual act. This definition only applies to only women survivors because it is clearly stated that “a male person” to a “female person”. Therefore a woman cannot be criminalised for raping a man because it said a woman does not have a penis to penetrate a man.

The sexual crime that is committed by women against men in Zimbabwe is referred to Aggravated Indecent Assault. Aggravated Indecent Assault is defined by the Zimbabwean Criminal Codification and Reform Act [Chapter 9:23] section 66 page 47 as a sexual crime

that is perpetrated by any person either women or men against any person. Aggravated Indecent Assault involves the penetration of any part of the body except the vagina when it is committed against a female person without the person's consent. When it is committed against men it refers to the anal penetration, and penetration of other male's body without consent. The Zimbabwean law describes Aggravated Indecent Assault as a sexual crime which carries the same weight as rape. This creates a lot of confusion in this regard because the term refers to a number of sexual offences that are also perpetrated by men against women and vice versa. With these definitions, male survivors are institutionally silenced because the law is not clear on the sexual charges to be instated to women in regard to male rape. In the Zimbabwean courts, if the sexual crime charges pressed against a woman are incorrectly phrased the matter is thrown away and no convictions will be initiated.

Several widely publicized cases of female-on-male rape involved young boys aged 16 years and below, no researches have been done enough for adult men who are sexually assaulted by women because it is still unbelievable that women can rape men. The prevalence of female rapists in different parts of Zimbabwe calls for a new paradigm on existing perceptions of social power in society. Whilst, the traditional position was that women are raped by men and not the other way round. Forster-Towne (2011) noted that women are on rampage to 'rape' men either at gun point and or snake point. Other female rapists force their victims to drink concoction in order to control their sexual desires. This involves sexual offences committed by women against men sometimes perpetrated with the assistance of male accomplices.

The study done by Marevesa and Sibanda (2014) of Great Zimbabwe University on the Theological reflection on female rapists, shows that the majority of the male victims are trapped whilst travelling to different destinations. The female rapists take advantage of a significant proportion of people, including men, who favour travelling through hitch-hiking. The unsuspecting male victims are usually driven to secluded places by the rapist who in turn demands that the male victim uses a condom in the ensuing forced sexual encounter. In some of the cases, the female rapists utilise a gun or a knife or the victim is forced to swallow some pills in order to force the male victim to comply with their sexual advances. Their study shows that force is applied by women in raping man signifying a shift in masculinity behaviours.

The Manica Post of 22 August (2011) reported that four female rapists driving a Toyota Raum picked up a member of the Zimbabwe National Army (ZNA) in Norton in civilian clothes. He was taken into a dusty road near Porta Farm where one of the rapists is reported

to have produced a pistol and threatened to shoot him if he refused to have unprotected sex with them. After accomplishing their goal, the rapists dumped the ZNA officer in the bushy area in Porta farm and sped off.

In another case published in The Herald of 24 December 2011, reported that one hitch-hiking teenager was sprayed with an unknown substance which made him dizzy when the rapists had diverted the route and drove into a bushy area along Mukuvisi River behind Houghton Park. They reportedly forced the teenager to drink an unknown substance to sexually activate him for protected sexual intercourse meant for sperm collection. Once again this case shows that the teenager was forced to be intimate with these women rapists whilst wearing male condoms. Another case reported by The Herald of 12 August 2013, a South African man was raped by three women in Mutare. The South African man is said to have befriended an unidentified woman in a bus from Beitbridge border post to Mutare. The two got off at Sakubva bus terminus and were picked up by a Toyota Ipsum with unknown registration numbers. The vehicle was being driven by a woman who had two passengers, a woman and a man. They drove to a bar in Sakubva and had drinks and later the South African man was offered accommodation by the woman from the bus. When they finished the drinks, they drove towards the city and parked the vehicle soon after the flyover. The man was ordered out of the vehicle and forced to have sex with the three women.

The above cases showed that in fact, male rape perpetrated by women dominantly use force suggesting the shifting of masculine behaviours from men to female rapists. It is very possible and a reality that this study sought to bring out. All the wide beliefs that have downplayed female-on-male rape crimes, and as seen in most cases, assured the dismissal of the male survivors as unharmed cry-babies. Nevertheless, this study sought to ensure that the world and the Zimbabwean society gets wiser each day, and the changing masculine behaviours by women get increasingly regarded for what they are.

#### **2.4 The masculinity and femininity of male rape**

Lees (1997) asserts that the social constructions expected men to be tough, strong and invulnerable unlike women who are viewed as sexually invulnerable and physically weak. The society does not accept men to show any form of vulnerability, instead they have to be masculine and strong. The duty of a man is to demonstrate his leadership and make efforts to supply family needs. Therefore, masculinity is crucial in understanding male rape, as rape is considered to be a masculine behaviour. This study therefore demonstrates that masculinity is no longer a male domain but rather women have increasingly become masculine in order to

apply force in raping men. This argument by this study is contrary to the views expressed by Lees (1997) study.

Khan (2008) expressed that masculinity is socially constructed, rather than a manifestation of a natural, biological composition; the continuous alterations in masculinities, and the various interpretations they have to various individuals at various times, hold up the idea that gendered identities are produced by societies, and in cultures. Naturally, a man is a person who is in charge of everything including being in control of women. With male rape perpetrated by women, the women are taking control of men thereby undermining the said masculine constructions in society.

Man should provide the goodies of the family and therefore is not allowed to break down or cry. In the event that he failed to perform his duties as perceived by the society, it means there is something wrong with that man and the man is regarded not strong enough to be a man but he is classified in the feminine state. But the question now, is there something wrong with men who are raped or they are simply subjected to masculine behaviours by female rapists. This is what this study sought to show. With male rape, masculinity does not matter since everyone is subject to sexual victimisation. Khan, (2008) highlighted that men can change both collectively and individually meaning that men are also susceptible to sexual assaults and other women also possess masculine features. Feminism has proved that gender differences are socially constructed and formed by social discourses and historical circumstances, and not due to biological differences.

Lees (1997) refers to the phrase 'hegemonic masculinity' to illustrate biased views of men who are characterised as being powerful, strong, macho, and invulnerable. In comparison to hegemonic masculinity, homosexuality, ethnic minority masculinity, and working class masculinity are perceived as marginalised or subordinated by the leading hegemonic masculinity. According to Newburn and Stanko (1994) these aspects of subordination and marginalisation of male victims are comprehensively lacking in criminological research. This is verified by Messerschmidt (1993) who stresses that the main criminological theorising is written by men and has mainly been about boys and men; therefore, criminology is gender blind in this regard. The author further argues that the gendered content of their illegitimate and legitimate behaviour has been overlooked. He rightly emphasises that gender in criminology concentrates only on females with very little or no consideration of the effects of gender on males.

Newburn and Stanko (1994) also shed light on the negligence of criminology in comprehending male victimisation. The authors argue that even if male victimisation is discussed, it is always displaced by focus to female's experiences of crime. Messerschmidt (1993) argues that to disregard the experience of men is to invalidate a comprehension of male susceptibility to victimisation. This viewpoint resonates with Kersten's (1996) argument that criminology has a reputation of neglecting gender, and that criminology usually employs masculinity as an axiomatic, fundamental category needing no additional examination. Coltrane (1994) proposes that in order for gender relations to be changed and to make them much more uniform, it is essential to research masculinity, as it is a key organising principle within societies. The author also points out that historic depictions of supposed innate gender differences (commanding men and caring women) are imprecisely utilised to create femininity and masculinity.

Whilst Lees (1997) stipulates that gender relations are fundamentally socially constructed in a variety of various legal, institutional, and social contexts. Weis and Borges, (1973) noted that the socialisation procedure prepares and teaches females to be proper 'legitimate' survivors when confronted with male violence, whereas males are not socialised in this way; therefore, males do not define themselves as 'survivors', because they are seen by themselves and society to be ineligible as a 'legitimate' survivor.

Lees (1997) also argues that male rape is justifiable within warfare because male rape is utilised as a function of a military plan to improve and demonstrate masculinities in an army unit, but simultaneously firmly managing sexual relations amongst men to preserve a robust hierarchy. Therefore, this proves how male rape is accepted and legitimated in certain institutions, and ultimately condoned in certain institutions. Earlier research by Ward (1957) supports this position, which found that if a male is to survive in an institutional environment then he must prove his masculinity all the time, and male rape is one of the mechanisms used to demonstrate masculinity. This research is aimed at proving that men are raped by women besides showing masculinity or not.

Carlson (2008) and Mullaney (2007) claims that the male survivors may reaffirm their masculinity by doing physical violence, dangerous actions in a bid to demonstrate the ability of taking care of themselves by not reporting the crime to the police or to their close relatives and or friends. The actions that male survivors took after the assault will seek to reconstruct the broken masculinity and by doing so, men however can move through multiple meanings of hegemonic masculinity according to their interactional needs, so that they can adopt



hegemonic masculinity when it is necessary to do so, and simultaneously, strategically distance themselves from hegemonic masculinity at other times.

In this formation of masculinities, Weiss (2010) argues that women are the ones who are hunted and penetrated by men. Therefore, any male survivors who speak out about the forced sex with a woman challenges the norms of masculinity and overturn heterosexual scripts. Men are not expected to nit-pick about the pain they feel or to show signs of being emotional about the sexual assaults perpetrated against them especially by women. Weiss continues to argue that the humiliation that the male survivor gets in the attribute of the re-creation of male sexuality expects men to be physical strong and masculine so that they are able to satisfy women, an origin that was strengthened by the contemporary pornography.

Walklate (2004) contends that women are accepted to express their emotions but the privilege of expressing emotions is not available to men and they are always denied the opportunity. Gentleness and the expression of emotions are feminine characteristics that are not associated with men and men are not expected to show signs these feminine characters among others. Rather men should show masculine characteristics which includes being tough and self-reliant among others. According to Abdullah-Khan (2008) men who acknowledge that they have failed to accomplish the masculine qualities, they are viewed and they also view themselves, as not 'real men'.

## **2.5 When the hunter becomes the hunted**

The above section clearly demonstrated that men are largely portrayed as the hunter and perpetrators of sexual violence and women as the hunted. In this study men are now portrayed as the hunted and women as the hunter showing that the societal social constructions have completely changed. Whilst there is no literature available that clearly show the reasons behind male rape by women the issue remains a grey area since the study is focusing on the lived experiences of male survivors raped by female rapists. It was going to be ideal if the study included the reasons but it is beyond the scope of this study.

Literature available shows factors and reasons behind men to commit sexual crimes against other men. Stemple (2009) noted that sexual crimes among men especially in prison set ups are caused by sexual starvation since they will be only men in the cells; it also included issues of disobeying those who are said to be the bosses of the cells and food issues. This shows that in prison conditions men remain hunters but hunting other men. The growth of knowledge on the reasons behind male rape by women is obstructed by access to the female offenders but this study by bringing out the experiences and effects of sexual violence on male survivors

demonstrates that men have become the hunted contrary to the original view that projected them as hunters.

