

THE NEED FOR PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING
IN COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:
CASE STUDIES WITHIN THE MADADENI AREA

By

TSHENGISILE MISPAH NDLOVU

Submitted to the Faculty of Arts in fulfilment of the
requirements for the Degree of Master of Arts in Social Work
in the Department of Social Work
at the University of Zululand

Supervisor: Professor E.R.V. Pakati
Date submitted: December 2000

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DECLARATION

I declare that “ THE NEED FOR PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING IN COMBATING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE: CASE STUDIES WITHIN THE MADADENI AREA” is my own work and that all sources I have quoted have been acknowledged by means of appropriate references.



T.M. NDLOVU

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my parents, Siphiwe and Sizeni Sibisi, in appreciation for their loving upbringing, my husband Vusi, my two champion sons, Nkosikhona and Velemseni as well as my brothers and sisters for encouragement and support.

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My gratitude and appreciation go to all the people who encouraged and supported me to complete this dissertation. If it were possible, I would list all their names. However, I will mention the few who contributed in so many different ways towards its completion.

- The Source and Sustainer of all potential, the Giver of strength, my Personal Saviour, the Lord Jesus Christ, who has been, is, and will be my guiding light throughout.
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- The Department of Social Welfare and Population Development – KwaZulu Natal, for permitting me to conduct this study in Madadeni.
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- Lastly, my husband, Vusi and my great kids, Nkosikhona and Velemseni for their understanding and continuous moral support during the course of my study.

ABSTRACT

Dissertation on "The need for pre-marital counselling in preventing domestic violence" is the outcome of the researcher's concern about domestic violence that is widespread in our society.

On reviewing the literature, she found that social workers and their professional associates are trying hard to fight against this disease. However, very little is being achieved as this disease is increasing day by day. Revelation by literature that pre-marital counselling, as a primary intervention, is seldom applied by practitioners that are trying to stop domestic violence, motivated the researcher to undertake this study.

In her introduction to this study, the researcher stated the problem, her motivation to undertake this study, its objectives, assumptions, value and limitations, and lastly, she defined the terms.

The researcher reviewed literature on explanation of domestic violence. Her focus was on its causes, forms, effects, prevalence, common features of human violence, individual features of men who batter, why women stay in abusive relationship and the way they respond to this domestic violence. She further looked into the preventative intervention to domestic violence, focussing on three levels of preventions, namely, preparation for marriage, which is primary prevention, promotion of the quality of marriage and family life, which is secondary prevention, treatment of marital dysfunction, which is tertiary prevention as well as traditional ways of preparing for marriage.

The design the researcher used was exploratory/descriptive in nature. Subjects of the study were selected by means of purposive sampling. The sampling units were the social workers of the Department of Social Welfare and Population development, stationed at Madadeni and their clients (ten families) that presented domestic violence related problems. Madadeni community is situated at about 13 km, south of Newcastle in Kwazulu Natal. Interview schedules were pre-tested on three social workers and three families. Interviews and studying of the files of the individual prospective respondents were used to collect data.

Frequency tables, columns and pie charts with percentages were used in presentation, analysis and interpretation of data. During the analysis of data, the researcher looked for similarities and dissimilarities. She presented data as a descriptive account, organised it into categories on the basis of themes and proposed hypotheses.

Lastly, she gave a summary, drew conclusions regarding the need for premarital counselling in the area and made recommendations. The overall conclusion that was made by the researcher was that pre-marital counselling is needed in combating domestic violence.

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CHAPTER ONE

ORIENTATION TO THE STUDY

1.1.INTRODUCTION

No society has ever existed without some sort of social arrangement that may be labelled familial, hence, the relationship called family is an important part of society (Scanzoni & Scanzoni, 1988:4). Through history, strong families have helped to make strong societies. Today the family is changing, sad to say, not for better but for worse. The destructive influence under which it exists, negatively affects its functioning in a variety of ways.

The focus in this study will be on one of many factors that have caused the family to be unable to remain as the pillar of a strong society, namely, family violence. The scope will be narrowed to include violence only between spouses, which is domestic violence. Concern over domestic violence is vast. This study will contribute to what other practitioners have done to deal with this problem by looking into pre – marital counselling as a way of combating domestic violence.

1.2. PROBLEM STATEMENT

The family is a human institution (Farmer,1979:5) that performs economic, educational, political, religious, recreational and sexual functions to its members (Getzel,1988:9; Vincent,1957:7–11). These functions make it so important and essential that human beings cannot do without it, hence, family life needs to be protected and promoted. In support of the importance of the family, Boulding & Boulding (1995:117) state that families are makers, constructors, doers and shapers of social reality and future social order.

According to University of Durban Westville Advice Desk for Abused Women (author and year not specified), domestic violence is the term generally used to cover violence in the home. In this study, it refers to violence between spouses or partners. Domestic violence is rife in our communities and it hinders the family from performing some of its tasks to its individuals and eventually, societies. It is not only a social problem, but is also a significant health problem (Campbell & Humphreys,1993:vii). Given that the well being of society is equated with the well being of the family, it is not surprising that there is periodic concern that this fundamental social institution is failing in its duties (Dallas & Mchaughin,1993:x).

Many attempts have been made by social workers and their professional associates to fight against this disease, but very little has been achieved because domestic violence is still increasing day by day. People Opposing Women Abuse (POWA) stated, in their telephonic conversation with the researcher, in November 2000, that they received more than 400 telephone calls from battered women every month. POWA as well as Getzel (1988:11) report that one, in every six women, is regularly assaulted by her male partner and, in every six days, one woman is killed by her male partner. Lawrence (1992:1) also asserts that domestic violence is the single most frequent form of violence that police encounter, more common than all other forms of violence. The same view was shared by NGO Shadow report to CEDOW in 1998 that argued that South Africa has the highest statistics for violence against women in the world. Cook (1992:12) further adds that in industrialised countries, assaults have been reported to cause more injuries to women than motor vehicle accidents, rape and muggings combined.

In this study, the researcher assesses the need to incorporate pre – marital counselling to the already existing approaches of combating domestic violence in Madadeni area within kwaZulu Natal. According to Mudd (1951:28), one of the objectives of pre – marital counselling is to help a couple face their relationship with each other realistically and frankly in the light of distinctive features which each may bring to the marriage in order that they may better understand each other, their backgrounds, and the goals of their marriage. This is done through guiding them in thinking through their own situation so as to gain new insight and reach workable solutions. Common direction and purpose are essential to married couples. The researcher's assumption was that Madadeni community is one of many communities where pre – marital counselling is needed. Out of all organisations the researcher contacted in 1999, regarding pre – marital counselling programmes, FAMSA – Durban was the only one that confirmed rendering structured pre – marital counselling programmes to its community. FAMSA also indicated that among couples who underwent pre – marital counselling programmes with them, very few later approached them with problems that are related to marital conflict.

Investigation of the following factors by the researcher would help her to establish if there is any need for pre – marital counselling at Madadeni:

- ❖ Marital needs and problems within this community.
- ❖ People's knowledge about pre – marital counselling, their feelings and attitudes towards using such services.
- ❖ Objectives and functions of pre – marital counselling.
- ❖ Importance of pre – marital counselling to people of Madadeni community.
- ❖ Role of pre – marital counselling in the prevention of family dysfunction, in particular, domestic violence.

- ❖ Areas on which social workers need to concentrate when rendering pre – marital counselling.

1.3 MOTIVATION

Violence is one of the most destructive forms of interaction in the family. It renders the family unable to fulfil some of its key functions in the society (Lessing,1994:261). Examination of literature reveals that domestic violence has today become widespread and disturbing (Separovič & Jamieson,1988:1). It is impossible for a family to contribute constructively to the society in the long run, if it is not well functioning.

There have been various responses to domestic violence, which have included legal reform, development of victim services and shelters (Separovič & Jamieson, 1988:1). The government has also passed laws that promote the improved quality of life of all citizens (The S.A.Constitution No. 108 of 1996). The Domestic Violence Act No. 116 of 1998, recognises domestic violence as a serious social evil and intends to afford the victims of domestic violence the maximum protection from domestic abuse the law can provide (Domestic Violence Act: No. 116 of 1998).

Despite all efforts that have been made, signs of progress in combating domestic violence are uncertain (Finkelhor,1988:9). Practitioners do not know precisely what to do to stop domestic violence. Buzawa and Buzawa (1996:3) state that the question on what is the appropriate response to domestic violence is complex and is still without defined answers. What makes matters worse is that practitioners and researchers have made limited effort to evaluate the effectiveness of what they have already done (Finkelhor, 1988:9)

There is not enough research done on domestic violence in particular despite concern that is so enormous over family violence. Examination of the literature reveals relatively little published material on the issue of black women generally and even less on the subject of violence within the home. This contradicts the body of work on white women suffering abuse from partners (Lupton & Gillespie, 1997:75). Barnett et al (1977:10) agree that forms of family violence have been discovered. They are, however, concerned that the discovery of all these forms of family violence underscores the sweeping nature of this heretofore hidden violence. Also hidden from the view are many costs associated with domestic violence.

Research conducted covered a wide scope because it included the abuse of other members of the family, e.g. aged, disabled and children. Therefore, there exists a gap between what is really known about spouse abuse and what really takes place. Some of domestic violence cases go unreported. Considering the fact that domestic violence is underreported, it is obvious that it is more widely spread than anyone is aware.

According to Human Science Research Council (1996), only thirteen out of all studies that were undertaken country wide from 1986 – 1996, addressed family violence as an issue. Only one out of those thirteen studies had its focus on prevention of family violence. Since then (1996) much has happened in the area of domestic violence. It is a current issue of concern, which has attracted many writers and researchers from all professional fields. The last study recorded on pre – marital counselling was undertaken in 1978, in the field of psychology. Its focus was on attitude change towards pre – marital counselling. The researcher concluded after reviewing literature on domestic violence

and pre – marital counselling that domestic violence as a subject is receiving better attention in the united kingdom and USA than in other countries. The scarcity of literature on pre – marital counselling is the indication that more focus is needed on that field.

The researcher's contact with religious and social work settings, including FAMSA, gave her the impression that more energy is channelled towards dealing with the families when they are already experiencing problems than towards preventing such problems from occurring. The prospective couples are not helped to anticipate some common problems of married people. When such problems arise, they are taken by surprise and their reactions to those problems differ. It has, however, been noticed that a number of them react violently to each other, hence, domestic violence is so rife.

The researcher is of the opinion that domestic violence can be best combated by the use of pre – marital counselling and it is this opinion that motivated this study. The other motivating factor for the researcher was the emphasis placed in the White Paper for Social Welfare (1997) on the need to support and strengthen families as part of development and social welfare.

1.4 OBJECTIVES OF THE STUDY

- ❖ To provide a literature overview on domestic violence and pre-marital counselling.
- ❖ To examine marital needs and problems of Madadeni people.
- ❖ To examine feelings and attitudes of Madadeni people towards pre – marital counselling.

- ❖ To establish if pre – marital counselling is made available to the people and utilised by them.
- ❖ To assess the need for pre – marital counselling at Madadeni area.
- ❖ To determine the role of pre – marital counselling in prevention of family dysfunction.
- ❖ On the basis of empirical findings, to make recommendations on the possible establishment of pre – marital counselling programmes at Madadeni.

1.5. ASSUMPTIONS

- ❖ Lack of pre – marital counselling causes the couples of Madadeni community to find themselves unprepared for problems that arise after marriage, hence, they fail to master each new situation as it develops.
- ❖ Prospective couples of Madadeni are neither prepared for family life nor helped to anticipate some of the common problems of young married people, a number, therefore, resort to violent behaviour as means of resolving conflicts and problems in the family.
- ❖ Lack of knowledge of pre – marital counselling services by people of Madadeni causes them not to be aware of their need for these services.
- ❖ Non – existence of pre – marital counselling programmes at Madadeni causes couples not to use social workers as their support in dealing with their marital problems when they are still manageable, they stay with them until they intensify to domestic violence.
- ❖ Pre – marital counselling may reduce the prevalence of domestic violence within the madadeni community because as a primary prevention, it serves to prevent marital problems from coming into existence.

- ❖ Traditional ways of preparing for marriage promote domestic violence because they are structured in such a way that some men assume rights to control and dominate their women.
- ❖ Social workers at Madadeni have no pre – marital counselling programmes. They deal with families when they are already experiencing problems than preparing prospective couples for family life.
- ❖ Because of the manner in which social workers classify their cases of domestic violence, inaccurate statistics result which lead to inappropriate attention being given to the seriousness of the problem.

1.6. VALUE OF THE STUDY

From the literature, the researcher will be able to give a clear account of research trends on the subject of domestic violence and pre – marital counselling. The study will then attempt to reduce the gap that exists between what is known about or on the subject and what is actually taking place. Findings on programmes that are used by Madadeni social workers to deal with domestic violence issues may open doors for further research to evaluate the effectiveness of those programmes. Findings on the criteria used by Madadeni social workers to classify problems that encompass domestic violence will help to indicate factors that result in the underreporting of domestic violence cases. Recommendations will then be made towards the formulation of policy that will ensure an appropriate classification of domestic violence cases.

The findings of the study will enable the researcher to establish the need for pre – marital counselling within the Madadeni community and recommendations will be made in this regard. The researcher will also be able to share with her professional colleagues the

information through the publication of an article in a recognised journal. The findings will also be shared with the agency in which the study was conducted. However, the researcher cannot guarantee that once shared with the agency, the findings will be used or will have any impact on its programmes.

1.7 LIMITATION OF THE STUDY

- ❖ The study neither determined nor evaluated the knowledge and skills of social workers with regard to pre-marital counselling. It, however, provided information on the social worker's opinions on the topic.
- ❖ The study focused only on those cases of domestic violence supplied by social work unit within madadeni area.
- ❖ It is believed that many cases of domestic violence go unreported and are not known to the social workers. Thus the cases used or focused on cannot be seen as the total number of incidents of marital dysfunction within the area. The sample was not perfectly representative. Generalisation from the case study is limited (Merriam,1988:34; Sommer & Sommer,1986:174). Conclusions drawn from the findings of this study may not be generalized to other communities without further study.
- ❖ An interview can never be anonymous (Marlow,1993:72). Though information about subjects was kept confidential in the study, there was no way of avoiding identification of a given response with a given respondent. No guarantee can, therefore, be given that respondents gave responses that accurately reflected their feelings, because anonymity could not be ensured.
- ❖ Informed consent involves informing potential subjects fully of their role and the consequences of participation in the research and seeking their permission

(Marlow,1993:72). Domestic violence is considered by many people as private and embarrassing, hence, subjects were not willing to participate. Those subjects that were not willing to participate were replaced in the sample.

There is no way of making up for some of the limitations of the study as they were attributed to factors beyond the researcher's control. Subjects were ensured of confidentiality of their responses to counteract their unwillingness to participate. Using more than one method of data collection namely, interviews and studying of files, helped the researcher to deal with some of the limitations.

1.8.DEFINITION OF TERMS

According to Leedy (1980:54) the definition in the research project must interpret the term as it is employed within the research. In this study the following terms are defined operationally.

Need

A need is a hypothetical construct which stands for a force in the brain region, a force either internally or externally instigated which organizes other psychological processes (Hieller and Ziegler,1981:157).

The researcher views a need as something that organizes the way people perceive, think, feel and act. It is a lack of something necessary or useful.

Family

Family is a social arrangement that is based on marriage and the contract, including recognition of the rights and the duties of parenthood, common residence for husband, wife and children, and reciprocal economic obligations between husband and wife (Stephens,1963:5; Vorster,1996:12). People in the family find their identity as importantly attached to the group and they create and maintain a common culture (Lamania & Riedman,1991:12). As primary group, families provide personal identity, patterning of social roles, social role intergration, acceptance of social responsibility and a matrix of affectional bonds (Getzel,1988:9). Taylor & Taylor (1990:3) briefly define a family as a home where the adults have the responsibility to provide shelter, guidance and love to their children.

- The researcher refers to the family as a social group that is characterised by specific roles and statuses, related by blood, marriage or adoption and residing together.

Combating

Allen (1990: 224) refers to the word combating as meaning a fight or struggle against.

The researcher supports Allen's definition that to combat is to fight against something, for example, combating domestic violence.

Counselling

Counselling is the skilled and principled use of relationship to develop self- knowledge, emotional acceptance and growth and personal resources (Corney & Jenkins,1993:18)

The researcher views counselling as meaning a skilled and purposeful conversation between a practitioner and a client, within a relationship which permits and encourages the maximum expression of feelings and concerns. It is a range of activities in which an attempt is made to understand some events or state of being to an individual, and to plan with the person or people concerned, how to manage emotional or practical realities that face them (Druden et al,1989:110). It involves offering another person your focused attention, concentrating together on areas of concern and difficulty.

Pre – marital

“Pre”, a prefix in “pre – marital”, means before. Marital is an adjective for marriage. Marriage is an institutionalized mating arrangement between human males and females (Lahaye & Lahaye,1976:1). It involves a public ceremony of some kind of signal and is recognized by society and the relationship is by economic co – operation and the expectation and permanence (Nass & McDonald,1978:5).

The researcher sees or perceives the word “pre–marital” as having everything to do with the word “before marriage”.

Pre–marital counselling

Pre –marital counselling is counselling that seeks to help individuals, couples or groups of couples to prepare for and build happy, fulfilling and successful marriages (Collins, 1980:162). It helps the couples not to approach marriage with mixed feelings.

According to the researcher, it is a process of helping young people to find and identify themselves in relation to the prospective mate and to anticipate and plan for adjustments needed in their particular marriage.

Violence

Violence is defined by Gelles (1997:14); Gelles & Loseke (1993:189) and Levinson (1979:11) as an action of one or more individuals and meant to cause physical pain to one or more individuals or nonhuman animals, or to destroy material property. Other writers define it as a form of social action intended to inflict physical harm on another person (Getzel,1988;11; Edleson & Tolman,1992:3; Hoff,1990:9; Mckendrick & Hoffman, 1990:3; Scanzoni & Scanzoni,1988:409 and Separovič & Jamieson,1988:3).

The researcher views violence as the use of force against another person.

Domestic violence

Domestic violence is any act or omission in the interaction and dynamic of mutual relationship which inflicts mental pain by physical or psychic force, individually or collectively (Domestic violence Act 116 of 1998:4; Mullender,1996:19; Rice,1983:222 and Separovič & Jamieson,1988:3)

The researcher defines domestic violence as a rough or illegitimate use of physical or psychic force of one marital partner or spouse in relation to another.

1.9. STUDY OUTLINE

Chapter one: Orientation to the study

This chapter orientates the reader to the study. The problem and motivation that inspired the researcher to undertake this study is stated. Objectives, assumptions, the value as well as the limitations of the study are highlighted and the terms are defined.

Chapter two: Explanation of domestic violence

Chapter two gives explanation to domestic violence. It covers factors such as causes of domestic violence; forms of domestic violence; common features of human violence; effects of domestic violence; prevalence of domestic violence why women stay in abusive relationships and concludes by elaborating on how women respond to domestic violence.

Chapter three: Preventative intervention to domestic violence

This chapter highlights three levels of preventative intervention to domestic violence, that is, preparation for marriage, promotion of the quality of marriage and family life and treatment of marital dysfunction.

Chapter four: Investigating procedures

In this chapter, the research design used is described, the sampling procedures are identified, the choice of area where the study was undertaken and the sampling units are outlined. The method of data collection is described and the limitations are highlighted.

Chapter five: Presentation, analysis and interpretation of data

The collected data is presented, interpreted and analysed.

Chapter six: Summary, conclusions and recommendations

In this chapter, the summary of the findings is given, conclusions are drawn and recommendations are made.

CHAPTER TWO

EXPLANATION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

2.1 INTRODUCTION

Writings with words "Home sweet home" are found hanging on the walls of many living rooms in our community. This makes people to think of a family as a place of safe harbour, immune from violence, where sustenance and care are provided to its members (Barnett et al,1997:4). In reality for women, the home is the site where most personal violence against them is likely to occur (Moonachie & van Zyl,1994:35). Domestic violence is a serious economic, health, and social problem. The literature reveals that domestic violence has been common through the ages (Bowker,1983:1) and it is on the increase everywhere (Lessing, 1994: 260; Schornstein, 1997:2).

