



POLITICAL SCIENCE Review

Vol. 6 No. 1. 2014



**Published by:
Department of Political Science,
Faculty of Social Sciences
University of Ilorin, Ilorin Nigeria.**

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Fatai A. Aremu

Editor

Dr. J. O. Olaniyi

Editorial Board Members

Dr. (Mrs.) A. J. Omede

Dr. E. O. Ojo

Dr. E. E. Lawal

Dr. Luqman SAKA

Editorial Advisers/Consultants

Prof. Alaba Ogunsanwo, University of Lagos

Prof. Alex Gboyega, University of Ibadan

Prof. A. E. Davies, University of Ilorin

Prof. H. A. Saliu, University of Ilorin

Prof. M. O. A. Alabi, University of Ilorin

Contents

VOLUME 6, NUMBER 1

Nigerian Legislature and Parliamentary Aid Animashaun, M.A.	8-24
The Legislature under 'Divided' Governments in Nigeria's Constituent States Fashagba, J. Y. Ph.D. and Oye, O.B.	25-46
Stoking or Resolving Conflict? Security Implications of State Responses to Social Conflicts in Post-Colonial Nigeria Luqman SAKA Ph.D. and Animasawun, G.A. Ph.D	47-73
Keeping Doomsday Prediction at Bay: The Nigerian State and the Challenges of Integration Aladegbola, A.I. Ph.D.	74-94
Governance and Growth: Additional Evidence from Africa Kilishi, A.A. Ph.D. and Olasehinde-Williams, G.O.	95-115
Democratization, Governance and the Challenges of Nigeria's National Security: Lessons from Nigeria's Electoral History Adebiyi, M.O.	116-130
A Comparative Analysis of the 2007 and 2011 General Elections in Nigeria Sakariyau, R.T. and Aliu, F.O.	131-144
Strategic Human Resource Management in the Central Bank of Nigeria: The Perception of Employee Kasim, U. Ph.D. and Ukertor, G.M. Ph.D.	145-161
Corruption and the Challenges of Sustainable Transformation in Nigeria Ajinde, O. Ph.D. and Aleyomi, M.B.	162-185
New Media as Catalyst for Social Mobilization and Liberation: An Insight from the Libyan Revolution Agaptus, N. Ph.D.	186-204
Implications of Domestic Violence on Juvenile Delinquency in Kwara State, Nigeria Muhammed, A. Y. Ph.D.; Abdulbaqi, S.Z., Raji, A and Nwosu, F.	205-212
The Challenges of Sustainable Democracy in Africa and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Raji Shittu, Ph.D.	213-231
The Quest for Political Prominence amidst Economic Obscurity: Interrogating the basis of Nigeria's External Behaviour Aremu, F.A., Ph.D.	232-247
Unsafe at any Margin: Interpreting the SWOT Analysis of President Jonathan's Political Future in Nigeria Bakare, A.R.	248-260

Implications of Domestic Violence on Juvenile Delinquency in
Kwara State, Nigeria

7

Muhammed A. Yinusa, Ph.D.

Raji A.

Abdulbaqi, S.Z.

Department of Sociology

University of Ilorin, Ilorin

aymuhammeduil@yahoo.com

&

Nwosu Florence (Miss)

Department of Linguistics and Nigerian Languages

University of Ilorin, Ilorin

Abstract

Domestic violence is one of the social problems confronting millions of families today, and this violence manifests in different forms such as wife battering, constant nagging and child abuse in the family etc. The phenomenon of domestic violence wherever it occurs remains a social issue, aside from compounding the risk of survival for children. It also creates avenue for the children to be involved in delinquent behaviour like truancy, lying, tantrum, stealing, drug abuse, political thuggery, violent destruction and so on. It is within this context that this study investigates the relationship between domestic violence and juvenile delinquency. Survey design was employed, while data were generated through interview and questionnaire. The sample size of 816 respondents was drawn in the state. The findings indicates a positive relationship between domestic violence and juvenile delinquency. Based on aforementioned, it is recommended that Kwara State government take every appropriate measure to ensure that the state's legislation provides adequate framework for robust legal measures against domestic violence especially as it affects children in Kwara State, so that juvenile delinquency can be reduced to its barest minimum.

