

Entrepreneurship among Women Victims of Rape in Eastern DR Congo: Alternative strategies for reintegration through access to employment, the case of South Kivu province

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Abstract: *The conflict that has ravaged eastern DRC for decades is more intense than ever. While the first challenge for women victims of violence is to survive, the issue of economic empowerment is central. Through this study, we aim to contribute to the promotion of gender equality and women's rights by supporting the entrepreneurial activities of women victims of rape (WVR) in South Kivu province. This allows us to understand and analyze the determinants of entrepreneurial success among WVR beneficiaries of reintegration and to assess the effectiveness of existing reintegration strategies based on opportunities for job creation for women survivors (including entrepreneurship). Methodologically, eighty women victims of rape supported by the Panzi Foundation participated in the survey. Three main findings emerged from this study: (i) three factors determine the entrepreneurial success of WVR beneficiaries of economic reintegration: the profile of the beneficiaries (age and vocational training), the reintegration project (the reintegration strategy), and the characteristics of reintegration (income, and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA)). (ii) The reintegration strategy is effective and depends on priority measures taken by the organization supporting women victims of rape, ranging from training to the creation and management of income-generating activities. Thus, in terms of the beneficiaries' subjective assessment of themselves, 56.25% of beneficiaries are moderately satisfied with the reintegration strategy. (iii) 93.8% of women victims of rape who are entrepreneurs enjoy a certain degree of autonomy. The entrepreneurship of women victims of rape plays a key role in reducing gender inequalities.*

Keywords: *Economic reintegration, entrepreneurship, women victims of rape, South Kivu*

1. Introduction

As elsewhere in the world, sexual violence is a problem that has affected much of human society throughout the centuries (Patrick, 2010). Nevertheless, it has become increasingly clear that the problem is much more prevalent in situations of conflict and political instability. Most wars have

been characterized by an upsurge in sexual assaults on women and girls (UN, 2024). Of all existing forms of violence, sexual violence is considered the most pernicious in Africa due to its impact on women's personal integrity and its consequences for their physical and psychological health. In Central Africa, there are two countries where these forms of violence against women are most prevalent: Chad and the Democratic Republic of Congo (REFELA, 2018).

The decades-long violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo is more fierce than ever. South Kivu province reported around 7,000 occurrences of sexual violence in the first half of 2024, which is the second-highest rate in the nation (UNFPA, 2024). Nearly 28 million people were experiencing food insecurity at the start of 2025, and over 7 million individuals had been relocated (Panzi Foundation, 2025). The prevalence of sexual assault is still high; in 2023, the UN reported over 123,000 instances, or one rape every four minutes (UNFPA, 2025).

The majority of women who are sexually abused in the DRC are from rural areas. For instance, 80% of victims are from other parts of the province, including Uvira, Mwenga, and Kalehe, but an average of 20% reside in the city of Bukavu. About 30% of survivors are minors, whereas the majority are adult women (Panzi Foundation, 2025). Nevertheless, these women are a force in agriculture and the economy. They primarily rely on agricultural labour to support their families and communities (Muhigwa, 2021). However, when they become aware of sexual violence, they either decide to leave their home environment entirely (Patrick, 2010) or abandon their fields and businesses, giving up tasks like fetching water, gathering and cutting firewood, etc. It is from this perspective that we can use the concept of "reintegration," i.e., the fact that rape victims leave their home environment after losing their economic power and being referred by a reception center for social and economic support.

In fact, in the DRC, the socioeconomic reintegration of raped women is no longer a hot concern. In general, it seeks to guarantee the autonomy of female victims through access to sustained paid employment or entrepreneurial endeavours (PNSR, 2012). In the first instance, the goal of reintegration is to assist beneficiaries in becoming "successful entrepreneurs" (PNSR, 2012); in the second instance, the goal is to provide employment options for female survivors. The most popular method of economic reintegration is still entrepreneurship, or the policy of encouraging reintegrated people to start their own businesses. Several studies that have already been done and others that are now in progress have shown positive findings in this area (Kaningini, 2019).

