

CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG MARRIED ADULTS IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

Fatai Ahmed LOGUN
Joyce Oluwatosin ABODUNRIN
&
Maryam Olufunmilayo ALABI

*Department of Educational Management
College of Specialized and Professional Education
Tai Solarin University of Education, Ijagun, Ogun State
Email: 20195104015@tasued.edu.ng
E-mail Address: 20195104015@tasued.edu.ng*

ABSTRACT

This research investigated the causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara State. The study used a descriptive research design. The study's target population consists of all married adults in Kwara State and a sample of 420 married adults were drawn. To collect data for the study, a questionnaire created by the researchers was validated with a reliability coefficient of 0.75. The demographic information was presented as a percentage, and the developed hypotheses were examined, using a t-test and an ANOVA at a significance level of 0.05. The result of the study disclosed causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara State, which include lack of job satisfaction, increase in unemployment rate, inability to meet daily needs and unwanted pregnancy, due to low income and inability to secure a stable job. There was no significant difference in the causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara State, based on academic attainment, gender and length of years in marriage. The study recommended that domestic violence can be reduced in the society through sensitisation, all stakeholders in the Nigerian society must commence strong campaign, and enlightenment on the effects of domestic violence on the growth and evolution of children in the family.

Keywords: Causes, domestic violence, married adults

Introduction

Domestic violence has numerous patterns, which include physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects), or hazards thereof; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or tyrannous; intimidation; stalking; unresistant/covert abuse else known as neglect; and profitable privation (Seimeniuk, Krentz, Gish & Gill, 2010). Domestic violence is not limited to egregious physical violence, it can mean endangerment, felonious compulsion, abduction, unlawful imprisonment, trespassing, importunity and stalking (National Network to End Domestic Violence, 2011).

Violence against women takes dismaying forms, from domestic abuse; rape to child marriages and female circumcision all are violations of fundamental human rights. (WHO 2008). According to Bloom (2008), domestic violence includes physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in

the family and the community.

Amnesty International (2015) reported that in Oyo and Lagos States, forty percent of womenfolk interrogated reported they had endured marital violence in their homes, in a number of instances for many years. Amnesty International (2015) found that domestic violence was not recorded in Nigeria, due to humane forbearance of domestic violence by women, and the belief that "once a woman is married, she is expected to endure whatever she finds in her matrimonial home". These reports showed overtime that marital violence in Nigeria is a dominant problem in some homes, irrespective of the culture, educational background, age, religion and economic status of the individuals.

There are different factors that can cause domestic violence in the home, community and place of work as posited by the various authors cited above. Some of these factors deep-rooted in Nigerian society are poverty, peer influence, alcohol use and drug use, urbanization, education, lack of self-control, home environment, among others. For instance, some cultural values, traditional attitude and beliefs are found to be reinforcing domestic violence. Another cultural influence is the image created by the society, which portrays a man to be viewed as being strong, educated, creative, and clever, while a woman is the opposite of all these traits (Uwameiye & Iserameiye, 2013).

The patriarchal view that men in Nigeria have a natural right to manage the family's resources is another factor that significantly contributes to gender-based violence. The way parents raise their kids, which fosters differences between male and female, is another factor that could lead to gender-based violence in the future. When a boy reaches adulthood and marries a lady from a home where housework is divided equally between male and female, it may cause emotional pressure that could result in violence, because the boy is aware that he is not expected to wash any laundry, cook, or help around the house.

While domestic violence is now a problem for many police and Municipal Departments in the United Kingdom, it is regarded as a family matter in Nigeria and does not call for government intervention. Different nations have different perspectives on what causes domestic violence issues. In the UK, social exclusion, poverty, gender bias, a criminal record, and childhood maltreatment, are just a few of the elements that contribute to domestic violence.

Domestic violence is regarded as an ethnic and historical problem in Nigeria. Its traditional way of life, dictates the particular jobs and responsibilities that children and women have. The father is the one in charge of the homestead, which means practically that he owns everything or rather; that he is the custodian of the family property, including his wives and children (NDHS, 2003). Nonetheless, elements such as gender disparity and paucity that impart to domestic violence in the United Kingdom are the same as those in Nigeria.

The victims of domestic violence suffer intellectually, physically and emotionally. These victims are incapable of making their own resolutions, express themselves or shield themselves and their wards for fear of more consequences. They are deprived of their human rights and have to constantly live with the threat of violence (WHO, 2004).

