Virtuousness and Perseverance: Major Catalysts for Domestic Violence

By

Awe Ene N.
School of Humanities, College of Social Science,
University of Kwa Zulu, Natal, South Africa
Email: 220081647@stu.ac.za

Abstract

Domestic violence is a crime that takes various forms in society like physical violence, sexual violence, and threats of all forms, especially the ones that involve fear, alarm and distress, which on the other hand can also be said to involve stalking. It has various implications on our society. However, it has various consequences on victims. There are various laws against domestic violence in Nigeria which include Violence Against Person's Prohibition Act (Vapp), Protection Against Domestic Violence Law (Padvl), Ekiti Gender-Based Violence Act. Virtuousness is more of a relative terminology that centred more on moral behavioural patterns exhibits by someone. Perseverance is popularly known to be an act of continuous engaging in something despite difficulty experienced or delay in achieving success. It can also be said to be insisting on achieving a set goal or purpose. The methodology adopted was exploratory research design; in this research, a secondary source of data was used and critically examined. Findings indicate that domestic violence is not caused by perseverance or virtuousness .The paper concludes that violence done by people especially domestic violence are not stimulated by virtuousness and perseverance but are done because of the absence of virtuousness and perseverance. The paper recommends that government should set up protection bills that protect the victims of domestic violence and also stipulates capital punishments for perpetrators.

Keywords; Virtuousness, Perseverance, Catalyst, Domestic violence.

Introduction

Domestic violence is an act that is usually an action done to someone. Contextually, this act is usually carried out by humans and done to humans. When otherwise, it is no more called domestic violence but an act of cruelty especially

when done to animals. Conceptually, domestic violence is a type of violence or what can be termed to be physical abuse done directly to someone which can be either spouse, partner, lover, or those into one form of agreement/ relationship and also to those, not in a relationship. This kind of violence has been noticed to occur by men against women. To further expatiate the meaning of domestic violence, it can also be termed as violent or abusive behaviour that is directed by one family or household member against another. This violence is usually experienced by the women folks in society. Throughout the world, there are more reported cases of women folks experiencing domestic violence than male folks especially in marriage or intimate relationships.

Helen V. described domestic violence as *'an activity which can be reasonably be assumed to alter the distribution of welfare in the family*(Tauchen et al., 1991). Furthermore, *about 30% of American couples experience physical violence at some time during their relationship*(Tauchen et al., 1991). This act is not only commonly associated with the American only, but family violence is found at every level of the world social structure. However, it is not limited to a particular environment, continent or society but applies to all (Tauchen et al., 1991).

Building up an argument to justify or support the motion that virtuousness and perseverance are a catalyst for domestic violence will not be justified without critically examining not only the conceptual meaning of virtuousness and perseverance but also look into their forms and structure before the meaningful argument can be established. Virtuousness can be referred to as the representation of the best aspect of the human condition. Also, it can be said to be the highest aspiration human beings hold for themselves(Cameron & Winn, 2012). In this definition, we can attribute virtuousness to be a good/best behavioural pattern that human being exhibits in the course of interacting or having a relationship with others. However, this act is not limited to family, relationships but applicable to all aspects of society where human beings exist or associate like organization, forum, group, society, institution etc. when referring to organizations, we can say that virtuousness usually manifests in a collective display of moral excellence (Cameron & Winn, 2012). Virtuousness is a good moral behavioural attitude exhibit by someone. Someone with a bad moral attitude cannot exhibit virtuousness. Can we now say that someone who exhibits virtuous character can

be a perpetrator of domestic violence act to others, especially someone with a cordial relationship? These questions will be critically examined in the study.

