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THE INSIGHT OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FROM THE PERSPECTIVE OF FEMALE VICTIMS IN EBIRALAND, NIGERIA

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Kata Kunci: Keganasan rumah tangga, Hubungan suami isteri, Kanak-kanak, Ebiraland.
Abstract

Domestic violence has been recognised as a global social problem and serious human rights violation. Literature has indicated harmful effects of violence on women, children, and the society in general. The problem of domestic violence in Ebiraland is at an alarming rate while the absence of significant studies of its factors and effects has been exhaustive. This study explores the perceptions of the Muslim women about domestic violence and examines the factors associated with it in Ebiraland. The views of Muslim women and suggestions are crucial in understanding the effects of domestic violence on women and children, and the nature of mechanisms needed in preventing the violence. This is a qualitative research. The data were obtained through in-depth semi structured interviews. Twenty informants were purposively selected from Adavi, Ajaokuta, Okehi and Okene Local Government Areas of Kogi State, Nigeria. Thematic content analysis approach was applied in this study where themes that emerged were analysed using NVivo software. The findings show that poverty, polygamy, infertility and change in religion are the main contributors to domestic violence in Ebiraland. The study also established that the elevated level of criminal in Ebiraland is significantly associated with domestic violence in matrimonial relationships. It was further revealed that women had a perception that domestic violence affect their physical, mental and reproductive life. The women also felt that socio-cultural norms gave rise to domestic violence in Ebiraland. This study contributed significantly to the perspectives on factors and effects of domestic violence against women and children. It is suggested that preventive interventions such as legislation, employment and women empowerment are essential in breaking the cycle of violence. Muslim leaders’ role of preaching and counselling the couples should be improved to ensure women’s safety.

**Keywords:** Domestic violence, Matrimonial relationship, preventive interventions, Ebiraland.
Acknowledgement

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Last but not the least, I dedicate this thesis to my beloved father, Alhaji Umar Zubair, with whose prayers I started this journey, but Allah took his soul before it ended. May Allah forgive all his sins and grant him eternal peace. Aameen.
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List of Abbreviations

AIDS  Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
BP    Blood Pressure
COQDAS Computer-Assisted Qualitative Data Analysis Software
CEDAW Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CPS   Child Protective Services
HIV   Human Immunodeficiency Virus
LGA   Local Government Area
NCE   National Certificate in Education
NDHS  Nigerian Demography and Health Survey
NGO   Non-Governmental Organization
PBUH  Peace Be Upon Him
STD   Sexually Transmitted Diseases
STI   Sexually Transmitted Infections
TV    Television
UN    United Nations
UNICEF The United Nations Children’s Fund
U.S.A. United States of America
VAWA  Violence Against Women Act
WHO   World Health Organisations
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CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Domestic violence has been a major concern in the developed and developing countries of the world. It is a global social ill that cuts across nations, cultures, religions, ethnicity, and class, with varying degrees of prevalence (Afifi, Al-Muhaideb, Hadish, & Ismail, 2011; Amirthalingam, 2005; García-Moreno, Claudia; Jansen, Henrica; Ellsberg, Mary; Heise, Lori & Watts, 2005; Watts & Zimmerman, 2002; Tjaden & Thoennes, 1998). According to Pataporn (2006), domestic violence has been identified as the most common type of violence against women. Globally, research has indicated that at least one in every three women, in a relationship, has been a victim of one form of gender-based violence or the other (WHO, 2016; Audu et al., 2015; Bekmuratova, 2012). Be that as it were, domestic violence has been recognised as a form of discrimination, human rights violation, as well as an important public health problem that need to be addressed (Dufort, Stenbacka, & Gumpert, 2015; Obi & Ozumba, 2007; Campbell & Lewandowski, 1997).

Domestic violence is referred to as a gender-based act of violence which could be physical, sexual or psychological, that exposes women to suffering or mental harm, by an intimate partner in a relationship, whether is perpetrated in public or in private (WHO, 2016). In the same vein, Saltzman, Green, and Marks (2000) defined domestic violence as any act of verbal or physical force or deprivation of any sort, by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage, towards the other. The act could cause physical or psychological harm, humiliation, or likely to
The contents of the thesis is for internal user only
REFERENCES


Bekmuratova, S. (2012). *Study of international students’ definitions of, and perceptions about, domestic violence against women.* Minnesota State University, Mankato.


APPENDIX A

DATA COLLECTION LETTER

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam

DATA COLLECTION FOR PROJECT PAPER/THESIS

This is to certify that Mr. Umar Abdullahi (matric number: 819797) is a full time postgraduate student in Master of Arts (Islamic Studies) at UUM College of Arts and Sciences.

