

NATURE AND PREVALENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN IN DALA LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF KANO STATE, NIGERIA

By

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Abstract

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, friends or cohabitation. Domestic violence has largely focused on women as victims and men as perpetrators. Domestic violence against men tend to go unrecognized since men are less likely to admit to or report such incidence because of embarrassment and fear of ridicule. The present study examines the nature and prevalence of domestic violence perpetrated against men by women in Dala Local Government Area of Kano State, Nigeria, through specifically identifying the forms of abuse experienced and examining their responses to the abuse perpetrated by women at home. A total of 120 male victims of domestic violence were sampled using multi-staged, purposive and snowball sampling techniques. The data were collected using questionnaire and in-depth interviews; and were analyzed using the Statistical Package for Social sciences and content analysis. The findings of the study revealed that domestic violence against men manifests in various forms, namely verbal, physical, psychological, sexual, emotional and economic abuse. The results indicate that men of ages between 25 and 34 years are physically abused more than any other age group. The study recommends greater advocacy to enlighten the public about the existence and reality of the evil of domestic violence and effective legislation to curb domestic violence against men.

Keywords: Domestic violence, male victim, intimate partners.

Introduction

Domestic violence has been defined as a pattern of assaultive and coercive behaviors, including physical, sexual, and psychological attacks, as well as economic coercion, that adults or adolescents use against their intimate partners (Ganley, 1995). Lawrence (2003) also defined domestic violence as verbal, sexual and emotional, physical, social, psychological or economic abuse of power. However, Barber (2008) stated that domestic violence could be defined from emotional, financial, and physical perspectives. Domestic violence can also be viewed as an abusive exercise of power and control on others, which leaves individuals feelings scared and intimidated.

Over the past decade, recognition of the scope and significance of domestic

violence globally has increased. Whenever the issue of domestic violence is raised, the first thing that comes to mind when we hear about domestic violence is that the act was committed on a woman or a child. People tend to forget that men can also be victims of domestic violence and this type of violence happens more often than we think. This study emanates from frequent reports of domestic violence against men perpetrated by women in the researcher's neighborhood, some of which involved people the researcher is very much familiar with. Male victims of domestic violence rarely report their incidents of abuse. According to Barber (2008) a male is abused by his female partner every 14.6 seconds. Male victims often feel ashamed that this act of violence happens to them and struggle to decide what to do next. While many studies

have looked at female victims of domestic violence, little is known about domestic violence committed by women against men.

Most African societies are predominantly patriarchal, (Maboreke 2009) and as such, violence against men is not something significant because men are believed to be strong enough to defend

themselves. Those men who report abuse by women are viewed as weak. That explains the reason why domestic violence is commonly studied and understood from the perspective of women victims and men batterers. Domestic violence against men therefore, tend to go unrecognized since men are less likely to admit to or report such incidence because of embarrassment, fear of ridicule, and lack of support services. It is rather a taboo subject that is often ignored or trivialized by society, which means that the extent of the problem remains unknown. It is against this background that the present study examines the nature and prevalence of domestic violence against men in Dala Local Government Area of Kano State, Nigeria.

Literature Review

Domestic violence is a problem within Nigerian society that has stretched worldwide. Domestic violence can be seen as the domination of power and control within close relationships. Different people have attempted to explain it time after time. Walter (in Freeman, 1979) presents domestic violence as being a 'destructive harm' caused by the physical, sexual, emotional and economic abuse of one person on another. Domestic violence holds no boundaries in relation to class, race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic background or religion (Cleary, 2003). The way in which society looks at gender images of men and women are passed down from generation to generation, this has had a severe negative affect on the reality of the existence of male victims of domestic violence in the society (Lucal, 1995 cited in Wiehe, 1998; Cook, 1997; Wiehe, 1998; McKeown and Kidd, 2003; Cleary, 2003).

Research carried out by McKeown and Kidd (2003) on male victims of domestic violence highlights that male victims face a society that is heavily influenced with the belief that 'women are the only victims and men are the only perpetrators of domestic violence'. This belief again being reinforced by public awareness campaigns continuously aimed at female victims denying the fact that domestic violence is a reality for male victims as well. Female victims of domestic violence are increasingly treated by society with sympathy and support, while male victims are treated with disbelief (Cleary, 2003). Society's view on domestic violence has been reinforced by the media's coverage of the issues surrounding domestic violence, portraying females as the only victims and males as the abusers (McKeown and Kidd, 2003).

