

Upsurge in Intimate Partner Violence: Misconceptions of Gender Equality in Nigeria

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Abstract--- Conscientious advocacy of women's rights has been at the centre of gender discourse since Beijing's Women Declaration in 1996. After the Beijing Declaration, women's status has undoubtedly improved globally. Notwithstanding the sensitization to women's rights has continued unabated, worldwide, the magnitude of intimate-partner violence (IPV) remains high. On a daily basis, in Nigeria's print-media, there are various shocking reported-cases of IPV; e.g., homicide of an intimate-partner by another, stabbing with dangerous weapons, rape, aggravated assaults, etc. Survey of various print-media is used to gather information on reported cases of IPV and In-depth Interviews (IDIs) were conducted with 30 respondents who have experienced IPV for comparison, through snowballing technique, to complement the reported media generated data. The major finding is that IPV affects victims and entire families, particularly children. IPV results, mostly, from conflicts about finances, lack of trust, heavy alcohol-consumption, infidelity, etc. Men, most frequently, use it to resolve crisis from male-identity or inability to control women due to gross misunderstanding of gender-equality. The study suggests preventive interventions to further improving the status of women, especially in relation to poverty, and seriously attenuating the overarching cultural beliefs in patriarchy, violence in settling disputes, and heavy alcohol-consumption while providing education about wholesome family-life in consonance with the tenets of equity and gender equality.

Key word--- Women's-Right; Intimate-Partner; Gender-Equality; Family-Life; Cultural-Expectations.

I. INTRODUCTION

Life in society and family requires a reasonable degree of behavioural sort for peaceful co-existence. Human behavior is multifaceted and many-sided but by performing the roles that go with the statuses and by obeying most of the norms of the society and family, individuals ensure that both the social and family systems work orderly (WHO, 2002; Benebo, Schumann, Vaezghasemi, 2018). But most individuals do not tag along, most of the laws and norms neither in society nor in the family and cause violence towards others, specifically women. (WHO, 2002; WHO, 2013). Violence against women is present not only in the larger families of one specific society but in all families of all types. There is barely any family that is not confronted with the problem of domestic violence against women. The acts however, which characterize violence are not the same everywhere as its manifestation and attending attitudes differ from culture to culture, society to society and family to family, but everywhere and always, there have been men who have behaved in such a way as to draw upon themselves much opprobrium (Kelly, H. Delo, 1979). The terms "domestic violence" and "intimate partner violence" (IPV) are used interchangeably to define violence or abuse between people who are in intimate relationships. The World Health Organization (WHO, 2013) defines IPV as any behavior within an intimate relationship by an intimate

partner that causes physical, psychological, or sexual harm to those in the relationship. It is one of the most common types of violence experienced by women (Perry and Perry, 1991; Delos, 1979). Most reported cases of IPV are perpetrated by men towards women (Perry and Perry, 1991); although men can be victims of IPV. Tjaden and Thoennes (2000) reported, in a national survey, that 835,000 men have reported to have been victims of domestic violence. And that domestic violence against men can take many forms, including emotional, sexual and physical abuse and threats of abuse. It can happen in heterosexual or same sex relationships. As with many forms of abuse, the cases are likely under reported due to misunderstanding of the definition of domestic violence and the shame that men may feel in identifying themselves as abuse survivors.

II. STATEMENT OF THE PROBLEM

Conscientious advocacy of women's rights has been at the centre of gender discourse since Beijing's Women Declaration in 1996. After the Beijing Declaration, women's status has undoubtedly improved globally. Notwithstanding, the sensitization to women's rights has continued unabated, worldwide, while the magnitude of intimate-partner violence (IPV) remains high. On a daily basis, in Nigeria's print-media, there are various shocking reported-cases of IPV; e.g., homicide of an intimate-partner by another, stabbing with dangerous weapons, rape, aggravated assaults,

