



CAUSES, EFFECTS AND MANAGEMENT OF DOMESTIC CRIMES AGAINST WOMEN: A STUDY OF SAMPLED FAMILIES IN FCT ABUJA, NIGERIA

¹Jacob Eneji Ashibi, ²Ameh, Ugbedeoj Emmanuel, ³Ocheja Akojii, ⁴Egodo, Helen Agan

¹Department of Criminology and Security Studies, National Open University of Nigeria eashibi@noun.edu.ng ²Department of Department of Peace Studies & Conflict Resolution, National Open University of Nigeria omaiyeameh@gmail.com ³Department of Criminology and Security Studies, National Open University of Nigeria, aocheja@noun.edu.ng ⁴Department of Criminology and Security Studies, National Open University of Nigeria hegodo@noun.edu.ng

Abstract

Despite frantic efforts to curtail the menace, domestic crimes remain prevalent especially among women in the society. This study examines the causes, effects and management of domestic crimes against women in the FCT, Abuja, Nigeria. It aims at unravelling the causes, effects and management of domestic crimes as its primary objective. The qualitative research design was adopted for the study, where the survey method consisting of thirty item questionnaire was utilised to elicit vital information from the respondents. The stratified simple random sampling technique was employed in the administration of a total of 390 questionnaires to a few select families. Data obtained from the field were analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS). Findings from the study revealed that sexual, physical, psychological, emotional and economic abuses are among the types of domestic crimes prevalent in the Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Furthermore, revelation of concealed premarital history by spouse, decision on whether or not a wife should work and the type and place of work she could be allowed, women's infertility, women's claim to equality with husbands, infidelity and inability to satisfy partner were identified as some of the causes of domestic crimes against women. The study also revealed that disruption of existing social and internal harmony, breeding of broken homes and divorce; are some of the adverse effects of domestic crimes against women. Premised on these findings, the study recommends that all forms of domestic crimes especially against women and children be criminalised to deter potential offenders; Government should institute mechanisms for safe and secured reportage of incidences of domestic crimes; and adequate counselling and rehabilitation of victims of domestic crimes should be given priority by the state authority.

Keywords: Causes, Effects, Domestic Crimes, Management.

Introduction

Life is encumbered by different challenges and living among fellow human beings has continued to be imbued with crime to the extent that it has been termed an essential tool for living. There can be no cordial living without domestic violence as a form of crime, and it should not be seen as vices of evil but should be leveraged for better coexistence and living. Our fundamental human rights should be respected by all and sundry, respect and dignity of each other must not be crushed in the discourse of domestic violence as we keep relating to each other through different platforms of human relationship. Lefevre & Judge

(2010) opined that domestic violence is as old as the family institution and it exists in many spheres of life. It is a process that begins when one party or group perceives that another party or group has negatively affected, or is about to negatively affects something that the first party cares about.

Crime is a dysfunctional outcome that threatens social harmony, peaceful co-existence, and economic growth and development and as such, it is harmful and should be avoided as it has a negative connotation synonymous with such terms as offenses, destruction and irrationality. Scholars such as Kreitner & Kinicki (2010) with



this perception, treat crime as a negative pathological condition characterized by hostility, struggle, breakdown of law, order, rules and regulations, lack of cooperation, etc. Others posit that it is a functional outcome and argue that it is natural and inevitable in all social settings, endeavours and organizations, and has the potential to be a positive force in determining and fostering community harmony, peaceful co-existence, and national development (Kreitner & Kinicki, 2010).

This perception sees crime as not only inevitable but necessary in our social life and treats it as a means that addresses issues like marginalization, exploitation, injustice, abuse of power and resources, etc. The belief is that it strengthens equity and fairness, social interaction, economic growth and development. The management of domestic violence, therefore, connotes actions taken to keep it from escalating beyond control. This implies the ability to control the intensity of a domestic crime and its negative effects, through negotiation, intervention, and other institutional mechanisms including traditional diplomatic methods (Ajala, 2005). Crime can arise in virtually any social setting, be it between or within individuals, groups, communities, tribes, states or nations. It brings about change and change also brings crime and both are an inevitable part of life (Kreitner & Kinicki, 2010). Crime can become a serious problem if it is allowed to escalate as it could create chaotic conditions that make it nearly impossible for people to relate or live together peacefully.

