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CHILD-TO-PARENT-VIOLENCE: TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE
LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK IN LESOTHO

BY

HLALEFANG GLORIA JAASE

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Abstract

This qualitative study explored child-to-parent violence (CPV) in Maseru, Lesotho, focusing on various forms of CPV, challenges faced by parents in seeking justice, gaps in the legal framework, and best practices to address the issue. The research used a semi-structured interview methodology, involving parents, social workers, and legal professionals. Key forms of CPV identified include verbal abuse, emotional abuse, physical violence, financial exploitation, controlling behaviour, property damage, and rare instances of sexual violence. Challenges in seeking justice include social stigma, fear of retaliation, lack of awareness about legal rights, ineffective law enforcement, and inadequate legal protections. The legal framework shows critical gaps, with existing laws primarily focusing on child and spousal protection, often excluding parents from explicit protections. Successful strategies from other regions, including community-based initiatives, legal reforms, and multidisciplinary approaches, were identified as effective in addressing and preventing CPV. Recommendations include developing specific legislation, implementing awareness campaigns, community-based initiatives, fostering collaboration between social services, law enforcement, healthcare, and legal professionals, and learning from international best practices and establishing partnerships with international organisations to leverage resources and expertise in addressing CPV.

Keywords: child-to-parent violence (CPV), Maseru, Lesotho, domestic violence, legal framework, community-based initiatives, multidisciplinary approaches,

Declaration Page

I declare that this dissertation is my original work except where sources have been cited and acknowledged. The work has never been submitted, nor will it ever be submitted to another university for the award of a degree.

Hlalefang Gloria Jaase
Student's Full Name



22/11/2024
Student's Signature (Date)

Dr Admark Moyo
Main Supervisor's Full Name

Main Supervisor's Signature (Date)

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Acknowledgement

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Dedication

This thesis is dedicated to parents who have survived domestic violence, particularly child-to-parent violence (CPV). The author admires their strength and courage. Gratitude is also expressed to families, communities, and countries that support survivors and victims. The research aims to create effective legislative frameworks that address domestic violence comprehensively, acknowledging the efforts of member states, regional organizations, and civil society in promoting human rights and combating domestic violence. These frameworks should balance protecting parents from children's aggressive behaviour, addressing the root causes of CPV, and safeguarding children. The study participants are appreciated for shedding light on CPV and paving the way for future legislation and interventions. Lastly, the work is dedicated to Lesotho, the author's friend Marethabile Masiu, and the author's family including her mum Katile Florina Jaase, her husband Benjamin Mojakisane, our six sons

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

CPV	Child-to-Parent Violence
AUREC	Africa University Research Ethics Committee
CRC	The Convention on The Rights of Children
CEDAW	The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.
CPWA	Child Protection and Welfare Act

Definition of Key Terms

Who is a Child?

As per Article 2 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the term “child” refers to any individual who is below the age of eighteen years, unless the child reaches the age of majority earlier as determined by the relevant legal framework (CRC, Art.2, 1990). In Lesotho, the legal definition of a child is generally aligned with international standards, defining a child as any person under the age of 18 years. This definition is consistent with Lesotho's Child Protection and Welfare Act of 2011, which aligns with the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. This study adopts the definition of a child given by the Convention on the Rights of a Child and Lesotho's Child Protection and Welfare Act of 2011.

Who is a parent?

An individual who possesses parental responsibility for or assumes the role of carer for a child or young person. The conventional understanding of parents typically refers to the biological mother and father of a child or young individual. However, it is important to note that parental responsibility can also be obtained by an individual who assumes the role of safeguarding and promoting the well-being of a child.

Child-to-parent violence

This study examines various forms of aggression, including intentional actions that cause injury to a parent and are employed as a means of exerting control Cottrell (2001). Such abuse can manifest in several forms, including physical, psychological (including verbal), or financial. Coercive control is a behavioural pattern characterised by the utilisation of verbal, financial, physical, or emotional tactics to assert power and establish dominance over a parent (Holt, 2013). The study also considers isolated incidents that occur during a state of impaired consciousness and are not repeated once consciousness is regained (e.g., alcohol and other drug intoxication).

Verbal Abuse

This entails screaming, naming calling, and insulting, which grossly affects the emotional state of the parents.

Emotional Abuse

Emotional abuse involves manipulating parents or causing emotional harm to them through various means. Children make use of suicidal threats and other threatening means to control their parents.

Financial Abuse and/or Financial Burden

Financial abuse also entails undue financial burden on the parents by children, persistent demands for money from parents, or reckless financial management by children. This form of abuse impacts

not only the financial security of the parents but also creates a self-sustaining cycle of dependence and control.

Physical Violence

Physical violence would be another acute CPV, where the children inflict physical harm on their parents. Some include hitting, slapping, and biting which, in extreme cases, even lead to attempted murder. These pieces indicate the extreme level of dangers or physical risks parents are exposed to in abusive situations.

Controlling Behavior

Controlling behaviour includes complete control over the activities and decisions of their parents by children. This CPV may appear as preventing parents from socialising, or not allowing them to make any decision independently.

Property Damage

Property Damage Property damage is an expression of CPV where, in fits of anger, children break or destroy household items. Further, this behaviour causes loss to the family and instils a sense of fear and insecurity amongst the members.

Sexual Violence

These include cases in which biological children or grandchildren inflict sexual violence on their parents and/or carers.

List of Tables

Table 1: Participants Demographic Data.....	50
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Title of the dissertation (Cover Page).....	i
Blank Page.....	
Abstract.....	ii
Declaration.....	iii
Copyright.....	iv
Acknowledgement page.....	v
Dedication.....	vi
List of Acronyms and Abbreviations.....	vii
Definition of Key Terms.....	viii
Table of contents.....	xi
List of Tables.....	x
 CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.1 Introduction.....	1
1.2 Background.....	2
1.3 Statement of the problem.....	4
1.4 Goal of the study.....	5
1.5 Research Objectives	5
1.6 Research Questions.....	6
1.7 Assumptions of the study.....	7
1.8 Significance of the Study	7
1.9 Delimitation of the Study.....	8
1.10 Limitations of the Study.....	8
 CHAPTER 2 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	9
2.1 Introduction.....	9
2.2 Theoretical Framework.....	10
2.2.1 The Family Systems Theory.....	10
2.3 Relevance of the Theoretical Framework of the Study.....	11
2.4 Forms of CPV experienced by parents.....	12
2.5 Risk Factors for CPV.....	15
2.6 Challenges encountered by parents facing CPV in seeking justice through the legal system.....	19
2.7. Parental Coping Strategies for Dealing with CPV	23
2.8 International Legal Frameworks on CPV.....	24
2.9 Summary.....	26
 CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	27
3.1 Introduction.....	27
3.2 The Research Design.....	27
3.3 Justification of the qualitative research process	28
3.4 Study site.....	28
3.5 Population and Sampling.....	29

3.6 Sampling procedures.....	29
3.7 Sample size determination.....	30
3.7.2 The sample.....	31
3.7.3 Recruitment of Participants.....	31
3.8 Data Collection Instruments.....	31
3.8 Data Collection Procedures.....	32
3.9 Analysis and Organisation of Data.....	33
3.10 Ethical Consideration.....	33
3.11: Summary.....	34
CHAPTER 4 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION.....	35
4.1 Introduction.....	35
4.2 Data Presentation and Analysis.....	35
4.3 Discussion and Interpretation.....	36
4.4: Summary	37
CHAPTER 5 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....	47
5.1 Introduction.....	47
5.2 Discussions.....	47
5.3 Conclusion.....	48
5.4 Implications.....	50
5.5 Recommendations.....	50
5.6 Suggestions for Further Research	51
REFERENCES.....	52
APPENDICES	61

CHAPTER 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

Child-to-parent violence is a disturbing, often ignored form of domestic violence that has begun to come into view over the last few years. Whereas most of the traditional research on family violence has usually targeted parents as the aggressors and children as victims, CPV points to the alarming truth that children become aggressors in their familial relationships. Perpetrators can be both male and female adolescents; some studies have indicated a predominance of males as aggressors (McElhone, 2017). Research studies have shown that family violence exposure is considered one of the most significant risk factors for CPV (Martín & Hernández, 2020; Ibabe, 2019). This phenomenon goes against the social generalization of family dynamics, calling for re-examining the legislative paradigm to ensure that both children and parents are protected from violence. CPV reveals a two-way reality in which, besides being victims, children can also be aggressors (Holt, 2022), thus challenging prevailing beliefs and emphasising the necessity of inclusive legal protections. CPV can take multiple forms: physical, psychological, emotional, and financial aggression (McElhone, 2017).

Despite CPV gaining attention around the world, it remains grossly underreported and understudied, especially in regions like sub-Saharan Africa. CPV remains under-researched and underreported, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, where cultural stigmas and social taboos further obscure the issue (Coogan, 2014). The existence of cultural and social barriers makes it hard for affected parents to seek help and protection. In Lesotho, there is a noticeable absence of research and legal provisions that directly address CPV, hence leaving the affected parents with a vacuum of justice and protection.

Therefore, this study tries to fill the research gap that exists concerning parent experiences in Lesotho who have been subjected to CPV and advocates for an effective legislative framework that fights against CPV. This study on the bidirectional nature of violence within families contributes to a bigger discourse around domestic violence and creates pressure for legal reform that balances the rights and protections accorded to children and parents.

1.2 Background

The field of research on the abusive behaviour of children towards their parents, child-to-parent violence (CPV) is relatively still developing, as the majority of studies on domestic violence have primarily concentrated on parents as perpetrators and children as victims of such violence. In comparison to other studies on family violence, CPV has been historically under-researched (Baeza & Fiscella, 2018). Although historical attention has been directed at parental violence against children, CPV emphasises the increasing awareness that violence can occur in both directions within the family unit. Baeza and Fiscella (2018), revealed that, in the past few decades, some research on this subject has been conducted in Europe and North America. Accordingly, it is important to acknowledge that a subset of parents have experienced abuse at the hands of their children, despite the limited attention and investigation this issue has received, resulting in underreporting and a lack of research in many parts of the world.

Research findings indicate that the worldwide incidence of CPV varies between 1% and 16% (Finkelhor et al., 2000; Jorgensen, 2001). In its 2018 report, the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) recognises CPV as a widespread yet inadequately reported concern. In addition to highlighting the need for additional research, the report emphasizes the scarcity of global data (UNODC, 2018). Although data is inadequate, research indicates that CPV may be present in

African nations (Okorodudu et al., 2019). In sub-Saharan Africa, research indicates that CPV is prevalent, but data are minimal due to cultural reluctance and social stigma associated with reporting (Oketcho et al. (2014)). In Lesotho, there appears to be a scarcity of research that is specifically dedicated to CPV. The lack of acknowledgement of CPV within legal frameworks frequently impedes victims' ability to obtain justice (Plan International, 2013). The insufficiency of Lesotho's legal framework in addressing CPV might hamper victims' ability to obtain justice. The absence of explicit legislation that addresses CPV presents substantial obstacles in terms of assuring accountability and protecting victims, while also balancing the rights of Children. According to Rutter (2023), child-to-parent violence adversely affects both children and parents, and future studies and practitioners should acknowledge the bidirectional dynamics of the parent-child connection.

Per the findings of Ibabe Erostarbe's study conducted in 2019, the phenomenon of parental abuse or CPV encompasses instances of physical or psychological maltreatment inflicted by offspring or adolescents upon their parental figures or caretakers. The forms of abuse may encompass psychological, physical, or financial dimensions. According to Waichler (2023), parental abuse can be distinguished from sporadic parental-child conflicts, as it manifests when feelings of frustration escalate into dissatisfaction, unmanageable rage or anger, and, occasionally, physical violence. Such behaviours have the potential to intimidate, belittle, manipulate, and exert control over parents. They serve as a mechanism for acquiring control or influence over the parental figure. Waichler (2023) further indicates that victims of parental abuse feel a variety of emotions such as helplessness, anger, fear, and despair. The purpose of this research was to gain insights into parental experiences on the growing threat or reality of CPV and to advocate for the enactment of a legislative framework to combat it. While numerous legal frameworks prioritise

child protection, there exists a deficiency in protecting parents against violence perpetrated by their offspring. Although CPV may be frequently overlooked in comparison to other types of violence, it can have significant repercussions for individuals, families, and communities. Lack or insufficiency of legal frameworks to tackle this matter might greatly impede victims' capacity to attain justice and protection.

