Exploring young people's constructions of Domestic Violence as portrayed in the media

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DEDICATION

I dedicate this research study to my daughter “Precious”. Thank you for your unconditional love and being my source of inspiration and great motivator for completing this study.

ABSTRACT

Domestic violence (DV) is a severe problem experienced mostly by women and girls locally and on other continents. Existing literature on DV has predominantly focused on quantitative analysis and the adult population. There is a paucity of research concerning young people's views, understandings, and experiences of DV. Therefore, this study aimed to map and comprehensively analyze studies that examined how young people view, understand, and construct domestic violence to uncover existing evidence in the field and establish areas for future research. This study was exploratory and expanded knowledge of existing literature about young people's narratives about DV. The theoretical framework navigating this study was the ecological systems theory to achieve an interdisciplinary perspective. The present study was a qualitative research study that utilized Arksey and O'Malley's (2005) scoping review method. The search strategy for this scoping review entailed three electronic databases, PubMed, Google scholar, and dissertations from SABINET online. The search period was from 2011 to 2021. Eligible studies were screened independently by the researcher. Extracts of young people's narratives from primary qualitative studies were employed. Data were extracted and then analyzed using descriptive statistics in table form and thematic content analysis to categorize research results into themes. The data charting included tables from articles that met the inclusion criteria. Charting involved synthesizing and interpreting data according to key issues in a table form. Six studies met the inclusion criteria. Three prominent themes were developed: (1) Constructions of violence, (2) Normalization of violence, and (3) Young people's agency, coping, and resistance strategies. Broadly, the findings of the present study illustrated that a deficit of understanding DV in young people is related to numerous issues, namely: low age, inadequate knowledge, growing up in a low-socioeconomic environment, normalization of violence by family and society, socially constructed gender norms and inaccurate media depictions. As a result, young people reported being scared to disclose the abuse to family and society and perceive it as a private matter. The findings of this study suggested an essential narrative behind the difficulties of intervening for young women who are victims of DV. However, numerous constructive implications may be helpful for young people, their families, and the health professionals working with them.

Keywords: Domestic violence, intimate partner violence, young people, media

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Exploring young people's constructions of Domestic Violence as portrayed in the media

CHAPTER ONE
INTRODUCTION

This chapter provides a Domestic violence introduction to the analysis field. It begins by presenting the background to the study, followed by the problem statement, significance of the study, aim, objectives of the study, the research questions, and concludes with the organization of the thesis.

Even though women have been seen progressing in various positions globally, however, it is no secret that there is still a slow development in areas such as education, politics, and economic development. Haraldsson and Wangnerud (2019) have demonstrated the role that media has in the perpetuation of gender stereotypes. According to Thomas (2018), the media can influence the way society observes cultural and social issues. He further emphasized that any issues relating to women have been neglected, except in cases where a large civil or political community outrage took place (Thomas, 2018), only then do mass media initiate intervention. This indicates that women still have to fight to be heard or be given priority.

Nowadays, published media has become one of the most popular and used mediums of communication (Singh & Pandey, 2017; Patil, 2020). Additionally, it has helped bring together people from various backgrounds and geographical areas (Singh & Pandey, 2017). This may be an indication that people have become acclimated to news media and enjoy reading as well as engaging in fascinating and misunderstood topics. Published media can therefore assist in changing people's perceptions relating to cultural norms as well as gender expectations, to lessen or prevent violence against women and girls.

Violence against women research has increasingly demonstrated the high prevalence rate amongst the younger generation (Mason-Jones et al., 2016), with South Africa (SA) having the highest prevalence rate of domestic violence (DV). To illustrate, Statistics SA (2021) recorded over 120,000 female victims, in the initial 3 weeks of lockdown and they received support from the SA government's gender-based violence as well as Femicide Command Centre. Domestic violence has been given little attention compared to sexual assault (Chesney-Lind, & Chagnon, 2017; Reitz, 2017). The interaction between young people's constructions and representative gender inequity plays a huge role in understanding DV (Sardinha, & Catalán, 2018). This study employed scoping review method from qualitative studies to explore young people's constructions of DV as portrayed in electronic media.

1.1 Background to the study

Cathy (2017) asserts that gender-based violence (GBV) comprises rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence. Domestic violence (DV) is not only a problem in South Africa but all over the world. It includes sexual, physical, or psychological harm both in married and unmarried partners as well as in family relationships however, existing research indicates that it is more frequent in intimate partner relationships (Guggisberg, 2018; Beltran-Morillas, ValorSegura, & Exposito, 2019). Additionally, DV refers to threatening or violent behavior, encompassing psychological, emotional, sexual, physical, or financial abuse among intimate partners or adults in the same family (Peterman et al., 2020). It is important to explore and discover prevention and intervention strategies, since domestic violence is associated with serious mental and health consequences such as chronic fatigue, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), phobias, depression, substance abuse, panic, as well as anxiety disorders (Machisa, Christofides, Jewkes, 2017), and can even result in death.

Domestic violence not only impacts young people's mental and physical health but also causes harm to their educational experience and disrupts their academic progression (Lloyd, 2018). Domestic violence can be observed globally, as indicated in the WHO multi-country study, which states that its prevalence rate ranges from 15% to 71% (WHO, 2005). Researchers indicated that there is a higher prevalence rate of domestic violence in the United States of America (USA), with females being 32.9% and males 28.1% (Barbosa et al., 2019). Following is the United Kingdom with 30% of women who have undergone domestic violence in their lifetime (Heywood, Sammut, & Bradbury-Jones, 2019). Young people have been said to have suicidal behaviors as a result of experiencing sexual and physical abuse which is a common type of domestic violence in communities as well as educational institutions such as high schools and universities (Barkhuizen, 2013, Gordin & Collins, 2013; Peltzer, YI, & Pengpid, 2017).

A Southeast Asian Nations study by Peltzer and Pengpid (2017) discovered that the overall prevalence rates of suicidal attempts were 2.4% and suicide ideation was 11.7% among students. Another factor that precipitates the increase of suicide ideation and attempts on domestic violence victims, is that most of the time the perpetrators are people they know or are close to them (MacIsaac et al. 2018). In higher institutions, students in intimate partner relationships have higher prevalence rates of violence (Makhubele, Malesa, & Shika, 2018). There have been various media channels that explored sexual violence in universities, such as television, social media, and newspapers which showed images of students who were murdered mostly by their partners, or who have been abused in a school or university setting (Astor,

Jacobson, Wrabel, Benbenishty, & Pineda, 2017; Li, Kim, & O'Boyle, 2017; Al Ali, Gharaibeh & Masadeh, 2017). Its prevalence among young people in the media demonstrates that there is a dire need for intervention to combat DV. However, this group has been considerably left out in Domestic violence research.

Taking into consideration that South Africa is a diversified country with distinctive social as well as political history, it is thus crucial to view the issue of domestic violence in various contexts, as what may be considered violent or abusive in one culture may be normalized in another (Nwabunike, & Tenkorang, 2017). Another form of abuse that is not commonly visible is economic abuse, it occurs more in African households and other low-income families (Postmus, et al, 2020). Although there are numerous data on the aspect of DV, however, there is limited available literature focusing on young people's effects on DV in South Africa. Most available data discusses the prevalence rates of DV in the adult generation, particularly those who experience the violent acts while pregnant, with low-income status, or in marriage (Fekadu et al., 2018; Orpin, Papadopoulos, & Puthussery, 2020; Palamuleni, 2019; Rediger et al., 2018; Sardinha, Najera, & Catalan, 2018). The above data demonstrate that violent acts differ concerning the severity and the process perpetrators and victims perceive it.

1. 2 Problem Statement

Domestic Violence is a prevalent issue all over the world, affecting mostly women of various cultures, and the common perpetrators are their partners, family, as well as friends (Chhabra, 2018). This fundamental issue causes women's slow development in areas such as education, economic development, as well as political affiliation (Haraldsson, Wangnerud, 2019; Lundberg & Stearns, 2019; Warner, & Corley, 2017). These limitations demonstrate that the power inequalities among men and women persist in our community. Domestic violence globally has given more attention to the quantitative side of the issue, with a particular focus on adults (Afkhamzadeh, Azadi, Ziaeei, Mohamadi-Bolbanabad, 2019; Basar, & Dermici, 2018; Ram et al, 2019). Further, Gould (2020) asserts that the shortage of DV literature relating to South Africa is of great concern as this country has the highest rates of cases of violence that need to be addressed. As such, a scoping review study focusing on qualitative studies engaging young people would be beneficial in the field of knowledge.

1.3 Significance of the study

Even though the media demonstrate the increase of young people who have experienced DV (Thomas, 2018), however, the huge amount of existing literature focuses more on the prevalence and its effects on the adult population (Ajayi, Soyinka-Airwele, 2018; Kotsadam, Ostby, & Rustad, 2017; Machisa, Christofides, & Jewkes, 2018; Sardinha, & Catalan, 2018). There is a huge gap when it comes to research focusing on young people's experiences, meanings, and effects of Domestic violence (DV) on their life (Gordon & Collins, 2013). This study hopes not to only close this gap, but to also examine how the media portray DV on a younger generation and the effects it has on their health and academic progress. Since DV interferes with physical health and causes serious mental illness, exploring more about the study area will be beneficial in the literature of the psychology field. Additionally, including only studies that engaged directly with young people in this scoping study would be useful as exploring their narratives, would ensure credibility is maintained in the study.

1.4 Aim of the study

This study aimed to map and analyze studies that have examined the way young people talk about, understand and construct issues of domestic violence, uncover existing evidence in the field, and establish areas for future research.

1.5 Objectives of the study

The research objectives of the study were:

- To map and analyze available literature on domestic violence amongst young people as constructed by the media.
- To examine if the media influence the public understanding of domestic violence.
- To explore whether the media plays a role in DV perpetration on young people.

1.6 Research questions

Main research question:

- What is known from available literature about the way media construct domestic violence on young people?

Sub questions:

- Is there evidence that media influence the public in understanding DV?
- Does the media play a role in DV perpetration on young people?

1.7 Definitions of main concepts of the study Table

1. *Definitions of main concepts*

Concept	Definition
Domestic violence	WHO (2005) defines domestic violence as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that results in or likely to result in injury, psychological harm, deprivation, maldevelopment, or death."
intimate partner violence	This type of violence may occur in a form of sexual, physical, psychological, or emotional (WHO, 2020).
gender-based violence	Gender-based violence (GBV), is described as violence perpetrated upon a person based on their gender or gender identity (USAID, 2016).
media	According to Twenge, Martin, & Spitzberg (2019), there are two forms of media, the internet, which is the most commonly used nowadays, and older legacy media, such as television, and newspaper. For this study, media will include electronic databases, dissertations, and WHO websites.
young people	For this study, young people will include students and scholars.

1.8 Structure of the thesis

Chapter 1- is comprised of six sections: background to the study, problem statement, significance of the study, aim of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, and concludes with the organization of the thesis.

Chapter 2- review of literature relevant to the study topic is presented. The Ecological Systems theoretical framework that authenticates this study is detailed at the end of this chapter.

Chapter 3-provides a discussion of the research study methodology utilized in the present study comprising: research questions; the aim of the study; objectives of the study; database search strategy; PRISMA flow diagram; PCC Framework; Inclusion and exclusion criteria; Rigor; issues of validity, reliability, and generalizability that the researcher considered and analysis of studies. Ethical considerations for the study ended this chapter.

Chapter 4-outlines the study findings and discussion of results collected from various databases. The study findings will be discussed and portrayed in tables relating to frequency. In addition, discussion of the findings by connecting detected trends established in the current study and integration of the prominent themes about the existing literature on the field. Young people's views employing the Ecological Systems theory is incorporated for a contextual understanding of young people's narratives, experience, and understandings of the phenomenon.

Chapter 5- presents a conclusion of the study, Limitations, recommendations for future research, and implications of the findings end this chapter.

CHAPTER TWO
LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

This chapter begins by introducing the gap in the study area and the need for conducting this study. It then provides exhaustive available literature that is relevant to the research area. The sections discussed include working definitions of domestic violence, feasible explanations of DV, psychosocial repercussions of DV on young people, DV globally, DV in South Africa (SA), Sociocultural factors of DV in SA, and ends with the theoretical framework which functions as the study's viewpoint.

Domestic violence is a crime that affects all members of a household and can permanently damage the psychological well-being of both the victims and the observers (Piquero et al, 2020). The prime perpetrators of those violent crimes apply power to manage and manipulate their victims (Walker et al, 2020); but this power struggle can eventually fan the flames of physical and psychological domination. Domestic violence (DV) is an offense that takes place regularly all over the world (Osei-Tutu, Dzokoto, & Belgrave, 2019).

Existing literature indicates that DV is a product of physical, sexual, and psychological mental forms of distress (Naughton, O'Donnell, & Muldoon, 2020; Semahegn et al., 2019). Additionally, in South Africa, DV is a continuous problem for society, government, and healthcare providers. Numerous data on DV are found in mass media, which have played a huge role in forming public beliefs (Banerjee, Ferrara, & Orozco, 2019; Chowdhury, et al, 2018; Sacco et al, 2020). This suggests media does influence how society is socialized in understanding and behaving in specific contexts (Motseki & Oyedemi, 2017). Incidences relating to DV are often underreported, which contributes to the major challenges in preventing and fighting it.

2.2 Definitions of Domestic Violence

Seeing that there are numerous of data on DV in the media, different terms must be defined, such as domestic violence and intimate partner violence. In this study, both terms have been selected to ensure coherence. The terms used emulate definitions found in the literature reviewed. Considering the substantial discussion encircling violence facing women in the media, it is crucial to define domestic violence, and the role media has in perpetuating it. All over this paper, certain terms have been chosen for coherence purposes. The terms employed emulate

definitions established for the most part in the literature reviewed and best characterize the content debate.

Domestic violence (DV) is defined in research studies as coercive control and physical violence (Elizabeth, Gavey, & Tolmie, 2011; Treloar, & Boyd, 2014). Futures without Violence (2013) defines violence because the pattern of, emotional abusive mental, and/or behavior that's physical among 2 intimate partners whereby one partner preserves power and management over their counterpart. According to Home Office (2018) intimate partner violence is outlined as “any type of incident or sequence of dominant incidents, that comprise coercive, threatening behavior, abuse or violence among young people aged sixteen or above who intimate partners or relationships despite gender or sexuality”. This paper reviewed research studies that focus on violence perpetrated by men against women. Even though, it is indisputable, that men sometimes become victims of extreme domestic violence events (Smith, 2019); nevertheless, women continue to be the most abused with 80 to 90% of young women witnessing the abuse endured by their mothers, and the majority being direct victims of a particular type of abuse (Fernández-González, Calvete, Orue, & Mauri, 2018).

According to Child Welfare Information Gateway (2013), the phrase 'domestic violence' applies to "a pattern of coercive and/or assaultive behaviors, including physical, psychological, sexual attacks, and economic coercion" in the family.

An article by Gerino et al. (2018) mentions that The World Health Organization (WHO, 2012) defined domestic violence as "all behavior occurring inside an intimate association that causes psychological, physical, or sexual damage to those in the association" (p. 1), encompassing acts of psychosocial, and regulating behaviors. It is imperative to distinguish DV from IPV, as DV comprises numerous forms, such as child abuse and household abuse (Gerino et al, 2018). On the other hand, the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (2015) proposes that an Intimate partner: refers to "a present or previous spouse or partner".

South Africa is a diversified country, and the main focus of this study is to understand how the media views the aspect of DV. Despite the limited studies in the South African context that explore the concept of domestic violence, defining the phenomenon differs across cultures, and in advocacy or legal contexts (Messing, Bagwell-Gray, Brown, Kappas, & Durfee, 2020; Stark & Hester, 2019). Thus, the phrase "domestic violence" generally refers to psychological, sexual, and physical abuse aimed at domestic couples (Bradbury-Jones & Isham, 2020).

2.3 Feasible explanations of Domestic Violence

Gerino's (2018) study asserts that responding to the question 'what is domestic violence' may appear easy, however, it is very complex. He states that abuse can comprise, psychological; physical; financial; sexual, and emotional abuse. (HM Government, 2013). Further, researchers assert that the phrase "intimate partner" points out that violence may be perpetrated by either gender, despite age, sexual orientation, or marital status (Archer, 2000; Capaldi et al, 2007; Ali et al, 2016).

In their study review, (Ali et al, 2016) discovered varied categorizations relating to IPV in the research-based literature. The authors countered three leading perspectives utilized to categorize IPV, conforming to the pattern of violence, abuse, or perpetrators (Ali et al, 2016). On the other hand, WHO (2000) depicted abuse as physical, psychological, and sexual categories. Scientific literature documents that women's physical health is commonly fairly high in the majority of settings at their young phase (Ali et al, 2016). Simultaneously, young people are likely to have accelerated psychological, physical, and cognitive modifications, experimentation, and stress, which is frequently overwhelming (Roman & Frantz, 2013). In addition to that, mortality usually begins in the later stage of life, caused by events or behaviors developed in the younger stage (Viner et al, 2012). Some of the types of unhealthy and hazardous behavior include school dropout, substance abuse, eating disorders, high-risk sexual behaviors, early pregnancy, and lack of physical activity (Viner et al, 2012).

Furthermore, IPV is likely to influence young people to undertake those kinds of risky behavior (Maguele, Tlou, Taylor, & Khuzwayo, 2020; Roman & Frantz, 2013; Wandera et al. 2021). Research studies in India and sub-Saharan Africa have determined that young people's experiences of IPV and sexual force escalate their possibility of HIV infection, despite it taking place in dating relationships or marriage (Conroy et al., 2021; Tandrayen-Ragoobur, 2020). Additionally, IPV in the younger generation is observed to possess an adverse impact on their educational attainments, particularly in non-industrialized countries, that have considerable women dropping out of school once they get married (Santhya et al, 2010; Speizer & Pearson, 2011). The psychosocial repercussions of domestic violence certainly have implications for young people's well-being and learning (Lloyd, 2018), and this will be examined in more detail in the following section.

2.4 Psychosocial repercussions of Domestic Violence on young people

Young people are at an important stage of their lives, and they need to determine the basis for their future relating to health and life (Odgers & Jensen, 2020; Orben, Tomova, & Blakemore, 2020). The impact of experiencing IPV at this phase in life is anticipated to alter the psychological, physical, and economic well-being of young people soon. Therefore, advancing in a life that is free of violence can be a crucial investment in their future (Chandra-Mouli, 2012).

In an article by Lloyd (2018), he asserts that each school is presumably to have young people affected by the aspect of domestic violence. He further emphasizes that these encounters of domestic violence as a component of their lives on this phenomenon are observed as a standard practice in the South African context (Lloyd, 2018).

