



Intimate Partner Violence among Ever-Married Persons in Egbedore Local Government Area of Osun State, Nigeria

Omolola IRINOYE¹, Damilola Joy OYEWO² & Friday Asiazobor EBOIYEHI³

ABSTRACT

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is increasingly recognized as a social and public health problem and a violation of human rights. Many studies on IPV in Nigeria recognize women as the victims and men perpetrators with little or no attention on perception and experiences of both genders. This study sought to reconcile conception, experiences and perceived effectiveness of management strategies adopted for IPV by ever married women and men at the community level. The study was conducted in Egbedore Local Government Area (LGA) in Osun State, southwestern Nigeria on the married and ever married men and women utilising multiple sampling techniques, (purposive sampling of one rural, one urban and one semi-urban communities). The results showed that respondents have good knowledge of what constitute IPV. For instance, 19.4% of men and 19.4% of women identified IPV as husband beating wife while 10.0% of men and 17.6% of women defined IPV as quarrelling, abusing and beating one's partner. About 8.9% of the male respondents and 1.8% of the female respondents define IPV as 'when wives are not submissive to their husbands' while 11.8% of men and 5.3% of the women respondents affirmed that IPV is when someone does something against his or her partner's wish. Emotional abuse is the commonest form of IPV reported (63.9%; 37.1% for women and 26.8% for men). Over 42% of respondents who experienced emotional violence did nothing about it while some adopted different management strategies. Physical violence (22.4% for men and 56.5% for women) and sexual violence (58.2% for women and 17.7% for men) were also reported. The study concluded that both men and women are victims of IPV. There is the need for public enlightenment and advocacy to reduce the menace.

Keywords: Conception, experience, management, intimate partner violence.

INTRODUCTION

Worldwide, the upsurge of intimate partner violence (IPV) has been a growing source of concern to human rights groups and the international community. Globally, IPV has been acknowledged as a violation of basic human rights. The World health organization/Women's Health and Development (WHO/WHD, 1997) defines IPV as any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, psychological or sexual harm to those in the relationship. Typically, it occurs when a man violates his female partner or woman abuses her male partner. It is behaviour, attitude and belief in which a partner in an intimate relationship attempts to maintain power and control over the other through the use of psychological, physical, and/or sexual coercion (WHO/WHD, 1997). In other words, IPV is the actual or threatened physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional abuse by a current or former spouse (including common-law spouse), dating partner, boyfriend or girlfriend. It is committed by an intimate or non-intimate perpetrator such as a spouse, family member, friend, person in position of power or trust, acquaintance, or stranger. It may also include acts of physical aggression (slapping, hitting, kicking and beating), psychological abuse (intimidation, constant belittling or humiliation), forced sexual intercourse or any other controlling behaviour (isolating a person from family and friends, monitoring their movements and restricting access to information or assistance (Krug, Dahlberg, James, Zwi & Lozano, 2002).

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Although IPV is predominantly seen as violence perpetuated by male against female partner, empirical evidences have shown that violence against men by their intimate partners also exists and is on the increase (Eboiyehi & Muoghalu, 2017; NHS-choices, 2014; Akinkugbe, Lucas, Onyemelukwe, Yahaya & Saka, 2010). It has been observed that in different parts of the world there are records of demonstrative cases of domestic violence against men (DVAM) (Dienye & Gbeneol, 2009). In Nigeria for instance, a 38-year-old business man was reportedly murdered by his wife at their Akobo estate home in Ibadan (Southwest Nigeria) after a domestic dispute on February 2, 2016 (The News, February 7, 2016). Similar incidence also occurred in Yenegoa, the Bayelsa State capital (South-south Nigeria) when a 28-year-old woman allegedly stabbed her husband in the neck with a kitchen knife, following a bitter quarrel over a major domestic issue (Nigerian Vanguard, July 8, 2015). Furthermore, a Lagos court dissolved the marriage between a couple after the wife cut off her husband's penis with a knife for demanding for sex from her against her wish on March 2, 2012 (Metro News, June, 12, 2012).

However, in spite of these available evidences of violence against men by their female partners, little or no scholarly work has been done on intimate partner violence from gender perspective. It is therefore not surprising that most of the studies on IPV centred mainly on men as the perpetrators of IPV and women as the victims. To our knowledge, no study has shown that men are also affected by the menace of IPV. It is against this background that this study was designed to provide a framework within which issues relating to violence against male and female in intimate relationships were investigated using Egbedore Local Government Areas of Osun State in South western Nigeria as a case study.

The problem

Intimate partner violence among couples has been recognized as major global public health problem, as well as serious human right abuse (WHO/WHD, 1997). Victims of intimate partner violence can experience physical injury; mental health consequences such as depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and suicide attempts; and other health consequences such as gastro-intestinal disorders, substance abuse, sexually transmitted diseases, and gynecological or pregnancy complications. These consequences can lead to hospitalization, disability, or death.

The impact of IPV on acute and long-term health and well-being has been documented in publications such as WHO's World report on violence and health ((Krug, Dahlberg, James, Zwi & Lozano, 2002), the WHO Multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence against women (Garcia-Moreno *et al*, 2005) and various other population-based studies. It is therefore in this regard that the World Health Organization (WHO/WHD, 1997) notes that intimate partner violence is a major cause of death and disability among couples in the African population, more so than cancer, malaria, traffic accidents, and even war (George, 2015).

Rationale for this study

Most researches on IPV focus on women who have been violated by their male partners. Previous studies affirm women are mostly affected and seriously injured by their partners without any mention of male victims by way of comparison. In addition, the extents to which men suffer similar fate are rarely documented.