Domestic crime is gaining more momentum and it is on the rise, in such a way that it has caught the attention of the populace and the media especially in Nigeria, to the extent that there are always daily reports of domestic crime cases in the custody of law enforcement agencies. Domestic crime is a pattern of abusive behaviour in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner. This definition adds that domestic crime can happen to anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender”, and can take many forms, including physical abuse, sexual

abuse, emotional, economic and psychological abuse (Usoro, Ekpenyoung & Effiong, 2014).

Domestic crime is also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family crime and intimate partner crime culminating to serious physical injury or death. This is to say it is a pattern of abusive behaviours by one partner against another in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family or cohabitation. Domestic crime, so defined, has many forms, including physical aggression or assault (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects), or threats thereof; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse otherwise known as neglect; and economic deprivation (Seimeniuk, Krentz, Gish & Gill, 2010). Domestic crime and abuse is not limited to obvious physical crime. It can mean endangerment, criminal coercion, kidnapping, unlawful imprisonment, trespassing, harassment and stalking (National Network to End Domestic Crime, 2011). Families from all social, racial, economic, educational and religious backgrounds experience domestic crime in different ways. Thus, it is a phenomenon that involves any pattern of behaviour that serves no legitimate purpose and is intended to harass, annoy or terrorize the victim.

In the world today, the twin issues of peace and crimes have assumed a global perspective because they are parts of the conditions that define and shape human existence and well-being in the present world (Shedrack, 2006) and in Nigeria, there is a gross under-reporting and non-documentation of domestic crime and crime in general because of cultural factors (Afrol News, 2007; Oyediran & Isiugo-Abanihe, 2005; Aihie, 2009), yet, they are daily occurrences globally. Many of these incidents are not reported officially owing to the belief that the police and the judicial system cannot help. In spite of that, domestic crimes are resolved locally through indigenous mechanisms at either the home or community level by a third party who is completely neutral or presumed to be neutral (Aihie, 2009).



However, approaches to crime resolution include crime management and crime resolution. While crime resolution aims at helping involved parties to arrive at agreed compromises, crime management manages crime rather than presenting a permanent solution to crime (Lefevre, Colot, Vannoorenberghe, 2002; Oyeshola, 2005). The strategy adopted for any crime resolution exercise depends on the type, cause and extent of the crime (Bolanle, and Obafemi, 2014; Aluko, 2014). This study, therefore, examines the causes, effects and management strategies of domestic crimes employed by resident families of Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Literature Review

Conceptualizing Domestic Crime

The word domestic is described as relating to or used in homes or everyday life within a household. It also relates to or involves a family or the people living together within a household (Poelmans, 2010). Dzugba (2010) views domestic crime as a crime that has to do with families and homes. Domestic crime can, therefore, be described as a disagreement or clash between members of a household or occupants/residents of a house over the use of common facilities within (water, electricity, kitchen, bathroom, toilets, stairs, laundry, etc.) and around the house (Ellingsen, 2000). It is a clash of interest, ideas and principles among people co-habiting together.

It also reflects the difference in the mindset, temperament, disposition and interest of people (house owners, tenants, visitors) living in a house in the use or handling, management and repair or maintenance of facilities within the house (Poelmans, 2010). Under domestic crime, individual residents in a house routinely struggle to maximize their own benefits in form of unlimited use of shared facilities. Domestic crime is an incident of the home that involves abuse, scolding, yelling, booing, and sometimes physical assault (Oyediran & Isiugo-Abanihe, 2005; Odetokun, 2007; Aihie, 2009) between a house-owner and household member(s) or among household members (female and male children),

between a house-owner and tenants, or among tenants.

Domestic crime refers to the application of physical or mental assault by one member of the family on another, that is, where the victim and the perpetrator have some form of personal relationship or where they have shared or experienced a similar relationship (Ojilere, 2008). The spectrum of networks contemplated by domestic crime is quite vast and includes people who live together without formal approval (cohabitation), partners in any transaction, friendship and love relationships. In simple terms, any abusive, violent, coercive, forceful or threatening act or word inflicted by one member of a family or household can constitute a domestic crime. It was once considered one of the most under reported crimes until it became more widely recognized during the 1980s and 1990s.

