

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN ON FAMILIAL RELATIONSHIPS IN NIGERIA: EVIDENCE FROM A QUALITATIVE STUDY

John Ajibola OGUNYEMI

*Department of Sociology,
University of Ibadan
Ibadan, Nigeria*

*Mail: johnaaogunyemi@gmail.com
[08033710146](tel:08033710146)*

And

*Richard ABORISADE
Department of Sociology,
Olabisi Onabanjo University
Ago-Iwoye, Ogun State
Nigeria.*

*Mail: ra.aborisade@gmail.com
[08062102341](tel:08062102341)*

ABSTRACT

Domestic violence against men has continued to affect familial relationships in the contemporary African society. While the discourse has received little attention in the academic domain, the menace persisted across households in Nigeria as stigma, shame and culture of silence affected reportage. Existing research on domestic violence predominantly centers on women as victims and men as perpetrators, the experiences of male victims have been largely marginalized. This article therefore investigates and contributes empirically to knowledge on the patterns, promoting causes and consequences of domestic violence against men by examining the perspectives of male victims and female perpetrators in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria. Frustration-Aggression theory was used to guide the study. With the use of purposive and snowballing sampling technique, 22 in-depth interviews and 13 key-informant's interviews were conducted. The responses of the interviews were content analyzed. The findings revealed the multifaceted nature of domestic violence, debunking the myth that it primarily affects women. Findings also deepens our understanding of the dynamics and impact of domestic violence on men, emphasizing the importance of addressing their physical and psychological well-being. Urgent action is needed to support male victims to report their victimizations, while service providers such as police officers, healthcare professionals, and social workers should be trained on how to identify and respond to cases of domestic violence against men.

Keywords: *Domestic Violence, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Male Victims, Female perpetrators, Ibadan Metropolis*

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence, a longstanding issue, has affected familial relationships globally, manifesting in various degrees such as physical violence, sexual abuse, and infidelity among many others across developed and developing nations. The fight against domestic violence has led to initiatives like the Domestic Violence against Women (DVAM) campaign, the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), and international agreements such as the African Protocol on Human and People's Rights. Similar to this, the United Nations Office defines domestic violence as gender-based violence, encompassing physical, psychological, and familial abuse against women within their homes (Yta, Umukoro & Ekpe, 2020). This perspective underscores the campaigns and global attention women have gathered over the years revealing only the embedded violence in men's behaviour (WHO, 2010; Aborisade, 2023; Aborisade & Adedayo, 2020). This clearly shows that concept of domestic violence carries with it gender bias.



In lieu of this, domestic violence against men has received little attention even within the academic domain with little empirical research. This clearly showed the concept of domestic violence carries with it gender bias with greater focus on women as victims and also some indication that when women engage in acts of violence towards men, it may not always be interpreted as abusive from the perspective of men (Hoare & Jansson, 2008; Hogan, 2016; Matte & Lafontaine, 2011; WHO, 2010). In lieu of this, domestic violence against men has received little attention even within the academic domain with little empirical research (Arnocky & Vaillancourt, 2014; Cook, 2009; Hines & Douglas, 2010; Perryman & Appleton, 2016; Tilbrook et al., 2010).

Studies have shown high rates of domestic violence, with a significant number of women reporting abuse by their partners, highlighting the urgent need for intervention and awareness in addressing this issue in Nigeria (UNICEF 2001; Fawole, Ajuwon, Osungbade, 2005; Aborisade 2023; Aborisade, 2022; Aborisade et al. 2019). Most investigations of domestic violence have centered on men as the perpetrators of violence; however, this is not to deny that cases of men being victims of domestic violence do not exist. It has been reported that men have their share of adverse consequences of domestic violence (Oladepo, Yusuf and Arulogun, 2011). In spite of all the studies on violence against women, documentation of violence against men is almost non-existent. This is largely due to the wide spread tolerance of such acts and lack of appropriate legal framework that protects men from domestic violence in Nigeria.

In the context of Nigeria, characterized by a deeply entrenched patriarchal system, the prevailing culture emphasizes male dominance and the subordination of women (Ishola, 2016). Men are traditionally assigned the role of decision-makers within the confines of their marital homes, while women are expected to seek permission and guidance from their husbands. Furthermore, men are entrusted with the responsibility of being the leaders and protectors of their families, both economically and physically (Aderinto, 2001). Consequently, it is exceedingly uncommon for a man to report instances of physical abuse inflicted by his spouse, as such an admission may be perceived as an acknowledgment of his inability to provide adequate strength and leadership to safeguard his family in the first place.

In a recent development, the Lagos State Government, through its Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA), has reported that 1,108 cases of domestic abuse involving men were documented over a span of six years. This revelation was made by the DSVA Executive Secretary, Titilola Vivour-Adeniyi, during the launch of the "The Hidden Crime, Violence against Men" initiative in Ikeja. The primary objective of this initiative is to empower men to share their experiences, as they are also susceptible to various forms of violence. This initiative aligns with Governor Babajide Sanwo-Olu's commitment, as articulated in his inaugural speech on May 29, to expand the THEMES Agenda by including a focus on addressing these issues (Punch, 2023). Furthermore, a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) known as the Purple Lifeline Connection has shed light on the concerning issue of abuse among men in Nigeria. According to the founder of Purple Lifeline Connection, Mima Odiegwu, more than 25 percent of men in the country experience abuse within their intimate relationships. Odiegwu emphasized the urgent need to draw national attention to the escalating prevalence of domestic violence among men (Tribune, 2022). These recent reports from both the Lagos State Government and the Purple Lifeline Connection underscore the importance of acknowledging and addressing domestic violence against men in Nigeria.

