

## The Impact of Covid-19 Restrictions on Women Residing in Juba Municipality, Central Equatoria State of South Sudan

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### ABSTRACT

Coronavirus (COVID-19), is a severe acute respiratory syndrome that was identified and originated in Wuhan, Hubei province, China. The disease's most well-known symptoms include; fever, cough, and shortness of breath. This study aimed to assess the impact of the novel COVID-19 pandemic on women residing in Juba Municipality, Central Equatorial State of South Sudan. The study findings revealed that; 65.7% of the respondents had experienced the effect of COVID 19 restriction on their salary, resulting into a reduction in salary allowances since they were not working everyday due to the lockdown, whereas 34.3% reported that their salaries were not affected by COVID-19. The results also revealed that; about 51.4% of the respondent lost their jobs, and yet 38.6% reported that there was a decrease in working hours since the coming of COVID-19 which in the long run affected their salaries but about (10.0%) didn't express any changes in the working hours. In conclusion therefore, it should be noted that, the Covid-19 restrictions, exposed women and other vulnerable sections in society to negative impacts, such as; rise in maternal mortality rates, challenges in accessing sexual and reproductive health services, domestic violence, increased poverty, gender-based violence and an escalating teenage pregnancy. The country lockdown, and the months that followed continued to exacerbate inequalities to the community.

**Keywords:** Coronavirus, salary, and lockdown

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### INTRODUCTION

The coronavirus pandemic 2019 (COVID-19), previously known as 2019 novel coronavirus, caused by the virus known as severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) (WHO, 2020 Report). COVID-19 was identified and originated in Wuhan, Hubei province, China. The disease's most well-known symptoms include; fever, cough, and shortness of breath [1].

South Sudan confirmed its first COVID-19 case on April 5, 2020 (WHO Situation Report, 2020) and has since then taken many drastic steps to contain the outbreak, that included, imposing night hours' curfew, restricting interstate movements, imposing quarantine to suspected COVID-19 contacts, closing schools and of recent, introduced COVID-19 test and vaccination. The curfew went into effect almost immediately in many major towns, including Juba which is one of the affected cities where residents were not permitted to leave their houses for essential needs between 10 pm and 6am. Consequently, women saw the fabric of their

lives unravel during the coronavirus pandemic that included ensuing restrictions. COVID-19 restrictions caused havoc on households, and women suffered the brunt of it. Meaning that, women did not only lose their jobs due to the lockdown, but that they also became exhausted from the demands of childcare and housework. Hence, many keen-sighted no path ahead but to quit working. Furthermore, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated gender inequality and increased vulnerabilities borne by women, besides devastating hard-work progress. This means that, women were affected more compared to men by the socio-economic effects of infectious disease outbreaks. For example, they were continuously saddened by domestic violence that was greatly caused by their partners, to make the matters worse, they were also deprived of the sexual and reproductive health services. The researcher therefore, identified the impact of COVID-19 restrictions on women residing in Juba Municipal.

South Sudan is a landlocked country located in Northeast Africa. Bordered by; Sudan in the North, Ethiopia in the east, Kenya in the south east, Uganda in the South, The Democratic Republic of the Congo in the

south west, and Central African Republic in the west. This country also contains, the vast swamp region of the Sudd that is formed by the White Nile River [2].



**Figure 1: The Map of Southern Sudan, plus its neighboring countries [1]**

South Sudan gained independence from Sudan on the, 9<sup>th</sup> July, 2011. Which came as the result of the 2005 agreement that ended Africa's longest-running civil war. Made up of the 10 states, South Sudan is one of the most diverse countries in Africa. The home of over 60 different major ethnic groups, where the majority follow traditional religions. The acquisition of this Independence, however, did not bring the conflict in South Sudan to an end. This is why, a civil war broke out in 2001 that resulted into the president falling out with his vice president, leading to a conflict that has displaced some 4 million people. That later on ended into a power-sharing agreement that was signed between the warring parties in August 2018, in attempt to bring the five-year civil war to an end.

