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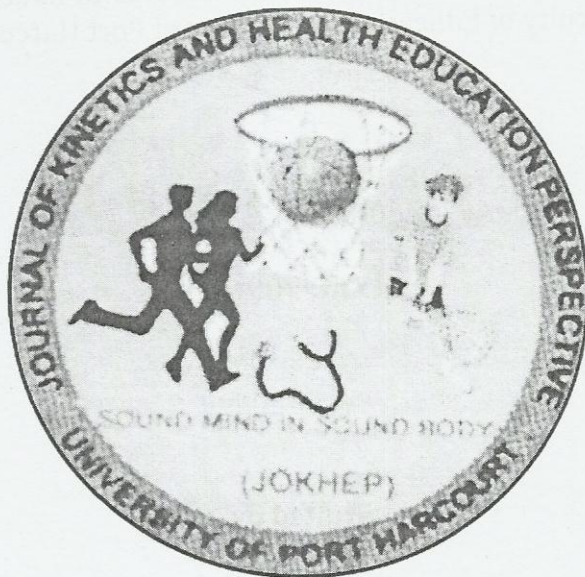
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART 1: HUMAN KINETICS	1
1. Trans-cultural expressions of self-concept/self-esteem and personality development/ character building values as predisposing variables of sports participation among adolescents in Nigeria and Togo - <i>Olumide Olusoga, Ezomoh & Oluwatoyin Mercy, Jaiyeoba</i>	3
2. Effects of exercise on body composition, obesity and weight control - <i>Ogunleye . A. Victor & Akuru, B. G.</i>	19
3. Achieving optimal productivity through Human Kinetics and Health Education - <i>Stanley, C. Alaubi</i>	26
4. Sports participation/involvement! An instrument of politics, national unity, pride and reconciliation - <i>Olumide Olusoga, Ezomoh & Olawumi, Adisa.</i>	30
5. Football administrators' knowledge and officiating as determinants of risks associated with Nigeria football league organization in south-south geo-political zone of Nigeria - <i>Gloria, O. Nwankwo</i>	40
6. An in-depth review of sports culture and adolescents participation/involvement benefits – <i>Oluwatoyin Mercy, Jaiyeoba & Olumide Olusoga, Ezomoh</i>	46
PART II: HEALTH EDUCATION	59
7. Girl child marriage: health implications- <i>Mfrekemfon. P. Inyang & Onwuhaa Lilian, O.</i>	60
8. X-raying socio-psychosomatic effects and coping strategies for stress on human health and wellness - <i>Olumide Olusoga, Ezomoh & Catherine B. Ogulu</i>	67
9. Hospital acquired infections a public health problem in Nigeria - <i>Joel, Chituru & Earnest, I. Achalu</i>	83
10. Knowledge and hand hygiene practice of healthcare workers in the prevention of hospital acquired infections in government hospitals in Rivers State - <i>Joel, Chituru & Ekenedo, Golda, O.</i>	99
11. Health promotion activities for controlling sources and effects of air pollution in Rivers State - <i>Stella Okey-Orji & Golda, O. Ekenedo.</i>	110

12.	Enhancing safety and work productivity through accident and incident investigation - <i>Jasper Iheanyi Eberendu</i>	125
13.	Recreation as a tool for safety practice - <i>Nwankwo, G. O. & E. I. Achalu</i>	139
14.	A study of work-related stress in a petrochemical industry in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, Nigeria- <i>Nwachukwu, A. E.</i>	145
✓ 15.	Implication of gender based violence on health and wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government, Kwara State - <i>*Babadare, A.¹; Onifade, O.A.¹; Oniyangi, S. O.¹; Ijaodola, T.K.¹ and Ambali, A.²</i>	156
16.	Socio-cultural variables truncating primary health care implementation in south-south geopolitical zone of Nigeria - <i>Walker Doubrapade</i>	164
■ 17.	Health educators perception on causes and prevention of accidents among old people in Moro Local Government, Kwara State - <i>*Babadare, A.¹; Oguntunji, I.O.¹; Kperogi, I. I.¹; Ajadi, M.T.³; and Amao, K. O.¹</i>	181
18.	Chemo and radiotherapy management of cancer in Nigeria: A case study of the National Hospital, Abuja.- <i>A. E. Nwachukwu</i>	190
19.	Fitness and health promotion: Correlates of safety at work - <i>Nwankwo, G. O.</i>	196
20.	Nursing Intervention For Patients With Goitre In The Health Care Delivery System In Nigeria <i>Dr. Fidelis Uchendi Okafor, Ph.D. & Joan Chukwura, M.Sc.</i>	202
21.	Funding of Sports as Predictor of Sports Development in Edo State, Nigeria <i>Awoma Christopher .I.</i>	211
22.	Attitude towards Ageing Anxiety Among Different Age Cohorts In Anambra State <i>Maduekwe, Theresa Chika & Orajekwe, Veronica Ngozi</i>	217
23.	Tuberculosis: A Public Health Problem in Nigeria <i>Georgy O. Obiechina & Orunabokr T.T.</i>	226
24.	Role of Sports and Physical Education as a Mechanism for Control Of Deviant Act Among Secondary School Students In Nigeria <i>Orunaboka, T.T. Ph.D & Alaubi, S.C.</i>	234