Given the fact that there is little evidence concerning IPV against men in Nigeria generally and Egbedore Local Government Area in particular, this study represents a modest attempt at expanding existing knowledge about the rapidly emerging phenomenon in the field of Gender Based Violence in Nigeria. Thus, while it has been argued that IPV is more prevalent in some



parts of Nigeria than others there is no data to support this argument. This study is therefore an attempt to fill this gap.

Furthermore, most responses to IPV focus on women's rights and empowerment, legal reform, protection and service provision. Whilst these interventions continue to be key priorities addressing the root causes of IPV through primary prevention, it is necessary to investigate various forms of IPV management by both male and female so to as create societies where gender-based violence is undesirable to all.

There is also the need to gain more knowledge about the contextual and relational aspects of a woman's and man's life. A good contextual analysis of the cultural norms and practices in the male and female socialization process might increase the efficiency of interventions targeted at tackling IPV in Nigeria. Thus, preventing IPV can be enhanced by involving all the stakeholders (boys, girls, men as well as women) in ways that they are sensitive to these notions and their experiences.

Finally, the study will be justified if it can expose the conception, experiences, management and perceived effectiveness of management strategies of IPV among partners and explain its implication for national development. The study will be relevant to planners, social scientists, health scientists, policy makers, politicians, students and researchers that are interested in the study of intimate partners' violence in particular and gender based violence in general.

METHODOLOGY

The study was carried out in Egbedore Local Government Area (LGA) which is one of the 30 LGAs in Osun State in southwestern Nigeria. Egbedore Local Government Area lies in the tropical rain forest belt and situated 7° 49' N and 4° 26' E and covers an approximate area of 102 km² of Osun State. The LGA's population was put at 73,969, according to the 2006 population census. It has many satellite villages that are linked by a poor road network, for the most part, the villages have poorly developed infrastructure, often without access to either electricity or pipe borne water.

The study design applied in this study is the cross-sectional descriptive survey of married and ever married men and women in the Local Government Area (LGA). The population studied was the married and ever married men and women residing within the LGA. All ever-married men and women were included in the study. Multiple sampling techniques were adopted, purposive sampling technique (one rural, one urban and one semi-urban communities from Egbedore local government Area); proportionate sampling technique (to determine and select the number of respondents from each community based on the populations of the communities) and systematic sampling technique (used to select houses from each of the communities). The study participants were recruited from their houses in each of the communities. On getting to the houses, a married couple was randomly selected using balloting where there is more than one couple, and where there is just one couple in the house, such couple was selected. A ratio of 1:1 was used to select man and woman respondents.

The sample size (N) was therefore determined using Fisher's formula for populations greater than 10,000, that is, $N = \frac{P(1-P)}{d^2}$

Where $p = 0.3$; $N = 340$

N = sample size.

P = prevalence of intimate partner violence (30%) (WHO, 2013)

z = standard normal variance where confidence level is (1.96)



d=absolute precision

$$n = \frac{0.3(1-0.3)1.96^2}{0.05^2}$$
$$= 322.7$$

Using the formula above, a sample size of 322.7 respondents was calculated, it was rounded up to the nearest hundred of 323. Another 5 percent of this figure was also added to the sample size because of possibilities of incomplete responses and inappropriate completion of questionnaire by respondents making it 339. Therefore, a total of 340 respondents were used for this study. Ratio of 1: 1 was used to select respondents by gender, i.e., 170 men and 170 women

A semi-structured interview and self-administered questionnaire were employed in the study. The Section on knowledge of respondents on IPV was assessed via interview. Each respondent was asked to describe what they know constitute IPV while questions on experiences of various forms of violence were designed and respondents selected options as appropriate. All data were collected by the interviewers (self-administered) questionnaire with three sections was employed in the survey. The first section seeks socio-demographic information of the respondents and their knowledge of Intimate partner violence. The second section sought information on experiences of respondents with respect to intimate partner violence while the third section dwells on the management of intimate partner violence and the perceived effectiveness of such management approaches. The survey was conducted within a seven-day period in each of the selected communities. Pre-testing of the questionnaires was among married and ever married men and women in another local government area (Olorunda Local Government, Osun State). A total of 340 questionnaires were collected and were appropriately and completely filled and thus considered valid for data analysis. Data were manually collated by researchers and research assistants, edited and entered into the SPSS data analysis software, Version 20. Frequencies and measures of central tendencies were generated on relevant variables for univariate analysis and results presented with the use of simple frequency and percentage tables and cross-tabulated tables for the outcome measures.

Ethical clearance was collected from the Institute of Public health Ethical Clearance Board and permission to conduct the survey was sort and obtained from the LGA Chairman, Community leaders. The respondents were briefed about the purpose of the study and their consent was obtained before the interviewer-administered questionnaire was administered. The respondents were assured of confidentiality and more so, a respondent was interviewed one at a time. Anonymity was strictly ensured as the respondents were not required to put down their names.

