THE ROLE OF SOCIAL WORKERS IN THE MANAGEMNT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN BENIN CITY EDO STATE.

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BENIN CITY

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BEING A PROJECT SUBMITTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY NIGERIA

IN PARTIAL FULFILLMENT OF THE REQUIREMENTS FOR THE AWARD OF BACHELOR OF SCIENCE [B.SC.] (HONS) DEGREE IN SOCIAL WORK

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CERTIFICATION

This is to certify that this original research work was carried out by Chukwukwe Ogorchukwu with matriculation number SSC1814777 under our strict supervision and has been Approved as adequate in Scope and Content in Partial Fulfillment for the award of Bachelor of Science (B.Sc) Degree in Social Work, University of Benin.

…..…… ……
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(Project Supervisor)

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(Head of Department)

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to God Almighty for His guidance and protection throughout my stay in school.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

All gratitude to God Almighty, the one who has made it possible for me to complete this programme and this project work. May his name be praised forever.

Special thanks to my ever caring and lovely husband Mr. Adeniyi Ore Samuel for his immense support, prayer and understanding all through my study. You have been a pillar of support to me. I love you. Also worth of mention here is my twin sister Praise for her unending encouragement, prayers and support.

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Above all, honour adoration, thanks and majesty be onto the Lord who is the Author and finisher of our faith

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ABSTRACT

The study investigated determinants and consequences of economic vulnerability among the elderly in Lokoja metropolis, Kogi State, Nigeria. The objective of this study was to investigate and highlight the determinants and consequences of economic vulnerability among the elderly in Lokoja metropolis, Kogi State. The research questions asked to achieve the objective of the study were as follows; What are the challenges faced by the elderly in Lokoja metropolis, Kogi State. What are the determinants of economic vulnerability among elderly in Lokoja metropolis, Kogi State. What are the health-related consequences of Economic Vulnerability among elderly in Lokoja metropolis, Kogi State. The sample size was 294 participants chosen from the study population using the Proportionate Stratified Random Sampling, the research instrument utilized was the questionnaire. Conclusion drawn from the analysis of the data retrieved from the questionnaire indicates that the elderly in particular require not just special care, but special facilities to make life meaningful and comfortable. Social workers are professional caregivers hence their involvement in caring for the elderly. Aside from the care, support and advice needed by the elderly and provided by social workers, there are some institutional mechanism which government needs to put in place to cushion the effects of economic vulnerability among the elderly. Recommendations were made based on the findings and they include: The government should take active and concrete measures towards implementing a viable social welfare programme for the elderly both at the federal, state and local government levels. This would ensure uniformity in implementation and Professional social workers must be encouraged to widen their operation horizon to accommodate the elderly.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Domestic violence affects men and women of all ages, races, religions, and incomes. However due to the "secrecy" of domestic violence, it is often a hidden social problem. The "invisibility" of the problem is largely attributed to the belief that it is a private family matter, which should not be made known to outsiders. This problem is not confined only to Malaysia but is a world-wide concern. In 1994, the World Bank compiled a study on domestic violence experienced by women in 35 countries. The results indicated that one quarter to one half of women in the countries studied had been physically beaten by their partners (Heise, Pitanguy, & Germaine, 1994). It is estimated that one in every three women worldwide are victims of intimate partner violence (Heise, Ellsberg, & Gottemoeller, 1999; Heise & Garcia-Moreno, 2002; Seager, 2009).

Domestic violence has a long history but it was only "uncovered' in the 1970s when the women's movement highlighted the problems and demanded that it should be addressed. In Malaysia, the Domestic Violence Act (DVA) was only implemented in June 1996, after much lobbying by women's groups. Prior to its implementation, victims of domestic abuse had little legal protection. The implementation of this act has been described as having a "powerful symbolic value as it is a clear indication of society's abhorrence of the abuse." (Herbert, 1997). However, Mohd. Shahrizad, (1996)

rightfully asserted that “laws are limited in impact and cannot be carried out effectively in isolation from the social attitudes and policies”. She recommended that the attitude of friends, family members and professionals be changed, as it is this attitude of ignorance and insensitivity that serves at present to keep the victims locked in their shame and isolation.

In Nigeria, a study concluded that an estimated 39 percent of Nigerian women have been abused by their partners (Abdullah, Raj-Hashim, & Schmitt, 1995). Another study by Herbert (1997) indicated that even after almost twenty years during which various movements had tried to eradicate gender violence, violence against women in Malaysia appeared to be growing, both in frequency and severity. Because of the hidden nature of the problem and the lack of systematic reporting across the country, the actual incidence of domestic violence is difficult to determine.

A lot of factors contribute to domestic violence. These include, hunger, difficulties with sleep, menstrual cycle mood changes, feelings of frustration and inadequacy, personality disorder, substance abuse (abuse of alcohol), brain tumor, head injury, personality change, and rarely mental illness and mental retardation (Ephraim – Oluwanuga, 2004). Domestic violence may be a factor of individual intolerance, incompatibility, selfish approach to issues, immaturity, lack of moral standard or lack of fear of God. Other causes of domestic violence include, failure to fulfill financial obligations to children, poverty, disrespect and other social vices. Whatever be the causes or nature of domestic violence, it is imperative for the social workers or other

care-givers to acquaint themselves with the consequences of domestic violence, its prevention and management and thus necessary counseling to parent or children.

The way an individual reacts in a given circumstance will go a long way in either encouraging or discouraging violence, which is an aspect of conflict. Humans are rational in nature, we have the tendency to do good or evil, to be self-centered, greedy, and jealous, and always want to be in control of power and hatred towards his fellow humans (Dokpesi, Ibizugbe and Obaro 2003).

Domestic violence has become a global phenomenon. It has eaten deep into the marrow of the society, that it is no longer seen as a societal ill but a normal way of life in the society. While accepting the fact that there are various factors that influences domestic violence against children, culture and the society we live in to a greater extent are basically the major factor, or the chief proponents of domestic violence (Osaghae and Iborbor 2003). Domestic violence is more prevalent than violence on the street or work place. Domestic violence is a consequence of unequal power reaction and those who want to express themselves by intimidating and controlling others practice it. (Noga Avin 1991).

Domestic violence often happens within the family but this does not mean that it is only subjected to the family. It can result among couples dating and even between neighbours. Battering as used in the literature of family violence, includes slapping,

punching, knocking down, choking, kicking, hitting with objects, threatening with weapons, stabbing and shooting.

A partner who has the tendency of being violent can start in a subtle way, at first it could be few slaps/punches, which he or she easily apologies to their spouse for and later on it increases and becomes a normal routine in the relationship. Most partners see these warning signals and tend to ignore it, by making excuses for the other partner, however, if this is not curtailed it can degenerate to domestic violence which can even lead to death of one partner.

In fact, battering does not specify the gender of the batterer, yet most people often assume that the batterer is male and the victim is female. Interestingly, survey research has found that the number of women who report expressing violence toward their male partner is the same and even greater than the number of men who report expressing violence towards their female partners. We now know that women use violence against male partners as often as men do against female partners (frieze 2005). Majority of the men that are being violated against would not want to report being violated against, due to the general societal belief that male ought to be stronger than females, hence they would want to meet up to the expectations of the society, and they believe it would be a let down on their personality and they would be considered weaklings.

By implication of the above viewpoint, domestic violence against children exists in both developing and developed nations of the world. Nonetheless, the difference only lies in the approach; the involvement of the latter in the act of domestic violence is not culturally determined as tenable in the former, especially Nigeria. This is in view of the fact that some acts that are considered to be domestic violence against child in the eyes of the Western world may be a way of life (culture) in some African societies like Nigeria–hence the need for social work counseling.

1.2 Statement of the problem

The society is meant to be peaceful and loving and the family being the basic unit of life is supposed to be a safe haven for people to live in, what is really the problem when people who are meant to love each other, protect one another and be the best friends end up hurting one another?. Violence in relationship generally develops a continuing pattern of abuse overtime. Despite the mistreatment women, men, children and even the elderly receive in the home, some of these people still choose to remain in that home and keep quiet about such ugly incidence. Partner often suffers injury and in most cases have a long term effect on the individual such as memory loss and depression, Demaris (2001). This study therefore, seek to examine the role of social workers in the management of domestic violence in Edo State with specific focus on Ovia North East Local Government Area.

1.3 Research Questions

In the light of the above, the following questions will guide this study

1. t lead to domestic violence in Ovia North East Local Government Area.?

2. What are the consequences of domestic violence in Ovia North East Local Government Area.?

3. What is the impact of domestic violence against children on their academic performance.?

4. why do couples involve in domestic violence and to what extent the society and the various social institutions have gone in fighting against domestic violence.?

5. What is the role of social workers in curbing domestic violence.?

1.4 Objectives of the study

The main objective of this study is to evaluate the role of social workers in the management of domestic violence in Benin City Edo State. The specific objectives are to :

1. find out the major factor that lead to domestic violence in Ovia North East Local Government Area.

2. Evaluate the consequences of domestic violence in Ovia North East Local Government Area.

3. find out why the impact of domestic violence against children on their academic performance.

4. find out why couples involve in domestic violence and to what extent the society and the various social institutions have gone in fighting against domestic violence.

5. ascertain the role of social workers in curbing domestic violence.

1.5 Scope of the study

Domestic violence has become a general social ill which has eaten deep into the fabrics of society. It has become a global phenomenon. Domestic violence is not new, it has started right from our fore fathers although crucial significance was not given to it. Until recently when people started paying attention to it. This study woul focus on the people of Ovia North East local government Area, in Benin City, Edo State.