etc. Globally, over a third (35%) of women have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their lives (WHO, 2013; NPC, 2014). A WHO report on global and regional estimates of violence against women found that the global lifetime prevalence of IPV among ever-partnered women was 30%, and, for Africa, 37% (WHO, 2013). Reports from the Nigerian National Population Commission estimated women's lifetime exposure to IPV from their current husbands or partners at 19% for emotional IPV, 14% for physical IPV, and 5% for sexual IPV (NPC, 2014; Mapayi, Makanjuola, Mosaku, Adewuya, Afolabi and Aloba, 2013). Previous studies from Nigeria have shown the prevalence of IPV to range from 31% to 61% for psychological/emotional violence, 20% to 31% for sexual violence, and 7% to 31% for physical violence (Mapayi, Makanjuola, Mosaku, Adewuya, Afolabi and Aloba, 2013). Furthermore, studies conducted in different regions in Nigeria have reported prevalence of IPV ranging from 42% in the North (Tanimu, Yohanna, Omeiza, 2016), 29% in the South-West (Okenwa, Lawoko, Jansson, 2009), 78.8% South-East (Okemgbo, Omideyi, Odimegwu, 2002) to 41% in the South-South (Dienye, Gbeneol, Itimi, 2014). Distressingly, Domestic and Sexual Violence Response Team (DSVTRT), in Lagos State alone, handled 1,044 cases in 2017. Instead of it crashing, the cases shot up to 2,356 in 2018 (Punch, 2016; Owolabi, 2019). The question that puzzled every one, whether sociologist, criminologist, or law maintenance officer, and the public alike is what causes violent, abusive, and cruel conflicts among partners who once have been living endearingly together as couples? Research on intimate partner violence against women has exploded in the past 20 years, but despite this increase in research-evidence, many gaps still exist in the understanding of domestic violence. Therefore this research seeks to look at the misconception of gender equality in relation to the increase in intimate partner violence.

III. LITERATURE REVIEW

Types of Domestic Violence.

Berry, (2000) gave the following as examples of domestic violence:

- i. *Intimidation or Emotional abuse:* Emotional abuse which is also called psychological abuse or mental abuse includes behaviors that make the person feel diminished or embarrassed. Emotional abuse can include verbal abuse and is defined as any behavior that threatens, intimidates, undermines the victim's self-worth or self-esteem, or controls the victim's freedom (Follingstad, and DeHart, 2000). This can include threatening the victim of Domestic Violence with injury or harm, telling the victim that they will be killed if they ever leave the relationship, and public humiliation. Abusers will often employ criticism and fault-finding, which may be a precursor to physical violence, but may also accompany it. This may also include withholding money or affection as a means of controlling the other person, threatening abandonment, hurting or threatening children or pets, or isolating the person from friends and family. Threats of various kinds of violence even if they are not carried out; they are considered a type of intimidation.
- ii. *Economic or financial Abuse:* Abusive partners may use access to money as a means of control. Economic or financial abuse includes: withholding money or credit cards, withholding basic necessities i.e. food, clothes, medications, and shelter, sabotaging the person's job i.e. making partners miss work or calling constantly, stealing from them or forcefully taking money.
- iii. *Physical violence* comprises of any behaviors that injure the other person or to cause physical pain. Physical abuse can also include behaviors such as denying the person needed medical care, depriving the person of sleep or other functions necessary to live, or forcing the victim to engage in drug/alcohol use against his/her will.
- iv. *Sexual abuse/sexual assault:* This is any situation in which force or threat is used to obtain participation in unwanted sexual activity and often includes marital rape. Sexual abuse may involve a wide range of behaviors. The essential element here is that the behavior is non-consensual or makes the other person feel demeaned or violated. Examples of sexual abuse/assault are: rape, forcing someone to perform sexual acts that he/she finds unpleasant, forcing someone to have sex with others or watch others, forcing someone into reproductive decisions.
- v. *Pet abuse:* It includes situations in which victims are forced to witness violence against beloved animals especially the victims. This can be a form of intimidation, or a way to force victims to remain in the relationship or a form of emotional abuse.
- vi. *Spiritual abuse:* It includes using a victims' religious or spiritual beliefs to manipulate, dominate or control her/him. It may also include preventing a victim from engaging in spiritual or religious practices, ridiculing victim's beliefs or using victim's beliefs as a way to, somehow, justify the abuse itself.
- vii. *Stalking:* It can be defined as the willful and repeated following, watching and/or harassing of another person. While stalking does not always occur within an intimate partner relationship, it has become an area of