RESULTS

**Table 1: Distribution of respondents by socio-demographic characteristics
N=340**

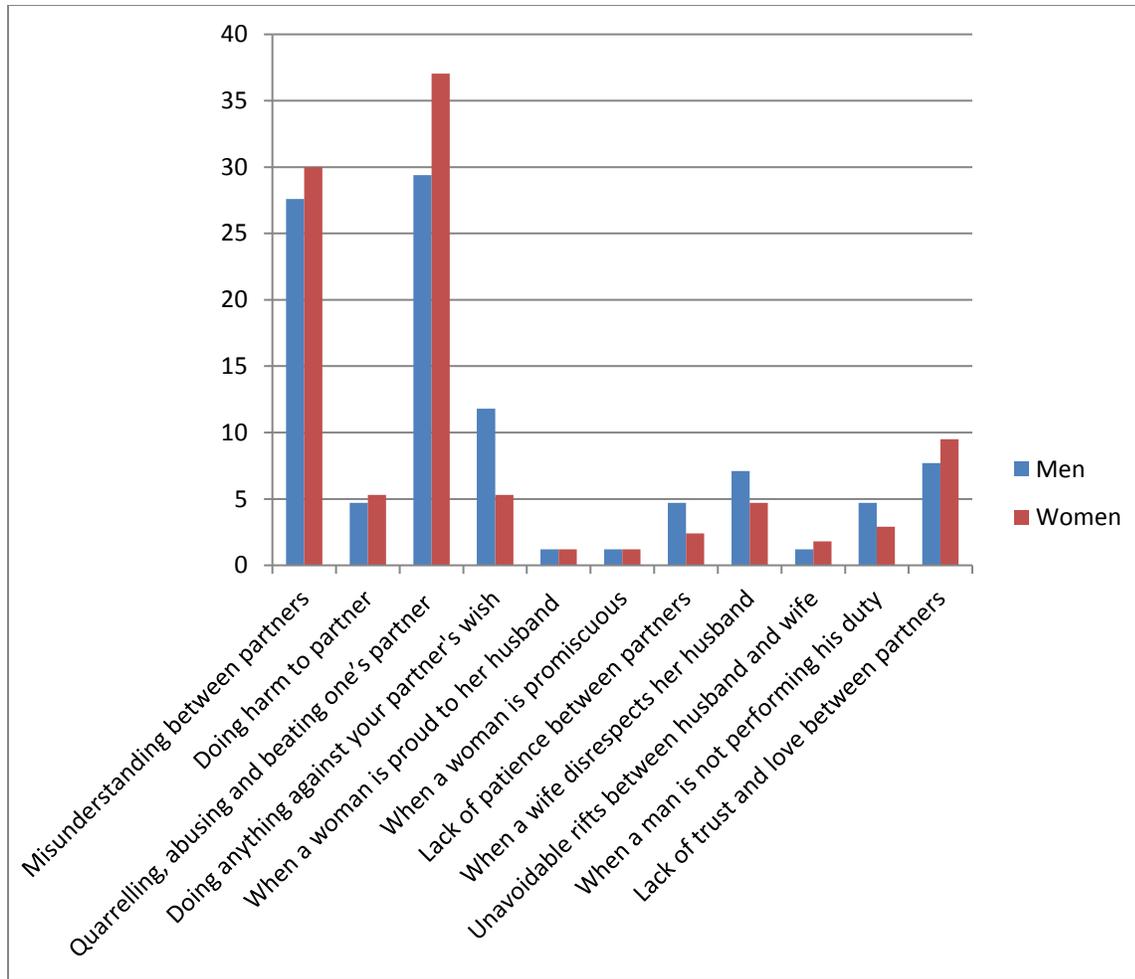
Socio-demographic characteristics	M (%) n=170	F (%) n=170	Total (%)	Percentage
Age				
21-30	10 (5.9)	61 (36.1)	72 (20.9)	
31-40	48 (28.2)	44 (26.0)	92 (27.1)	
41-50	59 (34.7)	41 (24.3)	100 (29.4)	
51-60	30 (17.6)	3 (1.8)	33 (9.7)	
60 and above	23 (13.5)	20 (11.8)	43 (12.6)	
Types of marriage				
Polygyny	153			45
Monogamy	187			55
Education Status				
No Formal Education	93			27.4
Primary	65			19.1
Secondary	64			18.8
Tertiary	118			34.7
Ethnic Group				
Igbo	3			0.1
Yoruba	337			99.1
Marital Status				
Married	287			84.4
Divorced	12			3.5
separated	14			4.1
Widowed	27			7.9
Religion				
Christianity	205			60.3
Islam	110			32.4
Traditional	25			7.4
Occupation				
Artisan	90			26.5
Civil Servant	89			26.2
Business	51			15.0
Student	20			5.9
Trading	87			25.6
Pensioner	3			0.9
Income (#)				
<50,000	241			70.9
50,000-100,000	80			23.5
101,000-150,000	5			1.5
>150,000	14			4.1

Source: Fieldwork (2017)

A total of 340 respondents were included in this study. Table 1 above shows the percentage distribution of respondents by their socio-demographic characteristics. The mean age was 41.39 years and most were found between the age groups of 41-50 (29.4%). There was equal representation of both genders. More than half 184 (55%), of the respondents were found to be in monogamous marriages. Only 27.4% did not have any form of western education. Moreover, majority (84.4%) of the respondents are currently married while (70.9% of them earn less than ₦50,000 monthly.

