

**THE CAUSES OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE IN OVIA NORTH EAST
LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA, EDO STATE**

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**A RESEARCH PROJECT PRESENTED TO THE DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
WORK, FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES, UNIVERSITY OF BENIN, BENIN CITY,
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CERTIFICATION

We certify that this project work was carried out by **Emmanuel OKOYO** with **Matriculation Number SSC1911856** of the Department of Social Work, University of Benin, Benin city in Partial Fulfillment for the Award of B.sc Degree in Social Work.

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DEDICATION

This entire research work is graciously dedicated to God Almighty for his faithfulness, loving kindness, provision of good health, mercies and protection of life all through my stay as a student in the University of Benin.

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ABSTRACT

This study focuses on evaluating the causes of intimate partner violence in Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State, and five research questions were formulated to guide the study. The study employed a descriptive research design. The population for the study comprised of seven thousand six hundred and seventy-nine (7,679) residence in Ovia North East Local Government Area of Edo State. Random sampling techniques were used in the selection of respondents, the sample size was made up of two hundred (200) randomly selected respondents from Ovia North East Local Government Area in Edo state. The findings show that domestic violence can adversely affect the physiological, psychological, emotional, financial, wellbeing of a victim and any witness when the crime is carried out. It was observed that domestic violence can lead to death of victim in most severe cases, majority of the respondent agreed that the education of a girl child can be disrupted or harshly affected thereby causing depression, loss of interest in school activities and even the abuse of hard drugs amongst others and It is observed that social workers are capable of sensitizing the general public about the cases of domestic violence and its effect and educating them on how to report cases of domestic violence as the protection against domestic violence is a very important in the achievement of a healthy family and society at large. This work also recommended that Seminars should be organized to enlighten girl child on the disadvantages of cohabiting with a partner and rehabilitation centers should be built, adequately structured and equipped with well trained professionals from every related field of concern in order to enhance the behaviours of the perpetrator.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Globally, one in three women have experienced DV resulting in significant social, mental, and physical health conditions (Hawcroft et al., 2019). Regionally, according to the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women summary report 2005, authors suggest that the proportion of ever-partnered women who had ever experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner in their lifetime, ranged from 15% to 71% (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2005).

Domestic violence is also known as domestic abuse, spousal, battering, family violence and intimate partner violence (IPV). It is a pattern of abusive behaviours by one partner against the other in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family or cohabitation. Domestic violence, so defined, has many forms, including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing object and so on). It could also be seen as the intentional and persistent abuse of anyone in the home in a way that causes pain, distress or injury, also to any abusive treatment of one family member by another, thus violating the law of basic human rights (Pesando, 2022).

Violence against women has been part of human history and human societies have lived with it without feeling that it was anything wrong (Godwin, 2005). Violence against women is a manifestation of historically unequal power relations between men and women which have

led to domination over and discrimination against women by men and to the prevention of the full advancement of women (Ozili, 2021) Violence against women continues to be a global epidemic that kills, tortures and maims physically, psychological, sexually and emotionally. It is one of the most pervasive of human rights violation that denies women of their security, equality, dignity, self-worth and right to enjoy fundamental freedom. It is present in most countries in the world, cutting across boundaries of culture, class, education, income, ethnicity and age (UN declaration on the elimination of violence Against Women and General Assembly Resolution, (Jalali, 2023).

Kantor in Yogo (2018), stated that domestic violence is a pressing global issue which is often associated with women's isolation from supportive kin ties. It is an essential component of gender-based violence which has been defined as those actions and activities that cause physical, psychological and emotional harm to a person just because of mere misunderstanding, (Okpeh, 2019). As a phenomenon, however, violence against women relates to a broad spectrum of issues affecting the existence of the female specie in relation to the family. The female folks suffer in their matrimonial homes because God Almighty constituted marriage in the garden of Eden, made women helpmate and consequently our social system places women in a disadvantaged position (Okpeh, 2019).

The United Nation General Assembly (2023) postulated that violence and abusive behaviour continue to be a major cause of death, injury, stress and fear in various families. Domestic violence and abusive behaviour are responsible for poor family relationship, although

personality conflicts and troubles within a marriage affect intimate behaviour, (Olson & Defrain 2016).

Bahai (2012) stated that, family relationship refers to unity which is strengthened by love. The members of the family all have duties and responsibilities toward one another and to the family as a whole. These duties and responsibilities vary from member to member because of their natural relationships. Such behaviour can be seen in a man that stopped the wife from government employment and made her to engage in preparation and sales of local wine (burukutu) for many years. The woman could not further her education after primary school certificate (Mulford, 2016).

1.2 Statement of the Research Problem

Domestic violence is one of the most prevalent forms of violence against women in all countries including Nigeria. Overall, DV is a social problem, legal issue, an education, and economic issue, and above all, violates the rights of women (Akhmedshina, 2020; Kapoor, 2000). It is consistently on the front burner among international human rights movement groups invested in women's health, and therefore, remains an important public health problem that concerns all sectors of society. Globally, one in three women have experienced DV resulting in significant social, mental, and physical health conditions (Hawcroft et al., 2019). Regionally, according to the WHO Multi-country Study on Women's Health and Domestic Violence against Women summary report 2005, authors suggest that the proportion of ever-partnered women who had ever experienced physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner in their lifetime, ranged from 15% to 71% (Garcia-Moreno et al., 2005).

