

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND OTHER SEXUALLY RELATED CRIMES AMONGST  
STUDENTS IN TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS; INVESTIGATING ITS EFFECT ON  
SOCIETY: A CASE STUDY OF UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY**

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**SSC1809636**

**DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE**

**FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES**

**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

**BENIN CITY, NIGERIA**

**OCTOBER, 2023**

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**A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE IN  
PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF  
THE BACHELOR OF SCIENCE (B.SC.) HONOURS DEGREE IN POLITICAL  
SCIENCE**

**UNIVERSITY OF BENIN**

**BENIN CITY, NIGERIA**

**OCTOBER, 2023**

## **CERTIFICATION**

This is to certify that this project was carried out by Alexandra Chukwudumebi NZEMEKE in the Department of Political Science in partial fulfilment of the requirements for the award of Bachelor Degree (B.SC.) in Political Science, University of Benin, Benin City.

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**Date:** \_\_\_\_\_

## **DEDICATION**

This work is dedicated to God Almighty, the Beginning and the End. The work is also dedicated to my wonderful parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nzemeke.

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

All thanks goes to my heavenly Father and Creator, for making this work a success. I am forever indebted to God for his faithfulness, I am profoundly indebted to my project supervisor, Dr. E. R. Okoro, whose invaluable insights, corrections, patience, and constructive criticism has contributed greatly to the success of this project work.

I wish to express my profound gratitude to my parents, Mr. and Mrs. Nzemeke, for their unfailing support, monetarily, mentally and spiritually. Thank you mom and dad for being there for me, May Almighty God continue to bless you, and grant you good health and long life Amen.

My sincere appreciation goes to my lovely siblings, Stella-Maris Nzemeke, Assumpta Nzemeke and Benedicta Nzemeke for their care, support and prayers throughout my stay in this great institution. I want to specially thank them for always being there for me.

My joy knows no bounds in thanking my wonderful friends, James Ohioma, Ifebunso Chineye, Arekhandia Andrew, Oloshio Faith, Efe, Feyinti, Eduvie and Kennedy Solomon for their love, protection and assistance while in school. You guys are the best. I appreciate my Political Science Course mates. I appreciate them for being part of the wonderful experience I had during my stays in the University of Benin.

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## **ABSTRACT**

*This study investigated domestic violence and other sexually related crimes amongst students in tertiary institutions; investigating its effect on society, using the University of Benin as a case study. The study adopted descriptive research survey design in building up this project work. The sample size was made up of 150 respondents. The data collected was analyzed using frequency count and simple percentage.*

*The study revealed that there is a high level of domestic violence experienced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin. It was concluded that domestic violence have a negative impact on students' academic performance in the University of Benin, Benin City.*

*The study recommends that government should ensure that the perpetrators of domestic violence are severely punished so as to serve as deterrent to others. It was also recommended that the University of Benin school management should implement comprehensive awareness campaigns against domestic violence, sexual harassment, and related crimes.*

## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background of the Study

Domestic violence among students in Nigerian tertiary institutions is a pressing issue that requires urgent attention. In Nigeria, reports reveal shockingly high level of Domestic violence. Amnesty international (2019) reports that a third (and in some cases two-thirds) of women are believed to have been subjected to physical, sexual and psychological violence carried out primarily by husbands, partners and fathers while girls are often forced into early marriage and are at risk of punishment if they attempt to escape from their husbands. More pathetic is the revelation of gross under reporting and non-documentation of domestic violence due to cultural factors (Oyediran and Isugo, 2020). One of the main causes of domestic violence among students in tertiary institutions is the perpetuation of traditional gender norms and stereotypes (Ishola, 2020). These beliefs often lead to unequal power dynamics and control within relationships.

Domestic violence represents a serious abuse of power within family, trust or dependency relationships. It undermines the basic rights of people who because of the gender, age, disability or dependence, are most vulnerable to abuse (Aliyu, 2020). It is a serious social and criminal problem that can result in the death or disablement of victims. It can involves killing or physical and sexual assault. It also involves other forms of abusive behaviour, such as emotional abuse, financial deprivation and exploitation and neglect. Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviours by one partner against

another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family or cohabitation. Domestic violence has many forms, including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects), or threats thereof; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse otherwise known as neglect; and economic deprivation (Edeki, 2017). Domestic violence and abuse is not limited to obvious physical violence. It can mean endangerment, criminal coercion, kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, trespassing, harassment and stalking.

Domestic violence may manifest itself in the form of physical abuse, sexual abuse, and economic abuse. Thus rape, kidnapping, murder, wife battering, sexual abuse, eve teasing are all examples of domestic violence (Omokheni, 2020). Domestic violence is any act of physical, sexual or psychological abuse, or the threat of such abuse, inflicted against a women by a person intimately connected to her through marriage, family relation, or acquaintanceship. It is universal and has its root in the socio cultural set up of the society (Ratele, 2020). The frequent understanding of domestic violence against women is that it is limited to physical harm perpetrated on adult women within a marital relationship. While this conception may capture a large universe of the experience of women, it is predicated on the assumption that women primarily live in nuclear families. However, there are varieties of living arrangements ranging from joint families to nuclear families, to single parent families. Women may also be found in an established relationship or in the process of divorce or separation. Violence may not always be

restricted to current husband but may extend to boyfriends, former husbands and other family members, such as parents-in-law and in-laws. A definition of Domestic Violence that covers these multiple dimensions would lead to interventions that are more inclusive of the experiences of the women.

Sexual violence as a growing public health and human rights problem is an indicator of the most severe breach of human security in the world (Bajpa, 2019). Sexual Violence occurs when a person is forced to unwillingly take part in sexual activity. Sexual violence includes touching in a sexual manner without consent (i.e., kissing, grabbing, fondling); forcing a person to perform sexual acts that may be degrading or painful; beating sexual parts of the body; exhibitionism; making unwelcome sexual comments or jokes; denial of a person's sexuality or privacy (watching); forced prostitution; unfounded allegations of promiscuity and/or infidelity; and, purposefully exposing the person to HIV-AIDS or other sexually transmitted infections (Usman, 2021). Although it has been observed as one of the fastest growing crimes in many all over the world, the actual prevalence of sexual violence is usually unknown as a result of gross underreporting (Amoko, 2021). Sexual violence include rape within teacher-student relationships, male student to female students, unwanted sexual advances or comments, violent act against sexual integrity of women, including fantasized sexual postures and sexual bullying (Odia, 2020). Sexual violence also include gang rape, rape by strangers, systematic rape during armed conflict, unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment, including demanding sex in return for favours, sexual abuse of mentally or

physically disabled people, sexual abuse of children, forced marriage or cohabitation including the marriage of children, denial of the right to use contraception or to adopt other measures to protect against sexually transmitted disease, forced abortion, violent act against the sexual integrity of women, include female genital mutilation and obligatory inspection for virginity, and forced prostitution and trafficking of people for the purpose of sexual exploitation (Asuquo, 2019).