Domestic crime, also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, intimate partner violence/crime (IPV), battering or family crime, is a pattern of behaviour which involves crime or other abuses by one person in a domestic context against another, for example, in marriage or cohabitation; it could also mean crime/abuse by a spouse or partner in an intimate relationship against the other spouse or partner. Many people do not recognize themselves as abuser or victims because they may consider their experience as family misunderstanding that got out of control (Haiket, Megan Mcpherson, Mirkin, Marschapravde, 2013).

Various individuals and groups have defined domestic crime to include anything from saying unkind and demeaning words to grabbing a person's arm, hitting, kicking, choking or even murdering. Although domestic crime most often refers to crime between married or cohabiting couples, it sometimes refers to crime or physical, emotional abuse directed at other members of a household, for example, children, siblings or elderly relatives. Studies indicate that the incidence of domestic crime among homosexual couples is approximately equivalent to that found among heterosexual couples (Aluko, 2014).



Classification of Domestic Crimes

Domestic crime is perpetrated in different ways including but not limited to physical aggression or assault, sexual abuse, economic abuse, emotional abuse, spiritual abuse and negligence.

i. Physical abuse

Physical abuse is perpetrated mainly by men on women as a response to actual or suspected infidelity, relationship inequality, financial issues, over indulging in alcohol or substance abuse and rejection of sexual advances. Physical crime against women may occur in the form of acid attack, molestation, female genital mutilation and battering. It can be the culmination of other abusive behaviour, such as threats, intimidation and restriction of victim self-determination right through isolation, manipulation and other limitations of personal freedom (Council of Europe Domestic Crime Campaign, 2015). Victims of physical crime are inflicted with physical injuries such as minor or major cuts, scratches and bruises, broke bones, internal bleeding, head trauma, burn from acid, hot water or oil, electric iron, naked fire, hot soup just to mention a few.

ii. Sexual abuse

This includes all forms of sexual assaults, marital rape, harassment or exploitation. It involves forcing a person to participate in sexual activity, using a child for sexual purposes including child prostitution and pornography. Sexual abuse is defined by World Health Organisation as any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, or acts to traffic, or otherwise directed against a person's sexuality using coercion. It also includes obligatory inspections for virginity and female genital mutilation (WHO 2013, The Forms and Contexts of Crime). In many cultures, victims of rape are considered to have brought dishonour or disgrace to their families and face severe familiar crime, including honour killing ("Ethics Guide: Honour Crimes," BBC Religion and Ethics, 2013). Incest or sexual contact between a relative adult and a child, is one form of familial sexual abuse (Fridell & Lorie, 1990).

iii. Economic abuse

This includes stealing from or defrauding a loved one, withholding money for essential things like food and medical treatment, manipulating or exploiting family member for financial gain, preventing a loved one from working or controlling his/her choice of occupation. Economic abuse diminishes the victim's capacity to support themselves, increasing dependence on the perpetrator, including reduced access to education, employment, career advancement and assets acquisition (Brewster, Mary P. August 2003). Forcing or pressuring a family member to sign document to sell things or to change a will are forms of economic abuse.

iv. Emotional abuse

This includes threatening a person of his or her possession or harming a person's sense of self-worth by putting him/her at risk of serious behavioural, cognitive, emotional or mental disorders. Emotional abuse includes shouting at a partner which was found to be the most common abuse. Also included in emotional abuse are name-calling, criticism, social isolation, intimidating or exploitation to dominate, routinely making unreasonable demand, terrorizing a person verbally or physically and exposing a child to crime. The victims tend to feel their partner has nearly total control over them. Victims often suffer from depression, putting them at increased risk of starvation, disorders, suicide, drug and alcohol abuse (Hilberman, Elaine 1984).

v. Spiritual abuse

This includes preventing a person from engaging in his/her spiritual or religious practices or using one's religious belief to manipulate, dominate or control him/her. Spiritual abuse is complicated and can include control of another person's religious choice and beliefs, as well as using religious belief to rationalise control over another person. Spiritual abuse can occur in domestic partner relationships it can also occur in institutions, such as religious organisations or in work place, education or care settings. Spiritual abuse can happen to anyone, at any age, regardless of religious affiliation. It may also



include the misuse of religion for self, secular or ideological ends such as the abuse of a clerical position (Wright, Keith T.2001). Lambert defines spiritual abuse as “a type of psychological predomination that could be rightly termed religious enslavement” (Lambert, P.253).

