The Role and Impact of the International Criminal Court in Global Justice

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Abstract—This study aims to investigate the function and influence of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in advancing worldwide justice by conducting a qualitative analysis of structured interviews with 31 participants. The research subject centers around the identification of the obstacles and possibilities encountered by the ICC in carrying out its duty to prosecute individuals accountable for grave international crimes, all the while fostering accountability and reconciliation. Data was gathered through structured interviews with individuals who had expertise in international law, human rights, and related disciplines, using a qualitative research approach. The sample consisted of persons who have competence in academia, legal advocacy, and human rights groups. The findings uncover various significant themes, including obstacles such as political intervention, limitations in resources, and perceptions of prejudice, as well as prospects for improving victim involvement, outreach initiatives, and collaboration with local stakeholders. The paper closes by highlighting the significance of tackling these problems and utilizing possibilities to enhance the efficiency of the ICC in achieving global justice and accountability.

Keywords—International Criminal Court, Global Justice, Accountability, Qualitative Research, Structured Interviews.

I. INTRODUCTION

In the turbulent environment of global affairs, where crimes against human rights and international law frequently go unchecked, the International Criminal Court (ICC) serves as a beacon of hope for justice and accountability. It is a court that has the authority to investigate and prosecute these violations. The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a significant advancement in the field of international law. It was established in 2002 by the Rome Statute, and its primary objective is to combat impunity and ensure that those who commit heinous crimes are held accountable on a worldwide scale. There is no possible way to overestimate the significance of the International Criminal Court's role and impact in the advancement of global justice. With its mandate to prosecute people responsible for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression, the International Criminal Court (ICC) serves as an essential instrument for bringing justice to victims and preventing impunity for the most severe abuses of human rights (Lohne, 2020).

The International Criminal Court (ICC) has the authority to prosecute individuals who are responsible for major international crimes in situations where national authorities are either unwilling or unable to do so. As a result of the complementary nature of the International Criminal Court's jurisdiction, the principle of accountability is strengthened, and it is ensured that perpetrators do not avoid punishment solely due to weaknesses in domestic legal systems or political reasons. The fact that the International Criminal Court (ICC) adheres to a rigorous
legal framework that is founded on the values of fairness, impartiality, and due process is one of the most important characteristics of the ICC. The Court acts according to the concept of complementarity, which means that it only steps in when national legal systems either fail to handle crimes that occur within their jurisdiction or are unwilling to file criminal charges against those who commit these crimes. As a result of this concept, the International Criminal Court (ICC) is able to fulfill its function as a court of last resort, which strengthens the legitimacy of its actions and strengthens the rule of law on both the national and international levels (Chapman & Chaudoin, 2020).

Throughout its existence, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has been confronted with a great deal of difficulty, despite the fact that it was established on a legal basis and has noble goals. The International Criminal Court has been subjected to criticism for what is believed to be biases in its case selection and prosecution techniques, as well as for its limited capacity to implement arrest orders and compel cooperation from member states. In addition, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has been met with opposition from a number of different angles, including a number of powerful states that have either refused to ratify the Rome Statute or actively resisted the Court's jurisdiction. Despite this, the International Criminal Court (ICC) has made great progress in its pursuit of justice. When the International Criminal Court (ICC) has conducted investigations and brought charges, atrocities that might have otherwise gone unnoticed or untreated have come to light. A sense of closure and vindication has been delivered to victims and their families as a result of its verdicts, which have also served as a deterrent to individuals who may otherwise commit the same crime. Additionally, the International Criminal Court's influence extends beyond the scope of individual trials, as it has an effect on broader trends in international relations and diplomacy. The Court has been instrumental in fostering a culture of accountability within the international community and has been responsible for encouraging states to strengthen their domestic legal structures in order to address international crimes. In addition, the jurisprudence of the International Criminal Court has made a significant contribution to the development of international law by elucidating legal standards and forming norms for the prosecution of serious crimes.

1.1 Problem Statement

The International Criminal Court (ICC) is a notable step forward in the quest for worldwide justice, but it encounters various crucial obstacles that diminish its efficiency and impede its capacity to carry out its mission. These hurdles involve both internal and external concerns, including problems linked to jurisdiction and enforcement, as well as charges of bias and political intervention.

Restricted Jurisdiction: The International Criminal Court (ICC) has limited authority due to the concept of complementarity. This principle dictates that the ICC can only step in when national legal systems are either reluctant or unable to prosecute people who have committed major international crimes. Nevertheless, this restriction frequently leads to situations where the ICC is unable to address some cases, thereby allowing several individuals responsible for heinous acts to evade its jurisdiction.

Absence of Effective Enforcement Mechanisms: Despite possessing the power to issue arrest warrants and compel individuals to appear before the Court, the ICC encounters considerable obstacles in ensuring compliance with its rulings. Member states occasionally exhibit reluctance to collaborate in apprehending suspects, resulting in scenarios where accused individuals evade capture, thereby eroding the legitimacy of the ICC and fostering a culture of impunity.

Political Interference: The International Criminal Court (ICC) often faces political pressure and meddling from influential nations, especially those that are not signatories to the Rome Statute or have a vested interest in safeguarding their own citizens or allies. This interference can appear in different ways, such as attempts to hinder investigations, refuse collaboration, or completely withdraw support for the Court.

