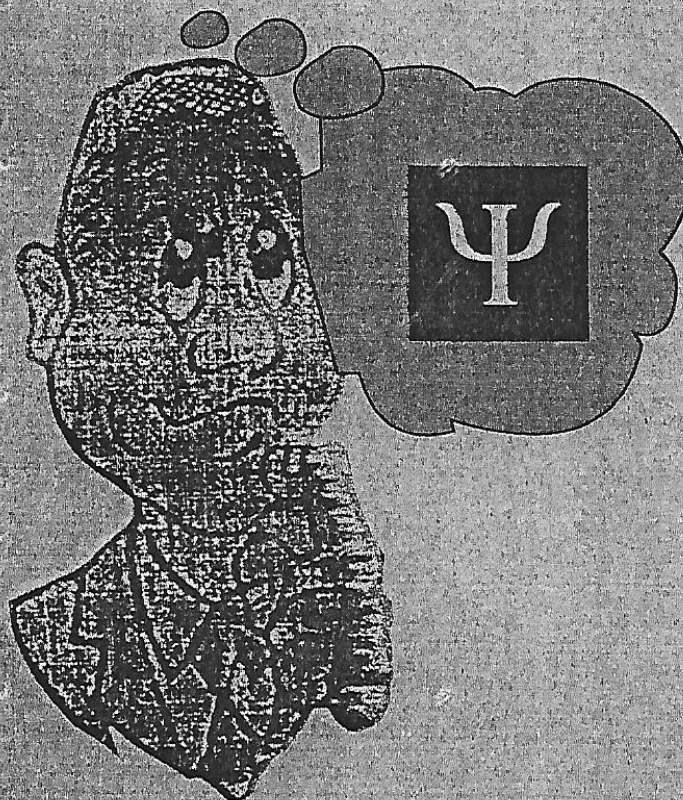


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Volume 17, June, 2015

- 1140 *Editorial Comments*
- 1145 **Adegboyega, L. O.; Ajiboye, S. K. & Abdulkareem, S.*
Incest: A Threat to Family Security
- 1156 *Bolu-Steve, F.N. Mustapha, R.T. & Awoyemi A.O.*
Causes of Gender-based Violence as Perceived by Female Civil Servants
in Ilorin Metropolis: Implication for Counsellor Training and the
Government
- 1170 *Abijo, J. A.*
The Use of Yoruba Proverbs, Moral Rhymes and Taboos as Models to check
Youth Anti-Social Behaviour in Nigerian Schools and Society
- 1185 *Aigbokhaevho, I. F. & Osiki, J.O.*
Non-Disclosure and Poor Knowledge of HIV Positive Sero-Status as
Predictors of HIV/AIDS Prevalence among Married Couples in Ibadan,
Oyo State
- 1203 *Torubeli, V. A.*
Assessing the Relationship between Emotional intelligence, Self-Efficacy
and Organizational Commitment among Employees in Public Parastatal
in Bayelsa State, Nigeria
- 1215 *Eniola, M. S. & Eguavoen, E. O.*
Parental Involvement and Self-Concept as Correlates of Career Aspiration
of Children with Visual Impairment in Special Schools in Ibadan, Nigeria
- 1229 *Abekhale S. O.*
Counselling for Mental Health and Academic Reconstruction
- 1245 *Abekhale S. O.*
Counselling for Mental Health and Academic Reconstruction
- 1257 *Ogbodo, R. O.*
Roles of Counsellors in Entrepreneurship Education in National Open
University of Nigeria (NOUN)
- 1267 *James, T.*
Science Education Students' Perception of the Effectiveness and
Usability of Virtual and Face-to-Face Laboratories in Open and
Distance Learning Environment

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Causes of Gender-based Violence as Perceived by Female Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis: Implication for Counsellor Training and the Government

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Abstract

This study investigated the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis. The target population for this study consisted of all female civil servant in Ilorin metropolis. Ilorin metropolis consists of 3 Local Government Areas i.e Ilorin South, Ilorin West and Ilorin East. Simple random sampling technique was used in selecting two Local Government Areas (Ilorin East and Ilorin West) for this study. The researchers purposively selected 3 Federal ministries and 2 State ministries for the study. Simple random sampling technique was also used to select twenty female married civil servants from the five ministries. The researchers carried out this method by writing the words "Yes" and "NO" on two small sheets of papers. Respondents that picked "YES" were served with the questionnaire while those that picked "NO" were not given. From each of the selected Local Governments, a total of forty (40) respondents were selected from each of the (3) Federal Ministries and forty (40) respondents were also selected from the (2) state ministries. Thus, a total of two hundred (200) married female civil servants were selected to represent the study population. T-test and Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) statistical methods were used to test the six null hypotheses generated for the study. The main findings from the research showed that there was no significant difference in female civil servants perception on the causes of gender-based violence using age, religion, family type and years-in-service. However a significant difference was found on the basis of educational qualifications and years in marriage. it was recommended that Strong advocacy campaigns should be mounted by the government against gender based .violence in Nigeria.