vi. Negligence

This includes failure to provide for dependents who may be adults or children, denying family members food, clothing, shelter, medical care, and protection from harm or a sense of being loved and valued. There exist many manifestation of child neglect, including non compliance with health care recommendations, failure to seek appropriate health care, deprivation of food resulting in hunger, and the failure of helping a child to thrive. Other course for concern includes the exposure of children to drugs and inadequate supervision, poor hygiene and being deprived of education have all been considered as evidence of neglect. Official statistics often reveal little about the patterns of child abuse. This is partly because, in many countries, there are no legal or social systems with specific responsibility for recording let alone responding to reports of child abuse and neglect (Bross DC et al World Perspectives on Child Abuse, 2002). In addition, there are differing legal and cultural definitions of abuse and neglect between countries. There is also evidence that only a small proportion of cases of child maltreatment are reported to authorities, even where mandatory reporting exists (Theodora AD., Runga AK., Medical Research Agenda for Child Maltreatment, 2017).

Domestic Crime Management

The response to domestic crime is typically a combined effort between health care providers, law enforcement, and counseling services.

a. Health Care Providers

Medical professionals do not see themselves as being able to play a major role in helping women in regards to domestic crime. Injuries are often just treated and diagnosed, without regard for the causes (Warsaw, C.1993). Health professionals have an ethical responsibility to recognize and address exposure to abuse in the patients, in the

health care setting. For example, the American Medical Association's code of medical ethics states that “due to the prevalence and medical consequences of family crime, physicians should routinely inquire about physical, sexual and psychological abuse as part of the medical history.” Physicians must also consider abuse in the differential diagnosis for a number of medical complaints, particularly when treating women (Abuse of Spouses, Children, Elderly Persons AMA-Opinion 2002).

b. Law Enforcement

A study was conducted by Lawrence Sherman in 1982, The Minneapolis Domestic Crime Experiment, to evaluate the effectiveness of various police responses to domestic crime calls in Minneapolis, Minnesota; including sending the abuser away for eight hours, giving advice and mediation for disputes, and making an arrest. Arrest was found to be the most effective police response. The study found that arrest reduced the rate by half of re-offending against the same victim within the following six months (Maxwell, Garner & Fagan, 2001). In the replication studies which were broader and methodologically sound in both size and scope, arrest seemed to help in the short run in certain cases, but those arrested experienced double the rate of crime over the course of one year (Schmidt & Lawrence, 1993). Generally, it has been accepted that if the understood victim has visible (and recent) marks of abuse, the suspect is arrested and charged with the appropriate crime.

c. Counseling

For victims, since marital crime is major risk factor for serious injury and even death, and women in violent marriages are at much greater risk of being seriously injured or killed; counseling intervention is much needed. Initial assessment of the potential for crime in a marriage can be supplemented by standardized interviews and questionnaire which have been reliable and valid aids in exploring marital crime more systematically. Counsellors and therapists should also make the distinction between situations where battering may be a single, isolated incident or an ongoing pattern of control. If it becomes



apparent to the therapist that domestic crime is taking place in a client's relationship, the therapist must explore options with the client; and also refrain from blaming the partner or telling the client what to do. It is unreasonable for the therapist to expect that a victim will leave her abusive spouse solely because she disclosed the abuse. The therapist should respect the victim's autonomy and allow her to make her own decisions (Lawson, 2003). Therapists must be aware that supporting assertiveness by a battered wife may lead to more beatings or even death. Even in few cases, when the wife leaves because of life threatening situation, therapists should not relax their vigilance after a battered wife leaves her husband. Some data suggest that the period immediately following a marital separation is the period of greater risk for the women. Many men will stalk and batter their wives in an effort to get them to return or punish them for leaving.