Such early marriages limit education, affects young girls' academic pursuits, compromise their future and other opportunities, leading to early childbearing and increased health risks. Early childbearing affects the female reproductive organs and health problems such as unsafe abortion, and obstetric fistula. Husbands take decision whether it suits the family or not while the wives and children suffer the consequences of the heads of the family's decisions. It is also observed that the violation of women at home has made their situation difficult, to especially participate fully in issues concerning them in the home and in the society and as such, have no freedom to speak for themselves because of fear of punishment from their husbands. Men think that women are meant for giving birth, taking care of the children and doing only domestic work. This study therefore, evaluate the predators of domestic violence in intimate partners violence in Egor Local Government Area Edo State.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

The aim of the study is to examine the Causes of Intimate Partner Violence in Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State. The objectives are to:

- i. assess the psychological effect of domestic violence against women in Ovia North East local government area of Edo State.
- ii. examine the possible ways victims (women) of domestic violence can get help in Ovia North East local government area of Edo State.
- iii. identify the effect of keeping issues of domestic violence against women in Ovia North East local government area of Edo State and

- iv. examine the effect of deprivation of women's rights in decision making in Ovia North East local government area of Edo State.

1.4 Research Questions

This study seeks to provide answers to the following questions

- i. What extent has domestic violence psychologically affect women in Ovia North East local government area of Edo State.
- ii. What are the effects of domestic violence against women on family relationship in Egor local government area Edo State.
- iii. what are the effect of keeping issues of domestic violence against women in Ovia North East local government area of Edo State and
- iv. How can victims (women) of domestic violence get help in Ovia North East local government area of Edo State.

1.5 Scope of the Study

This content scope of this study was restricted to the predators of domestic violence against women in Ovia local government area of Edo State. The study was limited to Ovia Local Government Area.

1.6 Significance of the Study

The findings of this study would help women in Edo state to identify domestic violence, through enlightenment, and they would learn to get help and be able to enjoy their relationship in the family. The findings of this study would enable home economists to improve the content in family life relationship through teaching of students by enlightening them on the relevance

and importance of family relation in combating violence. It would help couples to sit together to discuss family issues and take decision.

It would educate individuals and families through teachings in the classrooms in home economics subjects and courses, through seminars, conferences, giving talks to religious organizations in the church and mosques, and in public religion gatherings to avert domestic violence. The knowledge gained from such teaching will broaden the knowledge of men to consider women as instrument for change because when women are educated, the whole family would be educated either directly or indirectly.

The findings will make husbands involve their wives in decision making for the progress of their families and give women the rights and privileges for a harmonious relationship since the genesis of human behavior starts from the home.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Preamble

This chapter is concerned with the review of relevant literature of the study, it examines the concept of domestic violence, concept of marriage, predators of domestic violence as well as the theoretical framework relevant to the study.

2.2 Conceptual Review

2.2.1 Domestic violence

Understanding domestic violence and the impact of beliefs and attitudes toward battered woman is an issue that needs to be explored. According to Bernard and Bernard (1983), two themes could be derived from the increase in domestic violence: that the socialization process sets the stage for domestic violence and that violence is learned. For example, the first theme suggests that men are violent based on a socialization process that teaches them to be aggressive and that women are submissive and passive (Bernard & Bernard 2017).

Akpan and Usoroh, (2005) defined domestic violence as violence in intimacy which can be physical, sexual, psychological, emotional or threats of physical or sexual violence that are inflicted on women. Violence directed against women is found in many societies. Genyi (2005) added that, domestic violence is a very serious social, economic and psychological problem that has no cultural or social, economic and psychological group inhibition. Beyond the absence of any unknown barrier not even legal, its occurrence has profound and destructive

consequences which ranges from physical, emotional and financial effects on the inhabitants of the home be it the women, children or men.

According to Both (2013) and Genyi (2015), domestic violence is orchestrated as a desire of one party in a relationship to dominate and control the other partner. It may be power breakdown and distortion of an intimate relationship. Relationships that are characterized by violence may be distorted but may not be broken down. This is inferred from the immediate buildup of cordially or even outright expression of a profound level of affection. In such circumstance, it could be attributed to a spontaneous outburst. Physical injuries and other consequences from domestic violence are sexual abuse and gender inequalities. Physical and sexual abuse can lead to gynecological problems such as pelvic inflammatory disease (PID), chronic pelvic pain and vaginal bleeding among other medical problems, (Utulu et al, 2005). Usoroh (2005), continued that physical violence is intentional use of force. It include, slapping, pushing, biting, choking, using knife, gun, and other weapons with the potential for causing injury, harm or death. It also includes coercing other people to commit such acts which can be actual or threatening.

Sexual violence comes in different categories. actual or threats of physical force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act against his/her will, attempted or completed sexual with a person unable to understand such as rape with an object. Psychological and emotional violence is defined as harm to the victim caused by acts or threat or acts such as humiliating, name calling, embarrassing victim deliberately especially in public, controlling victims movement and activities, isolating victim from friends and family, controlling financial

resources, withholding information or resources, threatening to harm a child or pet breaking on object. Economic abuse is when the abuser has complete control over the victim's money and other economic resources. Usually, this involves putting the victim on a strict "allowance", withholding money at will and forcing the victim to beg for the money until the abuser gives them some. It is common for the victim to receive less money as the abuse continues.

This also includes (but is not limited to) preventing the victim from finishing education or obtaining employment, or intentionally squandering or misusing communal resources. This is real with some men in some families where the husband receives the wife's salaries and gives her as the need arises. This leads to a serious conflict between the husband and the wife. The theme that violence is learned suggests that each generation tends to model violence after the previous generation (Bernard & Bernard 2017). Battered women and the perpetrators of battery are viewed as repeating the cycle of violence, and literature relating to family violence can help illustrate how domestic violence is learned and repeated in relationships.

