

**THE PSYCHOLOGICAL EFFECTS OF VIOLENCE ON WOMEN AND  
CHILDREN IN EGOR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF EDO STATE:  
A STUDY OF USELU**

**BY**

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**DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK  
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BENIN CITY**

**DECEMBER, 2019**

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**A RESEARCH WORK PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL  
WORK, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN,  
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**DECEMBER, 2019**

## **CERTIFICATION**

We certify that this study was carried out by Favour Uyoyooghene EFENEDO, the Department of Social Works, Faculty of Social Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, it is adequate in scope and quality for the partial fulfilment of the requirements of the award of the degree of Bachelor of Science in Social Work.

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

## **DEDICATION**

This project work is dedicated to almighty God for his grace and mercy towards me.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

My greatest appreciation goes God Almighty, my heavenly father for his grace and love that he showered on me throughout my course of study.

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## **ABSTRACT**

This research work sets out to examine the psychological effects of violence on women and children. It is against this background that the research project sets out the following objectives amongst which are: to ascertain the psychological effect of violence on women, to ascertain the psychological effect of violence of children and to determine the nature of violence on children. With this objectives, 100 respondents were given questionnaires to fill in other to ascertain the psychological effects associated with violence against women and children. To this end, this research aim to bring this psychological effects to light and also to proffer solutions that would help ameliorate this social problem against women and children.

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **1.1 Background of Study**

The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women as any act of gender based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life”. It encompasses, but is not limited to, “physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation; physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring within the general community, including rape, sexual abuse, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, in educational institutions and elsewhere; trafficking in women and forced prostitution; and physical, sexual and psychological violence perpetrated or condoned by the state, wherever it occurs. Violence against women can cause long-term physical and mental health problems. Violence and abuse affect not just the women involved but also their children, families, and communities. These effects include harm to an individual’s health, possibly long-term harm to children, and harm to communities such as lost work and homelessness.

Population-level surveys based on reports from victims provide the most accurate estimates of the prevalence of intimate partner violence and sexual violence. Almost one third (30%) of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner. Globally as many as 38% of all murders of women are committed by intimate partners. In addition to intimate partner violence, globally 7% of women report having been sexually assaulted by someone other than a partner, although data for non-partner sexual violence are more limited. Intimate partner and sexual violence are mostly perpetrated by men against women. Children living with domestic violence suffer emotional and psychological trauma from the impact of living in a household that is dominated by tension and fear. These children will see their mother threatened, demeaned or physically or sexually assaulted. They will overhear conflict and violence and see the aftermath of the violence such as their mother's injuries and her traumatic response to the violence. Children also may be used and manipulated by the abuser to hurt their mother (Jaffe, Wolfe, and Wilson 1990 ).Children may be caught in the middle of an assault by accident or because the abuser intends it. Infants can be injured if being held by their mothers when the abuser strikes out. Children may be hurt if struck by a weapon or a thrown object and older children are frequently assaulted when they intervene to defend or protect their mothers ( Hilberman and Munson 1977-78 ). A child may be directly targeted by the perpetrator and suffer physical abuse, sexual abuse and/or serious neglect. It has been more than 2 decades since the overlap between

domestic violence and child abuse was identified; men who abuse their partners are also likely to assault their children. The abuse of women who are mothers usually predates the infliction of child abuse (Stark & Flitcraft 1988). At least half of all abusive partners also batter their children (Pagelow 1989). The more severe the abuse of the mother, the worse the child abuse (Bowker, Arbitell, and McFerron 1988).

Daughters are more likely than sons to become victims (Dobash and Dobash 1979). Woman abuse is also the context for sexual abuse of female children. Where the mother is assaulted by the father, daughters are exposed to a risk of sexual abuse 6.51 times greater than girls in non-abusive families (Bower, Arbitell and McFerron 1988). Where a male is the perpetrator of child abuse, one study demonstrated that there is a 70 per cent chance that any injury to the child will be severe and 80 per cent of child fatalities within the family are attributable to fathers or father surrogates (Bergman, Larsen and Mueller 1986). The effect of violence on children include poor concentration, aggression, hyperactivity, disobedience, disturbed sleep, nightmares, withdrawal, low self-esteem, showing no emotion ('spaced out'), always on edge, wary, fantasise about normal home life, pessimism about the future. Often, the behavioural and emotional impacts of violence domestic will improve when children and their mothers are safe, the violence is no longer occurring and they receive support and specialist counselling.

Apart from the emotional, physical, social and behavioural damage abuse creates for children, statistics show that violence can also become a learned behaviour. This

means that children may grow up to think it is okay to use violence to get what they want and as adults that it is okay for there to be violence in their relationships. In general, children who witness domestic violence in the home can suffer an immense amount of physical symptoms along with their emotional and behavioral state of despair. These children may complain of general aches and pain, such as headaches and stomach aches. They may also have irritable and irregular bowel habits, cold sores, and they may have problems with bed-wetting. These complaints have been associated with depressive disorders in children, a common emotional effect of domestic violence. Along with these general complaints of not feeling well, children who witness domestic violence may also appear nervous, as previously mentioned, and have short attention spans. These children display some of the same symptoms as children who have been diagnosed with attention deficit hyperactivity disorder. On the reverse, these children may show symptoms of fatigue and constant tiredness. They may fall asleep in school due to the lack of sleep at home. Much of their night may be spent listening to or witnessing violence within the home. Children of domestic violence victims are often frequently ill, and may suffer from poor personal hygiene. Children who witness domestic violence also have a tendency to partake in high risk play activities, self-abuse, and suicide

