



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ACTIVITIES, FACTORS, AND IMPACTS ON WOMEN IN SOUTHERN KADUNA STATE RURAL COMMUNITIES IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

This study looked into the claimed rise in domestic violence against women in rural Southern Kaduna State, Nigeria.

Investigations were conducted on the causes, types of abuse (which can happen inside or outside the house), and the catastrophic impact on the victims, their families, and society at large. The study's objective was to ascertain the scope of the impacts of domestic violence, which primarily affects women and has a negative impact on many households and families in rural

INTRODUCTION

Domestic abuse is a major phenomenon on a global scale. Domestic violence has always been viewed as an inevitable part of life in many societies. But in recent years, it has started to be seen as a criminal issue (Aihie Ose N,2009). It is still socially and culturally accepted in many societies, including the Nigerian community and particularly in rural areas of southern Kaduna state. Surprisingly, some groups or societies in southern Kaduna State even view domestic violence as normal and have come to accept it as a way of life due to cultural reasons and ignorance of human rights laws. Domestic violence is widespread in West Africa and even accepted and encouraged in some societies. Like many other African countries, Nigeria too struggles with the social issue of domestic violence. According to IRIN reports from 2007, 25% of women in Dakar and Kaolack, Senegal, experience physical abuse from their partners, and very few of them admit it. While 60% of domestic violence victims seek help from a family member, in 75% of those instances, they are told to remain silent and put up with the abuse. The paper also reveals that due to religious and cultural opposition, a legislation enacted into the Senegalese penal code punishing perpetrators of domestic violence with prison terms and penalties is ineffectively enforced. Spousal attacks are the most common form of domestic violence in Ghana (I-RIN, 2007)

According to Amnesty International's report from 2007, a third (and in some cases, two thirds) of women in Nigeria are thought to have experienced physical, sexual, and psychological abuse at the hands of their husbands, partners, and fathers. Girls are also



Southern Kaduna State. The primary objectives of the study's descriptive survey research design were three research questions. Using a purposive sampling method, 500 respondents were selected for the sample from five Local Government Areas in southern Kaduna State. The researcher developed a 30-item questionnaire to ask the respondents about their experiences with domestic violence. The data were analysed using the mean. The study's conclusions showed that domestic violence has a history among women in rural southern Kaduna, Nigeria. Increased domestic violence against women and women's general ignorance of what domestic violence implies received high ratings in the findings. The victims were more likely to experience PTSD, despair, feelings of hopelessness and melancholy, etc. due to the conditions. Based on these, the researchers provided a framework for domestic violence counselling programmes throughout Nigeria as a whole, not just for people of southern Kaduna. The research also recommended that the Nigerian government devote the majority of its resources to putting an end to domestic violence against women nationwide, not only in southern Kaduna State.

Key Words: Counselling, domestic abuse, violence, and abuse in Nigeria.

frequently pressured into early marriages and run the risk of punishment if they try to flee their husbands. In Nigeria, it is well ingrained in the culture that hitting a woman as a form of discipline is acceptable. According to estimates, one third of women in Nigeria experience physical, sexual, and psychological abuse at the hands of their husbands, boyfriends, or fathers. In Nigeria, assault, child sex abuse, marital rape, acid assaults, molestation, corporal punishment, and killing are common types of violence against women. Males, females, children, and adolescents are all victims of domestic abuse. But women and young girls are most impacted. According to estimates, the frequency of violence against women in Nigeria is "shockingly high" (Afrol News, 2007). The shocking underreporting and lack of documentation of domestic abuse because of cultural factors (as is the case in southern Kaduna state of Nigeria) is even more pitiful (Oyediran and Isugo, 2005).

This essay examines the nature of domestic abuse, its effects on women and their families, and the alleged rise in domestic violence incidents against women in rural southern Kaduna State, Nigeria. It also offers recommendations for public education to improve the problem through counselling for domestic abuse. Nigeria, like many other African nations, has a long history of sanctioning the physical abuse of spouses and children as a kind of discipline (UNICEF, 2001). Therefore, parents believe that by physically abusing their kids, they are imparting discipline in them, much like how husbands physically abuse their wives, who are also thought of as children who are prone to indiscipline and need to be restrained. This is especially true if the woman depends on the male for financial support. The society is essentially patriarchal, and women have a clearly inferior position within the system.