Concern over this problem has prompted the professionals from different fields to come up with interventive measures to combat domestic violence but the signs of progress are not certain (Finkelhor,1988:90). What causes difficulties is that the family is the most basic, complex and intense of all human institutions (Finkelhor, 1988:9). Much has been said about the family, some of which is not true (only myths). For one to do effective intervention in domestic violence, it is necessary to have knowledge of its causes, its forms, common features of human violence, individual features of men who batter, effects on mankind, prevalence, why women stay in abusive relationships and how they respond to domestic violence.

This chapter provides a background of the major theoretical framework found in the current literature and used to explain violence in our society.

2.2 CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Examination of literature reveals that domestic violence is caused by many factors. Before elaborating on those factors, the researcher will give a brief history of domestic violence as explained by Doerner & Lab (1995:112 – 114).

Domestic violence started with domination of men over women. That has strong historical roots. According to early Roman law, women were treated as property of their husbands. This custom was re-inforced by Biblical passages such as Numbers 30:3-15, Christianity, English Common law and the mores of American colonists. As property, women were subject to the control of their fathers or husbands who held power of life and death over them. Throughout most of history, women had no legal standing. Any crime committed against a woman was viewed as an offence against the father or husband, not her. As a result it was the male owner who sought vengeance or compensation for his loss. A female could not be an aggrieved party. The father or husband would be the one held responsible for any injurious action by his-woman. As the owner, the father or husband was expected to punish the woman. Many western cultures prescribed official punishment of women in their legal codes.

In the mid 1600s laws restricting wife beating were enacted for the first time. These laws were, however, rarely enforced due to the strong belief in family privacy and the acceptance of physical force by husbands as a valid form of discipline. Then in the late 1800s some states began passing laws restricting family violence. This was due to

worries over immigration, rising crime, use of alcohol and other factors. The passage of these laws allowed outside intervention in a situation connected with family violence. As with the earlier movement, these laws were rarely enforced. The 1960s saw the beginning of general social unrest and demands for equality. Concerns over rape, spouse abuse and family violence became rallying cries for the emerging women's movement. Calls for police intervention into domestic violence replaced family privacy issue. It was during this time that physicians and social workers became vocal about family violence and brought these problems to the attention of the society.

The following are the causal factors of domestic violence.

2.2.1 Psychological factors

Theories that propose these factors denote that domestic violence is the function of individual characteristics. Campbell & Humphreys (1993:6) as well as Oblin & Tonry (1989:63) state that aggression results from frustration and ego weaknesses. The view of ego weaknesses is supported by findings by Goldstein & Rosenbaum (1985) and Neidig et al (1985) cited by Barnett et al (1997: 243) that batterers beat women because they are displeased with themselves. Barnett et al (1990) cited by Barnett et al (1997:243) suggest that violent men in their research were more hostile than non – violent ones. These authors further acknowledge that there are other findings by Hasting & Hamberger, (1988) and Offutt (1988) that are contrary to theirs because in the latter research no difference was found between violent and non-violent men.

According to Doerner & Lab (1995:114), domestic violence is caused by deviant behaviour created inside the person. This view is supported by Barnett et al (1997:243) who argue that batterers are less stable emotionally. They possess negative interaction

styles. They are withdrawn, impulsive, insensitive and experience many negative emotions. They experience extreme jealousy and they do not want their wives to leave their homes (Brubaker,1993:114). Buzawa and Buzawa (1996:14) further state that physical aggression in a family may perhaps be best predicted by a person's past experiences with aggression interacting with other personal characteristics.

2.2.2 Socio-psychological factors

Socio-psychological theories explain the interaction of individuals with their environment (Oblin & Tonry,1989:63). Some view the use of alcohol and drugs as being the cause of domestic violence (Farmer,1979:67; Campbell & Humphreys,1995:6; Gelles & Loseke, 1993:183; Levinson,1989:35; Soroka and Bryjak,1995:310). Barnett et al (1997:5) partially support this view but they further add that use of alcohol and drugs is not the root cause of domestic violence. Buzawa and Buzawa (1996:15) emphasize that substance abuse lowers inhibitors against violence both within and outside the family. Abusive people are abusive whether sober or drunk. The majority of men who drink did not hit their wives in the study conducted by Barnett et al (1997:5).

Frude (1993:249) asserts that stress that is caused by social factors like crowded living conditions, poverty and unemployment do cause domestic violence because one person's anger about these problems may be vented on the unfortunate partner. Hearn (1998:20) states that violence can be expressive of internal needs or instrumental to achieve external needs. Other socio-psychological theories referred to by a number of writers are frustration – aggression, instinct, interaction between spouses, (Mckendrick & Hoffmann, 1990:16; Seporovič & Jamieson,1988:4), self-attitude , O'clock work orange, symbolic interaction (Oblin and Towry,1989:63), exchange and attribution theories (Gelles &

Loseke,1993:30; Van hasselt et al ,1988: 62). Hearn (1998:20) states that the individual can change to become both more or less violent over time, in relation to changes in social circumstances. Thus it may be argued that it is men with particular social dispositions, rather than particular psychological disposition, who are prone to violence. Social disposition might be the propensity of some men to drink alcohol excessively, which may then be assumed to explain the violence.

2.2.3 Socio-cultural factors

Norms based on beliefs and values, social structures and institutional arrangements cause domestic violence (Barnett & Laviolette,1993:117; Yllo & Bograd,1988:19). These factors are divided into functional, culture of violence, structural, general systems, conflict and intra familial theories (Farmer,1979:211; Gelles & Loseke,1993:30; Levinson,1989:3; Oblin & Tonry,1989:63; Soroka & Bryjak,1995:5; van Hasselt et al, 1988:6).

Felson & Tedschi (1993:210) view the great majority of violent acts as arising in the cause of ongoing conflicts and disputes, in all societies. Societal trends in the family, for example, increased social isolation of families in today's society, is said to neutralize the inhibitive and supportive agents that might counteract violent tendencies, thus, family structure is seen to lead to high levels of domestic violence (Buzawa & Buzawa,1996:19).

Barnett et al (1997:243) blame violence on male socialization and patriachal norms that encourage treatment of women as possessions by men.

Hearn (1998:29) views social stress, associated with unequal access to resources as causing domestic violence. According to him, individuals who are under stress resort to violence as an outlet for their frustration. This frustration may result from one incident or a slow build up of incidents. He further clarifies that stress and poverty by themselves are not sufficient to explain violence, as many poor families are not affected. Women battering and stress occur right across the social spectrum, although it is thought that stress and violence are greatest amongst the lower classes. Hearn (1998:29) further argues that violence may be understood as produced and reproduced through learning, socialization, modelling and imitation. This, in turn can be conceptualized as producing an environment of violence that operates over time and also above and beyond the individual through social relationships.

2.2.4 Biological factors

Biologically based theories of domestic violence are explained by Buzawa & Buzawa (1997:5) who cite Dabbs et al (1987). They state that a higher level of testosterone is associated with higher rates of violence. Hearn (1998:17) does support Buzawa & Buzawa's view in his emphasis of hormonal patterns. He further adds that men are seen as naturally aggressive.

2.2.5 Social – learning factors

The social – learning theory proponents argue that aggression is both learned and takes place in a social context (Levinson,1989:17). He further asserts that combination of contextual (individual characteristics, couple characteristics, societal characteristics, etc) and situational factors, create an environment in which family violence may or may not

take place. The situational factors precipitate family violence when they occur in the presence of contextual factors that also encourage family violence.

There is considerable evidence that individuals who observed or perhaps experienced family violence in their childhood homes are more likely to be in violent marital relations later in life (Buzawa & Buzawa,1997:2; Hearn,1998;26). This theory is questioned by Barnett et al (1997:2) who argue in their research that, the majority of children who had witnessed violence or been abused as children did not grow up to be abusive adults. They support the view that male entitlement to power and the use of dominance in marital conflicts to control female partners hinge on sex - role socialization.

2.2.6 Relationship factors

Barnett et al (1997:239) reveal that there are contradicting findings regarding marital dissatisfaction and domestic violence. Hamberger (1992) cited by Barnett et al (1997:239), found that battering is attributed to marital dissatisfaction. Barnett et al also state that Rosenbaum & O, Leary (1981) found in their research that half of the men who assaulted their wives highly valued their relationship. Many batterers suffer from assertion deficits. They experience misperception of communication (Brubaker, 1993:144). Some of the batterers are poor problem-solvers (Barnett et al,1997: 242).

2.2.7 Other contributing factors

Other factors that are viewed as contributing to domestic violence are:

Ecological (van Hasselt et al,1988:76), evolutionary, intergenerational hypothesis (Levinson,1989:18), pathological behaviour and mental retardation (Mckendrick and Hoffmann,1990:21). Age and differences in age, number of children, length in marriage

(Soroka & Bryjak,1995:309) and domestic violence as a form of conflict resolution (Levinson,1989:47).

The family is nested in a series of larger systems that develop organisational structures, roles, rules, beliefs and patterns of interaction. These multiple system levels include the neighbourhood, the local community, state and national systems, the global socio-economic and ecological systems. At times, families may find these larger systemic structures supportive of family functioning, but these larger systems are organized in a way that deprives some families and their members of resources that are vital for healthy development (Voster,1996:11).

2.3 FORMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Domestic violence is seen by researchers as taking a variety of forms, namely:

2.3.1 Physical

This includes punching, hitting, slapping, shoving, throwing objects, pulling hair, twisting limbs, choking, use of weapons, holding, prodding, being violent to supporters of the woman, grabbing and tugging her, kicking, etc (Advice Desk for Abused Women, 1986:1; Hearn,1998:16). This is the form of violence through which the victim is made to feel physical pain.

2.3.2 Sexual

Forced sexual acts and marital rape are associated with other forms of domestic violence (Oblin & Tonry,1989:169) because these often take place between spouses. They are the acts where a partner has sexual intercourse with the other partner without his/her consent.

2.3.3 Psychological

The psychological form is where the victim is made to feel psychological pain that leaves scars that are not visible to other people. This includes depriving the partner of basic needs, denying the victim the right to leave home and deserting the victim (Brubaker, 1993: 45; Jagwanth,1994:114).

2.3.4 Emotional

An example of the emotional form of abuse is where the victim is humiliated, angered or put down in public and made to feel worthless. This form of violence affects the victim emotionally (Advice Desk for Abused Women,1986:1).

2.3.5 Verbal

Ketterman (1993:14) and Evans (1993:101) view verbal abuse as any statement to a victim that results in emotional damage. Such damage limits happiness and productivity for a life time. Many wives who have endured both verbal and physical battering remark that words can hurt more than fists (New world Translation of the Holy Scriptures,1996:4). This form of abuse creates emotional scars that may permanently disfigure a person.

2.3.6 Destruction of property

This is one form of violence that causes pain to the victim though it does not affect him or her physically (Hearn,1998: 03).

2.4 COMMON FEATURES OF HUMAN VIOLENCE

Various forms of human violence share a number of common features (Mckendrick & Hoffman, 1990:22). These include the following:

2.4.1 Conflict

All forms of violence share one characteristic – conflict. Conflict is neutral, but because people are conditioned into regarding it as negative and destructive, it is mostly destructively managed and violence results (Louw & Bekker,1996:81).

2.4.2 Force

This denotes the use of strength, physical or mental power to constrain a person in a way that constitutes violence. A person may also be forcefully compelled to act in a certain way.

2.4.3 Fear

Fear can evoke further or retaliatory violence. It can cause the perpetrator to be more violent than when there was no fear. It can also make the victim to retaliate with violence.

2.4.4 A victim and perpetrator feature

In all acts of violence, there is a perpetrator and a victim. In some episodes of violence, it may be unclear as to who constitutes the victim and who the perpetrator is.

2.4.5 Violence is a communication

van der Merwe (1989) cited by Mckendrick & Hoffman (1990:22) argues that violence, as coercion, is best interpreted as a way of communicating with the adversary.

2.4.6 Nature of violent act

A violent act may dispassionately have been planned and executed or may occur spontaneously as an impulsive outburst.

2.4.7 Violence violates the dignity and rights

Any act of violence violates the dignity and rights of an individual no matter what form it takes (physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, verbally or destruction of property).

2.4.8 Violence's invasion of personal space

Generally, acts of violence invade the personal and the physical space of persons.

2.4.9 Violence can take place anywhere

The setting for violent manifestation can be public or private, but domestic violence is mostly in private.

2.4.10 Violence as learned response

Violence is mostly a learned response, for example, the abused child grows up to an abusing adult.

2.4.11 Desensitisation to violence is possible

Desensitisation to violence can occur as a process of social learning or a process of cognitive restructuring.

2.4.12 Violence can be perpetrated inter – generationally

Children who have been victims of violence are likely to repeat violent patterns of behaviour when they are adults.

2.4.13 Violence is generally countered by violence

In most cases, violence results as a response to another violence or reactive violence features as a result of repressive violence.

2.5 INDIVIDUAL FEATURES OF MEN WHO BATTER

Men who batter are characterised by common individual features. The following are some of the features as highlighted by Storm (2000: 2):

- ❖ They have low self – esteem.
- ❖ They believe all myths about battering relationships.
- ❖ They are traditionalists believing in male supremacy and stereotyped masculine sex roles in the family.
- ❖ They blame others for their actions.
- ❖ They are pathologically jealous.
- ❖ They present dual personalities.
- ❖ They have severe stress reactions, during which they use drinking and wife battering to escape.
- ❖ They frequently use sex as an act of aggression to enhance self – esteem in view of waning virility and they may be bisexual.
- ❖ They do not believe their violent behaviours should have negative consequences.
- ❖ They have low frustration threshold, poor external focus of control.
- ❖ They are emotionally dependent on wives and children.

- ❖ They accept violence as a viable method of problem solving and see it as an acceptable means of maintaining an intact family.
- ❖ As a control mechanism, they frequently abuse or threaten to abuse household pets and children.
- ❖ They were physical and/or sexually abused as children or saw “significant others” abused (usually their mothers by their mates).
- ❖ They have a high level of job dissatisfaction, underemployment or unemployment that leads to feelings of inadequacy and inability to provide for family according to cultural stereotype.
- ❖ They maintain close contact with their own families.
- ❖ Their expectations of relationships are unrealistic and they expect wives to conform to their definition of their wives’ roles, but those expectations are often unspoken.
- ❖ They have preoccupation with weapons.

McKendrick & Hoffman (1990: 260 – 261) add the following features:

- ❖ They have a feeling of shame, self – hatred and low self – worth.
- ❖ They have a sense of being out of control of their lives.
- ❖ They are angry and deeply depressed.
- ❖ They use denial and intellectualization as common defense mechanism.
- ❖ They use hostility, withdrawal, and substance abuse as a defense against feelings of vulnerability.
- ❖ Some were abused as children.

Edleson & Tolman (1994: 37 – 41) further add that:

- ❖ They may have assertiveness deficits
- ❖ They have psychological disorders.

2.6 EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The effects of domestic violence radiate in many directions for an extended period of time. They touch lives of many others besides the perpetrator and the immediate victim (Finkelhor,1988:24).

2.6.1. Effects on the victim

Some physical consequences of domestic violence are death and injury. Other health problems like low self-esteem, instability in their intimate relationships, anxiety, depression and suicide attempts result (Brubaker,1993:146). Many victims of domestic violence, especially in its more severe forms, show symptoms characteristic of post-traumatic stress disorders. They seem to be at a higher risk to become both future victims or perpetrators (Finkelhor,1988:25). They also report somatic complaints (McKendrick & Hoffman,1990:262). Women living in violent circumstances report demands of parenting than non-victimized mothers (Barnett et al,1997:138). Battered women run twice the risk of miscarriage and four times the risk of having a baby that is below average weight (Nicro Western Cape,1998)

2.6.2 Effects on their children

As levels of domestic violence increase, levels of family strength, marital satisfaction and parental satisfaction decrease (Barnett et al,1977:138). Children are prone to suffer psychological damage and develop behavioural and emotional problems (McKendrick &

Hoffman,1990:265). They also become violent. A study by Hotaling & Sugarman (1986) highlighted by Finkelhor (1988:25) found that husbands who witnessed their fathers beat their mothers were more than twice as likely to beat their wives. Children are also likely to become the “forgotten” or unintended victims as they too may suffer either direct abuse or witness the abuse of their mothers (Edleson & Tolman,1992:8). They may also become targets of either parent’s displaced anger, frustration and helplessness.

2.6.3 Effects on the community

Domestic violence is an economic, health and social problem (Campbell & Humphreys, 1993:vii; Edleson and Tolman,1992:7). Edleson & Tolman (1992:8) state that society bears an economic burden resulting from women abuse. Communities lose their valuable members through deaths resulting from domestic violence. Victims of domestic violence sometimes become so affected and helpless that they fail to contribute to the upliftment of social life.

2.7. PREVALENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Violence against women is the most pervasive human rights issue in the world. The following are recent findings of the prevalence of domestic violence by local researchers:

- ❖ One in every four South African women are assaulted by their boyfriends or husbands every week (Nicro Western Cape,1998)
- ❖ One in six women are regularly beaten by their partners (Nicro Western Cape, 1998; UTC Criminology Victim survey,1998; Rape Crisis,1993; Keene and Vate,1997; POWA).

- ❖ In at least forty six percent of violence cases, the men involved also abuse the children who live with the women concerned (UTC Criminology victim survey, 1998).
- ❖ A woman suffers being battered on the average of thirty nine times before she actually seeks outside help (Nicro Western Cape, 1998).
- ❖ Lawrence (1992:7) has come to the conclusion that domestic violence is a widespread social problem. It is the single most frequent form of violence police encounter, more common than all other forms of violence. It is, however, difficult to provide a definitive statement of its prevalence because the statistics covering the incidence of spouse abuse are inaccurate (Brehm,1992:253). Estimates about how often spouse abuse occurs show considerable variation from one study to the next (Doerner & Lab,1995:114). The reason may be that most of domestic violence occurs in private (Finkelhor,1988:29).

2.8 WHY WOMEN STAY IN ABUSIVE RELATIONSHIPS

There is variety of reasons that cause women to stay in abusive relationships. Gilles (1997:86) states that domestic violence is not a one time event, and this causes women to stay in abusive relationships in the hope that their partners will change. They constantly re-evaluate their situation and opportunities for change (Kirkwood,1993:11). Many women who experience domestic violence do not admit it (Finkelhor,1988:29). A person who is aware that most of his/her friends see him/her and his/her partner as “happily married”, or perhaps the ideal couple, finds it very hard to admit openly that the relationship is otherwise (Belshaw & Strutt,1984:95; Belshaw & Strutt,1996:91). Some marriages are built on trust and this strains women to the limit when they want to leave. To them, it is more important to persevere and rebuild the trust element than leave

(Belshaw & Strutt,1984:84). Some stay because of the fear of the unknown, of being alone and not knowing where they will live or what the future holds for them as well as belief that they will not be happier somewhere else. They are afraid to face disapproval of family and friends. They worry about their children's future. They also want to cling to the home and lifestyle they have become accustomed to over the years (Belshaw & Strutt, 1996:95; Lupton & Gillepsie,1997:80). The majority of women lack knowledge of alternative and relevant provisions and as a result they stay. Some lack self – esteem and have developed “learned helplessness” (Gilles,1997: 86) which locks them into a chronic battering cycle (Hoff,1990:32). Some victims remain in threatening relationships because of economic factors, power disparity and lack of support. There are places where shelters are not available. Some women leave home only to return again for such reasons as coercion or promises of reform from their partners and concern for children (Bowker, 1983:11).

2.9. HOW WOMEN RESPOND TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

Women respond to domestic violence in a variety of ways. For many, a sense of shame and responsibility, along with fear of reprisals, keep them silent, sometimes for years (Lauer,1992:7). Others keep silent because they accept what is done to them by their husbands as part of marriage (Dobash & Dobash,1992:4).

