

Occupational Roles of Couples and Wife Battering among Residents of Anambra State, South-East, Nigeria.

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Abstract

Wife battering, an aspect of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) has remained a global concern for many decades. However, the situation has become more problematic in the 21st century despite various legislations against all forms of violence against women. This study was conducted to examine occupational roles of couples and wife battering among residents of Anambra State, Nigeria. Frustration- aggression theory was adopted as the theoretical framework for the study. Mixed methods research design was employed in the study. The multi-stage sampling procedure was used in selecting respondents in the study. A sample size of 400 was generated using Yamane formular for determining sample size. A researcher-developed questionnaire was used to collect the quantitative data while in-depth interviews were used to collect the qualitative data for the study. The quantitative data collected were processed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software and analysed using descriptive statistics such as frequency counts, simple percentages and graphic illustrations. On the other hand, the qualitative data were analysed using content analysis. Findings of the study indicated that the major consequences of wife battering include: depression and trauma, low self-esteem and social withdrawal, poor academic performance, low self-esteem and sense of insecurity on the part of the children, as well as high rate of divorce, loss of social relevance within the community and collapse of the family system. It was recommended that there is need for various social welfare and non-governmental agencies concerned with women development to reinforce policies that could help to address cultural issues that alienate the female gender from socio-economic opportunities in various communities so as to ensure that females have relatively higher access to skills and job opportunities that would help to curb the issue of wife battering. Also, existing laws on wife battering and other forms of violence against women should be strengthened.

Key Words: couples, intimate partner violence, occupational roles, violence against women, wife battering.

Introduction

Wife battering, an aspect of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) has remained a global concern for many decades. Although scholars in recent years have shifted attention towards another dimension of IPV known as “husband battering” (the act of a wife beating the husband), yet issues surrounding the dimension of wife battering have remained topical particularly due to the patriarchal nature of many societies across the globe. As such, wife battering remains more problematic within various socio-cultural domains compared to the issue of husband battering. Wife battering is not a new phenomenon considering that historically, wife battering was enshrined within the socio-cultural arrangement of societies. For instance, the British Common Law authorised husbands to chastise their wives with any reasonable punishment (Nicarthy, 1982). Equally, the Balckstone’s codification of English Common Law in 1768 was said to have accorded husbands the right to physically punish an errant wife provided that stick was not thicker than his thumb (Mashishi, 1998). Mashishi equally noted that within the confines of African societies, women have historically been regarded as “the property of their fathers” and after marriage, “the object property of the husband”. These socio-cultural standards have perpetuated violence against women even up to the 21st century despite various legislations that have promulgated across the globe towards women liberation.

Thus, in recent time, various scholars across the globe have noted a high prevalence of wife battering especially in developing nations like Nigeria (Abramsky, 2014; Fageeh, 2014; Otufale, 2013). These scholars agree with earlier submission made by World Health Organization (WHO,2012) that globally, at least one woman in every three has been beaten, coerced into sex or otherwise abused in her lifetime by her partner. According to WHO, among married women used in their study, 13 - 61% reported ever having experienced physical violence by a partner; 4 - 49% reported having experienced severe physical violence by a partner; 6-59% reported sexual violence by a partner at some point in their lives; and 20 - 75% reported experiencing one emotional abusive act or more from a partner in their lifetime. The word battering is an unlawful application of physical harm

towards another person which results in harmful or offensive injury (Ezeilo, 2008). For Hornby (1995), it is the criminal act of treating somebody violently. The above definitions are quite in consonance with the view of the researchers who consider battering as a wicked way of applying force on someone with a view to afflicting pain to that person's physical and emotional wellbeing. Wife battering can therefore be described as brutal attacks on women's physical and emotional wellbeing by their husbands.