Therefore, domestic violence serves as a tool for enforcing compliance with the position of a woman in traditional culture. Therefore, whether the mother is financially reliant, her position is subservient, just like the children's. In Nigeria, domestic violence against women is typically seen as occurring in the private realm and is therefore sheltered from outside scrutiny. Project Alert (2001) interviewed girls and young women in secondary schools and universities in Lagos state, Nigeria, as well as women working in markets and other places of employment. During the interviews, 56.6% of the 48 market women claimed to having experienced such violence, while 64.4% of the 45 women questioned at work said they had been abused by a spouse (boyfriend or husband). Similar interviews conducted in Oyo state and other regions of Nigeria produced comparable findings.

Domestic violence occurs frequently. In research on the causes of domestic violence in Southeast Nigeria conducted by Obi and Ozumba in 2007, 70% of respondents reported experiencing abuse in their families, with 92% of the victims being female partners and the remaining 8% being male. Screaming at a spouse (93%), slapping or pushing (77%) and punching and kicking (40%), were the most frequent kinds of abuse recorded. However, it is alarming to learn that many women are unaware of whether they have been mistreated or not (afro News 2007). This can be because some abusive behaviour is accepted as "normal." In their 2005 study on women's perceptions of wife-beating in Nigeria, Oyediran and Isugo discovered that 64.4% of married women and 50.4% of unmarried women, respectively, indicated consent for wife-beating. Additionally, accounts in print and electronic media detail savage assaults on women by intimate partners that take a variety of forms, including acid baths, rape, and beatings, some of which can lead to the victim's death. For fear of retaliation from their abusers or because they think the police and legal system can do little to help, many victims choose not to come forward. Additionally, it has been stated that the police regularly brush off domestic abuse allegations as a "private affair." Every year, domestic violence has a significant impact on millions of Nigerian lives. While it is critical to identify it and provide treatment, prevention efforts should also be made through fostering positive, healthy, respectful, and nonviolent relationships and communities where equality is valued.

Description of the Issue

Domestic abuse is a serious issue for society, not just the sufferer and their family. Domestic abuse is a major phenomenon on a global scale. Like many other African nations, Nigeria also struggles with a social issue of violence against women. In southern Kaduna rural villages, domestic violence against women has taken the form of a cankerworm that is destroying many families in addition to the victims who are women. Domestic abuse is now not only more prevalent but also on the rise in many rural communities in Southern Kaduna.

The biggest issue is that domestic violence against women is so prevalent in most southern Kaduna rural villages, frequently goes unreported and unacknowledged, and receives less attention than it should, given the terrible effects it has on victims, children, families, and society. Every rational person should be deeply concerned about the spike in violence against



women and its catastrophic impact on victims, families, and society in southern Kaduna rural regions today. The high levels of misunderstanding of their fundamental human rights as victims and their reluctance to speak up owing to their fear of breaking cultural laws that could subject them to countless sanctions and hardships are worrying issues as well. Cases of husbands beating their wives to death, battering, or injuring them are reported, but they are hushed up because of stringent cultural rules that go against fundamental human rights legislation.

This study aims to investigate and highlight the prevalence of domestic violence against women, the devastating effects of such violence in most southern Kaduna rural communities, and to provide a framework for effective domestic violence counselling that could be very beneficial to those who have experienced such violence. In most rural areas of southern Kaduna, as in most of Nigeria, violence against women occurs in the home, on farms, in public spaces like streets and parks, in familiar locations like streams where women walk to get water for household use, and in the homes of friends and family, among other places. Additionally, there is covert, unreported domestic abuse against women in workplaces, involving senior executives, as well as in mosques and churches. Domestic violence of any kind, whether it takes place in the home privately or in public, has an impact on women's physical and psychological health. As a result, it appears to undermine women's status both at home and in society at large (Kehinde Oluseyi Macaulay, 2016)