This project is being carried out to determine the impact of domestic violence against children and the need for social work counseling in Ovia North East Local Government Area, specifically Ekosodin community Benin City and to determine their level of understanding of the meaning of domestic violence

1.6 Significance of the study

The study is set out to determine the social impact of domestic violence in the society. The findings would help us to determine the causes of domestic violence in the society and ascertain why majority of the people living in the society view violence as a normal way of life. The study will also appreciate the things that prompt various individuals into involving in violent act and why people remain in abusive and unhealthy relationships. These findings will help in proffering ways of curbing theses problems which have immense effects on the individuals who has been violated and

also to find preventive measures to stop further acts of violence. It will further sensitize people on their rights, and make them aware of several authorities who can help them fight their cause.

1.7 Definition of terms

Domestic violence: violence or other abuse that occurs in a domestic setting, such as in a marriage or cohabitation

Psychotherapy: the use of psychological methods, particularly when based on regular personal interaction, to help a person change behavior, increase happiness, and overcome problems

Social worker: work with individuals and families to help improve outcomes in their lives.

Prevalence: a term that means being widespread and it is distinct from incidence. Prevalence is a measurement of all individuals affected by the disease at a particular time

Advocacy: an activity by an individual or group that aims to influence decisions within political, economic, and social institutions

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

The problem of domestic violence has drawn the attention of people over the years. Thus therefore implies that a lot of scholars have carried out numerous studies on the subject matter both locally and internationally.

2.1 Concept of domestic violence

There is no legal definition of domestic violence, however the government defines domestic violence as any incident of threatening behavior, violence or abuse (psychological, sexual, physical, financial or emotional) between adults who are or have been in a relationship together or between family members, regardless of gender or sexuality. This definition includes violence from family members other than a woman partner. Domestic violence most times is directed by men against women but some women but some women also use violence against men.

Domestic violence has become a global phenomenon and it has eaten deep into the marrow of the society that is no longer seen as a societal ill but a normal way of life in the society. Domestic violence is more frequent than violence on the street or workplace, it is the cause of unequal power reaction and those who want to express themselves by intimidating others practice it. Noga Avin (1991).domestic violence

often result within family but this does not mean that its restricted to the family alone, it can happen among couples dating and even neighbors.

It is common to hear the phrase ‘’battered women’’ refering to women who have been subjected to abuse from their spouses or partner. Battering as used in the literature of family violence, includes slapping, punching, knocking down, choking, kicking, hitting with objects, threatening with weapons, stabbing and shooting. In fact battering does not specify the gender of the batterer, yet most people often assume that the batterer is the male and the victim is the female. Interestingly, survey research has found that the number of women who report expressing violence towards their male partner is higher than that of males towards their female partners (Frieze 2005).

2.2 .1 The politics of domestic violence

Politics is about power, but power takes many forms ranging from force and coercion at one end of the spectrum to persuasion and authority at the other. Between these two extremes are inducement and manipulation. Force and coercion imply the imposition of sanction or the threat of their imposition. At the states level, the state, frequently use violence to achieve its ends and for a while at least, whole population may be intimated. However, the power of the state is not necessarily expressed through the use of threat of naked force. It also has the capacity to control information and to determine the political agenda. This has direct relevance to domestic violence. As Dobash and Dobash (1980, p.2) observe: In 1974, almost no one had heard of battered

woman, except of course, the legion who were being battered and the relative, ministers, friends, social workers, doctors and lawyers in whom some of them confided.

Many people did not believe that such behavior actually existed and even most of those who were aware of it did not think that it affected sufficient number of women or was of sufficient severity to warrant large scale concern.

In the 1970 domestic violence became a political issue. The beginning of the battered women movements in Britain is well known in the words of Dobash and Dobash (1992, p.25); it emerged in a rather unexpected manner, beginning with a campaign to protest against the elimination of free milk and ending with a refuge for battered women. The moving spirit behind the campaign was the charismatic Erin pizzey. In the course of the campaign Erin pizzey and her associates came into contact with many young mothers whose main complaint was isolation and loneliness. To combat this problem, a plan was formed to set up a community center for women and their children, and eventually a small condemned house was obtained for this purpose from Houslow Borough council. In 1972, the house was opened under the title of chiswick women aid.

Very soon the group found itself dealing with the problem of women who had suffered violence at the hands of their male partners, so that the house at chiswick came to be used as a refuge. The work they were doing for battered women received a great deal of publicity in the press, on radio and on the television. A book written by Erin pizzey (1974) was given extensive media coverage.

This publicity served both to make the chiswick group well known and to bring the problem of domestic violence to the attention of the general public. Some of the members of Chiswick Women's Aid traveled round the country giving talks and encouraging the establishment of local women aid group. The first international conference was held in 1974 and in 1975 a national organization, the National Women Aid federation was set up. Spector and kituye (1977, p.8). The higher profile afforded to the issue of male violence against women in recent years is almost entirely due to the political practice of activist in the women's liberation movement and feminist research from this. As feminism developed momentum in the late 1960s and early 1970s,the significance of violence in women's lives started to emerge.'

Finkelhor (1988) argues that much less research would have been done into violence against women, and much less attention would have been paid to it, had there not been expanding women movement. Feminist writers in the nineteenth century(cobbe,1878) addressed the issue of domestic violence as did the early suffragettes(mclaren,1909).There are of course, different forms of feminism and not all of them have demonstrated a concern with domestic violence and a willingness to take political action to oppose it.

2.3 Domestic violence against women

The concept of ''women'' is derived from our perception of the sex in animals or plants that produce or are capable of producing eggs and bearing young ones. It also relates to any reproductive structure that entertain elements to be fertilized by male

elements. Hence the word woman incorporates both adult females, girls and babies since they all have attributes of feminine gender, (Arinze, 2008).Historically and culturally, women have unfortunately been considered “appropriate victims of domestic violence” (Gelles and Cornell, 1990). Many accept the mystic ideas that women sometimes need to be “put in their place” by the men, thus providing a disturbing cultural basis for the physical and sexual abuse of women. There is no comparable cultural justification for the physical or sexual abuse of men. No one knows with certainty exactly how many women are victims of partner violence each year, the vulnerability and victimization of pregnant women due to abuse from their spouses or intimate partners (National Coalition against Domestic Violence, 2008). For example, it is estimated that almost 10% of females are subjected to intimate partner violence during pregnancy. Most women (70%) who are abused before pregnancy continue to experience abuse during pregnancy, and violence tends to intensify after the offender learns of the woman’s pregnancy. Women abuse during pregnancy have been found to have a greater likelihood of miscarriages, low birth-weight babies, high blood pressure, vaginal bleeding and kidney or urinary tract infections, and they are much more likely to delay pre-natal care. Finally homicide is one of the leading causes of death among pregnant women (National Coalition against Domestic Violence, 2008)

Women of all race, age, and socio-economic status experience intimate violence, although they are not victimized equally. Younger women (ages 20-24) Native American and Afro-American women, and lower income women are more frequent

victims of partner violence. Socio-economic differences can also be noted. As income increases, the rate of female victimization decreases (Bureau of justice statistic 2009).although no social class is immune to partner violence, it is more likely to occur in lower income, low-status families (Gelles and cornell 1990). Although early studies of battering relationships seemed to indicate a cluster of personality characteristics constituting a typical battered woman, more recent studies have not borne out this viewpoint. Factors such as low self-esteem or childhood experience of violence do not appear to be necessarily associated with a woman being in an assaultive relationship (Hotaling and sugarman 1990). Two characteristics however, do appear to be correlated with wife assault. First a number of studies have found that wife abuse is more common and more severe in families of lower socioeconomic status. However, keep in mind that higher income adults have greater privacy and thus greater ability to conceal domestic violence (fineman and mykituik 1994). Second, marital conflict and the inability to resolve conflict is a factor in many battering relationships.

Violence against women can be defined in various ways. For instance, violence against women is perceived as gendered violence directed at women for the very fact of being women (Spain office, ovial, 2004). However UN (2003) described violence against women as any act of gendered-based violence that result in, or is likely in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, occurring in public or private life.

Hence any violence directed to the female gender either by male or females themselves is regarded as violence against women. However the more horrifying aspect of violence is that perpetrated by women themselves on women. In Nigeria, the concept and role of women are biologically, culturally and historically, institutionally and situationally defined. Culturally women are perceived as profane creatures that deserve no respect and as such should be treated as subordinates to men. They should not be heard in any discussion or decisions making. Their place is always in the kitchen, they cannot think for themselves and their thoughts are considered worthless, they should not eat certain food or meat. They should not have access to inheritance including lands. The married ones are regarded as their husbands property that could be beaten or thrown away at the least provocation. Any wrong doing in the society is attributed to the women especially bad behavior of children. Historically, women were understood as inconsequential creatures who could not contribute meaningfully to societal development. But today some women in top national state and local government positions have proved that women possesses the potentials for societal development. Situationally, women are perceived as catalyst in certain situations as agents of doom in other situation.