Taking into consideration the consequence of domestic violence many investigations have been done on similar issues within and beyond Nigeria.

Furthermore, erudite couples disclosed little likelihood or probability of witnessing domestic violence. There is also a surge in domestic violence among women with higher qualification than their spouses. Therefore, this study investigated causes of domestic violence among the married adults in Kwara State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

1. What are the causes of violence among married adults in Kwara State, Nigeria?

Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were generated and tested in this research:

1. There is no significant gender variation in the causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara State, Nigeria.
2. There is no significant variation in the causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara State, Nigeria based on number of years in marriage.
3. There is no significant variation in the causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara State, Nigeria, on the basis of educational qualification

Methodology

Research Design

Descriptive survey method was adopted for this research. A descriptive survey allows the researcher to get a feedback from a representative sample of the target group in order to deduce how the population as a whole feels.

Population, Sample and Sampling Procedure

The population for this study consists of all married adults in Kwara State projected estimation was 1,465,000 (National Population Commission, 2018), while the target population included married adults drawn from the three senatorial zones in Kwara State. The minimal sample size advised was 381, according to the Research Advisor's Sample Size Determination Table (2006), but the researcher increased it to 420, to cater for attrition. This sample size was calculated, using a margin of error of 5.0 percent and a confidence interval of 95%. Purposive and proportional sampling technique were adopted in selecting the sample for the study, with the view of making the research findings economical and accurate. The three (3) senatorial zones' Local Governments were chosen, using the proportionate sampling method, based on the proportion percentage of LGAs in each Zone.

Therefore, the seven (7) Local Government Areas were chosen in a proportion ratio 3:2:2 accordingly. Purposively, the researchers selected 420 married adults from places, such as religious groups/ gathering, Cooperative Society Meetings, government offices or institutions and individual homes across the ten L.G.A.

Instrumentation

A self-designed questionnaire titled "Causes of Domestic Violence Questionnaire (CDVQ) was

adopted for this study. The questionnaire is a four-point Likert-type scale, i.e. Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD). The content validity of the instrument was determined by experts and the reliability yielded a coefficient of 0.75.

Method of Data Analysis

The research's data were analyzed, using both descriptive and inferential statistics, and the developed hypotheses were tested, using the t-test and ANOVA. The 0.05 alpha level was used to test the hypotheses.

Results

Demographic Data Analyses

This segment presents the results of data gathered on the participants in percentages and frequency counts.

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Gender

Gender	Frequency	Percentage
Female	218	51.9
Male	202	48.1
Total	420	100

The Table shows that 51.9% (218) of the participants are female and 48.1% (202) of the participants are male. This shows that females participated more in this study.

Table 2: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Educational Attainment

Educational Attainment	Frequency	Percentage
None	6	1.4
Primary School	41	9.8
Secondary School	89	21.2
NCE/OND	141	33.6
1 st Degree/HND	111	26.4
Masters/ Ph.D	32	7.6
Total	420	100

Table 2 indicates that 1.4% (6) of the participants have no education, 9.8% (41) of the participants have primary school education, 21.2% (89) of the participants have secondary school education, 33.6% (141) of the participants have NCE/OND level education, 26.4% (111) of the respondents have degree/HND education and 7.6% (32) of the respondents have Master/ Ph.D education. This shows that most of the people who participated in this research had NCE/OND degrees.

Table 3: Distribution of Respondents on the basis of Years in Marriage

Years in Marriage	Frequency	Percentage
below 5 years	124	29.6
5-10 years	148	35.2
11 years and above	148	35.2
Total	420	100

Table 3 shows that 29.6% (124) of respondents have been married for less than five years, 35.2% (148) have been married for five to ten years, and 35.2% (148) have been married for eleven years or more.

