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INTIMATE SPOUSAL'S VIOLENCE AND WOMEN'S PROPERTY OWNERSHIP: DELVING DEEPER INTO LINKAGE IN LAGOS STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

A large body of global research documents the high prevalence of intimate partner violence (IPV) against women across the world and the resulting socioeconomic costs and reproductive and other health consequences for societies, women and their children. Developmental theorists and Feminists have advocated for empowerment of women and properties ownership as a panacea to intimate spousal violence. Yet, the relationship between intimate spousal violence and women property ownership is not clear: The aim of this study is to examine the relationship between women property ownership and intimate spousal violence. The theoretical orientation of the paper is anchored on Household bargaining model and Male backlash model. The method of data collection was triangulated. Two hundred and seventy two questionnaires were distributed to married women with property ownership through snowball method, While twenty in-depth- interviews were conducted with women purposively chosen. Quantitative information obtained was analysed through frequency distribution and simple percentage, while qualitative information was analysed through content analysis and ethnographic summaries. Within, the theoretical orientations of Male backlash and household bargaining models, the findings revealed that majority of women with properties still experience intimate spousal violence. Types of violence experienced by women property owners include emotional and sexual violence. Hypothesis tested at 0.05 significant levels that there is relationship between women property owners and intimate spousal violence was accepted. This is because men want to exert authority and superiority over women whereas the violence is seen as cultural. The paper recommends various strategies in eliminating/curbing intimate spousal violence.

Key words: Intimate Spouse, Violence, Women, Property ownership

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Introduction

Spousal abuse is a problem that is entrenched in many societies around the world and Nigeria is no exception. Spousal Violence is the physical and psychological violence-threat or actual use of weapon, forced sex, insults, belittlement, threats to women or to someone she cares about or that makes her afraid and threat of abandonment (UN Women 2009). A considerable body of global research shows that spousal violence cuts across countries and class, group, socio-economic and cultural background. Globally, the incidence of spousal violence ranges between 10% and 50% (Population Reports, 2009). According to recent report by World health Organization (2018), worldwide, almost one third (30%) of all women who have been in a relationship have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partners. At the victim level, intimate partner violence often has severe negative impacts on women's physical and mental health in the short- and long-term. At the societal level, the costs of intimate partner violence include, inter alia, direct medical costs, loss of productivity, and lost earnings over women's lifetimes (Rainer and Guamien, 2018). For 2010, the total global cost of intimate partner violence against women has been estimated at \$4.4 trillion, corresponding to 5.2% of the world's GDP (Fearon and Hoeffler 2014: Rainer and Guamien (2018).

Although societal awareness and condemnation of the issue has increased in recent years, spousal abuse and violence remains a hidden and persistent problem because of the power and control held by the abuser and the fear, intimidation and humiliation suffered by the victims of this crime (Canadian Resource Centre for Victims of crime 2017). Most of the cases are submerged, allegedly invisible to society. Majority of cases go unreported are both for personal (embarrassment, fear of retaliation, economic dependency, stigmatization) and societal (imbalanced power relations for men and women in society, privacy of the family, victim blaming attitudes) reasons. As a matter of fact, for fear of being labelled and stigmatized, many women have chosen to stay in a violent marriage and some end up losing their lives and leaving their children to suffer (Vyas,Mbwambo and Heise,2015). Women's economic vulnerability is particularly heightened in a situation of domestic violence, fear of loss of shelter and lack of economic options are the reasons why women continue in abusive relationships (Dave and Solanki 2000). In the event a woman is thrown out of the house, she faces the risk of being a destitute.

To stem the rate of spousal violence among women, feminists and other developmental theorists have advocated women empowerment to rights of property ownership and empowerment. The advocates argued that empowerment and property ownership will act as social protection against vulnerability. However, despite the insights on women empowerment and property ownership, one important question has not yet been definitely solved: That is, what is the relationship between women property owners and incidence of spousal violence. Does property ownership reduces spousal violence or does property ownership increases spousal violence? The empirical literature on the relationship between women's property ownership and domestic violence is less clear-cut. For instance, Lenze and Klasen (2017) suggested that there may also be negative impacts of women's employment on their well-being by leading to more domestic violence. According to theories of male backlash, that women's economic empowerment through property ownership makes things worse—that when gender roles are redefined, men resort to violence to reinstate a culturally prescribed norm of male dominance and female dependence (Macmillan and Gartner 1999). Other studies such as: Rabenhorst and Bean(2011);Yount and Kathryn(2005) indicate that women's employment increases spousal violence, since husbands see their role as breadwinners undermined.

Now, on the other side, household bargaining models would predict, that increased opportunities for women in the labour market reduce domestic violence by leveling the balance of power between partners (Aizer, 2010). United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2008) also noted that women's rights to inheritance of property are a crucial factor in reducing women's vulnerability to violence. This is also the implicit position taken by the summary document of the Committee on the Status of Women that sees women's economic empowerment as a critical means to reduce domestic violence (United Nations CEDAW,2013). Some studies (Sen,1999), Panda and Agwrwal (2005), and Gupta, (2006) find rights to property owning as "protective" effect since earned income promotes empowerment, which leads to a better household bargaining position. All over the world it is recognized that women property owners have some form of independent economic support to prevent intimate spousal violence in marriages and that economically independent women can also deter violence. This is because property ownership of women enhances women's livelihood options and overall sense of empowerment (Agarwal, 1994). These in turn would reduce her risk of violence by increasing her economic security and reducing her tolerance to violence.