increasing concern in the domestic violence literature, although still an area of emerging research.

Causes of Gender Based Violence

The unequal status of men and women is the primary cause of gender-based violence. This inequality includes beliefs that women should be economically dependent on men and those women and children are a man's possessions and under his control (Benebo, Schumann, Vaezghasemi, 2018). Furthermore, studies have identified other factors that are protective against or put women at risk of IPV. Some of these factors include age, employment, educational attainment, witnessing mother being beaten during childhood, family type, duration of union, participation in household decision-making, partner's alcohol use, partner's employment status relative to a woman's, level of educational differences between the partner and woman, attitudes towards wife-beating among men and women, male's right to discipline or control female behavior, among others (Kishor and Johnson, 2004; Hindin, Kishor, Ansara, 2008; Antai, 2011, Gage and Thomas, 2017; Oyediran and Feyisetan, 2017).

Over and above personal-level factors, contextual factors such as gender-related sociocultural norms at the community level may play a significant role in influencing the risk of IPV (Boyle, Georgiades, Cullen, Racine, 2009; Heise, 2011; Heise, 2012). The norms are often shared expectations of how men and women should behave, and they are highly influential in shaping individual behaviour (Paluck, Ball, Poynton, Sieloff, 2010; WHO, 2010). Deviations from the expected behaviours can attract shaming, sanctions, or disapproval by others (Hindin, Kishor, Ansara, 2008; Paluck, Ball, Poynton, Sieloff, 2010). Examples include norms stipulating that men have the right to correct or discipline their wives and to control wives behavior (Go VF, Johnson, Bentley, Sivaram, AK S, et al., 2003; Adegoke and Oladeji, 2008; USAID, 2017). This is seen in data from many countries, also showing both men and women justifying wife-beating under certain circumstances (Rani, Bonu and Diop-Sidibe, 2004; García-Moreno, Jansen, Ellsberg, Heise, Watts, 2005; Oyediran and Isiugo-Abanihe, 2005, Uthman, Lawoko and Moradi, 2009). Although justification of wife-beating is highly predictive of IPV, men's attitudes may be a stronger predictor than women's attitudes (Hindin, Kishor, Ansara, 2008; Schuler and Islam, 2008). Regressive community norms about women's status and roles may not only influence the likelihood of IPV but may also reverse or mute the relationship between women's status and IPV (Sugarman and Frankel, 1996). In Nigeria, permissive social norms such as husband's right to beat his wife, at the local level appeared to significantly increase the odds of spousal

violence (Linus, Slopen, Subramanian, Berkman, 2013). Recently, another study in Nigeria showed that women's engagement in cash work was positively associated with physical and sexual IPV victimisation. Residing in localities with greater male approval of wife-beating increased the positive association between engagement in cash work and IPV (Gage AJ, Thomas NJ, 2017). In one Indian study, the protective effect of higher education against IPV was muted in communities that approved of IPV (Boyle MH, Georgiades K, Cullen J, Racine Y, 2009).