Research Question: *What are the causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara State, Nigeria?*

Table 4: Mean and Rank Order on the Respondents' Expression on Causes of Domestic Violence

Items	The following are Causes of Domestic Violence among married adults:	Mean	Rank
11	difference in educational status of couple	3.21	1
5	inability to secure a stable job	3.16	2
1	lack of job satisfaction	3.11	3
8	preference for male child	3.04	4
2	increase in unemployment rate	3.02	5
18	incidence of drug abuse	3.00	6
9	incidence of forced marriage	2.95	7
4	unwanted pregnancy due to low income	2.95	7
19	sexual dissatisfaction	2.94	9
7	difference in cultural belief	2.92	10
17	disrespect for partner privacy	2.92	10
12	illiteracy on the part of either spouse	2.90	12
3	inability to meet daily needs	2.83	13
13	poor understanding of the ethics of marriage	2.81	14
14	little or no knowledge on human rights	2.80	15
20	inability to manage age difference between the couple	2.74	16
10	difference in spousal religion	2.71	17
16	poor communication among married couple	2.70	18
6	in laws interference	2.69	19
15	illiteracy on the part of both spouses	2.55	20

The average and rank order of participants' expressions are shown in Table 4 on the factors responsible for gender-based violence among married adults. Item 11 was ranked 1st with mean score of 3.21 and reveal that factors for gender-based violence are differences in educational status of couples, ranked 2nd was item 5 with mean score of 3.16 and state that a factor for gender-based violence is the inability to secure a stable job, and item 1 was ranked 3rd with a mean score of 3.11 and

state that factors for gender-based violence is lack of job satisfaction.

However, item 16 was classified 18th with average score of 2.70 and state that a factor for gender-based violence is poor communication among married couples, item 6 was ranked 19th with a mean score of 2.69 and state that a factor for gender-based violence is in-laws interference, and item 15 was classified 20th with average an score of 2.55 and state that a factor for gender-based violence is illiteracy on the part of both spouses. This indicated that since all the average scores of the items are above the middle cut-off point of 2.50, this attested to the factors responsible for gender-based violence among married adults in Kwara state.

Testing of Hypotheses

Three null hypotheses were generated and tested for this research. The hypotheses were tested using ANOVA, chi-square and t-test statistics at 0.05 level of significance.

Hypothesis One: *There is no significant gender differences in the causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara state, Nigeria.*

Table 5: Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value on the Respondents' Expression on Causes of Domestic Violence among Married Adults on the Basis of Gender

Gender	N	\bar{X}	SD	df	Cal. t-value	Crit. t-value	p-value
Female	218	58.31	7.68	418	1.12	1.96	.265
Male	202	57.48	7.65				

According to Table 5, the computed t-value of 1.12 is smaller than the crucial t-value of 1.96, and the related p-value is .265—a larger value than the 0.05 alpha level of significance. The hypothesis is consequently not rejected because the calculated t-value is lower than the crucial t-value.

Hypothesis Two: *There was no significant difference in the causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara State, Nigeria based on academic qualification*

Table 6: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the participants expression on Causes of Domestic Violence among Married Adults Based an Academic Qualification

Source	SS	df	Mean Squares	Cal. F-ratio	Crit. F-ratio	p-value
Between Groups	1557.080	5	311.416	2.11	2.21	.324
Within Groups	23101.482	414	55.801			
Total	24658.562	419				

According to Table 6, the computed F-ratio of 2.11 is lower than the crucial F-ratio of 2.21, and the related p-value of .324 is less than 0.05, which is the alpha level of significance. The null hypothesis is not rejected since the calculated F-ratio is lower than the critical F-ratio.

Hypothesis Three: *There was no significant difference in the causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara State, Nigeria, on the basis of number of years in marriage.*

Table 7: ANOVA indicating the participants expression on Causes of Domestic Violence among Married Adults Based on Length of Years in Marriage

Source	SS	df	Mean Squares	Cal. F-ratio	Crit. F-ratio	p-value
Between Groups	25.231	2	12.615			
Within Groups	24633.331	417	59.073	0.21	3.00	.808
Total	24658.562	419				

Table 7 showed that calculated F-ratio of 0.21 is less than the critical F-ratio of 3.00, with a corresponding p-value of .808, which is greater than 0.05 alpha level of significance. Since the calculated F-ratio is less than the critical F-ratio, the null hypothesis is therefore was accepted.

Discussion of Findings

Causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara State are lack of job satisfaction, increase in unemployment rate, inability to meet daily needs and unwanted pregnancy due to low income and inability to secure a stable job. The findings are in line with those of Dodd (2009), who found that victims of gender-based violence rely on the perpetrator economically, which consist of preventing the sufferer from obtaining education, getting employment, maintaining or progressing in their careers and obtaining assets.

