Peace Studies and Practice
Journal of the Society of Peace Studies and Practice

2024 Edition, Vol. 13, No. 1
Pp 100-111

EVALUATING THE IMPACT OF GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION STRATEGIES ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN KOGI STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract
This study assesses government intervention mechanisms in managing domestic violence against women in Kogi State. Domestic violence against women is a global phenomenon and it can happen to anybody irrespective of race, sex, and occupation. Efforts made by the government at all levels to curb this menace yield little results. This is attributed to a lack of political will to address domestic violence against women. Despite being a state party to several international instruments on the protection of women, Nigeria has yet to give domestic legal impetus to such international instruments. The absence of women-specific legislation on domestic violence and poor implementation of existing laws on domestic violence against women demonstrate a failure by the government to acknowledge domestic violence against women as a form of gender-based discrimination and a violation of women's rights. A survey and exploratory research designs were adopted in the study. Three (3) Local Government Areas (Okene, Lokoja and Dekina) were randomly selected and the Taro Yamane formula was used to select a sample size of 400 for the study. The main instruments for data collection are questionnaire administration, focus group discussion, and In-depth interviews. Descriptive data were presented in tables, charts, and frequency. The finding showed that the establishment of trauma centers could assist the victims of domestic violence in the recovery process. Also, strengthening special units among security formations to handle cases of domestic violence is needed to reduce the incidences of domestic violence against women in Kogi State. In conclusion, ending domestic violence against women in Kogi state requires collective efforts, sincerity of purpose, and commitment from all sectors of the society including government agencies, law enforcement bodies, healthcare providers, non-state actors, non-governmental organizations, individuals, and above all community organizations. It was recommended that there is a need to develop and implement comprehensive National/ State and local action plans to address domestic violence and, there is need also to enhance training and retraining for law enforcement in handle issues of domestic violence is needed.

Keywords: Government intervention strategy, domestic violence, violence against women, political will

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence against women is a global phenomenon and anybody can be a victim irrespective of race, sex, and occupation. The World Health Organisation (WHO, 2021) estimates that about one in every three women worldwide has, in their lifetime, experienced either physical or sexual intimate partner or non-partner sexual violence. According to United Nations (UN) Women (2022), about 736 million women globally have experienced domestic violence of a sexual nature, with 30 percent of such victims aged 15 years or older. Intimate partners have committed the majority of the violence against women, while over 640 million women worldwide (15 years or older) have experienced intimate partner violence (UN Women, 2022). In Europe, in 2014, about 13 million women were victims of physical violence, nearly four million women experienced sexual violence, and no less than one in 20 women aged 15 years or older had been raped (Shreeves & Prpic, 2019). In the United States of America, around one in three women aged 18 years or older experience domestic violence, while more than 1500 deaths are recorded from domestic violence incidences annually (Huecker, King, Jordan & Smock, 2022).

Domestic violence intervention strategies are efforts, formal and informal, aimed at the prevention, mitigation, control and elimination of domestic violence (Okwundu, 2017, Wuerch et al.2019, Rollins et al, 2012). The continuous escalation in the global prevalence of domestic violence has also elicited responses at the global, regional and national levels across many countries. With respect to global legal framework, there are a number of specific documents that are designed to manage domestic violence. These include the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), Beijing Platform for Action 1995, Vienna Declaration on Human Rights 1993 and the Convention on the Rights of the Child. There other global documents that cover wider issues of human rights such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. National governments domesticate or drive domestic intervention strategies from these documents. For instance, Buzawa and Buzawa (2017) edited a volume, Global Responses to Domestic Violence, which detailed national responses to domestic violence across countries such as the United Staes, the United Kingdom, Japan, among others.