However, for offenders, the main goal of counseling for offenders of domestic crime is to minimize the offender's risk of future domestic crime, whether within the same relationship or a new one. Treatment for offenders should emphasize minimizing risk to the victim, and should be modified depending on the offender's history, risk of reoffending and criminogenic needs. The majority of offenders' treatments are conducted in a group setting with groups not exceeding 12 participants. Groups are also standardized to be gender specific (Colorado Domestic Crime Offender Management Board, 2010). According to Roberts (2002), anger management alone has not been shown to be effective in treating domestic crime offenders, as domestic crime is based on power and control and not on problems with regulating anger responses. Anger management is recommended as a part of an offender treatment curriculum that is based on accountability, along with topics such as recognizing abusive patterns of behavior; it also requires a great deal of personal change and the construction of a self-image that is separate from former abusive while still being held accountable for it.

Theoretical Framework

The Frustration Aggression Theory of John Dollard, Leonard Doob, Neal Miller, O.H. Mowrer, and Robert Sears (1939) was adopted to explain the causes of domestic violence. The thesis of the theory holds that frustration caused by interference in goal-directed activity does not automatically result in aggression but produces a readiness for aggression which if triggered can result in aggression responses. The trigger may be an insignificant element of behaviour such as a casual joke, gesture or mild criticism which would normally be overlooked, but to the frustrated individual may be enough to provoke an aggressive response. The theories agree that there is a relationship between frustration and aggression. The original theory posits that all acts of aggression are the result of previous frustration and all frustration leads to aggression. However research found that this theory contradicted itself in human application. Berkowitz (1989) argued that the revised theory stresses the fact that only certain frustrating situations, such as an unsupportable drug addiction, produces aggressive behaviour. He went further to say that the frustration-aggression theory now recognizes that the obstruction of a goal is not enough to frustrate any person to the point of an aggressive act. Frustration that causes acts of aggression are instigated by an implicit or explicit drive to reach the goal.

Frustration-aggression theory relates to people of all ages and not specifically adults. An example of frustration-aggression theory is an article written by Taki and Tam (2007) where they compared female bullying in Hong Kong to female bullying in Japan. Their research revealed that factors like home life, academic activities, societal expectations and stress level contributed greatly to the level of frustration and type of aggression they demonstrated. They reported that although all the different factors identified contributed to the subjects frustration and aggression, it was societal expectations and stress level that accounted for most of the subjects frustration. It was observed that girls from Hong Kong expressed aggression through the frustrations of academic activities and social behaviour, while



the girls from Japan expressed aggression because of societal expectations. Taki and Tam (2007) maintained that stress is a major factor in the frustration-aggression theory.

In relating this theory to the study, there is an assumption that perpetrators of crime against women do so as a result of frustration. It then means that once a man is frustrated, he becomes aggressive and may inflict crime on a woman. This is not applicable to all cases of crime against women. This theory has its shortcomings and deficiencies since it does not capture fully other social variables like culture and patriarchy which are major contributory factors to crime against women in African societies in general and Nigeria in particular. We should realize that not all acts of aggression from men are the result of previous frustration and also not all frustration lead to aggression. There may be other explanations for domestic crimes in the society which the frustration-aggression theory has failed to include in its theses. Hence, theoretical triangulation may be indispensable.

Methodology

The Research Design

The research design adopted in this study was the survey method. This design was adopted because of its appropriateness when a relatively large sample of people is to be covered from a pre-determined population. This is a descriptive research and survey design is suited to descriptive studies. The choice of this design was based on the fact that the entire population cannot be covered, therefore, sample representation was used in this study.

Method of Data Collection/Analysis

The research instrument that was used for data collection was the questionnaire. The questionnaire had twenty items which were divided into two parts. Section A required personal information about the respondents which contained four items from numbers one to four. Section B answered research question on types, causes, effects and management of domestic crime.

The drafted questionnaire was vetted by three specialists in Home Economic Education in the Department of Vocational and Technical Education, ABU, Zaria, to determine the validity of the instruments. The necessary corrections were made on the vetted questionnaire items. The data that was collected from the pilot study were coded in using SPSS version 22 for the purpose of determining the reliability co-efficient of the instrument.