Many women who are not aware of their human rights or are unable to take the necessary actions for their safety will look for ways of pleasing or accommodating their abusers. Energy needed to reach out for help and safety is often used in worrying about when the next episode will occur and how damages can be minimised. Moreover, when women do

reach out and are refused sanctuary and service, the dangerous belief that nothing can be done is re – enforced (Schmidt,1995:20).

Some women are not aware of the range of outside help that is available for those in marriage difficulties (Belshaw & Strutt,1984:65). There are many couples who could benefit from professional assistance but never seek it because of misconceptions people have about the role of professionals. They may believe that assistance should be obtained only when the relationship is in serious trouble (Brehm,1992:379). Some do not contact agents like social workers because of the stigma attached to the use of such agents (Kirkwood,1993:24)

Other's reluctance to report men's violence is often exacerbated by social, medical, legal institutions whose actions reveal powerful practices that explicitly or implicitly accept or ignore male violence and blame the victim or make her responsible for its solution and elimination (Dobash & Dobash,1992:4). The view concerning reluctance to report domestic violence is supported by Schmidt (1995:19), who asserts that many women fear to call the police for fear of more violence after the police have left. Calling police is viewed by them as a poor tactical choice because they are generally constrained in handling marital disputes and they may be uninterested in following through on the case (Bowker,1983:9). Some seek help from family and friends as the first port of call (Lupton & Gillepsie,1997:81). Other women do return to their parental home though that is viewed by a number of them as being unacceptable. They do not want their personal "failure" to tarnish the reputation of their families (Lupton & Gillepsie,1997:87).

In some cases, women do kill their husbands. When this happens, it is usually a response to years of male violence (Dobash & Dobash,1992:8). A number of women seek refuge in shelters though the use of shelters offers no permanent solution to the problem. Shelters are places where women go for protection, to recover, to obtain counselling and other support services and to determine future plans (Bowker,1983:10). There are women who convince their husbands themselves or with the help of informal support networks, to cease their assaultive behaviours (Bowker,1983:9).

Increasingly, women who have been abused come forward for support in directly challenging the violence or organising their escape from it (Dobash & Dobash,1992:1). Men are being confronted for its elimination and numbers of such women are growing.

2.10 SUMMARY

Researchers on domestic violence explain violence as caused by a variety of factors, and taking many forms. These forms of violence share a number of common factors and men who batter are characterised by common individual features. Domestic violence affects every one in a number of ways as it is a widespread social problem. Women respond to domestic violence by either trying to deal with the problem or leaving their husbands. Those who do not leave have reasons for staying in abusive relationships.

CHAPTER THREE

PREVENTATIVE INTERVENTION TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

3.1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is an old phenomenon, which has been denied awareness by the public and professional community for a long time. This was due to its being underreported, misunderstood and minimised in the professional literature. It was after the 1970s that the cries of victims of domestic violence were listened to, understood and believed. It was then that researchers and therapists were attracted to the problem. The literature was searched for the extent of the problem, and the scope of the problem was recognised. A similar view is held by Plummer as quoted by Gilles and Loseke (1993:288) regarding sexual abuse.

Now that it is known that the problem exists, what then? Knowledge without action would not make anything better. It could not reduce domestic violence. Something had to be done, and is being done to prevent it.

This chapter is about preventative measures that are taken by the public, government and therapists to eliminate this disease that is troubling mankind. Three levels of prevention of domestic violence will be discussed.

3.2. PREPARATION FOR MARRIAGE – PRIMARY PREVENTION.

People enter into marriage with certain expectations, beliefs and fantasies about their partners and relationships. Some of these are likely to be over-idealistic. The more

unrealistic the prior expectations, the more likely it is that there will be disappointment and hostility (Frude,1993:170). This, therefore, necessitates primary prevention.

This is prevention in the true sense of the word. It precedes dysfunction and is applied to a generally healthy population. Its purpose is to decrease the vulnerability of the individual to dysfunction. It takes place before dysfunction exists (proactive service). It may also involve intervention in the face of existing risk factors in order to prevent the problem itself from occurring (Campbell & Humphreys,1993:xi; van Hasselt et al, 1988:319). Preparation for marriage can be done in a variety of ways. The researcher focused on two that are most familiar. These are pre – marital counselling programmes and traditional ways of preparation for marriage.

3.2.1.Pre – marital counselling

Pre – marital counselling is where the counsellor deals with engaged couples. In our society, prospective couples tend to spend a lot of time getting ready for the wedding than preparing for the marriage. As a result many beautiful weddings are followed by a lifetime of misery or, at best, minimal happiness. Pre – marital counselling is important.

3.2.1.1. Reasons for pre – marital counselling

Pre – marital counselling is important for the following reasons that were identified by Collins (1980:158 – 161):

- ❖ **Unrealistic expectations which lead to disillusionment.** Most prospective couples assume that their relationship is unique and invulnerable to the threats that destroy so many other relationships. Pre – marital counselling lets couples

express, discuss and realistically modify their expectations for marriage. Conflicting expectations can be seen and resolved.

- ❖ **Personal immaturity that leads to insensitivity.** What comes out of a marriage depends primarily on what is brought into the relationship. If one or both of the participants is/are self centered, hypercritical, impatient, competitive or is/are striving for status, this type of characteristic puts a strain on marital stability. During the time of dating, there often is high anticipation about the future and differences are overlooked. During pre-marital counselling the couple are taught how to resolve their differences and to develop an appreciation for each other's needs and individuality.
- ❖ **Changing roles that lead to confusion.** When a man and a woman each comes to marriage with unclear roles and vague expectations about his/her own and other's responsibilities, then the stage is set for both confusion and conflict. Pre-marital counselling provides an opportunity for a couple to discuss their views and expectations about male and female roles in marriage.
- ❖ **Alternative styles of marriage that lead to uncertainty.** Pre-marital counselling can help the couple to think carefully through other types of marriage, other than the traditional marriage.
- ❖ **Changing sexual standards that lead to immorality.** This can have something to do with increasing approval of pre-marital sex. Pre-marital counselling may offer the couple an opportunity to make informed decision about pre-marital sexual activities.
- ❖ **Increased divorce rate that leads to unhappiness.** Through pre-marital counselling, the church, more than any other social institution, can work to build a

stable foundation to undergird new marriages which will endure and not end in divorce.

3.2.1.2. Goals of pre – marital counselling

Pre – marital counselling seeks to help the individuals, couples and groups of couples to prepare to build happy, fulfilling and successful marriages.

According to Lamania & Riedman (1990:253), pre–marital counselling has the following goals:

- ❖ **To evaluate the relationship with the possibility of deciding against marriage.** This is where the couple get the opportunity to assess their readiness for marriage, get guided self – evaluation and if necessary learn biblical teachings about marriage.
- ❖ **To sensitise partners of potential problems and to teach positive ways of communicating about and solving conflicts.** Focus here is on stimulating effective communication, anticipating potential stress and getting experience with the counsellors.

3.2.1.3. Pre – marital counselling programmes

The first three pre – marital counselling programmes are identified by Freeman (1990: 238).

- ❖ **Educational interpretative programme.** It is also called one night's stand. A speaker is provided for a wide range of community groups such as religious institutions, service clubs, high schools, university campus groups and so on. The meeting serves to offer an interpretation of the type of service available at the

marriage counselling centre, at the family agencies, at clinics and at other resources. Since many people still tend to think that the marriage counsellor tells them what is right, who is wrong and exactly what to do, this single meeting is offered as a useful explanation of the counsellor's role as impartially enabling couples to help themselves.

- ❖ **group work with pre-marrieds.** This involves working at the centre with small groups of pre-marrieds in a course of ten weekly sessions with one leader. The idea is that working with a group of five or six young couples who do not normally seek marriage counselling will provide them with some useful preparation for marriage.

In a study that was conducted at the Marriage Counselling Centre Montreal by Freeman in 1990, it was found that small numbers of those who were involved in the second level of the programme, (group work with pre-marrieds), broke their engagements and did not marry. In those cases, they sensed trouble ahead. Those couples who married were on their way a little more prepared, more realistically ready to work at developing a wholesome family life.

- ❖ **Pre and post counselling.** These courses consist of ten weekly sessions offered, by Dorothy Freeman in 1990, to non-social work professionals involved in pre and post marital counselling. These are ministers, medical doctors and lawyers.

Knox & Schacht (1997:326 - 237) add four more programmes

- ❖ **Pre- marital Counselling and Relationship Evaluation (PREPARE).** Here, pre-marital counsellors use inventories to help identify couples who are likely to

get divorced. According to Knox & Schacht (1997:326), this programme was developed by Larsen & Oslon (1989). It assesses expectations, communication, conflict resolution skills and background origins. In a study conducted with 164 pre-marital couples with a follow up three years later, it was found that couples who had unrealistic expectations, poor communication patterns, absence of conflict resolution skills, were more likely to be separated than those scoring high in this area. Couple who took the PREPARE were able to predict their probability of divorce with 80% to 85% accuracy.

- ❖ **Prevention and Relationship Enrichment Programme (PREP).** This is designed to teach couples skills associated with marital success. It is offered in two formats, that is, extended version where couples attend a weekly two to two and half hour meeting in groups of four to eight couples to hear brief lectures on communication and relationship issues. Each couple is assigned a communication consultant who works with the individual couple as they privately practise skills. Alternative weekend is where twenty to forty young people who are engaged hear the communication lectures in a group setting and practise the skills on their own.

From the study conducted on the effectiveness of PREP, by Williams and Jurich (1995), it was found that not only have couples who learned how to communicate and negotiate conflicts been less likely to divorce or separate than the control group, they reported greater mental satisfaction, fewer conflicts and less physical violence.

- ❖ **Facilitating Open Couple Communication, Understanding and Study (FOCUS).** This is another pre- marital inventory widely used for marriage preparation. Similar to PREPARE, the inventory is able to successfully predict 75% of the time in or during which engaged couples will have a high quality

versus a low quality marriage five years after marriage. According to Knox & Schacht (1997: 237), a research on FOCUS was done by Williams & Jurich (1995) with two hundred and seventy couples and a follow up was conducted five years after their marriage. It was found that this instrument was able to predict more than 70% of the couples that had high / low quality marriage five years after marriage.

- ❖ **Preparation for marriage (PREP-M).** It is a two hundred and forty item instrument that assesses 90% of the pre- marital factors that predict marital quality. It assesses areas like couple similarity in values, and attitudes, importance of family, money, pre- marital sex, religion, working wives, autonomy, morality, family planning and marital roles. Other areas that are assessed by this instrument are those on the couple's readiness for marriage like degree of agreement on marital issues, relationship stability and realistic marital expectations. It also assesses personal readiness for marriage areas like emotional health and communication skills.

3.2.1.4. Areas to concentrate on during pre – marital counselling

Sometimes the engaged couple presents a problem to the pre – marital counsellor in regard to marriage. In most cases, awareness of the problem comes about during the course of the pre – marital counselling. Areas to concentrate on are identified by Hulme (1962:52- 6) as:

- ❖ Help in understanding the emotions and personality adjustment in creating two lives into a unity.
- ❖ Discuss structural level of leaving father and mother and clinging to the mate.

- ❖ Help the couple to see their sexual relationship within the scope of their lives under God.
- ❖ Help the couple to come to grips with their particular purpose of marriage, for example, family plans and ideas.
- ❖ Help the couple to be aware of the important role that money plays in marriage.
- ❖ Discuss with them how they will work at developing a wholesome marriage.

3.2.1.5. Effects of pre – marital counselling

According to Collins (1980:161), pre – marital counselling does improve marriages and reduce the incidence of family disintegration and divorce. In counselling, many engaged couples are confronted with problems that they had not noticed previously. Such knowledge leads some to work on the problem issues or to get further counselling. Others are encouraged either to break the engagement or to delay marriages until the difficulties are solved.

Pre – marital counselling's major emphasis is the prevention of marital problems and difficulties which could make life miserable, difficult, unfulfilled and unproductive after marriage, The researcher assumes that good marriages start before the wedding.

3.3. TRADITIONAL WAYS OF PREPARING FOR MARRIGE

Different ethnic groups prepare their youth for marriage in different ways according to their cultures. What is, however, common in all the groups is that the traditional process of preparing for marriage begins in childhood, with the division of labour according to sex and age (Mertens & Schoeman,1975:12). During this stage, traditional culture propagates the inferior, soft roles and status of women rather than equality among sexes

thus re-enforcing powerlessness on them. Here the focus will be on Zulu social system since Madadeni community is composed of the Zulu ethnic group.

After puberty female and male children acquire new statuses as intombi (female youth) and ibhungu (male youth), respectively. A girl may also be called itshitshi (uncommitted female youth). The female youth may then take part in games like choosing a lover which prepares her for the selection of the future real lover (Mertens & Schoeman, 1975:14). The Zulu social system contains built – in checks to regulate such a strong motivated process as finding a girl, choosing a lover and winning a bride, all of which could be discreet episodes rather than one definite sequence of events in the hot – headed business of courtship.

At puberty, amatshitshi (girls who have not yet chosen permanent lovers) are subject to the control of amaqhikiza (more advanced girls who have committed themselves to informal engagements with the young men they intend to marry). Amaqhikiza's permission is necessary before the younger girls can respond in any way to the advances of young men. Even when this permission is obtained, the relationship continues to develop step by step under the same supervision. Male youth are, however, less subject to such control than female youth. Amatshitshi cannot choose lovers unless they have been given consent by amaqhikiza.

Once the girl has chosen her lover, and has been informally engaged which is celebrated by the parties from the male youth and the female youth, the female youth leaves amatshitshi and joins amaqhikiza. Though she is now an iqhikiza, she is still to a certain extent subject to the control of her older sister. Isoka lakhe (her lover) must obtain the

sister's permission for the partial sexual access known as ukuhlobonga. He must also have her consent to approach the girl's parents for engagement. Only then does he mention the matter in his own village. As soon as it has been properly brought to the attention of the village head and male youth's father, a red flag is flown on top of a pole in the male youth's home. It is replaced by a white one as soon as the engagement is finalised between both parties.

Before marriage takes place, technicalities concerning ilobola must be settled. When the wedding day is set, the female youth visits her relatives (ukucimela) and they give her gifts and advices on how to behave towards in-laws and her husband. These advices traditionally support female submissiveness under all circumstances in the new home. The bride is told to unconditionally respect her husband and in-laws, and also to persevere in all hardships, which is part of what makes women stay in abusive relationships. As the wedding day draws close, the female youth does not leave her house, where her wedding gifts are kept. It is during this time that old women of the village visit her and educate her on how to behave in her marriage. That goes on until the wedding day (Brindley,1982:107). The marriage ceremony takes place for a number of days, during which beasts are slaughtered, singing, dancing and giving-of gifts by the bride take place (Mertens & Schoeman,1975:60).

It must be noted that with the influence of the modern style of life, traditional preparation for marriage has fallen away in some areas. The woman is only visited by old women with gifts and advices, few days before the wedding day. This process does not, however, ensure that there will be no violence or abuse in the new family.

3.4. PROMOTION OF THE QUALITY OF MARRIAGE AND FAMILY LIFE - SECONDARY PREVENTION.

Secondary prevention occurs when some kind of dysfunctioning has been identified or is suspected. It emphasises early diagnosis and prompt intervention to halt the pathological process, thereby shortening its duration and severity, and enabling the individual to regain normal functioning at the earliest possible point. Campbell & Humphreys (1993:xi); Steyn et al (1987:695) divide secondary prevention into two components:

3.4.1 Maintenance of marriage and family life

This refers to maintaining the quality of family life by means of formal and non formal programmes (Steyn et al,1987:696). These are the programmes that encourage family members to spend quality time together and give one another support and warmth.

3.4.2. Marriage enrichment

These programmes are for couples who have, what they perceive to be fairly well functioning marriages and who wish to make their marriages even more mutually satisfying. Marriage enrichment programmes are presented by churches, welfare organisations, religious organisations, universities, other agencies, individuals and groups.

Programmes in general include personal, marriage and family enrichment courses, parent guidance courses, courses for engaged couples, divorced people and single parents and parenting education (Steyn et al, 1987:697).

3.4.2.1. Basic assumptions of family enrichment

The basic assumptions of family enrichment are identified by Steyn et al (1987: 700), as the following:

- ❖ The family is not static but dynamic.
- ❖ With sufficient favourable opportunities for growth and creative change most couples or members of the families could enhance the potential of their families.
- ❖ In modern society a large percentage of marriages do not manage to grow into healthy units.
- ❖ In family enrichment all available resources are utilized to bring about a positive change in family relationship.
- ❖ Family enrichment, as a highly specialised process, is not the responsibility of one particular discipline or profession. It should be a multi – disciplinary effort.

3.4.2.2 Objectives of family enrichment

According to Steyn (1987:700), the following objectives have been formulated.

- ❖ To establish and improve the relationship in families that are functioning normally.
- ❖ To provide opportunities for couples or families to grow and develop within a group context.
- ❖ To develop the full potential of each member of the family within the supportive atmosphere of the family.
- ❖ To promote the acquisition of the basic skills of human behaviour.
- ❖ To promote the optimal development of communication, parent-child relationships, parents as identification figures, and the handling of conflict within the family context.

3.5. TREATMENT OF MARITAL DYSFUNCTIONING – TERTIARY PREVENTION.

This is rehabilitation. It comes into play when a dysfunction is fixed, stabilized, or irreversible. It aims at more than halting the dysfunction process itself, it is the restoring of the individual optimum level of functioning with the constraints of the dysfunction, for example, intervention to families who have broken down because of domestic violence. Part of the intervention is to work with the children to enable them to cope with the effects of their experience (Campbell & Humphreys, 1993:xi).

Bowker (1983:14) elaborates on how self help groups and family therapists render services aimed at the treatment of marital and family dysfunction.

This is part of the prevention that is mostly applied in our country. Due to the rise of women's movements to fight laws that were subjecting women to the abuse by men, the government has passed laws that enforce more protection of women than before. In 1993, the S.A. Parliament passed the Prevention of Family Violence Act 133 of 1993 which effectively minimised domestic abuse. But still it did not give proper protection for women. Women continued to demand for laws that were forbidding discrimination against them and subjecting them to men's power. With the passing of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act, No. 108 of 1996, some of the women's pleas were addressed. Women were regarded as having an equal status with men. Their rights were clearly spelled out and were not to be violated. The Domestic Violence Act, No 116 of 1998 also came into being. It aims at protecting the women against domestic violence. It provides measures to assist victims of domestic violence in accordance with various legislative enactments. The state has committed itself on paper, to the elimination of

domestic violence. It is now up to people to ensure that these paper rights are effectively translated into real rights for the victims of domestic abuse.

Besides the state, community based organisations are doing much to protect and support victims of domestic violence. Almost all the towns have crisis centres that give shelter and support to the victims. There are support groups almost in all places. These self help groups, however, can not function effectively enough by themselves. They need monetary and material support from the community and the state. Besides that, they are more effective because they offer support over a broad range of needs (Bowker,1993:14).

Social institutions do render services to the victims of domestic violence. They have a wide range of programmes that are offered to individuals as well as the families that are affected by domestic violence. They also suffer lack of resources and inability to cope with high caseloads as they do not only deal with domestic violence issues. They do not get enough time to give proper attention to each case as it deserves. They are, however, doing their level best to offer what they can.

3.6. SUMMARY

Preventative measures to domestic violence take place in three phases, that is, primary, secondary and tertiary. Much is being done to curb this problem of domestic violence, but little is being achieved. Some of the measures are still very new and it is still premature to judge their effectiveness.

CHAPTER 4

INVESTIGATING PROCEDURES

4.1 INTRODUCTION

In this chapter, the researcher presents procedures used in investigation by giving a clear picture of the research design and the rest of research process.