Wife battering as a form of violence against women is one of the most pervasive human rights violations which challenge women's equality, security, dignity, self-worth and right to enjoy fundamental freedoms. It is also important to note that women's vulnerability to forms of violence does not happen in a vacuum. It is the result of underlying socio-cultural practices/norms that promote men's dominance over women; limit women's power to refuse sex or maintain women's inferior political and economic status (Abramnsky, 2014). In communities where such norms prevail, the tendency for wife battering would likely be high. Scholars' efforts towards the investigation into the various socio-cultural determinants of wife battering have identified a range of different variables like: a wife not obeying husband, talking back to husband at will, not having food ready on time, failure to care adequately for the children or home, questioning about money or girlfriends, going somewhere without husband's permission, refusal to have sex when the husband wants or expressing suspicions of infidelity (Hindin & Adair, 2002; Lika et al., 2002; Verma & Collumbien, 2003). These scholars noted that the above factors constitute transgression of gender norms especially in every patriarchal society where women are expected to be seen and never to be heard. Other factors associated with the occurrence of wife battering include depression, alcoholism and drug, level of education of couples, age of marriage, communication gap between couples, level of household income especially that of the husbands, occupational status and role of the husband, a woman's occupational status, place of residence, cultural values, sex of the children (Ahmed, 2005; Chen & White, 2004; Onuoha & Opeyemi, 2014) among others. These variables play crucial role in determining the dynamics of wife battering within the family unit.

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However, wife battering touches the being of womanhood and frustrates the actualization of the essence of such a woman's existence which is embedded on bearing and raising children, living happily with her husband and performing her other social functions with the support of her husband. The occurrence of battering suggests a rift and severed relationship between the husband and wife. To this end, the woman cannot as a single individual actualize her dreams and purpose. In the same development, victims of wife battering out of frustration and devastation easily give in to depression, anxiety and psychological imbalance which may account for high mortality rate among women especially during child birth (Ezegbe et al., 2013). In some cases, the battering of a wife may lead to her death or other physical injuries or in most cases, miscarriage of pregnancy. Other observable effects of wife battering on marriage unions include: desertion, ejection, negligence among couples, break in communication, lack of maintenance, child abuse, child neglect, shying away from family duties, struggle for property acquisition, adultery, threats, starvation, abandonment, rejection, parental interference, childlessness, wandering of wife, disobedience, damage of property, request for separation, dowry refund, lack of sexual satisfaction, delinquency among children (Ordu, 2009) among others. Although issues regarding wife battering have been researched and widely published on the global context, this cannot be said of within the context of Anambra State. Hence, how the above concerns apply to the context of marriages in Anambra State remain unclear due to limited studies on this theme within the State. Thus, this research aims at identifying some important social factors that determine the occurrence of wife battering as well as the major consequences of wife battering among couples in Anambra State, South-East, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Marital relationship is supposed to be enjoyed with the partners serving as companions for each other. However, the present situation in many marital relationships today shows the contrary as rising cases of intimate partner violence seem to be on the increase and women seem to bear the brunt of problems associated with marital discord. According to the Report submitted by the Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS, 2018), the

percentage of women who experienced physical violence increased from 28% in both 2008 and 2013 Reports respectively, to 31% in 2018. This situation may not be different in Anambra State. For instance, the same NDHS Report indicated 53 percent of married women in Anambra State had experienced one form of spousal violence or the other from their husbands.

In addition to this Report, recent data provided by different agencies in Anambra State indicate a rise in cases of wife battering. For instance, Anambra State Ministry of Women Development and Social Welfare (2021) documented a 6.2% rise in cases of wife battering from 2019 (46.9%) to 2020 (53.1%). Similarly, data obtained from the Social Welfare Unit of Awka South Local Government Area (2021) showed that there was a 30.6% increase in cases of wife battering from 2018 (34.7% cases) to year 2019 (65.3% cases). These are notwithstanding various cases of wife battering documented in pages of various dailies which are all indicators that wife battering is a serious course for concern in recent time. The situation may be more problematic considering that the above data evidences may actually not reflect the actual situation regarding wife battering in Anambra State considering the fact that issues regarding domestic violence are often treated as family matter which makes it somewhat difficult for women to report cases of battering by their husbands. This culture of silence exacerbates the situation. In view of the aforementioned problems, this study examined the relationship between occupational role of couples and wife battering among residents of Anambra State, South- East, Nigeria.