It is clear that in the short term, this strategy can appear effective thanks to a series of measures taken by those responsible for reintegration, ranging from training in the creation and management of income-generating activities to the support provided to survivors throughout the implementation of the project. Furthermore, when combined with the issue of sustainable economic reintegration under the constraints of entrepreneurial success, entrepreneurship raises a whole range of relevant issues that require further study.

However, to our knowledge, very little research has focused on the issue of sustaining the entrepreneurial activities of beneficiaries in the long term. This is why, taking into account the key factors for entrepreneurial success among women in general and women who have been

victims of rape in particular, with the profile of the individual entrepreneur occupying first place (Hadrich, 2013), women survivors, due to their lack of confidence, stigmatization, and physical and psychological exhaustion, present a profile that is not very reassuring when it comes to facing the challenge of being a first-time entrepreneur. Added to this is the discrimination that women face compared to men in the entrepreneurial process (Badia, 2013).

It is in light of the above that this study seeks to contribute by addressing the following questions:

- ✓ What are the determinants of entrepreneurial success among women who have benefited from reintegration?
- ✓ How effective is the economic reintegration strategy through the entrepreneurship of women victims of rape (WVR)?

These questions will help us define our research by examining the factors that determine the entrepreneurial success of women victims of rape who have benefited from reintegration programs, in order to assess the effectiveness of existing reintegration strategies based on creating employment opportunities for women survivors.

The hypotheses emerging from this study are therefore as follows:

H1. Three main factors explain the level of entrepreneurial success: the entrepreneur's profile, the reintegration project, and the characteristics of reintegration.

H2. The reintegration strategy through entrepreneurship is effective, which can be explained by the measures taken by the reintegration project, ranging from training to support for women benefiting from reintegration. It should therefore be noted that the criterion used to assess the effectiveness of this reintegration strategy is based on the beneficiaries' subjective assessment of themselves.

Apart from the introduction and conclusion, this paper focuses on the following points: Methodology and survey results processed, analyzed, and interpreted in relation to the objectives pursued.

2. Methodology

2.1. Location and participants

This study was conducted in South Kivu province, particularly in the city of Bukavu and the three territories of South Kivu. South Kivu was chosen because it is the province with the second highest rate of sexual violence in the country (UNFPA, 2024). As a result, the province remains in a catastrophic situation. However, several NGOs have developed dual expertise: supporting women in escaping violence and working specifically on the professional integration of women who are victims of rape (Mwati, 2013); (Marie-Pierre, 2016): training in business skills, training in professional trades: cutting and sewing, embroidery, basketry, soap making, baking (donuts, sandwiches, pancakes), soy milk extraction, leather goods, welding and fitting, automotive mechanics, culinary arts, Support for income-generating activities through the provision of subsidies in kind or in cash Agriculture Creation and training of Mutual Solidarity (MUSO) and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA).

This is how we became interested in the Panzi Foundation, particularly the Dorcas House. The Panzi Foundation was created in 2008 by Dr. Denis Mukwege. Located in the commune of Panzi in Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo, the Panzi Foundation continues the work of Dr. Denis Mukwege and his hospital, the Panzi Hospital, to enable the psychological and physical reconstruction and social reintegration of victims of sexual violence. For 18 years, the Panzi Foundation has sought to be the voice of the oppressed, the victims, the Congolese girls and mothers who suffer the unimaginable every day in this region of the world, so coveted for its mineral resources, but whose inhabitants are left behind. Dr. Mukwege has developed a model that provides holistic care for victims and survivors of sexual violence. This model is based on four interdependent pillars that enable victims to rebuild their lives in a sustainable way after their stay at the Panzi Foundation (Panzi Foundation, 2018) :