The relationship between socio-cultural environment and domestic violence in Nigeria is particularly evident in the influence of the patriarchal ethos that derives from societal norms and values to impinge on people's attitude and behavior. Isiugo-Abanihe (2003) and Obaro (1991) have stated that socialization into gender roles begins early in the family and community and are reinforced through the interplay of familial, socio-

economic and cultural forces. Isiugo-Abanihe (1993), Oke (1996) and Erinosho (1998) observed that cultural dictates shape behavior; one's environment affects the person's attitude, perception and motivation. The pervasiveness of patriarchy as a system that does not discriminate either patrilineal or matrilineal societies but conceived in terms of differences in magnitude of its application in both societies has been highlighted. Women that are often being violated against are often scared due to the fear of social stigma, hence they refuse crying out for help.

It was not until people started to appreciate the consequences of domestic violence that attention began to be directed at it. The World Development Report of the World Bank estimated that women ages 15-44 lost more discounted health years of life (DHYLs) to rape and domestic violence due to breast cancer (World Bank, 1993). The health consequences of violence against women constitute a serious problem worldwide. Wife abuse can be a significant cause of female morbidity and mortality, and represent a hidden obstacle to economic and social development.

Social work intervention for the prevention and management Of domestic violence

The injuries, trauma, stigma, and psychological frustration associated with domestic violence (e.g. spousal sexual abuse, child sexual abuse, wife battering, rape, etc.) call for social work interventions. These interventions also help in reducing the incidence or future occurrence of domestic violence. They include:

1. ***Crisis Intervention:*** Battered, raped, or sexually abused women or girls need urgent attention r immediate care. Therefore, the social workers have the responsibility of

assisting such women get over their shock as quickly as possible. They should assist such victims to get prompt medical treatments in the hospitals for their trauma or injuries sustained during the violence.

2. ***Counselling****:* The social workers have the responsibility of working with both the abuser and the victim (spouse or child). Through counseling, the social worker could determine the cause of the abuse. They should help in counseling the victim and the abuser and try to work through their

problems. They should assist in building up the victims' self-esteem and allow them to decide what measures they want to take. Legal redress should be the last option.

3. ***Safety and Protection of the Victims:*** Victims of domestic violence undergo emotional turmoil and fear as a result of violence inflicted upon them. Hence, their feelings and potential for further harm should always be of utmost consideration. Since they may not be able to protect themselves, the social workers must give extra attention to their safety and protection.

To this end, they should help in making alternative arrangement for their living. As the victims may be constantly afraid of where the violence takes place, such individuals may be helped to get a new house or location where they will experience less tensions.

4. ***Psychotherapy****:* This is a form of psychological means for treating emotional problems associated with domestic violence. As victims of domestic violence (e.g. sexually abused or raped women/girl) may be stigmatized or feel ashamed, their wounded ego needs to be boosted. To this end, the social workers have the

responsibilities of reducing their emotional problems (e.g. anxiety, fear, worry, depression, guilt, shame etc) through psychological means such as reassurance, words of encouragement, advice and emotional support.

5. ***Psycho-education:*** Women need to understand the severity of domestic violence. Hence, social work programmes need to be responsive to the abused women's emotional state. Women need to be taught to re-evaluate their situations, to develops self-esteem and decide a resolution for their problems. The social workers have to educate the victims to understand that though, they were abused, they still need to relate with their spouse. They should be properly educated on legal interventions. While doing this, the social workers should be less judgmental. In other words, they should allow the victims to take their own course of actions.

6. ***Advocacy/Linkage with the Community Resources****:* A comprehensive treatment includes collateral contacts which serve to protect potential victims, such as shelters, appropriate supporting resources, victims advocates; and so on. The social workers should therefore link the victims of domestic violence with resources in their localities, which can help in ameliorating their burdens or sufferings.

7. Community Education: The social workers have the responsibilities of organizing a community wide education campaign that will challenge the believe that family or domestic violence is a private and not a public concern. The campaign will also help the community to become aware of the dangers of domestic violence and report cases of

such (wife battering, rape, etc) to the law enforcement agents as quickly as possible in order to bring the perpetrators to book.

2.4 Why and when some women stay in violent relationship

Violence in relationship generally degenerate into a continuing pattern of abuse over time. All relationships have some degree of mutual dependence and battering relationship are certainly no different. Despite the mistreatment they receive, some women stay in or return to violent situations for many reasons. However, one needs to be careful not to overstate the tendency for abuse victims to stay with their abusers. Michael Johnson and Kathleen Ferraro (2000) point out the focus is often misplaced in answering "why women stay" even when a study finds out two-thirds of women have left a violent relationship, they suggest that it would be more appropriate to ask questions such as "how and why women leave".For those women who do stay in violent or abusive situations, their reasons include the following

i. **Economic dependence:** Even when a woman is financially secure she may not perceive herself as being able to cope with economic matters. For low income or poor families, the threats of losing the man's support may be a real barrier against change.

ii. **Religious pressure:** She may feel that the teaching of her religion requires her to keep the family together at all cost, to submit to husband's will and to try harder. Most religious denomination kick against divorce and in most teachings women are being asked to be submissive to their husbands.

iii. **Children's need for a father**: She may believe that even a father that beats up the mother is better than no father.

iv. **Fear of being alone:** She may have no meaningful relationship outside her marriage. Her husband may have systematically cut off her ties to other family members, friends and potential support sources. She has no one to go to for any real perspective on her situation (Nielsen, Endo and Ellington, 1992).

v. **Love**: Love may make one to believe that one partner will change over time and that the person is really a good person.

vi. **Cultural reasons:** Certain minority women face greater challenges in leaving a relationship. She may not be able to speak English and know the place to seek help and also fears she may be misunderstood. She fears that her husband might lose his job and retaliate against her (Donnelly, 1993). According to Michael Johnson and Kathleen Ferraro (2000), women subjected to situational violence are less likely to lose than victims of intimate terrorism.

2.5 An overview of domestic violence against women

According to Garba (2008), domestic violence is any form of abusive behaviour in any relationship used by a partner to gain or maintain power and control over another partner. Violence on the other hand, is the intentional use of physical force with the intension of causing injury, harm, disability or death. The researcher is giving an example of a typical case of a man beating his wife each time he sends her to the market

with little money to buy foodstuff, he could be expecting the money to buy a lot of things only for her to buy a few items which the money could afford and he ends up in beating her.

According to a recent study conducted by Famwang, (2008) in Oyo, 40% interviewed said they were victims but it has not been documented because there is widespread tolerance for domestic violence. Furthermore in 2001, working women in Lagos about 64.4% alleged that they were beaten by their partners either husbands or boyfriends, 56.2% market women is married, she is expected to endure whatever she meets in her matrimonial home. This statement in the humble opinion of the researcher is an aberration of matrimonial law to jeopardize womanhood and marital harmony. Also, it gives men open license to man handle their partners. In the word of Banki-Moon, (2007) United Nation Secretary General: Violence against women and girls continued unabated in every continent, country and culture. It takes a devastating toll on women's lives, on their families and in the societies as a whole. Societies prohibit such violence yet the reality is that, too often it is covered up or condoned. According to another recent finding by the amnesty international, 20% of urban women and 29% of rural women do not know if they are victims of abuse.

The research also pointed out that in Africa, not just Nigeria, information about women rights are not known, the police force and judiciaries are not capable of aiding female victims and more importantly, safe house where women or victims of abuse could escape to. The head of department of sociology of the Kaduna State University,

Hauwa said, when victims of domestic violence go to their parents' houses, they are rejected, so they have to go back to the house where they have been battered.

Information found in the Annals of African medicine volume 3, November, 2004, 4-6 said, women in Zaria who come for medical check up, about 178 were questioned, 79 of these women who happened to be pregnant had at least secondary school education; 28% and 56 percent experience and had knowledge of domestic violence respectively, of the 56%, 36% beaten up while 22% were forced to have sex. They pointed out that their spouse were the most common culprits and 39% said they could keep domestic violence secrets.

In Enugu, survey research was conducted in two terrtiary health institutions from January 1st to March 31st (2005), the group was made up of 600 men, 70% reported abuse in their families 92% were their female partners while 3% male victims. The most common form was shouting at their partners which was 93%, slapping and pushing 77% and pushing and kicking 46%. (Bureau of justice statistics, 2005). Cultural factors, embarrassment and refusal attacks were said to be responsible for 8.1 of gross under reporting. That was just the state and area that was able to carry out the survey, many cases remain hindered and it is taking its toll on the society especially where the children become orphaned of one or both parents leaving the children at the mercy of society.

As Ithenaumeh (2006) in Famwang (2008) pointed out that the law provided the protection of individuals against this social menaces, but people are not just aware of it.

However, others argued that, the law is not enough to protect as penal code, section 55 allows a husband to punish his wife without inflicting any injury, and this may not stop domestic violence. Before solutions are preferred it would be wise to look at the factor that causes domestic violence and its increase. These factors cut across economic, social, cultural and even psychological. Here also, it should be noted that domestic violence is said to rear its ugly head when the economic standing or level of a family is threatened.

Yusuf, (2008) pointed out that, a man is unable to fulfill his economic elements when he does not have enough money to cater for the family or to measure up frustration sets in which he cuts out in violence. Yusuf (2008) added that, men when drunk with alcohol are capable of violence; they beat their wives and in some cases force them to spousal sex. Also, drug addicts too should not be left out because they are also capable of violence. Yusuf (2008) gave an example of a couple in Iowa, USA who were in the habit of getting drunk together and the man always beat the wife thoroughly. It is worthy to note that this man was not poor. This way of life continued till the man was imprisoned for five years for domestic violence. The wife waited for him and after his release, she went back to him. Unfortunately he murdered her and left her body. In Nigeria, cases of women stabbed even to death, acid bath and nasty words that affect psyche of the women have been the order of the day.