2.2.2 Predictors of Domestic Violence

Many scholars have identified several factors that perpetuate domestic violence among women including but not limited to age, level of education, financial autonomy, wealth status, ethnicities, culture beliefs about male superiority over women, the type of union either monogamous or polygynous unions, employment status of a woman as a measure of access to resources, duration of cohabitation with a partner, cultural acceptance of DV as a private family matter, partner factors such as alcohol consumption, partner educational attainment, employment status, controlling behavior of partner, and family history or childhood exposure to

DV amongst others (Benebo et al., 2018; Efetie & Salami, 2007; Envuladu et al., 2012; Ezechi et al., 2009; Iliyasu et al., 2011; Kargar Jahromi et al., 2015; Mapayi et al., 2011; Nyberg et al., 2013; Odimegwu, 2001; Okemgbo et al., 2002; Solanke, 2018; Yusuf, 2001). Some other studies have analysed the Nigeria DHS data to evaluate associations between the power relations between women are in intimate relationship with partners that have controlling behaviors. They concluded that women who reported controlling behavior by partner had a threefold

likelihood of experiencing DV, more specifically physical violence (Antai, 2011). Most of the literature reviewed to the best of my knowledge, and on studies in Nigeria, are limited to very small geographical areas or residential settings. Some of the studies are restricted to rural setting only; or limited to a particular tribe. Other studies consider strictly a subset of women e.g pregnant women, infertile women or women living with HIV. Some literatures showed analysis that are limited only to responses from a few women accessing clinic services, or women in in congregate settings such as military or higher education settings. A good number of the studies were even limited to bivariate analysis. Others cast a wide net in identifying perpetrators to contain anyone including partners, and non-partners such as family members, friends, acquaintances, and strangers. Overall, there are limited studies that have attempted to examine all of the plausible factors discussed in this project either collectively or in sub-groups using a nationally representative data. Given the knowledge gaps and the absence of a nationally representative exploration, in this study, I focus on examining the largest nationally representative demographic and health survey data in Nigeria, to explore trend in prevalence of

experiencing domestic violence, and assess the prevalence rate distribution among all states and across all six geographical regions in Nigeria

2.2.3 An overview of domestic violence against women

According to Garba (2018), 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. An example of a typical case of domestic violence is 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.

The recent study research conducted by Famwang, (2018) 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 alleged that they are expected to endure whatever they meets in their 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 manhandle 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, providing 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 tertiary 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.

Famwang (2018) pointed out that the law provided the protection of individuals against these 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, (2018) 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 (2018) 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 (2018) 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 (2018) 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 (2018) 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 dabbling 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.

2.2.4 Prevention of spousal abuse

Pence and McDonnell, (2012) explained that, counselors commonly advise battered women to leave their husbands and go to a relative's or friend's home or to a shelter for battered women. This is easier said than done. Some men panic when women leave because they feel they are losing control. Panic can lead to even more violent behaviour. The first shelter for battered women was opened in 1974. Today there are several thousand shelter across the country. Shelter provides safety for the abused spouse and children; temporary housing, food and clothing, counseling to build a stronger self-concept and practical guidance such as finding employment and legal assistance (Gelles, 2012).

Responding to pressure from the women's movement, police department are now more likely to make arrest in case of domestic violence. Assault against a spouse is seen as a serious offence. After studying, research findings indicated that men who had spent time behind bars were less like to assault their partners again, the Duluth Minnesota, police department was first in the United State to make arrest mandatory for suspected batterers. As a society, our ultimate goal should be the prevention of domestic violence. To do this, we need not to only treat those families in which violence has occurred, but also address the causes of violence. We live in a society that devalues women and children and glorifies power, the use of force and the domineering behaviour associated with alcohol abuse.

2.2.5 Sexual abuse against women

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (2010) referred to sexual abuse as molestation; the forcing of undesirable sexual behaviour by one person upon another, where that force fails

short, it is being called sexual assault. The term also covers any behaviour by any adult towards a child to stimulate either the adult or child sexually. When the victims are younger than age of consent it is referred to as child sexual abuse.

United Nations Children's Fund Innocent Research Centre, (2012) stated that, sexual abuse and rape by an intimate partner is not considered a crime in most countries and women in many societies do not consider forced sex as rape if they are married to or cohabiting with the perpetrator. The assumption is that, once a woman enters in to a contract of marriage, the husband has the right to unlimited sexual access to his wife.

Surveys in many countries revealed that approximately to 15 % of women report being forced to have sex with their intimate partners. Genyi, (2005) explained that, sexual violence is divided into three categories, use of physical force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act against his or her will, whether or not the act is completed, attempted sex act involving a person who is unable to understand the nature or condition of the act, unable to decline participation, or unable to communicate unwilling to engage in the sexual act because of underage, immaturity, illness, disability or the influence of alcohol or other drugs or because of intimidation of pressure and abusive sexual contact.

According to Heise et al., (2012), sexual violence and exploitation are abuse of power, young women are especially at risk, and the violation can have devastating and long consequence. Statistics on rape suggest that between one-third and two-thirds of rape victims world-wide are young women who can be subjected to sexual violence. Women are at risk of becoming infected with HIV and other STI, physical injuries and psychological trauma. Studies

also showed that young people who have been victims of sexual abuse are more likely to engage in high-risk sexual behaviour than those who have not been abused.. Similarly, poverty leads many young women in sub-Saharan, Africa and elsewhere into sexual relationship within the family who will give the young women other necessities such as clothing and food in exchange for sex.

