

PREVALENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG MARRIED WOMEN IN SABO TASHA, CHIKUN LOCAL GOVERNMENT, KADUNA STATE.

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated the prevalence of domestic violence among married women in chikun local government, Kaduna state, Nigeria. A total number of 105 women participated in the study. The demographic data was obtained by the means of a self-compiled questionnaire and the instrument used to measure the prevalence of domestic violence was the violence against women scale {VAWS,1993} and four hypotheses were tested in the study. Hypothesis one indicated that married women in sabo tasha ward chikun local government experienced high level of psychological violence by their partner [$x=17.610$, $p<.001$] when compared with cohabiting women. Hypothesis two indicated that married women in sabo tasha ward chikun local government experienced high level of physical violence by their partner [$x=26.752$, $p<.001$]. Hypothesis three indicated that married women in sabo tasha ward chikun local government experienced high level of sexual violence by their partner [$x=19.286$, $p<.001$]. Hypothesis four indicated that there was a significant prevalence of domestic violence among married women in sabo tasha ward, chikun local government [67%]. It was recommended in this study that there should be a provision of therapy for both the perpetrators and the victims of domestic violence which can better improve them and reduce domestic violence

Keywords: Chikun, Domestic violence, Kaduna, Married women, prevalence

INTRODUCTION

For many decades, domestic violence has been a global concern. Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence (IPV), refers to "any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship" (World Health Organization, 2013). This includes physical, sexual, psychological, and emotional abuse.

Domestic violence encompasses any behavior within an intimate relationship that inflicts physical, psychological or sexual harm on one or both partners (World Health Organization, 2013). This includes: Physical violence: Any act or threat of physical violence, including but not limited to, hitting, slapping, pushing, kicking, and burning (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020). Sexual violence: Any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, or other act directed against a person's sexuality using coercion (World Health Organization, 2013). Psychological violence: "Any behavior that causes emotional harm, including but not limited to, threats, intimidation, and humiliation (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020). Emotional abuse: Any behavior that undermines a person's self-worth, including but not limited to, name-calling, belittling, and constant criticism (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2020).

Domestic violence includes various forms of abuse, including wife battering, which occurs within the home and intimate relationships. Additionally, husbands battering is also a reality. These forms of abuse can manifest physically, emotionally, and sexually, highlighting the complexity and severity of domestic violence.

Domestic violence is a phenomenon that is well known in Africa and Nigeria and also the world at large. Domestic violence is defined as the physical violence, sexual violence, stalking and psychological aggression by a current or former intimate partner {CDC, 2023}.



Domestic violence is a public health concern that has been linked with long term mental health consequences that includes post-traumatic stress disorder {PTSD}, alcohol, substance abuse and suicide {WHO, 2017}. It involves the violent physical abuse that usually involves the act of striking someone repeatedly or heavily in order to cause injury. Domestic violence mostly occurs behind the doors of the family. To some people, it is a means of portraying that women are weaker vessels. It is also seen as a cultural universal {Gurmu, 2017}. It is not limited to a particular nation but rather, it happens in every nation, tribe, race and religion. In the past, most societies made it legal for a man to beat his wife and to use violence as a source of discipline on their wives {Eze, 2020}. For instance, the laws of chastisement were adopted in the English common law as represented in "The Rule of Thumb" where a husband is permitted to beat his wife using a rod, as long as it is not wider than his thumb (Meyer-Emerick, 2017). According to WHO {2021}, one-third {30%} women globally have experienced either physical or sexual violence from intimate or non-intimate partners and specifically, 27% of girls and women whose ages range from 15-49 reported being subjected to violence by intimate partners. Domestic violence against women continues to be a global epidemic that kills, tortures women physically, psychologically, sexually and economically. It is one of the most pervasive woman right violations.

Globally, an estimated 30% of women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner (World Health Organization, 2013). In the United States, approximately 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men have experienced severe physical violence by an intimate partner (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020).

