

Predisposing Factors of Domestic Violence As Expressed By Married Women in Osogbo, Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence is a menace that affected the dignity and well-being of women. This study therefore investigated predisposing factors of domestic violence as expressed by married women in osogbo, Nigeria. The research design that was employed for this study was a descriptive survey. The researcher adopted simple random and systematic sampling techniques to select 220 married women that participated in the study. A researcher-developed instrument was employed in the collection of data for this study. The instrument was content validated by experts in the department of Counsellor Education, University of Ilorin and the test-retest reliability was ascertained with a coefficient of 0.80. The data collected was analysed using t-test and Analysis of Variance. The findings showed that lack of adequate marital counselling, husband's desire to dominate wife, poor communication between couple, low financial income and childlessness are factors that predisposed married women in Osogbo to domestic violence. The findings also revealed that there were no significant differences in the expression of married women in Osogbo based on age and educational qualification. The study therefore recommended among others that talks and seminars should be organised for couples and intending couples on the enormous consequences that emanated from violence at home.

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INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is when an individual in a close/ intimate relationship maltreats the other. Domestic violence is a deliberate intimidation, exploitation, assault and abusive behaviour usually shown by one person in an intimate relationship towards the other. According to Alokun (2013), it is referred to as domestic abuse, spouse abuse, battering and intimate partner violence. It is also known as intimate partner violence is a form of insult and coercive behaviours which include physical, sexual and psychological attacks used by one partner against another. Fareo (2015) opined that it is a pattern of behaviour that is exhibited by an individual to demonstrate power and control over another intimate partner. Goldsmith (2016) opined that the perpetrator of domestic violence feels the need to control their partner because of low self-esteem, jealousy, difficulties in regulating anger, strong emotions or inferior feeling as a result of low education and social economic background.

Domestic violence occurs in many forms including physical, emotional, economic, social and spiritual. It arises when one partner feels the need to control, dominate or intimidate the other (Goldsmith, 2016). Fareo (2015) identified some

forms of domestic violence which include physical abuse (beating, kicking, punching), sexual abuse (sexual assaults and harassment), economic abuse (stealing, defrauding or withholding money, and controlling partner from choice of occupation) and spiritual abuse (preventing a partner from engaging in religious practices). Also, Okorie (2011) pointed out other forms of violence against women which include psychological violence (denying women freedom and use of forceful language to create fear), labour violence (denying women ability to occupy particular positions in the offices) and war violence (being abused during war).

The biggest victims of domestic violence are usually women; which cuts across any age, ethnicity, religion and educational status. Adebayo (2013) stated that globally, at least one out of three women is beaten, forced into sex or abused in her lifetime. Payne (2009) reported that domestic violence/intimate partner violence causes injury that is more serious to women than car accidents; and nearly 95 per cent of domestic violence victims are women. In a study carried out by Obi and Ozumba (2007), it was indicated that more than two-thirds (70%) of respondents

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reported abuse in their family, in which 92% of the victims were female partners.

Igbokwe, Ukwuma and Onugwu (2013) reported that one –third of women in the world have experienced or will experience some forms of violence in their lives while as much as 60 per cent of women have experienced physical violence at least once in their life time. Bazza (2009) reported that yearly in Nigeria, an average of 300-350 women are killed by their husbands for one reason or the other. In most cases, these incidences are not reported; they are considered as family issue and should be treated as such. Similarly, in the United States of America, Adebayo (2013) reported that yearly, 1000-1600 women die at the expense of various forms of battering.

Some of what predisposes women to violence is the cultural belief system. The traditional belief system that dominated African Nations particularly Nigeria agreed that men are superior to women; they are subjected under the control of men and therefore, can be mismanaged and abused. Okorie (2011) added that women are required to be submissive in the event of maltreatment and disrespect by their husband. Violence also threatens the dignity of women as a result of attitude towards divorce. African women regarded divorce as a taboo, and/or inability to endure and persevere. Therefore, most African women would prefer to experience hardship and undue stress rather than to seek divorce. Okorie (2011) pointed out that some women remain faithful to husbands refusing to take responsibilities in the house while engaging in infidelity acts.