Felson (1990) noted that during the 1970's, the researches on male rape proved that the assumed major reason for men to rape women was simply sex. However, Felson (1993) argues that recently, feminist researchers denied this view and concluded that male rape by women is about power and anger. On the other hand, he examined what inspires female rapists and found out that largely female sexual assault is sexually motivated. He further explained that women also use force to gain sexual access the same way force is used in robbery to take someone else's possessions. This research supported the view that male rape perpetrated by women is also about gaining power and control over someone. This clearly projects women as hunters and men as the hunted in this regard.

In Zimbabwe, the media assumed that the main reason why men are raped by women is for the creation of riches since some of the female rapists collect semen which is said to be linked with witchcraft in trying to make someone rich. Therefore, this explanation tries to portray poverty as linked to witchcraft and hence as the main assumed reason why men were raped by women. This allows modern witchcraft to be considered in these studies as a key element of male rape perpetrated by women.

## **2.6 Modern witchcraft and application of the occult economy**

Debates around male rape take different dimensions including witchcraft where it is considered as part of the occult economy or ritual practices among others. In this context, witchcraft was defined by Moore and Sanders (2001) as a social institution that regularly functions as a means through which human relations are reorganised sustained by expanding economies of the occult that encompasses healers and diviners. Similarly Watson (1993) noted that witchcraft is often accompanied by violence and its prevalence is mostly seen in Africa, Asia, and the Caribbean. In such countries, witchcraft practices might include wearing a snake-belt to ward off death; consulting dead ancestors to succeed in a project; or manipulating certain objects to inflict harm or death remotely upon another person.

Comaroff's (1990), study in South Africa brings the dimension of the occult economy in male rape. However, issues of witchcraft in Zimbabwe remain an outlawed area although it is academically discussed. Studies in South Africa anthropologically demonstrate the ultimate goal and use of body parts in witchcraft in a bid to get rich among other reasons. Thus the application of witchcraft in this study helps to broaden the understanding of male rape in the

context of rituals, and occultism. However the scope of this study is not going beyond the experiences of male rape survivors and the effects on their family and work life.

Occultism and witchcraft was going to be handy in exploring the reasons behind male rape where semen is collected as no one knows what and how it is used afterwards. For this study the target group are male survivors and not female perpetrators. The study makes reference to witchcraft because it is assumed and inferred that the semen is used for ritual purposes. Bwititi (2011) asserts that the female rapists are agents of some businesspeople suggesting that women are used to hunt for human parts and excretions for ritual purposes hence justifying occultism. Bwititi (2011) notes that most of the women work with established business people are part of the occult economy as they mix sperms with herbs to produce supposedly wealth-creating concoctions. Notably, he argues that when female rapists demand the use of a male condom, the motive is not primarily to prevent the spread of STIs and HIV and AIDS or pregnancy but to facilitate the collection of sperms. The collection of semen that is done by female rapists makes this study to conclude that male rape is somewhat linked to witchcraft.

Female rapists in Zimbabwe regard the sperm as vital for ritual purposes linked to magic deemed to be an avenue for making money. This resonates with The Sunday Mail of 22 October day (2011) where it was reported that some women were collecting semen for self-enrichment purposes. Hence, the female rapists are on a serious mission to make money by any means necessary. Mafongoya (2015) carried out a study on female rapists showing how the elderly people who participated in his study believed that female rapists were working with traditional healers so that they make money. For him under normal circumstances, female rapists engage in these unethical practices after facing a lot of challenges like marital breakdown, poverty among others. These desperate women may end up consulting traditional healers or magicians who will prescribe them to bring male sperms for performing rituals to quicken and maximise their fortunes. These elderly respondents further explained that the majority of these female rapists are given goblins in the form of large snakes which survive by feeding on human sperms. In return, the snake will vomit thousands of dollars marking an end to financial doldrums bedevilling some young women in urban areas. Ruparanganda (2008) is of the same view that the female rapists who are collecting sperms are linked to witchcraft. In his doctoral thesis study among Harare street youth, he shows that businessmen would take street girls to hotels, give them new clothes and ply them with booze. This shows

that there are some big people in authority who are behind these female rapists for different ritual purposes or as part of the occult economy.

According to Geshchiere (1997), the institution of witchcraft, wherever it occurs, is not only wholly implicated in modernity. Those who are part of the witchcraft circle are either the clients of its powers, or the spirit mediums that protects consistently their activities as they strive to adjust to new ways. This was postulated by Green and Mesak (2005) and Englund (2007) as they continued to argue that changes in how their clients seek protection are dealt with or in the contexts in which certain medicines come to be viewed as efficient. In relation to male rape, women have resorted to new ways of collection of sperms than the killings. It is not witchcraft in the abstract but the practice of it which in many settings is perceived to be antithetical to modernization and moving forward.

Ashforth (2001) asserts that in some African countries, such as South Africa, witchcraft is cloaked in silence because its victims do not want to advertise that they are, or have been, accursed. They are also afraid that speaking out will provide their perpetrators with intelligence of the steps they have taken to counteract the occult assault, thereby inviting a fresh onslaught, possibly by different means. Likewise, even in Zimbabwe, public discussion of witchcraft is exceptionally rare. This arises from the belief that 'public utterance of information arising about the occult gives occult forces their power as cited by Jeffery (2007). Therefore, the best way of protecting oneself (and society) is not to mention it.

On a different note, Aleksandra (2010) noted that in most parts of the Central Africa, witchcraft discourse is said to have entered the public domain by means of the mass media. Yet, whether spoken or silent, witchcraft occupies a central place in people's imaginations. Ashforth (2001) argues that the relational damage caused by the practice of witchcraft is incalculable because, in such societies, 'life must be lived in terms of a presumption of malice.' Owen (1995) believed that other people's motives are continually questioned, creating a climate of fear and suspicion, in which trust and civil society is virtually impossible. This relates to female rapists that rape men and collect their semen as a result of witchcraft accusations, around the world.

## **2.7 The masculine nature of poverty**

A common image of female and male poverty, as presented in World Bank and United Nations documents and among Nongovernmental organisations, tends to confirm that women make up a large proportion of the world's poor despite the fact that poor women are economically very active but often in jobs that provide little or no income. The negative

economic changes influence gender roles resulting in producing significant household stress, humiliation, and conflict in both men and women. In the event that men fail to contribute adequately to the family, they feel powerless, redundant, burdensome, and may react violently. This will make women take the role of men of looking after families and sometimes end up walking out of abusive relations. Women may gain confidence as they start earning and retaining cash incomes. In this regard other women gain the masculine characteristics and rape men such that they are able to collect the sperms and sell them, thereby making money to raise their families.

Charmes (1998) establishes that the population of women is more than half of the total population in many countries. In order to solve poverty, women have become active in buying and selling of goods in many countries. Kabeer (1997) argues that the biggest groups among female traders include women who are not married, divorced and widowed. Those women with unemployed husbands are also involved in trading of goods. This is because women are not harassed by police and even border guards and these results in many women resorting to buying and selling. For example, in Georgia women move around buying and selling between countries such as Russia, Turkey, Hungary and Poland. Women have to negotiate with the gangs along the routes and corrupt police (Kabeer 1997) which enable them to trade their goods easily that men. Charmes (1998) noted that due to the women's greater ease of movement, women are increasingly hired to be in possession of drugs when crossing borders because they are less likely to be suspected by authorities. Women will not deny that opportunity because of their responsibilities of the daily welfare of children and family. Therefore they have to accept to do those unrespectful activities in order to make their lives easy. This shows that in regard to male rape perpetrated by women, the women are hired to rape men and collect semen because as described above, women are feminine such that no harm is expect to be initiated by women.

Media in Zimbabwe supported the fact that poverty is linked to male rape. My Zimbabwe news online in 2015 reported that prostitutes at the Ngundu Growth Point along Masvingo road are making easy cash by selling human semen to cross border truck drivers who in turn sell the fluid in South Africa. Investigations by the news crew revealed that prostitutes at Ngundu Growth Point (where even girls as young as Grade 7 pupils sell sex), are making extra income by selling human semen they get from their clients to cross border truck drivers who are ironically their main clients. Although these ones are collecting semen from men

who have consented to the sexual intercourse but it is still believed that male rape perpetrated by women is also a way of maximising their income.

## **2.8 Myths and beliefs regarding male rape**

According to Brownmiller (1975), the term ‘rape myth’ originates from feminist theory that was used to highlight the oppression and social control of women. Burt (1980) defined rape myths as false thoughts and judgment “about rape, rape victims, and rapists” (p.217). Rape myths are instruments used by people to dismiss the reality of rape. Chapleau, Oswald and Russell (2008) suggested that a primary social force in female victims’ maltreatment in society is the acceptability of rape myths. This now relates to male victims who are not receiving a fair treatment after being raped by women because rape myths have already dismissed their possibility of being raped by women.

Groth and Burgess (1980) noted that male rape is packed with examples of beliefs that male rape perpetrated by women is impossible. The overview of male rape has been generalised and giving a stereotypical ideal of the victims and the assailants. Myths and beliefs exist only to blame the victim for what has happened and give excuses to the perpetrator for their behaviour and actions during the assault. Today, most literature that describes rape myths is still solely focusing on female survivors leaving out the male survivors because they are not considered as people who might be survivors of sexual violence. Recently, research has started to discuss how rape myths are applied to male victims. Male rape myths by Stermac (2004) show that it is impossible to force a man to have sex against his will serve to reject male sexual assault by suggesting that a man’s physical strength and size means they are incapable of being raped by a woman.

More recently, there has been a focus on the existence of rape myths related to male rape victims, which include: (a) men can- not be raped; (b) “real” men can defend themselves against rape; (c) only gay men are victims and/or perpetrators of rape; (d) men are not affected by rape (or not as much as women); (e) a woman cannot sexually assault a man; (f) male rape only happens in prisons; (g) sexual assault by someone of the same sex causes homosexuality; (h) homosexual and bisexual individuals deserve to be sexually assaulted because they are immoral and deviant; and (i) if a victim physically responds to an assault he must have wanted it (Anderson, 2007; Donnelly & Kenyon, 1996; Yeager & Fogel, 2006). All these present a disfigured reality of male rape that this study sought to bring to light through the documentation and analysis of male survivor experiences and effects of their family and work life.

However, myths exist in society which suggests that men cannot be sexually assaulted by women and if they were, and then they must have found the experience pleasurable (Struckman-Johnson & Struckman-Johnson, 1992). These myths and beliefs have projected a picture in society that rejects the reality of male rape perpetrated by women. If the perpetrator is female, the boy or adolescent should consider him fortunate to have been initiated into heterosexual activity. In reality, coerced sex causes confusion, depression and other problems in more negative circumstances. To be used as a sexual object by a more powerful person, male or female, is always abusive and often damaging. Therefore, this research is aimed at demystifying these myths and proving that men are also survivors raped by women regardless of their physical nature.