Examination of pertinent literature

It is crucial and pertinent to this work's readers as well as the study to provide a thorough explanation of the idea or term domestic violence. Domestic violence is a pattern of violent behaviour used by one spouse to obtain or keep control over an intimate partner. It can occur in any relationship. It is also referred to as intimate relationship violence, family violence, domestic violence, and spousal abuse. It occurs when one person uses violence or another form of abuse against another in a domestic situation, like a marriage or cohabitation. Domestic violence can take the form of actual or threatened physical, sexual, emotional, financial, or psychological acts against another person. 2016's Kahinde Oluseyi M.

Domestic violence is defined by Aihie Ose N. (2009) as the willful and persistent maltreatment of anyone in the home that results in harm, suffering, or pain. It refers to any abusive behaviour toward a family member by another, which is against the law and goes against fundamental human rights. It entails abusive behaviour toward intimate partners and other people, sexual assault on children, marital rape, and detrimental customs for women. Domestic violence includes practises such as female genital mutilation. Worldwide, domestic violence exists (Dahlberg and Krug, 2002, UNICEF, 2005). Domestic violence manifests itself differently in families from all social, ethnic, economic, educational, and religious origins.

Counselling for Domestic Violence: An Understanding

For victims of domestic abuse, treatment that focuses on domestic violence counselling may be helpful. Domestic violence includes intimate relationship violence, which includes physical, sexual, stalking, and emotional or psychological harm committed by spouses or partners both



present and past. Domestic violence counselling may be provided by organisations with expertise in these issues, also known as domes, and can include abuse by parents, siblings, relatives, or roommates. According to the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence, over 10 million people in the United States experience physical abuse by an intimate partner every year, and national helplines typically receive over 20,000 calls per day.

Domestic Violence Counselling Types

The following methods of treatment may be used in domestic violence counselling, according to Dr Sullivan: a person's particular needs may be addressed through individual counselling. One-on-one conversations with counsellors allow clients to express their thoughts and feelings while working with them to establish counselling objectives. This kind of strategy acknowledges that not everyone experiences abuse in the same way, that the effects of abuse vary greatly from person to person, and that what people need to move on from abuse also varies greatly.

Support groups emphasise the members' common experiences and work to make people know they are not alone. Participating in these organisations can have profound impacts, especially considering how many victims of abuse hide their abuse and end up feeling isolated and alone. A group of peers' shared understanding and sense of universality can help people feel better in ways that, for some people, individual counselling cannot.

Integrative therapies include mindfulness, meditation, and yoga. Therapies that use creative expression through the arts, such as writing, poetry, drama, dance, music, or play. There are specific circumstances under which couples therapy may be a safe and suitable therapy to try. It includes a separate safety evaluation with the survivor before beginning, which used to be taboo because there may be risk to the survivor.

HOPE is an approach to therapy that tries to give PTSD sufferers the tools they need to take control of their condition.

A type of therapy called "strengths and empowerment" (RISE) is being created especially for persons who have endured intimate partner violence.

Services for Counselling Domestic Violence

Dr Sullivan claims that domestic violence service providers may provide a range of services, including: counselling for psychological issues such as self-harm, PTSD, depression, anxiety, or emotional trauma; legal assistance for survivors, such as if their partner has been detained; financial management courses that assist people in learning the necessary abilities to become financially independent of their abusers; training and assistance with finding work; programmes for kids who might have seen domestic violence. These services can be provided in a variety of ways and for a variety of needs.

Counselling for Domestic Violence Has Many Benefits. Counselling for victims of domestic abuse can help those who have gone through the following sorts of abuse:



Physical abuse is the term for acts that cause physical harm, such as slapping, hitting, punching, pulling hair, pinching, kicking, beating, biting, burning, and other similar acts.

Sexual abuse refers to coercing a victim into engaging in a sexual act, such as rape, touching, messaging, or other sexual behaviour, without the victim's consent.