4.2. RESEARCH DESIGN

The purpose of research design is to provide a set of systematic procedures for producing data pertaining to the development, modification or expansion of knowledge (Finestone & Kahn cited by Grinnell,1985:231). The shape of the problem, the question it raises and the type of end product desired, determine the selection of a particular design. Research design is a plan for assembling, organising and interpreting information, and it results in a specific end product (Merriam,1988:6). It assists the researcher in a step-by-step manner to complete the study. This study used exploratory/descriptive design, that is also referred to as multiple case study (Marlow,1993:25). The researcher wanted to describe issues (domestic violence) and the real life context in which they occurred. She also needed to explain the causal link of domestic violence and lack of pre-marital counselling in the real life issues (domestic violence) and intervention (existence or non existence of pre - marital counselling)(Yin,1993:15). The researcher had to describe domestic violence and preventative intervention towards domestic violence in the area. She further had to explore if there is a need for pre-marital counselling at Madadeni community. The researcher was concerned with generating new concepts than with testing existing ones (Neuman,1997:329). She was not aware of any

theory that linked domestic violence and pre - marital counselling. She wanted to gather a large amount of information on few cases (ten case studies), go into greater depth and get more details on the cases being examined. A distinguishing characteristic of a case study is that the studied behaviour is not available for study using the more traditional research designs. Case studies are valuable because they provide great detail that helps researchers to understand the complexities of human behaviour. Researchers often use them when they begin to do research in areas where there is little knowledge or theory to guide them. The results of the case study may suggest areas that should be examined, highlight critical issues, or suggest concepts that can serve as the basis of the theory (Mark,1996: 218 - 219).

This study combined two methods so as to allow the use of both qualitative and quantitative data collection strategies (Du Plooy,1996:33). That is, qualitative data are particularly useful when detailed description and analysis are required whereas quantitative data are more appropriate when the categories of behaviour are already conceptualised and simply need to be counted (Marlow,1993:66). The research was, however, mainly qualitative in nature. This design helped in the identification of important variables on pre-marital counselling as well as the development of specific hypotheses. Detailed information about interrelationship of certain variables concerning domestic violence was also provided. Ten case studies were looked at with the purpose of getting the dynamics of each case study.

4.3. SAMPLING PROCEDURES

Sampling involves determining who will be the subjects of the study (Marlow,1993:103). In this study, the researcher used the purposive sample. It is a non -

probability sampling method and is also called a judgemental sample (Wiseman,1999:88). Purposive sampling is predicted on the assumption that the researcher has sufficient knowledge related to the research problem to allow selection of 'typical' persons for inclusion in the sample (Grinnell,1985:145). The researcher used her judgement to select the respondents for a specific purpose. The sample was carefully chosen, so it helped to clarify the objectives of the study and the categories of information was collected from the appropriate number of subjects, at the required point in time. A well-designed sample helped to obtain the required information at least cost. The researcher was aware of the shortcomings of purposive sample in as far as generalisability and representativeness are concerned. With non-probability samples, no real claim for representativeness could be made whereas representativeness greatly limited the ability to generalize findings beyond the level of the sample cases. In this study those factors are not an important issue. The researcher was more interested in ensuring that her sample included couples that were clients of the social workers from the Department of Social welfare and Population development, for domestic violence related problems, during the time of study.

4.4. CHOICE OF AREA

The area of research was Madadeni community. This area is mostly served by social workers from the Department of Social Welfare and Population Development. It is situated about thirteen (13) kilometres, south of Newcastle in KwaZulu Natal. It has a population of about 500 000 people.

4.5. CHOICE OF SAMPLING UNITS

Families that had contacted social workers from the Department of Social Welfare and Population Development at Madadeni regarding domestic violence problems and social workers, themselves, were deliberately selected as sampling units because they possessed the characteristics the researcher was interested in studying. This ensured the collection of information that was directly relevant to the subject being investigated (Marlow,1993:104). From the case records, the researcher was able to collect data on each one of the cases that were being studied in depth. The intention was to find out as much information as possible about the characteristics, actions, ideas and other attributes of each family. Generalization was not considered to be important. Since both husbands and wives were interviewed, the availability of both partners was one of the criteria in the selection of those ten case studies. The subjects were those persons that were living at Madadeni during the time when they were supposed to receive pre-marital counselling. Four social workers were also part of the sample.

4.6. METHODS OF DATA COLLECTION

4.6.1 Interview schedules

Two structured interview schedules were used to collect data. The structured interview schedule is an instrument in which individuals are asked to respond to a series of specific questions. This technique requires that the interviewer asks questions exactly as they are worded. The interviewer did nothing to bias or influence the answers that were given (Wallen & Fraenkel,1991:89). One interview schedule (annexure A) was for social workers and the other one (annexure B) was for clients(cases of domestic violence). The interview schedules comprised closed ended questions (those that provided respondents with a fixed set of alternatives from which they were to choose) and open ended

questions (questions to which respondents were to give their own responses) (Bless & Higson-Smith,1995:122). In the interview schedules, specific questions in a fixed order for the interviewer to use were contained.

The field work was conducted between July and December 1999. Information regarding the research project covered the total survey population through social workers and the notice boards in the agency (Department of Social Welfare and Population Development–Madadeni) so as to demonstrate the general acceptance of the project in the agency. It was also hoped that this would increase co-operation among people chosen for the sample. The information provided in the notice boards was essentially the same as that in a covering letter for the interview schedules. Permission to do research in that agency was granted by the provincial office of that department. For social workers interviews were conducted in their offices during working hours.

Before going to the field, the researcher thoroughly studied the files of the individual prospective respondents so as to get to know more about their characteristics, actions, ideas and other attributes. The files were available in the agency since the subjects of the study were clients of social workers of that agency.

The families were interviewed in their homes, in zulu. Husbands and wives were interviewed separately to avoid the influence that might be posed by the presence of the other party during the interview. When the researcher went to do field work, she took along her student card so that she would not be mistaken for other people who go from door to door for other purposes. Interviews were conducted by the researcher herself. Timing of the initial contact can affect the refusal rate. Respondents were contacted on weekends and during the afternoons when time was convenient for them to complete the

interviews without the need for a second call. If the respondents were pressed for time, the interviewer used the initial contact to establish a rapport and set another time for interview.

4.6.2 Reason for choice of method

Interviewing was chosen because interviews can help to motivate respondents to give more accurate and complete information (the control afforded by an interview encourages better responses). Interviewing affords an opportunity to explain questions that respondents may not otherwise understand. The interviewer can add observational information to the responses of the respondents. The combination of closed and open-ended questions was done because on one hand, all the possible, theoretically relevant responses to a question could be determined in advance and the number of possible responses was limited (Bless & Higson-Smith,1995:122). On the other hand, the researcher could not predict all the possible answers to a question in advance. When interviews are conducted in the home of the respondents, the refusal rate is minimized.

4.6.3 How interview schedules were constructed

Interview schedules were designed to begin with fairly simple and non-threatening questions (Huysamen,1994:132). That was done as a means of reducing tension in the respondents. It also facilitated the development of a positive relationship between the respondent and the interviewer. As needed, probes and follow up questions that were intended to elicit clearer and more complete responses were contained in the interview schedule. Responses to questions were anticipated to be reasonably short so, everything the respondents said was recorded verbatim in order to avoid the possible biasing effect of summarising responses (Neuman,1997:240).

There were two interview schedules, one for social workers and the other one for clients. Below, different focus areas in the two interview schedules and the rationale for asking the questions in the different sections of each schedule are indicated.

The one for social workers covered information on the following areas:

- ❖ Domestic violence as experienced by people of Madadeni.

Questions in this area aimed at helping the researcher to identify forms of domestic violence as experienced by Madadeni people and to determine their marital needs and problems.

- ❖ Attention given to domestic violence cases by Madadeni social workers.

With questions in this section, the researcher wanted to find out if social workers have specific programmes for domestic violence cases in the area or not.

- ❖ Knowledge of Madadeni people about pre-marital counselling programmes.

- ❖ Availability and utilisation of pre-marital counselling programmes by the people of Madadeni.

The intention about this question was to determine the extent to which pre-marital counselling programmes were made available and used by people in the area.

Information on the following areas was covered by the interview schedule for clients:

- ❖ Domestic violence as experienced by people of Madadeni.

The questions in this area aimed at helping the researcher to identify forms of domestic violence as experienced by Madadeni people and to determine their marital needs and problems.

- ❖ Attention given to domestic violence by Madadeni social workers.

Questions in this section would give the researcher information on the programmes that were provided to people who approached social workers with domestic violence related cases.

- ❖ Knowledge of Madadeni people about pre-marital counselling programmes.

The aim was to determine that extent to which people of Madadeni knew and understood pre-marital counselling.

- ❖ Availability and utilisation of pre-marital counselling programmes by people of Madadeni.

The intention was to determine the extent to which pre-marital counselling programmes were made available and used by people in the area.

4.7 PILOTING

Piloting was done to ensure that the instruments the researcher used were reliable and would provide her with valid data. Pre-testing of the interview schedules for social workers was done with three social workers from the Department of Social Welfare and Population Development who serve Utrecht, Osizweni, and Waterval communities. These were neighbouring communities to Madadeni and their socio - economic, ethnic and political characteristics were similar to those of Madadeni community. One social worker from each agency was taken for purposes of pre-testing. Pre-test helped in the identification of pre - existing information possessed by families on domestic violence. The interview schedule for clients was pre-tested on three families from Waterval community, who were known to the researcher to have had problems of domestic violence. The researcher was resident in this community, so it was easy for her to identify such cases. Interviews during pre-test were conducted in an as informal a way as possible so as to avoid negative suspicions and resistance.

The pilot study helped to test whether there were any items that respondents might have difficulty in understanding. This was necessary because if the researcher had neither spent enough time and care in defining the purpose for each item in her interview schedule nor edited each question so that it was phrased with that meticulous precision of language necessary to elicit the answer that the researcher was seeking, questions might be ambiguous and recipients might not be able to understand them when they were asked. The results of the pilot study were that interview schedules were understandable by the pilot population.

4.8 PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA

Frequency tables, column and pie charts with percentages were used in the presentation, analysis and interpretation of data. During the analysis of data, the researcher looked for patterns of interaction and events that were generally common in what she was studying (norms for behaviour), for example, behaviour patterns that some of the participants in a situation shared. She also looked for similarities and dissimilarities (Rubin & Babbie, 1993:387). She kept the data in context by referring to the specific situations, time periods and persons in whom the identified pattern occurred. The researcher was aware that qualitative data analysis tends to be inductive rather than deductive. Careful observation tends to lead to the description of connections and patterns in the data. It enabled the researcher to form hypotheses. The researcher used the following dimensions to analyse data. The first dimension was the presentation of data as a descriptive account, which is also referred to as case studies, where the case study narrative was written. The second dimension involved organising data into categories on the basis of themes. Thirdly, the researcher proposed hypotheses, as she

was primarily concerned with developing them rather than testing them. Speculation about causality and linkage took place. Development of hypotheses and causal statements was firmly rooted in data and not influenced by theoretical biases of the candidate.

4.9 SUMMARY

In this chapter, the researcher discussed how she selected and developed instruments she used to collect data related to the research question. She also specified the conditions under which these instruments were used. The pilot population was chosen where validity and reliability of the research instrument was measured. The procedure that would be used to present, analyse and interpret data was specified.

CHAPTER FIVE

PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF DATA.

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter focuses on presentation, analysis and interpretation of data collected as indicated in the previous chapter. This process is necessary because analysis of data helps the researcher to answer research questions and present the results of the study to the reader in an understandable manner and convincing form.

In presenting data, the researcher used the same sequence of the questions as they are found in the interview schedules. That enabled her to maintain continuity because in the interview schedule, related questions were placed next to one another.

Information from social workers was used, when necessary, to supplement information from the clients.

5.2 PROCEDURE FOR ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

The researcher used tables with frequencies, column and pie charts with percentages for interpretation of data. She looked for patterns of interaction and events that were common in what she was studying and noted similarities and dissimilarities (Rubin & Babbie,1993:387). To keep the data in context, the researcher referred to the specific situations, time periods and persons in whom the identified pattern occurred.

The researcher started by analysing the demographic information of the respondents in a quantitative form. She then gave a descriptive presentation of case profiles. Thereafter, analysis and presentation of family case profiles was done where frequencies and percentages were used.

5.3. CHARACTERISTICS OF SOCIAL WORKERS

It was important for the researcher to know characteristics of social workers because they are the people who rendered social work services to the respondents.

There were four social workers (all females) from the Department of Social Welfare and Population Development, stationed at Madadeni. Two were married and the other two have never been married. Two have worked at Madadeni for less than three years. One has worked for six years and the other one has worked for more than nine years. Apart from Madadeni itself, their area of operation included Blaawbosch and the surrounding areas. They carried a variety of cases.

5.4 BIOGRAPHICAL DETAILS OF THE RESPONDENTS

The researcher asked questions in this section so as to examine the correlation between domestic violence and family characteristics like age, education, employment, affiliation to church, number of children and length of marriage.

5.4.1 Age of respondents

Age was taken into consideration because the researcher wanted to know if there was a relationship between age and domestic violence.

TABLE 5.1: AGE DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS (N = 20)

AGE	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
20 – 24 years	0	0	0	0	0	0
25 – 29 years	1	10	0	0	1	5
30 – 34 years	1	10	1	10	2	10
35 – 39 years	1	10	3	30	4	20
40 – 44 years	3	30	2	20	5	25
45 – 49 years	2	20	0	0	2	10
50 years and above	2	20	4	40	6	30
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

Table 5.1 shows that the majority of the respondents, seventeen (85%) were thirty five years and more, with six (30%) of them being fifty years and above.

5.4.2 Educational level of respondents

The question on education was asked because it would enable the researcher to identify the educational levels of the respondents. Their responses are given in table 5.2 below.

TABLE 5.2: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY EDUCATIONAL STANDARD

(N = 20)

EDUCATION	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
No formal Education	1	10	1	10	2	5
Below std 6	3	30	3	30	6	30
Std 6 – std 10	4	40	6	60	10	50
Post matric	2	20	0	0	2	5
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

Table 5.2 shows that the majority of respondents that is ten (50%), had reached the standard 6 to 10 educational level. Two (20%) of the women had post- matric. None of the husbands had reached this level of education. All in all, six (60%) of the wives in the abusive relationships were above standard 5 educational level.

5.4.3 Employment position of the respondents

It was important for the researcher to get information on the employment position of respondents. That would help her to determine if employment is associated with violence or not.

TABLE 5.3: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO EMPLOYMENT (N = 20)

EMPLOYMENT	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
Employed	4	40	8	80	12	60
Unemployed	4	40	0	0	4	20
Pensioned	2	20	2	20	4	20
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

Table 5.3 shows that twelve (60%) which is the majority of respondents were employed. Four (20%) of women were unemployed and none of the husbands was unemployed.

Four (20%) women that were unemployed had working husbands that supported them financially.

All four social workers stated that they had an equal number of female and male and male clients. Three mentioned that most of their clients were employed. This information supports the one the researcher obtained from reading the agency files.

5.4.4 Occupation of respondents

A person's occupation is closely associated with his social status. The researcher asked this question because it would enable her to identify social statuses of respondents.

TABLE 5.4: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS BY OCCUPATION (N = 20)

AGE	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
Professional	2	20	0	0	2	10
Skilled	1	10	3	30	4	20
Semi - skilled	0	0	4	40	4	20
Unskilled	0	0	1	10	1	5
Self employed	1	10	0	0	1	5
House - keeper	4	40	0	0	4	20
Pensioned	2	20	2	20	4	20
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

According to table 5.4, only six (30%) of respondents were in professional and skilled jobs. The majority, fourteen (70%) comprised the semi-skilled, unskilled, self-employed, unemployed and pensioned people.

5.4.5 Church affiliation of respondents

The researcher needed to know if there is association between domestic violence and affiliation in church.

TABLE 5.5: DISTRIBUTION OF RESPONDENTS ACCORDING TO CHURCH AFFILIATION (N = 20)

CHURCH AFFILIATION	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
Conservative churches	2	20	2	20	4	20
Other churches	7	70	5	50	12	60
No churches	1	10	3	30	4	20
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

Table 5.5, shows that the majority of respondents, sixteen (80%) were affiliated to churches. Only four (20%) respondents did not belong to any church.

5.4.6 Number of children in respondent's families

For better understanding of the family size, it was necessary for the researcher to know the number of children each family had.

It should be noted that the total number of respondents in figures 5.1 and 5.2 is ten because each couple is presented as a unit.

FIGURE 5.1: DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES ACCORDING TO NUMBER OF CHILDREN (N = 10)

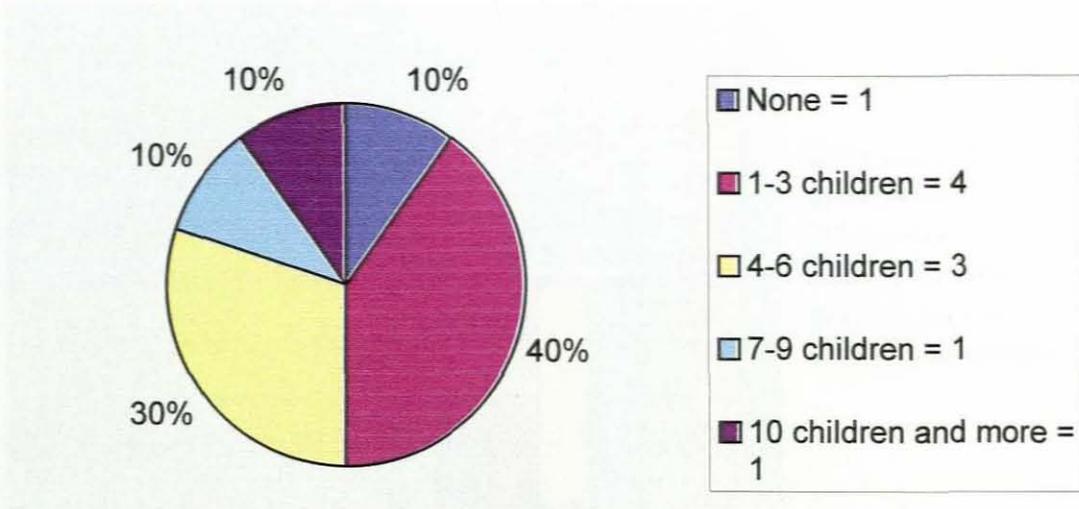


figure 5.1 shows that five (50%) of families had four children and more.

This finding indicates that there was no relationship between the number of children and domestic violence. There was equal number of responses of the respondents who had less than four children and those who had more than that.

5.4.7. Length of time the couple had been married

Information on how long the couple had been married would help the researcher to determine whether there is a link between domestic violence and length of time that the couple under study had been married.