- (1) Medical treatment: This involves, on the one hand, urgently collecting data to document the injuries sustained and providing initial gynecological, medical, and nursing care. The next step is to provide all the care necessary for recovery. This may include monitoring a pregnancy or treating an STI resulting from the violence, but also proper surgical follow-up to reconstruct all the functions affected by rape or other violence.
- (2) Psychosocial support: In addition to medical care, emergency psychological support and regular follow-up must be offered to victims to help them overcome the trauma they have experienced and/or post-traumatic stress, depending on when they began receiving care. This support can also be extended to their loved ones (spouse and/or children) either to help them support the victim or to help them overcome their own trauma resulting from the violence they have suffered.
- (3) Legal assistance: In addition to medical and psychological care, victims of violence must be assisted in their legal proceedings. This involves supporting them in procedures designed to ensure that the violence they have suffered does not go unpunished. To this end, they must be informed of their rights and assisted throughout the entire process: from the filing of a complaint to the end of the legal proceedings. The aim is both to offer them support in difficult proceedings and to ensure that they receive the best legal advice in order to obtain effective redress (sentence, damages, protective measures, and enforcement of the sentence).
- (4) Socio-economic reintegration: In addition to medical and psychological care and legal assistance, economic and social support must be offered to victims of gender-based violence and sexual violence. This pillar is provided by Dorcas House. Dorcas House is a transit and vocational training center located in Bukavu, run by the Panzi Foundation, which takes in survivors of sexual violence treated at Panzi Hospital who are unable to return directly to their communities, as well as other vulnerable women living in Panzi and the surrounding area who need economic support. It offers personalized support designed to enable survivors to rebuild their livelihoods and regain their independence. Thanks to secure transitional accommodation, beneficiaries have access to training in literacy, numeracy, sexual and reproductive health, as well as vocational training in various fields such as sewing, carpentry, hairdressing, and information technology. Survivors are also supported in launching micro-enterprises and sustainable economic activities, including coffee production, agriculture, and livestock farming. During their stay, they can join village savings and credit associations, thereby promoting financial independence, community support, and the development of female leadership (Panzi Foundation, 2025). In this study, we focused solely on the last pillar of "socio-economic reintegration" in order to evaluate the various

economic reintegration strategies used by the Panzi Foundation's Dorcas House for women beneficiaries (entrepreneurs) and assess their effectiveness.

2.2. Research model

We adopted a quantitative methodology to test our research hypotheses. Using logistic regression as our data analysis method, we collected data via a questionnaire completed by 80 women who had been victims of rape and were receiving support from the Dorcas House run by the Panzi Foundation. Based on our hypotheses, we present the model we will use to explain the phenomenon of entrepreneurial success among women who have been victims of rape. Logit regression allows us to estimate the probability that a woman who has been raped will be successful or unsuccessful in business. The approach consists of explaining the dichotomous variable y , which refers to entrepreneurial success and takes the value 1 if there is success and 0 if there is failure, based on a set of p variables (x_1, x_2, \dots, x_p). Theoretically, this probability estimate is given by the logistic function (Bugandwa, 2018) :

$$\Pi(x) = \frac{1}{1 + \exp(\sum_{j=1}^p \beta_j x_j)}$$

By linearizing the function more easily by introducing the natural logarithm on the odds ratios, which gives the following model:

$$\ln \frac{P_i}{1 - P_i} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 X_{2I} + \beta_3 X_{3I} + \dots + \beta_k X_{kI} + U_i$$

Where: $\left[\frac{p_i}{1-p_i} \right]$ the relative probability of entrepreneurial success; x_i : Independent variables included in our model ; $\beta_1, \beta_2, \dots, \beta_j$ = model parameters ; U_i = the specification error term (difference between the true model and the specified model), this error is unknown and will remain unknown.

¹ The relevance of the results is validated through three tests: individual nullity test, Wald test, and Hosmer-Lemeshow test (Grimler, 2000) ; (Dress, 2007) ; (Rakotomalala, 2018).

It should be noted that Logit classification is quite similar to Probit regression. The two techniques tend to give almost identical estimates. However, in this study, we used the Logit model for two main reasons: Beyond the fact that our dependent variable is dichotomous, Logit is often used in economics and finance because the distribution of errors follows the Logistic law (Bourbonnais, 2015).

The research model is presented in the diagram below (Figure 1):

¹ Model validation also requires that certain criteria be met before determining optimality. Two criteria are chosen: AIC and BIC.