The study brought to the fore the patterns of domestic violence common to men and the factors contributing to it. By examining the patterns of domestic violence, the common forms of violence



experienced by men; were made manifest as this helps to develop effective interventions to address the issue and support male victims of domestic violence. The study also documents promoting causes of domestic violence against men and the consequences on familial relationships are significant because it provided a clear picture on the impact of domestic violence on the family. This information was used to develop policies and programs that promote healthy family relationships and support the victims of domestic violence. This article therefore investigates and contributes empirically to the gap in current knowledge on the patterns, promoting causes and consequences of domestic violence against men by examining the perspectives of male victims and female perpetrators in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria.

THEORETICAL CONSIDERATIONS

Frustration Aggression Theory helped capture the link between frustration and aggression unveiling the nexus as a promoting reason for taking into domestic violence against men.

Frustration-Aggression Theory

Frustration-Aggression Theory stated by the founder, Dollard (1939) explains the link between frustration and aggression. Whenever there is a failure to achieve a certain end goal, the perpetrator is frustrated and the frustration in turn leads to violence. The theory sees violence as a source of frustration. Frustration-aggression theory presupposes that a human tendency to exhibit violence is a result of disappointment with the social situation they encounter.

The frustration-aggression hypothesis, first out by Dollard et al. in 1939, contends that anger may result in violent action, which in certain circumstances includes domestic abuse. According to the notion, when someone's aims or ambitions are obstructed or frustrated, irritation occurs and may lead to violent conduct as a way to deal with the frustration and get the intended result (Dollard, Doob, Miller, Mowrer, & Sears, 1939). Frustration in the context of domestic abuse may come from a variety of things, including marital challenges, money concerns, or outside stresses like employment or health problems. For instance, a spouse who is angry about their present financial condition may abuse their partner physically or verbally in order to deal with the anger and ease the stress it has produced (Straus & Gelles, 1990). Although the frustration-aggression Theory may provide some insight into the reasons of domestic violence, it should be noted that there are other possible explanations. Domestic violence may start and continue for a variety of reasons, including personality qualities, mental health conditions, and drug addiction (Jacobson & Gottman, 1998; Buzawa, E. S., & Buzawa, C. G. 2003).

According to the frustration-aggression Theory, anger-related violent conduct may lead to domestic violence. This hypothesis states that when a person's objectives or ambitions are obstructed or hampered, frustration results. Aggressive action as a strategy of lowering the frustration and obtaining the desired result might result from this frustration. Domestic violence may result from a variety of factors, including marital challenges, money problems, or even external stresses like employment or health concerns. For instance, if one spouse is unable to maintain their desired quality of life due to their present financial condition, they may lash out and abuse their partner physically or verbally. It is believed that the violent conduct is a means of dealing with dissatisfaction and easing the tension that it has generated. In instances of domestic violence, the abuse might take the form of a recurring pattern, with resentment often giving way to violent action. It is crucial to remember that the frustration-aggression hypothesis is only one of many theories as to why domestic violence happens; other elements including personality characteristics, mental health conditions, and drug addiction may also be involved. Domestic violence is also never acceptable, thus it's crucial for victims to get support and assistance.

According to the theory's application, women may get motivated to harm their male partners by difficulties they encounter at work, at home, in their parental homes, and in other social contexts.



This can be an aggressiveness transfer. For instance, a northern 17-year-old girl murdered her 25-year-old fiancé after discovering he was having an affair with another woman after they had already had sex. Aggression was sparked by frustration. While some male partners may not be violent, this hypothesis will be helpful in this research to determine whether or not any intimate partners learned violence or whether or not women learn aggressiveness from their spouse or peers. Such statements as "You are not man enough," "If you know you can handle my wants, why do you marry me," "Don't you see how your mates are pleasing their wives?" and "You are nothing but a lazy and useless for nothing being" may result from a female perpetrator making excessive financial demands of her male partner, who may not be able to satisfy all of her demands. Another example is a woman who becomes irritated with her partner's regular chronic alcoholism and going out late at night. These women are far more likely to experience verbal and physical violence from their female partners. Also, a man's sexual weakness may enrage his wife, which is a certain recipe for domestic violence.

Patterns of Domestic Violence against Men

In the limited literature on domestic violence against men, it is reported to take different patterns such as using strong rhetoric to disparage a man's character and decency (Drijber et al., 2013). Another pattern of domestic violence is physical violence which comes with it, controlling intimate partners physically by shoving, pinching, choking, and hurling things that might cause physical pain and incapacity (Rohrbahg, 2006; Breiding et al., 2015; and Smith et al. 2017). According to Obarisiagbon (2017), women's justifications and denials of their partners' sex are subtle but hurtful abuses of men. The justifications have an impact on a man's mental and emotional health. Rape, sexual coercion, or unwelcome sexual contact by or toward either male or female partners is considered an act of full or attempted intimate relationship sexual assault or abuse (Smith et al., 2017). Therefore, in Nigeria, a nation where incidents of rape and various forms of sexual violence often go unreported, the statistics presented here are deeply concerning (Aborisade & Vaughan, 2014; Awosusi & Ogundana, 2015). Notably, the Nigeria Police Force reported a startling increase in rape cases, with 717 recorded cases between January and May of 2020 and a remarkable increase of reported 223 cases over the same period in 2019 (Guardian, 2020; Sahara Reporters Limited, 2020). Furthermore, Moreover, it's worth noting that female offenders frequently employ various forms of psychological aggression against their male spouses or partners. These tactics may include blackmail, deceitfully securing restraining orders, inflicting financial damage, unjustly branding the victim as the wrongdoer, making threats to take away or harm their children, and even resorting to threats of homicide or suicide (Drijber et al., 2013). This is in line with Smith et al (2017) assertion that verbal or nonverbal communication with a goal of harming or controlling the other person constitutes psychological or emotional abuse.

Promoting Causes of Domestic Violence against Men

Some women turn to domestic violence as a kind of protection from their intimate relationships. Hamby et al., (2019) revealed that women who engage in domestic violence in act of self-defense against any unwanted advances from their partners. The study further affirmed that it can be an effective strategy to protect themselves and their children, while others highlight the potential for escalation and harm. This somewhat accorded with the belief of Guse (2003) that the majority of women had encountered violence from their intimate relationships and have thus engaged in learning to protect themselves, however brutally.