Research Questions

The following research questions were formulated to guide this study:

1. In what ways do occupational roles of couples influence wife battering in Anambra State, South-East, Nigeria?
2. How does couples' place of residence influence wife battering in Anambra State, South-East, Nigeria?

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3. What are the social consequences of wife battering in Anambra State, South-East, Nigeria?
4. What are the preventive measures to wife battering in Anambra State, South-East, Nigeria?

Review of Related Literature

Occupational Status/Roles of Husbands and Wife Battering

Edith et al. (2020), Muhammad and Bushra (2015) and Oli (2012) found in their respective studies that wife battering causes divorce, depression, suicide, physical injuries, miscarriage, and children growing up to be aggressive. Onuoha and Opeyemi (2014) noted that wife battering is associated with a husband's occupational role. They noted that wife battering for instance is more peculiar among employees of protective service organizations such as the Police. This is because such occupations are characterized by the exercise of control over others and the expectation that others would submit to their authority. In this regard, Rodriguez et al. (2001) submitted that non-employed individuals were not more likely than employed persons to engage in domestic violence. Okoli and Amujiri (2005) noted that the deplorable conditions of women are compounded at times where the spouse is jobless. Here, the husband out of frustration might decide to batter the wife. These might occur to all classes of women. In other words, husbands who are jobless have the tendency to batter their wives.

A study was conducted by Benebo et al. (2018) to examine the effects of individual- and community-level factors on IPV in Nigeria, with a focus on women's occupational status and community-level norms among men. The study involved the use of data from the Nigerian Demographic Health Survey (2013) involving 20,802 ever-partnered women aged between 15-49 years. Several multilevel logistic regression models were calibrated to assess the association between individual and community-level factors and IPV. With regards to women's occupational status, which is of interest in this sub-section, result of

the study showed that after adjusting for other relevant covariates, higher women's status in terms of occupation reduced the odds of IPV. The study concluded that the more a woman becomes engaged in higher level occupations that could level to some levels of financial independence, the less likelihood she is to experience battering from her husband. This finding may not be different for other research findings and could equally be different in this present study.

Social Consequences of Wife Battering

Efforts are being directed to trace children's outburst of aggression, scavenging at social gatherings, hawking, raping, sexual abuse, robbery and other social vices to violence at homes, school drop outs, school age children seen in and around motor parks, garage and film houses and high rate of hawking among teenagers especially during school hours and attendance of young people at political rallies and campaigns, to possible social problems arising from domestic violence. Anikweze (1998) identified violence as a threat to adolescents' well-being. The adolescent may become socialized in violent behaviours; he or she may become confused and angry. The anger may become directed towards either parents or other children. They may become aggressive, becoming troublesome at home and at school. They may also be withdrawn, isolating themselves from others and may underachieve academically. Victims of wife battering may also suffer physical injuries such as minor cuts, scratches and bruises. Others may be more serious and cause lasting disabilities such as broken bones, internal bleeding and head trauma, among others (Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDCP, 2006). Some injuries are not physical but emotional. Victims often have low self-esteem, finding it difficult to trust others. The anger and stress experienced by victims may lead to depression and other emotional disorders sometimes leading to suicide (CDCP, 2006). Victims may also exhibit harmful health behaviours like excessive smoking, alcohol abuse, use of drugs and engaging in risky sexual activity. A child who observes violence in the home, for instance, may grow up not to trust other people, may go into relationships with an aggressive mode or may be withdrawn and afraid to go into intimate relationship.