Sexual violence has become one of the global phenomenon and in Nigeria, it has been on unprecedented increase. Since last decade and more there has been a proliferation of unrivalled violence, the cases of kidnapping, abduction and sexual molestation and as well as destruction of lives and personal properties. These are mostly the activities of youths that are socially unacceptable triggered by enforced desired of outcome from the constituted authority. This negative development according to Igbo and Ikpa (2020) is unfortunate and has become one of the security challenges facing man in the present society. In a nutshell, the problem bedeviling Nigerian country is insecurity demonstrated by the activities of sexual offenders and this has affected the sustainable development of the country. It is against this backdrop that this paper seeks to determine the causes and implication of sexual violence to our security and sustainable development.

Domestic violence often lead to common emotional traumas such as depression, anxiety, panic attacks, substance abuse and posttraumatic stress disorder thereby resulting to poor students' academic performance (Okuna, 2019). Domestic violence can trigger

suicide attempts, psychotic episodes, homelessness and slow recovery from mental illness. Children exposed to domestic violence are also at risk for developmental problems, psychiatric disorders, school difficulties, aggressive behaviour and low self-esteem. These factors can make it difficult for students to perform well academically. The consequences of domestic violence on students include reduced academic progress, increased disruptive or unfocused classroom behaviour, intrapersonal, interpersonal academic limitations, lowered social and emotional competence, and diminished academic performance (Okeke, 2020).

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

Although domestic violence has been recognized today as one of the most entrenched and widespread forms of violence in Nigeria and in the world at large; its influence on the society and students' academic performance has been a source of growing concern to all educational stakeholders. Students that witnesses domestic violence may develop physical, psychological and behavioral problems as a result of physical, verbal, psychological and other forms of violence thereby affecting their academic performance. Many of them may be lagging behind in class work or even in life because of their exposure to domestic violence. The short and long term emotional and physical effect of domestic violence can affect school attendance, students' achievement, and behavioral patterns of students in school and participation in the class room.

In Nigeria, reports reveal shockingly high level of Domestic violence. Amnesty international (2019) reports that a third (and in some cases two-thirds) of women are

believed to have been subjected to physical, sexual and psychological violence carried out primarily by husbands, partners and fathers while girls are often forced into early marriage and are at risk of punishment if they attempt to escape from their husbands. More pathetic is the revelation of gross under reporting and non-documentation of domestic violence due to cultural factors (Oyediran and Isugo, 2020). Domestic violence can trigger suicide attempts, psychotic episodes, homelessness and slow recovery from mental illness. Despite the significant challenges posed by act or report of domestic violence and other sexually related crimes to the wellbeing of Nigerians especially students in tertiary institutions, the academic interest in the subject matter is low, this leaving a gap in literature.

### **1.3 Research Questions**

The following research questions were raised in order to guide the study:

1. What is the level of domestic violence experienced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin?
2. What are some of the form of domestic violence faced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin?
3. What is the impact of domestic violence on students' academic performance in the University of Benin?
4. What are some of the factors responsible for domestic violence among undergraduate students in the University of Benin?

#### **1.4 Objectives of the Study**

The broad objectives of the study is to investigate the impact of domestic violence on the academic performance among undergraduate students of the University of Benin, Benin City. Specifically, the study seeks to;

1. Determine the level of domestic violence experienced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin, Benin City;
2. Examine some of the form of domestic violence faced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin, Benin City;
3. Unravel the impact of domestic violence on students' academic performance in University of Benin, Benin City;
4. Identify some of the factors responsible for domestic violence among undergraduate students in the University of Benin, Benin City.

#### **1.5 Scope of the Study**

The phenomenon of domestic violence and other sexually related crimes is a critical issues that warrants thorough investigation especially within the context of tertiary institutions. The scope of the study covers the level of domestic violence, form of domestic violence, impact of domestic violence on students' academic performance and factors responsible for domestic violence among undergraduate students in the University of Benin.

## **1.6 Significance of the Study**

The issue of domestic violence and other sexually related crimes is a major policy domain. Therefore, the findings of the study would be relevant and useful to policy makers and the society at large. The study would help provide an insight to policy makers on the need to implement all kinds of laws relating to the rights of children especially those relating to violence emanating from the home. Additionally, Policy Makers were also anticipated to benefit from study in terms of mitigating and strategizing ways of offering practical solutions for in terms of formulating policies that will guide educational administrators to handle learners who are affected by domestic violence. Again the study will bring to the knowledge of those adults who take the law into their own hands and inflict violent acts on children to be careful of the repercussion of their actions on the life of the adolescent. Finally, the study will create awareness among, opinion leaders and educational authority on the effects of domestic violence on the child and its implications to the Nigerian Society.

## **1.7 Clarification of Key Concepts**

**Domestic Violence:** Domestic violence includes battering of intimate partners and others, sexual abuse of children, marital rape and traditional practices that are harmful to both men and women.

**Sexual Violence:** Sexual violence can be seen as any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act by violence or coercion, acts to traffic a person or acts directed against a person's sexuality, regardless of the relationship to the victim.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW AND THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This chapter critically examines the concepts of domestic violence, forms of domestic violence, sexual violence. The chapter critically examine the factors responsible for domestic violence and other sexually related crimes and the effect of domestic violence on students' academic performance.

#### **2.1 Concept of Domestic Violence**

A look at the literature on relevant concepts in the discourse of domestic violence indicate that different scholars use key feature to highlight the core area they wish to support or advance in the debate or study. For example, in the work of Eken (2018), he sees domestic violence as any abusive treatment of one family member by another, thus violating the law of basic human rights. Domestic violence includes battering of intimate partners and others, sexual abuse of children, marital rape and traditional practices that are harmful to both men and women. Domestic violence is a global problem that crosses cultural, geographic, religious, social and economic boundaries and is a violation of human rights (Okpodju, 2020). Any one (men or women) can become a domestic violence offender or victim.

On his perspective on domestic violence, Asike (2020) asserts that domestic violence includes acts of physical aggression like slapping, hitting, kicking or beating, psychological abuse such as intimidation, constant belittling or humiliation, forces sexual

intercourse or any other controlling behavior like isolating a person from family and friends, monitoring their movements and restricting access to information or assistance. Domestic violence is destructive behavior in an intimate relationship where one person tries to dominate and control the other in a dating or marital relationship or in cohabitation, which causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in that relationship. Domestic violence is a widespread problem throughout the developed and developing world and makes serious impact on quality of human life and broader development (Melville, 2021). Domestic violence is the manifestation of a historically unequal power relationship between men and women. It is a conditioned response and is not natural or born of biological determinism. In the olden days, Domestic violence was as a result to the prevalent atmosphere of ignorance and feudalism (Matud, 2019). Today Domestic violence is an uncontrollable phenomenon, which is a direct result of the rapid urbanization, industrialization and structural adjustment programmes which are changing the socio-economic scenario of our country.