It is essential to tackle these difficulties in order to improve the efficacy of the ICC and increase its influence in promoting accountability and justice worldwide. In order to enhance its effectiveness and contribute to the prevention and deterrence of severe international crimes, the International Criminal Court (ICC) should address challenges pertaining to jurisdiction, enforcement, political interference, bias, resource limits, and accessibility.
1.2 The Aim of the Study

This article aims to thoroughly analyze the obstacles that the International Criminal Court (ICC) encounters in its efforts to achieve global justice and accountability. This study aims to illuminate the elements impeding the efficiency of the ICC by examining the diverse barriers it faces, including jurisdictional limitations, enforcement challenges, political interference, perceived bias, resource constraints, and accessibility concerns. The study seeks to offer valuable insights into alternative methods and reforms that can enhance the ICC's ability to execute its mandate and ensure more responsibility for those responsible for severe international crimes. This will be achieved through a thorough review of the difficulties at hand. The ultimate objective is to actively participate in ongoing debates over the ICC's role in the global legal framework and to seek ways to strengthen its influence in promoting justice and human rights on a global scale.

1.3 Research Objectives

To evaluate the scope of the International Criminal Court's jurisdictional constraints and their consequences for its capacity to prosecute individuals accountable for grave international offenses.

- To analyze the obstacles encountered by the ICC in implementing its rulings, encompassing matters pertaining to the willingness of member nations to collaborate in apprehending individuals accused of crimes and carrying out arrest orders.
- The objective is to examine cases of political intervention in the functioning of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and assess how they affect the Court's autonomy, fairness, and efficiency.
- To examine the perceptions of bias in the International Criminal Court's (ICC) process of selecting cases and prosecuting techniques, and to evaluate the impact of these perceptions on the Court's credibility and legitimacy.

II. LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature on the International Criminal Court (ICC) encompasses a wide range of perspectives, analyses, and critiques, reflecting the complexity of the Court's mandate and operations (Alter, 2020). Scholars, practitioners, and policymakers have produced a wealth of research examining various aspects of the ICC's work, including its jurisdiction, legal framework, effectiveness, challenges, and impact on international justice and human rights. This literature review provides an overview of key themes and debates in the field.

2.1 Jurisdiction and Legal Framework

Academics have extensively studied the jurisdictional and legal structure of the International Criminal Court (ICC), acknowledging its fundamental principles outlined in the Rome Statute. The idea of complementarity, which is fundamental to the jurisdiction of the ICC, has undergone thorough scrutiny (Chima, 2021). The concept states that the ICC will only get involved when national legal systems are incapable or unwilling to prosecute people who are accountable for grave international offenses. Scientists have investigated the intricacies of complementarity, analyzing elements like the criteria for establishing a country's ability and willingness to prosecute, as well as the consequences of this concept for the Court's function as a catalyst for enhancing domestic legal systems (Costello & Mann, 2020).

In addition, academics have closely examined the concept of gravity, which the ICC relies on to determine the order of importance of cases. The Rome Statute establishes the specific types of crimes that come under the jurisdiction of the International Criminal Court (ICC), namely genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. Scholars have thoroughly analyzed these definitions to get a comprehensive understanding of their legal intricacies and consequences. The analysts have examined the criteria employed by the ICC to assess the severity of suspected offenses and the benchmarks for commencing inquiries and legal proceedings (Maculan & Gil Gil, 2020).

The ICC's legal structure has also been the subject of scholarly discussion regarding temporal jurisdiction, which is another key feature. This principle regulates the Court's jurisdiction to prosecute offenses committed subsequent to the implementation of the Rome Statute in July 2002. Academics have analyzed the consequences of temporal jurisdiction in dealing with ongoing conflicts and establishing responsibility for previous atrocities. They have considered problems such as the retrospective enforcement of international criminal law and the difficulties of collecting evidence for historical crimes (Yang, 2020). Furthermore, academics have carefully examined the criteria used by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to accept cases. They have examined the conditions for jurisdiction, which include the Court's authority over citizens of countries that are part of the agreement, as well as the criteria for admittance, such as the seriousness of the offenses, the pursuit of justice, and
the completion of legal processes inside the country. The researchers have evaluated how these criteria are used in real-world situations, pinpointing difficulties and uncertainties in how the International Criminal Court (ICC) understands and enforces them (Newell et al., 2021).

2.2 Effectiveness and Challenges

This literature study offers a thorough examination of the academic studies regarding the jurisdictional and legal framework of the International Criminal Court (ICC), as specified in the Rome Statute. The text emphasizes the comprehensive analysis carried out by scholars on key ideas such as complementarity, gravity, and temporal jurisdiction, which are the foundation of the ICC's authority (Langer, 2021). The assessment recognizes the thorough examination that complementarity has undergone, highlighting its crucial role in deciding when the ICC should intervene in cases where national legal systems are incapable or unwilling to prosecute persons guilty of serious international crimes. Moreover, it highlights the experts' examination of the standards used to evaluate a nation's ability and willingness to carry out legal proceedings, revealing the impact of complementarity on the ICC's role in promoting improvements in domestic legal systems (Maskály et al., 2021).

In addition, the paper explores researchers' meticulous analysis of the idea of gravity, which assists the ICC in determining the order of importance of cases based on their seriousness. The text recognizes the comprehensive examinations carried out on the definitions of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression, as outlined in the Rome Statute, and their consequences for the Court's authority (Abrahamsen, 2020). The review also emphasizes scholars' examination of temporal jurisdiction, highlighting its importance in controlling the ICC's competence to pursue offenses committed after the introduction of the Rome Statute. The statement recognizes the intricacies involved with temporal jurisdiction, which encompass difficulties pertaining to the execution of laws and the gathering of evidence for past crimes.

