

THE ROLE OF NGOS IN MANAGING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA: THE CASE OF NIGERIA

RESEARCH ARTICLE

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ABSTRACT: This paper aims to investigate the increase in domestic violence which has equally given rise to spousal killings in Nigeria, with the year 2017 marking its highest point. Domestic violence is mainly perpetrated by men and suffered by their female counterparts. As such, this work examines domestic violence as it affects women. The research work makes use of the qualitative research design, utilizing the tools of personal interviews and observation of persons randomly chosen from the population within the area of study. The research used an unstructured interview guide, which helped to draw a vivid detail of the experiences of the interviewees and their understanding of Domestic Violence. These details explain the theoretical Framework- Psychology, Sociology, and Feminist Theories, which also guided in the collection of data. The result of this research is that the role played by NGOs in managing domestic violence was discovered to be geared more towards awareness than action; hence, its role is minimal. However, NGOs are not solely responsible as it includes the victims and government alike as victims are psychologically programmed by society to shield perpetrators and persevere to a fatal point. Also, the government, through its law enforcement agency, is not giving NGOs the necessary support to fight Domestic Violence which, has led to an increase in spousal killings from domestic violence. The implication of this research is a call to help in the efforts of NGOs more towards action to reduce the fatal effects of domestic violence and to draw out the contributing factors that have hindered its effective management of domestic violence in Nigeria.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Spousal killings, Abuse, Victim, NGOs

Le Rôle Des ONG Dans La Gestion De La Violence Domestique En Afrique Subsaharienne: Le Cas Du Nigéria

RESUME: Cet article vise à enquêter sur l'augmentation de la violence domestique qui a également donné lieu à des meurtres de conjoints au Nigéria, l'année 2017 marquant son point culminant. La violence domestique est principalement perpétrée par les hommes et subie par leurs homologues féminines. À ce titre, ce travail examine la violence domestique telle qu'elle affecte les femmes. Le travail de recherche utilise la conception de la recherche qualitative, en utilisant les outils d'entretiens personnels et d'observation de personnes choisies au hasard dans la population de la zone d'étude. La recherche a utilisé un guide d'entrevue non structuré, qui a aidé à dessiner un détail vivant des expériences des personnes interrogées et de leur compréhension de la violence domestique. Ces détails expliquent le cadre théorique - psychologie, sociologie et théories féministes, qui a également guidé la collecte de données. Le résultat de cette recherche est que le rôle joué par les ONG dans la gestion de la violence domestique s'est avéré plus orienté vers la prise de conscience que vers l'action ; par conséquent, son rôle est minime. Cependant, les ONG ne sont pas seules responsables, car elles incluent les victimes et le gouvernement, car les victimes sont psychologiquement programmées par la société pour protéger les auteurs et persévéérer jusqu'à un point mortel. De plus, le gouvernement, par le biais de son organisme d'application de la loi, ne donne pas aux ONG le soutien nécessaire pour lutter contre la violence domestique, qui a conduit à une augmentation des meurtres de conjoints dus à la violence domestique. L'implication de cette recherche est un appel à aider davantage les ONG à agir pour réduire les effets fatals de la violence domestique et à mettre en évidence les facteurs contributifs qui ont entravé sa gestion efficace de la violence domestique au Nigéria.

Mot-clés : Violence domestique, Meurtres de conjoints, Abus, Victime, ONG

Introduction

In this 21st century, one cannot help but wonder, the reason for the incessant rise in not just divorce cases but the current upsurge of spousal murders (known as Uxoricide when its murder of a female partner or Matricide when its murder of a male partner) in Nigeria, which led to the year 2017 being tagged "Year of Deadly Domestic Violence Cases" by Punch Newspaper, DailyTrust Newspaper and SunNews amongst others. Some of the reported cases in DailyTrust Newspaper 2017 are as follows;

"Mathias Eze a former Commissioner in the Enugu State Independent Electoral Commission (ENSIEC) shot and killed his wife in front of his daughter because she failed to prepare food for him. Christian Agba strangled his wife in frustration over her refusal to grant him his matrimonial conjugal rights. A washer-man Henry Nnamdi killed his wife because he believed she was guilty of an extra-marital affair.

A middle-aged man Peter Odion allegedly killed his wife for eating his food! She said she had a headache and could not cook food. When he decided to cook for himself she ate the food. In his annoyance he killed her. A young man Bassey Effiong killed his girlfriend over a phone handset. Bassey had limited finances and when the love of his life started to use a brand new expensive handset he believed she was having an affair with a rich man who bought it for her so he killed her. Another woman Janet Odeghegbe was set on fire by her husband simply because she accepted a glass of wine from another man at a party! Naomi Chidiebere was also set on fire by her husband when she quarreled with him for always coming home drunk. On the night in question, he was so drunk that it was only when he sobered up in the morning and tried to wake her from sleep that he realized what he had done.

Wife murder isn't limited only to the drunk, volatile and ungodly. Rev Sunday Alfa, a Senior Pastor of United Evangelical Church murdered his wife a mother of four children for refusing to sleep with him because she had recently given birth by cesarean section." These have resulted in the new trend nowadays whereby wives are equally now killing their husbands as well. Domestic violence has been defined as "any incident of controlling, coercive, threatening behavior, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality. The abuse can encompass, but is not limited to: psychological, physical, sexual, financial and emotional."(Domestic Violence London, para.1). Domestic Violence London went further to state that it can also involve violence against children, parents, or elderly, and may be done for self-defense. It takes several forms including physical, verbal, emotional, economic, religious, reproductive, and sexual abuse, which can range from subtle, coercive forms to marital rape and to violent physical abuse such as choking, beating, female genital mutilation, and acid throwing that results in disfigurement or death. Domestic murders include stoning, bride burning, honor killings and, dowry deaths.

World Health Organisation (WHO) stated that major victims of spousal violence are women and according to the global estimates published by WHO indicate that about 1 in 3 (35%) of women worldwide have experienced either physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence or non-partner sexual violence in their lifetime. It went further to state that most of this violence is intimate partner violence. Worldwide, almost one third (30%) of women who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime. While, globally, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by a male intimate partner. Whereas there have been efforts to encourage female victims of domestic violence to report it to the authorities, there have been comparatively few efforts to encourage male victims to do the same.

Additionally, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) against men is generally less recognized by society than IPV against women, which can act as a further block to men reporting their situation. However, homicide as a result of domestic violence makes up a greater proportion of female homicides than it does male homicides. More than 50 percent of female homicides are committed by former or current intimate partners in the United States whereas there is The Family Violence Prevention and Services Act and the main law which is, the Violence Against Women Reauthorization Act of 2013. In the United Kingdom (UK), there is a provision for the criminalization of domestic violence under section 76 of the Serious Crime Act 2015, section 120 of Adoption and Children Act 2002 and lastly, there is Domestic Violence, Crime and Victims Act 2004 (Domestic Abuse Policy Legislation and Guidance).

Domestic violence has been recognized internationally as an abuse of human rights through the passing of international instruments such as Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) 1981, Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women 1999, Universal Declaration of Human Rights 1948 and Convention Against Torture. Although in the past, international treaties only provided protection against domestic violence implicitly, in the 1990's domestic violence began to receive more explicit attention with the passage of the General Recommendation No.19 by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (1992) and the Declaration of Elimination of Violence Against Women (1993). The last 20 years have also witnessed numerous resolutions from the United Nations (UN) General Assembly on Violence Against Women, including one that specifically addressed domestic violence (The Advocates; para.1).

In Africa, many countries do not yet have a law that protects partners of an intimate relationship, especially women against domestic violence and the few that do, encounter problems that lead to the ineffectiveness of such laws. Few countries like South Africa have the Domestic Violence Act of 1998 and the Uganda Domestic Violence Act 2010. Nigeria equally has the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition)

Act 2015 however, its implementation is questionable and there are still some provisions in the Nigeria law which makes it legal to engage in domestic violence against women such as the provision of the Penal Code applicable in the Northern part of Nigeria that specifically encourages violence against women. Underneath its provisions, is the beating of a wife for correction, which is a legal abuse (Section 55 (1)(d) of the Penal Code.) (Nnandilhe, 2012) Hence, this article tends to deal with Domestic Violence concerning both the male and female gender as against the laws and the roles that NGOs play to help stop domestic violence in Nigeria.

Conventional wisdom stipulates that in Nigeria, the National Assembly sat down and passed the Violence Against Persons (VAPP) (Prohibition) Act into law in 2015 and equally ratified Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Violence Against Women 1981. But still, domestic violence is on the rise with the incessant killings of spouses in Nigeria. What could be the reason for the increase despite the abundance of NGOs such as Mirabel Rape Crisis Center (MRCC), Nigerian Women Fund (NWF), Stand to End Rape (STER) and Legal Defence and Assistance Project (LEDAP) Nigeria amongst others? In a 2011 report on progress of the World's women by UN Women, the UN body responsible for gender rights, reported that only 21 Sub-Saharan African countries had specific laws against domestic violence (Africa renewal, 2012).

Therefore, this article identifies why these NGOs are failing and factors hindering the effectiveness of these NGOs. These NGOs most times encounter problems such as inadequate legal system or poor implementation of laws by law enforcement agencies, for instance, the case of Late Ochanya Ognaje who died 17th of October 2018 as a result of series of rapes both vaginally and anally by her uncle who is a lecturer at a university and his son whom she was living with. She later developed complicated health issues and died whereas the uncle and the son have been arrested but justice seems far away due to the nonchalant attitude of the Nigerian legal system. Also, certain religious doctrines pose a problem to the effective management of Domestic Violence by NGOs as incidences abound whereby, the husband's actions such as restricting the movement of the wife, banning the wife from taking up any job and in one of such cases, it even resulted in the husband destroying the original certificates of the wife up to the PhD level, are deemed to be the rights of the man as contained in divine books.

Lastly, another major problem affecting the role of NGOs is the psychological and sociological manipulation of victims by their assailants. This is because domestic violence is mostly inflicted by close male relatives, spouses and intimate relationship partners of these victims. Domestic Violence is practiced by the stronger party in a relationship through the battering of wife/husband, verbal abuse that serve to dehumanize and strip the victim of will, rape and sodomy of infants, women (including pregnant women), underage girls (below 18 or 21 years of age depending on the jurisdiction) and boys by their own fathers, cousins, uncles and even grandfathers, which can lead to miscarriage, serious physical injuries and even death.

The tricky part about domestic violence in Sub-Saharan Africa, Nigeria in particular, is that Domestic violence against women is highly influenced by traditional and religious values as some cultures deem it to be a sign of manliness hence making managing domestic violence by NGOs difficult. This article seeks to examine the role played by various NGOs in managing domestic violence, in order, to solve the problem of inadequate or unavailable support to victim vis-à-vis laws that regulate domestic violence in Nigeria.

