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**The Effect of Domestic Violence on Women's Health and Agricultural Activities in
Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria**

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Abstract

The aim of this thesis was to explore the effect of domestic violence against women Health's and Agricultural Activities in Otukpo Benue State, Nigeria. The sampling techniques adopted for this study is both cluster and purposive sampling in selecting respondents to participate in the study. The study area is divided into four cluster representing the four major districts of the study area. These clusters are namely: - Otukpo, Akpa, Ugboju and Adoka. Consequently, a purposive sampling procedure was carried out across the house hold in all the public centers in the clusters in other to select the perpetrator and the victims of domestic violence for the study. To this effect, 27 respondents were selected from each cluster consisting of 11 men and 16 women. On the total, 44 men and 64 women were drawn across the four major areas in Otukpo local government area. Drawing on administering questionnaires and interviews to 108 respondents. This study employ purposive sampling in selecting respondents because the research is design to study only the victims and the perpetrators of domestic violence for the study. it was found that domestic violence did not only causes serious consequences to the overall health and wellbeing of victims physically, mentally and socially, it also affected agricultural activities and production in the study area. The major effect of domestic violence against women includes psychological or mental health effects, physical health effects and financial consequences and affected agricultural production which results to shortage of food and income. The study help in contributing to knowledge the importance of Women in the Society. The study is also significant because it makes us understand that domestic violence against women health constitutes a major setback to agricultural activities in the Study Area. Based on the findings, this study proposes policy recommendations that will help in monitoring and reducing the ugly act of domestic violence against women in Otukpo Benue State, Nigeria.

Keywords: Otukpo Benue State, Effects/consequences, Women, Health, Agricultural activities, Domestic violence, Radical Feminism, Victims, perpetrators, Patriarchy

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Introduction.

All over the world, violence against women has been recognized as a problem, crossing cultural, geographical, religious, social, and economic boundaries (WHO 2001). Generally, women have suffered severely from medical problems, such as chronic and acute physical injuries loss of hearing or vision, miscarriage, depression, physical disfigurement, pelvic pain, anxiety, cardiovascular problems, bruises, broken bones among others. The reason for these complex problems may in many cases be traced to domestic violence due to women economic dependence on men especially in Nigeria where patriarchy system and the differential socialization practice is high. Domestic violence may be perceived in many ways such as wife battering, kicking, rape, torture, trafficking, forced prostitution, marriage etc. (Human Rights Dialogue, 2003). Violence against women is maybe the most pervasive form of abuse, a universal problem that transcends divisions of class, race, religion, ethnicity, and geography (Pickup, William & Sweetman, 2001). The most common type of violence against women is domestic, which is a subset of violence perpetrated by intimate partners or family members against women (Heise, Rakies, Watts & Zwi, 1994; Kishor & Johnson, 2004). The prevalence of domestic violence has a profound impact on the physical, sexual, reproductive, psychological or behavioral health of women and is a major cause of fatal consequences (World Health Organization (WHO, 2005). Millions of women are injured and thousands are killed each year as a result of domestic violence (Hattery, 2009). Domestic violence is not only a leading cause for concern to public health (Kaur & Garg, 2010), but a direct and unacceptable violation of human rights (Buvinic & Morrison, 2000).

According to United Nation, Domestic violence is a wide spread social problem (UN 2006), but due to cultural considerations especially as it perceived in the culture of silence and low report by media and the victims, for that reason it is very difficult to get reliable data on the incidence and prevalence of domestic violence in Nigeria especially in Otukpo, Benue State, Nigeria. Furthermore, this menace is believed to be a family affair in Nigeria and even before the police,

such cases reported between partners use to be regarded as family affair and should be resolved within the family or partners. But until at least the early 1990s, that most forms of violence directed against women specifically were met with silence not only by the state but mostly by the Human rights community (Human Rights Dialogue, 2003). So, domestic violence against women has been a course of concern both locally, nationally and internationally, that women especially in Nigeria are exposed to abusive and aggressive treatment by men in the name of marriage or family relationship. It has been observed that women especially the rural based ones and the uneducated ones, are more subject to frequent abuse like beating and other forms of aggressive acts from their husbands just because the women are perceived as weaker sex and fully depended on the men. As a result of these, women are exposed to several health implications as a result of domestic violence. To this effect, one of the Millennium Development Goals (MDG III) is dedicated to eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women World Wide, especially among the developing countries like Nigeria.

According to National Gender policy (2006), it was also submitted that women play a vital role in agricultural activities in developing country like Nigeria where agriculture accounts for an average of 32% of the growth in Domestic product (GDP), and in which about 70% of the average poor people in the country live and work in rural areas. (National Gender policy, 2006). Women make up majority of the work force in most rural areas where agriculture is the major source of livelihood. They also produced most of the locally consumable food across rural areas in Nigeria. Agricultural output in developing countries like Nigeria and other sub-Saharan Africa is an engine of economic growth and provides the basis for most rural livelihoods. Relatedly, the large proportion of agricultural activities that is attributed to women makes them the principal agents of food security and households welfare in rural areas. Okorji, (1991) pointed out that women in general traditionally participated actively in agricultural activities in Nigeria. And their specific tasks vary from one culture to another depending on the traditions of the people in a society. He also affirms that, though men make major decisions

with regards to land and resources allocation among others while women make decisions on what crops to grow on the fields. (Okorji, 1991).

Furthermore, Simmons (1976) pointed out that women are mostly involved in the processing and storage of agricultural products. For him, food processing is the dominant occupation chosen by women. And this food processing activities done by women are often done by old equipment or in a manual form and it is often in a small-scale basis. (Okorji, 1985). The food processing and preservations activities includes the following like processing of cassava, Maize, fish processing or smoking, palm oil extraction, rice milling among others. These activities increase income for women. The contribution of women to agricultural activities is important to both rural and urban food security and without the good physical health conditions of women, food production would be threatened. To ensure high agricultural productivity, women need to be in a complete state of physical wellbeing. Increasingly, over the last decade the international development community has recognized domestic violence against women as a serious problem to women health's and agricultural development in most developing nations. (Shrader,2000). violence against women is a problem of epidemic proportion prevalent in many families, communities, societies and culture across the globe. Domestic violence is regarded as a form of terrorism within the home. Domestic violence makes women feel insecure and fearful. Many women and girls and to some extend few men or boys either directly or indirectly experience the effects of domestic violence against women in their whole life. According to Shrader (2000), domestic violence affects every face of woman's life including their day to day relationships with others. Domestic violence makes women traumatized, aggressive, helpless and unable to build a relationship of trust and intimacy necessary for healthy living. Domestic violence against women makes women feel worthless, hopeless and having feeling of self-esteem in marriage. This negative perception of self is what accounts for poor communication skills which are common among abuse women in marriages. (Shrader,2000).

Consequent upon this menace, the act affects agricultural productivity. Violent act against women which results to depression, emotional trauma, psychological harm among others affects their health's, social functioning and inability to function on the farm, home and workplace. Consequently, this gives rise to low working output and financial status. This also makes the sustenance of material life precarious in many ways. Alubo, (2006) also pointed out that the said violence jeopardized food security as women cannot go to farm which result to poverty. For him, this further have implication on children education and upbringing and the general material life of women. (Alubo, 2006).

Despite the national and international condemnation of violent against women, the said menace continued to be on the increase and continue to affects women's health condition and agricultural development in most contemporary societies of the world. Sequel to the continued existence of these backdrops, the study is aim to find the effect or consequences of domestic violence against women's health and agricultural activities in Otukpo, Benue state Nigeria.

Statement of the problem

Domestic violence has been a growing concern for a long time around the world especially in developing countries like Nigeria. According to the World Developing Report In 1993, it has been identified that domestic violence against women is the major contributor to the burden of Ill-health internationally in terms of female morbidity and mortality, leading to psychological trauma and depression, injuries, sexual transmitted diseases, suicide, and murder (World Bank 1993). The health implications of domestic violence were confirmed in 1996 when the World health assembly revealed that violence against women is a leading health problem (WHO 1998). Similarly, WHO (1998), submitted that domestic violence in 39 countries of the world arrived at the same conclusions that, the said violence affected women generally by making life very difficult to them to participate in developmental activities at families, schools, and community levels.

In Nigeria, it has been reported that domestic violence against women is very high (Afro News 2007). Also, it has been revealed that two-third of women are believed to have been subjected to physical, sexual, and psychological violence carried out primarily by Men (husbands, partners and father). While girls are often forced into early marriage and are at risk of punishment if they attempt to escape from their husbands. And more pathetic is the under report and documentation of cases of domestic violence against women because of cultural factors (Aihie 2009). In most African countries like Nigeria, traditionally domestic violence in form of wife battery is tolerated as a form of discipline (UNICEF, 2001). Relatedly to Aihie (2009), in parents beating their children they believe they are instilling discipline in their children so also the same way they see husbands beating their wives. Aihie (2009). This menace is often prevalence in situations of economic dependency or poverty situations where women depends on men for economic sustainability for survival and because of women lack of skills and education. Because of patriarchal systems in Nigeria and in most African societies and because women are seen also as inferior to men within the social structure in most developing societies, women tend to be exploited and marginalized.

Domestic violence against women threatens agricultural security and development by affecting women daily participation in farm work and free movement. Violence against women has health implications and grievously disrupts agricultural activities and because of these menace, its affects food production and hence livelihood is threatened. At individual level, the money which should have been appropriated to agricultural inputs like fertilizers, insecticide, herbicides among others to boost agricultural activities are used to settle hospital bills, settle police cases and court cases among others because of violence against women. It is in the light of the foregoing that this study has been undertaken to appraise and provide empirical evidence on domestic violence against women's health and agricultural activities in Otukpo, Benue State, Nigeria.

Research Questions

- What is the nature and prevalence of Domestic Violence against Women in Otukpo, Benue State?
- What are the causes of Domestic Violence against Women?
- What are the health (Physical, Social and Mental) implications of Domestic Violence against Women?
- How does Domestic Violence against women affect agricultural Activities in Otukpo Benue State?
- What are the Socio-Economic effects of the health implications of Domestic Violence against Women?
- What are the possible ways of mitigating violence against women?

Objectives of the study

The objectives of this study are to find out the effect of domestic violence against women's health and agricultural activities. This is based on the following objectives:

- To ascertain the nature and causes of Domestic violence against women in the study area.
- To examine and identify the health implication of domestic violence against women in Otukpo, Benue State.
- To examine how violence against women affects agricultural activities in the study area.
- To examine the socio-economic effects of domestic violence against women health's.
- To make recommendations on how domestic violence against women can be mitigated in the study area.

Significance of the study

This study is significant because it will help in mitigating the effects of domestic violence against women's health and agricultural activities in the study area. The study would be one among the different literature for further studies on the effects of domestic violence against women health and how its affect agricultural activities in the study area. The study will contribute to the study of knowledge relating to gender studies especially in the areas of agricultural production where

women constitutes 70% of the workforce in the study area. The study is also significant because it would help to strengthen the weaker gender relationship between partners or couple in Otukpo Benue State and Nigeria in general.

This study is very significant as it will proffer relevant recommendations and solutions to problems of domestic violence confronting women in the study area. This study will also provide the government of Nigeria necessary information to address this menace and other issues of women exploitation in the society. Finally, the study will serve as reference material to subsequent studies under similar research topic and relevant for further studies in the study area.

Disposition

This thesis is divided into five chapters. In Chapter one i introduced the study on domestic violence against women and agricultural activities with point of views from different researchers on domestic violence. After the introduction of the topic, the chapter is followed by statement of the problem, Research questions, aim and objectives of the study, significance of the study, Disposition, and then definitions of terms.

Chapter two of this study deals with review of related literatures about domestic violence and my theoretical frame work will be presented thereafter. I will discuss radical feminist theory and other feminist views in this thesis under this chapter and for this study three empirical studies from different researchers were selected as guide and presented in this chapter.

In the third chapter, the study deals with the description of methodology by explaining the process and procedures under which the study is carried out. Thereafter, the chapter discusses the method of data collection to be used, the research design, the study area, the study population, the sampling procedures and the sources and type of data analysis, method of data collection, techniques, field experience and limitations of the study.

Chapter four present the analysis and data presentation. Here data collected in variables will be categorized to enable the study draw a viable conclusion from the analysis.

Finally, chapter five which is my last chapter will discuss on the summary of all the findings, before presenting the conclusions and recommendations.

Definition of terms

The following concepts or terms requires clarity for adequate understanding of this study. The concepts were as follows: Domestic violence, health, agricultural activities and women.

Domestic violence:

According to Dickson and Laming (2015), domestic violence is an act carried out with the intention of physically hurting the women. It is an act of abusive behavior in any relationship to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate relationship. This act includes physical beating, torture, cultural practices and ritual murder among others on women. But for this study, domestic violence against women is defined as physical violence, actions, words or verbal threats, attitude, systems or environmental damages that hinders women from reaching their full potentials. It is also defined as an abuse of power in a relationship displayed by exertions of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological and emotional control.

Health:

Health is the general condition of a person's mind, body and spirit, usually meaning to be free from illness, injury or pain. It is a condition or quality of the human organism expressing adequate functioning. Health is a state of complete physical, mental and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease or infirmity.