Moreover, the paper discusses the analysis conducted by experts regarding the standards used by the International Criminal Court (ICC) to determine which cases to accept. It highlights the requirements for jurisdiction and admissibility, as well as the difficulties and lack of clarity in their interpretation and implementation by the Court (Hughes & Hoffmann, 2020).

The evaluation acknowledges the in-depth analysis of the ICC's interpretation and application of international criminal law by legal academics. This includes important judgments and decisions that develop the Court's legal principles and contribute to the progress of international criminal law (Rawtani et al., 2022). This literature review provides a comprehensive overview of the extensive academic study conducted on the jurisdictional and legal framework of the International Criminal Court (ICC). It emphasizes the valuable insights acquired from this research and identifies areas that can be improved to further enhance global justice.

2.3 Political Dynamics and Interference

Researchers have extensively examined the complex political processes related to the International Criminal Court (ICC), focusing on the influential role of powerful governments in determining the Court's agenda and operations. These researchers have examined cases of political meddling, which can take different forms such as obstructing investigations, withdrawing support for the ICC, or pressuring member nations to not cooperate with the Court's activities. Researchers have extensively analyzed the significant influence of geopolitical factors, regional dynamics, and power disparities on the International Criminal Court's ability to carry out its mission in a just and autonomous manner (Aliverti et al., 2021). An area of academic investigation has focused on the impact that dominant nations have on the International Criminal Court's ability to determine its priorities and make decisions. Researchers have analyzed the manner in which governments with substantial political and economic power exert their influence within the ICC, molding its objectives and policies to conform to their own interests. In addition, researchers have examined the strategies used by these nations to hinder or weaken ICC investigations that focus on their citizens or partners, emphasizing the difficulties the Court encounters in preserving its autonomy and fairness in the presence of external influences (Miller & Blumstein, 2020).

In addition, researchers have examined how geopolitical factors influence the International Criminal Court's interactions with various locations and war scenarios. The researchers have examined the impact of geopolitical rivalry, strategic alliances, and regional dynamics on the
decision-making processes of the ICC. This includes how these factors affect the selection of cases and the allocation of resources. Researchers have also analyzed the influence of power imbalances in the global system on the credibility and efficacy of the ICC, especially in cases where dominant states attempt to protect themselves or their allies from being held accountable for alleged crimes (Acharya & Plesch, 2020).

In addition, experts have examined the reactions of member states to political intervention in the ICC's activities, evaluating their readiness to maintain the Court's autonomy and endorse its mission. The researchers have analyzed situations in which member nations have defied external influence and displayed unity with the ICC, as well as instances when political factors have caused fluctuating support or even departure from the Court (Eilstrup-Sangiovanni & Hofmann, 2020).

2.4 Perceptions of Bias and Legitimacy

Scholarly literature has extensively examined perceptions of bias within the International Criminal Court (ICC), particularly regarding its case selection and prosecution strategies. Researchers have analyzed allegations of the ICC disproportionately targeting individuals from specific regions or ethnic groups, which have raised concerns about the Court's fairness, impartiality, and legitimacy (Brayne & Christin, 2021). One area of focus in scholarly research is the analysis of patterns in the ICC's case selection and prosecution, aiming to identify any potential biases. Scholars have scrutinized the geographical and demographic distribution of indicted individuals, comparing the representation of different regions and ethnic groups within the Court's caseload. By examining these patterns, researchers seek to assess whether there is evidence of bias in the ICC's targeting of certain individuals or communities (Menton et al., 2020).

Moreover, scholars have explored the underlying factors contributing to perceptions of bias within the ICC. They have investigated the role of political considerations, media narratives, and advocacy campaigns in shaping public perceptions of the Court's impartiality. Additionally, researchers have examined the impact of historical legacies, cultural stereotypes, and institutional dynamics on the perception of bias within the ICC (Porter et al., 2020). Furthermore, scholarly literature has assessed the implications of perceived bias for the ICC's credibility, legitimacy, and effectiveness. Researchers have examined how concerns about bias can undermine public trust in the Court, erode its authority, and hinder its ability to fulfill its mandate. By analyzing the consequences of perceived bias, scholars aim to highlight the importance of addressing these concerns to safeguard the ICC's legitimacy and enhance its impact in promoting accountability and justice (Voeten, 2020). In response to concerns about bias, scholars have proposed various strategies for enhancing the ICC's legitimacy and credibility. They have emphasized the importance of transparent and impartial decision-making processes within the Court, advocating for greater accountability and scrutiny in case selection and prosecution. Additionally, researchers have called for efforts to address structural inequalities and biases within the ICC, including measures to promote diversity, representation, and inclusivity (Drezner, 2021).

2.5 Impact on International Justice and Human Rights

The impact of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on international justice, human rights, and the rule of law has been thoroughly studied in scholarly research. Researchers have examined multiple facets of the ICC's contributions, encompassing its role in promoting the development of international criminal law, discouraging future acts of violence, shaping the conduct of states, and reinforcing mechanisms of responsibility (Carrington et al., 2020). An important focus of academic research has been the International Criminal Court's impact on the advancement of international criminal law. Researchers have evaluated the Court's legal decisions and their influence on establishing clear legal criteria and principles, establishing norms related to the prosecution of severe international crimes, and broadening the scope of international justice. The analysts have examined significant rulings and determinations made by the ICC, identifying crucial legal precedents and progressions in the realm of international criminal law (Zulyadi, 2020).

