

**THE ASSESSMENT OF THE CHALLENGES FACED BY WOMEN WITH VISUAL
IMPAIRMENT IN EQUALIZATION OF OPPORTUNITIES IN RWANDA: A CASE
STUDY OF BUGESERA DISTRICT**

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UNIVERSITY OF RWANDA

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CERTIFICATION

The undersigned certifies that he has read and hereby recommends for the acceptance by the University of Rwanda, the dissertation entitled: The assessment of challenges faced by women with visual impairment in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda, in fulfillment of the requirement for a degree of Masters of Social Sciences in Gender and Development from the University of Rwanda, College of Art and Social Sciences(CASS).

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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my lovely mother Leonilla Kabagina and my father Pascal RUTAYISIRE, to my brothers Camille MBARUSHIMANA and his wife, Evariste HAKUNDIMFURA and his wife, to my sisters Monique UWIMANA, Claudine MUHAYIMPUNDU, Alphonsine MUKAMINANI, Valentine MUKASEKURU and all their children.

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ABSTRACT

This study is an assessment of the challenges faced by women with visual impairment in equalization of opportunities in Rwanda. The current study explored the causes that prevent women with visual impairment to participate and being treated as the rest of the population in an equal way under the given opportunities in their settled area and elsewhere within the country. The study proposed the strategies to promote the awareness and knowledge for the social norms and laws on equalization of opportunities. This dissertation determined the different strategies that can be used to avoid and overcome all the challenges toward the opportunities of opportunities for the women visually impaired in Rwanda.

The study employed a qualitative approach and a case study inquiry in Bugesera district, Eastern province of Rwanda. The purposive sampling technique was used to select participants. Data were mainly collected through in-depth interview respondents were 18 and 6 key informants. The participation for respondents was limited to the women visually impaired aged between 23 and 52 years old.

The findings revealed that lack of information to the women sighted impairment biased them to achieve on equalization of opportunities in Rwanda, by expressing how the government's policies and its programs have been disseminated through the journals which are in ordinary writings the others through radios while they use writings in Braille for the literate women. Others confessed that in their families they do not have radios to access information. The findings revealed also that there are no specific strategies used to promote the awareness on social norms and equal rights on different given opportunities in Rwanda. The respondents expressed that they encountered barriers to update on policies and programs of government. Some of those barriers are poverty and illiteracy as well as lack of assistance from the leaders. The respondents also confirmed that there is a negative perception toward them from the community. The society neglects them by considering them as invaluable and useless. The research found out that the strategies preferably to use in overcoming these challenges, is the interdependence of all institutions, the leaders in different institutions work and react as a teamwork with the same commonalities targeted to remove and overcome the challenges encountered by women sight impaired to access the equalization of opportunities.

Therefore, women visually impaired were not impacted negatively only on equalization of opportunities but also they suffered the stigma and isolation in their settled area.

As conclusion, this current study found out that women with visual impairment face a lot of challenges to access the opportunities as the others. so, a durable solution to overcome them is to facilitate and promote women visually impaired in attending all levels of school to fight against illiteracy which is one among the main core for all challenges, the government should also train its public workers and private employers on skills and abilities of women visually impaired to avoid the inequality toward employment, it should also invite them for making together as a teamwork in eradicating all kinds of discrimination done to women visually impaired in Rwanda.

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ABBREVIATIONS

CASS: College of Art and Social Sciences.

CE: College of Education

CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women

CRPD: Convention on Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

DMO: Disability Mainstreaming Officer.

DPA: Disabled People's Association.

DPOs: Disabled People's Organizations.

DS: Disability studies.

EALA: Eastern African Legislative Assembly

E.E.R: Eglise Episcopale au Rwanda.

FGD: Focus Group Discussion.

HRW: Human Right Watch.

MIGEPROF: Ministry of Gender and Family Promotion.

MINALOC: Ministry of Local government.

NCPD: National Council of Persons with Disability.

NGOs: Non-Governmental Organizations.

NPC: National Paralympic committee

NUDOR: National Union of Disability's Organizations in Rwanda.

OP: Option Protocol

PWDs: Persons with Disabilities

RUB: Rwanda Union of the Blind.

SDS: Societies for Disability Studies.

UDHR: Universal Declaration for Human Rights.

UK: United Kingdom.

UN: United Nations

UNABU: Rwandan association of women with disabilities [Umuryango Nyarwanda w' Abagore BafiteUbumuga].

UNFPA: United Nations Population Fund.

UR: University of Rwanda

USA: United State of America

CHAPTER 1:

GENERAL INTRODUCTION

1.1 INTRODUCTION OF THE CHAPTER

This thesis entitled the assessment of challenges faced by women with visual impairment in equalization of opportunities in Rwanda, the people with disabilities are a part of population as others including people with visual impairment. Women with sight impairment face the specific challenges in performing different tasks at home, as well as getting the occasions to exposure their abilities in public sphere as their husbands, which become an issue for them. this chapter presents the background of the study, the problem statement, and the objectives of the study and research questions. It also spells out the significance of the study, the scope and limitation of the study and concludes with key terms necessary and a conclusion of the chapter.

1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE STUDY

Discrimination on basis of gender and disability is a fact officially recognized by 2006 United Nations convention on right of persons with disability. However multiple discrimination and intersectional discrimination on grounds of gender and disability persist.(UN,2006,Art 6).

The views from different scholars expressed that the attitude toward disability and women with visual impairment have been neglected through many years ago by negative traditional attitude of the countries.

According to UNFPA(2013)explains that, the CRPD and its option protocol (OP) mark the paradigm shift regarding attitudes and approaches to persons with disabilities moving from perception that persons with disability are objects of charity, they are underestimated and overprotected. Nowadays, the mind set in society changed toward them where their potential and abilities start being recognized. The CRPD has a specific provision related to the access on persons with disability to the information and services. It recognizes the risk of inequality, exploitation, violence, and abuse for the women and girls with disability face with (CRPD, 2006art 6 p. 27).

There are 3 actions which are more specifically recommended by UN (2006) article 16 that help the disabled women to recognize their dignity and participate as the other citizens within the society as well as in their own families. Information, education, and integration are the key elements for participation once disabled women faced with any kind of violation from various domains of social life such as domestic violence, as well as the practice of forced sterilization. They are prevalent in different context and seriously hinder, among other manifestation of intersectional discrimination against women with disabilities, the enjoyment of full social citizenship. Women with disability will know how to disseminate the reports on different sectors of life and claiming their rights (UN, 2006 p.12, art 16).

In Rwanda, based on census carried out by MINALOC (2010) cooperating with African Decade of people with disability (PWDs) such people make approximately 5% of the Rwanda's population of 11 million. The census revealed that there are 522,856 of persons with disabilities in which composed by 263,928 females and 258,928 males.

This part of the Rwandan population is composed of different categories as shown by Rwandan law (ministerial order No 20/18 of 27/7/2009) like physically disabled persons, sight impairment persons, deaf and dumb impaired or being with both disabilities, mental disabled persons. The other category of persons with disability which are no specified and approved by a medical committee (MINALOC 2010 p.14).

Among these we have seen above, due to the big number of women with disabilities in which women visually impaired are located as shown by this census. The gender related issues should be absolutely taken into consideration in order to build a united community where they will feel comfortable.

The Rwandan constitution law No 01/2007 of 20 January 2007 show how the Rwanda is among the countries which respect the rights of persons with disabilities. This is evident in Rwanda's legal and institutional frameworks. It explains that the country promote and respects the disabled people's rights. For the welfare of persons with disability, a ministerial order providing for the regulations of the federations, associations and centers responsible to improve the quality of life among the people with disabilities. Another crucial element, it is the treat signed by the Rwanda's government and ratified in 2008 on rights of persons with disability (CRPD) and its optional

protocol, the persons with disability have their representative in some regional communities like eastern African legislative assembly(EALA). On behalf of sport and leisure, the disabled people have the National Paralympic Committee (NPC) to organize the sport activities at national and international levels.

1.2.1 Attitude toward disability

UNFPA(2013) reported that women with disability are globally among the invisible and discriminated people in the world due to the negative traditional attitude on the disability. Lack of understanding, fear, discrimination and stigma or plain neglect, and violence, means that women with disability carry multiple discriminatory burdens. The fact that the women with disability still manage to contribute to the society in various ways is a testament to their talents, strength and fortitude (p.27). In Rwanda Challoner(2011) reported that social exclusion is not a concept that is widely used in Rwanda but people with disability are both actively and passively excluded in Rwandan society. Rwanda do not value the people with disability where they are seen as object of charity and are underestimated, overprotected, and their potential and ability still being unrecognized. In the family, a child with disability is a source of shame and often hidden away. Women with disabilities find it difficult to get married and people with disabilities suffer discrimination in employment and health care services. They meet also with different challenges in their daily life at home and wherever they are in various activities.

1.2.2 Women with visual impairment in relation of the gender equality

Basically, an important thing to the women with visual impairment and other women with disability is to be productive and contributors to the community as the other citizens without disabilities. Actually, equalization of opportunities between man and woman with visual impairment is still unequal on the family level and out of it, while both man and woman should participate together in sharing the domestic activities and making together the decisions related to their own family and have equal responsibilities toward their society. For example having the same chance for getting the job in private or public institutions (CEDAW, 1991, art 15, CRPD, 2006, art 9 ,p.9).

Wherever the world, the patriarchy is a dominant system which is a male legitimate power over in the family unity and the whole society in general. Rwanda as the other world's countries has

structural system in social, political and economic sectors where a man assumes all responsibilities. In family, a man is considered as a head of family and decision maker at home. This does not affect only the families without disability but also impacted negatively the married couples of disabled people in which the women with visual impairment are included (UDHR.1948, art 16).

All over the world, there are the policies and regulations which direct countries, international organizations and civil societies in responding to the needs of people with disability about the gender balance in different sectors of life (economics, social and politics). The convention on rights of persons with disability (CRPD) and its optional protocol (OP) which was adopted on 13 December 2006 mentioned that people with disabilities are citizens with human rights including the rights on rehabilitation in community and rights to say in their own treatment) (HRW, 2012).

Therefore, both men and women making decisions and solving issues together is the solution to people with and without disabilities to develop themselves and the country in general. This will help in Rwanda like many countries in Africa and elsewhere into different continents where women with visual impairment, face challenges on information related to equalization of opportunities as well as the gender equality comparing their fellows women from other disability categories and non-disability.

A considerable number of them do not know how to read and write in Braille. Others encounter barriers to get information related on equalization for the various opportunities from radios as the main channel of governmental policies on its population.

1.3 STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

According to the UNFPA (2006) p.1, about the 650 millions of world population live with a disability. However, 80% of persons with disabilities live in developing countries and most of them live without a social system to support them in their daily life. They are mainly face with different challenges like inaccessibility on information, issues related to the equalization of opportunities and other challenges in all aspects of life. In Rwanda, MINALOC (2010) found out that the number of sight impairment persons at National level was 66,754 and by province: 3,636 for Kigali City, 14,874 for Eastern province, 32,960 for Southern province, 14,450 for Northern province and 18,468 for Western province. Among the district identified, there is Bugesera

district with 2,780 persons and the case study of the present inquiry. Nevertheless, the research didn't identify the number of men and women separately.

As there is no previous research conducted regarding the challenges of visually impaired women to access the equalization of opportunities as compared to other citizens with or without disabilities while the Rwandan government has positive attitude toward the persons with disabilities and respect of their rights.(GovR,2003).Moreover, because of lack of social support especially within developing countries and living without accessibility to the information as the crucial way of being aware about their rights as well, women with disabilityface multiple forms of discrimination on basis of their gender as well as their impairment. Addition to that, women with visual impairment face the challenges in equalization of opportunities.

Consequently, all of these challenges are associated with negative consequences on the lives of these women. Through unequal treatment to various opportunities, families discrimination, they live permanently in povertyand are a burden to their country. They also suffer from the isolation,stigma and divorce often since theyconsidered as useless and without value by their own family. Such challenges affect their spouses and children and they suffer emotionally, personally and socially.If this situation is not acted on, not only the country will struggle economically and socially, but also these familieswill consistently live in troubles.

1.4 OBJECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The overall objective of the study was to assess the challenges women with visual impairment face in their daily life which prevent them to participate equally with their husbands, non-disabilities persons and their fellows from the other disability's categories to perform the tasks required by family and to access possible opportunities in society. The specific objectives were to:

- a. Identify the challenges faced by women visually impaired in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda
- b. Propose strategies in promotionof the awareness and knowledge on the social norms and laws on equal opportunities.

- c. Determine the different ways that can be used to avoid and overcome the challenges faced by women visually impaired on equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

1.5 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

The research questions focused on how women with visual impairment access on equalization of opportunities and the strategies used to aware them about the various opportunities, how are they impacted themselves and society in general. In order to achieve the objective of study ,the researcher set the following research questions:

- a. What are the challenges faced by women with visual impairment to access the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda?
- b. What are the strategies that the government put in place to aware and make sight impaired knowledgeable about social norms and laws on equalopportunities?
- c. What are the ways that visual impaired women can use to avoid and overcome the challenges they face on equalization of opportunities?

1.6 SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

According to Marshall and Rossman(1999), significance of the study refers to arguments that link the research to important theoretical perspective, literature policy issues, concerns practices or social issues impacting the people in their daily life.

Referring to other literature reviews before embarking on this study showed that no comprehensive study exist on experiences of visually impairment women in accessing the equalization of opportunities as the others in Rwanda. Therefore, this study is significant because it will make available literature in the libraries, and it will contribute to the country's development as a reference point for both academics and policy makers.

However, the study's significance has to help us to enrich the understanding of having equal right on different properties and contribute to the economy of the country. It will help to eradicate violence based on gender and inform the government in the domain human rights protection, and it will help women with visual impairment to have a sense of citizenship and participate freely into community. Finally, it will propose recommendations that will help the

organizations and institutions to fight against for the discrimination among the people and bring a positive impact in terms home ground solutions systems toward self-reliance.

1.7 SCOPE AND LIMITATIONS OF THE STUDY

The study was limited to the women with visual impairment in Bugesera district as case study. During the data collection, at least 18 women members for FGD wereselected for a sample size and all of them have sight impairment and lived in Bugesera district. Data were collected through interview with themand the main purpose was to collect the relevant information for the study.

The second group to interview was composed by people concerned like:

National Consul of Person with Disability (NCPD), at district level

Disability mainstreaming officer at District level,

Different leaders at sector level (social affair andthe representative of NCPD)

Non-governmental organizations:

Rwanda Union of the Blind (R.U.B)

Depend on time in conducting the research practice, the researcher used cross sectional approach in which he examined information from many cases at one point in time, due to this kind of approach I was allowed to discuss in the dialogue with the participants.

To complement the literature, this study was interviewed the following people: Women with visual impairment as respondents, the women holding positions at district level, charge of disability at District and Sector levels, National women's council at district level.