## **2.9 The adverse effects of rape on male survivors**

According to Lees (1997) male rape survivors have reported feeling frightened, dehumanised and contaminated. Isley (1991) noted case researches that suggest that males also commonly experience many of the reactions that females experience. These reactions include: depression, anger, guilt, self-blame, sexual dysfunctions, flashbacks, and suicidal feelings. Other problems facing male survivors include an increased sense of vulnerability, damaged self-image and emotional distancing as cited by Mezey and King (1989). Some of the physical reactions a male survivor may experience in response to the trauma of a sexual assault or rape include loss of appetite, nausea, stomach aches, headaches, lack of concentration and changes in sleep patterns.

It is the case that male survivors do not report their assaults to the police or disclose to family and friends because they know that they are blamed or disbelieved (Hodge and Cantor, 1998; Walker et al., 2005). The available literature shows a psychological dimension of adverse effects of male rape perpetrated by women with limited sociological effects but this study sought to show a sociological dimension of effects where family and work relations shift or completely change as a result. Male survivors of sexual abuse by females often face social, political, and legal double standards. A number of researches have been written concerning the psychological trauma that is associated with female rape survivors. Little research has been conducted about male rape survivors and the sociological and anthropological understanding of their effects.

Brochman (1991) noted that it is very common for a male rape survivor to blame himself for the rape, believing that in some way he gave permission to the rapist especially when the rape was perpetrated by a woman. Male rape survivors are affected with the sexual assault

perpetrated against them the same way female survivors do. The fact that people believe in the rape myth that they may have enjoyed the sexual act of being raped, male victims have to undergo a difficult moment more than women survivors. According to Groth (1980), these are normal, involuntary physiological reactions. It does not mean that the survivor wanted to be raped or sexually assaulted, or that the survivor enjoyed the traumatic experience. Sexual arousal does not necessarily mean there was consent.

### **2.10 Effects of male rape to the family**

The effects of rape to the family and society are determined by how the family is responding to the sexual offence perpetrated against their male relative. Hunter (1990) noted that the first world countries are always positive especially to women survivors and they encourage and support the survivors to get over the rape trauma that was faced. The situations are notably different in certain societies like Asia, Africa, the Caribbean and other poor countries where rape survivors in general are neglected or the crime itself is not prioritized, the response is often in a negative way. It could be either in the form of neglect, absence of social and legal justice, and putting the blame on the survivor.

Studies show that there have been a lot of awareness and knowledge development in regards to female survivors and families and the society are now offering better support even in third world countries. Men still face stigmatisation and families still do not accept that a man can be raped especially if the sexual offence was perpetrated by a woman. This study was also aimed at analysing how family relations of the male victims were affected.

Most literature shows the effects of rape on families in the women's context and not on the men's context. Literature that clearly articulates the effects of male rape on families and relations therefore is limited. Mezey (1992) highlighted that families of male victims are also affected especially the spouse and children. Male rape can destroy marriages; affect the lives of the whole family and causes shockwaves in the communities. Men who are household heads are portrayed as weak and feminine when it is known that they were raped by women. Some female members of the household may not feel safely protected by the male survivor. Urquiza and Capra (1990) noted a number of facts that usually affect the family when their male relative was sexually assaulted. The age at which the male victim was raped, the duration and frequency of the abuse, the type of activities which constituted the abuse whether there was penetration, use of violence, and emotional manipulation all result in greater impact and also the number of persons involved in the abuse.



## **2.11 Conclusion**

In conclusion, this chapter glanced at the limited literature biased against male rape perpetrated by women. This chapter proved that there is limited evidence on male rape because the society believes that men are emotionally strong, and many people assume that male sexual assault survivors are able to cope with the experience. Myths and beliefs associated with male rape likely underestimate the magnitude of the problem of male rape given that men are often unwilling to report sexual assault experiences. Believing in these myths will makes male survivors unlikely to get the recognition and help they need. This research is aimed at showing that the men that are regarded as ‘real’ men are forced to take on their masculine role and avoid behaviours associated with femininity resulting in male rape survivors being judged and judge themselves for failing to fight the perpetrator off (Lees, 1997). Clear gaps sought to be covered by this study were identified and by bringing to light the reality that men are also survivors it becomes a great contribution to the body of knowledge in a society that is highly patriarchal and views men as perpetrators and women as survivors.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter outlines the adopted theoretical framework used in this study to guide the discussion of findings in relation to existing knowledge and past studies on male rape. The feminist theory was adopted as it is relevant for the understanding of sexual violence in general though it mainly focuses more on female survivors. The theory often fails to acknowledge that men are also survivors of sexual assault. However, it helps to understand the stigmas, social constructions and realities associated with male rape in the same context as female survivors. It critically dissects issues of masculinity and femininity in relation to sexual violence.

#### **3.2 Feminist Theory**

Javaid, (2014) observed that rape and sexual assault were structured by feminist as a 'women's issue' leaving little room for the experiences of male survivors. Feminist research makes a vast contribution to the study on male violence against women, particularly with regards to sexual violence where it plays a very crucial role in uncovering the extent of male violence against women, and reveals the effects of rape on female survivors. Stanko (1990) argues that feminist theory focuses on the gendered nature of rape and believes that no one's bodily autonomy should be violated; their sentiments are more on the women's side. No feminist research took into consideration male rape survivors especially where women are perpetrators. Therefore, it becomes interesting as feminism seeks gender equality but in this regard gender equality is compromised since it only focuses on women.

Male rape has been extensively ignored because social and gender expectations facilitate this neglect because feminism defines rape as a violent act, along with a consideration of hegemonic masculinity. Schott (2004) argued that feministic research concluded that rape must be seen as political matter rather than sexual. Radical feminists have given attention to the political nature of rape, but focuses on its sexual character, while the feminist discourse has long argued that rape should be understood as political rather than sexual; as a political tool to dominate and degrade (Schott 2004). A female specific approach is not irrelevant as it insists that the rape of women is a way for men to maintain the patriarchal power structure, it also inflicts that rape is a sort of social order and control (Abdullah-Khan 2008), which can contribute to the explanation of rape of both men and women as a method to maintain power.

According to Abdullah-Khan (2008) feministic research ideas still provides a timeworn views where women were regarded as men's property. The theory identifies rape as the final violation of women. It also shows how rape laws were made to defend men's property, which is women since in most cases women are seen as belonging either to the husband or father (Abdullah-Khan 2008). Lees (1997) examines the true nature of stranger rape (which is seen by the criminal justice system and society as 'true' rape), date rape, acquaintance rape, and male rape. Lees argues that rape is a mechanism of executing "hegemonic heterosexual masculinity", the notion being that the male perpetrator wants domination, power, and control over their victim (Lees, 1997).

Further, Thornhill and Palmer (2004) argue that rape needs to be understood as a result of "male sexual desire"; however, their study does not incorporate male rape, which cannot be explained in terms of 'desire', but as a form of power and control. Berrington and Jones (2002) dispute these biological theories on rape; instead they see rape as an act of violence, power, and control, not a crime of "lust or desire". This notion of power and control resonates throughout the feminist research, such as the work by Kelly, (1988) who states that rape is a "violent, political act" and an act of "sexual control".

The sociological perspective rather than the biological perspective is seen to be more robust, because there is more data to prove its theory of understanding the development of 'masculinities' as being crucial to understanding male rape (Hoyle and Young, 2002; Walklate, 2004). That is, how a male sees himself as a male individual and how maleness is constructed in a cultural and social environment is critical to comprehending male rape. This is confirmed by Berrington and Jones (2002), Groth and Burgess (1980), Kelly (1988), and Lees (1997) who also believe that masculinity is a social category instead of a biological one.

Feminist advocates have exploited those social tendencies in order to maintain both their monopoly on perceived survivor status, and the illusion that women are less domineering and violent than men. All of feminism's hurtful condemnation of sex offenders vanishes when the perpetrator is female, to be replaced with arguments they would call rape apology, victim blaming, marginalizing, minimalizing, and misogyny if they were offered in discussion of male victimization of women. Feminism try to refocus discussion to the "women have it worse" dialogue by downplaying the suffering of male survivors in comparison to that of female survivors. They deny statistics, falsely claiming that the incidence of female perpetrated rape of male victims is lower than it actually is. Many will go so far as to argue that men cannot be raped by women.

Feminists call it request for forgiveness when the sexual crimes are directed at female survivors of male perpetrators. Whether it is denial that the survivor was violated, or denial that the perpetrator did anything wrong, yet when the survivor is male, and especially when the perpetrator is female, it is feminists who take the lead in that denial. This helps to explain what happened in Zimbabwe when three women were caught possessing 31 used condoms containing sperms when their car was involved in an accident. They were arrested for failing to explain the source of sperms and also a series of reported rape cases but sexual violence was not considered to have happened. Feminist's organisations such as Musasa Project, advocated for the release of the women yet there were men who identified them as the ones who had raped them and the three women were acquitted. Feminists do not want the laws and policies they have used to advocate for to be turned around and be applied to female perpetrators.

### **3.3 Theoretical limitations**

Feminists call a community-wide attitude of the rape act, "rape culture" when the survivor is female, yet by their own definition, they are most guilty of promoting a rape culture that tolerates victimization of boys and men, especially when the perpetrator is female. After decades of research and theory building, feminist rape apologists know full well the damage they are doing to boys and men. They are aware that their denial is preventing male victims from seeing the same progress in legal response and victim's assistance that has been won for women. They know they are promoting lenience for female rapists. They have deliberately thrown men and boys under the bus, and it is obvious they intend to continue to do so.

Nolet-Boss (1999) argues that feminist theory does not accommodate the abuses that are perpetrated by women. The theory explains that women uses violence in situations where they are supposed to defend themselves (self-defence) and in retribution for the abuses that would have happened to them before. Pence and Paymar argues that as much as woman's women uses violence in the context of self-defence and retaliation, it then fails to recognise that there are other women who are not gentle and kind as postulated by the theory. Some women are violent and have masculine properties which are used to control men and even other women. While the feminist theory recognises and authenticates the survivors' feelings about the abuses and sexual assaults, it is essentially a sociological approach which tends to focus on social structure and socialisation.

Furthermore, in emphasizing that all females are vulnerable to sexual abuse, this assumption of the vulnerability of women might be true but not all women are not able to protect

themselves. The theory reinforces negative messages which makes the male survivors to be ignored and fails to get the assistance they may need when their sexual rights are violated especially by women. The researcher is of the feeling that although the feminist theory helps in understanding how both survivors are affected by rape and sexual assaults, it needs to be revised and create spaces where men's voices are heard.