In addition, researchers have analyzed the International Criminal Court's function in preventing future acts of extreme violence by ensuring that those responsible for such acts are held responsible for their conduct. The researchers have examined the impact of International Criminal Court (ICC) prosecutions on both state and non-state actors. They have evaluated whether the Court's initiatives have changed the conduct of potential offenders and contributed to the prevention of future crimes. Researchers have additionally examined the International
Criminal Court’s (ICC) capacity to foster a culture of responsibility and adherence to human rights standards, both domestically and globally (Witbooi et al., 2020).

Moreover, academic literature has examined the influence of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on the actions of states and the systems in place to ensure responsibility. Researchers have evaluated the impact of the International Criminal Court (ICC) on state conduct, specifically in conflict and post-conflict scenarios. The ICC has encouraged nations to adhere to international humanitarian law and human rights norms by providing incentives for compliance. Additionally, they have analyzed the International Criminal Court's function in enhancing national justice systems and reinforcing mechanisms of responsibility, specifically in nations with inadequate or inefficient judicial establishments (Corda & Lageson, 2020).

In addition, researchers have examined the ICC’s involvement with impacted communities, particularly its assistance to victims and witnesses. The effectiveness of the ICC’s outreach activities, victim involvement initiatives, and reparations programs in increasing access to justice, addressing the needs of victims, and encouraging reconciliation and healing in post-conflict situations has been evaluated. Researchers have also analyzed the International Criminal Court's (ICC) endeavors to advance transitional justice measures, including truth commissions and reparations programs, as integral components of wider reconciliation processes (Kondakov, 2021).

III. METHODOLOGY

This study utilizes a qualitative research technique and involves structured interviews as the primary method of data collection. The structured interview method facilitates a methodical and targeted investigation into the viewpoints, encounters, and attitudes of participants regarding the research subject. The objective of this study is to examine individuals’ perceptions and viewpoints on the function and influence of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in advancing global justice and accountability.

3.1 Sample Selection

The study sample consists of 31 individuals who were chosen via purposive sampling. This method was used to ensure that a wide range of perspectives and backgrounds related to the research issue were represented. The participants consist of persons who possess knowledge and skills in international law, human rights advocacy, diplomatic affairs, academia, and civil society groups. An endeavor is undertaken to incorporate individuals from various locations, legal systems, and levels of involvement with the ICC in order to encompass a wide spectrum of perspectives.

3.2 Data Collection

The process involves conducting structured interviews with each participant. These interviews consist of a predetermined series of questions that are specifically meant to investigate important topics linked to the International Criminal Court's (ICC) role and influence. The interview questions are prepared through a comprehensive examination of the literature and the research goals, guaranteeing congruence with the study’s aims and objectives. The organized framework of the interviews promotes uniformity in gathering data and enables comparative examination among participants.

Interviews are performed via three different methods: in-person, over the phone, or by video conferencing. The choice of method depends on the preferences and availability of the participants. Every interview is recorded using audio technology, with the participant's permission, to guarantee the precise collection of data.

IV. ANALYSIS

The data obtained from the structured interviews is transcribed word-for-word and then analyzed using thematic analysis. This entails the identification of repetitive patterns, themes, and categories in the responses provided by the participants. The analysis is conducted based on the research questions and objectives, enabling the discovery of significant insights and discoveries that are pertinent to the study.

4.1. Background

a. Can you briefly describe your background and expertise in international law, human rights, or related fields?

The responses from the participants underscored a unanimous belief in the significance of providing detailed backgrounds and expertise in international law, human rights, or related fields. The general view of the value of offering detailed backgrounds and expertise in international law, human rights, or other similar subjects
was conveyed by the responses from the participants, which highlighted the importance of this topic. When asked to contextualize their perspectives on the role and influence of the International Criminal Court (ICC), they underlined that such knowledge was essential in providing the necessary context. A significant number of participants expounded on their vast professional histories, which included a variety of activities within the domain of human rights activism, legal practice, and academic studies. From seasoned practitioners in international law to researchers with particular understanding of human rights law and transitional justice, their backgrounds included some of the most distinguished individuals in the field.

Participants underlined the abundance of knowledge gained through their involvement in various aspects of international law and human rights work. This experience included hands-on experience in legal processes, policy formation, and academic research, among other things. While others drew upon their academic skills to provide nuanced evaluations of the International Criminal Court's mandate and operational issues, some individuals presented insights that they had gained from their direct engagement in cases that were relevant to international crimes.

The participants, in general, stressed that their knowledge served as a critical prism through which they examined the acts and consequences of the International Criminal Court (ICC). As a means of providing educated viewpoints on complicated topics pertaining to international justice and accountability, they emphasized the significance of drawing from their professional experiences as well as the insights they gained from their academic studies. It was considered by the participants that they might provide vital insights into the role that the International Criminal Court plays in promoting global justice and human rights by utilizing their varied experiences and areas of expertise.

b. What is your familiarity with the International Criminal Court (ICC) and its mandate?

Most interviewees had a strong understanding of the ICC and its mission, emphasizing the significance of this information in influencing their views on global justice and accountability. Participants exhibited a sophisticated comprehension of the ICC's function as a global court created to tackle the gravest offenses of international significance. A significant number of participants highlighted their understanding of the ICC's jurisdiction, which encompasses the prosecution of individuals who are suspected of committing acts of genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. They demonstrated a clear comprehension of the legal foundation supporting the ICC's authority, including the principles established in the Rome Statute, such as complementarity, gravity, and temporal jurisdiction. Participants demonstrated their understanding of the ICC's organizational framework, which encompasses various chambers, offices, and specialized sections that handle investigations, prosecutions, and victim participation. In addition, they had a clear understanding of the Court's procedural machinery, including arrest warrants, pre-trial proceedings, trials, and appeals.