Key Words: Gender, Violence, Civil Servant and Causes

Introduction

Gender based violence refer to violent acts that are primarily committed against women which may results in physical or sexual abuse (Population Reference Bureau, 2001). The United Nations General Assembly (2003) defined violence against women as any abusive behaviour in which the male tries to gain power and control over female. Violence is defined

by World Health Organization (WHO, 2006) as the intentional use of physical force or power against women which can result into injury or emotional breakdown. Violence against women can take different forms and this include physical, sexual, emotional, economic and psychological abuse (Office of Violence Against Women, 2007). It was recorded that violence takes the lives of more than 1.5 million women annually (World Health Organization (WHO), 2002). There are different types of gender-based violence, which involves battering, sexual abuse, rape, female genital mutilation, traditional practices harmful to women, forced sterilization and abortion especially as a means of population control (United Nations, 1993). Harmful gender violence can be reinforced by traditional practices such as widow-cleansing, wife inheritance and child marriage (Hassan, Sadowski & Shrikant, 2004). Obi and Ozumba (2007) found that 83% of respondents in their study reported physical abuse. It was estimated that one in every five women faces some form of violence during her lifetime, in some cases leading to serious injury or death. The causes of gender-based violence according to Okemini and Adekola (2012) are many and they include, traditional practices in the society, financial insecurity of the woman, gender inequality, involvement of men in alcoholism and poverty. Kalra (1996) explained that personality disorders during childhood are factors that forces people to be violent against their partner. Bitangaro (1999) noted that the causes of violence against women are deeply rooted in the cultural beliefs, power relations, economic power imbalances, and the masculine idea of male dominance.

Statement of the Problem

Gender-based violence is a universal problem that has continued to exist in the society. Afrolnew (2007) revealed that there is high level of violence against women in Nigeria. Amnesty International (2005) reported that two-thirds of women are believed to have been subjected to one form of gender violence. Girls are often forced into early marriage and are at risk of punishment if they attempt to escape from their husbands. Oyediran and Isugo (2005) and Afrolnews (2007) revealed that a lot of cultural gender based violence was not documented. Heise, Pitanguy and Germain (1994) stated that an estimated number of 60 million women are missing from world population statistics due to premature deaths linked to various forms of abuse and gender based violence

In a study carried out in the south East of Nigeria by Obi and Ozumba (2007) revealed that 92% of the victims of gender-based violence are women and the remaining 8% are males. The study also noted that most women do not know if they had been abused or not

1158 *Bolu-Steve, F.N, Ph.D; Mustapha, R.T Ph.D; & Awoyemi A.O, Ph.D /IJPSE Vol. 17, 2015*
(Afrolnews, 2007). Pourreza, Batebi, and Moussavi (2004) reported that a lot of unmarried women have suffered physical violence than women who are married. Having mentioned some of the past researches in the areas of violence against women, it appears that none of such previous studies has considered the expressions of married female civil servants on the causes of gender based violence against women in the locale of the researchers (Ilorin metropolis), hence this study deemed it fit to fill such gap.

Research Questions

For the purpose of this study, some research questions were developed to guide in the process of the work. They are:

1. What are the causes of gender based violence against women as expressed by married female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis?
2. Is there any difference in the causes of gender based violence against women as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on age?
3. Is there any difference in the causes of gender based violence against women as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on religion?
4. Is there any difference in the causes of gender based violence against women as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on family type?
5. Is there any difference in the causes of gender based violence against women as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on length of years in marriage?
6. Is there any difference in the causes of gender based violence against women as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on length of years in service?

Research Hypotheses

The following hypotheses were formulated in line with the research questions and tested in the course of this study.

1. There is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence against women as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on age.
2. There is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence against women as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on religion.

3. There is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence against women as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on family type.
4. There is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence against women perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on length of years in marriage.
5. There is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence against women as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on length of years in service.

Purpose of the Study

The main purpose of this study is to investigate the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis. The study considered different variables like age, religion, family type and length of years in marriage.

