PREVALENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN IN NIGERIA AND IT'S IMPLICATON ON SOCIO-ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

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Abstract
Domestic violence is a global public health problem with long-term and short-term effects on the physical and mental health of women and their children. Domestic violence ranges from intimate partner violence, sexual abuse and other forms of violence. This study used data from NDHS (2018) and a multinomial logistic regression to examine the prevalence of domestic violence in Nigeria. The objectives of the study are to examine the degree of prevalence of violence against women in Nigeria. The study found that the most prevalent form of violence against women is physical violence, follow by psychological violence and there has been continuous increase in this act of gender based violence. Also, it was discovered that most women that suffered violence faced serious mental challenge that affects their productive capacity both at home and in their work place. The study recommend public awareness on the danger of domestic violence and victims of domestic violence should be encouraged to seek legal action. Also, they should be enactment of law against all forms of domestic violence.

Keywords: Violence, Domestic Economic Development,

Introduction
The incidence of violence against women is growing astronomical in recent time. From forced and early marriages to the physical, mental or sexual assault on a woman, 1 in 3 Nigerian women have experienced physical violence by age 15 (UNICEF, 2022). The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (DEVW), defines the term ''Violence against women'' means any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life, (Tesfaw and Mluneh,2022) The majority of violent acts against women committed worldwide are committed by husbands or other intimate partners. The World Health Organization, WHO (2021) claims that gender-based violence is a key factor in domestic violence, particularly violence against intimate partners. In various studies on sexual assaults and other forms of GBV in Africa, a significant percentage of female population ranging from 5%to 15% reported being victimized (Younger, 2011)

According to United Nation (2022) .The onset of the COVID-19 pandemic saw a dramatic increase in reported cases of violence against women and girls In Nigeria. With up to 18 million female learners affected by school closures and concerted efforts to end child marriage becoming hampered by the lockdowns. Anecdotal reports show that domestic abuse and rape increased by 149% during the lockdown period. Physical violence remains largely underreported partly because of the stigma that is attached to it and because social norms allow it to go unpunished. Physical assault on women and girls is widespread. Situations of humanitarian crises and displacement may exacerbate existing violence, such as by intimate partners, as well as nonpartner physical violence, and may also lead to new forms of violence against women. Physical violence cuts across cultures

Women's low socioeconomic standing and poverty, both inside and outside of marriage or in an intimate relationship, play a significant role in the persistence of violence against them, which has detrimental effects on the advancement of socioeconomic development (Uzoho, 2021). According to Morrison and Orlando (2005), researchers have been able to divide the costs of gender-based violence into two categories: direct or tangible costs and indirect or intangible costs. Direct costs, also known as tangible costs, are costs that the victim or their household actually paid for or for which actual money was spent on the provision of services, facilities, or charges. Taxi fees to a hospital and employee wages at a shelter are two examples. Despite the fact that they don't have a monetary value in the economy, they are measured as a loss of potential, such as pain, fear, and suffering, or the social and psychological costs of violence, which ultimately result in lower earnings and profits due to lower productivity (Ogunkorode, (2018). Indirect costs include lost productivity from paid and unpaid work; forgone lifetime earnings for women who die as a result of GBV; as well as physical and psychological trauma; and long-term effects of such violence. Deterioration of the quality of life for survivors and their loved ones is another indirect cost. The intangible costs of violence are priceless; that is, they cannot be measured in money Onyemelukwe, (2016).

Societies that discriminate by gender tend to experience less rapid socio-economic growth and poverty reduction than societies that treat males and females more equally. Similarly, social gender disparities produce economically inefficient outcomes (World Bank 2001). Sadly, the economic costs of GBV include expenditures on service provision, foregone income for women and their families, decreased productivity, and negative impacts on human capital formation, which are burdensome to developing economies. According to a recent World Bank report, the estimated costs of intimate partner violence across five countries is 1.2–3.7 percent of GDP, the same as what most governments spend on primary education (Olufemi ,2015)It is against this background that this study attempts to evaluate the difficulties encountered by women in escaping the poverty trap and advancing their careers.