1.3 Statement of the problem

Child-to-parent violence (CPV) is a significant but often overlooked form of domestic violence. In regions like Maseru, Lesotho, the prevalence and impact of CPV are compounded by social stigma, inadequate legal protections, and insufficient resources. Despite the critical nature of this issue, there remains a gap in comprehensive research specifically addressing CPV, its multifaceted challenges, and effective strategies for intervention and support. Although Lesotho has made international commitments to protect human rights, CPV remains largely invisible in the country's national discourse and legislative frameworks. This topic remains mostly unexplored and inadequately addressed within the context of domestic violence in Lesotho. Child-to-parent violence (CPV) is seldom discussed, both in private and public settings, by individuals who have experienced or been affected by it. According to Ghanizadeh & Jafari, (2010), this is a phenomenon that remains concealed, primarily due to feelings of shame. Parents generally hesitate to report instances of CPV until the circumstances become unbearable. This makes it more difficult to prevent and address CPV, which could have detrimental effects on both victimised parents and children who perpetrate violent actions against their parents and carers. There is a contention that the examination of adolescents and/or children's aggression directed towards their parents has been inadequately addressed in public policies and criminological research (Condry & Miles, 2014). This phenomenon is also observed in Lesotho, where instances of CPV are noticeably lacking in

the realms of law enforcement, juvenile justice, and domestic violence legislation. This topic has received limited attention in Lesotho's academic research and is hardly addressed in the criminological discourse on family or juvenile violence, resulting in a significant gap in knowledge and understanding of this issue. This study aimed to pioneer the research on CPV in Lesotho and answer the following three research questions: a) What are the forms of CPV experienced by parents in Lesotho, and what challenges do these parents face in obtaining justice through the legal system? b) How does the current legal framework in Lesotho address CPV, and what are the identified gaps? What are the best practices and international legal frameworks that Lesotho may learn from to develop a comprehensive legislative response to CPV?

1.4 The goal of the study

The main goal of this research endeavour was to investigate the lived experiences of parents who endure abuse perpetrated by their children within the context of Maseru suburbs, Lesotho, and the challenges faced by parents in seeking justice through the legal system. It also explored how Lesotho's legal framework addresses CPV and identified potential gaps. Finally, the research aimed to analyse best practices and international legal frameworks to inform a comprehensive legislative response to CPV, to make a meaningful impact on the development of a more efficient legal framework for addressing CPV in Lesotho, to provide enhanced protection for parents and to foster positive family dynamics, including safer family environments.

1.5 Objectives of the study

According to Hanson (2006), research objectives are the specific goals and objectives that a research effort aims to accomplish. By including objectives, researchers can help maintain focus and steer their work in the direction they plan. To maximize time and resource utilization, it is

critical to establish precise boundaries and parameters for the subject of study. The objectives of this study were:

- a) To identify forms of CPV experienced by parents in Maseru, Lesotho, and analyse the challenges parents face in seeking justice through the legal system for CPV.
- b) To examine how Lesotho's current legal framework addresses CPV and identify gaps in the legal framework regarding CPV.
- c) To determine the best practices and key elements of international legal frameworks that Lesotho can learn from to develop a comprehensive legislative response to CPV.

1.6 Research Questions

This section provides an overview of the research questions. A research question can be defined as a focused and complex inquiry that seeks to address a specific issue, problem, or dispute. It is characterized by its ability to be answered through a comprehensive study and interpretation of evidence (Lipowski, 2008). A research project's most crucial component is the formulation of the research question. The present study delineates the research questions that were pursued as follows:

- a) What are the forms of CPV experienced by parents in Maseru Lesotho, and what challenges do these parents face in seeking justice through the legal system?
- b) How does the current legal framework in Lesotho address CPV, and what are the identified gaps?
- c) What are the best practices and international legal frameworks that Lesotho can learn from to develop a comprehensive legislative response to CPV?

1.7 Assumptions of the study

The study was based on the assumption that the respondents would willingly cooperate and supply the necessary information with accuracy, honesty, and trustworthiness. It was anticipated that the responders would voluntarily collaborate and provide the requisite information with precision, integrity, and reliability. The study participants voluntarily engaged, collaborated, and supplied extensive information, including contributions from Key Informants who offered case examples without compromising confidentiality.

1.8 Significance of the Study

Child to Parent Violence (CPV) is being recognized as a major social economic issue. The study provides evidence for practice, policy and research in human rights advocacy to protect parents from abuse by their children. Intervention programs can be tailored to parents who are experiencing CPV. The findings of this research can inform the domestic violence legislation in Lesotho to protect parents. Post-incident psychosocial support for domestic abuse is key. Ongoing efforts are needed to increase awareness, understand CPV and research through practice-based methods. Stakeholders including civil society organisations, educational institutions, religious bodies, government agencies and individuals must work together to increase awareness and condemn parental abuse by their children. Increased awareness and proactive measures can increase services and solutions for those affected by CPV.

1.8 Delimitation of the Study

This study specifically examined cases of aggressive behaviour expressed by children and adolescents towards their parents. It encompassed several forms of abuse, including physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, and economic (financial) abuse. The aim is to increase public

awareness about these issues. The study also investigated the difficulties of seeking justice by survivors through the legal system, as well as examined the existence of legislative protections for parents and their human rights in cases of abusive behaviour by their children towards them. The study location will be restricted to a single district, specifically Maseru.

1.9 Limitations of the study

This paper identifies and appreciates the various limitations that could affect the findings derived from it. The sample size used in this research study was very small, resting on few participants; hence, it may not fully or accurately represent a larger population of either Lesotho or any other region. Further, data availability had been restricted by the need to rely upon existing legislation and those respondents who participated in this research study; this could limit the comprehensiveness and depth of analysis that was conducted. Data interpretation and policy implementation may also be subjective, with some biases derived from the various stakeholders' standpoints. Resource limitations had an impact on the depth and breadth of coverage carried out during the study. Cultural reluctance and social stigma attached to reporting CPV may also have caused some underreporting. The study was exclusively limited to the urban city of Maseru and hence might not be representative of the magnitude of experiences that define CPV in other regions of Lesotho or similar contexts across other countries globally. These limitations set a clear framework within which the findings presented herein should be interpreted, enabling readers to contextualize the findings a little better and appreciate the reliability of conclusions derived from this study.

CHAPTER 2 REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

2.1 Introduction

This section covers the literature review related to the study's topic, focusing on research goals and inquiries. A literature review entails a thorough analysis of academic sources in a specific field to understand the latest research, identify areas requiring more study, and synthesize findings from various studies (Thomas, 2021; Goertel, 2023). It summarizes and evaluates previously published works relating to a particular issue. CPV, being a grossly neglected form of aggression, is set as the core issue and aims at assessing current knowledge on CPV to support future legislative action. According to Denney and Tewksbury (2013), the literature review should therefore be transparently presented in terms of what is currently known and where knowledge is yet to be acquired through research.

The current study focuses on the narrative literature review, which is defined by its subjective incorporation of existing studies by summarizing and interpreting the findings without a strict methodological framework. As Farrukh and Sajjad (2023) establish, because of their intrinsically descriptive nature, narrative reviews allow for in-depth coverage of topics, making them a staple for any researcher interested in reviewing or synthesizing existing material. Narrative reviews are useful in areas where a comprehensive synthesis of complex or large volumes of research evidence is required, providing detailed synthesis and representation (Greenhalgh et al., 2018). They are also commonly used to address well-defined research questions. This chapter begins by reviewing the theoretical frameworks related to the study, focusing on the Family Systems Theory. This theory looks at familial interactions holistically, emphasizing the interconnectedness of family members and how individual behaviours have an impact on the entire family system.

2.2 Theoretical Framework

This section gives a brief overview of the theoretical framework relevant to child-to-parent violence. A theoretical framework is used to make a critical analysis of established concepts that help researchers build their argument for academic undertakings (Vinzy, 2022). Child-to-parent violence is a complex issue influenced by many factors and has been explored in-depth to unravel various theoretical frameworks and explanatory factors. Arias-Rivera and Hidalgo García (2020) state that the current literature on Child-to-Parent Violence (CPV) often focuses on explaining its underlying causes by using different psychological perspectives. The present study seeks to explore Family Systems Theory to design functional interventions and sources of support that could address CPV, promoting healthy family relationships and thus becoming very relevant in modern scholarship.

2.2.1 The Family Systems Theory

According to this theory, the Family Systems Theory views the family as an integrated system where a child's behaviour results from intricate interactions among the different parts of the family system. This theory does provide a very good lens through which to view child-to-parent violence in that it underscores the interaction between family structure and individual actions. According to Calvete et al. (2014), CPV development can be theoretically ascribed to two dominant causes: maladaptive family dynamics, such as parental harsh parenting styles, poor communication, or lack of proper boundaries that may spur more conflict and subsequent violence; exposure to violence, including violent interactions by parents or direct victimization, which increases the chances of children being violent themselves.

2.3 Relevance of the Family Systems Theory to the Study

Family systems theory is very significant to understanding cases of child-to-parent violence in Lesotho and in developing effective legal structures that will address this issue. This theoretical approach views families as interrelated units with behaviours and dynamics influencing one another. Dysfunctional patterns in families, such as abusive parenting, could lead to the development of child-to-parent violence. Individual behaviours should not be regarded as independent phenomena; rather, they must be understood within a broader system that requires investigation to identify the underlying factors contributing to violence. Intervention strategies grounded in this theoretical framework seek to improve familial dynamics by employing approaches such as family therapy counselling.

The application of family systems theory into legislative frameworks enables the holistic examination of the rights and responsibilities of individual family members, thus protecting both parents and children from acts of violence. The legislation should adopt a comprehensive approach to deal with violence by children towards parents and at the same time, promote the general well-being of the family system. This way, effective, yet culturally relevant legislation can be developed through the theory, hence more likely to be adopted and implemented by society according to the cultural context of Lesotho. Lastly, family systems theory provides a very important template in understanding child-to-parent violence as well as legislation in Lesotho that is designed to ensure safety for all members of the family while at the same time ensuring the values and justice of the society.

2.4 Forms of CPV experienced by parents

A serious issue, CPV can manifest in numerous ways, consequently leading to serious emotional anguish and physical pain for the victimized parents. Cottrell (2001) distinguished specific forms of CPV perpetrated against parents; he classifies the various forms of CPV as follows: Psychological violence involves a range of activities, such as intimidation, threatening, as well as, verbal communication that includes shouting, insulting, or having a hostile conversation. Physical violence includes actions such as pushing, hitting, using physical force, kicking, or punching. Financial violence is the illegal taking of money or personal property of parents, forcing parents to purchase things they feel are too expensive, or running up debts for which parents are expected to pay. Control, dominance, and power can be demonstrated through such actions as placing unrealistic demands on parents or taking over decision-making related to managing the home. All these behaviours can lead to distress and challenges in parents experiencing CPV. Additionally, more recent studies also revealed that CPV is characterised by several behaviours, including coercive control, dominance, intimidation, threats to obtain power through physical, verbal, psychological, or financial means, as well as physical and verbal attacks (Selwyn & Meakings 2015; Thorley & Coates 2018) cited in Hickey and McDonald (2021).

Furthermore, CPV encompasses a consistent series of aggressive and harmful actions, such as psychological or emotional abuse, verbal threats, physical violence, destruction of property, and financial exploitation (Wilcox & Pooley, 2015). Wilcox & Pooley, 2015 indicated that the CPV research recognised the following forms of violence and abuse:

- a) Verbal abuse includes behaviours such as yelling, arguing, challenging, making sarcastic and demeaning comments, issuing threats, engaging in name-calling, and using profanity.