Verbal and nonverbal communication used in psychological abuse is meant to hurt or manipulate the victim's mind and emotions.

An individual may become concerned for their personal safety or the safety of a loved one when they are the target of stalking, which is defined by a string of persistent advances or unwelcome attention. Cyberstalking is another type of stalking that takes place through the phone or the internet.

How to Assist a Domestic Violence Victim

As a trained counsellor, you might initially feel unsure about how to assist someone if you know or believe that they are a victim of domestic abuse. Don't let your concern that you could offend someone keep you from reaching out. You can miss the chance to save a life if you wait for the right words. For many victims of domestic violence, the world can be isolating, fearful, and lonely. It may often be incredibly relieving to reach out and let someone know you are there for them. The following suggestions can assist counsellors in providing support to a client in this delicate circumstance. (2022, Adah Chung).

Make time for the victim of abuse: If you decide to reach out to a victim of abuse, do it at a time when things are peaceful. Engaging in conversation while people are angry can be dangerous. Ample time should be given up in case the victim decides to disclose anything. You won't want to stop the chat because you have another commitment if the person decides to reveal years of suppressed dread and resentment.

Start a Conversation: You can start a conversation about domestic violence by saying, "I'm worried about you because" or "I'm concerned about your safety..." or "I have noticed some changes that concern me..." Maybe you've seen the person wearing clothing to cover up bruises or noticed that the person has suddenly become unusually quiet and withdrawn. Both of these can be signs of abuse. Let the person know that you will be discreet about any information disclosed. Do not try to force the conversation.

Give the person the full opportunity to talk; you can ask clarifying questions, but mostly just let the person vent their feelings and fears. You may be the first person in whom the victim has confided. **Listen Without Judgment:** If the person decides to talk, listen to the story without being judgmental, offering advice, or suggesting solutions.

Learn the Warning Signs: Understanding the warning signs of domestic abuse can help you assist those who are trying to hide the abuse for a variety of reasons, including:
1 The Physical Signs include: Black eyes, Busted lips, Red or Purple Marks on the Neck, Sprained Wrists, and Bruises on the Arms. The Emotional Signs include Low self-esteem, Overly Apologizing or Meek, Fearful, Changes in Sleep or Eating Patterns, Anxious



Why domestic violence occurs

The CDC (2006) identified the following as risk factors: use of drugs or alcohol, witnessing or experiencing violence as a child, and not having a job, particularly when it is the male partner that is jobless. Catalano, Lind, Rosenblatt and Novaco (2003) found that increase in unemployment increased the likelihood of domestic violence occurring. However, the presence of these factors does not always mean that domestic violence will occur.

Forms and types of domestic abuse

A person may experience a variety of forms of abuse in the home, including:

1. **Physical abuse:** This is one of the most prevalent types of abuse, with 83% of respondents in Obi and Ozumba's study reporting physical abuse. It includes beating, kicking, knocking, punching, choking, and confinement. Female genital mutilation is also considered physical abuse.
2. **Sexual abuse** This includes all types of sexual assaults, harassment, or exploitation, including coercing someone into having sex, using a child for sexual activity, including child pornography and child prostitution, and marital rape.
3. **Neglect:** This includes withholding food, clothing, shelter, medical care, protection from harm, or a sense of being loved and valued from dependents, who may be adults or children.
4. **Economic abuse** This refers to taking from or defrauding a loved one, withholding money for necessities like food and medical care, manipulating or exploiting a family member for financial gain, preventing a loved one from working or controlling his or her choice of occupation, as well as manipulating or exploiting a family member for sexual or other purposes.
5. **Spiritual Abuse** This includes preventing someone from partaking in their religious or spiritual practises or using their religion as a means of dominating, controlling, or manipulating them.
6. **Emotional Abuse** This includes name-calling, criticism, social exclusion, intimidating or exploitation to dominate, routinely making unreasonable demands, and endangering a person's sense of self-worth by putting him/her at risk of serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional, or mental disorders. Obi and Ozunba (2007) found that shouting at a partner was the most frequent form of emotional abuse.