At the regional level in Africa, the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (the African Charter), African Platform for Action and the Dakar Declaration, and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa represents intervention strategies aimed at combating domestic violence. As noted earlier, national governments develop domestic legislations and other policies to give meaning to regional and global frameworks on combating domestic violence (Appiah, & Mohammed, 2013, Simmons, 2012). For instance, Nigeria has four specific national frameworks for combating domestic violence. This is the case with most other African countries, which have developed national and even sub-national frameworks to fight domestic violence.

Literature Review

Stevens et al. (2021) used a social support and empowerment strategy in their study, which compared the use of telephone-based support/referral services for domestic violence survivors to enhanced routine care. The outcomes of the trial's telephone-based intervention arm and control arm did not differ significantly (enhanced usual care- community services provided by the community centre including health, social, educational, and recreational services). Participants in both groups reported a decrease in instances of domestic violence at baseline and three months

following the intervention, which was related with "greater levels of social support." The decreased levels of violence had no effect on the participants' capacity to access or use community resources. Constantino et al. (2015) studied an advocacy-based intervention using two independent approaches (online and face-to-face) and discovered that the intervention boosted social and personal support in the online group compared to the control group while decreasing melancholy and anxiety. Sections of the intervention covered referral resources such as legal aid, as well as interpersonal interactions, thoughts, and emotions. In a separate study, Constantino (2015) employed a nurse-led intervention to inform domestic violence survivors living in a domestic violence shelter about available support and help. The intervention was contrasted with regular treatment at the shelter. The intervention group experienced decreased psychological anguish, increased social support, and experienced fewer medical complaints.

Some studies (Hansen, Eriksen, & Elklit, 2014; Miller, Howell, & Graham-Bermann, 2014; Zlotnick, Capezza, & Parker, 2011) concentrated on psychotherapies delivered remotely or in individual or group sessions. Pregnant women employed interpersonal psychotherapy in individual psychotherapy sessions, according to Zlotnick et al. (2011), to promote social support among victims of abuse. There was a moderate difference in depression and PTSD ratings (decrease) between the control and intervention groups at post-intake (5-6 weeks), but this difference did not persist during the postpartum period (Zlotnick et al. 2011, Oseyemwen, 2019).

Hansen et al. (2014) describe the use of psychotherapy for individuals or groups of women who have endured domestic violence using either the "Trauma Recovery Group" (TRG) technique created by "The Mothers' Help," a private Danish organisation, or normal trauma treatment. Miller et al. (2014) discovered that a "mom empowerment programme" meant to improve mental health outcomes and participants' access to services among domestic violence survivors had positive effects on PTSD, hopelessness, and anxiety symptoms.

Drumm et al (2018) which discovered that religion can assist women who have endured domestic violence in shifting from coping for survival to resilient self-worth and healing. Similarly, Kanagaratnam, Mason, Hyman, Manuel, Berman, and Toner (2012) observed that religious convictions or faith as a coping mechanism for the stress of being in an abusive relationship help faster than seeking legal help from the government and NGO's. According to the authors, for some women, prayer is their preferred active coping strategy. Some women view prayer, spirituality, and a personal relationship with God as crucial coping techniques.

A number of studies concentrated on group or individual psychotherapy treatments. These interventions, as opposed to advocacy/case management alone or community-centred interventions, coupled community-based advocacy with a therapeutic component, allowing them to be classed individually. Interpersonal therapy (Zlotnick, 2011), traumatic treatment therapy (Hansen et al., 2014), empowerment-based group therapy (Miller, Howell, & Graham-Bermann, 2016), or a multi-component intervention with therapeutic education sessions as well as information on resources and legal assistance provided remotely or "face to face" were used in these interventions (Constantino, 2015). Although all interventions had an impact on social support and mental health outcomes, the evidence for their impact on domestic violence was weaker. Although Zlotnick et al. (2011) study on a therapeutic intervention for pregnant domestic violence survivors reported an improvement in mental health outcomes

(moderate effect on PTSD and depression), this finding was not sustained in the postpartum period, emphasising the need to assess the efficacy of interventions in this specific group while taking participant characteristics and time-dependent variables into account.