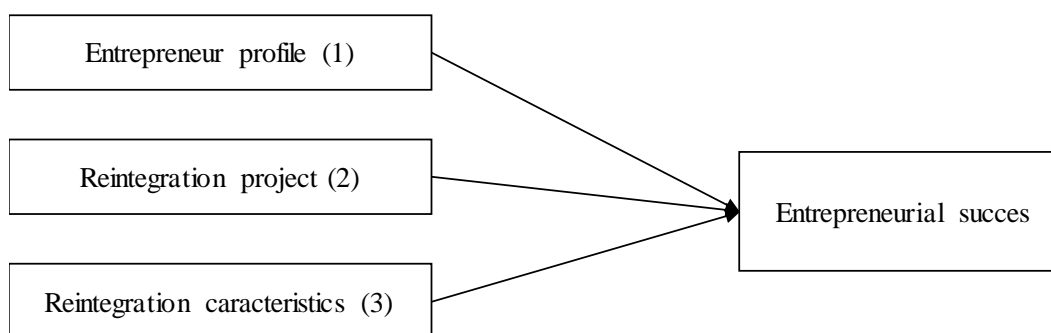


Figure 1. Research model of entrepreneurial success among women who are victims of rape
Source: Author

2.3. Operationalization of variables

Our explained variable is the "entrepreneurial success" of women beneficiaries of reintegration. This dichotomous (or binary) variable is defined as follows: Let Y be the entrepreneurial success variable, with Y=1 if there is success and Y=0 if there is failure. It is explained by a multitude of exogenous variables presented in Table 1 below:

Component	Type of Variables	Acronyms	Modalities	Expected Signs
Independent variable				
	Entrepreneurial success		1 if successful, 0 if unsuccessful	
Dependent variables				
Entrepreneur profile	Age	AGE	Quantitative variable measured in number of years that the survivor has lived.	+
	Vocational Training	VT	Multinomial variable: 1 = Literacy training; 2 = Numeracy; 3 = Sexual and reproductive health; 4 = Sewing; 5 = Carpentry; 6 = Hairdressing; 7 = Information technology.	+
Reintegration project	Reintegration strategy	RS	Quantitative variable measured on a Likert scale based on the subjective assessment of reintegration beneficiaries : 1= Completely dissatisfied; 2= Dissatisfied;	+

			3= Moderately satisfied; 4= Satisfied; 5= Completely satisfied	
	Grants	Gts	Quantitative variable measured in dollars of grants received for launching sustainable economic activities	-
Reintegration characteristics	Income-Generating Activities (IGAs)	IGAs	Qualitative variable: 1 if the woman practices IGAs, and 0 if not.	-
	Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA)	VSLA	1= if the woman belongs to a VSLA and 0 if not	+
	Income	Inc	Quantitative variable measured in dollars of average income from the activity	+
	Income satisfaction	IncSat	1= Completely dissatisfied; 2= Dissatisfied; 3= Moderately satisfied; 4= Satisfied; 5= Completely satisfied	-

Table 1. Characteristics of independent variables

Source: Author

More specifically, the model is as follows:

$$\ln \frac{P_i}{1 - P_i} = \beta_1 + \beta_2 AGE + \beta_3 VT + \beta_4 RS + \beta_5 Gts + \beta_6 IGAs + \beta_7 VSLA + \beta_8 Inc + \beta_9 IncSat + U_i$$

Please note that our data will be processed using STATA and SPSS software. SPSS will be used to produce descriptive statistics (mean, standard deviation, etc.), while STATA will be used for regression and to set up various tests to confirm the validity of our model.

3. Results

3.1. Sociodemographic characteristics of the surveys

Analysis of the variables (level of education and marital status) reveals that: the majority of women (66.25%) who participated in this study have a secondary education, (31.25%) have a primary education, and (2.50%) have no education. This higher number of women with secondary education can be explained by the fact that the majority of these women, upon arriving at the reintegration project, complete literacy training up to secondary level before moving on to vocational training (dressmaking, embroidery, soap making, IT, basket weaving, baking, and beauty care). Some reintegration actors believe that once they can read and write, that is enough for them. In terms of marital status, the majority of women (57.50%) are married,