### **3.4 Conclusion**

In conclusion, the feminists have created platforms of maintaining the male perpetrator or the female survivor image so that they increase their chances of fundraising since they have managed to create the rape image in a more balanced and honest view of the crime. Women as a group are seen as more vulnerable than men. The general public is more compassionate to women as whole than to men and still the alleged threats to women can be more readily abused as a tool of influence. Feminists continues to uphold the public views that women are above suspicion survivors of rape and sexual assault perpetrated by men ignoring that are also and men are also survivors of sexually assaults that are sometimes perpetrated by women. Rather men are always seen as violent and domineering in order to capitalize on the backing of protecting women from them. Yet there is still no generally accepted theory that explains male rape perpetrated by women. However, as very few female rapists against men are convicted it is not possible to study sizeable numbers of offenders. Therefore it may be some time before an adequate theory to explain the occurrence of female to male rape emerges.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **4.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the research process and how it was carried out. It describes the sequence of activities that were performed by the researcher. The researcher used the qualitative approach or methodology to conduct this research. The section presents the key aspects of whole methodology such as the research design, sampling techniques, data collection techniques and analysis that were used in this research.

#### **4.2. The Qualitative Methodology Approach**

The overall methodology of the study was qualitative in approach with a phenomenological dimension (Donalek, 2004) whereby it focuses on interpreting the meaning of lived experiences of male rape survivors and the impact on their lives at the family and work level. These meanings allow people to produce their own, personal realities; but because these realities are based on how people create those meanings, “reality becomes an interpretation of various definitional options” (Berg, 2009:10). In this case, the researcher finds this approach as best suited for this rare study in Zimbabwe. The intention of using phenomenological research approach is to go beyond the aspects of life taken for granted and “to uncover the meanings in everyday practice in such a way that they are not destroyed, distorted, trivialized or sentimentalized” (Benner, 1985: 6).

#### **4.3 Gaining entry**

Whilst, gaining entry to study participants is one of the most difficult parts of studies of this nature, for this study it was easier because the researcher is an insider and acted as an outsider during data collection. Employed by Adult Rape Clinic (ARC), the researcher after getting authority from the organisation’s authorities had access to the data base of the cases of male survivors that were physically referred for treatment. Although the researcher is an insider, she is unknown to most study participants as she does not work directly with them. The researcher sought permission to interview the male survivor using ARC’s facility and blessings from the ARC’s authorities was granted.

#### **4.4 Selection of study participants**

A total of twelve male survivors aged between (give the age group each participant) 22 and 48 years were selected to participate in the research. A purposive sampling technique was used to obtain the informants for the interviews and focus group discussions (FGDs) since the participants were selected from a known list. The known list helped to identify and select participants with cases that were related to the phenomenon of interest under study (Kothari,

2004). The recruitment of participants was done with the assistance of Adult Rape Clinic (ARC) nurse counsellors who selected from a list of male rape survivors who had visited to ARC for medical care and support. The assistance of the nurse counsellor was needed because the male survivors are familiar to the counsellor since they met when they came for medical care. The nurse counsellor was aware of the participants who might be willing to participate in the study.

At first a total of 21 participants were selected, nine of the selected participants refused and did not turn up for the study. They indicated that they had moved on with life and no longer wanted to reopen the old wounds by discussing their experiences. Thus selection of participants was based on their categorization as survivors' despite of their different professional backgrounds. A total 12 participants agreed to participate in the study and consent was sought first before interviews and discussions were held. Two nurse counsellors were interviewed as key informants to the study giving their understanding of male rape; male survivor experiences and what they think were the likely ramifications on their family and work relations and life.

#### **4.5 Selected data collection methods**

The researcher used interviews and focus group discussions for data collection. The researcher had intended to use in-depth interviews but the participants seemed uncomfortable during the interviews and not much information was obtained. About four participants were interviewed as most of them preferred Focus Group Discussions. Some of the participants did not come on the agreed dates as they kept on excusing themselves due to work commitments and some stay out of Harare. The researcher switched to the focus group discussion method and a total of three FGDs were held.

##### ***4.5.1 Secondary Sources of Information***

The researcher also makes use of secondary sources of information which includes ARC records as well as newspaper articles. These were utilized due to their significance in corroborating primary data pertaining to sexual assault against men. The researcher also constantly observed and listened to radio programmes on issues relating to the topic under investigation. These secondary sources provided a pool from which respondents were chosen as well as the much needed statistical data.

#### ***4.5.2 In-depth Interviews***

The researcher conducted one on one interviews with four participants (male survivors). It was the male survivor's story that directed the process of the interview. The participants were asked to give a full description of their rape experiences. The full description of their experience included how they were raped, the place where it happened, with how many female rapists, their thoughts, feelings, their stream of consciousness and actions they took. Therefore, questions were only used when really necessary. There were instances where the researcher asked follow-up questions which were not structures for clarifications on the rape incidences.

Once the male survivor started to tell his story it flowed, as they remembered more and more of what had happened. Due to the sensitivity of the research, the in-depth interviews worked well by enabling the male survivors to allow their stories to flow with detailed descriptions of their experiences. Some of the interviews lasted up to two hours at a time which meant that not as many follow-up interviews were needed.

The researcher also interviewed two nurse counsellors at ARC as key informants to the study as deal with male survivors. The counsellors were interviewed through structured interviews with a set of guiding questions different from the male survivors because specific information was sought from the key informants to clarify some study aspects. Other prompting questions were asked during the interview based on the answers given. These interviews were shorter, with the average interview lasting about thirty minutes. This was due to the nature of the interview and the need for answers to a few very specific questions which enabled the research to answer some grey areas particularly where inference was applied.

#### ***4.5.3 Focus Group Discussions (FDGs)***

The researcher resorted to the use FDGs'after observing that most male survivor participants were not comfortable to discuss their stories with the researcher as individuals despite the fact that interviews were conducted in an environment they got care and support. Being a female researcher, male survivors felt uncomfortable without other people. Some male survivors were also not comfortable interviewed with the researcher who is light in complexion resembling some of the perpetrators. This prompted a shift in methods towards a group approach. However, this shift did not affect the quality of the data gathered as survivors felt more comfortable in a group situation. According to Mafongoya (2015) FDGs gave the participants the opportunity to interact and exchange their mind-sets on rape cases without over relying on individual or personal thinking on the subject matter. The researcher conducted three focus group discussions between January and February 2017. The first group



had four participants and the second group has six participants including two participants who came during the first group. The last group had six participants and all of them had already attended the first and second FGDs. This helped the researcher to collect rich data since there was overemphasizing of events and it also works for triangulation of the data.

The sensitivity of the study resonated with small numbers in the FGDs that were held in a small counselling room in order to maintain privacy during the discussions and to minimise interruptions. The FGDs were conducted in Shona a language that enabled every participant to express and explain well their experiences. The FGDs were led by the researcher with the help of one of ARC's nurse counsellor as a co-facilitator. The researcher sought the assistance of the nurse counsellor who was well known to the male survivors and enabled survivors to feel comfortable as well as confidence in narrating their stories.

The researcher also sought the assistance of nurse counsellors to invite the male survivors to attend the FGDs. Therefore her presence in the FGDs was well calculated to guarantee safety and comfort to study participants. The nurse counsellor helped with some follow-up questions for clarification purposes. The FGDs also acted as support group discussions where the male survivors shared their experiences that enabled them to heal fast after realising that they were not the only ones who faced the problem. All FGDs lasted between around two hours. Participants were given lunch by ARC since they were invited for ARC business.

#### **4.6 Data analysis**

This research made use of narrative analysis, a narrative being an “oral, written or filmed account of events told to others or to oneself” (Smith, 2000: 328). The researcher chose to make use of narrative analysis as it enabled analysis of the male survivors' stories as a whole, rather than break them down into separate parts. Narrative analysis makes use of interviews as the main data collection method. It was through in-depth interviews and FGDs that the researcher was able to get the participants to tell their story. It was the participants' story, and how they understood their experiences, that were important in narrative research.

The benefit of narrative research was that it allowed the researcher to gain “insight into the beliefs, actions and values of the participants from their own frame of reference” (Hansen, 2006:152-153). However, the limitation of using this method was that respondents could forget certain details due to trauma, and exaggerate or leave out details with which they were not comfortable disclosing (Riessman, 1993). But this was controlled by revisiting some of their earlier accounts when they came for care and support just after the sexual assaults.

Four individual interviews and information gathered from FGDs were transcribed chronologically as a whole, and themes across the interviews with the same respondent were identified. This resulted in one combined transcript per interviewee which gave an overview of the interviews done with the respondent. The first interviews were used as a way to guide the FGDs that followed. These overall transcripts per participant were cross-referenced in order to pick up the common themes that were found across the different respondents. These themes were then used in order to form a code with which the interviews were analysed. The researcher repeatedly went through the transcripts in order to make sure that all the themes that emerged from the narratives were captured (Chase, 2005).

#### **4.7 Ethical considerations**

Medzani (2013) notes that ethical concerns are part of the everyday practice of doing research, therefore this study topic of male rape is sensitive and all necessary ethical considerations were well thought-out. The researcher first obtained ethical approval to interview participants from the Adult Rape Clinic. The researcher gave a verbal explanation of the objectives and procedures of the study so that informed voluntary participation is ascertained. The researcher explained to the participants that confidentiality was going to be maintained throughout the research. The researcher explained to the participants the potential risks and benefits of participating in this research. Other participants especially the unemployed have thought that it was the opportunity to get employment. Focus Group Discussions were held in privacy in the presence of a professional ARC nurse counsellor such that emotional needs of participants resulting from their experiences of the sexual assaults are dealt with when necessary. Participants were advised to keep the information discussed within the group as a top secret. The study did not use real names, rather pseudonyms were used. The participants were assured that the findings of the research were strictly for academic purposes only.

#### **4.8 Limitations of Study**

A number of potential respondents were unwilling to participate in this study. Therefore, the sample size was reduced from the original 21 to 12 but the sample remained representative to give a true picture of male survivor experiences. During interviews some participants were not responding compared to others as some tended to dominate discussions. Shifting from interviews to FGDs for the majority of study participants affected the participation of few respondents. But overall the data collected remained valid.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### PRESENTATION OF FINDINGS

#### 5.1 Introduction

Chapter five presents the study findings on the phenomenon of male rape perpetrated by women. It brings out the male survivors' narratives and experiences at two levels, first during the sexual violence act and life after sexual violence. Where possible, the researcher used direct quotations in relation to their experiences. Each narrative follow the same format; namely, a brief chronological summary followed by a detailed narrative which was linked to emerging themes. The study has two objectives that this chapter is responding to, guided by the study questions.