A 2012 study surveyed young girls and stated that young women ought to obey their male counterparts (Breetzke, 2012). In addition, a research study by Chitashvili, et al. (2010:1) discovered that 78.3% of domestic violence female sufferers believed that this issue needs to be managed within the family and not be reported.

The social perceptions above, in addition to others, originate from the domestic violence victims' emotive experiences. Furthermore, emotions such as anxiety, fear, aggression, and anger; experienced by young people subjected to domestic violence may impact them later in life (Rode, Rode, Marganski, & Januszek, 2019). In addition, young people exposed to domestic violence undertake roles and employ survival strategies that are likely to be helpful, however, later may turn out to be costly and harmful (Överlien & Hydén, 2009:282).

A randomized control trial states that, while research on health impacts remains limited, both economic and emotional IPV are widespread (Gibbs, Dunkle & Jewkes, 2018). COVID-19 Pandemic has caused a lot of disturbance all over the world, it has disrupted people's lives, which has resulted in numerous states and cities applying official "lockdown" policies (Joska et al, 2020). The media reported that ever since the lockdown began, whereby people spent a lot of time indoors for their safety, calls received by the police department also decreased (Das, Das, & Mandal, 2020). However, cases relating to DV had a slight increase during a stay-at-home time, as families and couples had a lot of time together (Das, Das, & Mandal, 2020). In addition, domestic violence cases increased by 7.5% in the past year (Leslie & Wilson, 2020). This is the year when most people lost their jobs, and salary cuts, and with a struggling economy, many people became dependent on one another. Researchers state that not being able to maintain social ties or meet financial responsibilities, particularly increased both DV reported cases and family stress (Beland, Brodeur, Haddad, & Mikola, 2020).

According to Sullivan and colleagues (2018), not only is domestic violence a devastating experience with both physical and psychological effects, but it may also result in negative and positive effects of trauma when one is exposed to it. Some of the negative effects of domestic violence are linked to the victim of abuse having an aggressive or disruptive behavior (Gabriel et al, 2018). Researchers assert that the negative, as well as positive effects relating to the experienced trauma, seem to be interlinked (Oginska-bulik & Michalska, 2020).

Lloyd (2018) announced that when it comes to young adults, some observable features indicate domestic violence has been experienced, comprising depression, self-blame, suicidal ideation, self-harm, risk-taking behavior, eating disorders substance abuse, criminal behavior, disaffection with education, as well as poor social networks. Saguy, Reifen-Tagar, and Joel (2021) stated that one of the most concerning and studied aspects of our time is gender inequality and emphasized that this shows that when an individual experiences domestic violence, they are likely to have a varied effect along gender lines. With regards to gender differences when it comes to behavioral patterns viewed on domestic violence victims/survivors, although both genders possess aggressive behaviors, researchers state that there are certain differences associated with the form of violence each gender exerts (Darj, Wijewardena, Lindmark, & Axemo, 2017). The literature above clearly demonstrates that contrasting gender roles do indeed initiate the formation of gender-based violence, thus it is crucial to explore more about the study area.

Researchers assert that Domestic violence and abuse (DVA) can harm young people's health as well as their well-being (Arai et al, 2021). Furthermore, numerous meta-analyses report linked young people's exposure to DVA and several adjustment problems comprising poor peer relationships and commitment to risky conduct (Calcia, Bedi, Howard, Lempp, & Oram, 2021; Huntley et al. 2019). DVA in young people is additionally linked with adverse health outcomes later in their lives (Arai et al., 2021).

2.5 Domestic violence Globally

Domestic violence is an incident affecting women from every cultural background all over the world (Akhmedshina, 2020). Research estimates that as high as 4 million women encounter sexual assault from their intimate partner relationship yearly (Stirling, Chalmers, & Chipchase, 2020). Additionally, any exposure to trauma, whether sexual, emotional, psychological, or physical may lead to a victim being 2.7% more susceptible to encountering somatic syndromes (Stirling, Chalmers, & Chipchase, 2020). Vetten (2017) announced that, in an

intention to decrease long-term neglect of DV in South Africa, it was decided in 1998, that the legislators place certain responsibilities relating to domestic violence on the police, including accountability relationships as well as practices. Furthermore, South Africa's failure to address and respond quickly to women's problems, such as minimal leadership positions, and political involvement, may influence considerably DV (Daniels & Adonis, 2017).

According to Ashraf, Abrar-ul-Haq, and Ashraf (2017), it is a usual belief that Pakistan women possess limited privileges or rights in a male-dominated community. They also believe that women do well in urban, middle as well as upper areas of the community (Ashraf, Abrar-ulHaq & Ashraf, 2017). Previous international research found that young people who witness DV incidents from their parents struggle with their psychosocial development (Hall, 2019). Furthermore, research states that having witnessed the incident as a child increases the risk of that child being the perpetrator of violence when they grow up (Forke et al, 2018), which can be explained as modeling the behavior of their parents. It was discovered in India, that about 37% of women experienced domestic violence in the past, and 28.9% presently encountered it (Nadda, Malik, Rohilla, Chahal, Chayal, & Arora, 2018).

Parkinson's (2019) review of international literature identified heightened rates of DV against women being evidenced during post-disaster recovery, particularly in developing countries. In Iran, there are higher rates of domestic violence, especially emotional abuse and is committed by the women's partners (Saffari et al, 2017). Nevertheless, there is limited existing research on Iran about domestic violence (Nikparvar, Stith, Anderson, & Panaghi, 2018). In Iran patriarchy is so widespread, that their cultural system proposes that women ought to be subordinate to males, for instance, females cannot do whatever they desire, and they do not have full freedom (Meirosa, Femmy, & Mariati, 2020). Additionally, women are not given a chance to access high positions in politics and society as gender roles in Iran are a norm (Meirosa, Femmy, & Mariati, 2020). These findings demonstrate the possible reason behind the lower rate of reported sexual abuse cases in Iran, as the society believes that a woman has a duty to her partner/husband to satisfy his every need, including sexual needs.

2. 6 Domestic Violence in South Africa

Although domestic violence affects every country in the world, however, Africa has the highest rate as opposed to other countries (Field, Onah, van Heyningen, & Honikman, 2018). Researchers announced that 87,000 calls on domestic violence cases were received by the police in South Africa, and within a time frame of only eight days lockdown began (Action, 2020). Even though television and other media platforms have shown numerous DV cases occurring in South Africa, however, our president failed to prioritize health practitioners such as social workers when the country was in dire need of them (Rasool, 2020).

With deep-seated effects of domestic violence that have existed for years, young people in South Africa are vulnerable to numerous risk factors such as poverty and inequality. This may be explained by South Africa being known as one of the underdeveloped countries in the world, as well as having many lower-status income families. “Poverty and inequality are crucial social dynamics that have contributed to South Africa’s burden of violent injury” (Seedat et al., 2009, p.1014). Research studies indicate that poverty is one of the chief drivers of DV, whereby women relied on their partners for financial security (Gibbs, Jewkes, Willan, & Washington, 2018; Hatcher et al, 2019). Since the beginning of this COVID-19 pandemic, many people lost their jobs, and it is difficult to find another as our economy has taken a big knock. Some African cultures believe that the man should provide for his wife and children, when he has difficulties fulfilling such duties, he may feel like his role as a man has diminished. Isaac and Mthembu (2018) state that even though there is existing research that contributes to the way media construct domestic violence, nevertheless, there is limited literature relating to young people.

2.7 Socio-cultural factors for DV in South Africa

Even though factors influencing IPV among women are widely available in scientific literature, it is especially important to comprehend socio-cultural factors that influence IPV among young females. In addition, knowing the risk factors associated with the population may prove to be useful in reducing the impacts associated with the phenomenon (Gibbs et al., 2020; Moreira, & da Costa, 2020; Yakubovich et al., 2018). Socio-cultural factors include customs, beliefs, and cultural practices and societies that influence the feelings, thoughts, and actions of the social group (World Health Organization, 2009; Samuel, 2019). While socio-cultural factors affecting IPV can be observed among adult women, nevertheless, there are limited studies that focus on younger females (Jewkes et al, 2002).

The World Health Organisation (WHO, 2013) announced that "30% of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner". Further, this report shows that approximately 38% of international female murders were done by their close partner (WHO, 2013). This is verified in the South African background by Jewkes, Abrahams & Mathews (2009) who announce that domestic violence generally leads to the murder of women by their male counterparts as a "harsh outcome of partner violence. On the other hand, Vetten (2014) states that an individual may not depend on statistical explanations of domestic violence in South Africa since they reflect only on cases that are reported and have led to protective orders. Gracia et al. (2019) contend that these descriptions fail to indicate the realistic degree of domestic violence in South Africa.

2. 8 Theoretical Framework: The Ecological Systems Theory

2.8.1 Introduction

This section provides an outline of the theoretical framework utilized in the study. Kivunja (2018) suggests that the theoretical framework is essential as it produces a ‘blueprint’ of what to observe in the data if the thoughts about what you notice in the data are relevant and assists you in adequately discussing your study findings given what current theories hypothesize. Xiong et al. (2021) assert that the fundamental purpose to establish a theoretical framework is so that you can possess a scholarly foundation for logical meanings involved in your study. Further, Kivunja (2018) argues that developing a theoretical framework assists you to corroborate your argumentation.

There have been myriad theories developed to elucidate the existence and maintenance of DV. Most theoretical research on domestic violence relied on theories that serve a single purpose (DeKeseredy, & Hall-Sanchez, 2018; Douglas, 2018; Mfecane, 2018). However, lately, there is a change concerning an ecological viewpoint that considers the way the individual reacts to their intense multifaceted environment (Ahmed et al., 2020; Blythe et al., 2018; Malik et al. 2020; Vicente-Molina, Fernández-Sainz, & Izagirre-Olaizola, 2018). Contrary to past theories of human development, that explain individual and environment independently for development, Bronfenbrenner suggested that the external influences on the individual’s environment whether direct or indirect can have equivalent consequences on individuals’ life course (Pittenger et al. 2016). In essence, the ecological systems theory preserves that it is essential to consider that both the environment and its surroundings willingly shape the effect of a person's life.

2.8.2 Ecological Systems Theory (EST)

This present study is based on Urie Bronfenbrenner's (2002) ecological systems theory, which contemplates childhood development through a contextual viewpoint, to give an additional exhaustive understanding of the consequences of domestic violence on young people. The theoretical framework is best aligned with this study as Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory of human development and socialization looks at individuals in their environments (Mudavanhu & Schenk, 2014). Bronfenbrenner's theory views a child's development as internal to the environment of the networks of relationships that shape her or his environment (Paquette & Ryan, 2001). Later Bronfenbrenner named this theory "bioecological systems theory" to highlight that a child's biology is a fundamental background sustaining his/her development (Paquette & Ryan, 2001). Following Bronfenbrenner's fundamental hypothesis (2002), the environment constitutes five layers of systems, which links in complicated ways and can be influenced and counterfeit by an individual's development. This theory can be extended to demonstrate the progression of a particular relationship and is specifically appropriate for depicting the unstable systems of young people victims of domestic violence (Bronfenbrenner, 2002).

Following Berk (2000), the theory focuses on the context of the individual's environment. This approach observes the individual as living within a complicated system of relationships affected by miscellaneous layers of systems that are vital in the forming of young people's identities and their need to belong (Donald, Lazarus & Moola, 2014). Paquette and Ryan (2001) assert that any shift in a single layer will wave all over other layers, and thus one must observe a child not only in their primary context but in other relationships namely; family, school, and societal environment. The five layers of frameworks are illustrated below:

2.8.2.1 The Microsystem

The individual's present environment consists of a structure of influence named the microsystem (Crawford, 2020). Bronfenbrenner (1979) characterized the microsystem as "a sequence of activities, responsibilities, and interpersonal relationships experienced gradually by the developing individual in a certain setting specifically material and physical characteristics" (p. 22). Bronfenbrenner (1989, 227) highlights that the feasible understanding of the development of the individuals' characteristics in the current environment has contributed to the fundamental definition of the microsystem. Berk (2000) supports this by asserting that the microsystem is an immediate environment for a young person and comprises the structures that

the child preserves direct contacts. Some examples of these structures are peers, family, school, society, and friends.

In line with the present study, it would be the immediate family that the young woman is in close contact with. According to Burton and Leoschut, (2013) in the family environment, parents play a fundamental role in shaping the favorable or adverse emotional and social obligations of the child. In addition, this close contact would play a key role in how young people view themselves, understand domestic violence and the influence media has on perpetuating the phenomenon (Berk, 2000). Paquette and Ryan (2001) illustrate that at this level the student's relationships with others can be influenced in two ways-farther from the student and to the student. To demonstrate, a student's parental support and teachers influence their behavior and state of mind. Nonetheless, the student may influence the parent's and teacher's behavior and mindset. Bronfenbrenner (1989) titled this aspect 'bi-directional influence and demonstrate how they exist between every single level of surroundings. Puroila and Karila (2001) hypothesize that from the onset, the student's attachment to other people is binary and thereafter, the student can govern contemporary interactional relationships. Bronfenbrenner (1979) acclaimed that the systems incorporating the microsystem can influence the person individually, and in collaboration with another. Crawford (2020) suggests that this sign gives rise to the second level of Bronfenbrenner's ecological system.

2.8.2.2 The Mesosystem

The mesosystem incorporates the relationships among microsystems, and the progression of development connecting the student and each framework in the microsystem that is bidirectional and encompass bi-directional repercussions between these diverse frameworks (Bronfenbrenner, 2002). The explanation of this system remains unaltered, namely, it has endured Bronfenbrenner´s intrinsic critique (Bronfenbrenner 1989, 227). Paquette and Ryan (2001) depict the mesosystem that characterizes it as one that develops the relationships through the student's microsystems. For example, how a school and home environment interact constructs a mesosystem (Crawford, 2020). This is in line with what Bronfebrenner (1979) asserted, that the mesosystem is linked with multifold microsystems that incorporate the child, with a parent at home, teachers in the school setting, or friends/peers. For example, a child who directly or indirectly experiences abuse in their family home can go through withdrawal from peers at school. Kempster (2014) affirms this statement by arguing that this child may

additionally lose confidence in authority figures, in this case, teachers, and consecutively affect unfavorably on the child's behavior and perspective.

2.8.2.3 The Exosystem

Paquette and Ryan (2001) stipulate that this layer delineates the broader social system whereby the child does not directly function. Harkonen (2003) advocates this and indicates that the exosystem consists of choices, possibilities, and occasions, as well as ways that the growing child does not influence. According to Bronfenbrenner and Evans (2000), the exosystem is similar to the mesosystem considering that it is created of microsystems that communicate with one another; yet, in the exosystem, the minimum of one microsystem must not involve the individual in the middle of this system. Berk (2000) contends that the system in this layer influences the child's development through communicating with a certain system in his/her microsystem. Paquette and Ryan (2001) highlight some of the examples as community-focused family resources or the parent's workplace. World Health Organization. (2018) propose that the social context whether negative or positive in which a child grows up is likely to influence his/her development. Thus, the normalization of violence among young people who grow up in a violent community is common (Bacchini & Esposito, 2020).

Crawford (2020) produced a parent's workplace example which asserted that "the child is not necessarily a part of the parent's workplace system; however, the child could effortlessly be influenced by that system in the event the parent is required to work long hours, possibly missing school events or even simply coming home stressed from work". Kempster (2014) adds to this example by asserting that the parent's stress from work may escalate the possibility of conflict among the parents at home, resulting in the child's risk of exposure to domestic violence. Crawford (2020) argues that since the child is not a fragment of the work environment, this should not be a division of his/ her mesosystems or microsystem. Additionally, although this layer does not include the child, the impact is still equivalent, for instance, when a child is sick, the parent may miss work, as a result, affecting the work system even though the child was not a fragment of it (Crawford, 2020).

2.8.2.4 The Macrosystem

Bronfenbrenner and Morris (2006) define a macrosystem as including ideology frameworks, qualities, development, opportunities, traditions, and beliefs established internally. In addition, it pertains to the external layer of the child's environment encompassing "dominant values, beliefs, customs, and economic and social systems of a culture or subculture, which shifts slowly down in a manifold manner to individual's lifestyle" (Papalia, 2006, p.37). This layer comprises wide systems that add to the development of an atmosphere of violence namely economic inequities, norms of what accounts for tolerable violence, traditional gender roles, and social discrimination. Following Bronfenbrenner (2002), the public and theoretical frameworks which are considered normal for the macrosystem are removed, beginning with a single generation, to the methods for diverse cultural institutions namely family, school, organizations, and work environments that abate the methods of socialization. According to John (2018), it is important to consider the apartheid structure and history of colonialism when seeking to understand the violence that persists to be evident in South Africa currently.

Researchers state that "Poverty and inequality are fundamental social dynamics that have added to South Africa's burden of violent injury" (Seedat et al., 2009, p.1014). Socio-economic conditions and current gender inequalities in South Africa are likely to restrict young people from poorer community's access to necessary resources like education, proper healthcare, and social services to-some-extent leading to various emotions like frustration, anger, and even violence (Haffejee, & Levine, 2020; Ndinga-Kanga, van der Merwe & Hartford, 2020). Additionally, children who grow up in communities where violence is common may perceive the environment as much more terrifying (Lalla et al., 2020; Maringira & Masiya, 2018). Notably, Papalia (2006) posits that since these children grow up in less ideal conditions, the inequality in the quality of education they receive may additionally lead to divergence in their understanding and responses to violence.

2.8.2.5 The Chronosystem

According to Crawford (2020) when Bronfenbrenner initially developed the Ecological Systems theory (EST), he neither considered time as a concept in human development. Bronfenbrenner (1986) later added this construct, noting that numerous human developmental theorists hardly viewed time as relating to the development of aging. Crawford (2020) reiterates this statement by specifying that when individuals grow older and mature, they develop as their

biological state changes. For instance, when an individual grows, their lifestyle changes, and may prefer to spend more time in the community or with friends, lessening time with family. "The Chronosystem increases the aspect of time: the measure of change or balance in a child's sphere" (Papalia, 2006, p.38). Bronfenbrenner (2002) asserts that the chronosystem can refer to lengthy-time dimensions of the individual through the period of a life expectancy, precisely the sociologically reported time measurement of the macrosystem where the individual lives.

2.8.2.6 The rationale for using Ecological System Theory for this study

Even though this study does not concentrate on determining DV perpetrators and victims, it is useful to acquire a comprehensive understanding of what constitutes the DV behaviors as well as on advancing DV-associated awareness among young people. Following the study topic which is to thoroughly explore the construction of DV aspect as portrayed by media, Bronfenbrenner's ecological systems theory can additionally augment our understanding of how the effects of the whole ecological system, including the young people's function in it, can lead to the identification of risk factors related to the population and be useful in reducing the impacts linked with the phenomenon (Gibbs et al., 2020; Moreira, & da Costa, 2020; Yakubovich et al., 2018).