Agricultural activities:

Agricultural activities are defined as the science or art of the practice of large-scale soil cultivation to produce crops. Agricultural output also called farming or husbandry is the produced that comes out of cultivation of plants and rearing of animal for sustaining life. Regarding this study, agricultural activities is the cultivation of crops, rearing of animals and other food and farm products used to sustain life.

Literature Review on domestic violence

In this section, related literature to the above title will be reviewed. The concept of domestic violence, types of domestic violence, causes of domestic violence and the effect of domestic violence on women will be discussed as I will finally recommend little possible way out from my observation during my internship with the ministry and how helpful is the ministry in assisting women to resolve cases of domestic violence against women.

Concept of Domestic Violence

Violence against women is define in general as a force, whether overt or covert, used to rest from a woman upon something that she does not want to give from her own free will and which causes her either physical injury or emotional pain or both as the case may be. (Women and violence, 2011). According to Esteal, domestic violence is culturally specific and its definition is on the societal views and the boundaries people place on the acceptability of certain behaviors within a spousal relationship. (Esteal 1994).

The children and family court advisory and support service in the United Kingdom in its policy on domestic violence refers it as a range of violent and abusive behaviors, they define domestics violence as a pattern of behavior characterized by the misused of power and control by one person over another who are or have been in an intimate relationship. It maybe physical, sexual, emotional and/or psychological. This may include intimidation, harassment, and financial abuse. But for this report, domestic violence is defined as an abuse of power in a relationship that is displayed by exertions of physical, verbal, sexual, psychological and emotional control.

Nature and Prevalence of Domestic Violence

Forms of Domestic violence

Many studies have revealed how women have been subjected to different forms of domestic violence across all societies of the world. Akpa and Inyang (2005)

pointed out that domestic violence against women occur in millions of homes each year in the world. It was also revealed by Chukwuma and Osarenren (2001) that violence against women occurs in multiple ways, such as acid bath, pouring of hot water and acid, beating, slapping etc. UN (2000) maintains that, domestic violence against women inform of wife battery is abuse of women involving contact intended to cause feelings of intimidation, pain, injury or other physical suffering or bodily harm. Weaver (1954) submitted that, all forms of domestic abuse have one purpose to maintain and gain control over the victim. The abusers used many powers to execute control over their wife's or partner: such power they exert are from dominance, humiliation, isolation, threats, intimidation, denial and blame. The forms of domestic violence where as follows: physical abuse, sexual abuse and marital rape, emotional abuse, verbal abuse, and economic abuse.

Physical Abuse

Physical abuse is an abuse involving contact intended to cause feelings of pain, injury, intimidation, physical suffering or bodily harm punching, hitting, pushing, and many other kind of body contact that result to physical injuries. For Weaver (1954), physical violence is the use of physical force against another person in a way that ends up injuring the person or puts the person at risk of getting injured. It is the easiest type of behavior to be recognized and identify as violence. It can also include inflicting injury on the other targets, such as children or pets in order to cause psychological harm to the victim.

Emotional Violence/Abuse

Emotional violence can be regarded as psychological abuse or mental abuse and can be informed of verbal or non-verbal abuse. This form of violence includes isolating the victim from socializing or associating with friends and family, harassing or humiliating the victim publicly or privately, controlling the victim on what to do or not and deliberately provoking the victim to anger or to make the victim feel diminishes and embarrassed. (National Coalition against domestic violence, 2010). Similarly, Weaver (1954) also affirmed that psychological or

emotional form of violence is any behavior exhibited by a partner to control or damage your emotions. Such as yelling aggressively or positioning body in a menacing manner, making abusive or humiliating remarks or gesture. Such instances lead to emotional abuse which mostly results to violence.

Sexual Violence and Marital rape

Sexual violence is any situation in which force or threat is applied to obtain participation in unwanted sexual activity. Sexual abuse usually resulted to physical violence by forcing someone to engaged in a sexual activity. Beanett (2001). WHO defined sexual abuse as an attempt to obtain sexual act, unwanted sexual comment or advances or acts to traffic or otherwise directed against a person's sexuality using force regardless of their relationship. Marital rape on the other hand is the use of force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act against once will. Marital rape occurs when a partner forces to take part in sexual act without the victim consent.

Similarly, Wach and Reeves (2000) revealed another form of domestic violence against women is sexual ritual cleansing which occur because of sexual abuse. In some villages, mostly in Africa there is a strong believe that once a spouse dies or husband dies, sexual cleansing must be done upon the woman or the wife. Women and girls are forced to engage in the deadly practice. This is done to find out who is responsible for the death of the husband and as an act to free a woman from the death to enable her free for remarriage. Also, such cleansing is done in a sexual taboo cases. For instance, the researcher observed a similar case when undergoing internship with the Ministry of Women Affairs under Social Welfare department in Benue State, Nigeria. There was a case of sexual abuse by a man who impregnated his wife 14 years' younger sister leaving with them. Upon the case, the family of the wife demands sexual cleansing on the girl culturally to free her from the taboo act and they are demanding the man to make provision of many items to perfume the ritual sexual cleansing. This kind of act is regarded as sexual abuse against women and girls.

Economic Form of Violence

Economic violence is a form of violence when one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources. Many studies have reviewed that majority of the perpetrators of this abuse are men especially in most developing countries like Nigeria. Economic abuse may involve preventing a partner or spouse from using resources or by exploiting economic resources of the victim (Brewster 2003). The reason behind Men preventing women or their spouse from acquiring resources is to reduce women capacity to support their self and ensure she totally depend on the man for survivor financially, and prevent the women from finding employment, preventing women from advancing their carrier and acquiring assets. These results to control and abuse of women right. (Sanders, 2006).

Similarly, Odimegwu and okemgbu (2001) pointed out that domestic violence against women especially in form of wife battery is women lack of money and access to sales from harvest of agricultural products. This is common in most developing society like Nigeria and particularly the study area where agriculture is a major source of income. Many women observe that they work in the farm with their husband and sometimes with their children, but when the harvest comes, the sales benefits from the farm products been hijacked by the husband and the husband control the resources to his benefits, this usually results to violence against women in most rural areas. However, women and girls in Nigeria are subjected to multiple forms of violence in the homes, and the most common form of violence against women is wife Battery ranging from slapping, kicking, verbal abuse, rape, denial of financial resources and death (Project Alert, 2001).

Verbal Abuse Form of Violence

Verbal abuse is referred to the use of language to control or subordinate another person for either self-gratification or to impose ones will or view on another person or to gain an unfair advantage in resolving a dispute. Verbal abuse is a

form of emotionally abusive behaviors involving the use of language which may include aggressive actions such as blaming, disrespect, criticisms, name-calling and ridicule. (University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, 2007).

Causes of domestic violence

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), it was found that in more than 80 countries in the world, 35% of women suffer physical and or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by a person with no emotional bond. Most cases of domestic violence occur in their households. Several studies have been conducted to identify the precipitating factors which lead to the cause of domestic violence on women; some of the scholars have attributed some of the causes of domestic abuse from cultural reasons, poverty as a cause, socialization and societal acceptance. Many studies have shown that dependency of women upon men was positively related to domestic violence against women. Women who are not economically independent run greater risk of been abused as compared to those who are dependent on their husbands (Davies 1963). From many cases observed during my internship, it was observed that many women that reported their husband for battering cases are totally dependent upon their husband. Most of them are purely house wife without occupation, so men take advantage of them in this situation especially in Nigeria according to senior welfare officer in the ministry of women affair (Sandra ABOMTSE).

Generally, across the globe, domestic violence against women is carried out by men, inform of riots and account for the overwhelming majority of fire arm related injuries deaths (Widmer et al 2006 in Esplen 2006). Violent against women is often seen as a gender relations product because it is part of the gender specific constraints experience by women mostly although men still experience it but not frequently. Such gender violence includes verbal abuse. Heise (1993) observes that violence against women mostly occur in the service of perpetuating male power and control. And such violence against women includes rape, battery, homicide, incest, psychological abuse, forced prostitution, trafficking in women and sexual harassment.

In looking at the causes of violent against women, Gyuse (2008a) observes that, violent on women is considered normal in most cultures around the world for husband to beat his wife's because the wives are mere property to the husband and the husband have the right to control her behavior. And in such society, it is observed that women who challenge that right will be punished and even in some cases such punishment may take place by merely asking their husband of money and children needs. Some factors that resulted to violent against women according to worldwide studies were as follows: disobedience, talking back, not taking care of the children or home, questioning about money or girlfriends, embarking on a journey without permission, sex refusal, refusing to make food for family, and expressing suspicion of infidelity (Heise et al 1991). According to Shane and Ellsberg (2002), it is noted that in many cases women share the feelings that men have the right to discipline their wives by applying force. Similarly, in rural areas of Egypt for example, 80% of women also agreed that beating was justify in some certain circumstances (Heise et al 1991).

Similarly, Gyuse (2008), pointed out some major causes of domestic violence against women to be incompatibility of partner, insensitivity, disagreement between couples, continued quarrelling, nagging, excess alcohol, neglects, child rebellion, excess drugs use. Also, per chukwuma and Osarenren (2001), they also pointed out that the causes of domestic violence against women includes the general perception of people that women and children are men's property and they are subject to men authority and guidance. According to Hughes (2005), it was revealed that the findings of a study conducted some years ago by an American University argues that family as "one of the most dangerous places to be, apart from the war zone or in a riot, is in the home" (Hughes 2005:21). This I agreed with Hughes because having observes thousands of cases reported about home violence in my place of internship, I certainly agreed that home is a place of domestic war zone especially in a developing country like Nigeria. From all the staff in welfare office where I am doing my internship as I interviewed them and ask what are the major causes of violence against women from there on

experience in the office, they said majority of men from Benue state, Makurdi are alcoholic and most believe in patriarchy as in they are the master of home and wives must subject to their order and also economic situation of women makes them totally dependent on their husbands because women are seen as purely house wives especially in the rural areas and above all they said lack of exposure and education makes women to be under men control. And according another senior officer in the welfare unit (Mrs. Sandra), she pointed out that religion also contributed to the major causes of domestic violence against women. She maintains that majority of women, believe in the word of God in Bible and the bible have made them to understand that in Ephesians chapter from verse 24 and 25 says that, "for the husband is the head of wife so lets the wives be to their own husbands in everything" (Ephesians 5:23-24). So, to her men abuse this fact from bible and its causes women to be over subjected to men in Makurdi Benue state. Nigeria.

Similarly, Ezema (1999), pointed out that among the Igbo's in the eastern part of Nigeria, the cause of Domestic violence against women is because of patriarchy system that lays much emphasis on male dominance which the husband is the main center of authority and decisions are taken by men alone and this leads to violent at home. During my time of internship with the ministry, the major violent cases reported is that of wives battering. Wife battering is of very high in Makaurdi as observed in the ministry. According to Heisse and Ellsberg (2005) as they captured the concept of wife battery from the United Nations Draft Declaration of 1992, they see wife battery as "any act of gender- based violence that results into or is likely to result into physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts as coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in private life (Heisse and Ellsberg 2005:8).

At this point one would like to conclude that the nature and causes of domestic violence against women is multi-dimensional in the society. The factor that results

to violence against women in one home or society may not be the same cause in another society or home.

Consequences of Domestic violence against women's Health

Domestic violence against women is accompany with a lot of consequences. These consequences affect women both social and economic development. Wallace (2005) affirm that, violence against women has received an international recognition to its cumulative effect on societal development. Violence against women has negative implication for agricultural activities in rural areas in terms of food stability and the overall national development (Shahama 2002). (Alubo 2006) maintain that several women suffered series of injuries, disabilities, wounds, and casualties from clashes and many died because of domestic violence against women. As a matter of fact, neither WHO nor UNICEF in Nigeria can accurately account for the number of women that are affected or dead as a result of violence against women. The simple reason is because in the rural areas in Nigeria like in Benue States, it is difficult to get the accurate statistics of women who died because some died without their bodies taken to hospital for record purpose. (Alubo 2006).

Ellsberg and Heise (2005) maintain that domestic violence against women is associated with serious health problems that affects both women and their children, including serious injuries are sustained from violence at home, gynecological disorders, adverse pregnancy outcomes, mental health disorders and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). Ellsberg and Heise (2005) further affirm that violence can have direct consequences on women's health and it can also increase women risk of future health problems that will have profound effect on agricultural activities and other economic sectors of life. According to (USAID, 2006), the consequences of violence against women can impact negatively on the productivity, health and the well-being of women as well as intergenerational transmission, resulting to increase poverty thereby undermining development. (USAID, 2006). Also, social Watch (2009) repot that, violence against women results in both immediate and future consequences, which together

results to poverty and undermines entire development. To ascertain the high-level violence in Nigeria, the News Agency of Nigeria (NAN) in the Vanguard (Tuesday January 21st 2014) reported that, Oyo State police arrested a man for allegedly setting his wife and son ablaze. The report revealed that Felicia the wife and the son Gbolahan were set ablaze on the 27th December 2013 at about 4am in Ibadan, Oyo State, Nigeria. According to the report, the man in question accused his wife of engaging in secrets affair outside marriage and also the report also showed that the couple had long history of domestic violence. During their disputes, the report also show that the wife also accused the man of been an ex-convict, so the man was very angry and swore that the woman his wife will not see 2014. So, the man locked up his wife and son in the house and set up his house ablaze. (NAN in Vanguard newspaper. January 21st 2014).

