

Targeted investigation report 2025

Limpopo: Sekhukhune Understanding the impact of Gender-Based Violence in Moshira and Magobading

First edition



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1. Background and Context

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is a serious problem in the communities of Moshira and Magobading in Sekhukhune, Limpopo. Many cases are not reported, and even when they are, they often remain unsolved. This happens because GBV is connected to deep social and cultural issues, as well as challenges in the legal system.

One of the main causes is power imbalance. In many families and communities, men hold more authority than women. This is reinforced by cultural traditions and patriarchal norms. These unequal power dynamics make women and girls more vulnerable to abuse.

Survivors of GBV often hesitate to report what happened to them. They fear retaliation from the abuser, or they worry about being judged and blamed by the community. In small villages, it is also difficult to stay anonymous, which makes reporting even harder. Many victims do not trust the police or authorities to handle their cases fairly.

Community trust plays a big role in investigations. If people believe that law enforcement will act with sensitivity and fairness, they are more likely to report abuse. But in rural areas like Sekhukhune, police stations are far away, resources are limited, and response times are slow. This weakens trust and discourages victims from seeking help.

There are also institutional challenges. Police often lack training in handling GBV cases, and there are few specialized units in rural Limpopo. Survivors may be pressured to reconcile with perpetrators instead of pursuing justice. Shelters and support services are scarce, leaving victims with little protection.

In Moshira and Magobading, cultural practices such as lobola (bride price) and traditional dispute resolution can sometimes hide or normalize abuse. High unemployment also makes women financially dependent on men, which makes it harder to leave abusive relationships. Young women and girls are especially at risk, facing harassment in schools or in transactional relationships.

2. Problem description

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) continues to affect the communities of Moshira and Magobading in Sekhukhune, Limpopo. Many survivors do not report their cases, and those that are reported often fail to reach a proper conclusion. This shows that GBV is not only a personal issue but also a community and institutional challenge.

The problem is made worse by unequal power relations between men and women, which are reinforced by cultural traditions and social expectations. Survivors often remain silent because they fear retaliation, judgment, or lack of support. In small rural villages, privacy is difficult to maintain, which makes reporting even more risky.

Trust in law enforcement is low. Police stations are far away, resources are limited, and officers are not always trained to handle GBV cases with sensitivity. As a result, victims feel discouraged from seeking justice.

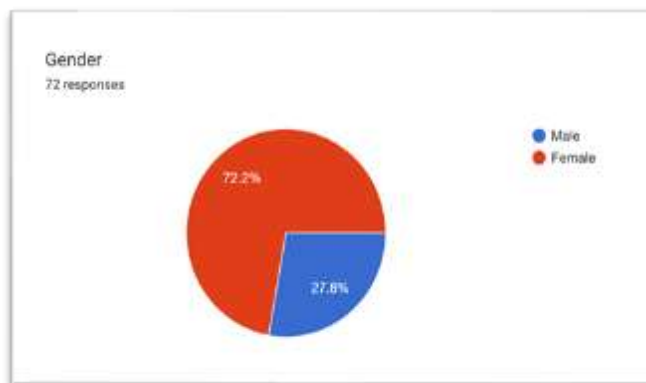
Institutional gaps also play a role. There are few shelters or support services available, and survivors are sometimes pressured to reconcile with perpetrators instead of pursuing legal action. This leaves many victims without protection or justice.

Local cultural practices, such as lobola and traditional dispute resolution, can unintentionally hide abuse or normalize it. Economic challenges, especially high unemployment, make women financially dependent on men, which traps them in abusive relationships. Young women and girls face even greater risks, including harassment in schools and exploitative relationships.

The lack of reporting, weak investigations, and limited support systems shows that GBV in these communities is not being addressed effectively. Without stronger awareness, better training for police and leaders, and improved survivor support, the cycle of silence and abuse will continue.