#### 5.2 The Adult Rape Clinic (ARC) and Sexual Survivor support services

Adult Rape Clinic (ARC) is a specialised clinic that provides post rape care services to adolescents and adult survivors of sexual violence both females and males. However for the purposes of this study focus was on male survivors only as a target group. Based at Parirenyatwa Group of Hospitals, ARC provides medical and psychosocial care to an average of 30 rape survivors per month. Based on secondary data sources, the average number of male survivors seen at ARC per month is four giving an average of 13% of all survivors getting assistance per month combined. Evidence from the secondary sources show that about 99% of male survivors assisted at ARC were sexually assaulted by female perpetrators. This shows that those who are visiting ARC for assistance are survivors of female perpetrated sexual violence. The statistics of male survivors sexually assaulted by other men reflects that the majority of survivors are children and teenagers and not adults. This does not mean that adult men are not sexually assaulted by other men. The following table show the statistics of gender disaggregated data of rape survivors seen at ARC for a period of two years (2015 and 2016).

**Table 1: Gender disaggregated data on rape survivors**

Year	F	M
2015	343	75
2016	360	91
<b>Totals</b>	<b>703</b>	<b>146</b>

The above table shows that statistics of female survivors are higher than those of male survivors giving a rate of 79% of female survivors to 21% of male survivors justifying the dominant feminist arguments that women are the majority survivors of sexual violence. However, the figures may not reflect the reality of sexual violence as the figures are simply showing those who reported and got assistance at ARC. The low figures for male survivors recorded may also reflect a low reporting rate by men due to the fear of being considered feminine. In 2015 the table shows that a paltry 22% of male survivors got assistance from ARC compared to 78% of women. However in 2016 the figures went up in both categories. For men it increased to 25% against 75% of female survivors. Generally the table shows that there is a steady increase of both female and male survivors who are reporting and getting assistance not only at ARC but other similar organisations such as Family Support Trust (FST) and Medicines Sans Frontiers (MSF).

### **5.3 Profiles of male survivor respondents**

Of the twelve study participants discussed, a total of seven survivors were aged 30 years and below indicating that the majority of the survivors are relatively young. The other five are 30 years and above but all are below the age of 50 years. The selected study participants or male survivors are either formally or informally employed whilst one of them was a student at the tertiary level. About seven respondents were married with children indicating that 50% of the study participants were family men. This also shows that their experiences were different from those who were not married. A total of four respondents were not married whilst one was a divorcee. Of the total study participants about five were formally employed in the civil service presenting different experiences for the male survivors. Three of them were self employed in the informal sector whilst the other three were completely unemployed and the last one was a student at a tertiary institution. The following is a table showing the background characteristics of the study participants.

**Table 2: Background characteristics of respondents**

<b>Respondent</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Marital Status</b>	<b>No. of Children</b>	<b>Employment Status</b>	<b>Profession</b>	<b>Where the respondent live</b>
1	22	Single	0	Informal	-	Mazowe
2	23	Single	0	Unemployed	Student	Harare

3	23	Single	0	Unemployed	-	Harare
4	24	Married	2	Employed	Banker	Harare
5	25	Single	0	Informal	-	Mt Darwin
6	29	Married	2	Employed	Clerk	Chinhoyi
7	30	Married	2	Self employed	-	Bindura
8	34	Married	3	Employed	Accountant	Masvingo
9	39	Married	4	Employed	Prison Officer	Harare
10	40	Divorced	2	Employed	Pastor	Harare
11	42	Married	3	Employed	Teacher	Harare
12	48	Married	5	Unemployed	-	Harare

The above table shows that adult males despite their age and profession are at risk of being sexually assaulted. The range of the age group of the survivors reflects that most of the target victims were relatively young and economically active. The youngest male survivor respondent was aged 22 years whilst the oldest was aged 48 years. The findings contradicts with Cook and Hodo's (2013) findings that that majority of male survivors of sexual violence are boys in their early and mid-teens. Thus this dismisses the view that boys are more likely to be victimized than older males. This study shows that adult men are also survivors of sexual assault and the median age of male survivor respondents of this study is 32 years way above the median age of 17 years as suggested by Cook and Hodo (2013). The table also shows that there is no specific classification of men that are susceptible to the rape perpetrated by women as anyone or any man who happens to fall into the trap of the masculine women can be a victim.

The study findings show that even man of God (pastors) fell victim to female rapists as they were among the male survivors. The findings differ with Stemple's (2009) findings when he argued that the majority of sexual assaults against men occur in prison and not in society in general. Of these selected study participants no one was selected from prisons but were all survivors of the sexual assault perpetrated by women in society.

#### **5.4 Circumstances under which male survivors were raped**

Data from FGDs show that most of the male survivors were victims of hitch-hiking when they were travelling mostly from work, from rural to urban areas during late hours. This corroborates with Cook and Hodo's (2013) analysis that most common sites for male rape involving post-puberty victims are outdoors in remote areas and in automobiles usually involving hitchhikers although the perpetrators of Cook and Hodo's study were men. Also the study done by Marevesa and Sibanda (2014) of Great Zimbabwe University and the one done by Mafongoya (2015) also shows that the female rapists were targeting men who prefers hitch-hiking private cars for easy travelling.

However, the study findings shows that not all survivors were raped during late hours of the day as some were even raped during the day but using the same modus of operandi. Most of the cases that were assisted at ARC show that, unknown substances were used to weaken the body of the male survivors including application of chemicals on genital area to sexually arouse them whilst the whole body is weak. Female rapists also use food laced with body weakening substances once ingested. Spiking of drinks to either weaken the body or arouse the penis was also another method used. The findings show that some female rapists use condoms during the sexual act for sperm harvesting. Other female rapists do not use of condoms at all suggesting that it might be for individual ritual purposes or for occultism. To show and assert their masculine behaviour over their male victims, some female rapist robbed their targets of their personal belongings after the sexual assault act including leaving them naked to delay them reporting the sexual assault to police and also to delay the process of being arrested.

Intoxication was described by Beck e.tal (2009) as a term used to express the state where someone has ingested a large quantity of alcohol or other addictive substances which impair their cognitive capacity. In trying to understand the lived experiences of the male survivors, more emphasis was given to the experiences during the sexual assault process. The following are the detailed force application methods used by female rapists to subject them to sexual assault with limited or no resistance at all.

##### ***5.4.1 Drug Spraying in the face or in the car***

Spraying body weakening substances or chemicals to subject their targets under control was found to be one of the common methods used by female rapists. Most study participants during FGDs highlighted that it is one of the common strategies used by the female rapists to attack men. Most of the survivors were sprayed in the face by female rapists using such unknown substances to their victims. These chemical substances cause the target victim to be

physically weak but at the same time the chemicals facilitated erection to enable sexual intercourse. In most cases the sprayed chemical made male survivors to fall unconscious. In situations where chemical substances are used the survivors are raped whilst unconscious but the penis would be erect. For example, one of the respondents narrated that he boarded a black Navara with tinted windows in the morning from Mt Darwin to Harare. He sat on the front passenger seat. There were other two women at the back seat. One of the women sitting at the back tapped him on the shoulder and when he turned to see what it was, the lady sprayed him on the face with an unknown substance in a small bottle like a perfume bottle with a red cap. He was choked by the chemical scent or smell and when he tried to fight them whilst the car was in motion he failed because the other lady at the back put a rope around his neck and pulled him backwards towards the seat he was sitting whilst the one who was spraying him continued spraying him until he got unconscious. He woke up the following morning during the early hours still with an erection; trousers zip open with blood stains on his genitalia whilst at the same time feeling pain all over his body. He did not know what exactly had transpired but the medical examination at ARC confirmed that he was exhausted of a sexual activity and there was evidence of semen on his genitalia. The examination confirmed that he was raped as he never consented to sex but only remembered what transpired before he was made unconscious.

Evidence of these experiences from this gives a different view to the ones given by Smith, Pine and Hawley, (1988) when they argued that men are the ones who should initiate sex not women. Their view is applicable where there is consent but this study is showing that masculinity is no longer the domain of men as more women are using force and other forceful methods to subject men to sexual violence but theoretically this remains unsupported.

The study is showing that women initiated sexual intercourse in a violent manner by spraying their target victims. Sarrel (1982) gave an argument that this study considers outdated when she argued that when a man is said to be raped by a woman, it is a blessing in disguise because men are said to be ready for sex anytime, but in this case, the male survivors were not ready for the sex as some of them fought against the female rapists but only overpowered through the use of chemical substances that remain unknown to many. If they were always ready the female rapists could have negotiated for sexual intercourse without the use of forceful methods as indicated. The use of chemicals shows that the chances of negotiating with a stranger male hitch hiker was not an option. The use of chemical substances and force also contradicts arguments by Davies (2002) who claims that female

perpetrators of sexual assault tend to use persuasion rather than force or the threat of force during their sexual crimes against men. This simply shows that women no longer have predicted methods of committing sexual crimes against their male victims.

#### ***5.4.2 Spiking of drinks and water***

The study findings show that some survivors had their drinks and water spiked where by some chemical substances are mixed with the water or drink to weaken the male body before applying penis erection chemicals. The female rapists would kindly offer their target passengers some water and drink which they would purpose to be also drinking. Most participants confirmed that the rapists calculate their strategies of picking one male victim in the car and some of them pretend to be fellow passengers and only to pounce after some few minutes. The way female rapists present themselves to the male hitch hiker hoodwinks the target victim into believing that he has joined genuine travellers. For men who were assaulted using drink and water spiking with chemical substances they found it hard and difficult to resist food offer from fellow passengers and that's how they fall victim to the female rapists.

One of the respondents narrated how he was given a spiked water. He hitch-hiked a Nissan Elgrand with three women and one male passenger who was driving from Chinhoyi to Harare. It was very hot on that day. They were drinking ice water and he was offered one and could not resist. Because it was hot he just accepted the water without any risky thoughts. Upon taking the water halfway he started feeling dizzy but with a strong penis erection and a desire to have sexual intercourse. There after he passed out and could not remember what happened? When he gained consciousness he found himself dumped around showground area in Harare naked around 0100 hours midnight. That's when he noticed that he was raped because of the soreness of his penis and he also smelt the condoms smell indicating that they were used on him whilst he was unconscious. This is evidence showing that women are showing their masculine powers that they are able to control men at all costs to get what they want. Given the above scenario, the male masculinity was challenged in a non violent manner.

