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



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## Abstrak

Keganasan rumahtangga telah dikenal pasti sebagai masalah sosial bersifat global dan merupakan pelanggaran hak asasi manusia yang serius. Kajian lepas menunjukkan terdapat kesan berbentuk keganasan yang berbahaya terhadap golongan wanita dan kanak-kanak khususnya, dan masyarakat lain amnya. Masalah keganasan rumahtangga di Ebiraland, Nigeria berada pada tahap yang membimbangkan. Walau bagaimanapun faktor serta kesan keganasan rumahtangga masih belum dikaji secara menyeluruh. Oleh yang demikian, kajian ini bertujuan meneroka persepsi wanita Islam terhadap keganasan rumahtangga dan mengkaji faktor berlakunya keganasan rumahtangga di Ebiraland. Pandangan dan cadangan ini penting untuk memahami kesan keganasan rumahtangga terhadap wanita dan kanak-kanak, dan mekanisme yang diperlukan untuk menghalang keganasan tersebut daripada terus berleluasa. Kajian ini menggunakan pendekatan metode kualitatif. Data utama diperolehi melalui temu bual mendalam separa berstruktur, pemerhatian dan dokumentasi. Data temu bual diperolehi daripada 20 orang pemberi maklumat yang dipilih daripada empat kawasan kerajaan tempatan bagi negeri Kogi, Nigeria iaitu Adavi, Ajaokuta, Okehi dan Okene. Kaedah analisis data menggunakan pendekatan analisis kandungan bertema digunakan untuk menganalisis tema-tema yang berkaitan menggunakan perisian Nvivo. Kajian menunjukkan kemiskinan, poligami, ketidaksuburan dan penukaran agama merupakan faktor utama keganasan rumahtangga di Ebiraland. Kajian juga mendapati hubungan yang signifikan di antara peningkatan kadar jenayah di Ebiraland dengan keganasan rumahtangga. Selain itu, kajian temubual menunjukkan wanita menganggap keganasan rumahtangga menjejaskan kesihatan fizikal, mental dan reproduktif mereka. Wanita juga merasakan bahawa norma sosio-budaya mendorong berlakunya keganasan rumahtangga di Ebiraland. Kajian ini memberi input yang signifikan kepada perspektif berkaitan faktor dan kesan keganasan rumah tangga khususnya kepada golongan wanita dan kanak-kanak. Kajian mencadangkan suatu bentuk intervensi pencegahan melalui saluran perundangan, pekerjaan dan pemerkasaan wanita bagi memecahkan kitaran keganasan yang berlaku. Peranan pemimpin Islam dalam memberi serta menyampaikan ilmu dan kaunseling kepada pasangan perlu dipertingkatkan untuk memastikan keselamatan wanita.

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.

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## Table of Contents

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| Permission to Use.....                               | iii       |
| Abstrak .....  | iiiiv     |
| Abstract .....                                       | v         |
| Acknowledgement.....                                 | vi        |
| List of Figures .....                                | xi        |
| List of Abbreviations.....                           | xii       |
| List of Appendices .....                             | xiii      |
| <b>CHAPTER ONE INTRODUCTION .....</b>                | <b>1</b>  |
| 1.1 Background of the Study .....                    | 1         |
| 1.2 Problem Statement .....                          | 5         |
| 1.3 Research Aims and Objectives .....               | 11        |
| 1.4 Research Questions .....                         | 12        |
| 1.5 Significance of the Study .....                  | 12        |
| 1.6 Scope of the Study.....                          | 13        |
| 1.7 Definitions of Terms .....                       | 14        |
| 1.8 Limitations of the Research.....                 | 15        |
| <b>CHAPTER TWO WOMEN AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE .....</b> | <b>16</b> |
| 2.1 Introduction .....                               | 16        |
| 2.2 Marital Relationship in Islam .....              | 16        |
| 2.3 Islamic Perspectives on Domestic Violence.....   | 18        |
| 2.4 Domestic Violence against Women .....            | 20        |
| 2.5 Effects of Domestic Violence.....                | 24        |
| 2.5.1 Effects of Domestic Violence on Women .....    | 24        |
| 2.5.2 Effects of Domestic Violence on Children.....  | 26        |
| 2.6 Factors of Domestic Violence .....               | 27        |
| 2.6.1 Personal Achievement and Resources .....       | 28        |
| 2.6.2 Exposure to Child Abuse .....                  | 29        |