Trabold et al. (2020) discovered that interpersonal therapy, group-based cognitive or cognitive behavioural therapy, and clinically focused therapies were effective in treating depression and PTSD (time dependent). The importance of incorporating a comprehensive "therapeutic or mental health component" into domestic violence interventions was demonstrated by Sullivan et al(2018) analysis of the positive impact of trauma-informed practise on the mental health outcomes of domestic violence survivors in shelters. They also discussed the six elements of "trauma informed practise," which include: (a) reflecting on trauma and its numerous effects on health and behaviour; (b) addressing physical and psychological safety concerns; (c) employing a culturally informed strengths-based approach; (d) illuminating the nature of trauma and its effects on survivors' day-to-day experiences; and (e) allowing clients to regain control of their lives. These criteria were helpful for advocacy/case management interventions for domestic violence victims to ensure a focus on improving mental health outcomes, intersectional collaboration among stakeholders, victim-centeredness, and cultural considerations.

Feminist Theory

The history of Western feminist theory started with the works of Mary Wollstonecraft (1759-1797), one of the first feminist writers in the liberal tradition and her publication in the 18th century “a vindication of the rights of women”. Likewise, the work of Charlotte Perkins Gilman's (1860-1935) helped formalize feminist theory during the 1960s. Growing up, she went against traditional holds that were placed on her by focusing on reading and learning concepts different from women who were taught to be housewives.

Feminist theory explores both inequality in gender relations and the constitution of gender. It is best understood as both an intellectual and normative project. What is commonly understood as feminist theory accompanied the feminist movement in the mid-seventies, though there are key texts from the 19th and early – to mid-20th centuries that represent early feminist thought. Whereas feminist theories first began as an attempt to explain women's oppression globally, following a grand theoretical approach akin to Marxism, the questions and emphasis in the field have undergone some major shifts.

Two primary shifts have been (1) from the universalizing to particularizing and context-ualizing women's experiences and (2) from conceptualizing men and women as categories and focusing on the category “women” to questioning the content of that category, and moving to the exploration of gendered practices. Thus, while many theorists do focus on the question of how gender inequality manifests in institutions such as the workplace, home, armed forces, economy, or public sphere, others explore the range of practices that have come to be defined as masculine or feminine and how gender is constituted in relation to other social relations. Feminist theories can thus be used to explain how institutions operate with normative gendered assumptions and selectively reward or punish gendered practices. Many contemporary feminists look beyond the United States to focus on the effects of transnational economic, political, and cultural linkages on shaping gender.

According to Arowolo (2020), the Nigerian government has shown a lack of political will to address domestic violence against women. Despite being a state party to several international instruments on the protection of women, Nigeria has yet to give domestic legal

impetus to such international instruments. The lack of laws in Nigeria specifically targeting domestic violence against women and the lax application of those that do exist show that the government does not recognize domestic violence against women as a form of gender-based discrimination and a violation of women's rights (Arowolo, 2020).

A few studies that have attempted to examine the government responses, such as Madu (2015), Ekhator (2019), Muthangya et al (2023), and Arowolo (2020), focused on legislation on women's protection at the national level, with insufficient attention on the legislation, policies, measures, and strategies adopted at the state level to combat the social and public health menace. In particular, studies on domestic violence and its management in Kogi State are scarce. The intervention strategies adopted in managing the problems have not been adequately and empirically investigated and documented in extant academic literature on violence against women. This is the gap in knowledge that this study intends to fill.