With the incessant increase in the rate of domestic violence in Nigeria despite the presence of NGOs and the seemingly encompassing law put in place to manage it. One cannot help but wonder if these NGOs are performing the ultimate role they are supposed to due to a recent upsurge in the abuse and killings of spouses and the challenges that may affect their effectiveness in eradicating domestic violence. This article is to galvanize the roles played by these NGOs to come up with better ways in which they can better perform their roles in the management of domestic violence in Nigeria. According to Daily Trust Newspaper, It has been observed that women are becoming the perpetrators of spousal murder in retaliation for a history of abuse and with the lack of marriage guidance counselors, the unwillingness of family and friends to get involved in other people's relationships, and the characteristic philandering of African men, and the assertiveness of the modern African woman cases of wives murdering their husbands can only be expected to increase (dailytrust.com.ng; para.11).

While the issue of domestic violence is a global issue, this article focus on the role played by NGOs while taking into account the strategies used, challenges faced and the applicable laws resorted to, in the management of domestic violence in Nigeria. According to the 2008 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey, 18 percent of every married woman had experienced intimate partner sexual violence, and 24 percent had experienced intimate partner emotional violence at least once in their lifetime. Of women who had never been pregnant, 5 percent had experienced physical violence during pregnancy. The highest rates of violent victimization in recent marriages, regardless of the type of violence, were found in the South (46%), North Central (38%) and South East (35%) zones.

According to Punch Newspaper (www.punch.com; 2017), there were cases of domestic violence in different parts of Nigeria in 2017 and between January and September, a total of 852 of such cases were recorded in Lagos State alone. "There are prominent cases like that of Bilyamin, which occurred on the 18th of November 2017 when Bilyamin the son of a former chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP) was allegedly stabbed to death by his wife, Maryam Sanda who is the daughter of embattled former Aso Savings Bank boss. The Nigerian Police recently confirmed the arrest of Maryam Sanda for stabbing her husband Bilyaminu Haliru Bello to death. Reports have claimed that she killed her husband by stabbing him multiple times after seeing text messages on his phone which suggested that he was engaged in an extra-marital affair. In an act of apparent remorse, after the stabbing Maryam drove her husband to the hospital where she allegedly confessed to medical staff that she was responsible."

Another incident was that of Fidelia who was beaten to death by her retired boxer hubby during a disagreement in their home in Anambra State and so many similar incidents like these" (Punch, 2017). These current trends if left unchecked might result in a scourge which will take time to be purged out of Nigeria and NGOs have a great role to play if this situation is to be put under control because for each spousal murder reported there are hundreds of unreported spousal battering cases (dailytrust.com.ng; para.11).

Conceptual Framework

This article clarifies key terms based on the views of four different authors, with a concluding view of the author. It provides a description, summary and critical evaluation of these works concerning the topic being investigated (Fink Arlene, 2014) and, have been grouped into different approaches- Human Rights Approach, Health Approach, Socio-cultural Approach, and Socio-psychological Approach concluding with a theoretical framework which analyses different relevant theories- Feminist Theory, Psychological Theory and Sociological Theory that help to understand the topic.

Domestic Violence (DV)/ Intimate Partner Violence (IPV):

According to Sarah and Lana, "domestic violence is an act of gender-based violence. Domestic violence involves the combination of physical and/or Sexual Violence with a variety of control tactics such as economic, emotional, social (constant monitoring) and spiritual abuse, the use of children and pets, and threats and intimidation." They went further to state that the primary perpetrators of this violence in a heterosexual relationship are men, hence gender plays an important role and that domestic violence is a common problem that women share all over the world (Sarah and Lana, 2015).

Domestic violence and its related concepts consist of complex intersections of three elements: violence, domesticity, and structural inequality. In its strong sense, domestic violence reflects the intersection of violence, domesticity, and structural inequality. In its weak sense, domestic violence reflects only the intersection of violence and domesticity. Lastly, in order for the concept of domestic violence to be correctly applied, the act in question must be illegitimate (i.e unjustified, all things considered) (Dempsey, 2006).

Domestic violence which is also known as intimate partner violence (IPV) is a pervasive public health problem due to its high prevalence, and the numerous acute and chronic mental and physical health conditions associated with it. IPV is defined as emotional, physical, or sexual abuse, or stalking that occurs among individuals in an intimate (close) relationship including current and former spouses and dating partners but its not limited by age, marital status, cohabitation, or sexuality, and recognizes that women may be perpetrators as well as victims of IPV/DV(Clark, 2013).

IPV/DV is defined as any behavior within an intimate relationship or ex-relationship that causes physical, psychological, or sexual harm. This includes physical aggression, such as hitting, kicking, and beating; psychological violence, such as intimidation, constant humiliation; various controlling behaviors, such

as isolation from family and friends, monitoring movements, financial control, and restricting access to services; and sexual violence, including forced intercourse and other sexual coercion. Lifetime prevalence of isolated violent acts within relationships is comparable for men and women, but repeated coercive, sexual or severe physical violence is perpetrated largely against women by men (Feder, 2012).

Consequently, the word “domestic violence” has evolved such that it is now all inclusive including sexual, physical, psychological or economic violence committed by family or intimate partners against male and female gender, youths and even children, parents and elderly. Domestic violence can be referred to as intimate partner violence, spousal violence and battery among others. These authors also show that although domestic violence is perpetrated mostly by men, it is also perpetrated by women (although rarely). Domestic violence, is in essence violence that occurs in the home.

Abuse

Abuse is defined as any action that intentionally harms or injures another person. It could be physical, psychological, rape, sexual assault, verbal, elder and financial abuse. They stated that abuse is most commonly committed by a person the victim knows and, often, lives with. When one partner abuses another, it is known as intimate partner abuse. Abuse within families is often known as domestic abuse or domestic violence. Furthermore, she argued that the meaning of abuse is not as clear as its definition because it is something that is of common occurrence and most people engage in it often however, what abuse really means is control. When a truly abusive situation exists, it's because one party is seeking to control the other through abuse. Domestic abuse often escalates from threats and verbal abuse to violence. And while physical injury maybe the most obvious danger, the emotional and psychological consequences of domestic abuse are also severe. Emotionally abusive relationships can destroy a person's self-worth, lead to anxiety and depression, and make you feel helpless and alone (Smith & Segal, 2018).

In the understanding of Natasha, an abuse does not have to involve physical injuries unlike in the term domestic violence where physical injury is key in its definition. However, nowadays, Abuse encompasses both cases of physical injury and mental injury. Therefore, abuse is a word used to qualify the forms of violence whether physical, sexual or emotional. It is sometimes used interchangeably with the act itself. (Natasha Tracy, 2016).

Mullender (1996) stated that abuse take many forms such as physical Abuse, Sexual Abuse and Emotional Abuse. Physical abuse is the most common out of all these forms and the severity range from “medium” to “high”. According to Mullender, abuse “...starts with early slaps and punches that resulted in cuts and bruises giving way to being knocked to the floor, kicked and punched. More severe injuries then become common such as fractures, burns, miscarriage caused by violent attacks, internal injuries, attempts to strangle and drown, being pulled around by the hair and having clumps of hair pulled out.” He stated that through all forms of abuse, the physical abuse or the anticipation of it keeps all other forms of abuse in place.

According to Sharon Hayes (2014) “...relationship abuse is not only a problem for women in heterosexual relationship” because it cuts across all form of relationship including among homosexuals. Therefore, abuse is not based on a particular gender as it can be perpetrated on or experienced by both gender. She also went further that it could lead to negative and long-lasting costs to survivors including physical and mental illness. Furthermore, the first step in liberating a victim of abuse is to make them to recognize the abuse.

Therefore, Abuse can be defined as either visible or invisible injuries (physical or mental) meted out to persons. The word abuse could also be used interchangeably with the act of Domestic violence and not just the effects (injuries) that occur after the act. Another notable knowledge is that abuse become addictive to victims who in turn cannot recognize that they are being abused which makes such abuse to linger on for long. Therefore, such victims need to recognize that they are being abused before they can be liberated from such abuse.

Victim

It has been established by Elias (1986) that the definition of victim has been greatly expanded to make a clear distinction between offender and victim. The new victims include not only victims of criminals but also victims of oppression, and not only U.S oppression, but global oppression. Thus, he went further

that though the raped, robbed, burgled and murdered are victims, so are those who are indecently housed, poorly fed, made to do menial or hazardous work or not provided with work at all. Also included in this definition, are those victimized by being denied human rights protections covering cultural, religious and ideological differences.

Victims are those being abused and as such, they are so close to the situation to see it clearly. The author also stated that the men who are most in danger of being victims of domestic homicide at the hands of their wives are actually the men perpetrating the violence and they are rarely aware of the dangers they face. They went further to state that the dynamics of homicide victimization for the male and for the female generally differs. For the woman, the act of killing is typically defensive or committed out of self-preservation whereas, for the man, the act of killing is typically offensive and preceded by escalating violence (Katherine and Roberts, 2009).

Sarah and Lana (2015) define victims of domestic violence as primarily women because large numbers of women are affected all over the world. And that it invades all aspect of women's life thereby curtailing women's ability to act as citizens because it stops women from moving and acting freely in their communities and homes across the world.

In the opinion of Nash (2008), the definition of a victim as a party injured by a crime, is simply vague. He proposed a meaning of victim that would be recognized under the federal criminal law and sentencing guidelines grounded in five concepts; adequacy of victim injury, proximate cause, and victims who are imaginary, culpable or consenting. The victim should have rights and be able to partake as well as be considered in the sentencing of the accused (perpetrator of the injury against the victim). Therefore, to him, a victim is not just a simple word but one that carries legal relevance with it.

In conclusion, a victim of domestic violence is not just a victim of oppression but a victim to which a crime has been committed against- a party who has sustained injuries from the acts of another, in these cases, an intimate partner. A victim of domestic violence can be either a woman or a man. This does not mean that the word 'victim' only refer to domestic violence as explained by Elias (2006) but also other cases like theft, accidents and so on. Such victims are at the center of the action and in Katherine and Roberts opinion (2009), they can be blinded by abuse to the extent they do not realize they are being abused.

Empirical Approach to Domestic Violence

Human Rights Approach

It is apparent today that domestic violence counts as a violation of one's human rights. Although early human rights law enacted by the United Nations did not specially mention violence against women (being the main victims of domestic violence) however, it is still relevant to domestic violence.

In 1948, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) was adopted. Although it is not originally binding on members, it has however received recognition as a binding expression of customary law and an authoritative interpretation of the United Nations (UN) Charter itself. Article 3 of the UDHR states that "everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person" this right was equally reaffirmed in the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights adopted in 1966, which protects the right to life (Article 6) and the right to liberty and security of person (Article 9). These rights, as well as others in the UDHR, ICCPR, and the International Covenant on Social, Economic, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) such as the right to equal protection under the law and the right to the highest standard of physical and mental health, are implicated in domestic violence cases. Therefore, States that are parties to these instruments have an implicit obligation to protect women from domestic violence as part of their obligations.