33.75% are single, and 8.75% are widows. The predominance of married women can be explained by the fact that married women are increasingly exposed to rape as they seek to ensure the survival of their families in order to meet the daily needs of their households, particularly in terms of food, education, healthcare, clothing, etc. As a result, they have a greater need to take action to cover the household expenses for which they are responsible. Analysis of the variables (age, monthly income, number of children, and household size) then reveals that: the age of our respondents ranges from 16 to 52, with an average age of 30.05, or 30, because at this age, girls and women who are survivors of sexual violence and who benefit from economic reintegration are expected to answer questions related to rape and economic reintegration and can engage in various activities in the sector under study. The standard deviation of 8.312 shows a significant dispersion and, therefore, heterogeneity in our sample in terms of age. Furthermore, the income of the women in our sample ranges from \$5 to \$100, with an average income of \$43.7. The average number of children is 4.23, or 4 children. The dispersion of the sample in terms of income is too high, with a standard deviation of 58,874.59, while for the number of children it is very low, with a standard deviation of only 2.391. Finally, with regard to the household size variable, our results show a household size of between 1 and 14 people, with an average size of 6 people. When comparing our results with those of other studies conducted in the Democratic Republic of Congo, we note that they tend to align with those presented in the Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (GPRSP), which states that "on average, a Congolese household has 6 members."

3.2. Presentation of results on the relationship between entrepreneurial success, entrepreneur profile, reintegration project, and reintegration characteristics

Regression analysis of entrepreneurial success on entrepreneur profile, reintegration project, and reintegration characteristics yielded the following results (Table 2):

Logistic regression	Number of obs	=	80
	LR chi2(8)	=	66.03
	Prob > chi2	=	0.0000
Log likelihood = -17.432671	Pseudo R2	=	0.6544

Entrepreneurialsuccess	Odds Ratio	Std. Err.	z	P> z	[95% Conf. Interval]	
Age	1.982805	.6013362	2.26	0.024	1.094287	3.592763
ReintregrationStrategy	2.217982	.7034634	2.51	0.012	1.191209	4.129793
Grants	.9998872	.000046	-2.45	0.014	.9997971	.9999774
Income	1.000079	.0000266	2.99	0.003	1.000027	1.000131
Incomesatisfaction	.0048894	.0102953	-2.53	0.012	.0000789	.303103
Vocationaltraining	1.644461	.3971066	2.06	0.039	1.024411	2.639811
IGAs	.6589261	.1549801	-1.77	0.076	.4155595	1.044817
VSLA	1.205475	.1064383	2.12	0.034	1.013913	1.433229
_cons	5.71e-09	5.04e-08	-2.15	0.032	1.72e-16	.188963

Note: 0 failures and 1 success completely determined.

Table 2. Logistic regression of entrepreneurial success

Source: Data processing using Stata15.1

The model is generally sound, as the Wald statistic obtained is greater than the chi-square value read in the table at the 5% threshold. These results show that the entrepreneurial success of women who have been victims of rape is much more closely linked to age, reintegration strategy, income, vocational training, and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA). The reintegration strategy is statistically significant at the 5% threshold. It therefore appears that entrepreneurial success depends positively on this strategy, which consists of encouraging beneficiary women to become entrepreneurs through a series of measures taken by the reintegration project, ranging from training (in dressmaking, embroidery, soap making, IT, basket weaving, baking, and beauty care) to the creation and management of income-generating activities and membership in a Village Savings and Loan Association. It should therefore be noted that the criterion used to assess the effectiveness of this reintegration strategy is based on the beneficiaries' subjective assessment of themselves, hence the significance and influence of the variables "vocational training, age, income, and Village Savings and Loan Associations." Thus, a good profile of female beneficiaries also has a positive effect on entrepreneurial success, which can be explained by the fact that those who undertake vocational training are fully committed to succeeding. We can therefore conclude that the reintegration strategy, a good profile, good reintegration characteristics, and age all contribute to success. In addition, we find that age is a real source of success and is significant at the 5% threshold. This can be explained by the fact that older women are more experienced and better able to cope with the challenges of covering household expenses for which they are responsible. Consequently, we can also say that the training undertaken by women is significant at the 5% threshold and increasingly leads to activities and access to financing from a Village Savings and Loan Association (VSLA) for an entrepreneurial activity (IGAs) that ultimately generates income enabling them to meet the daily needs of their household, particularly in terms of food, education, healthcare, clothing, etc. (income satisfaction). Surprisingly, grants have no influence on entrepreneurship and reintegration into the job market, as these women receive almost no grants; only the Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA) and Income-Generating Activities (IGAs) give them access to employment.