The socio-economic costs of gender-based violence both on the perpetrators and victims are far-reaching, being a victim of violence, particularly over an extended period of time, can indirectly prevent and impede women from securing and retaining employment due to their poor health or that of those for whom they are responsible. Cuts, bruises, broken bones, internal bleeding, and head trauma are among the most common physical health issues or injuries female victims experience. In addition, scratches and bruises are common, compelling them to miss work to visit the doctor or to spend the majority of their time at home. (lyabo,Ibukunoluwa and Busayo, 2020). Domestic violence frequently prevents victims from attending paid employment, which has a negative effect on their earnings. As a direct result of the assault, the victims' income falls by 35%. Consequently, the household's resources and the manner in which they are allocated are likely to be affected. The high costs of violence against women have a ripple effect on those who provide financial assistance to cover these costs (Duvvury, Callan, Carney and Raghavendra, 2013).

According to UN Women (2016), the cost of violence against women (public, private and social) amounts to US$1.5 trillion at the global level. The World Bank (2018) found that violence against women can cost up to 3.7 percent of GDP in some countries. Although the sub-Saharan African region has the highest level of domestic violence against women, empirical studies about its potential economic impact are scarce, mainly due to data limitations. One study found that gender-based violence costs South Africa between 0.9 and 1.3 percent of GDP annually (KPMG, 2014), while another study revealed that violence against women

and girls costs the Ghanaian economy around 0.9 percent of GDP (Raghavendra, Kijong, Sinead, Mrina, Asante, Petri and Duvvury, 2019). However, these studies use accounting methods to estimate some direct costs related to such violence but do not take into account other factors that can affect the economy. According to World Health Organization, WHO (2021) Violence disproportionately affects women living in low- and lower-middle-income countries. An estimated 37% of women living in the poorest countries have experienced physical and/or sexual intimate partner violence in their life, with some of these countries having a prevalence as high as 1 in 2. The regions of Oceania, Southern Asia and Sub-Saharan Africa have the highest prevalence rates of intimate partner violence among women aged 15-49, ranging from 33% - 51%. The lowest rates are found in Europe (16–23%), Sub-Saharan Africa - 33%, Central Asia (18%), Eastern Asia (20%) and South-Eastern Asia (21%).Younger women are at highest risk for recent violence. Among those who have been in a relationship, the highest rates (16%) of intimate partner violence in the past 12 months occurred among young women aged between 15 and 2

The combination of social and economic development improves people's lives and what they are able to accomplish through access to economic opportunities, political and social liberties and powers, in an environment that encourages and fosters the conditions for good health, basic education, and the cultivation of initiative. But Violence in all its forms against women can have an impact on a general socio economic well-being throughout the rest of the nation, even long after the violence may have ended. It is associated with increased risk of injuries, depression, anxiety disorders, unplanned pregnancies, sexually-transmitted infections including HIV and many other health problems. It has impacts on society as a whole and comes with tremendous costs, impacting national budgets and overall socio economic development. (WHO, 2021) The Government of Nigeria has a clear policy framework in place to address the sexual abuse, violence and exploitation suffered by women and girls, including The Child Rights Act (CRA) and the Violence against Persons Prohibition Act (VAPP). Establishment of a National Tool for Gender-based Violence Data Management through the Ministry of Women Affairs in collaboration with the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) under the Joint EU-UN Spotlight Initiative and other critical stakeholders developed the National Tool for Gender-based Violence Data Management in Nigeria, inauguration of inter-ministerial committee on eradication of sexual and gender-based violence in response to worsening cases of sexual and gender-based violence in the country arising from the Covid-19 pandemic and lockdown measures that were imposed to curb the spread of the virus and development of Gender-Based Policy Guidelines in Emergency Response .Clear indications were made of an absence of gender-focused responses during emergencies such as the COVID-19. This gap has been addressed through the development of Policy Guidelines for Emergency Response, facilitated under the Joint EU-UN Spotlight Initiative by the UN Women and Implementing Partners in the Spotlight States particularly the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), Sokoto and Ebonyi States. These policies when implemented, ensure that vulnerable persons, particularly women and children are not left behind in emergencies such as COVID-19