- b) Physical abuse includes acts such as striking, slapping, punching, kicking, shoving, smashing, and hurling objects, creating holes in walls, throwing objects downstairs, spitting, and employing weapons. The findings indicate a notable prevalence of injuries among parents, including bruises, wounds, and fractured bones.
- c) Emotional abuse includes tactics such as intimidation, exerting control over household affairs, manipulating the mind, making unreasonable demands, running away from home, or staying out all night, lying, making threats to harm or kill, threatening to run away, commit suicide, or inflict self-harm, demeaning the parent or other family members, and withholding affection.
- d) Financial exploitation, including acts such as embezzling funds or appropriating the properties of parents, liquidating family assets, vandalising the home or parents' belongings, pressuring parents to purchase items beyond their means, incurring debts that parents are obligated to repay, and similar actions.

According to Seijo et al. (2020), the prevalence of violent child and adolescent behaviour towards their parents varies. Specifically, psychological, economic, and physical aggression are more common towards mothers than it is towards fathers. This highlights the impact that gender and family structure have on aggression towards parents. Harries et al. (2023) indicated that CPV can include parental experiences of physical abuse (PA), corporal punishment (CP), and cyber violence (CPCV). In addition, Waichler in 2023 provided an extensive list of cases that can be considered as CPV:

- a) Angry outbursts: Increased anger episodes.
- b) Physical attacks: Incidents of physical aggression

- c) Verbal threats: threats made verbally including insults.
- d) Property Destruction

The data on CPV in Spain varied based on the type of violence, as reported by Romero-Abrio et al. (2024, March). Romero-Abrio et al. (2024, March) referenced Suarez Relinque et al. (2023) who reported that the rates range from 4.6% to 22% in physical violence cases and between 45% and 95% in verbal violence cases. Property damage rates are estimated to be between 29% and 60% in the context of economic violence, while larceny rates are approximately 16% (Arias-Rivera & Hidalgo, 2020; Calvete et al., 2020; Suárez-Relinque et al., 2020). A further study conducted in Chile in 2021 revealed that 86.1% of the children evaluated in a representative sample reported engaging in at least one form of CPV behaviour within the past year. Specifically, 82.2% reported instances of psychological aggression, while 20% reported instances of physical hostility (Ilabaca Baeza et al. 2021). On the other hand, Studies undertaken in the United States and Canada have found that physical CPV occurs in approximately 11 to 22% of cases, whereas psychological CPV occurs in approximately 51 to 75% of cases (Margolin & Baucom, 2014).

Finally, the following behaviours are not considered CPV: isolated episodes of violence, those conducted in a state of reduced consciousness that are not recurrent once the state has cleared—such as during alcohol intoxication, withdrawal syndromes, delirium, or hallucination—and those that constitute a product of either transitory or permanent psychological disorders, such as autism or very severe mental disability; lastly, parricide with no record of previous aggression (Pereira et al., 2017).

2.4 Risk Factors for CPV

The causes of CPV are multilevel and involve all levels: family dynamics, socioeconomic difficulties, and the behaviours of particular individuals. Very recently, a scoping review by Junco-Guerrero et al. (2023) explored the risk factors for CPV. Among others, those included aggressor characteristics, parental educational style, and peer violence. Most importantly, Junco-Guerrero et al. (2023) have identified certain risk factors that, depending on the gender of either the victim or the aggressor, either exist or not. These risk factors and their associations, other than describing the variations that exist due to the gender of the perpetrator and the victim, were the focuses of the investigation. The results indicated that some of the risk factors, like personality traits, child maltreatment, and adolescent dating violence, vary according to the gender composition of the victim and perpetrator.

Other scholars such as Ibabe et al. (2013) have also examined the issue of CPV along with other forms of intra-family violence, including inter-parental and parent-to-child violence. The research they conducted is centred around finding the type of domestic violence that poses a greater risk for CPV and examines the gender differences in the continuity of violence. Their sample was drawn from nine schools and consisted of 485 adolescents between 12 and 18 years old. The associations of CPV with violence experienced by the child's mother from the child's father or inter-parental violence were found to be strong. Moreover, boys were found to commit physical aggression towards their mothers in cases when mothers received physical violence from their child's father. Among those characteristics of adolescents that distinguished them as violent towards parents - poor maternal rearing, antisocial adjustment and substance use - gender-dependent differences were found.

Contreras and del Carmen 2016 set out to explore child-to-parent violence from the perspective of adolescent aggressors who had physically attacked their parents. Research has focused on the relationship between exposure to violence in diverse contexts and the social-cognitive processing that is hostile social perception and impulsivity besides the competence concerning the capability to foresee the results of social behaviours and to choose appropriate forms of behaviour. This research compared offending adolescents with non-offenders and other juvenile offenders and located violence against parents to emanate from adolescents experiencing more violence at home. In cases of child-to-parent violence, a hostile social environment perception has been strongly associated with and located to emanate from exposure to violence at home. There is an association, in studies, within a family with a cycle of violence where there is child-to-parent violence.

The paper by Beckmann et al. (2017) focused on the risk factors for CPV, to establish factors that make a family or children experience CPV. In this particular research, they analyzed data from 6,444 ninth graders in Germany and found that among the great predictors of CPV for both boys and girls was exposure to parental physical and verbal violence during childhood exposure. Girls were at higher risk for verbal CPV, whereas no gender differences emerged in physical CPV. Maternal and paternal warmth buffered girls against physical aggression, whereas self-control buffered girls from verbal CPV and boys from physical CPV. Substance use problems prospectively predicted physical violence against parents for girls and boys, whereas suicidal ideation predicted violence in boys. It emphasized the role of parenting techniques within the home, particularly how harsh disciplinary measures could increase the severity of physical and verbal CPV.

Meanwhile, a case file study of 61 clinical and 30 judicialized cases uses the CPVR to analyse the risk factors in child-to-parent violence (Loinaz & Sousa, 2019). Results show that judicialized cases presented more risk factors, including low frustration tolerance, poor anger management, narcissism, and violent attitudes, among other psychological issues (Loinaz & Sousa, 2019). The more severe the aggressors, the more serious violence profiles they presented, such as bidirectional parent/child violence and violence that was not only child-to-parent. They were products of more dysfunctional families that exhibited violence between parents, cohabitation issues, inversion of hierarchy, non-violent conflicts, and criminal history among parents. Identified risk factors included narcissism, violent attitudes, parental violence, and parental problems like mental illness or substance abuse (Loinaz & Sousa, 2019).

In the study "Multivariate Models of Child-to-Mother Violence and Child-to-Father Violence among Adolescents," Hoyo-Bilbao et al. 2020 tested various risk factors at different ecological levels to establish the very causes responsible for the violence of children against their parents. The participants were 298 Spanish adolescents whose mean age was 15.91 and who had previously manifested child-to-parent violence. In turn, the most important violence predictors which emerged from the models were contextual level peer deviance, parental inefficiency in the enforcement of discipline at the family level, and drug addiction and impulsivity in adolescents at the individual level. Interventions should be addressed to these familial and individual factors.

The thematic analyses of interviews with participating parents were carried out to discuss child-to-parent violence under the spotlight within the framework of the VÍNCULO project. One of the latest studies recently published, led by Soto et al. (2022) from the University of Valencia, embraced a mixed-methods approach in general; nevertheless, the main results reported were

qualitative. Thematic analysis of the interviews with parents yielded four topmost themes, including the familial context and aggressive behaviour. This research showed the lack of communication between parents and adolescents, with the results of verbal and psychological violence. The VÍNCULO project focuses on how to increase the emotional links among family members to strengthen family bonds. It has underlined inefficient parenting, bad emotional relationships, and the normalization of violence. Programs like VÍNCULO give support and counselling to overcome the problems that have arisen within the family concerning child-to-parent violence.

Junco-Guerrero et al. explored in 2023 a representative sample of 904 students, aged between 13 and 20 years, attending high school, on the relationship of research into the family environment and Child-To-Parent Violence. The effect of being exposed to family violence, familial insecurity, and the justification of violence on CPV against mothers and fathers was estimated through structural equations modelling. These results indicated that exposure to family violence, emotional insecurity, and justification of violence had statistical significance regarding the CPV committed against parents. Adolescents who have experienced intra-familial abuse demonstrated higher levels of aggression; hence, the said variables partially mediated justification of violence and emotional insecurity. Thus, Junco-Guerrero et al. (2023) also suggest that the treatment and prevention of CPV aggressors should be revised in a way to improve security within the family system and change their attitude towards violence.

The literature review suggests that CPV is an issue that is multivariate and involves related influences. Research highlights that there is a constellation of risk factors that result in CPV; therefore, the intervention needs to consider social, familial, and individual levels. The above

issues are particularly pertinent to understanding how to progress with enhanced prevention and intervention. There is a need to consider gender issues, as the trends in violence and related risk factors are different for boys and girls. Understanding the risk factors for CPV allows the elaboration of effective preventive and intervention strategies.

2.5 Challenges encountered by parents facing CPV in seeking justice through the legal system

CPV is a problem that is growing in most countries; as such, parents' attempts to seek legal intervention are beset with difficulties. This section of the review addresses the research into the problems of parents seeking justice through the legal system for CPV. This section will also identify any gaps in the knowledge and suggest areas of future research. Various barriers to seeking justice for CPV have been discussed in the literature. Hunter et al. (2010), in their study, interviewed mothers who had been referred to family violence prevention programs and found several reasons why their children's abuse was kept hidden such as fear of being blamed; lack of support from practitioners; lack of policy recognition; belief that child abuse is connected with juvenile delinquency. Ibabe et al. (2013) indicate that violence from children makes it difficult for any parent to seek legal support due to the attached stigma and societal view about adolescent violence. Callaghan et al. (2020) discussed that the degree to which parents engage with the legal system is related to psychological problems and socio-economic expectations, making them not seek legal help since they feel guilty and fear judgment.

Condry and Miles (2012) raise that CPV is an issue of utmost importance that needs to be explicitly framed within the youth justice policy framework. While the practitioners are indeed sensitive to the fact and work with it, there lack of policy debate on the matter along with corresponding support services. The issues of CPV seldom get placed for debate in a legal

framework, youth justice framework, or domestic violence policy framework. The scarce scholarly interest and debate regarding CPV in criminological discussions markedly hamper progress in addressing the challenge efficiently. In addition, ambiguity over which system should best address the issue further exacerbates the lack of explicit policy direction. Condry and Miles (2012) highlight the need for the recognition and examination of CPV for the development of suitable interventions for the concerned families.

Armstrong et al. (2021) found that police responses to CPV are contingent on dynamics like gender, victim injury, and neighbourhood factors which again will determine whether a child in a CPV incident gets arrested or referred to social welfare agencies and, in turn, affects parents ways of seeking justice in such incidents. The current paper analyses 1,113 service calls from a Midwestern state reporting police decisions in cases of CPV. Highlights include that police are more likely to apprehend a male perpetrator when the victim is female; the likelihood of apprehension goes up with injuries; high family disruption is subject to informal responses within communities; and that contextual elements provide great variables in the police response to CPV and point toward the need for better support given to the affected families.

In their research, Vanaga and Pumpuriņa, dated May 2021, discussed child violence against parents from legal and psychological standpoints. They analyzed the existing legal framework developed one with deficiencies and proposed recommendations to amend the laws. The authors have pointed out that in the absence of such conditions when the violent behaviour of a child does not fall into the definition of a criminal offence, no legal consequences occur. The available categories cannot capture the peculiarities of CPV; hence, in such a hostile environment, it is hard for a set of parents suffering from CPV to find legal justice. According to Arevalo (2022),

determining whether law enforcement or social services should primarily handle CPV cases can impact family outcomes significantly. Furthermore, Jones (2023) emphasizes the importance of considering diverse cultural and socioeconomic contexts in research to better understand parental experiences.

