

**Incidence of Domestic Violence Among Literate Married Adults in Ilorin
Metropolis, Kwara State**

ADEBOYE, Adenike Abiola

adenikeadeboye7@gmail.com

08039664807

Department of Counsellor Education

Faculty of Education

University of Ilorin

AGUBOSI Lydia Akunna (Ph.D)

lydiaagubosi@gmail.com

08139499879

Department of Counsellor Education

Faculty of Education

University of Ilorin

OLAIFA, Adeseko Sunday (Ph.D)

abeske2001@gmail.com

08036050027

Department of Educational Management and Counselling Education

Faculty of Education

Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin

&

Karimot .Y. AKINTUNDE

Department of Counsellor Education

Faculty of Education

University of Ilorin

Abstract

Domestic violence is rampant among Christians and non-Christians, rich and poor, male and female, quite and aggressive individual, young and old, high income group and low income group. Therefore, this study investigated the incidence of domestic violence among literate married adults in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara state. The moderating variables considered are age, gender and family type. The research design used for this study was descriptive survey and simple random sampling technique was used to select the target population. Two hundred (200) respondents were randomly selected from the literate married adults in Ilorin metropolis. The main instrument used was researchers' self-designed questionnaire tagged "Incidence of Domestic Violence Questionnaire" (IDVQ) which consisted of section A and B. Section A elicited information on demographic data while section B consisted of 20 items on incidence of domestic violence. One research question was

raised and three null hypotheses were formulated for this study. All hypotheses were tested and accepted at 0.05 level of significance. Results revealed that there are no significant differences in the incidence of domestic violence on the basis of age, gender and family type. It was recommended that psychologists, counsellors and marriage counsellors should initiate vigorous campaign against domestic violence. Counsellors should assist in reconstructing the married couples' cognitive disposition by organizing seminars, symposium and marital counselling. Association of Professional Counsellors of Nigeria (APROCON) should build up enlightenment programmes through workshop and seminars for married adults periodically.

Keywords: Incidence, Domestic Violence, Literate Married Adult

Introduction

Marriage is the approved social pattern whereby two to more persons establish a family. It involves not only the right to conceive and rear children, but also a host of other obligations and privileges affecting a good number of people. Marriage is also the acceptance of a new status, with a new set of privileges and obligations, and the recognition of this new status by others. A legal marriage legitimizes a social status and creates a set of legally recognized rights and duties (Adeoye, 2006).

Marriage is one of the oldest and socially recognized institution and essential for the procreation of children and satisfaction of sexual urges (Zaman, 2008). In different societies, there are different methods of marriage. Some of the societies allow a male to marry only a single wife whereas in other societies a husband is allowed to have more than one wife. Similarly, some societies will not allow a woman to have more than one husband whereas other societies will mind a woman having more than one husband. In some cases, the parents arrange the marriage, whereas in others the boys and girls arrange their marriage (Zaman, 2008). Many marriages experience a lot of problems such as personality problem, irrational thinking, marital stress and inappropriate communication styles which may result to domestic violence.

Adeoye (2006) defined domestic violence as the use of force or subtle pressure and unrestrained activities in the pursuance of an objective. Adeoye noted that Nigerian newspapers are reported with news of domestic violence on the high ways, in private home, in the offices, mosque and churches. Domestic violence between couples has constituted a great problem from the family and the society at large. In recent years, there is a great rise of rape, couple's battering and sexual harassment. Domestic violence among couples occurs at home, in public places like streets, parks and so on. Domestic violence is also defined by Mudiare (2013) as the unlawful use of force or threat on another irrespective of gender. It is any action, behavior or attitude against other people based on anger and frustration, which could lead to injury or harm. Thus, beating other people, destroying their properties, threatening, harassing, intimidating and forcing people to do what they do not want to do.

According to Mudiare (2013) Domestic violence is seen as unjustified use of force and acted with high potential for injuring the person being hit such as kicking, choking, shooting, stabbing etc, are considered abusive. Such injurious acts range from minor to severe acts. A further categorization of violence is made between normal and abusive violence. Mudiare (2013) explained that normal violence includes; slaps, pushes, shoves, and spankings these are generally considered acceptable within a family environment. The intention is to show disapproval and not to injure. But where such acts are severe or injurious are then become abusive and can also be regarded as domestic violence.