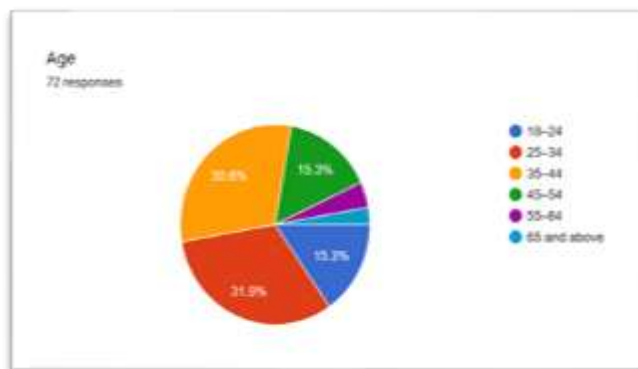


3. Investigation results



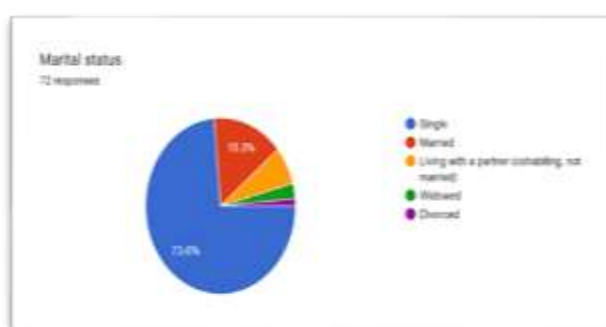
Most of the people who responded to the survey were women 72.2%, while men made up 27.8% of the participants. This shows that more women were willing to take part and share their experiences and opinions. One possible reason for this is that Gender-Based Violence affects women more directly in many communities, which may make them more motivated to speak out and contribute to discussions that focus on

safety and wellbeing. The lower number of male respondents does not mean their views are less important, but it does suggest that more effort may be needed in future engagements to encourage men to participate, share their perspectives, and be part of community solutions.



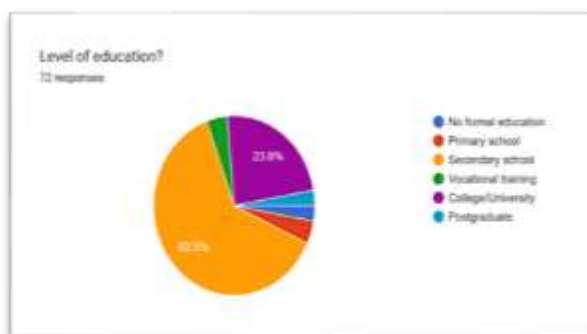
The investigation showed that people from a range of age groups took part in the survey. The biggest number of respondents were young adults between 25 and 34 years old 31.9%, followed closely by older community members aged 65 years and above 30.6%. Fewer responses came from the middle-aged groups, with 15.3% of participants aged 35–44 and another 15.3% aged 45–54. This suggests that younger adults and elders were more active and

willing to share their experiences and opinions, while middle-aged residents may have had less time or fewer opportunities to participate. Future community engagement activities may need to find more flexible ways to involve this age group so that all voices are equally represented.



Most of the respondents were single 73.6%, while a smaller group 15.3% indicated that they were married. This means that the majority of people who took part in the survey were not in formal marital relationships. Relationship status can shape how individuals experience and respond to issues such as Gender-Based Violence, including the type of support they need and the challenges they face. The high number of single participants

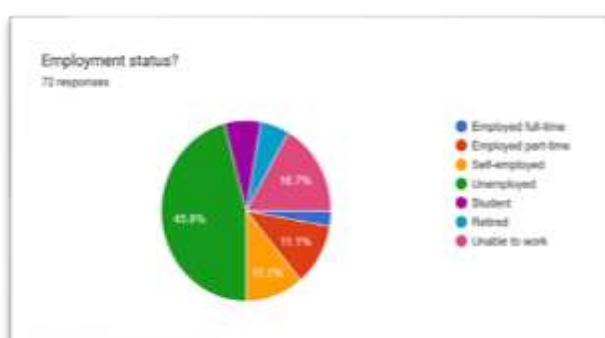
may also reflect the demographics of the community or who felt most comfortable sharing their experiences. Understanding these relationship patterns can help community programmes design support services that are inclusive and responsive to different living situations.



The investigation showed that most respondents had completed secondary education 62.5%, while a smaller group 23.6% had continued to college or university. This suggests that the majority of participants have basic schooling, but fewer people have had the opportunity to access higher education. Education levels can influence how people understand community issues, access information, and seek support services.

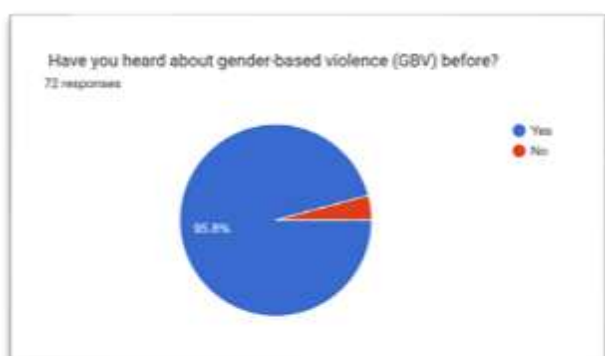
These findings highlight the importance of using

clear, simple communication and inclusive awareness programmes that reach people with different educational backgrounds.