#### ***5.4.3 Forceful drug injection***

Some male survivors were also injected with unknown medical substances so that they could easily be attacked sexually. The same injection also facilitated penis erection for sexual intercourse activities to happen. One of the respondent indicated that he boarded silver Nissan Elgrand at Fourth Street in Harare going to Mutare when he was later sexually assaulted. There were other people in the car he thought were also passengers. When he got into the car there were only two seats left and women who pretended as passengers started complaining



that they had waited for so long time. The door was then closed and they started their journey. He was surprised that all the windows were closed. He asked the other passenger sitting next to the door to open the window but he was ignored. However, one of the male passengers dropped at Rhodesville police station claiming that he had forgotten something. Of the five passengers that had remained in the car two of them dropped at Masasa and only three remained. Before leaving Masasa he was injected on his neck, and when he turned to see what was happening he was splashed with water on his face and he started losing strength. He felt as if something was moving in his body but could not help himself as he was already under control of the two women and a male driver in the car. The male survivor did not go unconscious but only became weak and could follow what was happening. A young lady, who was seated at the back seat, started removing his clothes whilst the car was in motion. She removed the clothes and underwear as he could not do anything. She took some powder which she started to apply around his genitalia to cause for an erection. When he had an erection and she started having sex with him. The survivor however, does not remember seeing the young lady putting on a condom on him. After a long drive whilst the two ladies having sex with him he was dumped along the way and robbed of all his personal belongings. The following morning when he was assisted he observed that he was burnt on his whole genitalia area where some white powder was applied by the young lady who removed her clothes. He had to spend about a month in hospital as skin grafting was done to repair the burnt area.

#### ***5.4.4 Food ingestion through generous offer***

As indicated in the previous sections that some male survivors fell prey to female rapist when offered food in the car as they pretend to be fellow passengers. The female rapists would generously offer what they pretend to be eating to their target victim passengers. One of the respondents was offered biltong meat by the female rapists and he tried to refuse but he was persuaded and he felt that it was inhuman to continue refusing when everyone in the car was eating the biltong. When he accepted and started to chew that biltong, he began to feel penis erection whilst at the same time becoming weak and weak. He noticed that he was already ejaculating uncontrollably within seconds of chewing the biltong. He touched his penis to confirm what he was feeling was true and one of the women started to laugh. One of the women took a condom and put it on the participant and she had sexual intercourse with him. There were two women in the car and both took turns to rape the survivor more than three times and they were removing the condom from him and tying it and put in a cooler box. He passed out at a later stage and could not remember what happened thereafter. He only recalls

people and a policeman waking him up at a hill near the Harare Magistrate court without any clothes even underwear. All his belongings including a cell phone and money were all stolen.

#### ***5.4.5 Raped at Gun Point***

One of the respondents confirmed that he was raped at gun point without the use and application of body weakening substances. He was offered a lift by three unknown women who were driving a Nissan Elgrand black in colour from Harare CBD to Ruwa. He was a new resident in Ruwa therefore due to open discussions in the car he could not notice his bus stop. When he alerted the driver that he had gone past his dropping point he was told that they would drop him as they return from dropping their colleague just some 5km away. They drove past houses in Damafalls and they jokingly indicated that they wanted to have sex with him. They tried to persuade him but he refused and the driver pulled out the gun which he thought was a toy gun. He seemed not to be afraid and the driver triggered the gun. The sound shocked him and realized that these women were serious. After realising that they had a real gun he did not know what happened afterwards. He was in fear, had an erection that enabled him to have sexual intercourse with all of them and reached orgasm. He realised that whilst in fear he was injected with some chemical that kept his penis erect for a lengthy period of time that allowed him to have sex with all of the four ladies. They all heard sexual intercourse with him without any protection. He did not see them collecting any semen; he believed they were wearing women condoms but he did not confirm that. What remains unknown to him was the purpose of having unprotected sexual intercourse with one men. His conclusion from the experience was that he was used to fulfil sexual ritual purpose.

#### ***5.4.6 Forced to swallow unknown tablets***

One of the responded indicated that he was forced to swallow two pink tablets that facilitated penis erection for sexual intercourse to take place. The women raped him one after the other for the whole night using condoms and collecting his semen. He indicated that the amount of semen that came out was a surprise. However during the sexual act he felt a lot of pain to an extent that he even loudly cried but could not get assistance. The collection of semen using condoms connects very well with witchcraft and rituals as described by Bwititi (2012).

During the narration of the experiences, nine of the male survivors were at pains in recounting their experiences. Tears could be seen trickling down their cheeks uncontrollably. They showed that they had an emotional disturbance. Most of the rape cases had happened six months back but as they narrated, it seemed as if it had happened recently.

### **5.5. Reactive actions taken by male survivors**

The study findings shows that male rape survivors took actions that were more or less the same. Since most of them were dumped, they were assisted to reported to the police and to the clinic respectively.

#### ***5.5.1 Reporting to the police and then specialised clinics***

The study findings show that all male survivor participants reported to the police but it was not their choice to report to the police as their circumstances forced them to report to police. Most of them were dumped along the highway roads naked and upon getting assistance police reports were made to facilitate getting appropriate medical support. However, most of the survivors indicated that given a choice they would not have gone to the police but their circumstances made them do so.

Male survivors indicated that they felt ashamed and also blaming themselves for the sexual assault they found themselves in. This simply reflects a masculine thinking that tells them that they could have reacted differently for them not to be subjected to sexual assault of this nature. The male survivors highlighted that before they were raped, they could not believe that a man could be raped by a woman but this is an inevitable reality when forceful substances and tools are used to subjugate male victims under women sexual control. When they heard about these stories of male rape perpetrated by women, they were at the fore front of blaming the survivors and viewed male survivors as not man enough. This corroborates with what Sarrel and Masters (1982) observed in their study. For them people believe that a woman is not capable of forcing a man into sexual intercourse and this only turned out to be not true when they fall victims of the female masculine behaviours.

Most participants indicated that they did not report to the police on their own accord but because they were dumped, people who first assisted them took them to the police station for further assistance. For those who were taken to the police indicated that they were not treated well and fairly by the police officers. The police officers mocked them rejecting that it was not possible for a man to be raped by a woman as cited by Sarrel and Master (1982). Thus whilst the feminist theory does not acknowledge that women rape men, even those in offices of authority do not affirm the same. Thus the masculine thinking and behaviour among police officers affect the way they investigate cases of sexual violence perpetrated by women against men.

One of the respondent indicated that when he was taken to the police station his penis was still erect and police officers laughed at him suggesting that he was not man enough to be

sexually assaulted by women. About three police officers refused to open a case against the female rapists as they could not believe his story. He had to be assisted by a female police officer who referred her to ARC for medical assistance and examination. This shows that male rape perpetrated by females is still unbelievable because according to Whately (1993) women are viewed as only survivors and men as the only perpetrators of sexual crimes. Sarrel and Masters (1982) also supported the view that woman cannot force a man to have sex. It is very difficult to make people believe that men are sexually assaulted by women. The big question asked by many is “how” men can be raped by women.

This research has articulated how these female rapists are using forceful and deceitful methods for them to subject men to sexual assault. Male rape survivors are not given space to speak out and at the same do not want to be openly known as survivors for fear of losing their masculine identity. In Zimbabwe women and children are given a special treatment at police stations when it comes to gender based violence. Their cases are seen at Victim friendly Unit (VFU) by trained Victim friendly officers whilst men were seen by the front office police officers who are not trained to attend to such sensitive issues. It was only in early 2017 that adult men were accepted to be seen by the VFU officers. The police officers who attended to them were surprised that a man can be raped by a woman. One of the respondents said “*haisi mhosva yavo, vanenge vasingatoziviwo*” (it is not their fault, they are not aware of the procedures).

All the survivors who reported to the police were later referred to the clinic for post rape care services. Some of the participants were not even aware that they were supposed to seek medical care though they were worried about HIV infection. Based on the study findings the researcher is of the view that there are many men out there who are sexually assaulted by women but are afraid to report and speak out because they want to maintain their masculine status.

### **5.5.2 Disclosure**

The study participants indicated that disclosing rape incidences was difficult for them. For Javaid, (2014) rape and sexual assault were structured by feminist theorists as a 'women's issue' leaving little room for the experiences of male survivors. Disclosing this kind of crimes which are perpetrated by women seems impossible. This is in line with what Weiss (2010) observed that men are not expected to find fault when their rights are violated and even to show signs of emotional disturbances .

The masculine issues are challenged when men are considered feminine though they are men biologically. The respect that was supposed to be given to male survivors is taken away. This is supported by one of the respondents who explained that he disclosed to his brother but the brother did not believe him. In fact the brother started to tease him as a weak man who can easily be controlled by women sexually. His brother said “*mupfana taura nyaya yako zvakanaka*”, (my brother explain clearly your story). With the anger he had due to the rape incidence, he ended up fighting the brother and he was chased away from home and went back to the rural areas. Fighting his brother was seen as a way of reclaiming his supposedly lost masculinity as cited by Carlson (2008) and Mullaney (2007) who argued that the actions that are taken by male survivors afterwards are meant to reclaim their masculinity.

The married survivors who disclosed to their wives, found it difficult for the wives to believe that truly their husband was sexually assaulted or raped by women. One of the respondents said that his wife sometimes made remarks that referred to the sexual attack and they ended up fighting compromising the family happiness all the time.

#### **5.6 Post rape experiences by male survivors**

Being sexually assaulted by women perpetrators had a number of challenges and aftermath experiences that male survivors struggled with. One respondent turned to alcohol for the first time when he became a survivor. He did not want to talk to anyone even at home. His attitude towards his mother also changed. Total absence of intimacy was the major post rape problem that was also experienced by married male survivors. Most of the survivors did not want to have sex with anyone including their legal wives and let alone those who were not married. Friends became fewer and fewer, simply because the survivor became less and less sociable. Most survivors had come to accept their life as a kind of ongoing closet. Some respondents indicated that they could smell the perfume of the female rapists when they start thinking about it especially when they smell similar perfume scents as those used by the female rapists. When they come across such perfume smells they started to recall the day they were raped indicating that they are always haunted by the sexual assault incident and is difficult to erase from their life.

#### **5.7 Effects of male rape on family and work life**

Male survivors are affected the same way as female survivors. Male survivors also suffer medical, psychological and social consequences as a result of rape which also affects women. The following is a description of the effects of male rape on male survivors and on their families and work life.

### ***5.7.1 Personal Medical effects***

At the personal level respondents highlighted that they had severe genital injuries which took them months to heal. They were also complaining of back aches and stomach aches which are believed to be as a result of intoxication. A number of male survivors contracted sexually transmitted infections (STI) where condoms were not used during the sexual assault. They felt much pain during urination. Some were referred to specialists for further management on their recurring medical complications.

The physical effects that male survivors suffered as a result of the sexual assaults included bruising of the penis and the genital area, difficulty in walking, rushes, urinary infections and stomach disorders. All the medical related effects were also confirmed by the ARC nurse counsellors. This might be as a result of the unknown substances that was sprayed, spiked or injected with.