Perseverance is a subjective attribute of humans which means a continued effort to do or achieve something despite difficulties experienced which came as a result of either failures, futile achievements or opposition. This can also be said to be an action or condition or an instance of persevering difficult/ turbulent periods. Perseverance is majorly the thing of the mind to endure whatever unpleasant circumstances. A man usually faces some trials and disturbing periods in the journey of life, career, goals, marriage, or other set goals. The determination to overcome those trials is what we can term perseverance. Furthermore, perseverance can also be said to be the quality that allows someone to remain focus or continue trying to do something even though it is difficult. Can we now say that doggedness is a catalyst for domestic violence?

In this study, we will establish an argument to support or oppose the motion that virtuousness and perseverance can be a catalyst for domestic violence experience throughout the world. The study will back the argument up with a theoretical proposition either to clarify or support or oppose the motion put forward. Clarification of concepts and recommendations will be put forward.

Theoretical Framework

Every postulation of an idea are always back up by theories to determines the background of justifications. This paper will be based on the theory of virtuous violence. The virtuous violence theory was propounded by Alan Page Fiske, a Professor in the Department of the Anthropology University of California, Los Angeles and Tage Shakti Rai, a Post-Doctoral Research Fellow Center for Global Citizenship, Kellogg School of Management, and Northwestern University. In their book titled Virtuous Violence: Moral Motivations for Mayhem (Alan Page Fiske, 2014). This theory aims to scientifically explain, describe and shed more light on how people do act in a certain situation. It does not try to philosophically justify moral attitude which can equally be termed virtuousness or explains how people should act. Rather, it is an analysis of human psychology and theory (Alan Page Fiske, 2014). The theory posed a question asking if people generally perceive violence as immoral? It justifies by answering that people generally accept that

intentional harm is morally wrong, and also act as an important foundation of moral ideology.

The theory of virtuous violence gave a strong background explanation that most violence is morally motivated (Alan Page Fiske, 2014). The theory further affirms that people who engage in violent acts or harm themselves believe they are the right to do such acts based on some things they might nurse. It further stressed that violent act is usually intentionally carried out. i.e people who engage in the act know that they are hurting others or themselves. However, it affirms that people do not enjoy perpetrating violence, killing, maiming or torturing others or finds it easy to perpetrate such acts except for sadists, extreme psychopaths. The authors later confirmed that doing violence often have long-term and highly traumatic effects on the perpetrator, resulting in perpetration-induced stress disorder (PISD). Although many people can be trained to be violent and also circumstances may also be the catalyst for domestic violence. This singular sentence justifies the basis of the argument put forward in the paper earlier that virtuousness and perseverance is not a catalyst for domestic violence but the absence of it. He further stressed that people engage in violence for a certain reason even when it negates their philosophy as a person at times.

The theory affirms that perpetrators of violence of all sorts usually have both violence and anti-violence motives like compassion, virtuousness, perseverance, and kindness. The balance should be strike between the motives behind perpetrating the act and judgment of the act because people may later be glad they are more violent or regret being violent. Furthermore, the theory examines how violence constitutes social relationships? It expressed Defense, Constitution, Conduct and Modulation, Preemption, Repair, Termination, Mourning are part of the process of violence that constitutes a social relationship. However, the theory identified that Suicide and martyrdom • Homicide • Assault • Rape • Domestic violence • Police violence • Lynching • War • Feuding • Chivalry, warrior cultures, honour, and street gangs • Dueling • Martial and contact sports • Initiation and hazing • Male & female genital surgery • Body scarification and modification • Extreme religious asceticism, self-flagellation, and vision quests • Human sacrifice • Judicial torture • Legal and self-help punishment, incarceration, and execution are part of the areas that virtuous violence framework

can analyze (Alan Page Fiske, 2014). Furthermore, Virtuous violence theory posits that most violence is morally motivated to constitute social relationships (Alan Page Fiske, 2014).

