DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST FEMALE MARRIED TEACHERS AND NURSES IN IDANRE LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, ONDO STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract
This study explores the incidence causes, effects and solutions to violence against women in Ondo state. Domestic violence against women particularly intimate partners violence and sexual violence is a major public and clinical health problem and a violation of women human rights. Descriptive research of the survey type was adopted for the study. The sample consisted of150 female teachers and nurses in Idanre local government area of Ondo state selected using multistage sampling procedure. Three research questions were raised in the study. Questionnaire tagged Marital Violence (MV) was used to collect data. The data were analyzed using chi-square (X^2 = 297.228, with a P – value of 0.02<0.05). The results indicated that incidence of domestic violence was high in the study area which implied that domestic violence against women was prevalent. Additionally, the study revealed that domestic violence was more pronounced among female teachers than nurses, however, teachers and nurses have similar perception on causes of domestic violence. Location significantly influenced domestic violence on married female teachers and nurses. Thus, proper education and campaigns on human rights and gender violation could go a long way to assist those who suffer domestic violence as a result of ignorance and inability to claim their human rights respectively.

Keywords: Domestic violence, Married teachers, Nurses, Incidence, Causes, Women

Introduction

Domestic violence against women appears to be the most pervasive yet least recognized human rights abuse. Indeed, in an unspoken fashion, it seems it has been generally accepted as an "understandable behaviour", that unfortunately has been a reality since the ancient times and it appears patriarchy has lent credibility to it through continuous perpetration of male dominance. According to Pillay (2011), one-third of women in the world have experienced or will experience some terms of domestic violence in their lives while as much as 60 percent of women have experienced physical violence at least once in their lifetime. In Nigeria, high incidences of domestic violence have also been recorded (British Council, 2012). Obi and Ozumba (2007) stated that 70 percent of couples experienced abuse in their families with 92 per cent of the victims being female partners and the remaining 8 percent were male. Obviously, it seems more women are exposed to domestic violence than their male counterpart.

Domestic violence can be caused by a variety of factors. The causes of gender-based violence are many and varied depending on the types of violence. Traditional attitudes towards women around the world help perpetuate the violence. Stereotypical roles in which women are seen as subordinate to men constrain a woman's ability to exercise choices that would enable her end the abuse. If a man cannot establish his authority intellectually or economically, he would tend to do so physically.

Another cause 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 and also a source of gender-based violence in later life. Olasunkanmi (2012) opined that the attitude of women as regards their dressing and their dependability on men for living make men have the opportunity to humiliate them. It is necessary to devote attention to domestic violence against women as different from that of the opposite gender. Domestic Violence against women is a distinctively different phenomenon. While men tend to be attacked and killed by strangers or casual acquaintances, women are most at risk at home or in society with men or other family members whom they trust (Mouzos&Makkai, 2009). Violence against women at home may be grounded in power imbalances between men and women which may exhibit different causative factors and outcomes from violence against men. Gender-based violence is universal, differing only in scope from one society to the next. Much of this domestic violence is inflicted on girls and women by husbands, father or other male relatives. The home can be one of the most dangerous places for a woman to be. Therefore, there is need to analyze and examine it as a different and unique form of abuse in human society.

Right from creation, women have been regarded as the weaker sex and societies have tried to map out ways of protecting them from real or imaginary dangers. The dangers women face by are often seen as the outcome of social inequality between them and men especially in African society steeped in patriarchy. Hence, for instance, the practice whereby relations of the female will stop at nothing short of beating the hell out of a son-in-law who decides to turn his wife into a punching bag is fast disappearing. Therefore, with the progressive erosion of traditional family support systems, there now appears to be an increase in gender violence in modern society (Kaufman, 2009).

