



Information-Seeking Behavior of Women in Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) sites in Western Equatorial State, South Sudan

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Abstract

This research was carried out to investigate the Information seeking behaviour of Women for Information Services in IDP Sites of Western Equatoria State, South Sudan. To have an insight on how to reduce challenges faced by women at the IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan. The study sought to uncover South Sudan through obtaining the information needs of women in the IDP sites, to ascertain the information seeking behaviour of women in IDP sites and inquire how women in the IDP sites access information available to them. The study adopted the qualitative research methodology and specifically an interpretive phenomenology research design. The population of this study consisted of eight women leaders among the IDP population in sites of Western Equatoria State, South Sudan. The snowball sampling technique was used for the participants selection and data collection was done utilizing Semi-structured interview, while thematic analysis was used to analyze the data. Findings from the research revealed that information needs of IDP women in the study area includes information on health, information on education, food, current trends, finance and relocation. Information is usually obtained through documents disseminated at the sites, peer networks, social networks, camp leadership, although some of the IDPs are not privy to the information due to a series of barriers. This also serves as a hinderance in them accessing some essential services that eases their stay at the IDP sites. The population in Western Equatoria are generally at risk of multiple displacement unless the Government and other stakeholders make frantic efforts towards sustained peace building and curbing the internal, sub-national and ethno-political crisis within the country.

Keywords: *Information needs, Information seeking, Information seeking behavior*

1.1 Introduction

Information contributes towards the development of a nation, and it provides the core for the development of knowledge, the basis for innovations, and the resource for informed citizenry, and as a result, becomes a key commodity which is germane or crucial

for the progress of a society (Okoli & Azubuike, 2021). Information behavior encompasses the process individuals undertake in obtaining information to address the problem at hand. It involves ways individuals interact with information; in other words, the ways people search, organize,

understand, and utilize information and such ways in which human beings interact with information, in particular, how people seek and utilize information sum-up the behavior of the internally displaced persons.

The manner or ways which individual search for information constitutes the behaviour of the individual. Information seeking behaviour is the act of actively seeking information to answer specific query. Information seeking is contextual. People seek for information depending on the prevailing circumstances. Information seeking behavior is a broad term, it involves a set of actions that individuals or groups takes to show their information need, seek information, check and select the information to fulfill their requirement or information needs. Information seeking behavior is the purposive seeking for information because of a need to complete some goal. Information seeking behavior is a process where people search information and utilize the same to complete their assigned task. Women living in IDP sites try to make sense of many aspects of their lives through information seeking and use it consequentially for self-care. Information behavior is the currently preferred term used to describe the many ways in which human beings interact with information, in particular, how people seek and utilize information and information seeking by women in IDP sites in Western Equatorial State, South Sudan allows them to actively solve a problem.

Information-seeking behavior is usually determined when information searching, and seeking is persistent and towards a goal. Information-seeking behavior is the act of actively seeking information to answer a specific query. Information-seeking behavior is the purposive seeking of information because of a need to complete some goal. Information seeking is a definite act among women especially those who find themselves in a different location aside from their original domain. There is always the

desire to request and seek different information from women such as information on health (for personal, family, maternal or neonatal care) or nutrition, education, prices of goods, where to get consumables for use by women, casual labour or employment opportunities in the displacement locations and how to cater for the immediate family/families.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Despite how critical information access is to our everyday lives, most women in IDP sites Western Equatoria State, South Sudan always face challenges in accessing information that enables them to live a near-normal or dignified life. The challenges remain prevalent since these women do not have the know-how to go about getting information to address the problem faced nor do they have an enabling environment that fosters sourcing for information. Information provided at the IDP sites is not understood by many women in Western Equatoria State, South and they do not understand information services. This is because most of the IDP women approached the researcher for an explanation of information received at the IDP sites. The researcher is mistaken to be a healthcare provider, other humanitarians providing food aid or other services.