Domestic violence represents a serious abuse of power within family, trust or dependency relationships. It undermines the basic rights of people who because of the gender, age, disability or dependence, are most vulnerable to abuse (Aliyu, 2020). It is a serious social and criminal problem that can result in the death or disablement of victims. It can involves killing or physical and sexual assault. It also involves other forms of abusive behaviour, such as emotional abuse, financial deprivation and exploitation and neglect. Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviours by one partner against

another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family or cohabitation. Domestic violence has many forms, including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects), or threats thereof; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse otherwise known as neglect; and economic deprivation (Edeki, 2017). Domestic violence and abuse is not limited to obvious physical violence. It can mean endangerment, criminal coercion, kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, trespassing, harassment and stalking.

Domestic violence include physical abuse, sexual abuse, and economic abuse. Thus rape, kidnapping, murder, wife battering, sexual abuse, eve teasing are all examples of domestic violence (Omokheni, 2020). Domestic violence is any act of physical, sexual or psychological abuse, or the threat of such abuse, inflicted against a women by a person intimately connected to her through marriage, family relation, or acquaintanceship. It is universal and has its root in the socio cultural set up of the society (Ratele, 2020). The frequent understanding of domestic violence against women is that it is limited to physical harm perpetrated on adult women within a marital relationship. While this conception may capture a large universe of the experience of women, it is predicated on the assumption that women primarily live in nuclear families. However, there are varieties of living arrangements ranging from joint families to nuclear families, to single parent families. Women may also be found in an established relationship or in the process of divorce or separation. Violence may not always be restricted to current husband but

may extend to boyfriends, former husbands and other family members, such as parents-in-law and in-laws. A definition of Domestic Violence that covers these multiple dimensions would lead to interventions that are more inclusive of the experiences of the women.

In Nigeria, reports reveal shockingly high level of Domestic violence. Amnesty international (2019) reports that a third (and in some cases two-thirds) of women are believed to have been subjected to physical, sexual and psychological violence carried out primarily by husbands, partners and fathers while girls are often forced into early marriage and are at risk of punishment if they attempt to escape from their husbands. More pathetic is the revelation of gross under reporting and non-documentation of domestic violence due to cultural factors (Oyediran and Isugo, 2020). The problem of domestic violence in Nigeria stems from a cultural bias against women (Ishola, 2020). Women who challenge their husband's right to control their behaviour or who ask for household money or step out of the house without permission may face violence. This process leads men to believe their notion of masculinity and manhood, which is reflected to the degree by which they control their wives.

### **2.1.1 Forms of Domestic Violence**

Abosede (2020) provides the following as forms of domestic violence:

- **Physical abuse:** This is the use of physical force in a way that injures the victim or puts him/her at risk of being injured. It includes beating, kicking, knocking, punching, choking, confinement. Female genital mutilation is physical abuse. Physical abuse is

one of the commonest forms of abuse. Physical violation is an act of using physical force against another person in a way that ends up causing bodily harm to the person, or puts the person in a position of risk of being harmed. Physical abuse ranges from physical restraint to murder. Physical abuse includes: pushing, throwing, kicking, slapping, grabbing, hitting, punching, beating, tripping, battering, bruising, choking, shaking, pinching, biting, holding, restraining, confinement, breaking bones, assault with a weapon such as a knife or gun, burning and murder.

- **Sexual abuse:** Sexual abuse includes all forms of sexual assaults, harassment or exploitation. It involves forcing a person to participate in sexual activity, using a child for sexual purposes including child prostitution and pornography. Marital rape also comes under this. Sexual abuse occurs in other forms of frightening and distressing sexual violence including; being forced to have oral/anal sex, penetration by objects, being forcibly touched in a sexual manner, sexual harassment. Rape or sexual assault for some people is a perpetual act while for some it is a onetime experience; it can happen by living with an abusive guardian or be something that is experienced at a point in life. An essential aspect of the ongoing sexual violence, for instance, being forced to watch or act pornography. Sexual abuse is the deliberate use of sex as a weapon to demonstrate power over, and to inflict pain and humiliation upon another human being, it may also include threat, humiliation, and intimidation. Sexual abuse also means coerced sex through threats, intimidation or physical force or forcing unwanted sexual act on the victim. A sexual act done in some unwanted, degrading

manner which sometimes involve threats to life is also a sexual abuse. Apart from marital rape, incest is a form of sexual abuse or violence. It is an inappropriate sexual intercourse with someone who shares a biological relationship with the victim.

- **Emotional Abuse:** Emotional abuse includes threatening a person or his or her possession or harming a person's sense of self-worth by putting him/her at risk of serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional or mental disorders. Emotional abuse affects the emotional balance of the victim. It undermines the self-esteem of the victim and often leads to depression and deliberate isolation from family and friends. It is sometimes referred to as emotional battering though not as serious as physical violence but it harms the mental state of the victim. Emotional abuse consist of the behaviour intended to intimidate and torture, it takes the form of threats of abandonment, confinement to the home, threat to take the children away, constant humiliation and verbal aggression. Sometimes, the emotional torture often experienced by victims of domestic violence could be more unbearable than physical abuse. It is an insidious form of violence that keeps victims, particularly in domestic violence situations, from seeking help. Emotional abuse means a pattern of degrading, humiliating conduct towards any person including repeated insults, ridicule or name calling, repeated threats to cause emotional pain or the repeated exhibition of possessiveness that constitutes a serious invasion of such person's privacy, liberty, integrity or security. Shouting at a partner was found to be the most common form of emotional abuse. Also included in emotional abuse are name-calling, criticism, social

isolation, intimidating or exploitation to dominate, routinely making unreasonable demand, terrorizing a person verbally or physically and exposing a child to violence.

- **Economic abuse:** Economic abuse includes stealing from or defrauding a loved one, withholding money for essential things like food and medical treatment, manipulating or exploiting family member for financial gain, preventing a loved one from working or controlling his/her choice of occupation. It includes act such as the denial of fund, refusal to contribute financially to the upkeep of the family and the denial of food and other basic needs. It means forced financial dependence, unreasonable deprivation of economic or financial resources and unreasonable disposal or destruction of household effect or other property in which any person has interest. The situation also becomes worse where the woman does not have any means of income to sustain herself and her children. Economic abuse also involves manipulation and exploitation of family members for financial gain and prevention of a loved one or wife from working or controlling her choice of work. Absence of economic resources strengthens women's vulnerability to violence and their difficulty in getting out of a violent relationship. Some men also see increasing economic activity and independence as threat to them, thereby leading to domestic violence most especially where the male counterpart is unemployed.
  
- **Neglect:** This includes failure to provide for dependants who may be adults or children, denying family members food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and protection from harm or a sense of being loved and valued.

- **Spiritual Abuse:** This includes preventing a person from engaging in his/her spiritual or religious practices or using one's religious belief to manipulate, dominate or control him/her.