A pilot study was conducted in Gwagwalada Area Council of Federal Capital Territory to determine the suitability of the instrument for the study and to ascertain any difficulty that may occur when carrying out the actual research. In order to reduce any ambiguity in the items, forty (40) copies of the questionnaire were produced with thirty (30) questions and distributed to the respondents who responded to them, and thereafter collected.

The data collected from the pilot study were statistically analyzed for the purpose of gathering the reliability co-efficient. The Spearman-Brown method was used to analyze the reliability coefficient. Consequently, reliability co-efficient of alpha level of 0.76 was obtained. This reliability co-efficient was considered adequate for the internal consistency of the instrument. According to Spiegel and Stevens (1999), instrument is considered reliable if it lies between 0 and 1.0 and that the closer the calculated reliability coefficient is to zero, the less reliable is the instrument, and the closer the calculated reliability co-efficient is to 1, the more reliable the instrument.

Table 1: Analysis of Respondents' Return of Instrument

Questionnaires	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Returned	300	76.9
Unreturned	90	23.1
Total	390	100

Source: Field Survey (2020)



Table 1 above indicates that three hundred (300) respondents representing 76.9% returned their questionnaires while ninety (90) respondents representing 23.1% failed to return their questionnaires. In conclusion, the data analysis will be based on three hundred (300) respondents.

Table 2: Showing the types of domestic crime that is prevalent in Abuja

Variables		Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
1. Physical abuse is among the prevailing types of domestic crime	Yes	266	88.7
	No	34	11.3
	Total	300	100.0
2. Sexual abuse is among the prevailing types of domestic crime	Yes	268	89.3
	No	32	10.7
	Total	300	100
3. Emotional abuse is among the prevailing types of domestic crime	Yes	185	61.7
	No	115	38.3
	Total	300	100
4. Psychological abuse is among the prevailing types of domestic crime	Yes	184	61.3
	No	116	38.7
	Total	300	100
5. Economic abuse is among the prevailing types of domestic crime	Yes	177	59.0
	No	123	41.0
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey (2020)

Table 2 shows that majority of the respondents agreed that physical abuse is among the prevailing types of domestics. 266 representing 88.7% identified “Yes” as their option while a small number of the respondents were 34 representing 11.3% picked “No”. The analysis also showed that the respondents agreed that sexual abuse is among the prevailing types of domestic abuse with 268 representing 89.6% of the respondents indicating “Yes” while 32 representing 10.7% indicated “No”. The respondents also indicated their options by agreeing with the statement that emotional abuse is among the prevailing types of domestic crime.

The majority of the respondents indicated “Yes” with 185 representing 61.7% while 115 representing 38.3% indicated their responses with “No”. The respondents further expressed their options by saying that psychology abuse is among prevailing types of domestic crime, with 184 representing 61.3% of the respondents indicating “Yes” while 116 representing 38.7% indicated “No”. Finally, on the types of prevailing types of domestic abuse, majority of the respondents agreed that physical abuse is among the prevailing types of domestics. 177 of the respondents which are majority representing 59% identified “Yes” as their option while 123 respondents representing 41% picked “No”.

Table 3: Showing the causes domestic crime that are prevalent among the residents of Federal Capital Territory, Abuja

Variables	Frequency	Percent (%)
6. Revelation of concealed pre-marital history by spouse can cause domestic crime	Strongly Agree	134
	Agree	104
	Neutral	0
	Disagree Strongly	33
	Disagree	29
Total	300	100
7. Decision on whether or not a wife's should work and the type and place of work can cause domestic crime	Strongly Agree	99
	Agree	92
	Neutral	6
	Disagree	63
	Strongly Disagreed	40
Total	300	100
8. Inability to bear children (Infertility) can cause domestic Crime	Strongly Agree	119
	Agree	83
	Neutral	3
	Disagree	64
	Strongly Disagreed	31
Total	300	100
9. Wives claim to equality with husbands can cause domestic crime	Strongly Agree	231
	Agree	25
	Neutral	0
	Disagree	34
	Strongly Disagreed	10
Total	300	100
10. Infidelity and inability to satisfy partner can cause domestic crime	Strongly Agree	217
	Agree	42
	Neutral	5
	Disagree	24
	Strongly Disagreed	12
Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey (2020).