Financial demands is another common cause of a woman's domestic violence against the spouse she first married (Dienye, 2009). In contrast, this includes verbal abuse from the wife, who demeans the husband for his inability to provide for the home. Many homes have become homes



of grieving as a result of men's venture into infidelity. On the other hand, being deeply in love and then murdering each other is not love; it is obsession. Coker, Smith, Mckerown and King (2000) have pointed to intoxication and staying up late as causes of women's domestic violence towards their spouses. Lastly, a woman may become angry or violent when her spouse exhibits sexual weakness, timidity, or inactivity. A dilemma will inevitably arise when a woman is sexually active and the male is not.

Consequences of Domestic Violence against Men on Familial Relationships

The consequences of domestic violence depend on the type of violence that has been inflicted. However, the most crucial one is the denial of humanity which is death and fundamental human rights. The subsequent effects lead to psychological and physical health problems to victims. The repercussions of domestic violence and victimization experienced by men encompass a range of emotional and psychological challenges, such as sadness, vulnerability, depression, a sense of helplessness, humiliation, shame, and fear (Hines, D.A, 2007; Hines, D. A., & Malley-Morrison, K. 2001). According to the UNHCR, sexual violence has far-reaching consequences, including emotional trauma, the risk of contracting Sexually Transmitted Infections (STIs) and Human Immunodeficiency Virus (HIV) when the assailant is infected, the possibility of unwanted pregnancies, and tragically, even death. Unfortunately, in Nigeria and many other African nations, discussions surrounding domestic violence against men are exceedingly rare. Consequently, violence against men remains significantly underreported, primarily due to the prevailing stereotype that men are the stronger gender and incapable of being victims.

The society we live in is patriarchal in nature, and men are expected to be stronger than women physically and considered probable to hold the dominant power at home. It is however culturally wrong and shameful to know that a man is beaten by a woman. And because of that, men in patriarchal society find it difficult to tell anyone with boldness that their spouses or partners are assaulting them. Additionally, industrialization and increased urbanization have closed the gaps in the roles played by men and women in society. Men are now more frequently the victims of domestic abuse due to the closing of the gender gap in roles (Oladepo, Yusuf and Arulogun, 2011). This closure in roles performed by both genders has made men to victims of domestic violence. What we see now is women beating their husbands, depriving their husbands of sex and even raping their husbands when their husbands are not ready to sleep with them. Some even abuse their partners (husbands) emotionally and financially. Furthermore, female perpetrators commonly use the following psychological aggression against their male spouses or partners: blackmailing, falsely obtaining restraining orders, causing financial harm wrongly labeling the victim as the perpetrator, threatening to take away or harm their children, and also threatening to commit homicide or suicide, (Drijber et al., 2013). The psychologically aggressive behavior against men and many other side effects of domestic violence against men are detrimental to the societal growth and unity, because it has great effect on the family which is the backbone of the society.

Domestic violence is hazardous for children, according to Lloyd and Brustia (2018), since the psychological and mental impacts are varied and sometimes quiet. The child's mental health will also be impacted, and it may affect how they socialize up until adulthood. The aggression might take the form of shoving, squeezing, choking, and throwing things that could cause physical pain and incapacity to intimate spouses or partners (Rohrbahg, 2006, Breiding et al., 2015; Smith et al., 2017). In line with Coker et al. (2000) physical abuse, such impacts might lead to migraines, headaches, cardiac issues, body discomfort, or chronic body pain. It is on this note that this paper empirically analyzed and examined the patterns, promoting causes and consequences of

domestic violence against men by examining the perspectives of male victims and female perpetrators in Ibadan Metropolis, Nigeria.

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted an exploratory design to examine the victims and perpetrators perspectives to interrogate the experience of male victims of domestic violence. Through this, the research showed the nature, patterns, causes and consequences of domestic violence against men in society.

The study adopted a qualitative method of data collection with 22 in-depth interviews and 13 key-informants interviews conducted to ensure the reliability of the findings.

The study was carried out in the Ibadan metropolis. Ibadan is a city located in Oyo State, the southwestern of Nigeria. Ibadan is the most populous city of Oyo State with an estimated population of 3,874,908 (World Population Review, 2023). Ibadan is a thriving urban center with a rich cultural heritage and a diverse population that includes people from different ethnic, cultural, and socio-economic backgrounds. The city boasts numerous historical landmarks and cultural institutions that provide insight into its past and present. The study was conducted within urban local governments in Ibadan, and the selection of these areas was based on a purposive sampling technique. Within urban settings, the rationale for the study is borne out of the fact that there exists a notable trend where women are increasingly engaging in domestic violence against men. This phenomenon arises from a confluence of factors, including the influence of westernization, the rapid pace of urbanization, and evolving economic statuses. The process of modernization has brought forth a shift in traditional gender roles, resulting in more androgynous roles where women are now taking on tasks and responsibilities that were traditionally associated with men. Additionally, Ibadan is home to people from different ethnic backgrounds. Each ethnic group has its cultural practices and beliefs that influence their attitudes towards gender roles, relationships, and violence. Understanding how cultural beliefs shape attitudes towards domestic violence against men in different ethnic groups in Ibadan helped in designing appropriate interventions to address domestic violence against men. The socioeconomic diversity of Ibadan is also a crucial factor in understanding domestic violence against men. Ibadan is home to people from different social classes, ranging from the wealthy to the poor. Studies have shown that domestic violence affects people from all social classes (Chan, K.L 2011; Dalton, C. et al. 2015; Olaleye, A. et al. 2015; Isiugo-Abanihe et al. 2005).