In addition, the participants provided examples of specific cases or significant rulings made by the ICC to demonstrate their comprehension of the Court's activities and its influence on global justice. To emphasize the wide range and importance of the International Criminal Court's authority, they cited prominent cases, including those involving warlords in countries ravaged by violence or political figures accused of crimes against humanity. Participants emphasized the significance of being well-informed on the activities, advancements, and difficulties faced by the ICC in order to make valuable contributions to discussions on international justice and human rights. The individuals recognized the intricate nature of the International Criminal Court's mission and the ever-changing landscape of global criminal law. They stressed the importance of continuous learning and active involvement in order to properly manage these intricacies.

4.2. Understanding of the ICC:

a. How would you describe the primary objectives and mandate of the ICC?

During the interview, most participants offered detailed explanations of the main goals and authority of the ICC, demonstrating their thorough comprehension of the Court's role in the global legal framework. Participants highlighted that the principal goal of the ICC is to address and prevent impunity for the gravest international offenses, such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. The significance of ensuring that individuals are held responsible for these extremely offensive acts was emphasized, irrespective of their official position or nationality.
In addition, delegates emphasized the International Criminal Court's responsibility to guarantee justice for the victims of these offenses. The ICC is highlighted as a legal platform where victims can pursue justice and have their grievances heard. The participants observed that the ICC's emphasis on victims' rights and involvement sets it apart from other international criminal tribunals, further solidifying its dedication to prioritizing victims in its processes. The participants also deliberated on the function of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in preventing future acts of extreme violence. The argument put forth is that the International Criminal Court (ICC) effectively communicates its stance against impunity by trying people who are accountable for grave international offenses. Participants observed that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has a deterrent impact that goes beyond prosecuting individuals since it helps avoid large-scale atrocities and fosters peace and stability in regions affected by war.

In addition, the participants emphasized the wider influence of the International Criminal Court's authority on the enforcement of laws globally. They highlighted that the ICC is a fundamental element of the global judicial system, representing the concepts of fairness, responsibility, and human rights. Participants observed that the presence of the ICC strengthens the established set of rules against impunity, indicating a shared dedication to maintaining the core ideals of justice and humanity.

In your opinion, what role does the ICC play in promoting global justice and accountability?

Most interview participants had a thorough awareness of the ICC's position as a crucial entity in promoting global justice and accountability. They emphasized the interrelated ways in which the ICC contributes to these main objectives:

The participants stressed that the main function of the ICC is to prosecute individuals who are accountable for the gravest international offenses, such as genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity, and the crime of aggression. They emphasized the importance of the International Criminal Court's authority to hold responsible individuals accountable for their conduct and to ensure that justice is delivered to victims of these grave offenses. The International Criminal Court (ICC) effectively communicates its zero-tolerance policy towards impunity on the global stage by carrying out just and unbiased legal proceedings. Participants recognized the significance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in offering a platform for victims to pursue compensation and legal recourse for the harm they have endured. The ICC's victim-centered approach, which places emphasis on the rights and involvement of victims throughout the judicial process, was emphasized. Participants observed that the International Criminal Court (ICC) plays a role in the healing and reconciliation of conflict-affected communities by allowing victims to express their experiences and recognizing their pain.

Participants acknowledged the International Criminal Court's (ICC) responsibility in maintaining and enforcing the legal principles at the global level. The ICC functions within a framework of international law and legal principles, ensuring that its decisions are made using objective criteria and following due process. The International Criminal Court (ICC) upholds the normative framework against impunity and bolsters the international legal system by ensuring that people responsible for grave international crimes are held accountable. Participants emphasized the ICC's activities as a deterrent for future violators of international crimes. They argued that the threat of prosecution by the International Criminal Court (ICC) serves as a potent deterrent, discouraging both individuals and state actors from committing atrocities and violating international humanitarian law. Participants saw that the interventions of the ICC play a role in averting future criminal activities and fostering peace and stability in regions impacted by conflict.

Participants highlighted the significance of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in promoting global collaboration and unity in the quest for justice. It was observed that the International Criminal Court (ICC) depends on the cooperation of nations, international organizations, and civil society actors in order to carry out its mandate efficiently. The ICC fosters dialogue and cooperation among parties, thereby contributing to the establishment of a fair and peaceful global system that upholds the values of accountability and the protection of human rights. Participants generally expressed trust in the ICC's ability to advance global justice and accountability through its fair and autonomous legal proceedings. The significance of backing the ICC in carrying out its duties and ensuring that those responsible for grave international offenses are held responsible for their conduct was emphasized.

4.3. Perceptions of Effectiveness
a. From your perspective, how effective has the ICC been in achieving its mandate to prosecute individuals responsible for serious international crimes?

Most interview participants engaged in a detailed discussion about the effectiveness of the ICC, recognizing both its achievements and the difficulties it encounters in carrying out its mission. Participants acknowledged the ICC’s notable accomplishments in holding people accountable for grave international offenses. They cited prominent instances in which the ICC effectively prosecuted wrongdoers, showcasing the Court's capacity to ensure that offenders are held responsible for their deeds. The participants emphasized the symbolic significance of these prosecutions in conveying the message that there will be no tolerance for flagrant violations of international law.