Denial of a girl-child the opportunity to quality education is another factor that promotes violence against women. The enrolment of girls in schools is not commendable. According to Alwajud-Adewusi, Odebode and Adegboyega (2015), the education of a girl-child suffered great challenges and discriminations; it followed that some parents nurtured negative feelings that education of a girl-child ended up in the kitchen, thereby, required little or no effort to spend on it. In addition, girls are removed from schools to be engaged in activities to boost economic activities of their family such as hawking and house maids practice.

According to Igbokwe, Ukwuma and Onugwu (2013), domestic violence can be caused by poverty and financial insecurity, inability of a man to establish authority economically or intellectually, societal portrayal of male as being strong and a woman as being feeble and subordinate. Omorogbe, Obetoh and Odion (2010)

identified the causes of domestic violence to be revelation of concealed pre-marital history, feeling of equality by women, indulgence in extra-marital affairs, and choice of religion, among others. These factors constitute a violation of women's rights and had contributed immensely to violence against women.

Domestic violence constitutes a great problem to the family and the society. It affects the physical and physiological wellbeing of the victim; most especially women (Alokan, 2013). Domestic violence restricts the woman's right to be involved in social life. The results of domestic violence on children are certain. Children who experience its occurrence are prone to exhibit disorders. Adebayo (2013) opined that children who grow in violent homes are prone to psychological imbalance and tend to exhibit violent criminal tendencies. Children exposed to domestic violence are attributed with delinquent and harmful behaviours. It is against this background that this study sought to investigate predisposing factors of domestic violence as expressed by married women in osogbo, Nigeria.

Domestic violence is a threat to the integrity and dignity of women. It affects women across ethnic, culture and religious groups. Its consequences on children and the family are enormous. The victims of domestic violence are embarrassed and sometimes denied the basic rights of livelihood. Women not being given chance to actively participate in decision making and sexual harassment are evidences of abuse towards them. The issue of domestic violence against women is disheartening and various studies had been carried out to check the malady. Igbokwe, Ukwuma and Onugwu (2013) investigated domestic violence against women in Nsukka, Nigeria. The findings showed that the refusal of women to be submissive and dependence of women on their husbands for living were the causes of violence against them.

Similarly, Onyekaiheako (2017) examined domestic violence among married women in Southeast, Nigeria. The findings indicated that the majority of the respondents had experienced one form of abuse or the other in their life. In addition, Islam, Alam and Islam (2015) studied factors affecting physical violence against women in Bangladesh. It was shown that women experienced physical violence. It also revealed that the highest groups that experience violence are those with no formal education. Despite several studies and campaigns against this malady, violence against women still persists. It is against this background that this study sought to

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investigate predisposing factors to domestic violence as expressed by married women in Osogbo, Nigeria.

Researcher Question

For the purpose of this study, the following research question was raised to guide the conduct of the study:

1. What are the predisposing factors of domestic violence as expressed by married women in Osogbo?

Research Hypothesis

The following hypotheses were formulated and tested in the study:

1. There is no significant difference in the expression of married women in Osogbo on the predisposing factors of domestic violence on the basis of age.
2. There is no significant in the expression of married women in Osogbo on the predisposing factors of domestic violence based on educational qualification.

METHODOLOGY

The descriptive survey design was employed for this study. The population of this study comprised all married women in Osogbo while the target population consisted of married women in the selected local government area. The researcher used the simple random sampling technique to select olorunda local government area in Osogbo and the systematic sampling technique was also employed to select 220 respondents that participated in the study. A

researcher-designed questionnaire entitled “predisposing factors of domestic violence” was used for the study. The questionnaire comprised sections A and B. Section A of the questionnaire focused on the demographic data of the respondents which include age and educational qualification. Section B consisted of 20 items on predisposing factors to domestic violence and it was patterned on a four point Likert Type Rating Scale of Strongly Agree (4 points), Agree (3 points), Disagree (2 points) and Strongly Disagree (1 point).