### ***5.7.2 Effects on social relations***

As supported by Isley (1991) that men suffer from great societal denial when men get sexually assaulted by women. The participants proved denial even when they witnessed themselves being raped by women or and when they realised that they have been raped by women afterwards. Since it is societally believed that a man cannot be forced into sex by a woman, its either they want it or not, this completely reconfigures the way male survivors relates to their female friends, family members and work mates. These beliefs leave the male survivor feeling isolated, ashamed, and less of a man. It was difficult for the participants to handle the idea that they were survivors of sexual violence perpetrated by women. They indicated that a man is supposed to protect women and defend themselves. Sexual assaults are supposed to happen to young boys not to older men like them. The male survivors were very angry about themselves based on the thinking that they have would have lost their manhood due to the sexual assault suffered. One of the participants felt that he had the capacity to protect himself as he was physically and tactically trained for self defence. He was a strong man physically with an advantage of being a boxer; he was of the opinion that he was not supposed to be raped that way. All these thoughts led to intense feelings of guilt, shame and inadequacy for the male survivors.

All the participants indicated that they developed sexual difficulties after being sexually assaulted. It was difficult to resume their sexual relationships especially those who were not married. One of the unmarried respondent said that he hated women especially those who are light in complexion and he does not see himself marrying someone. One participant

indicated that even if he tries, he is still experiencing erection problems and it really affects both his wife and himself .

One of the married participants explained that he has resorted to artificial Green world herbal products so that to boost his sexual desires but still the effect is not yet fully realised. The participants observed that the sexual contact with their loved ones usually triggers flashbacks, memories of the assault and just plain bad feelings. The study corroborates with what Lees (1997) noted in terms of the effects that male survivors experience. Male survivors experienced the same rape effects as female survivors. Therefore, sexual assault perpetrated against men by women should be taken serious and mechanisms to support the male survivors and to arrest female perpetrators should be put in place.

### ***5.7.3 Effects of male rape on Family***

Families of male rape survivors are affected as well with the rape of their relative. The effects are more severe as discussed by one of the respondent that he noticed that there were a lot of questions by the wife and children and even his brothers and sisters as well as daughter in-law. They showed signs of sorrow but relations became highly uncomfortable with each other. At some points the survivor felt that he could not be believed that he was raped but that he had sexual contacts with prostitutes who late mishandled him. Most family members do not only acknowledge that it's a reality but reject it as a complete joke. Some family members could not believe that a man they look up to as a father and head of the family and household was reduced to a level of male survivor of sexual violence perpetrated by women.

At ARC nurse counsellors confirmed that family members are also affected. They have dealt with a number of families whom they try to convince that no one is immune to sexual violence as male rape is not only possible but a living reality. One of the respondents who ended up in hospital, showed that the whole family was affected and it was difficult for him to explain what had happened to them. This finding corroborates with what Mezey (1992) noted in relation to the effects of sexual assault that affected male rape survivors' families.

Sexual dysfunction is the main effect that affected the wives of the male survivors for those who were married. A married respondent who did not disclose the rape incidence to his wife, said that his wife just sensed that something was not good, she never asked but he could see that his wife was not happy about the situation. The families suffered emotionally since the contentment of the family is affected and this results in leaving children confused. Male survivors became angry with their children, wives and even people around them. This was attributed to the denied opportunity for male survivors to express their emotions as postulated

by Walklate (2004). One respondent said “*unozofunga kuti ndaitei watokanda munhu rough kare*”, (You realise that you did not respond well after you have already done it). All the participants also explained that even to friends or at work, the way they were used to talk with others changed.

The behaviour of male survivors at work may lead to poor work performance. This enabled other colleagues to notice that something was wrong with their colleagues. When the bosses and colleagues tried to find out the problem, the male survivor becomes angry with others and the trust especially among women colleagues was affected.

Loss of trust was the other main effect that was brought to the family by women who raped men. The study participants indicated that their wives and girlfriends thought that they are/were having sexual relationship outside marriage. One of the respondents said “*varume tagara tinongonzi tinohura, saka kuti mukadzi azokunzwisisa kuti wabatwa sure panonetsa, kana pasitorina evidence yacho*”, (men are always said to be having extra-marital affairs and it is very difficult for the wife to understand that you have been raped for sure). The married ones were mostly affected about losing the trust of their wives. The family is indirectly affected and if there was opportunity to have a discussion with the spouses of those who disclosed, more information was going to be obtained.

## **5.8 Conclusion**

This chapter presented the findings of the study. It was found out that women are sexually assaulting men using different but painful and forceful strategies. Women understand that they cannot just plan to rape men and win. Men are physically stronger than women. Therefore, these female rapists have employed strategies in order to win men. Men fall victim of the rape when they are intoxicated by spraying, spiking and ingestion. Some men were raped at gun point. Those men who were raped by these female rapists suffered from medical, physical, social and psychological effects. As a result of their guilt, shame and anger some men punish themselves by getting into self-destructive behaviours. For the participants of this study, they developed increased aggressiveness whereby they were arguing with friends, families and even picking fights. Some of them pulled back from relationships and end up feeling more and more isolated.



## **CHAPTER SIX**

### **DISCUSSION OF RESEARCH FINDINGS**

#### **6.1 Introduction**

This chapter is a discussion of the research findings. It specifically discussed key issues and themes that emerged from the study findings drawn from the twelve survivors who participated in the study. The discussion of study findings as presented in chapter five was done in the context of the feminist theory adopted as a guiding framework.

#### **6.2 Profiling the common targets for female rapists**

Interestingly the profiles of the study participants as presented in chapter five reflects male survivors who are economically active between the age groups of 22 and 48. This is the age group that exercises masculinity at the highest level as they are not only economically active but also sexually active. This simply reflects a shift in the exercise of masculine and macho behaviours from men to women as well. Female rapists irregardless of the reasons behind their sexual assault, the attacks on an age group range of men who enjoy masculinity the most demonstrates that they also have power to control and subjugate men the same way they do to women sexually. This is contrary to the views of the feminist theory that views men as always masculine and violent. The study has exposed the weaknesses and limitations of the feminist theory in explaining the changing and shifting of masculine behaviours to women. Professionally female rapists demonstrated that even men of cloth or church pastors and leaders can be sexually controlled as long as they are men.

As presented in chapter five the study demonstrates that all men particularly the active age groups are at risk of being sexually assaulted by women without any resistance. This is not acknowledged by the feminist theory that masculine men can also be feminised regardless of your age group, physicality, profession, marital status or smartness. There is no specific classification of what type of men are susceptible to the rape since among the respondents there are professional including soldiers, teachers, accountants and non professionals as well as business men. Even some men who looked dirty and smelly were sexually assaulted and this fits very well in the witchcraft and ritual context where any man can be hunted for ritual purposes without looking at the physical condition or general outlook of the target. To be raped by beautiful women.

According to the physical description of female rapists by male survivors as presented in chapter five, they would not have picked just anyone because they were light in complexion and looked very beautiful and attractive. If they had asked for sexual favours from any man

under normal circumstances; very few men would have denied that opportunity as observed by Sarrel (1982). One of the respondent explained that “*dai vakandikumbira handaimboramba ini because haa vana vakanaka ivavo, vane zvinhu zvavo*” (if they have asked for the sexual favours, I would have accepted their proposal because they are very beautiful and physically attractive). Thus female rapists do not use their attractiveness, physical structures and beautifulness like prostitutes to lure men into sexual intercourse but use forceful and deceitful but controlling methods to subject men to their sexual assault. This also suggest that it is related to occultism and ritualism as these women once they have captured a target they achieve their goals using all maximum methods available.

Evidence of physical harm is limited except side effects largely caused by applied chemical substances that would have been used to sexually arouse their target, but the forms of robbery demonstrate the ruthlessness of female rapists when subjecting men to their emerging masculine power. The purpose of collecting semen is the other reason why these female rapists would pick any men without scrutinise them. One infers that if female rapists attacked male survivors for ritual purposes they were given conditions not to have a relationship with the male victims for the rituals to be functional. Therefore, the study demonstrates that every man is at high risk of being raped by women despite how rich or poor, educated or uneducated, physically strong or not and clean or dirty the same way all women are also at risk of being sexually assaulted by men. Thus sexual assault is not a unidirectional process but rather due to new constructions of masculine behaviours, both men and women are equally at risk.

### **6.3. Male rape a reality, the need for a balanced theory**

This study demonstrates that male rape perpetrated by women is a reality as presented in chapter five. However, there is still a long way to go in acknowledging and respectfully accepting that men are sexually assaulted by women. Female-on-male rape is a hidden issue and or understudied and worse still theoretically unsupported. Whilst the feminist perspective demonstrates the sexual violence against women it simply falls short of acknowledging that the same happens to men. Once the feminist theory acknowledges this missing link in its analysis it becomes a complete theory that explains the phenomenon of sexual violence in a complete gender manner. Ratner (2003) observed that studies on male rape perpetrated by females are “overlooked, dismissed and ignored’ indicating that theoretically it is also not grounded. The feminist theory excludes or minimizes the male victims, rape comes in many forms and sizes, but it is devastating to the survivor no matter you are female or male.

From a feminist theory male rape perpetrated by women is believed to be extremely rare and not a significant social problem. However, the reality is that men are equally survivors of sexual assault and rape on a daily basis. Due to many misguided beliefs about sexual violence, the studies of male sexual assaults are extremely uncommon and therefore not adequately theorised hence the need for a balanced theory that reflects the reality of male rape. Many believe that male sexual assault is not a significant social problem solely because there are so few reported instances. In fact, there is little documentation in litigated cases. This can be attributed to two factors as presented in chapter five. First is that the obscenity of men with masculine identity makes them overlooked or completely ignored in the discourse of sexual violence. This as a result influences the low rate of reporting male sexual assault by females to the police and legal system because most men fear being feminized as they do not want to lose their feminine identity. Second the social constructions on gender stereotypes.

The limited number of reported cases as reported in chapter five carries more weight in proving the cloak of stigma among male survivors associated with making allegations of male rape perpetrated by women. The problem that makes people believe that male rape is not possible is this underreporting of cases. Due to societal neglect that men know, the chances of reporting the rape cases are limited. Men are internalizing the social belief that the sexual assault of men is beyond the realm of possibility resulting in them facing problems in accepting their rape experience especially perpetrated by women as real, not only because it happened to them, but that it happened at all.

For the study participants as presented in chapter five it was unacceptable that they got raped. For those who reported their cases they reported not by choice and this confirms that men are drunk with masculinity behaviours and do not want to lose this societal powerful identity. This also suggests that most male survivors of rape remain compromised by their obscenity with masculinity and their social lives are compromised after the sexual assault. Men are supposed to be sexually dominant, and being forced to submit puts them in the role of a woman as cited by Smith et al (1988). Considering how the participants were raped, the way the women forced themselves on male survivors demonstrates a shift in the exercise of masculine power to the surprise of many men. However, the use of intoxicines and chemical substances is evidence that without them women remain weak, and their exercise of masculinity is aided by the chemical substances and guns. Thus a new and balanced theory should demonstrate an emerging masculine behaviour not premised on the physicality of the person but premised on the use of aiding chemical substances and guns. If it was not about

drugs that makes men unconscious, it is likely that the women would not have managed to rape them by any other means. Whilst male rape is a form of sexual violence the study presents it as a different dimension that includes some of power exercise in the context of ritualism, occultism and quenching sexual desires.