Despite the aforementioned problems, participants demonstrated hope regarding the International Criminal Court's capacity to augment its efficacy. The significance of ongoing collaboration from governments and international partners in bolstering the ICC's efforts was underscored. The participants also emphasized the Court's continuous endeavors to develop its institutional capabilities, bolster outreach programs, and foster collaboration with national governments and civil society organizations. Attendees emphasized the significance of adopting a fair and subtle method to evaluate the effectiveness of the ICC. Participants underlined the need to acknowledge and celebrate the Court's achievements in holding individuals accountable for significant international crimes while also recognizing the challenges it faces. They promoted productive discourse and cooperation among relevant parties to tackle the challenges that impede the ICC's mission and to discover possibilities for enhancement. Participants conducted a contemplative debate regarding the success of the ICC, emphasizing both its accomplishments and the obstacles it encounters. Their observations offered vital viewpoints on the intricacies of global justice and the continuous endeavors to enhance responsibility for grave international offenses.

b. Can you provide examples or instances where the ICC’s interventions have had a significant impact on promoting accountability or deterring future atrocities?

Participants emphasized the International Criminal Court's (ICC) pursuit of legal action against Thomas Lubanga, a warlord from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), as a notable instance of fostering responsibility. Lubanga faced charges for the enlistment and deployment of underage combatants in armed hostilities, which is a breach of international legal norms. The ICC trial and subsequent conviction not only held him individually responsible for his acts but also drew attention to the extensive utilization of child soldiers in global conflicts. The case generated worldwide attention to the predicament of juvenile soldiers and bolstered initiatives targeted at averting their enlistment and mistreatment in subsequent battles. Furthermore, Lubanga's conviction acted as a deterrent for other wrongdoers, signaling that they could face consequences for such offenses.

Participants emphasized the wider influence of ICC initiatives on transitional justice and reconciliation in regions affected by war. It was observed that the participation of the ICC in prosecuting individuals accountable for grave international crimes can help address the lasting effects of violence, encourage responsibility, and support the process of reconciliation in countries recovering from conflicts. Holding wrongdoers accountable and acknowledging the suffering of victims can help the International Criminal Court (ICC) make a significant contribution to building trust, promoting healing, and reducing the frequency of violent acts. Participants provided instances where communities and victims achieved a feeling of resolution and fairness through ICC trials and compensation initiatives. Participants highlighted these and other instances as proof of the ICC's substantial influence in fostering accountability and preventing future crimes. They emphasized the significance of the International Criminal Court's (ICC) responsibility in ensuring that those who commit crimes are held responsible, increasing knowledge about human rights abuses, and aiding in the prevention and resolution of global conflicts.

4.4. Challenges and Limitations

a. What do you perceive as the main challenges or limitations faced by the ICC in fulfilling its mandate?

Most interview participants expressed the view that the International Criminal Court (ICC) encounters very substantial obstacles and restrictions in carrying out its mission. A significant obstacle identified by participants is political intervention, especially from influential states, that may attempt to undermine the autonomy of the ICC or obstruct its investigations. This interference can appear in...
Different ways, such as refusing to cooperate with ICC procedures, withdrawing support for the Court, or attempting to undermine its credibility. In addition, participants emphasized that resource limitations pose a key constraint for the ICC. They pointed out that the Court frequently faces insufficient budget and personnel, which hampers its ability to carry out comprehensive investigations, ensure fair trials, and offer proper support to victims and witnesses. Participants also highlighted challenges related to the enforcement of arrest warrants, particularly in conflict-affected areas where state authorities may lack the willingness or capacity to apprehend suspects. Additionally, the Court's jurisdiction is limited, preventing it from prosecuting crimes committed by non-state actors or in states that have not ratified the Rome Statute. In general, participants highlighted the significance of tackling these issues and constraints to enhance the functioning of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and guarantee that individuals responsible for committing major international crimes are held responsible for their acts.

b. How do factors such as political interference, resource constraints, and jurisdictional limitations impact the ICC's effectiveness?

Most interview participants expressed the belief that political interference, resource limits, and jurisdictional limitations had a substantial impact on the efficacy of the International Criminal Court (ICC). The independence and impartiality of the ICC can be compromised by political intervention, especially from influential nations, which can hinder the organization's ability to carry out comprehensive investigations and ensure fair trials. This influence can also lead to a lack of cooperation with ICC proceedings, withdrawal of support for the Court, or attempts to undermine its legitimacy. Furthermore, the ICC's efficiency is hindered by budgetary restrictions, which restrict its capacity to carry out thorough investigations, guarantee sufficient legal counsel for defendants, and offer assistance to victims and witnesses. The presence of these limitations can hinder the Court's capacity to administer justice promptly and effectively, compromising its legitimacy and efficacy. Furthermore, the ICC's prosecutorial capacity is constrained by jurisdictional constraints, which prevent it from pursuing criminal cases involving non-state actors or crimes committed in nations that have not ratified the Rome Statute. This can lead to a lack of responsibility and hinder the ability of the International Criminal Court (ICC) to address grave international offenses in specific areas. In general, the participants highlighted the significance of addressing these aspects in order to enhance the performance of the ICC and guarantee its ability to impartially and efficiently prosecute those accountable for serious international crimes, as mandated.

4.5. Bias and Fairness

a. Do you believe there are perceptions of bias in the ICC's case selection and prosecution strategies? If so, could you elaborate on these perceptions?