According to Monahan (2006) domestic violence consists of pattern of coercive behaviours used by a competent adult or adolescent to establish and maintain power and control over another competent adult or adolescent. These behaviours, which can occur alone or in combination, intermittently or continually, include physical violence, psychological abuse, stalking and non-consensual sexual behaviour. Each incident builds upon previous episodes, thus setting the stage for future violence.

There are different forms of domestic violence, among others are the followings:

- Forms of physical violence include assault with weapons, pushing, shoving, slapping, punching, choking, kicking, holding and binding. Two forms of physical violence have been posited occasional outbursts of bidirectional violence (i.e mutual combat) and frank terrorism, of which the “patriarchal” form has been the most researched (Monahan, 2006).
- Psychological abuse includes threats of physical harm to the victim or others, intimidation, coercion, degradation and humiliation, false accusation, and ridicule (Monahan, 2006).
- Intimate partner stalking may occur during a relationship or after a relationship has ended. Women, who were stalked by an intimate partner, might also physically assaults. A new development is psychological abuse (generally threats) expressed through the internet, this is called cyber stalking (Monahan, 2006).
- Sexual abuse may include non-consensual or painful sexual acts (often unprotected against pregnancy or disease), (Monaham, 2006).

Domestic violence historically has been viewed as a private family matter that did not call for the involvement of government or criminal justice intervention. Police officers were often reluctant to intervene by making an arrest and often choose instead to simply counsel the couple and/ or ask one of the parties to leave the residence for a period of time. The courts were reluctant to impose any significant section on those convicted of domestic violence, largely because it is viewed as misconduct offence. Domestic violence may or may not constitute a crime depending on local statues, severity and duration of specific acts and other variables (Monaham, 2006).

Domestic violence maims and kills. It causes an array of health problem ranging from physical and sexual injuries to psychological and psychiatric disorders. Furthermore, victims-survivors have to cope with other social and economic problem resulting from such violence. The problem of domestic violence in Nigeria society has become apparent over political and economic resources and these have negative effects on national peace and security. Couples occupy an essential position in the life of any nation but it is subjected to different forms of violence that seems to hinder their effective contribution to the national development.

Domestic violence is a global problem. It is a cankerworm that is affecting various cultures and people, not minding their economic status. The percentages physically abused women varies from 10% to 69% based on the country (Aihie, 2009). The report had it 50% of women have been physically abused by their husband at least once, the report further have it that 65% educated women are victim of physical abuse while 55% are of illiterate women were equally not spared out (World Health Organization, 2002).

In addition, domestic violence is rampant among Christians and non-Christians, rich and poor, male and female, quite and aggressive individual, young and old, high income group and lower income group. Series of consequences are observed in the incidence of domestic violence in Nigeria, such as husbands beating or killing their wives or vice versa, nagging, separation, rejection, ejection, desertion, abandonment, lack of maintenance, destruction of property, denial of sexual relationship, divorce and a host of others, so therefore, it is necessary to carry out this type of study.

Some researchers have worked on different topics related to this study. Odufuwa (2008) worked on gender differentials, vulnerability and mobility stress coping strategies in Nigeria and the study revealed that female responded more to vulnerable mobility stress than male. Abraham (2009) also worked on pattern of domestic violence among pregnant women in Jos, Nigeria and the study revealed that fulltime housewives (35.3%) and self-employed (43.3%) were most abused of verbal, physical, sexual and emotional violence. Obi and Ozumba (2007), in Factors associated with domestic violence in South-East, Nigeria, revealed that 70% of respondents reported abused in their family with 92% of the victims being female partners and the remaining being male. The common forms of abuse reported were shouting at a partner (93%), slapping or pushing (77%) and punching and kicking (40%). In addition, Sarkar (2010) carried out on a study on domestic violence against Adults and Adolescent females in rural area of west Bengal and the study revealed that most married adults and unmarried females were exposed to domestic violence their husbands acted as the perpetrators (72.73%) and they reported slapping as the specific act of physical assaults. Again, Argumasie and Bezatu (2015) worked on domestic violence against women and associated factors in Ethiopia; systematic

review revealed that significant number of women experienced violence during their pregnancy period.