2.2.6 The effects of sexual abuse against women

Path. (2012) pointed out that, violence against women is often categorized as sexual or emotional. Globally, one-third to one-half of all physical abused women also report for sex (Koss et al, 1994). Sexual and physical violence appear to increase women's risk for many common gynecological disorder including vaginal bleeding, painful menstruation, vaginal discharge, sexual dysfunction, pelvic inflammatory disease and painful intercourses. Walker et al., (1992) added that, sexual abuse may also be linked to the etiology of chronic pelvic pain, a debilitating condition that frequently has no identifiable cause. Chronic pelvic pain is responsible for ten percent of all gynecological visits and one quarter of hysterectomies.

The researcher explained that, a number of studies have found that women suffering chronic pelvic pain are more likely to have a history of sexual abuse by their partners. Akpan et al., (2016) revealed that, sexual abuse affects the lives of women who live within the boundaries of those abusive relationships. Akpan et al., (2016) viewed sexual abuse as a crucial public health problem that has devastating physical and emotional consequences for women. Gonzalez et al., (2024) further stated that, in addition to causing immediate injury and mental anguish, sexual violence increases women's risk of future ill health. A wide range of studies

showed that women who have experienced sexual violence have greater risk of subsequent health problems. The more severe the abuse, the greater the number of symptoms and the more severe the effect of women's physical and mental health.

Valladaries et al., (2012) stated that in many parts of the world, marriage is interpreted as granting men unconditional sexual access to their lives a "right" through force if necessary. Among 98% of currently married women in Pradesh, India, 68% report being coerced into sex by their husbands, 31% report being forced through beatings. Khan, et al., (1996) stated that the high level of non-consensual sex occurring in marital unions is supported through both qualitative and quantitative data. Bradlen (1985) pointed out that, sexual abuse can put women at risk of infection and unwanted pregnancy if forced to have sex or dared using contraception or condoms because of their partner's reaction. A history of sexual abuse lead to unwanted pregnancy and indirectly by increasing sexual risk (Beritchman et al., (1991). Bayer and Fine (1992), Buther and Burtain (1990) revealed that, childhood sexual abuse is associated with earlier age at first intercourse and an increase in certain risk behaviours such as having sex with many partners.

The study of the Secretary General United Nations (2007) pointed out that, depression is one of the most common consequences of sexual abuse and physical violence. Women who suffer sexual abuse are at risk of stress and anxiety disorders, including post-traumatic stress disorder. A study in Michigan, United States found that, 59% of women had experienced several sexual abuse in the previous 12 months had psychological problems compared to 20% of those who report on abuse. Studies showed that, sexual abuse of intimate partner is the most

common cause of post-traumatic stress disorder in women. It has also been shown that, women who have been sexually abused are at risk of suicide. Post-traumatic stress disorder in particular appears to be a significant risk factor suicide.

Bethea, (1999); Gelles, (1997) Olson and Defrain (2016) further explained that, the effects of forceful, hurtful, exploitative sexual relationship can last for a long time. The abused person may carry a burden of guilt, shame, lower self-esteem and depression for years and may suffer from sleep disturbance and/or eating disorders (including anorexia and bulimia). Individual difficulty trusting one's partner, and inability to relax and enjoy lovemaking, avoidance of sex inhibited sexual desire, and inability to achieve orgasm (Mitcheel, Finkelhor, & Wolak, 2001). One study by the Illinois Department of children and family services found that more than half of the 445 teenaged mothers questioned had been sexually abused and had been forced to have sex.

2.2.7 Prevention of sexual abuse

Therapist might work on developing family members' self-esteem and improving family relationships. People who have been victims of sexual abuse are more likely to engage in high-risk sexual behaviour than those who have not been abused. Similarly, poverty leads many women in sub-Saharan Africa and elsewhere into sexual relationships within the family who will give women money and other necessities such as clothing and food in exchange for sex.

In an effort to prevent sexual abuse, many organizations and schools in this country should have educational programs for women on "good touch and bad touch". Education can

also help women on how to behave in sexual abusive situation. Teachers, physicians, mental health professional and police officers are key figure in women protection. Home economist should give talk to women on sexual abuse during women gathering in the church, mosque and conference.

2.2.8 Effects of deprivation of women's rights in decision making

Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia (2010) explained the term women's right as the freedom and entitlement of women and girls of all ages. The convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (CEDAW) adopts in 1979, and the convention on the rights of the child (CRC) adopted in 1989, affirmed the principle of fundamental rights, and freedom of every human being. Both CEDAW and the CRC are guided by the broad concept of human rights that stretches beyond civil and political rights to the core issue of economic survival, health and education that affect quality of daily life for most women and children. The two conventions call for the right to protection from gender-based abuse.

The National Consultative Forum on Women Empowerment (2003) revealed that, in the home front, women particularly if they do not own resources, cannot have a say in the affairs of the nuclear home and in the affairs of the large extended family. Women lack access to treatment due to their poor economic and illiteracy nature yet they are the most vulnerable. As gender disparities increase, the epidemic affects most women who bear the negative consequence of the gender imbalance. As the epidemic is maturing, it is drawing to women who have had only one sex partner, (study of the secretary general, 2007).

The consultative forum on women empowerment (2003) pointed out that looking at educational system a design whose objective was to train men to fill lower cadre administrative position in the colonial service. The predominant gender roles which assign females to production work within the homes and agricultural role of feeding the family served to keep the females out of school. The fruits of education were denied them consequently the production of further knowledge as an out come of education was predominantly a male affair. It is important to note that this state of affairs has been changing, considered a human right and national policy and women emphasize the important of equal access. Some effort are made to encourage girls to enroll at the higher level though equal representation is yet to be achieved. It is the successful participation at the higher level of the educational system that allows women to find a niche at the leadership levels. In the home, socio-cultural biases are at root of some harmful traditional practice that undermines women's fundamental human rights. Female genital mutilation (FGM) widowhood rites, wife inheritance, child marriage and denial of inheritance right to women are some of the practices that militate against equality in the homes. Research has shown that certain categories of women have limited understanding of their rights and how to protect rights. Some women have come to accept the systematic discrimination against women and view other women opposes the system as "alleviant." (Women's Aid Collective (2016).