## **1.2. Statement of Problem**

Violent conflict is one of the most important development challenges facing the world today. Although the incidence of civil wars has decreased in recent years (Harbom and Wallensteen 2009), the legacy of violence persists across many countries around the world, especially in Africa, Caucasia, the Balkans, and the Middle East. The economic, political and social consequences of civil wars are immense. War displaces population, destroys capital and infrastructure, disrupts schooling, damages the social fabric, endangers civil liberties, and creates health and famine crises. Almost 750,000 people die as a result of armed conflict each year (Geneva Declaration Secretariat 2008), and more than 20 million people were internally displaced by civil wars at the end of 2007 (UNHCR 2008). Any of these effects will have considerable consequences for long-term development outcomes, including the educational attainment of populations exposed to violence. Yet while there is a growing consensus that development interventions and the promotion of democracy worldwide cannot be disassociated from the restrictions caused by violent conflict, we have limited rigorous evidence on the consequences of violent conflict on the lives of people exposed to violence. The microeconomic impact of war on civilian populations can be substantial and persistent. Not only do people living in war zones suffer injuries, death and have their property destroyed, they may also be displaced from their homes and lose their means of survival. Children are especially adversely affected by the destruction of physical capital and the deterioration of economic

conditions given the age-specific aspects of many human capital investments. Civil wars and associated physical destruction can interrupt the education of children through the damage to schools, absence of teachers, fears of insecurity and changes in family structures and household income. Children can also be negatively affected by the worsening of their health due to the association of violent conflict with famines, widespread malnutrition, and outbreaks of infectious diseases, post-war trauma, and the destruction of health facilities. The destruction of human capital during childhood is a well-documented mechanism leading to poverty traps, given the severe long-run effects it can have on individual and household welfare via the future labor market outcomes and economic performance of affected children (see Mincer 1974, Shultz 1961 and Becker 1962). These micro-level effects of civil wars remain largely under-researched. The problem confronting this research therefore is to investigate the psychological effect violence on women and children.

### **1.3 Objectives of the Research**

The purpose of this study is:

1. To ascertain the psychological effect of violence on women.
2. To ascertain the psychological effect of violence on children.
3. To determine the nature of violence and conflict on women.
4. To determine the nature of violence on children.

5. To ascertain that women who are affected by the psychological effect of violence are likely to exhibit truancy and delinquent behavior.
6. To ascertain that children who are affected by the psychological effect of violence are likely to exhibit truancy and delinquent behavior.

#### **1.4 Research Questions**

The following research question were raised to guide the study:

1. Is there any psychological effect of violence on women?
2. Is there any psychological effect of violence on children?
3. What is the nature of violence on women?
4. What is the nature of violence on children?
5. Are women likely to exhibit truancy and delinquent behavior because they were affected by the psychological effect of violence?
6. (d)Are children likely to exhibit truancy and delinquent behavior because they were affected by the psychological effect of violence?

#### **1.5 Significance of the Study**

This study can lead instructors to implement more appropriate techniques in avoiding violence in any country because of the effects it will have on their women and children. Apart from being of great help to researches, as an essential requirement to others for certification. It will also become handy to others for writing future essays if this nature. It is intended to feed essentials readers with facts that could motivate the

government to lay more emphasis on women empowerment by providing a support based infrastructure that will assist micro-finance institutions to do more in promoting , women/children empowerment. The study proffer a framework for the formulation and implementation of policies aimed at eliminating violence against women and children

### **1.6 Scope of Study**

This research focuses on the appraisal of the psychological effect of violence on women and children who are endangered to all sort of problems during conflict situation.

### **1.7 Limitations of Study**

The research was conducted alongside with other time demanding work. It was done in conjunction with classroom work.

There is also the limitation of the scarcity of time and money resources.

### **1.8 Definition of Terms**

The following terms were operationally defined in this study:

**Effect:** extreme experience such as torture, mutilation etc.

**Violence/conflict:** involves at least two parties using physical force to resolve competing claims or interests. ... The distinctions remain however and internal **violent conflicts** are often defined as **conflict** that takes place within a state as opposed to between states

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **LITERATURE REVIEW**

#### **2.0 Introduction**

This Chapter discusses literature review of other studies in order to provide for the present study. The review focuses on: (a) concept of violence (b) prevalence of violence on women and children (c) forms of violence against women and children (d) psychological effect of violence on women (e) impact of violence on the development of the child and (f) summary

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

Violence is a social phenomenon that has caught the attention of all and sundry in the recent times. The term domestic includes violence by an intimate partner wherever this violence takes place and by whatever forms. Violence against women constitutes any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women (Angelari, 2007). Violence is an important community health problem that can be encountered in every area of human life and is gradually increasing in the world (Lee2015). Women and children are exposed to the greatest violence in all other societies

Violence against women (VAW), also known as gender-based violence and sexual and gender-based violence are violent acts the victims of which are primarily or

exclusively women or girls. Such violence is often considered a form of hate crime committed against women or girls specifically because they are female, and can take many forms. And it has a very long history, though the incidents and intensity of such violence has varied over time and even today varies between societies. Such violence is often seen as a mechanism for the subjugation of women, whether in society in general or in an interpersonal relationship. Such violence may arise from a sense of entitlement, superiority, misogyny or similar attitudes in the perpetrator, or because of his violent nature, especially against women (Beverly (2003)). .

The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women states, "violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women" and "violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men. Violence against women and girls is a problem of pandemic proportions. At least one out of every three women around the world has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime with the abuser usually someone known to her (Claudia, 2005).

Violence against women can fit into several broad categories. These include violence carried out by individuals as well as states. Some of the forms of violence perpetrated by individuals are: rape, domestic violence, sexual harassment, acid throwing, reproductive coercion, female infanticide, prenatal sex selection, obstetric violence, and mob violence; as well as harmful customary or traditional practices such

as honor killings, dowry violence, female genital mutilation, marriage by abduction and forced marriage. There are forms of violence which may be perpetrated or condoned by the government, such as war rape; sexual violence and sexual slavery during conflict; forced sterilization; forced abortion; violence by the police and authoritative personnel; stoning and flogging. Many forms of violence against women, such as trafficking in women and forced prostitution are often perpetrated by organized criminal networks (Claudia 2005). Historically, there have been forms of organized violence against women, such as the Witch trials in the early modern period or the sexual slavery of the Comfort women.

The World Health Organization (WHO), in its research on violence against women, has analysed and categorized the different forms of violence against women occurring through all stages of life from before birth to old age. In recent years, there has been a trend of approaching violence against women at an international level through means such as conventions or, in the European Union, through directives (such as the directive against sexual harassment and the directive against human trafficking).

The history of violence against women remains vague in scientific literature. This is in part because many kinds of violence against women (specifically rape, sexual assault, and domestic violence) are under-reported, often due to societal norms, taboos, stigma, and the sensitive nature of the subject. It is widely recognized that even today, a lack of

reliable and continuous data is an obstacle to forming a clear picture of violence against women. Purina (2008).

Although the history of violence against women is difficult to track, it is clear that much of the violence was accepted, condoned and even legally sanctioned.eg include that Roman law gave men the right to chastise their wives, even to the point of death, and the burning of witches, which was condoned by both the church and the state (although this was not a practice exclusively against women Yakin (2009).