FIGURE 5.2: DISTRIBUTION OF FAMILIES ACCORDING TO LENGTH OF TIME THAT THEY HAD BEEN MARRIED (N = 10)

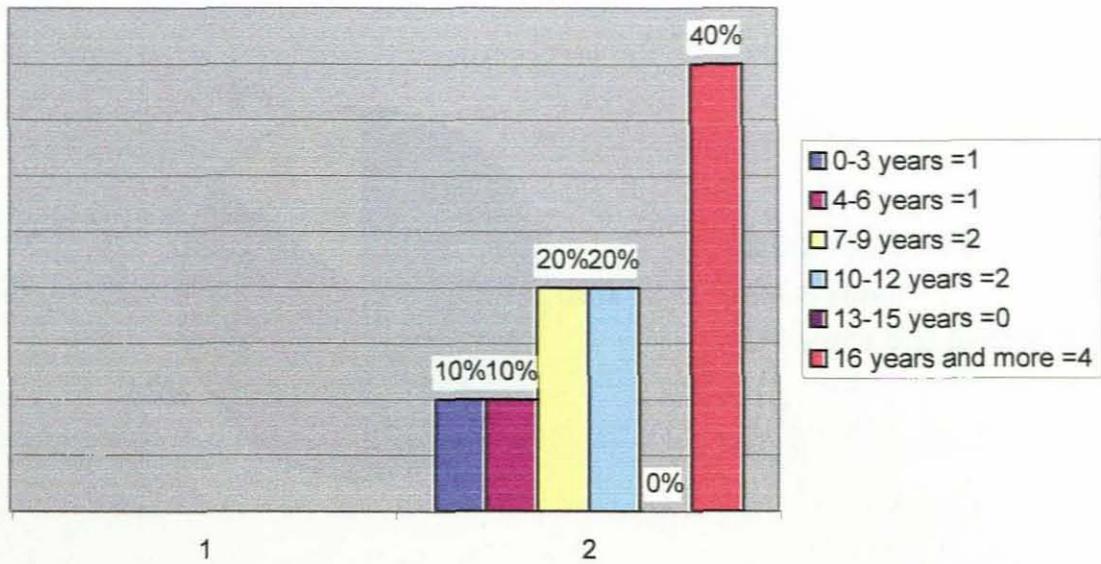
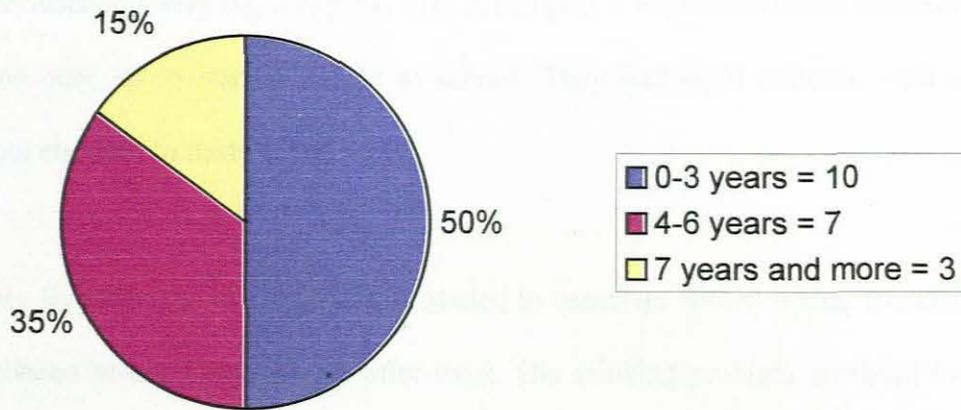


figure 5.2 shows that eight (80%) of the couples had been married for more than six years.

5.4.8 How long respondents had lived in Madadeni before marriage

It was important that participants in the study be people who were residents of Madadeni before marriage since one of the aims of the study was to establish if the respondents had been involved in pre – marital counselling at Madadeni.

FIGURE 5.3: HOW LONG COUPLES HAD LIVED IN MADADENI BEFORE MARRIAGE (N = 20)



According to figure 5.3, all respondents had lived in Madadeni before marriage though ten (50%) had lived for only three years and less.

5.5 PRESENTATION OF FAMILY CASE PROFILES

The researcher's main concern was to give the exact picture of the type of families that were interviewed as well as what was going on in them. She, therefore, gave the account of violence as experienced by those particular couples (Matthews,1989:xi). Below the profile of each family, the picture of feelings of either the wife or husband is displayed through writing the exact words of part of what was said by the subjects. The section on the partner's account was done randomly.

Family A

This was a pensioned couple. Mrs A was sixty one years of age and Mr A was seventy three. They had been married for thirty eight years. Mrs A was an ex-teacher. Mr A had done skilled work in a very big company. Mrs A had post – matric education whereas Mr A had gone only up to standard eight at school. They had eight children with ages ranging from eighteen to thirty seven years.

After twenty five years of marriage, Mr A started to associate with drinking friends. He visited shebeens before coming home after work. His drinking problem escalated to the point where he was abusing alcohol. That is when he started to be abusive to both his wife and children. He used to assault them, lock them out and destroy the property in the house. During the time of the research, abuse had subsided through the help of social workers.

Mrs A sought help after eight years of abuse. Before seeking professional help, she shared her problem with her sister who did nothing more than giving her support. Fear of being exposed as the ‘abused’ prevented her from seeking help earlier. Through professional help, Mr A was able to realise his problematic behaviour. He stopped drinking and the couple was a happy family again.

The couple viewed alcohol as having attributed to violence in their family. Mrs A had forgiven her husband. She, however, expressed the feeling that his behaviour on her had taken away her dignity as a person, and had grossly affected their children who turned to be ashamed of their father. Mr A was thankful that his wife did not leave him, but did her

best to give necessary education to their children. Both expressed being aware that their problem had had negative impact on the community.

According to Mr A, the best preventative intervention to domestic violence is to educate men on matters related to family life. Mrs A viewed prayer and pre-marital counselling as the best preventative intervention to domestic violence.

" I knew that no marital relationship is perfect, but the way our relationship was, made me feel ashamed and guilty. Since the situation has improved, I now realise that I was a super woman. The way he now praises me, makes me feel good and important to him".

Family B

This was another aged couple. Mr B was sixty six and Mrs B was sixty three. Mrs B had never been to school. Mr B had only gone as far as standard three. Mr B had done semi – skilled work during “his years” but Mrs B had always been the house - maker. In their marriage of thirty seven years, they have three children whose ages range between sixteen and twenty nine.

With this couple, violence had been going on for more than fifteen years. It started shortly after their marriage. It used to take the form of physical and verbal abuse. Mrs B used to retaliate with insults when assaulted. What attributed to fights was the abuse of alcohol by the husband.

It took the wife ten years before seeking professional help. Families from both parties and a traditional healer had intervened with the aim of bringing an end to this marital problem, but they had not been successful. The couple believed that the problem was due

to witchcraft. The assault was at one stage so severe that the wife reported it to the mayor who referred her to the social workers, hence the couple was receiving social work therapeutic treatment. Mrs B did not seek professional help earlier because she did not want to involve outsiders in her marital affairs.

At the time of conducting this study, Mr B was still abusive, though not as frequently as before their involvement in social work services. He denied the existence of violence in his family, blaming everything to witchcraft. The couple viewed lack of mutual understanding and support as the factors that contributed to domestic violence. In most cases, neighbours had been called to settle their fight and they felt that their behaviour had offended the community.

Mr B could not think of any preventative intervention to domestic violence, but Mrs B felt that professionals such as social workers could come up with a cure to domestic violence.

" I do not know what to do about this situation. I have realised that I do offend my wife. I always tell myself that I will not do it again, but I do not stop. I contacted traditional healers but they were not helpful. I do not think my drinking has anything to do with my behaviour. There are many men who drink but they do not experience the problem that I am experiencing".

Family C

Concerning this couple, the husband was considerably older than the wife. He was fifty three and his wife was seven years younger. Mr C was illiterate, but Mrs C had left school in standard five. Mrs C was a house – maker and Mr C was doing semi – skilled work. They have been married for twenty one years. They have ten children, including

the husband's child who was born out of wedlock. The children's ages range from four to twenty seven years.

This couple had experienced violence in their family for ten years. According to Mrs C, violence started in the initial stages of their marriage. At the beginning, it was less intense and frequent. It intensified with time and Mr C started to deprive his wife of money in addition to abusing her physically. Mr C admitted that he had at times beaten his wife but he did not view his action as abusive. According to him, that was the way of enforcing discipline.

Families from both sides had been called to help resolve the problem but their attempts were in vain. It had taken Mrs C eight years before she sought professional help. Hope that the family would resolve the problem prevented her from seeking help earlier.

The couple viewed poor interpersonal relationship as attributing to domestic violence but the wife also added that lack of a sense of responsibility on the part of the husband contributed to the problem. The husband was working and earning enough money to be able to support the family but he did not. Violence was still intense though it only occurred when the older son was not in the house. The wife felt that the situation in her house was impacting negatively on the community, though she did not know how. Besides social work intervention, the couple had contacted the traditional healer. All those efforts were not helpful. The husband had divorced his first wife because she complained about everything he did.

The husband felt that the problem of domestic violence would be solved if wives were submissive to their husbands and in – laws. The wife on the other hand held the view that it was only the government that could best address the problem by passing laws that forbid all forms of domestic violence.

" I regret that I married a divorced man. Love made me so blind that I never paused to consider factors that led to his divorce before accepting his marriage proposal. This is my first marriage and his is the second one. I do not know how many women he will marry before he gets "Mrs Right" (the right person to be his wife)".

Family D

This couple was in its early adulthood. Mrs D was thirty six years of age and her husband was seven years older. Both were employed. Mrs D was a professional nurse and Mr D was a police officer. This couple had been married for nine years. In their marriage, they had two children (aged five and seven years). Mr D, however, had four children that were born out of wedlock. Their ages ranged from eleven to twenty two years.

Their marital problem started a year after they got married. It started with a quarrel between Mrs D and Mr D's sisters. Mr D sided with his sisters during the resolution of that conflict. That drove the couple apart to such an extent that they moved into separate bedrooms. Mr D would at times abuse Mrs D verbally whenever his sisters were around. He gave her less money for household necessities, compared to what he used to give her before the conflict. He formed a clique with his sisters against his wife.

Mrs D consulted the priest and elders of her church. They tried to intervene but they were not successful because they only told her to pray. Families from both sides were brought together but all that was also in vain. Instead, the families became rivals with

each other. Children born outside marriage were also brought in to cause more tension. Physical abuse became worse. Mrs D was at one stage advised by her doctor to take legal steps against her husband who had badly injured her. Mrs D did not take heed of that advice because she still hoped that her husband would stop abusing her. When Mr D was interviewed, he stated that he had also been subjected to violence by his wife who fought with him. They gave contradictory statements (but it may be the way each perceived the situation). The wife perceived violence as having been going on for eight years, but the husband had only become aware of it in the past two years. The husband had never formally shared his problem with any one. The wife sought professional help after seven years of abuse. She did not seek help earlier because her husband had told her that he did not want outside interference in his family matters.

According to the wife, interference by in-laws attributed to domestic violence. The husband blamed domestic violence on mismanagement of money by his wife. The couple was experiencing problems such as lack of communication and moral support as well as low income. Both felt violence was drawing them back in life as they spent most of their time worked up about their problems and doing nothing towards the proper upbringing of their children. Both of them believed that good interpersonal skills could be a solution to their problem. They also felt that social work intervention was helpful because it lessened the frequency of violence. The couple was still fighting most of the time.

The wife and the husband felt that pre-marital counselling and acquisition of proper communication skills, respectively, could best address the problem of domestic violence.

" I always ignored my own interests to accommodate her desires, but she was always so insensitive. She always criticized my family and anyone I associated with. I never thought I would ever lay my hand on my wife. She

always provoked me and forced me to beat her. She always blamed me for her misunderstanding with my sisters, something which I have nothing to do with".

Family E

With this couple, the wife was forty four years of age (five years older than her husband). Mrs E left school in standard five whereas Mr E went up to standard six. Mr E was doing semi - skilled work and Mrs E was not formally employed. She was selling vegetables to earn a living. The couple had been married for six years. They had no children.

Violence had started in the third year of their marriage. It is the wife who started the whole thing by assaulting her husband when he was drunk. She also did not want him to associate with other men, accusing them of influencing him to drink. Those actions caused Mr E to stay away from the family most of the time, which he spent drinking with his friends. He had his money used up on liquor.

The wife shared her problem with her friend. Mr E was referred by his employer to the psychologist who advised him to approach social workers. The family was, thus, receiving social work services for their problem. The couple viewed the problem as getting worse as Mr E started to blame his wife for all misfortunes he was encountering. He blamed her for the car accident in which he had recently been involved and for his abuse of alcohol. Mr E felt that lack of respect from his wife drove him to stay away from her. They did not view their behaviour as affecting the community in any way. Mrs E expressed belief that if her husband could stop abusing alcohol, the family could lead a happy life. Mr E had had an unsuccessful marriage before the current one. He divorced his first wife after learning that she was involved with another man. It is the husband that

was doing all he could to resolve the problem. He had, however, encountered some negative attitudes from people that were accusing him of being the perpetrator.

The couple fought most of the time after having been to social workers (about the counselling session itself). The husband blamed social workers for taking sides. He maintained that social workers were always on his wife's side because they were also women. He preferred to be seen by a white male social worker.

Both could not think of anything that could best address the problem of domestic violence.

"If I had children with him, I do not think he would treat me this way. To him I am more of a nuisance than his wife. He gives me the impression that he regrets having married me. He is not supposed to do this. I was not responsible for the behaviour of the woman he divorced".

Family F

Mrs F was forty years of age, one year older than her husband. Both had left school after attaining standard ten. Mr F was a truck driver and Mrs F was a housewife. They have been married for eight years. They have three children with ages ranging from two to eight years.

Mrs F accused Mr F of being involved in an extra marital affair and neglecting the family financially. According to Mr F, violence started before marriage. He stated that the wife used to insult and treat him in an overbearing manner, even in front of his friends. He further indicated that he married her being fully aware of her bad behaviour, but he hoped that she would change when they were married. According to Mrs F, abuse

had only existed for two years. She maintained that her husband had deserted her and the children. He was staying with another woman, and not financially supporting the family. Mrs F had reported abuse to her mother. The husband had not shared it with anyone. Mrs F persevered for two years before seeking professional help. This was the social workers' new case. Nothing prevented her from seeking help earlier except that she thought the problem was not that serious to warrant professional intervention.

Mr F could not state any need that contributed to domestic violence. Mrs F, however, felt that lack of mutual support had attributed to domestic violence. The problem that was experienced by the couple was that they were unable to communicate effectively. Social work intervention had not been successful because Mr F had already decided to apply for divorce. Mrs F was concerned that she had nothing to support her children with. Mr F's worry on the other hand was that his children were not going to get proper parental care. Both had been married once before. They admitted that they had tried on several occasions to settle their differences, but all was in vain.

Mr F felt that if women could be submissive to their husbands the problem of domestic violence would stop. Mrs F had nothing to say on that question.

"The conditions in which I usually find myself, cause inner turmoil and perplexity. My husband is a real man one minute and a monster the next minute. I have a mixture of feelings about him. I love him as my husband and there is that part of me that hates him for the pain he causes me".

Family G

This couple had an age difference of two years. Mrs G was thirty three years of age and Mr G was two years older. Mr G was a packer at a popular supermarket and Mrs G was a

housewife. They had six children, having been married for eleven years. The ages of their children ranged from six months to twelve years.

Abuse started in the eighth year of their marriage. Mr G used to assault Mrs G, sleep out and refuse to eat food cooked by her. Mr G admitted to having abused Mrs G on many occasions. Mrs G shared her problem with her mother and the priest in her church.

It took her two years before seeking professional help. Although she was aware of existence of professional help, she never thought that social workers would help her solve her problem. This couple had succeeded to resolve the problem and Mr G was thankful to social workers that they had helped him to realise his mistake. The couple was blaming everything to lack of responsibility on the part of Mr G. They did not view their problem as having affected the community.

Mr G felt that prevention should start when children are still young. Both boys and girls should be taught self – respect so they could be able to respect other people. Mrs G maintained that prayer for God's guidance could be the best preventative intervention to address the problem of domestic violence.

"I do not know what is wrong with G. I try everything to please him. I know that he does not love me anymore. He is trying to get rid of me."

Family H

This couple was of equal age. They were forty four years of age. Mrs H had left school in standard eight. Mr H had only gone as far as standard six. Both were employed. Mrs H was a petrol attendant and Mr H was a farm worker. Mr H was working away from the

family. He visited the family once a month. In addition to their six children, Mr H had another child who was born before their marriage. This child was staying with the family. The ages of children ranged from one year to twelve years. The couple had been married for twelve years.

Violence started in the fourth year of their marriage. Mrs H complained that her husband used to assault her. Mr H was accusing Mrs H of having an affair. Mrs H only sought professional help after eight years of abuse. The reason she did not seek help earlier, was that she did not know about its availability.

Mrs H felt that social work intervention had had an effect on their problem. Though Mr H still assaulted her, the frequency was not like before. She maintained that lack of trust attributed to violence in her family. The family was experiencing unhappiness. Both felt that the community was not affected by what was happening in their lives. Mrs H was upset that her family of origin had taken her husband's side and accused her of being the perpetrator of that problem.

Mrs H thought that proper communication could best address domestic violence. Mr H could not think of any solution.

" You know how it is if someone you love and expect to treat you as " the one " (special) does not do that. My husband beats me and blames his personal problems on me".

Family I

Mrs I was forty nine years of age and Mr I was fifty four. Both had left school in standard four. Mrs I used to earn a living through doing piece jobs. Mr I was doing semi-skilled

work in a popular company. They had been married for twenty seven years. They had five children, with ages ranging from twenty nine to twelve. Mrs I had an extra child that was born out of wedlock before marriage. That child was staying with the family. Their problem started in their twenty first year of marriage.

The out-of-wedlock child was seen to have been the causal factor of their quarrel. Mrs I maintained that she had been insulted, assaulted, deserted and financially deprived by her husband. She showed old scars all over her body. According to Mr I, Mrs I used to assault him and she once invited her brother and her out-of-wedlock son to help her assault him, with the intention of killing him.

Families of both parties and the police intervened with the aim of helping the couple to solve the problem, but they were not successful. Mrs I sought professional help after three years of violence. She did not seek help earlier because she believed that the family would manage to resolve the problem without outside help. She also feared that involving outside people would aggravate the abuse.

Mrs I felt that lack of responsibility on the part of Mr I and involvement in extra marital affairs, attributed to domestic violence. Mr I felt that there was no particular need in the family that was contributing to domestic violence. He viewed it as being caused by his wife's selfishness and getting satisfaction out of causing problems for other people. He was complaining of the bad influence of his wife's eldest son on her. Both admitted that their children were negatively affected by their behaviour. Three of their children had left school. Two had started to steal from the neighbours. They also acknowledged that the situation in their family was impacting negatively on the community because children

were troubling neighbours. Mrs I talked of social work intervention as having been helpful because through it she managed to make Mr I support the children through the court. Mr I appreciated social worker's attempts though they could not make him change his mind. He had already decided to divorce his wife, and was engaged to another woman. Mr I felt that the best preventative intervention to domestic violence was for the family not to include the third party in their family matters. Mrs I could not think of any solution.

" I realised very late that I made a mistake by taking her out-of-wedlock son with her. He influences his mother negatively. Now that I have raised him, I am an enemy, I ran away because I feared for my life".

Family J

This was a very young couple. Mrs J was twenty five years old and Mr J was five years older. Both had attained standard ten at school. Mrs J was a house – maker. Mr J was a clerk in a state department. They had been married for three years, having stayed together for four years before marriage. They had three children with ages ranging from one to eight years. Violence started in their first year of marriage.

Both admitted to having subjected each other to violence. Mr J used to assault Mrs J and the children when drunk. Mrs J used to insult Mr J whenever he assaulted her. Violence in the family had gone on for four years.

It did not take the wife long to seek professional help. She contacted social workers on her first year of abuse. She viewed social work intervention as having not been helpful because her husband had no respect for social workers (he called them names).

During the time of the interview, violence in the family had subsided as Mrs J explained it as something that used to appear suddenly and out of the blue. According to Mr J, the family had neither needs nor problems that contributed to domestic violence. Mrs J felt that her husband had an inferiority complex and he was assaulting her to show power. She mentioned alcohol abuse as being the main problem in the family. Mr J acknowledged that the children used to get hurt during fights. Mrs J felt that the family was a problem to the community as she always sought refuge from neighbours when assaulted.

Mrs J could not think of any preventative intervention to domestic violence. Mr J thought that education of women to help them attain proper understanding of their positions as wives could be the remedy for domestic violence.

"I do not know what to do to be a good wife to this man. Once he is drunk, everything I do is wrong. He throws temper tantrums out of the blue. He assaulted me on our wedding day. I will never forget the embarrassment he caused me. To put it briefly, I do not know what his problem is. He is obsessed with abusing me".

5.6. PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF FAMILY CASE PROFILES

Responses to questions in this section would enable the researcher to identify forms of domestic violence that were experienced by people of Madadeni. Their marital needs and problems as well as their utilisation of social work services would be determined.

It should be noted that the total number of responses changes since the researcher noted the number of responses rather than the number of respondents. The change is because some respondents gave more than one response on certain questions.

5.6.1 Information on whether respondents had been subjected to domestic violence

As it has already been indicated in the section on sampling procedures that a purposive sample was used, only those families who were involved in domestic violence were subjects of the study.