1.8 DEFINITION OF KEY TERMS

Gender: Butler(1999), defined gender as produced in and by social processes and performances while Connell (2002) defined gender as a form of social embodiment.

Disability: is a condition caused by an accident, trauma, genetics or disease that may limit person mobility, hearing, vision, speech or cognitive function. Physical or mental condition that

limits person's movement, lack of ability of working the things in a normal way. Cross-disability, grassroots based advocacy organization disabled peoples' international and disabled people associations also define disability as the functional limitation within the individual caused by physical, mental or sensory impairment (DPA, 2003, P. 20). The world health organization defines disability as any restriction or lack (resulting from an impairment) of ability to perform an activity in the manner of or within the range considered normal for a human being (UN, 1983, p. 67)

Married: Women and men who live together as a family unit for getting the children as their own purpose, therefore, marriage traditionally used to be a union of man and woman with sexual, emotional and economic bonds who may have biologic or adoptive children. But, currently the definition of marriage has evolved to include the same-sex marriage strong et al, (2013)

Another analysis makes the distinction of further two types of marriages. On one hand, there is monogamy in which there are only two spouses: the husband and wife. On the other hand, the polygamy where a spouse has many partners(Koff, 1997)

Opportunity: a time when a particular situation makes it possible to do or achieve something.(English Dictionary)

Discrimination: Unjust distinction against a person with a disability compare to the way non-disabled person would be treated in the same circumstances (DPA 2003 p. 21).

Exclusion: Conscious or subconscious ., devalue, damage, injury, conscious process in which people with disabilities are left out of activities such as conversation social life, politics, community activities, works and leisure pursuits open to non-disabled people(DPA 2003 P. 20)

Impairment: Injury, disability the world health organization defines impairment as any loss or abnormality of psychological, physiological or anatomical structure or function The oxford English dictionary defines their transitive verb as make less effective or weaker, devalue, damage, injured (DPA 2003 P. 37)

Intersectionality: In 1989, Crenshaw introduced this approach in her attempt to describe the interaction of race and gender in shaping the women's experiences on employment.The intersectionality refers to the relationship among multi age was introduced by pole dimension

and modalities of social relationship and subject formation (Knudsen, 2006). Various biological, social, cultural categories such as gender, race, class, disability age interact on multiple and often simultaneous levels contribute systematic inequality.

1.9 CONCLUSION OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter has introduced the study on the challenges faced by women with visual impairment in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda. It has stated the background to the study, the objectives of the study. It has elaborated the scope of the study and explored the significance of the study, it also defined the common terms used before concluding the chapter. The following chapter will explore literature related to the topic of the study as well the theoretical and conceptual framework in which this study is located.

CHAPTER 2:

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 INTRODUCTION

This study on assessment of challenges faced by women with visual impairment in equalization of opportunities in Rwanda was introduced in the previous and this chapter will review the literature related to this study. The literature is reviewed at global, regional and local levels. The literature reviewed highlights the position of women with visual impairment and the challenges they face in accessing equally the opportunities compared with their non-visual impairment peers the society. The literature shows that women visually impaired are highly discriminated and ignored in all different sectors of life within the community. This chapter presents and explains the theoretical and conceptual frameworks. Furthermore those concepts were linked to the researchers' views from the theoretical review which finally helped to draw a theoretical framework with assumptions to be verified with the findings in the chapter 4. The chapter ends with a conclusion.

2.2 WOMEN WITH DISABILITIES IN RELATION TO EMPLOYMENT

According to Asch and Fine (1989), the research carried out by non-disable feminist's women among the disable women found out that only 42% of disable women were powerful, competent and appearing as active female. The low performance of women with disabilities brought the negative perceptions in all areas of working activities, either public or private. They were considered as an unproductive person within community and also they were ignored and discriminated regarding employment opportunities, this brought the isolation and stigma to the women with disabilities thus affecting the whole family of vision impaired persons.

Morris (1992) believes that older women and men with disabilities have been left out of the feminist discourse. Disability and old age are aspect of identity with which gender is very much entwined, but they are almost entirely ignored by feminist. The marginalization and carelessness of feminists about women with disabilities and older women show how both have been left out of feminist's discourse, in the other word they were neglected and considered as weaker people, their lights as citizens are limited and non-respected.

They didn't participate in the equal way to the country's policies in their implementation hence consequently affected negatively by the economy, politic and social life. This resulting in isolation, stigmatization as well the poverty in their families and increasing the burden to their community in general.

Van DenBergh and cooper (1986) maintains that a feminist vision for a different society includes the demand for gender equality as well as a commitment to altering the processes and the manner in which private and public lives are organized and conducted. Apart from that all people with or without disabilities, female and male had the equal rights in all domains of life. While they said that all of them are considered and treated the same way, women with disabilities contend with double kind of discrimination. Woman with disability is faced with oppression as it applies to her status as a woman and as a person with disability.

These forms of discrimination and oppression may be subtle and require careful unbiased analyses if they are to be identified and addressed. The discrimination can affect all conditions of their lives like education, employment, economic status, health, marriage, family, and rehabilitation (Rajah, 1991).

However, the study aimed at identifying the challenges faced by women and girls with disabilities in Pacific found that these girls face several forms of discrimination and that this discrimination leads to poverty, isolation and poor health for them (Daniel and Sainamili, 2009) . Similarly, United Nation Report (2010), states that women with disabilities especially Physical and Sensory disabilities have remained largely invisible in implementation, monitoring and evaluation of Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)(p 25).

Although, it is recognized that the people with disability are poor than general population (Kopels, 1995), women with disabilities are poor than men with disabilities (Baldwin, 1991). The crucial ingredient is employment for example where women with disabilities are enabling and empowering for sustaining themselves financially and to achieve self-esteem and social recognition (SHIA, 1995). In general, the consequences of exclusion and discrimination for disabled people are more serious for women than men with disabilities. Gender issues are evident in different life experiences of womnwhile women with disabilities do have some experiences and challenges in common with men with disabilities.

In many circumstances, the former face multiple and intersection discrimination (Daniel and Sainimili, 2009, p. 15). Therefore, women with disabilities are more disadvantaged than men with the same situation because of combined discrimination based both gender and disability; all of these reasons increase the level of poverty among the women with disabilities within the community where they meet with a lot of struggle in their daily livings.

2.3 VISUAL IMPAIREMENT AND BLINDNESS DISCRIMINATION

Historically, through many years ago, distinct people doubt on the ability of people with visual impairment, that resulting in unequal treatment and lack of the same opportunities in society .In several studies, the researchers have been started looking on children with visual impairment some of them conducted their studies on language development (Bigelow, 1990) and intervention strategies for the children with visual and multiple disabilities (Evan and Johnson, 1988, Spungin, 1989). They conclude that clearly people had much to learn about the young children with visual impairment. Their findings show the real mind set of society on people with visual impairment. Mostly, the outcome from several studies shown that the training and interaction with a moving object was grouped in the visual perception category, from maternal teaching strategies children gained the knowledge which is tactual perception as special perception included textures, the visual imagery and objects permanent.

Otherwise, this doesn't successfully contribute in changing the people's mind, the society has been continued to consider the persons with visual impairment as a weaker persons, the young and older people with visual impairment are vulnerable and they feel socially excluded in the society.

2.4 .MISCOMMUNICATION AS A BARRIER TO EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR VISUALLY IMPAIRED WOMEN.

2.4.1 Inaccessibility to information

Women with visual impairment face the challenges on information related to equal rights in the different domains of life comparing with the other people without disability. For example, how to get a job and likely to participate in decision making within their countries, to be aware on having the equal participation to the various opportunities as the one of duties for the state as well as the

gender equality. The big number of them do not know to read and use the writings that written in Braille.

Other issue related to that is the accessibility of those document to the people with visual impairment they are not provided in accessible and alternative formats nor their website are accessible equipped with accessible features like large print and the jaws programs for visually impaired users (Uwezo youth empowerment, UNABU)2014(2014) (p.1). By poverty, the others have limitation of getting information related to opportunities from different radios as the main channel of governmental policies to the population, also when they move to their neighbors to search information their kind of disability remain a barrier to them.

According to the research done by Percival and Julienne in different countries such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somalia, and China, 15 per cent of their sample, reported that the common experience was limited access to information about sight loss and relevant services. Many interviewees were ignorant about disability benefits and also lacked up to date and impartial (non-commercial) information about low vision equipment, its efficacy, availability and cost. Thus, all of this show further disadvantage and exclusion of those with sight loss in their social life day to day.

2.4.2 Social exclusion

Usually, interaction is very important on human's life, when the people are socially interacting with the others from different social groups, it increase and build the good relationship and avoid the stigma and isolation to the people within the community in which they live. However, poor health, declining mobility and especially impaired vision limit social contact outside the home (Hanson at al, 2002). As illustrated by MrsZabel, she said that every blind person get isolated. However, the majority were far less stoical. On the other hand Mrs Parsons was one of many who expressed how the challenge was to live with insufficient contact especially in the evenings and weekends when a person with visually impaired do not hear the sounds of human voice. This is the main cause of isolation and stigma which is one of challenges to get equal opportunities for impaired vision women. Women with visual impairment feels socially

excluded into society, while their husband move from home to another place to interact with their neighbors .

The addition to that,their culture do not allow women to put their wishes into practice without a permission from their husbands as the over control at home. Mainly the social exclusion is a big challenge on equalization of opportunities to the persons with visual impairment especially to the women.

2.5 VISUAL IMPAIRED WOMEN WITH EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

Inequalities in access to equalization of opportunities can be seen through experiences of women with visual impairment accounted in their families and on field within society where they located. Several studies indicate that lack of effective training about the equal rights in all domains of life also impacted them negatively to feeling as the productive persons like the others without disabilities, including also the external barriers prevent their full participation in the societies in which they live.

Barton's writings on education have always insisted that a social model approach should be an essential tool in changing the education system to a more inclusive and playing the greater impact to the equalization on opportunities among the people wherever the world(Barton,1998). Women with visual impairment are also less likely to receive sufficient disability benefit and are served less frequently than men in the vocational rehabilitation system (Quinn, 1994). Further, they comprise only 1-third of people accessing rehabilitation system. The men usually are more advantaged to all about any opportunity; they are fully helped for becoming a producer and an able person to the society contribution while their women are left out of the access about the benefits from rehabilitation plan.

In the USA, DS was institutionalized in 1992 with the formation of societies for disability studies (SDS) SDS members have been focused to the minority group including women with visual impairment,. This model that emerged in 1970s and it was influenced by the Americans civil rights movement claims to the equal status for minority groups such as African-Americans, women, gays, and lesbians. Minority group members experienced stereotyping, marginalization

and discrimination, influenced by the use of concepts of racism and sexism. Bogdan and Biklen(1977) coined the term of handicapism, defining it as external barriers that prevent full participation to the visually impaired women as well as the other group members of minority people, while nothing done by the local authorities to remove all these challenges.

With a long time, women visually impaired didn't get the opportunities to participate equally with the others without disabilities or their fellows from the other disabilities' categories, to be marginalized by society and being oppressed by their husbands brought to them the isolation and stigma , they discriminate also themselves as the consequences. It is now widely recognized both at the national and international levels as the key to understand and explain the economic, political and social barriers encountered by people with visual impairment.

In 1991, British council of people with disability launched the campaign for registration to outlaw discrimination against disabled people and renamed the United Kingdoms disabled people council in 1992 language of social model, independent living and disability rights have become increasingly prominent in the publications produced by national and local government organization and disability charities both large and small (Oliver and Barnes, 2006).

Consequently, these had the positive impact to the life of women with visual impaired; many of them started working in different public and private institutions but insufficiently. This was confirmed by the recent Cabinet office report emphasized on improving the life chances of visually women impaired and the other people with disabilities, state clearly that resulting from barriers to independent living or education, employment or other opportunities. this report also show how the big number of women with visual impairment which equal to 2025 had full opportunities and choices to improve their quality of life and be included as well as being respected as equal member of society but the gap not sufficiently yet being covered in all domains of life (Prime minister's strategy unity 2005 ,6).

2.5.1 Women visually impaired with equal opportunities in the context of Rwanda.

There is no study dedicated specifically to the equalization on opportunities for women with visual impairment like the general population in Rwanda. The only one person called Challoner,(2011) in his report shows how in Rwanda social exclusion is not a concept that is widely used, while in general the people with disabilities are both passively and actively

excluded in Rwandan society. The potential and abilities of persons with visual impairment are not recognized. Women with visual impairment do not get easily married as their fellow with the other categories of disabilities. Some of people with visual impairment meet together in Rwanda Union of the Blinds (R.U.B), with the aim of helping them to develop themselves and being integrated into community.

Consequently, expressing the barriers of women with visual impairment are facing within their daily livings for being treated and considered in the same way with their husbands brought to them the positive impact. The outcome from the advocacy done by R.U.B some of women with visual impairment are working in the public institutions and the others had the chances to increase their intellectual capacity level in higher learning institutions (universities).

Therefore, there are too much to do on behalf of the government, the women with visual impairment are not sufficiently represented in the public institutions where they should participate together with the others in making decisions, most of them are excluded for economic, social and political activities. Their abilities and skills toward the employment are neglected and ignored by the employers. So, reacting as state authorities for this is really needed to change the mind set of Rwandan society in order to remove the challenges and all form of discrimination in which the women with visual impairment face in their daily life on equalization of opportunities.

However, the ministry of gender and family protection (MIGEPROF) leads the national machinery to promote gender equality and the empowerment women throughout the country and minister represents women at cabinet level. Ministry is responsible for ensuring that national gender policy is implemented on different categories like about girls education, gender based violence, child rights protection, orphans and vulnerable children. Yet girls/women with disabilities in which visually women impairment are included missed out. Despite the recognition in gender policy where the visually women impaired have the access on opportunities and the equal rights with the other citizens. there is no specific measures provided by ministry to update the women with visual impairment as well as the other disabled persons about principle of gender equality in which both men and women have socially equal opportunities and rights to manage and use their own properties.

2.5.2 Attitudinal behavior of employers and some authorities toward women with visual impairment.

Beside the above barriers like many women with disabilities, visual impaired women face some negative attitudes from the employment managers and authorities in the different public or private institutions, According to Lorraine and Win, (2006) this attitude varies from the lack of awareness, sensitivity and respect (p. 136). This implies that women with visual impairment feel socially rejected, devalued, and invisible. The employers and authorities are not sensitive to the abilities of visually impaired women. They are also unaware of the abilities of visually impaired women and the impaired community in general.

This leads to unequal opportunities between women with visual impairment and other population without disabilities toward job and also this makes them to be isolated and stigmatized, which bring negative impact and affect them in politics, economics and social domains. Actually, blindness is defined as the loss of ability to see physically something else by the eyes not any other body's organ.