The history of violence against women is closely related to the historical view of women as property and a gender role of subservience. Explanations of patriarchy and an overall world system or status quo in which gender inequalities exist and are perpetuated are cited to explain the scope and history of violence against women. The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) states, "violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women, which have led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women, and that violence against women is one of the crucial social mechanisms by which women are forced into a subordinate position compared with men.

## **2.2 Prevalence of Violence against Women and Children**

Violence against children is a public health, human rights, and social problem, with potentially devastating and costly consequences. Globally, levels of violence against

children are frightfully high and it is estimated that up to 1 billion children aged 2–17 years, have experienced physical, sexual, or emotional violence or neglect. Violence against children includes all forms of violence against people under 18 years old whether perpetrated by parents or other caregivers, peers, partners, or strangers (Ferrara2016). This wide definition of violence includes not only the more obvious violent acts of commission: at least one of six main types of interpersonal violence that tend to occur at different stages in a child’s development.

Violence may take place in homes, orphanages, residential care facilities, on the streets, in the workplace, in prisons and other place of detention and lastly at schools. Hardly any studies provided age-specific and sex-specific period prevalence estimates for physical violence perpetrated by teachers. Whereas children spend more time in the care of adults in schools and other places of learning than they do anywhere else outside of their homes; because of that violence that occurs at school should be under investigation for the physical, psychological and social problems arising from that. These consequences can be prompt, as well as latent, and can last for years after the initial violence (Gomez, 2015).

Violence in schools is one of the most visible forms of violence against children: it includes physical, psychological and sexual violence and bullying that are related to causes such as gender and social norms and wider structural and contextual factors such as income inequality, deprivation, marginalisation and conflict (Bick, 2012).Violence can

be any form of physical aggression with intention to hurt (corporal punishment and physical bullying) by adults and other children. Corporal punishment is any punishment in which physical force is used and that is intended to cause some degree of pain or discomfort; it is often used to punish poor academic performance or to correct misbehaviour. Psychological violence includes verbal and emotional abuse: isolating, rejecting, ignoring, insults, spreading rumours, making up lies, name calling, ridicule, humiliation and threats, and psychological punishment (Hughes, 2017)

Psychological punishment are not physical but that humiliate, denigrate, scapegoat, threaten, scare or ridicule a child or adolescent. Sexual violence includes intimidation of a sexual nature, sexual harassment, unwanted touching, sexual coercion and rape, and it affects both girls and boys. Violence in schools creates insecurity and fear which harm the general school climate and infringe pupils' right to learn in a safe, unthreatening environment. Violence, in particular physical one among learners, and physical violence perpetuated by teachers and other staff, can happen in sight of other learners for example, in playgrounds or classrooms or in the context of school sports. Teachers may also not recognise bullying or the codes, languages and practices children and adolescents use in harassing each other, and bullying that takes place out of their sight is difficult to identify. In some cases, teachers permit or engage in violent and bullying behaviour themselves. Violence against children is a significant cause of physical problems, psychological

distress, permanent physical disability and long-term physical or mental ill-health (Maynard2016).

Violence is an important community health problem that can be encountered in every area of human life and is gradually increasing in the world. Women and children are exposed to the greatest violence in all societies (Lee2015). Violence against women can be defined as all acts of gender-based behaviour that is likely to result in psychological, sexual, and psychological harm or suffering to women, or causes to coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life Violence against women are often categorized as emotional, physical, psychological, economic, and sexual violence (Selby2012). Physical violence is a means of intimidation, suppression and sanction of the brute force; sexual violence is the use of sexuality as a way of threat, oppression and control; psychological violence or verbal abuse is the suppression, punishment and control of women with one's behavior speech; economic violence is defined as the use of economic resources and money as sanction and treat over women (Watts, 2012)

It is notified that 30% of women in the entire world and 37% of women in the West Africa, including our country, are exposed to physical and/or sexual violence by their husbands or partners in any period of their lives (Watts, 2012). The reports of General Principles of African Union agency for fundamental rights (FRA) showed that

the amount of spousal abuse in the countries of European Community ranged from 13% to 32% in 2014.

According to the research about violence against women resulted in 2014 in the countries of AU, one of each three women are exposed to physical or sexual violence from the age of 15. Only 14% of the domestic violence cases is reported. One of 10 women above the age of 15 is exposed to sexual violence. Two of five women (43%) remarked that they were exposed to psychological violence by their ex-husbands / life partners (25% abasement, 5% being imprisoned in the house etc.) Studies show the wide prevalence of this health problem in the world. The WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women which was conducted on 24,000 women from 10 countries showed that 13% to 61% of women had been abused physically and 10% to 50% had been sexually abused. A national project in Iran which was conducted in 2001 showed that the prevalence of domestic violence is on average 66.3%( Ghazi, 2004). The prevalence of violence against women in Iran was estimated as 61.8% by Adineh et al. 2006). Based on geographical classification the prevalence of domestic violence in Iran was 70% in the east of Iran, 70% in the south, 75% in the west, 62% in the north and 59% in the central parts of Iran. Saffari et al 2010, showed that education, employment status, and lower number of children lowered the risk, whereas history of previous marriage, unstable marriage, substance abuse, crowded family situation, and lower socioeconomic status increased the risk of domestic violence.

Although in North America, by law, women have equal rights, but 40% to 50% of them have experienced physical violence, rape and domestic violence and 25% to 30% have been beaten at least once by their husbands (Erlick,2008). In Hong Kong, one in five women had experienced violence since age sixteen. In Palestine and Tunisia, one in every three women have been beaten by their husband. A study by Mavrikiou showed that from 1,107 Greek-speaking women living in Cyprus who took part in the study, 28% have suffered domestic violence from their partner or husband at least once in their lives. Inami et al 2016 in a study, identified the prevalence of intimate partner violence against Japanese women. The results showed that the prevalence rate of intimate partner violence against Japanese women was 31.4 %. Walsh revealed in a study that 25% of US women reported lifetime exposure to gender-based violence (2015%).

