Domestic Violence and Its Effects on Women/Girl Child in Nigeria

By

Eleas-Eduga, Agnes
Post Graduate Student,
Department of Educational Foundation,
Guidance & Counselling Unit, Faculty of Education,
Nasarawa State University, Keffi.
Email: nyeeleas@yahoo.com
08035524471
&
Sabo, Anche Ugah
Post Graduate Student,
Department of History & International Studies,
Faculty of Arts,
Federal University Lafia,
Nasarawa State.
Email: anche.ugah@yahoo.com or anchson88@gmail.com
08169613558

Abstract

Domestic violence on women/girl child is a social phenomenon that has caught the attention of all and sundry in recent times in the globe and the Nigerian state not an exception. Domestic violence is considered today as one of the most common forms of gender-related violence, various studies estimated that between 10 - 35% of women/girl child experience one form of domestic violence or the other at some point in their lives. The term domestic violence includes violence perpetrated by an intimate partner, relation, friend, colleague, neighbour, etc. This violence could take place, perpetuated or carry-out in different forms, domestic violence is also a form of violence that occurs in a situation of intimate or family relationship. A sample size of four-hundred (400) self-structured questionnaires was administered and retrieved titled "effect of domestic violence on women/girl child", it was used for the collection of data and the method used in analysing the data collected was simple percentage. The essence of this research work is to help us understand the effects of domestic violence on women/girl child which includes psychological, physical and emotional. This research recommends that government, religious and traditional institutions and the society should put head together to fight domestic violence and above all, there is a need to promulgate/enact laws specifically against domestic violence and perpetrators brought to book to serve as a deterrent to others.

Keywords: Domestic violence, women, girl child, effects, Nigeria

Introduction

A nation's population is a great asset to its economic and political development. It is also on records that the female population accounted for more than half of the Nigerian population [NPC, 2006]. To enhance and maximize economic and political development in Nigeria, it is paramount to actively involve women to contribute their quota in the economic and political development of the Nigeria state. The women need to be encouraged and by doing so, there is the need for them to be liberated from various social injustices perpetrated against them. One of these social injustices is domestic violence, this had not only put them in a subordinate position but had subjected and prevented them from exploring their potential and harnessing their God giving abilities with regards to contributing to the economic and political development of Nigeria. Violence against women and girl child is a major health and human rights issue. It is estimated that at least one in five of the world's female population has been physically or sexually abused by a man or men at some time in their life. Many, including pregnant women and young girls, are subject to severe, sustained or repeated attacks. Worldwide, it has been estimated that violence against women is seriously a cause of death and incapacity among women of reproductive age as cancer, and a greater cause of ill-health than traffic accidents and malaria combined. Most women, in their intimate relationships or immediate social environment, experience psychological and/or physical violence, which turns out to become serious health, emotional or psychological problem for them.

Much research has been conducted on domestic violence against women with consistent findings of interconnected physical, mental and behavioural impacts (Guggisberg, 2017; 2010). Domestic violence among women is often associated with sexual victimisation, and other forms of abuse and violence have also been associated with multi-level impairment (Arnold & Fish, 2011). It is important to state that, there is a well-observed inter-relationship between domestic violence and subsequent adulthood sexual victimisation by an intimate partner (Devries et al., 2013) along with the inter-generational transmission of domestic violence impacts (Trickett, Noll, & Putnam, 2011) and violence against mothers by their teenage sons (Holt, 2016). It is worth mentioning that women in older age are not spared from violence by their intimate partners; which is an issue not well understood (Kaspiew, Carson, & Rhoades, 2016). Domestic violence against women is an unequal power tussle between men and women, which have led to domination and discrimination against women by men and the prevention of the full advancement of women….' (UN, 1993). Violence against women is been defined as any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women/girl child, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty

whether occurring in public or private life (Muideen et al, 2010). This simply put together means violence against women/girl child is a form of social injustice through which women/girl child are forced to a subordinate position compared to their fellow men whereby the females are usually the victims of this form of violence. Furthermore, domestic violence can be defined as physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional and verbal abuse between people who possibly at some time in life had an intimate, close or family relationship. This would include childhood abuse which is also a form of domestic violence in the context of the above definition. The purpose of this work is to encourage critical engagement surrounding the issues of violence against women and girl child victimization, violence against women/girl child is an inherently complex issue. This research work provides evidence of the long-lasting suffering of women across generations of domestic violence meted on them.