KNOWLEDGE OF RESPONDENTS ON IPV

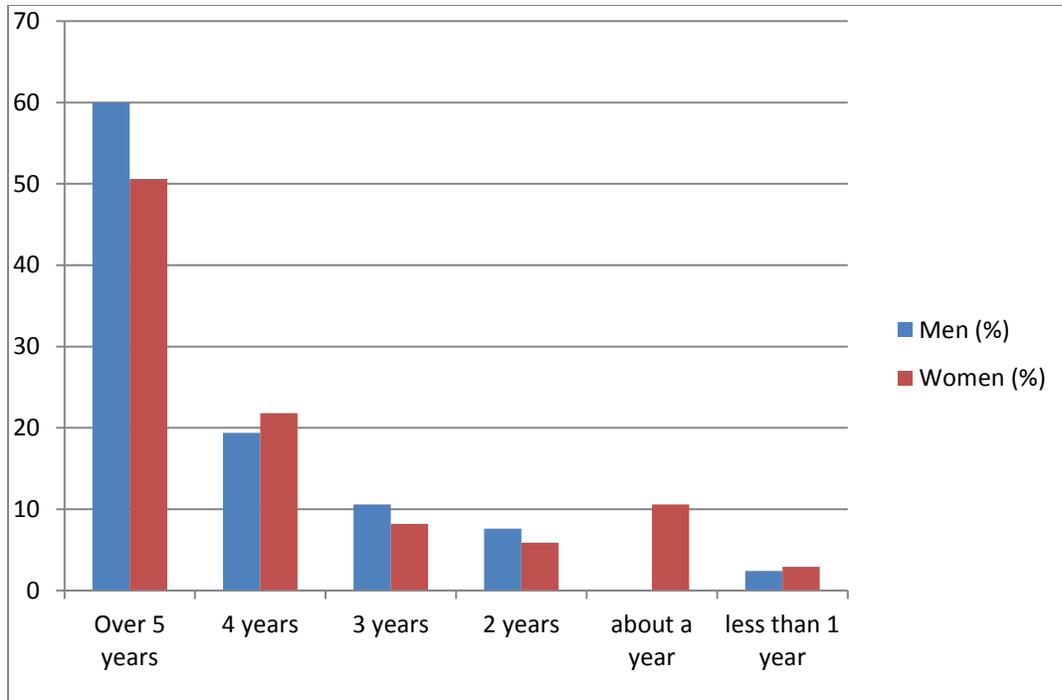
Figure 1: Gender variations and similarities in the conception of IPV



Source: Fieldwork (2017)

Figure 1 shows the respondents' definitions of IPV and gender variations and similarities in the conception of IPV. The responses of each of the respondents by gender about the meaning of IPV show that they have adequate knowledge of the concept. Their responses on what they understand by IPV include husband beating wife (19.4% for men and 19.4% for women) and quarrelling, abusing and beating one's partner (10.0% for men and 17.6% for women). About 8.9 % of the male respondents and 1.8% of the female respondents define IPV as 'when wives not submissive to their husbands' while 11.8% of men and 5.3% of the women's respondents affirmed that IPV is when someone does something against his or her partner's wish. .

Figure 2: Distribution of Respondents according to when they first heard of IPV



Source: Fieldwork (2017)

As shown in Figure 2 above, majority of the male respondents (60.0%) and more than half of the female respondents (50.6%) have heard about intimate partner violence over the past 5 years. In all, (55.3%) of both male and female respondents affirmed that they have heard about intimate partner violence for over 5 years. However, only 2.4% of the male respondents and 2.9% of the females have heard about IPV in the less than a year. This finding shows that the respondents have good knowledge on what constitutes intimate partner violence. The results also indicate that both men and women can be victims of IPV.

**Table 2: Elements of intimate partner violence
N=340**

	Strongly Agree (%)		Agree (%)		Disagree (%)		Strongly Disagree (%)	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
A man beating his wife	47 (27.6)	112 (65.9)	112 (65.9)	53 (32.1)	9 (5.3)	5 (2.9)	2 (1.2)	0 (0.0)
A man/woman saying /doing something to humiliate his/her partner in front of others	65 (38.2)	54 (31.8)	100 (58.8)	108 (63.5)	5 (2.9)	8 (4.7)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
A man having sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent	71 (41.8)	104 (61.2)	97 (57.1)	59 (34.7)	2 (1.2)	7 (4.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
A man/woman jealous when his/her partner talks to opposite sex	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2(1.2)	0 (0.0)	86 (50.6)	73 (42.9)	82 (48.2)	97 (57.1)
A man/woman who insist on knowing where his/her partner is at all times	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	65 (38.2)	91 (53.5)	105 (61.8)	78 (45.9)
Generally,								
IPV occur between two people in intimate relationship	78 (45.9)	78 (45.9)	90 (52.9)	91 (53.5)	0 (0.0)	1 (0.6)	2 (1.2)	0 (0.0)
Men are the only perpetrators of violence; they are never the victims	5 (2.9)	40 (23.5)	25 (14.7)	95 (55.9)	119 (70.0)	35 (20.6)	21(12.4)	0 (0.0)
Women are the only victim of violence; they are never the perpetrators	6 (3.5)	74 (43.5)	28 (16.5)	62 (36.5)	105 (61.8)	32 (9.4)	31 (18.2)	2 (1.2)

Source: Fieldwork (2017)

Majority of the female respondents (65.9%) and 65.9% of their male counterparts strongly agreed that a man beating his wife is an element of intimate partner violence, 5.3% of the male respondents and 2.9% of the female respondents did not agree IPV to be such. Furthermore, 41.8% of the male respondents and 61.2% of their female counterparts strongly agreed that IPV occurs when a man have sexual intercourse with his wife without her consent. Furthermore, 58.8% of male respondents and 63.5% of females agreed that IPV occurs when a man or woman purposely says or does something to humiliate his or her partner in front of other people. Surprisingly more than half of the male respondents (61.8%) strongly disagreed that a man or woman’s insistence of knowing the whereabouts of the partner at all times does not constitute IPV. Also, 52.2% of the male respondents and 53.5% of females agreed that IPV occurs between two people in intimate relationship. Furthermore, 55.9% of females agreed that men are the only perpetrators of IPV and are not victims of IPV. However, overwhelming majority of male respondents (70.0%) did not agree with the assertion. Also, 61.8% of males and 9.4% of females disagreed that only women are the victims of IPV and not the perpetrators.