The relationship between the young individual and the influence of domestic violence cannot be observed separately (Øverlien, Hellevik& Korkmaz, 2020). It needs deliberation of complicated and complementary relationships in the young person's environment that influence their development and regulation (Noble-Carr, Moore, & McArthur, 2020). Similarly, Ecological Systems theory affirms, that children do not solely influence by the environment, yet are both functional and responsive given that their reactions construct the environment (Bronfenfenbrenner, 1979). Papalia (2006) raises another crucial feature relating to Bronfenbrenner's perspective was considered, which is that the child's understanding of their environment is perceived as providing a fundamental understanding of their emotional and behavioral reaction.

Since the purpose of this study is on authenticating the DV aspect, an ecological approach must be considered as it allows researchers to explore numerous interconnections within the five ecological layers which influence young people at risk of being victimized. Thus, utilizing Ecological Systems Theory is fundamental to providing greater awareness and understanding of young people's narratives, and their environment based on their responses.

2.9 Conclusion

This chapter explored and conceptualized peer-reviewed literature and other data sources whose focus was on young people's constructions of domestic violence. The review provided a broad understanding of the effects of domestic violence on young people. Further, it listed the role that media plays in perpetuating the aspect of domestic violence. This study employed an interpretative approach, directed by Bronfenbrenner's Ecological Systems Theory, to explore the complexity of intervening for young people who are domestic violence victims and understanding the phenomenon. The following chapter addresses the research methodology utilized for the present study.

CHAPTER THREE
METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter addresses the research methodology that was used in the dissertation. It explains the procedure followed in doing the study and concludes with ethical considerations. This scoping study is reinforced by the perspective upheld by advocates of systematic reviews, which asserts that the methods employed throughout the distinct stages are managed rigidly and transparently (CRD 2001, Mays et al. 2001). For instance, the procedure ought to be documented in authenticated detail to permit replication of the study by others. The present study combined and critically assessed numerous diverse studies on young people's constructions of domestic violence, to generate a new and complementary analysis of findings, to understand the media influence in understanding DV in young people, and to determine the role media plays in DV perpetration. A better understanding of this neglected aspect will help shape people's views, by generating knowledge that will demonstrate the importance of more prevention and intervention measures for young people who have or are experiencing DV.

3.2 Methodological approach

This study conducted a scoping review methodological approach of published journal articles that address domestic violence on young people within the media, guided by scoping review framework suggested by Arksey and O'Malley (2005). Scoping reviews permit a structured and comprehensive mapping of the available literature on a certain topic area (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005).

Main Characteristics

Generally, scoping reviews aspire to map research on a specific subject, explore the foundations of literature in the area, recognize and analyze the fundamental theories, concepts, and sources of proof, as well as gaps in the research study (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005; Daudt, van Mossel, & Scott, 2013). Investigators utilize scoping reviews to tackle wide topics which may comprise several varied study methods and designs, or examine an area with limited comprehensive reviews (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005). Additionally, Arksey and O'Malley (2005) assert that scoping reviews can be done as one synopsis of research, or even as a continuous form of review. Furthermore, scoping reviews are distinguishable from systematic reviews, as their

main focus is on a carefully defined question, nevertheless, it views broader topics (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005). Scoping reviews are seldom likely to produce answers to particular questions from a somewhat narrow field of quality evaluated studies (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005).

Even though scoping reviews are not as in-depth in nature as systematic reviews, nevertheless, they need time to conduct and effort. In addition, a scoping review appears to be a rigorous system with a different purpose to that of systemic reviews. Normally, scoping reviews don't have a qualified appraisal of the proof, but instead, they incorporate existing literature without balancing the evidence (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005). Several researchers are perturbed by customary frameworks' failure to supply an analysis of the research quality (Levac, Colquhoun, & O'Brian, 2010; Daudt, van Mossel, & Scott, 2013). Further, they advocate appraising literature for the findings to be circulated to others efficiently for policymakers, practice, or future research (Levac, Colquhoun, & O'Brian, 2010; Daudt, van Mossel, & Scott, 2013).

The grounds of a scoping review are generally to scrutinize the degree, nature, and dimension of a research pursuit in a certain area studied (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005). Researchers also state that clarifying and connecting the study purpose of scoping review to the research question can surge the performance and quality of later synthesis of research (Daudt, van Mossel, & Scott, 2013; Levac, Colquhoun, & O'Brian, 2010; Shankardass, Solar, Murphy, Greaves, & O'Campo, 2012).

3.3 Methods

The multi-step descriptive, analytic process by Arksey and O’Malley (2005) decides the essence of each document incorporated in the review. The purpose of this scoping review technique was to establish a wide research question from a broad breadth of literature. Arksey and O’Malley (2005) advocated a five-step process for conducting scoping reviews and the process was further complemented by recommendations from alternative investigators. The steps are described below:

Stage one: Identify the research question

Identified a broad research question. Originally, I aimed to review the literature on how the media portray domestic violence against young people. As I continued into the literature, my research question emerged to examine whether there was any evidence that media influence the public in understanding DV; and if it plays a role in DV perpetration on young people. Identifying the media representation and influence on this complex aspect will create meaningful results that may influence future research. The preliminary research question driving my literature search is "What are the constructions of domestic violence on young people as portrayed by the media?"

Aim of the study

This study aimed to map and analyze studies that have examined the way young people talk about, understand and construct issues of domestic violence, uncover existing evidence in the field, and establish areas for future research.

Objectives of the study

- To map and analyze available literature on domestic violence amongst young people as constructed by the media.
- To examine if the media influence the public understanding of domestic violence.
- To explore whether the media plays a role in DV perpetration on young people.

Stage two: Identifying relevant literature

This scoping review intends to provide published studies that aptly answer the main research question. To accomplish this, Arksey and O'Malley (2005) described an approach that comprises searching "electronic databases, reference lists, hand-searching key journals and searching existing networks, relevant organizations, and conferences" (p. 10) to gather relevant studies. Plasticity and exhaustive searches are fundamental to scoping studies and need researchers to undertake spontaneously at every step (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005; Daudt, van Mossel, & Scott, 2013). The searches for this study were not limited to scholarly articles but instead comprised several sources such as reference lists and government documents to enable a collection of a wide range of literature.

For the present scoping review study, PRISMA guidelines were endorsed and employed to help structure reporting (Moher et al., 2009). The search criterion encompassed: searching academic databases, PubMed, Google Scholar, Journal, references from articles, grey literature search as well as Hand searching. The keywords utilized were “domestic violence,” “intimate partner violence,” “gender-based violence,” “young people,” “scholar,” “students,” “children,” “constructions,” understandings,” and “narratives,” “study.”

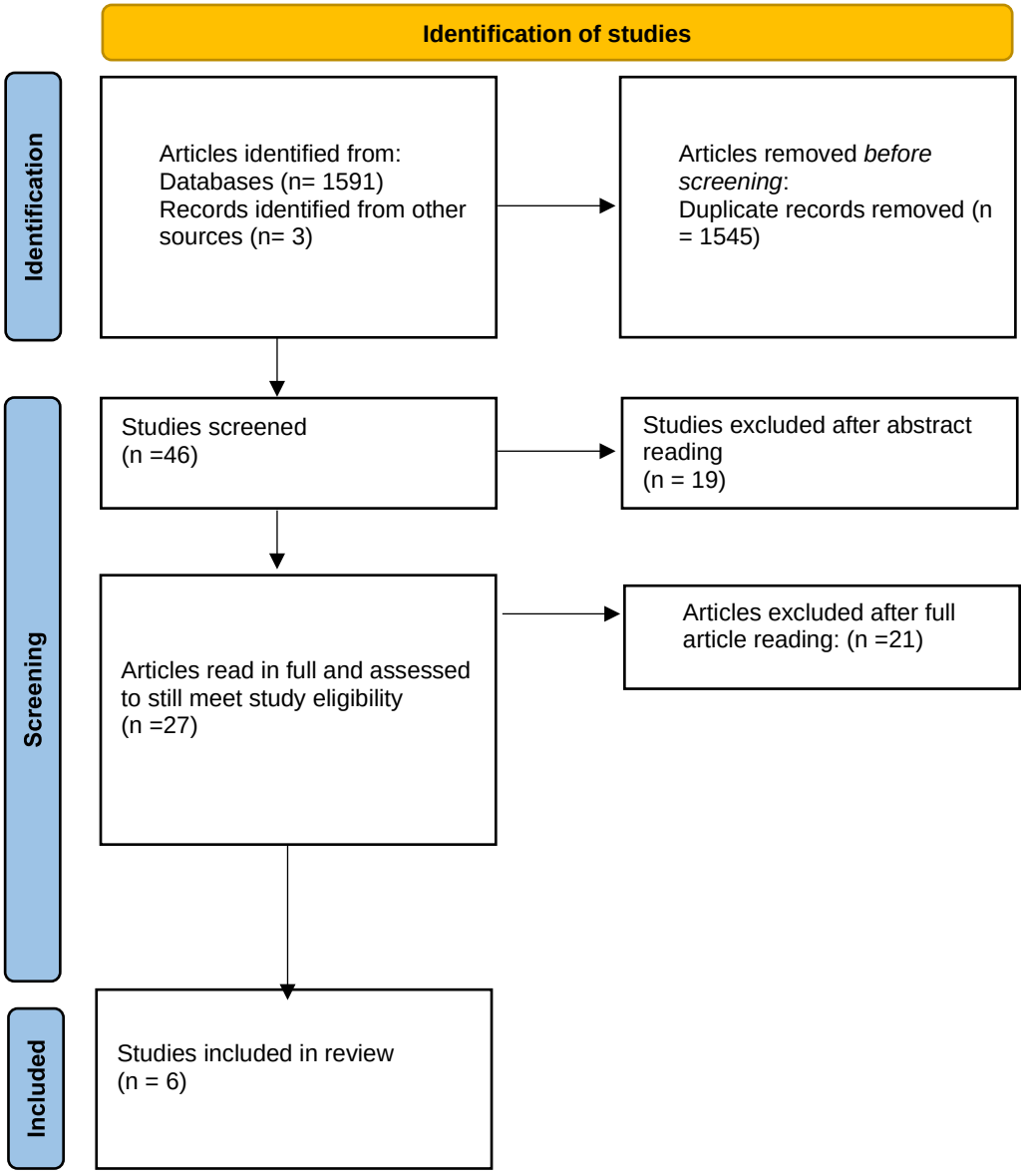
Originally, PubMed and SABINET online databases were selected for their enrichment in the subject area, employed in similar literature reviews (Pollack, Austin, & Grisso, 2010), and constant maintenance of numerous sources. Included literature was published peer-reviewed articles in journals with primary studies employing qualitative research design method as well as grey literature discussing the research questions. The academic databases search yielded 1591 studies. Upon search completion, reviewing titles for the research studies was done to remove those that were not eligible for 1545 studies. There were 46 studies screened and 27 studies left after screening and 6 related to constructions of domestic violence in young people. Further, the review was conducted to gather ample information to warrant a comprehensive examination of available scientific sources that highlight domestic violence in young people. I selectively searched scholarly and grey literature for information on domestic violence and young people in the media, employing a purposely extensive list of keyword combinations and phrases. The database search strategy and results are reproduced below.

Table 2 *Database search strategy*

Date of literature search	**Keywords used**	**Number of articles retrieved**	**Search Engine**
August 2021	“domestic violence”, “intimate partner violence”, “gender-based violence”, “young people”, “scholar”, “students”, “children”, “constructions”,” understandings”, and “narratives”, “study”.	**415**	PubMed
March 2022	“domestic violence”, “intimate partner violence”, “gender-based violence”, “young people”, “scholar”, “students”, “children”, “constructions”,” understandings”, and “narratives”, “study”.	**1160**	Google Scholar
April 2022	“domestic violence”, “intimate partner violence”, “gender-based violence”, “young people”, “scholar”, “students”, “children”, “constructions”,” understandings”, and “narratives”, “study”.	**16**	SABINET online

Fig 1

Search Results (PRISMA flow diagram)



From: Page MJ, McKenzie JE, Bossuyt PM, Boutron I, Hoffmann TC, Mulrow CD, et al. The PRISMA 2020 statement: an updated guideline for reporting systematic reviews. BMJ 2021;372: n71. doi: 10.1136/bmj.n71.

This study employed an altered PCC (Population, Concept, and Context) Framework to discover the eligibility of the study research questions (Figure 2 below). Relevant studies were identified by conducting an inclusive search on electronic databases such as PubMed. Peer reviewed articles with qualitative research design methods were utilized, as well as non-peer reviewed articles that address the research questions. To attain an inclusive search, websites were

also utilized, for example, World Health Organization (WHO) as well as government websites to gather guidelines for the aspect of domestic violence due to high rates associated with it. Furthermore, the study used databases to find pertinent literature, such as theses and dissertations from SABINET online and google scholar, to establish if there were any relevant literature that could be compared (Pollack, Austin, & Grisso, 2010). The search key terms comprised "Young people or students or scholars and domestic violence or intimate partner violence and media or gender-based violence" (see figure 2 above).

Table 3 *PCC Framework*

Population	Concept	Context
Young people or students or scholar	Domestic violence or intimate partner violence	Published media

Stage 3: Study selection criteria

Identification of inclusion and exclusion criteria were established before the onset of the review but were adjusted as the review progressed. Researchers advocated that at the origin of the research study inclusion criteria are ingrained to yield relevant information and shed light on the research approach (Levac, Colquhoun, & O'Brian, 2010; Daudt, van Mossel, & Scott, 2013). Studies were included if their title or/and abstract indicated they met the subsequent criteria: thinking of time constraints, as this study is meant to be a short dissertation and the researcher has a prescribed time frame to complete it, published studies between 2011 and 2021 were chosen; accessible in the English language; covered qualitative studies on young people, except where it was hand searched and relevant to a particular theme, studies that were based on the population of young people, and those not relating to domestic violence or intimate partner violence, or gender-based violence.

Studies were instantly excluded if their focal point was on: the violence that arises outside of an intimate partner setting; studies that were quantitative or studies employing secondary data sources and thus did not engage with or cannot provide descriptions of young people’s views; studies that engaged young people but focus on parental domestic violence, studies that were in a foreign language were excluded in the review due to cost and time that would be required to

translate them. Only studies that meet the eligibility criteria were included in this scoping review (see table 3. Below).

Table 4

Inclusion and exclusion criteria

INCLUSION	EXCLUSION
Be in full text	Not accessible or not in full text
Be in English language only	Non-English studies
Qualitative studies	Quantitative studies
Literature from 2011-2021	Literature before 2011
Studies based on the population of young people	Studies not based on young people
Studies that engaged verbally with young people during data collection	Studies using secondary data sources
	Studies not relating to domestic violence or intimate partner violence or gender-based violence
Studies relating to domestic violence or intimate partner violence or genderbased violence	Studies relating to parental domestic violence

Stage four: Charting the data

Data extraction from articles that met the inclusion criteria was conducted following recommendations by Arksey and O'Malley (2005). The process of data charting intends to develop a descriptive analysis of the results that correlate to the study aim and research question for the scoping study. Charting involved synthesizing and interpreting data according to key issues and topics. The key issues and topics from the retrieved studies were "charted, organized, and sorted," owing to the perspective of developing an organized data analysis. This sorting procedure is conducted following key issues and topics that the data analysis will focus on. A data charting tool was developed (*see Appendix B*), using an MS Excel database program, to ensure relevant and efficient data charting from selected articles (Armstrong, Hall, Doyle & Waters, 2011). Charting of data involved having to enter data into a table for each selected

article, and ensuring data captured is comparable between included articles. This stage is also known as the data extraction stage, it assists in making sense of the included studies from various databases. All included studies were extracted according to their characteristics, and documented as follows:

- Author (s)
- Year
- Title
- Type of publication
- Country
- Focus of study
- Participants
- Methods
- Data analysis
- Main findings

The charting process for the present study included what Pawson (2002) termed a 'narrative view'. Before deciding on the type of information to be documented in this stage, the researcher needed to consider the relevance to the study as the analysis was based on the compiled data. This is in line with what Pawson (2002) proposed in his study, that solely generating a summary is not adequate for the readers who might need to make decisions about the results of the study. Thus, using a "descriptive-analytic method" (numerical and narrative summary), that collects information from all primary studies included would be useful and yield better results.

Stage five: Collating, summarizing, and coverage the results

When charting data in this scoping study, I needed to utilize a coherent and transparent method. Following Arksey and O'Malley's (2005) framework, I charted the nature and range of studies that met inclusion criteria. I then reviewed this range of data to enable me to capture complicated evidence that would answer the main research question. Data was gathered and generated and some piloted graphs and tables depicting the number of mentions, and particular needs, I found smaller data to focus on. With the guidance of my supervisor, at this point, I realized I was not responding to my primary question. Thus, I adhered to Arksey and O'Malley's advice to prioritize some characteristics of the literature following implications for anticipated research and what was extremely eminent.

Thinking about the study's main research question, I initially used descriptive statistics and constructed tables and figures to portray these numbers. Following that, Braun and Clarke's (2006) thematic content analysis (TA) were done. This facilitated understanding of research gaps, areas of importance and opportunity in the central topic, and media portrayal playing a role in the understanding of the aspect and the main perpetration of domestic violence on young people. Braun and Clarke (2006) describe thematic analysis (TA) as a type of method that identifies, analyze, as well as report similar patterns within data. One of the advantages of using TA is its flexibility (Javadi & Zarea, 2016).

Data charting for coding was confined to the results commenting on young people's meanings and views. After pertinent data was established, it was then coded into arising themes. These themes were mainly invented inductively, as the young people's data from selected studies were extracted and scrutinized for both similar and distinguishing features (Padgett, 2008). Three prominent themes emerged from the data: constructions of DV, normalization of violence and agency, coping, and resistance strategies. A brief outline of every data put into sub-themes was done, to make sense of complicated and different data to portray answers to the research questions and connect findings to research objectives (Levac, Colquhoun, & O'Brian, 2010; Daudt, van Mossel, & Scott, 2013). In addition, conforming to these complicated overarching themes portray the answer to the research objective of mapping research that links domestic violence and young people.

For all selected studies, data were summarized and grouped into sub-themes. This made it easier to understand complicated and distinct data to establish answers to the research questions moreover connect findings to research goals (Levac, Colquhoun, & O'Brian, 2010; Daudt, van Mossel, & Scott, 2013). The second method of analysis used in this study was thematic content analysis to categorize emerging themes under each included article indicating the results of the subthemes. Understanding these complicated overarching themes constitute the answer to one of the research objectives, which is to map existing literature on domestic violence in young people. The narrative account based on articles in (*Appendix B*) summarizes objectives two and three that encapsulate the way media shape the understanding of domestic violence, and the role media plays in domestic violence perpetration on young people. The ramification of scoping reviews is formed by the purpose. Generally, the narrative account provides a synopsis of all reviewed miscellaneous material, extracted meaning, and relevance to a subject that is enlightening and intellectually creative (Davis, Drey, & Gould, 2009).