Clarification of Terms

To give these work a proper footing and for easy understanding of the subject matter of this research work, it is important to define some of the keywords.

Domestic Violence: There is no universally acceptable definition of violence against women. To some human rights activists, they prefer a broad-based definition that includes "structural violence" such as poverty, and unequal access to health, work and education. Others have argued for a more limited definition. Be that as it may, the researcher will not hesitate to use any definition that best feeds into this research work. The term domestic violence includes violence by an intimate partner, wherever this violence takes place and by whatever forms (Innocent Digest, 2000). The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993), defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence which results in, or could likely result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, these; including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life. For many, domestic violence is when they face a regime of terror and violence at the hands of somebody close to them, somebody they should be able to trust (UNICEF, 1999). Amnesty international defines domestic violence as the most violent attacks on an individual or group of people or women. It involves physical, sexual and psychological violence 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 any member of the household. Domestic violence may be exhibited by any member of the household (Amnesty International 1995).

It is as a result of this maltreatment meted on women/girl child that the women rose to the occasion of seeking self-relevance and to correct the societal abnormalities of

dehumanizing the women/girl child that led to women all over the world to agitate and fight for human dignity, more especially, the dignity of women. Some examples of the moves that were carried out by the women were; the Beijing Platform for Action (BPFA, 1998). International Federation of Women Lawyers (FIDA) was one of the organizations that play an advocacy role in combating all kinds of violence against children and women. Violence, therefore, operates as a means to maintain and reinforce women's subordination by men. The Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 1993, defines violence against women as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life".

Woman: For this work, the word will be used as earlier stated in both context (young and adult). According to Wikipedia, the term woman is generally referred to mean any female human, or specifically, to mean an adult female human as contrasted with a girl. The girl originally meant 'young person of either sex'. The English dictionary defines a woman as any female human. A woman is any female being rather than a man, who is capable to reproduce or conceive and give birth to a young one. The term as used in this context is used regardless of age limit, rather; to serve the female gender either adult or young.

Types of Domestic Violence

The types of domestic violence as outlined by Elisabeth and Anita (2010) are physical violence, sexual violence and psychological & emotional violence.

a. **Physical Violence**: This is a behaviour in which the body of the perpetrator intentionally affects the body of another so that there is the risk for the latter to be harmed physically, even if there are no injuries that may occur in the process, example; kicking, biting, threatening any dangerous weapon, etc.
b. **Sexual Violence**: This is defined in various ways; though it is categorised as physical abuse, it also makes sense to differentiate sexual abuse from other types of physical abuse. From a clinical standpoint, sexual abuse refers to any unwanted sexual activity. Russel submits that sexual abuse includes: forced oral, anal or digital penetration in his definition. Brownmiller extended the definition of sexual abuse to include any type of sexual intimacy that is forced upon another person, even without the necessity of physical contact.
c. **Psychological and Emotional Violence**: Amnesty International defines psychological abuse as based on that of psychological torture; this is the most acceptable definition today. It also includes isolation of the victim, induced disability due to exhaustion, weakening or incapacitation, humiliation, outrage

and offences, etc. Other authors additionally include "social violence" in the various forms of domestic violence and economic violence.