But neither has been ratified in all Nigerian states and serious problems persist throughout the country. Violence based on gender has been deemed a violation of women's human rights due to its intensity and global harmful impact on numerous countries (WHO, 2013). Despite the declaration and other international regulations enacted to prevent the behavior, certain socio-cultural variables especially in developing nations, have rendered these laws ineffective. As a result of the normalization of gender based violence (WHO,2021) the effects of domestic violence on the general welfare of women in particular and the nation as a whole are overwhelming, particularly in terms of the nation's socioeconomic development. To break free from poverty, economic stagnation, and being the world's capital of poverty Uzoho, (2022), stated that the Nigerian government must ensure the equal and full participation of women in economic and political decision-making .The government also has to re-educate and initiate actions that will result in a paradigm shift among its male citizens, allowing them to accept women as equal partners in society (WHO, 2019). Despite all these efforts made by the government to curb the menace of violence against women the situation is appalling. It is against this backdrop that this study embark on examining the prevalence of violence against women in relation to socioeconomic development in Nigeria. However the objective of this study is to; (i) measure the

degree of prevalence of violence against women in Nigeria. And (ii) Determine the factors responsible for act of violence against women in Nigeria.

Empirical Literatures
Tesfaw and Muluneh (2022) carried out investigation on assessing the prevalence and association between physical, emotional, and sexual of intimate partner violence against women in Nigeria. A retrospective cross-sectional design was implemented based on the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey involving 8061 married women aged 15–49. A log-linear statistical model for the three-way table was used to assess the association between emotional, physical, and sexual violence. SAS statistical software was used for data management and parameter estimation. The study concluded that Over 33 percent of women experienced at least one incident of physical, emotional, or sexual violence in their lifetime. Physical violence against women has a significant association with emotional and sexual violence. However, it does not imply physical violence causes the other violence since cross-sectional data used for the analysis and other factors were not taken into consideration. The lack of a three-way association between emotional, physical, and sexual violence was also perceived. Therefore, as the prevalence of intimate partner violence against women s high, Nigeria as a country needs to strive to reduce it with the collaboration of other nations in the world to achieve Sustainable Development Goal (SDG). Design and apply guidelines to aware of the community about intimate partner violence against women and besides, take appropriate sentencing on those who commit the violence are the better approaches to prevent violence. Traditional habits that might be the cause of violence should be avoided to reduce or prevent the burden of women due to violence.

Iyabo, Busayo and Olajide (2020) studied Gender-Based Violence And Socio-Economic Development In Lagos State, Nigeria using Primary and secondary data were adopted and the findings from this paper revealed that domestic violence has affected the career advancement of women. More worrisome is the fact that government agencies have not been able to find a sustainable solution to the menace. The study therefore concludes and recommends that the destructive culture of child marriage must be eradicated if women are to advance in their careers and maximally contribute to the development of the society and this can be achieved through public enlightenment at the grassroots' level on the implication of child marriage.

Airaoje, Aondover and Afeye (2022) looked at a critical review on gender based violence in Nigeria: A media perspective. The study revealed that, the majority of Nigerian women have been victims of gender-based violence, such as incest, rape, physical abuse, verbal abuse, denial of food, forced marriage, and early child marriage. The findings of the study also revealed that age, employment, educational attainment, witnessing a mother being beaten as a child, family type, duration of union, participation in household decision-making, employment status relative to woman, differences in educational qualification between a male partner and woman, attitudes toward wife-beating among men and women, and male right to discipline or control females are all factors that contribute to gender-based violence. Sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, physical injuries, immediate psychological reactions such as shock, shame, guilt, and anger; and long-term psychological outcomes such as depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal ideation, lack of sexual pleasure, and fears are all health consequences of gender-based violence. The study concludes that gender-based violence has a negative impact not only on women and their reproductive health but also on Nigeria's economy and progress.

Ouedraogo and Stenzel (2021) explore the economic consequences of violence against women in sub-Saharan Africa using large demographic and health survey data collected pre-pandemic. Relying on a two-stage least square method to address endogeneity, we find that an increase in the share of women subject to violence by 1 percentage point can reduce economic activities (as proxied by nightlights) by up to 8 percent. This economic cost results from a significant drop in female employment. Our results also show that violence against women is more detrimental to economic development in countries without protective laws against domestic violence, in natural resource rich countries, in countries where women are deprived of decision-making power and during economic downturns. Beyond the moral imperative, the findings highlight the

importance of combating violence against women from an economic standpoint, particularly by reinforcing laws against domestic violence and strengthening women's decision-making power.