IMPLICATION OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE ON HEALTH AND WELLBEING OF WOMEN IN ILORIN SOUTH LOCAL GOVERNMENT, KWARA STATE

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Abstract

The paper examined implication of gender based violence on health and wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government, Kwara State. A descriptive research design of survey method was adopted. Four hundred women were selected through stratified random sampling technique. Three research hypotheses were formulated and tested with the use of chi-square statistical method at 0.05 alpha level. The instrument used was structured questionnaire. A reliability coefficient of correlation of 0.78 was obtained with the use of test-re-test method. The data gathered were analyzed with the use of chi-square statistical method. The result of the analysis shows that gender based violence have much implications on physical wellbeing of women in Ilorin South local government, Kwara State. It was also revealed from the analysis that gender based violence have greater implications on mental wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government, Kwara State. Based on these findings, the study recommend that government should make and strengthening enabling laws to stop gender based violence. Also, government and non-governmental organization should strengthening campaign against gender based violence.

Introduction

Man has been created and endowed with environment that consists of other animal species and abundant natural resources. Man has also been given total control over all animals around the world. As a higher animal, human beings have unique characteristics which makes their cohabitation beneficial and well pronounced.

In the course of establishing relationship they allowed their religion doctrine and societal norms and values to direct them. At times, the relationship existing between a man and woman may be one master minded by the society. There may be no adequate consideration for religion and mutual interest of the partners. In a situation like this, peaceful coexistence may be an illusion.

Simply put, any relationship that exists between a man and woman, boy and girl, husband and wife is suppose to be guided by mutual interest and a well defined code of ethics. Absence and non consideration of acceptable code of conduct often gives room for moral decadence and coercive relationship among male and female folk. Padimini (2010) noted that historically, women serve as nurturer and caregivers in the society. They have been subjected to different



forms of abuse. Violence against women and girls is a global pandemic that affects women in all works of life and in all societies.

Violence against women has being a recurrent issue and canker worm wrecking havoc on the health and well being of women fold. According to population reference Bureau (2001), the World Health Organization (WHO) estimated that at least one in every five of the word's female population has been physically or sexually abused at some time. World March of women (2000), posited that gender based violence affect both the physical and psychological integrity of women. Centre for Population Study and Reports (1999), reiterated that psychological abuse always accompanies physical abuse and majority of women abused by their partners through physical beating often end up being psychologically break down.

Gender based violence is any act perpetrated by male counterpart on the female partner which often affect their physical, psychological and social well being. United Nation General Assembly (1999), noted that gender based violence is any art of violence that result in physical, sensual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threat of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life.

Gender based violence poses greater problem to physical well being of women. It exerts much effect on physical activities in relation to general body functioning, (World Health Organization, 2008). Elisberge and Heise (2005), asserted that the effects of gender violence on children, adolescence and women can be devastating to their physical, emotional and social well-being. Centre for Social Cohesion (2008), and Centre for Population Study and Reports (1999), reported that violence has both a direct and indirect consequences on women health and it can increase women's risk of future ill health. World Health Organization (2002), Elisberge and Heise, and United Nations International Children's Emergency Fund (2008), observed that the effects of physical trauma can be minor or life threatening and can result in permanent disability or death of the victims. The injuries inflicted on women by men counterparts may cause pains, bleeding, fractures and reduced physical movement.