### **2.1.2 Concept of Sexual Violence**

Sexual violence can be seen as any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act by violence or coercion, acts to traffic a person or acts directed against a person's sexuality, regardless of the relationship to the victim (Iwuama, 2020). Sexual Violence occurs when a person is forced to unwillingly take part in sexual activity. Sexual violence includes touching in a sexual manner without consent (i.e., kissing, grabbing, fondling); forcing a person to perform sexual acts that may be degrading or painful; beating sexual parts of the body; exhibitionism; making unwelcome sexual comments or jokes; denial of a person's sexuality or privacy (watching); forced prostitution; unfounded allegations of promiscuity and/or infidelity; and, purposefully exposing the person to HIV-AIDS or other sexually transmitted infections (Usman, 2021).

Sexual violence as a growing public health and human rights problem is an indicator of the most severe breach of human security in the world (Bajpa, 2019). Matasha (2020) defines sexual violence as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts of traffic, or otherwise directed, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim in any setting, including but not limited to home and work place (Udu, 2020). Although it has been observed as one of the fastest growing crimes in many all over the

world, the actual prevalence of sexual violence is usually unknown as a result of gross underreporting (Amoko, 2021). Sexual violence include rape within teacher- student relationships, male student to female students, unwanted sexual advances or comments, violent act against sexual integrity of women, including fantasized sexual postures and sexual bullying (Odia, 2020). Sexual violence also include gang rape, rape by strangers, systematic rape during armed conflict, unwanted sexual advances or sexual harassment, including demanding sex in return for favours, sexual abuse of mentally or physically disabled people, sexual abuse of children, forced marriage or cohabitation including the marriage of children, denial of the right to use contraception or to adopt other measures to protect against sexually transmitted disease, forced abortion, violent act against the sexual integrity of women, include female genital mutilation and obligatory inspection for virginity, and forced prostitution and trafficking of people for the purpose of sexual exploitation (Asuquo, 2019).

Despite the widespread outcry over the rising cases of sexual violence in Nigeria, there seems to be no end to the menace. There is no day in the country without a reported case of sexual violence especially rape in the media. One contestable reason for the apparent rise of sexual violence in Nigeria could be that sexual violence victims are becoming more encouraged to report such crimes. However, it could also be that there is an increase in the rate of sexual violence in Nigeria. The recent sexual violation and murder of a 22-year University of Benin undergraduate (Vanguard newspaper, 2020) have fanned the embers of the growing awareness and condemnation of sexual violence

in the Nigerian society. Since the incident, there have been many other reported cases of violation of women and girls, and even more worrisome is the sexual violation of little girls in the country.

Sexual violence encompasses a range of acts, including coerced sex in marriage and dating relationships, rape by strangers, organized rape in war, sexual harassment (including demands of sex for jobs or school grades), and rape of children, trafficking of women and girls, female genital mutilation, and forced exposure to pornography. It is important to understand the ramifications of sexual violence as not only a physical act, but also could be verbal or visual sexual abuse or any act that forces a person to join in unwanted sexual contact or attention (Olatunji, 2020).

A study carried out in Southern Nigeria (University of Calabar) showed that 51.7% of female undergraduates had suffered one form of sexual violence or another (Kullima, Kawuwa, Audu, Mairiga, and Bukar, 2018). This figure is higher than what was obtained in two studies from Northern Nigeria (13.8%, 22.2%). The prevalence is generally high in Africa and varied between 16% in Cameroun, 23% in Sierra Leone, 34.4% in Ethiopia, 49% in Ghana to 65.6% in Zimbabwe, and 67% in Botswana (Iliyasu, Abubakar, Aliyu, Galadanci and Salihu, 2019). A majority of cases of sexual violence in Nigeria goes unreported. This is due largely to fear on the part of the victim of being socially stigmatized or blamed (Kullima, Kawuwa, Audu, Mairiga, and Bukar, 2018). Hence, Iwuama, & Ekwe, (2012) observed that about two million Nigerian girls

experience sexual abuse annually and that only 28 per cent of rape cases are reported. Of those, only 12 per cent result in convictions.

Sexual violence has become one of the global phenomenon and in Nigeria, it has been on unprecedented increase. Since last decade and more there has been a proliferation of unrivalled violence, the cases of kidnapping, abduction and sexual mollestation and as well as destruction of lives and personal properties. These are mostly the activities of youths that are socially unacceptable triggered by enforced desired of outcome from the constituted authority. This negative development according to Igbo and Ikpa (2020) is unfortunate and has become one of the security challenges facing man in the present society. In a nutshell, the problem bedevilling Nigerian country is insecurity demonstrated by the activities of sexual offenders and this has affected the sustainable development of the country. It is against this backdrop that this paper seeks to determine the causes and implication of sexual violence to our security and sustainable development.

### **2.1.3 Factors Responsible for Domestic Violence and Other Sexually Related Crimes**

According to Akpomudje (2018), the following constitute some of the factors responsible for domestic violence and other sexually related crimes:

- **Psychological Factor:** This factor is often associated with the personal trait of perpetrators of domestic violence. Some of the personal traits that often lead to domestic violence are low self-esteem, inability to control stress, poor impulse

control, frustration, anger etc. Sometimes these personal trait of the perpetrators of domestic violence started when they were still young and became worse when they became adults. Sometimes the cause of domestic violence may be attributed to the ability to have and maintain control over the victim which is often caused by his low self- esteem, insecurity, poverty and cultural influence.

- **Cultural Factor:** By virtue of the cultural practices across Nigeria, men are regarded as the head of the house and semi god; they have the absolute control and also make decisions for their homes and no one dares to question their authority. Men are viewed as leaders while women are viewed as followers who are made to subject to their control, this often drives men to abuse their wives. Such men see wife battering as a form of instilling discipline in their wives. Women are seen as inferior in the community while male children are preferred over the female. They are seen as property to be acquired by their husband and with little or nothing to contribute to the growth and development of the family. Another factor that has contributed to this is the issue of the payment of bride price, some men in the primitive communities feel that the payment of bride price entitle them to deal with the woman any how they like since it is their commodity purchased through the payment of bride price. The idea of suppression of women is established that some society tend to accept that violence against women is justified.
- **Childlessness and Male Child Syndrome:** One of the causes of domestic violence in many relationships is the issue of childlessness as women are often blamed for any form of inability to bear children. It is culturally seen as a fault

from the woman than the man, whereas both of them might be responsible. The woman takes the whole blame for the childlessness; any woman who has not been able to bear children is seen as an enemy of progress who may be maltreated and physically abused by her husband and in-law. Sometimes the challenge of childlessness also leads to the husband beating and maltreating the wife at the slightest provocation. On the other hand, the obsession of traditional Nigerian men to having male children at all cost often leads to domestic violence, some women who find themselves in this situation are sometime abandoned and left to cater for the female children. Some men also go to the extent of denying the paternity of the child, forgetting that the sex of the child is often determined by the chromosomes released into the woman by the man.