Introduction

Domestic violence may be defined as physical abuse directed by one member of the family against another or to other persons. Evidences show that the major victims of physical abuse are children. Violence by men against women is also another common type of domestic violence. Domestic violence is the most offence against women and children from men in their families and close acquaintances (Rawstorne, 2002). Domestic violence as an issue comes to the fore during the 1970s as a result of the work of the feminist groups with refuge centers for "battered women". Before then, domestic violence like child abuse was surreptitiously ignored. It was the feminist studies of domestic violence that drew the attention of the world to the prevalence and intensity of the violence against women and children at home. In most cases of the domestic violence reported to the police, the abuse of the wife by the husband was most prevalent. There are fewer reported cases of women using physical force against their husbands. Some people have even argued that violence in the family is not about patriarchal male power, but about dysfunctional families. The violence against women is as a result of the increasing crisis of the family and the depletion of the standard of morality in the world today. (Straus and Gelles 1986)

Domestic violence is on the increase today because of a number of factors. One of the factors is the characteristic of the family life. Family ties are usually associated with strong emotions of hate and love; little quarrels in the domestic setting can unleash a lot of antagonism which might not be in other social settings. At times, what seems to be minor incidents can degenerate into full-blown hostilities between partners or parents and children.(Giddens, 2006). Domestic violence on the part of the woman in the home setting can lead to a lot of frustration and depression, while the effect of domestic violence on the children at home can equally lead to being delinquent as a result of the tough situation they do go through.

The high rate of Juvenile delinquency in our society today is becoming worrisome. This incidence may in part be related to some changes in the structure of the society, increase in human mobility, the increase in population growth, and the social disruption that has occurred in major cities. Furthermore, lack of community solidarity and the

integrity of the extended family is also a source of concern for juvenile delinquency today. However, the extent of the effects of domestic violence is still shrouded in secrecy. The essence of this paper is to examine the relationship between domestic violence and Juvenile delinquency in Kwara State of Nigeria

Operationalization of Key Concepts

Domestic Violence

Domestic violence has been defined as physical, sexual and psychological maltreatment a person in a close relationship uses against another person to gain unnecessary power, maintain and exert authority. It is also defined as the act of partner abuse, particularly male against female. Some scholars have equally defined it as a private issue or a family matter or a dirty laundry not to be washed in public (APA 1996, Goodman et.al 1993, MC-whirter, 1999, Enwereji 2007).

Violence against women in Nigeria has been regarded or termed as domestic violence, this is a result of the harrowing experiences which women and children are going through in different homes today. This violence is capable of causing physical and psychological trauma on the lives of wives and children. Violence against children is now a public issue. It is also regarded as one of the major abuses against the children. The violence being perpetrated against children at home cuts across boundaries of culture, profession, education, income and age (Enwereji, 1999).

Delinquency

Delinquency as a term was first used in 1899 when Illinois passed the first law on juvenile behavior. Juvenile delinquency is defined as an act committed by a minor that violates the penal code of the government with authority over the area in which the act occurred. The age range of a person called minor varies from country to country or from place to place. (Cardone, 1990)

Delinquency is also defined as a legal concept generally applied to persons under 16 or 18 years of age who exhibit behavior that is punishable by law. It is also important to note that what is called delinquency include not only some more serious offences like; burglary, assault, robbery and rape but also like "status offences" such as curfew violation, truancy, running away, sexual activity or incorrigibility that if

committed by an adult would constitute violation of law. (Conger and Peterson, 1984).

Violence in the Family and Juvenile Delinquency

Of recent, many countries including Nigeria have experienced an increase in the number of children being reared by single parent's families. The increase in the number of this type of family has been accompanied by fears about the effect of single parenthood on the development of the child. There is the concern that single parenthood may subject children to abuse which may increase the rate of juvenile delinquency. (Wallerstein, 1991).

There are many ways by which children may enter into a single family. Children in the first place may be born into these families which may be as a result of the decision of a single woman to rear her child alone. But, on many occasions entry into a single parent family may be a consequence of divorce or separation which must have been as a result of family violence. By implication, children who were reared in this type of violence oriented families were at greater risks of having behavioural implications like under-achievement, social adjustment problems and delinquency. (Magret, 1978)

In recent years, there have been an increasing interests in the issue of domestic violence and its effects on children. In most cases, many people think that domestic violence is entirely male dominated problem that has severe and far-reaching implication for the development of children. It has been suggested by findings that children reared by families characterized by high levels of domestic violence are prone to problems like juvenile crimes, anxiety disorders, depression, suicide attempts and truancy at school. Furthermore, families characterized by high level of domestic violence are also subjected to some disadvantages, which may include socio-economic family difficulties and the risk of exposing their children to various types of abuse which could manifest in many conduct disorders including juvenile delinquency.

