

Paper: “Impact of Gender-Based Violence on Community Development: Case Study of Rumonge Commune (Burundi)”

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Peer review:

Reviewer 1: Vera Komarova
Daugavpils University, Latvia

Reviewer 2: Emmanuel Acquah-Sam
Wisconsin International University College, Legon, Accra, Ghana

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Date Manuscript Received: 19 th October 2022	Date Review Report Submitted: 26 th October 2022
Manuscript Title: Impact of Gender Based Violence on Community Development: Case Study of Rumonge Commune	
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Evaluation Criteria:

Please give each evaluation item a numeric rating on a 5-point scale, along with a thorough explanation for each point rating.

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Rating Result</i> [Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]
1. The title is clear and it is adequate to the content of the article.	5
<i>(Please insert your comments)</i>	
2. The abstract clearly presents objects, methods and results.	2

The abstract is silent on the key findings and recommendations of the work.	
3. There are few grammatical errors and spelling mistakes in this article.	3
<p>Serious editing is required in the entire work. Punctuations are critical, beginning with the Abstract. For example, “Gender-Based”; “Key words”; “Gender Based Violence (GBV) is a global public health problem that poses challenges in human health and development.”; “The Development Bank of Africa BAD (2014) states that Burundi’s sector of economy is mainly based on agriculture.” Pages 1, 2, and 3; “Whilst gender based violence threaten full advancement of women and girls by decreasing their ability to benefit, access and participate in their economic and social spaces, this paper seeks to identify the root causes of the persistence of gender based violence and its implications on the victims on community development in Rumonge Commune.” – the last paragraph of page 4, etc. I believe the francophone backgrounds of the authors have impacted the English Language grammar used in the work.</p>	
4. The study methods are explained clearly.	3
<p>The methodology should be adequately explained. The determination of the sample size, based on the theory, did not seem to convince me so a little explanation and crosschecking will be necessary. On page 5, what the theory says seems to be different from the determination of the sample size. The population by the declaration of the authors is finite so they need to review it again.</p>	
5. The results are clear and do not contain errors.	3
<p>References must be made to the appropriate table numbers in the analyses. Write, for example, 56.2% as 56.2 percent, 43.7% as 43.7 percent, etc. Explain the essence of introducing the “Distribution of respondents according to their educational level”, “Occupation of respondents by gender”, etc. How do these variables affect GBV? The authors must explain them and others in their analyses. The authors did not indicate the sources of their tables in the analyses.</p>	
6. The conclusions or summary are accurate and supported by the content.	4
<p>They may separate them into conclusions and recommendations and improve on them.</p>	
7. The references are comprehensive and appropriate.	4
<p>References should not be numbered. APA style can be used.</p>	

Overall Recommendation (mark an X with your recommendation) :

Accepted, no revision needed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accepted, minor revision needed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Return for major revision and resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reject	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments and Suggestions to the Author(s):

The major and subheadings of the work must be properly numbered for easy identification and reference. Such as Introduction 1.0, Literature Review 2.0, Methodology 3.0, Results and Discussions 4.0, and Conclusions and Recommendations 5.0.

Comments and Suggestions to the Editors Only:

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NOTE: ESJ promotes peer review procedure based on scientific validity and technical quality of the paper (not perceived the impact). You are also not required to do proofreading of the paper. It could be recommended as part of the revision.

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Reviewer Name: Vera Komarova	
University/Country: Daugavpils University/Latvia	
Date Manuscript Received: 19/10/2022	Date Review Report Submitted: 24/10/2022
Manuscript Title: Impact of Gender Based Violence on Community Development: Case Study of Rumonge Commune	
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Evaluation Criteria:

Please give each evaluation item a numeric rating on a 5-point scale, along with a thorough explanation for each point rating.

<i>Questions</i>	<i>Rating Result</i> [Poor] 1-5 [Excellent]
1. The title is clear and it is adequate to the content of the article.	4
<i>(Please insert your comments)</i>	