2.6 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In understanding and finding out the challenges faced by women with visual impairment in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda, the different approaches should be taken into consideration; the proposed theoretical framework is built on the concept of intersectionality. Particularly this study focuses on topic (the assessment of challenges Rwandan women with visual impairment face in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda) that involves interrelationship between gender and disability. Intersectionality is considered as a more tool of analysis in itself as was introduced by Kimberle Crenshaw in 1989 where he mentioned and discussed the inequalities and other challenges faced by American black women in terms of employment. The intersectionality approach is the best way used to find out the difficulties and challenges within black women based on their race and gender, so using this theoretical framework helped the researchers in understanding how the American black women were accurately discriminated from time to time between their gender and their race.

The intersectionality theory became tremendously popular from the time they started to use it out of academia in UN conferences such as: the World Conference against Racism (WCAR, 2001), UN

Commission on Human Rights (2002) and also its final resolution as a very important approach to assess the intersection in multiple forms of discrimination and their roots causes from gender perspective (Yuval-Davis, 2006). Under intersectionality based framework analysis, the different challenges faced by Rwandan women with visual impairment in accessing equal opportunities should be identified and enumerated.

The various researches and report related to gender, discussed about the theory of intersectionality, among them we find working group on women and human right at center for women's global leadership Rutgers University and by women's international league for peace and freedom (UK). By highlighting that UN Beijing platform for action (1995) is perfect reference which has itself included the core element of intersectional approach.

According to Patricia Hill Collins symposium in her research with topic: Intersectionality and Global Gender Inequality: The gender socialists studied about race, racism, and ethnicity in 1990 one of them who was a black thought, said that the intellectuals have to go beyond of this mind set, based on development of intersectionality theory many scholars start doing different researches to the other forms of oppression including the racism and any others kind of inequality.

Across many social cultural settings the scholars by doing applied research they found that there was the other types of oppression related with race, ethnicity, gender, and class incorporate age, sexuality, disability and religion. Actually, intersectionality theory is useful in different continents including Africa where the scholars started studying about inequality among the native population. This theory is also used in the developed countries it can be useful wherever the countries in giving the real freedom to those who were disadvantaged and marginalized in their countries. Significantly, this theory is meaningful to find out the challenges or barriers faced by women either who have or non-disability in their countries including Rwanda.

By this theory, different countries have emphasized their political will on way of sharing and enjoying equally the all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all women and girls who face multiple barriers or challenges in enjoying the goods of gender balance's principle, race, age, ethnicity, language, culture, religion, disability and being indigenous people all these were the causes or factors to be excluded and being discriminated to the American black women (Yuval-davis 2006 p.196).

In addition, the investigations into relationship between poverty and disability are limited, particularly from South African perspective, when this relationship is addressed it is usually in isolation of other social characteristics such as gender. As such intersections between disability, gender, race, and poverty are often overlooked yet internationally research points to gender gaps in outcomes for people with disability. This briefing seeks to address these gaps by reporting on a national study on poverty and disability in South Africa. Therefore, the theory of intersectionality is used as a lens to interpret evidence from a national survey, the South African National Income dynamics study (South African Labor and Development Research Unit 2014).

Specifically, the target of this investigation was to assess how poverty and disability intersect to shape particular outcome for women as compared to men with disabilities.

This briefing demonstrated that in South Africa disability intersects with gender as well as age and race to result in negative outcomes in education, employment and income for all people with disability, but particularly for black women with disabilities.

Evidence is provided for what we theories to be the case that disability and gender intersect to compound negative outcomes for black women with disabilities.

Based on research findings carried out by Rachel A Dully, demonstrates how intersectionality is a tool for analysis, advocacy and policy development that addresses multiple discriminations and helps in understanding how the different sets of identities brings the impact in accessing the rights and opportunities. She demonstrated how feminist need to use intersectionality approach in removing the barriers and challenges in order to achieve on economic, political and social equality, on the other hand the organizations unquestioningly have a complex understanding for structural inequalities and how they play out the women's lives.

2.6 1 INTERSECTIONALITY AS SUCCESSFUL THEORY TO UNDERSTAND INTERCONNECTIONS (THE CONNECTIVITY AMONG THE PEOPLE)

In carrying out the research intends to find out the challenges faced by Rwandan women visually impaired to access the equalization of opportunities, the intersectionality theory has been chosen as crucial approach which was like a primary key to the analysis of the research data (Devis 1986). By using intersectionality theory, inthe feminist research helped to acknowledge the

differences among women in general, during analysis is very important for this kind of research because it shows the most pressing problems of exclusion and discrimination facing different categories of women, an issue that had been excluded by feminist researchers for too long (Zack, 2007 p. 197).

2.7 CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK

In this current research to develop a conceptual framework the intersectionality methodological as analytical tool was used to understand several challenges or barriers women with visual impairment face with in their daily life in accessing the equalization of opportunities compare to their men and the other fellow women without disability, even if women have the same challenges in getting the information about the principle of gender equality as state's policy.

The intersectionality framework helped the researcher to find out and understanding fully the challenges to access equally the opportunities for women with visual impairment face and to know the real perceptions holding by community to them.

Otherwise, being female as resulted by research findings, show how women with visual impairment particularly need the additional information on gender equality and equity they need also to be aware about their value in society as the other general population.

Therefore, through the intersectionality approach, the researcher thinks that the challenges and barriers Women with visual impairment face with are not limited only to their disabilities but also include that of patriarchal attitude hold by society to the female in general including the women with visual impairment where both women with and without disabilities were ignored and considered negatively (Groce, 1999).

According to Knudsen (2006), the intersectionality theory helps to analyses how social and cultural categories intertwine. The relationship between gender, race, disability, and sexuality,... on multiple levels to explicate various forms of inequalities that exist in society, they are not independent of one another but instead are interrelated forms of oppression that are manifested in multiple forms of discrimination (p. 61). Therefore, the researcher is also interested with gender issues in which the gender balance is one among several states' policies, to ensure whether both men and women enjoy in the same way the goods of gender balance and if they participate equally in various domains of life and having the equal opportunities on economic, social and

political sectors. Women's positions in DPOs such as NUDOR, RUB should have much impact to eradicate the inequalities between male and female with visual impairment.

In addition to that, several researchers argued that there is a need to the government in choosing various strategies to take into consideration the gender equality for women with disability in which women visually impaired are included, specifically, this part of population needs to recognize and being aware on equalization of opportunities where both female and male with visual impairment and other people without disabilities have the equal chances to any given opportunity. The state should exclusively set up an adequate mechanism to inform disabled women with visual impaired that the principle of gender equality allows them to participate equally and freely as the others in all sectors of life such as economic, social and political.

However, the conceptualization of intersectionality as shaped has much emphasis to the research for assessing the challenges faced by Rwandan women with visual impairment to access the equalization of opportunities within Rwandan society.

It also holds us to know that there are intersecting discrimination against linked on gender, blindness, social class, education, physical attributes, societal believes, sex, etc.

2.8 CONCLUSION OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter gives deep understanding of the research problem through exploration of literature review related to this study. This literature highlights different challenges visual impaired women face in some countries. It shows how women visually impaired are discriminated and considered as weaker persons and do not have a value in society, also shows how they have limited access information about gender equality and equal rights on given opportunities generally compared with their non-visual impairment peers. Most of them do not know and use Braille written and also large print and jaws are not accessible in the website as source of information. The chapter has also presented and explained the theoretical and conceptual frameworks in which this study is located the next chapter presents methodology followed in data collection and analyses.

CHAPTER 3:

METHODOLOGY

3.1 INTRODUCTION

The last chapter reviewed the literature related to the study. This chapter explains the methods used to collect and analyze data. It shows how the study was conducted. It describes the setting of the study, target population. The chapter explains the research design, sampling technique and sample size, data collection tools and ethical issues before ending with a conclusion.

This study employs qualitative research as a methodological paradigm. Qualitative research refers to any kind of research that produces findings arrived from real-world settings where the phenomenon of interest unfolds naturally (Patton, 2002, p. 39). Qualitative research is appropriate in studies which attempt to explore, interpret, and evaluate the personal experiences of human beings. This study on assessment the challenges faced by Rwandan women with visual impairment in equalization of opportunities, qualitative research methods are most appropriate.

3.2 RESEARCH DESIGN

MacMillan & Sally (2006) define research design as a plan for selecting subjects, research sites, and data collection procedures to answer the research questions. The design shows which individuals will be studied and when, where, and under which circumstances they will be studied (p.117). This study has draw attention on visual impaired women's challenges face in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda. According to Marshall and Rossman (2011), for a research which focuses on individual lives, the phenomenological approaches are used to explore, describe, and analyze the meaning of individual experiences (p. 19), on how they perceive it, describe it, feel about it, judge it, remember it, make sense of it, and talk about others (Patton, 2002, p. 104).

With the phenomenological approaches, the researcher explored the sense given by the participants and made a good environment for the interviewees, while acknowledging the researcher's interpretations of the text as an important task for the development of the research findings (Biggerstaff and Thompson, 2008; Brooke and Horn, 2010).

Therefore, during this research the participants and the researcher engaged in an open dialogue resulting in the generation of data which has never been generated by any other previous researcher (Corbin and Buckle, 2009).

Also, the phenomenological approach enabled the researcher to be reflexive and creative, allowed him to better understand the research participants as they express their experiences (Smith et al., 2009). Methodologically, the interviews and focus group discussions used to collect the data about the challenges Rwandan women with visual impairment face in equalization of opportunities.

In regard to the case study, Creswell (2014) explains that it is a qualitative approach in which the researcher explores in depth a program, event, activity, process, or one or more individuals. The case study is bounded by time and activity, and researchers collect detailed information using a variety of data collection procedures over a sustained period of time. The present study, which is a case study, was really confined in the limits of Bugesera District, eastern province and data were collected from women with visual impairment who are both illiterate and literate from 4th to 14th April 2017.

3.3 STUDY SETTING

This study was conducted in Bugesera District Eastern Province, and sample data were collected with purposive technique from the group members of RUB's branches of Musenyi located in Bugesera District. Namely, the persons with visual impairment in this group known as Abadacogora of Musenyi which means that they have to work hardly without being discouraged by any one or whatever from elsewhere. Its members live in different places of this District.

R.U.B is the one among different associations of people with disabilities in Rwanda, its members are the persons with visual impairment both male and female some are completely loss the ability of seeing. the others are partial sighted, it is composed by 57 branches located in, the members of RUB generally equal to 1482 the number of female is 793 while male equal to 689. Therefore, Abadacogora of Musenyi as a branch of RUB is composed globally with 27 persons in which both literate and illiterate are the members, women are many than men where they are 19 and men are 9, while the whole District has 2,780. Some of its members are living in Kigali city for different reasons like searching a job and safe living places for some of them.

Abadacogora of Musenyi have the common vision where both men and women work together with the purpose of fighting against stigma and isolation as well as removing and expressing the challenges they face in their daily livings within community, they work also together for developing themselves economically.

3.4 POPULATION

By definition, the term population in research refers to a group of elements or cases, whether individuals, objects, or events, that conform to specific criteria and to which we intend to generalize the results of the research... It is also referred to as a targetpopulation or universe”(McMillan & Schumacher, 2006, p. 119). Therefore, for the current study, the target population consisted with all women with visual impairment who are the members of R.U.B’s branches in Musenyi sector known as Abadacogora of Musenyi.

According to Marshall and Rossman (2011) unless the study is quite narrowly constructed, a researcher cannot study all relevant circumstances, events, people, intensively and in depth. Instead they select samples (p. 99). Therefore, given the large number of women with visual impairment members from Abadacogora of Musenyi a small number was recruited for this research. The sample size and sampling techniques to be used in the current study are explained below.

3.5 SAMPLING STRATEGIES AND SAMPLE SIZE

As stated by Spring and Latham (2007), a sample is a portion of the population that is truly representative of the target population while sampling strategy is the way researcher uses to select the participants or the sample.

3.5 1.Sample size

According to McMillan & Schumacher (2006) one of the first steps in designing qualitative research is to choose the subjects (p.119). By definition, a sample is a smaller group of subjects drew from the population in which a researcher is interested for the purposes of drawing the conclusion about the universe or population (Kothari, 2004, p. 31).

Therefore, among all visual impaired women members of Abadacogora of Musenyi living in area of study, only 18 women were recruited to participate in the study.

The participation in the study, members of Abadacogora, was limited to women with visual impairment aged between 23 and 52 years old. Therefore, these women 8 of them live with their husbands, 4 are widows and 6 remains separated with their husbands.

In addition, 6 informants participate in this research, like one from national council of persons with disabilities(NCPD) at district level, disability mainstreaming officer at district level,

One from national women council (NWC) at district level, social affair and NCPD Coordinator in Musenyi as well as the representative of RUB will participate to this research in giving the relevant information for the study.

3.5.2 Sampling strategies

In the current study, the researcher used purposive sampling technique to select a sample. According to Mariam (1998), the purposive sampling is based on assumption that the researcher wants to discover, understand, and gain insight and therefore must select a sample from which the most can learned. However, the respondent were selected because are women with visual impairment. Thus, by using purposive sampling, the researcher was able to choose the samples because they are likely knowledgeable and informative about the phenomena the researcher is investigating (MacMillan, 2006, p.319).

3.6 RESEARCH INSTRUMENTS

According to Patton (2002), research instruments are tools used to collect data. These include mainly the interview guide, observational check list and documents. For this study, the data both primary and secondary were collected by using interviews (with the interview-guide and recording tool).In addition, Patton (2002) says that an interview guide lists the questions or issues that are to be explored in the course of an interview. The present research was conducted by using a two interview guides, one for ordinary participants as group targeted and another for key informants who know much about the topic.

3.7 DATA COLLECTION TECHNIQUES

Data collection techniques are the actually way of having information pertinent to the subject matter. In qualitative methods, there are three data collection techniques are used: interviews, observation and written documents (Patton 1990).

In this current study, interview was chosen to be used as a data collection technique to assess the challenges Rwandan women with visual impairment face in accessing the equalization of opportunities as the other population with and/or without disabilities. Qualitative methods of data collection were utilized for asking questions developed through literature review. Firstly, by using interview specific questions were used to collect information on challenges specifically women visual impairment face in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

Secondary the question were used in order to know the strategies that the government put in place for helping people visually impaired to get information about the equalization of opportunities as well as gender equality as a state policy. And the last question wondering the ways that visual impaired women use to avoid and overcome the challenges on equalization of opportunities in their daily livings.

3.7.1 Face-to-face interview

According to Marshall and Rossman (2011) a study that focuses on individual lived experiences typically relies on an in-depth interview strategy, although this is often supplemented with other data collection strategies (e.g. journal writing by the participants), the primary strategy is to capture the deep meaning of experience in participants' own words (p.93). In addition, Patton (2002) argued that semi-structured interviews could enable researchers to collect particularly rich high quality data due to their flexibility, focus and time effectiveness. Therefore, the researcher used in-depth semi-structured face-to-face interviews to assess the challenges women with visual impairment to access the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

The interviews were conducted in the premises of Abadacogora as a branch of RUB. This was so because it was hoped that the premises constituted a place which the respondents were familiar with and ensured a tension-free atmosphere for data collection.