Representatives of the Legal Defence Assistant Project (LEDAP) by Ezeilo (2004) revealed that, criminal justice in our country provides almost no protection for women from violence. Ezeilo (2004) added that: police and courts often dismiss

domestic violence as family matters and fail to investigate. In a similar perspective, Ajoni (2008) supported his assertion by saying, that poor response of law enforcement agents leads to low reporting. Other challenges in this are rape, and other sexual offence, human trafficking and cultural practices (child marriage, female genital mutilation, widowhood practices. Yusuf (2008) pointed out in the annals of Africa medicine that, domestic violence also persists more often than not; victims are advised to settle out of court to avoid dabbing into family matters. To curb this social menace, orientation and awareness campaigns should be embarked upon in each society. Shelter should be provided for victims to flee to when faced with violent situations, children should be taught from their tender age to respect one another irrespective of sex. The religious bodies and organizations should also lend to those campaigns by counseling intending couples, married couple and individuals to learn to control or manage their anger, so as not to be reduce to animals in their homes.

According to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP 2005), women who have experienced domestic violence were 80% more likely to have heart disease, 60% more likely to have asthma and 70% more likely to drink heavily than those women who have not experienced intimate partner violence.

2.6 Domestic violence against children.

Domestic violence against children is an important social and health issue, in view of this we will identify the causes of domestic violence. These causes will be examined from social, cultural and psychological standpoint. Ways by which children

are being exposed to domestic violence and also the consequences encountered by school children due to their experience and witnessing violence in the family.

When domestic violence is been made mention of people tend to think of violence between two adults, typically husband and wife. People have long forgotten that a large percentage of families who experience violence, the children suffer in silence (Estrada, 2009).A lot of focus has been on the cycle of violence, power and control and society's plans for adult victims. It has been long overdue to raise awareness about the psychological, emotional, physical and social impact of domestic violence on children. Child exposure to domestic violence is a serious public health, justice social services and educational problem. It is a major social and health concern that is affecting various nations worldwide. The World Health Organization define health as ''a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity (Brunnet, 2009). Martin (2002) asserts that children who are exposed to family violence at across all cultural and socio economic lines. For many children their home is far from being a safe haven. The global dimensions of children exposed to domestic violence are alarming as highlighted by studies on prevalence. Several studies have found that 85-90% of the time when a violent incidence took place in a domestic situation, children were present and they were also abused during the violent incident in about 50% of those cases.

- A research by the United States Secretary General (2006)provides what is believed to be a first critical step towards a fuller picture of how many children are exposed to

domestic violence in the home. This is the first study to have estimates the number of children exposed to domestic violence globally. According to the study as many as up to 275 million children worldwide are exposed to domestic violence in the home. Research have also shown that up to 10 million children between ages 3 to 17 are exposed to at least one act of violence between their parents yearly, and about 27% of adult recall witnessing violence between their parents(Fonts 2000). Another major issue of domestic violence is its effect on the children teaching (Crawford, 2006). There have been several reports from primary school pupils, secondary children and tertiary students of their bad experience of family violence and the consequences it had upon them. A high proportion of street children report marital violence in their family home. Studies have reflected that at least 3.3 million children are exposed to domestic violence each year. In a relationship where there is domestic violence, children witness about three quarters of the abusive incidents (Edleson, 1999 and Toussant, 2006). They asserted that children exposure to domestic violence typically falls into three primary categories:

i. Being directly involved as an eye witness, that is being present in the room and intervening or being used as a part of violent event, for example being used as shield against abusive actions, trying to call the police,

ii. Hearing violence from another room. The children may be terrified in their beds as the violence rages outside their bedroom doors or cover within the safety of a closure or other hiding place.

iii. Expecting the aftermath of a violent event such as seeing mother bruises, black eye or broken limbs.

Violence in the home has grown to be one of society's most shameful scourges. As many people know, domestic violence can tear families apart and cause one to feel helpless and alone, but what most people fail to realize is the damaging long term of domestic violence on children even years after the abuse has stopped (http://enzine articles.com//the long-term effects-of domestic-violence-on children-id=1358550) in addition to the subordinated spouses, the children of violent homes must also be considered as victims. Until recently the effects of children who witness violence in the home was not fully acknowledged by the community because the violence has not been seen as a direct abuse of the children. In this way the effects of violence on children has been easy to minimize or attributed to other causes. Exposure to domestic violence does not only affects its adult victims, but also plays down developmental growth in children witnessing the violence. Childhood is regarded as a period of special protection and rights, mental development in children is expected to unfold within a secured and nurturing environment when infected with violence and fear all normal tasks of growing up are likely to be adversely affected. It was estimated that in the United States as many as 7 to 14 million children are exposed to domestic violence and falling victim to its effect (Pediatr, 2005). Children who are witnesses to domestic violence respond in a variety of ways. Some children remain unscathed from the experience, whereas others reveal a range of adjustment.

Newton (2001) points out the factors which appear to affect children responses to witnessing domestic violence to include what the child actually saw or heard, the child's temperament, age, race, sex and culture of child. Children who are exposed to domestic violence are at risk of many difficulties both immediately and in the future. It can thus be noted that it is not only the spouses that suffers the effect of an abusive domestic life, due to their age and dependence on their parents, children are among the hardest hit by the effects of domestic abuse. Children of any age are like sponges, absorbing both consciously and unconsciously taking in everything around them, every event, every emotion, every argument, and every bit of violence and hatred they are exposed to, hence the effects on them, socially, psychologically, physically and behaviorally are alarming.

2.7 Emotional impact on children

Domestic violence is often overlooked when it is not physical-broken bones; emotional abuse is often minimized, yet it can leave deep and lasting scar (www.helpguide.Org.mental/domestic). What cannot be seen are emotional injuries, that is, the hurt someone feels inside when they are attacked by someone who is supposed to protect them, all this means that a person's life is disturbed and they cannot carry on their normal life because they are frightened and nervous. Infants are the most limited of all the children in their cognitive abilities and resource or adaptation (http://www.alfs.gov.au/nch). Infants are often directly involved in violent domestic incidents. They are usually held as shield by their mothers and often been hit by thrown

objects. Even when they are lying passively in their cots, infants are exquisitely sensitive to the emotional signal given out by their care givers depressed, anxious, fearful or any angry mood. Any rejection from lack of availability of care giver would be felt by the infant and would have long-term effects on the infant in the form of emotional deprivation.

Domestic violence has negative consequences on the feelings of children who are exposed to it. These children grow up to have conflicting feelings of distrust and affection, love, and disgust often co-exist for the abuser (unicef 2006, pediatr, 2005). These conflicting emotions often confuse the children. They find it difficult to understand why the two people (parents) do not love each other anymore.

Fear is another emotion experienced by children exposed to domestic violence. Domestic violence makes the home a place of fear rather than a place of comfort and security. (Edleson 1999, Getecha and Chipika 1995). The children experience fear that they might be injured during altercation between their parents, that their parents might abandon them; they are to be blame for the violence, also that one of their parents might die.

Post-traumatic stress disorder is another important effect of witnessing domestic violence (Newton 2001). The severity, duration and proximity of an individual exposure to traumatic event as anchored by the above authorities are the most important factors affecting the likelihood of developing the disorder. Traumatic stress is produced by the exposure to the events that are so extreme or severe and threatening such as

natural disaster, sexual assault, physical attach Grief, shame and low self-esteem are common emotions experienced by children exposed to domestic violence. Edleson (1999) and Pediator (2005) allude to the facts that children exposed to domestic violence can feel that they are responsible for the abuse and may feel guilty because they are unable to stop it. The child is torn between a desire to help the victims and the need to keep a family secret. They live in constant anxiety and get depressed.

2.8 Cognitive effects

A number of studies have measured the association between cognitive development problem and witnessing domestic violence. According to a study cited by Rossman in (Edleson 1999) it was found that increased exposure to violence is associated with lower cognitive functioning. Infants and small children who are being exposed to violence in the home experience so much added stress that it can harm the development of their brain and impair cognitive and sensory growth. According to Osofsky, Wewers, Hann and Fick (1993) they are of the opinion that cognitive problem associated with exposure to violence comprise one of the most direct threat to the developmental task of school adaptation and academic achievement. Osofsky et al (1993:3) says that cognitive effect of exposure to violence affects more than children academic performance. Children who have problem with attention and memory may not be sensitive to important social cues and expectation and thus find themselves struggling with social rules, peer relationship.

2.9 Behavior impact

Marital conflict has been found to be the strongest risk factor for behavioral problems, children from unhappy situations may become withdrawn, nonverbal and exhibits regressive behavior, such as clinging, whining, and thumbs sucking. They also suffer eating and sleeping difficulty. Children who witnessed spousal violence are often characterized by poor sleeping habits, excessive screaming, and lack of appetite and digestive problems (Alabama coalition against domestic violence 2008). As speculated by Unicef (2006) adolescents who are exposed to domestic violence manifest rebellious behavior such as truancy, running away, dropping out of school, drug/alcohol use.

Carrel (2009) points out that increased exposure to children linked to domestic violence causes significant increase in misbehavior at school. He goes further to say there is widespread belief among parents and school authorities that troubled children negatively affect learning in the classroom.