Table 3 above shows the distribution of respondents responses on causes of domestic crime that are prevalent among the residents of Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The analyses show that 134 (44.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed on that revelation of concealed pre-marital history by spouse can cause domestic crime, 104 (34.7%) of the respondents agreed, nobody is indifferent while 5% disagreed on the view. Also, 29 (9.6%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that revelation of concealed pre-marital history by spouse can cause domestic crime while 33 (11%) of the respondents disagreed.

On the second item on table 3, 99 (33%) of the respondents strongly agreed that decision on whether or not a wife should work and the type and place of work can cause domestic crime, 92 (30.7%) of the respondents agreed, 6 (2%) were indifferent. 40 (13.3%) strongly disagreed that decision on whether or not a wife should work and the type and place of work can cause domestic crime while 63 (21%) disagreed. This implies that majority are in support that decision on whether or not a wife should work and the type and place of work can cause domestic crime.

On the third item on table 3 above, 119 (39.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that inability to bear children (infertility) can cause domestic crime, 83 (27.7%) of the respondents agreed, 3 (1%) were indifferent. 31 (10.3%) strongly disagreed that inability to bear children (infertility) can cause domestic crime while 64 (21%) disagreed. This implies that majority are in support that inability to bear children (infertility) can cause domestic crime.

On the fourth item on table 3 above, 231 (77%) of the respondents strongly agreed that wives claim to equality with husbands can cause domestic crime, 25 (8.3%) of the respondents agreed, none of the respondents were indifference. 10 (3.3%) strongly disagreed that wives claim to equality with husbands can cause domestic crime while 34 (11.3%) disagreed. This implies that majority are in support that wives' claim to equality with husbands can cause domestic crime.

On the last item on table 3 above, 217 (72.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that infidelity and inability to satisfy partner can cause domestic crime, 42 (14%) of the respondents agreed, 5 of the respondents (approximately 1.7%) were indifferent. 12 (4%) strongly disagreed that infidelity and inability to satisfy partner can cause domestic crime while 24 (8%) disagreed. This implies that majority are in support that infidelity and inability to satisfy partner can cause domestic crime.

Table 4: Shows the effects of domestic crime that are prevalent among the residents of Federal Capital Territory, Abuja.

Variables		Frequency	Percent (%)
11. Domestic crime can result to public disturbance	Strongly Agree	109	36.3
	Agree	82	27.3
	Neutral	6	2.0
	Disagree	61	20.3
	Strongly Disagree	42	14.0
	Total	300	100
12. Domestic crime disrupts existing social and internal harmony	Strongly Agree	82	27.3
	Agree	155	51.7
	Neutral	3	1.0
	Disagree	52	17.3
	Strongly Disagree	18	6.0
	Total	300	100
13. Domestic crime can result into broken home and divorce	Strongly Agree	122	40.7
	Neutral	135	45.0
	Disagree	0	0.0
	Strongly Disagree	40	13.3
	Total	3	1.0
	Total	300	100
14. Domestic crime can result in inflicting injuries and harms	Strongly Agree	149	49.7
	Neutral	95	31.7
	Disagree	1	0.3
	Strongly Disagree	44	14.7
	Total	11	3.7
	Total	300	100
15. Domestic crime can expose the children of the victims to unruly behaviour	Strongly Agree	93	31.0
	Agreed	97	32.3
	Neutral	5	1.7
	Disagree	60	20.0
	Strongly Disagree	45	15.0
	Total	300	100

Source: Field Survey (2020)

The table 4 above shows the distribution of respondents' responses on the effects of domestic crime that are prevalent among the residents of



Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. The first item on table 4 shows that 109 (36.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that domestic crime can result to noisy environment. 82 (27.3%) of the respondents agreed, 6 (2%) of respondents are indifference while 5% disagreed on the view. Also, 42 (14%) of the respondents strongly disagreed that domestic crime can result to noisy environment while 61(20.3%) of the respondents disagreed. It can be inferred that majority of the respondents are in agreement that domestic crime can result to noisy environment.

On the second item on table 4, 82 (27.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed that domestic crime disrupts existing social and internal harmony, 155 (51.7%) of the respondents agreed, 3 (1%) were indifferent. 18 (6%) strongly disagreed that domestic crime disrupts existing social and internal harmony while 52 (17.3%) disagreed. It can be deduced that majority of the respondents are in support that domestic crime disrupts existing social and internal harmony.