According to the World Bank report, violence against women is widely prevalent across high-, middle- and low-income countries. It has significant economic costs in terms of expenditures on service provision, loss of income for women and their families, decreased productivity, and negative impacts on future human capital formation, also rape and domestic violence threatens the health of women of 15 to 44 years old, more so than diseases such as breast and uterus cancer (. Duvvury2013). Deyessa et al. reported that violence against women is more prevalent in rural communities. Violence against women is widespread around the world. It is a fundamental violation of women's human rights, and is also a significant public health problem, with significant economic and social costs.

Victims of violence suffer physical and psychological distress, they may suffer isolation, experience a decline in labor productivity and loss of wages, with consequences on children's health and education (. Violence as a learned behavior, would transfer from generation to generation. Children under the influence of the family's experiences transfer violence to society, this called "the cycle of violence", and in fact domestic violence is the root of all social violence. Those who witnessed parental violence during childhood were victims of family violence and "the cycle of violence" never stops. Considering the importance of violence against women as a global issue and the effect of violence on the life quality of women and the family, also the future of a new generation, the aim of this study was to determine the prevalence of violence against married women referring to health centers and determining its related factors in Sanandaj, Iran in 2015

### **2.3 Forms of Violence against Women and Children**

Women experience violence in many ways, from physical abuse to sexual assault and from financial abuse to sexual harassment or trafficking. Whatever form it takes, violence against women can have serious long-term physical and emotional effects.

- **Sexual violence:** Sexual abuse is any situation in which force or threat is used to obtain participation in unwanted sexual activity. Sexual violence is a common and serious public health problem affecting millions of people each year throughout the world. It is driven by many factors operating in a range of social, cultural and economic contexts. At the heart of sexual violence directed against women is gender

inequality. Sexual abuse includes: Forced sexual intercourse, Forcing someone to entertain other against his/her will., abusing, humiliating, degrading others, Rape within marriage, rape by strangers, sexual abuse of mentally or physically disabled people, Forced for abortion

- **Emotional violence:** Emotional violence is defined as any behaviour that threatens, intimidates, undermines the victim's self-worth or self-esteem, or controls the victim's freedom. This can include threatening the victim with injury or harm, telling the victim that they will be killed if they ever leave the relationship and public humiliation. Verbal abuse is a form of emotionally abusive behaviour involving the use of language. Verbal abuse can also be referred to as the act of threatening.
- **Economic violence :** Economic violence includes not providing food, cloths, medicine etc. for their children, preventing his wife from accessing or using any part of the house, preventing or obstructing her from carrying on her employment, non-payment of rent in case of a rented accommodation, selling her valuable belongings without her consent, forcibly taking away her salary etc.Honor killing are a common form of violence against women in certain parts of the world.
- **Honor killings:** are perpetrated by family members (usually husbands, fathers, uncles or brothers) against women in the family who are believed to have placed dishonor to the family. The death of the dishonorable woman is believed to restore honor.<sup>1</sup>These killings are a traditional practice believed to have originated from tribal customs

where an allegation against a woman can be enough to defile a family's reputation. Women are killed for reasons such as refusing to enter an arranged marriage being in a relationship that is disapproved by their relatives, attempting to leave a marriage, having sex outside marriage, becoming the victim of rape, dressing in ways that are deemed inappropriate. Honor killings are common in countries such as Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Turkey, Yemen.

- **Dowry violence:** The custom of *dowry*, which is common in South Asia, especially in India, is the trigger of many forms of violence against women. *Bride burning* is a form of violence against women in which a bride is killed at home by her husband or husband's family due to his dissatisfaction over the dowry provided by her family. *Dowry death* refers to the phenomenon of women and girls being killed or committing *suicide* due to disputes regarding dowry. Dowry violence is common in India, Pakistan, Bangladesh and Nepal. In India, in 2011 alone, the National Crime Records Bureau *reported 8,618 dowry deaths, while unofficial figures suggest the numbers to be at least three times higher*
- **Forced Marriage:** is a marriage in which one or both of the parties is married against their will. Forced marriages are common in South Asia, the Middle East and Africa. The customs of bride price and dowry that exist in many parts of the world contribute to this practice. A forced marriage is also often the result of a dispute

between families, where the dispute is 'resolved' by giving a female from one family to the other. The custom of bride kidnapping continues to exist in some Central Asian countries such as Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, and the Caucasus, or parts of Africa, especially Ethiopia. A girl or a woman is abducted by the would be groom, who is often helped by his friends. The victim is often raped by the would be groom, after which he may try to negotiate a bride price with the village elders to legitimize the marriage.

- **Forced and child marriages:** are practiced by some inhabitants In Tanzania. Girls are sold by their families to older men for financial benefits and often girls are married off as soon as they hit puberty, which can be as young as seven years old. To the older men, these young brides act as symbols of masculinity and accomplishment. Child brides endure forced sex, causing health risks and growth impediments. Primary education is usually not completed for young girls in forced marriages. Married and pregnant students are often discriminated against, and expelled and excluded from school. The Law of Marriage Act currently does not address issues with guardianship and child marriage. The issue of child marriage is not addressed enough in this law, and only establishes a minimum age of 18 for the boys of Tanzania. A minimum age needs to be enforced for girls to stop these practices and provide them with equal rights and a less harmful life

## 2.4 Psychological Effect of Violence on Women and Children

Children who live in homes where there is domestic violence grow up in an environment that is unpredictable, filled with tension and anxiety and dominated by fear. This can lead to significant emotional and psychological trauma, similar to that experienced by children who are victims of child abuse. Instead of growing up in an emotionally and physically safe, secure, nurturing and predictable environment, these children are forced to worry about the future; they try to predict when it might happen next and try to protect themselves and their siblings (Morgan, 2015) often getting through each day is the main objective so there is little time left for fun, relaxation or planning for the future.

- **Emotional and psychological trauma:** Children living with domestic violence suffer emotional and psychological trauma from the impact of living in a household that is dominated by tension and fear. These children will see their mother threatened, demeaned or physically or sexually assaulted. They will overhear conflict and violence and see the aftermath of the violence such as their mother's injuries and her traumatic response to the violence. Children also may be used and manipulated by the abuser to hurt their mother.
- **Risk of physical injury** Children may be caught in the middle of an assault by accident or because the abuser intends it. Infants can be injured if being held by their mothers when the abuser strikes out. Children may be hurt if struck by a

weapon or a thrown object and older children are frequently assaulted when they intervene to defend or protect their mothers (*Hilberman 2008*).

