

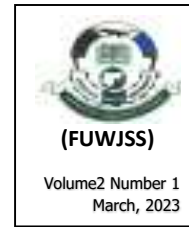
**A SOCIOLOGICAL ANALYSIS OF DOMESTIC  
VIOLENCE AND SOCIO-ECONOMIC  
DEVELOPMENT IN KOGI STATE,  
NIGERIA**

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**Abstract**

In Africa, women do experience various forms of social injustices and domestic violence appears dominant. Regrettably, the menace of domestic violence against women in Nigeria had not been given much attention. Thus, this study provides a sociological explanation to the relationship between domestic violence and socio-economic development in Kogi State, Nigeria. This study involves primary data wherein a sample of 418 married men and women were randomly selected as respondents who responded to a structured questionnaire; and 20 persons were interviewed. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Findings of the study showed that majority (92.8%) of respondents have in one way or the other experienced one form of domestic violence. Again, about (70.2%) of the respondents indicated that belief in patriarchy, lack of finance, influence of childhood abuse, forced sex and hot temper contribute greatly to the incidence of domestic violence against women in Kogi State, Nigeria. Consequently, the impacts of domestic violence on women's socio-economic development in Kogi State manifest in decreased productivity, loss of source of income, and poor physical and mental status. The study concludes that the lack of effective gender policies and corruption on the parts of law enforcement officers in Kogi State form the basis for persistent domestic violence in Kogi State. Thus, the study recommends that more efforts should be made by the Kogi State Government and non-governmental organizations in the state to strengthen laws and protection against domestic violence in the Kogi State.

**Keywords:** Domestic violence, gender, women, income, social inequities

## Introduction

Domestic violence is a global challenge issue crossing national boundaries as well as socio-economic, cultural, racial, and class distinction. According to UNICEF (2020), the issue of domestic violence is a major problem in society in that the victims, women and children suffer from it, in places where there should be safest; within their families at the hands of somebody close to them-somebody they should be able to trust'. Domestic violence affects both men and women, but women are much more affected and vulnerable because violence reflects and reinforces existing gender inequalities (World Bank, 2018). Domestic violence can take place in form of physical, verbal, emotional, economic and sexual abuse, which ranges from complex and cohesive forms to marital rape, violent physical abuse that can result into deformity or death. WHO (2018), refers to domestic violence as partner violence but it can also encompass child or elder abuse or abuse by any member of a household. Its intimate partner violence and taken as behaviour within the present and/or former intimates' relationship that causes physical, psychological, (emotional), sexual or economic harm (Erez, 2002).

In African countries, many women and girls are subjected to multiple forms of domestic violence in the homes. However, the most forms of domestic violence are wife battering, ranging from slapping, kicking, verbal abuse, denial of financial resources, rape and death (Eze-Anaba, 2011). In Nigeria, Domestic violence has claimed the lives of so many women who sadly, tend to experience more severe forms of violence from their spouse due to lack of specific laws prohibiting domestic violence and punishing perpetrators (Amnesty International Report on Nigeria, 2015). Since many incidences go unreported, the situation is worse than statistics review. The major cause of death is as a result of spouse not been able to speak up for fear of moral, cultural and societal values (Project Alert on Domestic Violence, 2007). In Nigeria, current laws do not adequately protect victims of domestic violence and the international human right instrumentally is yet to be incorporated into domestic laws (Legal Defense and Assistant Project, 2015). However, there have been initiative by the International, government and non-governmental organization to domesticate international instruments, prevents and control the incidence of domestic violence. For instance, the World Conference of Human Right held in Viena 1993, recognized that the right of women and girls are part and parcel of the universal human right. The United Nations General Assembly, in December 1993, adopted a declaration on elimination of

violence against women. The African Union (2022), which adopted equity principles in its first summit that places gender equality as one of its fundamental principles with a condition that one in five members pan Africa parliament should be a woman. the Childs Rights Act of 2003, which provides for detailed protection of a girl child until age 18, seeks to end forced labor and child marriages, and is aimed at ensuring health services for pregnant women; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), ratified in June 1985, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol), ratified December 16, 2004; and the Violence Against Persons Prohibition Act, which was finally passed in 2015, more than 10 years after it was first presented to the national assembly.