- **Low Level of Education and Poverty:** The level of education of the woman is often linked to domestic violence. A woman who has little or no level of education is likely to be a victim of domestic violence. Due to the low level of education, such woman do not have any form of exposure, she see wife battering as a sign of warning from her husband for wrong doing. The reproductive and productive roles of women often place them at the bottom of the ladder, they are sometimes found in low paid jobs, which rob them of power to participate in decision making, within the political, social-economic and cultural sphere of life. This situation results in the over burdening of women with family and domestic responsibilities while giving them no resources or political room to improve their standard of living. In some parts of Nigeria, it is known that the input of women into the

family income is so high that it becomes economically unwise to allow such a child to go to school. The main gender roles which assign females to production work within the homes and agricultural role of feeding the family served to keep the females out of school. The fruits of education were denied them and consequently the production of further knowledge as an outcome of education was a male affair.

#### **2.1.4 Impact of Domestic Violence on Students' Academic Performance**

The influence of domestic violence on students' academic performance cannot be overemphasized. Domestic violence often lead to common emotional traumas such as depression, anxiety, panic attacks, substance abuse and posttraumatic stress disorder thereby resulting to poor students' academic performance (Okuna, 2019). Domestic violence can trigger suicide attempts, psychotic episodes, homelessness and slow recovery from mental illness. Children exposed to domestic violence are also at risk for developmental problems, psychiatric disorders, school difficulties, aggressive behaviour and low self-esteem. These factors can make it difficult for students to perform well academically. The consequences of domestic violence on students include reduced academic progress, increased disruptive or unfocused classroom behaviour, intrapersonal, interpersonal academic limitations, lowered social and emotional competence, and diminished academic performance (Okeke, 2020).

Domestic violence such as physical violence, insults, shouts, ignoring, denying food, sexual harassment, destruction of child personal property, threats and humiliation,

among others may result in psychological harm, emotional harm, physical pain or injury, lack of self-confidence and lack of self-esteem on the victim which on the long run results to poor academic performance (Douye, 2018). Some emotional and behavioural problems that can result due to domestic violence include increased aggressiveness, anxiety, and changes in how a child socializes with friends, family and authorities. Problems with attitude and cognition in schools can start developing, along with a lack of skills such as problem-solving. Correlation has been found between the experience of abuse and neglect in childhood and perpetrating domestic violence and sexual abuse in adulthood (Sadeler, 2019). Additionally, in some cases, the abuser will purposely abuse the mother in front of the child to cause a ripple effect, hurting two victims simultaneously. It has been found that children who witness mother-assault are more likely to exhibit symptoms of posttraumatic stress disorder (PTSD).

Olabisi (2018) conducted a study on the relationship between domestic violence and students' academic performance in Lagos State University, Nigeria. The purpose of the study was to ascertain the relationship between domestic violence and students' academic performance. The study adopted a descriptive survey design. A sample of 140 students was used for the study. A structured questionnaire titled "Relationship between Domestic Violence and Students' Academic Performance Questionnaire (RBDVSAPQ)" was used to collect data for the study. Data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation to answer the four research questions while t-test statistics was employed to test the two null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The results of the

study among others indicated that domestic violence often results to students' loss of interest in academic activities.

Omonuku (2019) conducted a study on perceived effect of domestic violence on students' participation in classroom activities in secondary schools in Yenogoa, Bayelsa state, Nigeria. Purpose of the study is to ascertain the effect of domestic violence on students' participation in classroom activities in secondary schools. Six research questions and three null hypotheses guided the study. The study employed a descriptive survey design. A sample of 200 students were used for the study in six education zones. A structured questionnaire on effect of domestic violence on students' participation in classroom activities questionnaire (EDVSPCAQ) was used to collect data for the study. Mean and standard deviation were used to answer the six research questions, while t-test statistic was adopted to test the three null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The results of the study, among others revealed that domestic violence negatively impact on students' participation in classroom activities in secondary schools in Yenogoa, Bayelsa state, Nigeria. It was also found out that children exposed to domestic violence are also at risk for developmental problems, psychiatric disorders, school difficulties, aggressive behaviour and low self-esteem.

Okotie (2019) conducted research on the impact of domestic violence on students' academic performance in secondary schools Imo State, Nigeria. The population of the study included all 288 secondary schools in the state. The study was guided by four research questions. A sample of 240 senior secondary school students was drawn from

this population and chosen using stratified random sampling techniques. The study's data was gathered using two instruments. They were the domestic violence questionnaire and the students' academic performance questionnaire. The information gathered was analyzed using frequency counts, percentages, a correlation matrix, and the t-test. The study among others revealed that domestic violence often lead to common emotional traumas such as depression, anxiety, panic attacks, substance abuse and posttraumatic stress disorder thereby resulting to poor students' academic performance.

## **2.2 Theoretical Framework**

This study will adopt the Social Learning Theory founded by Albert Bandura in 1962 in analyzing the phenomenon under study. The Social Learning Theory is based on the notion that different people learn social behaviours by observing and imitating other people. Social learning theory also states that individuals who experienced victimization tend to instigate it in the lives of other people when they get the chance. The theory holds out that young adults who observed and experienced abuse when they were children are more likely to be in abusive intimate relationship as either abuser or victim. The most essential way children learn is through imitation of models. The process can be seen in the development of language, aggression, and moral decision-making. Social learning theory supports that if an individual is aggressive towards a family member it is based on their past experiences of models who exemplified such behaviours for them to imitate. It is said that when children are growing up they receive feedback from others regarding their actions and choice of behaviours, from which they begin to come up with their own stand points.

The Social Learning Theory is based on the notion that individuals can learn new behaviours by observing others. According to Social Learning Theory, individuals learn by: paying attention to what other people do, rehearsing (at first mentally) what might occur in their own lives if they shadowed the other peoples' behavior. Individuals both influence and are influenced by the world around them. The social learning theorist argued that children who have experienced sexual violation are more likely to commit the offense as adult than children who have not experienced such violation. Social theory learning also states that individuals who experience victimization tend to instigate it in the lives of other people when they get the chance.

The Social Learning Theory is relevant to the study as it help explain some of the factors responsible for domestic violence and it attendant consequences on students' academic performance. The theory help us understand that there is a correlation between people who witness abusive behavior in their earlier lives and those who commit domestic violence later. The theory helps us understand that individuals who experienced victimization such as domestic violence tend to instigate it in the lives of other people when they get the chance.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Introduction**

This chapter describes the research procedures and methods the researcher relied on to obtain data needed for the study. It comprises of the following;

#### **3.2 Research Design**

The researcher used the survey research design. The choice of this research design was considered appropriate because of its advantages of identifying attributes of a large population from a group of individuals. The design was suitable for the study as the study sought to investigate on domestic violence and other sexually related crimes amongst students in tertiary institutions; a case study of University of Benin.

#### **3.3 Population of the Study**

The population of this study comprised of the 63,161 students (38,899 female students and 24,262 male students) from the 15 faculties in the University of Benin, Benin City. (Source: Academic Planning Division, University of Benin, 2023).

#### **3.4 Sample Size and Technique**

The sample size comprised 150 students randomly selected from the 15 faculties in the University of Benin, Benin City. With the aid of the random sampling technique,

10 students each will be selected from each of the 15 faculties thus making a total sample size of 150 respondents. This is shown in table 3.1 below.