The number of reported cases of domestic violence is only a percentage of its actual occurrence within our society (Wiehe, 1998). Cook (1997) put forward the argument from his study on domestic violence that one of the main reasons for men not reporting the abuse and remaining within the relationship could be known as 'Internal Excuses'. In other words putting off reporting or leaving their abuser, because of the belief that given time things will change.

Partner/spouse abuse can take a number of forms, but the main forms of domestic violence are physical abuse, emotional/psychological abuse, sexual abuse and economic abuse (Freeman, 1979.; Gelles, 1983.; O'Leary, 1988.; Brady, 1993.; Cose, 1995.; Cook, 1997.; Wiehe, 1998.; Cleary, 2003.; McKeown and Kidd, 2003).

Verbal abuse: Verbal abuse is defined as the excessive use of language to undermine someone's dignity and security through insults or humiliation, in a sudden or repeated manner.

Physical abuse: while Physical abuse is defined as a contact on another person intended to cause bodily harm; physical pain or

impairment. It is also the pushing, punching twisting of limbs, choking, breaking of bones and damage to property (Cork Rape Crisis Centre, 2002). This form of abuse takes no particular pattern and victims can be subjected to the abuse at any given place or time (Dobash and Dobash, 2000).

Sexual abuse: Is the forcing of anyone against their will to have sex, or perform any sexual act. This also includes the demoralizing of a person through sexual comments (Cork Rape Crisis Centre, 2002). It is very hard for a man to disclose this form of abuse (Cleary, 2004). Sexual abuse is one of the most intrusive forms of abuse, making it one of the hardest to disclose.

Emotional/psychological abuse: The emotional and psychological abuse is defined as pattern of degrading or humiliating conduct towards a partner that includes but is not limited to repeated insults, ridicule or name-calling as well as repeated threats to cause emotional pain. According to Quinn (1997), psychological abuse is the willful infliction of mental emotional anguish by threat or humiliation by other verbal or physical contact. It is also where a person is degraded or humiliated in private or public areas. This also includes putting a person down, making them feel bad, cutting off their freedom to friends and family (Cork Rape Crisis Centre, 2002).

Economic abuse: It is defined as the unreasonable deprivation of economic or financial resources to which one is entitled and requires out of necessity. It also refers to controlling of all financial income (Cork Rape Crisis Centre, 2002).

For many victims of domestic violence the initial reaction to the abuse is one of shock and disbelief (Brady, 1993). For male victims, one of the realities of domestic violence is that it remains hidden because of feelings of shame and guilt. Often the only people to know about

the abuse are the people immediately involved (McKeown and Kidd, 2003). Current research provides little insight into the risks a man faces if he is assaulted by a woman in an intimate relationship. Family violence research has focused on the relative risks that men and women face and mask the high number of men at risk, because of the large number of women who are injured as a result of domestic violence. The problem in conducting studies that seek to describe violence in terms of gender is the amount of silence, fear and shame that results from abuse within families and relationships. This is why domestic violence against men remains largely unreported. Gender differences in reporting violence have been cited as another explanation for mixed results (Chan, 2011). According to a 2004 survey in Canada, the percentages of males being physically or sexually victimized by their partners was 6% versus 7% for women. However, females reported higher levels of repeated violence and were more likely than men to experience serious injuries; 23% of females versus 15% of males were faced with the most serious forms of violence including being beaten, choked, or threatened with or having a gun or knife used against them. According to Fink (2006) in the United States intimate partner violence has affected 7.6% of males. However, according to national statistics in Nigeria; South Africa; Kenya; Zambia; Tanzania, to mention a few, domestic violence against men is prevalent, (WHO 2002). Deinye (2008) studied the prevalence of domestic violence in Nigeria as well as the socio-demographic characteristics of the victims of domestic violence and concluded that there is 23% prevalence rate of domestic violence against men amongst married couples. A South African men's group, Sonke Gender Justice in 2011 reported that in every 10 reported domestic violence cases, 4 involved male victims, WHO (2002).