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| 2.6.3 Societal Norms and Belief System .....   | 29        |
| 2.6.4 Gender Inequality .....  | 30        |
| 2.6.5 Alcoholism Consumption .....   | 31        |
| 2.6.6 Insufficient Legal System .....  | 31        |
| 2.6.7 Responsible Parties in Domestic Violence .....   | 32        |
| 2.7 Coping Strategies in Violent Relationships.....  | 32        |
| 2.8 Gaps from the Reviewed Literature .....  | 34        |
| 2.9 Conclusion.....  | 35        |
| <b>CHAPTER THREE METHODOLOGY OF THE STUDY.....</b>   | <b>36</b> |
| 3.1 Introduction .....   | 36        |
| 3.2 Research Design .....  | 36        |
| 3.3 Sampling.....  | 37        |
| 3.4 Sample Size .....  | 38        |
| 3.5 Data Collection Techniques .....   | 39        |
| 3.6 Consultations about the Instruments on the Interview Protocol.....                           | 40        |
| 3.7 Data Analysis .....  | 41        |
| 3.8 Validity and Reliability .....   | 42        |
| 3.9 Ethical and Legal Considerations.....  | 43        |
| 3.10 Conclusion.....   | 44        |
| <b>CHAPTER FOUR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE THROUGH THE LENSES OF<br/>FEMALE VICTIMS IN EBIRALAND.....</b> | <b>45</b> |
| 4.1 Introduction .....   | 45        |
| 4.2 Demography of the Informants .....   | 45        |
| 4.3 Respondents' Understanding of Domestic Violence.....   | 48        |
| 4.4 Forms of Domestic Violence.....  | 50        |
| 4.5 Factors of Domestic Violence .....   | 52        |
| 4.5.1 Poverty or Economic Crisis .....   | 53        |
| 4.5.2 Infertility .....  | 55        |



|         |  |    |
|---------|--|----|
| 4.5.3   | Polygamy .....   | 57 |
| 4.5.4   | Conversion.....  | 59 |
| 4.6     | Responsible Parties in Domestic Violence.....            | 60 |
| 4.6.1   | The Husbands .....                                       | 60 |
| 4.6.2   | The Wives .....  | 61 |
| 4.6.3   | The In-laws .....  | 61 |
| 4.7     | Effects of Domestic Violence on Women and Children ..... | 62 |
| 4.7.1   | Effects of Domestic Violence on Women .....              | 63 |
| 4.7.1.1 | Divorce .....  | 63 |
| 4.7.1.2 | Women’s Health.....                                      | 64 |
| 4.7.1.3 | Women’s Career and Business.....                         | 66 |
| 4.7.1.4 | Women’s Pregnancy.....                                   | 67 |
| 4.7.2   | Effects of Domestic Violence on Children .....           | 68 |
| 4.7.2.1 | Education.....   | 68 |
| 4.7.2.2 | Children’s Behaviour .....                               | 69 |
| 4.7.2.3 | Child Care and Maintenance .....                         | 71 |
| 4.7.2.4 | Prostitution .....                                       | 72 |
| 4.7.3   | Effects of Domestic Violence on the Society .....        | 72 |
| 4.8     | Mechanisms to curb Domestic Violence in Ebiraland .....  | 74 |
| 4.8.1   | Responsibility of the Government .....                   | 75 |
| 4.8.1.1 | Creation of Jobs.....                                    | 76 |
| 4.8.1.2 | Women Empowerment.....                                   | 77 |
| 4.8.1.3 | Enactment and Enforcement of the Laws.....               | 79 |
| 4.8.1.4 | Free Basic Education for the Citizens .....              | 81 |
| 4.8.2   | Responsibility of the Muslim Community Leaders.....      | 82 |
| 4.8.2.1 | Preaching and Counselling the Couples .....              | 82 |
| 4.8.2.2 | Educating the Youths in the Society .....                | 84 |