Hypothesis One revealed that there was no significant gender difference in causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara State, Nigeria. This indicated that gender is not one of the causes of domestic violence among married adults. The finding did not corroborate Shrestha (2007), who posited that the primary cause of domestic violence is the gender-based discriminating behaviour that seriously inhibits women's ability to enjoy rights and freedom on the basis of equality with men, and that impinges on the growth and prosperity of the society, while also putting into consideration some legal and socio-cultural factors.

Hypothesis Two indicated that there was no significant difference in the causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara state, Nigeria, based on educational attainment. This connotes that academic attainment would influence causes of domestic violence among married adults. The finding corroborated Tjaden and Thoennes (2000) whose finding revealed that educational and religious backgrounds are part of the factors that make married adults experienced domestic violence in different ways.

According to hypothesis Three, the length of marriage did not significantly affect the reasons of

domestic violence among married people in Kwara State, Nigeria. Therefore, domestic violence among married people in Kwara state, Nigeria, is not influenced by the number of years a marriage has been together. The result did not corroborate the findings of Almosaed and Alazab (2015) who found significant difference among women who are married for less than 5 years and more than 10 years in gender-based violence.

Conclusion

This research examined the causes of domestic violence among married adults in Kwara State, Nigeria. Results of the study revealed that causes of domestic violence among married adults are lack of job satisfaction, increase in unemployment rate, inability to meet daily needs and unwanted pregnancy due to low income and inability to secure a stable job.

Recommendations

Based on the results of this study, it is suggested that:

1. Domestic violence can be reduced in the society by encouraging spouses to attend marriage counselling clinics.
2. Job opportunities should be provided for the growing population of the country to reduce domestic violence.
3. All collaborators in the society, starting from religious bodies, government, civil society associations, counsellors, community leaders, must commence vigorous enlightenment and awareness on the implications of domestic violence on the growth and evolution of children in the family.
4. Non-governmental organisations should start campaigns on importance of girl child education and empowering women in the society
5. Existing laws to prevent perversion of justice on domestic violence should be strengthened
6. Public enlightenment and vigorous campaign should be embarked upon on television/radio stations, national dailies on effects of domestic violence
7. Self-help and assertiveness training through support groups and non-governmental organisations should be provided.
8. Religious organisations and bodies to encourage spouses to attend parenting skills training.
9. Government should provide advocacy and legal assistance to victims of domestic violence
10. Counselling Centres should be established in each Local Government and appointment of professional counsellors to man such centres where issues and enlightenment on domestic violence can be attended to.

References

- Almosaed, N. & Alazab, S. A. (2015). Why stay? Saudi women's adaption's to violence. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, 10 (1), 146-162.
- Amnesty International (2015). The state of the world's human rights. Geneva: Switzerland. <http://www.amnestyusa.org/sites/default/files/air12-report-english.pdf>
- Dodd, L.,W. (2009). Therapeutic group work with young children and mother have Experienced domestic abuse. *Education Psychology in Practice*, 25 (1), 21-36.
- National Network to End Domestic Violence (2011). Crimes. Retrieved December 2, 2015 from http://womenslaw.org/laws_state_type.php.
- NDHS (2003). Perceptions of Nigerian women on domestic violence: Evidence from Nigeria

- Demographic and Health Survey Hierarchical Linear Models, Sage Publications. *African Journal of Reproductive health*, 1, 38-53.
- Rapp, D., Zoch, B., Khan, M. M. H., Pollman, T. & Kramer, A. (2012). *Association between gap in spousal education and domestic violence in India and Bangladesh*. bmcpublichealth.biomedcentral.com. BMC public health.
- Siemienuk, R.A.; Krentz, H.B; Gish J.A. & Gill, M.J. (2010). *Domestic violence screening: Prevalence and outcomes in a Canadian HIV population*. AIDS Patient Care and STDs.
- Tjaden, P. & Thoennes, N. (2000). *Full report of the prevalence, incidence, and consequences of violence against women*. National Institute of Justice, United States Department of Justice.
- Turshen, M. (2000). The political economy of violence against women during armed conflict in Uganda. *Social Research*, 67(3), 800-813.
- Uwameiye, B. E. & Iserameiya F. E. (2013). Gender Based Violence against Women and Its Implication on the Girl Child Education in Nigeria. *International Journal of Academic Research in Progressive Education and Development*, 2 (1), 34-38.
- World Health Organization (2004). *Preventing violence: a guide to implementing recommendations of the world report on violence and health*.
- World Health Organization. (2008). *Violence against Women*. Legislation. Geneva: WHO. P 5.