According to Watts and Zimmermann (2002), the under-reporting of domestic violence is almost universal and may be due to

the sensitive nature of the subject. Husband punching, slapping, kicking, nail scratching, sex deprivation and killing are realities that occur in Nigeria (Watts and Zimmerman, 2002). The tragedy is that men who find themselves in this situation hide and do not talk openly about their experience, as talking about it will bruise their ego and expose them to ridicule in a patriarchal society. In a study conducted by Dienne and Gbeneol, (2009) at the General Outpatient Department of the University of Port Harcourt Teaching Hospital, out of a total of 48 victims of domestic violence were identified of which 5 (10.4%) were males

While the majority of domestic violence victims are women, male-oriented abuse occurs more often than many think. Naturally, men are stronger than women, but that does not necessarily make it easier for them to have their way all the time. The problem is that the man who suffers domestic violence is hardly given a listening ear. He is first of all assumed to be the aggressor even if he has bruises all over him. An abused man faces a shortage of resources, skepticism from the police and other major legal obstacles especially when it comes to gaining custody of his children from an abusive mother (Adeyeri, 2013).

There are many reasons as to why men stay in abusive relationships. It is sometimes difficult to understand why people stay in abusive relationships but anyone with a similar experience knows it is not very easy to leave. A man may choose to stay in an abusive relationship because of his religious beliefs, because of his kids or even because of the money he receives from his woman. It takes lots of guts to leave such a relationship. Brown (2009) states three main reasons that made men stay in abusive relationships. Male victims of domestic violence often assume blame for the acts of violence because they feel as though they have done something wrong to cause their batterers to abuse them. Another reason is that male victims have a need to stay with their abusers because they are dependent on them for

support. Children are also a reason that men stay because they feel that if they leave the children would have to suffer the same consequences they have had to and they stay as way to protect the children.

Materials and Methods

Study site and Subjects

This is a descriptive cross sectional study conducted between February and April 2016 in Dala Local Government Area of Kano State. The local government has 12 political wards namely Adakawa, Bakin Ruwa, Dala, Dogon Nama, Gobirawa, Gwammaja, Kabuwaya, Kan Tudu, Kofar Mazugal, Kofar Ruwa, Madigawa and Yalwa. Dala is a densely populated Local Government Area located in the North-west part of the Kano metropolis, and was created in May, 1989 from the old Kano Municipal Local Government. It got its name from the popular Dala Hill. Its headquarters' is located in the Gwammaja area. It has an area of 19 km² and a population of 418,777 at the 2006 census. Among popular economic and commercial activities in Dala are dyeing, blacksmith, pot making, farming, fishing, shoe making and other commercial activities. The indigenes of this area are predominantly Hausa people. As in most parts of northern Nigeria, the Hausa language is widely spoken in Dala local government area of Kano State.

Sampling Procedure

The research sample consisted of men who have experienced domestic violence. A total of 120 male victims of domestic violence were sampled from Dala Local Government Area of Kano State, using multi-staged, purposive and snowball sampling techniques. The first stage involved the random selection of six political wards from the 12 political wards in the Local Government Area. The six political wards randomly selected were Adakawa, Dala, Gwammaja, Kofar Mazugal, Gobirawa and Yalwa. The second stage involved the random selection of two Residential Quarters from

each of the selected six political wards. Thereafter purposive sampling technique was used to select the 120 respondents from the sampled twelve residential quarters. The purposive method had to be employed because the victims of domestic violence have remained isolated and hidden from society to date. Kothari (2004) notes that the strength of purposive sampling lies in the fact that it selects cases that are typical of the population needed. The snow-ball sampling technique was also employed in identifying respondents. According to Babbie (2001), snow-balling is a technique in which the researcher identifies key informants and then asks them to assist in locating other members of the research population whom they know. Snow-ball sampling is crucial to this study because of its suitability in exploratory studies of this nature which are done to satisfy the researchers' desire to understand a particular phenomenon. The respondents identified were duly informed that participation in the survey is voluntary and the information provided will be confidential and were assured that the findings of the research are used for academic purposes only. However, a number of potential respondents were reluctant to participate in this study. Therefore, the sample size is not representative of the exact figures of abused men in Dala Local Government Area.

Data Collection

This study employs both quantitative and qualitative methods of inquiry. This triangulation has made possible the comprehension of experiences of male victims of domestic violence. The data for the study were collected using questionnaire and in-depth interviews. The questionnaires were completed in a structured format. The design of the questionnaire and way it was completed means that the information obtained is of quantitative nature. The quantitative information indicates the extent of the abuse experienced by the men. The qualitative information gathered from the in-depth

interviews gives a clear insight into the nature of the abuse the men experienced.