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A study was conducted by Edith et al. (2020) on the social consequences of wife battering in Ogbaru and Onitsha North L.G.A, Anambra State, Nigeria. The study adopted the mixed methods research design; using a sample of 364 respondents who were selected through the combination of multi-stage and purposive sampling techniques. The quantitative data collected were analysed using percentages while the qualitative data were analysed using thematic method of content analysis. The study found that wife battering causes divorce, miscarriage, and children growing up to be aggressive. Although this study was conducted in parts of Anambra State, its focus was narrowed down to the social consequences of wife battering while this present study covered a larger geographical area and equally encompassed the social determinants of wife battering which was not interrogated by the study above.

Theoretical Orientation

This study is anchored on frustration- aggression theory. Frustration- aggression theory was propounded by Dollard et al. (1939). The authors published a monograph on aggression in 1939 in which they presented what has come to be known as the frustration-aggression hypothesis (F-A). As to the principal hypothesis, Dollard et al. (1939) posited that the occurrence of aggressive behavior always presupposes the existence of frustration and contrary wise that the existence of frustration always leads to some form of aggression. Frustration-aggression theory postulates that aggressive behavior results when some purposeful activities are blocked (Gelles & Straw, 1979). Organisms tend to aggress toward objects which block important goals or displace the aggression to a safer object. Although cultural forces can accentuate or inhibit aggression, this theory proposes that the tendency to respond aggressively is built into the human organism. Frustration, in this context is specified as the thwarting of a goal response and a goal response in turn was taken to mean the reinforcing final operation in an ongoing behavior sequence.

The frustration-aggression theory is particularly relevant in explaining the nature of family conflicts that result from aggressive behaviour. The family is a likely setting for aggression because it is the location of many frustrating events. In fact, the family, by virtue of its

structure and function can be viewed as inherently frustrating for its members. Among some of the inherent frustrations are the burdens and uncertainties of child rearing, the confining of sexuality to a single marital partner, the difficulty of solving problems simply by leaving, the assigning of roles and responsibilities on criteria other than interest or competency and the spatial and temporal overlap and conflict of many family activities (Gelles & Straw, 1979). In certain situations where a man may be faced with frustrating circumstances, there is the tendency for him to develop aggression as a result of his frustrations. Hence, the displacement of the aggression may be on the wife who is the nearest and safest object according to frustration- aggression theory. Frustration-aggression theory was adopted as the theoretical framework for this study because it is adequate, relevant, suitable, appropriate and best explains the problem of wife battering in Anambra State in particular and the society in general.

Materials/Methods

The study adopted a mixed methods research design. This method involved the combination of both quantitative and qualitative approaches to data collection. This research design was considered appropriate for this study because it enabled the researcher to gather a wide range of relevant data from a sample of the population at a particular point in time in order to generalize it to the entire population. The research design was also considered appropriate for this study because it was relatively economical compared to other research designs. The study area is Anambra State which is one of the five states in the South-East geo- political zone of Nigeria. It was created from the old Anambra State on the 27th August, 1991 and currently has 21 local government areas and 119 autonomous communities. The name of the State is the anglicized version of the original "*Omambala*", the native name of the Anambra River. The capital of the state and the seat of government is Awka. Onitsha and Nnewi are the biggest commercial and industrial cities in the State. The slogan of the State is "Light of the Nation". The State is located within the boundaries of Delta State in the West, Imo State and Rivers State in the South, Enugu State in the East and Kogi State in the North. The indigenous ethnic group in the State is the Igbo people who constitute 98% of the entire population of the State while 2% consist of

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other ethnic groups that can be found in the State. Anambra State is the 8th most populated State in Nigeria and the second most densely populated State in Nigeria after Lagos State. Economically, Anambra State is rich in natural gas, crude oil, bauxite, ceramic and arable soil. It has a number of culture and tourist centers namely, Agulu Lake located along Awka road in Agulu, Aniocha Local government Area of the State; Ogbunike Cave listed by United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) as a World Heritage Site (WHS); situated in the Ogba Hills, Ogbunike in Oyi local government area; Igbo- Ukwu Museum located along Awka-Etiti Ekwuluobia Road, etc. (UNESCO World Heritage Centre, 2013).