The World Health Organization (WHO) announced a COVID-19, global public health emergency, and all countries in the world responded including Southern Sudan. A state of emergency was declared in these countries, limiting human rights and fundamental freedom as well as restricting socioeconomic activities

In the way wake of such havoc, the government of South Sudan ordered a partial lockdown on the 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2020 to lessen the panic measures. Other places that were closed included; Institutions of learning, markets, churches, funerals, clubs and weddings. Supplementary, other measures

included; the imposition of night curfew and the banning of social gatherings. Furthermore, the restriction of movement; by air, sea and land; internally and also with neighboring countries - in order to prevent the spread of COVID-19 (Presidential address, 16 March 2020). On the 7<sup>th</sup> August, 2020, the country's cumulative caseload stood at 2,470 positive patients, 47 deaths and 1,252 recoveries (High Level Task Force's daily COVID-19 situation update). However, health experts doubted the figures because they did not fully epitomize a true picture of South Sudan, given its limited healthiness testing and surveillance capabilities [3]. Nevertheless, the measures adopted succeeded in halting the much-feared spread of the virus in form of controlling the community person to person transmissions, simply because of; the terrible nature of the country's poor public healthcare system. Although most of the implemented measures were later eased, they inflicted harm in terms of loss of livelihoods and population risk, that included the persons living in protection of civilian sites, (refugee camps) that are managed by the UN Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS). "These are the Internally-displaced persons that include the refugees and the elderly, plus those people with pre-existing health conditions." However, there is much more to that; because, the measures adopted have exposed democratic deficits and socio- economic inequalities affecting

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poor households, in general, and women, in particular.

Women constitute the vulnerable and marginalized group in South Sudan (World Population Prospects, United Nations). "Although women constitute a significant numerical majority in South Sudan" (Care International 'South Sudan gender in brief', 2020), "their inclusion in governance, economic spheres and social affairs is unjustifiably limited". Prior to COVID-19, women and children were among the most vulnerable groups in South Sudan. The COVID-19, that sparked off in December 2019 and continues up to-date, notwithstanding in moderated concentration, but combined with the economic collapse, have affected "women.

#### **Statement of the Problem**

While the COVID-19 prevention measures including the lockdown, that were imposed by the Government of South Sudan have to some extent, succeeded in containing the spread of the pandemic, they have also caused significant damages to the economy and livelihoods of the poorest and most vulnerable sections of society, particularly women. According to reports of assessment conducted by Plan International in Juba Municipality, most respondents reported a high impact on access to food, education, daily income and wages, employment, and access to cooking energy.

The closure of schools across South Sudan during the peak of COVID-19 pandemic arguably had a greater social impact on girls than boys. The closure of schools left many girls at a greater risk of early marriage, domestic abuse, and a disproportionate burden of domestic work. The presence of girls in their homes, coupled with mounting economic challenges that eventually resulted into, an increased likelihood of early or forced marriage, which later led to a rise in the school drop-out rates among girls. This resulted into parents marrying off their young daughters, which later on resulted into another strategy that some families used to cope up with COVID- 19 hardships in South Sudan. Generally, women were negatively affected, of course, seeing their young daughters going in for early marriages because of the cropped up economic circumstances. Additionally, as noted by Plan International, school closures exposed girls to the risk of

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gender-based violence at home, especially when they were left alone; a trend which was also eminent in South Sudan, since the COVID-19 outbreak. Despite schools' attempts to engage students through sending them homework, many girls found it difficult to keep up with the same, since they were overburdened with household chores. That included; taking care of the siblings, since their mothers' struggled to bring food to the plate.

In regard to the issue of social distancing; it had negative impacts that disproportionately affected women. For example, in South Sudan women were expected to host people within their homes, even during the COVID-19 crisis, exposing them to further risk of infection. In line with most of the traditional belief to the people of South Sudan, women are expected to warmly welcome visitors through shaking of hands, attending and talking to visitors. But because of the fear of being rebuked, some women overlooked social distancing measures, in reverence and honor of the traditional norms. Women were also expected to take care for the sick, both at home and in hospitals, as the tradition states, ignoring the fact that some of the patients were affected by COVID-19. More to that, periodic diseases associated to the rainy season, such as typhoid and malaria were also taken to be a domestic responsibility of women that later increased the threat of them acquiring many more different diseases in addition to the contagion.