Gender Equality and IPV

Women's status is a multi-dimensional trend and it varies between societies and social locations such as household, neighborhood, community and the larger society. Factors that may enhance women's status in one context may be detrimental in another (Mason, 1986; Malhotra, Schuler, Boender, 2002). Some terms and concepts that have been used in the literature to assess women's status include female autonomy, women empowerment, access to and control of resources, women's situation relative to men, agency i.e. control over their lives, environment etc., women's human rights and gender equality (Dyson and Moore, 1983; Mason, 1986; Selvaratnam, 1988; Malhotra, Schuler, Boender, 2002; USAID, 2017, Ahoopatel, 2020). There is no standard definition or measure of women's status, however, common latent terms that can be implied from the discourse of women's status are option, power, choice, control (Mason, 1986; Malhotra, Schuler, Boender, 2002). The United Nations Commission on the Status of Women defines 'women's status' as the legal, economic, political, and social conditions of women and their relationship to society (UN Women, 2017), while empowerment is a related term focusing on women's degree of control over their own lives and environments and over the lives of those in their care, such as their children (USAID, 2017). Gender inequality in varying degrees and in different spheres of life feeds directly into the status accorded to women in society. Thus, empowering women can foster gender equality, eventually improving their status (UNFPA, 1994; USAID, 2017). Women's status has evolved to include specific rights of women since the adoption of the United Nations Convention on Elimination of all Forms of Violence against Women (CEDAW) (United Nations General Assembly, 1979; UN Women, 2017). The terms, concepts and definitions of women's status in the literature imply the various dimensions of women's status, composed of several different and often interdependent variables (Selvaratnam, 1988; UN Women, 2017).

Effects of IPV

i. **Effect on Children:** There has been an increase in acknowledging that a child who is exposed to domestic abuse during his/her upbringing can suffer in their development and psychological welfare (Dodd, 2009; Fareo, 2015). Some emotional and behavioural problems that can result due to domestic violence include increased aggressiveness, anxiety, and changes in how a child socializes with friends, family, and authorities. Problems with attitudes and cognition in schools can start developing, along with a lack of skills such as problem-solving. Significant correlation has been found between the experience of abuse and neglect in childhood and perpetrating domestic violence and sexual abuse in adulthood (Sadeler, 1994). Additionally, in some cases, the abuser purposely abuses the mother in front of the child(ren) to cause a ripple effect, hurting two victims simultaneously. It has been found that children who witness mother-assault are more likely to exhibit symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) (Lehmann, 1995).

ii. **Physical Effect:** Bruises, broken bones, head injuries, lacerations and internal bleeding are some of the acute effects of a domestic violence incident that may require medical attention and hospitalization (Jones, 1997). Some chronic health conditions that have been linked to victims of domestic violence are arthritis and irritable bowel syndrome (Berrios, 1991). Victims who are pregnant in a violent relationship experience greater risk of miscarriage, pre-term labour, and injury to or death of the fetus (Jones, 1997; Fareo, 2015).

iii. **Psychological Effect:** Among victims who are still living with their perpetrators, high amounts of stress, fear and anxiety are commonly reported. Depression is also common, as victims are made to feel guilty for 'provoking' the abuse and are frequently subjected to intense criticism. It is reported that 60% of victims meet the diagnostic criteria for depression, either during or after termination of the relationship, and have a greatly increased risk of suicidality (Barnett, 2001). The most commonly referenced psychological effect of domestic violence is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). According to Vitanza, Vogal and Marshall (1995), PTSD, as experienced by victims, is characterized by flashbacks, intrusive images, exaggerated startle response, nightmares, and avoidance of triggers that are associated with the abuse. These symptoms are generally experienced for a long span of time after the victim has left the dangerous situation. Many researchers state that PTSD is possibly the best diagnosis for those suffering from the psychological effects of domestic violence, as it accounts for a high variety of symptoms commonly experienced by victims of trauma.

iv. **Financial Effect:** Once victims leave the perpetrators,

they can be stunned with the reality of the extent to which the abuse has taken away their autonomy. Due to economic abuse and isolation, the victims usually have very little money of their own and few people on whom they can rely when seeking help. This has been shown to be one of the greatest obstacles facing victims of domestic violence, and the strongest fact that can discourage them from leaving their perpetrators (Stop Violence against Women, 2010; Fareo, 2015). In addition to lacking financial resources, victims of domestic violence often lack specialized skills, formal education, and training that are necessary to find gainful employment, and also may have several children to support.