<b>FACULTY</b>	<b>POPULATION</b>	<b>SAMPLE</b>
Agriculture	4,089	10
Arts	9,073	10
Basic Medical Sciences	2,418	10
Dentistry	311	10
Education	10,075	10
Engineering	5,016	10
Environmental Sciences	1,003	10
Law	1,423	10
Life Sciences	8,093	10
Management Sciences	6,014	10
Medicine	8,11	10
Pharmacy	1,012	10
Physical Sciences	6,008	10
Social Sciences	6,821	10
Veterinary Medicine	994	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,161</b>	<b>150</b>

### **3.5 Research Instrument**

The research instrument used for the study is a structured questionnaire designed by the researcher. The questionnaires was administered to respondents to complete without disclosing their identities. The questionnaire was designed to obtain sufficient and relevant information from the respondents. The questionnaire consisted of 4-point Likert scale response of Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D), Strongly Disagree (SD).

### **3.6 Validity of the Instrument**

In order to enhance the content validity of the research instrument, the constructed questionnaire for the study was presented to the project supervisor to confirm for content

validity. Necessary corrections was made and after which it was re-written before it will be administered by the researcher.

### **3.7 Sources of Data**

Data was collected from two main sources namely; primary source and Secondary source. Primary source entails materials of statistical investigation which will be collected by the researcher for a particular purpose. They can be obtained through a survey, observation questionnaire or as experiment. Secondary source are data from textbook, Journals, handset etc. The researcher adopted the questionnaire as method of data collection for this study.

### **3.8 Method of Data Analysis**

The data gotten was analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Simple descriptive statistics such as frequency count and simple percentage was used in presenting the findings of the research.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.0 Introduction

This chapter dealt on the presentation and analysis. The data were primarily sourced from the administered questionnaires. A total of one hundred and fifty (150) questionnaires were administered to student from the 15 faculties in the University of Benin, Benin City. The 150 questionnaires were returned completely filled. Hence, the analysis of data was based on the one hundred and fifty (150) questionnaires recovered.

#### 4.1 Analysis of Respondents Demographic Data

The section starts with the demographic data of respondents which include gender, age, religious which are all aimed to give a concise understanding on the opinion survey of domestic violence and other sexually related crimes amongst students in tertiary institutions; investigating its effect on society, using the University of Benin as a case study.

**Table 1: Distribution of Respondents by gender**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentage</b>
<b>Male</b>	57	38%
<b>Female</b>	93	62%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

Table 1 shows the distribution of respondents according to sex. As shown in the table above, male respondents are 57 which constitute 38% while female respondents are 93 representing 62%. This indicates that majority of the respondents were females.

**Table 2: Age Distribution of Respondent**

<b>AGE RANGE</b>	<b>RESPONDENTS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGES</b>
18-28	141	94%
29-39	6	4%
40-50	2	1.3%
50 and above	1	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

Age distribution of respondents in the above table shows that 94% of the respondents are between the age of 18-28 years, 4% are within the age of 29-39 years, 1.3% are within the age of 40-50 years, while 0.7% are those in the category of 50 and above. This indicates majority of the respondents are those within the age range of 18-28 years.

**Table 4: Distribution of Respondents by religious affiliation**

<b>Religion</b>	<b>Respondents</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Christian	123	86.7%
Muslim	18	12%
African Traditional Religion	6	4%
Others	3	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table above shows the distribution of respondents according to religious affiliation. As shown in the table above, Christians respondents are 123 which constitute 86.7%, Muslim respondents are 18 representing 12%, African Traditional Religion respondents are 6 representing 4% While other religion that are not specific respondents are 2 representing 2%. This indicates that majority of the respondents were Christians.

## 4.2 Analysis of Findings

**Research Question 1:** What is the level of domestic violence experienced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin?

**Table 4:** Have you ever experienced domestic violence while at the University of Benin?

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Yes	143	95.3%
No	7	4.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 4 above shows that 143 respondents representing 95.3% of the sampled size agreed that they have experienced domestic violence while at the University of Benin while 7 respondents representing 4.7% of the sampled population disagreed.

**Table 5:** Domestic violence and sexually related crimes are significant issues in society

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Strongly Agree	93	62%
Agree	43	28.7%
Disagree	11	7.3%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 5 above shows that 62% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that domestic violence and sexually related crimes are significant issues in society, 28.7% agreed, 7.3% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed.

**Table 6:** Domestic violence and sexually related crimes are prevalent among students in tertiary

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Strongly Agree	101	67.3%
Agree	39	26%
Disagree	7	4.7%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 6 above shows that 67.3% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that domestic violence and sexually related crimes are prevalent among students in tertiary, 26% agreed, 4.7% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed.

**Table 7:** Do you know someone who has experienced domestic violence at the University of Benin?

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Yes	148	98.7%
No	2	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 7 above shows that 148 respondents representing 98.7% of the sampled size agreed that they know someone who has experienced domestic violence at the University of Benin while 2 respondents representing 1.3% of the sampled population disagreed.

Data in the analysis of the tables above therefore implies that there is a high level of domestic violence experienced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin.

**Research Question 2:** What are some of the form of domestic violence faced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin?

**Table 8:** Have you experienced violence (E.g Hitting, slapping etc) while at the University of Benin?

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Yes	147	98%
No	3	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 8 above shows that 147 respondents representing 98% of the sampled size agreed that they have experienced violence ( E.g Hitting, slapping etc) while at the University of Benin while 7 respondents representing 2% of the sampled population disagreed.

**Table 8:** Have you experienced emotional or psychological abuse (e.g Threats, Insults) while at the University of Benin?

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Yes	148	98.7%
No	2	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 8 above shows that 148 respondents representing 98.7% of the sampled size agreed that they have experienced emotional or psychological abuse (e.g Threats, Insults) while at the University of Benin while 2 respondents representing 1.3% of the sampled population disagreed.

**Table 9:** Have you experienced sexual violence (E.g Harassment, assault) while at the University of Benin?

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Yes	133	88.7%
No	27	11.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 8 above shows that 133 respondents representing 88.7% of the sampled size agreed that they have experienced sexual violence (E.g Harassment, assault) while at the University of Benin while 27 respondents representing 11.3% of the sampled population disagreed.

**Table 10:** Do you know anyone who may have experienced any form of physical, emotional or sexual violence at the University of Benin?

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Yes	143	95.3%
No	7	4.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 8 above shows that 143 respondents representing 95.3% of the sampled size agreed that they know someone who may have experienced any form of physical, emotional or sexual violence at the University of Benin while 7 respondents representing 4.7% of the sampled population disagreed.

The analysis of the tables above therefore implies that Hitting, slapping, Harassment, assault, of physical, emotional and sexual violence constitute some of the form of domestic violence faced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin.

**Research Question 3:** What is the impact of domestic violence on students' academic performance in the University of Benin?