Domestic abuse is a dilemma that many practitioners, scholars, and politicians cannot deal with effectively. In a research, Hunter and Piper (2012) analyzed the legal interventions for abuse between the parents. The authors provide existing remedies, case law, and data presented by the local professionals in this study. Reliance on the criminal justice system is common, but it is ineffective. Anti-social conduct orders also face issues. The law cannot adequately address this complex problem, yet the authors propose using legal measures more effectively to reduce parental issues (Hunter, & Piper, 2012).

CPV is seldom discussed even in family violence because of underreporting, hence a lack of support given to them (Williams et al., 2017). In addition, the significant lack of support programs for the parents exacerbates the frustration and vulnerability of the latter (Wilson et al., 2021). Debate still rages on whether criminal penalties or rehabilitation awaits the child or juvenile perpetrator in CPV. Some advocate for harsher legal penalties to deter bad behaviour, while others, such as Hunter and Nixon (2019), favour therapeutic approaches that address root causes. The role of social services is still debated.

Campbell's research in 2021 brought into the spotlight adolescent violence concerning CPV in a family context. It concluded that uniform legal approaches do not consider the complexities of the issue at hand. In Victoria, Australia, adolescents face the same legal approaches meted out to adults, which makes the victim-survivor feel isolated and not encouraged to seek

help. This is an indication that applying adult legal consequences to children may miss the family dynamics involved in the violence. Rather, what is required are individualized solutions that address the unique situations of the offenders. Measures put in place to cater individually to offenders and victim-survivors will provide an enabling environment where there is conflict resolution and healing.

Child-to-parent violence in Africa mostly goes unnoticed and is bereft of any legislative framework. Legal perspectives regarding CPV have seldom been researched. Most African nations do not have any legislation regarding CPV and instead focus either on child abuse or domestic violence. The prevailing legal framework protects children against adults, not the reverse. Gallego et al. (2019) undertook a review of 'CPV and Parent-to-Child Violence' and have remarked that, as concerns CPV, situational violence requires more research. Policy debates do not consider the difficulties experienced by parents in seeking justice. Research in the future should be directed towards the laying down of clear legislation; its socio-cultural features also have to be researched so that families can be helped and parents and children protected.

Ambiguous legal definitions obscure the identification of CPV. Such ambiguity may lead to confusing responses on the part of justice, social services, and law enforcement. The mission of juvenile justice is rehabilitation rather than punishment; this often conflicts with the need to hold parents accountable. Balancing victim protection in cases of CPV and the rights of the victim's children is complicated. Incidents of CPV are not always reported; rather, most incidents are underreported due to the associated stigma and confusion in legal pathways.

2.5 Parental Coping Strategies for Dealing with CPV

Understanding how parents cope with Child-to-Parent Violence is very important for effective treatments. Jiménez-Granado et al. (2023) discovered that parents affected by CPV have psychological and social consequences stemming from feelings of a guilty conscience, powerlessness, and low levels of self-confidence as a result of anxiety and depression. Parents employ several ways of coping but employing proper and effective strategies is called for. Arias-Rivera et al. (2022) highlight the importance of social support networks, yet many parents feel isolated and distrust institutions. To maintain family peace, parents might appease their children or reduce violence (Toole-Anstey et al., 2024).

Effective approaches for parents coping with CPV include structured programmes and communicative strategies that heighten the family's sense of security and resilience. Research has shown that the NVR program empowers parents and reduces the effects of CPV. Lauster et al. (2014) concluded that NVR offers parents practical ways of handling child aggressiveness, based on non-violence, clear boundaries, and a supportive atmosphere. Parents said the program helped them to cope better and reduce conflict within their homes. Concerning this aspect, the Probation Service, along with Le Chéile in Limerick, has directly addressed the needs of the parents regarding the management of aggression through the NVR program (Lauster et al., 2014). Lastly, they had structured support and acquired the skills with which to handle violent behaviour better.

CPV thus remains an under-investigated arena of study on coping strategies employed by parents. Most of the literature emphasizes measures for intervention rather than coping mechanisms. Indeed, studies by Jiménez-Granado et al. (2023), Arias-Rivera et al. (2022), and Toole-Anstey et al. (2024) have evidenced that parents with problems of CPV commonly act out

against feelings of shame, helpless pride, loss of confidence, and deterioration in mental health. Other parents employ maladaptive coping, such as giving in and minimizing the violence. Some other highly meaningful ways parents can meet challenges head-on and ensure that the environment in the home is healthy are through support groups and non-violent resistance. Therefore, the program in NVR empowers ways in which parents can formulate strategies, ensuring less conflict, emphasizing non-violence, setting limits, and establishing supportive environments. Family dynamics, cultural issues, along with the severity of CPV, may hinder the success of the program.

2.6 International Legal Frameworks on CPV

Child-to-parent violence is a global concern with diverse responses. Its classification is debated: some see it as juvenile justice, others as child protection or domestic violence. Legal responses vary; Spain treats CPV under adolescent delinquency laws (Contreras & Cano, 2016), whereas the United States does not have specific federal legislation and leaves it to state and local authorities to prosecute under various laws. It includes general domestic violence laws (Cottrell & Monk, 2018). This ambiguity affects policy development (Holt, 2016). The offender's age and victim relationship (child-parent) raise concerns about the criminal justice system's response (Armstrong et al., 2021). Condry & Miles (2012) note that even though CPV is acknowledged as widespread, very little policy attention is directed at it.

Vanaga and Pumpuriņa (2021) conducted a study on child violence towards parents in May 2021, covering psychological, educational, and legal aspects. The research objectives were to analyze the regulatory framework on child responsibility for parental violence, to reveal the gaps in the legislation, and to suggest improvements. The study has been conducted by applying

analytical, descriptive, linguistic, historical, teleological, and systemic interpretations. Identification of violent children, examination of family and societal roles, and accountability for aggression were emphasized. The study suggested a strengthening of accountability for such aggressive youth and intervention methods across disciplines to avoid minor violence.

The UN views child-to-parent violence as a form of domestic violence but allows countries to create their legislation. This has led to differing interpretations and applications, as noted by Federle (2017). No international treaty specifically deals with child-to-parent violence, although some legal systems cover it tangentially. The United Nations Riyadh Guidelines, established in 1990, guide how to prevent juvenile delinquency and address family issues that result in behaviour problems. There is some research on legal strategies regarding domestic violence; however, there is limited understanding of CPV. Legal systems are still developing to address this problem. Comparative analyses of the legal systems of different countries help to identify best practices and areas for development. While there exists no international legal structure on CPV, there are the bases provided by international conventions and national laws. More research is needed to increase awareness, legislation, and interventions about CPV, such as comparative studies of legislation across countries.

Literature highlights social services and law enforcement collaboration in addressing child-to-parent violence using cooperative models as stated by Smith, 2019. There is a debate between the criminalization of CPV or if therapeutic approaches work better against the crimes, Miles 2020 opposes criminalization as it overlooks the psychological motive and familial factors that cause this act. García 2018 favours culturally adapted solutions that respect the norms of the community. Research on the international legal landscape as related to CPV is also fragmented, having different

definitions and varied legal responses. What is needed is a set of uniform yardsticks to measure the psychological and cultural aspects of CPV, coupled with uniform policies. What the literature points toward is the need for an international dialogue and a comparative legal analysis regarding CPV. Future research should, therefore, be directed toward a comparison and a holistic approach, integrating legal, cultural, and psychological insights for a better global response to CPV.

2.7 Summary

Child-to-parent violence CPV is a serious social problem that has immediate and long-lasting consequences for the victim and the family. Existing legislation may not be well adapted to dealing with CPV, since the laws cannot be applied because the behaviour cannot be considered criminal. Research accentuates the need for the development of better legal principles while holding children liable for acts of violence. It also discusses the importance of an interdisciplinary approach to prevention. The lack of specific laws makes it difficult for the parents suffering from CPV to take the case to the courts. There is a gap between practice and the policy discussion of handling child-to-parent violence, which has not received proper attention in the policy discussion. Further research is needed in concentrated CPV.

CHAPTER 3 RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

This chapter highlights the research methodology approach that the research has used. The scientific methodology of research, according to Gavino et al. (2023), is called a strategic process that helps the researcher efficiently achieve his or her goals, using the right and appropriate resources at each stage of the research. According to Mahima (2024), research is carried out through applied, descriptive, conceptual, and exploratory methods. The selection of the methodology is quite critical because it forms the basis for any research study. The methodology section in a study allows the readers to assess the validity and reliability of a research study by answering questions regarding data collection and analysis methods. In this study, a qualitative research methodology was used to add structure and meaning to the analysis, following Kuhn, K. (2023).

3.2 The Research Design: Qualitative Design

The study employed the use of qualitative research to understand CPV, with a focus on participation. In such complex issues, different methods are useful for detailed understanding. This helped in understanding detailed qualitative research of CPV with personal experience and context. One of the main distinctive features of this research was using a narrative approach for thematic analysis. Qualitative research is essential for understanding CPV and creating effective interventions. The study gathered non-numerical data, including text and audio, to comprehend CPV and personal experiences. This method offered insights into CPV and suggested new research ideas (Bhandari, 2023).

3.3 Justification of the qualitative research process

Qualitative researchers are interested in obtaining the subjects' points of view (Schultze & Avital, 2011). This method allows detailed investigations into complex phenomena, including CPV, that would not have been captured by quantitative research methods. It allows for a deeper understanding of the cultural, social, and environmental contexts of CPV by directly interacting with the participants themselves. Qualitative research is an inductive approach whereby it brings out new information, more so about CPV. Crooks, D. L. (2001), points out that "Grounded theory discovers social processes and enhances societal understanding". Researchers can amplify the voices of parents dealing with CPV; this will further support awareness and advocacy of the condition.

3.4 Study site

The study was conducted in Maseru capital of Lesotho-where in recent times, there has grown a serious concern of CPV. Though specific data concerning CPV in Lesotho is not available, violent behaviour on the part of children and teens towards their parents is on the rise. Some of the reasons for such trends may include changes in society, media exposure to violence, and mental health issues. As the largest urban centre hosting diverse populations, Maseru was found ideal for researching CPV, whose insights might be generalized in other parts of the country. Research in Maseru on CPV is likely to provide insight into the wider national trends, as urban areas often reflect broader social dynamics in miniature. On the other hand, the availability of resources in terms of institutions like research, government, and health, among others, makes Maseru a convenient site for data collection and analysis.

3.5 Population and Sampling

3.5.1 Study Population

The section summarizes the research population. According to Bhandari (2023), it is the group that the researchers wish to conclude about. The primary respondents included biological mothers, biological fathers, and grandmothers-caregivers who had been in an experience with CPV while the secondary respondents—Key Informants (KIs) involved family lawyers and social workers. For ethical reasons, the study did not include minors (children), as they are vulnerable and easily coerced. They may not fully understand the meaning of their participation, and that further complicates informed consent and protection of their interests. The strict ethical and legal requirements also render it difficult to get approval from the ethics committee concerning children. The risks, according to the researcher, outweighed the benefits of including children. The research was to develop legal frameworks on the issue of violence between children and their parents, focusing on obtaining views from parents, carers, family lawyers, and social workers.

3.6 Sampling Procedure

The sampling techniques are presented in this section. For the current research, two nonprobability sampling techniques were applied: purposeful and snowball sampling.