The content validity of the instrument was established by giving the copies of the questionnaire to experts in the department of counsellor Education, University of Ilorin. Corrections were effected in the final draft of the questionnaire. The reliability of the instrument was ascertained by giving the instrument to twenty married women in Ilorin Metropolis who were not part of the respondents for this study. After an interval of four weeks, the same instrument was administered on the same group of married women. The two sets of scores were correlated using the Pearson’s Product Moment Correlation formula and a coefficient of 0.80 was obtained. The instrument was personally administered by the researcher; after the administration of the questionnaire, 200 copies were validly collected for data analysis. The data collected were analysed using appropriate statistical procedures. The research questions raised were analysed using mean and rank order analysis. The hypotheses formulated for the study was tested using t-test and Analysis of Variance at 0.05 level of significance.

RESULTS

Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by Age and Educational Qualification

S/N	Variable	Frequency	Percentage %
1.	Age		
	30 years & below	76	38.0
	31 years & above	124	62.0
	Total	200	100.0
2.	Educational Qualification		
	SSCE & below	42	21.0
	OND/NCE	80	40.0
	First Degree/HND	55	27.5
	Postgraduate	23	11.5
	Total	200	100.0

Table 1 presents the demographic data of respondents. The table showed that 76 (38.0%) of respondents were below 30 years while 124 (62.0%) were 31 years and above. Educational

qualification of respondents indicated that 42 (21.0%) had SSCE and below certificate, 80 (40.0%) had OND/NCE certificate, 55 (27.5%) possessed

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First Degree/HND certificate while 23 (11.5%) were postgraduate degree holders.

Research Question: What are the predisposing factors of domestic violence as expressed by married women in Osogbo?

Table 2: Mean and Rank Order of Predisposing Factors of Domestic Violence

Item No	Domestic violence result from:	Mean Rank
9	lack of adequate marital counselling before marriage	3.43 1 st
1	husband's desire to dominate wife	3.39 2 nd
4	marital incompatibility	3.30 3 rd
17	forced marriage	3.28 4 th
7	poor communication between couple	3.28 4 th
5	in-laws' interference	3.26 6 th
15	inability of the couple to control anger	3.24 7 th
8	prolonged conflict between couples	3.23 8 th
3	disagreement on sexual matter	3.23 8 th
14	wife's agitation for equal rights with partner	3.21 10 th
13	childlessness	3.20 11 th
12	low financial income	3.16 12 th
10	drug use and abuse by either partner	3.14 13 th
2	traditional belief	3.13 14 th
16	indecent dressing on the women's part	3.12 15 th
6	disagreement on religious matter	3.11 16 th
18	women's poor access to adequate education	3.08 17 th
11	low education background of women	3.08 17 th
19	different religious belief	2.99 19 th
20	low self-concept on the part of women	2.96 20 th

Table 2 presents the mean and rank order of predisposing factors of domestic violence. The table shows that all the 20 items have the mean scores that are above 2.50 bench mark. This implied that those factors predisposed married women in Osogbo to domestic violence. However, the major predisposing factors of domestic violence include lack of adequate marital counselling before marriage, husband's desire to dominate wife and marital incompatibility. This is

indicated by items 9 (with mean score of 3.43), 1 (with mean score 3.39), 4 (with mean scores of 3.30). They are the top three ranked 1st, 2nd and 3rd respectively.