Practice of wife battery seems to be prevalent in Nigeria. It is very injurious to female health and it cuts across, socio-economic classes though it may be more prevalent among the lower classes. Some of these health consequences are domestic violence-related injuries, gynecological problems of miscarriage; Sexually Transmitted Diseases (STDs) include Human Immune Deficiency Virus (HIV), pelvic inflammatory disease, chronic pelvic pain, headaches, permanent disabilities, hemorrhage and sterility resulting from Female Genital Mutilation There is need to look at different perceptions of domestic violence against women by males, females, educated and uneducated people. Physical violence which manifests in the form of wife battery is the most visible evidence of female subordination. The point remains however that violence against women ill Nigeria seems so pervasive that even highly educated and empowered women are often victims of this type of abuse. Therefore, there are cases of such empowered women who suffered violence. Among the list is a woman with a Ph.D. in Accountancy who was appointed as a member of the Anti-Corruption Commission on July 18, 2000 by President OlusegunObasanjo but was allegedly murdered on July 23, 2004 by her husband, a gynecologist, in her home town, another victim, was also allegedly murdered by her ex-boyfriend, a former councilor in Anambra State (Okwuobi, 2002). These incidences underscore why violence against women in Nigeria should be considered a social malaise, which deserves regular empirical examination.

Perhaps one of the misconceptions of the nature of violence against women is the assumption that it is the preserve of uncivilized people and societies. In this case, it may be assumed that violence against women in societies like Nigeria may be higher in traditional and local settings than in modern and urban societies. Basically, different rates of violence against women between urban and traditional or rural areas may imply difference in causative factors and thus the need for different public policy response to the problem in the two geographical areas. Be that as it may, one can argue that Nigerian women over time have suffered political, social and economic discrimination in their male counterpart. They struggle for social, political and economic rights.

In the domestic front, some women are

battered regularly by their husbands but they hardly report these cases because in many cases, they are further humiliated by security agents under the pretence that it is a minor offence of two people fighting or that it is a "family matter". As a result it is the tendency to see violence against women as family matter that often in a bid to generate data for a proper public and policy response to the problem.

Statement of the Problem

The general belief and common belief is that the family, regardless of type (nuclear or extended) is the haven of love, security, safety and tranquility. In Nigeria, it is the primary institution through which every individual is socialized. Everyone is first considered a member of a family before being recognized as member of any group or the society in general. In this respect the family can be considered to be society's contractor whose contractor is to prepare the younger and newer members of society tor future assumption of adult roles and responsibilities boys grow up to be men 'like their fathers" girls to be women "like their mother".

However, the family is the site where apart from love and care, a lot of oppression, violence and exploitation also occur. The victims are often women. Only needs to work with or talk a battered woman, to shatter the image of the family as a "haven in a heartless world" for in reality it is "one of the least safe places for women and children". While some women are experiencing actual violence in their marital homes and in relationships (physical and psychological), others have to live with the more difficult and unpredictable threat of violence. In most cases these threats are not taken serious by both the victims and their families, the result of which is the eventual murder of some of these women by their boyfriends, husbands or in-laws. Even where the victim takes it seriously and cries out for help from relatives, friends, the police etc, she is often not believed and advised to be tolerant and patient.

Violence threatens the security of freely engaging in daily activities and free movement; thereby restricting women's ability to participate in income generating activities, depriving them of the much-needed household income and the ability to carry out their additional responsibilities of providing for the family and the security of their families, especially the young girls and the older members. It is against this backdrop that this research seeks to undertake a comparative and comprehensive examination of incidence, causes and effect of violence against women in urban and rural areas in Ondo State, Nigeria.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the prevalence, causative factors, as well as the consequences of domestic violence against women in Idanre Local Government Area of Ondo State, Nigeria. The specific objectives are to:

1. examine the prevalence of incidence of domestic violence against women in Idanre Local Government.
2. ascertain the causes of domestic violence against women in Idanre Local Government.
3. investigate the consequences of domestic violence against women in Idanre Local Government.

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised for this study:

1. What is the prevalence of incidence of domestic violence against women in Idanre Local Government?
2. What are the causes of domestic violence against women in Idanre Local Government?
3. What are the consequences of domestic violence against women in Idanre Local Government?

Research Hypotheses

1. There is no significant difference in perception of prevalence of domestic violence between married female teachers and nurses in Idanre local government area of Ondo state.
2. There is no significant difference in perceived causes of domestic violence between married female teachers and nurses
3. Rural and urban locations will not significantly influence domestic violence among married female teachers and nurses.