Ellsberg, Heise, Pena, Agurto and Winkvist (2001) maintain that, women who are victims of domestic violence have lower educational attainment and lower income capacity and they are more likely to become isolated and develop symptoms of depression and the consequences for children always start in the earliest stage. For Plichta, victims of domestic violence against women in terms of wife battering tend to deliver babies with lower birth weights and higher risks of prematurity and complications (Plichta, 1992). Plichta further postulated that children who are exposed to abuse are also at risk of being assaulted and developing emotional and behavioral problems. For Plichta it is important to note that, pattern of violence against women and abuse is passed from one generation to another and with children who witness the violence are more likely to become victims of violence as adults. (Plichta, (1992).

Furthermore, Burton, Duvvury and Varia, (2000) posited that domestic violence causes a high cost burden on the health care system for the treatment of the physical and mental health consequences of violence. Violence against women reduces women contribution at work place by lowering productivity and frequent absence from work. Wife battering as a violence act against women is thus a major barrier to the economic and social development of women. Children who

witness wife battering develop serious emotional, behavioral, developmental and academic problems (Burton, Duvvury and Varia, 2000). According to them, children who witness domestic violence from their parents may face the consequence of becoming violent themselves both at home and school and some might develop depression and low self-esteem.

Similarly, Akanda and shamim (1985) also pointed out that, children that grow up in homes where domestic violence occurs are as follows: Children are more likely to use violence at school or in the community in response to perceived threats, children are more likely to attempt suicide, are likely to use hard drugs, they are likely to commit crimes especially sexual assault, they are more likely to enhance their reputation and self-esteem and also the children are more likely to become abusers in their own relationships later in life.

The impact of domestic violence against women goes beyond short term injury and disability. The consequences often lead to the isolation and even ostracism of the victims, and it will lead to long term mental, medical and economic consequences. (Jahan 1994). Johan further added that children of both sexes raised in a violent home will be affected by the experience. So, to him, violence maybe viewed as a means for resolving family disputes. Similarly, Goode (1971) also noted that the cycle of violence can ripple through successive generations creating physical, psychological, and emotional scars along with spiral of dysfunction in each affected home.

Ellsberg (2000), further maintain that, at the individual level as a victim woman, there is always a trauma that continued to affect individual even long after the violence incidence. These can lead to low self-esteem and achievements, health complications such as inability to ever have children because of sexually transmitted diseases contacted from sexual abuse or from permanent and irreversible damage to a child body leading to death. Ellsberg also affirmed that, domestic violence at the community level leads to death in some cases and it often leads to separation in marriages or relationships. Its create distrust and attracts

stigma. The stigma can affect the whole family and sometimes results to lack of reporting of violence incidences within the family. The poor financial condition of women and over dependence on men or their husband have made life difficult for victim's women. This financial crisis has been shown to be one of the greatest challenge facing victims of domestic violence and the strongest factor that can discourage women from leaving these perpetrators (Hamberge, 1986). Furthermore, women faced numerous economic difficulties, as their husbands did not give them any sort of financial allowance. They were living without money and faced serious difficulty in meeting both their needs and the needs of their children. An earlier study also confirmed that women who experience domestic violence are more likely to live in an economically vulnerable condition (Fox & Benson, 2006). In addition to lack of financial resources, most victims of domestic violence in most developing countries often lack specialized skills, education, and training that will enable them gain employment and most victims have many children to care for. In 2003, it is reported that, thirty-six major cities cited domestic violence as one of the primary cause of homelessness in their areas (Schwart, 1989).

Domestic Violence Against Women and Agricultural Activities

The effect of domestic violence against women are multi-dimensional and have received international recognition because of its adverse effect on societal development. Domestic violence against women has negative effect on agricultural activities in terms of food stability and national Development. (Shahana, 2002). Similarly, Okpaga and Ade (2008) pointed out that violence against Women is generally an impediment to National Development. Violence against women is indeed an obstacle to the development of agricultural activities. It was observed that the physically abuse women lack the energy to participate in agricultural activities and this result shortage of farm produce, food and poverty. Women cannot give their best or labour if they are affected physically and psychologically from the violence act by their partner (CIRDDOC, 2002). Agricultural activities require full concentration and energy. But then women that suffer violence abuse lack total focus or concentration to achieve farm products.

Generally, women that are subjected to gender violence feel negative emotional reaction in their life's such feelings such as panic, fear, shock and negative self-image which consequently affects their dignity as a human being and this also result to low contribution towards agricultural activities. (Okpaga and Ade, 2008). Similarly, Vein Tile (2008) also pointed out that domestic violence against women will continue to affects agricultural activities because there is no peace and harmony in the family and due to that, the woman has no desire or interest to participate in agricultural production. Furthermore, Igube (2006) revealed that, domestic violence against women have numerous consequences on agricultural activities. He submitted that, violence against women leads to deprivation of women material means of existence. He also pointed out that, violence against women result in poor health condition and affects victim's standard of living and agricultural activities. Ellsberg and Heise (2005) further submitted that violence against women can have direct effect on women's health and it can result to future ill-health that will have profound effect on Agricultural activities and other economics sector of Life. Consequently, domestic violence against women can have negative impact on productivity, health and the general well-being as well as intergenerational transmission, this will result to poverty thereby undermining development (USAID, 2006).

Women play a vital role in agriculture in many developing countries of the world like Nigeria. Women lack of participation in agricultural activities due to violence limit the success of natural resources management and environmental sustainability programmes. (Akckerson and Subramanian, 2008). It was also maintained that violence against women cost obstructing participation in development, undermining the goals of development and hindering process towards agricultural activities. (Moser and McIlwaine, 2004).

In a nutshell, one would like to conclude that the consequences of violence against women on agricultural activities or production includes loss of valuables, financial challenges because of low productivity of farm products and the overall economic development.

Theoretical Framework

This chapter examines one theoretical frameworks which is considered important to domestic violence against women in this study. The theoretical framework is Radical/Socialist theory. This research therefore adopted this theory to best explain the cases of domestic violence against women in the study area and the society at large.

Radical Feminist theory

Radical feminist addresses two related issues of biological inequality of man and woman and the social class system. According to Firestone (1970), she pointed out that historically, women have borne the greater burden for the perpetuation of the species, she revealed that, ‘the most rigid class/caste system in existence in history, is based on sex – a system consolidated over thousands of years, lending the archetypal male and females roles an underserved legitimacy and seeming permanence’ (Firestone 1970:15) For her it is the biological inequality in the sexes that leads to the caste/ class system in which men receive ego satisfaction and enjoy nature comforts from their domination on women. (Firestone 1970:15-20)

Radical Feminist scholars have been directed to the documentation of the slogan ‘the personal is political’. they are of the view that women are discontent and they argued that women are systematically dominated, exploited, and oppressed. For radical feminist in the politics of the ego, ‘the personal is political’ means that, the original and the basic class division in society is between the sexes and the motives force is the striving for men to seek power and to dominate women with the power. According to a manifesto for New York Radical Feminists, radical feminism recognizes “the oppression as a fundamental political oppression and women where seen as inferior class based on sex. And it this the goal for Radical Feminism to organize politically to destroy the class differences based on sex. They believed that it is political because men have organized together for power over women and they have set up institutions throughout the society to maintain this power” (Hole and Levine, 1971: 442-443). For them, a political

power institutions such as marriage or love relationships are set up for men to achieved their purpose and this purpose for them is primarily to obtain psychological ego satisfaction derives from the supremacist assumptions of the male identity to sustained through its ability to have power over the female ego. In this manifesto, the radical feminist did not believe that capitalism or any other form of economic system is the cause of women oppression, or believe that women oppression will disappear because of economic revolution. They believe that oppression of women has its own dynamic, and that dynamics must be understood from nonpolitical view called 'politics of ego'. (Hole and Levine, 1971: 442-443). Also, Radical feminism is of the view that, women subordination is institutionally structured and culturally rationalized, exposing women to conditions of dependency, differences and poverty. (Hugh and Kroehler 2008). These Radical Feminist believes, will provide a deep insight in understanding the causes and effects of domestic violence on women's health in Otukpo Local Government Area, Benue State, Nigeria.

Accordingly, Firestone rewrote Freud to understand the development of both boys and girls into men and women in terms of power. Firestone characterizations of what are male and female traits are typical of radical feminist views. According to her, the male seeks power and domination, he is egocentric and individualistic, competitive and pragmatic. For her the technological mode, is male. And for the female to her she is nurturant, artistic, and philosophical; and the aesthetic mode is Female. (Firestone in Hartmann, 1979: 10).

Socialist/ Radical Feminist further revealed that the oppression of women is obvious in some institutions, constructed and maintained to keep women in their dominant places. This institution includes the following; Marriage, motherhood, love relationship and sexual intercourse. Per this theory, women are taught to confused her biological sexual differences with her total human potential through these institutions. And the biological inequality between man and woman provides the basis for the institutions such as the family which was constituted to keep women oppressed by men according to radical feminists. (Hamilton 2012)

pointed out that, “the biological inequality of man and woman became institutionalized and thus protected against the changes that the development of birth control techniques, including abortion, and safe child birth procedures might have brought about” (Hamilton 1978: 84) the emphasis on both biological and social structure has made the perspectives to investigate issues which are non-political. Such as, love issues, sexual intercourse, vaginal orgasm, abortion, rape, courtship marriage, the sexual role system and sexuality.

Socialist/Radical Feminist believe that, Love is the pivot of the oppression of women because the unequal relationship between men and women corrupts Love. Men need women supports emotionally but in some cases, most men do not return the love to women and abuse the love women gave for them, which leads to violence against Women and other forms of oppression against women. According to New York Radical Feminist, they are of the view that, “Love, in the context of an oppressive male-female relationship, becomes an emotional cement to justify the dominant-submissive relationship. That man loves the woman who fulfills her submissive ego-boosting role and the woman in return love a man who she is submitting to and live for him. So, love becomes the emotional rational for the submission of one ego to the other. They believe that “the popularized version of love has thus been used politically to cloud and justify an oppressive relationship between men and women, and that in reality there can be no genuine love until the need to control the growth of another is substituted by the love for the growth of another”. (Hole and Levine, 1971: 444). For this acts, the socialist Feminist recommend a way for women liberation, for them women can be liberated by overcoming this damage through internalization by destroying the notion that women are inferior and servants to male ego, and women must begin to reverse the systematic crushing of their egos by constructing the alternative self that are healthy, independent and self-assertive. That women need to develop a new dialectic of sex class. (Hole and Levine, 1971: 445).

Radical feminist Also recognizes the class and the need for socialism according to Imam (1985). This theory suggests that women self-determination and economic

independence would require fundamental changes in our social and economic structure (Firestone 1970). Similarly, Bonnie kreps (1972) also pointed out that, 'society most potent tool for making female human beings into dependent adults is a socialization process because we have a society which is based on arbitrary and strictly enforced sex roles'. For Kreps, 'for if marriage and motherhood are conceived of as a woman's entire destiny and the fulfillment of her nature, her lot will involve the acceptance of a situation imposed from the outside rather than a free choice according to her individuality. As long as women accepts this situation, she will endanger her individuality and possibility for growth as a human being. She will, in short be abdicating the potential of her nature by giving in to the demands of her situation.' (Koedt, levine, Rapone 1973:235-239). They further pointed out that, in looking at women traditional view and its attendant Feminine Mystique are a fraud because women are to men's advantage in many respects, they mean loss of growth, of full-humanness, to the woman who submits to their edicts. According to them such woman will risk a loss of identity, she will risk becoming a thing. For this they suggest the need for women liberation. This makes the theory relevant to the research topic. As a theory of development, Radical / Socialist feminism is very significant in Nigeria along with Marxist feminist, they two joined ranks to call for alternative kinds of development strategies, which incorporate gender in policy making. Even if the liberation of Nigeria women is not actualized, subsequently it is a fact that socialist or radical feminists knows the problem of Nigeria women in looking at domestic violence situations or other forms of oppression against women. What they need to do is to continue searching for a more feasible and authentic solution to oppression of women.

Bonnie kreps (1972) a founder of the radical feminist movement in Canada suggest possible ways to fight out the oppression of women. He recommends that, women liberation must be done collectively with the aim at freedom for all women. The goal for the movement must be that all women who want to escape from the sex role foisted upon them will have the freedom to do so. Therefore, no

‘token integration’ as in no relieving of symptoms without getting at the causes. Like no liberation of women from oppression without knowing the causes. Secondly, he recommends that women must get full economic right, because only economic liberty can guarantee women that their theoretic civil liberties will provide them with liberty in practice. That women must do away with the notion that women are economic parasite. Thirdly, he suggested that women must be freed from their present partial or complete slavery to the species. That women must fight to have the right to decides over their body. And fourthly, generally women and girls should be encouraged to seek self-fulfillment as human beings rather than merely as females. (Koedt, levine, Rapone 1973:235-239).