Furthermore, this location helped much the researcher to interact with visual impaired participants' women and how they feel generally within the community.

3.7.2 Key informant interview

As stated by Kumar (1989), key informant interviews involve interviewing a select group of individuals who are knowledgeable about the needed information on a particular subject.

The interview with key informants was conducted in very similar conditions as described above with the difference in face-to-face interview where some questions are different from that of the participants. In addition, the atmosphere was much more relaxed because there were talking about others' phenomena not their own experience. Also, the timing was much shorter lasting between 45 minutes to one hour.

3.7.3 Focus group discussion

The researcher also used one FGD to collect data. The researcher collected data from FGD, in which it comprising 18 women visually impaired chosen on the basis of their perceived capacities to give the researcher the required data for the study. They were not much familiar with one another but share the same characteristics relevant to our study's questions. In FGD, the interviewer creates a supportive environment, asking focused questions to encourage discussion and the expression of different opinions and points of view (Marshall and Rossman, 2011, p.149). The researcher conducted the FGD interviews twice with different women with visual impairment so that the perception and opinions in which revealed were identified through careful systematic analysis (Krueger and Casey, 2008).

Respondents were grouped in one group by simply is constituting with women visually impaired who have the different years old, illiterate and literate but all of them have the closed similarities linked to the challenges they face in their daily livings under the given opportunities. This was done to enable respondents to feel free during the discussions after being considered in the equal way.

3.7.4 Observation

Marshall and Rossman (2011) argue that the term observation is central to qualitative research and captures a variety of activities ... It is used to discover complex interactions in natural social settings. Even in studies using in-depth interviews, observation plays an important role, as the researcher notes the interview partner's body language and affect, tone of voice, and other paralinguistic messages, in addition to her words (p.139-140). However, the rigorous qualitative interviews; FGD and observation provided the depth and breadth of information needed for the development of subsequent portions of this study. However, for this study, the researcher as the one with visual impairment preferred to keep quit the tone of voice, and other paralinguistic

messages for capturing the perceptions and feelings of women with visual impairment that was manifested during the data collection.

3.8 DATA ANALYSES PROCEDURES

Marshall and Rossman (1999) define data analysis as the process of bringing order, structure, and interpretation to the mass of collected data (p.148). It involves the process of organizing, coding, grouping into categories and themes, interpretation (giving meaning to the data, making sense out of the data to be able to draw conclusion and recommendation), cross-checking the meaning and report writing (Patton 2002).

For this particular study, the thematic principle was applied in data analysis. The collected data was sieved, sorted, grouped and assembled in accordance with the research objectives and questions. Throughout the analysis process; the collected information was classified, grouped and themed according to the frequencies a subject was mentioned in the discussion. The analysis intends to change information into more manageable and useful data for the research.

Data collected through FGD were primarily analyzed in a way that notes obtained through recorder were revised while highlighting key information. Interview recoded in kinyarwanda had to be translated into English. The collected data were then coded and categorized as required. In due course, relevant themes were identified and repeatedly observed so as to be grouped according to their similarities, hence resulting into main ideas. When this was done data were interpreted. Main themes were written and explained based on personal views and comparisons of the reviewed related materials. Last but not least, research findings were reported using the narrative style. Under this stage, the data collected were summarized. Verbatim quotations were used in the text but explained and evaluated by the researcher.

3.9 THE POSITION OF THE RESEARCHER

This study has to include a statement about the past experience of the researcher with the research problem. That disclosure helps the reader to understand the connection between the researcher and the study [Creswell 2014]. Normally studies conducted in gender perspectives are wide and diverse and their methodological principles are also extensive (Sarantakos, 2005). It was for this reason that particular interaction between the researcher and the participants was most desired to have a mutual understanding on that particular subject issue. With the

researcher's situation, a qualitative approach was preferred as it gives women a chance of speaking out their social life experiences.

While qualitative research acknowledges that the researcher's personal values can bias the research outcomes hence the subjectivity of the findings (Creswell, 2003). In the case of the current study, it is worth mentioning that the researcher was a person with visual impairment and he was also a member of RUB, the researcher worked in RUB where he was acting as field workofficer, in his duties he was monitoring how both men and women working together in improving the quality of their daily livings, this explain his tremendous interest in women study as well as his empathy for women with visual impairment in Rwanda. The researcher studied the principle of human rights and conflict management in his university studies.

3.10 VALIDITY AND RELIABILITY

Validity and reliability in qualitative research refers to the examination of a good quality of research. As argued by MacMillan (2006) on the issues of validity, the researcher verified the degree to which the interpretations have mutual meanings between the participants and the researcher (p. 324). In the current research, the researcher examined both the process (phases of qualitative research) and the product of research for consistency.

According to Patton (2002), the validity and reliability are two factors that every qualitative researcher has to consider while designing a study, analyzing results and judging the quality of the study. By several authors, the concept of reliability in a quantitative study has a purpose of explaining while the quality concept in qualitative study has the purpose of generating understanding (Stenbacka, 2001, p. 551).

3.11 ETHICAL ISSUES

According to Creswell (2014), the ethical issues refer to the fact that the researchers have to protect their respondents who accepted to disclose their personal information.

They also need to create trust with respondents and at the same time to promote integrity of research and avoid misconduct and error that can affect all people and or institutions involved in the research.

This study follows the ethical principal guiding the qualitative research. The permission for the study was obtained from University of Rwanda College of Arts and Social Sciences (CASS). As this study involved the women visually impaired members of RUB, the researcher also sought a permission from the Rwandan Union of the Blind (RUB).

Usually, it is recognized that in different surveys, the participants expect to get direct results from the study. For example the change in policy and practice may change their lives (Blythe *et al.*, 2013, p.12). Those challenges between researchers and participants exist in all research methodologies (Yakushkoet *al.*, 2011).

Therefore, before the administration of the research questions to respondents, the researcher explained to the participants the aim of the study and how the findings will be used before starting data collection and again before stating the interviews (Houghton *et al.*, 2010). However, the nature, the purpose, benefits and process of this study were all explained to participants.

Generally, qualitative research interviews create the reflection, appraisal and considerable self - disclosure of participants. Therefore, the researcher ensures that confidentiality; privacy and anonymity of the information provided were all guaranteed.

3.12 CONCLUSION

The focus in this chapter on methodology was detailing information about how the study was practically prepared and conducted. It explains the methodology used for the current research and present the data collection tools, data analysis procedures and ethical consideration that was followed by researcher in the aim of protecting the confidentiality privacy and anonymity of the information provided by participants. In this chapter research design was discussed in details in order to show how research sites and data collection procedures were selected. The data collection techniques used to this study helped the researcher to collect successfully information responding to objectives and question related with the topic. The next step now will be to present the findings of the present study, which is done in the next chapter.

CHAPTER4:

PRESENTATION ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION OF THE FINDINGS

4.1 INTRODUCTION

The previous chapter informed us about methodology used in collecting the data for the thesis. This chapter presents and analyses the data collected for the study. The present chapter gives details of the findings. First, the demographic characteristics of respondents are presented. It is followed by the presentation, analysis and interpretation of findings. In this chapter, the challenges women with visual impairment face on the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda have been expressed and how women visually impaired have been impacted negatively from many times ago with the challenges that will showed in this section. Referring to the concept of intersectionality, all data collected were interpreted and analyzed in following chapter. The data was also discussed in relation with the works of other scholars. Finally, the most mechanism of gender principles as state's policy to disseminate on its population, especially about the equalization of opportunities among female visually impaired and non-visually impaired were recommended.

4.2 DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTIC OF RESPONDENTS

The big number of respondents who live in Musenyi sector in Bugesera District, only 3 respondents from Abadacogora settle in Kigali city by different reasons as we have seen above. The youngest respondent was 23 years old, while the oldest respondent was 52 years old, so that the average age was 37.5. With regards to educational attainment, 50 % had attended primary schools, 30% attended secondary school and 10% of respondent had the level of university (bachelor degree) and 10% are illiterate.

4.3 PRESENTATION, ANALYSES AND INTERPRETATION OF FINDINGS

In choosing the FGD participants and key informants to show real situation and giving relevant information related to the topic of the study through interview, some considerations have been taken carefully like social status, level of studies attained, age, duration of marriage, occupation.

While the research participants having different background in which some were literate differently and the other did not attain any level of school, their living and needs were not the

same in their location area. Their various status have helped to better understand the target of the study, these differences have also ensured how really inclusion for all categories of people was considered in the community.

As presented in the first chapter, the findings have been organized under the research objective with the purpose to collect the data which are relevant to the study, the objectives were:

Identifying the challenges faced by women visually impaired in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda

To propose strategies in promotion of the awareness and knowledge on the social norms and laws on equal opportunities.

To determine the different ways that can use to avoid and overcome the challenges faced by women visually impaired on equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

4.3.1 challenges faced by women with visual impairment to access the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

The overall objective of this study was to assess the barriers women visually impaired face to participate equally on given opportunities linked to both their gender and disability like the other population in Rwanda. Consequently the answers from participants who were interviewed on challenges they personally face in accessing the opportunities equally as the others from different categories or non-disability persons were like lack of information as a barrier, negative perception for the society, self-discrimination, considered as useless by family and community, exclusion on hand craft training, the big gap in learning to the women visually impaired.

4.3.1.1 Lack of information as a barrier

During group discussion, the participants showed how getting information on different state's policies was not easy for them. Many times government disseminates its programs through the journals and radios while the respondent said that they only use braille for the literate women on the other hand all government's announcement either related with the new policy or the other government programs on its population published into ordinary writings, the others shown that some of them are poor do not keep the radios in their households. One respondent expressed what happened to her in these words:

When I was walking together with the others, the persons were discussing on the land law that have been published in the journals in which the article explained how both man and woman have the equal rights on land. I wondered getting further explanations about it but to find the accessible writings for me was really uneasy way because there was not any journal wrote into Braille(Respondent 1: FGD held on 4/04/2017)

Due to this testimony, has shown that there is no specific way provided by government to implement the new policy on its population specifically to the women with visual impairment as a part of Rwandans. This finding is consistent with findings of other authors like Julienne and Percival, in their research findings, 15% of their sample, reported that the common experience was limited access to information about the different relevant services for the sighted persons. Therefore, the government considerably should take into account the barriers that sighted women encounter to access information through writing journals by providing also the useful written to visual impaired which is Braille.

As shown by respondents, on the other hand to disseminate the state's policy on population, some of different strategies used were the meeting in which all citizens are invited without any criteria. The women visually impaired participate as the others, but during the meeting the authorities do not care specifically this part of participants by reserving the places in front of the audience near to the leaders, while it is the one way to make them easy to understand and facilitate them asking the questions on different matters where they didn't understand very well about the new message given to the population. One respondent illustrated her views in this way:

There was any time in which all citizens of sector were invited in the meeting where secretary executive and social affair of sector wanted to explain how the categorization the population (ibyiciro by' ubudehe) has done. They explained that the people were categorized accordingly to their wealth and livings for each people. I was standing up behind of the audience when I was unhappy for my category which was the third one, I wished to ask what they followed by giving this category to me but I faced a barrier to reach on microphone which was in front of the audience while I was at behind of all meeting participants, so that I have not got the explanations to my problem, then I backed home without answer (Respondent 2:FGD held on 04/04/2017).

This situation indicates that women with visual impairment face different challenges. Some of them are environment barriers the others are about their type of disability in which women visually impaired biased themselves, for that, they need the special assistance from the authorities to feel sociable and comfortable as the others for the new policy especially during a meeting. As we have seen above in the chapter 2, Bogdan and Biklen(1977) coined the term of handicapism, defining it as external barriers that prevent full participation to the visually impaired women as well as the other group members of minority people, while nothing done by the local authorities to remove all these challenges. With a long time, women visually impaired didn't get the opportunities to participate equally with the others without disabilities or their fellows from the other disabilities' categories.

Some of respondent in FGD, revealed that they encountered barriers on job announcement where the more details of necessities and requirements were on website while the computers had not the special setting program should help the sighted person to access the website information. One respondent said:

I am the one among different persons with visual impairment who have the Bachelor's degrees; I finished my studies in 2012. Any time I was listening the announcements on radio, one of them was related to the job where a company wished to recruit the workers to the different services, there was a service that I wished to apply for, but the announcement said that further information about the requirements were founded on the website of a company. While I didn't yet get my own computer I have gone to search information on internet, I faced a limitation in searching further information because the jaws program does not provided into computers for the sighted persons to access the information and other services on internet. For this I lost the opportunities of being employed while the others were advantaged and motivated (Respondent 3: FGD held on 04/04/2017)

Refer to this testimony, the persons with visual impairment specifically women face several barriers to the given opportunities for being informed require them hard work not only traveling toward the sitting area of the office where they deeply get information but also the accessibility on information communication and technology still being an issue/challenge.

As shown in the chapter 2, the accessibility of those document to the people with visual impairment they are not provided in accessible and alternative formats nor their website are accessible equipped with accessible features like large print and the jaws programs for visually impaired users [Uwezo youth empowerment, UNABU(2014) (2014) p.1).

During FGD the respondents expressed that lack of writings in Braille it was also a lot challenge to them. In case of being more skilled and to update with the time, when you go in the libraries there are not sufficient books in Braille even if you reach in the office, many clients read the journals when they sit together in waiting room to be welcomed and served while the sighted person there is no journals in Braille provided to them. One respondent lost the chances through the unavailability of writings in Braille, she said:

There was one time; I was not feeling better in my body. I went to the health center where I was sitting together with others, in front of us there was a board where they put the following order and other announcements likely, every one reach there has to read what about to follow. One day there was an announcement of the job to the post of clinical psychologist, I didn't get information while it was my carrier, the few days ago I got information that the deadline to submit the document was the last day my chances have been expired already by lack of announcement write into braille, so that, the barriers like this one has been continued from many times ago up to now on the persons visually impaired (Respondent 4: FGD held on 04/04/2017).

This situation indicates that the lack of writings and books in braille to the women with visual impairment, it makes them neglected people by the authorities and most time they feel socially excluded. When the country is developing the citizens also try to increase their skills. Whether there is no books and writings in braille provided to the sighted persons, the equalization on opportunities cannot be successful for all. Usually, interaction is very important for human's life. When the people are socially interacting with the others from different social groups when they sit together and read the books or the other writings, it increase and build the good relationship and avoid the stigma and isolation to the people within the community in which they live (Hanson at al, 2002).The other challenge resulted by this study was to pay the transport money to their guiders, some of them expressed the challenge in joining the others for the meeting while they came from far away of the meeting area or and also when they go to search the connection

of internet in getting the information about the various things like the employment announcement, work shop, the local or international markets for their products.