**Table 11:** Domestic violence is most likely to negatively impact on the academic performance of students

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Strongly Agree	121	80.7%
Agree	22	14.7%
Disagree	4	2.7%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 11 above shows that 80.7% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that domestic violence is most likely to negatively impact on the academic performance of students, 14.7% agreed, 2.7% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed.

**Table 12:** Have you missed classes or assignment submission deadline due to domestic violence related issues?

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Yes	139	92.7%
No	11	7.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 8 above shows that 139 respondents representing 92.7% of the sampled size agreed that they have missed classes or assignment submission deadline due to domestic violence related issues while 11 respondents representing 7.3% of the sampled population disagreed.

**Table 13:** Has domestic violence affected your concentration and focus on your studies?

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Yes	137	91.3%
No	13	8.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 8 above shows that 137 respondents representing 91.3% of the sampled size agreed that domestic violence has affected their concentration and focus on your studies while 13 respondents representing 8.7% of the sampled population disagreed.

**Table 13:** Victims of these crimes often hesitate to report incidents due to fear or stigma

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Strongly Agree	129	86%
Agree	17	11%
Disagree	4	2.7%
Strongly Disagree	2	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 6 above shows that 86% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that victims of these crimes often hesitate to report incidents due to fear or stigma, 11% agreed, 2.7% disagreed while 1.3% strongly disagreed.

The analysis of data on the tables above implies that domestic violence have a negative impact on students' academic performance in the University of Benin.

**Table 13:** Reporting mechanisms for domestic violence and sexually related crimes are accessible and effective at the University of Benin

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Strongly Agree	111	74%
Agree	26	17.3%
Disagree	11	7.3%
Strongly Disagree	2	1.3%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 13 above shows that 74% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that reporting mechanisms for domestic violence and sexually related crimes are accessible and effective at the University of Benin, 17.3% agreed, 7.3% disagreed while 1.3% strongly disagreed.

**Table 14:** Domestic violence and sexually related crimes contribute to a culture of fear and insecurity in society

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Strongly Agree	127	84.7%
Agree	19	12.7%
Disagree	3	2%
Strongly Disagree	1	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 14 above shows that 84.7% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that domestic violence and sexually related crimes contribute to a culture of fear and insecurity in society, 12.7% agreed, 2% disagreed while 0.7% strongly disagreed.

**Table 15:** Victims of Domestic violence and sexually related crimes often face face challenges in building healthy relationships in the society

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Strongly Agree	131	87.3%
Agree	16	10.7%
Disagree	2	1.3%
Strongly Disagree	1	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 15 above shows that 87.3% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that victims of domestic violence and sexually related crimes often face face challenges in building healthy relationships in the society, 10.7 agreed, 1.3% disagreed while 0.7% strongly disagreed.

**Table 16:** Tertiary institutions should have dedicated support services for victims of these crimes such as counseling and legal assistance

<b>Responses</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percentages</b>
Strongly Agree	119	79.3%
Agree	21	14%
Disagree	7	4.7%
Strongly Disagree	3	2%
<b>Total</b>	<b>150</b>	<b>100%</b>

**Source: Field Work, 2023**

The table 16 above shows that 79.3% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that tertiary institutions should have dedicated support services for victims of these crimes such as counseling and legal assistance, 14 agreed, 4.7% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed.

The analysis of data on the tables above implies that personal attitude, beliefs perceptions, behavior, peer influences and the use of drugs and alcohol constitute some of the factors responsible for domestic violence among undergraduate students in the University of Benin.

### **4.3 Discussion of Findings**

Findings from the study revealed that there is a high level of domestic violence experienced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin. From the analysis of data, it could be seen that 143 respondents representing 95.3% of the sampled size agreed that they have experienced domestic violence while at the University of Benin while 7 respondents representing 4.7% of the sampled population disagreed. It was also seen that 95.3% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that domestic violence and sexually related crimes are significant issues in society, 28.7% agreed, 7.3% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. It was further shown that 67.3% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that domestic violence and sexually related crimes are prevalent among students in tertiary, 26% agreed, 4.7% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. Analysis of data further revealed that 148 respondents representing 98.7% of the sampled size agreed that they know someone who has experienced domestic violence at the University of Benin while 2 respondents representing 1.3% of the sampled population disagreed. This findings is in line with Omokheni (2020) found out that there is great level of domestic violence experienced by undergraduate students.

Findings from the study revealed that Hitting, slapping, Harassment, assault, of physical, emotional and sexual violence constitute some of the form of domestic violence faced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin. From the analysis of data, it could be seen that 147 respondents representing 98% of the sampled size agreed that they have experienced violence ( E.g Hitting, slapping etc) while at the University of Benin while 7 respondents representing 2% of the sampled population disagreed. It was further seen that 148 respondents representing 98.7% of the sampled size agreed that they have experienced emotional or psychological abuse (e.g Threats, Insults) while at the University of Benin while 2 respondents representing 1.3% of the sampled population disagreed. It was also seen that 133 respondents representing 88.7% of the sampled size agreed that they have experienced sexual violence (E.g Harassment, assault) while at the University of Benin while 27 respondents representing 11.3% of the sampled population disagreed. It was further revealed that 143 respondents representing 95.3% of the sampled size agreed that they know someone who may have experienced any form of physical, emotional or sexual violence at the University of Benin while 7 respondents representing 4.7% of the sampled population disagreed. This findings is in line with Odibo (2018) found out that physical, sexual, emotional and economic abuse constitute some of the form of domestic violence faced by undergraduate students.

Findings from the study revealed that domestic violence have a negative impact on students' academic performance in the University of Benin, it could be seen that 80.7% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that domestic violence is most likely to

negatively impact on the academic performance of students, 14.7% agreed, 2.7% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. It was further seen that 139 respondents representing 92.7% of the sampled size agreed that they have missed classes or assignment submission deadline due to domestic violence related issues while 11 respondents representing 7.3% of the sampled population disagreed. It can also further be seen that 86% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that victims of these crimes often hesitate to report incidents due to fear or stigma, 11% agreed, 2.7% disagreed while 1.3% strongly disagreed. From the analysis of data, it could be seen that 74% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that reporting mechanisms for domestic violence and sexually related crimes are accessible and effective at the University of Benin, 17.3% agreed, 7.3% disagreed while 1.3% strongly disagreed. It was also seen that 84.7% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that domestic violence and sexually related crimes contribute to a culture of fear and insecurity in society, 12.7% agreed, 2% disagreed while 0.7% strongly disagreed. It was further seen that 62% of the sample respondents strongly agreed that increased population constitute a major challenge against youth development, 29% agreed, 7% disagreed while 2% of the sampled respondents strongly disagreed on the item presented. It was also revealed that 87.3% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that victims of domestic violence and sexually related crimes often face challenges in building healthy relationships in the society, 10.7% agreed, 1.3% disagreed while 0.7% strongly disagreed. It was also seen that 79.3% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that tertiary institutions should have dedicated support services for victims of these crimes such as counseling and legal

assistance, 14 agreed, 4.7% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. This findings is in line with Obandan (2020) found out that a woman who has little or no level of education is likely to be a victim of domestic violence and that poverty also plays a major role in it as well. This findings is in line with Omonuku (2019) found out that children exposed to domestic violence are also at risk for developmental problems, psychiatric disorders, school difficulties, aggressive behaviour and low self-esteem.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Summary

This study investigated on domestic violence and other sexually related crimes amongst students in tertiary institutions; investigating its effect on society, using the University of Benin as a case study. To achieve the purpose of the study, four research questions were raised and examined. The research design that was used in this study is the descriptive survey research design. The sample size was made up of 150 respondents which were drawn from the respondents at the University of Benin, Benin City. Both primary and secondary data were used in the study. As regard the primary data, questionnaire was used to elicit information from the respondents. The analysis of data was done using frequency count and percentages.