Radical Feminism focus more on the oppression of women as women. Specifically, and centrally to sexism rather than capitalism. They would not be particularly concerned with equal rights, equal pay for equal work and other major concerns of the NOW segment. But the major aim of radical feminist theory is that, “there should be no characteristics, behavior, or roles ascribed to any human being based on sex. We must fight the institutionalization of the oppression of women especially the institution of marriage. We believe that the male world as it is now existing is based on the corrupt notion of maleness vs femaleness, that the oppression of women is based on this very notion and its attendance institutions. Separate but equal will get us nowhere; We must eradicate the sexual division on which our society is based. It is only then will men and women have a hope of living together as human beings”. (Koedt 1973 :239). Also, Catharine MacKinnon submitted in Butler that, “sex inequality takes the form of gender; moving as a relation between people, it takes the form of sexuality. Gender emerges as the congealed form of the sexualization of inequality between men and women” (Butler, 1990: xii). She is of the view that, sexual hierarchy consolidate and produce sex/gender. It is not heterosexual normativity that produces and consolidate gender, but the gender hierarchy that is said to underwrite heterosexual relations. Katherine Franke in Butler, also pointed out difference between sexist and feminist views on the relation between gender and sexuality

for better understanding of women domination. For her, “the sexist claims that a woman only exhibits her womanness in the act of heterosexual coitus in which subordination becomes her pleasure (an essence emanates and is confirmed in the sexualized subordination of women); a feminist view argues that gender should be overthrown, eliminated, and rendered fatally ambiguous precisely because it is always a sign of subordination for women”. (Butler, 1990: xii).

According to Koedt view on women and the radical movement, she pointed out that women oppression like domestic violence could be blamed on the system. For her the system is responsible for women oppression. Therefore, there is the need for women revolution to confront male supremacy. She is of the view that, ‘in choosing to fight for women’s liberation it is not enough, either, to explain it only in general terms of the system. For the system oppresses many groups in many ways. Women must learn that the technique used to keep women oppressed is to convince her that she is always secondary to man, and that her life is defined in terms of him. We cannot speak of liberating ourselves until we free ourselves from this myth and accept ourselves as primary. (Koedt 1973 :319). The radical feminist views are indeed radical because it is the struggling to bring about fundamental changes in our society and therefore the researcher found this theory useful because it will provide the fundamentals of the sexual oppression of women which is so prevalent in today society and especially in developing society like Nigeria.

Radical feminist theory identifies male violence against women as a form of social control. This theory pointed out that when this violence occurred, it affected all women, whether with those women who are lucky to have avoided the act or not. Violence against women affect all women by restricting women’s freedom, liberty and personhood. Domestic violence against women or male violence against women is particularly present in radical feminist theory. This school of feminism defines male violence against women as both a cause and a consequence of male supremacy and female inferiority; and as a symptom of patriarchy according to Mackay (2015). She pointed out that while male violence is a bloody

symptom of patriarchy, it is as well the foundation which props up patriarchy. That with this meaning, there is the need to address and challenge patriarchy as part of the struggle to end all forms of oppression against women or male violence against women. (Mackay 2015:11-14). The very notion of patriarchy according to Butler from Monique Wittig view has threatened to become a universalizing concept that overrides or reduces distinct articulations of gender asymmetry in different cultural contexts. This notion has become increasingly important for Feminism to resist the colonizing epistemological strategy that would subordinate different configurations of domination under the rubric of a transcultural notion of patriarchy. (Butler 1990). Radical Feminist Use Patriarchy to refer to a social system characterized by male domination over women as Kate Millet's view patriarchy. In her definition of Patriarchy, she pointed out that "our society is a patriarchy society. The fact is evident at once if one recalls that the military, industry, technology, universities, science, political offices, finances in short, every avenue of power within the society, including the coercive office of the police, is entirely in male hands". (Millet 1971:25). This radical feminist view of the meaning of patriarchy applies to most society of the world and mostly in developing countries such as Nigeria. This theory further revealed that, at the heart of radical feminism is the assumption that men are responsible for marginalization, abuse and exploitation of women. Bryson and Haralambos and Holborn (2004) revealed that radical Feminist see women as oppressed groups who must struggle for their own liberation against men their oppressors. The concept of patriarchy is the central concern of this theory and it perceived as the main cause of domestic violence against women in the society. Men are thus seen as the ruling class and women are the subject class in the society. Hughes and Kroehler (2008) also observe the cause of domestic violence against women or any form of oppression to be derived from economic exploitation of women's labour.

The material base upon which patriarchy rests depends mostly in men's control over women's labor power. Men in most society like Nigeria maintain this control

by excluding women from access to some essential productive resources and by restricting women's sexuality for the benefits of men. Then this material base of patriarchy does not rest solely on child bearing in the family, but on all social structures that enable men to control women's labor. The patriarchy element of these social structure according to Gayle Rubin is sex/gender systems. Rubin pointed out that, "a 'sex/gender system' is the set of arrangements by which a society transforms biological sexuality into products of human activity, and in which these transformed sexual needs are satisfied" (Gayle Rubin 1975:159).

Furthermore, Engels declared that, "the inequality of the sexes was one of the antagonisms within the human species. The first-class antagonism coincides with the development of the antagonism between man and woman in the monogamous marriage, and the first-class oppression with that of the female sex by the male". For Engels, women physiological weaknesses are the primary causes of their oppression. And he effectively reduced the problem of oppression of women to her capacity to work. He declared that, for women to be liberated, it becomes possible only when women are enabled to take part in the production of a large, social, scale and when domestic duties required their attention only to a minor degree. (Mitchell, 1984:23-25). Sequel to this, Perrons (2004) also argued that, patriarchy or male domination is challenged by feminization of employment. She pointed out that through feminization of employment, changes have taken place and many women feel more empowered because of independent incomes. (Perrons, 2004).

Mitchell, (1974), declared that, "women is the archetype of the oppressed consciousness: the second sex. Her biological characteristics have been exploited so that she has become the receptacle for the alienation all men must feel; that women contain man's otherness, and in doing so is denied her own humanity" (Mitchell, 1974:306-307). Similarly, Simone de Beauvoir in Mitchell 1974, pointed out that, "Women is the most universal and absolute specification of alterity. She is mystery. That no one is born a woman: a woman is created from man's needs. She is obscure, mysterious, complete, outside the tensions and

struggle of existence. For the woman, the man must become all; he is all meaning, the justification and definition of her existence, whereas for him she is a pleasure, an extra, somehow inessential” (Mitchell, 1974:307). For her, women oppression is as a result of economic and social exploitation of its original psychological abuse.

Socialist/ radical feminist theory has been given consideration for drawing widespread attention to the many dimensions of oppression through its emphasis on male violence and objectification of women. Similarly, the theory disclosed that the causes of gender based violence is multi-dimensional and cuts across several factors. It also focuses on men the main perpetrators of violence against women and exploitation of women in the society. Even though radical feminism has its strengths, it also been criticized as follows; that the concept of patriarchy is descriptive and historical. It describes the position of women without providing an explanation for it. It also ignores the important influence that race, class or ethnicity may have on the nature and extend of violence against women.

Many Marxist argued that Feminism is at best less important than class conflict and at worst divisive of the working class. It is this political stance that produces the analysis which absorbs feminism into the class struggle. It is argued that, while Marxist analysis provides essential insight into the laws of historical development and capital, the category of Marxism still has its limitations with respect to sexism and are particularly sex blind. It is only feminist analysis that reveals the systematic character of relations between men and women. But despite feminist and radical views, they still have their limitations or critique. It is criticized that feminist analysis is inadequate because it has been blind to history and insufficiently materialist. It is recommended by Hartmann (1979) that, both Marxist analysis and Feminist/ radical feminist analysis should be drawn upon if we are to understand the development of western capitalist societies and the predicament of women within the society such as domestic violence against women. For it is argued that the political relations of Marxism and feminism account for the dominance of Marxism over Feminism in the left understanding of

the women question. Hartmann revealed that, a more progressive union of Marxism and Feminism, the, requires not only improved intellectual understanding of relations of class and sex, but also that alliance replace dominance and subordination. Similarly, According to Zaretsky (1986), sexism has become more virulent under capitalism, because of separation between wage work and home work. Zaretsky pointed out that, women oppression is caused by women exclusion from wage work. She argued that, both sexes face oppression. That while men are oppressed by having to do wage work, women are also oppressed by not allowed to do wage work. That women exclusion from wage labor force are caused by capitalism. To overcome this separation for Zaretsky, Men and women together or separately should fight to reunite the divided spheres of their lives, to create a humane socialism that meets all our private as well as public needs. That Since capitalism is the cause of separation, the end to capitalism will end the separation, reunite our lives, and end the oppression of both men and women in the society.

Radical Feminism is highly criticized for encouraging women to focus on the negative relationship with men and ignored the good moment men and women have in relationship such as marriage. For example, experiences of happy marriages and other pleasant moments partners shared. It is argued that, radical feminism see women as good and men as bad, which leads to an inaccurate view of men as enemies, which also suggest that men are not to be trusted as good father, friends, sexual partners or political allies. Despites these critics, radical Feminist theory has been chosen as the best theory to approached domestic violence against women in Nigeria society.

Empirical studies

There are numerous empirical studies on domestic violence against women but however, for this study three empirical studies from different researchers were selected as guide and they are found relevant to this study.

Oyedokun (2008) conducted a study on Domestic violence and constrained contraceptive choices in selected areas of Osun State, Nigeria. The researcher

examines the impact of domestic violence on the use of modern contraceptive methods in Ife-North Local Government area of Osun State, Nigeria. The two forms of domestic violence discussed in this paper are wife beating and marital rape. The researcher conducted the study using systematic random sampling method. Data was collected from a sample population of 408 married or cohabiting women from the study area. Random sampling and lottery method was used in the selection of respondents by the researcher and information's was obtained using questionnaire and focus group discussions. Data collected was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively.

The results of the findings using the above methods in carrying out the study revealed that, domestic violence in the form of wife beating and marital rape existed in the study area as 55.6% of the women reported having been threatened with physical harassment by their partners; and 62.0% had experienced physical abuse from their intimate partner. It is also revealed that more than half of the respondents reported experiencing non-consensual sexual encounters with their partners (55.9%). Among the 17.2% who experienced domestic violence during pregnancy, only 13.7% took some steps to protect themselves. The major coping strategy for those who experienced these forms of violence was pacifying their partners in a crisis (25.7%). The researcher concluded that the threat of wife beating and experience of marital rape contributed to the likelihood of the women not using modern contraceptive methods in the study area. The researcher recommend Population education should be intensified to sensitize both men and women on modern contraceptive education.

In the study conducted by Alhassan [2008], he investigated on the general effects of domestic violence on the victims in Saban Gari Area of Kano State, Nigeria. His conception of domestic violence specifically involved the cultural practice of "Kulle" Female seclusion as well as the expression of aggression on women within the institution of family. He uses both cluster and purposive sampling method in conducted his study. The researcher sampled 160 women across the study area and all the respondents are victims that have experience "kulle"

(female seclusion) meaning the compulsory confinement of women within the household for a given period within which she is supposedly cultured to be a good house wife. The data collection method he used was questionnaire and structured interview, while data collected was analyzed both quantitatively and qualitatively. His study revealed a positive association (0.82) between the cultural practice of “Kulle” and psychological or mental disorder such as excessive (panic and fear) as well as mental depression and anxiety. The study found out that 95% of the study population has excessive fear for sex by their partners. The social implication revealed that such women have difficulties in coping and interacting with other people outside the household. The researcher regarded the situation as an identity crisis. Alhassan reported that women who experienced assault from their partners had physical health implications ranging from body bruises to complicated gynecological and central nervous system. He further revealed other health implications obtained from the study which includes abortions, placenta and uterine contraction. The study also reported two cases of forced labour by women who were assaulted by their partners and were hospitalized. From the results of the findings, the researcher recommended among other things the abolition of the cultural practice of “Kulle” (female seclusion) and criminalization of domestic violence against women with stiff penalties for perpetrators.

Ondicho (2000) conducted a study on a titled Battered Woman: a socio-legal perspective of women experience in African Society. His scope of study was in Nigeria and he sampled 106 respondents and uses questionnaire methods to collect all data. From the result of the findings, the study revealed that poverty, drunkenness, transfer of aggression and extra marital affairs form the major causes of wife battery in Nigeria. And the study further revealed the effects of women battery to include loss of love and affection, loss of pregnancy and broken homes. The study further revealed that it has effects on children upbringing. These empirical evidences are relevant in the study because they provide a clue to the causes and effects of domestic violence on women’s health. It is against this

backdrop that the evidences of these previous studies should provide support to the subsisting of this thesis study.

Methodology

Methodology is an important part of Scientific research because it provides an avenue for the detection of validity, reliability empirical findings of the research. Methodology is also important because it shows the step by step design that is involved in the research process. This chapter has been structured in the following ways: The study areas, source of data, sampling technique, instrument of data collection, techniques of data analysis and the limitations of the study.