Resulting from domestic violence (abuse)

Children are frequently the primary victims of domestic violence because witnessing abuse and living in an environment where someone else, typically a care giver, is a victim of abuse can be psychologically devastating for a child. Victims of domestic violence are frequently in a position of dependence (financial, emotional, physical, and otherwise) on the person abusing them, such as a husband and wife, children and parents, dependent relatives, elderly parents, and domestic servants.



According to Straus (1994), children who experience physical abuse from their parents are more likely to experience depression and have suicidal thoughts than children whose parents use other forms of discipline. Some researchers have also discovered that children whose mothers experienced physical abuse from their partners have IQs that are lower than average (BBC. New Education, 2003).

Violence is a threat to adolescents' well-being, according to Anikweze (1998): the adolescent may be socialised to engage in violent behaviour; he or she may experience confusion and anger; the anger may be directed at parents or other children; the adolescent may exhibit aggressive behaviour, becoming disruptive at home and at school; they may also become withdrawn, isolating themselves from others; and they may perform academically below par (CDC, 2006).

An abused child, for example, may grow up not to trust other people, may enter relationships with an aggressive mode, or may become withdrawn, afraid to enter intimate relationships. This usually results in involvement in risky sexual behaviour.

Counselling Guidelines for Domestic Violence Victims

There is a need to organise seminars and workshops where trained counsellors would assist in spreading the anti-domestic violence campaign, to emphasise the fact that violence in the home serves as a breeding ground for violence in the community, religious groups, institutions, and government at all levels. This is necessary to address the domestic violence situation in Nigeria.

Goals for the Study

The study was driven by three key goals:

- i. To ascertain the effects of domestic violence on female victims, whole houses or families, and rural areas in Southern Kaduna State.
- ii. To ascertain the causes of domestic violence that have affected women who have been the victims of domestic abuse in rural Southern Kaduna State.
- iii. To ascertain the level of awareness among domestic violence victims of adequate information regarding legal provisions and protection against domestic violence issues in rural areas of Southern Kaduna State.
- iv. To identify the many types of domestic violence experienced by women in rural communities in southern Kaduna

Research Questions

Three research questions served as the Study's compass:

1. What effects does domestic violence have on its victims who live in rural Southern Kaduna State?
2. What are the causes of domestic abuse against women in rural Southern Kaduna State?



3. How well-informed are the victims of domestic abuse in Southern Kaduna's rural villages about the laws protecting them against it?
4. What types of domestic violence are prevalent in rural communities in southern Kaduna against women?

Methods for the study

A descriptive survey research strategy was used for the study's methodology. Based on replies to a sample drawn from the entire community, the researcher deduced details about a population of interest. This approach was chosen because it aids in the description, inspection, documentation, analysis, and interpretation of study variables. Respondents were given questionnaires, and the sample size for the study was drawn from five local government districts in Southern Kaduna state, namely: Kajuru, Jaba, Kagarko, Zangon Kataf, and Kachia Local Government areas. A total number of 550 respondents participated in the survey, and the respondents were chosen through purposeful random sampling from each of the chosen Local Government Areas. The researcher created a four-point Likert-scale questionnaire titled "Domestic Violence Activities, Factors and Impacts on Women in Southern Kaduna." (DVAFIWSK). The Veritas University Abuja Faculty of Education's Counselling and Educational Psychology specialists analysed, updated, and modified the instrument to assure its validity. The reliability of the questionnaire was assessed using the Pearson product moment correlation coefficient, along with the face and content validity of the survey. The acquired value of 0.75 was sufficient to determine its dependability. The gathered data were analysed using frequency counts, percentages, and mean to address the study issues.

Results

The four research questions earlier raised in the study were answered descriptively using mean.

Research Question 1: What are the effects of domestic violence on women victims in Southern Kaduna State rural areas?