Nonetheless, it has equally been observed that children who came from families that engage in high level of domestic violence are much more likely to be involved in anti-social behavior. This antisocial behavior has been traced to the genetic transmission of the violent disposition of the parents. This is even more, when the use of physical

punishment and battering are the major instrument of corrections. (Ferguson and Harry 2003). Trauma is also a serious problem in a family bedevilled by domestic violence. The trauma is more profound and enduring when children in this family inherit such a problem. Therefore, trauma which may be a fallout of circumstances in the family which the child was exposed to, influences the child's long term adjustment and delinquency disposition.

Theoretical Perspectives

Conflict theory is of the view that the incidence of domestic violence and juvenile delinquency are the handi-work of capitalist philosophy. The theory is of the general assumption that the incidence of delinquency is as a result of the conflict between the child's needs and the prevailing family environment which is conditioned by capitalist economy. This is because children who were not properly brought up as a result of domestic conflict are much likely to develop delinquency related problem. Domestic violence could itself be as a result of the hardship of adjusting in the family which could be economical as a result of distortion of the capitalist economic system.

In this regard, it is generally believed that juvenile delinquency has its root from the distortion in the capitalist system; and the prevailing increase in domestic violence across many families is also connected to capitalism. It is of the belief of this theory that if domestic violence is to be eradicated, exploitation in capitalist system would first be eradicated. It is also the contention of this study that domestic violence is more rampant in the less developed societies than is found in the societies of Europe and United States of America.

Therefore, it can be easily concluded from the point of view of this study that, many of the children who are involved in acts of thuggery, prostitution, drug related characters and theft are children who may have experienced one form of domestic violence or the other in their families.

Study Area

The study attempted to investigate the relationship between the phenomenon of domestic violence and juvenile delinquency in Kwara State of Nigeria. The State is blessed with four notable ethnic groups, mainly Yoruba, Nupe, Baruba and Fulani. The people of the State

are predominantly farmers and agriculture contributes about 70% to the Gross Domestic Product (GDP). (Ogundele, 2004)

The State has a juvenile remand home. This remand home houses and rehabilitates delinquents. The institution works hand in hand with State Ministry of Youth and Social Development to properly rehabilitate minors who have been involved in delinquent behaviors. A regional borstal institution is also located in Ilorin. The institution is an extension of the Federal Prison Service. The two institutions are necessary because minors may not be effectively rehabilitated with hardened criminals in the conventional prison system.

Method and Process

A survey design was adopted for the study. The study consisted of 816 children who are both male and female that have been involved in one delinquent act or the other. The research instrument adopted was a structured interview based on questionnaire while purposive sampling technique was considered appropriate for the study.

Presentation and Analysis of Results

Test of Relationship between Domestic Violence and Juvenile Delinquency

Domestic Violence	Juvenile Delinquency			
	High	Moderate	Never	Total
Yes	72	-	-	72
No	157	242	345	744
Total	229	242	345	816

$X^2 = 6.419$; d.f.=2; Significance = 5.991

Pearson's R= .430, $P > 0.05$

Test of hypothesis on the relationship between domestic violence and juvenile delinquency: To test the hypothesis, two variables (domestic violence and juvenile delinquency) were cross-tabulated while the chi-square result was presented as well. A critical study of the chi-square analysis conducted in the study reveals that the observed (calculated) value is greater than the tabulated (critical) value of 5.991 ($x^2 6.419$) at 0.05 level of significance and degree of freedom of 2. Judging from this result, the null hypothesis, which states that there is no relationship between domestic violence and, was rejected while the alternative hypothesis, which states that there is a significant relationship between domestic violence and juvenile delinquency is accepted. $X^2 = 6.419$; d.f.=2; significance=5.991. Pearson's R=.430, $P > 0.05$

Furthermore, an examination of the strength of relationship between domestic violence and juvenile delinquency finds support from the measure of the strength of the relationship between the two factors which indicate that the two variables are positively related (Pearson Product Moment Correlation Coefficient .430).

This finding is related to the observation of Creighton (2006) of factors responsible for children involvement in delinquent behaviour. These factors are family's place in the larger society, society economic structure and domestic violence. Considerable evidence suggests that major influences of child's involvement in delinquency behaviour are family related factors. One of these factors is child abuse, which includes physical, psychological and sexual abuses. An abused child is likely to become involved in delinquency or exhibit some behavioural problems. Domestic violence has negative implications on the social and emotional development of the child. It precipitates truancy and disruptive behaviour in school. It could encourage a child to run away from home which generates great pains for the child. Sometimes the child may view alcohol and drugs as way out to make a living. Domestic violence causes a lot of trauma for the children, especially self-rejection that often times these children may attempt to vent their self-destructiveness through prostitution, suicide and violent behaviours (Clemens, 1990).