According to Arksey and O'Malley (2005), the ramification comprises a narrative or descriptive report of existing literature that facilitates for identification of gaps, thematic structuring of the literature, and summarizing both known and unknown as well as dissemination of research findings. A scoping review methodological process is useful in raising a misunderstood subject, such as the construction of domestic violence on young people. The scoping review approach examines an extensive body of evidence, and it is a predominant initial step before commencing a more comprehensive knowledge synthesis, especially when the aspect under investigation is being organized for the first time or current literature is scanty. The scoping process allows analysts to characterize the range, extent, and essence of research questions, allowing it effectiveness for establishing strategic questions that may provide answers based on existing evidence (Shankardass et al., 2012). Products of finest scoping reviews raise the productivity and quality of subsequent evidence synthesis and may steer the direction of prospective research along with intervention strategies (Shankardass et al., 2012).

When communicating the results of this scoping study, I had to ensure that I remain close to the young people's descriptions of their views, understandings, and meanings of domestic violence. To achieve this, I made use of quotations from young people that participated in the included studies, as well as to corroborate the central themes that emerged from the data analysis of the study. According to Finfgeld (2003), using original data gathered from research participants is perceived as a fundamental strategy to improve the credibility of scoping review reporting.

Furthermore, the reported results were guided by the main research question. Collecting, matching, and comparing data from diverse studies proved to be a difficult task. Particularly, because there was a considerable amount of information to be reviewed, irrespective of it having gone through the selection process. The outcome of scoping reviews is constructed by the study purpose. Generally, the narrative report gives an overview of every reviewed distinct material, extracted meaning, as well as an understanding of a subject area that is intellectually and developmental innovative (Davis, Drey, & Gould, 2009). The result comprises a descriptive (quantitative) and narrative account (qualitative) of existing literature that allows feasibility to recognize gaps, familiarize, and organize literature into themes (Arksey & O'Malley, 2005).

Arksey and O'Malley (2005) assert that when building up a structure for collating and summarizing findings, the scoping study coerces the researcher to prioritize particular features of the literature. I published the study findings using both tables with descriptions following each emerged theme (van Mossel et al., 2012). This approach proved useful in the analysis and

allowed me to link my findings with my research goal: mapping research that links domestic violence and young people. This stage of the analysis was carried out on guidelines selected before the selection of included studies. As proposed by Arksey and O'Malley (2005) this could be viewed as a feasible limitation to the relevancy of the results of the study and must be noted by the reader. Nevertheless, this scoping study contributed to a coherent reporting of the results. In addition, the literature review contributed a broad analysis of existing writings and established myriad gaps in the published and grey literature studies (Arksey et al. 2002).

3.4 Rigor

Levac, Colquhoun, and O'Brian (2010) raised questions concerning the rigor of scoping reviews, and to enhance rigor in scoping reviews they proposed that: (a) decisions encompassing study inclusion and exclusion be incorporated in the initial phase of the scoping process; (b) analyzing the search strategy contingent on abstracts recovered from the search; furthermore, (c) examination of full articles for study inclusion be reviewed by a minimum of two independent researchers at the initiation, middle, as well as final phases of the abstract review procedure. However, it was not possible to achieve this step due to the world pandemic of COVID-19. The study was reviewed by myself. Owing to the nature of the student and supervisor relationship, I communicated with my supervisor throughout the review process. Researchers assert the role of a supervisor to be a mixture of mentor, guider, coach, information source, and inspiration (du Plessis & du Plessis, 2021). Furthermore, my supervisor consulted in the course of the abstract review procedure to discuss any difficulties or uncertainties I had related to the selection. My supervisor provided me with feedback on the inclusion and exclusion of articles.

3.5 Issues of validity, reliability, generalizability

The literature was hand-searched to ensure validity as scoping reviews are broad and require various structure strategies (Murray, Makaram, Rodeo, Safran & Sherman, 2021). To verify the content validity of the included studies in the review, each participant's original data was employed verbatim and italicized, and put in quotations (Finfgeld, 2003). It would be challenging to ensure reliability for the study, as it relied on extracts collected by other researchers since this study utilized secondary data. Nevertheless, this study has high generalizability since its findings as described by Frey (2018) reflect true results in most contexts regarding young people's constructions in the study area. Additionally, since the study will employ data only in English it may limit the number of studies as opposed to using studies in

various languages. However, using a lot of languages may be time-consuming and costly as it will need interpreters.

3.6 Analysis of included studies

This section provides a comprehensive account of how the data in the research study was analyzed, concerning the research questions. This was accomplished by using both descriptive statistics and thematic content analysis, as well as presenting the steps that were supervened during analysis. All three questions were reported based on the narrative findings. Data analysis was done using unveiled information relevant to demographic aspects of the sample, including the area of residence, and age/type of group of participants in included studies. Selected articles ranged in the publication from 2011 to 2021 describing various associations between young people, domestic violence, and media portrayal across two countries.

The search strategy retrieved 1591 potential articles from three databases. Of these, 1545 articles were excluded after reading the title and abstract (Table 2 for search strategy). Screening of 46 articles was done and, 19 articles were excluded for not focusing on either young people, scholars, students, domestic violence, gender-based violence, and intimate partner violence (see Table 4 for inclusion and exclusion criteria). Further, 27 articles were assessed for eligibility, and 21 were excluded. Ultimately, 6 articles were reviewed for data analysis after meeting the inclusion criteria. Included studies were summarized by author, year of publication, title, journal, country, the focus of study, participants and sample size, methods, data analysis, and main findings. (*Appendix B for Data Collection Table*).

3.7 Ethical considerations

This study employs scoping review method, which aims to combine information from various databases and electronic literature. It does not include any human participants and is exempt from ethical approval by the University of KwaZulu-Natal Research Ethics Committee (REC). *Appendix A* encloses a copy of the ethical exemption. For the thesis, "Exploring young people's constructions of domestic violence as portrayed in the media": A Scoping Review does not need ethical approval since the literature is legally attainable to the public and justly protected by the law. Additionally, there will be no expectation of privacy as the literature is easily accessible to the public. The study aspired to provide scoping review methods so that other researchers can be able to replicate, authenticate knowledgeable claims, and assure accuracy (McMillan & Schumacher, 2014).

3.8 Conclusion

The present chapter discussed the procedures and research methodology used to gain the necessary information to answer the research questions. Data were analyzed using both descriptive statistics and content thematic analysis. Additionally, ethical considerations were examined, and issues of validity, reliability, and generalizability were discussed. The next chapter will discuss the key findings that emerged from the analysis of the data in this study.

CHAPTER FOUR RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.1 Introduction

According to Kuss, Karila, and Billieux (2014), the internet, media, and technology have become accustomed to society's daily life. How the media portrays a matter is essential for public attitude and understanding of political reaction including existing interventions and support systems (Alfredsson et al., 2016; Carlyle et al., 2014). It is thus vital to have a deeper understanding of why the aspect of domestic violence persists to be a cycle with no end. The present scoping study intended to map and analyze studies that have examined the way young people talk about, understand and construct issues of domestic violence.

This chapter focuses on study findings and discussion of results collected from various databases. The study findings will be discussed and portrayed in tables relating to frequency. Further, it examined the findings that emerged through the analysis of interview extracts in included studies that aspired to explore young people's experiences constructions of DV. Additionally, findings were presented in the form of prominent themes and subthemes identified and developed through the process of thematic content analysis. In unpacking and substantiating each theme, efforts were made to root the findings in context, to ensure accurate representation of the participants' experiences, and can be seen in the reference to participant's direct quotations. Three prominent themes emerged from the analysis: (1) Constructions of DV, (2) Normalization of violence, and (3) Young people's agency, coping, and resistance strategies. Young people's views utilizing the Ecological Systems theory is incorporated for a contextual understanding of young people's narratives, experience, and understandings of the phenomenon.

4.2 Quantitative results

This section of the current study addresses the aim of the scoping review:

4.2.1 Mapping existing studies on DV in young people

The study findings show that there is a lack of research in the media on domestic violence, specifically among young people (*see Appendix B*). The few studies coded according to their most important characteristics (N = 6) demonstrate a need for more research focusing on this population. Gould (2020) contends that the shortage of DV literature relating to South Africa is of great concern as this country has the highest rates of cases of violence that need to be addressed. The main research objective for this study was to map and analyze available literature on domestic violence amongst young people as constructed by the media. This included

exploring the articles' year of publication, country of publication, study focus, participants and sample size, methods, and analysis type (*see Appendix B*). Descriptive statistics were used in this section, in a form of tables.

Articles year of publication (2011-2021)

The findings revealed that the total mean of all included articles for the 10 years remains at a low rate. Table. 5 shows the outlook relating to this area of research, with 2018 being the most productive year (N = 2, 28.57%). There was no article found that fit the eligibility criteria for this study in the year 2013 to 2015, 2017, and 2020, which can be explained by it being the year the COVID-19 pandemic started, and lockdown restrictions were regulated. However, it is where most cases of violence against women increased, and from the year 2021(N = 1, 14.28%), a notable decline from 2018 to 2021.

Table 5

Trends in article publication (2011-2021)

Year	Country	No. (%)
2012	South Africa (SA)	1(14.28)
2016	Scotland	1 (14.28)
2018	South Africa (SA)	2 (28.57)
2019	South Africa (SA)	1 (14.28)
2021	South Africa (SA)	1 (14.28)

Country

The data set for this study was contributed by authors from two countries. As shown in Table. 5 above, the majority of the authors were from South Africa (N = 5), while western country (Scotland) only contributed one study each based on the eligibility criteria of this study (N = 1, 14.28%). Although there has been much research done on the topic, however, most existing studies were either quantitative, focused on adults, or used secondary data. These

findings are consistent with the research gap mentioned earlier in this study, which stems from young people being the neglected population in DV research. This explains the limited findings that are qualitative and engage the group of interest.

Table 6

Description of the study sample

Article Author	Participants	Age	Gender (No.) Female	Male	Race/ethnicity	Education
Chikte, Z. (2012)	young men and women	17 - 18	10	7	Black, Colored, and Asian	High School
Daniels, J. G. (2018)	young women	Average age 17	9		Not specified	High School
Makhubele, J. C., Malesa, S. E., & Shika, F. L. (2018)	students	20 - 25	Both gender =11		Mixed race	University students
Makongoza, M., & Nduna, M. (2021)	young women	15 - 20	7		Black people	Not specified
McCarry, M., & Lambard, N. (2016)	Children and young people	11 - 12 and 15 - 18	92	78	White and Asian	Primary and Secondary School
Willan, S., Ntini, N., Gibbs, A., & Jewkes, R. (2019)	young women	18 - 30	15		Zulu people	Unemployed, only 2 had received High school education

Sociodemographic Characteristics of Participants included in the study

Table 6 above shows that the study by McCarry and Lombard (2016) was the most comprehensive in providing qualitative data, with a total of 179 children and young people. The other included studies that collected data with 17 or lesser young people participants. Generally, 229 young people contributed to the 6 included studies in this scoping review. Almost all studies provided an accurate breakdown with regard to age and gender, except one, which was not specific to the number of each gender, the authors only stated there were 11 student participants (Makhubele, Malesa, & Shika, 2018). Out of these, three studies were conducted with both genders (Chikte, 2012; Makhubele, Malesa, & Shika, 2018; McCarry & Lombard, 2016). Furthermore, one included both children (under the age of 13) and young people (McCarry & Lombard, 2016), the rest of the studies were conducted with only young women.

The findings revealed that three studies conducted research on Black people sample who are the poorest according to socioeconomic status, with one specifically mentioning Zulu as the language used in data collection (Willan, Ntini, Gibbs, & Jewkes, 2019). Further, two studies opted to conduct research with a culturally diverse sample (Makhubele, Malesa, & Shika, 2018; & McCarry & Lombard, 2016). Nevertheless, one study did not mention any particular ethnic group (Daniels, 2018). Most studies (N=4) engaged participants either scholars or students, except for one being unemployed and the other unspecified (*See Table 6 above*). Furthermore, out of the 6 eligible studies, approximately 116 were in High School or higher institutions. Thirteen were not in school or college, whereas 93 were still in Primary School.

The focus of the studies

This study's findings demonstrated that the dominant focus was young people's understandings of violence (N=4), with one study focusing on the reason women decide to stay or leave violent intimate relationships (Willan, Ntini, Gibbs, & Jewkes, 2019). One study by Makhubele, Malesa, and Shika, (2019) intended to comprehend factors that contribute to IPV in higher learning institutions.

Table 7 *Methods and Data Analysis of included studies*

Author	Type of Method	Type of Analysis
Chikte, Z. (2012)	Qualitative methods, semistructured interviews, and photovoice participant observation.	Thematic analysis
Daniels, J. G (2018)	Qualitative approach, various instruments were used, such as focus group discussions and Photovoice	Thematic analysis
Makhubele, J. C., Malesa, S. E., & Shika, F. L. (2018)	Qualitative methods, Phenomenological research design, open-ended questionnaire	Not specified
Makongoza, M., & Nduna, M. (2021)	Qualitative, semi-structured interview	Discourse analysis
McCarry, M., & Lombard, N. (2016)	Qualitative methods	Not specified
Willan, S., Ntini, N., Gibbs, A., & Jewkes, R. (2019)	Qualitative methods, semistructured interviews, and photovoice participant observation.	Thematic analysis

Methods

All the 6 included studies followed a qualitative design method, with the main instrument utilized being semi-structured interviews and focus groups (N=4). The findings of the present study showed that the instruments were relevant, seeing that the main objective of the study was to map existing evidence relating to how young people construct domestic violence. Thus, engaging with them assist in exploring how young people talk about, view, and understand the aspect of domestic violence. Further, two studies made use of various instruments, and one employed an open-ended questionnaire (*See Table 7 above*). Aside from the research instrument,

the methodological category was mentioned by one included study, being phenomenological research design (McCarry & Lombard, 2016).

Analysis type

The findings of the current study demonstrated that included studies varied in the type of analysis used, Table. 7 above demonstrates this in detail. The most utilized analysis was Thematic analysis (N=3), whereas two did not mention or discuss any type of analysis. Further, one study employed discourse analysis (Makongoza, & Nduna, 2021), and is appropriate as this method of analysis explores meanings that are produced through language usage and communication.

4.2.2 Trends in the existing literature on DV in young people

During the past two decades, there were slight changes in the way domestic violence is understood and represented by electronic media, and how young people construct it. In addition, these changes influence the public understanding of domestic violence and analyze whether the media has any role in perpetrating DV. Further, it interferes with what Powell and Murray (2008) define as a 'problem', which characteristics of young people's constructions ought to be explored, and how to intervene or prevent violence against young women. The findings in this study indicate how young people are represented in domestic violence literature.

The portrayal of domestic violence on young people in literature

These study findings discuss violence against young people that occurs inside intimate heterosexual relationships. McCarry and Lombard (2016) indicate that most literature within this scoping review, reflects that majority of young people identify with a heterosexual identity. Thus, it is essential to view the way heterosexuality governs young people in approaches that notify their constructions of domestic violence and the influence it has on public understanding (McCarry & Lombard, 2016). According to Chikte (2012), young people view dating as a romantic characteristic of growing up. Despite establishing and preserving romantic relationships through dating could be a vital period of development, nevertheless, various risks arise during this period, for example, DV (Hamby, Finkelhor & Turner, 2012). Chikte (2012) asserts that the term 'dating violence' is often utilized in the western context, where most research on domestic violence has been conducted in the past. Nevertheless, when it comes to the South African

context, ‘partner violence’ is the most used term and is with a distinctive political history, which is also most appropriate for the study purpose (Chikte, 2012). Researchers associated South Africa, as a country with a ‘culture of violence in the post-apartheid era’, with numerous cases of violence against women (Makhubele, Malesa, & Shika, 2018).

Findings in included studies

These findings revealed most of the qualitative research that was conducted with young people, has been focused on their understanding of violence against women. In a study by Chikte (2012) young people seemed to understand and view power and control as belonging to their male partners. Another study's findings revealed that young women particularly those in violence-prone and low-income contexts addressed constructions of feminist theory discourses, namely, resisting vulnerability and passivity (Daniels, 2018). Makongoza and Nduna (2021) demonstrated a progressive transformation of perceptions from outdated tolerance of violence to rejection. This is in line with the study by Makhubele, Malesa, and Shika (2018) that revealed an increased rate of IPV among students and some of the contributing factors being sexual, emotional, and physical abuse.

Furthermore, findings showed that IPV can stem from multiple things including financial problems, whereby a male partner may feel inferior if their female counterpart earns more than him (Makhubele, Malesa, & Shika, 2018). Although McCarry and Lombard's (2016) study’s findings emphasize the comprehensive justification of gendered violence by both girls and boys. Nevertheless, a study by Willan, Ntini, Gibbs, and Jewkes (2019) revealed that women experienced recurrent violence in their love relationships but were decisive when it came to their constructions of leaving or staying in their love relationships.

The section that follows provides a critical discussion of the themes that the researcher identified in this present scoping study, particularly the way the young participants narrated their views and understandings of the concept of domestic violence. As mentioned in the previous chapter, the data collected for this scoping study was analyzed using thematic content analysis, to allow a transparent and coherent reporting of the findings. This is supported by Braun and Clarke (2006) who asserts that using thematic content analyses warrants that a sufficient, comprehensive, and refined account of the data is delivered in the review and that an understandable interpretation of how the results relate to the study purpose and research question is given.

4.3 Qualitative results

This section provides a detailed account of the major findings of the study, for the research questions of the present study. Furthermore, each of these study findings is discussed in connection with the applicable literature and hypothesis to facilitate a comprehensive understanding of the aspect of domestic violence. As previously stated, this study intended to answer three research questions in the field of domestic violence, namely:

- What is known from available literature about the way media construct domestic violence?
- Is there evidence that media influence the public in understanding DV?
- Does the media play a role in DV perpetration on young people?

While attempting to answer these research questions, numerous pieces of evidence developed that portrayed how all the elements concerning these questions were similarly interwoven. Thus, all three questions needed to be reported and discussed comprehensively to gain an understanding of young people's constructions of the aspect of interest. This was accomplished by combining a thorough findings report simultaneously with the discussion.

Considerable themes emerged from the scoping analysis, which assisted in comprehending how young people talk about, experience, and view domestic violence. Additionally, this facilitated the understanding of which beliefs about the aspect they find significant in their lives. How young people described the concept of domestic violence, demonstrated that it was a common concept, and is often normalized in the sense that it is a private matter.

