

## INFLUENCE OF DEMOGRAPHIC FACTORS ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG KWARA STATE MARRIED CIVIL SERVANTS IN ILORIN, NIGERIA

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### Abstract

*This study investigated the influence of demographic factors on Domestic Violence among Kwara State Married Civil Servants, Ilorin, Nigeria. The population of the study was 36,048 Civil Servants in Kwara State. The sample size was 384 participants using Sloving method of population size determination. Randomization and purposive sampling techniques were used to select respondents and 20 Ministries, Departments, and Agencies in Ilorin, Nigeria respectively. The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS-2), a 39 items instrument was adopted to elicit relevant information from respondents. The scale has a reliability of cronbach alpha = 0.95. Results showed a significant difference in Domestic Violence experiences among Kwara State Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria based on Age, Gender, Religion, Economic Status and Level of educational attainment. Specifically, older participants reported higher level of Domestic Violence ( $t_{cal.} = 10.25, p \text{ Value} = < 0.05$ ). Also, Male respondents reported higher level of Domestic Violence ( $15.76, P < 0.05$ ). Similarly, participants with high Economic Status reported higher level of Domestic Violence ( $t_{cal.} = 15.6, p < 0.05$ ) furthermore, participants with higher level of educational attainment also reported higher level of Domestic Violence. Significant differences were also found in the level of Domestic Violence experiences among participants based on Religion ( $p < 0.05$ ). Based on the findings, it was recommended that Policy makers and other relevant agencies of Government develop a Demographic - sensitive interventions to address Domestic Violence among Kwara State Married Civil Servants.*

**Keywords:** Demographic factors, Domestic Violence, Married Civil Servants

## **Introduction**

Domestic violence (DV) is a global phenomenon that cut across the world irrespective of culture, religion and geographical location. The harmful consequence of DV behaviour has made it a call for concern across the globe. Globally, 30% of women population has experienced one form of domestic violence or the other, while 38% of cases of murder involving women have been committed by intimate partners of the women (World Health Organization, (W. H. O.), 2024).

In Nigeria, the concept of DV is not new although there has been a significant surge in the rate of the phenomena. Report obtained from the National Bureau of Statistics (N. B. S., 2019) stated that, 30% of Nigerian women between 15 - 45 years suffered physical abuse with a huge 68% suffering emotional, economic and sexual abuses. In Kwara State, the escalation of DV is worrisome and calls for concerns of all citizens especially the government and the counselling profession. According to a study by Odebode (2022), there are a high perceived prevalence of domestic violence against men in Kwara State, with a high significant proportion of respondents reporting various forms of violence behaviour against men, ranging from verbal threats, sex starving, starving husbands of food and malicious name calling behaviour. Abdulazeez and Olokooba (2022) posited that there has been prevalence of DV among couple in the Kwara State central senatorial zone with a significant surge in violent behaviour such as pouring of acid, hot water on one another, cutting of manhood by wives, stabbing of one another and poisoning of one another through food which has in most cases resulted in severe bodily and mental harm, and death. In Ilorin, cases of DV has continued to be on the rise despite concerted effort by the government through the recent creation of the *Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) law, (2020)*, arrest and prosecution of offenders, Civil societies campaigns and orientation against DV, professional counselors and other relevant stakeholders all contributing towards the reduction of the menace (Adeboye et al., 2021).

The act of intimate partner violence among civil servants is fast becoming a trend among married government employees in Nigeria and significant efforts must be invested to eradicate or reduce it to the barest minimum. For instance, it was agreed in Abolakale (2019) and Kofoworade et al (2022) that a highly significant numbers of adults especially the married women are facing varying degrees and types of DV in Ilorin Metropolis and the state at large and this is not unconnected to the civil servants since the civil servants are part of the population of kwara state. There is a nexus between emotional stress, job performance and organizational commitment among employees (Ibrahim & Lasisi, 2023). Domestic violence in the home could be a major source of emotional stress among employees which may affect their overall job commitment and performance.