Mention also goes to the funerals, women according to tradition, are obliged to do many activities, including; consolidation and gathering of families, giving out drinking water and cooking, resulting into intermingling with a large number of relatives and guests. Hence, making it harder to adhere to the COVID-19 measures than their male counterparts, who actually perform fewer duties at the funerals. Therefore, with the above mentioned background, this research work focuses on the impact, of COVID-19 restrictions" on the women residing in Juba Municipality of Central Equatorial State, South Sudan.

#### **Aim of the study**

This study aims at assessing the Impact of Covid-19 Restrictions on Women Residing in Juba Municipality, Central Equatoria State of South Sudan.

## RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

**Research Philosophy**

Research philosophy in this chapter, refers to the development of understanding, which is assumed by the researchers [4]. This part of the research uses, Positivism research philosophy, which works with the noticeable social reality that is used to get the final product of the research. It is the, law-like generation, comparable to those produced by physical and natural scientist. This philosophy stands on the clue that; it is the only phenomena where an individual uses observation to bring out the true information needed. Therefore, to produce a research strategy for data collection, one must apply the existing theory to develop a hypothesis, which later will be tested and confirmed, leading to further expansion of the research plan and the researched theory.

**Research Design**

According to [5] a research design, is the plan and structure of investigating, in order to obtain answers to the research questions. Furthermore, [6], defined Research design as the general plan of how the researcher goes about answering his/her questions basing on the clear objectives of the particular research. It also describes the sources from which the researcher intends to collect data by putting into consideration the constrains, which were often inescapably existed and included; access to data, time, location and money. Studies from [7], employed the descriptive survey design that appeared to have weaknesses. Whereas, according to [8]; descriptive research cannot be used to produce causal relationships between variables, this means that, researchers have indirect control over the independent variables due to the fact that, their expressions have already happened, or they are naturally not manageable. In order to establish a relationship between variables at a given point in time, without changing their characteristics [9]; the study will use a descriptive research design, which also define a matter in question by creating an outline of a set of problems through data collection, and tabulation of frequencies on research variables [10]. Furthermore, like the descriptive design, the study will also use explanatory designs due to the fact that it draws inferences about causality (relationship) between variables. According

to [11], explanatory studies (hypothesis testing) are those whereby the researcher tests the hypothesis of causal relationships between variables and need to have techniques that diminishes bias and increase consistency.

Furthermore, there might be limitations between the phenomenon being studied and the context that was studied; that were not clearly evident, to facilitate an easy production of the answer to the questions of; 'why', 'how' and 'what' in relation to the studied phenomenon [12].

**Population and Sample Size**

According to [13], "A population is defined as; any group of individuals who have one or more characteristics in common, that are of loyal interest to the researcher. For example, the targeted population for this study was to have, 1,100 people, however the researcher narrowed down to only cover the adults (males and females) who have been residing in a given Residential Area from March 2020 to-date. Hence a representative sample was selected from the targeted population through a defined scientific methodology of sampling.

A sample size is basically a subset of the population, and therefore, it is a portion that represents a whole population [14]. The concept of the sample, arises from the inability of the researchers to test all the individuals in a given population. Generally, the sample size should neither be extremely large nor too small as it should be optimal. An optimal sample size is one which accomplishes the needs of; efficiency representativeness, reliability and flexibility. Otherwise, in route with the study of this very researcher, he selected a total sample of 70 adults. The criteria of the sample selected was as follows:

- i. Adults 18-55 years
- ii. Adults who lived in the study area from March 2020 to present.
- iii. Ability to read and write English or Arabic

**Sample Size and calculation**

The total selected samples was that of seventy (70), respondents who were randomly selected from Juba Municipality, of the Central Equatorial State. The category of

the selected people was that of the woman living in different households. And the house hold registration list was used because it was available at the village level.