Research Design

The research method employed for this study is survey research. The decision to employ this method is because of its advantage in studying a large population at a lesser cost. With the adoption of this method, the study population will be sampled with the view of generalizing the findings to represent the whole population. Also, the essence of adopting survey method is because the method is proven to be very effective in obtaining data on people's opinions, feelings, attitudes and perceptions on a particular issue. Relatedly, all the instrument of data collection adopted herein, namely; questionnaire and interview methods are survey oriented research techniques and the data collected through this method will be analyzed through both quantitative and qualitative methods.

Study Area

The Study area of the research is Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State. The research which is on the effect of Domestic violence on women's health and agricultural activities, covers the entire study area.

OTUKPO Local Government Area is one of the oldest local governments in the state. Known as Idoma Native Authority when it was first created in 1923, its name was later changed to Idoma Division in the Post-Colonial period. Thus, it is the mother local government of all the nine Local Government Areas in Idomaland. Otukpo town, its headquarters, is also the traditional headquarters of Idomaland and where the Ochi Idoma, the paramount ruler of the Idoma people resides. Besides a heavy dependence on agriculture, a few people engage in petty trading and other commercial ventures.

At present, Otukpo Local Government is made up of four districts, namely: - Otukpo, Akpa, Ugboju and Adoka. It also has 13 council wards namely: - Ugboju Icho, Otobi, Adoka Icho, Ewulo, Otukpo Town I, Otukpo Town II, Otukpo Town III, Okete, Allan, Ugboju Otahe, Ugboju Ehaje, Entekpa, Adoka Ehaje.

The population of the Local Government based on the 2006 census was 261,666 (133,347 males and 126,319 female) The main occupation of the people is farming. Here various types of food crops such as yam, cassava, maize, rice, millet and pepper are cultivated. In fact, yam and rice are grown in commercial quantities in Adoka and Ugboju areas. Thus, Otukpo Local Government Area is endowed with abundant agricultural produce capable of meeting the raw material needs of any agro-based industry that may be sited there. Besides a heavy dependence on agriculture, a few people engage in petty trading and other commercial ventures. Otukpo Local Government is so endowed with agricultural potentials that if fully harnessed it can favorably compete any other local government in the state in agricultural production.

The choice of this study area is influenced by several reasons. The agrarian nature of the study area provides the necessary reason for the area to be studied. Otukpo Local Government Area is the mother local government of all the nine Local Government Areas in Idomaland. Otukpo town, its headquarters, is also the traditional headquarters of Idoma land. Otukpo is inhabited by people from diverse socio-cultural backgrounds. It is believed that there is engendered domestic violence against Women in the study area. This therefore makes its choice necessary for research. Apart from the above reasons which makes the choice of the study area, easy accessibility and convenience factor also contributed to the choice making. The researcher hail from Otukpo and did six-month internship in the same State. It is therefore hoped that, since the researcher is familiar with the study area, it would be easier to obtain data from the study area than any other place.

Population of the study

The target population of this study comprises of both adult men and women in Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State. The idea of including Men in the population of the study is because men are the perpetrators of domestic violence against Women. So therefore, by combining the views of the perpetrator men and the victim's women, it will provide a balance analysis of the phenomenon in question. However, the study embarked on sampling technics with the aim of generalizing the findings on the whole population because of high cost involved in studying a large population, time consuming and energy.

Sampling procedure

The sampling techniques adopted for this study is both cluster and purposive sampling in selecting respondents to participate in the study. The idea of combining the two-sample procedure is because of the vastness of the study area and the need to ensure a representative sample for the study. Sequel to this decision. The study area is divided into four cluster representing the four major districts of the study area. These clusters are namely: - Otukpo, Akpa, Ugboju and Adoka. Each of this cluster have a public center or converging centers to select the respondents of this study. In the other of the cluster listed above, the public places in the clusters are Otukpo town 1, Otobi, Ugboju Icho, and Adoka icho respectively. Consequently, a purposive sampling procedure was carried out across the house hold in all the public centers in the clusters in other to select the perpetrator and the victims of domestic violence for the study. To this effect, 27 respondents were selected from each cluster consisting of 11 men and 16 women. On the total, 44 men and 64 women were drawn across the four major areas in otukpo local government area. This study employ purposive sampling in selecting respondents because the research is design to study only the victims and the perpetrators of domestic violence for the study. Sequel to this, sampling techniques was the best techniques available for selecting the target respondents.

Clusters sampling showing numbers of respondents by sex in the study area.

Clusters	Sex	Total
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	Men	Women	
Otukpo	11	16	27
Akpa	11	16	27
Ugboju	11	16	27
Adoka	11	16	27
Total	44	64	108

Sources and types of data

The sources of data for this study is generated from primary and secondary sources. The data generated from the primary source constitutes the responses obtain from the field, while the secondary sources were obtained from documented materials such as books journals, official records, newspapers, and previous empirical studies.

Methods of Data Collection

For the purpose of this study, the researcher made use of structured questionnaires and in-depth interview methods of data collection. The questionnaires were divided into two parts. Part 1 and part 2. Part 1 questions aimed at providing demographic information of respondents while part 2 questions aimed at seeking to address the research problems. The questionnaires were distributed to perpetrators and victims of domestic violence that can read and write while the interviews were conducted to those victims that cannot read and write and those that does not understand English. Some interviews were also conducted with officials of Ministry of Women Affairs in Social Welfare unit, Makurdi Benue State, Nigeria where I did my Internship.

Relatedly the questionnaire contains both open and close ended questions. The open-ended questions were structured to allow respondents write their views in their own words while the close ended questions were structured to limit respondent's responses within a set of options provided on each question, the idea is to guide respondents against out of scope answers. The interview guide was also structured to cover the scope of the study, apparently, the combination of questionnaire and in-depth interview methods (both quantitative and qualitative

methods) was intended to use to guarantee both validity and reliability of the study.

So therefore, the choice of using questionnaire method is helpful for a study of large area within a short time. While the use of interview methods gives the research first-hand information since it requires face to face communication.

Techniques of data analysis

This study adopted both quantitative and qualitative methods of analysis. The Socio demographic variables of respondents and the data collected through the questionnaire were analyzed quantitatively using simple percentages while the data gathered through in-depth interview were analyzed qualitatively using descriptive analytical approach.

Limitation of the study

Every human conduct has its own peculiar problems in Nature. In the same way, no research study that is devoid of one problem or the other. So therefore, this study cannot be an exception. It has its own limitations or challenges. To conduct an effective and credible study in a country like Nigeria is always a difficult task due to people's attitude towards disposing information. The following are the challenges the researcher undergo during the study; First and foremost, the researcher had financial and time constraint. The researcher had limited fund to distribute questionnaire to many respondents to cover the entire study areas. The researcher was constrained to time and distance factor because the researcher based in Sweden while the study area is in Nigeria. So, collecting back questionnaire was a challenge but this was obtained through an assistance from a member of the public educated on this study.

Another major limitation of the study which the researcher face is that some respondent did not understand English nor know how to read and write. This created language barrier and a communication gap but the researcher could handle the challenge by using local language and translated into English. Another major challenge the researcher undergo was attention problem, some of the victims

selected were not ready to give proper attention until a letter of introduction from the Ministry of Women Affairs through the Director Social Welfare department Makurdi Benue State were presented to them before the researcher gained easy response to the questions. This was possible because the researcher did an internship with the ministry before embarking on study.

However, these limitations from all obstacle notwithstanding were overcome by carrying out the study successfully.

Data Presentation and Analysis

Introduction

The hallmark of every study depends on its presentation and analysis of data generated for the study and discussion of findings. In this section, the researcher presents and discusses the information obtained from the field of study and the data was analyzed using both quantitative and qualitative method. Simple percentages and frequency tables were used as statistical analysis in presenting quantitative data generated from the field and socio demographic data while in-depth interview was analyzed qualitatively in line with the research objectives. The chapter is divided into three sections. The demographic attributes of respondents, secondly, domestic violence against women health's and effects on agricultural activities and lastly the discussion of findings.

Socio Demographic Attributes of Respondents

Table: 4.1. Demographic variables of respondents

No	Variables	Frequency (f)	Percentage (%)
1	Sex:		
	Male	44	40.7
	Female	64	59.3
	Total	108	100
2	Age:		
	18-30	30	27.7
	31-45	58	53.7
	46above.	20	18.5
	Total	108	100
3	Marital Status:		
	Single	12	11.1
	Married	60	55.6
	Divorced	25	23.1
	Widow/widower	11	10.1
	Total	108	100
4	Educational Status		
	Primary	30	30
	Secondary	20	20
	Tertiary	5	5
	Without Education	45	45
	Total	108	100
5	Occupational Status:		

	Farming	47	50
	Trader	20	18
	Civil servants	6	6
	Unemployed	35	34
	Total	108	100

Source: Field Survey 2017.

Table. 4.1 The table above indicates the distribution of Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. The data reveals that 40% of the study populations were Men, while 60% of the study population were Female. This indicated that, majority of the study populations were women who are predominantly victims of domestic violence over men who are perpetrators of the violence. Regarding age distribution of the respondents, the data reveals that, majority of the respondents were from the age range of 31-45 with 45%, while those within the age category of 18-30 constituted 30% and while those from the range of 45 and above were the least with 25%. The age distribution implies that, respondents within the age category from 31-45years were the majority interviewed and this also implies that, the above age category of women are mostly disposed to domestic violence.

The data further displayed the marital status of the respondents which indicated that, single respondents constituted 10% of the study population, while married status constituted 55%, whereas for divorced and widows constituted 25% and 10% respectively. This indicated that majority of the respondents under study were Married. This further implies that, couples who are married and are staying together are mostly prone to face domestic violence than single, widows and divorced respondents.

Furthermore, the data collected on the educational status of respondents reveals that, 45% of the respondents are illiterate. 30% of the study population attained primary education, while 20% of the respondents have secondary Education and 5% of the study respondents attained tertiary level of education. This data implies that, majority of the respondents were illiterate and this further implies that, the uneducated people were mostly involved in domestic violence than the respondents with different level of education. Also, this also imply that people

with tertiary education are least involved in domestic violence. This means that, people who are civilized with by having education are less prone to domestic violence than the uncivilized educationally.

The occupational status of respondents as indicated in the table above shown that farmers constituted the highest numbers of the studied population with 57%. The unemployed constituted 22%, traders constitutes 18% and while the civil servants constituted 3% respectively. This data obtained from the respondents implies that farmers are most likely the category of occupation that are more prone to domestic violence than any other occupational status from the study population, while civil servants are less involved in domestic violence than the farmers. Nevertheless, this is an indication that occupational status is a predisposing factor of domestic violence. Thus, farmers who are who are always involved in strenuous farm work are easily provoked and can easily pour out their anger on their wives and while for unemployed people can transfer aggression on their wives because of financial challenges and poverty. So, in the nutshell, the demographic attributes of the respondents clearly show that they can provide necessary information needed to achieve the aim and objectives of this study.

The Effect of Domestic Violence Against Women’s Health

First and foremost, to examine the effect of Domestic violence on Women’s Health in Otukpo Local Government, the study first examined the nature, prevalence and causes of Domestic violence against women in the study area.

Table 4.2: The Nature of Domestic Violence in Otukpo local Government.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Physical abuse	48	44.4
Verbal insults	35	32.4
Both	25	23.1
Total	108	100

Source: Field Work 2017

The table above sought to indicate the nature of domestic violence against women in the study area. The data reveals that 44.4% Of the respondents shows that

violence usually happened in the nature of physical assault, 32.4% Reveals that violence use to assumed in the nature of verbal insults while 23.1% of the study population submitted that domestic violence usually starts from verbal insults and finally resulted to physical assaults. With this data by implication, domestic violence usually happened in the nature of both verbal and physical assaults. This implies that, exchange of words or quarrels usually ends up with physical violent like wife battering.

To this effect, some of the interviewees revealed that domestic violence against women mostly starts with verbal form of violence which mostly results to physical fight or assaults. However, some of the interviewee confirm that the physical assaults mostly occur when the victim the women the women respond to abuse or insults from the perpetrator man in quarrel mood. The man always expects their wives not to involve in verbal insult with them when talking to them. Consequently, the women interviewed revealed that the physical assaults mostly occur in the nature of pushing, punching, slapping, or using any kind of weapon to beat them. To confirm this, here is one of the interviewees statement.

Any time my husband is angry and start shouting at me or insulting me, I dare not respond to his talks and insults. Each times i tried to defend myself to explain or join him to express badly.

Table 4.3: The prevalence of domestic violence against women in the study area.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Rarely	25	23.1
Frequently	68	63
Very Frequently	15	13.9
Total	108	100

Soruce: Field work, 2017.

Data collected from the table above shows respondent's responses from the question asked to indicates how often does the incidence of domestic violence usually occurred in the study area. The information reveals that about 63% of the study population disclosed that domestic violence against women frequently

occurred in the study area, 23.1% of the population studied submitted that domestic violence is very frequent, and while 13.9% of the population reveals that the said violence rarely occurred. From majority of the respondent's views, it can be deduced that domestic violence against women frequently occurred in the study area.