Globally, 1 in 3 women or 30% of women have been subjected to physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or non-partner or both {WHO, 2018}. According to CDC {2023}, 1 in 4 women experience physical violence by their intimate partner at some point in their lives. Around 55% of women living in Asia have experienced domestic violence in their lifetime {Yoshihama, 2020}. The number of women who have experienced battering is higher among women living in low-income countries {UNODC, 2021}. 37% of women and girls living in the least developed countries have been subject to partner violence {UN Women, 2021} and 33 %-51% of women living in sub-Saharan Africa south Asia and the Pacific are exposed to battering [WHO, 2021]. According to UN women {2021}, the highest statistics of woman battering are in India 55%, Timor Leste and the People's Republic of China 38%, and Bangladesh and Fiji over 50%. In Zambia, evidence shows that 43% of women aged 15-49 years old have experienced physical violence and that 37% experienced physical violence in the 12 months preceding the 2013-2014 Zambia demographic and health survey {ZDHS} {CSO, 2014}. It is a tragedy that some cases are known when the violence results in death of a woman.

WHO [2017] report that globally, as large as 38% of killings and murders of women are perpetrated by their intimate partner who is a male. The neighboring countries of Myanmar show some variation in the prevalence of domestic violence. The prevalence compasses from 15% of Thai women who had experienced domestic violence to 49% of women who were married in Bangladesh reporting to experience domestic violence.

Domestic violence does not only happen in the U.S, but also in Africa, just like other parts of the world. Women in Africa also suffer domestic violence irrespective of their age, religion, ethnicity or tribe. In Zambia, reports indicate that 43% of women aged from 15-49 have experienced physical violence and also, that 37% of women experienced physical violence 12 months preceding the 2013-2014 Zambia demographic and health survey {CSO, 2014}. Nigeria which is also an African country also has her own share of domestic. According to the 2013 reports of the center for law enforcement education foundation {CLEEN, 2013} on the survey of domestic violence in Nigeria, 1 in every 3 respondents sorely admitted to have experienced domestic violence. The survey also found out that there was an increase in domestic violence from 21% in 2011 to 30% in 2013.

Oyediran and Isiugo-Abanihe (2020) in their study found that 44.1% of married women in Nigeria reported experiencing emotional abuse by their partner. Adebawale and Adeoye (2018) in their

study found that 35.5% of married women in Nigeria reported experiencing psychological abuse by their partner.

Chikezie, and Okoro, (2019) where they argued that 27.7% of married women in Nigeria reported experiencing physical violence by their partner. Consequently, in their work Okeke and Anya (2018) posited that 23.4% of married women in Nigeria reported experiencing physical violence by their partner.

Domestic violence is a problem both in Nigeria and in Africa. Several organizations have emerged in order to deal with the severe problem of battering and/or violence against women. Organizations like; the project alert on violence against women {in Nigeria}, Sanke Gender Justice {in South Africa}, coalition on violence against women {COVAW} {in Kenya} and so on.

Domestic violence has severe consequences for victims, including: Physical injuries: Ranging from minor bruises to life-threatening injuries (World Health Organization, 2013). Mental health problems: Including depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020). Social and economic consequences: Such as loss of employment, housing instability, and social isolation (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2020).

Preventing and addressing domestic violence requires a multifaceted approach: Primary prevention: Focuses on preventing domestic violence before it occurs, through education and awareness-raising campaigns (World Health Organization, 2013).

Secondary prevention: Aims to identify and support victims of domestic violence, through screening and referral programs (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2020) [2]. Tertiary prevention*: Focuses on providing support and services to victims of domestic violence, including counseling, shelter, and advocacy (National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, 2020) .

Worldwide, it has been reported that one in three women has experienced physical and/or sexual violence since the age of 1 years; one of five women has experienced a form of psychological violence while one in every two women has been confronted with one or more forms of sexual violence {EU, 2014}.