The sample size of this study was calculated using the Leslie Kish sample size formula (Kish, 1965), as illustrated below;

$$n_0 = \frac{Z^2 * p * (1 - p)}{e^2}$$

Where;

n = the required sample size and z = is the standard normal value corresponding to the required level of confidence which is (95%) = 1.96

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p = is the proportion of women who are living in the municipality, adding up to 5%. (Since p is not known, therefore, 5% was used as the minimum sample size)

q = 1 - p, is the proportion of women not willing to participate in the study while d is the desired precision of the estimated 5% (0.05)

Therefore,  
 $Z^2 p (1 - p)$   
 $n = 70$

This means that, the study was conducted on 70 people, who included men and women that were affected by COVID 19 in Juba municipality.

**Table 1: Sample Size for the Study**

S/NO.	Gender	Sample size
1	Males	30
2	Females	40
<b>Total</b>		<b>70</b>

*Source: researcher, 2021*

**Sampling Technique**

Sampling, refers to the process through which the sample is obtained from a population. Sampling techniques are classified into the probability and the non-probability [15]. Where the Probability sampling is one in which every member of the population has a non-zero probability of being involved in the sample study. Which probabilities can be allocated to identify elements of the population objectively. While, nonprobability sampling, does not provide the study with all individuals in the population, equal chance of participation, this means that, no random selection is made, rather the selection is made basing on the subjective judgment of the researcher.

The study employed purposive sampling techniques to select the respondents. Purposive sampling is a non-probability procedure that contains the conscious selection by the researcher of certain people to include in a study. In this very case therefore, the respondents that were selected had assured characteristics that were of interest to the researcher. In this study therefore, the sample of adults was selected from the residential areas of Kator, in

Juba Municipality. Simply, because, they were knowledgeable and experienced with the phenomena of interest.

**Data Sources**

Both the primary and secondary data were employed, to collect information, basing on the study objectives using the qualitative and quantitative methods

**Primary Data**

The Primary source of data is that which is collected as first-hand information from the field. Which therefore, happens to classified as the original material in character [16]. In this case, the information's collected from the respondents was original. It is normally assumed as, the data collected from the source of information which has not undertaken any analysis before.

**Secondary data**

The secondary data can be defined as the data that has already been gathered by somebody and also have been conceded through statistical procedures [17]. In this study, the researcher gathered secondary data through research reports, documentary analysis of published and unpublished materials as well as electronic resources so

as to get a wider view on the research problem.

#### **Data Collection Tools and Techniques**

The Data collected, was considered to be an essential element of conducting the research. The study, therefore, used a self-administered questionnaire, which comprised of close ended, multiple choices of questions that were used to collect information, on quantitative data. The close ended questionnaire needed; respondents to provide fixed answers, by choosing suitable answers from the multiple options lists. The study therefore, used this method to propose a change of pace to help the respondents in establishing rapport in providing honest information.

#### **Data analysis Procedures**

Data analysis refers to, the process of; collecting, modelling and converting data in order to give out useful information, which will lead into proposing inferences and supporting decision making [18]. The Collected quantitative data therefore, was; coded, tabulated, cleaned, processed and analyzed using statistical package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) using advanced excel. This analysis thus, showed the descriptive statistics including frequencies, and percentages which were then presented in form of tables. The same analysis, therefore, was used to assess the association between the demographic variables and some of the COVID 19 impact assessment variables.