v. **Long-term Effect:** Domestic violence can trigger many different responses in victims, all of which are very relevant for a professional working with a victim. Major consequences of domestic violence victimization include psychological/mental health issues and chronic physical health problems. A victim's overwhelming lack of resources can lead to homelessness and poverty. IPV can result in significant mental health distress for victims. Victims can experience high rates of clinical depression, anxiety, and post traumatic stress disorder (Lehmann, 1995; Hussain, R. Loxton, D. and Rahman, S, 2013).

Methods of Data Collection

Survey of various print-media is used to gather information on reported cases of IPV were reviewed and summarized in content. While In-depth Interviews (IDIs) were also conducted with 30 respondents who have experienced IPV for comparison, through a snowballing technique, to complement the reported media generated data. The purposive selection of the respondents cut across various educational background and occupations. The age of the selected respondents ranges from 25 year to 65 years in both male and female gender.

Data generated from the in-depth interviews were transcribed and reported in content analysis form.

IV. FINDINGS
Newspaper Reports on Intimate Partner Violence

a. **In 2011, a shocking incident of spousal abuse that hogged the headlines was a case of Akolade Arowolo who was sentenced to death by hanging by a Lagos High Court for killing his wife, Titilayo, in their matrimonial home in Lagos. The prosecution testified that Akolade, who was said to have frequently abused his wife, stabbed her 76 times on the day she died.**(<https://punchng.com/reining-in-domestic-violence-in-lagos/>)

b. **In 2016, Ronke Shonde, 36, was allegedly pummeled to death by her husband. The mother of**

two was reported to have endured repeated battering in their home at Egbeda, Lagos, before her death.