Furthermore, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) which entered into force in 1981 has as its primary focus the condemnation by all state parties of every form of discrimination against women in all its forms. This was interpreted as covering violence against women. The committee which is the monitoring body of CEDAW explicitly included gender-based violence as a form of discrimination covered by CEDAW when it stated that:

The definition of discrimination includes gender-based violence, that is, violence that is directed against a woman because she is a woman or that affects women disproportionately. It includes acts that inflict

physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts that inflict physical, mental or sexual harm or suffering, threats of such acts, coercion and other deprivations of liberty, Gender-based violence may breach specific provisions of the Convention, regardless of whether those provisions expressly mention violence.

The General Recommendation 19 equally specifies domestic violence as a form of discrimination against women, stating:

Family violence is one form of the most insidious forms of violence against women. It is prevalent in all societies. Within family relationships women of all ages are subjected to violence of all kinds, including battering, rape, other forms of sexual assault, mental and other forms of violence, which are perpetuated by traditional attitudes. Lack of economic independence forces many women to stay in violent relationships. The abrogation of their family responsibilities by men can be a form of violence, and coercion. These forms of violence put women's health at risk and impair their ability to participate in family life and public life on a basis of equality.

The Convention Against Torture (CAT) whose monitoring body is the Committee Against Torture has been ratified by 151 states and in clarifying states responsibility for torture by non-state actors cited that “states parties’ failure to prevent and protect victims from gender-based violence, such as rape, domestic violence, female genital mutilation, and trafficking” as violation of CAT, the committee and Special Rapporteur on Torture routinely request information on the prevalence of domestic violence in a country. In particular, concern about torture in the form of domestic violence has been raised in recent committee review for Bosnia and Herzegovina, Turkey, Azerbaijan, Moldova and many others.

- Lastly, there is the UN Sustainable Development Goal 2030 (SDGs), wherein goal 5 provides for gender equality across all parts of the world as follows
- “End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere (target 5.1); Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels (target 5.c); Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws (target 5a) as well as enhance the use of enabling technology to promote the empowerment of women (target 5b)”

The Agenda 2063 of the African Union (AU) equally towed the line of the above UN instruments by recognizing the rights of women and the girl child in Aspiration 6 which provides for “An Africa whose development is people driven, relying on the potential offered by African people, especially its Women and Youth, and caring for children.” Under which you have as its goal, the full gender equality in all spheres of life while, focusing on the priority area of women and girls empowerment, violence and discrimination against women (Agenda 2063 Document, 20). It equally states further that violence against women would have been reduced by a third in 2023 as part of its first ten-year implementation plan from 2014-2023 (Agenda 2063 Document, 22).

According to the National Violence Against Women Network, “Violence Against Women is therefore a human rights issue because an individual’s physical integrity and private life are violated and the state is required by international law to take steps to prevent as well as robustly address violations” the sort to examine the ways the laws have been couched and how they have fallen short in terms of implementation.

They went further to point out that “Violence Against women both violates and impairs the enjoyment of fundamental human rights. For women and girls aged 16-44 years old, violence is a major cause of death and disability. In 1994, a world bank study on ten selected risk factors facing girls and women in this age groups found rape and domestic violence more dangerous than cancer, motor vehicle accidents, war and malaria” and that is what obtains till today.

In the work of Dorothy Q. Thomas and Michele E. Beasley “ Domestic Violence as a Human Rights Issue” they stated that “if violence against women in the home is inherent in all societies, then it can no longer be dismissed as something private and beyond the scope of state responsibility” this was meant to address the erroneous believe by government parastatals and agencies who are meant to protect the

fundamental rights of every individual that domestic violence is a private matter which should be addressed in the private confines of the home.

The authors went on to state some of the problems with understanding domestic violence as a human rights issue: the scope of international human rights law which exclusive focus on the behaviour of states confines the operation of international human rights law entirely within the public sphere, gender neutral law and gender biased application. Which makes international law of little effect although being gender neutral in theory but, because it interacts with gender biased domestic laws and social structures that relegate women and men to the separate sphere of existence (private and public).

Another problem addressed is the problem of the concept of state responsibility "which defines the limits of government's accountability for human rights abuses under international law". Previously, States used to be held responsible only for what they do directly or through an agent, rendering acts of purely private individual- such as domestic violence crimes- outside the scope of State responsibility. However, more recently, the concept of State responsibility has expanded to include actions not only directly committed by the State but also, those States systematic failures to prosecute acts committed either by low level para-state agents or private sectors.

In conclusion, it is relevant to review these above instruments because the use of violence against a person (whether female or male) is a strong violation of human rights. Hence, it cannot be ignored in the discussion of domestic violence. Furthermore, domestic violence cannot be separated from gender because research all over the world has proven that women are most at the receiving end of this violence (that is not to say that men are not at the receiving end as well). This is why these instruments and also the literary works that have been reviewed lay emphasis on women and girls.

Health Approach

Oyedokun (2008) in his work observed that in violence against women, population studies, and global health issues intersect and he examines the impact of domestic violence specifically from the point of physical abuse and marital rape of Nigerian women which in turn affects Nigerian's women use of modern contraception. His article is based on a 2003 Large-N survey of 408 women in the Ife-North Local Government Area of Osun State, Nigeria. It uses simple descriptive statistics, chi-square and binary logistic regression models to show that over half of female respondents had experienced intimate partner violence, been threatened with physical violence, or been victims of marital or intimate partner rape. Specifically, the study found that violence or the threat of violence significantly affected women's use of contraception, as they often feared repercussions from jealous or possessive partners for doing so.

The author stresses Nigeria's patriarchal culture where men largely control women's sexuality and dominate decision making in the family. Thus she concludes that educational initiatives targeted at men would be most effective at regionally decreasing violence against women and concurrently increasing the use of contraception. Therefore, his angle of domestic violence relates to the health aspect of women who suffers from domestic violence which, is an aspect of domestic violence that is very much neglected. The shortcoming of this work was that it left out the roles that NGOs can play in managing D.V.

In the opinion of Bakare and Asuquo et al, the incidence of domestic violence in Nigeria has made the potentials of women to be under explored and in essence resulting in social injustice to the women who make up half of the Nigeria population. They quoted the W.H.O report of 2005 to determine the prevalence of domestic violence in Sub-Saharan Africa countries and it was discovered that it ranges from 36 to 71 percent. While, in the 2016 United Nations Global data base on domestic violence in Nigeria shows that Lifetime Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence :16 %, Physical and/or Sexual Intimate Partner Violence in the last 12 months : 11 %, Lifetime Non-Partner Sexual Violence : 2 % , Child Marriage :44 % , Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting :18 % and with and overall global ranking of 118 (<http://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/africa/nigeria>).

From these findings, it is discovered that as at 2016 the highest percentage was child marriage which is still prevalent in the northern part of Nigeria. They identified the causes of domestic violence in Nigeria as cultural and religious practices, economic and financial dependence, the low rate of Nigerian women participation in Politics and inadequate government intervention and follow up despite having put in place programmes such as Better life for Rural Women and Family Support Programme intended to

improve the condition of Nigerian Women. From current happenings, it is obvious that these programmes have failed to fulfill their purpose. They further went ahead to state that the NGOs in their own little way in advocating for right of women and children have created awareness but are rather not taking into consideration the public health impact that results from domestic violence (p.12). This is one of the shortcomings of the NGOs in managing domestic violence in Nigeria and which is what this research has outlined as an objective, to pinpoint the shortcomings and provide possible solutions. This work also failed to point out the impact that can be made by NGOs as regards to proffering solutions to DV.

Domestic abuse was recognized as a significant public health issue "affecting 1:3 women and 1:6 men, having a major impact on those directly affected and their families and campaigns to tackle it have historically focused on victim support and crime reduction rather than prevention" (Champs public health and Care Collaborative, 2016). Likewise, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention,

"The focus of public health is on the health, safety and well-being of entire populations. A unique aspect of the field is that it strives to provide the maximum benefit for the largest number of people. The field also emphasizes input from diverse sectors as collective action on the part of these stakeholders can help in addressing problems like violence"

It went further to propose four steps in which public health approach which is rooted in scientific method can be applied to violence and other health problems that may affect the population.

1. Define and monitor the problem: the first step in preventing violence is to understand the "who", "what", "where" and "how" associated with it. Understanding the magnitude of the problem involves analyzing data such as the number of violence related behaviours, injuries, and deaths. Data can be used to demonstrate how frequently violence occurs, where it occurs, trends, and who the victims and perpetrators are. These data can be obtained from police reports, medically examined files, vital records, hospital charts, registries, population-based surveys and other sources.
2. Identify risk and protective factors; it is important to note that although victims are never responsible for the harm inflicted upon them, the risk factor which is the characteristics that increases the likelihood of a person becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence needs to be identified. Also, protective factors which are the characteristics that decrease the likelihood of a person becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence because it provides a buffer against risk.
3. Develop and test prevention strategies which has to do with implementation
4. Assure widespread adoption has to deal with evaluation of strategies Implemented in order to assess result and effectiveness of the strategies.

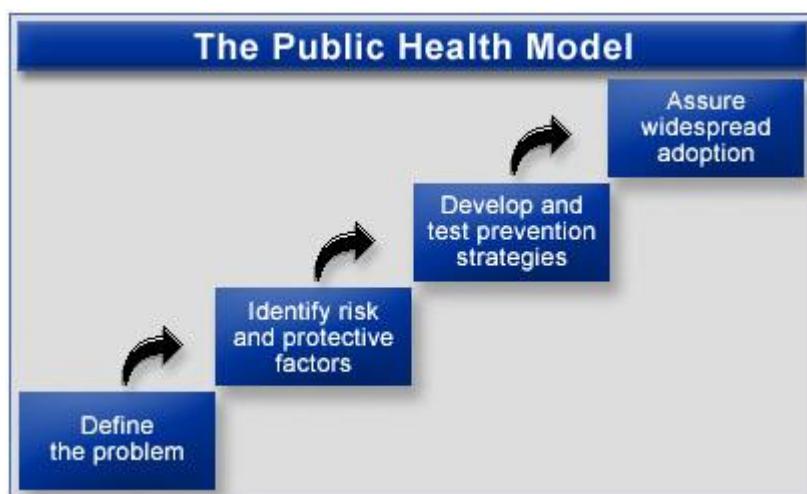


Figure 1. A four Step Public Health Approach to solving Domestic Violence, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, February 20, 2018

Socio-cultural Approach

In the Shukumisa Report (March, 2017) on sexual violence it was stated that the sexual offences and Domestic Violence Acts are the pillars of South Africa Legislative Response to Gender Based Violence. Therefore, these Acts are the precursor to the aid that should be given to victims. The Thuthuzela care center works along side NGOs to bring about speedy services and restitution to victims of such violence. However, it was discovered that incidences were under reported due to some factors such as lack in the judicial criminal system, perceived poor quality of services and limited access to transportation due to high fees charged among others. It was equally discovered that the rate of this sexual violence in South Africa has increased overtime despite the Act, the roles of NGOs and Thuthuzela Care Center. The recommendations given focused on the Victims, Thuthuzela Care Centers and NGOs within the Care Center without recourse to other NGOs outside the Care Center and it also did not give direct recommendation on how to enhance the roles played by NGOs specifically to Domestic violence but rather on Sexual Gender Based Violence which is just an arm of Domestic Violence.