Kothari (2004) defines in-depth interviews as interviews which do not have predetermined question or answer categories. They depend on social interchange between the researcher and the informant. They helped in developing personal relationships between me and the respondents. In this study, they allowed the respondents to express themselves with spontaneity in reciting their personal experiences of domestic violence. Furthermore, in-depth interviews were employed because of their appropriateness in the qualitative design partly adopted in this research. They provided room for the researcher to probe deeply into the issue of domestic violence against men and to open up all dimensions to the phenomenon, (Burgess, 1982). In-depth interviews, helped in gaining a detailed picture of men's experiences and perceptions of abuse perpetrated by women.

Data Analysis

The quantitative data were validated and entered simultaneously into the prepared SPSS computer database after a range of variables based on the questionnaire were coded cleaned and entered into a database, and then analyzed using Statistical Package of Social sciences (SPSS Version 21) computer software. The data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics which include frequency counts, and percentages. The Chi-Square statistic was used to test and determine the significance of the relationship. Cramer's V was used to measure the strength and validity of significant relationships.

The qualitative data gathered from the in-depth interviews were analyzed in a thematic manner. That is, the collected data was divided among the identified main themes underlying the whole research. Thematic analysis of data was chosen in this study because it avoids unnecessary repetition in recording of data which is common in many case analysis approaches as Burgess (1982) notes.

Results

Table 1 shows the demographic characteristics of the respondents. The one hundred and twenty respondents were all male victims of domestic violence. Their ages ranged between fifteen and fifty-four years. The Table reveals that 33% of the respondents sampled are aged 35 – 44 years, 31.7% are between 25 and 34 years of age. Only a relatively smaller percentage of them (9.2%) are 45 – 54 years of age. Majority of the respondents (81.7%) are married, while the remaining 19.3% are divorced. About 43% of the respondents are Hausa by tribe, while 28.3% are Nupe. 9.2% and 7.5% are Kanuri and Fulani respectively. Only a relatively smaller percentage of them (6.7%) are of other tribes. About 32% and 38% of the respondents have primary and secondary level of education respectively. While 19.2% have tertiary level of education. However a relatively smaller percentage of them (10.8%) have no formal education. Majority of the respondents (65%) are self-employed. Only a relatively smaller percentage of them (5.8%) are unemployed. About 43% and 39% of the respondents are from lower and middle socioeconomic status group respectively. Only a relatively smaller percentage of them (18.3%) are from higher socioeconomic status group.

Table 1 Socio-demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

| Characteristics | Frequency | Percentage |
|----------------------------------|-----------|------------|
| <u>Age</u> | | |
| 15 – 24 years | 31 | 25.8 |
| 25 – 34 years | 38 | 31.7 |
| 35 – 44 years | 40 | 33.3 |
| 45 – 54 years | 11 | 9.2 |
| <u>Marital Status</u> | | |
| Single | 0 | 0.0 |
| Married | 98 | 81.7 |
| Divorced | 22 | 18.3 |
| <u>Ethnicity</u> | | |
| Hausa | 58 | 48.3 |
| Fulani | 9 | 7.5 |
| Kanuri | 11 | 9.2 |
| Nupe | 34 | 28.3 |
| Others | 8 | 6.7 |
| <u>Educational Status</u> | | |
| No Formal Education | 13 | 10.8 |
| Primary | 38 | 31.7 |
| Secondary | 46 | 38.3 |
| Tertiary | 23 | 19.2 |
| <u>Employment Status</u> | | |
| Unemployed | 7 | 5.8 |
| | 35 | 29.2 |

Table 2 shows the frequencies and the percentages of the different types of abuse been experienced by males from their female partners.

Table 2 Forms of Abuse Experienced by Men

| Types of Abuse | Frequency | Percentage |
|---------------------|-----------|------------|
| Verbal abuse | 115 | 95.8 |
| Sexual abuse | 24 | 20.0 |
| Emotional abuse | 97 | 80.8 |
| Physical abuse | 49 | 40.8 |
| Psychological abuse | 46 | 38.3 |
| Economic abuse | 14 | 11.7 |