#### **Variables and Measurement Procedures**

The researcher collected quantitative information through semi- structured questionnaires. Which were well prepared

#### **Contextual Characteristics of the study**

Descriptive statistics of analysis were used to distribute the contextual characteristics (demographic and socio-economic) of the respondents in relation to; age, level of

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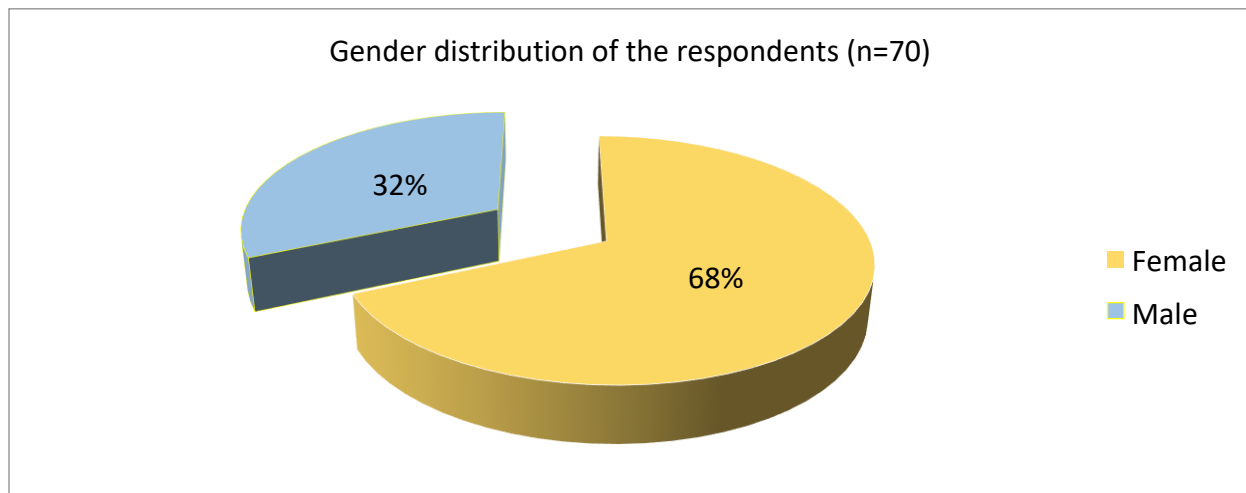
and distributed to the participants in which information on the dependent variables and independent variables were collected.

#### **Research Ethical Considerations**

Ethics refers to the moral beliefs or philosophy and sometimes ways of life, and the social norms of conduct that differentiates between acceptable and unacceptable behavior [19]. In this study the research ethics were kept into consideration while developing and administering data collection tools, to avoid any harm, destruction and misery to the respondents. This was done by obtaining informed a consent from all the respondents before the conduction of the research, to ensure confidentiality, of the obtained data. Therefore, In order to protect the rights of the respondents, the purpose and benefits of this study were explained to participants, prior to participation of the research. Furthermore, the researcher sought approval of data collection, from the local authorities, by presenting an introduction letter, from Nexus International University. Voluntary participation of the respondents in the research was emphasized. Besides, the participants had rights to withdraw from the study at any stage, if they wished to do so. In addition to that, the use of offensive, discriminatory, and other unacceptable language was avoided in the formulation of Questionnaires and Interviews. Finally, the researcher duly acknowledged the works of other authors used, in any part of the dissertation with the use of Harvard referencing system according to the Dissertation Handbook.

### **RESULTS**

education, Marital status, and employment levels, in frequencies and percentages for both male and female respondents residing in Juba Municipality, Central Equatorial State, of South Sudan as illustrated below;



**Figure 2; showing gender distribution of the respondents**

Figure 2; above demonstrates that, the majority of the respondents in gold, added up to sixty-eight percent (68%), got directly involved in the study, and were women. Compared to the thirty-two percent (32%) of

their male counterparts. The female was more than the male simply because, the study sought to understand the impact of the COVID-19 restrictions on women. As a result, women were considered to be having the more justifiable information.