Sample and Sampling Technique

The target population for this study was all civil servants in Ilorin. Ilorin metropolis consists of 3 Local Government Areas which are Ilorin South, Ilorin West and Ilorin East. The simple random sampling technique was used in selecting two Local Government Areas (Ilorin East and Ilorin West) for this study. The researchers purposively selected 3 Federal ministries and 2 State ministries for the study. Simple random sampling technique was also used to select twenty female married civil servants from the five ministries. The researchers carried out this method by writing the words "Yes" and "NO" on two small sheets of papers. Respondents that picked "YES" were served with the questionnaire while those that picked "NO" were not given. From each of the selected Local Governments, a total of forty (40) respondents were selected from each of the (3) Federal Ministries and forty (40) respondents were also selected from the (2) State Ministries. Thus, a total of two hundred (200) married female civil servants were selected for the study to represent the population of the study.

Instrumentation

The research instruments was a self-developed questionnaire by the researchers tagged "Causes of gender based Violence Questionnaire (CGBVQ)". The questionnaire was divided into two (2) sub-sections. Section A contained the demographic details of the respondents. Section B comprised of 20 items on the causes of gender based violence on a

four-point, Likert-type scale. For section B, 4 was the highest score for the “Strongly Agree” option while 1 was the lowest for the “Strongly Disagree” option. For any respondent, therefore, the lowest possible score was 20 (i.e. $1 \times 20 = 20$) while the highest possible score was 80 (i.e. $4 \times 20 = 80$). The range is 60 (i.e. $80 - 20 = 60$). Therefore the mid-point is 30 (i.e. $60/2$). Hence the cut-off point for deciding whether a mean value is low or high is either $20 + 30$ or $80 - 30$, which in either case comes to 50. As such, any mean score of 50 or higher is high while a mean score of less than 50 is low.

Findings and Results

Table 1: Mean and Rank Order on the Causes of Gender-based Violence perceived by Female Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis

Item No.	Violence against women is caused by:	Mean	Rank
2	men's intake of excessive hard drugs	3.46	1 st
10	Infidelity	3.38	2 nd
3	subjecting female children to child labour instead of being in school	3.27	3 rd
18	men intake of excessive alcoholic beverages	3.26	4 th
15	females' indecent dressing	3.10	5 th
5	stereotype roles where women are seen as subordinate to men	3.05	6 th
12	living in crowded residence	3.02	7 th
1	Poverty	3.00	8 th
11	frustration on the part of the spouse (husband)	2.98	9 th
13	stakeholders not enforcing laws to punish perpetrators of wife battering	2.96	10 th
17	poor impulse and anger control during conversations	2.96	10 th
16	dwindled love relationship between couples	2.95	12 th
6	nagging on the part of the woman	2.92	13 th
19	wife not contributing to the good upbringing in the home	2.90	14 th
8	being childless in a relationship	2.84	15 th
20	heightened insecurity leading to kidnapping	2.73	16 th
9	women giving birth to only female children and no male child	2.69	17 th
14	uncontrolled crises and conflict in the society	2.61	18 th
7	impotence of the man	2.58	19 th
4	cultural practices such as female circumcision	2.45	20 th

Table 1 shows that Item 2 ("Violence against women is caused by men's intake of excessive hard drugs") had the highest mean score of 3.46 and was therefore ranked 1st. Ranked 2nd is Item 10 ("Violence against women is caused by infidelity") with a mean a score of 3.38. Item 4 was ranked last with the mean of 2.45.

Hypotheses Testing

Hypothesis One: There is no significant difference in the causes of gender-based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on age.

Table 2: The t-test Showing the Causes of Gender Based Violence As Perceived by Female Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis Based on Age

Age	N	Mean	SD	Df	Cal. t-value	Crit. t-value
Below 30 years	33	57.57	6.31	198	1.52	1.96
31 years and above	167	59.47	6.57			

Table 2 shows a calculated t-value of 1.52 and the critical t-value of 1.96. The calculated t-value is less than the critical t-value. The hypothesis is accepted. Hence, there is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on age.

Hypothesis Two: There is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on religion

Table 3: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the Causes of Gender Based Violence as perceived by Female Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis Based on Religion

Source	Df	SS	Mean Square	Cal. F-value	Crit. F-value
Between Groups	2	31.932	15.96	0.36	3.00
Within Groups	197	8521.623	43.25		
Total	199	8553.555			

Table 3 shows the F-value calculated of 0.36 is less than Critical value of 3.00, hence the hypothesis is accepted. This means that there is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on religion.