As can be noted in Table 2 above every participant reported at least one form of abuse. All of the interviewed men reported having been either or both physically, psychologically, economically, emotionally, sexually or verbally abused by current or former spouse. Table 2 reveal that majority of the respondents (95.8%) reported verbal abuse, while 40.8% of them reported having been physically abused by various means i.e., been scalded (with water, cooking oil or porridge), shoved, punched or kicked, had an object thrown on them. The result of the study shows that men of all ages ranging between 15 and 54 years can experience physical abuse perpetrated by women in the home. The physical abuse by female perpetrators takes many forms such as been hit with heavy objects, personal and other property damaged in the home, been stabbed or threatened with being killed. One of the respondents interviewed reported that he has been attacked with knife. Knives, electric irons and other sharp objects were all cited by the respondents as weapons used by their partners. These left the male victims with scratches, and bruises. There, however, is a notable difference among the age categories in terms of reporting the frequency of physical abuse as shown in Table 3.

Table 2 also reveals that emotional and psychological abuses are taken as one form of abuse in this study mainly because most respondents reported having concurrent experiences of the two. The two (emotional and psychological abuses) are largely resultant effects of the verbal and physical abuses. However, other respondents reported emotional and psychological abuse without prior experience of verbal or physical abuse. The respondent interviewed reported emotional abuse through bewitchment and denial of sex. Emotional abuse ranked the second highest (80.8%) form of abuse that affected respondents.

Table 2 also indicates that 11.7% of the respondents reported economic abuse perpetrated by their wives and former wives. They report been coerced unwittingly to raise and pay fees for the children who were not

biologically theirs. They argued that their wives' deception resulted in them losing their money which they could have spent on other things of their choice. The economic vulnerability of male victims was also highlighted. The results of the in-depth interview reveal that about 40% were threatened that their houses or car or both will be burnt or put on fire; while 22% were threatened with being left with nothing.

Findings from the interview reveals that the main forms of abuse indicated by the respondents were verbal and emotional abuse. However, physical abuse was ranked third most form of abuse and took the form of kicking, stabbing, plates being violently thrown at them, their hair being pulled, being hit with a glass bottle and chairs broken over their backs. The emotional abuse took the form of threats such as false allegations to the authorities that they were sexual abusing their children. Verbal forms of emotional abuse was where the abuser would constantly tell the man that he was useless, no good to the family and call him names such as a 'pervert'. One man had to publicly beg, by getting down on his knees in front of people and ask out loud for permission to see his children before his partner would allow him access to see his children and for others jealousy seemed to play a large part in the abusers attacks

Prevalence of Abuse

Table 3 shows the cross-tabulation of age and frequency of physical abuse. The Table indicates that men of ages between 25 and 34 years are physically abused more than any other age group. Men in this age group (25-34) in an African set up are expected to exhibit high levels of assertiveness and authority yet in this study, they are shown suffering physical abuse at the hands of weaker species (women). This therefore works as evidence of threatened conventional masculinities as reported by almost all respondents who participated in in-depth interviews. However men aged 44 – 54 years appeared to be the least physically abused age group.

Table 3 Cross-tabulation of Age of Respondents and the Frequency of Physical Abuse

| Age | Frequency of Abuse in One Year | | |
|---------------|--------------------------------|-------------|--------------|
| | 1 – 3 times | 4 - 6 times | Over 6 times |
| 15 - 24 years | 6 | 2 | 0 |
| 25 - 34 years | 9 | 2 | 0 |
| 35 - 44 years | 5 | 1 | 0 |
| 44 - 54 years | 2 | 0 | 0 |

The result of the in-depth interview reveals that physical abuse incidences were reported as having taken place in the presence of children or in public and behind closed doors.

Perceptions of the Violence

Table 4 above shows a Chi Square test which tested the null hypothesis (Ho) that states that the perceptions of domestic violence against men reported by respondents have nothing to do with their religio-cultural values. The p value (p=0.000) falls within the rejection

region (p<0.05), hence the null hypothesis (Ho) that men's perceptions of domestic violence perpetrated by women have nothing to do with their religio-cultural values is rejected. This study assumes the alternative hypothesis (Ha) which states that, men's perceptions of domestic violence perpetrated by women result from their religio-cultural values.

Table 4 Chi Square Test on the Relationship between perceptions of domestic violence perpetrated by women and Religion-cultural values

| Value | df | Asymp Sig (2 – sides) | |
|------------------------------|--------|-----------------------|------|
| Pearson Chi-Square | 25.570 | 4 | .000 |
| Likelihood Ratio | 32.241 | 4 | .000 |
| Linear by Linear Association | .012 | 1 | .912 |
| No. of valid Cases | 120 | | |

P = 0.000, p < 0.05, Cramer's V = 0.715, Phi = 0.715

Ho: Men's perceptions of domestic violence perpetrated by women have nothing to do with their religion-cultural values.