1.3 Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study are to:

1. Identify the information needs of women in IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan.
2. Find out the ways women in IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan access information to meet their needs.
3. Assess the information-seeking behaviour of women in IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan.

2.1 Literature Review

Cantor, Swartz, Roberts, Abbara, Ager., Bhutta, Blanchet & Smith (2021) conducted a study on

understanding the health needs of Internally Displaced Persons. Thus, the study sought to strengthen the understanding of the health needs of IDPs in contexts of conflict or violence. Based upon a scoping review, the paper identified limited evidence on IDP health, but indicated that IDPs tend to experience worse health outcomes than other conflict-affected populations across a range of health issues; and this is due to the particularly vulnerable situation of IDPs relative to these other populations, which includes reduced access to health services.

In a similar study by Sambo (2017) on the information needs of IDPs amongst us. The study set four objectives and utilized quantitative and evaluative research designs respectively. He adopted the census sampling technique in selecting IDP sites in the most affected Local Governments Areas (LGA) in Borno. Utilizing the simple random technique in selecting the most affected five LGAs out of twenty most affected LGAs by the insurgency in Borno State, Nigeria. He conducted interviews to gather data from respondents and identified Ngala, Dikwa, Bama, Damboa, and Chibok as the five most affected LGAs by the insurgency among the twenty LGAs conquered by insurgents. The finding revealed that among the affected population in these five LGAs; 64% were female while 36% were male. Analysis of the results showed 100% of the IDPs had information needs on security, 98% needed information relating to health, 95% related to food/family and relationship (information relating to Family Tracing and Reunification-FTR), 93% of the IDPs required information on the new/current happening in areas of origin and displacements, 91% on finance cum Income Generating Activities (IGA) information, property (74%), shelter (67%), among others.

The use of information to relocate their family (99%) topped the list of the use of information by the IDPs. Many of the respondents found IDP site condition

inadequate (85%). Factors affecting information seeking behaviour of the IDPs include lack of funds (97%), irregular medical care (95%), lack of accommodation (94%), lack of food (92%), poor living conditions (87%), exposure to violence/abuse (86%), corruptions (74%), government policies (60%), sexual abuse (50%), among others. It concluded that the State and Federal Government should take into consideration the IDPs' information needs, thereby providing adequate funding, shelter, food, proper health care, and security. Recommendations were put forward to enhance access to information by the IDPs and ensure their safety wherever they are.

A study by Casey, Gallagher, Kakesa, Kalyanpur, Muselemu, Rafanoharana & Spilotros (2020) conducted a study on contraceptive use among adolescents and young women in North and South Kivu, Democratic Republic of Congo. It reported that adolescent girls in humanitarian settings are especially vulnerable as their support systems are often disrupted. More than 20 years of violence in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has weakened the health system, resulting in poor Sexual and Reproductive Health (SRH) outcomes for women. Little evidence on adolescent contraceptive use in humanitarian settings is available. International bodies such as Care International (CI), International Rescue Committee (IRC), and Save the Children International (SCI), in collaboration with the Reproductive Health Access, Information and Services in Emergencies (RAISE) Initiative, Columbia University, have supported the Ministry of Health (MOH) since 2011 to provide good quality contraceptive services in public health facilities in conflict-affected North and South Kivu. The study analyzed contraceptive use among sexually active young women aged 15-24 in the health zones served by the partners' programs. The partners conducted cross-sectional population-based

surveys in program areas of North and South Kivu using two-stage cluster sampling in six health zones in July-August 2016 and 2017.