The Civil Servants in the context of this study refers to all employees of Kwara State Government who are recruited, serving, and are on payroll of Kwara State Government and deployed to serve in any of the state government's MDAs or in any other capacity other than

the Federal and Local Governments employees in Kwara State. According to data obtained as published by the punch newspaper (2024, July 01), the total number of Kwara State Government's Civil Servants stands at Thirty-six Thousand, and Fourty-eight (36,048) and they are spread across MDAs in the state. This cited figure does not include Civil Servants on the pay roll of the Local Government Service Commission in Kwara State and the Federal Civil Service Commission resident within Ilorin. It was also confirmed that about 29, 000 representing about 81% of the workforce are married with a vast majority of them residing and working within Ilorin (Kwara State Office of the Head of Service, 2024).

The population of Kwara State is estimated to be at three million, five hundred and fifty-one thousand, one hundred and seventy-three (3,551,173) with thirty three percent (33%) approximated to be one million, one hundred and seventy-three thousand, nine hundred (1,173,900) residing within the Ilorin town. Furthermore, it was revealed that 50.5% of the population totalling about 1,794, 300 are male while 49.5% representing 1,758,900 are Females. Also, 53.3% of the entire population encompasses people of age bracket of 15-64 years which represent both the civil service and marriage age (National Population Commission of Nigeria, ((N. P. C. N.), 2022) and (N. B. S., 2022). From the above information, the choice of Ilorin in the study of DV among Kwara State's Civil Servants becomes very significant since majority of the study population are working and resident in Ilorin, Nigeria. The demographic factors identified in this study are Age, Gender, Religion, Economic-status and Level of Educational Attainment of partners.

The age of married partners is a factor to be considered in dealing with DV. The younger partners especially women between the age of 18-24 may experience higher level of DV than other age bracket due to inexperience in marital issues, teenagers and young adults could also experience "dating violence" which may be a pointer to imminent domestic violence (Neves, 2020). Also, a significant age gap between spouses could result in power imbalance wherefore the older partner potentially holds more control and authority. Guibetekin and Yildirim (2024) established a commonality between the age of partners and domestic violence in Turkey. The difference in age could affect the goals and priorities of the individual partners leading to conflict of interest which can escalate into DV. The inability of individuals to manage stressful experiences through the deployment of adequate coping mechanisms can result in adverse decisions such as indulgence in drug misuse as a coping mechanism leading to irrational behaviours including battering and other forms of DV (Lasisi & Ibrahim, 2023).

Gender plays a very paramount role in DV with women the most commonly affected. The severity of the consequence of DV varies among victims ranging from minor injuries, severe injuries, emotional damage and death in chronic cases (Aina-pelemo et al., 2020). Gender roles, societal expectations, stereotypes, stigma, access to resources and control, cultural and societal norms are the major triggers of domestic violence especially in African continent (Akanle & Busari, 2018).

Religion is a significant factor that aids the perpetration and escalating of domestic violence as some religious practices can be used to justify violence especially against women. Also, community norms and societal expectations embedded in religious beliefs can influence men's attitude and behaviour towards DV (Modupe & Bolarinwa, 2018). There is no doubt that Ilorin is characterized with religiosity and the influence of religious teaching on the prevalence of DV cannot be overlooked especially among the Islam and Christian religion practitioners who formed the dominant religions practiced within Ilorin.

Economic status is a key factor that can predict the presence of domestic violence perpetration among partners. According to Ibidunni, et al (2016), women Socio-economic status can influence domestic violence. Also, Poverty and poor economic status can distort normal reasoning and degenerate into frustration and emotional imbalance leading to aggressive behaviour and or transfer of aggression on the part of one or both partners. The rank of the civil servant is the determinant of economic status in this study, since the rank has a significant relationship with the monthly salaries and other emoluments enjoyed by civil servants (Ibidunni, et al., 2016).