According to a search by W.H.O {2016} who had estimated that 35% of women worldwide have experienced some form of violence with the majority of this form of violence being domestic violence some women experience domestic violence by their husband due to several factors like; financial strain, inability to perform household duties, belonging to a lower caste and partner's use of alcohol

Violence against women is widespread (beyond the class, caste, age, gender and geographical boundaries) and thus they experience psychological and mental abuse throughout their life cycle, during infancy, childhood and/or adolescence, or during adulthood or older age (Heise, 2017).

WHO, {2017} showed that 29% of ever married women had experienced some form of physical or sexual violence from their husbands. This indicates that on the prevalence of marital rape, it should be interpreted carefully. Sexual violence is a common and severe public problem worldwide {WHO, 2017}.

Okemgbo, et al (2019) where their study reported that 22.4% of married women in Nigeria were experiencing forced sex by their partner. Antai (2017) in his study also found that 17.6% of married women in Nigeria reported experiencing sexual violence by their partner.

WHO (2013) found that 35% of women in Nigeria reported experiencing physical or sexual violence by their partner. Consequently, in another study carried out by the National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS, 2018), the survey reported that 31% of ever-married women in Nigeria experienced physical violence, while 14% experienced sexual violence.

Statement of the problem

Domestic violence poses a profound threat to the well-being and safety of individuals, particularly women, worldwide. This pervasive issue transcends geographical, cultural, and socio-economic boundaries, affecting millions of people. In Nigeria, domestic violence is rampant, with alarming

rates of physical, emotional, and sexual abuse. Despite the growing number of reported cases, many victims remain silent due to cultural reasons, fear of stigmatization, or retaliation. The underreporting of domestic violence cases perpetuates the cycle of abuse, emphasizing the need for comprehensive research and interventions. This study aims to investigate the prevalence and implications of domestic violence in Chikun Local Government, Kaduna, contributing to the intellectual discourse and informing strategies to eradicate this pervasive problem. It was hypothesized that:

1. There will be a high prevalence of domestic violence among married women in Sabon Tasha, Chikun local government, Kaduna state, Nigeria.
2. Married women in Sabon Tasha ward, Chikun local government will experience sexual violence by their partner.
3. Married women in Sabon Tasha ward, Chikun local government, will experience psychological violence by their partner
4. Married women in Sabon Tasha ward, Chikun local government will experience physical violence by their partner.

Theory of the Cycle of Violence {Walker {1984}}

The “cycle of violence”, which was first propounded by Lenore Walker (1984), became a well known explanation for domestic violence in the 1980’s. Lenore Walker, a psychologist, had discovered what she calls the cycle of violence, based on the principles of intermittent reinforcement, which outlined predictable patterns of abuse in a violent relationship (Walker, 1979, 1984). In Walker’s cycle of violence theory, she describes a repeated sequence of behavior that typified a battering relationship which appears to have three distinct phases: the honeymoon phase, the tension building phase, the explosion or acute battering phase. The three phases often vary in time and potency

In phase 1, the tension building phase, there seems to be a gradual escalation of tension , which causes increased pressure such as name calling. Here, the tension begins to rise a little but there might be still some controlled incidents of violence. The batterer expresses discontentment, unkindness and hostility but not in an extreme form. It is characterized by male anger and frustration which leads to the aggressor acting out the violence. The woman at this point, is sensitive towards the abuser’s emotional changes. She does her possible best in an attempt to calm down the batterer, doing what she thinks might please him, or at least what will not irritate him further. She may respond by walking on egg shells around him to avoid an outburst or she may begin to use techniques which had brought her success in containing the abuser’s outburst in the past. There is a feeling of “keeping on her toes,” and there can be minor incidents of battering. The victim may start to make excuses for the aggressor saying that oh, he had a bad day at work that is why. it becomes more difficult for their coping mechanism to continue working hence, the explosion or acute battering occurs, which leads to phase 2 in the cycle. Walker (1984) posits that “as the batterer and the battered woman sense the escalating tension