- **Direct victim of physical or sexual abuse:** A child may be directly targeted by the perpetrator and suffer physical abuse, sexual abuse and/or serious neglect. It has been more than 2 decades since the overlap between domestic violence and child abuse was identified; men who abuse their partners are also likely to assault their children. The abuse of women who are mothers usually predates the infliction of child abuse (*Stark2008*). At least half of all abusive partners also batter their children (*Pagelow 2009*). The more severe the abuse of the mother, the worse the child abuse (*Bowker,2008*). Daughters are more likely than sons to become victims (*Dobash 2009*). Woman abuse is also the context for sexual abuse of female children. Where the mother is assaulted by the father, daughters are exposed to a risk of sexual abuse 6.51 times greater than girls in non-abusive families. (*Bowker,2008*).

The impact of violence on women's mental health leads to severe and fatal consequences. Battered women have a high incidence of stress and stress-related illnesses such as post-traumatic stress syndrome, panic attacks, depression, sleeping and eating disturbances, elevated blood pressure, alcoholism, drug abuse, and low self-esteem. For some women, fatally depressed and demeaned by their abuser, there seems to be no escape from a violent relationship except suicide. Perhaps the most crucial consequence

of violence against women and girls is the denial of fundamental human rights to women and girls. International human rights instruments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), adopted in 1948, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), adopted in 1979, and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), adopted in 1989, affirm the principles of fundamental rights and freedoms of every human being.

- **Physical Health Effects:** The injuries, fear, and stress associated with violence can result in chronic health problems to women as a result of which they were not able to do their daily activities in a better way to raise their income.
- **Mental Health effects:** Depression and stress disorder are the most prevalent mental health problems of domestic violence. These are mainly associated with emotionally abusive behaviours such as prohibiting a woman from seeing her family and friends, economic restrictions such as preventing a woman from working, or confiscating her earning and other controlling behaviour, fear and stress due to physical abuse and forced sex. Alcohol and drug abuse are the other mental health sequelae seen in battered women in industrialized countries.
- **Effect on Domestic Violence on Empowerment of Women:** Women can suffer from violence throughout their “life cycle” as foetuses may be aborted just because they are female, girls may be neglected or subjected to various other types of abuse, adolescents may be raped, married women may be beaten, raped or killed by their

husbands and widows may be neglected. Women are the worst sufferer of the world's victim as a result of which women loss interest in household activities.

## **2.5 Impact of Violence on Children and Women**

Violence against children has lifelong impacts on health and well-being of children, families, communities, and nations. Violence against children can:

- **Result in death.** Homicide, which often involves weapons such as knives and firearms, is among the top three causes of death in adolescents, with boys comprising over 80% of victims and perpetrators.
- **Lead to severe injuries.** For every homicide, there are hundreds of predominantly male victims of youth violence who sustain injuries because of physical fighting and assault.
- **Impair brain and nervous system development.** Exposure to violence at an early age can impair brain development and damage other parts of the nervous system, as well as the endocrine, circulatory, musculoskeletal, reproductive, respiratory and immune systems, with lifelong consequences. As such, violence against children can negatively affect cognitive development and results in educational and vocational under-achievement.
- **Result in negative coping and health risk behaviours.** Children exposed to violence and other adversities are substantially more likely to smoke, misuse alcohol

and drugs, and engage in high-risk sexual behaviour. They also have higher rates of anxiety, depression, other mental health problems and suicide.

- **Lead to unintended pregnancies**, induced abortions, gynaecological problems, and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV.
- **Contribute to a wide range of non-communicable diseases** as children grow older. The increased risk for cardiovascular disease, cancer, diabetes, and other health conditions is largely due to the negative coping and health risk behaviours associated with violence.
- **Impact opportunities and future generations.** Children exposed to violence and other adversities are more likely to drop out of school, have difficulty finding and keeping a job, and are at heightened risk for later victimization and/or perpetration of interpersonal and self-directed violence, by which violence against children can affect the next generation.

## 2.6 Theoretical Framework

Feminist Theory The theoretical perspective of feminist emerged during the vibrant political movement for women back in the 1970s. The fundamental goal of feminist perspective is to understand the women's oppression in term of race, gender, class and sexual preference and how to change it." Advocates of this theoretical explanation argue that domestic violence is broadly defined as male coercion and oppression of women within the four walls of the home. Rape, sexual assault, female

infanticide, dowry related cruelty etc, are other form of violence against women in addition to domestic violence. The common elements in all these types of violence against women are gender and power. Feminist theorists believe in the feminism which means a movement for complete equality between men and women in every way.

Feminism has always meant independence of mind and spirit and body. Feminist efforts to end patriarchal domination and insists on the eradication of exploitation and oppression of women in the family context and in all other intimate relationships. At the core of feminist explanations is the view that all violence is a reflection of unequal power relationships and specifically domestic violence reflects the unequal power of men and women in society or within their personal relationships.'^ To depict more accurately the phenomenon of violence against women, feminist theorists used the terms such as "wife beating", "domestic violence", "battered women" and "women abuse" because they believe that the terms such as "family violence", "spouse abuse", "marital violence", and "conjugal violence" shift the focus away from the concept of male coercion or oppression and away from the women. Feminists have pointed out that it is necessary to define and conceptualize domestic violence in this manner to raise the awareness of violence against women in intimate relationship and to integrate various violent behaviours into main stream debates on crime.

Feminist theorists assert that etiology of domestic violence lies in the patriarchal structure of society in which systematic domination of females by males is of central

concern. They point to male violence against women as central to male supremacy. According to such a view, domestic violence, rape and sexual harassment are all part of the systematic oppression of women, rather than isolated cases with their own psychological or criminal roots."^ Advocates of feminist theory argue that domestic violence is systematic and structural mechanism of patriarchal control of women that is built on male superiority and female inferiority, sex stereo typed roles and expectations and economic, social and political predominance of men and dependency of women.' Along with verbal, emotional, and economic abuse, violence is a means of maintaining male power in the family when men feel their dominance is being threatened. Economic dependence of female on the male makes them unable to escape from the violent behaviour of men. Men's superior physical strength may enable them to dominate women through violence.