Srivastava and Austin (2005) in their article, "Women and Non-Governmental Organisation in Developing Countries" took note of the fact that generally, women are worse off than men in the developing countries especially in Sub-Saharan region of Africa due to the entrenched system of patriarchy, religion, gender differences, culture and biological norms. In many south Asian and Islamic countries, the violence against women is perceived as private family matter by the law enforcement system and as a result women continue to suffer in silence. The roles women assume in a given society may change over time but their subordination does not. Women are socialized to internalize subordination which, in turn, shapes their destinies and psyche. The pattern of oppression among the women are sexual mutilation of girls, trafficking of women for prostitution in Asia, killed to gain control of dowry and so on.

The different types of interventions being undertaken by NGOs to address the oppression and empower women in the developing countries are development interventions and advocacy interventions. Also, the three modes of oppression identified includes subjugation, isolation and exploitation. However, many NGOs provide human services as well as advocacy services for the rights and needs of women. This goes to show that the current trend of increase in domestic violence in Sub-Saharan Africa is as a result of the deep rooted socio-cultural, religious, economic and biological factors that have led to the marginalization of women and brutalization of women. In an attempt to defend themselves, it has caused a reverse in violence being perpetrated by the women against men although violence against women is still very much higher.

Marisa London (2016) in her work titled "A Cultural Approach to Domestic Violence" examined the sociocultural determinants such as the need to silence the occurrence of rape, preserve female virginity and privatize the crime in order to safeguard family honor and reputation in the Muslim society using the case of Pakistan. According to her, these determinants are the most important reason for the recurrence of violence and the personal consequences experienced by the survivors. She stated that the goal is not to change the pre-existing culture but instead, to understand domestic violence even among social activists as an issue that must be combatted with relation to individual culture despite being an issue that cuts across boundaries. For her, "Muslim women have the same practices and beliefs, and face the same hindrances, as women of other religious backgrounds. In conclusion, she stated "that domestic violence is neither a Muslim nor a woman's problem, but a sociocultural problem".

Ali and Gavino (2008) in their work "Violence Against Women in Pakistan. A framework for analysis" presented a framework to analyze sexual and partner violence in Pakistan. Their approach is aimed at acknowledging the various factors which influence violence against women and apply their findings with respect to causes and effects to create positive solutions. A diagrammatic presentation of this framework can be seen below:

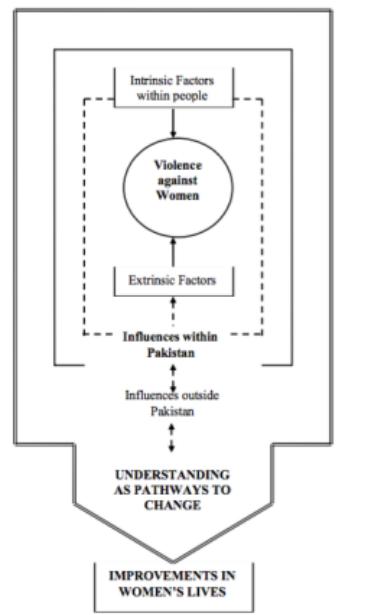


Figure 1. Intrinsic factors within people, extrinsic factors, socio-economic, political and cultural system of Pakistan and influences of surrounding countries as determinants of violence against women.

Figure 2. Intrinsic factors within people, extrinsic factors, socio-economic, political and cultural system of Pakistan and influences of surrounding countries as determinants of violence against women. Source: Ali and Gavino "Violence Against Women in Pakistan. A Framework Analysis" December 27, 2008.

In the opinion of David Oladeji (2015), "many cultures hold that men have the right to control their wives behavior and those women who challenge that right, even by asking for household money or expressing the needs of the children, maybe punished. Studies have shown that violence is frequently viewed as physical chastisement-the husband's right to 'correct' an erring wife" while, in other cultures, such acts of violence are seen as acts of love or demonstration of love. These acts of violence are further culturally justified as women are deemed to be the private property of their husband after the husband pays the high and tasking bride price along with other requirements which may differ according to the various cultures. He stated that "despite the high cost of domestic violence, almost every society in the world has social institutions that legitimize, obscure and deny abuse. The same acts that will be punished if directed at an employer, a neighbor, or an acquaintance, often go unchallenged when men direct them at women, especially within the family".

Socio-psychological Approach

In the work of Wendt and Zanettino (2015), they made use of feminist theory under the socio-psychological approach. The work re-examines the centrality of gender in DV both as a concept and as an element of lived experiences. It starts with analyzing the circuitous theorizing of feminist theory over the years which, is the shift from a focus on male structural power or patriarchy as the cause of domestic violence to a focus on social constructions and identities. From this angle, it then went back to a renewed interest in patriarchy and gender oppression.

The book is focused on women's lives and it takes into account the diversity of women's lives and the way that this diversity can variously impact on women's experiences of violence and abuse using the refugee women, Aboriginal women, mothers, religious women, women with intellectual disabilities, lesbian and so on. They utilized the research work of others such as semi-structured interviews and informal conversations with one hundred human service workers spanning over fifteen years of researching domestic violence.

However, their weakness was not taking into account the environmental impact on domestic violence and also they neglected the role played or that can be played by NGOs in preventing or curing DV. This, is the main gap to be covered in this research work. However, their strength was that they recognised women were more at the receiving end of DV than the men.

In their book 'Death By Domestic Violence: preventing the murder and murder suicide', Worman and Roberts (2009) supported my rational for undertaking this research when they stated that "In early

1980's, due to the grass root movements and domestic violence, services, partner homicide rates have reduced considerably in the United States. Women no longer have to choose murder as an escape route from battery. In the United States, over 1,000 women and over 300 men are killed annually by such violence. These figures used to be about 1000 deaths for each gender." So, in their opinion, the establishment of DV hotlines and women's shelters are saving the lives of men predominantly. This is the strength of this work.

It went further to emphasize that the interest of the public and the government is on the death and solving the murders as well as sentencing the culprits but nothing further is said concerning the issue of domestic violence. But the weakness of this work was that it was relying on government intervention through provision of shelters and follow up service which do not have significance here in Africa because of our developing nature. However, NGOs are there to take up this function and yet we still experience spousal murders/killings. They insisted that the rate of women killing their men is sparse and when it is done, it is for self-defense unlike that of men which is to cause serious harm and keep the woman under his control. Causes such as "Lack of employment, the escalation of violence, forced sex, substance abuse, access to a gun, a pending breakup, patriarchal dominance, explosive violence, extreme possessiveness, jealousy, and a pathological fear of rejection by his wife or partner" were listed as the key ingredients leading to spousal killings in the United States. This is another gap because although the cause may seem similar to that of Africa, the peculiarities obtained in Africa are not present in their research.

It is important to note that the literary works reviewed above did not use a clear cut approach, meaning they tend to use so many approaches in analyzing domestic violence. But, have been categorized in this article based on the dominant approach in their work. However, this article makes use of the sociological approach which is the influence of NGOs on D.V while taking note of other approaches.

Theoretical Framework

There are so many theories that have been developed in a bid to explain the underlying cause in the surge of violence against women whether in the home (i. e domestic violence) or outside the home. These theories can be subsumed into three major theories; the feminist or Societal-Structural Theory, psychological theory and sociological theory. These theories help us to understand why human beings behave violently and why women tend to often be the victims of this violent behaviour mainly perpetrated by their male partners.

The Feminist Theory or Societal-Structural Theory

The feminist theory emerged during the active political movement for women back in the 1970s (Tandon, Neeru: 2008 p.23-24). The fundamental goal of feminist theory of domestic violence is to understand the extent of women's oppression in term of race, gender, class and sexual preference and how to equally change it (Tandon, Neeru, 2008, p. 41). According to this theory, male intimate partners who use violence, do so to control and limit the independence of their women partners. Societal traditions, norms and beliefs of male dominance (patriarchy) support and sustain the inequities that exist in relationships just like it was in the days of the old and is still very much in existence today as well (Michael Niss, 2017). Also, it has been identified that the common elements in all the different types of violence against women are gender and power (Misra & Preeti, 2007 p. 226).

Furthermore, according to Cook (1995), advocates of feminist theory argue that "domestic violence is systematic and a structural mechanism of patriarchal control of women that is built on male superiority and female inferiority, sex stereotyped roles and expectations and economic, social and political predominance of men and dependency of women" (Cook, 1995, p.120).

In conclusion, this theory is very essential for the discussion and research on DV because women are the most affected. The feminist radicals, as well as liberals have discovered that the socialization of women and men breeds inequality and disparity which, leads to violence against women. The men feel the need to use violence to prove their strength and maintain their dominance over women. This theory serves as a guide in the course of data collection in this research work as it highlights important factors for consideration in the course of interviewing respondents and in analyzing their responses.

Psychological Theory

According to various studies especially that of Sigmund Freud who is the founding father of psychoanalysis which is a method of treating mental illness and also a theory which explains human behavior. Battering is the result of childhood abuse, a personality trait (such as the need to control), a personality disturbance (such as borderline personality), psychopathology (such as anti-social personality) or a psychological disorder or problem (such as post-traumatic stress, poor impulse control, low self-esteem, or substance abuse). The Psychiatric/Psychopathological model, often referred to as the medical model, developed during the 1960, with "discovery" of child abuse (Swanger & Peteosky, 2003, p. 33). This model equally provides a micro level analysis of family violence and according to Psychopathological perspective family violence, it is the result of individual's psychopathologies which is caused by issues such as mental illness, personality disorders, and alcoholism. However, it was criticized on the ground that it reduces offender's responsibility for their action and minimizes the role of social structure in perpetuating violence in the society (Lee, Sebold. et.al., 2003, p. 230). Being physically abusive is seen as a symptom of underlying emotional problems. Parental abuse, rejection and failure to meet a child's dependence needs can be the psychological source of battering. People with these underlying problems may choose partners with whom they can re-enact the dysfunctional relationship, which they had with their parents (Misra, Preeti, 2007, p. 232).