The violence perpetrated on women by their male partners usually leads to immeasurable psychological problems, such as; depression, anxiety, neurosis, insomnia and so on. Baccini, Pallota; Calabrege Pezzotti and Corazziari (2003), stressed that the damage caused by psychological abuse is often invisible but the resulting trauma can be devastating than that resulting from physical trauma. United Nation International Children Emergency Fund (2008), reiterated that study conducted in Australia revealed that women who are abused by their partners suffer more from depression and anxiety when compared to women who are in non abusive relationships. Women and young children who have been sexually abused are more likely to abuse alcohol, cigarette and drugs even after other risk factors have been controlled.

Gender based violence often lead to different degenerative behaviour and disorders which also affect social wellbeing of abused women. Gender based violence such as beating as a form of enforcing compliance to given order, rape, irrational sexual violence, often degenerate into serious devastating socio-cultural problem which may also lead to psychological problem. Swiss (1998), noted that



most people tend to remain silent about sexual violence because it is severely stigmatized in most culture in sub-saharan African countries, such as; Burundi, Ghana and Nigeria. It is believed that any survivor who steps forward may be blamed, ostracized and punished. She may not be able to marry again.

Research Questions

- Does gender based violence have any implication on physical wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government?
- Does gender based violence have any implication on mental wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government?
- Does gender based violence have any implication on social wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government?

Research Hypotheses

- Gender based violence will not have significant implication on physical wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government.
- Gender based violence will not have significant implication on mental wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government.
- Gender based violence will not have significant implication on social wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government.

Purpose of the Study

Basically, the study was carried out in order to:

- Establish implication of gender based violence on physical wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government.
- Examine implication of gender based violence on mental wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government.
- Investigate implication of gender based violence on social wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government.

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study was descriptive design of survey method. The total population for this study comprised of all women in Ilorin South Local Government Area of Kwara State. In all stratified random sampling technique was employed to select four hundred women out of four hundred thousand women population in Ilorin South Local Government as documented in 2006 census figure.

The instrument used in eliciting information for the study was self structured questionnaire which had been validated by experts in the field of family health and health education. The reliability of the instrument was established through test-re-test reliability method in which 0.78 coefficient of correlation was obtained using person product moment correlation coefficient. The data collected were analyzed with the use of inferential statistical method of chi-square (χ^2). The results of analysis were tabulated below.



Data Presentation and Results

Based on the data generated for this study, the table below present the result of analysis of tested hypotheses.

Hypothesis one (1): Gender based violence will not have significant implication on physical wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government.

Table 1: Chi-square (x²) analysis on implication of gender based violence on physical wellbeing of women

S/N	Item	SA	A	D	SD	Row Total	Cal X ²	Crit. X ²	Df	Dec.
1	A woman that has been violent beaten by her husband often suffer from bruises and fracture that lead to movement restriction	40(41)	286 (272)	54 (58.7)	20 (28.3)	400	26.73	12.59	6	Hypothesis rejected
2	The women that have been maltreated and inflicted with injuries by their partners usually experienced chronic pains and disabilities	43(41)	290 (272)	42 (58.7)	25 (28.3)	400				
3	The injuries inflicted on women by their men counterpart as a result of non compliance with their wishes often leads to excessive bleeding, ocular damage and blindness.	40(41)	240 (272)	80 (58.7)	40 (28.3)	400				
		123	816	176	85	1200				



The result of analysis in table 1 shows calculated chi- square value of 26.73 against the critical value of 12.59 with degree of freedom of 6 at 0.05 alpha level. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, the above stated hypothesis is hereby rejected. This means that gender based violence have greater consequences on physical wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government Area of Kwara State.

Hypothesis two (2): Gender based violence will not have significant implication on mental wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government.