This question was asked so that the researcher could determine whether it was wives or husbands who were victims of domestic violence.

The information received showed that sixteen (80%) of respondents (ten wives and six husbands) had been subjected to domestic violence.

This finding indicates that both women and men do become victims of domestic violence, though, this is more common with women than men. Lupton & Gillespie (1997:93) state that though most victims of domestic violence are women, there are men who become subjected to such violence by their wives. The case studies presented earlier demonstrated that there were husbands who complained that they were the ones who were abused by their wives.

All four social workers stated that they dealt with clients that presented domestic violence related problems at least between six and ten cases a week. This finding supports Lawrence (1992:7) who concludes that domestic violence is the single most frequent form of violence. It is more common than all other forms of violence.

5.6.2 Forms of domestic violence that respondents were subjected to.

Since domestic violence takes a variety of forms, it was essential for the researcher to be aware of the forms of violence that were prevalent amongst the respondents.

TABLE 5.6: FORMS OF VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED (N = 34)

FORMS OF VIOLENCE	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
Assault only	4	20	3	21	7	21
Assault + other forms	3	15	0	0	3	9
Financial deprivation	5	25	0	0	5	15
Insults	2	10	3	22	5	15
Desertion	2	10	0	0	2	5
Locked out	2	10	1	7	3	9
Extra marital affairs	1	5	1	7	2	5
Refused to eat food cooked by the wife	1	5	0	0	1	3
Despise	0	0	2	14	2	5
Not subjected to any form	0	0	4	28	4	12
TOTAL	20	100	14	100	34	100

Table 5.6 reflects that the substantial number of respondents 7 (21%) were subjected to assault only, which is a physical forms of abuse. Psychological (deprivation of money,

which is also material deprivation, because without money there is no food or material comfort in the home) and verbal (insult) forms were each mentioned by five (15%) people. All five respondents who reported to have been abused psychologically were women. Three of the five (that were abused verbally) were men.

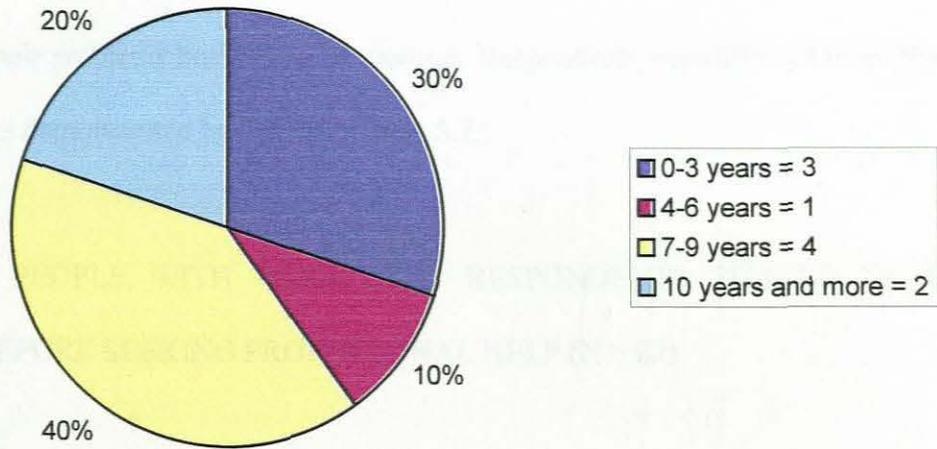
The responses of the majority of respondents indicate that practically all forms of domestic violence, except sexual abuse, had been experienced by the respondents. However, assault was more prevalent than other forms. This finding supports Hearn (1998:16) who asserts that assault is a common form of domestic violence. Brubaker (1993:146) and Jagwanth et al (1994:114) state that psychological abuse (deprivation of money and isolating victim from support systems) is one of the most commonly observed techniques employed by wife torturers. It is worth noting that out of the five who reported verbal abuse, three were men which means that women depended more on the power of their tongues than physical force. Ketterman (1993:12) argues that words, for example, insults can be abusive and result in emotional damage. She further adds that verbal abuse very likely accompanies physical abuse, and is more damaging to the very soul of its victim than is physical abuse to the body.

According to all four social workers, the most common forms of domestic violence presented by their clients were physical and verbal.

5.6.3 Length of time that respondents were subjected to domestic violence

The researcher's intention with this question was to determine the length of time that the affected victims experienced domestic violence within their families.

FIGURE 5.4: PERIOD OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (N = 10)



N.B. The total is ten here because each couple is treated as a unit.

Figure 5.4 shows that the majority of couples 6 (60%) had experienced domestic violence in their relationships for more than six years.

This finding shows that some couples endure the pain of domestic violence for many years in their relationships. This finding supports Belshaw & Strutt (1996:90) who maintain that couples stay in abusive relations for a number of years because of various reasons such as financial dependence, hope that their partners will change (Gilles,1997:86), etc. In table 5.4, it has been indicated that the majority of wives 7 (70%) had no income or very little income because they were either unemployed, pensioned or self-employed. This is another reason that would make them stay in abusive relationships because they are dependent on their husbands financially.

5.6.4 People with whom respondents shared their problems before seeking professional help.

The researcher had to identify resources that are used by victims of domestic violence in dealing with their problems besides social workers. Respondents were allowed more than one response as demonstrated by figures in table 5.7.

TABLE 5.7: PEOPLE WITH WHOM THE RESPONDENTS SHARED THEIR PROBLEM BEFORE SEEKING PROFESSIONAL HELP (N = 27)

PEOPLE WITH WHOM PROBLEM WAS SHARED	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
Family	5	29	3	30	8	29
Friends	3	18	3	30	6	22
Priest	3	18	0	0	3	12
Employer	2	11	1	10	3	12
Neighbours	1	6	1	10	2	7
Traditional healer	1	6	1	10	2	7
Doctor	1	6	1	10	2	7
Mayor	1	6	0	0	1	4
TOTAL	17	100	10	100	27	100

Table 5.7 indicates that respondents contacted and shared their problems with a variety of people before seeking professional help from the social workers. The majority, that is, eight (29%) shared their problems with their families. Six (22%) shared with their friends. Three all of whom were wives (12%) have also shared with the priest.

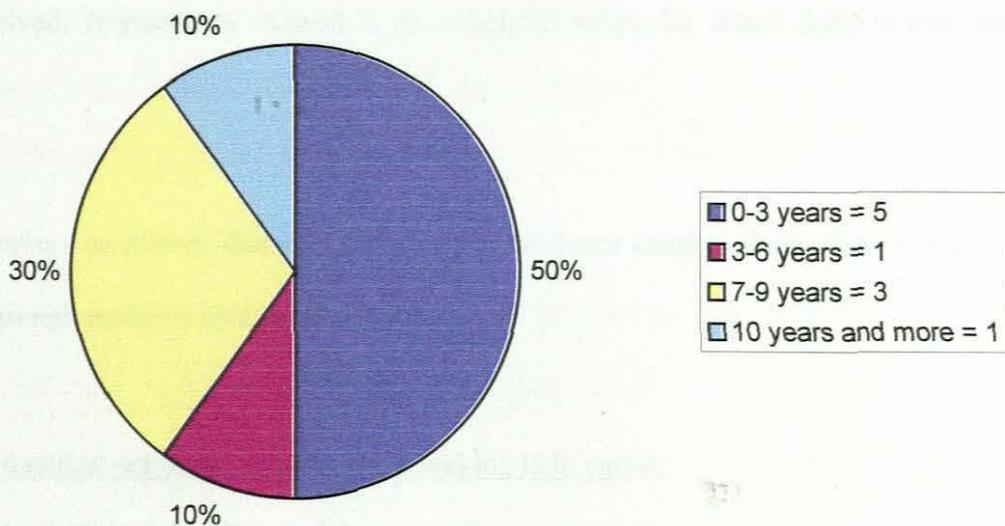
This finding suggests that victims of domestic violence do contact their families and friends for support regarding their problems before seeking professional help. This point of view is supported by Lupton & Gillepsie (1997:81) who state that in their research on domestic violence, they found that the majority of victims had sought help from families and friends as the first port of call.

5.6.5 Time taken before seeking professional help

The researcher needed to know if victims sought professional (social work) help immediately after experiencing the problem or not.

N.B. These responses are for the ten respondents that sought professional help.

FIGURE 5.5: TIME TAKEN BEFORE SEEKING PROFESSIONAL HELP (N = 10)



Information in figure 5.5 reveals that it took five (50%) of the respondents more than three years before seeking professional help. All respondents stated that some factors prevented them from seeking help earlier. Those factors are mentioned in figure 5.6.

Brehm (1992:370) explains that some victims of domestic violence only seek professional (social work) help after a long period of abuse.

5.6.6 Views on the reactions of people with whom the problem was shared

It was important for the researcher to know whether people who were approached about the problem were helpful or not.

Twelve (60%) of respondents viewed the means tried by people they approached, to help them as having not been effective. Eight (40%) maintained having been advised by people they initially approached to approach other people.

The consequences of the intervention of people with whom respondents shared their problem were nothing more than informative and supportive. Due to the nature of the help received, respondents viewed it as unhelpful when, in actual fact, it was very helpful.

Social workers confirmed that cases of domestic violence came to their attention on their own or through referrals by families or friends.

5.6.7 Factors that prevented victims from seeking help earlier

As already indicated in figure 5.5 above that some victims took a long time before seeking professional help, the researcher had to identify those factors that prevented them from seeking help earlier.

FIGURE 5.6: FACTORS THAT PREVENTED VICTIMS FROM SEEKING HELP EARLIER

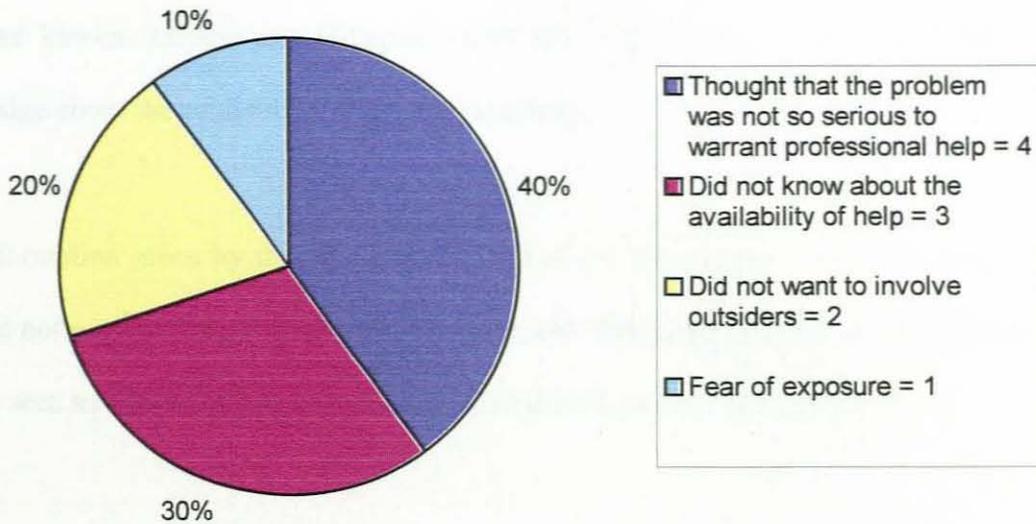


Figure 5.6 reflects that four (40%) respondents thought that the problem was not so serious to warrant professional help. Three (30%) did not know about the availability of professional help.

This finding depicts that the majority of respondents, that is 7 (70%) (40% consisting of those who thought that the problem was less serious to warrant professional help and the 30% who did not know that professional help was available) were prevented by factors like lack of proper knowledge of social work services from seeking help earlier. It has already been indicated that the majority of them only approached social workers after having been referred either by friends, families or other contacts.

The finding on minimising the seriousness of the problem is in line with the view held by Brehm (1992:379) who argues that the victims hold the belief that assistance should be obtained only when the relationship is in serious trouble. This lack of knowledge resulted in respondents seeking help after longer periods of abuse than they would have done if they had known. Lupton and Gillespie (1997:80) hold the same view about lack of knowledge about the availability of professional help.

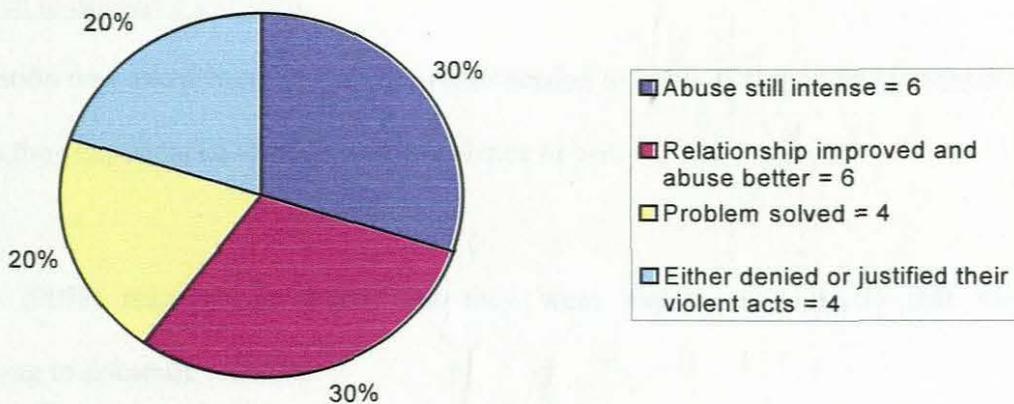
The information given by the minority 3(30%) of the respondents who mentioned that they did not want to involve outsiders and those who feared exposure is worth taking note of. It is seen as the vital factor that prevented victims from seeking help earlier.

When considering all this information given by the respondents regarding factors that prevented them from seeking professional help earlier, it becomes clear that lack of knowledge about social work services, was common among the respondents. This finding supports the Advice Desk For Abused Women (1986:3) who argue that most abused women do not report incidents of abuse no matter how serious it is, because they do not know whom to report to. Culture also plays an important role in the knowledge of the availability of professional help because women are never informed to seek professional help, should they encounter marital problems, they are told to persevere and avoid "washing their dirty linen in public". The reaction of those respondents who either avoided involving outsiders or feared exposure was the result of influences of traditional culture and cultural beliefs that values privacy too highly to encourage preventative actions (Lawrence,1992:19).

5.6.8 Feelings about domestic violence at the time of study

This question was asked so as to determine the victims' current feelings about violence in their relationships at the time of study.

FIGURE 5.7: FEELINGS ABOUT DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AT THE TIME OF STUDY (N = 16)



Information in figure 5.7 reveals that the majority, ten (50%) of the respondents expressed the feeling that violence in their marriages had subsided. Only 6(30%) respondents felt that violence was still intense. It should be noted that during this time, respondents were receiving social work intervention in connection with their problem. Their feelings about violence in their marriages gives an indication that the intervention that was offered was effective.

This finding suggests that social work intervention is effective with couples that experience domestic violence problems This also shows that social work intervention would be more effective if victims had approached social workers earlier. Brehm

(1992:380) states that professional help is effective if those couples with a problem are willing to work together with professionals towards the solution. Bowker (1983:10), does support the finding about 6 (37%) respondents who felt that services were not effective, where he asserts that with other cases, social workers fail to get co-operation of perpetrators so victims do not benefit from their assistance.

5.6.9 Information on whether respondents thought their families experienced needs that contributed to domestic violence.

This question was asked because the researcher needed to know if respondents associated the needs they experienced with domestic violence or not.

Eighteen (90%) respondents stated that they were experiencing needs that were contributing to domestic violence.

5.6.10 Marital needs that contributed to domestic violence

It was important for the researcher to know marital needs that were considered to contribute to domestic violence.

TABLE 5.8: MARITAL NEEDS THAT CONTRIBUTED TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(N = 20)

NEED IDENTIFIED	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
Need for mutual understanding and support (Need to love and be loved)	4	40	3	30	7	35
Need for sense of responsibility (Need to love and be loved)	3	30	2	20	5	25
Need for good interpersonal relationship (Need to love and be loved)	1	10	3	30	4	20
Need for money (Survival need)	1	10	0	0	1	5
Need for Self-confidence (Need for self-esteem)	1	10	0	0	1	5
No need	0	0	2	20	2	10
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

In table 5.8, it is shown that eighteen (90%) respondents identified the need for mutual understanding and support, need for sense of responsibility and the need for good

interpersonal relationship important marital needs which had to be met in order to avoid domestic violence.

These needs are, according to Maslows hierarchy of needs, the needs to love and to be loved. Once they are unmet, the partner becomes disillusioned (Keech,1993:65). A similar view is held by Frude (1993:170) who argues that lack of responsiveness (care about the partner) and positiveness (interest in the partner) are fundamental issues that underlie most marital conflicts. Conflicts develop when a partner fails to match the expectations or hopes of the other. Though the need for survival (for money) was identified by the minority¹ (5%), it is worth noting that its existence impact negatively on the functioning of the individual. Once it is unmet, anything else becomes unimportant to the person experiencing it (Jordaan & Jordaan, 1989:653).

5.6.11 Views on why respondents say that particular needs contributed to domestic violence

It was important for the researcher to know why respondents viewed those particular needs as contributing to domestic violence. Their responses are given in table 5.9 below.

TABLE 5.9: REASONS WHY RESPONDENTS VIEW PARTICULAR NEEDS / PROBLEMS AS CONTRIBUTING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (N = 20)

REASON FOR VIEWING THE NEEDS/ PROBLEMS AS CONTRIBUTING TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
They created tension and affected communication pattern	6	60	7	70	13	65
They drove partner away from each other emotionally, and physically	0	0	2	20	2	10
The partner resorted to alcohol and used it as a defence mechanism	2	20	0	0	2	10
Discussions about money ended up in fiery arguments	1	10	1	10	2	10
Violence was used to show power and counteract inferiority complex	1	10	0	0	1	5
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

In table 5.9, the majority of respondents, that is, 13 (65%) said that tension and lack of proper communication was the indication that needs/problems they were experiencing were contributing to domestic violence.

This indicates that respondents' unmet needs for love and to be loved were associated with the problem of communication which resulted to domestic violence.

5.6.12 Problems presently experienced by respondents

The intention was to examine marital problems as experienced by respondents.

TABLE 5.10: PROBLEMS PRESENTLY EXPERIENCED IN RESPONDENT'S MARRIAGES (N = 20)

PROBLEMS EXPERIENCED BY RESPONDENTS PRESENTLY	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
Lack of a sense of responsibility	2	20	2	20	4	20
Lack of effective communication	2	20	2	20	4	20
Alcohol abuse	2	20	2	20	4	20
Need for money	2	20	1	10	3	15
Interference by in - laws	1	10	1	10	2	10
Witchcraft	0	0	1	10	1	5
Extra marital affairs	1	10	1	10	2	10
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

According to the above table, the majority of respondents, that is, 4 (20%) identified being irresponsible, lack of effective communication and alcohol abuse, respectively as

problems that contributed to domestic violence. The next in line was 3 (15%) respondents who identified the need for money.

Since respondents were more concerned about the relationship situations, the problems that were identified to be common were psycho- social in nature. There is correlation between the needs that were identified in table 5.8 and the problems in table 5.10.

Finding on lack of sense of responsibility supports Jagwanth et al (1994) who state that husbands and wives are bound by a mutual duty to maintain and support each other. The view about lack of effective communication as contributing to domestic violence is supporting Bornstein & Bornstein (1985) cited by Frude (1993:171) where they conclude that partners in distressed marriages often have difficulties in accurately perceiving the meaning of their spouse's communication. Once that is lacking, conflict arises. Alcohol abuse as a problem was also common among the respondents.

The men's view of effective communication and effective interpersonal relationship is, however, questionable here because they are the ones who expressed very strong views that women should be submissive to men in the case studies. This understanding is contrary to the "mutual duty to maintain and support each other" referred to in the literature

According to Soroka & Bryjak (1995:310), men are naturally violent and socialised to control their impulses, but the socialisation of African males has always emphasised their superior, powerful and controlling roles over women which encourages rather than control their impulse to be violent.. Under the influence of alcohol or drugs, influences of socialisation and the men's ability to keep these tendencies in check is weakened. So

alcohol can cause domestic violence (Campbell & Humphreys, 1995: 6; Farmer, 1979:67; Gilles & Loseke,1993: 183; Levinson,1989:35 and Soroka & Bryjak,1995:310).