According to psychologist Donald Dutton there are two types of abusive personalities. In the first type, the abuser has "borderline personality organization" hence, experiences feeling of emptiness, fear of being alone and insecure attachment to others which can be described as an obsessive compulsive disorder. He stated that people who perpetrate domestic violence as a result of borderline personality disorder tend to use violence in an expressive and impulsive fashion. In the second type of abused personality, the perpetrator is characterized by psychopathic traits such as shallow effect and frequent manipulation of others. He stated that people with these personality traits are more likely than others to engage in serious violence both within and outside of the family, and their violence is instrumentally designed to gain control over others (Fisher, Lab Stenven, 2010, p. 313). And that is why women who are often considered the weaker party are often victimized, at the receiving end of this violence.

In conclusion, this theory helps to understand the way the perpetrators of DV think and what inward reaction or experiences push them to commit such an act against their partner. It equally helps to analyze the actions as relayed by the respondents in the course of interview.

Sociological Theory

The Sociological theory is a theory which seeks to explain these violent behaviours as a manifestation of social interactions, structure and the environment rather than individual pathology. Therefore, this theory clearly juxtaposes the psychological theory which relies on the individual pathology as an explanation for his actions. This theory varies but often contains some postulations that intimate violence is a product of learned behavior (Michael Niss, 2017).

One sociological theory suggests that violence is learned within a family, and a partner-victim stays caught up in a cycle of violence and forgiveness. If the victim does not leave, the batterer views the violence as a way to produce positive results that is to achieve their goals or getting things done. Children of these family members may learn the behavior from their parents (boys may develop into batterers and girls may become battering victims) (Michael Niss, 2017). A different sociological theory suggests that lower income subcultures will show higher rates of intimate abuse, as violence may be a more acceptable form of settling disputes in such subcultures.

A variant of this theory is that violence is inherent in all social systems and people with resources (financial, social contacts, prestige) use these to control family members, while those without resources resort to violence and threats to accomplish this goal. However, there have been criticisms leveled at this theory of violence. One is that it fails to account for the reality that wife abuse can occur even without the abuser coming from an abusive family or otherwise being socialized to regard violence as an acceptable behaviour. Another criticism against this theory indicate that Domestic Violence may be equally as prevalent among higher educated or higher income levels, but is more easily hidden due to greater resources and more incentive for such victim of abuse to keep it in the family (Flowers, Barri. R, 2000 p.181).

In conclusion, this theory is very crucial to this research work because DV cannot be studied outside a context. The environment has a strong influence and this theory helps bring to light how the perpetrators of DV and victims are influenced by the society right from child hood to adulthood. This will equally give an explanation as to why victims choose to remain with an abuser until she/he is finally killed.

Research Method

This article makes use of the qualitative research method- "an exploratory method concerned with subjective assessment of attitudes, opinions behavior" (Kothari, 2004). It is aimed at gaining an understanding of the underlying reasons, opinions, and motivation. "Research using this method is a function of researcher's insights and impressions. Such an approach to research generates results either in non-quantitative form or in the form which are not subjected to rigorous quantitative analysis. Generally, the techniques of focus group interviews, projective techniques and depth interviews are used" (Kothari, 2004).

The main qualitative technique utilized in this article is an unstructured interview- a set of unstructured (open-ended) questions designed for use to guide in the gathering of the necessary information from respondents who are drawn from the general public in the study area.

The questions were intentionally designed to be open-ended to allow the respondents to freely express their opinions on the research subject without restrictions from the researcher. Some other techniques explored in this work were observation and Secondary Sources- ready-made data in the research to complement the primary data. These include books and other print materials and internet materials.

The reason for utilizing this research method is due to the fact that it gives the importance of looking at variables in the natural setting in which they are found, as, it seeks to build a holistic, largely narrative, description to inform the researcher's understanding of a social or cultural phenomenon (Prashant; 2013). The author started out by picking interviewees and asking questions that allowed them to explain and give their opinion as much as they liked while, the author guided them with sets of questions in order for them not to stray so much from the topic in question.

After the interview, came the observation technique, in which, the author studied the demeanor of the interviewee before, during and after the interview. In some cases, the author engaged in general discussions with the interviewee after the interview to corroborate facts and opinions given during the interview. Where there are data gotten from the personal research of the interviewees, the interviewer endeavored to incorporate this while analyzing the data of the interviewee in the course of the interview.

The article focuses on the South-South and South-West region of Nigeria, narrowing it down to Edo State (South-South), Lagos (South-West) and Ogun State (South-West). It has been further narrowed down to households and NGOs in the urban centers of these states which is Benin-City, Abeokuta, and Lagos. The author all together interviewed 15 respondents randomly picked from these states. This study area is chosen because of the recent surge in spousal murders in these areas.

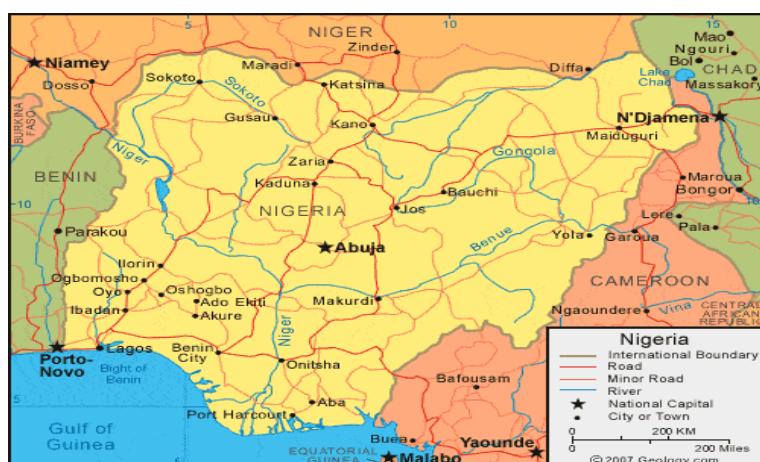


Figure 7. Map of Nigeria, Geoscience News and Information, <https://www.geology.com/world/nigeria> 28th June 2019

Nigeria Information: Nigeria is located in Western Africa. Nigeria is bordered by the Gulf of Guinea, Benin to the West, Niger to the North, and Chad and Cameroon to the East. Nigeria has a total area of 923,768 (356,669 sq mi) (WorldAtlas.com; 2019) making it the world's 32nd largest country after Tanzania. Nigeria has 36 states and a Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, with Lagos as its commercial and largest city. According to the 2016 WHO Report, Nigeria has a population of 185,990,000 and there are over 250 ethnic groups in Nigeria with the major ethnic groups being Yoruba, Igbo and Hausa.

The first interview was with a female named Amanda (Name has been changed for anonymity), who had experienced D.V first hand while she was single and working in an environment where she was sexually harassed violently by the boss. She felt D.V does not just occur in the home but other familiar places such as the workplace. The irony of her story was that she was working in an international organization that was fighting against D.V and helping to rescue girls and women from the scourge but meanwhile, right inside the organization, D.V was taking place and despite the fact that there were laid down systems to report such, cases were never treated the way they should and even when she reported, she was advised to keep quiet otherwise she would be sent out even before the completion of her contract. In her words, "I had no choice but to keep quiet because I needed the work experience and my contract still had a long way to go, I did not want a bad record or my contract being terminated, so I tolerated it." She went further to state that many others had experienced what she had experienced even before she arrived and while she was there but the same nonchalant measure was applied. The perpetrators of this abuse were both men and women against the various opposite sex.

The second interview was with a man called Emediong who is the founder of the Youth Alliance for Peaceful and United Community (YAPUC) Network in Akwa Ibom, Nigeria. His organization has handled one case of domestic violence since its creation but has also conducted research on D.V in homes in the state. He stated that the procedure they used was a questionnaire whereby, one was given to the wife and another was given to the husband to verify what the wife has said. He stated that the organization did the work on domestic violence just once and that there has been no effect of NGOs on the issue of D.V in Nigeria because there is no follow up or evaluation on their work. In his words, "Nothing has been done at all".

He went further to state that the major challenges NGOs face are that, D.V is considered a personal/family issue and as such, it should not be handled publicly which is, the interference of NGOs. He does not know of any laws or agreements signed by Nigeria on D.V against women but he knows of a friend who married an illiterate woman, trained her in school and she got a better job than the husband which resulted in the man beating the wife constantly out of spite and jealousy. The woman is scared of reporting him or telling anyone because she has nowhere to run to and so the beatings and constant physical and mental mutilations continue till date. He further stated that from their research, they discovered that these men who are perpetrators of D.V have no idea what they are doing so.

The third interview was with a female activist's Blessing Best, who runs an NGO in Lagos, Nigeria, for the less privileged and not against domestic violence. But, she had a strong opinion on the fact that NGOs tackling Domestic Violence were making progress because at least they are giving the victims a safe avenue to speak up and help them find safety. She also thinks the government should be involved in the affairs of NGOs concerning domestic violence. She has admitted to seeing a few cases and those victims do not resort to NGOs at first instance but only when it is recommended to them that they resort to getting help from NGOs.

The fourth interviewee who goes by the name Olaoluwa Abagun the founder of "the Girl Pride Circle Initiative" in Lagos Nigeria, with a focus on access to education and prevention of sexual violence in communities, defined D.V as physical or sexual violence. She stated she was almost raped by her cousin at her grandparent's house at the age of 8. Since the creation of her NGO, she has referred over 10 girls and women who have been sexually violated to NGOs who could take action against the perpetrator. She went further to state that progress has been made by NGOs in the area of awareness, increase in public outcry and formal reporting (with a focus on sexual violence). She further proposed that the Government should be involved in the affairs of NGOs in the management of D.V but should not over-regulate NGOs.

The fifth interviewee, a banker by the name Eze, married and from Edo State stated that D.V is not just between husband and wife but also between parents and children, and amongst siblings in the home. She stated she is aware NGOs are tackling D.V but does not know of any. In her words "from my husband, I have not experienced D.V except my brother and mother while growing up. It occurred as a series of beatings from my elder brother due to suspicion of going out to see a guy and other allegations of waywardness as he does not want me to talk to the opposite sex. My mom beats me whenever I do not do what she says and it got to a point I started doubting if she was actually my mother and I even contemplated suicide." "I witnessed a lot of fighting between my parents growing up as a result of my dad not dropping enough money for food, when my mum tries to advise my father on what to do concerning his flirting with the opposite sex, when my mum interrupts him while talking and also when my mum is asking my dad to stop his cheating lifestyle which always earned her a beating with swollen eyes and bleeding lips. Fighting was generally the order of the day. Even around me, I know of a case which even resulted in the death of their child as they mistakenly stepped on their child while fighting and the child died." Diana stated that D.V can lead to injury on the wife's eyes and the wife parks out and returns to her family in some cases, until the family holds a meeting to resolve the issue after which, the wife returns to the home. She encouraged this form rather than NGO because she does not believe in divorce at the expense of the children and also due to her experience with her parents who are still very much together today despite the violence perpetrated on the mother by the father. Diana, however, believes that Government can do a lot of good by assisting to tackle D.V because D.V was not rampant in the old days on like in the current era when couples are now killing each other and we even see a spouse killing his or her children along sides himself or herself. She went further to state that this leads to the death of resourceful youths and affects the economy of the country as larger parts of the youths are dying daily.