The theory tends to ask the question But why violence? Why not language material means or other forms of influence? When do people constitute relationships with violence, per se? (Alan Page Fiske, 2014). The response gives to the questions put forward are Violence ups the ante, Violence may be afforded or restricted by metarelational models, Violence depends on configurations of connected relationships, The theory concluded by suggesting that recognizing that perpetrators are morally motivated, and Helping potential perpetrators find non-violent means to regulate their relationships are Implications for Strategies to Reduce Violence in society. Also, other suggestions include Show potential perpetrators the harmful metarelational implications of violence, Foster strong, valued relationships between potential perpetrators and third parties who will sanction violence against second parties, Foster public declarations of non-violence by these third parties, Foster the development of multiplex dyadic and group relationships expressed to potential perpetrators, Integrate potential perpetrators into configurations of relationships. The theory concludes that violence is generally not the result of a lack of sociality or the lack of moral feeling, also People committing violence are often 'doing' social relationships. The moral motives of social relationships generate most/much violence (Alan Page Fiske, 2014).

Methods

The methodology adopted was exploratory research design; in this research, a secondary source of data was used and critically examined. These data were mined from internets, IOTS, databases, websites, library materials, books, journals, magazines, conference papers, periodicals, and other works applicable to the study. However, the data were contextually, thoroughly examined. Critical evaluation of the dependent and independent variables was cross-examined to determine the association and interrelatedness of the variables. This will helps us explore the research more effectively and derive a valid conclusion. The significance of the study draws its strength from the fact that domestic violence is witnessed across the nation, which is not limited to Nigeria but

witnessed throughout the world. It had almost turned into a pandemic. Domestic violence is witnessed mostly in marriage and strong relationships. However, this research is not limited to Nigeria but a wide cross-examining of the variables. This study will however open up not only the stakeholders but also policymakers, and everyone in the society to kick against the act.

The study, therefore, examines the relationship between the variables, also setting the pace and model for researchers that will later work on the topics; it will as well be of immense value in the hands of policymakers, stakeholders, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) on how best to stem the tide of domestic violence and to a very large extent nicking the phenomenon in the bud, thus, invariably making the society a safe and peaceful one for everyone irrespective of gender

According to Jacqui Smith, she posits that "*One hundred and fifty (150) people are killed each year by a current or former partner, thousands of people turn up each year in our hospital casualty department and our doctors' surgeries, with injuries inflicted by a current or former partner".* (Walby, 2004).

From this singular quote, we can deduce that domestic violence usually starts from a smooth, good relationship and effective communication between two or more partners which in the long run later turned into violence. Various countries have laws stipulated against the act of domestic violence. Given this, various capital punishments and subtle punishments have been put in place to curb the situation. Various protection bills and victim bills have been passed by some legislators to increase the protection of the rights of victims. Domestic violence is a crime that takes various forms in society like physical violence, sexual violence, and threats of all forms, especially the ones that involve fear, alarm and distress, which on the other hand can also be said to involve stalking. Domestic violence also involves emotional torture especially from spouses to their partners. Domestic violence also comes with the dynamics of violence act which occurred between current and former partners that are once involved in an int

Implications of Domestic Violence in Our Society

1. As we know that every crime committed put stress on the judiciary system. It also has a significant impact on policing and crime-fighting in society. From the first point of security personnel's going after the perpetrators, arresting and charging the case to court, to the lawyers trying to defend and speak for or against the case put forward, to the judges that give judgments and finally to the correctional centres like prisons, etc where perpetrators will be remanded. The more cases put forward to judgments, the more work the judges will do, also the security personnel, the lawyers, and also the more various prison, correctional centres will be filled if crimes cases are not reduced in the society. Domestic violence is not left out in this scenario. It cost the criminal justice system extra budgets allocated for violent crimes, as well as other components which cannot be shy away from like police, civil defence, prosecution departments of each state/ country, courts, probation, prisons, and legal aids.
2. The danger domestic violence cause in the society is immense as it ranges from affecting the psychology of victims to putting pressure on our health care system causing the government to spend much more resources to sustain the health sectors, as well making the victim heal of their various traumas. Every victim of domestic violence had to live with one certain pain or the other especially those that are in an abusive marriage. Physical injuries, emotional torture, mind disordering, mental imbalance, trauma and associated stroke, heart-related problems and other forms of ailments are associated with victims of rape. These set of people at times seek help in our various hospitals for recovery which in the long run put stress and pressure on the health workers, consultants, therapists, hospital resources and equipment and as well as funding due to the increasing cases of domestic violence in our society. If the cases were reduced in the society, pressure will reduce in the health sector and the health professional/workers will face other ailments that are not domestic violence-related issues.
3. As is well known that in some advanced countries with good welfare systems, the government provides some social welfare services for victims of rape, domestic violence, any kind of assault as well as those faced with disasters like natural disasters. Welfare and social services/ packages usually have some cost implications attached to them to relieve victims of their various plight encountered. Those financial implications provide to cater for the social