- c. Deborah Akide, a 25 years old house wife, was reported for battling with her life at the Obafemi Awolowo University Teaching Hospital Ile-Ife, where she was rushed to for treatment after her husband reportedly poured hot water on her over allegation of infidelity. The woman's 27-year-old husband, Akinde Adeniyi, allegedly carried out the act at their Oke-Owu area of Osun State, Nigeria(Abubakar, 2019).
- d. Joshua Terkaa-Uhir, 33-year-old allegedly massacred his wife, Lucy, in Gboko Benue State on 21st August, 2017, with an axe after accusing her of infidelity. The couple were said to be married for six years with three children (*Sunday Punch*, 2017).
- e. On the same day, in Oto-Awori area of Lagos State, Folashade Idoko reportedly stabbed her husband, Lawrence, to death with a knife after the latter allegedly received a telephone call from a suspected female lover at their home. The couple were said to have been married for four years with two kids (*Sunday Punch*, 2017).
- f. Similarly, Mr. Sunday Akpan of Eda Street, Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, killed his wife, Martha Akpan. He was said to have also dumped her remains in a rubbish dump after his evil act. The Akwa Ibom Police Public Relations Officer, DSP Bala Elkana, disclosed this in a statement, adding that investigation revealed that the incident occurred on 11th October, 2017 (*Sunday Punch*, 2017).
- g. In January, 7, 2019, Jones Okweshine, 33-year-old, was charged in an Ikeja Magistrates' Court, Lagos, for wife battering and lack of care for his wife.
- h. A 73 year-old woman, Mrs Rose Uwaga, was arrested by Abia State Police command for allegedly strangling her 83-year-old husband, Alhaji Isa Uwaga, to death in Umahia. It was gathered that the two aged couple had a disagreement, which degenerated into fisticuffs at their residence in Ohobo-Afara Umuahia. According to an eye-witness account, during the fight, the man allegedly grabbed a machete to scare the wife who overpowered him. The machete fell from the man's hand and the woman who is huge, pinned him down by the neck and strangled him to death (*Vanguard*, 10th July, 2020)
<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2020/07/domestic-violence-police-arrest-woman-for-allegedly-killing-husband-in-abia/>
- i. A 60-year-old, Rafiu Irawo, allegedly beat his wife to death over allegation of infidelity with some customers patronizing her shop which the woman said to have denied, but the man also died few minutes after his arrest (Abubakar, 2019)
<https://www.vanguardngr.com/2019/10/man-died-after-allegedly-beating-wife-to-death-in-osun/>
- j. 11. Kanu Bernand in March, 2017, purportedly shot his lover, Solape Oladipupo, 21- year-old in the neck at a close range at her Corporal and Below Quarter, Compound 99, Air Force Base, Markurdi, Benue State on the suspicion that she was having romantic affairs with another man. This eventually led to her death.
- k. Mr Olaoluwa Adejo, a 32-year-old a bank worker from Lagos State was accused of beating his wife Maureen, a 28-year-old, with belt, injured her with a machete and forced her to consume a local insecticide that led to her death at their home on Peluola Street, in Bariga area of the State.
- l. Yetunde Oyediran, a worker with the Department of Public Prosecution in the Oyo State Ministry of Justice, was accused of killing her husband with a knife after a disagreement on 2nd February, 2016, at their residence in the Akobo area of Ibadan. She allegedly accused her France-base husband of infidelity.
- m. On November 18, 2017, Maryam Sanda, the daughter of the embattled former Aso Savings Bank boss, Hajia Maimuna Aliyu, allegedly stabbed her husband Bilyamin Bello the son of a former Chairman of the Peoples Democratic Party, Haliru Bello to death. The attack, it was gathered, resulted from an allegation of infidelity against Bilyamin by his wife after she saw a text message on his phone. According to reports, Maryam stabbed her husband in the neck and chest while he slept in the bedroom at their home in Maitama, Abuja. (Eniola, 2017).
- n. While Nigerians were celebrating Christmas in their homes, a retired boxer, identified only as Everitus, resumed training using his wife, Fidelia, as a sparring partner. According to the Police, the ex-boxer attacked his wife during a disagreement at their home in Uli, in the Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State and beat her to death. The Police, in Anambra State have launched a manhunt for him. Fidelia, a trader, had demanded money for Christmas shopping from the husband when an argument ensued between them.
- o. Queen Beatrice, on Wednesday, February 17, 2021, was arrested by the Ondo State Police Command for allegedly killing her husband, Emmanuel Ikujuni, at Omotosho town, in Okitipupa, local council of the state. According to eye witness report, the woman hit the head of the deceased with a plank following an argument that ensued between them because the deceased spoke with another woman on phone in her

presence. The deceased was said to have collapsed after his wife hit him with the plank. His neighbours rushed him to a nearby hospital, where he was confirmed dead (Agbedo, O., Anazia, D. Awodipe, T., Thomas-Odia, I. and Diamond, M, 2021)

- p. Also on the same Wednesday, February 17, 2021 in Lagos State, the police arrested David Idibie for the death of his 42-year-old wife, Juliana Idibie, who was found dead in their apartment at their home at Joado Street, Oke Ira Nla, Ajah Area of Lagos State on Tuesday. It was gathered that the deceased had engaged the suspect in a hot argument on certain matrimonial issues and in the process, she slumped and sustained a severe head injury. While lying in the pool of her blood, the angry husband refused to rescue her until she gave up the ghost (Agbedo, O., Anazia, D. Awodipe, T., Thomas-Odia, I. and Diamond, M, 2021).

V. IN-DEPTH INTERVIEWS (IDI)

In one of the in-depth interview conducted, Dr. 'E', a Lecturer in the Department of Psychology at a Nigerian university, said "couples who kill their partners are usually men and women who come from or were raised in violent or troubled homes where aggression was the norm while growing up and that they subconsciously learn aggressive behaviours and people with low self-esteem tend to use aggression as a "defence mechanism" for their weakness".