3.6.1 Purposive and Snowball Sampling Procedures

a) Purposive Sampling

Purposive sampling, also known as judgment sampling, involves selecting participants intentionally based on specific criteria (Etikan et al., 2016). In this method, participants are chosen intentionally instead of by chance like in random sampling. The researcher selects units based on predetermined criteria or purposes to ensure that the sample represents the population or has the characteristics of interest. Purposive sampling requires the researcher to use judgment to select

units and does not have a predetermined number of participants or a set of assumptions before the research. The researcher must be responsible for locating and contacting individuals who can provide the necessary knowledge and experience to supply information (Bernard, 2017). In purposive sampling, the size is usually smaller compared to other random sampling techniques.

b) Snowball Sampling

The term “snowball sampling” denotes a non-probability sampling method wherein a researcher initiates the process with a limited group of persons who are already known and subsequently enlarges the sample by requesting these initial participants to suggest more individuals who should be included in the study (Crossman, 2019). Snowball sampling is a valuable method for researching individuals with special characteristics that may present challenges in terms of identification or accessibility. The present study focuses on a topic that is characterised by stigma and thus tends to be under-reported. Given this context, snowball sampling was deemed appropriate for this research.

3.7 Sample size determination

This section provides an overview of the methodologies utilized to determine the optimal sample size and the procedures applied for sampling.

3.7.1 Sample size determination

The researcher decided on the sample size for the current research on their own. Because of how qualitative research works and the type of data that is collected, there aren't any clear rules or numbers that can be used to tell you how many units should be in the research group (Kindsiko & Poltimae, 2019). Only fourteen (14) individuals participated in this investigation. The originally projected sample size was fifteen. One father who expressed interest in participating in the study

subsequently withdrew, citing feelings of humiliation in recounting their experiences, and noted that the researcher's female gender exacerbated their embarrassment.

3.7.2 The sample

The sample size used to carry out the research was approximately fifteen participants, three biological mothers, three biological fathers, and three grandmothers who have gone through CPV. Also included in this study as Key Informants were three Lawyers and three Social Workers. Every Key Informant participated in the research. However, only two biological fathers participated, as one withdrew at the beginning of the interviews, resulting in a total of fourteen (14) participants.

3.7.3 Recruitment of Participants

Recruiting research participants involved informing them about the study and getting their voluntary agreement to participate. The recruitment process included written communication through emails, as well as verbal communication via phone calls, WhatsApp messages, and word-of-mouth. Privacy concerns were taken into consideration and addressed effectively. Participants were given enough time and freedom to decide if they wanted to take part in the study. They were provided with precise and clear information to help them make an informed decision. Before the start of interviews, participants were given the consent form and script to review. They had time to reflect on the information, ask questions, and get answers before signing the informed consent form.

3.8 Data Collection Instruments

An interview guide was used to collect data during the in-depth interviews with participants. Mauldin (2020) defines an interview guide as containing questions or topics that the interviewer intends to address. It is termed a "guide" for it assists the interviewer; however, the

questions are more flexible. The researcher recorded the interviews and transcribed them for analysis. For remote interviewing, audio recordings were supplemented by Zoom and Google Meet platforms.

3.9 Data Collection Procedure

This section covers various modes of data collection, which is an indispensable process for research, analyses, and decision-making. Data collection involves the methodological process of gathering and analyzing data from various sources to answer research questions, find solutions, evaluate outcomes, and predict patterns and probabilities. Simplilearn (2023) has it that in this respect, the in-depth, semi-structured interview will be the method of research applied in the study.

3.9.1 In-depth Semi-Structured Interviews

The collection of data in this study is through in-depth, semi-structured interviews with participants. Interviews are not only a method for the collection of data, but actually, they also enable the researcher to capture how the interviewees view and interpret their experiences (Mahama & Khalifa, 2017 in Mahat-Shamir et al., 2021). The semi-structured interviews as a means of collecting data are based on asking questions within a set thematic framework approach (George, 2023). The researcher asked elaborative questions to understand the issues related to the CPV in an elaborative manner.

3.9.2 Primary Data Collection

Primary data was collected through direct information obtained from original sources. The study used in-depth semi-structured interviews for collecting primary qualitative data. This approach is important because it provides extensive information required for improving the study.

3.10 Analysis and Organisation of Data

3.10.1 Qualitative Data: Narrative Thematic Analysis

The study used Narrative Thematic Analysis as the approach to analyze qualitative data. The analysis was conducted manually without depending on software tools. Thematic analysis, as explained by Caulfield (2023), is analyzing textual documents, such as interview transcripts, for emerging themes and patterns. Researchers use a systematic six-step framework: familiarization, coding, theme development, review, definition, and documentation (Braun & Clarke, 2006; Braun & Clarke, 2021; Caulfield, 2023). This framework enables researchers to carry out in-depth data analysis while minimizing the risk of confirmation bias. Data analysis for this study used the six-step structure according to Braun, Clarke, and Caulfield's publications from 2006, 2021, and 2023, respectively.

3.11 Ethical consideration

The ethical guidelines to conduct domestic abuse research were followed; clearance was obtained from both the Africa University Research Ethics Committee and the Research Ethics Committee of Lesotho. Informed consent was necessary, where the participants had shown comprehension of the study and voluntarily decided to participate. The collection and reporting of the data were based on strong protection of confidentiality, safety, integrity, and anonymity. During interviews, participant privacy was protected. Risks were minimal with a protocol for addressing distress; participants could also withdraw at any time. There was no direct financial compensation, though ancillary services such as refreshments, airtime, and transportation if needed, were provided. Data management was handled with the utmost care, ensuring the security and privacy of the data through encryption and other measures of restricted access. Conflict of

interest was established to ensure that the research process ensured objectivity and credibility. Ethical considerations were pertinent in establishing the study on CPV.

3.12 Summary

This chapter describes the research study conducted in Maseru, Lesotho, to explore the concept of child sexual violence (CPV) in response to growing concerns due to changing social conditions and exposure to media violence. The study used a qualitative approach, focusing on the perspectives and experiences of participants, including parents, grandmothers-caregivers, family lawyers, and social workers. The data collected was non-numerical but provided insights into the complex idea of CPV. The sample size was fourteen participants, selected based on criteria acceptable in qualitative research, including purposive and snowball sampling methods. Ethical considerations were taken into account, with a focus on adults directly involved in CPV. Semi-structured in-depth interviews were the prime data collection method, guided by an interview guide. The study relied on narrative thematic analysis, adhering to a systematic six-step process to elicit themes and patterns from the data. The study adhered to ethical principles, including informed consent, confidentiality, and participant safety, while also managing potential conflicts of interest.

CHAPTER 4 DATA PRESENTATION, ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

4.1 Introduction

This qualitative research study tried to explore the experience of parents abused by their children in the suburbs of Maseru, Lesotho. It highlighted several challenges such parents encounter in their quest for justice through the courts of law. The study also looked at Lesotho's legal framework on CPV for its shortcomings. Data were gathered from primary and secondary respondents, namely: biological mothers, maternal grandmothers, biological fathers, lawyers, and social workers. A total of 14 interviews were conducted for the study, wherein the primary participants have experienced CPV firsthand, while the secondary respondents have known such cases. This research will contribute to informing legislative responses to CPV, protecting parents better, and building healthy family relationships.

4.2 Data Presentation and Analysis: Thematic Narrative Analysis

The qualitative data obtained from semi-structured interviews were analyzed via thematic narrative analysis. Braun and Clarke (2006; 2021) and Caulfield (2023) outline a six-step approach to narrative thematic analysis, and this was employed. Thematic analysis is the process of recognizing and understanding trends or patterns existing in non-numeric data like interview transcriptions. Clarke and Braun (2021) assert that such an approach allows meaningful observations to be made within a set of data. The research on Child-to-Parent Violence in Lesotho shows outcomes from six different stages that were followed during thematic analysis.

- a) Phase 1: Familiarization and/or Acquaintance with the Data.
- b) Phase 2: Involved in the creation of initial codes.
- c) Phase 3: Encompassed searching for themes (theme generation), that is, involved in the exploration of themes (theme generation).

- d) Phase 4: Involved reviewing the identified themes.
- e) Phase 5: Focused on defining and naming these themes.
- f) Phase 6: Involved in the Writing Up (composition of the report and/or writing up the report). The report is detailed in the last Chapter 5 (Discussions and conclusions).

The researcher reviewed interview transcripts without the assistance of any kind namely human resources and software.

4.2.1 Phase 1: Familiarization with the Data

The initial phase of data analysis concentrated on understanding the data and transcribing semi-structured interviews. After reviewing all the information at the disposal, an evaluation of transcripts was done to recognize recurring themes, important sayings, or relevant parts that dealt with the research matter at hand. By doing this initial work, we were able to come up with some ideas about what direction our study could take and find relationships within our findings. Important material was identified from both text and speech recordings which were then examined carefully in line with the objectives of the investigation. Demographic information given by respondents was used when trying to identify possible trends in data analysis. The respondents' demography is summarized in Table 1 below.

Table 1: Demographic Data of Primary Respondents (Data from All the Primary Respondents)

Variables	Details
Age	30 to 65
Gender	Mixed (Mothers, Fathers, Grandmothers)
Marital Status	1 single, 1 widowed, 1 divorcee, the rest married
Number of Children	1 to 4 children aged between 12 and 22
Occupation	Business owners, piece jobs, formal employment
Educational Level	1 Mother with Diploma, 2 Mothers with Secondary Education, 2 Grandmothers with Secondary Education, 1 Grandmother with High School Education, 1 Father with Primary School Education, 1 Father with Diploma
Household Income	2000 Maloti to 10,000 Maloti

Employment Status	All respondents except 1 Grandmother and 1 Father have ever been formally employed
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The study analysed the socio-economic and educational backgrounds of mothers, fathers, and grandmothers aged 30 to 65 years in Maseru, Lesotho. It encompassed single, divorced, married, and widowed individuals, with grandmothers typically exhibiting low educational attainment. The majority were employed, earning between 2000 and 10000 Maloti, and had between 1 and 4 children aged 12 to 22. Instances of Child-to-Parent Violence (CPV) are predominantly observed during adolescence and persist into early adulthood, thereby influencing their lives and hindering their capacity to obtain assistance and pursue justice.

4.2.2 Phase 2: Creation of categories and Generating initial codes

The next step in data analysis was to sort through the data obtained through in-depth interviews, which targeted various categories of respondents like mothers, fathers, grandmothers, lawyers, and social workers. There were several points within the data that were highlighted with codes for each informant to maintain the context. Multiple descriptive codes were generated by re-reading the same data extract several times to provide a summary of the main idea within a data segment. This process of manual coding establishes a matrix of data for further analysis and theme identification

4.2.3 Phase 3: Searching for Themes

The main goal of this stage was to group the initial codes into broader themes that would show how the data relate. Each code was carefully inspected for trends and similarities. Next, a list of all initial codes found throughout was made; any single code whose essence coincided with another was then categorized under one heading. The themes together with their supporting codes were well organized in such a way that they were well presented logically on tables to ensure

strength and significant findings from this study. For instance, codes such as "Verbal Abuse, Emotional Abuse, Financial Burden, Physical Violence, Property Damage" were all linked together under the heading "Forms of Child-to-Parent Violence".

4.2.4 Phase 4: The review of identified themes

The researcher reviewed themes and codes to enhance data representation. The aim was to establish the most accurate method for representing the data by excluding unrelated codes. Initial coding identified emerging themes in a purely inductive process which involved exploring, evaluating refining and naming these themes. The process ensured that each identified theme was clear and definable. The accuracy of them was confirmed by matching them with information in the interview transcripts. Combining themes such as "Financial Burden and "Financial Abuse" into one meaningful theme to enhance their representation was considered in the analysis. Emphasizing the singularity and appropriateness of each theme formed a fundamental basis of the study which ensured it was coherent.

4.2.5 Phase 5: Defining and naming of themes

The research focused on the themes relevant to child-to-parent violence (CPV). Those mainly included the forms of CPV, challenges seeking justice, legal framework, legal challenges or gaps, and also best practices. To better understand how these themes pertain to the research questions, they had to be narrowed down carefully. To do this, various themes have been conjoined such as to avoid complexifying matters with no extra significant addition to the narrative. This process led to phase 5 which was narrative thematic analysis used for identifying and labelling those themes.

a) Theme 1: Forms of CPV experienced by parents in Maseru, Lesotho.