services were at times drawn from countries budgets, gotten from relief packages and assistances, and at times gotten from a loan. When these social services are spent to cater for domestic violence victims in the society, it consumes and affects other necessary areas the services are needed to be useful when domestic violence is not in place in the first place. According to Professor Sylvia Walby, *domestic violence cost the government 25 Billion Euros. Ascertaining that it is overwhelming for children rather than adults, especially those cut up in the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child abuse* (Walby, 2004).

4. Some victims may lose their houses and properties when they scamper for their life by abandoning their properties and valuables to get their lives together and going after the domestic violence crisis had happened to them. This implied their life, finances, mental health as some victims had to start their lives all afresh. Some had to rent houses, or build another one which will have a serious financial implication.
5. The most crystal evidence of any domestic violence is the physical injuries that victims sustain. These victims are either part of the active economic contributor in the society. Some of the victims fall under the labour force categories which have a stake in the contribution of economic importance. There will be economic loss outputs from victims that experience injuries from domestic violence which they will have to leave jobs and treat their injuries, at the time of leaving their job, some economic output value will be lost. The more victims of domestic violence leave jobs, the more economic loss the society will experience and this had a long-run effect on the GDP of the state.(Awe,2020)
6. Every domestic violence usually results in pain and emotional trauma. This does not neglect the fact that there are cost implications to the emotional and psychological pain inflicted on victims. Society had to share in the implication of the estimate regarding human and emotional cost thereby leaving the society to bear the pain.

Consequences of Domestic Violence on Victims

Among so many associated repercussions of domestic violence on victims, some of the identified consequences include the following:

Broken bones	Black eyes	Bruises
Lost of pregnancies	Skin injuries	Death
Living in fear	Lose of freedom	Trauma

Psychological disorder	Home breaking,	Disunity in the family,
Single parenting	Child developmental disorder	Children trauma
Child abuse	Loss of job	Insanity
Loss of properties as a result of absconding for the fear of death, injury, etc		

However, we can say a virtuous person is also a righteous person. Being modest is far from being immodest and anyone exhibiting probity can't be the perpetrator of domestic violence against another person. When a virtuous person engages in an immodest act of perpetrating domestic violence, then the person can't be termed being virtuous.

According to (Sadler-Smith, 2013), *Virtuous behaviour is construed as being positively deviant to the extent that it militates against weaknesses, is counteractive to negative normative momenta (which tend to reinforce conformance to accepted norms), and enables "extraordinariness" that is pursuant of the "common good").*

We can say that virtuousness refers to the desperate quest and apex aspirations of human beings which is characterized by human impact, moral goodness, and unconditional societal betterment (David S. Bright, (2006)). Virtuousness emphasizes actions that go beyond the "do not harm" assumption embedded in most ethical codes of conduct. Instead, it emphasizes the highest and best of the human condition (David S. Bright, (2006)).

Forms of Virtuousness

Virtuousness takes so many forms, as humans can display the quality of being virtuous or morally sound which includes being good, rectitude, probity, righteous, and upright, while another form can also be the condition of being chaste which can be referred to as chastity, decency, innocence, modesty, purity, and virgin.