Please, add also the country name in the title of the article (and to keywords too)	
2. The abstract clearly presents objects, methods and results.	4
<p><i>(Please insert your comments)</i></p> <p>In these sentences “To achieve this, we opted for qualitative approaches with the use of the interview guide and quantitative with the use of a questionnaire administered directly to heads of households distributed in 6 zones of Rumonge Commune. These reasons are fundamentally linked to Burundian culture and tradition that structures how people have to behave and live in the society” is not clear, what are ‘these reasons’. It seems to me, that the sentence started with ‘these reasons’ has to follow the sentence “It specifically shows the reasons behind the persistence of gender based violence in Rumonge commune and its implications on the bad living conditions of families”.</p> <p>The term ‘full community development’, which is often used in the article, is very strange and unclear. Do you know any communities in the world, which are ‘full developed’? Do you really think that so called developed countries with low level of the GBV have no any serious problems (economic, psychological, social, etc.) and are ‘full developed’? This is not so!</p>	
3. There are few grammatical errors and spelling mistakes in this article.	3
<p><i>(Please insert your comments)</i></p> <p>There are many grammatical and stylistic errors and spelling mistakes in this article, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • scientists’ names are written in different styles: Alain BOUCHARD, Tsitsi Marylin Dzinavane; • Rumonge commune is written in different styles: Rumonge commune, Rumonge Commune, commune of Rumonge, community of Rumonge; • Development Bank of Africa is abbreviated as DBA, not BAD; • in some places, the English is very strange: “prevent women (from?) their full participation in all activities” (p.8) (by the way, what does it mean – full participation in all activities? Is it really desirable that a woman would ‘fully’ participate in all activities (bad and good)?), “is domestic violence (inclusive of (including?) family violence and intimate partner violence (the bracket does not closed here)” (p.15), “the main force (workforce?) in this sector is made of women (are women?)” (p.16), “Women are trained to believe that their value is attached to the men (“– fathers, brothers, and sons –“ have to be put here) in their lives-fathers, brothers, and sons-and” (p.15); • in some places, caps are not needed for some words within the sentence (I marked some caps in the text of the article); • it is written ‘the researcher’ under the Chart 1 and 2, but I see 2 author of the article. 	
4. The study methods are explained clearly.	4
<p><i>(Please insert your comments)</i></p>	

I see the discrimination and cultural background of the researchers in the chosen method itself: you ask the opinion of the households' heads only. This is very strange for European reader. If other adult members of the household can not have their own opinion to be studied by scientists? You are against discrimination in your article, you find the reasons of this, but at the same time you discriminate respondents even during your study – this is fantastically interesting! At least, you have to explain this in the research methodology of your article.

5. The results are clear and do not contain errors.	4
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(Please insert your comments)

Table 4: Socio economic costs (costs of what? What are the sources for this table?)
 Chart 3: we make pie diagram, when we have 100% in total, if not, we have to create bars, as in the Charts 1 and 2

“in order to counteract gender based violence, there is a need: to promote the education and economic empowerment of women and girls; to raise awareness on laws ... that support gender-based violence” (p.16) Are there such laws that support GBV? Surely, it depends on conceptual understanding of GBV. For example, in Islamic countries polygamy allowed by the law, and this is not GBV there.

Also, “the laws regarding families, gender norms and development” (p.16). Are there any law, where ‘gender norms’ are declared?

Living conditions of gender based violence victims (p.11) If other local people live better than these victims? There is no comparison provided.

6. The conclusions or summary are accurate and supported by the content.	5
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(Please insert your comments)

7. The references are comprehensive and appropriate.	2
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(Please insert your comments)

The references have to be formed in one unit style.

Overall Recommendation (mark an X with your recommendation) :

Accepted, no revision needed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Accepted, minor revision needed	<input type="checkbox"/>
Return for major revision and resubmission	<input type="checkbox"/>
Reject	<input type="checkbox"/>

Comments and Suggestions to the Author(s):

Thank you very much for this extremely interesting and valuable article, thank you for the touching and analyzing this topic! I do ask you to make some additional work in your article for its successful publication!

In addition to the comments above, I will put here some vital moments:

1. it was not defined, what is GBV and what is included before the Chart 3. Only there the reader clearly see, what is the structure of GBV, but it has to be clear from the beginning of the article;
2. in the article, the most problematic place for me is this sentence “that 36% of women and 32% of men between the ages of 15 and 49 have experienced physical violence since the age of 15” (p.3). I see here that the men are suffering from violence almost in the same degree as women! Why then the article generally is about female victims? Where about men, every third of each is also a victim?
3. “Among 96 respondents, 56.2% of respondents are men whereas 43.7% are women. This situation is explained by the fact that the questions were addressed to heads of households and that Burundi is governed by a patriarchal system. In certain circumstances or in the case of widows, women can be heads of household” (p.7). Thus, almost a half of households’ heads are women, and you explained this by ‘certain circumstances’. I suppose, if a half of households have heads-women, these are not ‘certain circumstances’, but some social trend, which has to be explained in the article, do you agree?

In general, it seems that the researcher with Western values looks at Burundian society and measure it according to Western values (which are not better – they just differ from African one, and West has many problems, which also are terrible). I am not the supporter of GBV, but if it is cultural phenomenon, you will not change it with any formal laws and activities of Western organizations, you have to find internal resources within similar patriarchic societies (by the way, if a half of the households’ heads are women, as in your survey, can we call such society patriarchic?). Anyhow, this is the interesting subject for discussion.

Please, see also the text of the article, where I marked problematic/unclear places with yellow color.

Comments and Suggestions to the Editors Only:

This is very extremely interesting and valuable article, which definitely has to be published, but it needs corrections. Please, send the authors also the article text with my marks to see the problematic places.