Also in a national representative survey Citied it was found that 85% of teachers and 73% of parents said that school experience of most children suffer at the expense of few chronic offenders. Children from troubled families significantly decrease their peers reading and increases misbehavior in the class-room. This provides strong empirical evidence of the existence of the "bad apple". Domestic violence has been known to drive people out in the streets. The home becomes a source of discomfort and hate rather than love and comfort. Campbell (2010) and volpe (1999) share the same opinion that in a domestic violence situation, children are not allowed a normal childhood, there is a role reversal between a child and parent which is known as

parentification. The child's need of comfort, guidance and attention are sacrificed to meet the parents "physical and emotional needs". Parents talk to their children as if they are therapists or confidantes. The above authorities go on to say that a parentified child has little or no time to engage in normal childhood activities and they may associate with individuals who are older, putting them at risk of being manipulated or used by older people. Children who come from homes where there is a high level of stress due to spousal violence may use the school to vent their frustration.

2.10 Causes of domestic violence

People that use violence on others usually do have some of the following traits (Edelson et al.1985; Gelles and cornell 1990; Goldstein and Rosenbaum 1985; Margolin, sibner, and Gleberman 1988; Vaselle-Augestein and Ehrlich 1992; Walker 1979, 1984):

i. He has low self-esteem and may use violence as a means of demonstrating power or adequacy
ii. When an individual is pathologically jealous, or passive aggressive and may use sex as an act of aggression
iii. The male believes in the ''traditional'' home, family and gender role stereotypes and the moral rightness of his violence (although he may acknowledge ''accidentally'' going too far).
iv. Depression, antisocial or borderline personality trait.
v. Emotional dependency and insecurity.
vi. Heavy drug and alcohol abuse.

vii. Peer pressure and keeping late nights.

2.11 Effects of domestic violence

There are several effects on victims of domestic violence some have long-term effect while others are short-term effects. Some of these effect are highlighted below.

i. Internal socio-emotional effect.

ii. External socio-emotional effect.

iii. Damaged relationship.

iv. Psychological effects.

v. Physical effects.

vi. Intergenerational cycle of abuse.

The individual that suffers from internal socio-emotional effects finds it very difficult to trust himself, others, and this actually leads to low self-esteem.(constantly doubting oneself)the individual is often scared of being left alone, has problem with intimacy, which means the individual is always defensive and suspicious, has low tolerance for nonsense and is often judgemental.

The external socio-emotional effects, affects the individual in loss of sustaining faith in some participants, they are usually over sensitive to power struggle and are frequently changing jobs due to conflict avoidance.

Psychologically an individual that has been violated against usually has post-traumatic stress disorder (ptsd) such as nightmare, continual coping with triggers and flashback, hypervigilance and startle response. They do also over react to physical touch of any

kind, even among trusted friends. They have memory problem, such as inability to concentrate and memory blockage, depression which can lead to suicide and hopelessness.

An individual that has suffered violence of any form usually finds it hard to handle relationship, which leads to strain in such relationship. Physically the individual could have disabilities which are as a result of abuse, such as deafness, loss of sight and infertility caused by sexual assault.

2.12 Prevalence of domestic violence

Domestic violence is an issue of global concern. Historically in many cultures domestic violence has been an accepted way of life. In recent years, however, it has begun to be viewed as a criminal problem. However, in many societies such as the Nigerian society it is still culturally acceptable. Domestic violence is the intentional and persistent abuse of any one in the home in a way that causes pain, distress or injury. It refers to any abusive treatment of one family member by another, thus violating the law of basic human rights. It includes battering of intimate partners and other sexual abuse of children, marital rape and traditional practices that are harmful to humans. Domestic violence occurs globally (Dahlberg and Krug, 2002, UNICEF, 2005). Families from all social, racial, economic, educational and religious backgrounds experience domestic violence in different ways. Accordingly the Bureau of Justice statistics (2009) reveals:

i. of all violent crimes experienced by women between 2001 and 2005, 22% was from an intimate spouse, ex-spouse or boyfriend. During that same period intimate female partners account for 4% non-fatal violence against men.

ii. Female between the ages of 20 and 24 where at the greatest risk of non-fatal intimate partner violence.

iii. Between 2001 and 2005, half the female victims of non-fatal intimate partner violence suffered an injury, with 5% suffering a serious injury.

iv. Unmarried women have higher rates of intimate partner violence victimization than the married women. Separated women experience highest rate of all other marital statuses.

v. Male offender/male victims 65.3%.

vi. Male offender/female according to the US victims 22.7%.

vii. Female offender/male victim 9.6 %.

viii. Female offender/female victim 2.4%

Djaden and Thoennes (2002), report that in the United States of America, each year, women experience about 4.8 million intimate partner-related physical assaults and rapes while men are victims of about 2.9 million intimate partner related physical assaults. In parts of the third world generally and in West Africa in particular, domestic violence is prevalent and reportedly justified and condoned in some cultures (Basu and pratishthan 2002). Reports from IRIN (2007) shows that 25% of women in Dakar and kaolack in Senegal are subjected to physical violence from their partner and that very

few of them admit that they are beaten while 60% of domestic violence victim turns to a family member, in three quarter of the cases they are told to keep quiet and endure the beating. Also in Ghana spousal assaults top the list of domestic violence (I-RIN, 2007)

In Nigeria, reports reveals a ‘’shocking high’’ level of violence against women (Afrol news, 2007). Amnesty international 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 they are at risk of punishment if they attempt to escape from their husband. (Oyediran and isugo,2005, afrolnews, 2007).

Traditionally in Nigeria as in many other African countries, the beating of wives and children is widely sanctioned as a form of discipline (UNICEF, 2001). Therefore, in beating their children parents believes that they are instilling discipline in them. The society is basically patriarchal and women place within the scheme is decidedly subordinate. Domestic violence therefore functions as a means of enforcing conformity with the role of a woman within customary society. It really does not matter if the woman is economically dependent or not, her position is subordinate. Project alert (2001), is a survey of violence carried out against women, an interview was conducted with women working in the market and other places of work and girls in secondary schools and universities in Lagos state, Nigeria 64.4% of 45 women interviewed in the work place said they had been beaten by their partner (boyfriend or husband), 56.6% of

48 interviewed market women admitted experiencing such violence. Similar interviews carried out in Oyo state and other parts of Nigeria, yielded similar results.

Isugo (2005) in a study of women's perception of wife –beating in Nigeria, found that 64.4% and 50.4% of ever married and unmarried women, respectively expressed consent for wife beating. Domestic violence affects women in Nigeria irrespective of age, class, educational level and place of residence. Nigerian law and custom categorizes a woman as an object who is an inferior human. Gender-based violence is perhaps one of the most glaring illustration of inequality between male and female. Women are more at risk from violence than men in all sectors of the society. This is due to the differential access to prestige, power, control of material resources, freedom to obtain knowledge and other basic needs of life, gender violence against women is entrenched in the family, institutionalized by the social structure and driven by patriarchal arrangement, or class/gender stratification.

Basically the children are not being left out in this domestic violence, since the last decade there has been reported cases of violence against children such as torture, kidnapping, shooting, sexual harassment, rape, corporal punishment and so on. A survey from many countries showed that between 20 to 65 percent of school aged children reported to have been bullied verbally or physically. Furthermore WHO (2002) estimated that 150 million girls and 73 million boys under 18years were sexually abused. In 2001, the International Labor Organization (Ilo) report indicated that 218 million children were involved in various forms of child labor, 126 million of these

children were involved in dangerous work. Also, 1.8 million children worked in prostitution and pornography and that 1.2 million children were victims of child trafficking.

According to the report of the UN secretary general survey of violence against children, the consequences of violence can be devastating. These include brain injuries, bruises and fractures, poor interpersonal relationship and inadequate communication skills. Above all, most of the impact can result in early death while those who live with physical and emotional scars. In Nigeria, sexual abuse of children often takes place behind closed doors and is unreported and undetected, says that UNICEF Nigeria representative Ayalew Abai. Figures do not exist, but it does not mean that children are not abused (Ogundipe and Obinna 2007). Large scale research in 2000 by the center for law enforcement education (CLEEN), revealed that physical assault was one of the most common complaints against police by juvenile offenders, and corporal punishment was found to be frequently used in custody (Alenika & Chukwuma, 2001)

According to a survey carried out on school aged children in Nigeria it was found that physical violence was (85%) and psychological violence (50%) accounted for the bulk of violence against children in schools, other types of violence reported among learners in Nigeria included gender based violence (5%), sexual violence (4%) and health related violence (1%).

A comparison of the prevalence of violence in the north and south revealed that all forms of violence were more in the south than in the north except for sexual violence.

Physical violence was higher in the south (90%) compared to the north (79%), psychological violence was also more prevalent in the south (61%) than in the north (38.7%). In the north health related violence was not reported, but in the south about 2% of learners reported it. Sexual violence was however more prevalent in the north (4.7%) than in the south (3.2%).

2.13 Domestic violence in Edo State

Domestic violence occurs in all countries and transcends social, economic, religious and cultural groups. Many cultures have beliefs, norms and social institutions that legitimize and perpetuate violence against women, in all societies there are cultural institutions, beliefs and practices that undermine women's autonomy and contribute to gender-based violence.

The people living in Edo state are not left out of being violated against ,a variety of factors have been highlighted that are responsible for physical violence against women. There are three main factors that was being made mention of these include, infidelity, insubordination and poverty. Other important ones are lack of understanding among spouses,drunkenness, nagging tendency, laziness, sex denial, culture etc., a study conducted among victims of domestic violence also revealed another factor namely childlessness, husband inability to live up to their responsibility due to poverty(Erinosho 2004:4).