Material and Methods

The survey and exploratory research designs were adopted in the study. Three (3) Local Government Areas were randomly selected using a Table of random numbers. The selected LGAs are Lokoja, Okene and Dekina.The population of the study comprised men and women aged 15 and above within the three selected local government areas in Kogi State. The choice of Kogi State is motivated by the Ministry of Women Affairs reports, which stated that, the State is one of State with high incidence of domestic violence in Nigeria. It was also reported that the State has witnessed severe cases of domestic violence, including fatalities and divorce. The targeted population included men, and women who had survived domestic abuse, gender officers of the State Ministry of Justice (SMOJ), gender units of the Nigerian Police Force (NPF), Nigeria Security and Civil Defence Corps (NSCDC), and officials of the State Ministries of Women Affairs and Social Development (SMOWASD). The three selected LGAs were predicted to have a combined population of 1,057,200 people (NPC, 2021). Using a 5 percent error margin and a 95 percent degree of accuracy, the Taro Yamane method was utilized to determine an appropriate sample size that yielded a statistically significant result. Consequently, 399.85 was the result of the statistical computation, and 400 is the estimated sample size for the study. The methods for gathering data include focus groups, in-depth interviews, and structured surveys. Data analysis was done using both quantitative and qualitative methods. Data collected from the distribution of questionnaires were quantitatively analyzed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS). Frequency counts, tables, charts, and fundamental descriptive statistics were used to show the analyzed data. Data that were taken from IDIs and FGDs were subjected to content analysis using descriptive and narrative styles in the interim.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Marital Status of the Respondents

Data on respondents marital status were obtained and presented in Table2

Table1. Marital Status of the Respondents

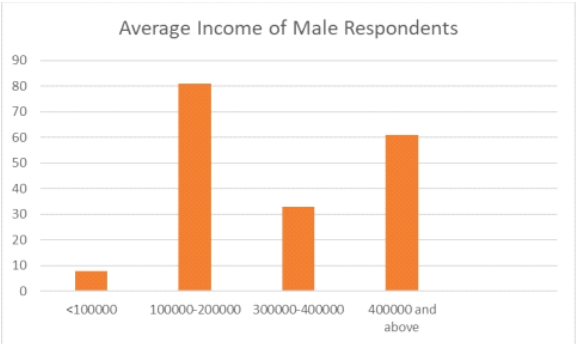
	Frequenc	Percent	Valid Perce	Cumulative Percent
Single	108	27.1	27.1	27.1
Married	172	43.1	43.1	70.2
Divorced	105	26.3	26.3	96.5
Co-habitatio	14	3.5	3.5	100.0
Total	399	100.0	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2023

Table1 showed that the majority were 172 (43.1%) married, whereas 108 (27.1%) and 105 (26.3%) were single or divorced, respectively. On the other hand, 14 (3.5%) of the participants lived with their spouses. It follows that everybody, regardless of marital status, is vulnerable to the threat of domestic abuse. The study's findings demonstrated this since single participants experienced domestic abuse as well.

Figure1: Men's Average Income

Data on men's average income



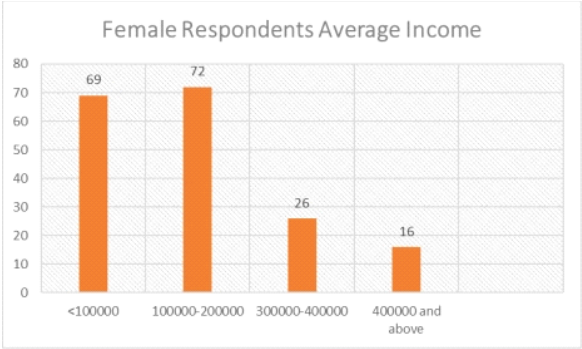
Source: Field survey, 2023

The result indicates that 80 male respondents had an average income between N100,000 and 200,000 while 60 respondents had an average income of 400,000 or more. Similarly, the result showed that 33 respondents' average income was between 300,000-400,000 and 10 respondents had an average income below 100,000. This implied that the male average income when compared to the female in Figure 2, was higher than the female income in Kogi State. The implication is that men are more financially stable than women in the study area.

Women Average Income.

Data on women's average income were collected, analyzed and presented in Figure2

Figure 2 Women's Average Income.



