



Causes of 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 the Causes of Domestic Violence Experienced by Senior Secondary School Students in Jalingo Education Zones of Taraba State. To guide the study, one research question was 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: Causes of Domestic Violence Experienced by Students Questionnaire (CDVESQ). The reliability of the instrument was proven using Cronbach alpha method. The data collected were analyzed using mean and standard deviation. The findings of the study revealed that: poverty, mistrust, cultural norms and values, environmental, religious, injustices and single parenthood are some of the causes of domestic violence experienced by Senior Secondary Students. 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: Causes, Domestic Violence, Senior Secondary School Students

INTRODUCTION

With usage, this term came to be used more specifically to denote physical violence. Across the literature, “domestic violence” emerged as a term used to highlight abuse that was happening in the domestic sphere, a supposedly safe haven. In Australia, the term “domestic violence” has a long history of being associated with gender inequality, and is favoured because it allows the issues of children to be included within its purview (Spangaro, Zwi and Poulos, 2011). 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).

According to Almeida and Durkin (2009) there are varieties of causes to domestic violence; these are categorized into three broad areas; verbal alteration that can escalate into violence behaviour, financial issues that can lead to disagreements and violence, offensive conduct, From the perspective of Almeida and Durkin(2009) the causes of domestic violence abuse more especially violence against women and children are infidelity, aspect of polygamy, socio-economic reasons, disobedience, family interference, marital disharmony, outside influences and vices. School related reasons such as refusing

to go to school, being late to school fees, disobedience in school and other petty offences which include cheating in examination are other causes linked to domestic abuse (Almeida and Durkin, 2009). Afrifa (1994) cited by Fantuzzo and Mohr, (2009) argues that in spite of the free education in Ghana over quarter of a century after independent only 44% of children are enrolled in the primary school, and he attributes the lack of full access to education as a violation of pupils right. He further cites from a newspaper article, which states that some families were openly selling their children because of poverty and hunger (Afrifa 1994 cited in Fantuzzo and Mohr, (2009). Fantuzzo and Mohr, (2009), family violence is a by-product of today's social, economic and Political structure Gondolf (2008) reported that family violence is one of the main causes of serious health and psychological problems for all individuals living in such an environment. According to

Huth-Bocks (2001) examined the direct and indirect effects of domestic violence on preschoolers' intellectual functioning and found that children who witnessed domestic violence had significantly poorer verbal abilities than non-witnesses after controlling.

Several factors had been adduced for domestic violence in Nigeria. it ranges from economic, social, and psychological to cultural and religious. Omoregbe, Obetoh and Odion (2010) in their study of causes and management of conflict among couples in Esan land in Edo state factors such, south-south Nigeria found that such as revelation of concealed pre-marital history, wives attitude towards in-laws, infertility, management of spouse's income, number and sex of children born, indulgence of spouse in extra-marital affairs and participation of spouse's income, number and sex of children born, indulgence of spouse in extra-marital affairs and participation of spouse in politics. Agbo and Choji (2014) in the study carried out in Abuja, Nigeria, a mother of one narrated her ordeal in the hands of her husband who constantly was hitting and beating her whenever he was drunk, and she lost two pregnancies as a result of his brutality.

Statement of the Problem

Most students in Jalingo Education zone of Taraba State seem to be aggressive and traumatized. This is due to the fact that, the researcher observed factors such as poverty, mistrust, cultural norms and values, environmental, religious, injustices and single parenthood among others to be the cause of domestic violence among these students. 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 antisocial 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 causes 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 causes of domestic violence experienced by 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 "Causes of Domestic Violence Experienced by Student Questionnaire" (CDVESQ). 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 CDVESQ 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. 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 causes of domestic violence experienced by secondary school students in Jalingo education zone?

Table 1. Mean and standard deviations of rating scale on the causes of domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students in Jalingo education zone (N = 361)

S/N	Statement	Mean	SD	Rem
1.	Most of domestic violence are associated with environment	3.34	0.89	A
2.	Poverty causes domestic violence	3.04	0.83	A
3.	Mistrust among spouses in terms of finance lead to domestic violence	3.02	0.97	A
4.	Domestic Violence is hereditary	2.63	1.00	A
5.	Cultural values cause domestic violence	2.64	1.06	A
6.	Single parenthood is a cause of domestic violence	2.65	1.04	A
7.	Some tradition and values are sources of domestic violence	2.86	1.05	A
8.	Religion misconduct leads to domestic violence	3.01	0.96	A
9.	Injustice at home leads to domestic violence	3.07	0.93	A
10.	Unconducive accommodation causes violence	2.79	1.01	A

Source: Researcher's Field Survey 2019

Grand mean= 2.90. SD=0.24

Results in Table 1 show all the items have a mean rating scale above the 2.50. Thus, the causes of domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students in Jalingo education zone are those associated with the environment, poverty, mistrust, heredity and cultural values. Others causes of domestic violence include single parenthood, traditional values, religious misconduct, injustice at home and unconducive accommodation.

The findings of this study revealed that the causes of domestic violence experienced by senior secondary school students in Jalingo Education Zone Taraba State Nigeria are those associated with the environment, poverty, mistrust, heredity and cultural values. Others causes of domestic violence include single parenthood, traditional values, religious misconceptions, injustice at home and unconducive accommodation.

The mean and standard deviation scores rating items on the perceived causes 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 shows that causes of domestic violence experience by senior secondary school students in Jalingo education zone Taraba state, hence the grand mean and standard deviation is above criterion mean which indicate that the respondents perceived that single parenthood, traditional values, religious misconceptions, injustice at home and unconducive accommodation are the causes of domestic violence.

The study is in agreement with that conducted by Almeida and Durkin (2009). The findings of their studies divulge that there are varieties of causes to domestic violence they are categorized into three broad areas; verbal alteration that can escalate into violence behaviour, financial issues that can lead to disagreements and violence, offensive conduct, From the perspective of Almeida and Durkin(2009) the causes of domestic violence abuse more especially violence against women and children are infidelity, aspect of polygamy, socio-economic reasons, disobedience, family interference, marital

disharmony, outside influences and vices. school related reasons such as refusing to go to school, being late to school fees, disobedience in school and other petty offences which include cheating in examination are other causes linked to domestic abuse, Notwithstanding the finding of this study is not contrary to the findings of Gondolf (2008) who reported that family violence is one of the main causes of serious health and psychological problems for all individuals living in such an environment.

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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