On the third item on table 4.8 above, 122 (40.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that domestic crime can result into broken home and divorce, 135 (45%) of the respondents agreed, none of the respondents were indifferent. None of the respondents indicated to strongly disagree while 40 (13.3%) disagreed that domestic crime can result into broken home and divorce. This implies that majority are still of opinion that domestic crime can result into broken home and divorce.

On the fourth item on table 4 above, 149 (49.7%) of the respondents strongly agreed that domestic crime can result in inflicting injuries and harms, 95 (31.7%) of the respondents agreed, 1 (0.3%) of the respondents were indifferent. 11 (3.7%) strongly disagreed that domestic crime can result in inflicting injuries and harms while 44 (14.7%) disagreed. This implies that majority are in support that domestic crime can result in inflicting injuries and harms.

On the last item on table 4 above, 93 (31%) of the respondents strongly agreed that domestic crime can expose the children of the victims to unruly

behaviour, 97 (32.3%) of the respondents agreed, 5 of the respondents representing (1.7%) were indifferent. 45 (15%) strongly disagreed that domestic crime can expose the children of the victims to unruly behaviour while 60 (20%) disagreed. It can then be agreed that majority are in support that domestic crime can expose the children of the victims to unruly behaviour. It can therefore be concluded that domestic crime has some negative effects on the victims, the family of the victims and the society in general.

Discussion

The finding from table 2 shows that there are different types of domestic crime. This results in different forms of domestic violence within the home. This is in line with the findings of Ityavyar in Okpeh, (2005) who posited that domestic crime is domiciled in the family where women, children, and the youth are either direct or indirect victims. Each of the types of domestic crime is at different instances and circumstances.

Table 3 highlighted the causes of domestic crime which include not revealing of pre-marital history, decision on among the couple whether or not a wife should work and the type and place of work can cause domestic crime, wives' claim to equality with husbands can cause domestic crime, inability of wife to bear children and infidelity and inability of the spouse to satisfy each other sexually. These have caused so much disharmony in home and majority of the domestic challenges being reported to law enforcement agency lies so much on the aforementioned. This has subjected many homes to undue ridicule as many cannot manage this problem.

Table 4 showed that there are different effects of domestic crime which include infliction of injuries, broken home and divorce, noisy environment, disrupt in harmony and children becoming unruly in their behaviour due to the psychological effects of it. This is in line with Dagg (2009) that posited there has been an increase in acknowledgment that a child who is exposed to domestic abuse during his upbringing will suffer in his development and psychological welfare. Some emotional and behavioural



problems that can result due to domestic crime include increased aggressiveness, anxiety, and changes in how a child socializes with friends, family and authorities. In line with sustenance of injuries as part of effect of domestic crime, Jones (1997) said bruises, broken bones, head injuries, lacerations and internal bleeding are some of the acute effects of a domestic crime incident that require medical attention and hospitalization.

Conclusion & Recommendations

Domestic crime has been identified as a serious social, economic and psychological problem that is pervasive in Nigerian society, Federal Capital Territory inclusive. In most cases, it is perpetrated in secluded places under several cultural and societal norms; the outcomes may be emotional/psychological trauma, physical injuries or even death. Domestic crime has many effects and profoundly destructive consequences for the victims. Therefore, there is need to take cognizance of the physical and psychological well-being of victims who are exposed to different domestic crimes in our society. This study has identified measures that are necessary to mitigate the effects of domestic crime, there is need to take cognizance of the physical and psychological well-being of the victims who are exposed to different domestic crime in the study area.

Based on the findings of this study, the following recommendations are made:

- i. Domestic crimes against women and children should be seen and treated as a criminal act and not a private issue by the police and all law enforcement agencies.
- ii. There should be institutional mechanisms where those who are victims of domestic conflict can feel free to report acts of crime against them in a safe and confidential environment.
- iii. Victims of domestic crime and child abuse should be encouraged to seek professional help through counselling to help them move on from the effects of the crime and abuses they have been exposed to. Counselling of victims can restore the self esteem and confidence lost by the victims during the

period of family domestic crime and child abuse.

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