The sixth interviewee by name Sunday Ellu, a single man, residing in Ogun State, in his 30s sees D.V as only the beating of the woman by the man and the man by the woman in a marriage and his words, "I do not know of any NGO fighting against domestic violence since I have been reading". He has never experienced D.V because in his opinion, "I am a man and cannot be beaten by a woman" but he believes a man can experience D.V from a fellow man and not a woman. He agrees government should be involved in D.V but only partially as many of it in his opinion seems to be a psychological issue.

The seventh interviewee by name Mr. Isreal E. O from Benin but resident in Ogun, Nigeria and married, expressed passionately his view that 'D.V is a versatile subject because it cuts across a whole lot of aspect of the family and most times a lot of people see domestic violence as something against the women but, it is also against men and children.' He acknowledged that the most rampant is indeed that perpetrated by the husband to the wife and that, a lot of women are raped and held against their consent due to a religious and traditional dogma which states that divorce is not the way out despite the swollen face and mutilated body. D.V has made women be confined to the home permanently, their husband preventing them from pursuing their career and going into society to make an impact. He is also of the opinion that women encourage domestic violence when they fail to speak out when asked and they also perpetrate D.V against themselves. He noted he was aware of women being rescued by NGOs but had no name of such an NGO in mind but that their voices are becoming well heard. He went further to state that when these NGOs go out, they do not want publicity hence, these NGOs are not known by name but merely heard.

The eight interviewees by name Mr. Obasuyi says that D.V is as a result of extramarital affairs which causes dispute among couples and also when a man is not responsible in taking care of the household including the house help which may be residing with them. He further expressed that NGOs have a lot to play in making sure that D.V is taken as a family matter and as such, NGOs are not meant to interfere in such family matters but rather, should interfere as a last resort. He, however, states that he does not know of any NGO personally although he has seen D.V personally from the close relationships between boyfriend and girlfriend and also married couples in the form of beatings which has resulted in killings. He believes that the government should be involved due to the security aspect that D.V may pose to society. When asked if he believes men experience D.V, he stated that "I believe men also experience D.V but I cannot experience D.V because I know how to control my home".

The ninth Interviewee by name Mrs. Adenuga Mary who is an activist with an NGO in Lagos Stated "D.V can be related to marriage where a woman is being abused by the husband, parents to child, beating of

children like a post I saw yesterday on Facebook where a mother beat her child mercilessly because she could not write one to 200. And the injury inflicted on the child was such that almost claimed the child's eyes. When there is no more tolerance in the marriage then there is the occurrence of violence. The rate of D.V has reduced to 5% according to my last research through a church program held in my church in April 2018." She claimed she has never been a victim of violence but "I have met a woman who works with NGO and I have referred a case to her before. One case was when I met a lady who wanted to leave her husband because he was beating her over and over again. I did not know her before and I was interested and told her she should not leave but fight it some other way. They are ways the NGOs can treat it legally and he will stop beating her." But according to her, the victim never called the NGO lady. She believes a woman may be the main cause of the D.V and there are times too that the man does not tolerate. "You make sure you do everything he needs but if you cannot tolerate it any longer then call family or pastor and if after that, you can leave the marriage for good but the children factor should be considered." Lastly, she stressed that the Government should be involved in tackling domestic violence because "they are people living as humans but they are animals". It is what everybody has to do together.

The tenth interviewee called Mr. Alaga from Ogun State firmly asserted that. men do not experience domestic violence because they are strong enough to protect themselves Hence, women experience D.V more than men. In his opinion, D.V is how you treat your fellow neighbors especially women, how you value them and what you think about them. When asked how D.V is perpetrated, he replied "I only know that D.V is perpetrated through beating and insulting and I do not think D.V has reduced. The only time I can remember when I practiced D.V was when my sister offended me by not going to errands for me. She came back home and was washing glass cups and I asked her why she did not go to where I sent her. I used twister to hit her and in turn, she used the glass cup to injure me. Later on, when I got back from the hospital, I beat her up and lock her up in the room." But as a married man, he claimed he has never laid hands on his wife.

The 11th interviewee happens to be a victim of D.V who has been married for the past 35 years and all through this time has experienced D.V in various ways. For anonymity, she will be called Mrs. H. Mrs. H got married to her husband in the '80s and according to her she never knew such experiences had such a term (Domestic Violence) ascribed to it. She stated she has been abused by her husband, her late mother-in-law, and sister-in-law. The husband verbally demeaned her by calling her "stupid" "fool" "illiterate" and "idiot" whenever they had a misunderstanding. He equally cheated on her with several women and when she challenged him, it led to constant beating with the use of broom, belts and even the flinging of stools and, she would get bruises and wounds that will take her to the hospital for medical treatment. She could not seek help because she did not know if such NGOs existed at the time and she was forced to bear and remain in the marriage due to her love for her children, societal pressures and religious beliefs. Mrs. H who was at her shop during the interview further stated that she had to labor to feed and care for herself and her kids all alone because the husband at the time had abandoned them. In her words (as translated in English) "there had been no time I was ever happy in this marriage. He constantly told me I was not good enough because I was not educated like his mistresses. Whenever I managed to cook from the little proceeds from my shop, he would kick the pot right off the fire because it is not up to what he wants. He was aggressive and I lived in constant fear and pain". She said she is happy that such matters are being addressed these days even though she does not know of any NGO tackling such matters. She is however aware of the killings that result from D.V and she could have been a victim as well if not for 'God'.

The 12th interviewee called Mrs. O, who is recently married and pregnant, was recommended to me due to her experience and that of her younger sister in the hands of her ex-boyfriend who constantly battered her with blows, clubs, and kicks and slaps her at intervals in the course of the relationship. The worst happened when she decided to leave the relationship as he berated her phone with calls threatening to end her life if she does not take him back. This assault and battery continued for over 6 months and the sister was forced to relocate for her safety and health of the mind. However, the 12th interview stated that she witnessed all these at first hand because she was still in the home at that time but that she had never experienced D.V directly. She stated that such incidences made her aware of the extent of the danger associated with D.V stating "GOD saved my sister from the hands of that animal called Moses". She stated the cause as pride and ego because he had never been dumped by a woman in his previous relationships. When asked if they engaged the services of an NGO, she stated although they

knew NGOs handle such matters, they did not contact any because it was something they wanted to handle themselves. But she does not know of any NGO she could have contacted anyways.

The 13th interviewee, Kathlyn Eyitemi married and resident in Lagos State and also the founder of Girls Advocate which has branches in Lagos, Benin and Port Harcourt believes that D.V only occurs within the home. She said she had experienced D.V indirectly through the ordeal of her mother while she was still a child. She stated she has encountered a countless number of cases of D.V but only a few times has she been reached for help by a victim. She further explained that the work of NGOs is limited due to funding and that although the government is already involved in tackling D.V, there is still more that can be done. She cited the dependency of victims and economic issues as a major challenge to managing D.V.

The 14th interviewee who by name Mrs. Patience (not real name), has been a victim of domestic violence for the past 10 years in her marriage. I met her on one of many visits to the Girls Advocate Office in Lagos. She had resort to seek help as the husband's behavior of brutalizing and constantly stripping her naked in public while beating her has increased instead of subsiding despite her traditional efforts to change things. In her words, "Mr. A started beating me barely a year after our traditional wedding whenever I insisted on us going for our church wedding as we have earlier agreed on. He would scream and say all sorts of things like, am I planning on killing him and that the traditional wedding is enough. That was how we kept on having disagreements over little quarrels and he started beating me. At first, it was just lapping and push but later on, he would use his belts on me and strip me naked. I tried to avoid arguing with him, cooking his favorite meal and never refusing him sex but nothing seems to work. I cannot bear it anymore as I am scared for my life and would not want to die and leave my child motherless as just a few days ago, I heard on the news of a lady that died as a result of the maltreatment and beating she got from her husband."

During the interview, she got emotional and I had to pause the interview up to three times for her to calm down. She equally showed her wounds from the beatings she got from her husband and she stated that she has now been deprived access to her children and that is part of the reason why she came to Girls advocate to help out. When asked how she came across Girls Advocate, she said she was referred by someone on Facebook but prior; she knew there were NGOs in charge of Domestic violence but never knew how to contact them.

The last interviewee is a lady who has been abused sexually by the husband in her words "my husband does not understand what it means for a woman to be tired, I have never seen a man that likes sex like my hubby, it has been one year and six months we got married and it has not been easy for me, I only breathe when my husband travels and I do not have a life of my own. My husband can only enjoy sex after he beats me and sees me in pain. Anytime I refuse to indulge him, he would sleep in the guest room. One night I said no to him because I was pregnant, he made sure he forced himself on me, he even hit me during the process, but he apologized later on...." She is too ashamed to involve both families and so far, the few persons she has spoken to did not fail to remind her that it is her matrimonial duty to satisfy her husband. She was asked to stay put and tolerate it. When asked why she is speaking out now, she said she felt the need to speak out because she fears for her life and has been aware of the recent upsurge in deaths resulting from Domestic Violence. She said she has been aware of the activities of NGOs but she was scared of losing her marriage and what people will say. She insisted that she is still not ready to leave her husband but she wants to seek help for him so that he can change. She equally believes that government should not be involved in domestic violence matter, as it is a family issue and should be worked out and resolved internally.

Result Analysis

This part of the article highlights the findings gathered from the interviews and analyses it using the theoretical framework and empirical approach previously examined. The rate of domestic violence might reduce when there is a proper evaluation of the activities performed by NGOs to help victims of domestic violence overcome such situations. From findings, it is not the role NGOs play that is lacking in totality but equally, the uncooperative nature of the parties involved and the slow nature of implementation of policies and laid down laws. Some of the interviewees like the NGOs and Ordinary persons (not acclaimed victims) could be observed to be holding back some information as to whether their NGO is

making progress concerning domestic violence and also whether the avalanche of NGOs have been making progress concerning D.V.

While, some admitted that a lot still needs to be done in the light of the upsurge in spousal murders, others stated that the NGOs are only progressing in the light of advocacy (awareness). Meanwhile, the ordinary persons were manifestly seen to hold back information on whether they have ever been victims of domestic violence or have ever perpetrated domestic violence. Only one out of the men interviewed admitted to having physically battered the sister but never the wife. The married women all claimed to have never been victims except one who claimed she has never been a victim from the aspect of her husband but from her mother and elder brother while growing up.