Twenty-five clusters were selected in each health zone, 22 households in each cluster, and one woman of reproductive age (15-49 years) was randomly selected in each household. The paper presented results from secondary data analysis for 1,022 women aged 15-24 who reported ever having sex: 326 adolescents (15-19 years) and 696 young women (20-24 years), 31.7% (95% confidence interval [CI] 29.5-34.1), of whom were displaced at least once in the previous five years. Contraceptive knowledge was high, with over 90% of both groups able to name at least one modern contraceptive method. Despite this high knowledge, the unmet need for contraception was also high: 31.7% (95%CI 27.9-35.7) among 15-19-year-olds and 40.1% (95% CI 37.1-43.1, $p = 0.001$) among 20-24-year-olds. Current modern contraceptive use (16.5%, 95% CI 14.7-18.4) was similar in both age groups, the majority of whom received their method from a supported health facility. Among current users, more than half of 15-19-year-olds were using a long-acting reversible contraceptive (LARC; 51.7%, 95% CI 41.1-61.9) compared to 36.5% of 20-24-year-olds (95% CI 29.6-43.9, $p = 0.02$). Age, younger age of sexual debut, having some secondary education, being unmarried, and having begun childbearing were associated with modern contraceptive use.

The main limitations of the study are related to insecurity in three health zones that prevented access to some villages, reducing the representativeness of our data, and defining sexually active women as those who have ever had sex. The study concluded that, knowledge one of the first to measure contraceptive prevalence among adolescents in a humanitarian setting, we observed that adolescent girls and young women will use modern contraception, including long-acting

methods. Meaningful engagement of adolescents and young women would likely contribute to even better outcomes. Creating an enabling environment by addressing gender and social norms, however, is key to reducing stigma and meeting the demand for contraception in young women. As we continue to build such supportive environments, we can see that they will use effective contraception when contraceptive services, including short- and long-acting methods, are available, even in protracted crisis settings.

Faronbi, Akinyoola, Faronbi, Adegbola & Bello (2019) observed that in recent years, thousands of people have been displaced due to conflict and have been forced to live in crowded camps. The study assessed the common health problems, health needs, and health-seeking behaviours of internally displaced persons in Nigeria. A cross-sectional descriptive design was used to study 240 randomly selected respondents using an interviewer-administered semi-structured questionnaire. Data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistical techniques. The prevalence of communicable disease outbreaks was 59.2% and common health problems of the IDPs were malaria (97.9%), cold and catarrh (65.8%), heart diseases (56.7%), and diarrhoea (53.3%). Findings also revealed that access of IDPs to potable water, insecticide-treated nets (ITN), blankets, and health care facilities, as well as waste disposal, was generally poor. A large proportion of the respondents reported overcrowding (45.8%), inconducive housing (94.6%), dirty environment (54.6%), and poor food distribution (90%) in the site. Furthermore, factors that predicted poor health among the IDPs include educational status (OR: 0.397, $p = 0.010$), poor water supply (OR: 0.343, $p = 0.006$), hand washing (OR: 7.064, $p = 0.004$), and overcrowding (OR: 0.055, $p = 0.001$). This study concluded that common health problems among the IDPs

were malaria, cold and catarrh, heart diseases, and diarrhoea and their health needs include lack of access to potable water and inadequate health care services.

3.1 Methodology

Qualitative research methodology and design adopted for this study is the interpretive phenomenology. There are over 80,000 people displaced by ethnopolitical violence from Tambura County of Western Equatoria State, South Sudan (REACH Initiative, 2020). 55,378 individuals out of this violence-displaced population in Tambura are reported to be women. Sample size for this study was eight (8) participants selected using purposive sampling technique. Eight was used upon saturation of data. Researchers used unstructured observation method as the instrument for data collection. Semi-structured interview was employed for data collection of this study and a handheld device was utilized for recording the interview between the subjects and the researcher. The researcher personally observed the women closely. In the process, notes were taken and interactions were held with the women.

Thematic analysis was adopted for data analysis.

4.1 Results

Data was collected through voice recordings (in Azande language) which were later transferred to phrases and sentences through transcription; from eight (8) participants who have been residing at the in IDP sites of Western Equatoria State, South Sudan. The selected participants are those who priorly consented to be part of the study out of their free volition. The participants expressed diverse opinions based on experiences in connection to information needs, sourcing and understanding information to meet their daily needs. This is in alignment with the interpretive paradigm qualitative study.

