



Domestic Violence Experienced By Senior Secondary School Students In Jalingo Education Zone, Taraba State-Nigeria Implications For Counselling

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ABSTRACT

This study investigated Domestic Violence Experienced by Senior Secondary School Students' in Jalingo Education Zones of Taraba State. To guide the study, one research question and one research hypotheses were formulated. The design adopted for this study was descriptive survey research design. The population of the study consists of 362 students in SS2. The research instrument used is a questionnaire titled: Domestic Violence Experienced by Senior Secondary School Students Questionnaire (DVESSSSQ). The reliability of the instrument was established using Cronbach alpha method. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation while inferential statistics of Chi-square (X^2) was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance. The findings of the study revealed that: family issues, bullying, rape, hunger and starvation are common sources of domestic violence experienced by Senior Secondary Students. Other forms of domestic violence include fighting among siblings, abusive words, hatred, parental nagging and physical threats. Recommendations and Implications for Counselling include: Awareness Campaigns be put in place, Domestic Violence Act be enacted in Nigeria to protect victims, Social work profession be legalized and bill passed into law. Guidance and Counselling therapy sessions be observed in schools and community level to educate, sensitize and rehabilitate individuals.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Senior Secondary School Students

INTRODUCTION

Violence is an interpersonal process (Busby, 2006), or an act carried out with the intention or perceived intention of causing physical pain, or injury to another person (Gelles and Strauss, 2008). Violence exists within the family. This is called Family violence or Domestic violence. Violence is defined by the World Health Organization, in (2008) and exist in 2010 as "the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against group or community, which either result in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, development, or deprivation", but acknowledges that the inclusion of "the use of power "in its definition expands on the conventional meaning of the word. This definition involves intentionality with the committing of the act itself, Awake July 8/2003. Irrespective of the outcomes or damaging way may be described as violence even if not meant to be violence (by a person and against person). For each single death due to violence, there are dozens of hospitalization, hundreds of emergence department visit, and thousands of doctors' appointments. Furthermore, violence often has lifelong consequences for physical and mental health and social function and can slow economic and social development (WHO, 2008).

Domestic violence is often used interchangeable with intimate partner violence domestic violence includes physical abuse, verbal abuse, economic abuse and social abuse.

Domestic violence may be a factor of individual intolerance, incompatibility, selfish approach to issues, immaturity, lack of moral standard or lack of fear of God. Other causes of domestic violence include failure to fulfil financial obligations to wife and children, poverty, denial of sexual intercourse, infidelity, disrespect and other social vices. Whatever be the causes or nature of domestic

violence, it is imperative for the social workers or other care-givers to acquaint themselves with the consequences of domestic violence, its prevention and management. UNICEF (2001) in its study asserted that traditionally in Nigeria, as in many other African countries, the beating of wives and children is widely sanctioned as a form of discipline. Therefore, in beating their-children parents believe they are instilling discipline in them, much the same way as in husbands beating their wives, who are regarded like children to be prone to indiscipline which must be curbed. Cases of domestic violence against women have been on the increase in Nigeria. There have been reports of cases of husbands killing and maiming their wives in the media. The statistics presented by *This Day* newspaper (2011) are daunting. About 50% of women have been battered by their husbands. Shockingly, more educated women (65%) are in this terrible situation as compared with their low income counterparts (55%). Most endure, believing they have nowhere to go and in any case, believing, for good reason, that the law will not protect them. Staggering 97.2% of them are not prepared to report to the Nigeria Police.

Forms of Violence

Physical violence: Physical violence is the interventional use of physical force with potential for causing death, disability, injury, or harm, physical violence includes but is not limited to; scratching, pushing, shoving, throwing; grabbing, biting, choking, shaking, slapping, punching, burning, use of a weapon and use of restraints or one's body, size or strength against another person" (CDC,2007).

Psychological /Emotional violence: This involves trauma to the victims caused by acts, threats of or coercive tactics both psychological/emotional can include but is not limited to humiliating the victims can and cannot do withholding information from victim, deliberately doing situation to make the victim from friends and family, denying the victim access to money or other basic resources, Emotional violence includes, but is not limited to name calling, blaming all relationship problems on the person, using silent treatment, not allowing the person to have contact with family and friends, destroying possession, jealousy, humiliating or malign fun of the person, unintimidating the person, causing fear to gain control, threatening to hurt one if the person does not cooperates, threatening to abandon the person and threaten to have the person deported (if they are on immigrant).

Verbal Violence: Verbal violence often happens that only physical violence comes to our minds. In case of verbal violence the perpetrator does not intimidate his partner with blows, but humiliate her with words, destroys her self-confidence, and manipulates, confuses and forces her, thus bringing her under his control.