Table 1: Mean analysis showing effects of domestic violence on women victims in Southern Kaduna State rural areas

S/N	Effects of Domestic Violence on Women in Southern Kaduna State	Level of Agreement				of \bar{X}	Decision
		SA	A	D	SD		
1	Women victims of domestic violence suffer physical injuries like minor cuts, scratches, and bruises on their bodies in southern Kaduna rural communities	197	154	93	56	2.98	Agreed



2	Some women victims of domestic violence suffer serious severe injuries leading to disabilities such as broken legs or hands, internal bleeding, and head trauma	201	164	68	67	3.00	Agreed
3	Some Victims of domestic violence suffer severe head injuries and afraid to report it	213	172	75	40	3.12	Agreed
4	Some victims of domestic violence suffer acute trauma for long without access to any trauma counselling service to help them cope or survive	186	153	77	84	2.88	Agreed
5	Most Victims of domestic violence often develop low self-esteem	203	166	69	62	3.02	Agreed
6	Victims of domestic violence find it difficult to trust others and become troublesome	198	178	72	52	3.04	Agreed
7	Victims of domestic violence suffer increased anger with violent and aggressive behaviour tendencies	211	183	76	30	3.15	Agreed
8	Most victims of domestic violence suffer severe stress without any counselling services strategy to help them cope	217	176	88	19	3.18	Agreed
9	Some victims of domestic violence suffer severe depression without any counselling intervention to enable them cope	221	183	61	35	3.18	Agreed
10	Most victims of domestic violence suffer emotional disorders with no counselling interventions	165	182	83	70	2.88	Agreed
11	Some victims of domestic violence commit suicide	231	154	81	34	3.16	Agreed
12	Some victims of domestic violence become withdrawn from significant others and suffer isolation and loneliness	180	175	63	82	2.91	Agreed
13	Most victims of domestic violence suffer and experience underachievement academically	192	167	84	57	2.99	Agreed
Sectional Mean						3.04	Agreed

Scale Mean 2.50, n=500

Table 1 showed mean analysis of effects of domestic violence on women victims in Southern Kaduna State rural areas. From the Table, it could be observed that the mean values of 2.98, 3.00, 3.12, 2.88, 3.02, 3.04, 3.15, 3.18, 3.18, 2.88, 3.16, 2.91 and 2.99 agreed with items 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12 and 13 respectively. The sectional mean of 3.04 was greater than the scale



mean of 2.50 which indicated that all the respondents agreed that women victims of domestic violence suffer physical injuries like minor cuts, scratches, and bruises on their bodies in southern Kaduna rural communities, they suffer serious severe injuries leading to disabilities such as broken legs or hands, internal bleeding, and head trauma, they suffer severe head injuries and afraid to report it, they suffer acute trauma for long without access to any trauma counselling service to help them cope or survive, they develop low self-esteem, they find it difficult to trust others and become troublesome, they suffer increased anger with violent and aggressive behaviour tendencies, they suffer severe stress without any counselling services strategy to help them cope, they suffer severe depression without any counselling intervention to enable them cope, they suffer emotional disorders with no counselling interventions, some of them commit suicide, some of them withdraw from significant others and suffer isolation and loneliness and suffer and experience underachievement academically. Therefore, domestic violence had a negative effect on women victims in Southern Kaduna State.

Research Question 2: What are the reasons for domestic violence against women victims?

Table 2: Mean analysis showing reasons for domestic violence against women victims

S/N	Reasons for Domestic Violence against Women Victims	Level of Agreement				\bar{X}	Decision
		SA	A	D	SD		
14	Frustration for not having a job	178	156	100	66	2.89	Agreed
15	African traditional norms within African cultural values that makes women inferior to men	195	145	81	79	2.91	Agreed
16	Religious norms practices by Muslims and African Traditional Religion practitioners that gives no basic rights to women	190	169	68	73	2.95	Agreed
17	Increased unemployment cases	181	172	61	86	2.90	Agreed
18	Excessive use of drugs or alcohol by men	180	163	67	90	2.87	Agreed
19	Being a victim of violence from childhood	209	156	61	74	3.00	Agreed
20	Financial dependence of women on men	187	154	75	84	2.89	Agreed
21	Ignorance of the law against domestic violence by most men	201	172	66	61	3.03	Agreed
22	Women denial of sex to their partners	172	198	71	59	2.97	Agreed
23	Cooking late in the night	52	83	167	198	1.98	Disagreed
	Sectional Mean					2.84	Agreed