Methodology

The design for this study is descriptive survey research design. This design is appropriate because the study seeks to describe the prevailing situation of domestic violence against female married teachers and nurses in Idanre Local Government Area of Ondo State with the intent of making generalization about domestic violence against women. The population of this study comprised all married women (teachers and nurses) in Idanre Local Government Area. The sample size for this study was 150 respondents; 100 female teachers and 50 female nurses who were randomly selected from 10 schools (five secondary schools and five primary schools) and 5Public health centres and hospitals in Idanre Local Government Area, Ondo State. The instrument used for the study was a questionnaire developed by the researcher tagged "Marital Violence Questionnaire (MVQ)". The questionnaire is divided into two sections: Section A sought information on the bio-data of the respondents such as sex, age, religion, town, place of work among others. Section B consisted of items which were divided into 3 parts. The first part measured incidence of domestic violence,second part measured causes of domestic violence while the third part measured the perceived consequences of domestic violence against women. The MVQutilizes a four-pointLikert Scale ranging from Strongly Agreed (SA), Agreed (A), Disagreed (D), and Strongly Disagreed (SD).

The face and content validity of the instrument were ensured by giving the questionnaire to experts in social studies and tests and measurement. Their corrections and amendments were incorporated into the final draft of the instrument. Test-retest method was used to determine the reliability of the questionnaire. The questionnaire was administered twice at interval of two weeks on 20 non-participating married women at Akure South Local Government Area. The two sets of scores were correlated using Pearson Product Moment Correlation. The obtained coefficient 'r' was 0.71. This value was high and indicates that the instrument is reliable.

The data collected were analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The research questions were answered using frequency count and percentage. The hypotheses were tested at 0.05 level of significance using t-test and chi-square statistics. Out of the 150 copies of questionnaire administered, 147 copies were correctly filled and retrieved giving 98% return rate.

Results

Research Question1: What is the incidence of domestic violence against women in Ondo State?

Table 1: Incidence of Domestic Violence against Women in Ondo State

Items		Response				
		SA	A	D	SD	Total
My partner used to throw some objects at me when angry	F	80	62	4	1	147
	%	54.4	42.2	2.7	.7	100.0
It is a commonoccurrencefor my partner to shove, push and grab me roughly when there is little quarrel	F	71	71	4	1	147
	%	48.3	48.3	2.7	7	100.0
My spouse usually slaps me when there is any misunderstanding between us	F	82	59	5	1	147
	%	55.8	40.1	3.4	.7	100.0
I suffer serious beating from my partner at every little provocation	F	72	63	10	2	147
	%	49.0	42.8	6.8	1.4	100.0
I am use to a threat of gun or knife from my partner for compliance	F	69	68	6	4	147
	%	46.0	46.3	4.1	2.7	100.0
My partner forces me to engage in an unwanted sexual activity	F	86	48	10	3	147
	%	59.5	32.7	6.8	2.0	100.0
At times my partner makes me to feel unimportant in our matrimonial home	F	69	68	6	4	147
	%	46.0	46.3	4.1	2.7	100.0
My partner uses drugs or alcohol as excuse for saying hurtful things or abuse me	F	76	60	9	2	147
	%	51.7	40.8	6.1	1.4	100.0

Table 1 showed the responses on statement about the incidence of violence against women in Ondo state and it was noted that most of the respondents 96.6% affirmed the statement that their partner used to throw some objects at them when angry, 95.3% affirmed that it is a common occurrence for the partner to shove, push and grab them roughly when there is little quarrel, their spouses usually slap them when there is any misunderstanding with 95.9% affirmation while 91.9% indicated that they suffer serious beating from partners at every little provocation. This among others revealed that there are several identified incidences of violence against women in Ondo state. The average summary indicated that 92.5% of the respondents affirmed the opinions on the identified incidence of violence against women in Ondo state.

Research Question 2: What are the causes of

domestic violence against women in Idanre Local Government Area?

Table 2: Causes of Domestic Violence against Women in Idanre Local Government Area.