Cultural Violence: Cultural violence occurs when an individual in harm as a result of practices that are part of her or his culture, religion or tradition.

Elder Abuse: This may be an act of commission or omission and may be an intentional or unintentional as with other forms of abuse, it may be physical psychological, financial, sexual or involve neglect, the International Network For The Prevention Of Elder Abuse uses the following defining: "single or repeated act or lack of appropriate action, occurring wilting any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person".

Traditional Domestic Violence: Traditional domestic violence was mostly associated with physical violence. For instance, according to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary definition, domestic violence is: the inflicting of physical injury by one family or household member on another, also: a repeated habitual pattern of such behaviour. Domestic violence is now more broadly defined often but not always including all acts of physical, sexual, psychological or economic violence" that may be committed by a person who is a family member or a person that has been an intimate partner or spouse, irrespective of whether they lived together.

In 1993, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women identified domestic violence as one of three contexts in which violence against women occurs, describing it as: "Physical sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering sexual abuse of female children in the household dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation".

Statement of the Problem

Apart from the mass failure observed, truancy, cheating, stealing, bad health and nutrition, poor study habit and children staying away from their homes are common among senior secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone. Most of these students seem to be insecure, aggressive and some

are traumatized and do not perform well academically. The researchers also observed various types of domestic violence among women, children and adolescents in Jalingo Education Zone. Could the rate of domestic violence in Jalingo Education Zone comprising Ardo-kola, Lau and Jalingo Local Government Areas of Taraba State be responsible for the delinquent behaviours among senior secondary schools in Jalingo Education Zone Taraba State, Nigeria? What could the implication of this assumed trend be if not properly tackled?

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study is to determine the types of domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone, Taraba state, Nigeria.

Research Question

One research question was formulated to guide the study.

What are the common types of domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone, Taraba state, Nigeria?

Statement of the Hypotheses

One null hypothesis was formulated and will be tested at 0.05 level of significance:

Ho₁: There is no significant impact on types of Domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students' in Jalingo Education Zone

METHODOLOGY

The research design adopted for this study is descriptive survey research design. According to Okogun (2016), irrespective of the types descriptive survey design collects information about a defined situation and condition or environment and the people.

The population of this study comprised of all the SSII students of 2018/ 2019 academic session in Jalingo Education zone of Taraba State. Available data from Taraba state Post Primary Management Education Board Jalingo (TSPPMEB), revealed that the zone has 44 senior secondary schools with a total enrolment of three-thousand eight-hundred and two. This study is limited to SSII students because they are the most current set of students on ground and they form the most stable class suitable for the purpose of the study.

The sample size for this study is three hundred and sixty-two. Multi-stage sampling was used to select the sample size for the study using the Taro Yamane's (1976) formula for determining sample size of the entire population.

The main instrument for this study is questionnaire. Named "Domestic Violence Experienced by Senior Secondary School Student Questionnaire" (DVESSSSQ). The instrument was validated by (three) experts, Measurement and Evaluation, Guidance and Counselling and Science Education, Faculty of Education. A pilot study was carried out in (Two) schools in Taraba State which are not part of the sample of the study, but part of the population of the study. The DVESSSSQ was administered to forty (40) respondents. Cronbach Alpha co-coefficient was used to estimate internal consistency of the instrument. The reliability index of 0.695 was obtained. This index was of categories based on sections A, B, C and D the index are as follows 0.897, 0.74, 0.650 and 0.785, for sections A, B, C, and D respectively. Inferential statistics of Chi-square was used to test the hypotheses at 0.05 levels of significance. Descriptive statistics of mean and standard deviation was used in answering the research question using the SPSS package.

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

Research Question

What are the common types of domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone, Taraba State, Nigeria?

Table 1: Mean and standard deviations of rating scale on the common types of domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone (N = 361)

S/N	Statement	Mean	SD	Rem
1.	Family issues are the common form of violence at homes	3.53	0.70	A
2.	Bullying others is one of the violence at homes	3.12	0.84	A
3.	Rape is one of the violence at homes	2.83	1.01	A
4.	Hunger and starvation is one form of violence at home	2.88	0.92	A
5.	Family fighting among siblings is another form of domestic violence	2.99	0.90	A
6.	Abusive words/language at home is one form of domestic violence	2.96	0.94	A
7.	Punishing others at home is common form of domestic violence	2.69	0.99	A
8.	Hatred is a form of domestic violence at home	2.80	0.96	A
9.	Parental nagging and threats is one form of domestic violence	2.71	0.98	A
10.	Physical threats such as use of sticks, guns, machete and so on are common violence at home	2.72	1.10	A

Source: Researcher’s Field Survey 2019

Grand mean= 2.92. SD=0.22

Results in Table 1 show all the items have a mean rating scale above the 2.50. Thus, the common types of domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone are family issues, bullying, rape, hunger and starvation. Other forms of common domestic violence include fighting among siblings, abusive words, hatred parental nagging and physical threats.