|  |   |            |
|--|---|------------|
| 4.8.2.3  | Reconciliation.....   | 84         |
| 4.8.2.4  | Proper Management of Zakat .....                            | 85         |
| 4.8.3  | Responsibility of the Couples .....                         | 86         |
| 4.8.3.1  | Tolerance .....   | 87         |
| 4.8.3.2  | Effective Communication.....                                | 87         |
| 4.8.3.3  | Living their Lives in accordance with Shariah Principles... | 88         |
| 4.8.4  | Responsibility of the Society .....                         | 89         |
| 4.9  | Contribution of the Study .....                             | 90         |
| 4.9.1  | Theoretical Contribution.....                               | 91         |
| 4.9.2  | Practical Contribution .....                                | 93         |
| <b>CHAPTER FIVE CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS.....</b> |   | <b>96</b>  |
| 5.1  | Conclusion.....   | 96         |
| 5.2  | Suggestions and Recommendations .....                       | 99         |
| 5.3  | Direction for Further Research.....                         | 102        |
| 5.4  | Final Remarks.....  | 104        |
| <b>REFERENCES.....</b>                                   |   | <b>106</b> |

## List of Figures

|   |    |
|---|----|
| Figure 4.1. Qualifications of the Informants .....  | 46 |
| Figure 4.2. Marital Status of the Informants .....  | 47 |
| Figure 4.3. Occupations of the Informants.....      | 47 |
| Figure 4.4. Age Distribution of the Informants..... | 48 |



## 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<br>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  |

## List of Appendices

|   |     |
|---|-----|
| Appendix A: Data Collection Letter..... | 128 |
| Appendix B: Informed Consent Form ..... | 129 |
| Appendix C: Interview Protocols .....   | 131 |
| Appendix D: Generated Models .....      | 132 |



# 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

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# APPENDIX A

## DATA COLLECTION LETTER

 **AWANG HAD SALLEH  
GRADUATE SCHOOL OF ARTS AND SCIENCES**  
UUM College of Arts and Sciences  
Universiti Utara Malaysia  
06010 UUM SINTOK  
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"MUAFAKAT KEDAH"

UUM/CAS/AHSGS/819797  
February 14, 2017

**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.

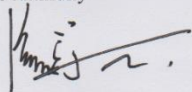
He needs to do his field study and data collection for his project paper/thesis in order to fulfill the partial requirements of his graduate studies.

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

Fuul dekhakurrah

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Universiti Pengurusan Terkemuka  
The Eminent Management University