The purposive sampling technique were used to sample the target population. Victims and perpetrators of domestic violence were gotten from the criminal justice system and non-governmental organization. In addition, the snowballing method was adopted to recruit victims and perpetrators of domestic violence against men from community members.

In order to gain genuine insights into the experiences of men who have encountered domestic violence, an extensive interview guide was meticulously crafted to serve the research objectives. To achieve these objectives, 22 intimate partners who were the IDI comprised 13 male victims and 9 female perpetrators of domestic violence selected using a purposive and snowballing sampling technique. 13 Key-informants interviewees were selected for the study. The IDI for the study unravels the experiences of victims who have suffered domestic violence from the female perpetrators, while the KII provide us with expert views of Police officials, Legal practitioners and NGO officials because they are the point of contacts of abused men and were able to provide us



sufficient data regarding the pattern, causes and effect of domestic violence against men over the time. For this research, the interview was analyzed in line with the question and answer given by the respondent. The method of data analysis made use of transcriptions and content analysis. The content analysis was used in analyzing the data obtained from the interviews. This analytical technique is done in stages which involve five steps; the first stage is to transcribe, the second step is to check the transcript and edit the transcript, the third step is to analyze, the fourth step is to interpret the result, and the last step is verification (Karlsson, ND; Sarantakos, 1998). The tape-recorded interview will be transferred onto a paper by the researcher, and read it to have a clue of what the data is about.

DATA AND FINDINGS

Patterns of Domestic Violence against Men, Ibadan Metropolis

This first objective was to identify and examine the possible patterns of domestic violence against men. Below are the in-depth interviews from participants who also provided insight into the patterns of violence experienced by men and their knowledge on domestic violence in Ibadan Metropolis. The majority of the participants agreed that domestic violence takes many various forms, such as financial abuse, physical abuse, emotional/psychological abuse, adultery, etc., when patterns of domestic violence against males are taken into account. This is in line with the World Health Organization's (2014) assertion that stalking, physical abuse, sexual assault, and psychological abuse are all forms of domestic violence that may impact people of all genders. The majority of participants in the study stated that men are exposed to various types of domestic abuse.

Men exposed to physical abuse/Torture by their Female Partners

Participants in this research describe physical violence as holding the guy by his clothing, striking him with items, ripping off his clothes, or intentionally giving their partners food sickness to hurt them. The main problem, according to a participant, is poor financial upkeep that led to physical combat against the husband. As a result, anytime the man wanted to go to work, she would lock his collar and demand more payment. This view was stated by a participant that:

“Unlike the man, who is thin, the woman is enormous and towering. Hence, if her spouse doesn't meet her expectations, the lady will physically abuse him. The man brought cuts that the woman had caused as well as several clothes that she had ripped on different days when he came to us to report the event. After she locks his collar, their battle causes his garments to rip, and he attempts to beat her, she overpowers him, according to his wife, who denied inflicting the marks intentionally. (NGO 1/Panelist/KII/2023).

Participants who had suffered the same fate of physical assault and not have that financial capacity revealed that they were often pressed down beyond measure as though they will be killed by their wives and they oftentimes would sleep outside the home or come later in the night when their wives are asleep because of the weird tension in their home. One of the participants revealed that:

My ex-wife rips my clothes, hits me, and most of the time locks me in a room. She complains that I don't give her enough money to eat, and she is aware that I always give her extra when I have it. Sometimes I put 1000 naira or more on the table for her food, but when I'm broke, if I put 500 naira on the table for her, I'm in trouble since she's not likely to take it with her. (Victim 1/40 years/Agbowo/IDI/2023).



In the same vein, a participant shed more light to what really surfaced on the reason for physical violence that she didn't really aim to beat the husband, but an act of self-defense, that the husband always made such an attempt to beat up but she would then always end up overcoming him. The participant revealed that:

I never intend to beat my husband, but when he refuses to do his duties as a husband, I lock him up and won't let him go for work until he appeases me. But, he always attempts to fight back to free himself from my control, so he is the one who challenges me and I will win. (Perpetrator 1/30years/ Olodo/IDI/2023).

The results of the research showed that men's lack of finances often leads to physical violence and adultery committed by women. This is in line with Njuguna's (2014) assertion that domestic violence against men is caused by a man's incapacity to support his family, which in turn causes a woman to unleash her inner beast due to her partner's negligence. According to the research, women's levels of unhappiness are so high that they are unable to support their husbands through difficult times without putting pressure on them. This is consistent with Gbeneol (2009), who described the example of a 51-year-old Nigerian businessman who often quarreled with his wife over her unreasonable demands for money and who eventually suffered injuries in a fight.

Verbal abuse against Men is Common

Verbal abuse takes the form of using excessive language to cast aspersion on a man's integrity and dignity. Findings revealed that verbal abuse comes through words which in turn further leads the male victims into a second victimization. A participant revealed that the man didn't just suffer verbal abuse but alongside spiritual abuse. Opined that:

"The Man was going through financial crises at a point with a huge debt as a bank manager, one day the housemaid told the man to search his wife's wardrobe and as the man did, he discovered charms. He confronted the wife and instead of her to explain she started shouting on the husband and hauling insults on him. When they were at our office then she referred to him each time as idiot. The woman maltreated the husband which made the husband depressed and unable to do anything..." (Police/State-CID/Gender Officer 2/KII/2023).

A participant had this to say:

I don't have an answer about any charm. He is a useless man to come here to report me. I have been the one spoon-feeding him (Perpetrator/37years/IDI/2023)

In the same vein, findings revealed that a woman spoke badly against her spouse which led to a serious fight and eventually led to the death of the husband. This was affirmed by a participant that:

"...At some point she complained of monetary issues and in retaliation of the husband to respond this would then lead to a physical tussle between partners. They will both pick up anything seen around to fight and at the end which led to the husband's death using a TV decoder to hit him (Division/Oluyole/Investigating Officer/IDI/2023).