3.3. Presentation of the results of the control model

The optimal model based on the AIC, BIC, and Wald statistics criteria, the following regression was specified (Table 3):

Model	N	df	AIC	BIC	Wald	Hosmer-Lemeshow	
8 Variables	80	9	52.86534	74.30358	66.03	chi2(8) =	4.25
						Prob > chi2 =	0.8334
11 Variables	80	12	76.37992	104.9642	66.03	chi2(8) =	6.99
						Prob > chi2 =	0.5372

Table 3. Results of the validation tests for the optimal model

Source: Data processing using Stata15.1

The AIC and BIC information criteria have increasing values, reflecting the idea that the increase in non-significant variables at the 5% threshold gradually reduces the quality of the adjusted model. With regard to overall significance tests, the Wald statistic remains constant with the omission of certain variables. Compared to the chi-square value read in the table at the 5% threshold, each Wald statistic is significantly higher than the corresponding chi-square. The interpretation of the Hosmer-Lemeshow test for the last model shows that the Chi-square statistic obtained using the Hosmer-Lemeshow test is lower than the Chi-square value read in the table and its probability is higher than the specified 5% threshold. This table shows that the optimal model is the first one with eight variables, as it meets all the pre-established criteria. However, its coefficients are not directly interpretable. Only their signs indicate whether the variables have a positive or negative influence on the probability of entrepreneurial success or failure. To determine the impact of each variable on the probability of entrepreneurial success for these women, the study uses odds ratios or marginal effects. Finally, as noted above, Table 3 shows that the eight variables considered are statistically significant at the 5% level (only one variable is significant at the 10% level). In terms of overall significance, the model is satisfactory.

3.4. Presentation of the results of the female beneficiaries' assessment of the activities carried out and the reintegration strategy

First, below are the results of the level of appreciation of the female beneficiaries regarding the activities offered by Dorcas House (Figure 2)

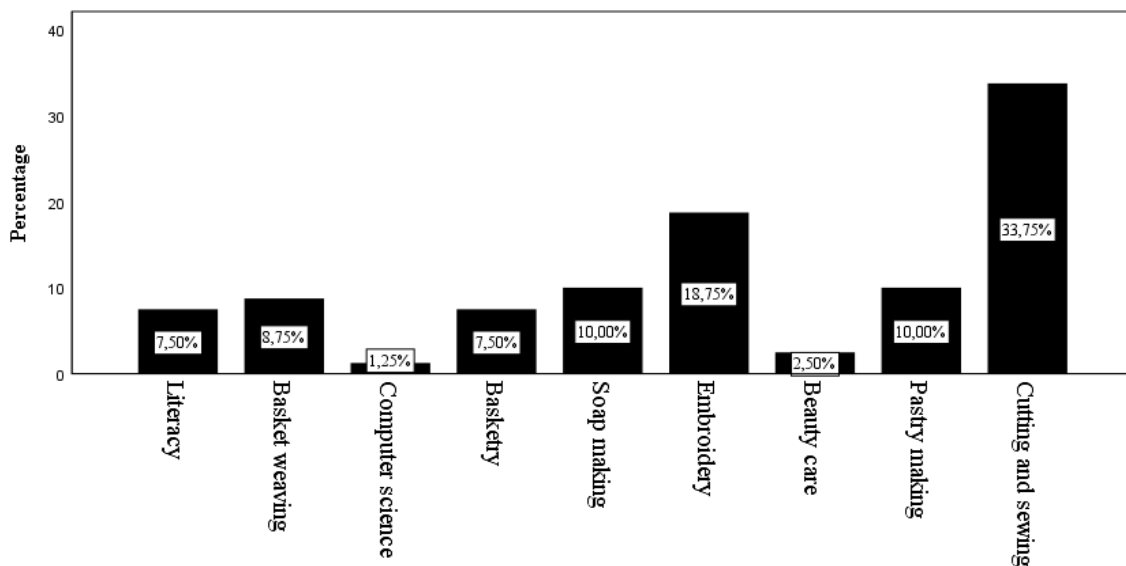


Figure 2. Level of appreciation of the female beneficiaries regarding the activities offered by Dorcas House

Source: Data processing using Spss 25.0

It was observed that of the 80 respondents, approximately 33.75% expressed an appreciation for the activity of cutting and sewing alone, compared to only 18.75%; 10%; 8.75%; 7.5% of respondents who, on the other hand, expressed their appreciation for embroidery, pastry making, soap making, basket weaving, and literacy, respectively. As for computer science, it appears to be the least appreciated activity by beneficiaries, with only 1.25% appreciation, behind beauty care with 2.5% appreciation.