Hypothesis Three: There is no significant difference in causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on family type

Table 4: The t-test Showing the Causes of Gender Based Violence As perceived by Female Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis Based on Family Type

Family Type	N	Mean	SD	df	Cal. t-value	Crit. t-value
Monogamous	59	58.94	5.51	198	0.30	1.96
Polygamous	141	59.25	6.96			

Table 4 shows a calculated t-value of 0.30 and a critical t-value is 1.96. Since the calculated t-value is less than the critical t-value thus the hypothesis is upheld.

Hypothesis Four: There is no significant difference in causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on educational qualification

Table 5: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the Causes of Gender based Violence as perceived by Female Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis Based on Educational Qualification

Source	Df	SS	Mean Square	Cal. F-value	Crit. F-value
Between Groups	2	281.857	140.92	3.35*	3.00
Within Groups	197	8271.698	41.98		
Total	199	8553.555			

*Significant, $p < 0.05$

Table 5 shows that the calculated F-value of 3.35 is greater than the critical F-value of 3.00. As such the hypothesis was rejected. In order to determine the mean value(s) that caused the significant difference observed in the ANOVA results of Table 5, the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) was used as a post-hoc test. The results of the DMRT procedure are displayed in Table 6.

Table 6: Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) showing the Causes of Violence Against Women among Female Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis Based on Educational Qualification

Duncan Groupings	N	Means	Group	Educational Qualification
A	19	61.31	1	ND/NCE
B	126	59.05	2	HND/Degree
B	55	59.01	3	Postgraduate

Table 6 shows the Duncan Multiple Range Test indicating the significant difference noted in the ANOVA on Table 5. Group 1 (ND/NCE) with a mean score of 61.31 differed slightly from Group 2 (HND/Degree) and Group 3 (Postgraduate) with mean scores of 59.05 and 59.01 respectively. All the groups differed from one another but the significant difference noted was as a result of the mean of Group 1 (ND/NCE). This implies that respondents who have only ND/NCE have a different point of view to the causes of Gender based violence. Hence the significant difference noted in the ANOVA on Table 6 and thus, the hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis Five: There is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on length of years in marriage

Table 7: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the Causes of Gender Based Violence as perceived by Female Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis Based on Length of Years in Marriage

Source	Df	SS	Mean Square	Cal. F-value	Crit. F-value
Between Groups	2	342.940	171.47	4.11*	3.00
Within Groups	197	8210.615	41.67		
Total	199	8553.555			

*Significant, $p < 0.05$

Table 7 shows the F-value calculated of 4.11 and a Critical value of 3.00. The calculated F-value is greater than the critical F-value. The hypothesis is not accepted. Hence, there is a significant difference in the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants

in Ilorin metropolis based on length of years in marriage. In order to determine the mean value(s) that caused the significant difference observed in the ANOVA results of Table 7, the Duncan Multiple Range Test (DMRT) was used as a post-hoc test. The results of the DMRT procedure are displayed in Table 8.

Table 8: Duncan's Multiple Range Test (DMRT) showing the Causes of Gender Based Violence as perceived by Female Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis Based on Length of Years in Marriage

Duncan Groupings	N	Means	Group	Length of Years in Marriage
A	55	60.36	1	Less than 3 years
A	101	59.02	2	4 – 6 years
B	44	57.97	3	7 years and above

Table 8 shows the Duncan Multiple Range Test indicating the significant difference noted in the ANOVA on Table 7. Group 1 (Less than 3 years) with a mean score of 60.36 differed slightly from Group 2 (4 – 6 years) with a mean score of 59.02, but differed significantly from Group 3 (7 years and above) with a mean score of 57.97. All the groups differed from one another but the significant difference noted was as a result of the mean of Group 3 (7 years and above). This implies that respondents who have 7 years and above have more experience when it comes to issues in marriages as well as some of the possible causes of violence against women. Hence the significant difference noted in the ANOVA on Table 7 and thus, the hypothesis was rejected.

Hypothesis Six: There is no significant difference in causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis based on length of years in service.

Table 9: Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) showing the Causes of Gender Based Violence as perceived by Female Civil Servants in Ilorin Metropolis Based on Length of Years in Service

Source	df	SS	Mean Square	Cal. F-value	Crit. F-value
Between Groups	3	280.819	93.60	2.21	2.60
Within Groups	196	8272.736	42.20		
Total	199	8553.555			

Table 9 shows the F-value calculated of 2.21 and a Critical value of 2.60. The calculated F-value is less than the critical F-value. Thus the hypothesis was accepted.