The result of 2006 National Population Census indicated that the population of Anambra State is 4,177,821 (National Population Commission Awka, 2006).

However, the target population of this study comprised all married couples in Anambra State. This category of people was selected because they have direct experience and knowledge about family matters with regards to social determinants of wife battering. The sample size for this study was 400. This was calculated using the Yamane (1967) formula for sample size estimation. The multi-stage sampling procedure was adopted for this study. This involved the application of different sampling techniques (including cluster sampling technique, simple random sampling technique, convenience sampling technique and purposive sampling technique) at one point or the other in reaching a valid sample. Both quantitative and qualitative tools were used for data collection. The In-depth Interview (IDI) Guide was also structured in line with the specific objectives of the study and contained questions and probes associated with each question. The findings from the in-depth interviews were used to complement the quantitative data for the study. The quantitative data collected were processed using the Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) software. However, descriptive statistics including frequency counts, simple percentages and graphic illustrations were used to analyse the quantitative data. The Chi Square (χ^2) inferential statistics was used to test the study hypotheses at $p < 0.05$ level of significance. The qualitative data collected through In-depth Interview (IDI) were analyzed using content analysis. The process began with proper transcription (data were

transcribed from tape in local language) and translation of the data from local language to English language.

Findings /Results

A total of 400 copies of the questionnaire were administered to the sampled respondents out of which only 383 copies were correctly filled and returned while 17 copies were lost in the field. The response rate was 95.8%. The findings are presented in the tables and figures below:

Table 1: *Socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents*

Socio-Demographic Variables	Frequency	Percent
Sex		
Male	178	46.4
Female	205	53.6
Total	383	100.0
Age		
18-27 Years	35	9.2
28- 37 Years	39	10.3
38 – 47 Years	79	20.5
48 – 57 Years	96	25.1
58 – 67 Years	86	22.5
68 – 77 Years	47	12.4
Total	383	100.0
Level of Educational Qualification		
No Formal Education	9	2.3
Primary Education	25	6.5
Secondary Education	93	24.3
Tertiary Education (Diploma)	105	27.4
Tertiary Education (Graduate)	138	36.0
Tertiary Education (Post-Graduate)	13	3.4
Total	383	100.0
Occupation		
Civil servant	71	18.5
Professional Job	47	12.3
Casual Work	20	5.2
Business/Trader	89	23.3
Skilled Labourer	58	15.1

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Farming	39	10.2
Currently unemployed	50	13.0
Others	9	2.4
Total	383	100.0
Place of Residence		
Urban	171	44.6
Rural	212	55.4
Total	383	100.0
Religious Affiliation		
Christianity	353	92.2
Islam	9	2.3
African Traditional Religion	21	5.5
Total	383	100.0

Table 1 consists of the analysis of demographic characteristics of the respondents. The sample for the study comprised married couples in Anambra State. Data analysis showed that a majority 205(53.6%) of females participated in the study compared to relatively lower proportion 178(46.4%) of them who were males. This is not surprising because the subject matter concerns women more than men. There is a saying that he who wears the shoes knows where it pinches. The data also showed that the respondents aged between a minimum of 18 years and a maximum of 77 years with those aged between the age categories of 48-57 years constituting the majority 96(25.5%) in the population. This shows that a good number of adults were included in the study. It is worthy to note that 18years is regarded as adult age and people within this age category are said to be matured enough to answer questions on marital issues. On the level of educational qualification of the respondents, data analysis showed that a majority (36.1%) of them attended up to the University level of education, with 36.0% of them being those who attained up to the graduate level, while the least among the educational groups was 2.3% of them who had no formal education. These data suggest that a relatively good proportion of the respondents were literate enough and this has implication on their response level to the questions posed to them in this study. The data also show that a majority 89(23.3%) of the respondents were involved in business/trading activities. This was followed by 18.5% of them who were civil servants. However, the least proportion (5.2%) of them were engaged