Next, below are the results of the level of satisfaction among women beneficiaries with the reintegration strategies implemented by Dorcas House (Figure 3)

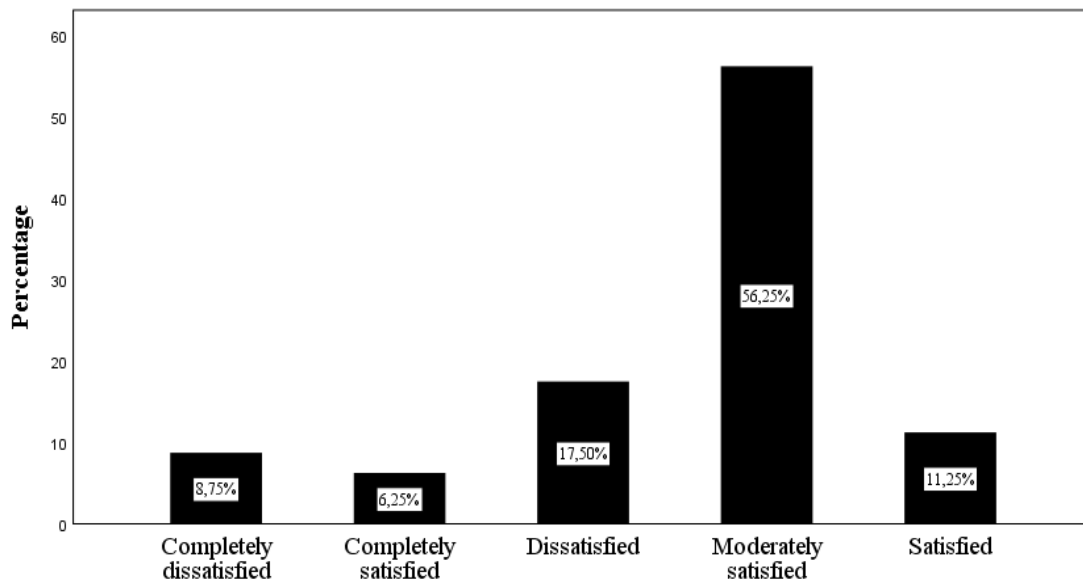


Figure 3. Level of satisfaction among women beneficiaries with the reintegration strategies implemented by Dorcas House

Source: Data processing using Spss 25.0

From this graph, we can see that 56.25% of beneficiaries are moderately satisfied with the reintegration strategy used by Dorcas House. Dorcas House organizes training courses (in various trades) accompanied by certificates, with the ultimate aim of ending the need for subsidies to create jobs for its beneficiaries. Only 11.25% and 6.25% of beneficiaries are satisfied and completely satisfied with this strategy. We also observe that 17.5% of beneficiaries are dissatisfied and believe that this strategy should be improved. Consequently, we noticed that almost all the women surveyed expressed the same need to increase the subsidies granted and made suggestions to Dorcas House. These women are very keen to start businesses, but they do not have sufficient turnover for their activities, and the Mutual Solidarity Organizations (MUSOs) and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLAs) alone are not enough to finance them.

3.5. Empowerment of women victims of rape

Based on the above, it is important to examine the degree of empowerment of women victims of rape (Table 4).

Variable	Modality	Frequency	Percentage
Empowerment	No	5	6,3
	Yes	75	93,8
	Total	80	100

Table 4. Empowerment

Source: Data processing using Spss 25.0

This table shows that 93.8% of women victims of rape (WVR) who are entrepreneurs enjoy a certain degree of autonomy. These women develop their entrepreneurial spirit more effectively through reintegration projects. Most of them have been abandoned by their husbands after sexual violence and have developed survival mechanisms that promote access to and control over the resources and profits of their business, which are essential factors for entrepreneurial development.