Source: Field survey, 2023

Figure 2 shows that 69 female respondents' average income was less than 100,000 while 72 respondents' average income was between 100,000-200,000. Likewise, 26 respondents' average income fell between 300,000-400,000 while 16 respondents' average income was 400,000 and above respectively. The result indicated that the average income of most of the female respondents was too meagre for the current economic realities in Kogi State. This result supports NBS, 2023 data that stated the highest food inflation in Nigeria is found in Kogi State, Kwara State, and a few other states. The results also supported the hospital-based study by Oseyemwen et al. (2019) to evaluate the incidence of intimate partner violence at the University of Benin Teaching Hospital. According to the research, there has been a rise in domestic abuse in the area (Oseyemwen et al., 2019). This is significant since a large number of women are economically inactive, which affects how they make decisions. The majority of women in Kogi State become more susceptible to domestic abuse as a result of this. Another notable conclusion was that unemployed women were more likely to

experience domestic violence than employed women. The study conducted by Appiah and Mohammed (2013) also supported the finding where it was discovered that financial issues continue to be the leading source of marital and relationship friction, as an increasing number of individuals in relationships and marriages are being coerced into doing things against their will. Women, though being abused, are usually unwilling to report cases of abuse due to the fear of dissolution of marriage or precipitating another form of domestic violence in the relationship. Thus, the rather high prevalence of abuse in the group could be due to low economic contribution, with increasing stress on the family purse and pressure on the husband to meet their financial demands. This finding collaborated with the FGD session in Anyigba where a respondent said,

> If a woman does not go to school, is not economically capable or has anything to do to assist her husband in the home, she can be more susceptible to domestic abuse because the husband will definitely get tired of providing everything for the entire household and might start abusing or beating her at any little provocation (FGD, Anyigba (Dekina), September 22, 2023).

TABLE 2: IDENTIFIED GOVERNMENT INTERVENTION STRATEGY ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN KOGI STATE

Variables	SA	A	UD	D	SD	Mean	Std. Deviation
The establishment of trauma centers for victims of domestic violence helps to ameliorate the surge	221 (55.4%)	167 (41.9%)	-	11 (2.8%)		4.47	0.76
Perpetrators of violence are arrested and prosecuted in the court of law	.6%)	168 (42.1%)	-	9 (2.3%)		4.48	0.72
Inclusion of domestic violence against womenin the school curriculum can reduce the surge	188 (47.1%)	187 (46.9%)	9 (2.3%)	8 (2%)	7 (1.8%)	4.35	0.78
Increasing the jail terms for perpetrators of domestic violence against women can reduce the incidence of domestic violence against women	222 (55.6%)	166 (41.6%)	-	11 (2.8?%)		4.47	0.76
Expansion of helplines and information sharing can help in the reduction of domestic violence	228 (57.1%)	163 (40.9%)	-	8 (2%)		4.51	0.70
Modifications to family law and justice systems can discourage domestic violence (capital punishment)	180 (45.1%)	192 (48.1%)	5(1.3%)	6 (1.5%)	16 (4%)	4.28	0.89
State protections for the victims of domestic violence reduce the scourge of domestic violence	220 (55.1%)	170 (42.6%)	-	9 (2.3%)		4.48	0.72
Strengthen traditional institutions to handle domestic violence against women reduces the threat of violence	219 (54.9%)	168 (42.1%)	-	12 (3%)		4.45	0.78
Strengthen special units among security formation to handle cases of domestic violence	234 (58.6%)	158 (39.6%)	-	7 (1.8%)		4.53	0.67
Promotion of gender equality can reduce incidences of domestic violence	220 (55.1%)	167 (41.9%)	-	12 (3%)		4.46	0.78