Phase 2: this is called the acute phase which also called the bow-up or explosion phase which is the violent and shortest point. In this phase, the batterer’s anger seems to be totally out of control and it may be stated that the aggressor did not mean or plan to harm the woman, but only to teach her a lesson, but actually the abuser intended to hurt the victim (Walker, 1979). This is the phase when the male becomes overly aggressive and more violent. The other characteristic that are seen in phase 2 is that the victim may not be able to predict or control the violence that will occur. After the tension has occurred, she may want to isolate herself to process what happened and may have feelings of anxiety and depression.

in phase 3 which is called the honeymoon stage, the cycle of violence in the relationship in which the aggressor begins to apologize to his victim or his action and asks her for forgiveness, saying that he will never hurt her gain. At this stage, everything seems peaceful and there is no cause



for alarm. Here, the aggressor may seem passionate, affectionate but may sometimes act jealous, which makes the victim feel like the aggressor is actually concerned and passionate about her and cares for her. He will go to the extent of making other promises and buying gifts for his victim in order to win her trust and affection back. Most times in the stage, the victim may tend to forgive the aggressor, move back in the apartment with him and drop the charges she may have filed against him. The aggressor still uses other means like financial and psychological abuse to ensure they maintain their sense of dominance and control. The victim may tend to be confused as to whether she should leave the relationship or stay. However, the ugly cycle is bound to continue and the tension phase starts all over again. Walker asserts that the cycle of violence causes the victim to think less of herself and this makes her feel worthless, causes confusion that reduces her chances of planning escape, preoccupies her mind with self-blame and causes her to be hopeful that they can have a happy and fulfilling relationship together. It is of paramount importance that we have knowledge of these cycle so that we can educate women about this and help them to be aware of the cycle that they go through in an abusive and violent relationship. This cycle of false hope is literally "programmed" into the victims by their abusers. Many women never find ways to prevent them from being drawn into the same destructive pattern. Hopefully, with an understanding of the cycle, they will have the courage to break the cycle and it will help them to see that even when the aggressor comes to apologize severally and promises not to do it again, it is only but a strategy for the aggressor to hurt them again.

A limitation of this theory is that it was overly generalized and did not give an account for the different and complex nature of abusive relationships, failing to understand that not all abusive relationship follows a predictable cycle. Also, it may blame the victim for staying in the relationship rather than looking at the broader and larger societal and psychological factors that contribute to the cycle of violence in an abusive relationship.

METHODS

Design:

The study adopted the cross sectional research design, which is focused on investigating and examining people who are similar in some distinct characteristics but are different on key elements of interest such as their age, income, level of education, and several others. This type of design can be used to identify the characteristics that are present in a community and it allows several characteristics {such as; locality experience, age, income, gender, etc.} to be considered. It is observational and descriptive in nature {Enukoba, 2019}

Participants: The participants consisted of 106 married women, aged of 18 years and older, who resided in Sabon Tasha ward, Chikun Local Government Area, Kaduna state. One participants withdrew from the study, resulting in a final sample size of 105.

Sample Size: The sample size of this study was 105 participants and this sample size was gotten by using the formula generated by Yamane {1967}

Using the Taro Yamane's formula:

$$n = N / (1 + N(e)^2)$$

Where:

n = desired sample size

N = population size

e = margin of error

Given:

N = 145

e = 0.05

Plugging in the values:

$$n = 145 / (1 + 145(0.05)^2)$$

$$n = 145 / (1 + 145(0.0025))$$

$$n = 145 / (1 + 0.3625)$$

$n = 145 / 1.3625$

$n \approx 106.4$

Rounding to the nearest whole number:

$n \approx 106$

Sampling Technique:

The researcher adopted a sample technique of multi stage sampling which also involved simple random sampling\where the three communities were randomly picked from the communities in Sabon Tasha ward. This is so that there is no bias in selection of participants. After that, 3 streets were also randomly picked from each community. The researcher also adopted the systematic sampling in order to pick houses at intervals which the questionnaires will be administered to, a purposive sampling was then adopted by the researcher to administer questionnaire to married women that resided in each of the selected households.