This finding is seen to be in line with that of Carolyn Rebecca Block (2003) where she stated that most of the victims in her study made recourse to informal help (talking to someone) but, the difference is that, while women in her study Area (America) equally sought help from, counseling, medical personnel and police, in the author's study area- Nigeria (Africa), victims of abuse do more of seeking informal help by consulting family heads, friends and relatives. Even in cases where matters are brought before the police, they are willingly withdrawn at first instance by the victim.

However, author's findings and that of Carolyn Rebecca Block coincide when she stated that it is only in severe cases of threatened fatality that victims seek formal help (medical, police) but rarely counseling agencies and NGOs. Also, from rate of tolerance of domestic violence chart, domestic violence is seen to have skyrocketed in Africa as victims do not perceive domestic violence from their partners as abuse but rather as a religious and cultural norm. This is why the interviewees did not own up to the fact that they may have experienced domestic violence in their relationship with their partners but are quick to recount incidences they have seen or heard of.

The author in the course of carrying out the interview and observation further discovered that these interviewees have heard of NGOs who deal with D.V and have heard of the cases treated by this NGOs but cannot remember the names of these NGOs either, can they remember a particular case treated by these NGOs. None except one has referred a case to an NGO, and the victims themselves do not run to NGOs in the first instance.

All of them believed that they can change, tolerate and persevere in the face of D.V until it has gotten to a point of life and death. Although all admitted to having seen, witnessed or heard of cases where spouses and even their children die as a result of D.V. but, from observation during the interviews which occurred in the homes, shops, and offices of the interviewees, one could tell they purposely left out some sides of their own experiences.

The common saying that comes to the lips of the interviewees when asked why they do not sought NGOs or if they would seek help from NGOs in the case that they experience D.V? is that "there are other ways to kill a rat" meaning they would not recourse to NGOs and risk their case going public or seek divorce (which it is likely to amount to in severe cases of threatened fatality) because they would not want to be seen as failures by the society and their family.

When asked what other methods that can still keep the marriage, they mention calling family meetings, seeking the help of pastors or traditional rulers for intervention and counseling, which are all informal methods. If you go further to ask what will be the next solution if all of these fails, the interviewee gives no answer but still stand by the fact that leaving or seeking divorce from one's violent partner is not an option and that they would not explore or encourage any victim to explore such an option.

Therefore, the reason many of these victims of domestic violence do not seek help from NGOs even though they have the knowledge that NGOs exist that tackle such matters is because of the fear that the NGO may most likely propose leaving the marriage or relationship and seeking divorce.

The 12th interviewee claimed to have never experienced D.V but during the course of the interview in her home, the author engaged in informal discussion which revealed she had cried all night because she had a fight with her husband who was accusing her of something she did not do. Even though she was pregnant, he slapped her on the face and she could not sleep even after he had come to apologize to her. She said that was not the first time he had done so and that it always results in her crying every time.

These tallies with the sociological theory where a partner-victim stays caught up in a cycle of violence and forgiveness. This also is part of the risk factors identified by Carolyn Rebecca Block (2003) and Margaret A. Zahn (2003) that past violence and frequency of violence breeds the eventual fatality of either of the spouses. The woman can get tired of the cycle of abuse and suddenly retaliates by dealing a fatal blow to the husband. While, the man may continue in his cycle of violence and gradually advance to the stage where he physically assaults the woman in a severe and fatal manner as can be seen in the figure below.

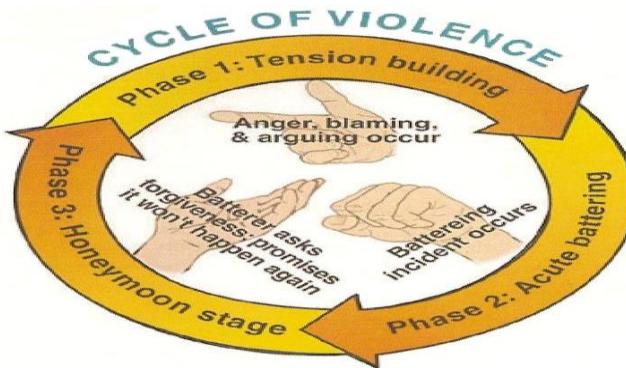


Figure 8: Cycle of Violence, Human Resource Network, www.humanresponsenetwork.org accessed 21st July, 2019

The fifth interviewee Diana equally stated during the interview that she had never experienced D.V from her husband but during the course of the interview at her home, the author observed that she is experiencing psychological D.V from her husband and mother-in-law. The husband neglects his duties in the home, forcing her to use up all her monthly salaries without any savings, she is constantly worried and scared about the future of her kids and their daily food because the husband has refused to understand the necessary provisions that need to be made in the home monthly. All these arose because she got a car gift from her siblings to enable her to take her two kids including her stepson to school but the husband got angry and jealous she did not hand over the car to him as the head of the home and he has resulted to make her suffer until she is forced to sell the car.

This agrees with the findings of Christine Drouin, Jocelyn Lindsay, Mynan Dube et al (2012) that possessiveness and jealousy is a major factor that leads to intimate partner violence which is found in 60 per cent of the situation leading to spousal murder. While the interviewee is aware of physical violence, she is ignorant of psychological domestic violence which can be just as fatal as physical domestic violence.

Meanwhile, all the male interviewees (both single and married) claimed they have never perpetrated domestic violence against their wives and girlfriends but from further discussions outside the interview and from observation, their disposition towards women and what their female colleagues thought of them revealed that three out of the five were not truthful about having abused their wife or girlfriend. It is equally important to note that these men strongly believed that they have never and will never experience domestic violence from their wives or girlfriends except one, who believed men, can only experience D.V from a fellow man. These notions amongst others are the reasons why male domestic violence is underreported in Africa.

Analysing Result Using Theoretical Framework

Now, examining these findings using the theoretical framework, from these interviews, it is clear that society plays a huge role in forming the mentality of both genders and as such, it has created gender-specific roles which are proving difficult to change today. A man believes he has to hit his wife as a means of correction when she offends him and a woman believes she is bound to her husband till death even in the face of constant mutilation and abuse. According to Michael Niss 2017, if the victim does not leave, the batterer sees the battering (D.V) as a means of producing positive results, just like the way the husband of Diana Eze has relented in his duties knowing fully-well she is under the sociological influence to bear and suffer in silence whatever hardship he throws her way.

This is also the case with the 12th interviewee who sees nothing wrong in the slap her husband gave her the previous night nor the psychological stress she is going through even in her pregnant condition.

The 14th interviewee who has experienced D.V in the larger part of her marriage was asked why she did not leave the marriage, and she responded: "due to the stigma it would bring to my family and my children." These respondents would rather remain tolerant due to societal pressures of what is needed of a woman and what biblically/islamically has been defined as a virtuous woman than go for what they truly need. To the extent, they would rather remain quiet or seek the face of the elders of the family if it gets unbearable than to invite an NGO and risk losing their marriage.

Therefore, the fear of every married woman in Nigeria is the societal stigma of being called a divorcee or a single parent than the fear of being killed by a violent partner, hence the reason for the high rates of spousal killings in Nigeria.

Another key societal factor which many are oblivious of is the high rate of illiteracy which fuels the increase in D.V and hence, spousal killings. The few, who have heard of D.V, do not define it appropriately and hence do not know what and what constitutes D.V. Many believe it is just battering and assault of women but fails to realize there is a sexual and psychological form of it, amongst others.

NGOs are not left out of this stigma, as the society views them as agents of demoralization and corruption of the family. They also do not associate with them because of the public nature with which they conduct their affairs. Most victims of D.V want anonymity and privacy to avoid stigmatization hence; they are not bold enough to take the necessary step of engaging an NGO.

Furthermore, societal pressures such as recession, unemployment, lack of essential amenities make it difficult for these NGOs to carry out their duties because the perpetrators of D.V are most times acting out of frustration and lashing out at their victims due to these societal pressures. According to the 13th interviewee, the government is already playing a role in helping NGOs in this regard but more still has to be done with regards to the environmental and economic factors which trigger these attitudes and tendencies in the society. Illiteracy is a big factor that comes into play as these men who perpetrate D.V have no idea they are doing anything wrong but rather performing part of their duty as the head of the family.

The feminist theory is equally manifested as the interviewees are all pushed by the gender disparity that has been placed by society. The woman is deemed to be subject and inferior to the man, while the man is deemed to be superior. This is further worsened by the realization that the Nigerian society is largely patriarchal in nature and this does not give room for women to express themselves. The womanhood is based solely on being married to a man and that is why the 13th interviewee stated that the dependency of women on men is a hindrance to the performance of the duties of NGOs.

This is also the reason why the 11th interviewee has persevered in her marriage despite the various forms of D.V she has experienced and is still experiencing till today. The tenth interviewee stated she referred a matter to an NGO but that she is not in support of a woman deciding to leave her marriage no matter the abuse she is facing because, according to her there are other means to resolve this issue and this means, she clearly did not state. On the other hand, the men stood their ground that there is no way they can experience D.V because they are the men (superiority complex) and as such, they are the ones who exercise the power in the home and even if they are to experience D.V, it may be from their fellow men.

The psychological theory comes into play when one goes into the background of these interviewees. Diana Eze claimed she experienced D.V in the hands of her mom and her brothers but failed to realize she was going through the same in the hands of her husband because she was suffering under psychological D.V but sees it as a normal way of life in a marriage because of what she experienced while growing up. This proves the work of Misra, Preeti, (2007; P.232) when they said that "Being physically abusive is seen as a symptom of underlying emotional problems. Parental abuse, rejection, and failure to meet a child's dependency needs can be the psychological source of battering. People with these underlying problems may choose partners with whom they can re-enact the dysfunctional relationship, which they had with their parents." From the author's observation of the other interviewees, it is discovered as the same trend and one which most are ignorant of.

The men due to societal and environmental influences also react psychologically, for example, trauma and in the process of finding a means of release, results in carrying out D.V on their wife and children, directly or indirectly.

Furthermore, concerning the empirical literature categorized under different approaches, the interviewees including those working with NGOs have no idea of laws that have been put in place or adopted by their states to combat domestic violence against women. This is quite alarming because NGOs cannot successfully manage D.V if they do not know of provisions that can back up their case when a victim decides to go further with it. This makes it clear that many individuals and some NGOs in Nigeria do not know that D.V is a criminal and human rights issues that can be enforced. That is also why it is treated lightly with kids gloves and shelved under the “family issues” section in the government’s agenda (in terms of implementation). This should not be so, as D.V is not a private matter which should be addressed within the confines of the home. This is with special note to the fact that spousal rape though stated in the VAPP but in practice is not implemented as a crime in Nigeria.

