3.4   Methods of data collection

Data were collected using both qualitative and quantitative tools. The quantitative tool used consisted of a questionnaire tapping the following information:

- socio-demographic information;
- current or most recent partner of the perpetrator;
- perception of gender roles on the part of the perpetrator;
- behaviour patterns of the perpetrator; and
- financial autonomy of the perpetrator.

The psychological profiles of the perpetrators were assessed with the Eysenck Personality Questionnaire (EPQ) (1985). The EPQ consists of 90 items containing three subscales, namely neuroticism (EPQ-N); introversion-extraversion (EPQ-E); and psychoticism (EPQ-P).

For the qualitative part of the study, focus group discussions were held at the various prisons with selected inmates who indicated their willingness to participate.

3.5   Ethical and safety considerations

Research on violence against women and girls is difficult to conduct. In particular, there are a large numbers of ethical and safety issues that need to be considered when implementing such research. The following principles guided the research:

- The consent of the inmates who constituted the research sample was obtained.
- The safety of the respondents and the researchers was considered to be of paramount importance.
- The utmost care was taken to ensure that the questions posed to the respondents did not invoke potentially violent reactions.
- Care was taken to ensure that the participants' identities would remain confidential.

4   RESULTS

4.1   Response rate

As indicated above, the sample selection for the study was 200 inmates proportionally distributed among the selected prisons throughout the country. Table 2 indicates the participation rate of the selected prisons and the inmates. (The terms "inmates" and "perpetrators" are used interchangeably.)

Table 2   Response rate

Prison	# Allocated	%	# Completed	%	# Not Completed
Windhoek Central Prison	61	31	48	27	13
Hardap Prison	93	46	82	47	11
Walvis Bay Prison	24	11	24	14	0
Divundu Rehab. Centre	11	6	11	6	0
Oluno Rehabilitation Centre	11	6	10	6	1
Total	200	100	(87%) 175	100	(12.5%) 25

4.2   Demographic characteristics of inmates

Table 3 reveals that 45% of the inmates were between 26 and 35 years old; 20% had completed primary education, and 35% had received some high school education. Damara-Nama was the home language of 36% of the inmates; 30% of inmates were cohabiting at the time when they perpetrated the crimes for which they were imprisoned; and 20% had never been married or involved in a relationship. Sixty-six percent were employed at the time of their arrests, while 12% said that they were unemployed, and 11% that they had never worked at all; 58% of inmates said they were only capable of manual or unskilled labour, while 28% claimed to be semi-skilled workers. Most of the inmates (80%) grew up with their parent; 50% of those inmates that did not grow up with their parents lived with a grandmother. Bonding with other family members was the norm, with 83% saying they could count on family members if they encountered any problems; 62% of inmates had not encountered any conflict with the authorities before their imprisonment. Fifty percent of inmates smoked nearly every day; 22% consumed alcohol nearly every day, and 29% consumed alcohol once or twice a week.

Table 3   Characteristics of inmates

		Count[i]	%
Gender	**Male**	**174**	**100.0**
	Total	**174**	**100.0**
Age group	17 – 25 years	31	18.6
	26 – 35 years	75	44.9
	36 – 45 years	44	26.3
	46 – 55 years	13	7.8
	56 – 65 years	3	1.8
	>65 years	1	.6
	Total	**167**	**100.0**
Highest level of education	Some primary	48	35.8
	Primary completed	27	20.1
	Some high school	47	35.1
	High school completed	12	9.0
	Total	**134**	**100.0**
Home language	Otjiherero	14	8.5
	Damara-Nama	60	36.4
	Oshiwambo	33	20.0
	Afrikaans	20	12.1
	Uumbundu	1	.6
	Rukwangali	11	6.7
	Giriku	20	12.1
	English	1	.6
	San	2	1.2
	Lozi	3	1.8
	Total	**165**	**100.0**
Marital status	Married	16	10.1
	Married traditionally	5	3.2
	Cohabiting	48	30.4
	Not currently married or cohabiting	48	30.4
	Never been married or in a relationship	31	19.6
	Divorced	5	3.2
	Separated	2	1.3
	Widowed	3	1.9

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[i] The count is of the number of responses received and not the total number of questionnaires.