Consequences / Effects Of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence have series of negative consequences on the individuals, family, society and the nation. According to Jaffee et al. (1990), Newtown, (2001) and Carter (2004) such consequences include:

i. Effects on Children: Poor health, poor sleeping habits and excessive screaming, academic problems, agitation, aggression, feelings of guilt and not belonging, general emotional distress, intrusive thoughts, nightmares, phobia, obsessions behaviours, revenge seeking, truancy, suicidal behaviour, withdrawal activities and physical injuries.

ii. Effects on Adult Victims: Alcohol or sub- stance abuse, physical injuries or trauma, death, low self-esteem, violent practices in the home, sexual problems and so on.

iii. Effects on the Family, Society and the Nation: Poor marital relationship, broken homes, antisocial behaviours (prostitutions, drug addiction), criminal behaviours, economic burdens and so on.

2.14 THEORITICAL FRAMEWORK

The Social Exchange Theory

This theory holds that in our daily interactions and dealings, we constantly weigh the perceived reward against the cost. People often take to violent act or uses violence towards their family members or close associates, when the cost of being violent do not outweigh the rewards.The possible reward of their being violent might be getting their own way, exerting superiority, and working off anger or stress and in some cases exacting revenge. Usually men are more economically buoyant than the women, hence the women will always want to stay in such relationships due to what they can

get, because they want to feel financially secured. Due to the private nature of most families, people that are being violated against feel reluctant to look outside the family for help and also outsiders may feel reluctant to intervene in private matters. Also in some cultures aggressive male behaviour brings approval, hence the men will want to exercise their authority, also men are seen as superior, even when they are passing through stress and being violated against by their wives they would not want to cry out for help, for fear of being humiliated. It should be noted that social exchange theory is not solely concerned with domestic violence, it is generally to explain how people make decisions in their relationships. Gelles and Murray Straus (1988) outline that generally in all human relationship, either healthy or abusive, humans always pursue reward and try to avoid punishment and cost. Victims of abuse can often view staying in an abusive relationship as being viable than leaving (N.Robertson, personal communication,4 december,2003). When any dysfunction occurs within the family unit, many variables are present that makes this dysfunction compelling and unique, for example connection with children, property and money, most women will not want to leave an abusive relationship because of their children and they feel that the children needs their father. Another factor that contributes to domestic violence is the shortage of social agents, for example correct police reporting and procedure, adequate advocacy resources and support system. Straus theorise that the "private nature" of family life, along with surrounding structural inadequacies, perpetuate domestic violence in society, also social attitudes concerning violence, perpetuate abuse in the home(Moore, 2002).

2.15 Culture of violence theory

Taking a similar sociological perspective, with an emphasis on criminology, the culture of violence theory states that there are portions that develop separate norms which permit the use of violence in family surroundings. This theory was developed by Marvin Wolfgang and Franco Ferracuti (1967). This theory has been a basis for explaining why certain culture generate more domestic violence than others, even in the African context the degree of violence varies according to culture, there are some culture that approve the use of violent act most especially against children and women and also there are some cultures that shun the use of violence. In addition, Loue (2001) outlines Wolfgang and Ferracuti premise that within pluralistic diverse societies, smaller subcultures have been shown to develop norms that accept abuse in relationship to a greater extent than the "dominant culture". It is difficult at times to implement proactive strategies for preventing or intervening in domestically violent situations, as both the perpetrator and in many cases the victims, feels that the behavior is a socially accepted norm. As we have noticed in traditional African society our culture promotes violence, mostly in a patriarch society where men are supposed to dominate the women and the women are expected to remain in these abusive relationship and bear the mistreatment. Sometimes when these women leave their home, they are seen as bad women who can't maintain or manage their homes. When a man beats up his wife he is often been encouraged and cheered that the woman should be put in her place, although this varies across cultures.

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated to be tested in this study

Hypotheses one

H0: There is a positive relationship between Domestic violence and academic performance of children in Ekosodin Ovia North East L.G.A.

H1: There is no positive relationship between Domestic violence and academic performance of children in Ekosodin Ovia North East L.G.A.

Hypotheses Two

H0: There is a positive relationship between parental economic status and domestic violence against children in Ovia North Easth Local government Area

H1: There is no positive relationship between parental economic status and domestic violence against children in Ovia North Easth Local government Area

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The researcher adopted the survey research design. A survey research design is one in which a group of people or items is considered to be representative of the entire group. It is used to obtain the people's opinion through questionnaires.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of this study comprised of all women in Ovia North East local government area of Edo State. The target population for this study therefore comprised of women who are 18 years and above in Ovia North East local government area of Edo state. According to the 2016 population census conducted by the National Population Commission, about 10,000 women in Ovia North East local government area of Edo State were of age 18 years and above. Therefore, the population size of approximately 10,000 was relevant.

3.3 Research instrument

The major instrument used for data collection during the research was the questionnaire.

3.4 Sampling procedure

This is all about administration and retrieval of questionnaires. The questionnaires were administered to one hundred respondents in the study area. The

respondents were picked without particular preference of sex, length of services or position in the organization therefore, it covered both male,. The questionnaires were administered in person and collected on the spot. The advantage of collecting them on the spot was persuade and the respondents actually answered them.

3.5 Data collection and organisation

The data collected from respondents were properly organized to make for easy presentation.

3.6 Source of data

Data was got from both primary and secondary sources.

The primary source include questionnaire

The secondary sources would used as a reference base and they are:

Literature text, periodicals such as journals, new dailies, seminar and conference papers, unpublished write ups and so on.

3.7 Data presentation

The data collected were put in tables so as to aid analysis and hence promote wise and meaningful inference or deductions.

3.8 Validity of data collection

To validate the instrument, the expert judgment approach was used. The supervisor and two other lecturers in the department of sociology and anthropology helped scrutinize the items in the questionnaires in order to make sure that they were relevant to the study. Their corrections and suggestions were considered in the production of the final copy.

3.9 Reliability of the instrument

To ascertain the reliability of the instrument, a test re- test was conducted on 20 respondents who were outside the sample space used for the study. The results that were obtained from both the test re-test were compared, using pearson product moment correlation coefficient.

3.10 Sample size and sampling technique

In view of the researcher's inability to reach out to the entire population, and in order to gain the advantage of an in-depth study and effective coverage, samples were drawn using the simple random sampling technique from the local government area under review.

Thus, a sample size of hundred respondents was purposively selected for this study. The systematic random sampling technique was employed, being a technique that allows for the selection of items from serially listed population subjects or units after the first sampling unit has been selected at random from the total sampling units.

The justification for this technique is that it enables every subject in the sampling frame to be selected without bias, in a systematic manner.

3.11 Method of data analysis

For this study, the pearson moment correlation statistics and chi- square (x^2) test were used. This is because the chi-square (X^2) test is a method of comparing counted data or data measured in a normal scale in which individuals observations are assigned to categories. The chi-square (x^2) formula id given as

Chi square (x^2) $X^2 = \Sigma^n = \frac{(fo- fe)}{fe}$

X^2 = calculated figures of chi- square symbol

Fo = Actual or frequency observed frequencies n the sample

Fe = frequency expected in the sample

Σ = summation

The data collected was computed manually using table and percentages

CHAPTER FOUR
DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Introduction

The researcher made use of Likert-type question to gather information from respondents. The major aim and objective of this research study is to ascertain "the prevalence of domestic violence in Edo State Using Ovia North as a case study and to provide information that will help to investigate the extent of industrial relations in Nigeria and understanding to the rules of professional ethics.

The questionnaire was designed to capture the demographic data of the respondents and their opinions with respect to the research question/statement, the questionnaire was divided into two (2) parts. Part I sought to obtain information on demographic details of respondent while Part II consisted of items measuring the respondents' perceptions.

In all a total of hundred (200) questionnaires were administered and retrieved. The responses are presented in tables and percentages which were used to illustrate the responses received.

$$\frac{\text{Number of Responses}}{\text{Total number of respondents}} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

4.1 Data presentation part I

Table 4.2.1: Demographic details of respondents

S/N	DETAILS	RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	SEX:	Male	75	30
		Female	125	70
	Total		200	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.1 shows the breakdown of respondents by sex. Sixty-three female respondents representing seventy (70%) and twenty-seven female respondents representing thirty percent (30%) were survey in this study. This shows that views of respondents were sought across the two sexes. It also indicates that thirty-eight respondents representing about forty-two percent (42.2%) of respondent were single and fifty two respondents representing about fifty-seven percent (57.8%) were married. Hence a higher number of respondents were matured individuals.

Demographic data analysis: Out of two hundred copies of the questionnaires administered, a total of two hundred copies were returned. Hence the two hundred usable copies of questionnaires were used for analysis. This represents an overall response rate of one hundred percent (100%) for all the respondents. These responses were used in providing answers to the questions raised in the study.

The study also made effort to analyse response from respondents perception and opinion on the various questions/statement raised in the Part II Section of the questionnaire.