All social workers stated that the most common problem presented by their client was shortage of finance that was linked to lack of accommodation.

5.6.13 Effects of domestic violence on victims

This question would determine the effects that domestic violence has on its victims as individuals (either wives or husbands.)

TABLE 5.11: EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON THE VICTIMS AS INDIVIDUALS (N = 20)

EFFECTS ON THE VICTIMS AS INDIVIDUALS	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
Affected financially	4	40	2	20	6	30
Loss of dignity	2	20	2	20	4	20
Confused	1	10	2	20	3	15
No meaning in life	1	10	2	20	3	15
Not affected	0	0	2	20	2	10
Stigma	1	10	0	0	1	5
Regrets marriage	1	10	0	0	1	5
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

According to table 5.17, 6(30%) the majority of respondents expressed the view that domestic violence affected them financially. Four (20%) stated having suffered a loss of dignity.

This finding shows that domestic violence by partners, had negative effects on the victims in a number of ways, with financial deprivation and loss of dignity being the worst suffered. The issue of financial deprivation as an effect of domestic violence was earlier identified by Belshaw & Strutt (1996:135) who state that in unhappy marriages, some spouses do not support their partners financially, they use money as a weapon to pay back their partner for a wrong they may or may not have done. Brubaker (1993:146) argues that loss of dignity is one of the effects of domestic violence.

5.6.14 Effects of domestic violence on the family

The aim of this question was to determine what effects domestic violence has on the family and its functioning.

TABLE 5.12: EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON THE FAMILY (N =20)

EFFECTS ON FAMILY	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
Children neglected	4	40	4	40	8	40
Not affected	4	40	4	40	8	40
Alienation by the extended family	2	20	1	10	3	15
Children have become troublesome	0	0	1	10	1	5
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

In table 5.12, nine (45%) respondents reported that their children were affected and eight stated that their families were not affected.

More respondents, felt that their children were affected by domestic violence with the highest number among them having suffered neglect. Barnett et al (1977:138) support this view that domestic violence affects children both psychologically and emotionally. There were also 8 (40%) respondents who stated that their families were not affected, and this cannot be true as domestic violence does directly and indirectly affect those that are involved in it.

Though it was mentioned by the minority, the point about alienation by the extended family is worth noting because section 5.5.4 on people with whom respondents shared

their problems, points out that respondents contacted their families for help. This is the indication that families are important support systems, which respondents can not do without. This finding supports McKendricks and Hoffmann (1990:267) who argue that as abuse escalates, extended family members become progressively alienated.

5.6.15 Effects of domestic violence on the community

The intention with this question was to determine the effects of domestic violence on the community in which the respondents reside.

Information received shows that the majority of respondents, that is, thirteen (65%) felt that the community had not been affected by their behaviour. This is contrary to what is said by Campbell & Humpreys, 1993:vii) that the community is affected, socially, economically and health-wise by domestic violence. It could be that respondents were defending themselves and being irrational about their behaviour.

5.6.16 Social workers' reaction to domestic violence cases

The researcher wanted to establish the way in which social workers reacted to cases of domestic violence that were presented to them.

Two of the social workers involved affected couples in family enrichment programmes. Empowerment of women and education on Human Rights were also used to address the problem.

This finding indicates that social workers used preventative programmes to address the problems that were already existing. This was contrary to what should actually have

happened because according to Knox & Schacht,1997:230) PREP (an enrichment programme) is preventative and it should be used before and not after the problem has set in.

5.6.17 Criteria used by social workers to classify domestic violence related cases

The aim of this question was to find out how social workers classified cases that involved domestic violence. This would help the researcher to determine if social workers kept separate statistics for domestic violence cases or not, which would indicate whether they are able to give accurate statistics on the incidence of domestic violence.

None of the social workers used a separate criterion to classify cases of domestic violence.

From this finding, it is obvious that social workers did not keep separate statistics for domestic violence related cases. This means that these cases were classified the same as any other cases. This finding supports Brehm,1992:253) who asserts that it is difficult to provide a definite statement on the prevalence of domestic violence because the statistics covering the incidence of spouse abuse are inaccurate. The reason can be attributed to circumstances under which it occurs and is handled by practitioners, including social workers.

The cases of domestic violence should be clearly indicated with the purpose of informing the public.

5.6.18 Preventative intervention to domestic violence

This question aimed at establishing the preventative measures, which respondents thought could best address the problem of domestic violence.

TABLE 5.13: PREVENTATIVE INTERVENTION TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(N = 20)

SUGGESTED INTERVENTION	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
No ideas	2	20	4	40	6	30
Family empowerment	3	30	1	10	4	20
Teaching wives to be submissive	0	0	3	30	3	15
Communication skills training	1	10	1	10	2	10
Heavy penalty for domestic violence crimes	1	10	0	0	1	5
Avoidance of external interference	1	10	0	0	1	5
Pre-marital counselling	1	10	1	10	2	10
Prayer	1	10	0	0	1	5
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

From the above table it is observed that the majority six (30%) respondents had no idea of any preventative intervention that could best address the problem of domestic violence. Four (20%) mentioned family empowerment. Three (15%) were of the idea that women be taught to be submissive to their husbands and two (10%) suggested that couples be trained in communication skills.

According to this finding, the substantial number 6 (30%) of respondents had no idea of any preventative intervention that could best address the problem of domestic violence.

This is a very serious situation indicating how helpless respondents had become, and how ready they were to be told what to do. Statements about teaching women to be submissive and communication skills contradict each other. Teaching women to be submissive is contrary to requirements of communication skills and communication skills should be used to counteract women's submission to men's suppression. This finding supports Brubaker (1993:146) when he says that the most immediate impact of domestic violence is helplessness.

Next in line were suggestion that family empowerment, women's education to be submissive and communication skills (put sequentially, in a descending order), be considered as the best preventative interventions to domestic violence. Family empowerment is one of the programmes that are commended by Steyn et al (1987:697) as being very effective when dealing with marital disputes.

Social workers had basically similar views regarding these preventative measures. They viewed empowerment of women and the family, community education on marriage and

family care, as well as education on the Domestic violence Act as the best preventative intervention to domestic violence.

Social workers were providing training on empowerment of women and the family.

5.7. AVAILABILITY OF PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING PROGRAMMES AND PEOPLE'S UNDERSTANDING, ATTITUDES AND FEELINGS TOWARDS THESE.

By asking questions in this section, the researcher wanted to determine whether pre-marital counselling programmes were available in the community or not, to find out people's understanding of them and explore their attitudes and feelings towards these.

5.7.1. Understanding of pre-marital counselling by respondents

This question was asked to establish whether the respondents had understanding of pre-marital counselling or not.

Eleven (55%) respondents had no understanding of pre-marital counselling. Nine (45%) respondents had understanding.

This finding indicates that pre-marital counselling was an unknown concept to the respondents. This supports what is said by Barrett (year not specified: 4) that most people do not know anything about pre-marital counselling because they seldom prepare themselves for marriage.

This is the important finding which is also the core of the study. The mere fact that the majority of respondents had no understanding is a source of concern. Lack of people's

understanding of such services by the people is the indication that they need to be introduced to them.

5.7.2. Respondents' definition of pre-marital counselling programmes

This question was asked because apart from knowing whether respondents had understanding of pre-marital counselling or not, the researcher needed to establish their definition of the concept. That would help her to assess their level of understanding. Responses are given in table 5.15.

TABLE 5.14: RESPONDENTS' DEFINITION OF PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING PROGRAMMES (N = 20)

DEFINITION OF PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
Do not know	4	40	7	70	11	55
Education on how to behave as husband and wife	3	30	1	10	4	20
Provision of fundamental information regarding family life	2	20	0	0	2	10
Preparation for happy and lasting marriage	0	0	2	20	2	10
Pre-marital establishment of a bond between couples	1	10	0	0	1	5
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

In table 5.14, the majority of eleven (55%) respondents could not define pre-marital counselling these are the same respondents who responded that they had no understanding of the concept in 5.7.1. Out of nine respondents who had said that they

have understanding of the concept, four couples understood it to refer to teaching couples how to behave as husbands and wives.

The above information indicates that respondents did not get the opportunity to be involved in pre-marital counselling programmes. Those who had understanding of the concept, correctly viewed it as a process where prospective couples are prepared for family life.

This finding is in line with Lamania & Riedman's (1990: 253) description of the goal of pre-marital counselling. They explain it as seeking to help to prepare to build, fulfilling and successful marriages.

Social workers viewed pre-marital counselling programmes to be useful ways of empowering prospective couples with proper ways of responding to challenges in the family.

5.7.3 Respondents' awareness of agencies that were rendering pre-marital counselling programmes.

The researcher asked this question to establish if respondents were aware of any pre-marital counselling in the community.

Fifteen (75%) respondents were not aware of any agency rendering pre-marital counselling programmes. Five (25%) respondents stated that they were aware of those agencies.

This finding shows that respondents were not aware of agencies rendering pre-marital counselling programmes. That could be the reason why the majority of them had no understanding of the concept itself.

In response to a further question in which the respondents were asked to give the names and location of agencies that rendered pre-marital counselling services in the area, only five (25%) mentioned the following churches, Faith Mission at section 2, Jehovas Witness at section 7 and Roman Catholic Church at section 2 and Blaaubosch. Services of these churches/congregations were made available only to agency members. Social workers were not mentioned, they were aware of churches that were mentioned by the respondents.

This finding shows that there were pre-marital counselling services that some respondents were aware of though they were very few, and not made available to everyone.

5.7.4 Respondents' involvement in pre-marital counselling programmes

After getting information on respondents' awareness of agencies that were rendering pre-marital counselling programmes in the area, it was important for the researcher to know about respondents' exposure to such programmes. This would help her to determine extent of these activities.

All (100%) respondents had never been involved in premarital counselling. The reason for that has already been identified that some were not aware of services. The five (25%)

respondents that were aware could not have been involved because they were not members of the churches that offered the services.

On a similar question, social workers stated that they did not have pre-marital counselling programmes. However, they did render services to the few who requested for them, where they used information on women's rights and communication skills. Their reason for not offering the programmes was that they did not identify the need for a structured programme prior to the study. The reason could be that they did not realise the fact that this is a serious problem that require a structured preventative programme. The fact that they did not classify cases differently hindered them from realising that.

The finding is that respondents were not involved in pre-marital programmes and social workers did not offer them to their clients, so social workers did not apply all primary prevention strategies when dealing with the problem of domestic violence. This was a very serious shortcoming as Collins (1980:158) puts it that pre-marital counselling is the most important way of preventing marital problems.

5.7.5 How couples thought they would have behaved had they been involved in pre-marital counselling.

The aim of this question was to find out from respondents how they thought they would have behaved if they had received pre-marital counselling. The concept was explained to those who did not understand it.

TABLE 5.15: HOW COUPLES THOUGHT THEY WOULD HAVE BEHAVED HAD THEY BEEN INVOLVED IN PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING (N = 20).

RESPONDENT'S BEHAVIOUR	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
Would still behave in the same way	3	30	1	10	4	20
Would behave better than s/he did	2	20	1	10	3	15
Would be more considerate to the partner	0	0	1	10	1	5
Would not commit herself in marriage	1	10	0	0	1	5
Do not know	4	40	7	70	11	55
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

The majority of 11 (55%) respondents did not know how they would behave because they did not know of what pre-marital counselling programmes were about. Four (20%) respondents felt that they would behave the same. The other four (20%) felt that they

would behave better towards their families had they been involved in pre-marital counselling.

According to this finding, the majority of respondents had no idea of how they would behave if they had been involved in pre-marital counselling because they did not understand the concept. There was an equal number of those who felt that they would behave differently and those who felt that they would behave the same. This indicates that some respondents perceived their situation as being helpless. This supports the view of Brubaker (1993:146) that victims of domestic violence become helpless and do nothing to improve their situation.

5.7.6 Respondents' involvement in other ways of preparing for marriage

There are other ways that are used to prepare prospective couples for marriage. This question was asked because the researcher wanted to know if respondents were involved in any of those ways or not, in particular the traditional methods discussed in chapter three.

Though all respondents stated having been brought up (socialised) in a way that indirectly prepared them for marriage, only eight (40%) respondents (women only) reported having been actually subjected to traditional ways of preparing for marriage. None of the men was involved in similar methods.

This finding reflects that only female respondents were actually prepared for marriage. This finding supports Naas & McDonald (1982:133) when they assert that much of the activities surrounding a marriage focus on the bride.

It is important to note that as indicated in chapter three, traditional culture emphasises the inferior soft roles and statuses of women and therefore tends to reinforce submissiveness rather than assertiveness in their interactions within marriage.

5.7.7. Respondents' views on other ways of preparing for marriage.

After getting the information on the respondents' involvement in pre-marital counselling, it was necessary for the researcher to get their views on such services.

The majority, that is, seven out of eight respondents that were involved in pre-marital counselling in the traditional way, commended this as having been helpful. Only one felt that it did not help her because it was biased and promoted suppression of women.

Though the majority of the respondents in question were happy about the way they were prepared for marriage, there was one who found this counselling to be unfair to them. The same view is held by Naas and McDonald (1982:133) when they assert that during preparation for marriage, much focus is on the bride because marriage represents a greater change in her status than that of her groom, which actually influences the bride to be submissive rather than helping her.

The fact here is that these traditional ways were not helpful though respondents viewed them to be helpful. They were oppressive to them. They were the cause of the respondents' delay in seeking professional help. They contributed to the respondents' inability to come up with best ways of dealing with their problems. Respondents were conditioned to accept what was violating their rights. This is contrary to what pre-marital counselling is about.

5.7.8 Reasons why respondents viewed those other traditional ways as helpful

The intention about this question was to get the respondents' reasons of viewing those traditional ways as helpful.

Five of the seven respondents in question stated that the advices received during the counselling sessions were helpful because through them they were able to stay and persevere in the relationship, in spite of difficulties. Two felt that they had been helped to respond more appropriately to marital challenges.

The finding indicates that the majority of women, Five (72%) were conditioned by tradition to such an extent that they sacrificed themselves for survival of their unhappy marriages. This finding supports the statement of the respondent in the previous subsection who stated that such traditional ways of counselling were discriminatory and suppressive. The extent to which women accept this suppression is described by Lupton & Gillepsie (1997:80) who point out that women view returning to their homes as being unaccepted, so they stay in a relationship no matter how bad it is.

5.7.9 Community's level of awareness of pre-marital counselling

This question aimed at establishing the respondents' views about the community's level of awareness of pre-marital counselling.

None of the respondents felt that the community had much awareness of pre-marital counselling. Only five (20%) expressed the feeling that the community had little

awareness of those programmes. The reason they stated was that they were not aware of the programmes themselves.

This finding indicates that respondents had the feeling that the community was not aware of pre-marital counselling because it was an unfamiliar programme. It also shows the seriousness of the need for the programmes.

5.7.10 Community's feelings and attitudes about pre-marital counselling.

Identifying the feelings and attitudes of the community about the programme would help the researcher to determine the need for the initiation of pre-marital counselling.

Sixteen (80%) stated that they did not know how people were feeling and three (15%) said people viewed such programmes as unimportant. Only one (5%) out of twenty respondents felt that the community viewed pre-marital counselling programmes as being important.

Lack of information on the part of respondents is the clear indication of the need for pre-marital counselling services in the area.

5.8. UTILISATION OF PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING PROGRAMMES BY MADADENI PEOPLE.

Responses elicited by this question would enable the researcher to determine the extent in which services were utilised by Madadeni people.

5.8.1 Use of pre-marital counselling programmes by Madadeni people.

The researcher needed to hear the respondents' views on how often people in the community made use of premarital counselling.

However since the respondents had indicated that they did not know how people in the community felt about pre-marital counselling, they could only conclude that the community was not using pre-marital counselling services, like them, they were not aware not aware of the existence of the service.

On a similar question, social workers also stated that people in the community were not making use of pre-marital counselling programmes. People could not make use of programmes that were not available. This is a challenge to the social workers because it is clear that they are aware of the need for the service but they have not done anything to provide it.

On a further question about the need, all respondents felt that there was a need for pre-marital counselling programmes in the community.

5.8.2. Respondents' comments on the need for pre-marital counselling programmes in the community.

This question afforded respondents an opportunity to give their opinions regarding the need for pre-marital counselling in the area.

TABLE 5.16: RESPONDENTS' VIEWS CONCERNING THE NEED FOR PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING PROGRAMMES IN THE COMMUNITY (N = 20).

COMMENT	WIVES		HUSBANDS		TOTAL	%
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage		
No comments	1	10	3	30	4	20
To empower young couples with general social skills	3	30	1	10	4	20
To empower young couples with problem solving skills	3	30	1	10	4	20
To replace old and obsolete ways of preparing for marriage	1	10	1	10	2	10
To teach women respect and submissiveness to their husbands	0	0	2	20	2	10
To help people to change their perception of marriage	0	0	1	10	1	5
To give youth a chance to scrutinise pros and cons of marriage	1	10	0	0	1	5
To make people aware of the programmes available	0	0	1	10	1	5
Feeling that programmes were needed but not sure of their use	1	10	0	0	1	5
TOTAL	10	100	10	100	20	100

All respondents felt that there was a need for pre – marital counselling programmes in the area. People had a variety of comments but all were concerned about empowerment of the people. Eleven respondents (55%) placed emphasis on education. This finding shows that people of Madadeni had a feeling that young people needed involvement in pre – marital counselling programmes so as to be better prepared for marriage. The need for pre-marital counselling is also emphasized by Lamania & Riedman (1990) who assert that the main goal of such programmes is to help the individuals, couples, and groups of couples to prepare and to build happy, fulfilling and successful marriages.

5.8.3 Comments regarding programmes presently used by social workers in the agency to deal with domestic violence problems.

This question was asked to determine the types of programmes that were used by social workers as the intervention to domestic violence problems

Social workers expressed the feeling that the programmes they were using to address domestic violence cases needed to be updated to be in line with changes in the environment. It was also necessary that they be need based. They further mentioned the need for such programmes to be practical and flexible especially for young couples.

5.8.4. Information on social worker's comments in respect of the need for pre-marital counselling in the community.

This question aimed at eliciting comments from social workers regarding the need for pre-marital counselling services in the area.

All social workers stated that pre-marital counselling programmes were needed. They further added that there was a need for social workers to go out to the community, form support groups, using the community itself. There was also a suggestion that social workers come together with priests and form one big programme.

5.9 SUMMARY

In this chapter, the researcher has presented the data, analysed, and interpreted it. The data that was presented, analysed and interpreted covered the following areas:

- ❖ Characteristics of respondents (both clients and social workers).
- ❖ Family case profiles.
- ❖ Domestic violence as experienced by respondents.
- ❖ Knowledge of Madadeni people about pre-marital counselling programmes.
- ❖ Availability and utilisation of pre-marital counselling programmes by Madadeni people.

CHAPTER 6

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1. INTRODUCTION.

In this chapter the researcher gives a summary, draws conclusions regarding the need for pre-marital counselling in the Madadeni area and finally makes recommendations.

Before giving the summary of the findings, the researcher will re-state the objectives of the study, the assumptions and briefly describe how the study was conducted.

6.2. RE – STATEMENT OF THE OBJECTIVES

The following were objectives of the study:

- ❖ To provide a literature overview on domestic violence and pre-marital counselling.
- ❖ To examine marital needs and problems of Madadeni people.
- ❖ To examine the feelings and attitudes of Madadeni people towards pre-marital counselling.
- ❖ To establish if pre-marital counselling is made available to people and utilised by them.
- ❖ To assess the need for pre-marital counselling programmes at Madadeni.
- ❖ To determine the role of pre-marital counselling in prevention of family dysfunction.
- ❖ On the basis of empirical findings to make recommendations on the possible establishment of pre-marital counselling programmes at Madadeni.