Therefore, the test confirms that the victims' perceptions are informed by their religio-cultural values. A further test to ascertain the strength of the association between the two variables (religion and

perception) gave Cramer's V=0.715 and Phi=0.715. Such values confirm that there is a strong relationship indeed between the variables (religion and perception).

Table 5 Respondents Reactions to Violent Episode

| Reaction | Frequency | Percentage |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Walked away during the violent episode | 68 | 56.7 |
| Had to leave home during the violent episode | 37 | 30.8 |
| Had to push their partners away during the violent episode | 10 | 8.3 |
| Others | 5 | 4.2 |

Table 5 shows the respondent's response when asked concerning their immediate reaction to the violent episodes. About 57% of them said they walked away from the violent episodes; 35% said they actually had to leave their homes during these episodes. About 8% said they had pushed their partners away from them. However, most of them indicated that they did not use violence in response to their partner's violent outbursts.

Discussions

The findings of the study revealed that a substantial percentage of the respondents have been affected by verbal abuse. The humiliation of a father figure in the presence of his children has emotional consequences on both of them. Despite their presumed incapability to physically abuse men and some assertions that violence perpetrated by women is far less likely to be injurious as put forward by Kimmel (2001), the result of this study however, shows that women are capable of causing physical injury to men. Some of the respondents interviewed reported having been scalded by hot liquids (porridge and water). The results of this study lend support to the findings of Mutepfa (2009) in Zimbabwe which acknowledged the existence of domestic violence against men and that women are capable of abusing men in a marriage or relationship. The respondents in this study reported that their women partners used means that are at their disposal to inflict bodily harm on them, i.e. scalding. Observed burn marks on some of the respondents confirm scalding.

The issue of mental and economic abuse were cited as forms of abuse used by the female perpetrators. The findings of this study has shown that domestic violence against men is a real phenomenon that is prevalent in various forms. It is not only manifest in physical and verbal forms but is also found in unnatural and uncommon forms such as bewitchment, and unknowingly raising other men's children. Violence does not only take place in private. The study findings indicate

that men are abused in the presence of other people as well. Furthermore, the noted forms of abuse were not one-off events. Rather, abuse took place in a series of incidents. Men from all social classes and age groups experience some form of abuse perpetrated by women. However, this study establishes that some age groups are more susceptible to abuse than others.

The result of this study lend support to the findings of Kumar (2012) which indicate that men are among those who are likely to be on the receiving end of acts of physical aggression. The extent to which this involves mutual combat or the male equivalent to "battered women" is at present unresolved. Both situations are causes for concern. Straus (1997) has warned of the dangers involved—especially for women when physical aggression becomes a routine response to relationship conflict. "Battered men" those subjected to systematic and prolonged violence—are likely to suffer physical and psychological consequences, together with specific problems associated with a lack of recognition of their plight (Vivian, and Langhinrichsen-Rohling, 1994).

Conclusion

The study presents another dimension of domestic violence that has received very little attention in Dala Local Government area thus far, that of male victims. It examined the experiences of male victims of abuse in the home specifically focusing on the various forms of abuse perpetrated against men by women. It has confirmed that domestic violence against men exists in varied forms. It refutes notions that give the impression that men are only abusive to women while women are passive recipients of abuse. It is therefore evident that domestic violence against men is a reality that is manifest in many forms both natural and unnatural. Because men are traditionally thought to be physically stronger than women, they might be less likely to talk about or report incidents of domestic violence

in their heterosexual relationships due to embarrassment or fear of ridicule.

Recommendations

There should be greater advocacy to enlighten the public about the existence and reality of the evil of domestic violence against men by government agencies, religious groups and civil rights organizations. The male victims must be prepared to speak out their situations and they should be listened to and cared for.

There is also the need to put in place effective legislations to curb domestic violence against men and such legislation must be fully enforced. The Law enforcement agents should also accept that husband battering and other forms of domestic violence against men is a reality, from which men are to be protected. The brutality of a man by his wife should not be seen as a trivial domestic matter. The trials of women who batter or kill their husbands must be given wide publicity in order to serve as deterrence to others who may have such tendencies.

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