From the interview conducted from the member of the study population, it was revealed the same information because most interviewees reported that they experienced violence at home frequently. In fact, some respondents disclosed that, they experience violence in every week, sometimes once or twice while others confirmed they experience violence once in a month or occasionally. To confirmed this, a woman interviewed state that,

My husband always beat me once he his drunk and this happened mostly every weekends and sometimes twice in a week. He comes home with insult and always trying to force me to have sex with me, whenever I object to that, he ends up beating me mercilessly. I am always afraid of my husband because of this attitude.

This response shows that domestic violence against women occur frequently in the study area.

Table 4.4: Attributes to find out if weapons were used in the violence.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	48	44.4
No	60	55.6
Total	108	100

Source: Field work, 2017.

Findings from the above table indicated that 44.4% of respondents from the study population affirmed the use of weapons during the process of violence against women while 55.6% did not accept that weapons are used in most cases of domestic violence against women. Therefore, by the reason of the responses, it

can be drawn that in most cases of domestic violence in the study area, weapons were used and in most times violence did not result to use of dangerous weapons.

The interviews conducted revealed that most perpetrators used weapons or any object available to beat and fight their wives or partners. A woman interviewed revealed that,

My husband uses to beat me like his fellow man, he uses stick or any available things around to fight me, he disfigured my left eyes in one beating I received from him. There was even a time he uses cutlass to chase me, I run away from house for days before my family interfere.

Another woman also affirmed that her husband usually uses stick and belt to flog her each time he physically assaulted her. Also on the other hand, a perpetrator (man) interviewed confirmed that yes he beat his wife whenever he lost his temper by slapping her but have never used dangerous weapon on her. Similarly, another man confirmed that his wife is very strong that he need to be violent and apply man force to be able to fight with his wife and he sometimes used stick or his belt to fight her and he would use any weapon if the fight is difficult for him. So therefore, the table above indicates that sometimes weapons are used in the process of domestic violence against women in the study area.

Causes of Domestic violence against women in the study area.

Respondents responses on the causes of domestic violence against women.

Table 4:5. The table below indicates respondent’s responses to identify the causes of against women.

Causes of violence	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Financial Factor	12	11.1
Extra marital affairs	25	23.1
Forced sex/ refusal	18	16.7
Alcoholism	27	25
Marital infidelity	12	11.1
Disrespect/ disobedient	14	13
Total	108	100

Source: Field survey 2017.

Findings from the table 4:5 indicated that, out of 108 respondents sampled on the causes of domestic violence against women in the study area, 31.5% affirmed that alcoholism is the major causes of domestic violence against women. Also 29.6% of the population also identify extra marital affairs as another major cause of violence against women in the study area. 11.1% affirmed that lack of finance or poverty also contributed to frequent violence against women by perpetrators. Furthermore, the data also indicated that 16.7% of the studied population identify forced sex or sex refusal as another reason behind violence against women while 11.1% also ascertain that marital infidelity also resulted to domestic violence against women in the study area and 13% submitted that the violent is caused by disrespect to husband and in-laws by the victims.

This finding is collaborated with the findings from the interviews with members of the study population. The interviewees also affirmed that Alcoholism, forced sex, extra marital affairs, marital infidelity and financial problems results to domestic violence against women in Otukpo local government Area of Benue State, Nigeria. Furthermore, it was noted from four victims (women) and two perpetrators (men) that culture and Religion also contributed to violence against women in the study area. One of the woman affirmed that, culture and tradition of the society allows men domination over women and this gives men upper power to abuse the traditional right over women by easily committing violence against women at the slightest mistakes. Another woman interviewed also pointed out Religion factors as a major cause of Domestic violence. According to her, men take advantage of what the bible said, that women should be obedient and give total submission to their husband, as for men are the head of the house. She quoted a scripture in the bible (Ephesians 5:22-24) that this make men religiously used this against women and dominate them to a point of beating the wives as they are the head. She also pointed out, traditions as a cause, like the system of bride price makes men feel the owe total ownership of wives as their properties and this makes some men assault women anyhow they want.

Health Implication and effects on Agricultural activities.

The study tries to find out the effect of Domestic violence against women's health in the study area.

Table 4.6: Respondents knowledge on the health implication of domestic violence against women.

Awareness/knowledge	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Yes	105	97.2
No	3	2.8
Total	108	100

Source: Field work, 2017

In the table, above, respondents were asked to indicate whether domestic violence against women has health implication on the victim or not. The data from the responses indicated majority of the respondents confirmed that domestic violence have health implications on the victims. That is about 97.2% of the study population testify to this data while 2.8% says no. With this finding, it is reasonable to affirm that domestic violence have health effects on the victims in the Study area.

Table 4.7: Respondents attributes on the effects of domestic violence on women's health (physical, mental and social) in Otukpo, Benue State, Nigeria.

Physical effects:

Effects/implication	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Sustain Injuries	38	35.2
Dislocations	22	20.4
Body Pains	12	12.5
Miscarriages/abortion	17	15.5
Disability/disfigure	9	8.3
Bruises on the body	10	9.3
Total	108	100
Mental Effects		
Panic/ phobia disorder	38	35.2
Mental depression	44	40.7
Psychological trauma	11	10.2
Stress and anxiety	15	13.9

Total	108	100
Social Effects		
Strained relationship	37	34.3
Divorced	23	21.3
Financial challenges	17	15.7
Children personality development	15	13.9
Affects victim's status	7	6.5
Makes perpetrators irresponsible	9	8.3
Total	108	100

Source: Fieldwork 2017.

The study tries to bring out the physical, mental and social implications of domestic violence against women in the study area. First from the physical implications as derived from the respondents, 35.2% affirmed that domestic violence cause injuries on victim's body, 20.4% submitted that the said violence causes dislocation or fracture on the victims, also 9.3% of the population submitted that domestic violence results to the victims having constant body pains. 15% of the studied population also submitted that violence against women result to miscarriages and abortions. it was affirmed further that out of the study population, 8.3% responded that violence against women results to complete disability sometimes and while 9.3% of the population submitted that the said violence causes bruises on the victim's body.

From the mental effects responses, the data indicates that 40.7% of the study population revealed that domestic violence leads to mental depression, 35.2% reveals that the said violence creates panic/phobia disorder, 10.2% of the study population submitted that victims of domestic violence faces psychological trauma, and while 13.9% of the study population affirmed that women who experience violence usually faces stress and anxiety.

In respect to the responses from the social implication of domestic violence against women, it is affirmed that 34.3% of the study population reveals that the violence creates strained relationship or interaction between partners or couples, 21.3 % of the population reveals that it resulted to divorced or separation, 15.7%

reveals that victims experience financial crisis or burden, notably after separation and cost of treatment. Also, 13.9% of the total respondents reveals that domestic violence against women have effects on the children's personality development. Nevertheless, 6.5% submitted that the said violence affects the victim's status and while 8.3% of the study population reveals that the said violence makes perpetrators irresponsible. With regards to all the responses revealed above on the physical, mental and social effects of domestic violence against women, shows that its analysis is critical in understanding the general health effects of the said menace against women's health in the study area.

Interviewees conducted from the study population also confirmed that domestic violence has health implications on women's victims physically, mentally and socially. To confirmed this, one of the victim interviewed reveals below:

My husband always assaulted me and battered me severely on several occasions especially each time he his drunk. On many occasions, I had severe injuries all over my body, there was a time I sustained severe injury on my eyes that I could not see clearly for some months, my eye was swollen and closed, this affected me that I cannot go to farm or market like a month. I am always afraid of my husband, because at the slightest provocation he will maltreated me.

Effects of domestic violence on agricultural activities

Table 4.8. Respondents awareness of agricultural activities in the study area.

Response	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Aware	96	88.9
Not aware	12	11.1
Total	108	100

Source: Field work 2017

The table above shows respondents responses on the question of if they were aware of agricultural activities in the study area. From the data, above, 88.9% of the study population indicated that they were aware of agricultural activities in

Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria and while 11.1% of the population indicated that they were not aware.

Table 4.9. Respondents attributes on the kind of agricultural activities affected by domestic violence in the study area.

Agricultural Activities	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Land clearing	8	7.4
Tilling of land and planting	25	23.1
Weeding/cutting of grass	20	18.5
Harvesting/processing	25	23.1
Marketing and sales	30	27.8
Total	108	100

Source: Field work 2017

The Data above indicated that 7.4% of the study population submitted that domestic violence against women affects clearing of land, 23.1% affirmed that, it affects tilling of land and planting of crops, similarly, 21.1% of the total respondents revealed also that, domestic violence against women affects harvesting of crops and processing of crops for final consumer for sales. 20% of the study population submitted that it has implication on weeding of grass in the farm land because women are mostly the once in charge of weeding in the farm in the study area and while majority of the respondent affirmed that domestic violence against women affects marketing and sales of farm products in the study area.

The response adduced from the interviewed also revealed the same or similar agricultural activities revealed above from the questionnaire that are affected by domestic violence in the study area. The interviewee revealed the various kind of agricultural activities women do such as land clearing, tilling, planting of crops, weeding, harvesting, storing of crops, marketing, transporting and sales. With these various kind of agricultural activities women are involved in the study areas, one can conclude that, any act of violence women affects the whole agricultural activities in the study area.

Table 4.10 Respondents perception on the effects of domestic violence on agricultural activities.

Effects	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Grievous	86	79.6
Not grievous	16	14.8
Don't know	6	5.6
Total	108	100

Source: Field work 2017

Respondents were asked to indicate the perception on the effect of domestic violence against women in the study area, from the data above, 79.6% of the study population indicated that the effect is grievous on agricultural activities, 14.8 affirmed that it is not grievous while 5.6% submitted that they don't know.

Meanwhile, victims interviewed revealed equally that, the effect of domestic violence is grievous on agricultural activities in the study area. According to one of the victims thus,

During the time of harvesting of beans recently, my husband battered me badly to a point that I cannot see clearly for weeks because my eyes were swollen and closed, I could not go to farm for like a month and lots of the beans was destroyed and we lost much money due to the said violence. Also, this affected the family income and resulted to shortage of food because we depend on beans production for our income and survival.

From the interviewed conducted, majority also revealed that the effect of violence against women is grievous on agricultural activities. One will conclude in this regard that any act of physical violence on women in the study area grievously affects agricultural activities.

The socio-economic effects of domestic violence against women's health.

Table 4.11: Respondents were asked the ways or channels of seeking or addressing domestic violence in the study area.

Ways	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Self	32	29.6
Family	24	22.2
Friends	11	10.2
Police/court	12	11.1
Social Welfare	15	13.9
NGOs	8	7.4
Neighbors	6	5.6
Total	108	100

Source: Field Work 2017

The study tries to find out ways through which victims of domestic violence seek refuge to address this menace. From the study population, 29.9% revealed that they address their disputes or conflict by themselves without seeking outsider to resolve conflicts. Meanwhile, 22.2% submitted that victims seek settlement or resolution through family members, 10.2% affirmed that the address issues of violence through close friends, nevertheless 11.1 of the study population submitted that the case of violence against women in some cases was address in court through police, also 13.9% reveals that the channel of seeking or addressing case of violence against women is through social welfare department in the state, similarly to that, 7.4% also affirmed that some NGOs in their area such as community associations, women fellowship association, youth fellowship group and some Christian association to which they belong usually intervene to resolve cases, and 5.6% submitted that neighbors usually involve in addressing and trying to resolve cases of violence against women in the study area.

The interview conducted in the study population revealed the same or similar information on the channels of seeking refuge or addressing domestic violence but one of the interviewee revealed that:

I am always afraid of involving outsider or third party into our family issues because my husband always warned me about doing that, he said crisis at home should be resolved at home. I remembered one occasion when I reported him my husband to my parents about assaulting and battering me, he was mad at me and battered me severely and threaten to divorced me or send me parking from the house.

Furthermore, the interviewees disclosed that the nature of the violence determines the channel in seeking refuge or resolving the case. For some if the violence is verbal and not too severe, it will not involve outsider or families coming in to resolve conflicts but in the situation where by it is severe, then it will involve third party or authorities. Another interviewee revealed that, in her own case, her parents and her husband parents always interfere to resolve differences and make peace.

The responses generated from all respondents and interviewees have provided a reliable information on the main ways of seeking refuge and addressing domestic violence in the study area.

The economic effects of domestic violence on women’s health in the study area

Table4.12 Respondents were asked to indicate the cost involved in treating violence against women in the study area to know whether is high or low.

Cost rate	Frequency	Percentage
Low	23	21.3
Moderate	18	16.7
High	31	28.7
No cost involved	36	33.3
Total	108	100

Source: Field Work,2017.

From the table, above, 33.3% of the respondents which are the majority of the study population reveals that no financial cost was involved in addressing domestic violence in the study area, while 28.7% of the population affirmed that

the cost involved is high, also 21.3% submitted that the cost involved is low and 16.7% reveals that the cost involved in addressing domestic violence is moderate.

The interviewed conducted also revealed similar results to the financial involvement in treating or addressing domestic violence against women in the study area. They affirmed that the nature of domestic violence varies and the cost and effects involves varies equally depending on the situations. In the case of the violence when injuries are involved the cost becomes high compared with when a violence occurred without an injury involved. Also, the interviewer revealed that, when a violence involves injuries, court and police, then the cost involved becomes higher than comparing with domestic violence that are addressed by family or friends. They affirmed that the finances involved in addressing domestic violence depends on the level of the violence and it is not in all cases of violence that finances are involved.