However, despite the various involvement of government and non-governmental organization in establishing policies to reduce the occurrence of domestic violence. Some of these policies are not women friendly and are not helpful in the advancement of women socio-politically and economically Unfortunately, many of these policies are not implemented or enforced in Nigeria, particularly in the Kogi State; this non-implementation has complicated the socio-economic development of the state. Thus, this paper seeks to explain the role domestic violence in particular has played over the years in complicating socio-economic development in Kogi state, Nigeria with the view that findings and recommendations from this study would help to reduce the incidences of domestic violence for a sustainable socio-economic development and may open more areas for further inquiry. Concept of domestic violence and socio-economic development, causes of domestic violence in the Nigerian society, impact of domestic violence on socio-economic development and challenges to effective legislation on domestic violence in Nigeria are some of the sectoral assessments presented;

### **Conceptualizing Domestic Violence**

Awareness, perception, definition and documentation of domestic violence differs widely from country to country, and from era to era. Domestic violence also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence and intimate partner violence is defined by WHO (2019), as behaviour directed towards a family or household member that would cause a reasonable person to feel traumatized, frightened, intimidated, threatened, harassed, or assaulted. In a related development, Section 18 (g) of Protection Against Domestic Violence Law of Lagos State, (2007), stated that Domestic violence refer to a

physical abused, exploitation including but not limited to rape, incest and sexual assault, starvation, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse, economic abuse and exploitation, denial of basic education, intimidation, harassment, stalking, hazardous attack, including acid both with offensive and poisonous substance, damage to property among others.

The United Nations (2018) defines the term as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.” Marijkr (2003), assert that, domestic violence is one of the widest spread human rights abuses and public health problem in the world today, affecting as many as one out of three women. An extreme manifestation of gender inequality, targeting women and girls because of their subordinate social status in the society.

### **Concept of Socio-Economic Development in Nigeria**

Socio-economic development on the other hand is a planned and comprehensive advancement in the economic, social, cultural and political processes. It is essentially the continual improvement in the well-being of the entire population. This reveals that socio-economic development involves progress in terms of economic and social factors within a geographic unit. Therefore, Social development refers to the complexity of social dynamics (the interplay of social structures, processes and relationships) and focuses on (1) the social concerns of the people as objectives of development and (2) people-centered, participatory approaches to development. (Morris, 2010). Social development is about inclusiveness, social justice and the common good. Indicators of social development provide comparative information about areas such as income, poverty, employment, employment security, education, health, crime and civic participation. Sometimes social development indicator lists also have included information about the environment. (Fritz,2004 cited in Iyabo et al, 2020).

Madan (2002) affirms that socioeconomic development is made of access to resources, health, education and greater income equality. In brief the quality of life is justified by the level of socioeconomic development of people. Socioeconomic development brings about sustainability to society, that is, it promotes human worth by empowering marginalised groups to carry out their own development and improve their living standards hence taking their rightful place in society (Bilance, 2007). The World Bank compliments with Mynt's (1980) previously affirmed that, poverty should not only be looked at in

the angle of low income but also vulnerability, discrimination, lack of accountability, and exposure to violence. Taking into account the meaning of socioeconomic development according to all these theories, social development is all about having freedom to make right choices of how one wants to live within the society that is being independent without compromising with the rights of others.

### **Causes of Domestic Violence in the Nigeria Society**

The causes of violence against women and girls are multidimensional, some of which reveal itself at the individual, relationship, community, and societal levels;

*Unequal Distribution of Power:* the societal-level factor of unequal distribution of power and resources between men and women, gender-based discrimination and inequality are apparent in the Nigerian society including discriminatory laws, unequal access to political and economic power, socially constructed norms of masculinity and femininity, and gender roles and stereotypes (UN Women 2015).

*Individual causes:* other factors operating at the individual and relationship levels can affect the probability that a woman or girl will experience violence. These factors include age, education level, alcohol or drug use, poverty, cultural acceptance of violence, unemployment, and depression. In addition, manifestations of domestic violence may be comprised of gender based violence, rape, sexual assault and harassment, exploitation, women and girls trafficking, exclusion from social participation and other denial of rights and discrimination that might have harmful implications to the victims, the majority of whom are found to be women and children. Factors at the individual level include childhood abuse in either the perpetrators or the victim's experience as Herrenkohl (2004), pointed out, which leads to the embrace of social norms of patriarchy hence tolerating violence in close relationships.