The educational background and level of education attainment of the partners in a marital relationship is very important and a determinant factor to the stability or otherwise of that relationship. Lower educational attainment is associated with higher risk of domestic violence, victimization and perpetration (Eloh & Bolarinwa, 2020). This implies that, expectedly, men with lower level of educational attainment are more likely to exhibit DV against their wives. The attainment of higher education is usually connected with better conflict resolution mechanisms, better communication strategies and efficient problem solving skills which can be employed in the management of predisposing factors leading to DV in a marital relation.

Despite efforts by various to address the challenges of DV in Nigeria, and particularly in kwara state, it has remained a persistent and a complex issue of concern especially among married men and women including the civil servants within Ilorin. The existing literatures suggest a significant influence of demographic factors such as Age, Gender, Religion, Economic Status and Level of Educational Attainment on DV. However, there is a significant knowledge gap regarding how these demographic factors interact and influence DV in the specific context of Kwara State's married civil servants in Ilorin, Nigeria. Therefore, this study intends to bridge that knowledge gap by investigating the influence of the demographic factors on DV among Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria.

The main objective of this study is to investigate the influence of demographic factors on DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria. Other specific purposes include investigating;

1. The influence of Age on DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria.
2. The influence of Gender on DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servant in Ilorin,

Nigeria.

3. The influence of Religion on DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria.
4. The influence of Economic Status on DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria.
5. The influence of level of Educational attainment on DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria.

**Five research hypotheses were tested at a 95% level of confidence in this study.**

1. There is no significant difference in the experiences of DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria based on age.
2. There is no significant difference in the experiences of DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria based on gender.
3. There is no significant difference in the experiences of DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria based on religion.
4. There is no significant difference in the experiences of DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria based on economic status.
5. There is no significant difference in the experiences of DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria based on educational attainment.

**Methodology**

The study adopted descriptive research designs of ex post-facts type. The population of the study includes all Kwara State's married civil servants in Ilorin, Nigeria. The actual population of Kwara state civil servants living within Ilorin could not be verified from the relevant office (office of Head of Service, Kwara State and Kwara State Bureau of Statistics). The population of workforce of Kwara State Government is thirty-six thousand and forty eight (36,048) with large portion of this number resident within Ilorin. Since the vast majority of the Civil Servants reside within the Ilorin, the study adopted the population of Kwara State Civil Servants as the study population whereas three hundred and eighty four (384) participants were selected as population sample using Slovin formula of population size determination at 95% confidence level. The geographical scope of this study is Ilorin, Nigeria. Simple Randomization technique was adopted to select Twenty Staff consisting of ten male and ten female across twenty MDAs of Kwara state within Ilorin to give equality in term of gender and geographical spread of the study. Purposive sampling technique was used to select twenty MDAs within Ilorin for this study. The Revised Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS- 2) was used to elicit relevant information from the respondents. The CTS-2, developed by Straus et al. (1996) is a standardized instrument with thirty nine items which is validly useful in the collection of relevant data for this study. The instrument has been validated by the developer and it has a reliability of Cronbach alpha of 0.95. The instrument has been used globally especially in India

and across Asia continent. The Analysis of Variance, t- test and Chi- square were used to analyze the collected data and provided answers to the tested hypotheses at 95% level of confidence.

**Results**

**H0<sub>1</sub>:** There is no significant difference in the experiences of domestic violence among Kwara State’s Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria based on age.

**Table 1:** t. test Table Showing the Result of Differences in the Experiences of Domestic Violence among Married Civil Servant in Ilorin Based on Age

Variable	Number	Mean	St. Dev.	df	t. Cal.	Sig	p
Young	228	74.4	26.77	382	10.25	0.00	**
Old	156	105.56	31.16				

\*\* (Significant at 0.05 critical region)

Table 1 shows the result obtained from testing hypothesis one. From the table, it is shown that t. calculated is 10.25, df is 382 and significance level is 0.00. Since the significant level is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there is a significant difference in the experience of domestic violence among Civil Servants in Ilorin based on age.