Items		Response				
		SA	A	D	SD	Total
Influence of alcohol and drugs	F	74	59	12	2	147
	%	50.3	40.1	8.2	1.4	100.0
Jealousy on the side of a man	F	63	65	14	5	147
	%	42.9	44.2	9.5	3.4	100.0
Attitude of women as regards their dressing and their over dependability on men for living	F	79	57	7	4	147
	%	53.7	38.8	4.8	2.7	100.0
Lack of trust, love and the masculine idea of male dominance	F	69	69	4	5	147
	%	46.9	46.9	2.7	3.4	100.0
Poverty and financial insecurity	F	90	40	9	8	147
	%	61.2	27.2	6.1	5.4	100.0

Concerning the causes of domestic violence against women, the results in Table 2 revealed that 90.4% of the respondents agreed that influence of alcohol and drugs is the cause of violence against women, 87.1% of the respondents affirmed jealousy on the side of a man as another cause while 92.5% were of the opinion that attitude of women as regards their dressing and their over dependability on men for living is one of the causes of violence against women. Also, 93.8% of the respondents supported the statement that lack of trust, love and the masculine idea of men dominance is the cause of violence against women while 88.4% affirmed that poverty and financial insecurity are causes of violence against women. In summary, it was indicated that 90.5% of the respondents confirmed and identified the causes of violence against women.

Research Question 3: What are the consequences of domestic violence against women in Idanre Local Government Area

Table 3: Consequences of Domestic Violence against Women in Idanre Local Government Area

Items		Response				
		SA	A	D	SD	Total
Sick leave from work	F	74	59	12	2	147
	%	50.3	40.1	8.2	1.4	100.0
Emotional trauma	F	63	65	14	5	147
	%	42.9	44.2	9.5	3.4	100.0
Financial support ceases from him	F	79	57	7	4	147
	%	53.7	38.8	4.8	2.7	100.0
It leads to psychological problem	F	69	69	4	5	147
	%	46.9	46.9	2.7	3.4	100.0
Reduced love and affection	F	90	40	9	8	147
	%	61.2	27.2	6.1	5.4	100.0

The result on statement relating to the effects of violence against women were revealed in the Table 3 and it was noted that most of the respondents supported the statement that sick leave from work (91.9%), emotional trauma (92.5%), financial support ceased from men (91.8%) and psychological problem (93.2%) are the effects of violence against women. Conclusively, the above observations were confirmed by 88.4% of the respondents.

Hypothesis 1: There is no significant difference in perception of prevalence of domestic violence between married female teachers and nurses in Idanre local government area of Ondo state.

Table 4: Difference between Perception of Female Teachers and Nurses on the Prevalence of Domestic Violence

Variables	X	SD	N	df	t.cal	p.value	decision
Female Teachers	43.7	6.7	100	145	4.231	0.001	rejected
Nurses	40.8	7.9	47				

P<0.05

Based on the analysis on Table 4, the tested null hypothesis is rejected. This is because the p value (0.001) was less than 0.05, signifying the hypothesis was statistically significant, thus, the conclusion is there is significant difference between the perception of married female teachers and nurses on the prevalence of domestic violence on married women in Idanre LGA of Ondo State. The prevalence of domestic violence was higher among teachers than nurses in the study area.

Hypothesis 2: There is no significant difference

in perceived causes of domestic violence between married female teachers and nurses

Table 5: Difference between Female Teachers and Nurses on the Perceived Causes of Domestic Violence on Married Women

Variables	X	SD	N	df	t.cal	p.value	decision
Female Teachers	18.7	3.3	100	145	1.191	0.211	not rejected
Nurses	17.8	2.9	47				

P>0.05

Based on the analysis on Table 5, the tested null hypothesis is not rejected. This is because the p value (0.211) is greater than 0.05, signifying the hypothesis is not statistically significant, thus, the conclusion is there is no significant difference between female teachers and nurses on the perceived causes of domestic violence on married women in Idanre LGA of Ondo State. This implies that causes of domestic violence on female teachers and nurses are similar.

Hypothesis 3: Rural and urban locations will not significantly influence domestic violence among married female teachers and nurses

Table 6: Chi Square on influence of location on domestic violence among married female teachers and nurses

Professional Location * Prevalence of domestic violence against women (PDV) Cross tabulation

		Strongly Agree	Agree	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	
Urban Teachers	Count	69	0	0	0	77
	Expected Count	36.1	25.1	.5	.5	77.0
Rural Teachers	Count	0	12	0	0	21
	Expected Count	9.9	6.9	.1	.1	21.0
Urban Nurses	Count	0	36	0	0	38
	Expected Count	17.8	12.4	.3	.3	38.0
Rural Nurses	Count	0	0	1	1	11
	Expected Count	5.2	3.6	.1	.1	11.0
Total	Count	69	48	1	1	147
	Expected Count	69.0	48.0	1.0	1.0	147.0

Chi-Square Tests

	Value	df	Asymptotic Significance (2-sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	297.228[a]	42	.000
Likelihood Ratio	262.593	42	.000
Linear-by-Linear Association	116.642	1	.000
N of Valid Cases	147		

a. 54 cells (90.0%) have expected count less than 5. The minimum expected count is .07.