Source: Field survey, 2023

Table 2 shows that in all the interventions examined, strengthening special units among security formations to handle cases of domestic violence was the highest with a mean value of 4.53. This finding agreed with Wuerch et al. (2019) which suggested that utilization of social services is essential for preserving the quality of life of female domestic violence survivors and that quality of life is a critical element of the rehabilitation process (Rollins et al, 2012). While these benefits are recognized and emphasized, women nevertheless face a variety of barriers that prevent them from utilizing official services. This finding collaborate with FGD session conducted in Okene where a female participant said,

I am calling on the government of Ododo and Tinubu to help us in establishing special police to handle issues around domestic violence. See, most of the police men and women today have little or no training on how to handle domestic violence cases. In fact, the last time I reported my husband to police as a result of incessant beating. I was disgrace and humiliated by unnecessary questions by the office that handle the case. So, I have to let it go and returned home depressed (FGD,2023)

Similarly, the next significant intervention strategy in curtailing the menace of domestic violence against women in Kogi State is the expansion of the helpline and quick information sharing with a mean value of 4.5113. This will invariably help in creating awareness and reduce the culture of silence among the victims. The finding was collaborated by a similar study carried out by Simmons et al (2011) which reported a pervasive lack of understanding of the available services as the obstacles of domestic abuse survivors encounter while seeking formal support. The study further revealed that the community's understanding of available options needed to be expanded. The finding was further supported by a similar study conducted by Muthangya et al (2023), which evaluated the positive effects of intervention programmes on burnout and concluded that counseling services may improve victims' self-esteem, assertiveness, social support, coping mechanisms, and self-efficacy. These services also provide women with access to vital information about violence, aid them when they seek refuge, make them feel safer, and may even improve their self-efficacy, coping capacities, and decision-making skills A report from IDI session revealed that, a female discussant said,

Quick and reliable helpline will assist in reducing the menace of domestic violence against women. Provision of functional telephone number manned by officers who understand local language will help. This violence occur daily but we do not know how to report it earlier (IDI,2023)

Likewise, another noticeable intervention strategy to curtail the menace of domestic violence against women in Kogi State is the need for the perpetrators of such violence to be arrested and prosecuted in a court of law with a mean value of 4.4887. This result was in disagreement with a similar study conducted by Drumm et al (2014) which discovered that religion can assist women who have endured domestic violence in shifting from coping for survival to resilient self-worth and healing. This finding collaborate with FGD session conducted in Dekina where a female participant said,

Police and judiciary are not helping matter. Last month, my husband beat me and he was arrested. I was happy that the arrest will teach him a lesson, only for him to come back home after two hours later. I was so surprised. He continued with the beating repeatedly. Police and court are very lenient to men and that is weaponizing them to beat more. My religion is also helping in managing my home. I have faith in the Lord for my partner to change one day (FGD,2023)

Also, another significant of domestic violence against women intervention strategies in Kogi State is the need for state protection for victims of domestic violence with a mean score of 4.4837. This can boost the confidence of victims and encourage them to speak out about their ordeal to the appropriate agencies of government. This result was in disagreement with Arowolo (2020), a major constraint against the domestication and implementation of laws on the protection of women from domestic violence in Nigeria is the absence of political will by the Nigerian government to protect women's rights. This finding is in tandem with IDI report in Lokoja, where a participant said,

Government should protect victim of domestic violence. I nearly commit suicide last year. I had issue with my husband and my own parents were keenly on my neck to go back to my husband house. I did not have peace in my husband house likewise my father's house. I was traumatized and dejected. This won't happen if government have adequate protection for women who are at the receiving end of any domestic violence (IDI,2023)

Furthermore, another significant intervention strategy to curb the menace of domestic violence against women in Kogi State is the need to increase jail terms for perpetrators of domestic violence against women with a mean value of 4.4737. The finding collaborated with the UN Women (2022) report which prescribed more punitive measures such as the increase in jail terms for culprits, quick dispensation of justice for the victims, and so on. This finding contradicts a discussant point of view in Anyigba, where a participant said,

I want government to make law to punish men but, not jail term. If they jail my husband, who will take care of the children and pay their school fees. So, I recommend other forms of punishments apart from jail term. They should not jail them. We still need and love our husbands, so, no need for imprisoned any one (IDI,2023).