**H0<sub>2</sub>:** There is no significant difference in the experiences of domestic violence among Married Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis of Kwara State, Nigeria based on gender.

**Table 2:** t. Test Table Showing the Result of Differences in the Experiences of Domestic Violence among Married Civil Servant in Ilorin, Nigeria Based on Gender

Variable	Number	Mean	St. Dev.	df	t. Cal.	Sig	p
Female	196	66.72	19.24	382	15.87	0.00	**
Male	188	108.27	30.95				

\*\* (Significant at 0.05 critical region)

Table 2 shows the result obtained from testing hypothesis two. From the table, it is shown that t. calculated is 15.87, df is 382 and significance level is 0.00. Since the significant level is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there is a significant difference in the experience of domestic violence among Civil Servants in Ilorin based on gender.

**H0<sub>3</sub>:** There is no significant difference in the experiences of domestic violence among Married Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis of Kwara State, Nigeria based on religion.

**Table 3:** One-way Analysis of Variance Showing the Experience of Domestic Violence among Married Civil Servant in Ilorin, Nigeria based Religion

	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Squares	F. ratio	Sig
Between Gr.	224448.99	2	112224.50	222.16	0.00
Within Group	192460.63	381	505.15		
Total	416909.62	383			

\*\* (Significant at 0.05 critical region)

Table 3 shows the results obtained from testing hypothesis three. From the table, it is indicated that F. ratio is 222.16 and significant level is 0.00. Since the significant level is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there was a significant difference in the experience of domestic violence among married civil servants in Ilorin, Kwara State based on religion

**H0<sub>4</sub>:** There is no significant difference in the experiences of domestic violence among Married Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis of Kwara State, Nigeria based on economic status.

**Table 4:** t. Test Table Showing the Result of Differences in the Experiences of Domestic Violence among Married Civil Servant in Ilorin Based on Economic Status

Variable	Number	Mean	St. Dev.	df	t. Cal.	Sig	P
Low Eco Status	151	61.36	18.41	382	15.76	0.00	**
High Eco Status	233	103.71	29.5				

\*\* (Significant at 0.05 critical region)

Table 4 shows the result obtained from testing hypothesis four. From the table, it is shown that t. calculated is 15.76, df is 382 and significance level is 0.00. Since the significant level is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there is a significant difference in the experience of domestic violence among Civil Servants in Ilorin based on economic status.

**H0<sub>5</sub>:** There is no significant difference in the experiences of domestic violence among Married Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis of Kwara State, Nigeria based on educational qualifications.

**Table 5:** One-way Analysis of Variance Showing the Experience of Domestic Violence among Married Civil Servant in Ilorin, Kwara State based Educational Qualifications

	Sum of Square	df	Mean Square	F. ratio	Sig
Between Gr.	187854.37	4	46961.34	77.7	0.00
Within Group	229064.26	379	604.39		
Total	416909.62	383			

\*\* (Significant at 0.05 critical region)

Table 5 shows the results obtained from testing hypothesis five. From the table, it is indicated that F. ratio is 77.7, and significant level is 0.00. Since the significant level is less than 0.05, the null hypothesis is rejected. Thus, there was a significant difference in the experience of domestic violence among married civil servants in Ilorin, Kwara State based on educational qualifications

**Table 6:** Post Hoc (Ducan) tables (Religion) subset for alpha = 0.05

S/n	Variables	N	Mean	Sig	Remarks
1	Christianity	122	54.46	1.000	high
2	Islam	214	96.81	1.000	higher
3	Others	48	126.44	1.000	highest

**Table 7:** Post Hoc (Ducan) table (Level of Education) subset for alpha = 0.05

S/n	Variables	N	Means	Sig	Remarks
1	O Level	71	50.35	1.000	Lowest
2	OND/NCE	69	69.35	1.000	
3	HND	77	93.16	1.000	
4	First Degree	118	106.66		Highest
5	Second Degree & Above	49	108.49	.672	