Scale Mean 2.50, n=500

Table 2 showed mean analysis of reasons for domestic violence against women victims. From the Table, it could be observed that the mean values of 2.89, 2.91, 2.95, 2.90, 2.87, 3.00, 2.89, 3.03 and 2.97 agreed with items 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21 and 22 respectively while the mean



value of 1.98 was in disagreement with item 23. The sectional mean of 2.84 was greater than the scale mean of 2.50 which indicated that some of the respondents agreed that frustration for not having a job, African traditional norms within African cultural values that makes women inferior to men, religious norms practices by Muslims and African Traditional Religion practitioners that gives no basic rights to women, increased unemployment cases, excessive use of drugs or alcohol by men, being a victim of violence from childhood, financial dependence of women on men, ignorance of the law against domestic violence by most men and women denial of sex to their partners were the reasons for domestic violence against women victims while the remaining respondents disagreed with cooking late in the night as a reason for domestic violence in Southern Kaduna State.

Research Question 3: What is the level of awareness on legal policies on protection of women against domestic violence among women victims in Southern Kaduna rural communities?

Table 3: Mean analysis showing level of awareness on legal policies on protection of women against domestic violence among women victims in Southern Kaduna rural communities

S/N	Level of Awareness on Legal Policies on Protection of Women against Domestic Violence	Level of Agreement				\bar{X}	Decision
		SA	A	D	SD		
24	Women victims of domestic violence are not aware that domestic violence is a violation of their basic rights in southern Kaduna rural communities	195	157	62	86	2.92	Agreed
25	Most women have no basic information concerning women rights and their protection against domestic violence	156	168	109	67	2.83	Agreed
26	Women victims of domestic violence have a poor perception of what domestic violence entails	189	163	74	74	2.93	Agreed
27	There is a very poor awareness level of legal policies and laws to protect women against domestic violence	176	159	85	80	2.86	Agreed
28	Most women victims of domestic violence are afraid to talk about the violence they are passing through for fear of reprisal attacks from their abusers	194	164	83	59	2.99	Agreed
29	Women victims of domestic violence have no access to information on where and how to get domestic violence counselling help or intervention	201	175	64	60	3.03	Agreed



30	Most women victims of domestic violence are not aware of domestic violence counselling services	185	167	72	76	2.92	Agreed
Sectional Mean						2.93	Agreed

Scale Mean 2.50, n=500

Table 3 showed mean analysis of level of awareness on legal policies on protection of women against domestic violence among women victims in Southern Kaduna rural communities. From the Table, it could be observed that the mean values of 2.92, 2.83, 2.93, 2.86, 2.99, 3.03 and 2.92 agreed with items 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29 and 30 respectively. The sectional mean of 2.93 was greater than the scale mean of 2.50 which indicated that all the respondents agreed that women victims of domestic violence are not aware that domestic violence is a violation of their basic rights in southern Kaduna rural communities, they have no basic information concerning women rights and their protection against domestic violence, they have a poor perception of what domestic violence entails, there is a very poor awareness level of legal policies and laws to protect women against domestic violence, most women victims of domestic violence are afraid to talk about the violence they are passing through for fear of reprisal attacks from their abusers, they have no access to information on where and how to get domestic violence counselling help or intervention and they are not aware of domestic violence counselling services in Southern Kaduna.

Research Question 4: What are the various forms of domestic violence against women in Southern Kaduna?