When they pass through unsuitable streets, they need guiders for helping them to reach easily on their targets. Most of them do not have the white canes that considered as the eyes to the sighted people. One respondent said as follow:

Any time I was supposed to meet with the others in the meeting but, from my settled area toward the meeting area was the unsuitable street where I had to pay a guider, unfortunately I didn't have money to pay. Therefore I missed the opportunity while that meeting was very crucial because it talked about own and public properties, It also discussed about conflicts related to unequal rights on family properties where the husband was selfish and use himself the household properties without sharing or negotiating with his wife . By this challenge I lost my chance for being aware on that while I had the problem almost similar with that issue discussed during the meeting (Respondent 5: FGD held on 04/04/2017).

This situation indicates that the local authorities misunderstand the communication barriers related to the blindness of women with visual impairment while seeking to join the others to be more informed about the new government policy, not only to the women but also to the general people visually impaired. This may turn lead women to feel stigmatized and isolated , this finding is consistent with findings of other authors as reported in the chapter 2 of this thesis where As illustrated by MrsZabel, she said that by lack of interaction with the others every blind person get isolated and Mrs. Parsons was one of many who expressed how the difficult it was to live with insufficient contact especially in the evenings and weekends when a person with visually impairment do not hear the sounds of human voice. This is the main cause of isolation and stigma which is one among different challenges to get equal opportunities for women visually impaired.

4.3.1.2 Negative perception for the society

In the FGD, the respondent illustrated how society considers them compared with the other general population. Some of them said that society do not give the value on the people with visual impairment especially to the women. Mostly, the persons in the settled area feel that after

loss the ability for the eyes as an important organ to the human life, they really think that this person/victim cannot perform any activity they consider them as damaged people not only body's parts but also they think that are highly affected mentally. Therefore, this impacted the sighted persons negatively in all domains. They have been excluded on behalf of Social and political life and this brought the big gap economically between them and other disabled people of the other categories and non-disabilities persons.

Specifically, women with visual impairment encounter with many barriers in their daily life, to get marriage it is uneasy for the girls while their brothers might choose whom to marry either who may have or non-disability. By negative perceptions, some women divorced after being visual impaired while before were lived harmoniously with their husbands. One respondent illustrated her historical background as well in these words:

I am 38 years old, I divorced with my husband in 2010 after loss of ability to my sight organ. I have 3 children with my husband, he shown to me that he loved me and I really loved him too so much. In the moments of getting sick to my sight organ, he did all possible to me in avoiding the blindness to me by traveling in all hospitals either private or public, but day to day the issue increased quickly, after 4 months I absolutely got visual impairment. In the blindness period I highly struggled with the complex life, my husband started telling that he cannot support to live with a blind women and he told me that I have to sleep in children's room , he started talking the bad words to me, he wake up at the morning and turned back at home in the mid -night. This didn't bring the negative impact only to me, it affected negatively my husband where he started consuming the high quantity of beer that lead him in the other women. All of these resulted the family poverty in which the development decreased in few time. After 6 months he told me that I have to leave out by saying that I'm meaningless before him. I suffered psychological violence.I invited his parents with the other close family relatives then I told them what are happening to me after getting visual impairment while before were not happened to me but the outcome from the dialogue encouraged my husband by saying that is him to take the future of his own life and all the family. By revealing that negative support I completely discouraged, what remained was to leave as the final option if not it was conducted to lose my life.

Therefore, i returned back to live with my parents and little sisters and brothers, my husband stayed at home with the children. During that time when I lived with the parents my husband started selling the family house properties including cows, goats, land and lastly sold a commercial house that have been built at the center after hearing that I started going in local authorities. After looking and trying to solve our family issue that any time could lead to the death, they preferred to give us a divorce, that we get in November 2010 where we shared the remained family properties, in which they gave me smaller land compared with what my ex-husband got by saying that the children shall continue to be cared by their father. After separating with the husband I really started the new life's journey, in the first days I was carefully considered as well like my other family relatives. Progressively, the time after time the life situation started changing where some of my family members started telling to me that I am useless while I tried to work some activities following to my power and ability, by this I started thinking how I can find a safe place or best location to live safely. When I was thinking about this, few days after the members of RUB got information of my situation and they came to see me and told to me that there is a rehabilitation center for the visual impaired persons that help them to work some activities and apply to them the other skills like health reproductive. I went there ,in reaching there I meet together with the other fellows with the same problem, where I have got different friends I decided never returning back at home and I choose to stay with them and continue together the life with my colleagues up to now (Respondent 6: FGDF held on 04/04/2017).

This testimony of respondent 6, indicates that the women visually impaired didn't get the chance to acquire any knowledge on their rights like the other Rwandan population as we have seen in the literature review(chapter 2), whereby, several studies indicate that lack of effective training about the equal rights in all domains of life also impacted them negatively to feeling as the productive persons like the others without disabilities, including also the external barriers prevent their full participation in the societies in which they live. Barton's writings on education have always insisted that a social model approach should be an essential tool in changing the education system to a more inclusive and playing the greater impact to the equalization on opportunities among the people wherever the world(Barton, 1998). Based on various findings of different researchers the state should set up an adequate mechanism to the population especially

to the women visually impaired in helping them to recognize that they have equal rights on various opportunities as other population with disabilities and non-disabilities within the country. Refer to this life situation expressed by a respondent 6, explains how the persons with disabilities including women visually impaired were exclusively considered in the community as illustrated by Challoner's report shows how in Rwanda social exclusion is not a concept that is widely used, while in general the people with disabilities are both passively and actively excluded in Rwandan society.

Generally, man and woman should have the equal rights in their daily livings at home on internal and external properties, as Van DenBergh and cooper (1986) maintains that a feminist vision for a different society includes the demand for gender equality as well as a commitment to altering the processes and the manner in which private and public lives are organized and conducted. Apart from that all people with or without disabilities, female and male had the equal rights in all domains of life. Therefore due to this situation shown how after being impaired to the women, they quickly lose the value in the community and start suffering double discrimination like oppression as it applies to her status as a woman and as woman with disability. A respondent said that she tried to bring out her problem in the family members of her husband but they reacted negatively. In the research carried out by Rajah, 1991 shown how discrimination can affect all conditions of their lives like education, employment, economic status, health, marriage, family, and rehabilitation. Likely, this also affected a woman with visual impairment negatively in all domains for her life.

The government should search a better solution to this issue raised in society by using different channels as a mechanism to disseminate the new policies on its population, as indicated by the testimony of respondent 6 the women with visual impairment do not aware what about their equal rights in inside and outside of their families.

Therefore women visually impaired have been impacted negatively as resulted by this situation of a respondent, so that refer to this the government should use several ways in educating and sensitizing the population on their own values and their equal participation on different properties or on the given opportunities within the country. Mostly, Lorraine and Win, (2006) carried out that the attitude like this varies from lack of awareness, sensitivity and respect (p.

136). This implies that women with visual impairment feel socially rejected, devalued, and invisible.

In FGD the respondent expressed how they have been excluded and ignored during of employment, being women the same time women with disability particularly vision impairment. It was variable reason to reject a women visually impaired to the selected list of candidates for the job. One of respondents told us what happened to her in the moment of accomplishing the necessities as the job's announcement required in these words:

I finished my university studies in 2012, I did the Clinical psychology in UR/ College of Art and Social Sciences, there was any company which wished to engage a clinical psychologist, and I completely had all the requirements to the post on market. When I reached there, in order to submit my application letter and other required documents, they started asking to me different question like how a person visually impaired studies with the others. Who help me to move (walking) and performing the other activities? How you write and who may read what you wrote while there is no one with skills in reading and use Braille? How do you perform the job while our computers do not have the special programs to make them easily accessible for the visually impaired? Otherwise, they decided to receive and keep my job request letter after discussing in the other office but it was expressed that they were doubtful on my skills and ability. After 2 weeks ago, they brought out a list of selected candidates in which I was not included. Therefore, I generally experienced that the employers know that disability is inability while the blindness it is a little thing in working the various activities. The other time also I applied to the job in any public institution, I have been shortlisted because I had all needed requirements after being selected and aware on date of passing job examination, I informed them that I'm visually impaired and that I need some facilitations because they didn't know that I have a vision impairment. In telling them this, they have been surprised and they asked me what are the needed facilities I wish to pass comfortably the written exam. I answered them that I need examination copy translated into Braille. By this, they firstly asked me if it doesn't require the high cost and they asked how I will perform the written exam. I told them that the cost is not high and that I will use the computer then after ending the exam they will print it for keeping

the users copy for the visually persons .At the day of passing the written exam, when we were in the provided room for job, they came with only copies for the visually persons and they told me that they read for me and I answer after reading the question. I told them when you are answering the question requires to read and revise the question to understand well so, I refused to use this way and they decided to shift only the exam for me to another day but I denied because I was really destabilized while I was well mentally prepared for exam. Otherwise, my rights to be recruited to the job have been not respected by the institution, the negative perception for the employers and community in general it is an issue for women with sight impairment and for all visually impaired at large (Respondent 7: FGD held on 04/04/2017).

This situation indicates the social perception level for the society, where Rwandan women with visual impairment were considered negatively to perform the daily activities not only at home but also at large area into community. Women sighted impaired considered as unable or weaker persons as some researchers carried out the findings about their performance on various works for the people with disabilities, like Asch and Fine (1989), they found out that the research carried out by non-disable feminist's women among the disable women resulted that only 42% of disable women were powerful, competent and appearing as active female. The low performance of women with disabilities brought the negative perceptions in all areas of working activities. Mostly, Rwandan society doesn't understand the approach used to teach the persons with visual impairment for gaining the same skills as their fellows with disabilities or non-disabilities persons. As we have seen in the literature review, various scholars started looking to the children with visual impairment some of them conducted their studies on language development (Bigelow, 1990) and intervention strategies for the children with visual and multiple disabilities (Evan and Johnson, 1988, Spungin, 1989). They conclude that clearly people had much to learn about the young children with visual impairment. Therefore, this make people confused and still being unaware on ability of women vision impaired how they acquire knowledge and how they make it into practice.

The result of the current study indicate that the persons without disabilities including the authorities and employers have not been informed about the ability of women with visual impairment and their fellows with the same disability.

On the other hand, as illustrated by some researchers in some countries they established the strategies to sensitize to the people the ability of women with visual impairment. Oliver and Barnes, 2006 carried out that In 1991, British council of people with disability launched the campaign for registration to outlaw discrimination against disabled people and renamed the United Kingdoms disabled people council in 1992 language of social model, independent living and disability rights have become increasingly prominent in the publications produced by national and local government organization and disability charities both large and small. Consequently, these had the positive impact to the life of women with visual impairment; many of them started working in different public and private institutions. Therefore, Rwandan women with visual impairment do not get the equal opportunities in different domains because their abilities still being unrecognized in all domains from local area up to national level.

Socially Politically and Economically, the authorities and employers have not been informed about the skills and abilities of women visually impaired there was no adequate mechanism to mobilize and sensitize the equal rights by emphasizing that this part of population are able to perform as the others. Refer to the testimony of a respondent 7 women with visual impairment continue struggling as well as fighting for their value and the rights on equalization of opportunities as other Rwandans.

4.3.1.3 BEING IGNORED BY THEMSELVES (SELF DISCRIMINATION)

During of FGD, some of respondent said that were excluded and ignored themselves. As they said this was a big barrier to the women visually impaired. So that, by this they have been affected negatively in their daily livings. Some of them said that they feel uncomfortable when they meet together with the others in which they said that they get humiliation while non-disabilities colleagues expressed their emotions by laughing for example. Someone with visual impairment women feel unhappy by thinking that they are laughing at them. Therefore, this was also a main cause to bring the isolation and stigmatization to the women visually impaired that was a big challenge on equal participation for the opportunities in Rwanda. One respondent told us what happened when she was meeting with the others in these words:

I am a woman, I live together with my husband we have 4 children, the last borne has 3 years old while I pass only 4 years ago with visual impairment. I am a Christian in

E.E.R, I went at the church to pray as usual, and after prayers we had a short meeting with the project sponsors for secondary schools. I was sitting both sides together with men there was no my sex colleague about me to go out with her, I preferred to move with a man to solve my issue out side. While the project representative was speaking to the audience. In standing up they started laughing, that brought to me being ashamed and humiliated. By this i decided never backing in the else meeting only my husband who should go there and tell me the purpose of it when he backs at home (Respondent 8: FGD held on 04/04/2017).

This situation indicates that some of women with visual impairment do not acquire their impairment some feel ashamed and humiliation within the community. As the representative of Rwanda Union of the Blind (RUB) in the interview held on 15/04/2017, she told us that they frequently try to close the women visually impaired and help them to reintegrate into society after getting the visual impairment. This was done through the various training including empowerment for women with sight impairment. As the result of the study in the literature review shown, this situation was almost similar with findings carried out by Mrs Parsons was the one of many researchers who expressed how the challenge was to live with insufficient contact especially in the evenings and weekends when a person visually impaired do not hear the sounds of human voice. This is a main cause of isolation and stigma as one of different challenges to access equally on various opportunities to impaired vision women. Based on this testimony of a respondent 8, where the women with visual impairment were discriminated and excluded themselves the government should be near to them and handle them carefully in avoiding the isolation or depression that can affect them as well as the whole society.

As the duties of state, the government has various useful channels to implement its policies on population whereby gender equality and the same rights to the equalization of opportunities are included. Through Rwandan commission for human rights, gender machinery, local and national authorities and others stake holders both could be involved in helping the sight impaired women to feel socially comfortable and valued into community.

4.3.1.4 Considering women visually impaired as useless by family and community

As expressed by the respondent during FGD held on 04/04/2017, the respondents revealed that society consider them as useless people, in some families women with visual impairment have been taken as a burden for the family members. Indeed, some authorities in local institutions do not give value to them when they came to the office with the purpose of service request as the other customers, the authorities firstly think that they came for the aids not any other help or service as illustrated by one respondent in this words.

I have gone at the office of sector, I was guided by my small children, when I reached there I encountered with Exective Secretary of sector, I wondered that he show me the office of a worker who has the associations and cooperatives in his duties. Before listening what I was telling to him, he directly told me that there is no aids for the blind people. I have really got frustration and humiliation because he went without hearing my problem and show to me that I was a meaningless person under him. Therefore, refer to the mind set of some authorities we likely lack accessibility on different opportunities as the other citizens, not only for the women sighted impairment but also for all visual impaired (Respondent 9: FGD held on 04/04/2017).

By this situation of a respondent 9 it indicates that in local institutions some authorities had the negative perception, they also consider a women with visual impairment as burden to them and country at large. As we have seen in chapter 2 generally, Daniel and Sainimili, (2009 p. 15) in their research carried out that the consequences on exclusion and discrimination for people with disabilities are more serious to the women than men with disabilities. Gender issues are evident in different life experiences of women while women with disabilities have some experiences and challenges in common with men with disabilities.

During the interview with Social Affair of sector held on 05/04/2017, she told me that not all authorities who negatively consider the women as useless people while they have different activities done by women with sight impairment in different locations of sector.

The views of Social Affair were totally different with the research findings from the literature in which the researchers like Morris (1992) believes that older women and women with disabilities have been left out of the feminist discourse.