A fundamental factor in any analysis of violence against women is that of gender. Violence against women refers and determines gendered social structure. Gender refers to the socially constructed roles, behaviours and expectation that are ascribed to men and women. It is also understood as a social structure of norms and institutions where women and men experience life differently because of the socially ascribed roles of gender. It is a salient and pervasive issue which response appropriately to those women who experience violence in many forms." Feminists see rape and other sexual assault on women not as an act of passion but as a violent social statement, i.e., a means of controlling women. Rape

and the threat or fear of rape, is one of the means by which men make women docile and ensure their own dominance. Men are taught to associate power, dominance, strength, virility and superiority with masculinity and submissiveness, passivity, weakness and inferiority with femininity." In this process men learn that they are the aggressors against the women. In the feminist view, batterers feel that use of physical force or its threat against wives is an integral part of the institution of the family and is one of the means to control the family. Batterers may typically exercise control over the family in nonviolent coercive ways and only sometimes resort to violence. Batterers often rationalize their violence on the ground that it was necessitated by their partner's action or she provoked or caused it and they simply reacted as any man would.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **RESEARCH METHOD**

#### **3.1 Research Design**

A research design is a plan on how data will be collected, analyzed and the extent to which correlations reached are applicable and generalizable.

Survey research design will be adopted for this study. The design entails the collection and use of data systematically from a given population to describe certain characteristics features of the population. It is considered appropriate as the study intends to identify and ascertain the psychological effect of violence on women and children.

#### **3.2. Area of Study**

Uselu is located in Egor Local Government Area of Edo State. It is a metropolitan area located within the Edo South Senatorial District. It has a relatively high intensity of commercial activities, which makes the population of residents to vary in terms of ethnicity. The major inhabitants of the area are the Bini-speaking people, however other ethnic groups are residents in the area. Major communities within Uselu include Edaiken Community, Anigboro, Evabareke, Uselu Share, etc. Also, Uselu is home to the famous Federal Neuropsychiatric Hospital, Uselu, S & T Military Barracks, Uselu Town Hall, Benin Traditional Ground, Uselu Market, etc.

The major occupation of the people of the area include business/trading, artisanship and civil service. Due to the intensity of commercial activities within Uselu, it

is beehive of social, economic and political activities, which places a lot of demand on everyday life.

### **3.3. Population of Study**

The population of study comprise of the residents of Uselu, women and children to be precise. The population estimate of Egor Local government Area,of which Uselu is a subset according to 2016 estimation is four hundred and forty five thousand, eight hundred(445,800) (National Bureau of Statistics, 2017).

### **3.4 Sample and Sampling Technique**

A purposive simple random sampling technique will be used in selecting a total of 100 respondents. This sampling method involves sampling of individuals who fall within the category of the study population and are accessible at the time of the survey. In other to ensure that ball the population characteristics are captured, responders will be drawn from major locations in the study area. This will help to eliminate bias and thus providing a representative sample.

### **3.5 Instrument of Data Collection**

A structured questionnaire will be used as instrument for data collection. It will be designed in the line with the purpose of the study. In other to ensure that the instrument adequately measures what is intended for, it will be validated by the research supervisor. Corrections and comments made will be used to update the instrument before administration.

The instrument will be divided into three parts; Sections A-C. Section A consists of demographic information of the respondents, while sections B and C consists of items which elicits data on the research questions raised for the study. It consists if a four point rating scale: Strongly Agree (SA), Agree (A), Disagree (D) and Strongly Disagree (SD)

### **3.6 Method of Data Collection**

The research instrument will be personally administered to the respondents by the researcher in order to generate data for the study. Furthermore, in order to increase the accuracy of information provided by respondents, the researcher will make efforts to explain and simplify items that may prove difficult for respondents' understanding. The instruments will be retrieved immediately after completion so as to minimize loss of instrument. The collated questionnaires will serve as primary source of data for the study.

### **3.7 Method of Data Analysis**

Data obtained from administered questionnaires were analyzed using categorical variables. It groups all units into distinct categories which can be summarized by determining how many times a category occurs. It can also represent thus as a percentage or proportion of the total. Thus, the results obtained will be the basis for the generation of results to the population of study.

## CHAPTER FOUR

### DATA ANALYSIS AND INTERPRETATION

#### 4.1 Socio Demographic Profile of Participants

The section covers the socio demographic profile of participants such as age, sex, religious affiliation, occupation among others. The socio demographic characteristics of participants show attribute that similar to the participants

**TABLE 1: Distribution of Respondent by Sex**

<b>Sex</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Female	78	78.0
Male	22	22.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Field work 2019

Table 1 shows the sex of respondents 78(78%) of the respondents are female and male while 22(22%) are male. This implies that, majority of the respondents are female.

**TABLE 2: Distribution of Respondents by Age**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
16-20	28	28.0
21-25	40	40.0
26-30	21	21.0
31-35	11	11.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2019

The results of the study showed that, students between the ages of 16-20 made up 28 % of the respondents. Those between the ages of 21-25 made up 40 % of the respondents. Those between the ages of 26-30 were 21% of the entire respondents and those of 31-35 years were 11% percent of the respondents. This implies that, most of the respondents were between the ages of 21-25, followed by those between the age ranges of 21 and above.

**TABLE 3: Distribution of Respondents by Religion**

<b>Religion</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Christian	77	77.0
Muslim	18	18.0
Other	5	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

**Source:** Field work 2019

The table shows the religious identification of respondents sampled revealed that, 77(77%) of the entire sample was Christians, 18(18%) were Muslims, while 5(5%) were free thinkers and A.T.R. This implies that, most of the respondents of the study were Christians.

## SECTION B

**TABLE 4: Distribution Table to Show Weather Psychological Problems Affects Women and Children during Violence**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agreed	57	57.0
Agreed	41	41.0
Strongly disagreed	Nil	0.0
Disagreed	2	2.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source field work 2019

Table 4 shows that of all the respondent 57(57%) strongly agreed that psychological problems affects women and children during violence, 41(41%) agreed that psychological problems affects women and children during violence while 2(2%) disagreed that psychological problems affects women and children during violence?

**TABLE 5: Distribution Table to Show Whether Women and Children Suffer Serious Violence during Conflict Situation**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agreed	50	50.0
Agreed	40	50.0
Strongly disagreed	5	5.0
Disagreed	5	5.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source field work 2019

Table 5 shows that of all respondents 50% strongly agreed that women and children suffered serious violence during conflict situation 40% agreed that women and children suffered serious violence during conflict situation while 5% both strongly disagreed and disagreed that women and children suffered serious violence during conflict situation

**TABLE 6: Distribution Table To Show Wether Soldiers Have Sex With Women And Children During Conflict Situation**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agreed	25	25.0
Agreed	30	30.0
Strongly disagreed	10	10.0
Disagreed	35	35.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source field work 2019

Table 6 shows that of all respondents 25% strongly agreed that soldiers have sex with women and children during conflict situation, 30% agreed also that soldiers have sex with women and children during conflict situation while 10% and 35% strongly disagree and disagreed respectively that soldiers have sex with women and children during conflict situation.