Emotional/Psychological Violence against Men

The study revealed that emotional and psychological abuse towards men are a common reality that involves weakening or undermining the self-worth of a man as a result of persistent insult, instigating contention amongst the children against their Father, criticism, malice, manipulation and humiliation. These findings expounded more on the view of Smith et al., (2017) which concluded that psychological or emotional abuse is defined as verbal or non-verbal communication with the intent to hurt or control the other person. Another way women express



domestic violence against their spouse is to withhold intimate partners from accessing their children whom they can't easily reach due to separation. A Participant revealed that:

I know of a woman whose husband is a teacher. They were married for more than 60 years before the husband died. The man bore the abuse till he died. A few years before the man died the children realized that it was their mum that poisoned their minds against their father. Whenever the man gives the wife money to get things for the children the wife will do as if she got it for them with only her money. They didn't know the man was really struggling to make ends meet, it was after the man died the wife discovered the man had been paying NEPA bill monthly without telling them. (Division/Oluyole/Investigating Officer/IDI/2023).

A Participant further noted that:

"I removed the kids from my spouse and left his home after my pastor warned me that he was a horrible guy who was opposed to my breakthrough and that continuing with him would ruin my glory. (Perpetrator 5/40 years/Challenge/IDI/2023)."

Similarly, a participant noted that:

My wife wouldn't allow me see my kids, she has infested negativity about me to them. No access to them, because I want to take custody of my children because she has taken them away with herself from me, full-grown children. She wouldn't let me see them again (Victim/45 years/Challenge/IDI/2023).

According to the study, emotional/psychological abuse encompasses constant insults that erode or undermine self-worth, inciting conflict between the children and their father, criticism, malice, manipulation, and humiliation. This research expanded on the opinion of Smith et al. (2017), who came to the conclusion that verbal or nonverbal communication with the aim of harming or controlling the other person qualifies as psychological or emotional abuse. Some mothers cause neglect by turning their kids against their fathers.

Infidelity against Men was a common abuse

Findings from the study revealed that the threat of growing infidelity threatens the stability of the family. Having an extramarital affair with someone other than one's close partner is what this is.

A participant affirmed that;

...we began living together even though we were not formally married because I had caused her to conceive and give birth to a kid. I witnessed her conduct infidelity against me prior to our split. She has covetousness; she turned down an invitation to spend the day with me on a Sunday; my younger brother has been accusing her of adultery. (Victim/39years/ND/Agbowo/IDI/2023).

Similarly, a participant revealed that she has a long history of infidelity:

"Throughout our union, she has a past of introducing men to our bed. I wanted to capture her myself until I did, even though my neighbors have been telling me everything she has been up to. (Victim/35years/Amonoko/SSCE/Motorcyclist/IDI/2023)."

Findings revealed that infidelity was engaged in order to make ends meet for the home since the husband is no man at all to provide satisfactorily for the home. A participant revealed that:

"I've informed him repeatedly that the funds he provides are inadequate. He would not listen, so he could not stop me from using my body to generate income or even ask me to repent. (Perpetrator/29years/Amonoko/B.Sc/Teacher/2023)."

A Participant revealed that:

"This woman wasn't remorse at all when we asked about what really happened between her and her husband. The husband caught her on their matrimonial bed

and came to report to us. When we questioned her, she said he wouldn't satisfy the home financially and she was not even ready to beg him (NGO 3/Panelist/KII/2023)."

Study findings revealed that infidelity was common among men. Incidences show that it was a source of livelihood by women who felt they were not well financially taken care of. However, there is no consensus on whether men are more likely to engage in infidelity than women, infidelity rates are relatively similar among both genders (Mark, Janssen, and Milhausen, 2011; Adeyemo et al, 2013).

Sexual Violence against Men was Common

Studies revealed that sexual deprivation is experiencing rejection from sexual advances. A participant revealed that:

"The woman will ignore the husband and be chatting with a man around 9 O'clock in the night till 2am. The husband will be begging her for sex but she will refuse (NGO 1/Panelist/KII/2023)."

Findings revealed that a man was deprived of sex by his wife on the basis of the consequences involved in his culture knowing his culture forbids intimate partners from having sexual intercourse together involved in an extra-marital affair, otherwise either of the intimate partners would die. A participant had this to say:

I didn't intentionally act badly toward my spouse by forbidding him from having sex. As an Igbo man he is, he was raised to believe that if a wife had an extramarital affair outside of the home and slept with her husband, he would die. Prior to that, I was constantly communicating with this estranged man on social media. I didn't even have time to cook for or have sex with my husband..." (Perpetrator/33 years/Mokola/Trader/2023).

In line with sexual deprivation, a woman rejected her husband's sexual advances because there lies a death involvement according to the culture of the husband a wife gets involved in infidelity and this was unknown to the husband. A Participant affirmed that:

She accepted my invitation, but she didn't show up until three months later, quite early in the morning. She then revealed to me that she was now dating a guy. Since a lady wouldn't behave that way unless she was with someone else, I informed her that I knew. She said that the guy had amassed all of her possessions. She said that because of her husband's culture.

The participant further noted that:

She was able to talk to him about her inappropriate behavior while she was seeing someone else. He is of Igbo descent she resisted the husband's overtures because she knew that if an Igbo woman had an affair with another guy and her husband found out, the other man would die.

The participant elucidated further:

She had to leave the home and leave her husband in order to avoid having a traditional ceremony performed on her to cure the curse, which would have drawn attention. She arrived now to complain about the second guy who had amassed all she had. (NGO 1/Panelist/KII/2023).

According to study findings, being denied sexual approaches is a kind of sexual deprivation. Women's justifications and denials of their partners' sex are subtle but hurtful abuses of males (Obarisiagbon, 2017). While women restrict their spouses' access to sexual intimacy, one may argue that this kind of abuse is the most difficult to expose. A guy may be denied sex based on a

cultural aspect, according to a study that the offender added to the literature. According to a study, women are more assertive and would defy a man's wishes if she depended on her intimate partner for money.