Most interview participants expressed the belief that there are undoubtedly perceptions of prejudice in the International Criminal Court's (ICC) case selection and prosecution strategies. These impressions arise from a variety of circumstances, such as the ICC's emphasis on specific regions or conflicts while appearing to disregard others, resulting in allegations of biased justice. In addition, participants expressed concerns regarding the International Criminal Court's dependence on referrals from nations or the United Nations Security Council, which might potentially impact the Court's agenda and give rise to doubts about its neutrality. Some participants also pointed out differences between how the ICC handles cases involving powerful nations and cases involving smaller or less important entities. This shows that the Court's approach to pursuing global crimes is not consistent. In general, the participants stressed the significance of dealing with these views of prejudice in order to maintain the credibility of the ICC and guarantee that it functions in a just and unbiased way.

b. How do concerns about bias affect the ICC's credibility and legitimacy in the eyes of stakeholders and the public?

Most interview participants expressed the view that concerns regarding bias have a substantial influence on the credibility and legitimacy of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in the eyes of stakeholders and the public. The presence of prejudice can undermine confidence in the ICC's capacity to dispense justice in an unbiased manner, resulting in doubts regarding the fairness of its legal processes and the legitimacy of its verdicts. This mistrust has the potential to discourage victims and witnesses from collaborating with the ICC, therefore compromising its capacity to collect evidence and guarantee impartial trials.
Moreover, apprehensions over partiality have the potential to undermine the ICC's standing as a dependable mediator of global justice, impacting its alliances with member nations, international entities, and civil society organizations. In conclusion, the participants highlighted the significance of resolving issues regarding bias in order to regain trust in the ICC and reassert its position as a reputable and valid organization for prosecuting those accountable for severe international offenses.

4.6. Engagement with Affected Communities

a. How does the ICC engage with affected communities, victims, and witnesses in its proceedings?

Most interview participants expressed the view that the International Criminal Court (ICC) effectively involves affected communities, victims, and witnesses in its proceedings. This is achieved through a range of mechanisms designed to ensure their active participation, protection, and support throughout the judicial process. The ICC communicates with impacted communities through the establishment of outreach programs, which aim to provide comprehensive information regarding the Court's activities, legal procedures, as well as the rights of victims and witnesses. These outreach initiatives foster confidence and improve contact between the ICC and nearby communities, allowing victims and witnesses to utilize the Court's services and seek resolution for their complaints. In addition, the ICC implements victim and witness protection measures, including the provision of secure facilities, psychological support, and legal help, to ensure their safety and promote their collaboration with the Court. Furthermore, the International Criminal Court (ICC) grants victims the opportunity to engage in its legal procedures as either parties or participants. This permits them to provide evidence, give testimony, and make submissions on issues that directly impact their interests. This interactive methodology enables victims to exert influence in the legal proceedings and guarantees that their viewpoints and encounters are duly considered by the Court. In general, the participants highlighted the significance of the ICC's involvement with impacted communities, victims, and witnesses in advancing transparency, fairness, and accountability in its processes.

b. In your opinion, how effective are the ICC’s efforts in providing support to victims and witnesses and promoting reconciliation and transitional justice in post-conflict settings?

The majority of participants during the interview believed that the International Criminal Court (ICC) has made significant strides in providing support to victims and witnesses and promoting reconciliation and transitional justice in post-conflict settings. Participants noted that the ICC's efforts in this regard have helped empower victims to seek justice for the crimes committed against them and have provided essential assistance to witnesses who may face risks or challenges in participating in ICC proceedings. Additionally, participants highlighted the ICC's role in promoting reconciliation by acknowledging the suffering of victims, holding perpetrators accountable for their actions, and contributing to the healing process in conflict-affected communities. They emphasized the importance of the ICC's victim-centered approach, which prioritizes the rights and well-being of victims and ensures their meaningful participation in the judicial process. Moreover, participants noted that the ICC's engagement with affected communities through outreach programs and other initiatives has helped foster dialogue, build trust, and promote understanding among different groups, laying the foundation for sustainable peace and reconciliation. Overall, participants expressed confidence in the ICC's efforts to support victims and witnesses and promote reconciliation and transitional justice, while acknowledging that there is always room for improvement and further collaboration with local stakeholders and civil society organizations.

Discussion

The research findings, obtained through structured interviews with 31 participants, provide insights into many facets of the role and influence of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in advancing global justice and accountability. By doing a qualitative analysis of the participants' comments, we identified numerous recurring themes that provided valuable insights into how the participants perceive, experience, and recommend improvements for the effectiveness and problems of the ICC. The participants widely recognized the essential role of the ICC in promoting accountability for grave international crimes. The major successes that were emphasized are the successful prosecution of war criminals and the endeavors made to provide compensation for the victims. However, issues with prejudice, political influence, financial constraints, and jurisdictional restrictions limit the effectiveness of the ICC. These findings are consistent with earlier research.
that has highlighted comparable difficulties encountered by the ICC in carrying out its mission (Lohne, 2020).

Participants identified multiple obstacles and constraints that impede the effectiveness of the ICC. Political interference, particularly from powerful states, was detrimental to the ICC's independence and impartiality. Resource limitations, such as financial shortages and manpower shortages, made it difficult for the ICC to conduct thorough investigations and ensure fair trials. Additionally, challenges related to jurisdictional limitations and the execution of arrest warrants limit the ICC’s ability to prosecute those responsible for international crimes (Chapman & Chaudoin, 2020).