Mshelia (2021) examined the phenomenon of Gender Based Violence in Nigeria is examined in the light of Social Learning and Feminist theoretical perspectives. Using secondary data, different forms of violence were identified in the study and they include beating, rape, humiliation, verbal abuse, widowhood practices, early marriage, sexual harassment and female genital mutilation. Consequences of the acts as identified in the study include depression, suicide, murder, sexually transmitted diseases, and physical injuries. It is therefore recommended that government, individuals, civil society and non-governmental organizations should act accordingly towards eliminating the menace.

Methodology

This study would make use of Logistic Regression analysis. This is because In situations where there are many explanatory variables of different types, including continuous, discrete, and binary variables logistic regression (LR) model can be applied. The LR model can be used effectively when the response variable is composed of more than two levels or categories. The LR model may be used to predict a response variable on the basis of continuous and/or categorical explanatory variables to determine the percent of variation in the response variable explained by the explanatory variables and to determine the effect of covariate control variables, as the model allows the simultaneous comparison of more than one contrasting variable; that is, the log odds of three or more contrasting variables are estimated simultaneously (Garson, 2010).

Model Specification

In this model, we take Violence Status (VS) to be the dependent variable and expressed it as function of explanatory variables. The dependent variable, Violence Status (VS) has k = 2 categories of interest that representing: No violence, Emotional violence

And the explanatory variables used in the study are the socio-economic and demographic characteristics of women. We let VS_i be a random variable representing the probability of any woman falling in any of the 2 dependent variable categories of interest. We assume that each victim (violated woman) has the probability of belonging in any of the categories above.

The Violence Status (VS_i) is a function of the following factors: humiliated by partner, threatened with harm, wealth index, made to feel, experience emotional violence, ever been slapped, ever been punched with fist or hit, ever been strangled, ever been kicked, threatened with knife/gun, force into unwanted sex. Other unwanted sex, physically forced to perform sexual acts, ever had bruises because of husband/partner, ever had eye injuries/dislocations, ever had wounds or broken bone, partner drinks alcohol, partner being drunk, person who has ever physically hurt repondent (X_i).

The logistic regression model for probability of an individual falling in any of the choosen categories VS_i and the set of explanatory variables x_i as:

$$P = P(VS_i) = \frac{\exp^{(\beta_i X_i)}}{1 + \exp^{(\beta_i X_i)}} \qquad \text{...3.0}$$

Functional form of the multiple logistic regression model is specified as:

$$VS_i = F(X_1, X_2, ..., X_q) \dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots 3.1$$

The mathematical form of the model is specified as:

$$VS_i = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_n X + \varepsilon \dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots\dots...3.2$$

P = the probability of dependent variable (VS) = 1 (which signifies categories of interest on violence against women)

β_0 = the intercept or a constant, and β_1, β_2, β_n = are regression coefficients of explanatory variables

X_{i-q} = explanatory variables.

ε = error term

One important feature of the logit model revolves around its error term, ε. The error terms in a logit model are assumed to be independent across observations and identically distributed. As with other maximum

likelihood estimation techniques, the estimators from a logistic model are not considered unbiased; however, they have large sample properties of consistency, normality, and efficiency (Dow, 2004).

Results And Interpretation

Table 4.1: Descriptive Statistics
Table 4.1 presents the descriptive statistics of the variables under study. The descriptive statistics shows the mean, standard deviation, minimum and maximum value of every variable considered.

Descriptive Statistics

Variables	Freq.	Percent	Mean	Std.dev	Min	Max
HBP	2609	11.70	0.1170	0.024	0	1
TWH	1379	6.18	0.0618	0.045	0	1
MFB	3697	16.57	0.1657	1.234	0	1
EBS	3012	13.5	0.1350	0.078	0	1
PWF	833	3.73	0.0373	0.023	0	1
KBH	1281	5.74	0.0574	0.345	0	1
EBB	212	0.95	0.0095	0.452	0	1
TWG	230	1.03	0.0103	0.692	0	1
FUS	1102	4.94	0.0494	0.499	0	1
USEX	373	1.67	0.0167	0.478	0	1
THP	704	3.16	0.0316	0.290	0	1
FPS	487	2.18	0.0216	0.311	0	1
EHB	964	25.19	0.2519	0.567	0	1
EI	441	11.52	0.1152	0.222	0	1
BB	251	6.56	0.0656	0.397	0	1
AGE	3556	76.23	0.7623	0.234	0	1
MS	2599	9.41	0.0941	0.346	0	1
REL	2009	7.28	0.0728	0.456	0	1
EL	337	1.22	0.0122	0.326	0	1
WS	2101	7.6	0.0760	0..450	0	1
PDS	429	1.55	0.0155	0.112	0	1
WI	334	1.21	0.0121	0.445	0	1
PED	325	1.18	0.0180	0382		