Generally, from the table 2 above, 95.3% of the respondents agreed that a man beating his wife is an element on IPV. Also, 96.2% agreed that any man or woman saying /doing something to humiliate his/her partner in front of other people constitutes an element of IPV while 97.4% agreed that having sexual intercourse with one’s wife without her consent is an element of IPV. Also, , 99.4% of the respondents disagreed that a man/woman who is jealous whenever his/her partner talks to opposite sex is an element of violence while 99.7% disagreed that a man or woman who insists on knowing the whereabouts his or her partner is at all times is an element of IPV. Majority (99.1%) agreed that IPV occur between two people in intimate relationship and 51.2% agreed that men are not only the perpetrators but that they can also be victims while 52% believed that women are always the victims and never the perpetrators of violence.

Summarily, the respondents agreed to five of the eight elements as elements of IPV. Majority of the respondents agreed to a total of 62.5% of the questions as elements of IPV. This show that

the respondents have good knowledge on what constitutes intimate partner violence and that either man or woman can be the victim of acts of violence.

Table 3: Experiences of different forms of intimate partner violence among respondents by gender

N=340

Experience Of Violence	Always (%)		Most of the time (%)		Some of the time (%)		Never (%)	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Physical violence								
Has your partner ever:								
Push you, shake you, or throw something at you?	0 (0.0)	36 (10.6)	14 (4.1)	16 (4.7)	12 (3.5)	32 (9.4)	144 (42.4)	86 (25.3)
.Slap you?	0 (0.0)	13 (3.8)	7 (2.1)	32 (9.4)	22 (6.5)	38 (11.2)	141 (41.5)	87 (25.6)
Twist your arm or pull your hair?	0 (0.0)	13 (3.8)	0 (0.0)	18 (5.3)	4 (1.2)	34 (10.0)	166 (48.8)	105 (30.9)
Punch you with his fist or with something that could hurt you?	0 (0.0)	13 (3.8)	7 (2.1)	14 (4.1)	4 (1.2)	63 (18.5)	105 (46.8)	80 (23.5)
Kick you, drag you, or beat you up?	0 (0.0)	20 (5.9)	7 (2.1)	18 (5.3)	4 (1.2)	41 (12.1)	159 (46.8)	91 (26.8)
Try to choke you or burn you on purpose?	0 (0.0)	13 (3.8)	0 (0.0)	11 (3.2)	12 (3.5)	34 (10.0)	158 (46.5)	112 (32.9)
7. Threaten or attack you with a knife, gun, or any other weapon?	0 (0.0)	13 (3.8)	7 (2.1)	11 (3.2)	18 (5.3)	25 (7.4)	145 (42.6)	121 (35.6)
Emotional violence								
Does your partner ever:								
Say or do something to humiliate you in front of others?	28 (8.2)	27 (7.9)	30 (8.8)	43 (12.6)	39 (11.5)	49 (14.4)	73 (21.5)	51 (15.0)
Threaten to hurt or harm you or someone close to you?	16 (4.7)	10 (2.9)	14 (4.1)	51 (15.0)	7 (2.1)	21 (6.2)	133 (39.1)	88 (25.9)
Insult you or make you feel bad about yourself?	25 (7.4)	22 (6.5)	30 (8.8)	36 (10.6)	36 (10.6)	68 (20.0)	79 (23.2)	44 (12.9)
Sexual violence								
Has your wife/ partner ever:	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
Physically force you to have sexual intercourse with him even when you did not want to?	0 (0.0)	5 (1.5)	2 (0.6)	11 (3.2)	24 (7.1)	58 (17.1)	144 (42.4)	96 (28.2)
Physically force you to perform any other sexual acts you did not want to?	1 (0.3)	15 (4.4)	0 (0.0)	19 (5.6)	14 (4.1)	32 (9.4)	155 (45.6)	104 (30.6)
Force you with threats or in any other way to perform sexual acts you did not want to?	7 (2.1)	5 (1.5)	1 (0.3)	30 (8.8)	3 (0.9)	41 (12.1)	159 (46.8)	94 (27.6)

Source: Fieldwork (2017)

Note:* The number of responses exceeded the actual number of respondents sampled since respondents experienced multiple forms of IPV

Table 3 presents data on experiences of different forms of violence among respondents by gender. According to the data presented in Table 3.1, 10.6% of women and none of the male respondents reported that they were always push, shaken or objects being thrown at them by their partners. This is followed by those who are slapped most of the time slapped by their partners (9.4% females) and (2.1% males). Furthermore, 20.0% of female and 10.6% of their male counterparts were sometimes insulted while 48.8% of female and 10.0% of male respondents stated that their partners twisted their arms or pulled their hairs. The result obtained in this study agrees with the outcome of similar studies that the overwhelming burden of partner violence is borne by women at the hands of men and that women are also much more likely to suffer injuries as a result of violence by a male partner than men are from a female partner (Ellsberg, 2005).

**Table 4: Distribution of respondents according to degree of marital control experiences
N=340**

Degree of marital control	Always (%)		Most of the time (%)		Some of the time (%)		Never (%)	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
My partner: Jealous or angry if I talk to other men/women;	95 (28.0)	57 (16.8)	9 (2.7)	35 (10.3)	7 (2.1)	37 (10.9)	59 (17.4)	40 (11.8)
Frequently accuses me of being unfaithful	38 (11.2)	18 (5.3)	25 (7.4)	60 (17.6)	28 (8.2)	17 (5.0)	79 (23.2)	75 (22.1)
Does not permit me to meet my female/male friends	30 (8.8)	16 (4.7)	13 (3.8)	43 (12.6)	19 (5.6)	22 (6.5)	108 (31.8)	89 (26.2)
Tries to limit contact with my family	19 (5.6)	21 (6.2)	22 (6.55)	42 (12.4)	24 (7.1)	19 (5.6)	105 (30.9)	88 (25.9)
Insists on knowing where I am at all times	76 (22.4)	50 (14.7)	18 (5.3)	42 (12.4)	20 (5.9)	28 (8.2)	56 (16.5)	50 (14.7)