		Count[i]	%
	Total	**158**	**100.0**
Previous employment status	Working	112	65.9
	Casually employed	19	11.2
	Unemployed	21	12.4
	Never worked in my life	18	10.6
	Total	**170**	**100.0**
Type of employment	Professional	4	3.0
	Own formal business	3	2.3
	Informal business	13	9.8
	Office worker	5	3.8
	Semi-skilled worker	37	28.0
	Unskilled/manual worker	70	53.0
	Total	**132**	**100.0**
Did you grow up with Parents?	Yes	136	80.0
	No	34	20.0
	Total	**170**	**100.0**
If yes, where did you grow up?	In this town	21	12.9
	In another town	56	34.4
	In a rural area	83	50.9
	Another country	3	1.8
	Total	**163**	**100.0**
If no, with whom did you grow up?	Other family members	15	37.5
	Non-relatives	5	12.5
	Grandmother	20	50.0
	Total	**40**	**100.0**
Could you count on family members for help?	Yes	139	82.7
	No	27	16.1
	Don't know	2	1.2
	Total	**168**	**100.0**
Experienced any conflicts before imprisonment?	Yes	65	37.8
	No	107	62.2
	Total	**172**	**100.0**
How often do you smoke?	Daily	82	50.0
	Occasionally	23	14.0
	Not at all	59	36.0
	Total	**164**	**100.0**

		Count[i]	%
How often did you consume alcohol?	Every day or nearly every day	36	22.0
	Once or twice a week	47	28.7
	1 – 3 times a week	25	15.2
	Occasionally, less than once a month	26	15.9
	Never	30	18.3
	Total	**164**	**100.0**

4.3 Characteristics of inmates' partners

Table 4 below provides data relating to the partners of those inmates that had been cohabiting. Forty-four percent of the partners were between 15 and 25 years old, and 37% were between 26 and 35; 49% had never attended school or had only some primary school education. Thirty-six percent were working, while 30% had never worked; 65% of those who were working performed manual or unskilled labour. Fifty-two percent consumed no alcohol, and 51% had never been seen drunk by their inmate partners; 80% did not smoke.

Table 4 Characteristics of partner

		Count[ii]	%
Age of partner	15 – 25 years	54	43.5
	26 – 35 years	46	37.1
	36 – 45 years	21	16.9
	46 – 55 years	2	1.6
	>65 years	1	.8
	Total	**124**	**100.0**
Highest level of education of partner	Never attended school	33	23.9
	Some primary	34	24.6
	Primary completed	22	15.9
	Some high school	37	26.8
	High school completed	12	8.7
	Total	**138**	**100.0**
Employment status of partner	Working	51	36.4
	Employed casually	9	6.4
	Unemployed	35	25.0
	Housewife	2	1.4

[ii] The count is of the number of responses received and not the total number of questionnaires.

		Count[ii]	%
	Never worked in her life	42	30.0
	Don't know exactly	1	.7
	Total	**140**	**100.0**
Type of employment of partner	Professional	7	11.1
	Informal business	3	4.8
	Office worker	2	3.2
	Semi-skilled worker	8	12.7
	Unskilled/manual worker	41	65.1
	Don't know	2	3.2
	Total	**63**	**100.0**
Does your partner consume alcohol?	Every day or nearly every day	23	16.1
	Once or twice a week	19	13.3
	1 – 3 times a month	6	4.2
	Occasionally, less than once a month	20	14.0
	Never	75	52.4
	Total	**143**	**100.0**
How often did you see your partner drunk?	Most days	12	10.0
	Weekly	21	17.5
	Once a month	9	7.5
	Less than once a month	12	10.0
	Never	61	50.8
	No response	5	4.2
	Total	**120**	**100.0**
Does your partner smoke?	Yes	28	19.6
	No	114	79.7
	Don't know	1	.7
	Total	**143**	**100.0**

5 MODELLING VIOLENT BEHAVIOUR

5.1 Sociological perspective

This section on modelling violent behaviour is approached in part from a sociological perspective, with a focus on social learning theory, and in part from