*Low income:* Kruegar et al (2002), have pointed out that the incidence of domestic violence may come into being as a result of economic or non-economic factors or the combination of the two depending on the character or type of violence. UNICEF Innocent Research Center (2000) also notes that domestic violence is multi factorial not just one factor; these include social and economic forces, the family where power relations are, belief in patriarchy and laws and cultural sanctions that have traditionally deprived women and children of an independent legal

and social status. Gass (2011), viewed low socioeconomic status as one of main factor of committing domestic violence by either men or women.

### **Impact of Domestic Violence on Socio-economic Development**

Domestic violence against women has a lot of devastating and long-term effects on women's physical health and mental wellbeing, as well as their career development. Tolman et al (2007), reported that domestic violence often sabotages women's effort to gain employment, acquire job skills and education thus hindering their opportunities to become self-reliant. It may influence economic stability and sustainability. Furthermore, domestic violence is considered an indirect barrier to women's ability for job search and maintaining employment due to increased risk of health limitations or health problem of someone in their care usually a child.

Some women suffer major physical injuries, scratches, bruises, broken bones, internal bleeding, and head trauma to mention a few. In most cases, they are forced to miss work to go and see a doctor or stay at home because of health condition. Most of the disabilities include major depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), some kind of natural health problem often led to the level of affecting employment (Tolman & Rapheal, 2007). Economic empowerment requires financial contemporary and astuteness, financial security and confidence. Kim et al (2008) opined that job security and potential, are all jeopardized by an abuser coercive strategy of maintaining power and control over the victim. Coercive controlling behavior of abuser can cripple victim's chances of ensuring a secure future, faced with financial and professional barriers. Victims of domestic violence are likely to be employed and less likely to receive cash assistance, some become dependent financially, emotionally, physical and otherwise. Women work productivity become impaired, some frequently come late to work or absent from work as a result of abuse (Baum, Gatalano & Rand, 2004). Domestic does not only cause physical injuries but also leaves its victims with imprints of enduring emotional torture. Although physical injuries can be seen and may be treated, however, the extent of emotional wounds can only be imagined. (Bamidele, 2017).

According to the report by WHO (2018), Intimate Partner Violence has immediate impacts on economic development in terms of missing work, poor physical and mental health status, out of pocket expenditures for accessing services, and replacement costs. It equally has long-term impacts on outcomes such as accumulation of education, skills and experience within the workforce. Victims with abusive partners most of

the time face enormous threats to their financial well-being hence banning them from realizing their personal financial potential. With this, it appears to be hard for the family to develop since one of the partners is not productive enough hence the family being caught in the poverty trap (Adams 2013).

African women manifest lots of psychological disorders resulting from domestic violence. In Nigeria, women suffering from domestic violence meet criteria for psychiatric disorders, the most prevalent being depression (Umubyeyi, et al 2014). Perry (2005), observed that growing evidence that infants and young children are at high risk of negative impacts to their emotional, cognitive and attachment development. He further, added that when exposed to environment of violence, signs of stress, long lasting fear and physical threat which may lead them to responding with a hyper-arousal response that may lead to behavioural problems. WHO (2013) in their Status Report on violence prevention, found that beyond the deaths, millions more children, women, and men suffer from the far reaching consequences of domestic violence in homes, schools and communities. The Violence more often than not tend to cause damages to people's lives for years, leading to alcohol and drug addiction, depression, suicide, school dropout, unemployment and recurrent relationship difficulties.

Ajala, (2013) found that domestic violence affects not only the victims but also co-workers and the work environment itself. The effect can range from impact on the victims (absenteeism, tardiness, decreased concentration or job Performance, workplace interruption, physical and emotional health impairment); co-workers (fear of occurrence of violence of the workplace, concern for personal safety, trauma for witnessing the violence, decrease in productivity) and the organization (turnover and recruitment costs, increased healthcare costs, compromised safety in the organization, productivity decreased).