**Discussion of Results**

The study investigated the influence of Demographic Factors on DV among Kwara State’s Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria. It was revealed from the results of the hypotheses tested that there was a significant difference in the experiences of DV among Kwara State’s Civil servants based on age (t. cal. = 10.25, df = 382, sig = 0.00), this result finds support by previous study of Makanjuola, et al. (2023) which revealed that there more prevalent of DV among older couples in Nigeria. This could be attributed to accumulations of long term stress



and pressures, power dynamics and social isolation which may characterize older marital relationships. Also, there was a significant difference in the experiences of DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servants based on gender ( $t. cal. = 15.87, df = 382, sig = 0.00$ ), from the findings, it was shown that men reported more DV experiences compared to the women. This finding was contrary to previous findings of Oseni, et al. (2022) who posited that there were more cases of DV against women in Edo State, Nigeria. This contradiction could result from men's unwillingness to publicly admit being victims of DV especially considering the fact that interview method was adopted for data collection in the study quoted above. Furthermore, results obtained from testing hypothesis three that there was a significant influence of demographic factors on DV among Kwara State's married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria based on religion (F. ratio is 222.16 and significant level is 0.00). From the post hoc (Duncan) table, it is shown that Christian married Kwara State's Civil Servants experienced lesser DV ( $n = 122, mean = 54.46$ ), the Muslim Kwara State's Married Civil Servant experienced higher DV ( $n = 214, mean = 96.81$ ) and the other Religion recording the highest experiences of DV ( $n = 48, mean = 126.44$ ). This finding is in agreement with previous study of Afolabi (2022) which revealed that there is significant influence of religion on DV among couples in Ibadan, Nigeria.

Also, the results obtained from testing hypothesis four revealed that there is a significant influence of Economic Status on DV among Kwara State's Married Civil Servants in Ilorin, Nigeria. Married Civil servants with low economic Status reported lower experiences of DV compared to couples with high economic status ( $15.76, df = 382$  and significance level is 0.00). This finding was in contrast with previous study of Umukoro and Okurame (2023) which revealed that there economic status has no influence on DV among wives in Nigerian military homes. The reason for the above submission could be attributed to the fact the Nigerian military has zero tolerance for DV especially against women and wives of her personnel. Lastly, results obtained from testing hypothesis five showed that level of educational attainment influenced DV among Kwara State's married Civil servants in Ilorin, Nigeria. Specifically, married employees with "O" reported the least experiences of DV while married employees with highest educational qualification (ph. D) reported the highest DV experiences. This finding is contrary to previous study of Oluwagbemiga, et al. (2023) which posited that there were higher DV experiences among couple with low educational qualification and lower DV experiences among couple with higher DV experiences. While it is expected that couple with higher educational qualification would possess basic and better conflict resolution mechanism which could be easily deployed in solving domestic conflict, ego problem and other academically influenced biases could negatively affect it. On the other hand, couple with less exposure to western education may choose religious teachings and principles in running their homes where by the wives are totally submissive and are unwaveringly loyal to the husbands as "heads of the house" with unquestionable authority, this may not be easily obtainable among learned couples.

## **Conclusion**

The findings of this study suggest that demographic factors play a significant role in shaping DV experiences among Kwara State Civil Servants highlighting the need for targeted interventions.

## **Recommendations**

Based on the findings, this study recommends that;

1. Policy makers and other relevant agencies of the government develop a Demographic - sensitive interventions to address DV among Kwara State Married Civil Servants.
2. Government should intensify awareness campaign programs through the engagement of professional counselors and other relevant stakeholders including reputable civil society organizations, religious and community leaders against DV in the state.
3. Government should create enabling environment for private counselling practice to assist in the management of victims of DV among kwara State Civil Servants.

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