6.3. RE-STATEMENT OF THE ASSUMPTIONS

The researcher had the following assumptions based on her observation:

- ❖ Lack of pre – marital counselling causes the couples of Madadeni community to find themselves unprepared for problems that arise after marriage, hence, they fail to master each new situation as it develops.
- ❖ Prospective couples of Madadeni are neither prepared for family life nor helped to anticipate some of the common problems of young married people, a number, therefore, resort to violent behaviour as means of resolving conflicts and problems in the family.
- ❖ Lack of knowledge of pre-marital counselling services by Madadeni people causes them not to be aware of their need for these services.
- ❖ Non – existence of pre-marital counselling programmes at Madadeni causes couples not to use social workers as their support in dealing with their marital problems when they are still manageable, they stay with them until they intensify to domestic violence.
- ❖ Pre – marital counselling may reduce the prevalence of domestic violence within Madadeni community because as a primary prevention, it serves to prevent marital problems from coming into existence.
- ❖ Traditional ways of preparing for marriage promote domestic violence because they are structured in such a way that some men assume rights to control and dominate women.
- ❖ Social workers at Madadeni have no pre – marital counselling programmes. They deal with families when they are already experiencing problems, than preparing prospective couples for family life.

- ❖ Because of the manner in which social workers classify cases of domestic violence, inaccurate statistics result which lead to inappropriate attention being given to the seriousness of the problem.

6.4. SUMMARY OF HOW THE STUDY WAS UNDERTAKEN.

The researcher reviewed literature, formulated the objectives, stated the problem and assumptions, selected the research design, decided on the population to be studied as well as the area of study. She also selected the research instruments that she personally administered. Thereafter, the data was presented analysed and interpreted. Lastly, the major findings will be presented, conclusions drawn and the recommendations will be made.

6.5. FINDINGS

The researcher would like to highlight the following findings of the study:

- ❖ Two out of seven family characteristics, namely, age, education, employment, occupation, affiliation with church, number of children and length of marriage, appeared to be associated with domestic violence. These characteristics were age and length of marriage. Seventeen (85%) of the respondents were thirty five years and more. Eight (80%) of the couples had been married for six years and more. This association, however, did not indicate the link between age, length of marriage and domestic violence. Six (60%) of the respondents had experienced domestic violence in their relationships for more than six years. This was due to the fact that victims sought help only after a long period of abuse. There is the culture of endurance as an influence that causes victims to put up with pain for many years until they are advanced in age and length of

marriage. This supports what is said by Belshaw & Strutt (1996:90) that couples stay in abusive relationship for a number of years before seeking professional help, which depicts that domestic violence exists among all age groups.

- ❖ All ten wives (100%) in the sample were victims of domestic violence although 6(30%) men also suffered abuse. This finding confirms that both men and women do become victims of domestic violence, though this is more common with women. The 3 (15%) men that were abused reported verbal abuse. This is an indication that women depended more on the power of their tongues than physical force.
- ❖ Respondents contacted a number of different people about their domestic violence problems, such as their families, friends and priests. This is in line with Lupton & Gillepsie's (1997:81) argument that the majority of victims of domestic violence seek help from friends and families as the first port of call.
- ❖ It took 5 (50%) of the couples more than three years before seeking professional help. Factors like, respondents thought that the problem was less serious to warrant professional help and lack of knowledge about availability of help, prevented them from seeking help earlier. The issue of not wanting to involve outsiders in their marital matters was mentioned by 2 (10%) couples, but it is important because these delays were due to traditional cultural beliefs. Respondents did not seek help when their problems were still manageable, they stayed until they intensified to domestic violence. The delay in seeking help had a negative impact on the effectiveness of the intervention because by then a number of them 6 (30%) were no longer innovative enough to devise

creative ways of dealing with their problems. They had become helpless to the extent that they were only ready to be told what to do by other people.

- ❖ Domestic violence was prevalent in Madadeni because each of the four social workers dealt with between six and ten cases a week. These social workers, however, did not realise the need to initiate pre-marital counselling as a preventative measure.
- ❖ Needs and problems mentioned by respondents included need for mutual support and good interpersonal relationship, mentioned by eight (40%) of respondents and problems such as lack of sense of responsibility, mentioned by five (25%) of respondents.
- ❖ The majority of respondents, 11 (55%) had no understanding of pre-marital counselling programmes. This is a very serious situation because such programmes are foundations of happy families.
- ❖ Only three agencies (all churches) offered pre-marital counselling programmes in the area. These agencies offered such services only to their church members. Hence sixteen (80%) of the respondents felt that people in Madadeni were not aware of the availability of pre-marital counselling services, as a result they were not making use of these.
- ❖ Only females were subjected to traditional ways of preparing for marriage. They viewed their involvement as having been helpful when it actually conditioned them to be submissive to abusive actions of their husbands, which is not what pre-marital counselling is about. These traditional methods caused them not to seek professional help earlier.
- ❖ Social work intervention was seen as useful by five (50%) of couples.
- ❖ Social workers had no criteria to classify domestic violence related cases.

- ❖ All social workers felt that there was a need for pre-marital counselling services though they were not rendering them.
- ❖ All social workers and the majority of respondents, eleven (55%) felt that pre-marital counselling programmes were important because they trained and gave prospective couples knowledge about ways of maintaining good marital relationship.

6.6. CONCLUSIONS

On basis of the findings in section 6.5, the following conclusions are made:

- ❖ There appeared to be an association between age, length of time married and domestic violence. However, these factors did not cause domestic violence. Domestic violence actually took long before it was attended to because affected couples took long before seeking professional help.
- ❖ Both men and women became victims of domestic violence though men were unlikely to carry physical scars, because the form of violence that was widely used by women was verbal. They depended more on the power of their tongues than physical force. However, verbal abuse can be more damaging than physical abuse because it creates emotional scars that may permanently disfigure a person (Ketterman,1993:14) Such a situation may result irreparable damage to the relationship. Two of the researcher's assumptions which are supported by this evidence are that pre – marital counselling may reduce the prevalence of domestic violence within Madadeni community because as a primary prevention, it serves to prevent marital problems from coming into existence, and that prospective couples of Madadeni are neither prepared for family life nor helped to anticipate some of the common

problems of young married people, a number, therefore, resort to violent behaviour as means of resolving conflicts and problems in the family.

- ❖ Victims of domestic violence took long before seeking professional help. This was due to the fact that they lacked information on the availability and nature of social work services. Other victims were prevented by traditional cultural influences that value privacy of family matters from seeking help earlier. Domestic violence is not a family matter, it is a serious economic, health and social problem. This finding supports the assumption that non-existence of pre-marital counselling programmes causes people of Madadeni not to deal with their problem when they are still manageable, stay with them until they intensify to domestic violence.
- ❖ Victims of domestic violence did contact their families and friends about their domestic violence problems but sometimes they undermined the assistance they received from them, for example, if they were referred to social workers rather than being told to deal with the partner.
- ❖ Even though social workers intervention to domestic violence was seen to be useful by 50% of respondents, it took place when the problem had intensified due to having not been dealt with for a long time. This indicates that if such problems were immediately brought to the attention of social workers, intervention would be more effective. There was, however, a discrepancy from the side of the social workers because they were not giving special classification to domestic violence related cases. This resulted to them not realising the need to develop a structured pre-marital counselling programme. Assumptions such as, because of the manner in which social workers classify their cases of domestic violence, inaccurate statistics result which lead to

inappropriate attention being given to the seriousness of the problem, as well as, social workers at Madadeni have no pre-marital counselling programmes. They deal with families when they are already experiencing problems that preparing prospective couples for family life, are supported here.

- ❖ Victims of domestic violence had psychological needs and problems, some of which could be best addressed through social life skills education, part of which would be through pre-marital counselling. This supports the assumption that pre-marital counselling programmes are needed at Madadeni.
- ❖ Respondents did not know what pre-marital counselling was all about, let alone using its programmes. Social workers did not offer such programmes to their clients. This is a serious situation and it confirms the need for such services in the area. This evidence supports the assumption that non-existence of pre-marital counselling programmes at Madadeni causes couples not to use social workers as their support in dealing with their marital problems when they are still manageable, they stay with them until they intensify to domestic violence.
- ❖ Traditional ways of preparing couples for marriage focussed only on females. Methods used caused more harm than good to the females. They influenced them to accept male dominance as legitimate, which partly caused them either to seek help late or not to seek it at all. The assumption on traditional ways of preparing for marriage that are structured in a way that promotes male domination over female is supported here.

Although there is no evidence that directly supports the assumption that lack of pre-marital counselling programmes is the cause of people' failure to prepare themselves

for problems that arises after marriage, lack of social skills education, part of which would be through pre-marital counselling programme, is the contributory factor.

The assumptions that have been supported by the evidence obtained from the study can now become hypotheses for future research so as to test the hypotheses that the researcher has suggested.

6.7 RECOMMENDATIONS

From the above conclusions, the researcher recommends that:

- ❖ Basic life skills on communication, interpersonal relations, decision making, conflict resolution, human rights, etc, should be provided in the schools.
- ❖ Efforts be made by social work agencies, community based organisations and churches that all engaged couples undergo pre-marital counselling. Pre-marital counselling is preventative. Wolfe et al (1990:ix) argue that prevention is cheaper, more effective and more human than the vast majority of the current efforts at detention, deterrence, punishment or containment.
- ❖ Domestic violence be treated like AIDS and agencies that provide pre-marital counselling conduct awareness campaigns so that the community will be aware of the programmes.
- ❖ The government has enacted policies that aim at protecting victims of abuse from further abuse. These policies are contained in Domestic Violence Act No. 116 of 1998 (that prohibits marital abuse), Maintenance Act No. 99 of 1998 (that regulates maintenance of a child by both parents), and Employment Equity Act No. 55 of 1998 (that addresses employment needs of the employees that were underprivileged. Enacting policies that enforce the

administration of pre-marital counselling programmes, may bring about completeness of what the government is already doing. Domestic violence will lessen as people deal with some of the inequalities in the society.

- ❖ More attention be given to the field of pre-marital counselling by professionals. Documentation in this field is neglected. The last research that was conducted in the field according to the researcher's awareness was done in 1978.
- ❖ Professionals or people that render services in the field of pre-marital counselling be trained as they require specialised knowledge.
- ❖ Traditional ways of preparing for marriage be re-examined traditional community leaders with the aim of updating information given to young people and be made to keep up with the changes in the environment . This includes equally involving both females and males in these programmes as they all need to be prepared for family life.
- ❖ Society be addressed by social workers with the aim of changing various cultural norms attitudes and values that condition women to accept male domination and emphasises on the importance of privacy at the expense of intervention programmes.

6.8 FUTURE DIRECTION

The present study undertaken, as is, for fulfilment of requirements for the Masters Degree in Social Work is limited. The researcher focused on a single small area, thus the study can be understood as exploratory. It is recommended that a thorough in depth research be undertaken covering a number of communities so as to test the hypotheses that the researcher has suggested.

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ANNEXURE A

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE: SOCIAL WORKERS

I am a social work student at the University of Zululand and I am conducting a research in this community in fulfilment of the requirements for the Masters Degree in Social Work. This research aims at assessing the need for pre-marital counselling in combating domestic violence within the community of Madadeni. This objective will be achieved by looking at:

- ❖ domestic violence as experienced by people of Madadeni
- ❖ attention given to domestic violence cases by Madadeni social workers
- ❖ knowledge of Madadeni people about pre-marital counselling programmes
- ❖ availability and utilization of pre-marital counselling programmes by the people of Madadeni.

Your contribution will be of great help. The information you will give will be treated confidentially. Your identity will not be revealed. No personal name or identifying data will be used in any publication.

Though the success of this study depends entirely on your contribution, you are not forced to participate if you do not wish to. You are participating on your own will. Should you decide not to continue with participation, such decision will not result in any

negative bias to the service you are rendering. You are requested to answer the questions below.

1. PERSONAL PARTICULARS

- 1.1 Gender
- A: Male ----
- B: Female ----
-
- 1.2 Marital status
- A: Married ----
- B: Never married ----
- C: Widowed ----
- D: Divorced ----
- E: Separated ----
-
- 1.3 No. of years working as a social workers at Madadeni
- A: Less than 3 yrs ----
- B: 4 - 6 yrs ----
- C: 7 - 9 yrs ----
- D: 10 yrs and more ----

2. TYPE OF CLIENTS

- 2.1 Which section of Madadeni is your area of operation?
- A: Section 1 & 2 ----
- B: Section 3 & 4 ----
- C: Section 5 & 6 ----
- D: Section 7 ----

E: Blaaubosch and
surrounding areas ---

2.2 What category of people are mostly your clients?

A: Employed ---

B: Unemployed ---

2.3 Are your clients mostly A: Males ---

B: Females ---

3. NEEDS AND PROBLEMS PRESENTED

3.1 Do you happen to deal with clients that present domestic violence related problems?

A: Yes ---

B: No ---

3.2 If your answer to question 3.1 is yes, how often?

A: Less than 5 a week ---

B: 6 - 10 a week ---

C: 11 - 15 a week ---

D: 16 - 20 a week ---

E: 21 and more a week ---

3.3 What form of domestic violence do they present?

3.4 Do families that are characterised by domestic violence present a certain pattern of needs?

A: Yes ---

B: No ---

3.5 If your answer to question 3.4 is yes, mention those needs.

3.6 Do families that are characterised by domestic violence present a certain pattern of problems?

A: Yes ---

B: No ---

3.7 If your answer to question 3.6 is yes, mention those problems.

4. SOCIAL WORKERS' REACTION TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE CASES

4.1 How do domestic violence cases come to your attention? Are they referred by:

- A: Professionals ---
- B: Friends ---
- C: Family members ---
- D: Community members ---
- E: Other (specify) ---

4.2 Do you use any criteria to classify those cases?

- A: Yes ---
- B: No ---

4.3 If your answer to 4.2 is yes, which criteria are used? Please explain

4.4 Have you got any specific programmes in which you involve families that present domestic violence related problems?

- A: Yes ---
- B: No ---

4.5 If your answer to question 4.4 is yes, mention those programmes

4.6 What preventative intervention do you think can best address the problem of domestic violence?

5. VIEWS OF SOCIAL WORKERS ON PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING

5.1 What is your view on pre - marital counselling programmes? are they—

- A: Useful ---
- B: Useless ---
- C: Uncertain ---

5.2 Give reasons for your answer

5.3 Are pre - marital counselling services available to people of this area?

- A: Yes ---
- B: No ---
- C: Uncertain ---

5.4 If your answer to question 5.3 is yes, are people aware of those services?

- A: Yes ---
- B: No ---

C: Uncertain ---

5.5 Are people making use of those services?

A: Yes ---

B: No ---

C: Uncertain ---

5.6 Referring to answer 5.5 what is the reason, according to your view?

5.7 According to your view, is pre - marital counselling needed in this community?

A: Yes ---

B: No ---

C: Uncertain ---

5.8 Give reasons for your answer.

6. SOCIAL WORKERS' OPINIONS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND THE NEED FOR PRE - MARITAL COUNSELLING IN THE AREA.

6.1 What do you think should be done to combat domestic violence in the area?

6.2 What comments would you make regarding programmes that are presently used by social workers in this agency to deal with domestic violence problems?

6.3 What comments would you like to make in respect of the need for pre-marital counselling in this community?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO OPERATION

ANNEXURE B

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE: CLIENTS

I am a social work student at the University of Zululand. I am conducting a research in this community in fulfilment of the requirements for the Masters Degree in Social Work. This research aims at assessing the need for pre - marital counselling in combating domestic violence within this community. This objective will be achieved by looking at:

- ❖ domestic violence as experienced by Madadeni people
- ❖ attention given to domestic violence cases by Madadeni social workers
- ❖ knowledge of Madadeni people about pre - marital counselling programmes
- ❖ availability and utilization of pre - marital counselling programmes by the people of Madadeni.

Your contribution will be of great help. The information you will give will be treated confidentially. Your identity will not be revealed. No personal name or identifying data will be used in any publication.

Though the success of this study depends entirely on your contribution, you are not forced to participate if you do not wish to. You are participating on your own will. Should you decide not to continue with participation, such decision will not result in any negative bias to your therapy programme. You are requested to answer the questions below.

1.11 Period lived in Madadeni before marriage

A: Less than 3 years ---

B: 4 - 6 years ---

C: 7 years and more ---

2. MARITAL NEEDS AND PROBLEMS, AND UTILISATION OF SOCIAL WORK SERVICES

2.1 Have you ever been subjected to or been involved in domestic violence?

A: Yes ---

B: No ---

2.2 If yes, how were you subjected?

2.3 For how long have you been subjected?

2.4 With whom did you share this problem besides the social workers of this agency?

What were the results?

2.5 How long did it take you before you sought professional help?

2.6 Was there anything preventing you from seeking professional help?

A: Yes ---

B: No ---

2.7 If yes, what was it?

2.8 How do you feel about violence in your marriage now?

2.9 Do you think your family has needs that contribute to domestic violence?

A: Yes ---

B: No ---

C: Uncertain ---

2.10 If your answer to 2.9 is yes, mention those needs which you feel are the most important

2.11 What makes you say that particular needs contribute to domestic violence?

2.12 What marital problems are you experiencing in your family?

2.13 What does the violence in your marriage mean to you as a wife / husband?

2.14 How does this domestic violence affect your family and its functioning?

2.15 How does it affect the community in which you live?

2.16 Besides seeking social worker's intervention to your marital problem, what other ways have you tried to solve it?

2.17 How helpful were those ways to you? Motivate your answer.

2.18 What is your opinion of the help you have received from social workers?

2.19 What preventative interventions do you think can best address the problem of domestic violence in general?

3. AVAILABILITY OF PRE-MARITAL COUNSELLING PROGRAMMES AND PEOPLE'S UNDERSTANDING, ATTITUDES AND FEELINGS TOWARDS THEM.

3.1 Have you got any conception or understanding of what pre - marital counselling is?

A: Yes ---

B: No ---

3.2 If your answer to question 3.1 is yes, what is your conception or understanding of pre- marital counselling? Please explain.

3.3 Do you know of any agency in this community that renders pre - marital counselling services?

A: Yes ---

B: No ---

3.4 If your answer to question 3.3 is yes, what is the name of that agency?

3.5 In which section is that agency situated?

A: Section 1 ---

B: .. 2 ---

C: .. 3 ---

D: .. 4 ---

E: .. 5 ---

F: .. 6 ---

G: .. 7 ---

H: Blaawbosch and
surrounding area ---

3.6 Were you involved in pre - marital counselling programmes before marriage?

A: Yes ---

B: No ---

3.7 If your answer to question 3.6 is yes, which agency was rendering those services?

Give the name.

3.8 What is your opinion of those pre - marital counselling programmes?

3.9 What do you think your ability to deal with your marital problems would be, if you had been involved in pre - marital counselling programmes?

3.10 Were you subjected to any traditional ways of preparing for marriage?

- A: Yes ---
- B: No ---

3.11 What is your view of traditional ways of preparing for marriage?

- A: No view ---
- B: Helpful ---
- C: Unhelpful ---

3.12 Motivate your answer to 3.11

3.13 How aware do you think people of this community are, of pre - marital counselling programmes?

- A: Not aware ----
- B: Little awareness ----
- C: Much awareness ----
- D: Do not know ----

3.14 How do you think people feel about pre - marital counselling programmes?

- A: Important ----
- B: Not important ----
- C: Do not know ----

3.15. Give reasons for your answer to question 3.14

4. AVAILABILITY OF PRE - MARITAL COUNSELLING PROGRAMMES TO MADADENI PEOPLE.

4.1 In your view, do people make use of pre - marital counselling programmes in this community?

- A: Yes ----
- B: No ----
- C: Uncertain ----

4.2 If your answer to question 4.1 is yes, how many people?

A: Many ---

B: Few ---

C: Do not know ---

4.3 If your answer to question 4.1 is no, what do you think is the reason?

4.4 What comment would you like to make in respect of the need for pre-marital counselling programmes in the area?

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CO - OPERATION