Economic Dependence Fuels Domestic Violence Against Men

Study revealed that women who are economically independent have a high chance of being dominant and will likely override their spouse's will. A Participant revealed that:

The woman would exploit her status as the home's owner, a paramilitary, and the family's primary provider to exert dominance over the guy, a banker. She would tell the guy to sleep outdoors if he came home late so that he wouldn't disturb her in her own home. On occasion, the wife's still-owned car that she purchased for the husband is where the husband sleeps.

The participant buttressed further:

"On occasion, the wife might travel with the home key, forcing the husband to stay at a friend's house or motel. (NGO 5/Panelist/KII/2023)."

A lieu of the above assertion. A Participant revealed that:

She would imprison me outdoors. There was a day when she sent me from her house, where we finally resided after being married and having a kid, and she came to my workplace to humiliate me, insult me, and to pick up the automobile she had purchased for me.

The participant further noted

I left all of my possessions in the boot of my car after she sends me out to park, but when she comes to retrieve the key, she brings those clothing and pours them down to me at the bank where I work. (Victim/40years/Olodo/Banker/IDI/2023).

Findings revealed that women who are economically independent have a high chance of being dominant and will likely override their spouse's will. This is consistent with Amoo et al. (2018) found that economic dependence was a significant predictor of domestic violence against men in Nigeria. The study surveyed 303 men in Ogun State, Nigeria, and found that 53.8% reported experiencing domestic violence.

Promoting Causes of Domestic Violence against Men

This second objective was to determine the possible promoting causes of domestic violence against men. Below are the in-depth interviews of the participants.

Infidelity as a cause of Domestic Violence

Study also revealed that infidelity was a factor responsible for domestic violence. A participant affirmed that her husband engages in infidelity with their neighbours without feeling remorse about it, with the years spent together and with grown-up children and worse of it, why she was violent was because of all ladies out there, it was the wife of their neighbor her husband was having affair with. The study by Hertlein, K. M., & Blumer, M. L. (2013) affirmed that infidelity can have negative effects on the relationship. She further elaborated that:

My husband was involved in an extra-marital affairs. If he wants to take another wife he should have done that outside and not within their vicinity not to even talk of their neighbor. You know it is not easy as a woman, all their years together he didn't think of remarrying or cheating it was when our children were grown-ups he thought of it.

The participant further buttressed that:

“What was the reason it had to be the wife of their neighbor when there are many ladies out there? Yet he won’t stop visiting that woman, why won’t I be hostile and abusive to him? (Perpetrator/50/Boluaje/Trader/IDI/2023)”.

Ego from Perpetrator Ignites Domestic Violence against Men

Findings revealed that the stubbornness of women is a factor that often provokes men till he will also physically assault their wives due to their inability to provide the family. This is consistent with Njuguna (2014), Drijber et al., (2012); Simonelli and Ingram, (1998) Domestic violence against men is provoked by the inability to provide for their families, infidelity, and drunkenness which in turn brings out the beast in a woman as a result of their spouse’s irresponsibility. Findings revealed further that the female perpetrator exercises authority over the spouse being the breadwinner of the home. This was disclosed by a participant that:

My wife is the owner of the house and would use that to exercise authority on me whenever I come home late and that’s due to work schedule. She would ask me to sleep outside that I am disturbing her in her own house. Sometimes is in the vehicle I will end up sleeping. At times when I come back from work, I will find out she has locked the door and would travel with the house key.

The participant further noted:

This will make me sleep at my friend’s place or sometimes I lodge hotel. She would say all sort of things to me her husband because she was the breadwinner of the home. When I came here to report, she then told them here that it was because my own family were ungrateful at what she does and for the care she’s given to me. (Victim/40years/B.Sc/Olodo/Banker/IDI/2023).

Findings revealed that ego fuels domestic violence against and female perpetrator exercises authority over the spouse being the breadwinner and the owner of the house and can decide when their husband would come back from work, and if he gets home late he would be locked from coming in. men. This is in tandem with Smith et al., (2017), who also added that stubbornness or bad reaction from the wife will first manifest in verbal or non-verbal communication with the intent to hurt or control the other person leading to psychological abuse.

Lack of Contentment, Family Involvement and Lack of supportiveness stirs Domestic Violence

Findings revealed that marrying a woman who lacks contentment is a factor responsible for domestic violence. A Participant affirmed that:

Some men get married to expensive women who like going out, buying clothes and likes money. Later they might not be able to keep up with their lifestyle. This will make these women to look outside the marriage for someone who can spend on them. This man was retired and the wife saw that he couldn't take care of her so she cheated on him and even brought the lover home. (NGO 5/Panelist/KII/2023).

Findings revealed that family involvement and lack of appreciativeness in intimate partners’ marital affairs was a factor responsible for domestic violence. A participant responded to the allegation that:

My husband wasn't appreciative enough despite all I do for him and his family, yet, his family treats her badly which makes her cry many times. All I was doing was what would give me peace. And it is because they had access to her house that they could come to her house and heap curses on me that I was

behind is success.
(Perpetrator/35years/B.Sc/Olodo/Paramilitary/IDI/2023).

The participant further buttressed that:

The man arrived here wearing several outfits that the lady had torn on various occasions, along with the wounds that she had left behind. The economic component is the main problem. The lady is not unemployed; rather, she thought that the male should support his family. Because she was working as well, this woman exemplified the traits of some women who are not supportive. (NGO 5/Panelist/KII/2023).

Findings from the study revealed that lack of economic support and managements by male victims is a factor responsible for domestic violence. This corroborates with the study of Aborisade (2023), affirmed that, Post-marital experiences of violence were described as being triggered by financial misfortune (suffered by the husband), job loss, prolonged unpaid salaries, business decline and childlessness. Similar to this, Dienye (2009) who affirmed that reason why a woman would become domestically violent towards the husband of her youth is due to financial demand.