Possible way out to eradicate or reduce domestic violence in the study area

Table: 4.13. Respondents perception on possible ways to eradicate or reduced violence against women in the study area.

Ways	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Criminalizing domestic violence and punishment of perpetrators.	28	25.9
Orientation program should be offer to reduce cultural and religious beliefs that supports or promotes violence against women.	17	15.7
Create program that makes women economically independent.	26	24.1
Provide marriage education program to all girl child across all schools before marriage age.	17	15.7
Carryout campaign to educate the public on the health implications of domestic violence against women and how it affects agricultural activities	14	13

and development.		
Public awareness on the danger of alcoholic abuse	6	5.6
Total	108	100

Source: field survey, 2017.

Findings from the table above shows possible ways of reducing violence against women in the study area. From the data generated, 25.9% of the study population suggested that violence against women should be criminalized and perpetrators should be punished for the act. 24.1% of the population also submitted that, there is the need to create a program to enhance women economic stability to reduce over depending on husband or men financially while 15.7% of the study population recommend that, Orientation program should be organized to reduce cultural and religious beliefs which supports or promotes violence against women. Out of the study population, 15.7% as well recommend the need for adequate education of a girl child for marriage rights orientation before marriage and this should take place in all schools, taking into consideration of this fact, it was noted that domestic violence against women is high among the illiterate than the educated once. Similarly, 13% also suggest that, there is the need to carryout campaign to educate the public especially the men on the health implications of domestic violence against women and how it affects agricultural activities and development and while 6% of the study population suggested public awareness on the danger of alcoholic abuse on health and human relationship.

The interviews conducted among the victims of domestic violence from the study population suggested similar possible way-out submitted by respondents through questionnaire, in addition to that, the interviewees also suggested other ways in which domestic violence cases against women can be addressed. According to the victim's experience in an attempt to address violence committed on her by her husband, police always frustrated the victim. She revealed that, she was always told to go back home to settle her case with her husband, that they police do not like to interfere into family matters, and the police told her to go home and settle

with her husband and be a good wife. Consequently, the police and the society sees women reporting violence cases to police or outsider as a bad wife or woman. So, for that, she does not always have option than to endure the pains to go back home to the husband. The respondent advice that, police should be given right to address domestic violence cases especially when the victims sustained injuries, they should be given power to arrest perpetrators of domestic violence and an awareness program should be offer to police to see the danger of domestic violence on health and agricultural activities in the society. To the respondent, this will go a long way to reduce high occurrence of domestic violence in the study area.

Similarly, another victim interviewed also affirmed that police that must defend the right and freedom of all citizens, careless about domestic violence against women, she affirmed that when she reported a case to the police about how her husband maltreated her with a swollen face, police told her to go back home to settle the case with the family, that they don't like to come in between lovers or husband and wife matters, that the said violence should be settled at home not with police. So, she is also in the suggestion that, police should be given power to address domestic violence cases because police are closer to the public and accessible in times of emergency cases.

Furthermore, another victim interviewes submitted below thus:

That there is the need for women to have autonomy to own property, access to financial resources to be economically independent. According to her, after separation from her husband because of frequent violence, she lost everything she and her husband have been laboring in the farm, this is because the man claimed ownership of the land. She further maintained that empowering women in training, providing jobs for women, providing welfare for women will go a long way in reducing violence against women. Also, she pointed out that there is the need to initiates programs and create policies that will help in preventing and

eradicating domestic violence against women in the society. Similarly, she pointed out the need to educate women about human rights and how to fight against domestic violence. This is because majority of women suffering for this act are ignorant of the law and are illiterate and jobless. The interviewee suggested educating women especially those in the rural areas and creating jobs will help in reducing the domestic violence in the study area and the society at large.

Another interviewee equally reviewed that,

Government need to extend courts and social welfare offices to all rural areas for easy accessibility because interviewee must travel far to get to social welfare office to report her case. According to her, many women cannot afford the means of transportation to the State capital or Local government headquarters to reports cases of domestic violence or seek for refuge.

Another woman interviewed also revealed that, there is a need to make strict law and punishment to abusers of women in violence, because violence makes us women to stop going to farm to perform farm work, and this results to damages to farm products and results to lack of enough food stuffs in the market because it is the women that does the work of harvesting and selling most times. So therefore, men should be punished by law for committing violence act against women.

The respondents interviewed suggested that, women need to be encourage to report cases of domestic violence to the appropriate authorities like social welfare and courts and the authorities need to be active in handling domestic violence cases.

Discussion of findings

This study was designed with the aim to achieve certain objectives. These objectives include to explore the nature and prevalence of domestic violence against women, to explore the causes of domestic violence, to identify and explore the health implication (physical, mental and social) of domestic violence against women, to find out the socio-economic effect of the health Implication and to find out the ways of preventing or eradicating the problem of domestic violence against women. These certain objectives in this study have been duly examined and determine.

From the findings of this study, it was discovered that the nature and causes of domestic violence against women in Otukpo Local Government Area of Benue State, Nigeria are multidimensional and they include physical abuse (wife battering, pushing, slapping, punching, among others) and verbal abuse, (insults, treats) and while the causes of domestic violence against women includes Financial factor, extra marital affairs, forced sex, alcoholism, marital infidelity, disrespect/disobedient.

It was discovered from the data that domestic violence against women in the study area occurs in the nature of verbal and physical assaults. Also, the findings revealed that domestic violence against women occur on frequent basis. In respect of this, the data revealed that, 55.5% of the study population disclosed that domestic violence occurred in both physical and verbal assaults. And 76.9% of the study population revealed that the said violence occurred frequently. Relatedly, the findings further revealed that, dangerous weapons are used in the process of violence and to this effect; the data affirmed that 44.4% of the study population revealed the use of weapon in the process of violence against women. On the issue of forms of violence against women in Otukpo local Government Area of Benue state Nigeria, the assembled data from the field and the interview conducted indicated that, a significant number of women experience violence on a frequent basis and majority experience physical violence which affects their physical, mental and social health. This act also makes their contribution to

agricultural activities minimal. More so, it was revealed from the interviewed conducted that, the most severe form of domestic violence against women is the physical violence which usually cause injury on the victim body which in most cases resulted to disfiguring of the victim body whose right is violated. Also, it was revealed from the interviewed that traditional practice (such as payment of bride price) and religion practices promote violence against women in the study area.

Regarding the causes of Domestic violence against women in the study Area, the findings revealed that majority of the causes of the said menace includes the following; alcoholism, extra marital affairs, forced sex, disrespect, financial factor and marital infidelity. Accordingly, collated data from the study area revealed that, most of the causes of domestic violent against women emanated from excess taken of alcohol by the perpetrators. The collated data further indicates domestic violence against women in the study area is caused by men extra marital affairs. It was disclosed from the interviewed conducted that, most men abuse their wife's or partners because they engaged in extra marital affairs or engaged in another relationship outside their partner thereby cheating on them, women get abused or beaten at a point where they seek to find out why is there partners or husband is engaging on another relationship. These enquiries from the woman always in most cases end up violence against women in the study area.

Furthermore, the data collected indicates that women who denied their husband or partner sex from the study population are abused by their husbands. This sex deprivation has resulted to forced sex or rape and this have affected women's health which resulted to numerous physical abuses in the study area. It was also affirmed from the data that, financial crisis account for domestic violence in the study area. From the study population, the data indicates further that marital infidelity resulted to violence against women from the interviewed conducted, it was submitted that women faces frequent verbal abuse and lack of respect from the husband because of lack of producing children to the husband. On the case of disrespectfulness, it was revealed in the data that, most women that faces violent

abused by their male counterpart, the violence occurred as a result of lack of respects to their husbands as culture and religion demands. Other forms of violence against women which occur frequently in the study area as observed include humiliation, intimidation among others. However, it could be inferred here that the occurrences of this menace in Otukpo local Government area negatively affect women health's and Agricultural output by reducing the quantity of both cash and food crops produced. These findings are in line with views of Ellsberg and Heise, (2002), Johnson, (1995), Olubunmi and Otufale, (2012) who in their separate views enumerated the causes of domestic violence against women as disrespect for husband and in-laws; outburst at husband or the use of abusive words; lateness in preparing meals and manner of approach, complains about insufficient allowances for food / house keeps, adultery, refusal to have sex, failure to keep the house tidy, participation in social activities and other outdoor activities. Also, the study further revealed from the interviewed conducted that majority of the causes of domestic violence against women in the study area includes social construct, cultural practices, religion and patriarchal among others. In respect to that, Gyuse (2008) revealed that, most cultures around the world considered beating of wife's as normal because the wife is a mere property of the husband who has the right to control her behavior. Women who challenge that right are in most cases punish and abused. Sawyer (2001) also submitted the prevalence of domestic violence to the belief in Africa systems that women and children are properties of Men and as such they must be under the control of men. In some African traditions like the northern Islamic Nigeria traditions also prevent Women from moving out of their matrimonial homes and preventing them from socializing.

Domestic violence against women was revealed from the study population that it has effects on women's health's physically, mentally and socially. 97% of the study population affirmed that domestic violence has health effects on the victim. It was submitted that the physical health implications against women in the study area includes sustains injuries, dislocations, body pains, miscarriages, abortions,

face disfiguring, bruises and sometimes complete disability of the victims. The study further revealed the mental health implications associated with the victims of domestic violence in the study area which includes panic or phobia disorder, Mental depression, psychological trauma, stress and anxiety. The interviewed conducted also revealed that, most women victims faces mental effects in panicking and mental depressions. Nevertheless, it was also revealed that the social effects of domestic violence against women in the study area includes cases of divorced, strained relationships, financial challenges, children personality development, effects on women status, and this makes perpetrators irresponsible. It was affirmed that, majority of the study population submitted that violence against women affects the social wellbeing of the victims by the menace leading to cases of divorced, strained relationships and effects on children upbringing and development. It was further discovered from the findings that majority of the population is aware of the high rate of domestic violence against women health in the society especially in Otukpo Local Government Area, Benue State Nigeria and these have affected agricultural development in the study area thereby affecting agricultural output and food crops production.

The findings are in line with a research conducted by Dyessa (1997) which state that in the United State of America, domestic violence against women are very high and is the leading cause of injuries among women of reproductive age resulting in high medical costs in addition to reduced productivity. He further submitted that 20% of Caribbean women have been abused by beating from their male partner or husband at least once in their life time. And, a study in Costa Rica indicated that 51% of women are reported being beaten several times in a year. This menace is also common in France, Philippines, Brazil, and Zimbabwe according to Dyessa.

It has been revealed that, the major occupation of the people in the study area is Agriculture and women play a vital role in agricultural activities. Data have revealed from majority of the studied population that domestic violence against women affects agricultural activities in Otukpo Local Government and to

confirmed to this effect, almost 80% of the data affirmed that the effect of violence against women is grievous on Agricultural activities. The available data collected from the field and interview indicated that, abused women cannot have contributed effectively to agricultural activities and the noticeable effect to this violence abuse against women on agriculture is shortage of food and income for the family and mostly on the victims. Data gathered from the interviews shows that, majority of women in the study area suffered for survival after separation from their partners, this is because of women total dependent on men for food and income from the farm, so after separation, result revealed that victim lack food and income to survive. Findings further revealed that domestic violence against women affect both men and women in agricultural production. The result of the data collected from both questionnaire and interview clearly shows that abused women can never make reasonable impact on the farm and her absence from farm affects crop production and leads to waste in most seasonal crops such as tomatoes, groundnuts, pepper among others in the Study area. This finding is in line with the views of Egbe (2012), Olubunmi, and Otufale (2012), UN (2000), DFID (2007), UNIFEM (1994) and Gordon and Crehan (1998), they pointed out that domestic violence against women have negative effect on victims, they argue that the loss of homes, income, families and social support deprives women and girls the capacity to generate income and agricultural activities because of violence against women. They further submitted that the impact of domestic violence against women on agricultural development goes beyond short term injuries and disability. It often leads to the isolation and even ostracism of the victims and ultimately resulted to longer term Mental, medical and economic consequences. Specifically, UN (2000) revealed that violence against women and the girl child both at home and at work place has taken alarming trend and different dimensions. It is equally a major treat to agricultural, social, and economic development. Similarly, to Hamanshu and Panda (2007), it is estimated that in every five women, one faces some form of domestic violence during her life time and in some case resulting to serious injury or death which consequently affect agricultural, social and economic development.