## 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](mailto: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

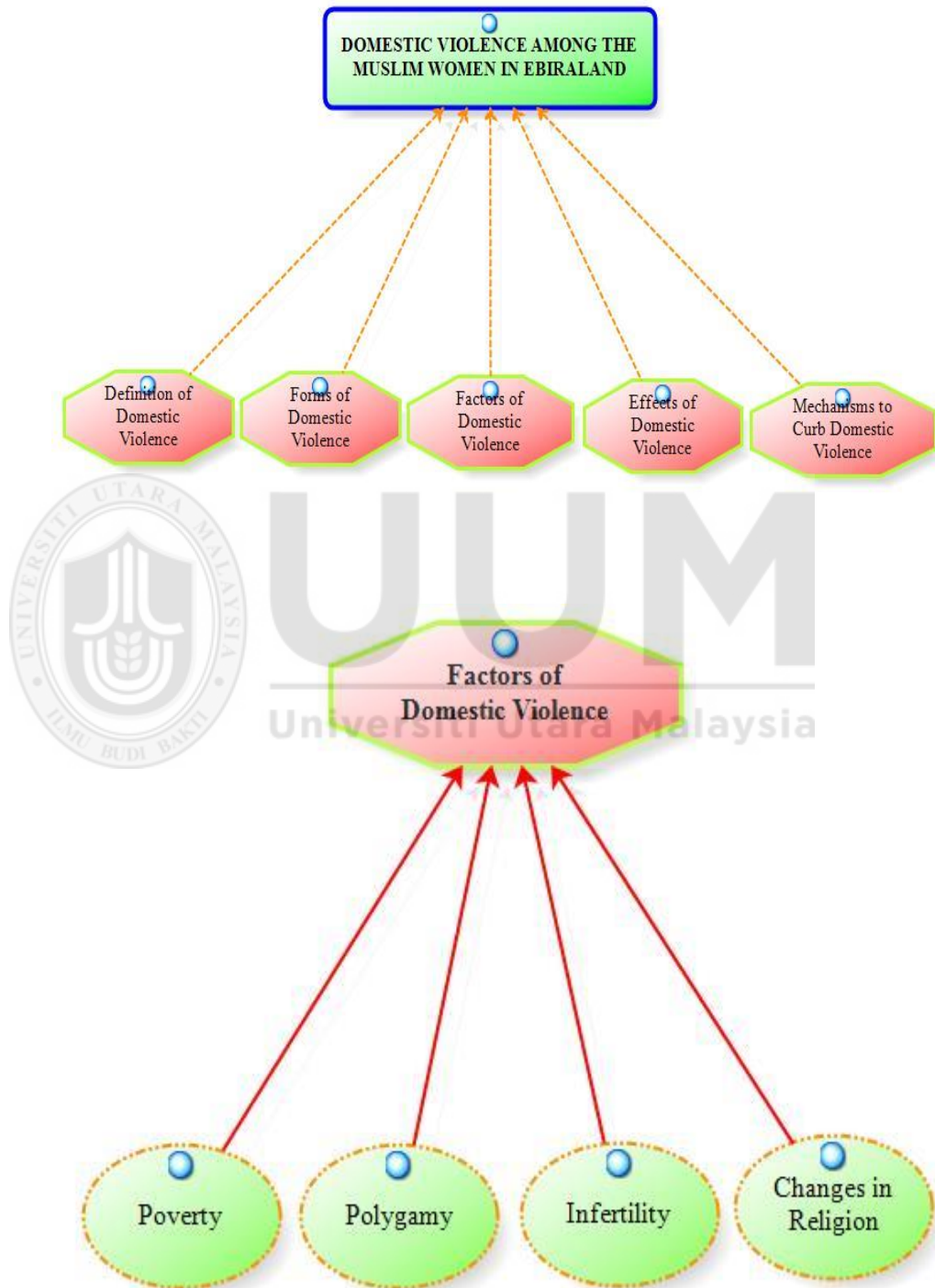
### INTERVIEW PROTOCOLS

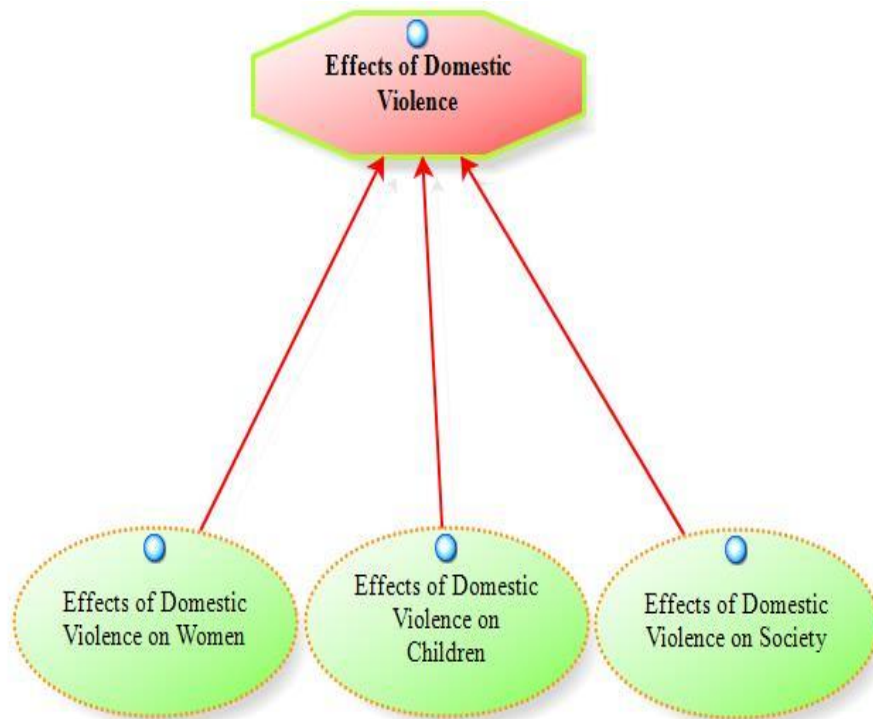
**TOPIC: PERCEPTIONS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG THE MUSLIM WOMEN IN EBIRALAND.**

- **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





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