Table 4: Mean analysis showing various forms of domestic violence against women in Southern Kaduna

S/N	Forms of Domestic Violence against Women	Level of Agreement				\bar{X}	Decision
		SA	A	D	SD		
31	Wife Battering	167	189	65	79	2.89	Agreed
32	Wife physical beating	180	186	76	58	2.98	Agreed
33	Neglect	192	165	72	71	2.96	Agreed
34	Economic abuse	169	184	66	81	2.88	Agreed
35	Maiming	202	175	69	54	3.05	Agreed
36	Sexual abuse	176	164	74	86	2.86	Agreed
Sectional Mean						2.94	Agreed

Scale Mean 2.50, n=500

Table 4 showed mean analysis of various forms of domestic violence in Southern Kaduna. From the Table, it could be observed that the mean values of 2.89, 2.98, 2.96, 2.88, 3.05 and 2.86 agreed with items 31, 32, 33, 34, 35 and 36 respectively. The sectional mean of 2.94 was



greater than the scale mean of 2.50 which indicated that all the respondents agreed that wife battering, wife physical beating, neglect, economic abuse, maiming and sexual abuse were the various forms of domestic violence in Southern Kaduna.

Discussion of Findings

Based on the findings of research question one showing effects of domestic violence on women victims in Southern Kaduna State rural areas which indicated that all the respondents agreed that women victims of domestic violence suffer physical injuries like minor cuts, scratches, and bruises on their bodies in southern Kaduna rural communities. This shows that domestic violence had a negative effect on women victims in Southern Kaduna State. This finding agrees with that of Anikweze (1998), CDC (2006) and Buddy (2020) on the consequences of domestic violence on women victims.

Based on the findings of research two on the reasons for domestic violence against women victims. The findings revealed that frustration for not having a job, African traditional norms within African cultural values that makes women inferior to men, religious norms practices by Muslims and African Traditional Religion practitioners that gives no basic rights to women, increased unemployment cases, excessive use of drugs or alcohol by men, being a victim of violence from childhood, financial dependence of women on men, ignorance of the law against domestic violence by most men and women denial of sex to their partners were the reasons for domestic violence against women victims in Southern Kaduna State. This agrees with the findings of CDC (2006) that drug or alcohol use, witnessing or experiencing violence as a youngster and unemployment can cause domestic violence.

Based on the findings of research question three on the level of awareness on legal policies on protection of women against domestic violence among women victims in Southern Kaduna rural communities the respondents agreed that women victims of domestic violence are not aware that domestic violence is a violation of their basic rights in southern Kaduna rural communities, they have no basic information concerning women rights and their protection against domestic violence, they have a poor perception of what domestic violence entails, there is a very poor awareness level of legal policies and laws to protect women against domestic violence, most women victims of domestic violence are afraid to talk about the violence they are passing through for fear of reprisal attacks from their abusers, they have no access to information on where and how to get domestic violence counselling help or intervention and they are not aware of domestic violence counselling services in Southern Kaduna. These findings agree with that of Aisha (2021) on the level of ignorance of their fundamental human rights as victims and their reluctance to speak up because they are afraid of breaking cultural prohibitions and cultural rules that go against fundamental human rights legislation.

Based on the findings of research question four on various forms of domestic violence against women in Southern Kaduna indicated that wife battering, wife physical beating, neglect, economic abuse, maiming, and sexual abuse were the various forms of domestic violence in Southern Kaduna. These findings agree with the findings of Aihie Ose (2009) and Aisha (2021)



that physical violence, psychological abuse, physical abuse, sexual abuse and financial abuse are all forms of domestic violence against women.

Conclusion

The findings of the study revealed that domestic violence activities in Southern Kaduna state rural communities have very negative adverse effects not just on women victims of domestic violence in Southern Kaduna, but on families of victims and the society at large. The researcher therefore concluded from his findings that domestic violence has very negative effects on women victims of domestic violence in Southern Kaduna.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the researcher recommended:

- i. a framework for domestic violence counselling programmes throughout Nigeria as a whole, not just for people of Southern Kaduna.
- ii. Nigerian government should devote the majority of its resources to putting an end to domestic violence against women nationwide, not only in Southern Kaduna State.
- iii. Federal and state government should step up its efforts to prosecute offenders and perpetrators of domestic violence against women
- iv. Federal and state government should enforce laws and other regulations to reduce the threat of domestic violence in Southern Kaduna and throughout the country.

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