# An Ethnography at a Distance of the 'Shadow' Pandemic

Privileging the Well-being of Girls in the Context of Gender-Based Violence in Rural South Africa during the time of COVID-19

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### **The Shadow Pandemic**

An allusion to alarming rise of global levels of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) against women and girls during COVID-19.

### **Research Question**

- How has COVID-19 reversed progress on gender equality?
- How can researchers reach out to girls and women safely while socially distancing and following COVID-19 precautions?

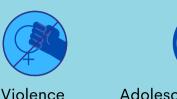
### Importance of Research

The estimates of SGBV are difficult to obtain because while health workers are counting the number of COVID-19 cases, the number of SGBV cases are ignored. Moreover, less than 40% of women who experience violence report these crimes or seek help.

### **Research Methods**

- Reflexive revisiting
- Reports from police, women's shelters and national hotlines
- Participatory Methods

## **Consequences of Inaction**









**Essential Services** 





**Drop-Outs** 



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Economic Insecurity

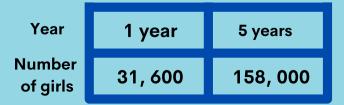
Food Insecurity

Psychological Trauma

### **Key Findings**

As a response to lockdown measures and school closures, estimates suggest that for the first time in almost 30 years, girls are more, not less at risk of child marriage. Worldwide, 2.5 million girls at risk of child marriage and adolescent pregnancies are expected to rise by up to 1 million in 2020.







# **Inventory of Tools and Methods**

Extending Community Partnerships Include teachers, health workers, and religious leaders in reporting efforts



Media should avoid gender-based assumptions and guard against continuing negative gender stereotyping

### **Ensuring Girls' Agency**

Include the voices of girls themselves through cellphilms, photovoice, digital storytelling, phone interviews

### **Learning from Previous Pandemics**

A girl-led mobilization and an evidencedbased advocacy will help to draw attention to the increased sexual violence cases.