Therefore, the marginalization and carelessness of feminists about women with disabilities and older women show how both have been left out of feminist's discourse, for this they were neglected and considered as weaker and unable persons, this also impacted them negatively on equalization of opportunities.

Usually, the authorities in different institutions both public and private, the most role is for them in which they should mobilize and sensitize their institution workers to consider and treating their customers and clients in the same way at the moment of serving them accordingly their service needed and is about them to build the good relationship between community members as Rwandan citizens. As Van DenBergh and cooper (1986) in their research findings, demand for gender equality as well as a commitment to altering the processes and the manner in which private and public lives are organized and conducted. Apart from that all people with or without disabilities, female and male had the equal rights in all domains of life. While they said that all of them are considered and treated the same way. Therefore, through the authorities the mind set of society could change by using the various strategies mostly the valuable impact is about the local leaders and workers in different institutions.

4.3.1.5 Social exclusion

During FGD, the respondent talked about social exclusion where all FGD participants expressed that they have been left out in selecting the women for some short hand craft training for women. All of them said that sometimes women get various opportunities given by different NGOs in their settled area but women with visual impairment were exclusively rejected by the NGOs agents. Any time there was training about family planning that had a purpose of teaching different methods used in avoiding unwanted pregnancies and making birth accordingly to our capacity, we wished to attend and being involved but the trainer denied involving us within the other women.

The other time NGOs came in our sector to select the women on training about making the cold cloths, knitting's that made into threads they also denied to select us by saying that the visual impaired how to follow this while the important organ to make it into practice was the eyes for person. Thus from these, women visually impaired have been perceived as unable person who can really not contribute to the community development and the country at large (all respondents, FGD held on 04/04/2017).

This situation shown the perception image in which distinct authorities and civil society's agents had to the ability of women sight impaired in relation of employment and at any other social contribution from them. The employers and craft trainers as well as the formers from NGOs do not have information on performance of women visually impaired with the other impaired persons. These findings are very similar with the findings in the chapter 2 found out by Lorraine and Win, (2006) by saying that attitude varies from lack of awareness, sensitivity and respect (p. 136). This implies that women with visual impairment feel socially rejected, devalued, and invisible. The employers and authorities are not sensitive to the abilities of visually impaired women.

They are also unaware of the abilities of women visually impaired and the impaired people in general. In interview we did with RUB representative held on 14/04/2017 carried out that some employers, trainers and formers do not agree with the ability of persons with sight impairment, some of women from different groups of RUB started doing a short course of 6 months at western province where they learn how to make the cold cloths wearing by children and adults persons in which they use threads, she told that sighted women impairment after gaining the skills from that training center they already grouped in different associations in which they put into practice what they learned in order to develop themselves and the community in general. Therefore, to remove these challenges, require to react as a teamwork in which public institutions, civil societies, NGOs managers to change their mind set toward women with visual impairment by considering them as productive person as the others in society.

4.3.1.6 The gap in learning for women sighted impairment

The respondents in FGD expressed that gender inequality and considering unequally women visually impaired under the given opportunities started from the childhood. All respondents shown how the children born with disabilities were discriminated even under their parents was like a shame for them, the persons with disabilities particularly the visual impaired were like a taboo under authorities in early periods. The persons with disabilities in which women visually were included have got value in 1994 after Genocide against Tutsi. Insufficiently women visually impaired attended the school comparing their brothers. The insufficient number of literates among the women sighted impairment, brought a big gap to them and a little number of women from them who had the chances of learning suffered double discrimination due to their

gender itself and their disability these have affected them negatively on equalization of opportunities as other Rwandans.

These views from respondents in FGD, found out how historically women and other people with disability were treated in family and into community at large. Specifically, as it shown in the chapter 2 community did not understand how a visually impaired can learn together with the others, the researcher have been started looking on children with visual impairment like Bigelow, 1990 conducted his study on language development for the children with sight impairment, the others are Evan and Johnson, 1988, their study was conducted on the intervention strategies for the children with visual and multiple disabilities to help them learning easily together with others, the conclusion for their studies shown that clearly people had much to learn about the young children with visual impairment. Therefore, nowadays the Rwandan government established different strategies as expressed by Disability mainstreaming officer at district level in interview we did on 06/04/2017 he told that in the different locations government built the special schools for the visually impaired in achieving the principle of education for all in Rwanda, he also told that persons with visual impairment the country brought the facilitating materials for them to access the higher learning education for covering the gap between them and other Rwandan population, but he added that the special schools are not really sufficient and that the government should try to increase the special schools for them in order to eradicate the gap of literacy between women visually impaired and other population which is considered as the main barrier on equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

In the interview with RUB representative held on 14/04/2017, she said that RUB tried to do much to change the situation about the exclusion done for people with visual impairment, in her own words said:

Before Genocide against Tutsi in 1994, the visually impaired were not allowed to study because there was no special assistance provided to them, we encountered with a hard work to advocate for them we struggled but finally our objective had been achieved after a long journey. In 1995 the students' visually impaired started learning primary studies, after ending primary level were limited to the secondary level because the secondary school leaders do not wanted to receive them. By this we tried to negotiate with a Director of GS de Gahini so he easily understood us and he agreed to receive the

students visually impaired, in 2001 the students have been began to study. The lack of facilities was a big barrier to the students ended the secondary schools, together with Ministry of education [MINEDUC] we tried to solve the issue by building the resource room and searches other facilities for the sighted impairment students. In 2008 the students started learning their university studies indifferent colleges of UR like College of Arts and Social Sciences in southern province and College of Education in Kigali city. Actually, she told that they have a woman and a man lectures both visually impaired who teach in the Colleges (CASS, CE) of UR. Therefore, to cover the gap it is a process due to the historical background of persons with visual impairment specifically for the women because some of them do not want to study while is the crucial way to access the equalization of opportunities in the country.

Refers to this hard journey done by RUB and the political will of Rwanda, the gap slowly will be covered as we have seen above in the literature review where the scholars Oliver and Barnes, 2006 in 1991, carried out that British council of people with disability launched the campaign for registration to outlaw discrimination against disabled people and renamed the United Kingdom's disabled people council in 1992 language of social model, independent living and disability rights have become increasingly prominent in the publications produced by national and local government organization and disability charities both large and small. As these impacted positively the life of people with disabilities, the Rwandan women with visual impairment will get the value and being considered in the same way with the others on equalization of opportunities, as illustrated by RUB representative some women and men visually impaired have been started working in different public institutions like teaching as lectures in UR/ College of Education and College of Art and Social Sciences.

4.3.2 To propose strategies in promotion of the awareness and knowledge on the social normes and equal rights on given opportunities

The strategies used and barriers encountered by women with visual impairment to be informed and acquiring the knowledge about social norms and equal opportunities were asked to the respondents. The views from the participants have been shown that there was no specific way and approach used to the women visually impaired while they face with barriers to be knowledgeable on social norms and aware about the new state's policies. Some of different

barriers illustrated by respondent during FGD in their daily life, they severally like to face with poverty and illiteracy as the big barriers, lack of special assistance from the leaders in our settled areas. Otherwise, the effective strategies using to handle these challenges is to empower and promote women visually impaired in all sectors mostly in education by which they will gain the skills and knowledge about their social norms and rights.

4.3.2.1 Poverty and illiteracy as big barrier

The respondents revealed that getting information and being aware on any new policy like principle of gender equality and equal treatment on a given opportunity require reading skills while some of us didn't attend any school level, as talked by a respondent as follow:

Any time I was at health center where we learned how to feed the kids the complete meal that keep all necessities for baby's life to grow up as well, we gained few related with that and a former gave us the books by saying that the further explanations we will get into the books. On the other hand I didn't know to read so, I have been biased by my illiteracy (Respondent 10: FGD held on 04/04/2017).

Another respondent she expressed that the poverty is also the big challenge to be aware and get related information on the new policy. She told through her own words that:

As we know our country is quickly running in the use of information and communication technology (ICT). The public or private institution use the information and communication tools to send their messages to the population, through cell phones, radios persons getting information and be aware from these technological tools.

One day I was together with a non-disability person, he received a short message in his phone which was about to keep and treat the orphans child like yours in the family, this message have been disseminated also through radios from MIGEPROF. By lack of radio and cell phone as the poverty's fruits I really missed the related information on that new policy from Ministry of Gender and family protection. Consequently, women were more biased by poverty lather than men because they were supposed to stay home with unavailability of radio which is the crucial tool used to disseminate the related information for government's policy to its population. Beside this, men who usually considered as family header move to else centers to interact with the others who may

have their own radios and cell phones in which they easily get from related information on various policies. Therefore, some of different strategies to make us aware about the new government's program is where the local leaders will share with us about the new related information on what to implement (respondent 11: FGD held on 04/04/2017).

The results of the current studies indicate that women visually impaired do not get enough information to the government's policies as their husbands and other visually women. Due to their disability kind and gender itself women with visual impairment were more biased to aware the government's programs. As we have seen above in the literature review, poor health, declining mobility and especially impaired vision limit social contact outside the home (Hanson et al, 2002) this views are almost similar with the situation of respondent 9 where he shown that they stay home whereby they cannot easily get any information related to the policies of government accordingly their poverty and is about similar with the findings of a researcher called Mrs Parsons who expressed how the challenge was to live with insufficient contact especially in the evenings and weekends when a person with visually impaired do not hear the sounds of human voice. Therefore, these affect women visually impaired not only unequal treatment on various opportunities but also being isolated and stigmatized, they socially feel excluded into community.

As illustrated by the respondents to solve the issue state and its stakeholders should help the women visually impaired to get the communication tools and help them to go out of illiteracy by helping them to increase their intellectual capacity level as the valuable response to be skilled and aware about the social norms and equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

In the interview we did with National Council of Persons with disabilities representative at District level (DMO) held on 06 April 2017, in answering the question that was how the persons with visual impairment are informed about different government policies including gender equality and the same rights on a given opportunity. He answered that there was no platform provided specifically to the visual impaired, but they have been started looking about the easy way that could help them to be aware of the gender equality and social norms at home and into general community. Generally, the people with disabilities have their representatives in NCPD from the cell level up to the National level, so we started collaborating with them to close and

inform the visually women impaired specifically about a new policy and other government's program.

As we have seen above in the chapter 2, Morris (1992) found out how the older women and women with disabilities including women visually impaired have been left out of the feminist discourse. In this current study, the findings shown that women sighted impairment left out of society while the other were involved within government policy implementation. In the literature review as Baldwin 1991, in his research findings found that women with disabilities are poor than men with disabilities, the women visually impaired face with a challenge of poverty in acquiring the related information on the government's policies and the other programs within the country. Therefore, the authorities should carefully take into consideration the women visually impaired because many of them are poor and illiterate while the poverty and illiteracy are the ones among different barriers to the equalization of opportunities and other policy accessibility for sighted impairment women in Rwanda.

4.3.2.2 Lack Of Assistance From Leaders

In this current study, the findings for the study shown how the women with visual impairment have not been recognized by the local leaders. The views from the respondents emphasized on how they were marginalized by their leaders. From early childhood all children were obliged to attend the school, whenever the parents do not put their children in school they got punishment. On the contrary, in the family that has a child visually impaired didn't get any whatever punishment. So, the child's rights for visual impaired have been violated by carelessness from the local leaders. The others expressed how they encounter with neglect leaders, when they wondered together working in vision umurenge program (V.U.P), the leaders unwillingly don't want to hear and see them. Some respondent viewed what happened in these words:

I joined the others in community works (Umuganda), by the end of it we had a meeting with the local leaders where they established the punishment to the parents who will refuse to send their children to school. Around of me I had a neighbor who had a child visually impaired with the acquired level to go to school but the parents did not put her to school by lack of special equipment for the visually impaired. At the beginning of the school year, the punishment has been plasticized on against people to react positively on taken decision. Contrarily, the leaders do nothing to my neighbor either to helping him to

find a school to a child or to punish him as the others. Therefore, this will negatively impact the life of that child with sight impairment (Respondent 10 FGD held on 04/04/2017).

Another respondent expressed this as follow:

The other respondent: Like my colleague, I was working together with the others the community works, we did a meeting where they selected the persons to work in V.U.P, I have been ignored by telling me that I'm unable to work. I asked the leader to react about but he didn't want to hear my wish, my rights to be considered as the others in community have been violated by lack of assistance support from the leaders (Respondent 11: FGD held on 04/04/2017).

This situation indicates that the local authorities nothing they do to pay attention on various matters women visually impaired face to access the equalization of opportunities. As a respondent 10 expressed, from early childhood the visually impaired were treated unequally under authorities and this ended by the discrimination done to them in all domains of their life. The study carried out by Rajah 1991, expressed that the discrimination can affect all conditions of their lives like education, employment, economic status, health, marriage, family, and rehabilitation. In this current study, the findings exclusively explained how the leaders intervene and react about the received issue from the women visually impaired as shown above by a respondent 11. In the literature review, the research done by Quinn, 1994 found out that women with visual impairment are also less likely to receive sufficient disability benefit and are served less frequently than men in the vocational rehabilitation system. Indeed, women with visual impairment need the special assistance from the authorities in their settled areas to feel socially comfortable as well, so that, after being fully cared under authority they will participate actively into various domains either politics or economics. Therefore as illustrated by Bogdan and Biklen, 1977 the term of handicapism, defining it as external barriers that prevent full participation to the visually impaired women as well as the other group members of minority people, the government should establish the useful strategies to acknowledge the women visually impaired what about their rights on given opportunities and help them to know the social norms. In addition to that, the leaders should involve women with visual impairment in social activities as

the adequate mechanism to remove those challenges faced by them in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

The interview with NCPD representative at sector level about what they do to aware the women visually impaired to recognize their rights on various opportunities within the community, to keep the social norms skills and how they involve them into the other government policies. The views from respondent revealed that the local leaders do not wonder to hear and react about their social and economic problems encountered by them in their location area. He responded in these words:

As the other citizens women with visual impairment get information concern with distinct government's policies and programs through different ways like general meeting of population, the announcements on radios, journals, etc..., there is no specific way of giving information other than what are provided to the general population, but every month we meet together as the persons with disabilities as usual the visually impaired are also included at the Cell level in which we talked specifically about our problems we face in settled area and different programs of government in general (Interview with NCPD representative at Sector level held on 05/04/2017).

The result of the current study indicates that women with visual impairment do not get enough information on the new government's policies as revealed by the respondent and key informant from NCPD at sector level by saying that they didn't establish specifically strategy used to disseminate the related information on government's policy for women visually impaired.

So, being unaware about their role and rights on equalization of opportunities and gender equality abuse their progressive development and the country at large.

These findings are almost similar with the research findings carried out by Percival and Julienne in different countries such as India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Somalia, and China, 15 per cent of their sample, reported that the common experience was limited access to information about sight loss and relevant services. As illustrated by the respondents 10 and 11 where they were biased by lack of information which was the main cause to lose the accessibility on given opportunities, as the real findings of Percival and Julienne shown in their study, many interviewees were ignorant

about disability benefits and also lacked up to date and impartial (non-commercial) information about low vision equipment, its efficacy, availability and cost.