Out of the 1722 women observed 11.70 percent had been humiliated by either husband or partner, 6.18 percent had been threatened with harm by either their husband or partner and 16.57 percent made to feel bad. In terms of slapped, punched with fist by husband/partner, kicked or drag by husband/partner, had eye injured/sprains, had bruises from husband/partner, had broken bones from husband/partner, and threatened with gun by husband/partner a percentage sum total of 45.22 had been recorded.

A sum total of 20.33 percent of women had been sexually violated, force into unwanted sex by their husband/partner, experience of female genital cutting, and force to perform sexual act by another person.

i. Psychological Violence

From the result above, 32.45 percent out of 1722 observed on cases of domestic violence had ever been humiliated by husband/partner, ever been threatened with gun by husband/partner, ever been threatened with knife by husband/partner, ever been threatened with harmful weapon by husband/partner, and ever been made to feel bad by husband/partner.

ii.   Physical Violence
In terms of physical violence, 40.22 percent out of 1722 observed on cases of domestic violence ever been slapped by husband/partner, ever been kicked by husband/partner, ever had arm twisted or hair pulled by husband/partner, ever been burnt by husband/partner and ever been punched with fist or hit by husband/partner.

iii.   Sexual Violence
20.17 percent respondents out of the observed 1722 women on the cases of domestic violence were reported to have been sexually violated. Ever been physically forced into unwanted sex or forced into other unwanted sexual act by husband/partner.

Responding to the objectives of this study, there is a high prevalent of violence against women in Nigeria. 92.84 percent of 1722 (approximately 1600 women) have experienced gender violence. Physical violence is the most prevalent form of violence against women, while psychological violence is second in rating.

Objective 1:
To determine the degree of prevalence of violence against women in Nigeria, we use the marginal effect at mean value (MEM). The degree of prevalence of violence against women in Nigeria on average is 0.1675 (16.75%). For the sampled population of 1004 females, 16.75% experience violence of different forms, from either the husband/partner, or from other persons.

Table. 4.2: **Degree of prevalence of violence against women in Nigeria**
Estimates of violence against women using MLR model

Variable	Coef.	Std. Err.	Z	P>z	[95% Conf.	Interval]
HBP	.0644656	.0907491	0.71	0.477	-.1133993	.2423305
TWH	.0312151	.0855166	0.37	0.715	-.1363942	.1988245
MFB	.1999801	.0987822	2.02	0.043	.0063706	.3935896
EBS	-.0634315	.0811938	-0.78	0.435	-.2225685	.0957055
PWF	.1788432	.0773519	2.31	0.021	.0272363	.3304501
KBH	.1554508	.0682917	2.28	0.023	.0216014	.2893001
EBB	-.0247296	.121488	-0.20	0.839	-.2628418	.2133825
TWG	-.0327164	.1166491	-0.28	0.779	-.2613443	.1959116
FUS	-.3355119	.1092933	-3.07	0.002	-.5497229	-.1213009
USEX	-.114307	.1946862	-0.59	0.557	-.495885	.2672709
THP	-.0747143	.0999906	-0.75	0.455	-.2706923	.1212636
FPS	.6026891	.1913247	3.15	0.002	.2276995	.9776787
EHB	-.2768642	.1795606	-1.54	0.123	-.6287966	.0750681
EI	.4115682	.2240155	1.84	0.066	-.0274942	.8506305
BB	.1410476	.2358817	0.60	0.550	-.321272	.6033672
AGE	.2234882	.0871546	-2.56	0.010	-.3943081	-.0526683
MS	-.1098036	.242701	-0.45	0.651	-.5854887	.3658816
REL	-.0392345	.2650216	-0.15	0.882	-.5586672	.4801983
RES	.2304206	1042.852	0.00	1.000	-2043.722	2044.183
WS	.002555	.2395075	0.01	0.991	-.4668711	.4719812
PDS	.2126061	.3906036	0.54	0.586	-.5529628	.978175
WI	-.1024988	1.454872	-0.07	0.944	-2.953996	2.748998
PED	-13.16966	689.194	-0.02	0.985	-1363.965	1337.626
_cons	.3938258	.2560528	1.54	0.124	-.1080284	.89568