**Table 1; showing Terms of employment and Livelihood resources**

<i>Was your salary affected at all by COVID-19 pandemic</i>	Freq.	Percent
No	24	34.29
Yes	46	65.71
<i>Did the number of your working hours change ever since the coming of COVID-19</i>		
Decreased	27	38.57
I lost my job	36	51.43
No change	7	10
<i>How has the COVID-19 period affected your business</i>		
Decreased Business	27	38.57
I don't know	13	18.57
No change	10	14.29
Stopped Totally	20	28.57
<i>Did any of your household members experience any changes in his/her monthly income during COVID-19 lockdown</i>		
Decreased income	40	57.14
Increased income	9	12.86
No change	21	30
<i>Would you rate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on your household</i>		
long term impact	24	34.29
major short-term impact	22	31.43
major short-term impact	11	15.71
short term impact	13	18.57
<b>Total</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>100</b>

The study findings revealed that, sixty five point seven percent (65.7%), of the respondents expressed the effect of COVID 19 on their salary. For example, salaries and allowances were reduced since they were not going to work on a daily basis, because of the lockdown. Whereas, thirty four point three percent (34.3%), of the respondents revealed that, their salaries were affected with COVID 19 restrictions. Nevertheless, fifty one point four percent (51.4%), of the respondents lost their jobs due to COVID 19 restrictions, while thirty eight point six percent (38.6%), revealed that, there was a decrease in the working hours, since the coming in of COVID-19 restrictions, which in the long run affected their salaries, while ten percent (10%), of the respondents, didn't express any change in the working hours. Furthermore, thirty eight point six percent (38.6%), of the respondents expressed a decrease in business in form of

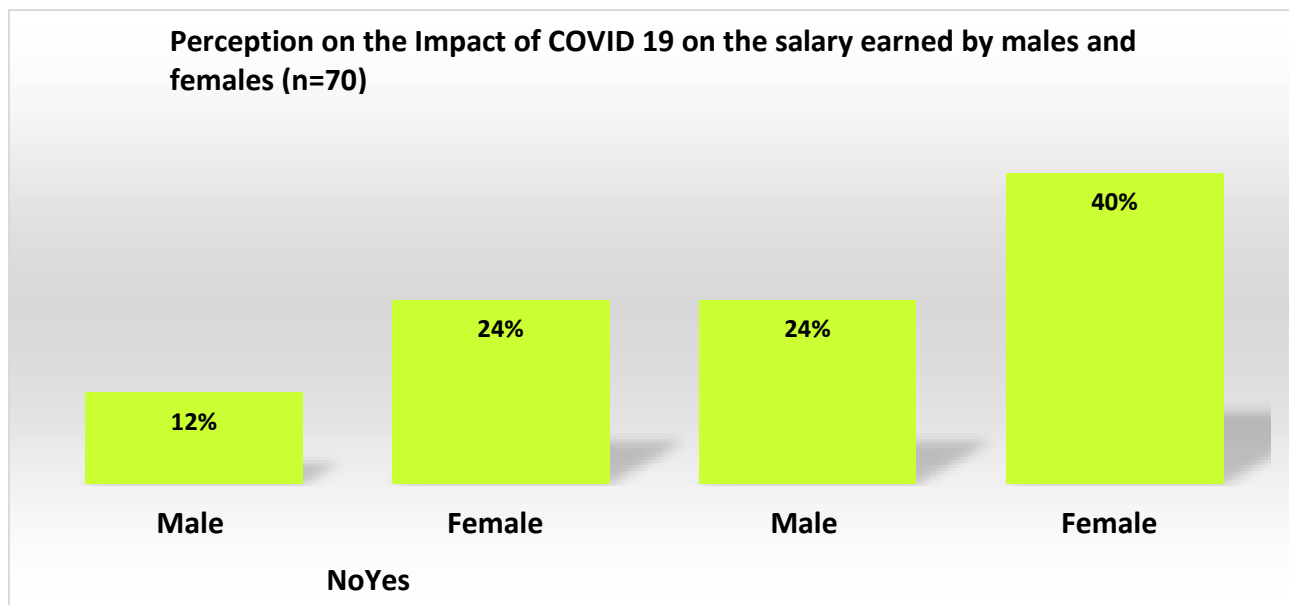
capital and revenue, due to the pandemic, while, twenty eight point six percent (28.6%), totally stopped their businesses, and fourteen point three percent (14.3%), and didn't express any change at all. Finally, eighteen point six percent (18.6%), of the respondents could not tell, whether they were affected by the COVID 19 restrictions or not. While, fifty seven, point one percent of the respondents (57.1%), expressed a decrease in the monthly income due to COVID 19 restrictions. Thirty percent (30%), of the respondents did not experience any changes at all. Twelve percent (12.9%) of the respondents, expressed a slight increment on their salary.