Statement of Research Problem

The Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women which was accepted by the United Nations General Assembly over two (2) decades ago, is still finding footings in most African countries, this is because the perpetrator of violence in most African states is mostly not condemned, and not punished. In some parts of Nigeria, laws have been enacted to deal with all sorts of gender-based violence including domestic violence. It is sad to state that, domestic violence keeps showing its ugly face with its attendant socio-economic consequences with no law in Nigeria specifically enacted against domestic violence to be applicable throughout the country. However, the Nigerian government enacted the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (VAPP) which was passed in 2015, provides wide coverage of different types of violence against women, domestic violence inclusive. Though, boys/men also suffer from domestic violence even though the number of boys/men in such circumstances is insignificant compared to the number of cases reported by women/girl child. It is based on the neglect by appropriate authorities and the abuse, victimization, ill-treatment, marginalization and its likes against the women that this work seeks to discuss.

Research Question

In pursuance of this study, the following research questions are proposed.

i. What are the factors that account for the growing concerns of domestic violence on the woman/girl child?
ii. Are domestic violence cases limited only to the woman?
iii. Has there been any law/act or decree on domestic violence?
iv. Has there been any success in the fight against domestic violence?
v. Does domestic violence have any effects on the victim?
vi. What are the effects of domestic violence on the victim?

Aim and Objectives of the Study

The general purpose or aim of this study is to determine the effect of domestic violence on women. The objective of this study aims at:

i. Find out the factors that promote domestic violence specifically against women/girl child.
ii. Examine if domestic violence is limited to only the female gender.
iii. Examine if there is a law/act or decree on domestic violence.
iv. To find out if there had been a success in the fight against domestic violence.
v. To examine if domestic violence affects its victim.

vi. Find out the effects of domestic violence on the victim.

Assumptions

This research is underpinned by the assumptions below:

i. Several factors contribute to the abuse of women/girl child.
ii. The abuse of women and men domestically are the same just that men have high coping abilities to manage the situation to the women, hence; causing the high awareness of female domestic violence comparable to the males.
iii. There is no law/act or decree against the perpetrators of domestic violence.
iv. There is no success in the fight against domestic violence.
v. Domestic violence has little or no effects on the victim.
vi. The abuse of women has greatly affected the victim physically, psychologically and otherwise.

Justification and Significance of the Study

Domestic violence against women/girl child in our today's society is mostly influenced by the attitudes and values of society on abused women. These societal attitudes and values had caused many to consider men to be naturally superior to women and makes it a man's right and responsibility to control the behaviour, action and inactions of the women. Ironically, the structures that are expected/supposed to seek and protect the right of women contribute to the growth of domestic violence directly or indirectly. This study is aimed at having a comprehensive view of domestic violence on women. It is important to note that violence of any form must be adequately addressed if we are committed to ensuring a violence-free society. This study is significant because it will enlighten all actors and gender activist in a bid to implementing and strengthening the fight against domestic violence and the promulgation of domestic violence act in Nigeria. The study will also bring to the knowledge of the males who take the law into their hands and inflict various degrees of abuse/injuries on women to be careful of the resultant effect of their actions on the life of their partners by the law. Importantly; the study will help to create awareness among, opinion leaders and educational authority on the effects of domestic violence on the woman/girl child and its implications to the society. It will also give an insight into nature, forms and varying degrees of violence that is meted out to women/girl child. It will also contribute to the existing knowledge on domestic violence and could serve as a source of reference after the work is documented. The study when completed, recommendations/suggestions will be provided and if implemented by the various opinion leaders, stakeholders, it will help to reduce the high rate of domestic violence among women/girl child.

Limitations of the Study

This research was limited by respondents' complain of the nature of the questionnaires and the short period given them to fill it. Thus; some respondents adopted a nonchalant attitude towards filling the questionnaires. Secondly, some women and young ladies especially those with low knowledge about research were hostile. However, this challenge was overcome through appeals from the researcher. A major limitation was the fact that women/young ladies (girl child) who were at a point in time abused, were reluctant to cooperate and respond due to:

i. The suspicion that disclosing information may lead to the break-up of their relationships or will cause escalating consequences for their marriages/relationships.
ii. The fear of re-integrate into society due to societal stigmatization.