Number of obs	= 1722	Prob > chi2 =	0.0000	
LR chi2(124)	= 376.46	Pseudo R2	=	0.1431
Log likelihood	= -2794.7322			

P-value>0.05

The results indicate R-square of 0.1431which means that 14.31 percent of the variation experience of violence against women can be explained by the explanatory variables in the model, while the remaining 85.69 percent are explained by variables not included in the model. In addition, seven independent variables had coefficient that were statistically significant at 5% level of significance ($p<0.05$) while the remaining were statistically insignificant ($p>0.05$).

Interpreting continuous variables, holding all other variables constant the probability of experiencing violence among women in Nigeria is 0.3938258. Being married reduces the probability of gender violence by -0.1098036 ceteris paribus while belonging to a religion reduces the probability of gender violence by - 0.0392345holding all other variables constant. Residing in urban areas increases the probability of violence against women by 0.2304206 when all the other variables are held constant. In respect to the partner's education level, primary education level increases the probability of being violated by 0.2984 other things held constant. Similarly a post primary level of education among the sexual partners increases chances of experiencing gender violence by 0.1192 holding other variables constant. Wealth index has a positive relationship with experience of gender violence with the results showing that belonging to the middle, rich and richer wealth quintiles increases the chances of being violated by 0.002555 when all other variables are held constant. Likewise age of respondents increases the chances of a woman being violated by 0.2234882 ceteris paribus. In terms of age, being older reduces the chances of a woman being violated with the result showing that belonging to age group 25-49 years increases the chances of being violated by 0.1961.

Objective 2:
To determine the effect of violence on female gender in Nigeria, we estimate using Logit model and compute the marginal effect. As given in Table 4.3.

Table 4.3:   Logit regression of violence status

Dependent Variable:	Violence Status (VS)		
	Coeff.	**Std. Dev.**	**Mar. Eff.**
Constant	-1.5690*	0.4081	
Age	-0.0241**	0.0134	-0.0033*
Poor	0.5772***	0.2034	0.0890**
Humiliated	1.2132***	0.2558	0.2223***
Threaten	0.5526	0.3524	0.0898
Insult	1.8267***	0.2221	0.3533***
Slap	0.4621*	0.2720	0.0719
Punch	1.2334**	0.6023	0.2388*
Strangle	-1.5258	1.3724	-0.1262**
Kick	0.4957	0.5379	0.0799
Knive	0.4289	1.1378	0.0684
Force	0.5228	0.5936	0.0851
Others	-0.2111	0.7663	-0.0274
Physical	-0.3840	0.7069	-0.0472
Injury	-0.3602	0.3767	-0.0454
Bruise	-0.1017	0.2465	-0.0139
Wound	-0.7455	0.6058	-0.0823*
Drink	0.5876**	0.2443	0.0901**
Hurts	-0.8912	0.6956	-0.0928*
N	992		
LR chi(18)	211.18		
Prob > chi2	0.0000		
Pseudo R2	0.2089		
Log likelihood	-399.82445		

*** significant at 0.001   ** significant at 0.05   * significant at 0.1

Logit coefficients always are in log-odds units and cannot be read as the usual OLS coefficients. Therefore, the marginal effect of violence status explains the difference between the probability that a female

experiences violence and the probability of a female not experiencing violence, holding all other variables in the model at their mean values. Looking at the individual variables, a number of them are statistically significant. Marginal effects with negative values indicate lower probability of experiencing violence while positive values indicate higher probability of experiencing violence.

Age, in Table 4.3, is a continuous variable, and is negative and statistically significant. The negative marginal effect for age (-0.0033) simply implies that on average, as a female grows older in age, holding every other factor fixed, the probability of experiencing violence either from the husband/partner or some other persons reduces.

Given the wealth index, females who are poor/from poor families on average, have a 0.0890 higher probability of experiencing violence as compared with females who are rich/from rich families. This means that although a female, irrespective of her wealth index, has a likelihood of facing violence, the chances are 8.9% higher for those who are poor than for those who are rich. This variable is significant. The variable "poor" covers for poorer and poorest.