Even though both themes of constructions of DV and normalization of violence explored more below were the most frequently occurring themes in the reviewed study sample. However, young people's constructions differed concerning their views, understandings, and the meanings they provided on the individual experience of domestic violence. Hence, the researcher needed to ensure that upon data familiarization the emerged themes were categorized in a coherent way that would serve the study purpose. Table 8 below illustrate the emerged themes and the way the researcher categorized them into prominent theme and sub-theme based on her judgment and familiarity with the collected literature. After the table has been presented, a discussion of each identified theme will follow, which includes young people's narratives about domestic violence.

To remain in accordant to keep within reach of the young participants' narratives, quotations and italicized extracts have been employed to authenticate the emerged themes in the study. These themes are presented according to objectives two and three of the study, which is to

examine whether there was any evidence that media influence the public in understanding DV; and if it plays a role in DV perpetration on young people.

4.4 Identified themes

During the analysis, three prominent themes were identified in the study sample. Theme one ‘constructions of DV’, related to young participants’ knowledge and understandings of domestic violence, which were informed by their level of education, social constructs, gender inequality, and anticipated expectations positioned on women and young girls by society. Theme two ‘normalization of violence’ relates to how young people normalize and accepts violence perpetrated by men on women, and includes young women being blamed for their victimization. Theme three identified ‘Young people’s agency, coping and resistance strategies’, and communicates the behaviors young people employed as a means of coping with their distress, and their constructions relating to prevention and intervention approaches to improve their lives. The extracts from each article that met inclusion criteria were analyzed as per scoping review methodology. The identified themes are portrayed in Table 8 below. For each theme, contributions of sub-themes are presented in table form before findings and discussions are documented.

Table 8 *Identified themes*

Prominent themes	Sub-themes	Central language
Constructions of DV	▪ Description of violence ▪ Nature of violence ▪ Experience and expectations of violence	DV is a private matter slapping does not constitute violence if a boy acknowledges you in public, he loves you regardless of being violent
Normalization of violence	▪ Patriarchal power structure ▪ Victim blaming ▪ Hegemonic ideologies of femininity	girls lead boys on girls should be submissive girls are always ready for sex
Young people's agency, coping, and resistance strategies	▪ Ineffective coping mechanisms ▪ Intervention strategies	He beat me up, but it was fine because I was laughing police don't take us seriously I wish that I can be the change of tomorrow

Theme 1: Constructions of DV

Young people constructed domestic violence (DV) according to three sub-themes: descriptions of DV, experience, and expectations of violence, and nature of violence.

Table 9 *Constructions of DV*

Theme 1: Constructions of DV	Sub-theme	Sources where data was retrieved	Included extracts (N)
	Descriptions of DV	Makhubele, Malesa & Shaik, 2018 Makongoza & Nduna, 2021 McCarry & Lombard, 2016	**29**
	Nature of violence	Makongoza & Nduna, 2021	**2**
	Experience and expectations of violence	Makhubele, Malesa & Shaik, 2018 Makongoza & Nduna, 2021 Willain, Ntini, Gibbs & Jewkes, 2019	**12**

Description of DV

The findings of this study show that young people's descriptions of domestic violence were generally detailed and realistic. These findings demonstrated young people's knowledge and understanding of domestic violence. The terms they used in describing the violence varied, and young people mentioned their preferred types of abuse. The findings revealed that many young participants in the included studies associated domestic violence with physicality and behavior that develop in a heterosexual couple. This conception of domestic violence is similar to Henning and Klesges's (2003) study that asserted that numerous studies on DV have focused on physical violence. This hypothesis is confirmed by South African authors, as domestic violence usually occurs in intimate relationships (Makhubele, Malesa, & Shaik, 2018). Chikte (2012) affirmed that existing research from countries in Global North illustrated all types of violence in adolescent heterosexual dating relationships. In addition, young people utilized intimate partner violence (IPV) to refer to the violence against women/girls. Examples of their explanations are: *"In my understanding, IPV is abuse committed by a lover, spouse, or even an ex-lover; and it*

may occur in numerous forms either sexually, psychologically or physically." (Makhubele, Malesa, & Shaik, 2018, p.6).

> *"From my understanding, IPV may be in a form of sexual, physical, or mental damage that may result from heterosexual or same-sex couples. It's not different from force."* (Makhubele, Malesa, & Shaik, 2018, p.7).

From the studies that met inclusion criteria, it is evident that a lack of knowledge and understanding about violence was demonstrated by young participants, particularly those who were in Primary School. Researchers in the same area reported children's advancing understanding of their low age. For example, the younger they are, the less advanced they are in knowledge about DV (Mullender et al., 1998). This finding is concerning because 'just like adults, children and young people also experience violence' (Katz, Nikupeteri, & Laitinen, 2020).

One of the critical findings by Chanmugan (2015) is the importance for young people to understand and respond to domestic violence in a manner that can consider differences in experiences for each individual's needs. Researchers noted that although school institutions are responsible for educating young people about domestic violence, it is challenging to understand and interpret the signs of those living in the context of domestic violence (Rovis et al., 2016). Nevertheless, I think education problems must be administered to young people, particularly those who live in societies where violence is frequent, to gain insights and knowledge of what domestic violence constitutes. Sweeney (2016) emphasizes that communities must understand what causes abuse. Some of the extracts reflecting young participants' descriptions of DV are:

> *Violence is touching and abuse is annoying somebody, harassing them, then ending up hitting them."* (Alice, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p. 6).

> *"Domestic abuse includes an individual being repeatedly hit or beaten for foolish things."* (John, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p. 6).

> *"No, the distinguishing characteristics are that in abuse a person may insult you, on the other hand, violence occurs when a person hit or beat you up."* (Simon, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p. 6).

> *"Whatever stretches from verbal up until physical force can be defined as violence."* (Richard, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p. 6).

> *"Violence does not necessarily have to constitute physicality." (Claire, Secondary level, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p. 6).*

The findings from the above descriptions highlighted that young people endure a lot of suffering due to domestic violence. Further, these descriptions provided insight into the nature and extent of the violence and trauma experienced by young people.

Domestic violence comprises different forms of abuse or violence. The diverse forms of violence can be in the form of physical, sexual, psychological, and emotional violence. Psychological violence refers to an individual engaging in improper conduct, such as a threat of force, that damages another individual's psychological integrity (EIGE, 2017). Emotional violence is an act committed by an individual to another without necessarily being physical.

Physical violence is when an individual intends to inflict pain or injury to another person (Stover & Lent, 2014). Further, this form of violence is the most popular when defining domestic violence studies (Beyene et al., 2019; Hertel, 2019; Lloyd, 2018; Lundgren & Amin, 2014; Makhubele, Malesa & Shika, 2018; & Wubs, 2015). However, other researchers indicate sexual violence is common in adolescents (Lundgren & Amin, 2015; & Wubs, 2015).

Stockl, March, Pallito, and Garcia-Moreno (2014) described sexual violence as deliberately forcing someone to engage in sexual intercourse or unwanted sexual acts. One of the study results reiterates that sexual violence may be in the form of rape or harassment (Makhubele, Malesa & Shika, 2018). Lundgren and Amin (2015) presented a contradictory opinion by asserting that sexual violence may occur in all age groups (Lundgren & Amin, 2015). Some participants were aware of the different types of abuse and illustrated:

> *"Different types of abuse can be physical, verbal, psychological, physical aggression, deviant and forced sexual intercourse abuse." (Makhubele, Malesa, & Shaik, 2018, p.7).*

The findings revealed that young participants understood violence as commonly perpetrated by men against women and as a cycle of abuse. These findings are similar to the literature stating domestic violence affects both genders in a relationship. Nevertheless, the higher rate is of violence against women (Mulawa et al. 2018). These conceptions are congruous with South African research in the domestic violence area that asserts that a higher degree of violence develops in the diversified environment presenting social dynamics (Seedat, Van, Jewkes, Suffl, & Ratele, 2009). Researchers propose salient patriarchal norms as one of the dominant contributors to violence (Pronyk et al. 2006).

There appeared to be knowledge of different terms commonly used interchangeably in research on violence. Findings showed that some participants described the difference between ‘abuse’ and ‘violence.' Almost all young participants used phrases that indicated descriptions based on their opinions. Even though some participants were conscious of what constitutes domestic violence, some demonstrated a lack of knowledge of some of the acts that inform violence. The below extracts from Jack, Shazia, Daisy, and Will, represent their knowledge and understanding of what constitutes ‘violence’ and ‘abuse’. The participants narrated as follows:

> *“I believe the descriptions were based on violence as they were not associated with abuse because abuse is further than that. Like more, it’s more of I don’t like your punch, smack, push them down the stairs and possibly break their back and even lead to paralysis.”* (Jack, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.6).

> *“There is a lofty providence of someone who once abused to repeat that behavior one day.”* (Shazia, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.6).

> *“Abuse is more common than violence. For instance, in a case where I was a husband to her [points to friend] and I was saying horrible things to her leading to her believing it, thus abuse encompasses verbal abuse as well as violence.” (*Daisy, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.6).

> *“Repeatedly name-calling, swearing at girls, and forcing them to do things is acknowledged as abuse.”* (Will, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.6).

However, one of the participants who attended secondary level constructed domestic violence as comprising violence and abuse and commented:

> *“Domestic abuse is a type of violence, and comprises being threatened or shouted at, furthermore, violence includes being hit.”* (Scott, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.6).

The participant from the above extract provided his description and understanding of violence. As mentioned previously, there were different understandings and knowledge of domestic violence of an individual’s age. It is important to note that the findings endorsed the hypothesis that abuse includes any physical touch aimed at instigating pain, injury, feelings of intimidation, or other physical harm to another within an intimate relationship (MacDonald & Leary, 2005).

Nature of violence

The existing literature suggests that the media trend provides the public with deficient, distorted, and superficial portrayals of the nature and intensity of violence against women (Bettio, Ticci, & Betti, 2020; Gillespie et al., 2013; Islam, Jahan, & Hossain, 2018). A notable increase in the research focuses on the portrayal of domestic violence in the media (Nettleton, 2011; Lloyd and Ramon, 2016; Richards et al., 2014). However, as illustrated in Chapter 1 of the present study, the most existing literature is on quantitative studies and the adult population. A small amount of research relating to the broad context, including a specific focus on young people (Ludsin & Vetten, 2005), what influence media has in understanding DV, and the role media plays in perpetuating it. Since domestic violence cases are progressing rapidly in the court system, and repercussions threaten the health and functioning of its victims in society and family contexts, it is crucial to narrate the nature and extent of this aspect (Huss, 2009).

The findings of this study demonstrated that the nature and severity of the violent acts were determining factors for young participants in deciding whether to tolerate the abuse or leave. It was also evident from the findings that young women who were perceived or known to be in abusive intimate relationships seldom got help from society. This discrimination was supported by what Sutherland et al. (2016) study discovered, that one of the common element's media portrays regarding domestic violence is the exclusion of social context. They further recognized that existing media reports tend to frame domestic violence as an 'episodic' event that focuses on individuals (Sutherland et al., 2016).

Thus, findings showed that this way of thinking influences the way society understands and reacts to the incidence of violence against women. Although not all included studies discussed this theme, however, the description of domestic violence frequently linked it to a private matter. Further, treating domestic violence as a private matter can lead to victims' fear of disclosing it. The young participants in the present study viewed it as a private matter and kept it a secret. For example, Thandi confirms this by expressing that:

> *". . . a secretive person . . . sure, what occurs in Vegas stays there [laughing]" (*Makongoza & Nduna, 2021, p.14).

In addition to the violence being secretive, Thandi mentioned that she was a secret person. However, she indicated one of her friends shared her experience of violence with her group of friends. These findings were compelling as there is a popular fallacy that young people find it difficult to talk about the experience of sexual violence (Sivagurunathan, Orchard,

MacDermid, & Evans, 2019). One participant provided an example of the challenge of disclosing:

> *". . . she didn't wish to inform us (her friends) as a result of she knew that we are Going to tell her that, you [must] leave him my friend . . . she was the one who told us that her young man beat her up, and once we were at the bathrooms she showed us her bruises, her thighs were bruised yoh. She was overwhelmed up by the belt as if she was overwhelmed by her pop uh huh yoh...."* (Thandi, Makongoza & Nduna, 2021, p.14).

The above finding revealed that Thandi believed violence occurring in intimate relationships should be private. However, Thandi explicit that she was foiled once she discovered her friend had been in a very violent relationship for a short while and had not shared it with her and different friends earlier. Thandi indicated that her friend was scared of being criticized or questioned for not leaving the relationship. In addition, findings elaborated on how young people were usually reluctant or unable to speak out about the violent episode in their homes. Reluctant to disclosure is common in young people, and researchers confirm that young victims often hide their violent experiences from everyone (Georgsson et al., 2011; Mudaly, Graham, & Lewis, 2014). The challenge of disclosure is addressed further in the subsequent theme of young people's experience of violence.

It was also evident from the study findings that while young women disclosed abuse by their male partners, they fell short of divulging to their family members but felt comfortable sharing their incidents with peers, as young people perceived that it would be easier for their friends to comprehend their experience. Nevertheless, there are still those who find it challenging to disclose, like the participant named Thandi, who expressed being 'a secretive person'. For this reason, young people need to be informed about DV, and its detrimental effects, so they can be of good use to their friends, who disclose it to them.

An implication noted in the present study is that some participants deny and normalize other types of violence or feel guilt and shame about being judged. These emotions of guilt and shame are in line with the views of society and the media portrayals such as 'acceptance conditions based on societal norms that have existed for years. Martelo, Lam, and Ranchhod (2008) indicated that disapproval from parents of young girls engaging in sexual relationships at a young age, instead of focusing on school activities, could be another reason they do not disclose to family members or elders.

Experience and expectations of violence

According to the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2012), many women and young girls experience violence perpetrated by a person close to them, and often in the presence of a partner or ex-male partner. Domestic violence could lead to mental illness or even death. “The devastating ramifications of DV can persist for a generation to generation” (Statistics, 2015). This study's findings revealed how young people in the included studies experienced intimate violence. Young people described their experience of intimate violence as either directly or indirectly witnessing the incident. Victims of domestic violence suffer from numerous health problems such as depression, anxiety, and PTSD (Cho, Seon, Han, Shamrova, & Kwon, 2020). Researchers explained how young people examine carefully when and whom to disclose this phenomenon (Pernebo & Almqvist, 2016). Some of those participants who observed incidents of violence depicted it as follows:

> *“The young woman who was abused did not take the initiative but instead left her house to visit her parents’ home”.* (Makhubele, Malesa & Shaik, 2018, p.10).

> *“Nothing was done as a result of the victim's refusal to try to do something regarding it”. “The abused party terminated the relationship”.* (Makhubele, Malesa & Shaik, 2018, p.10).

The findings in the present study showed that in many communities, perpetrators of violence are often held responsible for their acts based on the erous countries worldwide as South Africa postulates the victims of violence to be present in court for the violent acts to be prosecuted. As Sweeney (2016) explains, if the victim of violence decides against testifying, it becomes challenging for the court of law to convict the accused perpetrator of violence, except in cases where the violent crime led to the victim's death. Similarly, Sweeney’s (2016) study asserts that if the victim does not take action, no intervention will take place.

Researchers discovered that verbal or emotional abuse was the most popular type of violence (Karystianis et al., 2019). Young women favored physical violence rather than verbal violence (shouting). They viewed being ‘hit’ or ‘slapped’ as a less significant type of violence. They reasoned that physical violence ends quicker and thus less stressful than continuous shouting. Researchers assert that verbal abuse is more prominent than physical abuse and that experiencing verbal abuse from childhood can affect an individual's psychological health in later life (Norman, Byambaa, De, Butchart, Scott, & Vos, 2012). Concerning views of violence, Chikte’s (2012) study discovered that 19.6% of females and 25% of males perceive physical hostility as a component of a dating relationship. One participant asserted that she has never

experienced physical violence in her relationship yet would prefer it to the shouting she receives in her intimate relationship:

> *"No, I don't like someone who shouts at me, a slap is better ... Someone that hits you is more suitable as he lets go faster. A person who shouts doesn't let it go."* (Thobile, Willain, Ntini, Gibbs, & Jewkes, 2019, p.8).

According to Vilariño, Vázquez, González Amado, & Arce (2018), victimization of violence against young girls and women was associated with notable growth in the manifestation of clinical features in all magnitudes, sufferings, and anxiety symptoms, which were generalizable to other research studies focusing on the same population. However, not every victim of partner violence endures injury or physical or mental distress (Vilariño, Vázquez, González Amado, & Arce, 2018). The findings suggest that the nature and severity of harm caused by the violent acts were factors considered by young participants on whether to tolerate violence in an intimate relationship or to leave. Tolerance in the violent relationship was motivated by the seriousness of the injuries caused by the act:

> *"No, he can hit me, maybe just one slap."* (Ntombi, Willain, Ntini, Gibbs, & Jewkes, 2019, p.9).

International research asserts that "physical violence usually co-occurs with emotionally abusive and controlling behavior as part of a much larger, systematic pattern of dominance and control" (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence: Statistics, 2015). Findings from this study indicate that experience and expectations of young South African participants are not particularly distinguishable from other countries. It was also evident from the findings that those young women determined to be in intimate relationships rarely received support from society as DV was perceived to be a private matter.

The media is acknowledged to play a crucial role in shaping society's attitudes and beliefs (Sutherland, Easteal, Holland, & Vaughan, 2019). Yet, research demonstrates that media fails to precisely communicate about domestic violence (Lindsay-Brisbin, DePrince, & WeltonMitchell, 2014). Analysis of media portrayals of domestic violence recognizes that reporting usually reflects societal constructions and uncertainty regarding violence against young girls and women (Morgan & Politoff, 2012). Sweeney (2016) asserts that media appears to underachieve when reporting as most often they fail to prepare well for stories before publishing them. Thus, the way media portrays news on sensitive matters such as domestic violence can

influence the public's understanding of the information reported. Young participants stated that they prefer a partner who is discreet in their infidelity as that symbolizes respect and love for them:

> *... you can't stop that as a result of men trying this, they invariably have girlfriends, always looking for girlfriends, you can't modify that. It's simply one thing you have got to know, and it's fine as long as your partner respects you. "Let's say your fellow includes a girlfriend, he should ensure that he covers his tracks, he should ensure that you just don't see or hear something regarding it ... Like with phones, he should delete things once they are done talking or texting. Yes, respect is very important."* (Zoleka, Willain, Ntini, Gibbs & Jewkes, 2019, p.9).