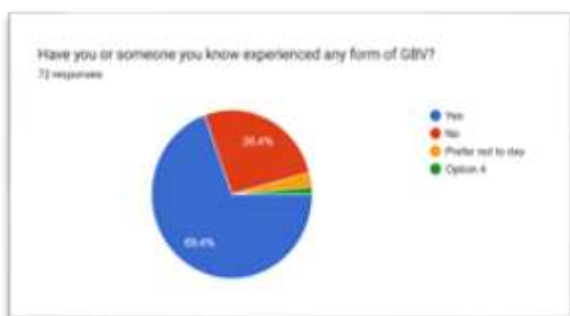
The investigation found that nearly half of the respondents were unemployed 45.8%, highlighting the high levels of joblessness within the community. A smaller number of participants reported being self-employed 11.1%, while another 11.1% were working part-time. This suggests that many households in Moshira and Magobading may be facing financial pressure due to limited and unstable income opportunities. Economic challenges like

unemployment can also affect people's wellbeing, access to services, and their ability to respond to social issues. These findings show the importance of strengthening local economic opportunities, skills development programmes, and community support initiatives that can help improve livelihoods.



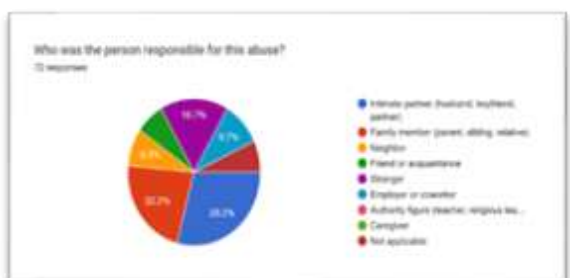
The investigation found that almost all respondents 95.8% had heard about Gender-Based Violence, showing that awareness of GBV is very high in the communities of Moshira and Magobading. This suggests that community members are familiar with the issue and understand that it is a serious social problem. However, high awareness does not always mean that people feel safe or supported enough to report cases. Many incidents may still go

unreported or unresolved due to fear, stigma, or lack of trust in available systems. These findings highlight the need to move beyond awareness campaigns and focus more on building safe reporting spaces, strengthening community support, and improving access to justice and protection services.



A large majority of respondents (69.4%) shared that they or someone close to them has experienced Gender-Based Violence, while only 26.4% said they had not witnessed or been affected by it. This suggests that GBV is not an isolated problem but one that touches many households and social circles in the communities of Moshira and Magobading. When people know someone who has been affected, it can shape how

safe they feel and how they view relationships within the community. These findings highlight the need for strong community support systems, open conversations, and accessible services that help both survivors and those supporting them, while also working to prevent future cases.



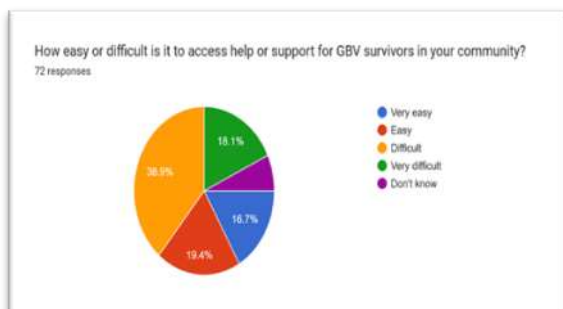
The investigation showed that the main perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence were intimate partners such as husbands or boyfriends 29.2%. A significant number of cases also involved family members 22.2%, highlighting that abuse often happens within close relationships. Smaller percentages of respondents identified strangers 16.7%, employers or co-workers 9.7%, and

neighbors 8.3% as responsible. These results suggest that GBV in Moshira and Magobading is most commonly carried out by people known to the victims, rather than outsiders.