Discussion

The distribution of the respondents shows that 33 (16.5%) were below 30 years old, while 167 (83.5%) of the respondents were 31 years and above. Also 12 (6%) of the respondents are worshipper of the African Traditional Religion, 98 (49%) of the respondents are Christians, while 90 (45%) of the respondents were Muslims. It was also found that 59 (29.5%) of the respondents' are from monogamous type of family, while 141 (70.5%) of them are from a polygamous type of family. Nineteen (19) (9.5%) of them have ND/NCE qualification, 126 (63%) had HND/ Degree qualification, while 55 (27.5%) of the respondents have postgraduate qualification. The outcome of the demographic data showed that 55 (27.5%) of the respondent have spent less than 3 years in marriage, 101 (50.5%) of the respondents have spent between 4 – 6 years in marriage, while 44 (22%) of them have spent 7 years and above in marriage. Also, 33 (16.5%) of the respondent are below 10 years in service, 30 (15%) of them are between 11 – 21 years in service, 49 (24.5%) of the respondents have spent 22 – 32 years in service, while 88 (44%) of the respondents have spent 33 years and above in service

Respondent's age, religion, family type and years in service did not influence their perception on the causes of gender based violence. In a study carried out by Hassan, Sadowski and Shrikant (2004) the researchers revealed that the form of violence which are largely experienced among women in Nigeria, irrespective of age, are physical violence, such as battering, sexual abuse (rape and incest) and psychological abuse (restriction of freedom of association and choice) which are caused by culture laden-factors. The cultural traditional practices that are harmful to health include female genital mutilation, forced marriage, widowhood practices among others. Violence against women fact sheet (2005) revealed that violence against women happens in all cultures and religions. Gender based violence are known to be common in all ethnic, racial and different income group. Muslims, Christians, and African traditional religion worshippers have been known to abuse their wives and daughters. Jekayinfa (2000) noted that gender based violence are mainly caused by stereotypical roles in which women are seen as subordinate to men especially in the family set up. This finding lends credence to the research findings of Seimeniuk, Krentz, Gish and Gill (2010) that women are constantly abused because of the disposition of men to women folk. This assertion is also supported by

the Dodd (2009) where it was found that violence against women is usually worse in situations where women have little or no power against the abuser for example where women are dependent on their father or husband and have no means of their own.

The female married civil servants differ on the causes of gender based violence on the basis of educational qualification and years in marriage. The finding of Afrolnews (2007) expressed that educational qualification notwithstanding, most Nigerian women usually experience domestic violence. Davies (1999) observed that women are enslaved in a circle of poverty and they suffer from neglect, discrimination and exploitation due to marital demands. Many partner viewed their wives as a property to be used and the gender roles assigned to women in the society makes them to be molested and violently abused (Harvey and Gow, 1994).

Irrespective of the respondents' years in service and or working experience, Office of violence Against Women (2007) observed that violence against women can be experienced by any female regardless of her race, age, religion, or socio-economic background, and this can take many forms, including physical, sexual, emotional, economic and psychological abuse.

Conclusion

1. There is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of age.
2. There is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of religion
3. There is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of family type
4. A significant difference was found in the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of educational qualification
5. A significant difference was found in the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of years in marriage.
6. There is no significant difference in the causes of gender based violence as perceived by female civil servants in Ilorin Metropolis on the basis of years in service

Implication of the Study

The of causes of gender based violence as perceived by married female civil servants in Ilorin metropolis has implications for counsellors in training and the government. The views expressed by the respondents have further relevance to improvement of the productivity of the public service since the respondents are married women working with government establishments. This understanding is imperative to counsellors in trainees as requisite skills and knowledge on gender based issues. It is germane that the prospective future counsellors be trained in the appropriate way to enable them to have access to the right information on gender related issues, marital counselling and problem solving skills. This will enable them to be able to counsel married women which may have experienced one form of violence or the other in the course of discharging their duties as civil servants.

Violence against women have continue to increase in the society and as such, the legislative arm of the government should endeavor to help the women living in the society and the nation at large by promulgating laws that would help to protect the rights of women.

Recommendations

Seminars, workshop and career talks should be organized by Counsellors, education experts in collaboration with the government, philanthropists, and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) on gender affirmative issues. Gender education and government policies on gender issues should be included in the counsellors education programme in the Nigerian Universities. Strong advocacy campaigns should be mounted by the government against gender based violence in Nigeria.

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Bolu-Steve, F.N, Ph.D; Mustapha, R.T Ph.D; & Awoyemi A.O, Ph.D / IJEPSE Vol. 17, 2015 1169

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