4.2 Information Needs of Women in IDP Sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan

The research objective investigated the information needs of women in the IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan. These themes are presented in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1 - Information Needs of Internally Displaced Women in IDP Sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan

Research Objective	Categories	Sub-categories
Information Needs of Women in IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan	1. Information on health	1.1 Antenatal care
	2. Information on education	2.1 Securing admission
	3. food	3.1 Feeding of children
	4. current trends	4.1 Update about internal crisis
	5. finance	5.1 Meeting daily needs
	6. relocation	6.1 Leaving the camp

Source- Interview Analysis, 2023

The themes and sub-themes are discussed as follows.

Theme one: Health Information. This includes the narratives related to the health information needs of women in IDP sites in

Western Equatoria State, South Sudan for coping with everyday life at their IDP site. This theme consists of only one sub-theme: antenatal care.

Antenatal care(AC): This sub-theme highlights the narratives about the world view of the participants in this study setting on their information needs about antenatal care services. Findings revealed that the need for antenatal care is highly held as a critical information need by the women who constituted the participants in this study setting. Although the participants are displaced, reproduction is still taken as important. Apart from the fact that there are limited livelihood and recreational activities they take part in while in displacement as compared to their life pre-displacement. Hence, making them more engaged in procreation activities and given the believe that life must continue irrespective of where they find themselves. Following are the narratives of the participants:

“I was newly married when the bandits attacked my town. The rampage was so intense; that I and my husband had to escape to this IDP site. Now I am pregnant and two months gone. I do not know anything about the symptoms of labour when the time comes. I need information about child development and signs that would require me to seek help through medical caregivers” (P2).

“I need information about antenatal care. As you can see, I am pregnant. I need to go for routine care. I need information that enables me to identify when there is any abnormality” (P5).

Theme two: Education information. This theme comprises narratives of women in IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan concerning information needs on education. This theme consists of one sub-theme: Securing admission.

Securing admission: This sub-theme captured the views of the participants on the need for their wards to secure admission for further education. The participants expressed that there is a need for the children to further

their education for them to be relevant to the nation and be able to compete with their peers globally. This is evident in the narratives of four among the participants.

“I am not educated and I do not want any of my kids to be in my shoes. It is my great wish is for my kids to complete their education. They completed their secondary education and should have been on their university education but since we were forced out of our location, their education is on hold. I would like to have access to information about how I can send them for higher education elsewhere” (P1).

Theme Three – Information on Food

Distribution: This theme comprises narratives of women in IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan with information needs on education. The researcher found out from the participants their intent and desire for information about food distribution. Knowing will keep them updated about when or how foodstuffs will be shared This theme consists of one sub-theme: feeding of children.

Feeding of children: This sub-theme contains narratives of women in IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan of how they take the feeding of their children as utmost to them. The researcher found that most of the participants usually do not have prior knowledge of food distribution. This according to the participants results in them being short on home supplies, resulting increase hunger and malnutrition within households, especially among women and children. The search for what to eat and alternative livelihood opportunities increases the risk of children dropping out of school and engaging in child labour or make them susceptible to other forms of exploitation and abuses. The following are expressions of participants in this study setting.

“I always get short on the items required for

my kids and have to search for how to feed them. I need information on food distribution schedule, armed with that my food supplies would not run out again” (P1).

“I need information about how I can food to feed my children” (P2,3,4).

Theme four - current trends: This theme comprises narratives of women in IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan about information needs on current trends. This theme consists of one sub-theme update about the internal crisis. The participants expressed that they always require the urge to be aware of current developments in their immediate environment. According to the participants, they need to know the current trends and events to keep them informed of the possibility of returning to their various settlements before being displaced due to the crisis in their State. One sub-theme is attached to this theme; the sub-theme is an update about the internal crisis.