According to United Nations General Assembly Special Session (2012), women's participation in decision-making and power is important in the family to bring about progress on systematic changes that are needed for gender balance. Women's choice in education and

career compels women to assume the burden for household responsibilities. Initiative and programs aimed at women increased participation in decision-making are burdened by a lack of human and financial resource for training to promote gender equality in the home.

2.2.9 Effects of domestic violence against women on family relationship

According to National Centre for injury, prevention and control (2005) violent and abusive behaviour continue to be a major cause of death, injury, stress and fear in our country. Crime victimizes millions of women annually. Suicide took the lives of 29,350 Americans in 2012. Approximately 25.9 million violent and property victimizations also occurred that year (United State Department Of Justice, 2005).

Data from the recent National Crime Victimization Survey (NCVS) indicated that, there were 691,710 non-fatal violent victimizations committed by current or former spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends of the victims in 2001. These intimate partners were against women. By contrast, intimate partner in the same year committed 3% of all nonfatal violence against men. (Remison, 2003) showed that, in 2012, 1,247 women and 440 recent years indicated that 33% of female murdered victims were killed by intimate partners and 4% of male murdered victims only. Personality conflicts and troubles within a marriage clearly contribute to marital breakdown behavior.

Sexual Assault Survivor Services (1990), added that domestic violence affects every member of the family, including the children, family violence creates a home environment where children live in constant fear. Children who witness family violence are affected in ways similar to children who are physically abused. They are often unable to establish nurturing

bonds with either parent. Children are at greater risk for abuse and neglect if they live in violence. (Child Welfare Partnership, (1995) also stated that, violence affects the lives of millions of women worldwide, in all socioeconomic and educational classes. It cuts across cultural and religious barriers, impeding the right of women to participate fully in home decision making. It also occurs when a family member, partner or ex-partner attempts to physically or psychologically dominate another. Women are neglected in decision - making of the family particularly if they do not own resources, they cannot have a say in the affairs of the nuclear home nor the affairs of larger extended family. Women share a lower status and are not considered equal with men – socially, economically and politically despite the equal rights. (Report of the Consultative Forum on Women Empowerment, 2003).

Carlson (1984) explained that, statistics showed that over 3 million children witness violence in their home each year. Those who see and hear violence in the home suffer physically and emotionally. (Pickering, 1989) continued that, families under stress produce children under stress. If a spouse is being abused and there are children in the home, the children are affected by the abuse. Terr et al., (1991) observed that, children exposed to family violence are more likely to develop social, emotional, psychological and/or behavioural problems than those who are not. Recent research indicated that children who witness domestic violence show more anxiety, low self esteem, depression, anger and temperament problems than children who do not witness violence in the home. The trauma they experience can show up in emotional, behavioural, social and physical disturbances that affect their development and can continue into adulthood.

Gillberg (1996) by American academy in traumatic stress revealed that, many children in families where domestic violence has occurred appeared to be prettified. They are forced to grow up faster than their peers, often taking on the responsibility of cooking, cleaning and caring for younger children. It was also noted that, many of these children were not allowed to have a real childhood. They don't trust their fathers because of his role and they may have been worried about what to expect when coming home. They learned at a young age to be prepared for anything.

Regier et al. (1995), also added that, children may also be isolated. Typical activities such as having friends over to their house may be impossible due to the chaotic atmosphere. "Kid's aren't going to have their friends over when mom has a black eye". However, school performance is not always obviously affected. Children may respond by being overachievers. Gondolf (2009) argued that, although violence in the home can be directed toward children, the elderly, or other household members, most often this term is used to represent violence between adolescents or adults who are currently or were previously involved in a romantic or intimate relationship. Domestic violence occurs between spouses, ex-spouses, and couples who are dating or who dated previously.

Ezeilo, (2009) pointed out that, permission for violence by men against their wives has been reinforced through western religion and law for countries. Although legislation was enacted in the American colonies to outlaw domestic violence in 1641 with later laws originating in the late 1800s, the laws were not usually enforced and served only to curtail extreme cases of violence.

Ezeilo, (2009) also revealed that, one of the most difficult matters to confront with in respect to family relationships is that, you don not control the entire relationship yourself. Whether the relationship thrives or withers is not up to you alone. As the saying goes, it takes two to tango.

Pavlina (2016) retrieved (2009) added that, when major family relationship problems are encountered, its common to attempt a control strategy. You get the other person to change. Sometimes this approach works especially if your request and that of other person are both reasonable; but many times it just leads to frustration. If you cannot change the other person, you should just accept him as he is. This strategy sometimes works. In another way if changing and accepting the other person is both unworkable for you, the only option is to change yourself in a way that solves the problem.

2.3 Empirical Studies

Different researchers carried out researches on domestic violence in different parts of the world. One of these studies was conducted in Lagos Nigeria by Baudri (2005) in exploring socio-economic correlates of wife battering in Nigeria: the research design used was survey carried out using multi-stage sampling method with a validated 77 item structured wife battering interview schedule. This was used to collect data from 450 married men and women aged between 15 – 50 years. Five null hypotheses were stated. Twelve trained field assistants were recruited for the main survey, and data were collected and processed using descriptive and inferential statistics. Research findings indicated that; the incidence of wife battering tended to occur more, early in marriage. The result revealed that, polygamous marriages were more prone

to conflict and some women who attained higher educational qualifications were beaten more than those who had secondary education or who were illiterates. Thirty five percent (35%) of the respondents claimed to have beaten their wives, 41% of the female respondents admitted to have suffered assaults associated with alcohol. Forty-four percent (44%) of the male respondents admitted to have beaten their wives. The area covered for the study was enough to generalize for the whole country. The population of the study was not known, so the researcher did not know how the author got the sample of 450 married men and women. The research work did not indicate whether the hypotheses were rejected or accepted.