Finally, the importance of developing policies to tackle Domestic Violence cannot be over stated because D.V is a social and political problem that must be addressed through the implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of comprehensive set of Institutional actions and measures. Nigeria as well as every country in Sub-Saharan Africa should develop policies at the macro, local government, community, and individual levels to address the causes and consequences of violence against women. At the macro level, policies aimed at eradicating violence should be drafted, and the various sectoral interventions should include specific measures on domestic violence. National laws and policies that affect areas related to equality and gender equity, such as those dealing exclusively with domestic violence, discriminatory practices, the effectiveness and efficiency of the organizations and actors involved in the solution, the costs involved, the legal bases sustaining possible initiatives and the background and institutional conditions necessary for execution of initiatives play a significant role in violence prevention at the population level. These policies aim to bring about changes in behaviors, values, and social and cultural practices in institutions, organizations, and society in general and to slowly but surely create more equal relationships between men and women.

The overall findings go to show that NGOs have improved in terms of advocacy in creating awareness but still, are yet to make impacts in terms of taking serious actions to publicly tackle D.V. A lot of people are aware D.V as a result of NGOs awareness creation but same lots are still in the dark concerning the proper action to take when they encounter D.V or have others who encounter D.V around them. This has made the work of NGOs redundant and almost like lip singing because the more awareness they create; the more spouses drop dead as a result of D.V.

All the interviewees had the common notion that NGOs should not interfere in happenings in the home and especially between married couples because it is a “family issue” but only when it is a matter of life and death. They believe the family, elders and religious leaders should be the first port of call to resolve such issues. Therefore, NGOs are sidelined by the perpetrators, victims and their families and this is why the cases of spousal killings have increased in Nigeria.

NGOs have so much they could do if given the opportunity to do so but their efforts are thwarted by religious beliefs and religious bodies, societal and family pressures as well as inadequate strategies to actively curtail and fight cases of D.V where victims are willing to go all the way, because, follow-up and evaluation is not carried out to ascertain if progress is actually being made. This, begs the question, what important processes are to be used by these NGOs to effectively manage domestic violence in Nigeria? They have to approach from the law perspective and human rights but how far can they go when the victims are psychologically trapped in a way they cannot break free from their tormentor? This will require further research.

Furthermore, only a few of the interviewees fully understood the nature and definition of domestic violence as many of them only ascribe domestic violence as physical violence especially beating hence, many of them do not even know they are perpetrating or suffering domestic violence abuse. The interviewees including those who were working with NGOs had no knowledge of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act 2015 made by the National Assembly of Nigeria and CEDAW adopted by Nigeria in 1985 to combat cases of violence.

The lack of knowledge is however not surprising as very few states- Ebonyi State, Edo State, Lagos State, Ekiti State, Jigawa and Cross River State have acknowledged domestic violence and passed a law against it. Meanwhile, this is just 6 states out of 37 States in Nigeria and these laws are still poorly

implemented in these states except Lagos where there is a concentration of NGOs and an established response system to tackle domestic violence.

Implications for NGOs

NGOs should approach victims of D.V discussing about the nature of the violence they have experienced- when it happened, how frequently it happened, and the kind of violence.

Also, the first incident of D.V could be fatal hence NGOs need to be aware of the risk factors for women who have not yet experienced physical violence and sensitize them accordingly as economic frustration, depression possessiveness and extreme jealousy exhibited by an intimate partner is a risk factor for possible fatal violence, even if there has been no previous violent incident. A recent abuse by their intimate partner, regardless of the severity of the incident, increases the risk of the woman being killed, or of killing her abusive partner and increasingly frequent episodes of violence by an intimate partner pose a high risk of deadly violence to the victim as well as to the abusive partner.

NGOs and other helping professionals should be aware that, by seeking help, an abused woman indicates that her situation could be serious. Hence it should be treated seriously meaning, given utmost attention.

NGOs should ask an abused woman if her partner has ever tried to choke her or grab her around the neck. Also, in incidents when someone may have been choked or strangled responding officers or NGOs should try to ensure that the person receives a medical evaluation of her condition. The answer to the common question, "why does she not leave?" is that women do leave or try to leave but are held back by societal stigma, religious pressures and care for their children who they believe should be raised in the family unit.

Furthermore, medical workers and police officers can play important roles as collaborators with NGOs in linking abused women to counseling and other community services and NGOs should not only provide support and practical advice for women thinking of leaving an abusive relationship, but should also discuss her risks if she leaves and how best to minimize those risks. This is one of the major reason why victims of domestic violence fear the sustenance or death if they leave their abusive partner. Since women more likely do not go to NGOs at first instance, helping agencies and NGOs need to find ways to ensure that abused women have culturally accessible and supportive resources available to them. Some women who feel trapped in an increasingly abusive relationship, with few resources, may resort to violence. It is important to find ways to intervene successfully in these situations.

Finally, helping professionals must be certain not to miss the opportunity to intervene when an abused woman reports the abuse. This is one of the short comings of NGOs as they are left with little or no resources to pursue these matters. Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA) Medical workers, counselors, and police officers can work together to improve the responsiveness and coordination of services for women abused by a female partner.

Analysis of the results/Findings

The main objective of this research is to assess the role played by NGOs in managing domestic violence in order to solve the problem of inadequate or unavailable support to victims of domestic violence in line with laws that regulate domestic violence in Nigeria.

While, other objectives is to analyze the challenges encountered by NGOs with regards to addressing case of Domestic Violence in Nigeria and how it could be addressed; to examine the NGOs applicability of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition Act) 2015 and any other ratified international legal instrument in addressing domestic violence.; to analyze the rate of improvement or otherwise (if any) with the involvement of these NGOs in the fight against domestic violence and how these role could be enhanced; the relationship between domestic violence and gender.

The qualitative research method was then utilized, with the main tools used being interview and observation. Data was collected from 15 respondents who comprised of victims, NGO workers and ordinary persons selected randomly within the study area. The major findings are; that the work of NGOs indeed have a great impact in determining the peace and progress in every society and as such, NGOs efforts on domestic violence can help to reduce domestic violence but, however, these efforts have been more focused on awareness than actions which are geared to rescue victims.

Also, implementations of the laws in place against D.V have not been forthcoming because most of these NGOs are not aware that these laws exist. Also, the government and the victims have equally played a role in amplifying the fatal effect of D.V by crippling the efforts made by NGOs through their unwillingness to prioritize D.V as a crucial issue disturbing economic and national peace and to seek redress in the face of D.V respectively.

Furthermore, there is a strong relationship between D.V and gender as the main perpetrators of D.V are men while the victims are mainly women. However, a small percentage of men experience D.V but few data exist on this because of the patriarchal nature of the Nigerian society where men are bred to feel superior to women, as is also the case in most parts of Sub-Saharan Africa.

Finally, the psychological and public health damage done to victims as a result of long time D.V abuse has made the work of NGO almost impossible. Meanwhile, women are the most affected of this danger and it seeps down to their children. This, eventually results in retaliation against their spouse and they end up killing their spouse or ends up getting killed. Religious and societal pressures do not also help matters as they help to shackle women to abusive relationships until their fatal end. However, the positive role that is manifestly seen to be played by NGO in all this is that most people, both literates and illiterates are now aware that D.V is a growing concern and that NGOs exist that advocates against it unlike in the past. A clear example is the Violence Against Persons bill passed into law by the Edo State government on the 12th of February 2019 after it has suffered many setbacks with previous government without being passed. The bill is said to have been lobbied by NGOs and the Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) and a protest march against violence was carried out across the state.

Conclusion

From the research work extensively done and analyzed above, one can see the relevancy and interplay of the theoretical framework- feminist theory, sociological theory and psychological theory. All these do not just affect the victims and perpetrators of D.V but also the performance of the role of NGOs with respect to managing D.V. The role performed by the NGOs can only be made effective if the other parties- victim, perpetrators of D.V and government are properly oriented and willing to result to the NGOs when such cases of D.V are discovered. The right perception of NGOs needs to be put out there for them to effectively do their work. This is why you find that despite the numerous NGOs in Nigeria, few manage D.V because it is still considered a private matter within the family domain. Therefore, one can say the role of NGOs is not enough to cover all of the cases of D.V hence, the increase in spousal killings in Nigeria. Also the inadequate resources at their disposal and the unwillingness of victims to report cases or true nature of cases to NGOs has made it difficult for the NGOs to perform their roles, such is the case as reported on radio of a D.V victim who was pulled away from her marriage and given to her family when the abuse from her husband was becoming worse. Unknowingly, she sneaked out of the parents home and went back to her husband only for her to be reported dead few days later with bruises on her showing, she was beaten again by her husband. This goes to show that the work of NGOs is going to be more effective if these victims are taught to refer their cases to NGOs and shun societal misgivings which do not allow a woman to leave an abusive husband.

Recommendations

The issue of D.V should be taken more seriously as a national issue by both the government, NGOs and Academicians. This is because D.V can destabilize the peace, manpower and economic advancement of any nation. The more severe D.V gets, the more lives are lost and the more man power is lost. For underdeveloped and developing countries in Africa, they cannot afford to lose good men and women that would be productive to their country and the nations a whole. Hence, Academicians and practitioners in the law fields and social sciences should not just focus on the acts of D.V, criminality of the acts but also the institutions that have and should be put in place to combat D.V to wish NGOs currently make up a sizeable number of those trying to manage D.V. More materials, research should be made into these NGOs to help them strategize and better improve their inputs in the prevention of D.V.

The government should provide NGOs with good facilities and necessary amenities to carry out their role effectively in the society. Adult education should be greatly encouraged with emphasis on the rights of persons from abuse and D.V under the law. There should be prompt response from law enforcement agents and other key stakeholders when any case of D.V is reported or identified by NGOs and apply the available laws against D.V when cases are brought to them instead of dismissing it as a family

matter. The economic welfare of the society should be promptly addressed to alleviate the frustration and burden on the men.

The government alongside NGOs should establish an educative initiative targeted especially on men in order to cure the patriarchal entitlement of men towards abusing their wife for corrective purposes. Also to draw their attention to other acts that constitute D.V to which most men are ignorant of.

NGOs should pay more attention to cases of D.V and carry out follow up even after the parties involved are reconciled so as to avoid any fatal accident that may occur in the event of re-occurrence. Also, more awareness should be put out there so that people will know there are other forms of abuse aside physical battering and assault and the resultant effect of long time abuse, which is the tendency for one of the parties to kill the other. Also, NGOs should take into consideration the public health aspect of D.V when dealing with victims of D.V. because of cases where a pregnant woman is abused and may lose her life and that of her child in the course of giving birth as a result of complication suffered from the abuse.

NGOs should educate victims of D.V to shed the mental societal construction on their gender and place their life above their marital responsibilities in the face of abuse. They should make resort to the available NGOs instead of settling it in a private manner which most certainly proves ineffective at the end. The fear of the stigma associated with being a divorcee or a single parent should weigh less than the fear of death in the face of D.V.

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