The findings show that tolerance of violence was framed positively by young participants, who understand violent acts in private demonstrate 'respect and love' determine the tolerance of violence. This way of thinking is concerning because researchers discovered that young girls exposed to intimate partner violence were presumably to experience many adverse outcomes compared to boys, comprising depression, eating disorders, panic attacks, or even suicidal ideation ((Barter et al. 2017; Palm et al. 2016; Romito, Beltramini, & Escribà-Agüir, 2013). Participants noted:

> *"I love it when he dedicates his precious time to me. And is knowing, he should perceive you and do things that cause you to happy and feel white haired and welcome. However, the foremost important factor is time."* (Thembeka, Willain, Ntini, Gibbs, & Jewkes, 2019, p.11).

> *"Andile acknowledged me as his partner publicly. Zodwa's fellow hasn't acknowledged her, she is hidden however he still beats her. It doesn't look right. Andile conjointly showed me that he appreciates me, and he told people about his love for me, he told my friends that he loved me." "Yes. as a result, Zodwa's man beats her and no one is aware that she is his girlfriend. I feel it's higher if he beats you however everybody else is aware that you just area unit together publically."* (Enhle, Willain, Ntini, Gibbs, & Jewkes, 2019, p.11).

The study findings demonstrated that relationships motivated by access to money compelled some participants to stay despite the abuse. Participants shared their beliefs and expectations of a 'good partner' and described being able to financially provide for her and his child as a sign of love and respect. There seemed to be some form of absolute criteria for what constitutes a 'good partner.' Thus, it was evident that gender inequality was increased by poverty among young women who relied on older men for financial gains:

> *". . . she says she loves him such a lot and she or he can't live while not him …I suppose it's concerning money and garments thence she cannot leave her abusive boyfriend."* (Noma, Makongoza & Nduna, 2021, p.17).

> *"He must offer me cash. A man should raise whether I still have cosmetics and provides me money to try to do my hair, that's a decent man. I shouldn't be the one asking him for money, no. He should simply offer cash, affirmative that's a decent man and that we might have a decent relationship."* (Ntombi, Willain, Ntini, Gibbs, & Jewkes, 2019, p.10).

> *'One person I will say was a decent lover in my life was my ex (baby's father) however, the problem is that he was accustomed hit me … however he was a decent boyfriend'* (Enhle, Willain, Ntini, Gibbs, & Jewkes, 2019, p.9).

> *"I would have, I'd have stayed. I'm a patient person and I will preserve through relationships, most of my relationships are long-term."* (Ndoni, Willain, Ntini, Gibbs, & Jewkes, 2019, p.10).

According to Nove et al. (2014), falling pregnant creates a threat to young women's health because they have an increased risk of birth-related obstacles compared to adult women. Often these pregnancies are unplanned and result in unsafe abortions (Sedgh et al., 2016). The findings show that unexpected pregnancy is often the origin of conflict in dating relationships. Domestic violence impairs young people's health, and physical abuse has considerable effects on their physical and psychological health. Another implication is that unprotected sex is a risk of the Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) epidemic and is around a 35% increase in new infections worldwide (UNAIDS, 2014). This review presented evidence that many risk factors, such as HIV, pregnancy, and school dropout, hinder their social life. It is evident from the study findings that the desire for young women to live a luxurious life makes them vulnerable to older men (Makhubele, Malesa, Shaik, 2018), who provide them with financial gain. In addition, a lack of power to negotiate condom use (Wubs, 2015) leads to them contracting HIV and unwanted pregnancy. One participant expressed:

> *"If I die, my child will also lose a father, and will no longer have a nice, united family*
> *... however, if we stick together, it's nice … it's nice as a*
> *result of he (the father) additionally gets to envision what the kid wants. Men don't take care of youngsters if they don't live with them."* (Sebenzile, Willain, Ntini, Gibbs, & Jewkes, 2019, p.11).

The findings revealed that all participants in the study came from low-income families and were unemployed. Lipton and Ravallion (1995) define 'poverty' as when an individual or

community fails to live up to a measure of economic welfare assumed to account for a reasonable minimum by a particular community's standard. For several years, poverty-stricken societies like Sub-Saharan Africa had a high rise in DV and abuse because women were overreliant on men for financial support (Lukwa, et al, 2022).

Interestingly enough, a study by Sharp-Jeffs (2015) revealed that even those women in violent relationships earning a salary usually have their earnings controlled by their male partners. He further emphasized that victims of domestic violence are most likely to be forced into pregnancy, thereby restricting their ability to continue working and earning an income, resulting in them becoming reliant on their aggressive partner (Sharp-Jeffs, 2015). In low-income countries such as South Africa, domestic violence and poverty form part of a wider community, specifically in rural areas where most families come from low-socioeconomic status (Barter et al., 2014). Thus, having more knowledge and understanding of the risk factors that influence the cycle of violence would assist the victims of violence gain more courage to have agency in walking out.

Theme 2: Normalization of violence

An evolving streak in qualitative research is the normalization of violence against young people in intimate relationships (Htun, & Jensenius, 2020; Makongoza & Nduna, 2017; Sinko, Munro-Kramer, Conley, & Saint Arnault, 2021). So far, research proposes that young people are vulnerable to DV since childhood (Makongoza & Nduna, 2017). For that reason, they normalize violence as an act to resolve conflict in their adult years (Mahlangu et al., 2014). The study findings revealed that young participants viewed violence occurring in intimate relationships as a normal and acceptable general act. Young participants also condemned young women and supported men's actions, which led to victim-blaming. These beliefs may have been internalized from childhood and accepted by society worldwide. Wood (2001) encourages this by affirming that the reports provided by young women and girls in articles including 'blinded by love' perpetrate DV. The identified sub-themes of the patriarchal power structure, victim-blaming, and hegemonic ideologies of femininity were all interlinked.

Table 10 *Normalization of violence*

Theme 2: Normalization of violence	**Sub-theme**	**Sources where data was retrieved**	**Included extracts (N)**
	Patriarchal power structure	-Chikte, 2012 -Daniels, 2018	**27**
	Victim blaming	-Chikte, 2012 -Daniels, 2018 -McCarry & Lombard, 2016	**29**
	Hegemonic ideologies of femininity	-Chikte, 2012 -Daniels, 2018	**6**

Patriarchal power structure

According to Sweeney (2016), existing research demonstrates that power and control are one of the dominant elements in the field of domestic violence. Power and control drive 'the abusive cycle' *(see fig. 4 below)* to carry on in an intimate relationship (Sweeney, 2016).

Fig 2

The Abusive Cycle

Build-Up of Tension

- In this phase, the victim's stress escalates due to the burden they face.
- In this phase, the victim may strive to decrease the strain by adhering to the abuser.

Abusive Episode

- In this phase, various types of violence may occur, such as physical, sexual, and psychological/emotional violence.

Resolution Phase

- The resolution phase is when the abuser shows remorse and apologizes to get forgiveness from the victim. **Calm Phase**
- In this phase, the violence either slows down or stops. In some instances, the abuser would continue begging the victim for forgiveness.

The Domestic Abuse Intervention Project (DAIP) helpfully outlined a framework for power and control that depicted how the approaches to violence induce fear in its victims, creating challenges in their agency for leaving abusive relationships (The Duluth Model, 2015). Irrespective of the diverse views and knowledge regarding the aspect of violence, the young people constructed it with a patriarchal power structure, a global theme among young participants and included studies was that "men/boys use violence to control women and to preserve a structure of male dominance" in the scoping analysis. All young participants admitted that violence in intimate relationships was common in their society. One participant compared it to child sexual abuse that has been occurring for generations:

> *"When my mom was 8 to 15 years of age, she endured abuse from her stepfather, who, at that time was a policeman, therefore, it was difficult to communicate about abuse since the community would not believe their side, and was perceived as an embarrassing event."* (Aneeqa, Daniels, 2018, p.16).

The above findings highlight the origin of fear in speaking about the incident and the lack of confidence in the society's understanding. Similarly, Fairburn and Dawson (2013) assert that the oversight to report intimate violence as a social issue can be associated with the public that views it as an individual and private matter, in essence, a problem unbefitting for the public intervention. Another participant constructed the delay or failure of some girls and women to take agency on men having power over them:

> *[…] "I think she will be scared that he will beat her up if she talks of about something bad." (Karen, FGD 2).*

> *"Girl's fear being harmed continuously by their intimate partners."* (Kailin, Daniels, 2018, p.17)

The poor social-economic environment also played a role in the fear of girls and women concerning safety. This study's findings showed that intimate partner violence in young people is a huge societal issue, with higher risk groups than others experiencing it, depending on factors such as socioeconomic status. Although survivors of intimate violence can endure adverse consequences, some do not suffer detrimental consequences making it crucial to broaden the concept of intimate partner violence victimization amongst young people (Korkmaz, & Överlien, 2020). The participants narrated things such as unequal power relations and gangsterism as threatening their lives:

> *"I dream of a progressing world in which women don't have to be afraid. A world where you do not need to question where you are walking in fear of death due to others."* (Jessie, Daniels, 2018, p.19).

> *"We cannot socialize with community members, [...] we tend towards being too afraid [...] as a result of the gangs would possibly come back and interfere."* (Ayshia, Daniels, 2018, p.19).

Notwithstanding escalation efforts to fight gender inequality, women go on to face sexism and the hostility that sexism advocates (Cross, Overall, Low, & McNulty, 2019). Aggressive sexism, which conveys antagonistic and aggressive perspectives of women as unjustly contesting men's social dominance, prevails even in proportionately egalitarian contexts

(Brandt, 2011). Indisputably, aggressive sexism fundamentally entails protecting males' social power over women (Ratliff, Redford, Conway, & Smith, 2017). For instance, it presents when less-qualified men are offered jobs above more qualified women (Ratliff, Redford, Conway, & Smith, 2017). One young male described power structure as being natural:

> *"It is in my genes"* (Alan, Chikte, 2012, p.19).

Other young participants supported the above statements by indicating that the strength males demonstrate by committing violence differentiates the relationship between being 'hard' or 'soft':

> "*A hard relationship […] comprises (hitting gestures) two people in an intimate partner relationship boxing each other...where a young woman thinks she is stronger than the young man, yet she fails to box him back, as he overpowers her. And then you get the soft relationship, wherever they need arguments, [...] They are not here."* (Zara, Daniels, 2018, p.19).

Participants constructed soft relationships, with those men who are weaker than women:

> *"Boys you can trust, the gentle boys"* (Jessie, Daniels, 2018, p.20).

> *"You brief boys about a story that you experienced then they begin to cry unexpectedly. Yet, you as a girl do not cry."* (Aneeqa, Daniels, 2018, p.20).

The above statements highlight that young people construct masculinity and power as demonstrated by men's violence against women and the type of men women ought to trust, whereas vulnerable men are untrustworthy. One participant stated:

> *"During our era, there were no ample relationships in which young men were overpowered… as they grow older perhaps… because, like the nerds of today, they are not interested in girls, but as they grow older, and they get a girlfriend, then they are too soft to face the girlfriend… then the girl would overpower…"* (Alan, Chikte, 2012, p.20).

Gang males are the most common in victimization and crime compared to female gangs (Watkins & Melde, 2018). The young participants shared their thoughts on why young women in their community chose to lean toward gangsters whom they perceive to possess the power to protect them:

> *"Additionally, girls think that dating a gangster has benefits and that is the reason boys get tangled in gangs."* (Zara, Daniels, 2018, p.20).

> *"Like money and support a baby and stuff like that..."* (Crystal, Daniels, 2018, p.20).

> *"And make sure they are protected."* (Jessie, Daniels, 2018, p. 20).

In the above findings, young participants normalized fear associated with gangsterism and the challenge of poverty in their local context. Similarly, Alberto, Piccolo, and Pinotti (2019) discovered that people staying in gang areas have a significantly lower gap in income. Melnikov, Schmidt-Padilla, and Sviatschi (2020) indicate that another essential factor restricting socioeconomic progress in gang communities is parallel to educational attainment. Participants noted that:

> *"Gangsterism is a significant problem in our society just like poverty. Our people are left redundant […] and unaware of what steps to take to be successful therefore they join gangs."* (Karen, Daniels, 2018, p.20).

Although participants were aware of the causes that brought about gangs in their community, they indicated their unacceptance in associating with it regardless:

> *"I'm now one in a million girls that don't have a boyfriend that's a gangster"* (Jessie, Daniels, 2018, p.20).

The findings show that young people constructed gangsters as an object of the unequal power structure in nature, where positive values demonstrate power and control. In support of this, a study by Lin (2019) argued that by characterizing the cultural background of gangster movies, the media, identify female characters as male's accessories. He emphasizes that those men who are gang members who manage money are in power, regardless of their social class, as their desires intersect through violence and other means (Lin, 2019). Conversely, the characters of females are "exiled" and "ignored" in gangster movies (Lin, 2019). One participant described what gang members ought to learn:

> *"The main thing they should learn is to respect each other, learn to understand each other's feelings […] because when I speak, I speak with respect towards you"* (Ayshia, Daniels, 2018, p.20).

Gang formation has been established to develop in communities with low socioeconomic status (De Vito, 2020; Venter & Jeffries, 2020), where there are existing gangs (Maitra, 2020) and peaked in juvenile crime (Wolff, Baglivio, Klein, Piquero, DeLisi, & Howell, 2020). Researchers reported family factors like poor parental management (Alleyne & Wood, 2014; Corbett, 2019), familial criminality (Ugwuoke & Onyekachi, 2015), and those family members associated with gangs (Wu, Hu, & Orrick, 2022) to be the ones giving young generation a home background that fortify gang-related and criminal behavior (Alleyne, & Wood, 2014; Corbett, 2019). Nevertheless, consistent with the criminality research (Stickle & Felson, 2020), there is no one explanation to understand gang membership.

Thus far, existing research investigating gangsters has been fundamentally sociological and criminological (Idowu, 2018; McLean, 2018). Therefore, criminological theories pay little concentration to the social and mental processes involved when an individual joins a gang (Thornberry, Krohn, Lizotte, Smith, & Tobin, 2003). Tonks and Stephenson (2019) assert that it is necessary to understand more about the mentality of gang engagement.

Although all participants in this study believed that in heterosexual relationships, women are not able to overpower men, some participants indicated that it is possible if women also used violence:

"The male will overpower!" (Marlon, Chikte, 2012, p.19).

"If the girl forced a…the boy?" (Alan, Chikte, 2012, p.19).

"It can't happen!" (Aneeq, Chikte, 2012, p.19).

"Sometimes it can" (Alan, Chikte, 2012, p.19).

"With violence!" (Robin, Chikte, 2012, p.19).

The above constructions of violent acts being 'normal' influence young women's belief that they are deserving of violence, particularly since society also perceives it as an issue that has been taking place for a very long time:

> *"As generations pass by, children witness how their fathers hit their mother, and think it's okay. I will also do it, that's how it continues and goes on and on."* (Ayshia, Daniels, 2018, p.18).

The findings indicated that young people portray violence as learned behavior by boys when they witness their fathers abusing their mothers. However, although being previously exposed to violence is one of the contributing factors, not all boys who witness violence end up being abusers in their later life (Wagner, Jones, Tsaroucha, & Cumbers, 2019). Nevertheless, other young people do agree it is a learned behavior and inevitable:

> *"Young boys experiences bullying from bigger boys […] and as a result young boy bully girls. So, it is something that grows slowly internally, in a continuous process."* (Zara, Daniels, 2018, p.18).

The findings showed that participants witnessed violence in their childhood with their classmates or siblings. Young people stated that they experience violence, but elders such as teachers did not find it significant to stop it but rather 'normalized' it. All young girls from the primary level shared similar views:

> *"I mean [a boy in class] is usually doing it and when I tell the teacher, she or he thinks I'm telling tales. However, it hurts. The boy hurts me."* (Sarah, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.9)

> *"He gives me Chinese burns. I don't like it, it's sore. If I inform my mother regarding it, she tells me that he does this because he likes me."* (Claire, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.9).

> *"I simply want him to stop. However, he ne'er gets told off, therefore he continues doing it."* (Rachel, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.9).

> *"Boys constantly inform the teacher that it is a 'kid on', nevertheless, they are doing it."* (Hayley, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.9)

Existing literature reveals that young girls and women are exposed to intimate partner violence from childhood via their relationships such as through parents, siblings, strangers, and friends, and the violence is then normalized and validated by a psychological measure of social learning (Perkins, & Shadik, 2018; Rosen & Nofziger, 2019). Violence among children and young people is often not validated by elders such as teachers, family, or society (Caffaro, 2014; Gillander Gådin, & Stein, 2019) and has detrimental consequences like uncertainty such as deficit knowledge of what constitutes violence in their adult life. Research revealed a higher rate of intervening in all forms of violence, such as bullying, is correlated with lower rates of dating violence, and worsened rates of professional intentions were congruent to increased rates of

victimization and intimate partner violence perpetration (Siller, Edwards, & Banyard, 2021). Therefore, families, communities, and schools must be involved in the prevention and intervention strategies that focus on reducing or ending dating or intimate partner violence among school-age children.

Victim blaming

All the young participants' narrations reflected a discerned unrealistic view of justifying violence committed by male partners and condemned women who are victims of the act. These findings are similar to the existing literature that asserted that mothers were unjustly held accountable for their child's sexual abuse instead of the opposite gender (Azzopardi, Alaggia, & Fallon, 2018; Lovett, Coy, & Kelly, 2018). Another study provided a contradictory argument by stating that these researchers do not insinuate mothers as being accountable for their children's victimization; instead, interpretations of the harmful environment in which the child has associated influence on the heightened risk of the child being a victim (Noll et al. 2009). This theme is associated with the previous 'patriarchal power structure.' The participants indicated that there is no gender equality and that girls are the ones who provide boys with the power to abuse them by provoking them. However, they ignore the possibility that the boys may have been in the wrong, and girls find themselves in positions where they are powerless against abusive men.

> *"There's no equality, the boy feels like he's more superior…"* (Thembi, Chikte, 2012, p.17)
>
> *"You give him that power."* (Kyle, Chikte, 2012, p.17)
>
> *"You are giving him power, then in all cases his gonna be, he's gonna think he's the powerful one, he is going to control you, even though you said no I have things under control. He's gonna still do it because you let him in the first place…"* (Thembi, Chikte, 2012, p.17).
>
> *"(he) made up his mind his gonna...have sex with her...then she tries to change his mind and he's like Nah, I'm not up with it, and then he does it"* (Ziyanda, Chikte, 2012, p.20).

The findings of this study indicate that the common perpetrators of partner violence are males against females. However, participants in the study reported on the violence where a male was a victim:

> *"[…] like this girl, she smacked a boy in the class because he said 'jou ma se' and then the boy kicked her back […] he did not have the right to say it, however, she could have just been the better person […]. There was no need for her to resort to violence."* (Zara, Daniels, 2018, p.17).