in casual work while 2.4% of them indicated being involved in other occupational activities. This is not strange since Anambra State is known as a major commercial area and this explains the reason for high number of respondents who are engaged in business. Also, Main market Onitsha (one of the largest markets in Africa and Nnewi Market (Japan of Africa) are located in Anambra State. Data analysis also showed that the greater proportion 212(73.5%) of the respondents were rural dwellers compared to 44.6% of them who were urban dwellers. Finally, on the demographic features of the respondents, majority 353(92.2%) of the respondents were affiliated to Christianity, followed by 5.5% of them who were affiliated with African Traditional Religion while the least proportion 9(2.3%) of them were affiliated to Islamic religion. This result is not surprising considering that the study area is a Christian dominated area.

ANALYSIS OF RESEARCH QUESTIONS

Research Question One: In what ways do occupational roles of couples influence wife battering in Anambra State?

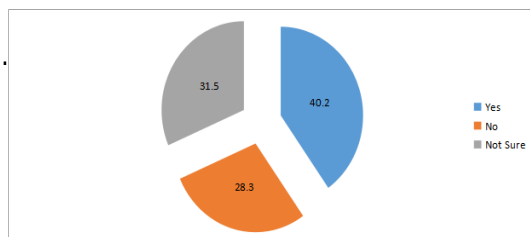


Fig. 1: Respondents' views on whether or not husbands with no job have higher odds to wife battering

Data analysed in figure 1 showed that the highest proportion (40.2%) of the respondents agreed with the view that wife battering occurs most when a husband is unemployed. This was however followed by about a quarter proportions (31.5%) of them who were not sure about it. Meanwhile, 28.3% of them disagreed with the view that such could be the case. In follow up with the qualitative data, the interviewees expressed divergent opinion on this. For instance, one of the interviewees noted that, ...of course, ...it is always frustrating for a man when he has no job...he will always be unhappy and any provocation from the wife may trigger violent actions. In most occasions, the issue may be worse when the wife is

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working and earns more than the husband...such could breed jealousy from the man and any misunderstanding with the wife could lead to displacement of aggression against the wife (Female, 49 Years, Investigation Officer, Public Complaint Commission, Anambra State).

Research Question Two: How does couples' place of residence influence wife battering in Anambra State?

Table 2: Respondents' views on how place of residence influences wife battering

Response	Frequency	Percent
Yes	131	34.2
No	98	25.5
Not Certain	154	40.3
Total	383	100

The data analysed in table 2 showed that the highest proportion 154(40.3%) of the respondents were uncertain about the view that wives in the rural areas have higher risk of experiencing battering from their husbands more than those in the urban areas. However, only 34.2% of them agreed with this view while the least proportion 98(25.5%) of them disagreed with this view. This finding implies that it may either be true in some circumstances or false in some cases. However, findings obtained qualitatively clearly supported this view. For instance, an interviewee was of the view that, ...you know, some people say that the environment contributes to how we see the world...so the place where couples live can influence the rate of battering or not. Women who live in cities may not have higher experiences of battering as compared to those within the rural-isolated communities. In rural areas, a husband can beat a wife and nobody gives a damn...but if a man tries that in the city, some other persons may feel concerned and take the woman's case up. So, I agree that the place of residence has a significant influence on the relative experiences of wife towards battering (Male, 45 Years, Religious Priest, Anambra State).

Research Question Three: What are the social consequences of wife battering in Anambra State?

To proffer answers to this question, the respondents' views about the social consequences of wife battering were assessed in three dimensions: the socio-psychological consequences

on the battered wife, the socio-behavioural consequences on the children and the consequences on social relationship within the large community.