### **Legislation on Domestic Violence in Nigeria**

Nigeria being a member of the United Nations, has signed and ratified several of the human rights instruments. Some are general human rights instruments that specifically recognize the right to non discrimination these includes the United Nations Universal Declaration on Human Rights (1948), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (in force in 1976), the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (in force 1976), the Convention on the Rights of the Child. There are also other instruments which focus specifically on women such as the Declaration on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (Resolution 2263 (XX11) of November

1967), the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) (entered into force on 3rd September 1981), the Declaration on Elimination of Violence Against Women (UN Resolution 48/104 of December 20 1993 and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women. Nigeria signed and ratified the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) on 13 June 1985 without any reservations. It also ratified the Optional Protocol to CEDAW on 22 November 2004. CEDAW provides the basis for ensuring equality between men and women. It urges state parties to condemn discrimination against women in all its forms and pursue without delay a policy of eliminating discrimination against women by embodying the principles of equality of men and women in the Constitutions.

Article 4 encourages the principle of Affirmative Action as a temporary special measure to ensure women's advancement. Sexual exploitation of women especially for prostitution and trafficking are addressed in Article 6 and state parties are obliged to take all appropriate measures to ensure trafficking and other forms of sexual exploitation are eliminated. Article 15 grants women equality before the law while Article 16 obliges state parties to take all appropriate measure to eliminate discrimination against women in all matters relating to family relations. By ratifying CEDAW and its Optional Protocol, Nigeria promises to incorporate the principles of equality of men and women in the Nigerian legal system, abolish all discriminatory laws and adopt appropriate legislative and other measures to eliminate discrimination against women. Nigeria also promised the international community that it would be bound by those provisions and would repeal laws that impede the success of women. However, the Nigerian government is yet to domesticate CEDAW in line with Section 12 of the Constitution. This means that at best, the principles of CEDAW can only have persuasive influence on the domestic legal system.

More so, the civilian administration that began in 1999 has provided the opportunity for advocacy on women's rights in Nigeria. Laws and policies have been formulated to eliminate gender based discrimination and bridge the gap between men and women. Some of these include 1999 Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, the National Policy on Women, the Infringement of a Widow's and Widower's Fundamental Rights Law No. 3 of Enugu State, the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Law, Cross River State, 80 the Prohibition of Early Marriages Act, Kebbi State,<sup>81</sup> the Retention in School and Against withdrawal of girls from school Act, Kano State, the Trafficking



in Persons (Prohibition, Enforcement and Administration) Act 200383, the Child Rights Act.

Different policies and legislative frameworks have been put place in Nigerian in order to realize a better legal system on domestic violence however, several challenges have impeded it realization. These includes: cultural practices, lack of effective gender policies, corruption on the parts of law enforcement officers and lack of gender sensitive representations.

#### *Cultural Practices*

Customary practices (customs and religion) across Nigeria generally hold that the man is the head of the house and has the greatest control and decision-making powers. On marriage, the man is generally expected to pay the bride price to the family of the bride. This payment of bride price has led to idea of ownership of the woman, the exchange of bride price being evidence of a commercial transaction. This culture of masculine violence transcends to domestic violence tendencies due to the societal portrayal of women as inferior to men and the emphasis on men's physical strength. Due to this misinterpretation of customary law, the woman is regarded as the property of the man who is entitled to discipline her as he thinks fit. The notion of subjugation of women is so entrenched that all in the society tend to accept violence against a woman as justified. The victim herself condones the violence and tries to enforce it on others

#### *Lack of Effective Gender Policies*

In July 2000, President Olusegun Obasanjo approved and signed the National Policy on Women, marking a milestone in the women's rights movement in Nigeria. The National Policy embraces the principles and provisions of equality in CEDAW and calls for enforcement of existing laws and enactment of new ones in consonance with the provisions of CEDAW. However, there is no positive action from any arm of government to implement the principles of the policy. The Federal Government is not obligated to follow the guidelines neither is it binding on any individual, group or organization. As stated in its preamble, the Policy is "another expression of the government's commitment to the development of all sectors of the population and to the institutionalization of processes which will pilot the Nigerian society towards social equity, justice and a much-improved quality of life." The approval of the Policy without giving it a force of law which will enable women to challenge its lack of enforcement will not improve the situation of women in Nigeria, especially domestic violence victims.

There are also no clear guidelines on the implementation of the guidelines, no evaluation, monitoring or enforcement of the guidelines.

#### *Law Enforcement*

The Nigerian Police, which is the first point of contact with the formal justice sector for victims of domestic violence, often trivialize incidents of domestic violence and do not appropriately file reports of complaints made. In some cases, they are reluctant to investigate and prosecute the matter.