Hypothesis One: *There is no significant difference in the predisposing factors of domestic violence as expressed by married women in Osogbo on the basis of age.*

Table 3: Mean, SD and t-test result showing the difference in respondents' opinion on the predisposing factors of domestic violence on the basis of age

Age	N	Mean	SD	Cal. t-value	Crit. value
30 yrs & below	76	62.97	6.69	1.47	1.96
31 yrs & above	124	64.26	5.57		

Table 3 shows the calculated t-value of 1.47 and critical t-value of 1.96. The table revealed that the calculated t-value is less than the critical t-value; hence, the hypothesis was retained. Therefore, there is no significant difference in the predisposing factors of domestic violence as

expressed by married women in Osogbo on the basis of age.

Hypothesis Two: *There is no significant difference in the predisposing factors of domestic violence as expressed by married women in Osogbo on the basis of educational qualification.*

Table 4: ANOVA result showing the difference in respondents' opinion on the predisposing factors of domestic violence on the basis of educational qualification

Source	df	SS	MS	Cal. F-ratio	Crit. F-ratio
Between group	2	90.275	45.137	1.24	3.00
Within group	197	7163.145	36.361		
Total	199	7253.420			

Table 4 shows the calculated F-ratio of 1.24 and critical F-ratio of 3.00. The table revealed that the calculated F-ratio is less than the critical F-ratio; hence, the hypothesis was retained. Therefore, there is no significant difference in the predisposing factors of domestic violence as expressed by married women in Osogbo on the basis of educational qualification.

DISCUSSION

The findings of the study revealed that the factors that predisposed women to violence include lack of adequate marital counselling, husband's desire to dominate wife, poor communication between couple, low financial income, childlessness and women's poor access to education. The finding of this study corroborated the findings of Igbokwe, Ukwuma and Onugwu (2013) who found that inability of women to be submissive to their husbands and dependence on men for living constituted the main causes of domestic violence against them. The finding of this study also concurred with the findings of Ashimolowo and Otufale (2012) who agreed that the husband's desire to dominate wife promoted domestic violence.

In addition, Gulec, Yetim and Sahin (2012) found that reduced income, worsened marital relations are factors that increased violence against women. The reason for this finding could be traced to the attitude formed by men towards women. This attitude emanated from the traditional belief system that is commonly practiced in Nigeria. It assumed that men are superior to women; men must direct the entire life of women as he wishes. Therefore, this feeling sometimes dictates the reason why men show maladaptive behaviour towards women.

The study also indicated that there was no significant difference in the expression of married women in Osogbo on the predisposing factors of domestic violence on the basis of age. This meant that age of married women in Osogbo do not affect domestic violence against them. The finding of this study contradicted the findings of Onyekaiheako (2017) who found that violent was prevalent among the women of 25-34 years of age.

The difference in this finding could be attributed to the culture and the belief system upheld by married women in Osogbo; since Osogbo is one of the Yoruba land where African traditional culture is practiced and respected. Therefore, married women in Osogbo could believe that women irrespective of age must be submissive to their husbands and as such, they could be maltreated.

No significant difference was found in the expression of married women in Osogbo on the predisposing factors of domestic violence based on educational qualification. The finding of this study was not consistent with the findings of Igbokwe, Ukwuma and Onugwu (2013) who found that women who had no formal education suffered more domestic violence than women who had formal education. The reason might be that women in the locality where this study was conducted do not regard their educational qualifications as access to them. Those women disregarded their educational status and preferred to be subjected to the commands of violence from their husbands.

CONCLUSION AND

This study concluded that the factors that predisposed married women in Osogbo to domestic violence are lack of adequate marital counselling, husband's desire to dominate wife, poor communication between couple, low financial income and childlessness.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of this study, it was therefore recommended that:

1. Various religious leaders should preach the consequences of violence against women to married and intending married men.
2. Talks and seminars should be organised for couples and intending couples on the enormous consequences that emanated from violence at home.
3. Women should be empowered to have financial independence. Women should be allowed to have access to standard and quality education at all levels.

4. Laws should be formulated and enforcement should be sanctioned on anybody that violated the rule. Professional counsellors should organise pre-marital counselling for the youth in various communities. Counselling centres should be well-equipped and accessible; experts in marital counselling should also be deployed to these centres.

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