Consequences of Domestic Violence against Men and Familial Relationships in Ibadan Metropolis

This third objective examined the possible consequences of domestic violence against men and familial relationships.

The study revealed that not just male victims of domestic violence have been subjected to varied consequences of domestic violence like depression, and high blood pressure due to psychological violence or physical abuse which has resorted to scar and disaffection or disunity in the home likewise infidelity due to lack of financial satisfaction. Findings also revealed that majority of the participants affirmed that Children are at the receiving end of domestic violence. One of the participant affirmed that:

The children are at the receiving end of domestic violence. It affects the woman and the man emotionally, psychologically and mentally but mostly the woman because it will fall back on the woman after she caused an issue. (Police/State-CID/Gender Officer 1/KII/2023).

A Participant affirmed that:

It is the children between the couple that will suffer most from issues between couples, emotionally, financially etc. (NGO 2/Panelist/KII/2023).

It has a lot of negative impacts on the wife, husband or children; any of them can be depressed or as a result of issues happening between the husband and wife. A Participant opined that:

It has a lot of negative impact on the wife, husband or children; any of them can be depressed or as a result of issues happening between the husband and wife. Withdrawal from society, from social activities, loss of concentration in school and work, frustration. (NGO 1/Panelist/KII/2023).

It causes disunity and unhappiness in the home. A participant affirmed that:

Disunity in the family, unhappiness; the family will not be happy when all they receive is the news of their fight. (NGO 5/Panelist/KII/2023).

Findings revealed that male victims of domestic violence have been subjected to varied consequences of domestic violence like depression, and high blood pressure due to psychological violence or physical abuse which has resorted to scar and disaffection or disunity in the home likewise infidelity due to lack of financial satisfaction. This in line with Quinn (1997), physical abuse is seen as a malicious infliction of mental and emotional suffering on a man. It also includes



manipulating the man by making him feel guilty or using emotional blackmail, not just having him quiet treatment or harboring grudges. This is also consistent with Smith et al (2017) assertion that verbal or nonverbal communication with the goal of harming or control the other person constitutes psychological or emotional abuse.

The majority of participants said that domestic violence mostly impacts children, according to the findings. Similar to this, Daily Mail (2013), Theresa Rafael pleaded to manslaughter and got a 2-year sentence in 2013, after Belfast Crown Court learned that her husband had been drinking and had left their 3-year-old child, who was meant to be in his care. The majority of participants, in the opinion of community leaders and non-governmental groups, agreed that society, family, and friends had a substantial effect on the cases reported to and handled by the criminal justice system. Some blame the victim or victim's family for their persistence in giving advice, while others say it's because they're afraid of seeming foolish. Findings supported the idea that they would be required to notify the criminal justice system, which is why they are familiar with and don't report. Cook (2009)'s assertion that the judicial system had made things seem worse is consistent with this. Cook (2009) is based on the hypothesis that stigmatization and guilt become the victims' distinguishing traits in situations of domestic violence against men.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The first objective of this article reveal the patterns of domestic violence experienced by men. Domestic violence takes the following patterns; financial violence, physical violence, psychological violence, sexual deprivation, and Infidelity. The study revealed that physical aggression directed towards men encompasses actions such as restraining them by their clothing, using objects to inflict harm, tearing their garments, and tampering with their meals. This is found to align with the studies of Rohrbahg, 2006; Breiding et al., 2015; and Smith et al. 2017. Findings revealed that women who engage in verbal abuse do it to impact negatively on the emotions of men, which often leads to physical violence since the victim is compelled to retaliate, and as a result, some men end up with bruises. This aligns with the research conducted by Melinda and Jeanne in (2021). According to their study, an abusive partner employs psychological or emotional abuse as a means to leverage threats of violence or other consequences if you do not comply with their demands.

Findings from the study revealed that emotional and psychological abuse towards men is a common reality which involves weakening or undermining self-worth as a result of persistent insult, instigating contention amongst the children against their father, criticism, malice, manipulation and humiliation. The finding expounded more on the view of Smith et al., (2017) who concluded that psychological or emotional abuse is defined as verbal or non-verbal communication with the intent to hurt or control the other person. Further findings revealed that one of the ways women express domestic violence by denying their partner access to their children when they are separated (Melinda and Jeanne, 2021).

Findings from the study reveal that impatience amongst women in a financial struggling home triggers domestic violence. Findings revealed that women lack endurance and contentment to bear with their partners in hard times, but rather increasing pressure instead. This, corroborates the findings of Adams et al. (2008), according to them, economic abuse takes various forms, including providing an insufficient allowance, limiting or denying access to household finances, and withholding financial information or preventing access to bank accounts. The study's results indicate that when men face financial insecurity, it can sometimes lead to instances of physical violence and infidelity in women. This is in line with Njuguna's (2014) assertion that domestic violence against men is caused by a man's incapacity to support his family, which in turn causes a woman to unleash her inner beast due to her partner's negligence. In a similar vein, Janet et al.



(2016) argued that instances of men experiencing domestic violence at the hands of women can be attributed to a variety of factors. These factors include inadequate financial support, lack of participation in household responsibilities, infidelity, jealousy, suspicion, alcohol consumption, dependency due to limited or no income, and engaging in nighttime activities.