Another form of virtuousness is organizational virtuousness. This encompasses individual actions, collective activities, and cultural attributes (Sadler-Smith, 2013). As noted earlier, organizational virtuousness has three definitional attributes:

(a) *moral goodness concerned with goods of first intent or "internal goods' chosen for their own sake, such as "love, wisdom, or fulfilment" as opposed to goods of second intent ("external goods"), such as "profit, prestige, or power" (Cameron et al., 2004, p. 769) which have an instrumental purpose (Bright, 2006);*

(b) *individual flourishing and moral character manifested in strength, self-control, and resilience and meaningful purpose and transcendent principles; and*

(c) *unconditional social betterment concerned with creating benefit for others beyond self-interest without regard for reciprocity or reward, over-and-above mere participation in normatively prescribed volunteerism* (Sadler-Smith, 2013).

Characteristics of Perseverance

There are some unique characteristics someone who displays perseverance ability portrays that are common amongst people. These characteristics are not in isolation, and not all-encompassing but found to be part rather than the whole.

1. One of the unique characteristics of someone that persevere is that they have a way of training their minds that they are not the only one experiencing the violence in the world. This act gives them the inner strength needed to overcome any violence or unwanted situation they are experiencing (Zeisler, 2014).
2. Positive energy is another unique form of perseverance displayed. One who undergoes domestic violence faces so many energy-sapping situations, some live constantly in high tensioned fear, emotional trauma and at times abuse of any forms. Developing positive energy while facing the situation is termed perseverance (Zeisler, 2014).
3. In almost all domestic violence situations, there is an iota of displaying rage from the perpetrator against the victims. Some victims have a way of suppressing the rage and tension to let the sleeping dog lie. This kind of rage control and suppression in the heat of violence can be termed perseverance (Zeisler, 2014).

4. Some victims display a high level of caution or display some unique safety characteristics when they are faced with some unpleasant condition (Zeisler, 2014).
5. Validating self-worth is one unique attribute strong people display to encourage themselves when faced with cases like domestic violence, tough situations especially when they still want to continue in either the relationship or are interested to achieve a goal (Zeisler, 2014).
6. Future envisioning is another great tool used to persevere and move forward in a toxic environment. This attribute is unique to put less strength on the problem but focus more energy on the solution (Zeisler, 2014).
7. The diehard encouragement to persevere in face of trial used by a determined person is never to give up easily. This action makes them going even while experiencing difficult situations. (Zeisler, 2014)

Are Virtuousness and Perseverance a Catalyst for Domestic Violence?

Establishing an argument for or against the topic is necessary to develop a base of arguments to support the perspective one is coming from. Understanding the topic is critical in forming the base of argument one will stands upon. The arguments put forward on this topic include

1. Are virtuousness and perseverance a catalyst for domestic violence?
2. Can we say that the act of exhibiting an attitude of virtuousness and perseverance makes one experience domestic violence either in marriage or relationship?

Two arguments have been put forward. To answer the first argument is virtuousness and perseverance a catalysts for domestic violence, my answer is **NO. But The Absence of Virtuousness and Perseverance Cause Domestic Violence**

Virtuousness and perseverance as we have understood above is never a catalyst to domestic violence. The act of being virtuous should not make one experience domestic violence or be the perpetrator. For emphasis sake, virtuousness is the act of doing what is right than doing what is wrong. Then having understood this fact, can we now say that virtuous one can engage in domestic violence? If yes, what could have happened to make a good person hurt another or partner. When

isolating virtuousness as a context, the act does anything kind, good to other people around. For one to be virtuous, the person needs to exhibit some act of moral excellence, kindness, and perhaps a virtuous person will not perpetrate domestic violence. Virtuousness in its forms means the moral obligations and commitments of someone to others. Provocations and extreme anger can make a virtuous person hurt the other especially in the face of domestic violence. But originally, when every other thing are held constant, virtuousness take pain to commit themselves to their fellow people, so hurting others will not be their characteristics.