Update about the internal crisis: This sub-theme captured the worldview of the participants on the need to be updated about the internal crisis. The researcher found out that the participants are always eager to have the latest news about the status of the crisis ongoing in their various towns. This is due to the fact the situation in the site is not comparable to their former homes. Narratives of some of the participants are captured as revealed in the following sentences:

“I listen to the news on the radio to keep track of the development of the ongoing crisis. I am just tired of the way of life in the site. I want to leave this place and return home. There is no place like home” (P3).

“I need information about the situation in my town. I need to know if the attack on my area of origin has subsided. If I get the information that there is relative peace, I would not hesitate to leave the IDP site. I am just tired of leaving under this condition” (P2).

“All I want is to go back home and for me to be able to see how feasible that is, I need to have current information about internal crisis conditions” (P6).

Theme five–Finance: This theme comprises the revelation of the participants concerning information needs on finance. Finance is required for the daily survival of everyone. It is required to meet the needs of all things that make an individual lead a quality life. The participants narrated the need for information on need surrounding how finance can be accessed for the management of living in the IDP sites. The researcher found out through the participants that living in the sites also requires individuals to have some money on them no matter how little. One sub-theme is attached to this theme: meeting daily needs.

Meeting daily needs: This sub-theme comprises the narratives of the participants about information needs relating to meeting the daily needs of the entire family. The researcher gathered from the participants that meeting the daily needs of the family simplified if information surrounding that is made available to them. It was further revealed that not being able to meet their daily needs at the IDP site is having a negative impact on the lives of their kids. The narratives of the participants are as follows:

“Meeting the needs of my family relies heavily on having access to information about how I can get livelihood opportunities and earn money to enable me to buy the little things that make our lives much more comfortable in the present environment we find ourselves in now” (P4).

“One main worry is how I can get information on how to meet the needs of my children. It is when those needs are met that I will have rest of mind. If I can have ways in which I can source for such information; then my problems will be half solved” (P2).

Theme Six-Relocation: This theme consists of the narratives of the participants about the information needed about relocation. The participants expressed to the researcher about their intention relocating from the IDP site to a better location whenever that opportunity presents itself, as the current living conditions are dire. This theme has one sub-theme attached to it and that is leaving the IDP site.

Leaving the Site: This sub-theme comprises the narratives of the participants in this study setting on the information needs of the factors associated with how they can leave the site. The researcher was informed by the participants that living in the IDP site is not as easy as it is portrayed in the media. The participants expressed their willingness and readiness to leave the IDP site for a better life. This is evident in their revelations:

“I desperately need information on how I can leave this site. The type of vices my kids are open to makes to yearn for information on how we can leave the site as soon as possible” (P3).

“Leaving in a concentration IDP site like this is not healthy for a normal human being (hygiene wise, not conducive for bringing up children to be morally upright due to their vulnerability, and their susceptibility to exploitation and abuse. That is the main reason why I need information on how I can move my family out. We live in perpetual fear, hunger and deprivation” (P1, 5, 6).

“I am tired of this kind of living. I desire to get information on how to exit this site. Candidly, I want to leave” (P4).

4.3 Access to Information to Meet the Needs of Women in IDP Sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan

This research objective investigated how women in IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan access information to enhance to address the identified information needs. Table 4.3 provides details on access to information to meet the needs of women in IDP sites in the Western Equatoria State, South Sudan.

Table 4.3 Access information to Meet the Needs of Women in IDP Sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan

Research Objective	Themes	Sub-themes
Access information to meet the needs of women in IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan	1. I use other women	NIL
	2. Through camp coordinator	NIL
	3. Through Media	1.1 Radio Programmes

Source:- Interview Analysis, 2023

Discussion of the emergent themes is as follows starting with the use of other women as a means of understanding information received.