Research Methodology

The researcher used a descriptive survey research design for this study. Emaikwu, (2011) posits that descriptive survey research design is one in which a group of people or item is studied by collecting and analyzing data from a few people considered to be a representative sample of the entire population. He further explained that descriptive survey research scope is very vast and is concerned with conditions or relationships that exist, practices that prevail, beliefs, or points of view or attitudes that are held, processes that are going on, influences that are being felt and trends that are developing. To ensure proper collection and analyses of data in this study, the researcher resolved to collect both primary and secondary data. This is aimed at making sure that all the relevant materials or information required for the study are acquired and utilized. Therefore, this section is designed to articulate the sampling procedures employed and their justification, the research population or sample size used and also the statistical techniques used for the analyses of the data collected. This section explains the basic research methods employed to undertake this study.

The researcher, therefore, opted for the simple percentage to determine the rate of domestic violence amongst women/girl child since the study seeks to investigate the variables as they are without manipulations. Besides, the study depended basically on the primary source which is the use of a questionnaire as a means of data collection. This research design was deemed applicable because the population was large and not everyone could be reached. As a result, a sample representation of the population was used. Hence, a result obtained from the sample was generalized to the entire population.

Method of Data Analysis

According to Fox (1969), data are collected only from the sample, and we intend to use these sampled data to make inference about the entire population. The data were obtained through the process of administration of the questionnaire; this was done by converging frequency of resources to percentage. Furthermore, numerical data from "Likert" scoring techniques presented a simple bar chart to present the various problems and their frequencies as they evaluate the effects of domestic violence on women/girl child.

$$\text{Percentage of Responses (PR)} = \frac{\text{Frequency}}{\text{Number}} + \frac{100}{1}$$

$$\text{Percentage of Response (PR)} = \frac{\text{No of response}}{\text{No of questionnaire}} = \frac{100}{1}$$

F = Frequency of responses or number of responses of the respondents. N = Total number of respondents and the total number of the questionnaire. The data collected enabled the researcher to evaluate the percentage of the effects of domestic violence on the victims. The data collected would be analyzed using the table and mathematical calculations. This primary data analysis will be done using a simple percentage. Simple percentage involves determining the percentage of responses using the formula: $^{x}/_{n} X {}^{100}/_{1}$ where x = frequency of responses, N = Total number of responses.

Data Presentation, Analysis and Interpretation

This section deals with data presentation, analysis and interpretation, it serves as the core of this research for the fact that it gives measurement and shapes to the raw data collected during the data collection process. It is also important in research of this nature because only accurate data analysis and interpretation could yield a useful and reliable conclusion. The data was analyzed based on the total outcome of responses provided by the respondents, using simple percentage rate.

Data Presentation

The data for this research are analysed using the percentage approach, while analyzing the data gathered, the simple data tabulated and presentation will be applied. The total number of respondents and its makeup are shown under the "response" column while the total percentage and its make-up are being shown under "the %" column. The options for each question will be shown under the "option" column.

A total number of four hundred (400) copies of the questionnaire were distributed to both genders for sampling the views of participants in evaluating the effects of domestic violence on the women/girl child, all copies of the questionnaire were returned signifying

hundred percent (100%) response from the respondents. 285 out of the 400 respondents were women/girl child representing 71.25% while 115 respondents representing 28.75% were men. 50 respondents representing 12.5% are between the ages of 15-25, 20% representing 80 respondents are of the age of 26-35, 130 respondents representing 32.5% are between the ages of 36-45 while 140 respondents representing 35% are between the ages of 46 and above.

In this case, the percentage of the returned questionnaire can be determined.
Assume that:
TQD = Total Questionnaire Distributed
IQR = Total Questionnaire Returned
TQNR = Total Questionnaire Not Returned
Percentage of questionnaire returned

(i) $\frac{TOR \times 400}{TQD}$ i.e $\frac{400 \times 100}{100}$

(ii) Percentage of questionnaires not Returned

$\frac{TQNR \times 100}{TQD}$ i.e $\frac{400 \times 100}{100} = 100\%$

Discussion of findings

Table 1: Showing respondents responses to the factors that accounted for the growing concerns of domestic violence.