Therefore, the local and national authorities as well as the partners should react as teamwork to make aware the visually women impaired on different government's programs specifically because their challenges are not the same with the ones of other visually women.

4.3.3 To determine the different ways that can be used to avoid and overcome the challenges faced by women visually impaired on equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

In this current study, the data collected shown how all research participants revealed that women visually impaired have been encountered with many challenges to access the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda. To handle this issue and establish different ways to avoid and removing all those challenges they face with, both respondents and key informants they reacted and gave their suggestions on equal participation about the given opportunities. All respondent in the FGD suggested that all leaders in different institutions locally and to the whole country at large should react as teamwork to sensitize the population about the social norms and Rwandan values whereby all of them should be treated in the same way under authorities within the community. The literate visually impaired, wished that the employers from either in public or private institutions (NGOs, civil societies), churches and other state's partners could have a greater impact to remove all those challenges.

By a lot wonder that employers positively feel about the ability of a woman with visual impairment at employment sector not consider her in their mind as unable person but a productive person as well who might act to the given opportunities as the others. One of literate women visually impaired expressed her opinion in these words:

As I said above, I finished my university studies in 2012, at UR/ CASS where I did Clinical Psychology, I differently applied the required documents to the post for a job, they didn't really receive my application without asking to me different questions specifically related to my disability and my performance toward the employment. From these I experienced a little consideration taken to the visually impaired women by employers comparing with their fellows from the other disability's categories and visually women. So, it is needed to close the employers from different domains and

sensitize them about the ability and skills of women visually impaired in relation of employment in removing absolutely the challenges women visually impaired face to access the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda (Respondent 12: FGD held on 04/04/2017).

This view of respondent 12 indicates how employers take and consider the women with sight impairment when they recruit the employees. As we have seen in the literature review, Bogdan and Biklen(1977) coined the term of handicaps, defining it as external barriers that prevent full participation to the visually impaired women as well as the other group members of minority people. Therefore, among the external factors as the barriers on equalization of opportunities for visually impaired women the employers' perception is one of them. So removing this mind set is valuable solution on equal treatment under the given opportunities in Rwanda for them.

In the interview we did with a disability mainstreaming officer (DMO) at District level as one of research participants, he said that the equalization of opportunities to be achieved for women visually impaired require a platform and cooperation of different institutions as well as setting up the network to correct the raising issue related to the discrimination done to the visually impaired women in case of the given opportunities, all public and private institutions should respect and take into consideration this used strategy. He illustrates his suggestion in these words:

Only government and the other institutions are not sufficient to eradicate the challenges women face in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda, even if is considered as the powerful channel for all running activities within the country. By working together with the partners and all ministerial ordered like MINALOC, MINEDUC, MIFOTRA, etc...should working together with the private sector to mobilize the employers for removing and changing this mindset in which they consider the women visually impaired as useless in relation of employment (Interview with DMO held on 06 April 2017).

According to the views of DMO, working as teamwork is the crucial way to remove easily the challenges and barriers faced by women on equalization of opportunities as we have seen in the chapter 2 where some researchers found out the study findings that emphasized how

interdependence of various institutions impacted positively on the raising issue within the country as Oliver and Barnes, 2006, carries out how in 1991, British council of people with disability launched the campaign for registration to outlaw discrimination against disabled people and renamed the United Kingdom's disabled people council in 1992 language of social model, independent living and disability rights have become increasingly prominent in the publications produced by national and local government organization and disability charities both large and small. These brought greater impact to the lives of women visually impaired but insufficiently. Therefore, removing the challenges to access the equalization of opportunities for women with visual impairment it is uneasy journey so it is a process in which everyone should react about starting at home, in the local area within the neighbors and the whole country in general, the government should actively play a greater role to eliminate all challenges faced by women to access the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda by establishing an adequate mechanism against for the issue and all kinds of violence toward them. Especially, the employers from public institutions and also the ones of private sector like NGOs, Civil societies, etc... should be informed about the ability and skills of women visually impaired, the churches also could react as the stakeholders of government about the equal rights for the people both under lord and state's laws to against for discrimination done to visual impaired in relation of all lives in different domains. However, the findings of the current study, resulted the close similarities with the study done in Pacific as we have seen in chapter 2 where the researchers called Daniel and Sainamili(2009), intended to analyses how Socio-economic factors impacting on human rights of women and girls. The study found out that women and girls face discrimination this leads to poverty, isolation, and poor health for them. The result of the current study shown the way women and girls with visual impairment are isolated and stigmatized by negative perception of the community including the local leaders, lack of assistance when they need to their leaders, to be doubtful for their skills and ability on behalf of employers, this brought to them to feel invisible in the employment sector.

These are almost similar with what reported by UN (2010) where it show that the physical and sensory disabilities have remained invisible in implementation monitoring and evaluation of MDGs (p. 25). Therefore, women visually impaired in Rwanda, they largely impacted by the negative attitude toward them within their settled areas where both neighbors and local leaders

do not give a value to the women with visual impairment and this affect them negatively in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

4.4 CONCLUSION OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter has presented and analyzed the data collected for the study on the ground. Perception and experiences of participants about the challenges faced by women visually impaired in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda have been explored. The data collected for this chapter were analyzed under its three specific objectives as mentioned before. The data have shown that women visually impairment encounter with different challenges in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda, some of them have the matter of lacking the information, negative perception for the society, lack of assistance from the leaders, poverty and illiteracy, etc... The following chapter 5 draws general conclusions and recommendations of the study.

CHAPTER 5:

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 INTRODUCTION

This chapter presents the overall conclusions made from data collected on field for the study, that to be taken considerably into account, it presents also the recommendations for the various decision makers. The chapter suggests also the future areas of the research, the analysis and interpretation made by a researcher.

5.2 SUMMARY

This study sought to assess the challenges women with visual impairment face in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda. Establishing the effective way to aware the authorities and other opinion leaders about the ability and skills of women visually impaired under employment and other gave opportunities into community. Setting up the most mechanism to avoid and overcome the barriers and challenges they encounter in their daily life on equalization of opportunities.

The study was designed qualitative approach It used a case study inquiry. Data were collected in Bugesera district through FGD where the association's members of Abadacogora(respondants) according to their experiences revealed different views about the challenges women visually impaired face in accessing the equalization of opportunities. Secondary data were collected individually through in-depth interview within the key informants as the ones who kept more related information on study problem.

5.3 CONCLUSIONS

Following the three objective of the study stated in the chapter one, it is crucial that the overall conclusions are presented under the specific objectives to which they apply. These are:

Identifying the challenges faced by women visually impaired in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda

To propose strategies in promotionof the awareness and knowledge on the social norms and laws on equal opportunities.

To determine the different ways that can be used to avoid and overcome the challenges faced by women visually impaired on equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

5.3.1 Identifying the challenges faced by women visually impaired in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda

The current study found out that lack of information to the women sighted impairment biased them to achieve on equalization of opportunities in Rwanda, by revealing how the government's policies and other programs have been disseminated through the journals which are in ordinary writings the others through radios while they use writings in Braille for the literate women the others expressed that in their families do not have the radios in which they can get from information. Therefore, lack of these main tools used by government not affect them only to the equalization of opportunities but also make them isolated and stigmatized in their settled area.

In collecting the data for the study, the respondent illustrated that women visually impaired were not valued by the visually persons where they consider them as useless people. So, these brought the negative impacts to their life in all sectors like socio-economic and political sectors. On the other hand the women visually impaired were excluded themselves where they feel ignored and some are frustrated and humiliated when they were together with the visually people. These shown the way society consider them and how they consider themselves under the given opportunities in their locations.

During the data collection the respondents revealed that they were many times excluded in different hand crafts, they illustrated that the employers like state or private do not understood the way and how a person who has not the eyes as a crucial organ for a human's life may perform any activity as the other who is fit about his/her body's parts. Indeed, women visually impaired have been challenged by this set mind of employers who don't understand that having a disability doesn't mean inability. The respondents in the current study expressed also that the gap in learning for the women sighted impairment impacted them negatively about the access on equalization of opportunities in Rwanda. As the other female have been affected by patriarchy system in which a baby girl born doesn't get the equal value with the baby boy.

On behalf of non-visually impaired persons was like that where a girl visually impaired stayed at home while a boy with the same situation went to school, this resulted a shortage of literate

women to compete on the employment's market as well as being treated equally on the other given opportunities within the community.

5.3.2 To propose strategies in promotion of the awareness and knowledge on the social normes and equal rights on given opportunities

The findings of the current study resulted that there was not specific strategies using to promote the awareness on social norms and equal rights on different given opportunities in Rwanda, the respondents expressed that they encountered with the barriers to update on policies and programs of government, like poverty and illiteracy, lack of assistance from the leaders. As suggested by the respondents during of FGD, to solve the problem for getting awareness on social norms and equal rights on given opportunities the government should establish the trainings for women visually impaired empowerment on financial activities that will enable them to find some communication tools like radios, cell phones to update easily for the new policies and programs of government.

They suggested that also women visually impaired should be promoted in all school levels in fighting against for illiteracy as a main core of the challenges faced by women visually impaired in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

Referring to the views of respondents, the research findings found out how women sighted impairment have been encountered with the lack of assistance from leaders. As revealed by some of them, the local leaders do not wonder to hear them when they need any assistance support from the local leaders. Apart from that, the crucial way or good strategy is where the local and national authorities as well as the partners might react as teamwork to make aware the visually women impaired on different government's programs specifically because their challenges are not like the ones of visually women. Therefore, NCPD has the representatives from the cell level up to the national level as illustrated by DMO, they started establishing the platform to use and the women visually impaired where are involved in order to acknowledge them what about their rights on given opportunities and help them to know the social norms.

5.3.3 To determine the different ways that can be used to avoid and overcome the challenges faced by women visually impaired on equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

According to the views from the research participants that ensured and expressed the challenges women visually impaired face in accessing the equalization of opportunities, all of them said that to overcome these challenges, require the interdependence for all institutions.

The leaders in different institutions work and react as teamwork with the same commonalities targeted to remove and overcome the challenges encountered by women sighted impairment to access the equalization of opportunities. Thus, the leaders should try to remove the ideology of society where they discriminate and neglect women with visual impairment in relation of employment as well as the other given opportunities into community. Indeed, through the meeting of population, special seminars for the leaders, the various trainings, the government should send and disseminate its policy or other related programs to the participants and invite them to be responsible in overcoming the challenges on equalization of opportunities women sighted impairment face in their daily life in Rwanda.

Usually, the public institutions are the broad channel for each policy implementation, by political will, in which all ministerial ordered like MINEDUC, MINALOC, MIFOTRA, etc...together with the other state partners including the NGOs, civil societies, churches, etc... and other stakeholders either public or private should insert in their duties the one related with helping community to recognize the ability and skills of women visually impaired in relation of employment and other given opportunities.

5.4 RECOMMENDATIONS AND SUGGESTIONS

Refer to the findings of the current study, the following recommendations and suggestions are made:

-As the findings of the current study indicated, the big challenge women with visual impairment face in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda is being ignored by society especially on behalf of employers where they consider them as unproductive persons or useless people in relation of employment. However, the government should sensitize the whole population about the respect and dignity for human being, it should also help the women visually

impaired to be involved in all domain of life like socio-economic and political within the country.

-The result of the study indicated that women visually impaired are excluded themselves, some of them when are together with visually person feel uncomfortable by thinking that they are talking and laughing them while they meet together with others, however, through various useful channels like NCPD, Gender Machinery, local and National authorities government should aware the women with sight impairment what about their rights as other population with or non-disabilities.

-The study found out that women with visual impairment encounter with inaccessibility of information relating to the opportunities, they expressed that the job announcement and other protected laws wrote into ordinary writings that are not accessible for sighted persons, most of the time the further information they have to get from website while the computers do not keep the jaws as facilitating system to access the internet for them. However the government should announce the statements into Braille and ordering all the computer rooms to insert the jaws program in their computers to make easy the access of information related to the equalization of opportunities for visually impaired as others.

-The gap in learning for women sighted illustrated by the respondents as resulted by the study, the rate of illiteracy among the visually impaired is very high, most of them do not know to read and use the Braille written However the government should avail enough special schools for visually impaired and also should train the teachers differently by each school level with the purpose of taking into account the inclusive education.

-The study found out that women visually impaired encounter with exclusion on hand craft to select the persons for a given training as expressed by respondents the formers do not involve the women sighted impaired in the group to train whereby the formers doubt the performance of visually impaired women . However, the government should really make up the workshops in sensitizing the community and its partners the ability and skills of women visually impaired

-As reported by the respondents during of this current study, some authorities in different institutions as well as their own family members consider women with visual impairment as useless people only who need the supports from elsewhere.

However, the government should set up the useful mechanism to inform the families and the leaders in various institutions that this part of population needs to be cared and considered successfully as well like non-disability's persons.

-The result of the study indicated that when the women visually impaired need the advocacy and assistance support where society marginalize and discriminate them in case of the given opportunities, the leaders do not react to against for negative perception of community. However, the ministries of MINALOC and MIFOTRA as well as the other ministerial ordered should sensitize the leaders who responsibly encounter with these issues and giving the assistance to impact them positively.

-The study revealed that the women visually impaired who have the bachelor's degree or any other certificate do not be considered the same way with the others in the recruitment of the workers', the employers do not wonder to recruit them in their companies, in order to consider a woman visually impaired as a worker to contribute, contrary they consider her as a burden to their companies. However, the government as introduced the laws to facilitate and protect the persons with disabilities should put into practice the laws by helping and facilitate the women visually impaired in accessing successfully the job as the others to both sectors public and private in which the chairpersons will be informed and offered by the government about the trainings on abilities and skills of visually impaired persons.

5.5 THE STRENGTHS AND LIMITATIONS

The qualitative approach is used to this study. The case study involved a limited number of respondents from Abadacogora of Musenyi association, by this the study explored the views and experiences of few women visually impaired, and it had also the time limitation that led to a small sample size. Additionally, the little number of authorities with experience about the lives and challenges visually impaired persons face in their daily livings was interviewed. Therefore, the findings of this study cannot allow generalizing a conclusion for all women visually impaired. On the other hand, the add to limitation about the nature of the study there is a risk linked to the translation of testimonies from Kinyarwanda to English may be that there is a missing of richness of original language through translation.

Refer to the lived experiences of women visually impaired, the researcher discovered that female sight impaired suffer double discrimination as being a woman and their kindness of impairment. He found also that in all domains, women visually impaired were ignored and devalued by the society. Due to this consideration on unequal participation for the given opportunities, it is crucial that the measures taken can be put in place to handle the issue and giving them the value within the community.

Buy this last one, it would be important contribution to the women visually impaired whether a comprehensive study covering more women sighted impairment in all areas of Rwanda and the challenges they face in accessing the available opportunities for the population in their location where they struggle to achieve equally the right and treatment under the given opportunities in Rwanda. The study process is conducted by a researcher from one step to another step until the end and the issue had been documented himself for deeply being aware to the real topic of the current study.