Theme One – I use other women: This theme comprises the view of the participants on the use of other women as a way of accessing any information to meet their needs. Their expressions to the researcher revealed that

they rely on the opinion of fellow women in the camp about how they get information. Their narratives on this theme are presented in the following sentences:

“If there is anything I want and I do not understand, I usually meet a woman who stays close to my tent for clarification. Once, she explains the situation to me and how to get it, I am satisfied with the interpretation she gives me” (P5).

“As I am not educated, I cannot read and write in English, so I depend on other women to help me out on how to search and look for information” (P6).

Theme Two-Through camp coordinator:

This theme contains the expression of the participant who indicated that access to information is through the assistance received through the IDP site coordinator. This assistance simplifies the creation of ways of searching for information when the need arises, without this guide, it would be impossible to do anything around here. The participants expressed thus.

“There is nothing I can do with the help and guidance I get from the camp coordinator. If there is any problem I have or get information about any problem, I do not use it until I show the IDP site coordinator. That is my support” (P3).

Theme Three - Through Media: This theme captured the narratives of the women on how they access and understand information through the media to ensure they cope with everyday life in the IDP site. This theme has one sub-theme: Radio programme.

Radio programme: This sub-theme consists of the narratives of the participants who identified that accessing information is through various radio programmes aired. The researcher got to know through the interactions with the participants that total reliance is placed on programmes aired on the

radio. Those programmes are instrumental to the accessing and understanding of information especially those with gynaecology and obstetrics health problems. It helps the women have a clearer understanding of certain information. Following are the narratives of the participants about this sub-theme.

“Radio programmes are very enlightening. I look forward to the timing of such programmes. Through these programmes, I understood information I had previously encountered at the IDP site. I have had issues with my menstrual cycle; a session was held on the radio. This helped in knowing the remedy to the problem” (P4).

“I listen to programmes on care during pregnancy on the radio. These programmes made to understand the information I had no idea about before. This helped me to know when to seek medical assistance through the medical professionals at the s” (P1 & P2).

4.4 Information Seeking Behaviour of Women in IDP Sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan

This research objective investigated the information of women in the IDP sites of Western Equatoria State, South Sudan. Information seeking depicts how individuals' access, seek, search and understand information. Table 4.5 contains the information-seeking behaviour of the women in the IDP sites in Western Equatoria, South Sudan.

Table 4.5: Information -Seeking Behaviour of Women in the IDP Sites of Western Equatorial State, South Sudan

Research Objective	Theme	Sub-theme
Information-seeking behaviour of women in the IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan	1. Compulsory Information seeking	1.1 Problem to be solved

Source- Interview Analysis, 2023

The only theme that emerged from this objective is discussed as follows:

Theme One - Compulsory Information-Seeking. This theme consists of the narratives of the participants about their information-seeking behaviour. When an action becomes compulsive, it implies that those concerned do not engage in the act unless the situation becomes critical. There is one sub-theme under the main theme, which is a problem to be solved.

Problem to be solved: This sub-theme captures the narratives of the women in the IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan about the need to solve the problem constitutes the reason why they seek information.

“I only look for information when I have a critical problem which requires managing with information. For example, there was a time when my menstruation refused to stop after the normal time. I became so worried and had to look for information about what the problem could be. Aside from this time, I never search for information again” (P4).

“I only look for information when it is highly important. At such period, it means there is a problem to be solved” (1,2&5).

5.1 Discussion of Findings

5.2 Information Needs of Women in IDP Sites in Western Equatorial State, South Sudan

Six typologies of types of information needed were identified through interview analysis. These are information on health, Information on education, food, current trends, finance and relocation.

Health information is very critical for people who live in displaced centres like the IDP sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan. Health issues are usually a common phenomenon. Management of health sources requires the use of valid sources for clarity's sake and to avoid dire consequences.