The results of hypothesis 3 showed that the critical chi-square value for a given significance level (α) and degrees of freedom (df) at significance level of 0.05. Using a chi-square distribution table, it was found that the critical chi-square value with 42 degrees of freedom at α = 0.05 is the chi-square statistic for this test is $X^2 = 297.228^a$, with a p-value of 0.000 less than 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. This indicated that rural and urban locations significantly influenced domestic violence on married female teachers and nurses.

Discussion of Findings

Domestic violence has been part of many societies and cultures worldwide. It has often gone unnoticed and failed to receive the level of concern it deserves in light of the devastating effects on children and families. Research question one showed the incidence of violence against women. The findings were supported by Aihle (2009) who identified various forms of domestic violence such as physical abuse, sexual abuse and social abuse, neglect, economic abuse, emotional abuse and spiritual abuse. It was also in line with the findings of Adebayo (2003) who was of the opinion that the reasons for violence against women include disobedience to men, poverty and lack of trust, uncaring nature, power tussle, impatience and alcoholism.

Research question two showed the causes of violence against women. This is in line with Olasunkanmi (2012) who opined that the attitude of women as regards their dressing and their dependability on men for living make men have the opportunity to humiliate them, the hypothesis was confirmed. It was supported by Bitangaro (1999) who had summarized the causes of violence against women as being

deeply rooted in the way society is set up, cultural belief, power relations, economic power imbalance and the masculine idea of male dominance.

Research question three showed the effect of violence against women. The findings concurred with Vic Health (2011), who asserted that the primary prevention focuses on changing environments so that they are safer for women and changing behavior or building the knowledge and skills of individuals on the underlying causes of domestic violence such as gender inequality and poverty.

The results from hypotheses show that the p value (0.001) was less than 0.05, signifying that hypothesis 1was statistically significant, thus, there is significant difference between the perception of married female teachers and nurses on the prevalence of domestic violence against married women in Idanre LGA of Ondo State. The prevalence of domestic violence was higher among teachers than nurses in the study area. Also, the p value (0.211) is greater than 0.05, signifying that hypothesis 2 is not statistically significant, thus, there is no significant difference between female teachers and nurses on the perceived causes of domestic violence on married women in the state. This implied that causes of domestic violence on female teachers and nurses are similar. The results revealed that the critical chi-square value with 42 degrees of freedom at $\alpha = 0.05$ was the chi-square statistic for this test is $X^2 = 297.228^a$, with a p-value of 0.000 less than 0.05, the null hypothesis (H_0) is rejected. This indicated that rural and urban locations significantly influenced domestic violence on married female teachers and nurses.

Conclusion

From the findings of the study, it is concluded that the incidence of domestic violence was high in the study area which implied that domestic violence against women was prevalent. The causes of domestic violence included use of drugs and alcohol, lack of trust, jealousy, poverty and financial insecurity among others. The consequences of domestic violence are getting sick leave, emotional and psychological trauma, cessation of financial support and others. Furthermore, it is concluded that domestic violence was more prevalent among teachers than nurses, teachers and nurses have similar perceptions on causes of domestic violence, location significantly influenced domestic violence on married female teachers and nurses.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion of the study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Government should set up education campaigns on human rights and effects of gender violence in a country. The education learned should assist those who suffer because they are ignorant about support services and their human rights.
2. There should be educational curriculum that supports proper family living. Lessons on good family practice and general family life education should be emphasized in schools.
3. The government should consider training of family counselors and dispatch them to serve in the local communities even at the divisional levels. The government should also initiate self-help projects among the poor communities in order to alleviate poverty, low income in the study results in a great source of family conflicts
4. Men and women organizations and non – organizational bodies should intensify their activities in the local areas. It has been the case that the urban communities have more access to special hospitals and support services than rural communities
5. Comprehensive and extensive premarital counseling should be given to intending couples on how to manage their marital relationship.
6. There should be public enlightenment through the mass media on the negative effects of domestic violence against women, especially wife battery.

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