Meanwhile, the result showed that another intervention strategy in reducing the ugly incidences of domestic violence against women in Kogi State is the establishment of a trauma centre to help the victims overcome the psychological imbalance associated with domestic violence with a mean value of 4.4712. This is in agreement with Women Affairs and Poverty Alleviation (WAPA) at a programme on Management of Domestic Violence organized by the Ministry in Lagos in 2022, laid blame on women when she stated that 'negligence, sophistication, misguided utterances, infidelity, use of abusive words by women were responsible for domestic violence and recommended that helpline should be established at every political ward mainly for victims of gender-based violence. This finding is in agreement with FGD conducted in Lokoja, where a participant said,

This will help us in tackling depression emanating from domestic violence. Trauma centres should be pen in all the political wards. I almost end my life recently because of the trauma from everyday beating and quarreling. My former husband nearly killed me with beating. Thank God I am on my own now. I endured the pains, loneliness and psychological trauma alone (FGD,2023)

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The results indicated that the majority of respondents agreed that the creation of trauma centers could help victims of domestic abuse heal. This is consistent with the findings of Sullivan et al.'s (2018) investigation of the benefits of trauma-informed practice for the mental health of women who have survived domestic abuse and are staying in shelters. The study discussed the six elements of "trauma-informed practise," which include: reflecting on trauma and its numerous effects on health and behaviour; addressing physical and

psychological safety concerns; employing a culturally informed strengths-based approach; illuminating the nature of trauma and its effects on survivors' day-to-day experiences; and allowing clients to regain control of their lives. In one of the FGD sessions in Okene, a female participant said,

There is an urgent need to open trauma centres for victims of domestic violence in all the political wards in the state. This will ameliorate the silence pains experienced by the victims. This finding is not in agreement with the researcher's viewpoints, instead of establishing trauma centres, security agencies and the Ministry of Women Affairs and Social Development can establish trauma units mainly for the victims of domestic violence (FGD,2023)

Similarly, the finding showed that arresting and prosecuting the offenders or perpetrators of domestic violence against women helps in reducing this menace. This is in tandem with the similar study conducted by Onyemelukwe (2016) as part of his implementation frameworks, which recommended that, some state governments that domesticated the VAPPA, elected to establish legal teams to respond to sexual and gender-based violence and even allude that descriptions of crimes and punishments have problematic gaps. For example, the cumulative punishment for gang rapists is less than the minimum sentence for any individual offender. This finding differs from the FGD participant view in Anyigba, where a female participant said,

Nobody is arresting and prosecuting anyone here. In many instances, police will only collect money from our husbands if we report them to the police on gender-based violence. L a w enforcement agents especially police are not helping matters at all. See, go to all the courts in Anyigba and its environs and see if there are any genuine cases of domestic violence going on in their records. It is just a messy situation here in Anyigba (FGD,2023).

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

CONCLUSION

This study examined government intervention strategy in curtailing domestic violence against women in Kogi State. The findings highlight the complexities and issues surrounding domestic violence which necessitate the need for multifaceted and context-specific solutions. However, effective government interventions require a coordinated approach security agents and community-based initiative. Combating domestic violence against women requires sustained commitment and collective effort.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. There is a need to develop and implement comprehensive National/ State and local action plans to address domestic violence

2. Enhance training and retraining for law enforcement in handle issues of domestic violence is needed.

3. Establishment of specialized courts and support services for survivors of domestic violence is paramount.

4. There is a need to create the help-lines and information sharing in all the political wards in Kogi State that are designed and dedicated specifically to victims of domestic violence.

5. Finally, government should as a matter of policy establish Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in collaboration with private sectors to assist victims of domestic violence against women in all the political wards in Kogi state.

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