Instruments: The instrument used in this study is called the violence against women scale {VAWS,1993}. This instrument was created by WHO {1993}. it has 13 items to assess the different forms of gender based violence including psychological {four items}, physical violence {six items} and sexual violence {three items}.it comprises of questions such as; since you became married or in a relationship, has your partner ever insulted you or made you feel bad about yourself? has your partner publicly embarrassed you by hurling words of abuse, has your partner pushed kicked or punched you? The questionnaire adopts the 6-likert scale from the violence against women scale which include; agree strongly, agree somewhat, agree a little, disagree strongly, disagree somewhat, disagree a little. The VAWS instrument has been used to assess gender based violence in several countries such as Sweden, Brazil, Switzerland, Nigeria etc. in the Swiss country by Gracia-Moreno et al and Schraiber et al the cronbach alpha reported 0.79 in the psychological scale,0.80 for physical scale, 0.72 for sexual scale and 0.88 for total scale. In a Nigerian study by Gabriel Ifeoluwa et al 0.61 for psychological scale, 0.74 for physical scale, and 0.73 for the sexual scale and a total cronbach alpha value of 0.82.

Procedure:

A letter of was obtained from the department of psychology to study area. The researcher sought approval from the department of psychology, Nigerian defence academy in order to commence with the research. After that, the participants were briefed on the need of participating in the study. The researcher fully requested for the informed consent of the selected participants then the questionnaires were administered to the participants indicating to them that they have the free choice of picking answers without being coerced. 20 minutes was given for the participants to answer the questions on the questionnaire.

Data Technique and Analysis: In the method of data analysis, a coding guide was used to transfer all the questions into a coding sheet. The data was then transferred into a statistical data for social science the data gotten from the questionnaire was then be analyzed using Chi-Square and Binomial Statistical tools.

RESULTS

Descriptive Results

Table 1: Demographic Characteristics of the study Participants (N = 105)

	Frequency	Percentage %
Age Group		
18-23 years	8	7.6
24-29 years	20	19.0
30-35 years	22	21.0
36-41 years	21	20.0
42 years & above	34	32.4
Marital Status		
Married	90	87.4
Divorced	5	4.8
Widowed	8	7.8
Religion		
Christianity	96	91.4
Islam	9	8.6
Educational Level		
Secondary	27	25.7
Polytechnic	29	27.7
University	31	29.5
Others	18	17.1
Occupation		
Civil servant	48	47.1
Student	7	6.8
Artisan	12	11.8
Others	35	34.3
Ethnic Group		
Hausa	25	24.0
Igbo	8	7.8
Yoruba	12	11.5
Others	59	56.7

Table 1 presents the demographic characteristics of the study participants. Regarding age, the age group of 42 years and above constituted the largest segment a (32.4%), followed by those aged 30-35 years (21.0%). The majority of the participants were married (87.4%). Regarding religious affiliation, Christians represented a substantial majority (91.4%). Educational backgrounds were diverse, with the highest proportion being university graduates (29.5%). Almost half of the participants were employed as civil servants (47.1%). The ethnic composition was varied, with the largest representation coming from the 'Others' category (56.7%), followed by Hausa (24.0%). This demographic profile suggests a predominantly married, Christian cohort, with a wide age range and varied educational levels.

Table 2: Mean and Standard Deviation Scores of Psychological Abuse, Physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse, and Domestic violence

	Mean	Std. Deviation
Psychological abuse	12.96	4.59
Physical abuse	22.10	5.96
Sexual abuse	10.68	3.38
Domestic violence	45.73	11.63

Table 2 presents the mean and standard deviation (*SD*) for four types of abuse: psychological, physical, sexual, and domestic violence. The mean represents the average score reported by

participants for each abuse type, while the standard deviation indicates the variability of the scores around the mean. Psychological abuse had a mean score of 12.96, suggesting that on average, participants reported a moderate level of psychological abuse, with a standard deviation of 4.59 indicating a moderate spread of scores around this average.