Table 1:

Frequency and Percentage Distribution of the Respondents' Demographic Data

Variable	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Age:		
18-27 years	17	8.5
28-37 years	67	33.5
38-47 years	81	40.5
48 years and above	35	17.5
Total	200	100
Gender:		
Male	52	26.0
Female	148	74.0
Total	200	100
Family type:		
Monogamy	127	63.5
Polygamy	73	36.5
Total	200	100

Table 1 shows that out of 200 respondents that participated in the study, 17 (8.5%) were between the ages of 18-27 years old, 67 (33.5%) were between the ages of 28-37 years old, 81 (40.5%) were between the ages of 38-47 years old, while 35 (17.5 %) were 48 years and above. Based on gender, 52 (26.0%) were male, while 148 (74.0%) were female. Based on family type, 127 (63.5%) of the respondents were from monogamy home, while 73 (36.5%) of the respondents were from polygamy home.

Research Question: What incidence of domestic violence is commonly experienced among literate married adult in Ilorin metropolis?

Table 2:

Mean and Rank Order on the Respondents' Expression on how often is the occurrence of domestic violence among literate married adults.

S/N	These are the following ways in which I have suffered from my spouse :	Mean	Rank
1	Making me have sex against my will	2.23	1 st
3	Always quarrel much about having children or raising them	2.21	2 nd
8	He/She always complain about my work or deny me of working	2.21	2 nd
11	He/She always demand a strict account of how I spend my money	2.08	4 th
9	By monitoring my time and making me account for every minute	2.04	5 th
2	By getting angry if I don't want to go along with his/her sex request	2.03	6 th
10	By overly critical of my daily things such as cooking, dressing or appearance	1.97	7 th
17	By hurting me sexually	1.97	7 th
18	By denying of using any family properties such as cars	1.93	9 th
4	By calling me different abusive names	1.92	10 th
13	By destroying things whenever he/she is angry	1.92	10 th
5	Always threatening me with an object or weapon	1.86	12 th
19	By bringing another person to our matrimonial home e.g third party Concubine	1.86	12 th
6	By threatening to take the children away from me	1.86	12 th
12	He/she makes me feel isolated and alone as if there is no one to confide in	1.84	15 th
7	He/she is always violent against the children	1.83	16 th
20	By hitting me with an object	1.83	16 th
15	By making me treat an injury with first aid from his/her violent acts	1.82	18 th
16	By threatening to kill me, himself/herself	1.79	19 th
14	By putting me down in front of others	1.74	20 th

Table 2 reveals various incidents of domestic violence among literate married adults, this is shown by the mean value of all the items in the table (4) below, which are all lesser than 2.5 The overall mean of 1.96 also indicates that domestic violence does not occur often among literate married adults in Ilorin Metropolis. It can therefore be deduced that, the occurrence of domestic violence among married literate adults in Ilorin Metropolis is low.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis One: *There is no significant difference in the occurrence of domestic violence among literate married adults in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of age*

Table 3:
Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the Respondents' Expression on the Occurrence of Domestic Violence Based on Age

Source	SS	Df	Mean Square	Cal. F-ratio	Crit. F-ratio	p-value
Between Groups	34.185	2	18.093	2.70	3.00	.068
Within Groups	1122.435	197	6.698			
Total	1156.620	199				

Table 3 shows the calculated F-ratio of 2.70 is less than the critical F-value of 3.00 with a corresponding p-value of .068 which is greater than 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated p-value is greater than 0.05 alpha level, the null hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there no significant difference in the occurrence of domestic violence among literate married adults in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of age.

Hypothesis Two: *There is no significant difference in the occurrence of domestic violence among literate married adults in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of gender*

Table 4:
Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value of the Respondents' Expression on the Occurrence of Domestic Violence Based on Gender

Gender	N	Mean	SD	df	Cal. t-value	Crit. t-value	p-value
Male	82	51.72	2.28	198	1.24	1.96	.098
Female	118	49.43	2.04				

Table 4 shows that the calculated t-value of 1.24 is less than the critical t-value of 1.96 with a corresponding p-value of .098 which is less than the 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated p-value is greater than level of significance, the null hypothesis is accepted. This indicates that there is no significant difference in the occurrence of domestic violence among literate married adults in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of gender.