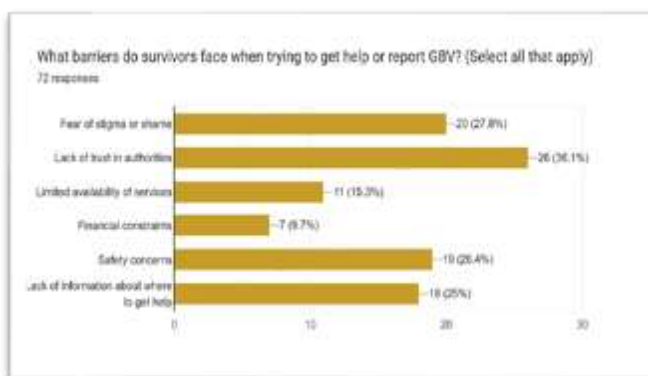
Many victims of Gender-Based Violence did not receive support after their experiences. According to the survey, 44.4% of respondents said that victims did not get help, while only 22.2% reported that victims did receive assistance. Another 33.3% of respondents were unsure whether support was provided. This points to a significant gap in the support systems within the communities of Moshira and Magobading, leaving many survivors without the care, guidance, and protection they

need. The findings highlight the urgent need to strengthen access to services, raise awareness about available help, and ensure that survivors are supported at every stage.



Many people in Moshira and Magobading face challenges in accessing help or support when dealing with Gender-Based Violence. The survey showed that 38.9% of respondents said it is difficult to get assistance, and 18.1% said it is very difficult. In contrast, 19.4% felt it was easy, and only 16.7% said it was very easy. This indicates that while some community members can access support without much trouble, the majority

experience significant barriers. These findings highlight the urgent need to strengthen local services, improve accessibility, and ensure that survivors can reach the help they need quickly and safely.



Several barriers make it difficult for survivors to seek help or report Gender-Based Violence in Moshira and Magobading. The most common challenge was the limited availability of services 36.1%, indicating that proper support structures are lacking in many areas. Survivors also cited fear of stigma 27.8% and concerns for their safety 26.4%, which discourage them from coming forward. A lack of information 25% was another

barrier, showing that many victims do not know where or how to access help. Financial constraints 15.3% also affect survivors, as some cannot afford transport or legal costs. These findings highlight that survivors face a mix of social and practical obstacles, making it much harder to break the silence, get support, and seek justice.

What improvements would you suggest to better support GBV survivors in your community?



The investigation gathered suggestions from 72 respondents on how communities can better support survivors of Gender-Based Violence. The most common ideas included organizing workshops and training sessions to educate people about GBV and how to respond to it. Many also emphasized the importance of community awareness campaigns and roadshows to spread

information widely and reduce stigma. Others highlighted the need for education programs to empower both survivors and community members. A few respondents did not provide suggestions (marked as N/A). Overall, the responses show that people believe awareness, education, and practical training are key to improving support for GBV victims in Moshira and Magobading.

4. Views of stakeholders on the issues

Stakeholders from Magobading and Moshira villages expressed that communities urgently need support programs, workshops, and skills training to help address the problem of Gender-Based Violence (GBV). They believe that bringing these initiatives directly into the villages will empower local people to take the lead in fighting GBV.

Community members emphasized that awareness campaigns and education are essential to reduce stigma and encourage survivors to seek help. They also highlighted the importance of practical skills programs, which can provide economic opportunities and reduce financial dependence that often traps women in abusive relationships.

Stakeholders agreed that GBV is a serious challenge in the villages, and they called for stronger collaboration between community leaders, government, and support organizations. They stressed that survivors need accessible services, safe spaces, and consistent support to break the cycle of violence. Overall, the community's view is that local empowerment, education, and skills development are key to tackling GBV and creating safer, more supportive environments in Magobading and Moshira.

5. Advocacy Solutions

From Stakeholders from Magobading and Moshira villages believe that stronger support is needed to address Gender-Based Violence (GBV). They recommend closer collaboration with NGOs to bring more training programs and workshops into communities and schools. These initiatives would help raise awareness, build skills, and provide survivors with practical support.

Education is seen as a key solution. Stakeholders suggest focusing on young boys and girls in primary and secondary schools, teaching them about respect, equality, and non-violence from an early age. This would help prevent GBV by changing attitudes and behaviors before they become deeply rooted.

Another important recommendation is to create men-only meetings. These safe spaces would allow men to openly discuss issues, reflect on harmful practices, and learn positive ways to engage in preventing GBV. By involving men directly, communities can challenge patriarchal norms and promote accountability.

Overall, the community calls for an action and advocacy approach that combines awareness, education, and empowerment. This means building strong partnerships with NGOs, training local leaders, and ensuring that schools and families are part of the solution. By doing so, Magobading and Moshira can create safer environments and break the cycle of silence around GBV.

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