The figures represented in the table below reflect the actual answers that were given by the Respondents when asked to rate the impact of COVID-19 responses on their respective households. Thirty four point three percent,



of the respondents (34.3%), of the respondents, had a long term impact, thirty one point four percent (31.4%), of the respondents, reported a very short term impact, eighteen point six percent (18.6%) of

Odor the respondents, reported a moderately, short term impact, and lastly, fifteen percent (15.7%) of the respondents, reported a major short term impact as well illustrated in the table above.



**Figure 3: showing the impact of COVID 19 on the salary of the respondents**

The study revealed that, the impact of COVID 19 in relation to salary and gender issues, affected more of the female, who were forty percent (40%), than males, who were twenty four percent (24%). Furthermore, the study

also revealed that; the twenty four percent (24%) of the females had not expressed any negative impact with their salaries, compared to, the twelve percent (12%) of their male counterparts, as illustrated in figure 3 above.

**Table 2: Showing the relationship between employment status and the effect of covid-19 on women in Juba Municipality.**

<i>Was your salary affected at all by COVID-19 pandemic</i>	<b>Employment status</b>				P-value
	<b>Formally employed</b>	<b>Not employed</b>	<b>Self Employed</b>	<b>Working for someone else</b>	
No	4.17	8.33	66.67	20.83	0.043
Yes	17.39	06.09	54.78	21.74	
<b><i>How has the COVID-19 period affected your business</i></b>					
Decreased Business	7.41	3.7	66.67	22.22	
I don't know	0	100	0	0	0.000
No change	40	0	20	40	
Stopped Totally	15	0	60	25	
<b><i>Did any of your household members experience any changes in his/her monthly income during COVID-19 lockdown?</i></b>					
Decreased income	12.5	27.5	47.5	12.5	
Increased income	11.11	0	0	88.89	0.000
No change	14.29	14.29	61.9	9.52	
<b><i>How would you rate the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on your household</i></b>					
Long term impact	20.83	4.17	50	25	
Major long-term impact	9.09	31.82	27.27	31.82	0.002
Major short-term impact	9.09	54.55	27.27	9.09	
Short term impact	7.69	0	84.62	7.69	
<b><i>Do you feel safe in your home</i></b>					
No	5	32.5	35	27.5	0.001
Yes	23.33	3.33	60	13.33	
<b>Total</b>	<b>12.86</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>45.71</b>	<b>21.43</b>	

**Data source: primary 2021**

Table 2 Results display the relationship between the employment status and some of the effects of COVID 19 restrictions especially to women in Juba municipality. The findings therefore, revealed that, most of the respondents, who reported that their salaries were affected were those who were self- employed, and these were, fifty-four point seventy-eight percent (54.78%). Followed by those who are working for different individuals, these were; twenty-one point seven four percent (21.74%). While, seventeen point four percent (17.4%), were those respondents in formal employment.

The aspect of salary being affected, and employment status were also found significantly related at ninety-five percent (95%), confidence interval of 0.043 p-value. Therefore, relating the employment status to how the pandemic affected the business, it was revealed that sixty-six point six seven percent (66.67%), witnessed a decline in their businesses, followed by twenty-two percent (22.2%), who were working for individuals. While, forty percent (40%) of the respondents who owned different businesses, witnessed no change at all that was caused by the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic.

Furthermore, sixty percent (60%) of the respondents were self-employed and reported that, they totally stopped their business, due to the COVID 19 restrictions. Therefore, the effect of COVID 19 on business and employment status of the respondents, were also found significantly related at, ninety-five percent (95%) confidence interval with p-value of 0.00.