Physical abuse had a higher mean score of 22.10, implying a relatively higher average level of physical abuse experienced by participants. The standard deviation of 5.96 points to a wider variation in individual experiences of physical abuse. And sexual abuse reported the lowest mean score of 10.68, indicating the lowest average level of abuse among the categories, with a standard deviation of 3.38, suggesting that responses were relatively closer to the mean, reflecting less variability in experiences.

Domestic violence, encompassing the above forms of abuse, had the highest mean score of 45.73, indicating that it was the most reported form of abuse among participants on average. The standard deviation of 11.63 is the highest among the categories, suggesting a wide range of experiences in domestic violence severity among participants.

In summary, while domestic violence showed the highest average score indicating its prevalence or severity, it also had the widest variability in experiences. Psychological abuse, while moderate on average, still showed a significant presence, and physical abuse was noted to have a relatively high level of occurrence and variability. Sexual abuse, while the least on average, still represents a notable concern given its nature. Each mean and standard deviation provides a statistical snapshot of the prevalence and variation of each abuse type among the study's participants.

Inferential Results

Four hypotheses were tested with the Chi-Square and Binomial Statistical tools. These results are presented below.

Hypothesis 1:

Married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government will significantly experience high level of psychological abuse by their partner

Table 3: Level of psychological abuse among married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government

Psychological abuse	Observed N	Expected N	Chi-Square χ^2	p – Value
Low	31	52.5	17.610	<.001
High	74	52.5		
Total	105			

The results of hypothesis 1 in Table 3 revealed that married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government significantly experienced high level of psychological abuse by their partner ($\chi^2 = 17.610$, $p < .001$); implying that a high number of married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government were predisposed to high level of psychological abuse by their partner. The hypothesis is supported.

Hypothesis 2:

Married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government will significantly experience high level of physical abuse by their partner

Table 4: Level of physical abuse among married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government

Physical abuse	Observed N	Expected N	χ^2	p-Value
Low	26	52.5	26.752	<.001
High	79	52.5		
Total	105			

Results of hypothesis 2 (Table 4) indicated that married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government significantly experienced high level of physical abuse by their partner ($\chi^2 = 26.752$, $p < .001$); This means that a high number of married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government were predisposed to high level of physical abuse by their partner. The hypothesis is supported.

Hypothesis 3:

Married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government will significantly experience high level of sexual abuse by their partner

Table 5: Level of sexual abuse among married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government

Sexual abuse	Observed N	Expected N	χ^2	p-Value
Low	30	52.5	19.286	<.001
High	75	52.5		
Total	105			

The results of hypothesis 3 in Table 5 indicated that married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government significantly experienced high level of sexual abuse by their partner ($\chi^2 = 19.286$, $p < .001$). This implies that a high number of married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government were predisposed to high level of sexual abuse by their partner. The hypothesis is supported.

Hypothesis 4:

There will be a significant prevalence of domestic violence among married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government

Table 6: Binomial Test for Prevalence of Domestic violence among married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government

Category	N	Observed proportion	Test proportion	p-value
High	70	.67	.50	.001
Low	35	.33		
Total	105	1.00		

The binomial test was used to test whether there is a significant prevalence of domestic violence among married women in Sabon Tasha ward Chikun local government (Table 6). A total of 70 participants had scores indicative of a prevalence of approximately 67%. In contrast, 35 participants had domestic violence score indicative of a prevalence rate of 0%. The binomial test revealed a highly significant difference ($p = .001$) between the observed proportion (35%) in participants with low experience of domestic violence and the expected proportion (50%), indicating that participants with high experience of domestic violence exhibited a significantly higher prevalence of domestic violence compared to the expected prevalence (50%). Hypothesis four is supported.

