

## **Abstract**

The research study attempted to establish the factors influencing sexual violence against women in slum areas of Katanga and Kivulu. The objectives of the study were; to find out whether socio-demographic factors of the victims influence the occurrence of sexual violence amongst women, to ascertain the influence of drug abuse and consumption of alcohol on sexual violence amongst women, to assess whether a woman's economic status influences the occurrence of sexual violence against women and to find out the level of awareness on laws governing sexual violence amongst women living in Katanga and Kivulu. To collect data from the respondents, the researcher used questionnaires, interview guide and focus group discussions. Data was then presented in a descriptive form where tables, charts and graphs were used.

The findings revealed that the socio-demographic factors like the age, religion, residence and the low level of education of the victims influence the occurrence of sexual violence amongst women in Katanga and Kivulu, say young girls were victims of sexual violence, and uneducated women. The researcher discovered the influence of drug abuse and consumption of alcohol on sexual violence amongst women in Katanga and Kivulu viz; drugs and alcohol makes women unconscious and un-normal, to mention.

The researcher also assessed whether a woman's economic status influences the occurrence of sexual violence against women in Katanga and Kivulu, it was found out that poor women were victims of sexual violence than their counterparts-the rich, employed women were rarely sexually violated to mention. The researcher also found out that there is a low level of awareness on laws governing sexual violence amongst women living in Katanga and Kivulu, since many of these do not understand local, national and international laws, policies and guidelines pertaining sexual violence.

The researcher recommends that; there is need to sensitize the women, girls on their rights regarding sexuality through workshops, seminars, radio talk-shows and conferences, need to set up strong policies and laws that governs people who take drugs and alcohol since they are one of the greatest factors leading to sexual violence, and there is need for the government to set up favorable financial institutions that can be accessed by women so that they are able to uplift their standards economically.