This theme reveals how children can be violent to their parents in different forms which include: verbal abuse, emotional abuse, physical violence, sexual abuse, financial abuse and property damage. The study explains the manifestations of CPV within the context of family relations. Though sexual violence towards parents was less reported, there were few cases specifically targeting grandmothers by their grandchildren. Recognizing diverse types of maltreatment is important because it helps stakeholders develop personalized interventions and support structures for parents affected by CPV. The results showed that the most common forms of abuse were verbal and emotional followed by financial, physical, controlling, property destruction, and sexual abuse respectively. These results underline the intricate nature of CPV and hence the pressing need for holistic protective measures.

All participants reported verbal and emotional abuse, which included insults, threats, and intimidation. Financial abuse affected 78. 57% of participants, involving demands for money and irresponsible behaviour. Physical violence, reported by 50%, included severe acts like stabbing and attempted murder. Controlling behavior was noted by 42. 86% of participants, involved domination of parents' actions. Property damage affected 92. 86%, including destruction of belongings. Sexual violence was the least reported at 14. 29%, presenting severe cases of rape and threats.

b) Theme 2: Challenges in Seeking Justice

This theme identifies barriers that parents encounter when trying to report and seek justice for CPV. These ranged from societal stigma to fear of retaliation, lack of understanding, ineffective

law enforcement, and a lack of legal protection. An understanding of these issues is important in the development of support systems and legal reforms to help parents deal with CPV. Parents often report feeling ashamed and judged when reporting CPV, which causes them to isolate and not report. Furthermore, fear of retaliation by the children, coupled with ignorance about their legal rights and resources, deters parents from seeking help. Weak law enforcement further erodes parents' confidence in the legal system and the lack of clear guidelines regarding handling CPV sets at ease the requirements for comprehensive legal reforms. In summary, these challenges underline the seriousness of the need for legal reforms, education, and community interventions to appropriately address CPV and support affected parents.

All participants noted a social stigma that alludes parents from reporting CPV due to community judgment. 71. 43% expressed fear of retaliation from their children as a significant barrier to seeking help. 85. 71% reported a lack of awareness about legal rights and available resources hindering reporting. 50% highlighted the shortcomings of law enforcement in handling such cases, leading to parental distrust. Lastly, 100% of participants stressed the inadequacy of current legal protections and the need for comprehensive reforms to address CPV effectively.

c) Theme 3: Legal Framework

This theme examines the legal provisions and policies related to CPV, including international and national frameworks and legislation that purport to respond to and create protection against CPV. Such a review of the legislation is intended to expose the shortcomings and possible areas of improvement in view of ensuring complete protection for parents who are victims of CPV. It showed big gaps in both international and national legal frameworks on issues of CPV. International conventions such as CEDAW, the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

and national laws like the Child Welfare Act, the Counter Domestic Violence Act, and the Penal Code do not clearly address CPV.

Participants noted that the existing laws are not effectively implemented, hence the need to have specific legal provisions with better enforcement mechanisms for the effective address of CPV. The current legal system for CPV is complex and does not have specific provisions to protect parents facing violence from their children. This requires modification/amendments of already available legislation, for example, the Child Welfare Act, as well as creating specific laws touching on CPV that will provide adequate protection to parents. The Counter Domestic Violence Act primarily deals with domestic violence perpetrated on women and children by adult perpetrators. Consequently, parents are left exposed to CPV. Implementation issues, such as inadequate training for law enforcement officers, lack of victim awareness, and insufficient resources to support victims, also stand in the way of the effectiveness of existing laws in protecting parents experiencing CPV.

The data underscored significant gaps in both international and national legal frameworks in addressing child-to-parent violence (CPV). International conventions like CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, mentioned by 64.29% of key informants, focus on domestic violence but do not address CPV specifically. Nationally, the Child Welfare Act and the Counter Domestic Violence Act, both cited by 71.43% of participants, offer some protection against domestic violence but overlook CPV. Additionally, only 35.71% of participants noted the Penal Code, which addresses general criminal offences, fails to cover CPV. Furthermore, 64.29% of participants highlighted the ineffective implementation of existing laws, indicating that even the

current legal protections are not adequately enforced. These statistics highlight the urgent need for specific legal provisions and better enforcement mechanisms to effectively address CPV.

d) Theme 4: Legal Challenges/Gaps

This theme analyses the barriers and shortcomings in the current legal framework that impede protection and justice-seeking by parents who are victims of child-to-parent violence. The data suggests that 71.43% of the respondents highlighted inadequate provisions in the law, for which CPV is not explicitly provided. In addition, 57.14% noted gender-based discrimination within the current legal system; that is, the protection laws focus more on mothers and children, thereby ignoring victimized fathers. Enforcement issues were highlighted by 50% of the respondents, indicating weak enforcement of the existing laws. More than that, 21.43% of participants stated that there are no clear guidelines within the legal system in dealing with CPV cases, leaving it open and therefore few options are available to parents. These challenges indicate the critical need for specific legal provisions that are not biased towards any specific parent; effective enforcement, and clear guidelines to effectively address CPV.

A lot of areas require improvement in legislation around CPV, gender-biased issues, enforcement problems, and unclear guidelines in the legal system to provide full protection and justice to parents experiencing CPV. The Counter Domestic Violence Act does not cater to protection for CPV against parents, which clearly calls for a much wider legal framework. Inadequate enforcement of existing laws leaves parents without the protection they need—because of a lack of police training, victim awareness, and resources. Clear guidelines are essential to ensure that CPV cases get consistent and effective legal responses. Addressing the challenges in the legal system is important for better support and protection of parents experiencing CPV.

e) Theme 5: Best Practices

This theme covers best practices and effective strategies in addressing CPV. Community-based initiatives, through the mobilization of the community, can sensitize and prevent CPV. Multidisciplinary approaches, including social work, police, legal, and health sectors, are important in responding effectively to CPV. Importing best practices from the international arena can also inform local efforts against CPV. While community-based initiatives are very critical in the aspect of creating awareness, educating, and establishing support for parents and children to prevent CPV, legal reforms will create a strong legal foundation for protecting parents against CPV by learning lessons from countries with enacted legislation. To this effect, multidisciplinary approaches call for inter-sector collaboration in providing holistic support to parents and children facing CPV. International best practices provide useful lessons for developing country-specific strategies to address CPV effectively, as successful interventions in other countries provide important lessons. Valuable learning from international strategies can enhance efficiency in CPV prevention and response in Lesotho.

71. 43% of participants believe community-based initiatives are essential for preventing CPV through community mobilization. 64. 29% recommend legislative reforms to improve protection from CPV, borrowing from effective legislation in other countries. 78. 57% stress the need for multidisciplinary actions which are specific to social work, police, legal, and health sectors. 57. 14% find it useful to borrow international best practices in addressing CPV in Lesotho, meaning global strategies can inform local efforts. These findings require community participation, legal reform, coordination, and learning at the international level for effective response to CPV.

4.3 Discussion and Interpretation

A study on child-to-parent violence in Maseru, Lesotho, investigated the socioeconomic and educational backgrounds of parents in the age bracket 30-65 years, noting the different forms of CPV and the barriers to seeking justice. The study established that CPV problems normally set in during adolescence and might extend into early adulthood, causing major concerns for parents. Among the forms of CPV identified, verbal and emotional abuse were most frequent, followed by financial abuse, physical violence, controlling behaviour, property damage, and, to a lesser extent, sexual violence. These diverse forms of abuse point out the need for focused intervention strategies as well as all-encompassing support systems for parents affected by CPV.

Parents face many challenges in the process of seeking justice for CPV, including societal stigma, fear of retaliation, lack of knowledge about their legal rights, ineffective law enforcement, and inadequate legal protections. Many of these barriers cause parents not to report CPV, thus isolating themselves and underreporting. All respondents reported that the pervasive societal stigma prevents parents from seeking help because of the fear of community judgment. In addition, fears of possible retaliation from their children as well as a lack of information about available resources further restrict parents' actions to seek justice. Ineffective law enforcement in addition to the lack of guidelines regarding CPV calls for comprehensive legal reforms, education, and community interventions that will consequently help affected parents appropriately.

The legal framework was analyzed concerning the significant gaps that exist in international and national legislation addressing CPV. International conventions and national laws such as CEDAW, the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Child Welfare Act, and the Counter Domestic Violence Act do not address CPV specifically. More than that, the problems

with enforcement and the lack of clear legal provisions concerning CPV leave parents without appropriate protection. The study, therefore, emphasizes the need for community-based initiatives, legal reforms, multidisciplinary approaches, and the adaptation of international best practices to address these gaps. The presentation of these strategies shows the importance of integrating legal, social, and community-based efforts in providing full protection and support for parents who face CPV in Lesotho.

4.4 Summary

This qualitative research study explored the experiences of parents who are being abused by their children in the suburban areas of Maseru in Lesotho and focuses specifically on the challenges they encounter in seeking justice through the legal system. It assessed the legal framework of Lesotho related to child sexual violence to identify potential gaps. Information was obtained through interviews with primary respondents who have experienced child-to-parent violence (CPV), as well as secondary respondents, including family members, legal professionals and social workers. A total of 14 interviews were conducted aiming to inform legislative action and help bolster parental protection while promoting healthy family relationships.

Qualitative data obtained from the interviews were analyzed using thematic narrative analysis following a structured six-step process. Analytical steps included familiarization with the dataset, initial coding, identification of themes, review of the themes, naming and defining themes, and writing the report. The researcher independently reviewed the interview transcripts to extract meaningful patterns related to the study's objectives. Participants' demographic data was analyzed. The study recruited parents between 30 and 65 years of age, with different marital statuses and education levels, mostly employed, and having children aged between 12 and 22 years. Most of

them in the study reported that CPV problems manifest in adolescence through to early adulthood, which affects their pathways for seeking help and justice.

Coding yielded the following themes. Firstly, CPV was developed into different forms: verbal and emotional abuse, financial abuse, physical violence, controlling behaviour, and property damage, while the least is sexual violence. The second theme pointed out the many problems parents encounter in the process of reporting such abuse: societal stigma, fear of retaliation, lack of awareness of the law, ineffectual law enforcement, and lack of protection under the law.

The legal framework theme showed important gaps in both international and national laws concerning CPV, where existing laws did not address the problem. The final themes discussed the legal challenges and proposed best practices in addressing CPV, placing much emphasis on community initiatives, legal reforms, and multidisciplinary approaches in rendering holistically supportive services to protect parents affected by violence in Lesotho.

CHAPTER 5 SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Introduction

The purpose of this chapter is to synthesize the key findings of this study into broader practical considerations and to develop an in-depth analysis regarding the alarming issue of CPV in Maseru, Lesotho. This chapter discusses key findings that have allowed us to make insightful conclusions that are soundly grounded in such findings throughout this chapter. It also provides useful recommendations applicable to policy, practice, and avenues for further research. The major objective of the present chapter is to advance a comprehensive grasp of CPV, which encompasses not only the challenges confronting parents but also stresses those lacunas that exist in the legal framework. Secondly, it intends to outline some useful strategies that can be implemented to deal with the critical situation at hand.

5.2 Discussion

The findings that emanated from this study gave a comprehensive and elaborate understanding of the phenomenon of CPV as it occurs in Maseru, which is the capital city of Lesotho. A multimodal analysis of data revealed various forms of CPV, multilayered in manifestations, such as, among others, verbal abuse, emotional abuse, financial exploitation, and physical aggression, besides property damage and, in rare cases, occurrences of sexual violence. The presence of these various forms of CPV outlined the very serious and often devastating impact such behaviours had on parents, thus constituting a dire need for the implementation of effective interventions that would address and mitigate these disturbing behaviours. Parents face severe difficulties in seeking CPV justice. Social stigma, fear of retaliation, lack of awareness about the law, and poor implementation of the laws were among the main challenges stated by most of the

parents that withheld them from reporting the CPV. These challenges highlight the need for greater community support and legal awareness to empower parents to get help.