S/N	DETAILS	RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	Marital status	Single	38	42.2
		married	162	57.8

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

S/N	DETAILS	RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	Age	20-39	90	21.1
		50 – 59	85	34.4
		60 and above	25	20
			200	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

S/N	DETAILS	RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION	ND/NCE	55	13.3
		HND/B.Sc.	70	44.5
		PG	30	20
		OTHERS	35	22.2
			200	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2 Domestic violence exist in our society

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	110	66.7
Agree	19	21.1
Undecided	11	12
Disagree	60	56.1

Strongly disagree	-	-
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2. In the question above, 70% of respondents hold strong opinion that domestic violence exists in their society while 17.8% merely agree. On the other hand 12.2% of the respondents disagree with the assertion from the table therefore, we can conclude that domestic violence exists in majority of the society.

Table 4.2.3 Domestic violence is about violence that occur in the home.

RESPONDENTS	**FREQUENCY**	**PERCENTAGE**
Strongly agree	120	66.7
Agree	49	21.1
Undecided	-	-
Disagree	21	12.2
Strongly disagree	-	-
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.2. In the question above, 70% of respondents hold strong opinion domestic violence is about violence that occur in the home. while 17.8% merely agree. On the other hand 12.2% of the respondents disagree with the assertion from the table therefore, we can conclude that domestic violence is about violence that occur in the home.

Table 4.2.4 Socio economic status such as low income causes domestic violence?

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	93	70
Agree	56	17.8
Undecided	-	-
Disagree	21	12.2
Strongly disagree	-	-
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.3: In the question, 66.7% of respondents hold a strong opinion that Socio economic status such as low income causes domestic violence while 21.1% merely agree. On the other hand 12.2% of the respondents disagree with the assertion from the table therefore, we can conclude that Socio economic status such as low income causes domestic violence.

Table 4.2.5 The level of education affect domestic violence.

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	44	28.9
Agree	24	26.7
Undecided	7	7.9
Disagree	8	8.9
Strongly disagree	60	30.2
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.4: In the question 70% of respondents strongly agree that the level of education affect domestic violence. while 178% merely agree. On the other hand, 12.2% of the respondents disagree with the assertion from the table, we can conclude that The level of education affect domestic violence..

Table 4.2.6 Culture affect domestic violence

RESPONDENTS	**FREQUENCY**	**PERCENTAGE**
Strongly agree	97	74.4
Agree	61	12.2
Undecided	-	-
Disagree	12	13.3
Strongly disagree	10	3.5
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.4: In the question 70% of respondents strongly agree that culture affect domestic violence while 178% merely agree. On the other hand, 12.2% of the respondents disagree with the assertion from the table, we can conclude that culture affect domestic violence.

Table 4.2.7 Punching, slapping, kicking is a form of domestic violence

RESPONDENTS	**FREQUENCY**	**PERCENTAGE**
Strongly agree	27	30
Agree	26	28.9
Undecided	-	-
Disagree	13	14.4

Strongly disagree	24	26.7
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.5: From the above table 44 respondents representing 48.9% agree Punching, slapping, kicking is a form of domestic violence. In Nigeria, while 24 respondents representing 26.7% merely agree and 8 respondents representing 8.9% agree often with 7.8% not at all 7 respondents representing 7.8% were undecided.

Table 4.2.8 Domestic violence can be hereditary

RESPONDENTS	**FREQUENCY**	**PERCENTAGE**
Strongly agree	25	27.8
Agree	22	24.4
Undecided	9	10
Disagree	23	25.6
Strongly disagree	11	12.2
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.6 as to the question above, 67 respondents representing 74.4% says strongly agree while 12.2% agree, that it is good on the other hand 12 respondents representing 13.3% disagreed, therefore, we can conclude that domestic violence can be hereditary

Table 4.2.9 Domestic violence can result to mental illness

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	36	40
Agree	23	25.6
Undecided	8	8.9
Disagree	14	15.5
Strongly disagree	9	10
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.7: As regards the question above whether Domestic violence can result to mental illness 30% of the respondents strongly agree while 28.9% merely agree, on the other hand 14.4% disagree with the assertion while 26.7% strongly disagree.

Table 4.2.10 Our society promotes domestic violence.

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	170	68.9
Agree	18	17.8
Undecided	-	-
Disagree	-	-
Strongly disagree	12	13.3
Total	**200**	**100**

SOURCE: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.28: From the above 24.4% of the respondents agree that their society promotes domestic violence. with 27.8% holding strong opinion while 25.6% disagreed.

12.2% disagree with the assertion with another 10% of the respondents undecided. From the table therefore, we can conclude that most respondents believe that their society promotes domestic violence.

Table 4.2.11 Witnessing domestic violence leads to poor academic performance among children

RESPONDENTS	**FREQUENCY**	**PERCENTAGE**
Strongly agree	82	24.4
Agree	48	31.1
Undecided	-	-
Disagree	44	26.7
Strongly disagree	16	17.8
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.9: From the above 25.6% of the respondents agree that Witnessing domestic violence leads to poor academic performance among children with 40% holding a stronger opinion on the other hand 15.5% of the respondents disagree with the assertion with 10% holding a strong opposing opinion while 8.9% of the respondents were undecided from the table therefore, we can conclude that witnessing domestic violence leads to poor academic performance among children

Table 4.2.12 Domestic violence leads to break up in home

RESPONDENTS	**FREQUENCY**	**PERCENTAGE**
Strongly agree	110	32.2
Agree	18	20

Undecided	10	11.1
Disagree	20	22.2
Strongly disagree	13	14.4
Total	**200**	**100**

SOURCE: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.10: In the question 68.9% of the respondent held a strong view that domestic violence leads to break up in home, while 17.8% merely agree to the assertion. On the other hand, 12 respondents representing 13.3% strongly disagree from the table we can conclude that domestic violence leads to break up in home.

Table 4.2.13 Poor communication is a major factor that contribute to domestic violence

RESPONDENTS	**FREQUENCY**	**PERCENTAGE**
Strongly agree	95	27.8
Agree	37	7.8
Undecided	30	33.3
Disagree	13	14.4
Strongly disagree	15	16.7
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.11: In the question 31.1% of the respondents agrees to the assertion with 24.4% holding a strong opinion, on the other hand26.7% of the respondents disagree while 17.8% strongly disagree. Therefore we can conclude that Poor communication is a major factor that contribute to domestic violence.

Table 4.2.14 Consumption of alcohol can lead to domestic violence

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	70	28.9
Agree	30	33.3
Undecided	40	11.1
Disagree	14	15.6
Strongly disagree	10	11.1
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.12: As regards the question whether they think the Consumption of alcohol can lead to domestic violence, 18 respondents representing 20% agrees with 32.2% holding a stronger view, on the other hand 20 respondents representing 22.2% disagree, while 14.4% holding a stronger opposing view 11.1% were undecided. This means that the Consumption of alcohol can lead to domestic violence.

Table 4.2.15 Peer group influences domestic violence

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	80	31.1
Agree	20	11.1
Undecided	20	22.2
Disagree	25	16.7
Strongly disagree	17	18.9
Total	**200**	**100**

SOURCE: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.13: In the question 25, respondents representing 27.8% strongly agree with the assertion with, 7.8% merely agree, on the other hand 14.4% disagree with 16.7% holding a stronger opposing opinion, also 30 respondent representing 33.3% were undecided which conclude that Peer group influences domestic violence.

Table 4.2.16 The age of an individual influences domestic violence

RESPONDENTS	**FREQUENCY**	**PERCENTAGE**
Strongly agree	42	46.7
Agree	25	27.8
Undecided	7	7.8
Disagree	9	10
Strongly disagree	7	7.8
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.14: In the question on whether the age of an individual influences domestic violence, 26 respondent representing 28.9% strongly agreed while 30 respondents representing 33.3% merely agree on the other hand 14 respondents representing 15.6% disagree with 11.1% holding a stronger opposing view, 11.1% of the respondents were undecided. This means that The age of an individual influences domestic violence.

Table 4.2.13 Table 4.2.13 The type of job an individual is engaged in influences domestic violence

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	25	27.8
Agree	7	7.8
Undecided	30	33.3
Disagree	13	14.4
Strongly disagree	15	16.7
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.15: From the above 28 respondents representing 31.1% strongly agree that The type of job an individual is engaged in influences domestic violence while 11.1% merely agree with 18.9% strongly disagree while 16.7% merely disagree and 22.2% were undecided.

Table 4.14 Reporting to necessary authority will reduce domestic violence

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	25	27.8
Agree	7	7.8
Undecided	30	33.3
Disagree	13	14.4
Strongly disagree	15	16.7
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.16: In the above table on whether reporting to necessary authority will reduce domestic violence. 46.7% of the respondents, strongly agreed with 25

respondents representing 27.8% merely agree while 10% disagree with 7.8% holding a stronger opposing view and 7 respondents representing 7.8% were undecided. Therefore we could conclude that reporting to necessary authority will reduce domestic violence.

Table 4.2.13 Intervention of a neighbor will reduce domestic violence

RESPONDENTS	**FREQUENCY**	**PERCENTAGE**
Strongly agree	25	27.8
Agree	7	7.8
Undecided	30	33.3
Disagree	13	14.4
Strongly disagree	15	16.7
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.16: In the above table on whether Intervention of a neighbor will reduce domestic violence. 46.7% of the respondents, strongly agreed with 25 respondents representing 27.8% merely agree while 10% disagree with 7.8% holding a stronger opposing view and 7 respondents representing 7.8% were undecided. Therefore we could conclude that Intervention of a neighbor will reduce domestic violence.