Elliot (2022) proposed that the intergenerational transmission of family aggression involves both generalized and specific modeling: Generalized modelling refers to the acceptance of aggression within families, while specific modeling refers to the perpetration of particular types of aggression the individual was exposed to within the family of origin. In theory, families with high levels of aggression produce both generalized and specific forms of modeling. Children from homes where multiple forms of violence or severe violence occur are exposed to more modeling, which increases the probability that violence is learned and perpetrated. However, evidence of the future effects associated with specific modelling is mixed (Kwong et al. 2003; Stith et al. 2020).

There is some evidence that different types of childhood traumas are related to different patterns of abusive behaviour in violent men.

Dutton and Hart (2022) found that offenders who had been physically abused as children were more likely to commit crimes of physical aggression than sexual crimes. These

researchers also found that men who commit family violence are more likely to report violence in their family of origin than men who commit nonviolent crimes and men who commit violent crimes against strangers Dutton and Hart (1992).

Numerous studies have found that adults who abuse their children are more likely to have been abused than the general population (e.g., Silver et al. 1969; Straus et al. 1980). It may be the case that individuals who were abused are more likely to abuse their children than individuals who witnessed violence, but were not themselves victims (Kalmuss 1984). There is some evidence that adults who witnessed violence, but were not themselves abused, are more likely to perpetrate domestic violence than those who were abused but did not witness violence as children. However, there is also evidence that adults are most likely to perpetrate domestic violence if they were both physically abused and witnessed domestic violence as children (Downs et al. 1996; Holtzworth-Munroe et al. 1997; Kalmuss 1984; Widom 1989), and some researchers have found no role-specific patterns of violence (Kwong et al. 2003). Family violence appears to be learned, although the roles of generalized and specific modeling are unclear. Given that most perpetrators are male, it is important to study how learned violence affects men.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

2.4.1 Theory of Cycle of Violence

The “cycle of violence”, first articulated by Lenore Walker (1984), became a popular explanation for domestic violence in the 1980’s. Lenore Walker, a psychologist, discovered what she calls the cycle of violence, based on the principles of intermittent reinforcement,

which outlined predictable patterns of abuse in a violent relationship (Walker, 1979, 1984). In Walker's cycle of violence theory, she describes a repeated sequence of behavior that typified a battering relationship which appears to have three distinct phases: the tension building phase, the explosion or acute battering phase followed by a honeymoon respite phase. The three phases often vary in time and intensity.

In phase 1, the tension building phase, there is a gradual escalation of tension, causing increased friction such as name calling. The tension begins to rise and there might be small but controlled incidents of violence. The batterer expresses dissatisfaction and hostility but not in an extreme form. It is characterized by male anger and frustration leading to acting out the violence. The woman is sensitive towards the abuser's emotional changes. She attempts to calm down the batterer, doing what she thinks might please him, or at least what will not aggravate him further. She may respond by tip-toeing around him to avoid an outburst or she may begin to use techniques which had brought her success in containing the abuser's outburst in the past. There is a feeling of "walking on egg shells," and there can be minor battering incidents. Walker (1979) posits that "as the batterer and the battered woman sense the escalating tension, it becomes more difficult for their coping mechanism to continue working" (p. 67), thus the explosion or acute battering occurs, which leads to phase 2 in the cycle.

Phase 2, the acute battering phase, is usually the most violent and shortest point in the cycle. In this phase, the batterer's anger seem to be totally out of control and it is reported that he did not set out to harm the woman, only to teach her a lesson (Walker, 1979). This is the phase when the male becomes overly aggressive. The other characteristic for phase 2 is the lack

of predictability and control of the kind of violence that will occur. This phase is often followed by a honeymoon period where the batterer would be extremely loving, kind and show his genuine contrition over the abuse incident. He also showers the woman with gifts and promises that he will never do it again. In this third phase, the love bond between them is enhanced, thus giving the woman hope that her man will change. It is the honeymoon phase in a relationship that makes leaving so difficult but nobody knows how long this phase will last. As Walker (1979) has explained “before one knows it, the tension starts to build again”; little incidents begin here and there and the cycle starts again. Following the third phase, the first inevitably happens again at some point and the cycle goes on.

Walker asserts that the cycle of violence causes the victim to think less of herself, causes confusion that reduces her chances of planning escape, preoccupies her mind with self-blame and causes her to be hopeful that they can have a happy and fulfilling relationship together. Knowledge and understanding of this cycle is important so that we can educate women about this and help them to be aware of the cycle that they go through in an abusive relationship. This cycle of false hope is literally “programmed” into the victims by their abusers. Many women never find ways to prevent them from being drawn into the same destructive pattern. Hopefully, with an understanding of the cycle, they will have the courage to break the cycle and it will help them to see that the honeymoon stage is only a fleeting hope that they cannot afford to hang on to with their life.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

This chapter is concerned with the various methods adopted in carrying out this research work. This includes research design, population of the, sample size and sampling technique, method of data collection, research instrument as well as the method of data analysis.

3.1 Research Design

The research design used for this study is the survey research design. This is the specification of the methods and procedures for acquiring the information needed for the research. It involved conducting face to face interviews and the circulation of carefully designed questionnaires to respondents in the study area.