Davies (2002) in his analysis of the same shows that female rapists normally use persuasion rather than force, and in these cases, no persuasion was used but it was forceful through intoxication and threats using guns. According to Hook and Cook (2013), it is true that a man can get erection in traumatic situations. Not all sexual assaults involves physical violence. According to Davies (2002) women perpetrators often use very different tactics than men to push for sex, such as repeated unwanted touching, emotional manipulation, and intoxication. This study showed that a woman who coerces or forces a man to have sex with her, even without initiating any physical violence, the woman is still a rapist.

As male rape survivors maintained erections during the assault, purely biological responses, despite feelings of shame, fear and anger. That is another reason so few men report the incidents fearing they will be perceived as consenting, pleased participants as cited by Roy and Van Berlo (2004). The penetration that the male survivors experienced in this research was by physical force when the victim was unable to consent because of drugs that were put in drinks, water, food and physical force by threats using a gun. This was proved by the interviews where all the participants confirmed that they were intoxicated for them to get an erection and penetration happened. Just because a man has an erection does not mean he wanted or has consented to the sex because the body is capable of having erections without any sense of sexual desire.

The reality of male sexual assault is that it exists in larger numbers than many would believe and a significant portion of male victims maintains an erection during their assaults. Sex without consent is rape, whether there was erection or not, lubrication or not, and last but not least, orgasm or not, regardless of either person's gender or sexual orientation and no matter what prior relationship existed between the two individuals. All victims should feel like they are able to speak up without being dismissed or ridiculed.

#### **6.4 Deconstruction of masculinity and its reconfiguration**

Based on the experiences of male survivors as presented in chapter five clearly demonstrate the deconstruction of the masculine behaviours. The masculine identities were reconstructed into new dimensions around sexuality where women have curved a role for themselves. This justifies that argument that masculinity is all about power and control as confirmed by the

feminist theory. In this regard men were the dominant players in the masculine domain of enjoying power and controlling the sexuality realm compared to women. The increase in statistics of female perpetrated sexual violence against men shows a shift and the deconstruction of masculinity and its reconstruction to include women as key players in the realm of sexual power dynamics.

This is despite the fact that the reasons for engaging in sexual violence by both men and women may be different but they all contribute to the deconstruction and reconstruction of masculinity in some way. The fact that men often face difficulties in accepting themselves as victims of sexual assault perpetrated by women shows their attempts of rejecting the changing forms of masculinity. They show that men are internally resisting the deconstruction of masculinity but they overallly do not have control over the reality of masculine identity changes. Considering themselves as survivors of sexual violence perpetrated by women goes against the assumptions and beliefs that masculinity traits such as aggression, strength and power are a male domain.

Men, for that and other reasons, delay or avoid seeking help legally, medically and psychologically but this in another way contributes to further feminization of the male survivors. From there on they do not lead their normal life as indicated in the findings chapter that they change their behaviour, alter social relations with women, and close friends and relatives. As confirmed by the findings that most male survivors tend to hate women the most as some may not enter into sexual relationships again. These experiences are within the preview of the feminist theory that presents a deplorable state of women who are survivors of male perpetrated sexual violence. The fact that men are considered stronger than women does not make safe or keep away female rapists. In fact men are increasingly becoming more vulnerable to sexual violence as they try to hide behind cultural rhetoric and the porous identity of masculinity that portrays them as strong.

Masculinity was constructed by society and therefore society should also accept that it can be deconstructed and be reconstructed into different forms that may not be palatable to men who used to be viewed as dominant players. They should accept that women can join the masculine identities. Society mould men and women from an early age to strive for power, control and sexuality. Rape is one of the most devastating and powerful forms of control over another person. To believe that these societal messages affect only men is false. Women are susceptible as well, and women can be rapists and be survivors at the same time similar to changing roles of men as well. Masculinity does not matter when force is being used. The

female perpetrators spiked the drinks and food that was given to the perpetrators thus it is not only based and determined by the physical strength of an individual but also by the ability to use other methods to subject male power to female power.

The above discussion shows that manhood is an inherently insecure position that others can revoke at any time. It is believed that a moment of vulnerability or non-stereotypical male behaviour means that suddenly the man is not a “real” man until that man can re-establish his masculine bona fides. One of the most common ideas of “manhood” is the idea of “man as provider.” A man is supposed to provide for his family no matter what it costs him. The problem, of course, is that once again, this reduces manhood and masculinity into an external factor, something that can be taken or destroyed. The patriarchy has cemented society’s idea that “real” men are always craving for sex and constantly, infallibly “ready to go.” Under these prescribed circumstances where women hold the key to sex, which men are relentlessly seeking men are expected to be grateful for any sexual advances thrown their way, wanted and unwanted alike. Issues of masculinity should not hold back the seriousness of male rape that is perpetrated by women.

#### **6.5 Male Survivor femininity and behaviour change**

This study proved that men who are sexually coerced or raped by women experience long-term negative consequences; including symptoms of post-traumatic stress the same that are experienced by women when sexually raped by men. Many people simply do not admit the actual injuries that they are causing to society by not admitting the reality of male rape perpetrated by women. Most men turn into introverts, they cannot share their sexual assault secrets for the fear of being seen and viewed as faine. This happens when intoxication is involved in the rape, once intoxicated men become powerless and the women rapist can do whatever they want with the men’s genitalia.

As discussed in chapter five, a man who has been raped by a woman and achieved erection or ejaculation during the assault feels deep disappointment in his own body because he was not in control of the sexual act but rather controlled by the female rapists. Others argued that once a man ejaculates during the sexual assault therefore this is not rape, but the question was the man in charge of the process as presumed by the masculine beliefs. Some felt that they may not call it rape because he had an orgasm. This is simply a way of trying to comfort oneself by not admitting it as rape on the pretext of reaching an orgasm. The feminist theory clearly shows that even where women are sexually assaulted by men they may end up enjoying the act but that does not take away the fact that sexual assault has taken place. Even

when the body had a different reaction to the assault, men felt deeply conflicted about calling the rape out on what it is. This study shows that most rape survivors, regardless of gender, are deeply devastated by the immeasurable loss of control over their own bodies that they experience when raped. However, men are much less likely to be honest about how much they are suffering in the aftermath of an assault, due to gendered expectations of masculinity and the public response to male rape. This is done for the fear of being feminized but the fear does not change the reality.

Male rape survivors misidentify ejaculation with orgasm; they are confused by their physiological response during the sexual assault and, therefore discouraged from reporting the assault for fear the rape may become suspect because of ejaculation. This corroborates with what Groth & Burgess, (1980) noted. They found out that this aspect of the attack is extremely stressful and confusing to male rape victims not only having to confront unsympathetic attitudes if they choose to press charges, they also often hear unsupportive statements from their friends, family and law enforcement agents (Brochman, 1991). People tend to blame the male victim instead of the rapist. Survivors of rape usually manifest some elements of post traumatic stress disorder that takes away their masculinity.

Survivors of sexual assault who are men do not report sexual assaults especially perpetrated by women to the police. There are many reasons for this; all grounded in society's teachings about gender. Sadly, some men may not even realize that a crime has been committed against them. This idea is bolstered in cases where no physical harm was done to the survivor. Other men may feel that they have lost their manhood as a result of being assaulted and experience profound shame and embarrassment, causing them to stay silent. Many straight men do not speak out due to fear of being ridiculed as gay because they were not interested in sexual advances from the rapist woman. Because the patriarchy has taught them that being gay is "wrong" from birth, they may not even be willing to admit that they did not want to have sexual contact with their rapist, for fear of being labelled as gay.

## **6.6 Conclusion**

The study concludes that male rape perpetrated by women is a reality that society is yet and still to acknowledge. It is a reality that is embroiled in challenges of non-disclosure and intertwined in between the forces of masculine identity maintenance. Men themselves have become the victims of 'masculinity' as their power is tested through subjection to sexual assault by women. This signifies a challenge to hegemonic power of masculinity in men. This represents the deconstruction of masculinity as it is reconstructed in a different dimension.

Sadly, there is no strong legal framework to help male rape survivors in the country as male rape remains peripheral of the legal and policy framework of Zimbabwe. Where male rape occurs the study concludes that force is always applied but using different methods that can swiftly weaken the male but activating the genitalia for the sexual act to happen. The crime is very violent in nature which is disturbing to both the victim and the family members and friends. There are a number of misconceptions that are associated with male sexual activities that always portray them as actors and players and not victims. The findings of this research have tried to shed light and to demystify rape myths that make people to believe that it is impossible for an adult man to be raped by a woman.

The study concludes that it is not a secret that the male rape is downplayed by people, the media often made the punch line of jokes. It is not simply taken seriously in the public eye. Taking into account that there are unreliable statistics about how many men were raped by women and the undeniable fact that even if we had accurate numbers, they would be drastically lower than those of women who are raped by men. There is still need to recognize that male rape perpetrated by women is a reality that should call for new and a balanced theorising.



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## **Appendix 1: Interview Guide**

### **Male Survivors' Interview Guide**

This research has chosen to make use of unstructured (open ended) interviews with the male survivors as the best way to answer the proposed questions. A framework was set up for the interviews with overall guiding questions which assist in keeping the interviews on the topic. However due to the sensitive nature of the research the male survivors were allowed to talk without set questions that could interrupt their train of thought. The interviewees were told the topic of the interviews and the purpose of the interviews were explained to them while it is their stories that determined the nature of the interviews. The topic of the interviews was on the lived experiences of male survivors who have been raped by women. In explaining their stories the male survivors started at any point and the interviewer guided the interviews where necessary. Where background information was needed the interviewer asked follow-up questions. There were guidelines for the research and the following are the guiding questions.

#### **THE GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR THE RESEARCH:**

1. What was their experience of rape by women?
3. How has the rape changed their lives?
6. Any other question that may arise from their story as their story guided the interview.



## **Appendix 2 : Focus Group Discussion Guide**

### **Key Informant Interview Guide**

Beyond interviewing the male survivors, it was seen important to interview the staff at Adult Rape Clinic in order to get an understanding of the context of the research site and the male survivors that came to ARC. The interviews conducted with the staff in the shelter were structured as the purpose of these interviews was to answer specific questions regarding the context of the male rape.

#### **THE GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR THESE INTERVIEWS:**

1. What are the general circumstances of male rape they dealt with?
2. What is the average number of male survivors came to ARC per month?
3. What support is offered to the male survivors based on their needs as survivors of sexual violence?
4. What are the effects of male rape to the male survivors and their supporting system?