Table 3: Respondents' views on the socio-psychological consequences of wife battering

Response	Frequency	Percent
– Social withdrawal	78	20.4
– Low self-esteem	101	26.5
– Seeking emotional support from another man	54	14.1
– Mental disorders (such as depression or trauma)	139	36.3
– Others	10	2.7
Total	383	100

Approaching the analysis of consequences of wife battering from the qualitative approach, insightful views were provided by the interviewees to corroborate the above quantitative findings. For instance, one of the interviewees corroborated that,

Well, the smallest unit in the community or the entire society is the family. When there is prevalence of wife battering among couples, the family is affected and by extension the whole community and general society. Also when children in families are socialized in hostile home atmosphere that means they will equally go out to the general society with hostile behaviours. It is a chain of violence... from parent to children and from children to the general society. Some of the violent crimes you we see today are products of violent homes. Anything that affects the family, which is the basic unit of the society, affects the entire society (Male, 43 Years, Legal Practitioner, Anambra State).

Research Question Four: What are the preventive measures to wife battering in Anambra State?

The measures to curtail incidences of wife battering were assessed from two dimensions including: what the respondents considered practical action to be taken by victims of wife battering and what they feel that the government authorities can do to curtail the issue.

Table 4: Respondents views on the best options for victims of wife battering

Response	Responses		Percent of Cases
	N	Percent	
– Reporting to the law enforcement agents	245	32.8%	71.2%
– Seeking help from friends and family members	154	20.6%	44.8%
– Filing for divorce	106	14.2%	30.8%

– Running away from battering husband	134	17.9%	39.0%
– Others	109	14.6%	31.7%
Total	748	100.0%	217.4%

Extrapolating from the percent column in table 4, the highest proportion (32.8%) felt that reporting cases of wife battering to law enforcement agents would be the best option for victims of wife battering. This was followed by 20.6% of them who felt that seeking help from friends and family members would be the best option. However, the least option as indicated by 14.2% of the respondents is that of filing for divorce. This implies that the respondents considered divorce as an option in cases where other options seem to have failed. Also, Igbo culture does not encourage divorce as a solution to wife battering unlike in Western advanced countries where it is an acceptable option to the social problem. Data were equally gathered from the respondents regarding the actions they considered important for the government authorities in relation to curbing incidences of wife battering. Approaching the inquiry from the qualitative approach, the interviewees gave some insightful views on how the issue of wife battering could be curtailed in Anambra State. For instance, one of the interviewees was of the view that,

...one can talk of sensitization...maybe by the government authorities through the social welfare agencies, the church and other non-governmental organisations. Also, there is need for the society to take the issue of wife battering seriously by finding appropriate ways to punish husbands who batter their wives or even wives who batter their husbands because it can equally be the other way round...there are wives who batter their husbands. The society has to be involved in checkmating the occurrence of such issues...you can also talk of employment because we have said that unemployment is a major factor that contributes to wife battering. So if the government and private sectors can employ couples, they will make money to solve their immediate household needs and would equally help to ease some of the tensions that influence wife battering (Male, 45 Years, Religious Priest, Anambra State).

Discussion of Findings

This study was premised on the view that wife battering is a prevalent issue in Anambra State. As such, the major concern of this study was to investigate the occupational roles of