Respondents	SA	A	SD	D	N	Total	Percentage
The men are often mean to the women naturally	30	20	10	5	0	65	16.25%
The women/girl child is usually the course of domestic violence meted on them	15	10	10	0	5	40	10%
Religion plays a pivotal role in why women are abused domestically	80	70	5	10	5	170	42.5%
Culture and tradition play a more significant role in the abuse of women/girl child	60	50	10	5	0	125	31.25%
						400	100%

Field Survey, 2021

Keys:

SA	=	Strongly Agreed
A	=	Agreed
SD	=	Strongly Disagreed
D	=	Disagreed
N	=	Neutral

Table 1: 65 respondents representing 16.55% believe men are naturally mean to women, 40 representing 10% felt the women are usually the cause of why they are domestically abused, 170 respondents representing 42.5% feel religious institutions plays a pivotal to the abuse of women and 125 representing 31.25% believe that culture and tradition play a significant role in the abuse of women. Religion and culture/tradition plays a significant role in the abuse of women with 73% of the cause of women domestically abused. Based on data collected, there is a need for everyone to put heads together to fight against domestic violence.

Table 2: Showing respondents responses to the gender affected by domestic violence the most.

Respondents	SA	A	SD	D	N	Total	Percentage
Adult women are domestically abused.	80	30	10	0	5	125	31.25%
The girl child is domestically abused	120	80	10	0	5	215	53.75%
Adult men are domestically abused	5	5	0	3	7	20	5%
Young boys are domestically abused.	30	10	5	5	0	40	10%
						400	100%

Field Survey, 2021

Table 2: 125 respondents representing 31.25% consent to the fact that adult women are also being abused, 215 representing 53.75% felt the girl child is also domestically violated, 20 respondents representing 5% also agreed that adult men are abused while 40 representing 10% believe that young boys suffers domestic abuse also. It is a clear indication that both women and men are abuse but 85% of the persons violated are women. It is the submission of the respondents based on the data collected that the woman and child girl are mostly the victims of domestic violence.

Table 3: Showing respondents responses to the law of domestic violence.

Respondents	SA	A	SD	D	N	Total	Percentage %
Is there any law particularly enacted on domestic violence?	20	20	10	10	20	80	20%
Is there any law enacted on violence against persons?	80	50	10	10	5	155	38.75%
Have there been successes in the implementation of law violence against persons?	100	45	10	5	5	165	41.25%
						400	100%

Field Survey, 2021

Table 3: 80 respondents representing 20% stated that there is no law enacted on domestic violence, 155 representing 38.75% believe there a law enacted on violence against persons, and 165 respondents representing 41.25% are of them believe that there is no success in the implementation of the law on violence against persons. By this submission, it is clear the lack of implementation and execution on offenders of persons abused and the absence of a law on domestic violence perpetrators is the reason for the continued abuse of persons. The data collected shows that there is no law particularly on domestic violence less its implementation. on the fight against domestic is done lackadaisically.

Table 4: Showing respondents responses on the success in the fight against domestic violence.

Respondents	SA	A	SD	D	N	Total	Percentage
Is the government contributing to the fight against domestic violence?	20	30	80	30	10	170	42.5%
Is the society (group/individuals) supporting the fight against domestic violence?	40	40	10	3	5	98	24.5%
Is religious body(s) contributing in the fight against domestic violence?	10	40	12	9	11	82	20.5%
Are traditional institutions supporting the fight against domestic violence?	10	15	10	5	10	50	12.25%
						400	100%

Field Survey, 2021

Table 4: 170 respondents representing 42.5% believe the government are contributing to the fight against violence, 98 respondents representing 24.5% feel the society is supporting the fight against domestic violence, 82 respondents representing 20.5% also feel religious institutions supports the fight against domestic violence while 50 representing 12.5% believe that traditional institutions support the fight against domestic violence. It is clear that, from the responses above, there is a need to do more on the fight against domestic violence. The fight against domestic violence is done lackadaisically by all the stakeholders (government, police, religious institution, traditional institution, society, etc), this submission is based on the collected data.