Findings from the study revealed that there is a high level of domestic violence experienced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin. From the analysis of data, it could be seen that 143 respondents representing 95.3% of the sampled size agreed that they have experienced domestic violence while at the University of Benin while 7 respondents representing 4.7% of the sampled population disagreed. It was also seen that 95.3% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that domestic violence and sexually related crimes are significant issues in society, 28.7% agreed, 7.3% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. It was further shown that 67.3% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that domestic violence and sexually related crimes are prevalent

among students in tertiary, 26% agreed, 4.7% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. Analysis of data further revealed that 148 respondents representing 98.7% of the sampled size agreed that they know someone who has experienced domestic violence at the University of Benin while 2 respondents representing 1.3% of the sampled population disagreed.

Findings from the study revealed that hitting, slapping, harassment, assault, physical, emotional and sexual violence constitute some of the form of domestic violence faced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin. From the analysis of data, it could be seen that 147 respondents representing 98% of the sampled size agreed that they have experienced violence (E.g Hitting, slapping etc) while at the University of Benin while 7 respondents representing 2% of the sampled population disagreed. It was further seen that 148 respondents representing 98.7% of the sampled size agreed that they have experienced emotional or psychological abuse (e.g Threats, Insults) while at the University of Benin while 2 respondents representing 1.3% of the sampled population disagreed. It was also seen that 133 respondents representing 88.7% of the sampled size agreed that they have experienced sexual violence (E.g Harassment, assault) while at the University of Benin while 27 respondents representing 11.3% of the sampled population disagreed. It was further revealed that 143 respondents representing 95.3% of the sampled size agreed that they know someone who may have experienced any form of physical, emotional or sexual violence at the University of Benin while 7 respondents representing 4.7% of the sampled population disagreed.

Findings from the study revealed that domestic violence have a negative impact on students' academic performance in the University of Benin, it could be seen that 80.7% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that domestic violence is most likely to negatively impact on the academic performance of students, 14.7% agreed, 2.7% disagreed while 2% strongly disagreed. It was further seen that 139 respondents representing 92.7% of the sampled size agreed that they have missed classes or assignment submission deadline due to domestic violence related issues while 11 respondents representing 7.3% of the sampled population disagreed. It can also further be seen that 86% respondents of the sampled size strongly agreed that victims of these crimes often hesitate to report incidents due to fear or stigma, 11% agreed, 2.7% disagreed while 1.3% strongly disagreed.

## **5.2 Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study, the researcher concluded that there is high level of domestic violence experienced by undergraduate students in the University of Benin. It was also concluded that domestic violence have a negative impact on students' academic performance in the University of Benin, Benin City.

## **5.3 Recommendations**

Based on the findings and conclusion drawn, the following recommendations were proffered:

1. Government should ensure that the perpetrators of domestic violence are severely punished so as to serve as deterrent to others

2. The University of Benin school management should implement comprehensive awareness campaigns about domestic violence, sexual harassment, and related crimes, targeting both students and staff.
3. The University of Benin school management need to take a general survey of students who are experiencing domestic violence in one way or the other and they need to use their student support facilities to help them ameliorate the issues and seek to understand how it is affecting their academic performance.
4. The University should offer confidential counseling services for victims and survivors of domestic violence and sexual harassment, with qualified mental health professionals who are trained in trauma-informed care.

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## **Domestic Violence and Other Sexually Related Crimes Amongst Students in Tertiary Institutions; Investigating Its Effect on Society, using The University Of Benin As A Case Study**

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a student in the Department of Political Science, University of Benin, Benin City. I am currently conducting a research on Domestic Violence and Other Sexually Related Crimes Amongst Students in Tertiary Institutions; Investigating Its Effect on Society, using The University Of Benin As A Case Study; As a partial requirement for the award of a Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) degree in Political Science. Please note that this exercise is strictly for research purposes. Your participation in this research exercise is voluntary, and your responses will not lead to any backlash or consequences. Optionally, you may decline to answer specific questions without penalty. I assure that your responses would be confidential and no information from the questionnaire will be shared or transferred to any other party. Please you are required to be objective in responding to the questions asked. Thank you for your anticipated cooperation.

### **Section 1: Demographic Information**

#### **- Gender**

Male

Female

#### **- Age**

18-28

29-39

40-50

50 and above

#### **- Religion**

Christian

- O Muslim
- O African Traditional Religion
- O Others

**- Have you ever experienced domestic violence while at the University of Benin?**

O Yes

O No

**- Domestic violence and sexually related crimes are significant issues in society**

O Strongly Agree

O Agree

O Disagree

O Strongly Disagree

**- Domestic violence and sexually related crimes are prevalent among students in tertiary institutions**

O Strongly agree

O Agree

O Disagree

O Strongly Disagree

**- Do you know some one who has experienced domestic violence at the University of Benin?**

O Yes

O No

**- Have you experienced violence ( E.g Hitting, slapping etc) while at the University of Benin?**

O Yes

O No

**- Have you experienced emotional or psychological abuse (e.g Threats, Insults) while at the University of Benin?**

O Yes

No

**- Have you experienced sexual violence (E.g Harassment, assault) while at the University of Benin?**

Yes

No

**- Do you know anyone who may have experienced any form of physical, emotional or sexual violence at the University of Benin?**

Yes

No

**- Domestic violence is most likely to negatively impact on the academic performance of students**

Strongly Agree

Disagree

Agree

Strongly Disagree

**- Have you missed classes or assignment submission deadline due to domestic violence related issues?**

Yes

No

**- Has Domestic violence affected your concentration and focus on your studies?**

Yes

No

**- Victims of these crimes often hesitate to report incidents due to fear or stigma**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Strongly Disagree

Disagree

**- Reporting mechanisms for domestic violence and sexually related crimes are accessible and effective at the University of Benin**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

**- Domestic violence and sexually related crimes contribute to a culture of fear and insecurity in society**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

**- Victims of Domestic violence and sexually related crimes often face challenges in building healthy relationships in the society**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree

**- Tertiary institutions should have dedicated support services for victims of these crimes such as counseling and legal assistance**

Strongly Agree

Agree

Disagree

Strongly Disagree