The above construction demonstrates that even though the participant was against the behavior of both the boy and girl, however, her focus was on the way the girl reacted by being violent. This finding is similar to the belief by Moletsane et al. (2008, 23) that described how 'our culture' is employed to 'justify the oppression of girls and women by regulating what they may or may not do.' Therefore, the participant upholds the expectations and principles that associate violent acts from males with 'masculine traits' that are 'normal' but violence from females as 'abnormal' and indecent.

The participants comprehend male dominance as being created by girls who allow violence to happen:

> *Why didn't they simply keep it downstairs? [...]Clearly, he will do what he needs to her"* (Ziyanda, Chikte, 2012, p.18).

> *"She led him on…and if she wanted to avoid it, she could have put up a fight." Additionally, "she was aware that this would have led to something like that".* (Kyle, Chikte, 2012, p.21).

> *"Alternatively, boys demonstrate dominance by emotional control, as "he can blackmail the girlfriend that his going to end the romantic relationship... and since she loves him, she will..."* (Kayla, Chikte, 2012, p.18).

In addition to blaming the victim for provoking the abuser, participants seemed to comprehend some responses to violence like sexual abuse as a 'normal' reaction that would indicate young women didn't want to be abused, for example screaming or running away. Five participants stated:

> *"I don't think she was trying hard enough"* (Ziyanda, Chikte, 2012, p.26).

> *"She could have pushed him off, so I think... but she left him"* (Sarah, Chikte, 2012, p.26).

> *"She can push him off her…"* (Aneesah, Chikte, 2012, p.26).

> *"No… but what happened… she didn't pull away, so partly she wanted it"* (Kyle, Chikte, 2012, p.26).

"She might have done something, like ran out." (Annesah, Chikte, 2012, p.26).

"She could have pulled him towards her, then bite him" (Silvia, Chikte, 2012, p.26).
"She screams!!" (Ziyanda, Chikte, 2012, p.26).

Young participants were aware of the influence that media has in perpetuating gender norms:

"Cos if you look at cartoons and children's programs and stuff these things are all made big so that you notice them. They are emphasized in like cartoons and stuff. Girls have immense big eyes, long blond hair, and plenty of make-up. And pretty things." (Claire, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.7).

"Girls are all really pretty." (Diane, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.7).

"Boys are all rolling in the mud. [laughter]" (Claire, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.7).

The above constructions demonstrate that participants acknowledged the gender dynamics considered normal by society and the media. This finding is similar to feminist researchers', who indicated that men use power to control their female partners due to patriarchal beliefs (Abi Rached, Hankir, & Zaman, 2021; Dery, Akurugu, & Baataar, 2022). Two participants highlighted:

"It less probable for a lady to dismiss her male partner'. It's more for the males who seem to have more control over the woman. I know that sounds like a stereotype yet it is most commonly said by a man for example, 'oh your the skirt is too short or 'your top is too low' rather than a woman turning around commenting 'something like, oh your jeans are very tight." (Jane, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.11).

"I assume mainly guys will be afraid that when they go out with their partner and he is nice trying or one thing then he may lose her or one thing. So, he has to be up to the speed of it thus he won't lose the person, or somebody can take her away or one thing like that." (Kay, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.12).

Society believes women do not know what they want and are ready for sex at any time. This construction correlates to the previous theme of 'victim blaming' that asserts that women are accountable for the violence that occurs to them. Other male participants were aware that some males force females into sex, yet shifted the blame to the female victim:

> *"She was open about it, and then out of the blue, she changed her mind... and thus, he forced her to..."* (Robin, Chikte, 2012, p.21).

Other participants argued that men are entitled to correct women if they are wrong and indicated that women ought to be subordinate to their male partners:

> *"Well, she's been cheating on him, so she deserves it."* (Craig, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.11).

> *"Yeah, she deserves it."* (Daniel, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.12)

> *"Okay, so what does everyone else think?"* (Nancy, McCarry & Lombard, p.12).

Although one participant also agreed with men needing to correct women, she indicated that the act was too severe and presented a one that she perceived as a lighter violent act:

> *"He should have pushed her, not hit her"* (Rachel, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.12).

Participants gave more justification for men's violence and were critical of women they viewed as disobedience to their male partners:

> *"The girlfriend is aware of the types of dresses her partner dislikes and that will irritate him however if he beats her, it is not good, yet she is the one who aggravated him and if the abuse has occurred for some time, then his emotional tolerance is precisely worn down. Thus, the boyfriend can decide between two possibilities, he can either go straight for the door and leave the room or break something material depending on how much she has worn him down by annoying him by wearing whatever she wears will determine the result."* (Richard, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.11).

> *"No, cos you could walk out or go for a walk or something. Or just leave her because obviously, she didn't care enough about him. But I feel there's no excuse to beat a woman …?"* (Leigh, McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p.11).

The justifications above precipitate the ones which state that men force themselves on women to correct their autonomy (Copes, Brookman, Ragland, & Beaton, 2022; Yeh, Eilert, Vlahos, Baker, & Stovall, 2021). Two participants stated:

> *"ya, not like that, but like if we speak like this… to all boys… if we have our normal conversations, and if his girlfriend controls him, we will like make fun of him and all that."* (Alan, Chikte, 2012, p.19).

> *"Further, we will furnish him with useful data relating to methods of solving this issue."* (Robin, Chikte, 2012, p.19).

The findings showed that young people who experienced DV were held accountable for the violent acts they faced. This view could be correlated to the media depictions of violence and society normalizing it. These findings are consistent with a rationalization made by Sutherland et al. (2016), who argued that victims of DV are held accountable for the violations committed against them. Precisely, allocating blame and assigning responsibility were not done openly but mediated via subtle gendered communication (Gillespie et al., 2013). These findings are similar to Lloyd and Ramon's (2016) study that established that the 'victim blame' theme was the most frequent among analyses of media communication of DV cases. Chikte's (2012) study also investigated young people in heterosexual intimate relationships. However, the data collection focused on South Africa. Contrarily this present study explored the constructions of domestic violence, and the influence media representation has on young people and whether it leads to perpetration.

Excruciatingly, the language of victim-blaming in both global and local news is organized more with DV cases compared to different violent crimes (Lloyd and Ramon, 2016). In particular, femicide reporting sources, including family, friends, police, and court officials who are prone to hold the victim responsible for 'serious enough action' upon her abuser (Bouzerdan, & Whitten-Woodring, 2018; Richards, Gillespie & Smith, 2011; Santucci, 2021). It is concerning because misrepresentation of DV may occur when the media advance an 'excruciating' issue like DV cases by eluding its prevalence, victim-blaming, normalizing it, and blaming the court process (Sutherland et al., 2016). Above all, the efficiency of media reporting has a direct ramification in society and awakens a sympathetic response, thus, fundamental to increasing the facilitation and responsiveness to protective and prevention measures (Carlyle et al., 2014).

Hegemonic ideologies of femininity

Findings showed that young participants in the included studies constructed their understandings of how they understand and observe traditional gender roles in their community. This theme corresponds with the 'power and control' where male dominance is the gender role. One participant highlighted that all women and girls are susceptible to the male eye where they are likely victimized and objectified by men's alleged uncontrollable sexual desire.

> *"You can't wear short dresses as then it may seem as if you wanted to get raped. That's why like us girls we don't feel comfortable anymore wearing dresses or so as it's like boys always view it with the delinquent purpose. They don't look at it with the intention like you're wearing it and you look pretty or so."* (Zara, Daniels, 2018, p.13).

The above construction is consistent with one of the notable factors that add to the understanding of rape myths, described as erroneous beliefs regarding rape that inspire victimblaming and acquit the offender (Bergenfeld, Lanzas, Trang, Sales, & Yount, 2022; Taylor, 2020). Fernandez and Mohamad Nor (2019) declared that sexual abuse was endorsed by reinforcing myths such as, 'women who wear revealing clothes provoke men's uncontrollable sexual desires and thus are to blame for being raped.' Ryan (2011) asserts that these rape myths operate as a system where victims are held accountable for their victimization.

The participants were aware of girls' sexual objectification based on the boy's perceptions:

> *"Because like you are with her because she looks like that ('the sexiest girl') and then you receive, praising's for having the sexiest girl."* (Kailin, Daniels, 2018, p.13).

> *"Guys always want to score." (*Kayla, Chikte, 2012, p.22).

> *"True, they interact about it with friends, which makes you experience, Uhm, what you call it? Like you do not value being feminine any longer […] they continually tend to score."* (Silvia, Chikte, 2012, p.22).

The above construction is similar to the fear of objectification raised by Bhana's (2012) study. Participants indicate the difference when it comes to men guarding their girlfriends against not cheating on them, which is their way of controlling their bodies men use their power over females and status normalized by a society that stipulates acceptable traditional gender roles:

> *"Like men [...] they like to sleep around. And for a woman, she bothers herself about what people are going to think of her. Now men don't do that. A man just does what he wants to."* (Zara, Daniels, 2018, p.14)

The participants indicated that girls are incapable of leaving without boys, and they need the comfort and security they can provide them:

> *"Maybe if you don't feel loved by your family, and you receive that love from your partner… then you start feeling pressured to do it, out of fear that you gonna lose him."* (Thembi, Chikte, 2012, p.21).

Although the participants have been justifying men's actions and condemning women, they presented the female role in a positive light, as a caregiver to male partners who are clueless about what they are doing:

> *"Support him" and by that "mak(e) he feels special about his choice."* (Thembi, Chikte, 2012, p.21).

The findings indicated that women are caring and harmonious and that traditional gender roles provide significant factors in developing gender expectations (D'Acunto, Malmendier, & Weber, 2021) that hurt both genders. This way of thinking was a common finding across existing research in the area.

Theme 3: Young people's agency, coping, and resistance strategies

Devries et al. (2013) assert that generally, one-third of women encounter violence at some point in their life, mainly perpetrated by their lovers. Considering the broad dimension of long-term and acute health consequences enforced by DV, minimizing the influence of long-term distress and alleviating recurrent injuries sustained during violent acts need to be a high priority for prevention and intervention programs. In conjunction with young people's constructions, included studies also analyzed young people's acknowledgment of DV, emphasizing their agency in leaving or seeking help, coping, and resistance strategies. The findings of this study substantiate that, in many instances, young people utilized strategies that would attempt to minimize the unpleasant outcome of the abusive partner's behavior (Makongoza & Nduna, 2021; Willain, Ntini, Gibbs & Jewkes, 2019).

Table 11 *Young people's agency, coping, and resistance strategies*

Theme 3: Young people's agency, coping, and resistance strategies	Sub-theme	Sources where data was retrieved	Included extracts (N)
	Ineffective coping mechanisms	Makongoza & Nduna, 2021 Willain, Ntini, Gibbs & Jewkes, 2019	**2**
	Intervention strategies	Daniels, 2018; Makongoza & Nduna, 2019	**12**

Ineffective coping mechanisms

From the findings of this study, it is evident that directly or indirectly experiencing violence impacted young people's physical and mental health. Hence young people employed strategies that would facilitate them continuing with their lives. They used to minimize the violence, denying the abuse, and resistance strategies to make life easier and bearable to give them hope when they were anxious.

According to Hayes (2013), overt resistance strategies include fighting back and can be clear to identify, whereas covert resistance strategies are known as "coping behaviors" comprising wisely adapting behaviors. Although the majority of the participants experienced the need to minimize the violent acts they endured, in most cases, young people used covert resistance strategies to try and prevent or downplay the undesirable consequences of the perpetrator's behavior (Makongoza & Nduna, 2021; Willain, Ntini, Gibbs, & Jewkes, 2019). Two participants expressed:

> *". . I have acknowledgeable about that [smiling, tone of voice a bit low] . . . with my boyfriend. He was forcing me to have sex with him when I did not want to, he beat me and slapped me.... then I went off [left] and I went back home . . ."* (Thandi, Makongoza & Nduna, 2021, p.11).

> *"He hit and beat me up, nevertheless, I was okay with it since he had been hitting me For a while (laughing as she speaks)"* (Noluvuyo, Willain, Ntini, Gibbs & Jewkes, 2019, p.8).

Wood, Glass, and Decker (2021) proposed that following an ecological framework for violence response and prevention, organizing protection means that even though the perpetrator is accountable for the violence, victims can manage to sanction behaviors that would minimize harm or promote safety. For instance, hindering or facilitating factors can correct behavior factors of family members at the microsystem level, legal aspect at the exosystem level, cultural beliefs about DV at the macrosystem levels, and the community at the mesosystem (Gangoli, Bates, & Hester, 2020). Thus, coping mechanisms assist women in "continuing with other aspects of their life while living in an abusive situation" and include characteristics of strategic decision-making by weighing options (Lindhorst et al., 2005).

Intervention strategies

The young participants observed various strategies that can help combat the issue of domestic violence. They stated the need to solve the aspect for their benefit:

> *"We deserve to live in harmony"* (Lauren, Daniels, 2018, p.21).

> *"I feel like the youth we need love. We need someone or something to keep us Encouraged and motivated. If this is done, we can keep our peers encouraged and we can feel good about ourselves."* (Karen, Daniels, 2018, p.21).

Young people often envisaged that they were unfit to deal with the experience of violence effectively alone, and a part of their strategies entailed seeking help and support from others. When the young people sought help, they would at first consult friends before reaching out to family or higher authorities such as the police. Participants expressed the concern of not being able to fight this without the support of their community:

> *"There is nothing we individuals can do concerning it as our community is simply too afraid to act against this corruption."* (Lauren, Daniels, 2018, p.21).

Transversely in the study findings, young people commonly discussed their attempts to safeguard themselves and other children. Upon careful analysis, it was evident that these strategies progressed ahead of an urgent reaction to violence and included a comprehensive longterm procedure delineated to strengthen young people and children's coping, emotional, and health well-being (Daniels, 2018). For instance, participants supported the engagement in community projects as a means to address their feelings of isolation and gain emotional support:

> *"I think that's a good idea […] however, it would be precise if you can provide young people of the community something to eat, daily."* (Karen, Daniels, 2018, p.22).

> *"I think things such as outings, would help keep them energetic and hear their stories, it's crucial to pay attention to their stories and offer them additional recommendations. Generally, not everybody went through it however, you'll be able to strive ... simply to pay attention."* (Megan, Daniels, 2018, p.22).

> *"[…] a club, constituting young people of both gender that articulate their experiences as teenagers, additionally, guys will take out girls … for fun."* (Anneqa, Daniels, 2018, p.22).

> *"Open doors for young people that are having difficulty changing."* (Megan, Daniels, 2018, p.23).

> *"I wish that I can be the change of tomorrow"* (Kailin, Daniels, 2018, p.23).

> *"You will favor going up within the ... say presently your elders are using drugs or are alcohol abuse, then you can change and go your own way."* (Jessie, Daniels, 2018, p.23).

> *"Because if one had a goal then they would place everything, if one doesn't wish to stay in Beacon valley any longer, this is often the place to begin."* (Megan, Daniels, 2018, p.23).

Young people in this study utilized informal networks like friends for support (Makongoza & Nduna, 2021). Reaching out to professionals such as police for help was challenging for young people. These findings are similar to those of Morris, Kingi, and Hayden's (2014) study, which demonstrated that delayed help-seeking is congruous in contexts where women and young girls hold back till the issue is more severe.

Participants expressed:

> *". . . that's we tend to after we started creating some calls, so others stated that we should go not far away. . . Well, I'm the one that visited the police station and once I arrived there, I attempted to explain to the police what was happening, and therefore the police simply checked me out as if I was joking. They did not take me seriously and that I was panicking, as a result, she might die"* (Matshidiso, Makongoza & Nduna, 2021, p.15).

One participant indicated that the police gave them a dismissive treatment whenever they reported a violent incident:

> *". . . the police mentioned that they don't wish to induce concern as a result if they're accustomed to children who return and open restraining orders for at some the point, and therefore the next day once they are all lovey-dovey with their partners they're going to return and cancel . . . that's why policeman don't take young women seriously as a result of this tendency and don't seem to be serious ourselves. Additionally, the police are unable to work in that way and as a result, think we enjoy getting hit and beaten*." (Matshidiso, Makongoza & Nduna, 2021, pg.15).

The police's contemptuous notion and grievance regarding DV cases are common (Masilo, 2018). For instance, the above grievance from the police illustrates a lack of understanding of the background of DV (Masilo, 2018). This study's findings categorized young people's responses and behaviors in two ways. Firstly, urgent situational coping strategies such as downplaying the violent act to minimize the violence while narrating the incident to friends or addressing the chronic coping by engaging in intervention and prevention programs for immediate emotional management and future purpose in young people's lives (Daniels, 2018; Makongoza & Nduna, 2021; Willain, Ntini, Gibbs, & Jewkes, 2019). The coping strategies utilized in both cases were parallel to each other, as they comprised submissive internalized reactions and active externalized methods.

4.5 Ecological Systems Theory

This study's findings provided adequate data on how Ecological systems theory contributes a helpful framework to systematically explore the young people's constructions of DV concurrently to defer relevant and thorough data on the experiences and understandings of DV on young people. The study findings discussed how the young people react to the intense multifaceted environment (Ahmed et al., 2020; Blythe et al., 2018; Malik et al., 2020; VicenteMolina, Fernández-Sainz, & Izagirre-Olaizola, 2018), instead of viewing the person in isolation separately (Øverlien, Hellevik& Korkmaz, 2020).

Concerning the individual level, findings from the present study demonstrate that the risk factors of DV were related to the characteristics such as age, gender, and race/ethnicity, with each option justified. The majority of the reviewed studies indicated that the adolescent stage had a high risk of enduring DV (Chikte, 2012; Daniels, 2018; Makhubele, Malesa, & Shaik, 2018; Makongoza & Nduna, 2021; Willain, Ntini, Gibbs & Jewkes, 2019), distinctly young women under 25 years of age. Further, the adolescence stage is where puberty and elevated hormones steering to sexual maturity occurs. According to Burger et al. (2000), these intense development changes may affect adolescents' moods resulting in heightened emotionality. All studies meeting inclusion criteria focused on violence against young women perpetrated by men, except one

study showing that girls who don't take kindly to bullying may resort to DV against boys (Daniels, 2018). Although exploring the relationship between ethnicity/race and risk factors of suffering DV were unrelated in the present study, it is crucial to note that majority of the participants' narratives included in the study were black South Africans, which may impact the study findings.

The study findings demonstrated significant differences between girls' and boys' narratives since most participants shared the same views and biases of what constitutes DV and socio-cultural factors that are considered normal based on gender. These findings were specifically apparent in patriarchal societies that encouraged boys to be strong and demonstrate their strength by committing violence against their partners (Daniels, 2018).

The adolescent stage is when young people begin to spend less time in their home environment and more with peers and the community. The findings of this study indicated that young women preferred to disclose their abuse to their peers/friends. "Peer groups help girls to be educated about ways of socializing with their communities – modifying their urges and eagerness to that of their abusive lovers and in deciding if they should stay firm or give in. The peer group provides emotional security" (Papalia, 2006, p.392).