3.2 Population of the Study

Population according to Agbonifoh and Yomere (1997) is the totality about whom a researcher wants to investigate. The population of this study therefore, is seven thousand, six hundred and seventy nine residents of Ovia North East Local Government Area from which a sample size was drawn.

3.3 Sample size and Sampling Technique

A sample is a subject of the units of a population in a portion or part of the subset of the units of the population of interest. A simple random sampling technique was adopted to select 200 respondents in this research work. Hence, the sample size for this study is 200 male and female residents of Ovia North East Local government area who are 18 years and above.

3.4 Research instrument

The major instrument used for data collection during the research is questionnaire. Questionnaire is a set of fixed pre-arranged and carefully typed questions which respondents provided answers to. It could also be said to be a document containing a set of questions designed in such a way that the research objectives are reflected in the question for soliciting information from respondents on the subject of a research investigation

3.5 Validation of the instrument

To validate the instrument, the expert judgment approach was used. The supervisor and two other lecturers in the department of Social Work 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

3.6 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.

3.7 Method of Data Collection

The method of data collection for this study is the questionnaire and semi-structured interview method. The questionnaire was divided into two sections. Section A is the social demographic variables of respondents, while section B comprise of the predators of domestic violence in intimate partners violence. The questionnaire method is use because it gives the

respondents enough time to think of answers which will be more suitable for the study while survey enables the researcher to obtain firsthand information in the field among the study population within the study area. While the semi-structured interview method, will enable the researcher to get more facts on the phenomenon of drug abuse from respondents.

3.8 Method of Data Analysis

For this study, the Pearson moment correlation statistics and chi- square (χ^2) test were used. This is because the chi-square (χ^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 (χ^2) formula is given as

$$\text{Chi square } (\chi^2) \quad X^2 = \sum^n = (f_o - f_e)^2 / f_e$$

X^2 = calculated figures of chi- square symbol

f_o = Actual or frequency observed frequencies in the sample

f_e = frequency expected in the sample

Σ = summation

The data collected was computed manually using table and percentages

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.0 Preamble

This chapter which is the penultimate chapter is set to present and analyse the data collected from the field work. The chapter also test the hypotheses stated in chapter pone of this study

4.1 Data presentation and Analysis

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 Analysis for demographic data

Table 4.2.1: Demographic details of respondents

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.

Table 4.1 Sex of respondents

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

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.1 shows the breakdown of respondents by sex. One hundred and twenty five female respondents representing seventy (70%) and seventy five male respondents representing thirty percent (30%) were survey in this study. This shows that the views of respondents were sought across the two sexes.

Table 4.2 Marital status of respondents

S/N	DETAILS	RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1.	Marital status	Single	38	42.2%
		married	162	57.8%
	Total		200	100%

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2 above indicates that thirty-eight respondents representing about forty-two percent (42.2%) of respondent were single and one hundred and sixty two respondents representing about fifty-seven percent (57.8%) were married. Hence a higher number of respondents were married individuals.

Table 4.3 Age of Respondents

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

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

The table above present the age of the respondents. It shows that ninety respondents representing 21.1% are between the ages of 20-39, eighty five respondents representing 34.4% are between the ages of 50-59 while twenty five respondents representing 30% are between the ages of 60 and above. This implies that majority of the respondents are between the ages of 20 – 39.

Table 4.4 educational qualification of respondents

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
	Total		200	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.4 above presents the educational level of respondents. The table shows that fifty five respondents representing 13.3% had ND/NCE, seventy respondents representing 44.5% had HND/B.Sc. while thirty respondents representing 20 had PG . however, thirty five respondents representing 22.2% had other qualifications. This means that majority of the respondents had H.N.D/B.Sc.

Table 4.5 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 4.5. In the question above, 66.7% of respondents hold strong opinion that domestic violence exists in their society 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 domestic violence exists in majority of the society.

Table 4.6 Domestic violence is about violence that occur in the home.

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	120	60%
Agree	49	24.5%
Undecided	10	5%
Disagree	21	10.5
Strongly disagree	-	-
Total	200	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.6. In the question above, 60% of respondents hold strong opinion domestic violence is about violence that occur in the home. while 24.5% merely agree and 5% undecided. On the other hand 10.5% 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	46.5
Agree	56	28
Undecided	20	10
Disagree	21	10.5
Strongly disagree	10	5
Total	200	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.3: In the question, 46.5% of respondents hold a strong opinion that Socio economic status such as low income causes domestic violence while 28% merely agree and 10% undecided. On the other hand 10.5% 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 4.6 The level of education affect domestic violence.

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	94	47
Agree	27	13.5
Undecided	7	3.5
Disagree	12	6
Strongly disagree	60	30
Total	200	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.4: In the question 47% of respondents strongly agree that the level of education affect domestic violence. while 13.5% merely agree with 3.5% undecided. On the other hand, 6% 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	48.5
Agree	61	30.5
Undecided	20	10
Disagree	12	6
Strongly disagree	10	5
Total	200	100

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Table 4.2.4: In the question 48.5% of respondents strongly agree that culture affect domestic violence while 30.5% merely agree. On the other hand, 10% of the respondents disagree with the assertion from the table, we can conclude that culture affect domestic violence.

Table 4.7 Punching, slapping, kicking is a form of domestic violence

RESPONDENTS	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Strongly agree	127	63.5
Agree	36	18
Undecided	-	-
Disagree	13	6.5
Strongly disagree	24	12
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 hand 26.7% 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 respondents representing 33.3% were undecided which conclude that Peer group influences domestic violence.

Table 4.2.16 The age of an individual influence's 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 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

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 respondents representing 33.3% were undecided which conclude that showing care to a victim will help reduce domestic violence.