Studies have been conducted that

emphasized the importance of information on health for women in IDP sites. For instance, in seeking to strengthen understanding of the health needs of IDPs in contexts of conflict or violence. Cantor, , Roberts, Abbara & Smith (2021) identified limited evidence on IDP health, but indicated that IDPs tend to experience worse health outcomes than other conflict-affected populations across a range of health issues and require health information. This is due to the particularly vulnerable situation of IDPs relative to these other populations, including reduced access to health services. Further research is required to better understand these needs and the interventions that can most effectively address these needs. Rashid (2020) reported poor health is an essential aspect of overall vulnerability and has been attributed to many of the same underlying displacement-related conditions that lead to increased vulnerability among IDPs.

Similarly, information on education, information on food, current trends and finance are sensitive factors essential for the everyday life of people especially women in that the upkeep of the family rests on the shoulders of women. Studies have emphasized that the needs of people in IDP sites are diverse. For example, Omoosekejimi, Dada & Ebhonu (2021) reported that the COVID-19 information needs of IDPs are information on symptoms of COVID-19, how it spreads, preventive measures against COVID-19, the causes of COVID-19 and how to get medical attention should anyone be confirmed infected at the IDP site among others. Likewise, Sambo (2017) stated that the information needs of IDPs include security (100%), health Information (98%), foods/family and relationships (95%), new/current happening (93%), finance (91%), life decision (90%), property (74%), shelter (67%), among others. The use of information to relocate their family (99%) topped the list of the use of information by the IDPs.

5.3 Information on Relocation

Regarding relocation information,

Johansson (2004) showed that the circumstances surrounding internally displaced persons are complex and constitute many obstacles to their possibility of finding permanent settlements. The most obvious factors, like not having any place to return to and deprivation of the legal rights of choice of settlement, can be the most important explanations.

This finding indicates that people would prefer the safe confinement of their town/village compared to living in IDP sites. Thus, the desire for relocation information will be obvious among concerned individuals.

5.4 Access Information to Meet the Needs Women in IDP Sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan

Findings from the study revealed that access to information among women in Western Equatoria State to meet their needs is through other women, the IDP site coordinators and media. Access to information is a fundamental human right. Denial of people especially those living in IDP sites in accessing information is not healthy, as information is important to their survival. They need to be kept abreast of the latest developments about the conditions which displaced them from their areas of origin.

Abdullah, Elareshi & Kaba (2022) reported how and why the respondents use Social Networking Service (SNS) for news and information and how much they trusted such platforms. Most of the respondents were found to depend on a variety of SNS media, old or new, to receive news and information, especially in times of crisis and conflict. Such devices were very important for communicating with the families, news contributions, and news production.

5.5 Information Seeking Behaviour of Women in IDP Sites in Western Equatoria State, South Sudan

Findings revealed that the information-seeking behaviour of women in IDP sites in

Western Equatoria is compulsory information-seeking. Context and situation are critical to the information-seeking behaviour of people or groups of people. People search and seek information in line with prevailing circumstances in their area. Survival in internally displaced persons involves scouting for information that is favourable to the problem to be addressed.

This finding is not surprising, therefore, as studies affirmed that information-seeking behaviour differs in any context in which people or groups of people find themselves. Such as work by Ahmadinia, Eriksson-Backa & Nikou (2022) reported that information seeking shows that minorities, like non-minorities, require access to accurate and timely information, but they also need information in a range of languages and from a variety of sources.

This finding implies that information-seeking is comparable to a vicious cycle. It changes with prevailing circumstances.

Conclusion and Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, it concluded that IDP sites will continue to spring up unless a holistic approach is adopted to critically examine the causes of internal crisis. It is then that workable interventions will be developed to proffer solution. The therefore recommended that the Western Equatoria State government, the United Nations (UN) and other stakeholders should ensure that the identified information needs are met through use of proper organs of meeting the needs, information centres and libraries should be created by Western Equatoria State government, United Nations and other stakeholders in order to enable easy access to information among the women and extra mural classes should be organized for the women in IDP site in Western Equatoria state and omen in internally displaced site in Western Equatoria site is compulsory information seeking should be encouraged by the site coordinators to cultivate an activate information seeking behaviour.

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