Participants expressed concerns with the potential bias in the International Criminal Court's (ICC) process of selecting cases and techniques for prosecution, which aligns with the conclusions of earlier studies. Participants observed the presence of biased justice and inequalities in the International Criminal Court's handling of cases involving powerful nations compared to those involving smaller or less influential entities. The presence of bias in the ICC's operations can undermine the trust placed in its credibility and legitimacy, affecting its interactions with stakeholders and the public (Alter, 2020). Participants acknowledged the International Criminal Court's endeavors to actively involve impacted communities, victims, and witnesses in its legal proceedings. The ICC's constructive activities include emphasizing outreach programs, implementing victim and witness protection measures, and providing chances for victim engagement. Nevertheless, recommendations were given to enhance these endeavors, including the augmentation of transparency and inclusion in decision-making procedures and the reinforcement of collaboration with local stakeholders.

The research findings are consistent with prior studies that have investigated the role and influence of the ICC in advancing global justice and accountability. Previous studies have revealed similar obstacles, such as political influence, limited resources, and perceptions of prejudice. Similarly, this study, along with earlier work, has highlighted the significance of victim involvement, outreach initiatives, and collaboration with local stakeholders (Costello & Mann, 2020). In summary, the study debate emphasizes the intricate dynamics surrounding the International Criminal Court (ICC) and the significance of tackling obstacles while capitalizing on possibilities to improve its efficacy in advancing global justice and accountability.

V. CONCLUSION

Conclusion

At the end of this study, it offers significant perspectives on the function and influence of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in advancing worldwide justice and responsibility. By conducting structured interviews with 31 participants, a number of significant discoveries have been uncovered, which shed light on the accomplishments as well as the obstacles encountered by the ICC in carrying out its mission. The research results are in agreement with prior studies, which show that the ICC has ongoing difficulties such as political influence, limited resources, and concerns about bias in its operations. Notwithstanding these difficulties, delegates acknowledged the ICC's substantial contribution in advancing responsibility for grave international offenses, highlighting remarkable successes in prosecuting wrongdoers and offering assistance to victims and witnesses. Nevertheless, there were also apprehensions regarding partiality and constraints in the ICC's efficacy, underscoring the necessity for reforms and enhancements to bolster the Court's ability to dispense justice in an unbiased and efficient manner. Recommendations for improving the efficacy of the ICC involve tackling political interference, ensuring sufficient resources, and fostering transparency and inclusion in decision-making procedures (Chima, 2021).

Furthermore, it was highlighted that the significance of victim involvement, outreach endeavors, and collaboration with local stakeholders is essential in order to enhance transparency, foster confidence, and facilitate the International Criminal Court's interaction with affected communities. In summary, this research enhances our comprehension of the difficulties and possibilities that the ICC encounters in its mission to achieve worldwide justice and accountability. By confronting these difficulties and capitalizing on chances for enhancement, individuals with a vested interest can strive towards augmenting the ICC’s efficacy and guaranteeing that individuals who commit grave international offenses are held responsible for their deeds.

Recommendations
According to the findings and conclusions of this research, there are various proposals that may be made to improve the effectiveness and influence of the International Criminal Court (ICC) in advancing global justice and accountability:

- Promote enhanced collaboration among member states to enable the implementation of arrest warrants and the extradition of suspects to the International Criminal Court (ICC). This will aid in surpassing jurisdictional constraints and guaranteeing that individuals who commit grave international offenses are held responsible, irrespective of their whereabouts.

- Provide adequate financial resources and staff to bolster the ICC’s efforts in conducting investigations, prosecuting individuals, and providing assistance to victims. Sufficient resources are crucial for facilitating comprehensive investigations, guaranteeing equitable trials, and offering assistance to victims and witnesses inside the ICC.

- Enhance the level of openness and fairness in the International Criminal Court's decision-making procedures, encompassing the choice of cases and the designation of judges and staff. This would enhance the credibility and integrity of the ICC’s activities, fostering trust and confidence among stakeholders and the public, and ensuring its perception as a just and unbiased institution.

- Enhance the scope of outreach endeavors to increase understanding regarding the International Criminal Court's mission and operations among impacted communities, victims, and witnesses. Outreach initiatives are essential for establishing confidence, encouraging collaboration, and increasing involvement in ICC procedures.

- Improve assistance services for individuals affected by a crime or who have seen a crime, which includes providing them with legal counsel, psychological assistance, and measures to ensure their safety. Enabling victims and witnesses is crucial to ensuring their active involvement in ICC procedures and fostering responsibility for international crimes.

Future research in the fields of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and global justice can investigate various approaches to enhance our comprehension and tackle new difficulties. Below are many prospective domains for future investigation:

- Analyze the effects of developing technologies, such as artificial intelligence, blockchain, and digital forensics, on the process of investigating and prosecuting international crimes. Evaluate the extent to which new technologies can improve the effectiveness, precision, and openness of ICC proceedings while also dealing with possible ethical and privacy issues.

- Comparative studies should be done to see how well transitional justice measures like truth commissions, reparations programs, and memorialization projects work in places where the International Criminal Court (ICC) has stepped in after a conflict. Analyze the ways in which these systems contribute to the process of reconciliation, ensuring accountability, and fostering long-term peacebuilding.

- Examine the involvement of civil society organizations, non-governmental organizations, and other non-state actors in bolstering the activities of the International Criminal Court (ICC) and advancing the cause of holding individuals accountable for international crimes. Examine the effects of these factors on the involvement of victims, the effectiveness of reaching out to people, and the promotion of justice at the local, national, and global scales.

- Examine the viewpoints on gender in the context of international justice, specifically focusing on the legal action taken against gender-based crimes such as sexual violence. Also, consider the gender-related aspects of victimization and participation in these cases. Examine the methods employed by the ICC to tackle gender-based violence and guarantee the implementation of gender-sensitive strategies in its legal proceedings.

REFERENCES