#### *Lack of Gender Sensitive Representative*

In spite of enhanced political awareness, the level of women's participation in governance and decision making in the society has not improved. Factors such as lack of education, cultural prejudices, gender insensitivity in party programs and manifestos, economic disabilities and lack of skills in the art of politicking have contributed to the non-realization of women's political rights. 138 The percentage of women representatives is a far cry from the expected 30% representation stated in the Affirmative Action principle as well as the principles contained in the National Policy for Women. Both documents provide for at least 30% women representation in the legislative and executive arms of government as well as political party hierarchies.

#### **Theoretical Framework**

This study hinged on the social learning theory and feminists' theory on the basis that both addresses the causes of family violence behaviour and acknowledges the abuse of power and control by the abusers. The Social learning theory suggests that much learning takes place through observing the behaviour of others. This theory was propounded by Albert Bandura in 1977 and has been particularly valuable in analyzing the possible cause of violence behaviour. Social learning theorists reject the idea of instinct, and instead believe that "human aggression is learned conduct that, like other forms of social behavior, is under stimulus, reinforcement, and cognitive control." According to social learning theory, family violence arises due to many contextual and situational factors. Examples of contextual factors include individual/couple characteristics, stress, or an aggressive personality. Situational factors include substance abuse and financial difficulties. Social learning theory also extends these factors onto the influence of children growing up in families in which these external forces exist (Domestic Violence Group Action Project). Although the relationship is not entirely straightforward, there does seem to be some

support for the learned behavior theory of violence. The strongest risk factor for males who become perpetrators of domestic violence is witnessing violence between one's parents or caretakers (Break the Cycle, 2006). Boys who witness Domestic Violence Introduction, witness domestic violence are *twice as likely* to abuse their own partners and children when they become adults (Strauss, Gelles & Smith, 1990) 30% to 60% of perpetrators of intimate partner violence also abuse children in the household (Edelson, 1999). Witnessing violence in the home seems to provide these young men with lessons that validate that it's appropriate to control women and that physically acting out is one way to do so.

The relationship between witnessing domestic violence and acting out or entering an abusive relationship is not as clear-cut for women. There have been virtually no studies of women who become domestic abusers. Research does show that women who witness domestic violence are not any more likely to be battered as adults. Women who were physically or sexually abused as children, however, may be more likely to be abused as adults (Family Violence Prevention Fund).

The Marxist feminist theory emerged during the decade of 1970s when women's movement was on its heights. The theory looks upon 'violence' as male coercion of women. The proponents of the theory were Karl Marx (1859) & (Ritzer, 1996). The theory maintained that gender inequality is a product of differential access to means of production in the society made possible by the dominant family system in the society. The social arrangement by man to create the family is the source of unequal relationship between men and women in the society because they were born free and equal. The family creates a rational basis for women's subordination and therefore the entrenchment of an overwhelming system of dominant and subordinates' roles (Ritzer, 1996). The structural arrangement of the family in Nigeria enables the men to be released to work and even to migrate to new locations in search of work in order to maintain the family. The man is seen as playing instrumental role as the breadwinner role. It centers on resources attainment, and interaction within the occupational system. The woman is relegated to performing the function that has to do with nurture, emotional satisfaction, and integration of the family. The issue of discrimination against women at any level is not just a Nigerian phenomenon but a global one, except that the developed countries are fast moving towards gender equality and equity (Agbalajobi, 2009), with the view of maintaining gender balance in every endeavor. There are quite a number of views that describe women in the contemporary period. Fundamentally the bulk of support and clamoring for women

emancipation, liberalization, and even empowerment have emanated mostly from the feminists. According to Marxist-feminists, while exposing the ills that capitalism has brought upon women, they opined that there is high level of oppression on women, particularly in the sexual division of labour (Costa & James, 1981; Eisenstein, 1984; in Olojede 2008: 2005a). The liberalization of women will only be possible when the liberal state is overthrown and its capitalists and patriarchal structure is dismantled (Olojede, 2008). What this suggests is that there would be a time whereby sexual reordering in terms of division of labour, specialization, politicization and even reproductive activities will witness a transformation. However, it must come with some form of reorientation and change of values for us to have an ideal space for women in governance (Robson, 1993).