Domestic violence occurs with some other personal factors in the family which can predispose the child to delinquent behaviour. Focusing more on the relationship between domestic violence, child abuse and children's aggression, one study suggests that 20 percent of abused children become delinquent before reaching adulthood (Lewis, Mallouh and Webb, 1989). Furthermore, another study compares children without history of abuse or neglect with children who had been abused or neglected especially as a fall-out from domestic violence, found out that children who experience abuse in a violent family had more juvenile and adult arrest by the age of 25 (Wisdom, 1989)

Conclusion and Recommendations

The study of domestic violence is extremely important today if we must make progress in the family. Domestic violence and juvenile delinquency are twin social problems which always affect child's development and the society at large. The two are sufficiently pervasive phenomena warranting investigation for their effective control and eradication

This study examined the relationship between domestic violence and juvenile delinquency. From the study, it could be concluded that domestic violence has positive relationship with juvenile delinquency. In view of this, it is the contention of this study that domestic violence and juvenile delinquency are serious social problem issues. By inferences, children who experience domestic violence have the risks of being exposed to all patterns of behavioural problems. Deriving from the study, it is recommended that frantic efforts should be made through seminars and enlightenment programme to educate family members about the ills of domestic violence. All stakeholders must complement one another in the observance and enforcement of the fundamental human rights of women, children and the vulnerable ones in the society.

Since parental poverty and lack of education are the most root causes of domestic violence, the elimination of this vice cannot be attained unless the problems are removed. Therefore, the government, especially Kwara State Government is encouraged to create job opportunities and make Kwara State a safe place to live. Kwara State Government should take every appropriate measure to ensure that the State's legislation provides adequate framework for robust legal measures against domestic violence especially as it affects children. A multifaceted and inter-disciplinary approach is highly recommended in the fight against domestic violence.

References

- Adeyoju, C.A. (1999) "Family Living" *A Paper Presented at the Institute of Education, University of Ibadan, Nigeria.*
- American Psychological Association (1996), *APA Presidential Task Force on Violence and the Family Report.* Washington DC
- Cardone, C. (1990) *Juvenile Delinquency (Second Edition).* New York. Macmillan Publishing Company.
- Clemens, L. I. (1990) *Child Abuse and Delinquency.* New York: Prentice Hall Inc.
- Congor, J. J. and Peterson, A. C. (1984) *Adolescence and Youth Psychological Development in a Changing World.* New York: Harper and Row.
- Creighton, S. J. (2006) *Prevalence and Incidence of Child Abuse. International Comparisons,* NSPCC
- Enwereji, E. (1999) Methods of Resolving Family Conflict in Abia State: A Case Study of Spouses with Matrimonial Problems. *Nigerian School Health Journal* Vol. 111, 81-89
- Enwereji, E. E. (2007) *Gender and Violence: The Situation in Abia State of South Eastern Nigeria in the Abused and the Society.* Ibadan, Royal People ltd
- Ferguson, S. and Harry .A. (2003) *Child Neglect: its Causes and Roles in Delinquency.* Published by the Department of Labour, UNICEF Nigeria.
- Giddens, A. (2006) *Sociology, 5th Edition.* India: Polity Press.
- Goodman, L. Koss, M. P. Brown, A., fitzgerald, L., Russa, N. F., Biden, J. R. and Kieta G. O. (1993) Male Violence against Women: Current Research and Future Directions. *American Psychologist* Vol. 48, 1054-1087.
- Lewis, D. O. Mallouh, C. and Webb, J. (1989) *Child Abuse, Delinquency, and Violent Criminality. In Child Maltreatment: Theory and Research on the Causes and Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect.* New York: Cambridge University Press.
- Margret, M. (1978) *Violence in the Family: An Historical Perspective.* London: Wiley Publishers.
- Mcwhirter, P. T. (1999) *La Violence Pirade: Domestic Violence in Chile.* American Psychologist, 54, 37-40.
- Ogundele, J. A. (2004) "Recreation and Tourism as Strategies of Rural

- Development in Kwara State" *Journal of Arts and Social Sciences*, Oro JASSO vol.3. No1
- Rawstone, S. (2002) England and Wales in R.W. Surmmers and A.M. Hoffman, eds. *Domestic Violence: A Global View* (WestPort, CT: Green Wood Press)
- Straus, M. A. and R. J. Gelles (1986) Societal Change and Change in Family Violence from 1975 to 1985 as Revealed by Two National Survey: *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 48.
- Wallerstein, J. S. (1991) The long-term effects of divorce on children: A review. *Journal of the America Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry*, 30, 349-360
- Wisdom, C. S. (1989) "The Cycle of Violence" *Science* 244: 160-166.