Regarding the socio-economic effects of domestic violence against women's health in the study area, the findings have revealed that victims usually seek refuge and or channel their problems in seeking for solutions in different ways. These ways in which the victims address this menace includes self-help, through family and friends, police/court, social welfare, NGOs, and Neighbors. The data have affirmed that most the victims seek to address violence cases through self-help. Similarly, it was also revealed from the interview that most abused women resolve conflicts through self-help because of fear of their husband repeating the abuse on them and fear of separation or divorced because of women over depending on husband for survival, victims are afraid to seek refuge through other means other than within themselves to avoid divorced. It was also revealed from the interviewed conducted that, many poor victims find it difficult to access social welfare office to seek for help because of high cost of transportation and location of the office. It was observed that social welfare office is in the state capital city which makes accessing the office difficult for most victims. It was also revealed from the interviewed that majority of rural farmer's victims from the study area are ignorant of the appropriate avenue to seek refuge or address domestic violence cases. The study further reviewed that the financial cost associated with treating the health implications of domestic violence and how to address this menace depends on the ways of addressing or resolving the violence and the gravity of the violent or health implications associated with the act. To this effects, these findings equally affirmed the views of Heise et al (2005), Ellsberg (2000), Hamberge (1986), Fox & Benson, (2006), Ellsberg and Heise (2005) among others as earlier reviewed in the literature.

Findings have also revealed factors that hinders the eradication of domestic violence in the study area from the interviewes conducted, it was affirmed that culture and tradition and religion have been the major factors that contributed to the persistence practice of these menace in the study Area. Majority of the study population were of the view that culture and tradition and religion has been the major instrument that men use in perpetrating the act of violence against women

in Otukpo Benue State, Nigeria. It was also discovered from the interviewed that adequate law is not put in place to address this menace and it was perceived as factor hindering the eradication of domestic violence. In the same vein, it was further discovered that high level of poverty contributed to the persistence of violence against women because of women over dependent on men for survival in the study area. It was further revealed through the interviewed conducted that, domestic violence against women prevent women from going to farm to perform their agricultural duties and this affects food production which results to shortage of food stuffs in the study area.

The study Finally sought to elicit the possible ways of mitigating domestic violence against women's health and agricultural activities in the study area. Findings to this effect revealed that majority of the study population suggested that, domestic violence against women should be criminalized and perpetrators should be punished. They said this will go a long way helping to eradicate or reduce high rate of perpetrating the act. The data further revealed the need to cultural initiate orientation program with a view to de-emphasizing cultural beliefs and values that promotes domestic violence. Also, it was discovered from the data that there is the need to empower women economically to enable women economically independent thereby creating job opportunity for women and to ensure proper marriage education to girl child before marriage. Accordingly, findings from the data and interview reviewed that there is the need for public awareness to educate the public on the danger of violence against women health and its negative effects on agricultural development and to also educate women generally to report incidence of domestic violence to the appropriate authority and the need for police or court and other formal or informal agents of social control to see domestic violence not as an individual or domestic affair but as a social problem that affects societal development.

Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations

This section reviews the preceding chapters of the study. Thus, the study was carried out to ascertain the effects of domestic violence against women's health and agricultural activities in Otukpo, Benue state, Nigeria. The problem that necessitated this study was that women are perceived as husbands or men property thus they are inferior to men or to their husband and the male partner or husband take advantage of abusing women thereby preventing women from performing their daily duties. Agriculture is the major occupation of the study population and there is an assumption that women are the major participants of agricultural activities in the study area and there is a declined in food production. So, for the fact that the rate of domestic violence is high in Benue state, the researcher want to ascertain the causes and effects of domestic violence against women health's and how it affects agricultural activities in the study areas. Consequent to that effect, the study attempted to seek adequate answers and explanations to the formulated research questions: To ascertain the nature and causes of Domestic violence against women in the study area. To examine and identify the health implication of domestic violence against women in Otukpo, Benue State and to examine how violence against women affects agricultural activities in the study area. The main objective is to examine and identify the health implication of domestic violence against women and agricultural activities in the study area and to proffer viable recommendations on the ways to mitigate the menace. Furthermore, the significance of the study, disposition of the thesis as well as definitions of the terms are clarified in chapter one. Related literature has been reviewed in chapter two to indicate that this study emerges from an existing body of knowledge. Radical feminist theory has been selected because is relevant to the topic as a guide to explain the effects of domestic violence against women.

Chapter three centered on Methodology which provides details of how the researcher went about this study in gathering data. In chapter four the gathered data was presented and analyzed quantitatively and qualitatively and finally recommendations were suggested to mitigate the said menace.

Summary

This section of the thesis summarizes the major findings of the study. The findings from the proceeding chapters was discovered that domestic violence against women in Otukpo Benue State exist and the people in the study area are aware of domestic violence. From the data collected and the interviewed conducted, the causes of domestic violence against women in the study are was affirmed as follows: Financial factors, extra marital affairs, forced sex or sex refusal by partner, excess alcohol, Marital infidelity, disrespect for husband or the use of abusive words or rude words on husbands, cultural and religion factor contributed to the causes as revealed and patriarchal system.

It was further discovered that most women in the study population experienced the said violence frequently especially physical violence. From the data collected and analyzed, it has been discovered that domestic violence against women is prevalent and it has so many negative effects on women health's and agricultural production. Also, it was discovered that domestic violence affects everyone in the society including the perpetrator (Men). Consequently, this menace leads to decrease in agricultural activities in the study Area. About sex denial and excess of alcohol consumption as a factor that leads to violent, it was gathered from the interview that, women who deprived their husband or partner sex, are the most often abuse especially among women with an alcoholic husband. Relatedly, it was discovered that, most men that involved in extra marital affairs are also under alcoholic influence and most times patriarchal systems and the traditions of the society contributed to practicing of the act. Also, the data shows that, all the nature of violence against women like physical and verbal abuse like humiliation and intimidation among others occurred daily in the study area. And apparently, no abused woman can function actively or performed any reasonable inputs on agricultural activities in the study area. Based on the effect, it was discovered from the interviewed that violence against women results in shortage of food and income in the study area due to women absentee from farm.

An evaluation of violence on the health of the victims from the data analysis revealed that abused women have mental stress, depression, sleeping problems, anxiety and miscarriages. Also, victims face some social effects like separation or divorce. The effect of the said menace against women maybe be sudden or instant, or culminate into long term effect on the life of the abused women, her children and the family.

The solutions to domestic violence against women from the study discoveries involves Criminalizing domestic violence and punishment of perpetrators, creating Orientation program to reduce cultural and religious beliefs that supports or promotes violence against women, Create program that makes women economically independent, Provide marriage education program to all girl child across all schools before marriage age, Carryout campaign to educate the public on the health implications of domestic violence against women and how it affects agricultural activities and development and also Public awareness on the danger of alcoholic abuse on marriages or relationships.

Conclusions

Based on the formulated questions of this thesis in chapter one, the following conclusions are made from the result of the findings:

It can be concluded that the major causes of domestic violence against women in the study area includes the following; alcoholism, extra marital affairs, forced sex, disrespect, financial factor and marital infidelity. relatedly, it was concluded that domestic violence against women in the study area occurs verbal and physical assaults.

It can be further concluded from the research findings that, domestic violence against women affects women's health's physically, mentally and socially. Also, it can be concluded from the findings that, women play a significant role in doing agricultural activities in the study area and due to that, domestic violence affect women daily participation in doing agricultural activities thereby reducing productivity and shortage of food production in the study area. It was also

concluded that domestic violence against women constitutes criminal offence and the need for punishment.

The study finally concluded that, society will be incomplete without women contribution especially in the agricultural production, economic and development in general. Obviously, the world will not be complete without women, development will not be rapid without women contribution. So therefore, there is the need to eliminate domestic violence against women to ensure women full participation in agricultural activities and other means of livelihood and societal developmental activities.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made to help in monitoring and reducing the ugly act of domestic violence against women in Otukpo Benue State, Nigeria.

For effective gender relations, the Federal Government should appropriately implement the National Gender policy in Nigeria and the study Area; by doing this will help in eradicating women from all forms of violence in the society. A massive awareness campaign and orientation should be given to all Men and Women on the effect of violence against women's health and agricultural development in the study area and across all societies in the nation. Otukpo people should deemphasize violence against women for this will lead to high yield in agricultural production.

Government should mandate the law enforcement agencies to arrest and prosecute perpetrators of domestic violence against women in the study area. And the punishment should be rigid one to deter other potential perpetrators who may intend to commit the same act in the study area.

Women should be given adequate orientations to meet up with the challenges that are confronting them in the society. For there is the need to collectively come together under one umbrella and fight against their oppressed in the society. This

should be done through Women Associations like all community's women associations, Christian Women Associations, Muslim Women Associations, National Union of Women Lawyers, National Council for Women in Society and all other NGOs and human Rights activist. By doing this will help reduced the high rate of the said menace in the study Area.

Government should include Gender Awareness programme in school's curriculum to sensitized all children on the need to avoid gender violence. This apparently will help in reducing the menace in the future in the society. The Government should educate the public to abolish customs, traditions, Religion and other laws that discriminate against women in the study area and the society in general. The national Assembly should amend the constitution in such a way that it will eliminate the ugly act in the society.

Contribution to Knowledge

The study help in contributing to knowledge the importance of Women in the Society. The study is also significant because it makes us understand that domestic violence against women health constitutes a major setback to agricultural activities in the Study Area.

Furthermore, it is equally important to know that violence against anyone is a criminal offence, so also violating Women's Rights constitute a criminal offence against women and indeed humankind.

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Annex

Field Survey Questionnaire

Introduction

I am a master student of social Studies of Gender programme in Lund university, Sweden and I am undergoing a research study on the effect of domestic violence on women's health and agricultural activities in otukpo Local Government area of Benue State, Nigeria. This Questionnaire is intended to seek and collect data for a research and the survey is purely for Academic purposes and the information you will provide will be used anonymously and treated in strict confidence for the research purpose. It will take a maximum of 20 minutes, and although I will appreciate if you will complete the whole survey, but you may choose to discontinue at any point you wish or decide not to answer a/some question(s).

Instructions: Please tick in the box or space provided against the answer that is applicable to you.

Part 1: Demographic Attributes of Respondents

Name(optional)

.....

- Sex: Male () Female ()
- Age: 18-25 years () 26-45 years () 46 years and above ()
- Marital Status: Single () Married () Others ()
- Educational Attainment: Primary () Secondary () Tertiary () Others ()
- Occupational Status: Farming () Civil/public servant () Trading () Others ()

Part 2: Strictly for members of the public

Nature and Causes

- Are you aware of domestic violence against Women? Aware () Not Aware () Don't Know ()
- If you are aware, can you highlight the kind of domestic violence against women that you know?
.....
- What is your perception on domestic violence against women on the causes you listen above?
.....
- Can you name the most occurring domestic violence against women in your locality?.....
- How frequent do you experience Domestic violence in your relationship?
Very frequently () Frequently () Not frequently/ rarely ().
- What is the nature of the violence you experience? Verbal insults () Physical assaults () Both insults and verbal Assaults () Others () specify.....
- Does Domestic violence against women usually involves the use of dangerous weapons? Yes () No ()
- Can you identify the cause of the violence you often experience? Financial problems () Alcoholism () Marital infidelity () Forced sex () Others () specify

Health and Agricultural activities

- Does domestic violence against women has health implication on the victims?
(a) yes (b) No.
- How does the violence affect your Health physically? Injuries ()
Dislocation/fracture () complete disability () Miscarriages/abortion ()
Constant body pains () Bruises on the body () others specify
- What is the mental implication of domestic violence you experienced?
Depression () Stress and Anxiety () Panic () Psychological trauma ()
others Specify
- What is the social implication of domestic violence you experience?
Divorced/separation () Strained relationship/ interaction between partners ()
Financial cost or burden () implication on children personality development ()
) makes perpetrators irresponsible persons () affects self-esteem or status of
victims () Others specify
- Are you aware of agricultural activities in your area? Aware () Not aware ()
Don't Know ()
- If yes name the agricultural activities
.....
- What is your perception of domestic violence against women on Agricultural
activities in your locality? (a) Grievous (b) Not Grievous (c) Don't know.
- What are the effects of domestic violence against women on agricultural
activities that you
know?.....
.....
- Are you aware of the factors that work against minimizing domestic violence
against women? (a) aware (b) Not aware (c) Don't Know.

- If you are aware, mention them.....

Social- economic Effect of the health implication and way out.

- In what means do you address grievances to seek refuge from domestic violence from your own experience? Self-help () Family () Social Welfare () NGOs () Police/court () Friends () Neighbors () Others Specify
- How is the cost rate of the economic implications of domestic violence on women’s health from your own experience? High () moderate () Low () No cost ()
- From your own opinion, can you list out ways of minimizing domestic violence in your area?
.....

Part 3: Unstructured Interview guide strictly for the member of the public

- Can you comment on Domestic Violence from your experience?
.....
- Can you states the kind of Domestic Violence you have experienced?.....
- Which of the violence you felt is more severe among the once you experienced?
.....
...
- How often do you experience this violence?
.....

- From your Experience can you states the real causes of the violence?.....
- How do your culture constitutes violence against women in your community?.....
- What are the noticeable implications of domestic violence on women’s health?
- Does Violence against women affects both Men and Women in agricultural activities? If Yes, then how does the violence affects agricultural activities from your experience?
- What are the factors that work against minimizing domestic violence against women from your own opinion?
- Do you think that the Law enforcement agencies have done enough to curtail the high effects of Violence against Women? Comment
- What is the Social and Economic implication of Domestic Violence against women’s health in your locality?

What do you think can be done to eradicate the ugly incidences of Domestic violence in your community?
.....