**TABLE 7: Distribution Table to Show Whether Soldiers Beat-Up Women and Children during Conflict Situation**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agreed	10	10.0
Agreed	15	15.0
Strongly disagreed	45	45.0
Disagreed	30	30.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source field work 2019

Table 7 shows that of all respondent 10% strongly agreed that soldiers beat-up women and children during conflict situation, 15% agreed also that soldiers beat-up women and children during conflict situation while 45% and 30% strongly disagree and disagreed that soldiers beat-up women/children during conflict situation.

**TABLE 8: Distribution Table to Show Whether Soldiers Having Sex with Women And Children During Violence Can Lead Them Contacting Aids**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agreed	34	34.0
Agreed	39	39.0
Strongly disagreed	20	20.0
Disagreed	7	7.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source field work 2019

Table 8 shows that of all respondents 34% strongly agreed that Soldiers having sex with women and children during violence can lead them to Contracting AIDS, 39% agreed to the fact that Soldiers having sex with women and children during violence can lead them to Contracting AIDS while 20% and 7% strongly disagreed and disagreed that Soldiers having sex with women and children during violence can lead them to Contracting AIDS.

**TABLE 9: Distribution Table to Show Whether Soldiers Deprived the Women and Children from Their Liberty during Conflict Situation**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agreed	23	23.0
Agreed	42	42.0
Strongly disagreed	7	7.0
Disagreed	27	27.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source field work 2019

Table 9 shows that 23% of the respondent strongly agreed that Soldiers deprived the women and children from their liberty during conflict situation, 42% agreed that Soldiers deprived the women and children from their liberty during conflict situation while 7% and 27 % strongly disagreed and disagreed that Soldiers deprived the women and children from their liberty during conflict situation

**TABLE 10: Distribution Table to Show Whether Women and Children Are Kicked, Tied Up or Flogged during Conflict Situation**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agreed	45	45.0
Agreed	27	27.0
Strongly disagreed	14	14.0
Disagreed	14	14.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source field work 2019

Table 10 shows that 45% of respondents strongly agreed that Women and children are kicked, tied up or flogged during conflict situation 27% agreed also that Women and children are kicked, tied up or flogged during conflict situation while 14% both strongly disagree and disagreed that Women and children are kicked, tied up or flogged during conflict situation.

**TABLE 11: Distribution Table to Show Whether Women and Children are Forced to Sleep with All Kind of Creatures during Conflict Situation**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agreed	4	4.0
Agreed	21	21.0
Strongly disagreed	37	37.0
Disagreed	38	38.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source field work 2019

Table 11 shows that of all respondent 4% strongly agreed that Women and children are forced to sleep with all kind of creatures during conflict situation while 21% agreed that Women and children are forced to sleep with all kind of creatures during conflict situation also 37% and 38% respectively strongly disagreed and disagreed that Women and children are forced to sleep with all kind of creatures during conflict situation.

**TABLE 12: Distribution Table to Show Whether Women and Children Get Impregnated during Conflict Situation**

<b>Item</b>	<b>Frequency</b>	<b>Percent</b>
Strongly agreed	4	4.0#
Agreed	21	21.0
Strongly disagreed	37	37.0
Disagreed	38	38.0
<b>Total</b>	<b>100</b>	<b>100</b>

Source field work 2019

Table 12 shows that of all respondents 4% strongly agreed that Women and children got pregnant during conflict situation, 21% agreed that Women and children got pregnant during conflict situation, 37% strongly disagreed that Women and children got pregnant during conflict situation while 38% disagreed that Women and children got pregnant during conflict situation.

## 4.2 Discussion of Findings

This study seek to ascertain the psychological effect of violence on women and children the tables reveals the findings of the study based on the data analyzed 78(78%) of the respondents are female and male while 22(22%) are male. This implies that, majority of the respondents are female. And falls between the ages of 21-25, most of the respondents of the study were Christians.

The tables further revealed that 57(57%) strongly agreed that psychological problems affects women and children during violence, 50% strongly agreed that women and children suffered serious violence during conflict situation, 35% disagreed that soldiers have sex with women and children during conflict situation while 45% strongly disagree that soldiers beat-up women and children during conflict situation.

Also the study shows that of all the respondents 39% agreed to the fact that Soldiers having sex with women and children during violence can lead them Contacting AIDS while 23% of the respondent strongly agreed that Soldiers deprived the women and children from their liberty during conflict situation, also 45% of respondents strongly agreed that Women and children are kicked, tied up of flogged during conflict situation 38% disagreed that Women/children are forced to sleep with all kind of creatures during conflict situation. While 38% disagreed that Women and children got pregnant during conflict situation.

## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 Summary

This study investigated the psychological effect of violence on women and children using Uselu, Egor Local Government as a case study. This research employed the survey design and this was used for the study because the research covered an entire population from which the sample was drawn. The findings from this sample were generalized to the entire population.

The target population for this study was women and children in Uselu, Egor Local government. Random sampling technique was used to select total number of 100 respondents collected from the population as described above

The analysis of the study showed that majority of the respondents were between the ages of 21-25 and were mostly Christians. The demographics further shows that females were more in number as compared to males. The analysis also show that majority of the respondent are aware of the variable under this research also the tables also revealed the effect of psychological violence on women and children.

The research shows that the major effects of violence on women and children is the post-traumatic stress disorder and other anxiety disorders as a result of this violence on them.

## 5.2 Conclusion

Violence against women within the family is a global phenomenon. However its ramifications are more complex and its intensity much greater in India. The most pathetic aspect of such atrocities is domestic violence. Domestic violence is a significant problem all over the world which adversely affects the health and safety of millions of women throughout their lifespan. Such an assault is also termed as intimate partner violence.