DISCUSSION

Married women in Sabo Tasha ward, Chikun local government will significantly experience high/low level of psychological violence by their partner. This study found out that married women in Sabo Tasha ward, Chikun local government significantly experienced high level of psychological abuse by their partner. This study is consistent with previous worldwide research studies where it was reported that one of five women has experienced a form of psychological violence while one in every two women has been confronted with one or more forms of sexual violence {EU, 2014}. In a similar finding Oyediran and Isiugo-Abanihe (2020) in their study found that 44.1% of married women in Nigeria reported experiencing emotional abuse by their partner. Adebowale and Adeoye (2018) in their study found that 35.5% of married women in Nigeria reported experiencing psychological abuse by their partner.

Married women in Sabo Tasha ward, Chikun local government will significantly experience high level of physical abuse by their partner. The results of this research study indicated that the married women in Sabo Tasha ward, Chikun local government experience a high level of physical violence by their partner and were also predisposed by a high level of physical violence by their partner. The results of this findings corroborates the findings of Chikezie, and Okoro, (2019) where they argued that 27.7% of married women in Nigeria reported experiencing physical violence by their partner. Consequently, in their work Okeke and Anya (2018) posited that 23.4% of married women in Nigeria reported experiencing physical violence by their partner.

Married women will significantly experience a high level of sexual abuse by their partner. This research study found out that women in sabo tasha ward, chikun local government had experienced a high level of sexual violence by their partner which indicated that the married women in this area were predisposed to sexual violence by their partners. This finding is in consonant with the work of Okemgbo, et al (2019) where their study reported that 22.4% of married women in Nigeria were experiencing forced sex by their partner. Antai (2017) in his study also found that 17.6% of married women in Nigeria reported experiencing sexual violence by their partner.

There will be a significant prevalence of domestic violence among married women in Sabo Tasha ward, Chikun local government. This study revealed that there is a significant prevalence of domestic violence among married women in Sabo Tasha Tasha ward, Chikun local government with a prevalence of approximately 67%. The results of the study also indicated that domestic violence among married women in sabo tasha ward is more prevalent among women of the age ranging from 42 years and above. Also, the prevalence of domestic violence found in this study {67%} is higher than the prevalence found in previous study like the study conducted by the World Health Organization (WHO, 2013) who found that 35% of women in Nigeria reported experiencing physical or sexual violence by their partner. Consequently, in another study carried out by the National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS, 2018), the survey reported that 31% of ever-married women in Nigeria experienced physical violence, while 14% experienced sexual violence.

Conclusion:

Based on the findings, this thesis makes significant contribution to the limited but growing body of knowledge regarding domestic violence. The study clearly shows that the widespread of domestic violence against married women in Sabo Tasha, Chikun local government is a reality. While more research is needed in this area of study, the result of this study showed that domestic violence is chronic in the lives of the participants with severe implications to their health and wellbeing domestic violence is a canker worm that has eaten deep into the society. The problem persists in the society despite the efforts of the governmental and non-governmental organizations to curb it. Considering the consequences of domestic violence on families and victims, policies should be formulated at the community and also the international level at large

Recommendations:

1. There is the need for government to reinforce existing laws regarding violence against women. This could be done through establishment of free and accessible agency for every form of violence against women.
2. There is equally the need for major institutions at the community levels including local government, Social Welfare Agency and religious institutions to organize periodic community workshops for the men. Such workshops could be used to exchange ideas with the men in order to understand the major issues affecting their homes; as well as possible measures that could aid them maintain harmony and peaceful marital relationships.
3. Some men abuse their wives in the home, not because they want to, but because of they have a psychological or cognitive dysfunction. It is necessary for such men to go through therapy by clinical/forensic psychologists which can help them become better people in life
4. In the literature review chapter of tis thesis, it was discovered that some effects of domestic violence on women is anxiety and depression. Therefore, I s essential for these women who are victims of domestic violence to undergo psychological therapy which can help their mental state, and so, preventing them from harming themselves.

Implications of findings: The Implication of this study is that it provides for the need of policies and legal reforms which can help in reducing this prevalence in the area of study.

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