Therefore, the question that stated that, "Did any of your household members experience any changes in his/her monthly income during the COVID-19 restrictions?" Was

#### DISCUSSION

The study findings revealed that, sixty-five point seven percent (65.7%), of the respondents had experienced the effects of COVID 19 restrictions with their salary. For example, a reduction in the salary allowance, since they were not working everyday due to the lockdown whereas thirty-four point three percent (34.3%), reported that, their salaries were not affected with COVID 19. Furthermore, the study results also revealed that, about fifty-one point four percent (51.4%) of the respondents, lost their jobs due to COVID 19, and thirty-eight point six percent (38.6%), reported that, there was a

#### CONCLUSION

In conclusion therefore, the impact of the Covid 19 outbreak, affected more of women than men. While the health of women less impacted by COVID-19, compared to the elderly, other issues that included; businesses were interrupted. Hence their families and communities were placed under stress by issues of health and economic burdens. Therefore, the results revealed that, COVID 19 affected more the salary of female respondents which was forty percent (40%), compared to that of their male counter parts, where by only twenty-four percent (24%) of males were affected. Keeping in mind that, twenty-four percent (24%) of women had not experienced any negative impact of COVID 19 on their salaries, compared to Twelve percent (12%) of the male respondents. The impact of COVID 19 was so severe to all the household members. Though this study, specifically looked at the women, because of the so many cases of violence that were and that they were being inflicted to them, by their husbands. It should be noted, therefore,

presented by the employment status, which revealed that, forty-seven point five percent (47.5%), of the self-employed people, had their income decreased. Yet twenty-seven point five percent (27.5%) were not employed. There was a relationship between those who were formally employed, and those working for someone at twelve point five percent (12.5%). Finally, eighty-eight point nine percent (88.9%) of those who were coming from working for someone else reported an increase in numbers.

decrease in working hours since the coming of COVID-19. Whereby, in the long run, their salaries were affected. And yet ten point ten percent (10.0%), didn't express any change in the working hours. When the respondents were asked if they were affected with curfew during the lockdown, forty-eight point six percent (48.6%), of the respondents were severely affected. Followed by forty-one point four percent (41.4%), who were somewhat affected, and lastly only ten percent (10%), of the respondents, were not affected with the issue of curfew at all.

that most of the respondents who reported that they received support from CSOs hanged on their communities. While, thirty-four percent (34%), were supported by the church leaders and elders. The thirty percent (30%), acquired assistance from the private sector and lastly, while the fourteen percent (14%) came from government agencies. This shows that the government did not do much in supporting women in juba Municipality compared to other agencies.

In conclusion therefore, it should be noted that, the Covid-19 restrictions, exposed women and other vulnerable sections in society to negative impacts, such as; rise in maternal mortality rates, challenges in accessing sexual and reproductive health services, domestic violence, increased poverty, gender-based violence and an escalating teenage pregnancy. The country lockdown, and the months that followed continued to exacerbate inequalities to the community.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

In line with the findings, there is need to acknowledge there was mainly negative impacts to the women, in South Sudan, that were affected by both; economic and social issues. Therefore, a lot needs to be done to help these women to cope with the effects that were caused by the pandemic.

The government of South Sudan, is obliged to support women, in order to, enable them to recover from the shocks that were caused by the pandemic. Since, the results revealed that other agencies tried to help these women like; the NGOs and churches but not the Government.

The study also recommended that, the government supports women in the following turfs; the level of education and age of the beneficiaries, to be taken into consideration. Simply, because, the findings revealed that, most affected women, were not married, and yet others were divorced,

though their age ranged from 50 years and above.

The women were encouraged to form groups. In case the, government is willing to finance them. Since it becomes difficult to support individual women. Women in the formed groups could use the support received from the government, to start up small business that support their households. In addition to that, more sensitization in regard to the risk, of contacting the contagion, and Covid-19 prevention measures, needs to be fostered. This is because, in reference to the findings from the study, not all women were informed about these restrictive measures. I therefore, recommend that, another study be conducted, on the effects of Covid-19 restrictions to the girl child, since, they were required to out of schools, and therefore, exposed to the worldly different pressures.

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