Also, findings from the study reveal that the threat of growing infidelity threatens the stability of the family. Having an extramarital affair with someone other than one's close partner is what this is. Similar to this, Vanguard Nigeria (2021) revealed that a husband's infidelity might unleash the beast in a woman, as it was confirmed that Hadiza Musa and Ms. Sa'idu killed their spouses in response to calls from unidentified female callers. Findings revealed that infidelity was a common accusation of sampled men against their wives. They narrated that it was a source of livelihood by women who felt they were not well financially taken care of their husbands. Furthermore, women who were not given adequate attention and intimacy sought for companionship outside their marital homes. This is in line with the studies of Mark, Janssen, and Milhausen, (2011); Adeyemo et. al, (2013) concerning the myth that men are agent of infidelity but that women engaged in infidelity as much as men does too. The study also uncovered that men experience sexual denial as a form of domestic abuse. Findings described sexual denial as an act performed or attempted by the perpetrator without the freely given and explicit permission (consent) of the victim. Women's subtle justifications and refusals of their partners' sexual advances inflict emotional harm on men (Obarisiagbon, 2017). Findings revealed that women who are economically independent were being dominant and override their spouse's will. This is consistent with Amoo et al. (2018) found that economic dependence was a significant predictor of domestic violence against men in Nigeria.

The second objective of the article examine the cause of domestic violence against men. In other words, reactionary actions by female perpetrators must be transpired by a cause. Findings revealed that infidelity was engaged in order to make ends meet for the home since the husband is no man at all to provide satisfactorily for the home. The study further revealed that ego by men continuously engaging in infidelity was the reason for continuous violence by perpetrators. Study revealed that women engaged in act of self-defense. Guse (2003) stated that the majority of women had encountered violence from their intimate relationships and have thus engaged in learning to protect themselves, however brutally. Findings revealed that ego fuels domestic violence against and also female perpetrator exercises authority over the men if they are the breadwinner and the owner of the house and can decide when their husbands would come back from work, and if he gets home late and are highly physically violent.

The study further noted that family involvement and lack of appreciativeness in intimate partners' marital affairs was a factor responsible for domestic violence against men by female perpetrators. This is in line with the theoretical position of the study, the frustration-aggression theory. The theory stated by the founder, Dollard (1939) explains the link between frustration and aggression. Whenever there is a failure to achieve certain end goal, the perpetrator is frustrated and the frustration in turn leads to violence. The theory sees violence as a source of frustration. Frustration-aggression theory presupposes that a human tendency to exhibit violence is a result of disappointment with the social situation they encounter. Findings from the study revealed that lack of economic support and managements by male victims is a factor responsible for domestic violence. This corroborates with the study of Aborisade (2023), affirmed that, Post-marital experiences of violence were described as being triggered by financial misfortune (suffered by the husband), job loss, prolonged unpaid salaries, business decline and childlessness. Similar to this, Dienye (2009) who affirmed that reason why a woman would become domestically violent towards the husband of her youth is due to financial demand. This is in line with (Dienye; Gbeneol 2009). They affirmed that the reason why a woman would become domestically violent towards the husband of her youth is due to financial demand. Their studies also revealed that excessive



financial demands due to a lack of contentment from female perpetrators lead to violence against men.

The third objective of the article examine the consequences of domestic violence against men. The study revealed that not just male victims of domestic violence have been subjected to varied consequences of domestic violence like depression, and high blood pressure due to psychological violence or physical abuse which has resorted to scar and disaffection or disunity in the home likewise infidelity due to lack of financial satisfaction. This in line with Quinn (1997), physical abuse is seen as a malicious infliction of mental and emotional suffering on a man. It also includes manipulating the man by making him feel guilty or using emotional blackmail, not just giving him quiet treatment or harboring grudges. This is also consistent with the assertion of Smith et al (2017) that verbal or nonverbal communication with the goal of harming and controlling the other person constitutes psychological or emotional abuse.

Findings also reveal that the majority of the participants affirmed that children are often at the receiving end of domestic violence. Similar to this, Daily Mail (2013), Theresa Rafael pleaded to manslaughter and got a 2-year sentence in 2013, after Belfast Crown Court learned that her husband had been drinking and had left their 3-year-old child, who was meant to be in his care. The majority of participants, in the opinion of community leaders and non-governmental groups, agreed that society, family, and friends had a substantial effect on the cases reported to and handled by the criminal justice system. Some blame the victim or victim's family for their persistence on giving advice, while others say it's because they're afraid of seeming foolish. Findings supported the idea that they would be required to notify the criminal justice system, which is why they are familiar with and don't report. Cook (2009)'s assertion that the judicial system had made things seem worse is consistent with this. Cook (2009) is based on the hypothesis that stigmatization and guilt become the victims' distinguishing traits in situations of domestic violence against men.

The study further noted that domestic violence has a lot of consequences on familial relationships on the wife, husband or children and that any of them can be depressed or as a result of issues happening between the husband and wife. This is in line with Lloyd and Brustia (2018) that domestic violence is hazardous for children, since the psychological and mental impacts are varied and sometimes quiet. The child's mental health will also be impacted, and it may affect how they socialize up until adulthood. The study finds that women report domestic violence incidents at higher rates than men do. This is likely due to society's perception of women as weak and frail, which allows them to report domestic violence incidents without feeling ashamed. However, the study's findings also revealed that the complainant is often, if not always, a perpetrator when the situation is closely examined. The study found that domestic violence has a variety of negative effects on victims, not just men. These effects include depression, high blood pressure caused by psychological abuse or physical abuse that has left scars, disaffection or disunity in the home, as well as infidelity because of a lack of financial satisfaction.

Conclusion

Domestic violence against men is an undeniable social issue in our society. Numerous men endure various forms of abuse from their female partners, yet societal expectations often lead them to conceal their suffering. This is primarily because society commonly perceives men as the stronger gender. It is crucial for society to recognize that men can also be victims and not just perpetrators. This recognition would empower men to come forward and seek help when they are victimized. To address this issue, service providers such as police officers, healthcare professionals, and social workers should be trained on how to identify and respond to cases of domestic violence against men. This includes training on how to interview male victims and how



to provide appropriate support and referrals. It is essential to increase awareness of domestic violence against men and educate the public, including victims, about the different forms of abuse that can occur. This includes physical, emotional, financial, infidelity and sexual abuse. Educational programs can be developed for schools, community centers, and workplaces to help increase awareness of the issue.

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