He needs to do his field study and data collection for his project paper/thesis in order to fulfill the partial requirements of his graduate studies.

We sincerely hope that your organization will be able to assist him in the data collection and the distribution of the questionnaires for his research.

Thank you.

“KNOWLEDGE, VIRTUE, SERVICE”

Yours faithfully

DR. AZIZI AB AZIZ
Deputy Dean
for Dean
Awang Had Salleh Graduate School of Arts and Sciences
UUM College of Arts and Sciences
APPENDIX B

INFORMED CONSENT FORM FOR PARTICIPATION

TITLE OF STUDY:
Perceptions of Domestic Violence among the Muslim Women in Ebiraland.

PRINCIPAL RESEARCHER:
Name: Umar Abdullahi
Address: No. 14B, Idoji Street, Okene Kogi State.
Phone: +2348036016191
Email: abdullahiumar50@gmail.com

Purpose of the Study:
You are being asked to take part in a research study. Before you decide to participate in this study, it is important that you understand why the research is being done and what it will involve. Please read the following information carefully. Please ask the researcher if there is anything that is not clear or if you need more information.

The purpose of this study is to explore the factors and effects of domestic violence against the Muslim women in Ebiraland, and to suggest practical ways of curbing the problems, to the government agencies and the Muslim Leaders in the Society.

Study Procedures:
The interview is going to last for one hour or there about. The interview is going to be audio-taped and notes will be taken as well.

Risks:
No risk of any sort the study will cause you, but you may decline to answer any or all the questions and you may terminate your involvement at any time if you choose.

Benefits:
There will be no direct benefit to you for your participation in this study. However, we hope that the information obtained from this study may form the larger part of the suggestions that will be directed to the authorities and the Muslim Community.
Leaders, to formulate policies and regulations to prevent domestic violence in Ebiraland.

Confidentiality:
All information will be kept confidential, this means that your names and answers will be kept secret. I will only label your responses with numbers known to me alone. Your details such as where you work, live, and others will be changed.

Contact Information:
If you have questions at any time about this study, or you experience adverse effects because of participating in this study, you may contact the researcher with the following contact number: 08036016191.

Consent:
I have read and I understand the provided information and have had the opportunity to ask questions. I understand that my participation is voluntary and that I am free to withdraw at any time, without giving a reason and without cost. I understand that I will be given a copy of this consent form. I voluntarily agree to take part in this study.

Informant’s Signature ______________________ Date ______________________
Interviewer’s Signature ______________________ Date ______________________
APPENDIX C
INTERVIEW PROTOCOLS

TOPIC: PERCEPTIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG THE MUSLIM WOMEN IN EBIRALAND.

➢ What are the types of domestic violence against women in Ebiraland?
   1. What is domestic violence in a marital relationship?
   2. Mention the forms of domestic violence in matrimonial relationship

➢ What are the factors of domestic violence in Ebiraland?
   3. Explain the factors of domestic violence in matrimonial relationship
   4. Who is responsible for domestic violence in a matrimonial relationship?

➢ What are the effects of domestic violence on women and children?
   5. What are the effects of domestic violence on the women’s well-being?
   6. What are the effects of domestic violence on the children’s well-being?
   7. What are the effects of domestic violence on the society in general?

➢ What are the workable mechanisms to curb domestic violence?
   8. What can the government do to prevent domestic violence in Ebiraland?
   9. What can the Muslim Community Leaders do to curb domestic violence?
  10. What can the couples do to prevent the occurrence of domestic violence?
  11. What can the society do to prevent domestic violence?
APPENDIX D

MODELS GENERATED FROM INFORMANTS’ RESPONSES

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG THE MUSLIM WOMEN IN EBIRALAND

Factors of Domestic Violence

Definitions of Domestic Violence

Forms of Domestic Violence

Factors of Domestic Violence

Effects of Domestic Violence

Mechanisms to Curb Domestic Violence

Factors of Domestic Violence

Poverty

Polygamy

Infertility

Changes in Religion
Effects of Domestic Violence

- Effects of Domestic Violence on Women
- Effects of Domestic Violence on Children
- Effects of Domestic Violence on Society

Mechanisms to Curb Domestic Violence

- Responsibilities of the Government
- Responsibilities of the Muslim Leaders
- Responsibilities of the Couples
- Responsibilities of the Society
Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

- Children’s Education
- Children’s Behaviours
- Child’s Care and Maintenance
- Prostitution in Female Children

Responsibilities of the Government

- Job Creation
- Enactment and Enforcement of the Laws
- Empowerment for Women
- Free Basic Education for the Citizens