Domestic violence is one of the crimes against women which is linked to their disadvantageous position in the society. Therefore domestic violence is recognized as the significant barriers of the economic empowerment of women. A nation's progress and prosperity can be judged by the way it treats its women folk. Therefore women should be encouraged to organised themselves such as women's group, self- help group or N.G.O's. It can be effectively used as an instrument to mobilize the women folk. Some successful women's organisations can also act as catalytic agents for encouraging women's participation in social and political activities. Women status mainly depends on their rights and privileges and the roles assigned to them.

Status is determined in terms of socio- economic indicators such as income, property, education and skills that open up opportunities of employment. One cannot hope gender equity unless women have a share in the decision making process in the family and in the public sphere. Efforts to help women empower themselves through vocational training, employment opportunities and social groups need to consider the

potential unintended consequences for these women, such as an increased risk of domestic violence.

### **5.3 Recommendations**

Domestic violence is on the rise in most countries around the world. It is a pattern of on-going hurtful controlling activities, including physical, sexual, emotional and verbal abuse. Domestic violence is perpetrated against women in most cases. Domestic violence can be easily distinguished as being a disease which spreads rapidly and occurs in all religious groups, all races, relationships and to people of all ages. These acts will continue, until our society takes steps to prevent it. The findings of this study have demonstrated that women continue to be abused in several diverse forms. This therefore requires concerted efforts to tackle the root cause.

The following recommendations are made to address this canker

First of all, the authorities should be present to prevent these humiliating assaults. The authorities, who consist of the police department, the hospital, and social workers, should work in unity so that they can be efficient and the problems are easier to solve. These authorities must have a good name and should be trusted by the people especially the DOVSU unit, as it will encourage them to inform the authorities in an emergency. If such a crime occurs, the person who committed the violence should be immediately arrested by the authorities, until the truth is being revealed in the court. After the offender has been arrested it is recommended that, the victim, which is usually the offender's wife

or girlfriend, should be rescued to a safe place, which the offender doesn't know about and where she could be medically treated if hurt. On the other side, the offender, who is generally in police custody in remand, should also be given medical care if required as the case is being investigated. This is because despite the fact that it is the job of the police department to investigate the case from all angles, putting the wrong person behind bars through a wrong decision can ruin somebody's life as some male victims are found out to be victors at the end.

It is further recommended that the police investigate deeply, questioning the offender, the victim and the neighbors separately. In the modern world, the police cannot be bias anymore like in the past, because the women due to personal interest can lie so as to imprison their spouse.

Another remedial tool is for there to be a conscious education, sensitization and campaign by the ministry of women and children affairs about the details of the domestic violence bill. The study showed that a greater number of women are not aware of the bill let alone know what it is all about. This should be done alongside offering of training for women especially those in petty trading to add skills development in soap making, batik and granting of small start up capitals through loans. This will make women productive and subsequently go miles to reduce subordination of women which leads to abuse.

The problem of failure to report abusive cases can be dealt with in a more skilful manner. This is because some victims are scared to take any actions against their spouses,

because they think that someday their spouse will be free from the jail and would definitely take revenge or their marriages will break up. For these kinds of situations, it is recommended that the DOVVSU unit of the police force there should offer a free service of a 'Hotline'. These 'Hotlines' can help the helpless.

The victims can talk to qualified people working in the 'Hotlines', who can advise them and show them the right direction. The service delivery agents should adequately trained to handle the offender as well, and must be multi-lingua looking at the language dynamics of our country. It is also possible, that a straight forward person under the influence of alcohol or drugs commits a crime. These call centers should be always backed up by the authorities for emergency.

As a recommendation to forestall future occurrence, educating the younger generation about domestic violence will be a right approach. The next generation should be educated in what is accepted. Campaigns on talking to a child about violence through the ministry of educations curricular from the basic level will set the pace for this achievement.

Children must be taught to know how to avoid perpetrators like rapist as well as the appropriate and civic ways of expressing ones anger and frustration - and what is out of bounds. Societal values like what it means to be fair, share and treat others with respect should be incorporated into the educational frame that is particularly geared towards addressing domestic violence. The children should be instructed that if they are assaulted

by an adult, they should firstly inform their family and if the victim doesn't has a family, the authorities should be informed. The law must be allowed to work. It is recommended that police officials and law interpreters will be strengthened; the alternative dispute and arbitration committees should be well resourced. When this is done it will not give other people to perpetrate heinous crimes against women and children. Government, the Nigerian police service and religious should make sure that the interference of the authorities, the economic status of most of the people and cultural history which play a huge role in aggravating domestic violence would be monitored.

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## APPENDIX

### DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES. UNIVERSITY OF BENIN.

#### QUESTIONNAIRE

I am a final year B. SC degree student in the above department. I am conducting an empirical research titled **“Psychological Effect of Conflict/Violence on Women and Children**. Please I will need your assistance to answer and give opinions to the questions in my questionnaire. The research is academic, and your answers and response will be treated with utmost confidentiality. Thank you very much. - **Efenedo Favour**

#### SECTION A: PERSONAL DATA

#### SECTION A: PERSONAL DATA

Sex: Male (  ) Female (  )

Age: (20-29 Years) \_\_\_\_\_ (30-39years) \_\_\_\_\_ (40-49years) \_\_\_\_\_ (50years and above) \_\_\_\_\_

Educational Qualification: (B.A, B.SC, B.ED)\_\_\_\_,(M.A,M.SC, M.ED)\_\_\_\_, (Ph.  
D)\_\_\_\_,(OTHERS)\_\_\_\_

Marital Status: Married (  ) Separated (  ) Divorced (  ) Widowed (  ) Single (  )

Occupation: Lecturer (  )

**SECTION B:**

Choose the response that best reflects your opinion from each of the items below:

**SA Strongly Agree,**

**A= Agree,**

**A= Disagree,**

**SD= Strongly Disagree.**

Your responses would be kept strictly secret

S/N	ITEMS	SA	A	D	SD
1.	Psychological problems affects women and children during conflict situation				
2.	Women and children suffered serious violence during conflict situation				
3.	Soldiers have sex with women and children during conflict situation?				
4.	Soldiers beat-up women and children during conflict situation?				
5.	omen and children suffer serious violence during conflict situation?				
6.	Soldiers having sex with women and children during conflict situation can make them to contact HIV/AIDS				
7.	Soldiers deprive the women and children of their liberty during conflict situation.				
8.	Women and children are kicked, tied up of flogged during conflict situation				
9.	Women and children are forced to sleep with all kind of creatures during conflict situation				
10.	Women and children get impregnated during conflict situation?				