The critical gaps in the existing legal framework also came to light. Although international conventions like CEDAW set the ground for protection against domestic violence, they have vague provisions concerning CPV. Also, the Child Welfare Act and Counter Domestic Violence Act enacted nationwide do not provide specific protection for parents suffering from CPV, as their focus was more on the protection of children and women. The Penal Code deals only with criminal offences and does not consider CPV specifically, hence further complicating the legal recourse for parents. The analysis of best practices from other regions further calls for community-based initiatives, legal reforms, a multidisciplinary approach, and international best practices. Such strategies are therefore useful to inform local efforts in Lesotho aimed at devising an effective and comprehensive response to the prevalence of CPV.

5.3 Conclusion

In conclusion, this study highlights the pressing issue of CPV in Maseru, Lesotho, revealing its various forms, the challenges in seeking justice, gaps in the legal framework, and the effectiveness of best practices. The findings underscore the necessity of multifaceted interventions that combine legal reforms, community engagement, and comprehensive support systems to address CPV effectively.

Key Conclusions:

Objective 1: To identify forms of CPV experienced by parents in Maseru, Lesotho, and analyze challenges parents face in seeking justice through the legal system for CPV.

The study allows the drawing of conclusions that CPV can manifest in many forms, such as verbal, emotional, physical, sexual, and financial abuse, including property damage. Verbal and emotional

abuse was the most frequently reported and affected all participants; financial abuse and property damage were also of concern. There was also a prevalence of physical violence and controlling behaviour, though less frequent, whereas sexual violence was the least reported but severe when it did occur. Challenges in the search for justice include stigmatization in society, fear of retaliation, a lack of awareness regarding the law and legal rights, inefficient law enforcement, and a lack of adequate legal protection. These findings call for comprehensive protective measures and legal reforms which will support parents facing CPV.

Objective 2: To examine how Lesotho's current legal framework addresses CPV and identify gaps in the legal framework regarding CPV.

The study has shown wide gaps in international and national legal frameworks concerning CPV. International documents such as CEDAW and the Convention on the Rights of the Child, and domestic laws like the Child Welfare Act and the Counter Domestic Violence Act do not address CPV directly. In addition, the Penal Code does not cover CPV adequately. This is further compounded by the ineffective application of the existing legislation, where key informants continue to note problems associated with enforcement. In conclusion, this study emphasizes the critical need for specific legal provisions and improved enforcement mechanisms through which CPV will be dealt with effectively within Lesotho's legislative framework.

Objective 3: To identify the good practices and essential components of international laws that Lesotho can borrow to create an all-inclusive legislative response to CPV.

The study highlights the importance of community-based initiatives, multidisciplinary approaches, legal reforms, and adaptation of international best practices in addressing child prostitution (CPV) in Lesotho. Community mobilization is crucial for preventing CPV while learning from other countries' experiences is crucial for a strong legal foundation. A multidisciplinary approach

involving social work, police, legal, and health sectors is crucial for comprehensive support. These strategies form a building block for a holistic legislative response to CPV.

5.4 Implications

This study brings forth some major implications. The identification of CPV forms and challenges indicates the need for targeted interventions and support systems for parents. The gaps in the legal framework point to the need for legislative reforms to include specific provisions for CPV. Its findings can help to inform policy development and standard operating procedures towards better protection of parents and addressing CPV. Besides, the identified best practices serve as models for local adaptations that will contribute towards more effective and comprehensive strategies to mitigate CPV in Lesotho.

5.5 Recommendations

Based on the findings and the resulting conclusion of the analysis, five specific recommendations to stakeholders in Lesotho including the Government of Lesotho, service providers, etc concerning addressing CPV in Maseru, Lesotho are as follows:

- a) Legal Reforms: Amend the existing laws, such as the Child Welfare Act and the Counter Domestic Violence Act, with explicit provisions dealing with CPV as soon as possible, and make sure that such amendments have clear guidelines on protection and enforcement to support parents facing CPV more effectively while also protecting the rights and welfare of children in the process.
- b) Community-Based Programs: The community-based programs community-based programs ought to exist to bring about awareness of CPV and support parents, including community leaders, social workers, and law enforcement personnel desiring an enabling environment which may allow reporting and intervention.

- c) **Multidisciplinary Approaches:** Encourage the system's integration of cooperation between social services, healthcare, education, and law enforcement for a holistic approach to dealing with CPV. Increase multidisciplinary teams who can give appropriate support to parents and ensure coordination of effort in the handling of CPV cases.
- d) **Public Awareness Campaigns:** Conduce public awareness on the de-stigmatization of CPV, the rights of the parents, and the means that exist to support families experiencing CPV. Use all possible media channels to send the message out to a wider audience and persuade parents that they can seek help without any fear of condemnation or retribution for the same.
- e) **Law Enforcement Training:** Impart specialized training to law enforcers on how to handle CPV cases. It shall be directed to identify the signs of CPV, understand the legal framework, and apply protective measures that guarantee the parents get support and justice. These recommendations will result in a holistic approach towards addressing CPV, which includes legal reforms, community engagement, interdisciplinary collaboration, public education, and improved training of law enforcement. Through these strategies, stakeholders can help parents much more effectively, and thereby successfully counteract CPV in Lesotho.

5.6 Suggestions for Further Research

Most of the studies carried out in Lesotho on CPV cannot be used to provide a deep understanding of the phenomena, and more studies are needed. Future research possibilities may include the following:

- Long-term impact of CPV on parents and children.
- The importance of cultural factors in shaping CPV dynamics.
- Effective intervention strategies that respond to various socio-economic contexts.
- Impact that legal reforms have on the incidence and management of CPV.
- Comparative studies of CPV in various regions to trace both universal and context-specific factors.

With the help of these recommendations and further research, Lesotho will be in a position to realize a better and fuller strategy of prevention and addressing CPV for its protection and support of the parents and the community in general.

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APPENDIX: 1 INFORMED CONSENT FORM

Title of the proposed study:

Child-to-Parent-Violence: Towards an effective legislative framework in Lesotho.

Investigators:

Hlalefang Gloria Jaase: MHRPD 230623

My name is **Hlalefang Gloria Jaase**, a final year (M.Sc. Human Rights, Peace, and Development) student from Africa University, Zimbabwe. I am carrying out a study on 'Child-to-Parent-Violence: Towards an effective legislative framework in Lesotho'. I am kindly asking you to participate in this study by answering the interview questions prepared that you will be asked.

What you should know about the study (Purpose of the study):

The purpose of this research is to gain insights into parental experiences on the growing threat or reality of Child-to-parent violence (CPV) and to advocate for the enactment of an effective legislative framework to combat it. While numerous legal frameworks prioritise child protection, there exists a deficiency in protecting parents against violence perpetrated by their offspring. As indicated below, the objectives of this research are as follows:

- a) To identify forms of Child-to-parent violence (CPV) experienced by parents in Maseru, Lesotho, and analyze the challenges parents face in seeking justice through the legal system for CPV.
- b) To examine how Lesotho's current legal framework addresses Child-to-parent violence (CPV) and identify gaps in the legal framework regarding CPV.
- c) To determine the best practices and key elements of international legal frameworks that Lesotho can learn from to develop a comprehensive legislative response to Child-to-parent violence (CPV).

You were purposefully selected for the study because the researcher believes you have rich experience and knowledge on issues around CPV.(state why the participant was chosen and there are 15 of you involved in the study. The individuals who participate in the study are three (03) biological mothers, three (03) grandmothers, and three (03) biological fathers, as well as Key Informants such as three (03) lawyers, and three (03) social workers. All individuals in question are adults. It is expected that all participants play an active role in the research, throughout the process of data collection and analysis. They are needed throughout the data analysis period for additional tasks and to offer further explanations of the interview responses.

Procedures and duration

This study utilises qualitative research methods and employs purposive and snowball sampling techniques to determine the sample. To collect data, the researcher conducts semi-structured face-to-face interviews. In case of unforeseen circumstances, contingency interviews may also be

conducted through virtual or online platforms. The interviews will be recorded based on the participants' consent. The researcher also employs an Interview Guide to carry out the interviews. The data analysis will be conducted utilising the qualitative research method known as "Narrative Thematic Analysis." If you decide to participate you will be required to give consent by signing this consent form. It is expected that the duration of the interview is between 30 minutes to 1 hour.

Risks and discomforts

The participants in this study face minimal risk due to the short duration of their involvement and the extremely low probability of any harm occurring. Given the possibility of psychological discomfort arising during interviews, especially when parents and carers recount their experiences of CPV, the researcher has taken into account the need to send participants to psychological support services. Participating in the study does not incur any financial expenses for the participants; however, the allocated expenditure for unexpected events will be utilised to handle and oversee any potential risks, discomforts, and inconveniences.

Benefits

The present research holds significance for the body of research. The issue of CPV is gaining recognition as a significant socioeconomic problem. The results of this study will play a crucial role in providing valuable insights for guiding practice, policy development, and further research in human rights advocacy for the protection of parents against their children's abusive behaviour. Multiple intervention programmes can be implemented to effectively address the specific needs and challenges parents have experienced or are currently experiencing with CPV. The persistent endeavours in research, including the discoveries presented in this study, have the potential to shape the development of domestic violence legislation, specifically regarding safeguarding parents from abusive behaviour by their children. The findings underscore the necessity for the government of Lesotho to develop further measures that effectively tackle this issue. Finally, the outcomes of this study may attract the attention of various stakeholders, including civil society organisations, institutions of learning, religious institutions, government bodies, non-governmental organisations, and individuals engaged in the advocacy and protection of parents from CPV. These entities should take proactive measures to amplify awareness-raising initiatives aimed at unveiling and denouncing instances of parental abuse perpetrated by their offspring.

Compensation for participation in the study

Participants will not receive any compensation for their involvement in the research. The level of risk involved in conducting interviews is very low. If the need arises, the researcher will cover any compensation expenses.

Questions about Reimbursement

The research does not need travel, thereby reducing any transportation fees. However, if transportation needs arise, the researcher will compensate the participants. Alternatively, the researcher may reimburse the participants for the cost of their internet usage during the virtual interviews.

Questions about participants' rights

Before the interviews begin, the participants receive the necessary documents to provide informed consent, including the consent form and consent script. The study participants are given sufficient time to carefully consider the information provided and provided an opportunity to ask the Investigator any questions they may have to decide if they would like to participate in the research. Any inquiries regarding participation in the study are addressed before signing the informed consent.

Confidentiality

The findings obtained from this investigation will be handled with great care to ensure confidentiality and will only be used for scholarly purposes. The researcher insists on maintaining the utmost confidentiality and privacy regarding the identity of all those involved in the study, per ethical provisions in research. The personal identifier of the participants will not be included on any of the encoded documents containing the data. Both physical and digital records will be stored securely, utilising locking mechanisms and password protection to ensure their confidentiality and safety.

Voluntary participation

Participation in this study is voluntary. If the participant decides not to participate in this study, their decision will not affect their future relationship with the researcher or Africa University. Respecting individual autonomy is a crucial element of the proposed study, allowing individuals to freely choose whether or not to participate. If you choose to participate you are required to give consent. On the other hand, you are free to withdraw from the research study at any point without facing any repercussions and/or penalty.

Offer to answer questions.

Before you sign this form, please ask any questions on any aspect of this study that is unclear to you. You may take as much time as necessary to think it over.

Authorisation

If you have decided to participate in this study please sign this form in the space provided below as an indication that you have read and understood the information provided above and have agreed to participate.