Hypothesis Testing

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

Hypothesis One

Domestic violence deprivation of women's rights in decision making in Egor local government area of Edo State.

$$\text{Chi-Square (X}^2\text{)} \quad X^2 \sum = \frac{(fo - fe)^2}{Fe}$$

Where

X ²	=	Chi-square symbol
Fo	=	Actual or frequency observed
Fe	=	Frequency expected
∑	=	Summation

Decision Rule

At 0.05 level of significance the null hypothesis will be rejected if the computed X² is greater than the table value of X² is greater than the table value of X² 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	$\frac{(Fo-Fe)^2}{Fe}$
	Fo	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 Domestic violence does not a deprivation of women's rights in decision making in Egor local government area of Edo State. Therefore, the alternate hypothesis which states that Domestic violence leads to deprivation of women's rights in decision making in Egor local government area of Edo State. 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 finding 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

4.3 Discussion of findings

In this study, five categories emerged: (1) the experience of abuse; (2) the turning point; (3) factors affecting leaving; (4) a permanent exit; and, (5) life after leaving. Emerging from each of these primary categories were additional factors and patterns. Each factor is discussed

in terms of the findings from this study, what the existing literature states and the implications of similarities or differences between this study's findings and those in the literature.

The Experience of Abuse

Even though the analysis reveals a similar pattern in the women's experiences of abuse, the violence took many different forms. All the relationships involved some form of physical violence. In a couple of cases, the physical violence only occurred on only two or three occasions. Several involved physical and psychological abuse on a daily basis. In one case, apart from physical and psychological abuse, there was also sexual abuse. Each of the participants could identify with the abusive behaviours and tactics that were identified in the Duluth Model, which I showed to them typically after the interview or during a subsequent meeting. These women could point to each of the tactics on the wheel and clearly explain how they were used against them. Through discussion of Duluth Model, participants were able to see that they are not alone in their experiences. They were also able to more fully understand how their abusers could exert such control over them. The Duluth Model makes the pattern, intent and impact of the violence visible.

The literature is in agreement that the frequency and severity of abuse tends to increase over time (Ferraro & Johnson, 1983; Pagelow, 1981; Walker, 1984). However, the literature is contradictory regarding how the frequency and severity of abuse influences a woman's decision to leave the relationship. The women in this study did not cite frequency and severity of abuse as a factor that spurred them to leave. This was as a result of the women losing hope in the relationship and also gaining insight into their lives. They began to see how life could be

different without the abusive men in their lives. Women in this study described the abuse they experienced in marriage and identified ways in which they overcame obstacles and utilized personal and external resources in order to leave the abusive relationship. Although all the women experienced physical abuse, none of them cite physical abuse as their reason for finally leaving. Daisy experienced emotional, physical and economic abuse from her husband, but her decision to leave was based on the abuser's infidelity. Hibiscus experienced physical, verbal, emotional and psychological abuse from her abuser, yet her decision to leave came after her ten year old son was "chased" out of the house by her husband because they had stayed overnight at her mother's home.

It has been established that the use of violence is a well-tried means for enforcing the subordination of others (Hyden, 1994). A power imbalance in an abusive relationship is typically in the form of control by the abuser over the victim's finances, her movements, her decision-making abilities and her role within the relationship and the family, as depicted in the Duluth model. This control leads to the victim's dependence on the abuser and creates a power differential. This is demonstrated in the lives of the women in this study. Their husbands did not hesitate to use violence against them in order to make their wives conform to their wishes; and, to also sustain their control over their wives' social lives, and their roles within their relationships and families.

The findings of this study are consistent with those in the literature which maintain that emotional abuse often accompanies other forms of abuse (Kirkwood, 1993; Walker, 1984). All of the women in this study in addition to physical abuse experienced emotional, psychological,

verbal and sexual abuse. Emotional abuse of a controlling nature typically begins early in the abusive relationship. Women who have experienced of emotional abuse assert that this form of abuse is most damaging to them because of the lasting effects of the abuser's degrading and hurtful words. The bruises and cuts heal, but derogatory remarks and belittling and cruel words continue to be damaging long after they were originally said. All seven women in this study reported experiencing emotional/verbal abuse. Kirkwood (1993) believes that the use of emotional abuse, which degrades the woman and creates vulnerability, lays the foundation for the addition of different forms of abuse as the need for control increases.

The emotion of fear as experienced by these participants during their abusive relationships was very real as they never knew when the next assault was coming their way. Two participants reported feeling that they may die if they did not leave. Orchid was chased by her husband who had a knife and she commented that if she was not killed by her husband, she might end up killing him if she could not tolerate the torture any longer. Literature supports this concern of victims that their abusers may eventually kill them (Johnson et al., 2006; Seager, 2009). This study confirmed that abused women are often subjected to several different forms of abuse, consistent with findings in the literature (Kirkwood, 1993; Walker, 1984). Most people associate the term "abused woman" with cuts, bruises and broken bones. Although this is a common form of abuse, this association allows people to think that women who do not show physical signs are not abused. Abuse can be physical, but it can be emotional/psychological, verbal or sexual as demonstrated by experiences of the participants in this study.

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

5.1 Summary

The general objective of the study is to assess the Causes of Intimate Partner Violence in Ovia North East Local Government Area, Edo State” this research is to be carried out in Egor 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 occurs 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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QUESTIONNAIRE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WORK
FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES
UNIVERSITY OF BENIN

I, **Emmanuel OKOYO** from the above department seek your response to aid my research project on the topic “predators of domestic violence in intimate partners violence in Egor local government area of 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.

Emmanuel OKOYO

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 exists 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 against children					

4.	The level of education affects domestic violence					
5.	Culture affects 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 influence's 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					