### **Research Methodology**

The study was conducted in Kogi State which lies within the river Niger and Benue through the middle Belt Region of Nigeria. Her geographic coordinates are longitude  $7^{\circ} 30'$  and  $6^{\circ} 42'$  and latitude  $9^{\circ} 10' 56''$  N, created on 27<sup>th</sup> August 1991, Kogi State, which is formed from part of Benue State is nicknamed the ‘confluence State’ due to the fact that River Niger and River Benue occurs next to its capital Lokoja. The State is bordered to the East by Ekiti and Kwara State, Federal Capital Territory to the Northeast by Nassarawa State, to the northwest by Niger State, to the Southwest by the Edo and Ondo, to the Southeast by the State of Anambra and Enugu, added to the West by Benue State as being the only State in Nigeria to border ten other States.

Administratively, Kogi State is divided into 21 Local Government Areas namely: Adavi, Ajaokuta, Ankpa, Bassa, Dekina, Ibaji, Idah, Igalamela-odolu, Ijumu, Kabba/Bunu, Kotonkaefe, Lokoja, Mopamuro, Ofu, Ogori/magogo, Okehi, Okene, Olamaboro, Omala, YagbaEast/Yagba West. Economically, Kogi State is largely based around agriculture, mainly of cassava, yam crops, cashew, groundnut, palm oil, cocoa melon, maize, millet, cashew and fish from the riverine areas. Other key industries are crude oil extraction, coal, and livestock herding of cattle's, goats, and sheep. The State is richly endowed with both human and natural resources including minerals such as lime stone, coal, kaolin and iron. The state has a considerable high number of higher institutions, secondary and primary schools. The choice of Kogi State was born out of the high rate of crashes and loss of lives on the high ways.

The targeted population for this study consists of married men and women residents in Kogi State who might have been members of

families experiencing or who at one time or the other experienced domestic violence in their homes. However, due to time and constraints, only 400 respondents were selected out of the pool to represent the entire population using Taro Yamane's formula (1973). These includes 205 married men and women in Lokoja LGA, 105 in Ajaokuta and 90 in Ankpa respectively. A total number of 10 police officers and 10 top management staff of some organizations in the study setting were also interviewed. These includes; 4 police officers in Lokoja Divisional Police Headquarters, 3 in Ajaokuta and 3 in Ankpa, and 4 administrative directors from Kogi state Community and Social Development Agency, Lokoja, 3 from General Hospital Ajakouta and 3 from Kogi State College of Education Ankpa.

Furthermore, the study employed both cluster and purposive sampling techniques in drawing its actual respondents. Firstly, the State was clustered into three zones namely: Kogi East, Kogi West and Kogi Southwest. Secondly, one local government Areas was purposively selected from each of the zone due to notable high rate of domestic violence in the area and location of police station and administrative offices in the area. Thirdly, in each of the Local government Areas, one Divisional Police Headquarter and one administrative office were purposively selected. The primary data were elicited from the respondents using semi-structured questionnaires and interview method of data collection. The obtained data were analyzed both qualitatively and quantitatively using SPSS version 20.1

### **Results and Discussions**

The socio-demographic characteristics of respondents capture in this study include sex, age, educational attainment and employment status. In terms of sex, 369 (92.8%) respondents were females while 31(7.1%) were males. With respect to age, the data obtained had indicated that 115(24.4%) respondents were within the age range of 18 -30 years, 263 (70.5%) respondents aged between 31 and 64 years while 22 (5.4%) respondents had the age brackets of 65 years and above.

Furthermore, educational attainment of respondents indicated that 29 (7.3%) of respondents had completed primary level of education, 125 (31.3%) respondents had attained secondary school level education and 223 (61.4%) had attained tertiary education while 23 (5.8%) of the respondent were non-literate. Finally, the statistics on respondents' employment status has shown that majority 289(72.2) of the respondents were unemployed while 111(28.2%) of the respondents were employed. All these variables had in one way or the other influences respondent's experience and incidence of domestic violence. For instance, the higher

percentage of female respondents may be due to the fact women are mostly the victims of domestic violence. Most respondents were within the reproductive age category and it is evident that most women got married at an early age making them totally dependents on their spouses for livelihood. Most households with illiterate women frequently experience domestic violence, therefore, educational attainment influences the rate at which domestic violence occurs and employment plays a greater role in many families across the world. The data is summarized in Table 1.