Table 5: Showing respondents responses if domestic violence has any effect.

Respondents	SA	A	SD	D	N	Total	Percentage %
Domestic violence has great effect on the victim	120	150	10	5	5	290	72.5%
Domestic violence has no effect on the victim	10	20	50	10	0	90	22.5%
Domestic violence is a normal way of life.	3	5	7	5	0	20	5%
						400	100%

Field Survey, 2021

Table 5: 290 respondents representing 72.5% agreed that domestic violence has a great effect on its victims, 90 representing 22.5% feels domestic violence has no effect on the victim and 20 respondents representing 5% believe domestic violence is normal and a way of life. It is therefore evident that domestic violence affects the victim. The data collected suggests that that domestic violence affects its victims.

Table 6: Showing the effects of domestic violence on women/girl child.

Respondents	SA	A	SD	D	N	Total	Percentage
Domestic violence has physical health effects on women	35	40	12	2	0	89	22.25%
Domestic violence has physical health effects on the girl child	38	50	8	0	5	101	25.25%
Domestic violence has psychological health effects on women	30	50	10	5	0	95	23.75%

Domestic violence has psychological health effects on the girl child	45	60	5	5	0	115	28.75%
						400	100%

Field Survey, 2021

Table 6: 89 respondents representing 22.25% agrees that domestic violence has physical health effects on women, 101 respondents representing 25.55% also agrees that domestic violence has physical effects on the girl child, 95 respondents representing 23.75% agree that domestic violence has psychological effects on women and 115 representing 28.75% agrees that domestic violence has psychological effects on the girl child. The effects of domestic violence cannot be over-emphasis, these ranges from physical, sexual, psychological, and emotional, etc. Thus; the data collected agrees with the fact that domestic violence has effects on women and girl child. It is clear that, from the responses above, there is a need to do more on the fight against domestic violence.

Summary and Conclusion

This research discussed violence against women in today Nigeria as a widespread issue. It identified some reasons why violence against women and girls continues growing and why it had not been curbed to its barest minimum by focusing on women and the girl child. Domestic violence has been a reoccurring problem that is tantamount of affecting any woman/girl child, regardless of age, religion, socioeconomic or socio-cultural status, etc. There is no clear risk profile that exists on the effect of domestic violence on the victim because the effects vary from person to person, though; the health consequences of those affected by violence are serious and grievous. The results of the study have shown that there is no form of domestic violence bill but that the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (VAPP), though, most women were unaware of the bill. Those who were who aware of the bill had a sketch knowledge and did not know what the bill seeks to do for most women/girl child abused and in most cases, tradition and the societal belief of the man's superiority hinder the ladies female folk from reporting any form of abuse. The finding suggests that women were mostly abused with the government, religious institution, society and traditional institutions doing little or nothing about these growing trends. The research also submitted that victims of domestic violence are greatly affected by the act (domestic violence).

Domestic violence is on the rise in most countries around the world, especially developing countries. It is an ongoing hurtful activity perpetuated to the woman/girl child which includes; physical, sexual, emotional and verbal abuse. Domestic violence can easily be likened to a disease that spreads rapidly which occurs in all spheres of life and also as a

cankerworm eating deep into the societal fabrics of all races, relationships and people of all ages. These acts will continue unabated until our society takes deliberate steps to curb and prevent them. The findings of this study demonstrated that women continue to be abused in several and diverse forms and thus; requires concerted efforts to tackle the root cause of this social vice.