Source: Fieldwork (2017)

Table 4 above shows the distribution of respondents by the degree of marital control experiences by gender. The study found that these identified degrees of control were the major causes of IPV in the study area. As shown Table, 28.0% of men and 16.8% of women said they always get jealous if their partners talk to opposite sex resulting to some degree of marital control. About 2.7% of men and 10.3% of women were jealous or angry most of the time each time their partners talk to opposite sex while 17.4% of men and 11.8% of women never did. While 11.2% of the men frequently accuse their partners of unfaithfulness, 17.5% of women compared to only 7.4% of men accuse their partners of unfaithfulness most of the time. Whereas, more men (8.8% compared to 4.7% women do not always permit their partners to meet their friends, more women (12.6%) compared to only 3.8% men do not permit their partners to meet their male or female partners most of the time. However, 31.8% of the male respondents compared to 26.2% of the female respondents stated that they never did. More female (12.4%) and 6.5% females said their partners try to limit their contact with their families. Also, more female (12.4%) compared to 5.3% of the male counterparts are most of the time insist on knowing the whereabouts of their partners most of the time.

**Table 5: Distributions of respondents by management approaches of various forms of IPV
N=340**

Forms of violence	Physical violence		Emotional violence		Sexual violence		Degree of marital control	
	M (%)	F (%)	M (%)	F (%)	M (%)	F (%)	M (%)	F (%)
Opted for counseling	2 (0.6)	25 (7.3)	25 (7.4)	46 (13.5)	7 (2.1)	44 (12.9)	32 (9.6)	65 (19.2)
Did nothing	51 (36.7)	146 (43.0)	167 (49.2)	152 (44.7)	36 (10.7)	39 (11.4)	376 (110.6)	276 (81.3)
Reported to police	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (1.2)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Opted for divorce	2 (0.6)	108 (31.8)	12 (3.6)	7 (2.1)	0 (0.0)	57 (16.8)	20 (6.0)	33 (9.8)
Reported to pastor/imam	0 (0.0)	45 (13.4)	0 (0.0)	6 (1.8)	0 (0.0)	15 (4.5)	0 (0.0)	16 (4.8)
Reported to family member	65 (19.1)	167 (49.1)	11 (3.3)	82 (24.0)	9 (2.7)	59 (17.4)	15 (4.5)	82 (24.1)
Others (specify)	0 (0.0)	26 (7.7)	10 (3.0)	26 (7.7)	0 (0.0)	8 (2.4)	0 (0.0)	41 (12.0)

Source: Fieldwork (2017)

Table 5 above presents data on the main management strategies adopted by the respondents. Majority (49.1%) of the female respondents and 19.1% of male said they reported to their family

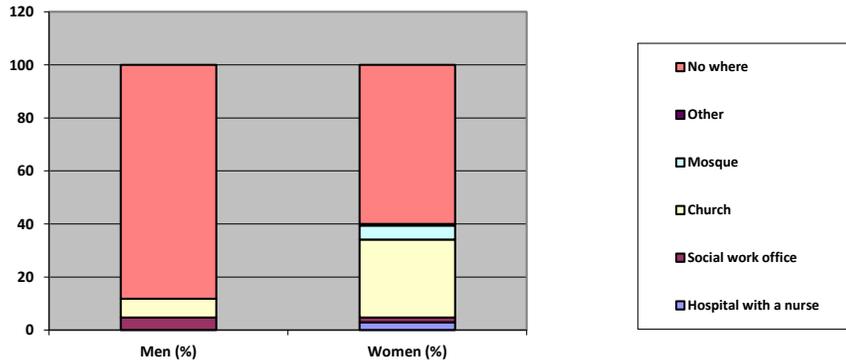


members; 31.8% of women and 0.6% of men stated that they opted for divorce. Whereas 49.2% of male and 44.7% of female victims of emotional violence against them did nothing about it, 24% of their female counterparts reported to family members, 7.4% of such victims said the opted for divorce. While 17.4% of female victims of sexual violence reported to family members or opted for divorce (16.8%), 10.7 of the male victims said that they did nothing about it. Only 2.7% and 2.1% respectively reported to family members and opted for counseling. From the Table below, respondents generally under-report acts of violence. About 12.4% of the respondents that reported acts of physical violence were those that suffered beating by their partner and they reported to their family members, 9.4% of which were women. About 42.4% of respondents who experienced acts of emotional violence did nothing about it, majority of which were men (22.4%). Although emotional abuse is the most common form of intimate partner abuse, yet it is the least under reported. The victims of these acts take no active management approach. About 10% of respondents, 6.5% of which were men who experienced sexual violence did nothing about it.

On the degree of marital control, main form of marital control experienced by respondents was jealousy from their partner when they talk to opposite sex, however, majority (48.5%) of the respondents considered it as a normal thing that should happen between partners and therefore did nothing about it. This is evident from table 2.3. Also, some of the respondents opted for divorce/ended the relationship as a result of multiple experiences of different forms on IPV (6.2%). Most of the respondents who have ever sought for counseling were on the basis of emotional violence (9.1%).

The only set of respondents that ever reported acts of violence to legal authorities (police) did so when they were threatened by their partner (2.1%). The other strategy employed by some of the respondent (4.4%) was discussion with their partner. This approach was used to manage degree marital control majorly.