5.6 CONCLUSION OF THE CHAPTER

This chapter summarizes globally the major conclusion and recommendation of the study in which it has reviewed the conclusions on each objective before spelling out the general conclusion of the findings, it highlighted also the recommendation to address to the relevant institutions and stakeholders. It has also mentioned the limitations for this study and the need for a more comprehensive study for women sighted impairment to the challenges encountered by them in accessing the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda.

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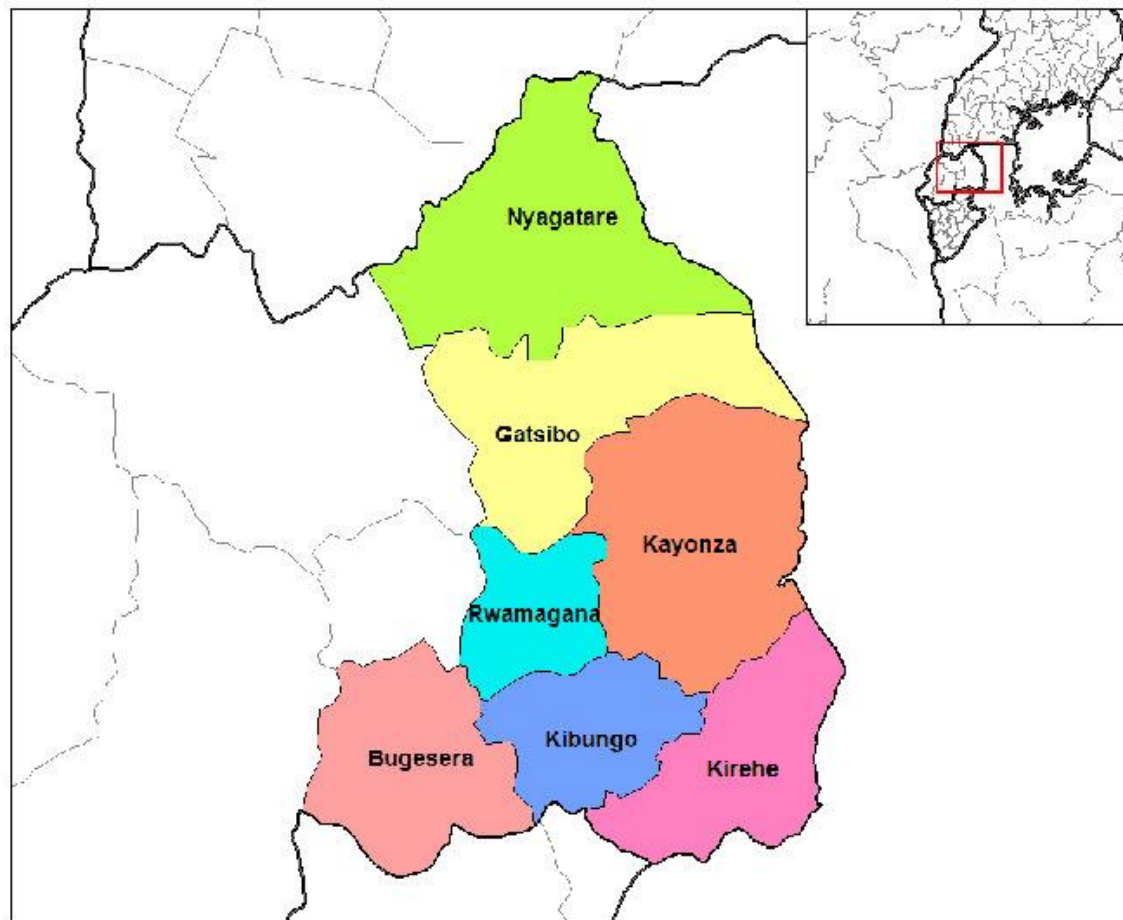
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APPENDICES

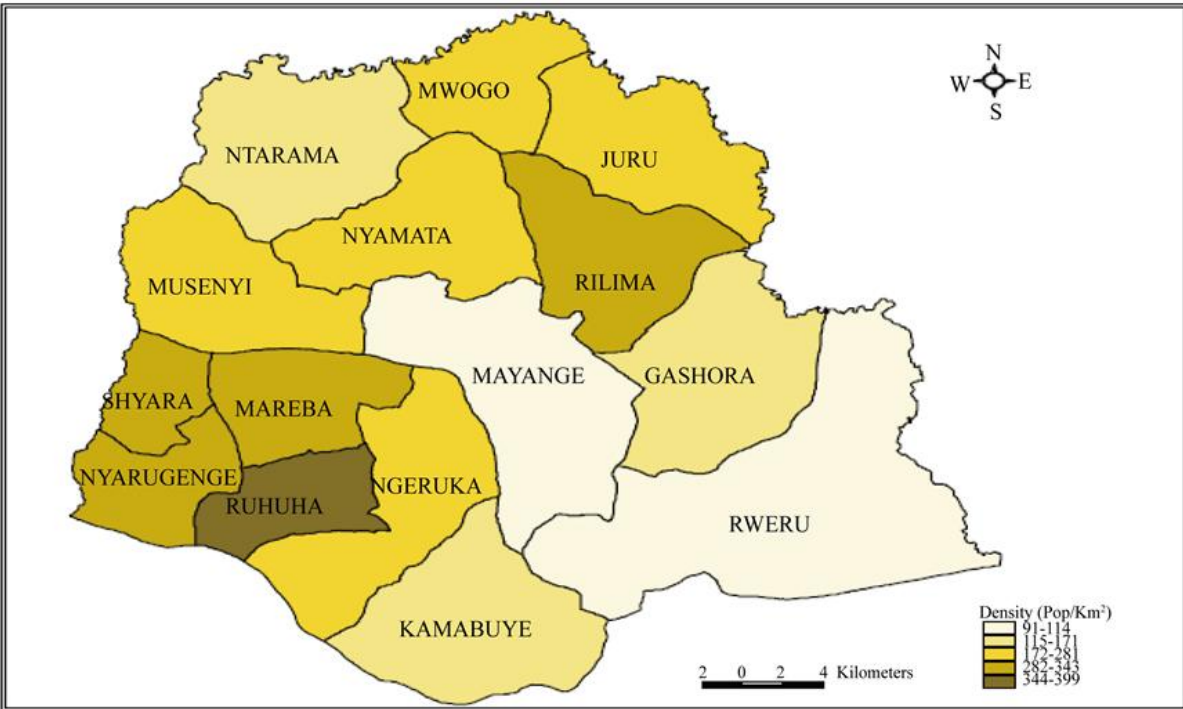
APPENDIX I: A MAP OF RWANDA



APPENDIX II: EASTERN PROVINCE AND ITS DISTRICTS



APPENDIX III: A MAP OF BUGESERA DISTRICT



APPENDIX IV: GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR INTERVIEWS AND FGD

1. IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Introduction

I am Daniel Mushimiyimana, a student at University of Rwanda/ College of Art and Social Sciences, pursuing a Master's Degree program in Social Sciences with a specialization in Gender and Development. I am currently conducting a study on assessment of challenges women with visual impairment face in equalization of opportunities in Rwanda. I would like to refer directly from your ideas, opinions and experiences. I assure you that the names or any other personal identifying information and everything you tell me in this interview will be kept confidential as well, also will not appear in any publication resulting from this study. It's your rights to withdraw from the interview at any time without any consequence to you. Please not all data collected will be kept in a secure place.

This study with the aim to contribute on different sectors like social, economic and political where all Rwandans will have the common understanding on people's rights and participating equally on opportunities given within the country

It is for that purpose that I would like to ask you to participate in the data collection for this study. Participation in this study is entirely voluntary. Participants/ Key informants are eager to contribute by giving the experience/ perception as long as they intend to contribute in the reduction of stigma and isolation and removing the discrimination among the Rwandan population.

Thank you.

GUIDING QUESTIONS

A) Interview with women visually impaired from Abadacogora of Musenyi/ R.U.B's members.

Part 1: Demographic information

Names:.....

Ages:.....

Province:.....

District:.....

Highest education level attained:

*Not studied:

*Primary school

*Secondary school

*University studies

Marital status

*Single

*Married

*Divorced

*Separated

*Widow

Part 2: Open questions

Q1. What are the specific challenges faced by women with visual impairment to access the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda?

|As the women with visual impairment, do you participate together with others in the same way on the various local opportunities?

|What are the challenges do you face in accessing equally to the opportunities given?

|What are the causes of those challenges?

|According to you, how are the ways do you use to get information about the government's policies including gender equality? What are strategies do you use to handle those challenges?

|Both men and women face those challenges to the given opportunities at the same level? If not, what do you think as the women about it while you have the same life's situation?

|As the women with visual impairment, what is suggestion you prefers that can help you to remove those challenges?

Q2. What are the strategies that government put in place to help the women with visual impairment to get information about gender equality and the same treatment for all under the different opportunities as state policy?

|Both men and women with visual impairment, do you meet together with others in the meeting or other community works where some government's policies disseminated to the population?

| do you participate sufficiently as Visual women impaired in the meeting? If not why the low number of participants compared with men?

|How should women with visual impairment be informed about gender equality and on the same consideration to the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda? What do you suggest for change?

|How the local authorities do to ensure that women visually impaired are involved in all community's activities and opportunities given? What do you suggest for change?

Q3. What are the ways that visual impaired persons use to avoid and overcome the problem related on unequal treatment in case of opportunities?

|How married couples of visually impaired persons make together in making decision and solving the problems at home and who is advantaged?

| Particularly, what are the consequences to the women with visual impairment in the family and out of it?

|If this impacting negatively women visually impaired socially, economically and politically, what do you do as women to avoid it?

|How both men and women can react to handle the problems related to gender and unequal treatment in case of opportunities? What do you suggest for change?

|Refer to the different scholars carried out that lack of opportunities like others create the stigma and isolation among the women with visual impairment, how do you understand this? If yes, what are the suggestions you propose to remove all those challenges?

B. Participants/ key informants. Interview with representative of NCPD at district level.

Part 1 Identification of participants

Names:.....

Institution:.....

Job title:.....

Part 2 Open question

Q1. How the persons with disabilities understand gender equality?

Q2. What about the access to the equalization of opportunities among the women visually impaired and non-disabilities persons?

Q3. How the persons with visual impairment have been informed about the different government policies including gender equality as well as the equal participation on given opportunities?

Q4. Concern with equalization of opportunities, women with visual impairment gets the equal chance like others? What do you do particularly for them?

Q5. What are specific strategies do you use to make aware the women visually impaired that they have equal rights and the same chance under the given opportunities as the other general population?

Q6. What are the barriers/challenges you encounter during of policy's implementation on behalf of women visually impaired?

Thank you.

C. Interview with disability mainstreaming officer at district level.

Part1 Identification of participants

Names:.....

Institution:.....?

Job title:.....

Part2. Open questions

Q1. In your opinion how does women with visual impairment face challenges in accessing the equalization of opportunities?

Q2. What are specific programs or actions that technical department for person with disabilities at District level supported and advocated in the aim of facilitating the women visually impaired to update the different policies including gender equality?

Q3. What is the position of women with visual impairment in NCPD or any other organization either public or private?

-How are represented and participate in the governance of NCPD and other organizations?

Thank you.

D. Interview with social affair and NCPD Coordinator at sector level.

Identification of participants

Names:

Institution:

Job title:

Open questions

Q1. How the persons with visual impairment are involved in different policies taken by government to the population and how they contribute to the development activities?

Q2. What about giving information on equal rights on various opportunities for the women visually impaired?

Q3 What are the specific ways do you use to sensitize the women visually impaired that they have the rights to compete with the others to the given opportunity?.

Q4. What are the problems related with gender based violence linked to the family properties do you face from the married couples in which one or both have the visual impairment?

Q5. What are the mechanisms did you take to avoid the stigma and isolation among the women visually impaired?

Q6. What are the barriers this population's part face in contributing to the local development and the country at large? What do you suggest to help them for acting as the others?

Thank you.

E. Interview with RUB representative

Part1 Identification of participants

Names:

Institution:

Job title:

Part2 Open questions

Q1. How the married couples of sighted persons either both or one understand gender equality principles and equalization of opportunities in Rwanda?

Q2. Did you face with any case related to gender? Men and women use and control equally the properties at home? If not what do you suggest for change?

Q3. What are the strategies do you use to aware them that they have equal rights as their husbands to the house properties?

Q4. By which level women visually impaired acting with the others to the given opportunities?

Q5. How do you help them as RUB to remove the barriers they face in accessing the equal opportunities as the others with or without disabilities either at home or in society?

Thank you.

2. GUIDING QUESTION FOR FGD WITH WOMEN VISUALLY IMPAIRED, MEMBERS OF ABADACOGORA OF MUSENYI.

We are here with the aim of knowing the challenges women visually impaired face to access the equalization of opportunities

What are the challenges faced by women visually impaired to access the equalization of opportunities in Rwanda?

We know that elsewhere within the country as well as in your settled areas, various activities generate and need the workers like V.U.P and others how society involve you as women with

visual impairment in all those activities together with the others, we wish to know much about the inclusion for the given opportunities.

What are the strategies that government put in place to help women with visual impairment to get information about gender equality and equalization of opportunities as state's policies?

As we know the government has different ways to disseminate the information about its policies and programs. So, we need to know if there is a specific way provided by the government to inform you or if you generally get from information as the other population, we need further information from you.

What are the ways women visually impaired can use to avoid and overcome the challenges they face on equalization of opportunities?

Usually, when a people has the problem at home tries to solve the problem, so, we wonder to know what you suggest to avoid and overcome all those challenges you face on equalization of opportunities

Thank you for your collaboration and participation in focus group discussion you have been very helpful for the information you share with us.

APPENDIX V: PARTICIPENT CONSENT FORM

STUDY TOPIC: The assessment of the challenges faced by women with visual impairment in equalization of opportunities in Rwanda: Case study of Bugesera district.

STUDY LOCATION: Bugesera district, Eastern province of Rwanda.

PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: Daniel MUSHIMIYIMANA

University of Rwanda, College of Education.

Center for academic practice and development directorate

E-mail: danymushi4@gmail.com

Phone number: (+250) 0785745820

PARTICIPANTS:

>I..... participate in this study on voluntary basis and can withdraw from the study at any time without giving reasons and without any negative consequences.

>I have been informed orally about the aims and the procedures of the study, the advantages and disadvantages as well as potential risk.

>My question related to study participation have been answered voluntarily and satisfactorily.

>I was given sufficient time to make decision about participating in the study.

>I agree that the responsible investigators and and/or ethical committee have accessed the original data under strict confident.

>I am aware that during of the study I have to comply the requirements and limitations described in the information form of the volunteers

Date..... Signature of participants.....

Participants/ key informants Date..... Name and signature of
investigator.....