In another IDI conducted, Mrs 'AD' 45 year-old teacher confirmed that the trouble does not start overnight. It usually starts with emotional abuse; from verbal abuse to threats, intimidations, gradually to injury or harm that other partner could not accommodate much longer".

Mrs 'AY', a 55 year-old claimed during the interview that "tension normally builds anger, follows by arguing, then blaming to verbal abuse. If not controlled, it may lead to hitting, slapping, kicking, choking, use of objects or weapons, sexual abuse, verbal threats and abuse and so on".

Another respondent, Mr 'KM', a 60 year-old mechanic, reiterated "that the major causes of IPV results from conflicts about finances, lack of trust, heavy alcohol-consumption, infidelity, sexual responsibilities, comparing your spouse with another person, disrespect etc".

While Mr 'WO' 62 year-old, School principal "insisted in before the advocacy for women emancipation and gender equality became prominent, women use to respect their husbands, but since the inception of this gender equality thing, most women have become disobedient and arrogant for their husbands to control and that if you don't put them in their places, through physical discipline, they would want to usurp your position as the head of the home".

In another interview, Mr. 'HB', a 57 year-old Pastor,

explained "men are quite in nature, and women are talk-active by nature, immediately a woman begins to talk carelessly to her husband or behave in an abnormal way that calls for suspicion, men normally feel threatened, and it may result to physical discipline as a result of lost of 'respect'. So, he claimed that physical abuse from men is often the response from emotional abuse from women". And that IPV results, most frequently with men using it to resolve crisis from male-identity or inability to control women due to gross misunderstanding of gender-equality". Another, female respondent Mrs. 'ID', a 36 year-old business woman, reacted "some men are beasts; they react irrationally when they realize that their wives are becoming successful, when the woman reacts to this irrational behavior, the man thinks she is reacting because she is equating herself to himself".

In another interview Mr. 'DY', a 62 retired teacher said "men use to be sole breadwinners while women are expected to be home-makers, to care for the children, and to be economically dependent on the men. But now changes have occurred in the traditional gender order and roles, which are mostly responsible for increase in IPV, especially in patriarchal societies. For example, if a wife disobeys or challenges her husband or does not play her gendered role, the husband may resort to violence to discipline her. He does this to put her in her place and to maintain his power and control".

Mr. 'TH,' a 47 year old medical doctor, claimed "inherent in every man is a beast and king. If you treat your man like a king, he will treat you like a queen, and if chose to torment him he will bring out the beast in him, that women should learn to give their husbands adequate respect despite their positions in life".

Summarizing the responses from many respondents, it was observed that," most women have lost respect for their husbands, because of the misconception from gender equality and women emancipation, and the gender equality stuff should be properly defined, and that if it's not properly defined it will destroy the family institution". Conclusively, that gender equality is the ability and liberation for women to have equal rights in governance and not to dominate in marriage. And IPV results, mostly from men who frequently use it to resolve crisis from male-identity or inability to control women due to gross misunderstanding of gender-equality".

All the respondents during the interview- sessions agreed that IPV has negative physical and psychological effects on the victims and entire families, particularly the children.

VI. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

The paper concludes that despite conscientious advocacy of women's rights since Beijing's Women Declaration in 1996,

women's status has undoubtedly improved globally. And notwithstanding that sensitization to women's rights has continued unabated, worldwide, with the magnitude of IPV quite high.

The major finding is that IPV affects victims and entire families, particularly the children. IPV results, mostly, from conflicts about finances, lack of trust, heavy alcohol-consumption, infidelity, etc. Men, most frequently, use it to resolve crisis from male-identity or inability to control women due to gross the misunderstanding of gender-equality. The study recommends that preventive interventions to further improving the status of women, especially in relation to poverty, and seriously attenuating the over-arching cultural beliefs in patriarchy, violence in settling disputes, and heavy alcohol-consumption. Religious places should intensify their preaching against domestic violence. And formal education about wholesome family-life, in consonance with the tenets of equity and gender equality should be widely provided.

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