Hypotheses

There is no significant impact on types of Domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students’ in Jalingo Education Zone

Table 2: Chi-Square Test of types of domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone, Taraba State, Nigeria

	Value	of	Asymp. Sig. (2- sided)
Pearson Chi-Square	913.762 ^a	18	.000
Likelihood Ratio	440.68018	1.000	
Linear-by-Linear Association	.0001	.983	
N of Valid Cases	361		

From Table 2, chi-square at 18 degree of freedom ($\chi^2 = 913.76, p = .000$) signifies that there is statistically significant impact on types of domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone. Thus, null hypothesis that says there is no significant impact on types of domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone is not retained.

The mean and standard deviation scores rating items on the common types of domestic violence experience by senior secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone, Taraba State is not significant. All the items have mean rating score above the average mean including grand mean, the grand mean for the ten items is above criterion mean which indicate that the respondents perceived that common types of domestic violence as perceived by researchers is experienced by senior

secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone, Taraba State. Similarly, chi-square at 21 degree of freedom signifies that the selected items are the common types of domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone, Taraba State.

The result is in agreement with Obi and Ozumba (2007) in Oyo State and other parts of Nigeria on “the factors associated with domestic violence. It is however disturbing to note that many women do not know if they had been abused or not. According to researcher, this could be due to the acceptance of some abusive behaviour as ‘normal’. The findings also support the reports in the print and electronic media reveal vicious attacks on women by intimate partners in different forms such as ‘acid bath’, rape, beatings, some of which sometimes result in the death of the victim.

The present study supports the findings of Paiko (2011) who conducted a survey study in Lagos state, Nigeria on “violence against women.” The result of his study shows that 64.4% of 45 women interviewed in the work place said they had been beaten by a partner (boyfriend or husband), 56.6% of 48 interviewed market woman admitted experiencing such violence.

Nevertheless, the findings are in agreement with the work of Agbo and Choji (2014) who’s carried out a study in Abuja, Nigeria, on “the influence of husband’s brutality over their wives.” As a result of those interviews, a mother of one narrated her ordeal in the hands of her husband who was constantly hitting and beating her whenever he was drunk, and she lost two pregnancies as a result of his brutality.

In the same vein the findings of the study affirm that of Nji, (2010) His findings show that the types of domestic violence are: family issues, bullying, rape, hunger and starvation. Others forms of common domestic violence include fighting among siblings, abusive words, hatred parental nagging and physical threats.

COUNSELLING IMPLICATIONS

From research findings, Counselling therefore would help students to develop self-awareness, this can also build relationships, improve and change their life. It helps the struggling students build their strength and be highly motivated. Learning situation then becomes a multidisciplinary environment where knowledge is acquired, skills developed and attitudes changed.

The following be put in place with aim of helping the students:

Awareness campaigns: awareness campaign should be put in place, when students and parents become aware of the dangers and effects domestic violence has on their lives, it keeps the issue alive and important. Some examples of awareness campaigns include: Posters and pamphlets Using drama, dance or song to express an idea Radio discussions and public service announcement video presentation slogans printed on T shirts, containers and so on.

Domestic Violence Act: An Act should be enacted in Nigeria to protect victims of domestic violence and provide long term measures of prevention of domestic violence. Efforts should be made right from kindergarten, primary schools and colleges to inculcate more responsible behaviour at a tender age, and to teach and educate young people that violence is never acceptable behaviour. Teaching young children that violence is not a way to handle anger and emotions, will go a long way in preventing violent behaviour when they become adults.

Social work profession should be legalized: Social work profession should be legalized and the bill passed into law in Nigeria, this would empower social workers to be more active and functional.

There should be Guidance and Counselling Therapy sessions in both school and Community Level. This will educate sensitize and rehabilitate each and every individual in the society. This would also help students to cope with the trauma associated with the violence. The helping professionals should take responsibility of reporting the suspected abuse to the child protection agency or police; this would reduce the rate of violence since law will be applied effectively to apprehend offenders typically counsellors and school personnel should be required to report and be granted immunity from liability because they are presumed to be acting in good faith.

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