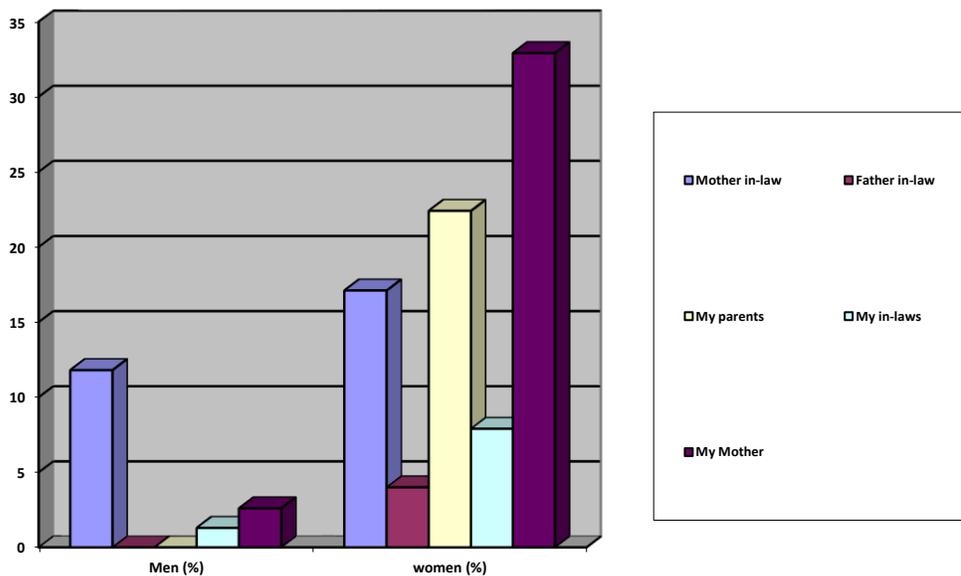
Figure 3: Places where respondents received counseling



Source: Fieldwork (2017)

Figure 3 above shows that the main places where victims of IPV receive counseling. Majority of the male respondents (88.2%) and women (60%) said they had never sought for counseling. About 29.4% of female victims compared to only 7.1% of their male counterparts sought counseling from church. Only 4.7% of the male victims went to Social Work Office for counseling compared to only 1.8% of women. Surprisingly, only 2.9% of the female victims and none of the male counterparts went to hospital with at least a nurse. The above finding implies that most of IPV cases in Nigeria are under-reported.

Figure 4: Family members' respondents reported



Source: Fieldwork (2017)

Respondents were further asked who the report each time their partners violate them. Figure 4 indicates that 22.4% of female victims indicated that they reported to their parents while others (17.1%) said they report the cases if IPV to their mother in-laws. While 11.8% of male victims reported such incidence to their mother in-laws, 35.5% of the respondents who have reported any form of intimate partner violent acts reported to their mother.

Table 6 Distribution of respondents by perceived effectiveness of the management approaches N=340

	Very effective (%)			Effective (%)			Fairly effective (%)			Not effective (%)		
	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T	M	F	T
Opted for counseling	13 (18.1)	22 (30.6)	35 (48.6)		20 (27.8)	20 (27.8)		10 (13.9)	10 (13.9)	7 (9.7)		7 (9.7)
Did not do anything	11 (5.6)	14 (7.1)	25 (12.8)	37 (18.9)	27 (13.8)	64 (32.7)	47 (24.0)	30 (15.3)	77 (39.3)	5 (2.6)	25 (12.8)	30 (15.3)
Reported to the police	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	2 (33.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	4 (66.7)	4 (66.7)
Opted for divorce/ ended the relationship	4 (17.4)	19 (82.6)	23 (100.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Reported to pastor/imam	0 (0.0)	10 (28.6)	10 (28.6)	0 (0.0)	19 (54.3)	19 (54.3)	0 (0.0)	6 (17.1)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)
Reported to family member	1 (1.4)	9 (12.9)	10 (14.3)	7 (10.0)	19 (27.1)	26 (37.1)	5 (7.1)	23 (32.9)	28 (40.0)	6 (8.6)	0 (0.0)	6 (8.6)
Others	5 (17.9)	12 (42.9)	17 (60.7)	0 (0.0)	4 (14.3)	4 (14.3)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	0 (0.0)	7 (25.0)	7 (25.0)

Source: Fieldwork (2017)

Respondents were further asked their perception about the effectiveness of their management approaches. As indicated in Table above, 82.6% of the female victims who opted for divorced said doing so was very effective compared to 17.4% men. For 54.3% of male and female victims respectively reporting to pastor was effect for them while reporting to family members was reported fairly effective (32.9% for women and 7.1% for men. However, majority (66.7% of male and 66.7% of female victims) stated reporting to the police has no effect on the management of their approaches. Close to half (48.6%) of respondents who has sought for counseling on IPV considered it very effective in the management of IPV while 9.7% considered it not effective. Majority (39.3%) of the respondents who didn't do anything when they experienced any form of violence considered it fairly effective while 15.3% considered it not effective. 100% of the respondents who opted for divorce/ended the relationship considered the approach very effective. 82.9% of the respondents, (all of which were women) who reported any form of violence to their pastor/imam considered it effective; 28.6 % considered it very effective, while 54.3% considered it effective) while 17.1% considered it fairly effective. 91.4% of the respondents (majority of which were women (72.9)) who have reported to any family member considered this approach generally effective while 8.6%, all of which were men, considered it not effective. About 75% of respondents who used other approach in managing IPV considered the method generally effective while 25% considered it not effective, this other approach used by the respondent was discussion between partners.