Hypothesis Three: *There is no significant difference in the occurrence of domestic violence among literate married adults in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of family type*

Table 5:
Mean, Standard Deviation and t-value of the Respondents' Expression on the Occurrence of Domestic Violence Based on Family Type

Family	N	Mean	SD	Df	Cal. t-value	Crit. t-value	p-value
Monogamy	187	69.45	5.28	198	7.44*	1.96	.000
Polygamy	13	30.55	3.45				

*Significant, $p < 0.05$

Table 5 shows that the calculated t-value of 7.44 is greater than the critical t-value of 1.96 with a corresponding p-value of .000 which is less than the 0.05 level of significance. Since the calculated p-value is less than level of significance, the null hypothesis is rejected. This indicates that there is significant difference in the occurrence of domestic violence among literate married adults in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of family type.

Discussion of findings

Table 1 shows the frequency distribution of demographic data of literate

married adults (participants) in Kwara state based on age, gender and family type. The result of the finding revealed that the incidence of domestic violence among married literate adult is low. This could be that they have learnt to tolerate and understand their spouses. This finding of the study negates the study of Aihie (2009) who found that 65% or more educated women are subjected to domestic violence.

The first null hypothesis indicated that there was no significant difference in the incidence of domestic violence among literate married adults in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of age. This implies that of domestic violence was not different among literate married adults irrespective of their age. This is because domestic violence is not limited to particular age group. This is in agreement with Onyekalheako (2017) who found out that domestic violence cuts across all strata of the society irrespective of age in marriages in Nigeria.

The second null hypothesis indicated that there was no significant difference in the incidence of domestic violence among literate married adults in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of gender. This means that no difference was found in the expression of male and female married adult on the occurrence of domestic violence. This could be that domestic violence is perpetrated and experienced by both gender. The result negates the study of Coker, Davis, Arias, Sanderson, Brandt and Smith (2002) who noted significant difference. It was stressed further that victims of domestic violence are overwhelmingly women, and women tend to experience more severe forms of violence compare to men. This implies that women were significantly more likely than men to experience physical and sexual intimate partner violence. In addition to this submission, Putra, Paradnyani and Parwangsa (2019) also found out that women are more vulnerable to domestic violence than men. The result revealed that male and female genders by nature generally have different communication skills. Women are more expressive in communication than men.

The third null hypothesis also indicated that there was significant difference in the incidence of domestic violence among literate married adults in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of family type. This implies that expression of the respondents from monogamy and polygamy was different. This could be as a result of the fact that polygamous family often experience domestic violence due to disagreement between wives or misunderstanding among husbands and wives. This submission is in line with the study of Jansen and Agadjanian (2019) who asserted that polygamous family have higher rates of domestic violence than monogamous family.

Conclusion

The incidence of domestic violence among married literate adults in Ilorin metropolis, Kwara State is low. The study concluded that there were no significant differences in the incidence of domestic violence among literate married adult in Ilorin metropolis on the basis of age and gender but significant difference was found based on family type.

Recommendations

Based on the findings and conclusion of this study, the following recommendations were made:

1. Literate married adults irrespective of their age should be assisted through different medium and encouraged to continue to be having adjusted behaviour with their spouses in order to further reduce the incidence of domestic violence among them.
2. Adequate enlightenment and interaction programmes should be facilitated by marriage counsellors to counsel and to campaign against domestic violence for both male and female literate married adults in Ilorin Metropolis for better living together as husbands and wives and to fighting domestic violence in their marriages.
3. Counsellors should work hand in hand with the law enforcement agencies, judiciary, social-welfare, women protection authorities, community leaders and media institutions in fighting the incidence of domestic violence among polygamous families in Ilorin Metropolis.
4. Government should enact a law against domestic violence and institute punishment for the offenders found guilty of domestic violence

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