couples and wife battering among people of Anambra State. The first research question of this study probed into the occupational roles of married couples and the occurrence of wife battering. Judging from the data analysed and consistent with findings of previous studies, the occupational roles of couples have significant influence on the occurrence of wife battering in a marital relationship. Specifically, findings of this present study indicated that husbands with no job have higher odds of battering their wives. Qualitative data specifically showed that such could happen due to the fact that a jobless man will always be unhappy and any slight provocation could trigger violent actions against the wife. This finding is consistent with previous research findings which documented that husbands with no job are more likely to batter their wives (Onuoha, 2014). The findings of this study equally showed that jobless wives are more at risk of being battered than those with jobs considering that a wife's unemployment status would invariably mean low income for the woman and total dependence on the husband. Findings of this study equally showed that the nature of a husband's job has an effect on a husband's tendency of beating his wife in such a manner that husbands who perform menial jobs, hard jobs and jobs that demand aggression could be pressured by the demands of their jobs and such pressures could result in transfer of aggression against their wives at home. Attempt was equally made in this study to determine if couples' place of residence influences the occurrence of wife battering in Anambra State. Findings obtained in this regard showed that couples' residing within the rural communities have higher odds of experiencing wife battering than those residing within the urban areas. Other findings arising from this study showed that couples living within or close to slums, those living in communities that justify wife battering as a man's right, those residing closer to extended families and those who reside in communities that regard domestic violence as a family issue have higher odds of experiencing wife battering. Findings of the study revealed that battered wives are likely to suffer from mental disorders such as depression and trauma, low self-esteem and social withdrawal, among other latent consequences. On the other hand, children who constantly witness their mothers being battered by their fathers are likely to experience poor academic performance, low self-esteem and sense of insecurity, among other consequences. In addition, wife battering causes high rate of divorce among couples, loss of social relevance of the couples within the community and general society level and collapse

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of the family system, among other latent consequences. Previous researches conducted on this equally show congruence with the above findings. However, Edith et al (2020), Muhammad and Bushra (2015) and Oli (2012) found in their respective studies that wife battering causes divorce, depression, suicide, physical injuries, miscarriage and children growing up to be aggressive. Finally, this study found that measures to forestall the occurrence of wife battering among married couples in Anambra State may include actions applicable to victims of wife battering and that which are applicable to the government institutions. For the victims of wife battering, the study found that reporting cases of battering to law enforcement agents and seeking help from friends and family members, among other latent measures; while the most important measures applicable to the government and non-governmental agencies include public enlightenment on the effects of wife battering through the use of media and establishment of women empowerment and skills acquisition programmes as well as enactment of laws that would criminalize the act of wife battering, among other measures.

Conclusion

In essence, issues associated with marital violence are complex and may be analysed from diverse socio-behavioural, socio-economic, socio-cultural and socio-psychological dimensions. Wife battering is a canker worm that has eaten deep into the fabrics of the society. The problem persists in the society, in spite of several attempts by the government and non-governmental organizations to curb it. The consequences of wife battering are nonetheless very devastating for both the victims of wife battering, children within households where wife battering occurs and the general society at large. Considering the consequences of wife battering on families, policies that would help to address these challenges should be formulated and implemented at the community level as well as government institutional level.

Recommendations

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

1. There is the need for various social welfare and non-governmental agencies concerned with women development to reinforce policies that could help to address cultural issues that alienate the female gender from socio-economic opportunities in

various communities. This would ensure that females have relatively higher access to education as well as skills that would provide them access to gainful employments even as wives in their homes.

2. There is the need for government to reinforce existing laws regarding violence against women. This could be done through establishment of free and accessible agency for every form of violence against women.
3. There is equally the need for major institutions at the community levels including local government, Social Welfare Agency and religious institutions to organize periodic community workshops for the men. Such workshops could be used to exchange ideas with the men in order to understand the major issues affecting their homes; as well as possible measures that could aid them maintain harmony and peaceful marital relationships.
4. One of the important findings of this study was that occupational roles of couples particularly that of men have significant influence on the occurrence of wife battering. As such, the Social Welfare agencies should design welfare programmes that could help to ease the socio-economic burdens experienced by men in the course of their occupational roles. In this direction, financial palliatives could be introduced at the community level for men who do menial jobs and those whose job roles may not yield significant incomes that could sustain their households. This would help to ease the pressure associated with hard work and inability to meet household financial demands that are sources of tension in the family.

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