Females who are humiliated by husband/partner experience 0.2222 higher probability of violence as compared to those who females who are not humiliated by husband/partner. Holding other factors fixed, on the average, a female who is humiliated by the husband/partner experiences more violence, psychological, emotional, physical, or otherwise. This variable is positive and significant.

A positive and significant relationship exists between been insulted or made to feel bad by their husbands/partners and violence status. Females who were been insulted/made to feel bad experience 0.3533 higher probability of violence as compared to females who were neither insulted nor made to feel bad by their husbands/partners.

The probability of experiencing violence is positively and significantly higher for females who are been punched with fist or hit by husband/partner. Such females have a 0.2385 higher probability of experiencing violence as compared to those females who were not punched with fist or hit by husband/partner. On the contrary, females who were strangled had a 0.1262 l lower probability of experiencing violence. This negative and significant value simply implies that although females experience one form of violence or the other, it is lower for females who were been strangled by husband/partner.

Another positive and significant relationship exists between drinking and violence status. Females whose husband/partner drinks tend to experience more violence than those who do not drink. On the contrary, those females who are been wounded or hurt by their husbands/partners experience less violence as compared to those females were neither wounded nor hurt by their husbands/partners. This relationship is also significant although it is negative

Summary
Violence against women occurs at an alarming rate in Nigeria and remains a problem to society and a menace to public health importance. This study analyses the prevalence of violence against women and makes important contributions to the understanding of its frequency of occurrence, determinants/or causes of violence against women. Observation of this study showed that women experience more of physical violence than any other violence status. These observations made showed that young women experience more of sexual violence. The degree of its occurrence depends on some factors like; **age** -women in a particular age bracket experience more violence than others, **religion** – sometimes ones' religion affiliation determines egalitarian living, **level of education** – evidences from empirical studies show that some women surfer violence as a result of low education background and other factors like; **marital status, states, geographical zones.** Behavioral factors of partners were found to greatly influence domestic violence against females which corroborates findings by Coker et al. (1999). From the analyses ran in this work, we observed that there is high prevalence of violence against women in Nigeria. It is also of interest to state here that physical violence is the most predominant form of violence against women. We also observed that report of violence against women by Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (DHS) 2013 is higher than the NDHS 2008 report survey.

However, we observed that the prevalence rates reported in this study could still be underestimated because of beliefs that issues concerning families and intimate relationships should not be discussed as it is seen as a 'private matter'. Of special interest is the extent of violence against women in our environment (in form of spousal violence or domestic violence which has been over looked. This sends out warning signs that consideration and urgent attention should be given to curb domestic violence both among women. The prevalence of physical violence among women from the ML regression in this study is (40.22%) which is higher than psychological violence (32.45%), and sexual violence (20.17%).

Conclusion

An analysis of the prevalence of violence against women in Nigeria with multinomial logistic regression in this work showed that there is a high prevalence of violence against women across the country using data gotten by NDHS 2013. The research found that the most prevalent form of VAW from our analysis is physical violence, follow by psychological violence and there has been continuous increase in this act of gender based violence. The implication of this increment is that women folds will contribute little or no effort to socio-economic developments until the issue of gender based violence among women is drastically reduce. Because physical, emotionally and sexually violated women cannot contribute positively to their society. Thus, for egalitarian society, where there is no intimidation of gender, the above recommendation should be properly adopted.

Recommendations

The observed causes of violence among women from NDHS 2013 are many but can still be control and be terminated. Violence against women is an impediment to the achievement of an end to global violence, women maltreatment and discriminations. Therefore, strategies should be put in place involving the government and all major stakeholders to curb this phenomenon. These strategies may include: Public awareness, use of the media and or encouraging victims in initiating lawsuits. Laws and policies that will adequately protect women should be enacted and awareness of these laws should also be made. The religion bodies should help in fight towards ending gender-based violence. As a matter of urgent, the government should also engage community educators to enlightened and orientate the perpetrators of violence against women to turn a new live. The findings of this study also provide additional information for those working or campaigning against gender based violence in Nigeria (NGOs) as it will enable them make adequate and better informed decisions. The government should enact laws that punish perpetrators of violence against women. This work serves as a reference material to other researchers and students on analysis of the prevalence of violence against women in an area of case study.

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