To justify my argument, it is the absence of virtuousness and perseverance that leads to domestic violence. This will leads me to rephrase the topic to be Absence of Virtuousness and Perseverance is a catalyst to domestic violence. For every reaction, there is always an action. This also means that for an act to be carried out there is always a reason for carrying out the act or action. For domestic violence to take place there is always underlining factors that act as a catalyst for the action. At times, good people turn bad due to certain factors. This does not mean all good people are bad, or at times good, virtuous people always turn bad. Some factors can make virtuous people violent either in a relationship or in any other setting. Some of the factors include frustration, loss of individual self-control, the breakdown of norms, rational calculation of cost or benefits, moral disengagement, dehumanization and infrahumanization (Rai, 2014). All of these factors change the virtuousness and perseverance one possesses to the opposite. Rather virtuousness and perseverance is not a catalyst for domestic violence but the absence of these two qualities in a person may lead to domestic violence. At times, at a point in time, the person might display virtuous acts and persevere in times of tribulation or trial, and later hurt others or perpetrate domestic violence. This does not mean being virtuous and perseveres leads to domestic violence but at the instance of committing domestic violence crime, there is an absence of virtuousness and perseverance which might be caused by the factors listed above. Can we say that the act of exhibiting an attitude of virtuousness and perseverance makes one experience domestic violence either in marriage or relationship? This question is relative and quite subjective. Being patient and persevere in an abusive marriage can make one experience or be a victim of domestic violence. The causal effect lies much more on the perpetrator rather than the one that perseveres or

displays a virtuous act. The one who perseveres endures all bad manners, insults, emotional trauma, physical battery, assault, and at times leads to domestic violence from the perpetrators, especially in a relationship that the virtuous person does not like to lose. This will make the person persevere all those which might lead to death or fatal injury if care is not taken. So when one exhibits the attitude of virtuousness and perseverance in a porous or toxic relationship/ association without leaving such relationship at the appropriate time, the person may experience domestic violence in the toxic relationship. But in the real sense, virtuousness and perseverance do not stimulate domestic violence but the absence of it. If you persevere in a toxic relationship does not mean your perseverance or display of virtuousness cause domestic violence.

Conclusion

The paper concludes that violence perpetrated by people especially domestic violence are not stimulated by virtuousness and perseverance but are done because of the absence of virtuousness and perseverance. The catalyst of violence of all forms is lack of sociality, lack of compassion, environmental conditions that change a good virtuous person to a violent bully.

Recommendation

Government should set up protection bills that protect the victims of domestic violence and also stipulates capital punishments for perpetrators. This will reduce the incidence in the society, and also shield, support, and help the victims as well as put victims at the heart of the system. The bill should entail effective policing in the society where victims can report cases without fear or intimidation and prompt actions will be made to arrest the situation.

2. Rehabilitation hub/centre should be created by each government to help domestic violence victims recover from the heat of the act. It is necessary to provide mental trauma removal therapy in the centre to help heal those in shock or gone through trauma in the process. Their sanity is imperative and should be prioritised and quality professionals should handle the section to achieve a great result. Integrating the victim back to society should also be considered important. Most of the shock and post-domestic violence act affects the mind of the victims. Working on the mind of the victims and reintegrating them into society will create a sane society and also help heal the victims.

3. Effective campaign should be launched against the act. Discouraging the domestic violence act should be the special work of some sectors/groups in the society to reduce the incidence. The message needs to get out to society that domestic violence is not permitted in the society and perpetrators will seriously be dealt with.

4. 24/hour helpline should be put in a strategic place in society so that victims can report cases and also seek help. This action should also be extended to the refugee camp. Emergency supports should be set up and provided to victims. General public welfare should be provided like housing, communication services and other welfare programs should be put in place.

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