According to Oliveira et al. (2019), the younger generation spends most of their time at school. Therefore, educators have the accountability to protect learners' fundamental rights and take the place of a learner's parent while at school (Debbie, 2013). Nevertheless, the study findings also revealed that in South African schools, the teachers fail to protect learners, especially young girls, when being victimized or bullied by boys (McCarry & Lombard, 2016, p. 9). Findings revealed that boys from class are the main perpetrators of violence in the school environment (McCarry & Lombard, 2016). According to Agnew (2018), in a family setting, parent-child-relationship is the most fundamental in a young person's development. However, Morawska (2020) argues that it is crucial to note that parental behavior, attitude, and modeling are most likely to play a significant role in the family context in displaying the positive or negative growth of the child. For instance, it is evident from this study's findings that young people believe that the perpetrators of violence learn this behavior from witnessing it from their fathers at home or directly and during childhood (Daniels, 2018, p. 18).

Social norms and beliefs pertinent to gender stereotypes and inequality are the fundamental factors of an individual's DV behavior learning (Parkes, Heslop, Ross, Westerveld, & Unterhalter 2016). Seeing that black South Africans have shared beliefs concerning social norms and beliefs, such as young women need to subordinate and tolerate the violence they

endure from male partners, to avoid further conflict in an intimate relationship and that partner relationships are private. This way of thinking is similar to the phrase ‘eyomndeni ayingenwa’ discussed by numerous South African studies (Mathonsi, 2004; Vilakazi, 1947; Zulu, 2003). Thus, the literature examined is following Papalia's (2006) study that highlights that the stage of adolescents is full of substantial development changes, leading the adolescent who experiences DV (directly or indirectly) to feel overwhelmed by additional environmental stress.

4.5.1 The relevance of applying Ecological Systems Theory (EST) to the study

One of the crucial strengths of Applying EST to this study is that it does not view young people as influencing their environment; instead, they are being responsive and dynamic and shaped by their environment (Papalia, 2006). The study findings show that young people have experienced intimate violence directly and indirectly in numerous aggressive pursuits that include interaction between various systems. A significant input of Bronfenbrenner’s EST in this current study is that it comprehensively analyzed young people’s views and understandings of DV simultaneously with environmental factors through the home environment structure to further remote systems. In addition, detected trends in the reviewed studies highlights the significance of imminent research to view young people as developing from numerous ecological systems when exploring the complicated phenomenon of DV instead of solely on the individual highly at risk (Bronfenbrenner, 1979). Partner violence is considered one of the main divers of mental illnesses, such as suicide ideation and depression (Gibbs, Dunkle & Jewkes, 2018). Thus, it is crucial to comprehend young people’s varied identities, backgrounds, sociocultural perceptions, and directions.

4.6 Conclusion

This chapter analyzed and provided a synopsis of how young people view, narrate, and comprehend domestic violence as portrayed in publications. It also identified, outlined, and discussed the themes that emerged during the analysis stage. Most of the findings focused on how young people talk about and understand violence perpetrated by boys against young girls. All young people recognized the origins of DV, the cycle of abuse, and that it has existed for generations. The next chapter will focus on the conclusion, limitations, recommendations, and implications of the current study.

CHAPTER FIVE CONCLUSION

5.1 Introduction

The previous chapter analyzed and presented results and interpretation of the collected data obtained from extracts in the articles that met the inclusion criteria of this scoping review. This chapter presents a conclusion drawn from the study findings, Limitations, and recommendations for future research. Implications for study findings will conclude this chapter. This study's purpose was to explore how young people construct the aspect of domestic violence.

5.2 Summary of main findings

Domestic violence is a severe challenge to social inclusion and health in women and young girls globally (Devries et al., 2013). According to (WHO, 2005), Africa has the highest compared to other countries worldwide. Furthermore, in South Africa, the public mortality value associated with intimate partner violence is twice that of international countries, specifically the United States (Abrahams et al., 2009). There has been limited attention to domestic violence compared to sexual assault (Chesney-Lind, & Chagnon, 2017; Reitz, 2017). Although there has been a slight shift in the area, many studies were quantitative, focused on the adult population, or used secondary data.

The concept of exploring young people's constructions of domestic violence developed from the concerning escalation rate associated with the aspect. Additionally, seeing that DV is associated with numerous health and psychological consequences, a deeper exploration based on young people’s views and experiences needed to be conducted to add to knowledge and understanding of the aspect. Thus, the study intended to achieve three objectives: to map existing literature on DV in young people; to examine if the media influence the public understanding of domestic violence; and lastly, to explore whether the media plays a role in DV perpetration in young people. Several conclusions which demonstrate that the objectives of the research have been met will be mentioned below: -

The first objective: was to map and analyze available literature on domestic violence amongst young people as constructed by the media. To achieve these objective descriptive statistics in the form of tables were used. It was accomplished by synthesizing and interpreting data collected through a scoping review method according to the following: Author(s), Year, Title, Type of publication, Country, Focus of study, Participants, Methods, Data analysis, and

Main findings. The search period was from 2011 to 2021, and six articles met the inclusion criteria in the present study.

The findings found that only five studies were from South Africa and one from Glasgow in Scotland. Although, the study intended to close the population gap by collecting and reviewing data from both local and international since DV is a serious issue worldwide. However, the analysis of findings revealed that international literature mainly focuses on parental domestic violence, secondary data, and quantitative data and thus was not eligible to be included in this study. In addition, similarly to South Africa, Glasgow comprises diversity in significant religions (McCarry & Lombard, 2016). Furthermore, this is in line with what McCarry and Lombard's (2016) study revealed, that Scotland is the only continent that defines DV as gender-based, placing it in the context of gender inequality (Scottish Executive, 2000, 2001), which explains Scotland being the only country meeting the study criteria. The included studies indicated similar focus areas: type of publications, methods, data analysis, and main findings. Several themes and sub-themes emerged with the second and third research objectives.

The second objective: was to examine if the media influence the public understanding of domestic violence. The objective findings further provided a deeper understanding of young people's experiences and origins. This scoping review presented an essential opportunity to review the nature and intensity of qualitative research that engaged young people in their experiences and knowledge of domestic violence. The findings revealed that young people were aware of domestic violence and that it was common in their society but challenging to understand what constitutes violent acts.

The present study findings demonstrated that a lack of understanding of DV from young people was associated with numerous issues, such as low age, inadequate knowledge, growing up in a low-socioeconomic environment, normalization of violence by family and society, socially constructed gender norms and inaccurate media depictions. The popular belief is that media shapes society's attitudes and beliefs (Sutherland, Easteal, Holland & Vaughan, 2019). However, the media hardly reports domestic violence (Lindsay-Brisbin, DePrince & WeltonMitchell, 2014) experienced by young people. Findings also confirmed that media tends to provide the public with scant, distorted, and superficial representations of the nature and intensity of violence against girls and women. The media reports usually highlight external factors that justify the perpetrator's action and blame the victim. There is little focus on young people and the broad context. In McCarry and Lombard's (2016) study, three participants articulated their views regarding how media portray gender in television programs: *"Cos if you look at cartoons and*

children's programs and stuff these things are all made big so that you notice them. They are emphasized in like cartoons and stuff. Girls have large, massive eyes, long blond hair, and plenty of make-up. And pretty things. Girls are all really pretty. The boys are all rolling in the mud. [laughter]".

Further, findings revealed existing research focuses on similar themes and views of DV associated with the secrecy surrounding the aspect of domestic violence. It is important to note that the findings revealed that young people constructed DV as an aspect that should be private, leading to challenges in disclosing violent incidents. Furthermore, this could explain the limited primary qualitative research, as numerous research is repetitive as researchers find it easier to collect secondary data. Thus, the media does influence the public in understanding DV due to the information reported: By not providing more recent literature, denying or confirming statements made by young women.

The third objective: was to explore whether the media plays a role in DV perpetration on young people. *The* findings for the scoping review highlighted that young people deal with ubiquitous feelings of fear and powerlessness due to their resistance or inability to disclose the violent experience associated with the media framing DV as an individual problem (Maydell, 2018). Young people demonstrated remarkable resilience to mature and clarify their understanding and knowledge of violence to ratify different coping strategies they utilize to keep well and survive the trauma associated with the abuse. However, these strategies were distorted and may have perpetuated the distress of victimization.

Further, as highlighted above, numerous research in the media publications indicate that women and young girls are usually held responsible for the abuse they encounter from their intimate partners (Ademiluka, 2018; Klettke, Mellor, & Hallford, 2018; Taylor, 2020). Most importantly, due to the nature of the aspect having severe health and psychological consequences, young people need their parents and adults to commit to the long-term support necessary to facilitate both their emotional and physical welfare. However, media reports have focused more on the negative aspect concerning victims, such as blaming the victim, denying the abuse, and normalizing the violence, thereby constricting young women's opportunity to get support from adults, family, and professionals they desperately need. Providing young people with these opportunities would empower them and help heal or prevent some long-lasting challenges created by domestic violence. Thus, the media does play a role in DV perpetration on young people.

In essence, coping and resistance strategies identified in the findings of this scoping review have not been sufficiently highlighted in existing intimate violence literature like denial or minimizing the abuse; lack of awareness and insight about the concept of violence against young women; and ineffective coping strategies. This study's findings pinpoint a pernicious cycle of abuse due to societal gender norms and inaccurate media portrayal of DV, leading to young people normalizing the violence. Participants reported feeling unsupported by their families, professionals, and society. The findings suggest that society coerces women and expects them to be subordinate to their abusive partners, while the police dismiss them whenever young people decide to go and report the incident. Due to the ramifications related to DV, children and their society should remember the chance factors coupled to DV, what constitutes abuse/violence, and the way to retort once it happens**.** This study's findings provide a fundamental narrative behind the complexity of intervening in young women who are victims of DV, both locally and globally.

5.3 Limitations

There are numerous limitations to consider for the present study. Firstly, the findings for this scoping review demonstrate that young people's qualitative data on domestic violence continues to be limited, with notable gaps. Secondly, the limitation of this scoping study is that it essentially focuses on domestic violence in young people. Another study limitation is that included studies were only those in the English language, which might have limited studies in other languages that would have been pertinent in this study. Various factors, such as the age of the population, and the data collection method, made it impossible for me to generalize the study findings.

Additionally, there was a limited study sample as the review focused only on qualitative studies that included young people's narratives in the form of extracts. Furthermore, during the review process, I excluded some of the studies that I interpreted as unnecessary to the study objectives. The review incorporated a small sample (6 articles) that met inclusion criteria. The small sample may pose a question as to whether the viewpoint included in this scoping review is contemplative of the overall young people group. Nevertheless, this limited sample was inevitable as the author, carried out this study as a graduate short dissertation, and data collection took place under a limited time frame. More relevant studies may have been discovered in time. From this perspective, this small sample may be explained by the lamentably limited amount of studies that have explored young people's constructions of domestic violence.

Moreover, the review only used three electronic databases such as PubMed, Google scholar, and SABINET online. Additionally, the main objectives of the study were broad, for instance, (to map and analyze available literature on domestic violence amongst young people as constructed by the media. Secondly, to examine if the media influence the public understanding of domestic violence. Lastly, to explore whether the media plays a role in DV perpetration on young people), the included studies were not only peer-reviewed articles, but grey literature and hand-searched quality were not the main focus. Finally, this scoping review was done by an individual therefore it does not comply with Arksey and O'Malley's (2005) recommendation which contends that scoping reviews authors should deliberate with stakeholders who can authenticate the findings of the scoping review and produce additional insight preliminary to disseminating the study findings to the public. However, it is an optional step that most existing scoping reviews do not comprise. Nevertheless, it would have helped overemphasize some of the gaps addressed in the study.

5.4 Recommendations

This scoping study mapped domestic violence literature with a particular focus on young people. The literature was over 10 years but only a few focused on the studied population. Based on the findings of this scoping study, the proposed recommendations are as follows:

- This study's findings suggest that massive societal beliefs of DV as a private matter, and it is up to the individual to deal with it, still play a role in societies. This way of thinking is likely to harm the victim's family, friends, and other professionals who lack knowledge about the aspect. Future research is fundamental to further examine this hypothesis.
- Taking into account that this study was unsuccessful in including other races in the South African population, seeing that it is a diversified country could signify an existing gap in the present body of knowledge and this could be an area worth researching in the future, in the field of domestic violence. Further, to establish this recommendation, future research could examine these issues in the context of a South African urban community to attain a profound understanding of how young people in that context experience DV and if it is similar or different to those from rural areas as this particular group has been mostly researched.
- Creating awareness about domestic violence, involving young people, would help in understanding the steps one needs to take when experiencing it. This intervention could be beneficial as the findings of the study revealed that young people feel comfortable

disclosing to their peers/friends and having adequate knowledge and understanding would help them in giving proper advice.

- To implement government programs that would be affordable even in underdeveloped countries, as the available programs only accommodate those in higher-income contexts.
- To create economic empowerment programs, such as financial literacy education, that would help prevent domestic violence among young people and increase their economic independence. Most young women in the study expressed staying in abusive relationships for financial gain.
- To increase domestic violence interventions that would include teachers, families, and social groups that which young people belong. This approach would enhance public understanding of DV and aid in society giving support to the victims. A collaborative approach and support from the public would contribute to controlling the menace.

5.5 Implication of findings

This study's findings possess numerous practical implications that may be helpful to young women who have experienced DV, their families, and health professionals working with the victims of intimate partner violence. Essentially, the findings of the present study advocate that understanding what constitutes violence or abuse from a young age produces a fundamental point for young people's experiences in adulthood. Hence, it might be worth attempting to explore more about their awareness and knowledge about violence to gain a deeper understanding of their perceptions.

Some young people utilize ineffective strategies when experiencing the abuse, which might unwittingly perpetuate additional challenges within their abusive intimate relationship. Thus, work around constructing better effective coping mechanisms to replace the inefficacious ones ought to be done.

Additionally, many young people who experienced dating violence conveyed an extensive aspiration for social cohesion and support from their society to break the abusive cycle of their experience. Considering their challenges and a few coping mechanisms they utilize in breaking the abuse cycles could be challenging before these concerns are handled, healing would not be unattainable. From this perspective, young women need to be encouraged to reach out for support and professional help, as these ineffective ways of coping could pose a grave danger to their mental wellbeing.

Finally, considering the dire health consequences linked to DV in young women who experience victimization, more judgment from society adds to their health impact. Measures are needed to address the scant understandings that remain applicable in society and the media. Additionally, it has implications for substantial intervention programs that want to change by utilizing intervention strategies for victims such as family members, thereby enhancing collective healing.

5.6 Conclusion

This chapter summarizes the main findings of the present research while also emphasizing the limitations of the study and the recommendation for future research with pertinent implications. The study findings are hoped to add to the existing body of published work in the DV area. Furthermore, it is hoped that these findings will assist young women to gain insight into the possible consequences associated with the ineffective coping mechanisms they utilize as a means of coping. Additionally, it is hoped that the findings may provide a deeper understanding to the public about the aspect and the role that contributing factors associated with domestic violence play in perpetrating domestic violence. Lastly, it is anticipated that future research and speculations will transpire as the outcome of the present study.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Exemption letter from Ethics Review

UNIVERSITY OF KWAZULU-NATAL
INYUVESI YAKWAZULU-NATALI

20 July 2021

Miss Zandile Penelope Mtshali (216041710)
School Of Applied Human Sc
Howard College

Dear Miss Zandile Penelope Mtshali,

Protocol reference number: 00013018
Project title: Exploring young people's constructions of domestic violence as portrayed in the media

Exemption from Ethics Review

In response to your application received on 23 June 2021, your school has indicated that the protocol has been granted **EXEMPTION FROM ETHICS REVIEW.**

Any alteration/s to the exempted research protocol, e.g., Title of the Project, Location of the Study, Research Approach and Methods must be reviewed and approved through an amendment/modification prior to its implementation. The original exemption number must be cited.

For any changes that could result in potential risk, an ethics application including the proposed amendments must be submitted to the relevant UKZN Research Ethics Committee. The original exemption number must be cited.

In case you have further queries, please quote the above reference number.

PLEASE NOTE:
Research data should be securely stored in the discipline/department for a period of 5 years.

I take this opportunity of wishing you everything of the best with your study.

Yours sincerely,

Prof Johannes John-Langba
Academic Leader
Research School Of
Applied Human Sc

APPENDIX B

Data collection table

Author	Year	Title	Type of publication	Country	Focus of study	Participants	Methods	Data Analysis
Chikte, Z.	2012	Young People's Constructions of Partner Violence in Intimate Heterosexual Relationships.	Scholarly Journals	South Africa (SA)	To examine how young people in South Africa talk about and understand violence in intimate relationships.	young men and women (aged 17 and 18) at high school	Qualitative methods, three focus groups.	Thematic analysis
Daniels, J. G.	2018	Young women's narratives of gender, sexuality and violence in Mitchell's Plain: A Photo voice project	Scholarly Journals	South Africa (SA)	Young women's understandings of gender, sexuality, and violence.	nine young women in Grade 11 (average age 17 years)	Qualitative approach, various instruments used, such as focus group discussions and Photo voice	Thematic analysis
Makhubele, J. C., Malesa, S. E., & Shika, F. L.	2018	Knowledge of Students at Higher Institutions on Intimate Partner Violence (IPV).	Journal article	South Africa (SA)	To understand factors that contribute to IPV in higher learning institutions	eleven students, both males and females (aged 20 and 25) from diverse cultural backgrounds	Qualitative methods, Phenomenological research design, open-ended questionnaire	Not specified
Makongoza, M., & Nduna, M.	2021	Awareness and Rejection Accounts of Intimate Partner	Journal article	South Africa (SA)	Exploring how young women perceive and experience IPV	seven young women (aged 15 to 20)	Qualitative, semi-structured interview	Discourse analysis

		Violence by Women in Soweto, Johannesburg, South Africa.						
McCarry, M., & Lombard, N.	2016	Same Old Story? Children and Young People's continued normalisation of men's violence against women.	Journal article	Scotland	Children and young people's understandings of men's violence against women.	Children (11 and 12 years of age) and young people (15 to 18 years).	Qualitative methods	Not specified
Willan, S., Ntini, N., Gibbs, A., & Jewkes, R.	2019	Exploring young women's constructions of love and strategies to navigate violent relationships in South African informal settlements	Journal article	South Africa (SA)	Understanding the reason women choose to stay or leave violent intimate relationships	Fifteen young women, unemployed (aged 18-30)	Qualitative methods, semi-structured interviews and photo voice participant observation. 8 participants in photo voice and 7 in participant observation	Thematic analysis

APPENDIX C

Turnitin Report

Turnitin Originality Report

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