4. Discussion

The study first highlights that three factors determine the entrepreneurial success of women victims of rape who benefit from economic reintegration: the profile of the beneficiaries (age and vocational training), the reintegration project (the reintegration strategy), and the characteristics of the reintegration (income, and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA)). Furthermore, the reintegration strategy is effective and depends on priority measures taken by the organization supporting women victims of rape, ranging from training to the creation and management of income-generating activities. Thus, as the reintegration strategy is statistically significant, its effectiveness has a positive impact on the relationship between the profile of beneficiaries and entrepreneurial success, as well as the relationship between the characteristics of reintegration and entrepreneurial success. These results seem to be consistent with those found by Glidja (2019), who found that there is a link between entrepreneurial success, the profile of the entrepreneur, and the characteristics of the environment, suggesting that there is a significant and positive relationship between these determinants and entrepreneurial success. These results coincide almost exactly with those found in our work, despite differences in the field of research. Our field of research focuses on the economic reintegration of women victims of rape in the province of South Kivu, while his work focused on female entrepreneurship in Senegal. Furthermore, our results show the effectiveness of the reintegration strategy on entrepreneurial success; on the other hand, his work showed the moderating effect of institutional support on female entrepreneurship in Senegal. In the same vein, these results are consistent with those found by Hadrich (2013), who also asserts that to ensure entrepreneurial success, women entrepreneurs must be motivated and have a good level of experience and skills (entrepreneurial profile). This result coincides with that found for our first hypothesis that a good profile of female beneficiaries also has a positive effect on entrepreneurial success. These results also corroborate those found by Elotmani (2020), showing that personal characteristics and the internal environment are determinants of entrepreneurial success for women. Motivations related to independence and spousal support prove to be the most important determinants leading to success for women in Senegal. The

author limited himself to these determinants, but in the theoretical framework of this study, other determinants were tested (age, reintegration strategy, income, etc.).

Furthermore, this study highlights that 93.8% of women who are victims of rape and who are entrepreneurs enjoy a certain degree of autonomy. These results are verified by those found by Kaningini et al, 2019, Germain (2018), and Opadou et al (2016). Kaningini et al, 2019) found that 72% of women who are victims of sexual violence develop their entrepreneurial spirit as a survival mechanism. Germain (2018) found that women are highly motivated to become entrepreneurs in order to provide for their households, as they allocate their income to the well-being of their families. Finally, Opadou et al (2016) verified these results by finding that women victims of sexual violence have succeeded, through a process of resilience, in overcoming their disability or trauma to reintegrate into the socio-economic fabric.

5. Conclusion

Faced with a shrinking job market, the reintegration strategy (entrepreneurship) is a powerful alternative for women who have been victims of rape in South Kivu province. The overall objective of this study is to contribute to the promotion of gender equality and women's rights through the entrepreneurship of women victims of rape (WVR) in South Kivu province. Specifically, it aims to understand and analyze the determinants of entrepreneurial success among WVR beneficiaries of reintegration and to assess the effectiveness of existing reintegration strategies based on the potential for creating employment opportunities for women survivors. Our results show that three factors determine the entrepreneurial success of women victims of rape who benefit from economic reintegration: the profile of the beneficiaries (age and vocational training), the reintegration project (the reintegration strategy), and the characteristics of reintegration (income, and Village Savings and Loan Associations (VSLA)). This confirms our first hypothesis. Furthermore, the reintegration strategy is effective and depends on priority measures for supporting women victims of rape, ranging from training to the creation and management of income-generating activities. As for the beneficiaries' subjective assessment of themselves, 56.25% of beneficiaries are moderately satisfied with the reintegration strategy. This confirms the second hypothesis. Finally, 93.8% of women victims of rape who are entrepreneurs enjoy a certain degree of autonomy. The entrepreneurship of women victims of rape plays a key role in reducing gender inequalities.

We cannot claim to have been exhaustive. Like any human endeavor, this work does not claim to be perfect. It is not free from possible errors or omissions. We ask all our readers not to hold this against us and leave the door wide open for future researchers to make additions and suggestions. Our great joy is to have addressed this topic, which affects our daily lives.

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