DISCUSSION

This paper examined the experiences and management of intimate partner violence among men and women residents of communities in Egbedore Local Government Area, Osun State. Specifically, this study assessed the level of knowledge of respondents on IPV; explore their experiences of various forms of IPV the various management strategies adopted by the



respondents and perceived effectiveness of such management strategies. The study showed that the respondents have good knowledge on what constitutes intimate partner violence and that both males and females are victims of IPV in the study area. Majority of the respondents agreed that men are not just only the perpetrators of intimate partner violence but that they are also victims. The main form of physical violence experienced by respondents was slapping. Majority of those who experienced this form of violence are women. This is followed by pushing, shaking, throwing objects, kicking, dragging, and beating. This finding corroborates a report Nigeria Demographic Health Survey (NDHS, 2013) that the common forms of IPV were slapping, pushing, shaking, and throwing something at the victims kicking, dragging, or beating them up.

Another form of IPV identified by the respondents was emotional violence. This included insult and making partner feel bad about him/herself. Majority of those who experienced emotional violence were women. The respondents mentioned the followings as the types of emotional violence they received from their partners: humiliation in presence of other people, any form of threat. This result shows that more women experienced emotional violence than their male counterparts. This finding was also in tandem with the report (NDHS, 2013) that the commonest form of emotional spousal violence is when a male partner insults or makes his female partner feels bad about herself, followed by humiliating her in front of others and threatening to harm her.

Even though emotional abuse is the most common form of intimate partner abuse, in the study area, it was the most under reported. It is therefore not astonishing that the victims of this form of violence take no active management approach. The study on violence against men also showed that although verbal abuse is the commonest form of IPV compared to physical and sexual forms violence, more than 60% of the victims of such violence did not report the incident (NDHS, 2013). The study revealed that the main form of sexual violence experienced was partner physically forcing his partner to have sexual intercourse with him against the partner's consent. Majority of the victims who experienced sexual violence were women. This is because in the study area, women are considered as property bought with some money (Aluko, 2015) and as such the owner of the property may decide to do whatever he likes with the property. It is therefore not surprising that rape or sexual violence in marriage or intimate relationship is seen by the society as a normal practice. However, majority of the respondents agreed that any form of IPV should be reported to family member, majority of them were women (see Table 5). Majority of the male respondents were also of the opinion that no form of IPV should be reported to legal authorities (police). Furthermore, majority of the male respondents affirmed that no form of IPV should be reported to religious organization (church/mosque). These findings were linked to the patriarchal nature of the study area. This result showed that men were less likely to report any acts of intimate partner violence for which they are victims due to shame or fear of being stigmatized in the community. Majority of the female respondents disagreed with the fact that no act of violence should be reported. This implies that women are more likely to report or seek for help when they are violated by partners than their male partners. This result is in agreement with the report that men generally under-report intimate partner violence in which they are victims (Abodunrin, Odu, Olugbenga-Bello, Bamidele & Adebimpe, 2014). Thus, the few report of intimate violence against male partners reported in the study area are attributable to the fact that men are reluctant to acknowledge victimization while others do not see it as a crime but rather as shame and insult on man's masculinity (Abodunrin, *et al*, 2014).

Generally, the management of intimate partner violence, and experiences of intimate partner's violence were underreported. For instance, the study found that majority of the respondents who have ever experienced physical or sexual violence neither did nothing about it nor sought help from law enforcement agencies. It was therefore not surprising that majority of the female partners who were victims of physical violence only resorted reporting such incidence to their family

members. This result supports the report that more than 45% of women who have experienced any type of physical or sexual violence have never sought help and never told anyone about the violence except their family members (Eboiyehi & Muoghalu, 2017). Only few of women in Nigeria who have ever experienced any form of physical or sexual violence have sought help from any source. The report also shows that women who have experienced only sexual violence are more likely not to have sought help than women who have experienced only physical violence.

Qualitative studies have confirmed that most abused women are not passive victims but adopt active strategies to maximize their safety (WHO, 2013). This is also evident from the Table 7 that women tend to adopt active strategy to manage violence than men. Despite all barriers, some abused women eventually do leave their partners, often after multiple attempts and years of violence. This is also evident in this study as some women who were victims of violence ended the relationship with their partners. Majority of the respondents (mainly female respondents) who ever reached out to their own family members did so to their mothers. This result corroborates the report that the majority of women who had experienced physical or sexual violence sought help from their family (NDHS, 2013). The only set of respondents that ever reported acts of violence to legal authorities (police) did so only when their intimate partners threatened their lives otherwise they would not report. This is in agreement with the report that only a minority of the victims ever contact the police while majority reached out to their family members and friends rather than to institutions (Kelly & Johnson, 2008).

Gender inequality and discrimination are root causes of violence against women, influenced by the historical and structural power imbalances between women and men which exist in varying degrees across all communities in the world. Violence against women and girls is related to their lack of power and control, as well as to the social norms that prescribe men and women's roles in society and condone abuse. Inequalities between men and women cut across public and private spheres of life, and across social, economic, cultural, and political rights; and are manifested in restrictions and limitations on women's freedoms, choices and opportunities. These inequalities can increase women's and girls' risks of abuse, violent relationships and exploitation, for example, due to economic dependency and limited survival and income-earning options, or discrimination under the law as it relates to marriage, divorce, and child custody rights.

Conclusion

The study concluded that though women are the main victims of IPV and experience more chronic and injurious assaults from their intimate partners, it has also argued that men have their share of the adverse consequences of IPV as many women in the study area are now turning the table against them. Based on the findings of this study, the following suggestions are offered:

- Public enlightenment as well as advocacy by governmental and non-governmental organizations are necessary strategies to improve report and control this menace in the society. Education and public enlightenment on IPV via media and other means need to be intensified.
- Stigmatization associated with experiences of intimate partner violence should be discouraged. In other words, men should be encouraged to make formal report on violence especially when injuries are sustained either physically or otherwise.
- The public health providers must lead further researches in this field which may provide approaches to develop interventions including enactment of law.
- Various factors influencing the choice of various management approaches should be looked into in future research.



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