Recommendation

The Nigerian Government through the Ministry of Women Affairs should pay close attention to issues of domestic violence especially as it relates to women and girl child.

b. More research and investigations should be encouraged on domestic violence in Nigeria; this will help in the formation of policies geared towards curbing domestic violence and protection of women and the girl child from attendant complications arising from domestic violence.
c. There is a need for conscious education, sensitization and campaign by the government through the ministry of women affairs and other agencies on domestic violence. This is because the study showed that a greater number of women are not aware of the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act (VAPP) let alone know what it is all about. It should be done alongside training for women and the girl child.
d. Children should be taught to know how to avoid perpetrators of domestic violence, as well as the appropriate and civic ways of talking with intended perpetrators to abort their intentions or evil plans.
e. Societal norms and values should be inculcated/. incorporated into the educational frame which is particularly geared towards addressing domestic violence.
f. The children should be instructed on if they are assaulted by an adult, they should first inform their family and if the victim doesn't have a family, the constituted authorities should be the best option.
g. The law must be allowed to work. It is recommended that police officials and law interpreters should be strengthened to exercise their responsibilities without any form of prejudice and the law should catch up with perpetrators. When this is done it will not give other people the room to perpetrate such heinous crimes against women/girl child.
h. Religious bodies should preach against domestic violence and people irrespective of their economic status, social placement, etc., should not be spared if they are found wanting.
i. Traditional authorities and cultural history which play a huge role in aggravating domestic violence should be monitored and revisited to curb these social vices.

j. Society is not left out in the fight against domestic violence, there is the need for the society to work together to reduce any form of abuse against women and girl child to its barest minimum level.

Reference

Arnold, C., and Fisch, R. (2011). The Impact of complex trauma on development. New York, NY: Jason Aronson Publishers.

Appiah, S. C., and Abubakari M., (2013). Domestic violence and its effects on women. Ludwig-Maximillans University of Munrich. Retrieved, March 10, 2021: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/272298413

Bachmann R. (1995). Violence against woman: Estimates from the redesigned survey bureau of justice statistics special report. Washington DC: U.S. Department of Justice (Publication no. NCJ-145325), Retrieved, January 15, 2021

Beach, S. R. H., et al (2013). Impact of child sex abuse on adult psychopathology: A genetically and epigenetically informed investigation. Journal of Family Psychology, 27. Retrieved, March 12, 2021: https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3813956

Baker, C. D. (2002). Female survivors of sexual abuse: An integrated guide to treatment. New York, NY: Routledge.

Devries, K. M., et al (2013). The global prevalence of intimate partner violence against women. Science, 340, 1527-1528. Retrieved, March 2, 2021.

Elisabeth, N. and Aninta, R. R., (2010). Domestic violence against women: Definations, epidemiology, risk factors and consequences. Schweizerische Medizinische Wochoischrift. Retrieved, March 2, 2021: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/ 46307387

Gelles R. J and Straus M. A., (1988). Intimate violence: The causes and consequences of abuse in the American family. New York: Simon & Schuster

Guggisberg, M., (2018). The impact of violence against women and girls: A life span analysis. Retrieved, Febraury 10, 2021: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/ 324246506

Howard, J. (2015). Adolescent violence in the home: How is it different to adult family violence? Canberra, ACT: Australian Institute of Family Studies. Retrieved, 13 February, 2021: http://aifs.gov.au/cfca.

Kaspiew R., Carson R., and Rhoades, H. (2016). Elder abuse. Sydney, NSW: Australian Institute of Family Studies. Retrieved, February 14, 2021: https://aifs.gov.au/publications/elder-abuse/export

Krug E., and Dahlberg, L. L. (2002). World report on violence and health. Lancet. 2002;360:1083–8. Retrieved, January 10, 2021

Metz C., Galmet J., and Thevenot, A., (2019). Women subjected to domestic violence: The impossibility of separation. Psychoanalytic Psychology. Retrieved, January 10, 2021: https://dx.doi.org/10.103/pap0000186

Muideen, O. B., (2010). Domestic violence and Nigeria women. A review of the present state, Nigeria Journal of Psychiatric. Retrieved, January 30, 2021: https://www.researchgate.net/publication/259487250

Schmuel E., and Schenker J. G. (1998). Violence against women: The physician's role. Retrieved March 1, 2021: Biol. 1998;80(2):23945.

United Nations, (1993). Strategies for confronting domestic violence: A rResource Manual, New York. Retrieved, February 25, 2021

www.figo.org/about/guidelines

www.who.int/gender/news/who_statement/en/print.html