Table 4.2.13 Domestic violence is prominent in your area

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	25	27.8
Agree	7	7.8
Undecided	30	33.3
Disagree	13	14.4
Strongly disagree	15	16.7
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.10: In the question 68.9% of the respondent held a strong view that Domestic violence is prominent in their area, while 17.8% merely agree to the assertion. On the other hand, 12 respondents representing 13.3% strongly disagree from the table we can conclude that domestic violence is prominent in some area.

Table 4.2.13 Educating the individual and the public will help curb domestic violence

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	25	27.8
Agree	7	7.8
Undecided	30	33.3
Disagree	13	14.4
Strongly disagree	15	16.7
Total	**200**	**100**

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.14: In the question on whether Educating the individual and the public will help curb domestic violence, 25 respondent representing 28.9% strongly

agreed while 30 respondents representing 33.3% merely agree on the other hand 14 respondents representing 15.6% disagree with 11.1% holding a stronger opposing view, 11.1% of the respondents were undecided. This means that educating the individual and the public will help curb domestic violence

Table 4.2.13 Showing care to a victim will help reduce domestic violence

RESPONDENTS	**FREQUENCY**	**PERCENTAGE**
Strongly agree	25	27.8
Agree	7	7.8
Undecided	30	33.3
Disagree	13	14.4
Strongly disagree	15	16.7
Total	**200**	**100**

Table 4.2.13: In the question 25, respondents representing 27.8% strongly agree with the assertion with, 7.8% merely agree, on the other hand 14.4% disagree with 16.7% holding a stronger opposing opinion, also 30 respondent representing 33.3% were undecided which conclude that showing care to a victim will help reduce domestic violence

3. is early marriage a contributor to domestic violence?

4. Does culture influences domestic violence?

Hypothesis Testing

At the inception of this study, we formulated some hypothesis which were designed to act as guide to the conduct of this study. In this section, we shall attempt to test these hypothesis in order to give credence to our assumptions about the problems under investigation.

Hypothesis One

Illiteracy is the major cause of domestic violence

Chi-Square (X^2) $X^2 \sum = (fo - fe)^2$

Fe

Where

X^2 = Chi-square symbol

Fo = Actual or frequency observed

Fe = Frequency expected

$\sum$ = Summation

Decision Rule

At 0.05 level of significance the null hypothesis will be rejected if the computed X^2 is greater than the table value of X^2 is greater than the table value of X^2 at 4 degree of freedom.

TEST DATA: The data used to test this hypothesis was obtained from the responses of respondents to questions contained in the questionnaires.

Table 4.4.1: One-Way Classical

	Respondents		Fo – Fe	$(Fo-Fe)^2$	$(Fo– Fe)^2$
	Fo	Fe			Fe
Strongly Agree	42	18	24	576	32
Agree	24	18	6	36	2
Undecided	6	18	-12	144	8
Disagree	11	18	-7	49	2.7
Strongly Disagree	7	18	-11	121	6.7
Total	200	200	0	926	57.4

Calculated Chi-Square (X^2) = **51.4**

From the chi-square table the critical value of 4 degree of freedom (5-1) (2-1) is 9.49 the computed value of 51.4 is greater than the critical value of 9.49.

Conclusion

Since the computer X^2 value is greater (51.4) than the table value of X^2 (9.49) at 5% level of significance and 4 degree of freedom we reject the null hypothesis which states that illiteracy is not the major cause of domestic violence. Therefore the alternate hypothesis which states that illiteracy is the major cause of domestic violence stands and accepted. This is in line with Carrel (2009) who points out that increased level of illiteracy is a function of domestic violence today.

Hypothesis Two

Joblessness is the chief proponent of domestic violence

Decision Rule

At 0.05 level of significance the null hypothesis will be rejected if the computed X^2 at 4 degree of freedom.

Test Data

The data used to test this hypothesis was obtained from true responses of respondents to questions contained in the questionnaire as reproduced below:

Table 4.4.2: One-Way Classical

	Respondents		Fo – Fe	$(Fo-Fe)^2$	$\frac{(Fo-Fe)^2}{Fe}$
	Fo	Fe			
Strongly Agree	35	18	17	289	16.1
Agree	30	18	12	144	8
Undecided	8	18	-10	100	5.6
Disagree	10	18	-8	64	3.6
Strongly Disagree	7	18	-11	121	6.7
Total	200	200	0	718	40

Calculated Chi-Square (X^2) = 40

Using a level of significance of 5% at 4 degree of freedom, table X^2 is equals to 9.49, hence we establish our physical acceptance value.

Conclusion

Since the computed X^2 value is greater (40) than the table value of X^2 (9.49) at 5% level of significance at 4 degree of freedom we reject the null hypothesis and accept the Alternative hypothesis. This findings was also supported by Gelles and murray Straus (1988) outline that generally in all human relationship, either healthy or abusive, idleness is one major factor leading to violence

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

This chapter presented the summary, conclusion and recommendations of the study. The chapter was discussed under the following sub headings

4.1 Summary

4.2 Conclusion

4.3 Recommendations

4.4 Suggestions for further studies.

5.1 Summary

The general objective of the study is to assess the prevalence of domestic violence in Edo State Using Ovia North as a case study" this research is to be carried out in in the University of Benin Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State and to identify the effects of spousal abuse against women on family relationship, to examine the effects of sexual abuse against women on family and the effects of early marriage on women and family relationship. It went further to examine the extent to which women are deprived the right to participate in decision making of the family and how domestic violence affects family relationship.

Literature reviewed highlighted that people marry for social, emotional and religious reasons. Marriage changes personal and social status of the individual who enter into it. Husbands and wives need to talk to each other in such a way that will not

belittle their mate as this will result in a negative reaction that can lead to domestic violence within the family.

Partners should not be aggressive to each other as this will lead to domestic violence. Most domestic violence that occur in the family is a reflection of what happened in the family of origin. Women are violated sexually, through threats of emotions and are deprived the right to power, right to decision making and right to implementation of the decisions and policies affecting women and their families.

Descriptive survey design was used in carrying out the study. The population of the study was 266,474 which comprised of married men and women drawn from four local Government Areas. A sample size of two hundred (200) married men and women was randomly selected using stratified random sampling.

The data collected were analysed using. Mean and standard deviation to analyze respondents' demographic variables, while Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient was used to analyse the four Null hypotheses, which were all rejected.

5.2 Conclusion

From the data analysed in this study poor family relationship leads to denial of opportunities, properties, wealth and good health. Once the individual lives under fear, he/she cannot be free to contribute to the development of the family. Drug taking, alcohol and poor economic status are some of the causes of domestic violence against women. Historically and culturally, women have been unfortunately been considered appropriate victims of domestic violence (Gelles and Cornell, 1990). Many accept the

mystic ideas that women sometimes need to be “put in their place” by the men, thus providing a disturbing cultural basis for the physical and sexual abuse of women. There is no comparable cultural justification for the physical or sexual abuse of men. No one knows with certainty exactly how many women are victims of partner violence each year or the vulnerability and victimization of pregnant women due to abuse from their spouses or intimate partners.

5.3 Recommendations

The following recommendations were thereby made as a result of the findings from this study.

1) The Edo State should set up guidance and counseling centres on family matters where religious leaders, elders in the communities and guidance and counseling experts will educate and counsel partners to live peacefully and arrive at a communed decision to improve family relationship.

2) Religious leaders (both Islamic and Christian) should give talks to their members on effects of early marriage and its negative effects on young women and they should try to discourage early marriage among girls.

3) Home economists should give talks to people on family relationship during conferences, seminars, workshops and religious gatherings.

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF BENIN.

I, chukwukwe Loveth from the above department seek your response to aid my research project on the topic "the role of social workers in the management of domestic violence in Benin City Edo State" this research is to be carried out in University of Benin and this questionnaire is designed to find out people opinion on the above topic. Read each statement and indicate your own opinion in the appropriate column provided. Your response will be handled with utmost confidentiality.

Section A: Socio – economic characteristics

1. AGE: (15-25years)_____ (26-30 years)_____ (31- 35years) (36years and above)_____
2. Gender : male ( ) female ( )
3. Religion: Christianity ( ) Islam ( ) others ( )
4. State of origin _____
5. Marital status : single ( ) married ( ) never married ( ) widow ( )

Section B:

From each of the items below, there are four responses. 4= strongly agree, 3= Agree, 2= Disagree, 1= strongly disagree. Choose the response that best reflects your opinion.

Your responses would be kept strictly secret

S/N	**ITEM**	SA	A	D	SD	UD
1.	Domestic violence exist in our society					
2.	Domestic violence is about violence that occur in the home					
3.	Socio economic status such as low income causes domestic violence agaist children					
4.	The level of education affect domestic violence					
5.	Culture affect domestic violence					
6.	Punching, slapping, kicking is a form of domestic violence					
7.	Domestic violence can be hereditary					
8	Domestic violence can result to mental illness					
9.	Our society promotes domestic violence					
10.	Witnessing domestic violence leads to poor academic performance among children					
11.	Domestic violence leads to break up in home					
12.	Poor communication is a major factor that contribute to domestic violence					
13.	Consumption of alcohol can lead to domestic violence					
14.	Peer group influences domestic violence					

15	The age of an individual influences domestic violence					
16	The type of job an individual is engaged in influences domestic violence					
17	Reporting to necessary authority will reduce domestic violence					
18	Intervention of a neighbor will reduce domestic violence					
19	Domestic violence is prominent in your area					
20	Educating the individual and the public will help curb domestic violence					
21	Showing care to a victim will help reduce domestic violence					