Name of Research Participant (please print)

Date

Signature of Research Participant or legally authorised representative

If you have any questions concerning this study or consent form beyond those answered by the researcher including questions about the research, your rights as a research participant, or if you feel that you have been treated unfairly and would like to talk to someone other than the researcher, please feel free to contact the Africa University Research Ethics Committee on telephone (020) 60075 or 60026 extension 2156 email aurec@africau.edu

Hlalefang Gloria Jaase

Name of Researcher -----

APPENDIX 2: INFORMED CONSENT SCRIPT

NB: Tick the answer you choose

- a) Did you receive and review a copy of the informed consent letter? **Yes/no**
- b) Did you have the opportunity to ask questions and were they answered to your satisfaction?
Yes/no
- c) Do you understand that you have the right not to participate and the right to withdraw at any time? **Yes/no**
- d) Do you understand that any information you provide will be kept confidential unless required by law? **Yes/no**
- e) Interviewer: And finally, do you consent to participate in this recorded interview **yes/no**

APPENDIX 3: INTERVIEW GUIDE

My name is Hlalefang Gloria Jaase. I commend your eagerness to partake in this interview. The primary goal of my research is to develop an effective legislative framework in Lesotho to address the issue of Child-to-Parent Violence (CPV). I am currently enrolled in a Master's program focused on Human Rights, Peace, and Development at Africa University in Zimbabwe. Today, our discussion will focus on the topic of CPV, aiming to get insights into your personal experiences with this issue, to develop an appropriate and effective legislative framework in Lesotho. To facilitate this investigation, we will use a collection of meticulously formulated questions that are specifically designed to shed light on your experiences related to CPV.

When inquiring about your experience with child-to-parent violence, I am specifically interested in gathering information on occasions in which you have personally endured incidents of CPV. Child-to-parent violence refers to a range of violent behaviours, including physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and economic (financial) kinds of abuse. Additionally, I'd like to hear about your experiences pursuing justice.

Going forward, I want to guarantee that confidentiality will be rigorously upheld throughout the entirety of the endeavour. Your current name will not be incorporated into the study's findings. Furthermore, it is crucial to emphasise that the information you reveal now will not be accessible to your children. There is a possibility that they may lack awareness of your participation in this interview. The purpose of this discussion is to maintain confidentiality. Are there any questions or concerns you would like to discuss before we commence? I appreciate your willingness to partake in this interview. Let us now continue.

Informed consent script presented for signatures

APPENDIX 3A: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR PRIMARY RESPONDENT

SECTION A: Demographics

1. **Age:** How old are you?
2. **Gender:** What is your gender?
3. **Marital Status:** Are you married, single, divorced, widowed, or in a domestic partnership?
4. **Number of Children:** How many children do you have?
5. **Occupation:** What is your current occupation?
6. **Education Level:** What is your highest level of education?
7. **Income:** What is your approximate monthly household income?

SECTION B: CPV Experiences

8. Have you heard the term "child-to-parent violence"? If so, what does it mean to you?
9. If not, can you describe any instances where your child has behaved in a way that made you feel unsafe or threatened?
10. Have you experienced any of the following forms of CPV:
 - Physical violence (e.g., hitting, kicking, biting etc)
 - Emotional abuse (e.g., name-calling, threats, intimidation etc)
 - Verbal abuse (e.g., yelling, screaming, insults etc)
 - Property damage (e.g., destroying belongings etc)
 - Controlling behaviour (e.g., limiting access to finances, isolating from friends and family etc)
11. How frequently did these incidents occur?
12. What factors do you believe contribute to this violence?
13. How severe are these incidents? (e.g., do they result in physical injuries, emotional distress, or fear?)
14. Are there any specific triggers or situations that seem to lead to CPV incidents?

SECTION C: Seeking Justice

15. Reporting CPV:

- a. Have you ever reported CPV to the police or other authorities? If so, what was the outcome?
- b. If not, why did you choose not to report?

16. Legal Process:

- a. If you did report, can you describe your experience with the legal process?
- b. Were you satisfied with the support and assistance provided by law enforcement and the justice system?
- c.

17. Challenges in Seeking Justice:

What were the biggest challenges you faced in seeking justice for CPV?

- a. Lack of awareness of legal options
- b. Fear of retaliation
- c. Stigma and shame
- d. Financial constraints
- e. Ineffective legal system

18. **Desired Outcomes:** What would you like to see happen to address CPV and ensure that parents and caregivers feel safe and protected?

APPENDIX 3B: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KIFs (LAWYERS)

SECTION A: Understanding CPV in Lesotho from a Legal Perspective

1. Are you aware of any existing laws in Lesotho that address child-to-parent violence?
2. What is the current state of legal frameworks addressing CPV in Lesotho?
3. In your opinion, how well does the current legal system in Lesotho address CPV?
4. Do you believe these laws are sufficient to protect parents from CPV?
5. What are the specific challenges and limitations of these legal frameworks?
6. How does the absence of explicit CPV legislation affect victims' ability to obtain justice?
7. What key principles should be considered in developing an effective legislative framework for CPV?
8. Do you believe there are any legal gaps or challenges in seeking justice for CPV in Lesotho?
9. Are parents generally aware of their legal rights and options for addressing CPV?
10. What are the main barriers to parents accessing legal assistance?
11. What are the main challenges parents face in navigating the legal system?
12. How can a balance be struck between protecting the rights of victims and ensuring the well-being of children who may be perpetrators of CPV?
13. In your opinion, what changes could be made to the legal system in Lesotho to better address CPV?

SECTION B: Regional and International Best Practices

14. Regional Frameworks:

Are you aware of any other countries in SADC or the Horn of Africa that have successfully addressed CPV through legal means?

- a. What are the best practices and lessons from other countries implementing effective CPV legislation?
- b. (If yes) What specific aspects of their approach do you find interesting?

15. International Frameworks:

- a. Are you familiar with any international legal frameworks or conventions that address CPV?
- b. What are some of the key principles or provisions that Lesotho could adopt?

16. Adaptability to Lesotho:

- a. How could these international best practices be adapted to the specific context of Lesotho?
- b. What challenges might be faced in implementing these strategies?

SECTION C: Conclusion

17. Recommendations:

- a. Based on your experience, what recommendations would you make for improving Lesotho's legal framework to CPV?
- b. Are there any specific legal measures or initiatives that you believe would be particularly effective?

18. Additional Insights:

- a. Is there anything else you would like to share about CPV in Lesotho or the challenges faced by parents from a legal perspective?

APPENDIX 3C: INTERVIEW GUIDE FOR KIFs (SOCIAL WORKERS)

SECTION A: Understanding Child-to-Parent Violence in Lesotho from a Social Work Perspective

1. How do you define child-to-parent violence (CPV)?
2. What are the most common forms of CPV you have observed in your work? (e.g., physical, emotional, psychological, financial, sexual)
3. Are there any specific types of CPV that are particularly concerning or prevalent?
4. How often do you encounter cases of CPV in your work?
5. Have you noticed any trends in the frequency or severity of CPV cases over time?

SECTION B: Experiences of Parents

6. How often do parents report experiencing CPV?
7. What are the common triggers or factors that lead to CPV incidents?
8. What are the most significant impacts of CPV on parents, both emotionally and psychologically?
9. Are parents likely to report CPV incidents to authorities or seek help? If not, why?
10. How does CPV affect parents' relationships with their children and other family members?

SECTION C: Challenges in Seeking Justice

11. What are the specific challenges parents face when trying to seek justice through the legal system for CPV?
12. How do societal stigma or cultural beliefs affect parents' willingness to report CPV?
13. Are there any gaps in support services or resources available to parents who experience CPV?
14. Do parents fear retaliation from their children or other family members if they report CPV?

SECTION D: Effective Strategies

15. International Frameworks:

- a. Are you familiar with any international legal frameworks or conventions that address CPV?
- b. What are some of the key principles or provisions that Lesotho could adopt?
- c. How could these international best practices be adapted to the specific context of Lesotho?
- d. What challenges might be faced in implementing these strategies?

SECTION E: Conclusion

16. Recommendations:

- a. Based on your experience, what recommendations would you make for improving Lesotho's response to CPV?
- b. Are there any specific measures or initiatives that you believe would be particularly effective?
- c. Are there any necessary legal reforms to address the challenges faced by parents seeking justice for CPV?
- d. How can we raise awareness about CPV and encourage parents to seek help?

17. Additional Insights:

- a. Is there anything else you would like to share about CPV in Lesotho or the challenges faced by parents?



"Investing in Africa's future"

AFRICA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE (AUREC)

P.O. Box 1320 Mutare, Zimbabwe, Off Nyanga Road, Old Mutare-Tel (+263-20) 60075/60026/61611 Fax: (+263 20) 61785 Website: www.africau.edu

Ref: AU 3458/24

30 September 2024

Hlalefang Gloria Jaase

C/O Africa University

Box 1320

MUTARE

RE: CHILD-TO-PARENT-VIOLENCE: TOWARDS AN EFFECTIVE LEGISLATIVE FRAMEWORK IN LESOTHO

Thank you for the above-titled proposal that you submitted to the Africa University Research Ethics Committee for review. Please be advised that AUREC has reviewed and approved your application to conduct the above research.

The approval is based on the following.

a) Research proposal

- **APPROVAL NUMBER** AUREC 3458/24
This number should be used on all correspondences, consent forms, and appropriate document

- **AUREC MEETING DATE** NA
- **APPROVAL DATE** September 30, 2024
- **EXPIRATION DATE** September 30, 2025
- **TYPE OF MEETING:** Expedited
After the expiration date, this research may only continue upon renewal. A progress report on a standard AUREC form should be submitted a month before the expiration date for renewal purposes.

- **SERIOUS ADVERSE EVENTS** All serious problems concerning subject safety must be reported to AUREC within 3 working days on the standard AUREC form.
- **MODIFICATIONS** Prior AUREC approval is required before implementing any changes in the proposal (including changes in the consent documents)
- **TERMINATION OF STUDY** Upon termination of the study a report has to be submitted to AUREC.



Yours Faithfully

Mary Chinzou

MARY CHINZOU

ASSISTANT RESEARCH OFFICER: FOR CHAIRPERSON

AFRICA UNIVERSITY RESEARCH ETHICS COMMITTEE



LESOTHO

Ministry of Health
P.O. Box 514
Maseru 100

REF: ID295-2024

Date: November 02, 2024

To

Ms. Hlalefang Jaase

Principal Investigator (PI)
Africa University in Mutare,
Zimbabwe.

Category of Review:

- ☒ Initial Review
☐ Continuing Annual Review
☐ Amendment/Modification
☐ Reactivation
☐ Serious Adverse Event
☐ Other _____

Dear **Ms. Jaase**

RE: "Child-to-Parent-Violence (CPV): Towards an effective legislative framework in Lesotho."

This is to inform you that the Ministry of Health Research and Ethics Committee reviewed and **APPROVED** the above named protocol and hereby authorizes you to conduct the study according to the activities and population specified in the protocol. Departure from the approved protocol will constitute a breach of this permission.

This approval includes review of the following attachments:

[x] Protocol version 2 dated 17/08/2024

[x] Informed Consent form (English & Sesotho):

[x] **Data Collection Tools (English & Sesotho):** Interview guide with the researcher (Lawyers), Interview guide for primary respondent, Interview guide for KIFs (Lawyers), Interview guide for KIFs (social workers),


[x] Other participant material (English & Sesotho):


[x] **Other materials:** Letter of permission to conduct a study dated 12/09/2024, Letter of introduction from Africa University in Mutare, school of law dated September 04, 2024, CV_ (Hlalefang Gloria Jaase)

This approval is **VALID** until November 30, 2025.

Please note that an annual report and request for renewal, if applicable, must be submitted at least 6 weeks before the expiry date. All serious adverse events associated with this study must be reported promptly to the MOH Research and Ethics Committee. Any modifications to the approved protocol or consent forms must be submitted to the committee prior to implementation of any changes. We look forward to receiving your progress reports and a final report at the end of the study. If you have any questions, please contact the Research and Ethics Committee at mohrcu@gmail.com (or) 59037919/58800246.

Sincerely,


DR. 'MAKHOASE RANYALI - OTUBANJO
Director General Health Services


MRS. VERONICA LEHANA
Co-Chairperson National Health Institutional
Review Board (NH-IRB)