**Table 1: Socio-Demographic Characteristics of Respondents**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency N=400</b>	<b>Percent %=100</b>
<b>Sex</b>		
Female	369	92.8
Male	31	7.2
<b>Age in years</b>		
18-30 years	115	24.4
31-64 years	263	70.2
65 years and above	22	5.4
<b>Educational attainment</b>		
Primary	29	7.3
Secondary	223	61.4
Tertiary	125	31.3
non-literate	23	5.8
<b>Employment status</b>		
Employed	111	28.2
Unemployed	289	72.8

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

### **Incidences and Causes of Domestic Violence in Kogi State**

Result of the study on the incidence and various causes of domestic violence by respondents in the area are displayed on Table 2. It indicates that majority 351(70.2%) of the respondents had in one way or the other experienced domestic violence while 49 (29.8%) of the respondent had

not experienced domestic violence in their homes. This implies that majority of the respondents had experienced one form of domestic violence or the other. Further findings have shown that, belief in patriarchy, lack of finance, influence of childhood abuse, forced sex, hot temper represented by 249 (62.4%) of the respondents were the major causes of the incidences of domestic violence in the study setting. Influence of alcoholism was represented by 113(28.2%) respondents. Furthermore, 38(9.4%) of the respondents maintained that, marital instability was the cause of their domestic violence. In this regards a preparator exhibits domestic violence due to life time experiences from his/her marital quality and satisfaction.

Findings from the interviewee further indicated a more worrisome cause of domestic violence to be poverty which due to worsening situation in Nigeria is often an excuse given for domestic violence. When a man is unable to provide for the family, the woman is left to support the family economically. In order for men to compensate for their own feelings of weakness or insecurity he becomes abusive by heating the woman to stamp his mark of authority over her. This findings therefore, collaborates with the feminist postulation which suggest that domestic violence is a result of a critical patriarchal structure that facilitates and supports male dominance in society, violence is a means to maintain male hegemony in the family. The consequent social structure, based on patriarchal values, male power and status, and devalues of the feminine, ultimately lead to the victimization of women.

In addition, this finding equally aligns with the postulation of the social learning theory (Albert Bandura, 1977) that domestic violence occurs due to many contextual factors such as couples' characteristics, stress or an aggressive personality and due to situational factors, such as substance abuse and financial difficulties. The finding further agrees with the social learning theory which also states that human aggression and violence are learned conduct through direct experience by observing the behavior of others and through imitation an individual pick up such pattern and act them alike. Pollock (1974), Benin & Clare (1961) further affirms that, abusive male adults are likely to been raised in abusive home. Being abused or ill treated as a child produces a personality disorder which socializes an individual into a life pattern of violence and aggression. In a similar vein Bamidele (2017), maintained that many of the factors which influenced domestic violence includes alcohol abuse, poverty, cohabitation, as well as childhood history of abuse across cultures and nations. This information is displayed on Table 2.

**Table 2: Incidences and Causes of Domestic Violence in Kogi State**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency N= 400</b>	<b>Percent %</b>
Had experience domestic violence	351	70.2
Had not experience domestic violence	49	29.8
Belief in patriarchy, lack of finance, influence of childhood abuse, Sex refusal & hot temper	249	62.4
Influence of alcoholism	113	28.2
Marital instability	38	6.2
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

### **Impacts of Domestic Violence on Socio-Economic Development in Kogi State**

In terms of the impacts of domestic violence on the socio-economic development in the area, findings revealed that, high cost of expenditure on service provision, decreased productivity, loss of source of income for victims and family members, poor physical and mental status were the major impacts of domestic violence on socio-economic development. Statistically, (68.4%) of the respondents maintained that high cost of expenditure on service provision, decreased productivity, loss of source of income for victims and family members, poor physical and mental status were the impact of domestic violence on socio-economic development, (26.2%) respondents identify missing work as the impact, while 38(5.4%) of the respondents claimed replacement cost were the impact of domestic violence on socio-economic development. It is deducible from the foregoing therefor that, domestic violence influences economic stability and sustainability and also an indirect barrier to women's ability for job search and maintaining employment due to increased risk of health limitation. This finding is in line with the social learning theory which postulate that an individual becomes aggressive and violent through learning and imitation from a role model. Ones this is exercise in the family the victims becomes physically and mentally poor thereby affecting their job productivity. This observation is also collaborated by Adams (2013) when he found that victims with abusive partners most of the time face enormous threats to their financial well-being hence banning them from realizing their personal financial



potential. With this, it appears to be hard for the family to develop since one of the partners is not productive enough hence the family being caught in the poverty trap. Ajala (2013) maintained that, productivity of victims experiencing domestic violence is reduced due to sapping of their energy, undermining their confidence, compromising their health, and depriving the society their full participation. This is supported by the finding of Carrillo (1992), that women cannot lend their labour or creative idea fully if they are burdened with the physical and psychological scars of abuse. This information is displayed on Table 3.