Table 2: Chi-square (χ^2) analysis on implication of gender based violence on mental wellbeing of women

S/N	Item	SA	A	D	SD	Row Total	Cal χ^2	Crit. χ^2	Df	Dec.
1	Women who are experiencing constant violence and abusive relationship from their husband and partners usually end up as drug addicts, chain smoker drunker and so on	35 (47.7)	285 (271.7)	55 (46.3)	25 (34.3)	400	15.45	12.59	6	Hypothesis rejected
2	Constant fear and sleeplessness often cause depression in an abused women and may lead to pre-eclampsia in few of them that are pregnant	62 (47.7)	260 (271.7)	40 (46.3)	38 (34.3)	400				
3	The guilt and shame associated with sexual violence against women often forced abused women into exhibition of suicidal behaviour and self harm	46 (47.7)	270 (271.7)	44 (46.3)	40 (34.3)	400				
		143	815	139	103	1200				



The analysis of tested hypothesis 2 in table 2 shows calculated chi- square value of 15.46 against the critical value of 12.59 with degree of freedom of 6 at 0.05 alpha level. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, the stated hypothesis is hereby rejected. This means that gender based violence have much implication on mental wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government Area of Kwara State.

Hypothesis three (3): Gender based violence will not have significant implication on social wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government.

Table 3: Chi-square (χ^2) analysis on implication of gender based violence on social wellbeing of women

S/N	Item	SA	A	D	SD	Row Total	Cal χ^2	Crit. χ^2	Df	Dec.
1	The social stigma attached to forced sexual act and rape usually lead abused women to isolation and movement restriction	57 (46.7)	265 (273.3)	58 (49)	20 (31)	400	13.06	12.59	6	Hypothesis rejected
2	Almost all sexually abused women usually end up disliking sexual intercourse	42 (46.7)	274 (273.3)	44 (49)	40 (31)	400				
3	The sanctions imposed on violated women by the societal norms and values usually prevent them from reporting abuse for fear of loosing self esteem	41 (46.7)	281 (273.3)	45 (49)	33 (31)	400				
		140	820	147	93	1200				

The analysis of findings in table 3 shows calculated chi- square value of 13.06 against the critical value of 12.59 with degree of freedom of 6 at 0.05 alpha level of significance. Since the calculated value is greater than the critical value, the above stated hypothesis is hereby rejected. This means that gender based violence have greater consequences on social wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government Area of Kwara State.

Discussion of Findings

The result of analysis of tested hypothesis one (1) revealed that gender based violence have much implication on physical wellbeing of women in Ilorin South



Local Government, Kwara State. This finding is inline with findings of Centre for Social Cohesion (2008) and Centre for Population Study Report (1999) that violence has both direct and indirect consequences on women health and it can increase women's risk of future ill-health and disability.

The finding from analysis of tested hypothesis two (2) revealed that gender based violence have much implication on mental wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government, Kwara State. This finding agreed with the findings of Baccini, Pallotta Calabrese, Pezzotti and Corazzarri (2003) that the damage caused by psychological abuse is often invisible, but the resulting trauma can be devastating than that resulting from physical trauma. United Nation International Children Emergency Fund (2008) corroborated this finding that women who are abused by their partners suffer more from depression and anxiety when compared to women who are in non abusive relationship.

The result of tested hypothesis three (3) in table 3 revealed that gender based violence have greater implication on social wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government, Kwara State. This findings supported world health organization (2008), Elisberge and Herse (2005) that the effects of gender violence on children, adolescence and women can be devastating to their physical, emotional and social wellbeing. This finding is corroborated by Swiss (1998) that most people tend to remain silent about sexual violence because it is severely stigmatized in most culture in sub-saharan Africa countries such as Burundi Ghana and Nigeria.

Conclusion

It has been revealed from the study that gender violence have greater implication on health and wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government. The study also revealed among others the following:

- Gender based violence have implication on physical wellbeing of women, in Ilorin South Local Government.
- Gender based violence have greater consequences on mental wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government, Kwara State.
- Gender based violence have much implication on social wellbeing of women in Ilorin South Local Government, Kwara State.

Recommendations

Based on the findings from the analysis and result presented above, the study recommends that:

- Government and community development committee should endeavour to sensitize members of community on danger inherent in beating or leashing all forms of violent acts on women.
- Marriage counsellor should also try and counsel about to wed or already wedded partner on the most exalted behaviour and lasting relationship.
- Government should put strict orders and compliance on enforcement of marital laws and rights.
- Women should be empowered to reduce their dependency ratio and make them know that they did not deserve the kind of treatment mete out to them.



- Health workers/health care providers should develop wholesome attitudes towards victims of violence or abuse.

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