**Table 3: Impact of Domestic Violence on Socio-Economic Development in Kogi State**

<b>Variables</b>	<b>Frequency N= 400</b>	<b>Percent %</b>
High cost of expenditure on service provision, Decreased productivity, loss of source of income for victims/ Poor physical & mental status	255	68.4
Missing work	111	26.2
Replacement cost	34	5.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

### **Challenges to effective Legislations on Domestic Violence in Kogi State**

As indicated in Table 4, the prepondence percentage (71.4%) of the respondents had reported that cultural practices, lack of effective gender policies, corruption on the parts of law enforcement officers and lack of gender sensitive representations were the major challenges to effective realization of legal sytem on domestic violence in the study setting. (21.2%) of the respndents claimed lack of access to justice was the challenges while (8.4%) believed that unique provision of domestic violence bill was the challenge to realizing a batter lagal system on domestioc violence in the state. Findinds from the interviewees equally indicated that, failure of existing criminal justices system which provide law rather than protecting women from domestic violence, encourages incidents of domestic violence, gives the accused person wide room to escape any punishment and the tripartite legal system in Nigeria were the challenges to realizing a bettter legal sytem on domestic violence in the study setting. This collaborates with the feminist theory which states

that domestic violence occurs due to social arrangement and patriarchal structure of the society which values the masculine and devalue the feminist. Cultural practice and belief in patriarchy has given Nigerian men power and authority over women and this encourages them to keep women in such a manner as they please. To them committing violence is nothing but a matter of honour to preserve cultural and traditional stereotypes against women. This belief has made Nigeria and Kogi men in particular find it difficult in implementing effective gender policies and even gender sensitive representations. Eze-Anaba (2015), observed that a society in which men holds the position of respect and power, and plays a dominant role over women is more fertile for domestic violence. This information is displayed on Table 4.

**Table 4: Challenges to Effective Legislation on Domestic Violence in Kogi State**

Variables	Frequency N= 400	Percent %
Cultural practice, lack of effective gender policy	259	71.4
Law enforcement/ lack of gender sensitive representations	104	21.2
Lack of access to justice unique provision of domestic violence bill	37	8.4
<b>Total</b>	<b>400</b>	<b>100.0</b>

**Source:** Field Survey, 2022

### **Conclusion and Recommendations**

This study revealed that domestic violence had a long reaching effect on the socio-economic developments in Kogi State. Majority of the respondents reported high cost of expenditure on service provision, decreased productivity, loss of source of income for victims and family members, poor physical and mental status as the impacts of domestic violence on socio-economic development. This ugly menace was majorly blamed on cultural practices, lack of effective gender policies, corruption on the parts of law enforcement officers and lack of gender sensitive representations. The recommendations for this study however, is not limited to government and non governmental organization alone but a collaborative efforts of parents, religious, and society at large. Thus, the study recommends that more efforts be made by both government and non-governmental organizations to strengthen laws and

protection against domestic violence more specifically at the grass root level. However, enactment of law alone cannot promote women's right there is need for awareness creation on women's right and promotion of attitudinal change to necessitate a successful implementation of domestic violence bills. There is need for effective implementation of the enactment of the Violence Against Person (prohibition) Act of 2015 across all the states in Nigeria. This is a big step in the right direction as it broadens the scopes of domestic violence bill, as most of these offences are even committed in jurisdiction where there is limited social-economic awareness. Parents should live an exemplary lifestyle worthy of imitation by their children in order to grow with a balance view of life which makes them become better adults in life and are able to deal with varying circumstances in life. There is need to address the mistaken cultural and societal mentality that circumstances such as domestic violence should be tolerated by wife even in a situation where such has resulted to the victim being hospitalized on several occasions. A seminar should be organized to educate the general public against stigmatizing any victim of domestic violence who decides to speak up or act decisively in such situation. There is need for an effective gender policies, implementations and gender sensitive representation at all level so that the voice of women can be heard in the society at large.

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