Yet the relationship between spousal violence and women ownership of properties is still under researched .There is still the inadequate scholarly works on the impact of property acquired by women on the reduction/increase in spousal violence. Lagos state is considered one of the Nigeria most progressive states because of exceptionally high female literacy. However, gap exists on sources of women's property, her control over that property and other household materials and if these properties serve as factors that reduces spousal violence? What is important, however, is not whether a woman actually uses the exit option that immovable property provides, but that the very existence of that option can deter the husband from abusing her. And if violence does occur, can she escape further abuse. In other words, for many reasons we would expect the ownership of property by women to reduce spousal violence. Yet the relationship is not clear cut. This brings up some pertinent question on the relationship between property ownership and intimate spousal violence

Objectives of the Study

- To analyze the forms of property ownership available to women in Lagos State and reasons for the acquisition by women.
- To examine the relationship between property owning by women and intimate spousal violence
- To understand the various forms of spousal violence to women property owners and motivation towards them
- To examine the effect of spousal violence on women's health

Brief Literature Review- Previous Research

The existing empirical evidence on the effect of women's economic empowerment and spousal violence is not clear-cut. Macmillan and Gartner (1999) analyze the relationship between women's employment and spousal violence in Canada. Their results indicate that the effect of women's employment on marital violence depends on men's working status. If the husband is unemployed, the risk of violence decreases if the woman works, whereas it increases for working women when the husband is employed.

Panda and Agarwal (2005) studied, 'marital violence, human development and women's property status in India'. Their findings show that property owning women were less likely to tolerate violence. Owning property, for example, according to Panda and Agarwal (2005) is critical in escaping a violent situation especially if the house is in women's name but also as it provides economic prospects for women leaving the husband. On the other hand, income brought home by women shows

contradictory results especially in a society which upholds strong traditional roles of men. Women's employment and income was seen as a threat to the image of men as breadwinner and therefore have an inverse effect. Gupta, J (2006) in a similar study conducted in Bengal, shows that property ownership is linked with sharp reduction in domestic violence. This study in Bengal shows that 20% less women who own property suffer violence compared to property-less women.

Bhattacharya, Bedi, and Chhachhi (2011) explore the link between women's work status and property ownership and domestic violence in India. Taking into account the potential endogeneity of this relationship, they instrument women's employment status by membership in a specific caste. The estimation results show that women's participation in paid work is associated with a sharp reduction in spousal violence. A further qualitative study by Vyas, Mbwambo, and Heise (2015) explores the link between women's paid work and intimate partner violence in the context of Tanzania. Focusing on semi-structured interviews on women engaged in informal-sector trading activities, they find no association between women's independent income and partner violence. Yet, the results suggest that women were able to spend their earned income according to their needs, which in turn reduced conflict due to negotiations over money.

Atkinson, Greenstein, and Monahan Lang (2005) support the male-backlash theory. They analyze the incidence of violence under consideration of cultural variables and traditional gender roles. Using an index of traditionalism, the effect of the relative income on the incidence of violence is tested. The estimation results indicate that the share of women's income is only positively correlated with spousal violence if the husband has a traditional ideology. Bloch and Rao (2002) use survey data from three villages in India, finding that the risk of spousal violence is higher for women from rich households. The regression results suggest that dissatisfied men inflict violence to extract more money from their wives' families. Yount (2005) Yount, Kathryn M. 2005. find a positive relationship between women's paid work and the incidence of violence in Iran and a negative significant effect in Egypt. Kathryn M. investigates the relationship between woman's socioeconomic dependence and physical abuse among married women in Egypt. Multivariate findings suggest that greater differences between a woman and her husband's socioeconomic status are associated with a higher probability of physical abuse.

An important but a rare study of men's attitudes and practices including gender roles and violent behaviours based on data collected using the

International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) 2010 in six countries—Brazil, Chile, Croatia, India, Mexico, and Rwanda—found that rigid gender attitudes are highly correlated with men’s perpetration of intimate partner violence (Barker et al., 2011). A study conducted in India in 2005-2006 found that 40 percent of women were beaten by their husbands at some point, while 51 percent of men said that nothing was wrong with assaulting their wives (Hindin et al., 2008). Studies also show that many women approve of wife beating under some conditions. The 2006 NDHS reported that 23 percent of women and 21 percent of men believe that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife for at least one of five specified reasons, such as burning food, arguing with him, going out without his permission, neglecting children, and refusing to have sex with him. Another study conducted by the Government of Nepal in 2012 reported that over one-half of women approved of wife beating if the wife had been unfaithful. However, the vast majority disapproved of wife beating if the grounds were dissatisfaction with household work, refusal to have sex, enquiring if the husband has other girlfriends, or disobeying the husband (Office of the Prime Minister and Council of Ministers, 2012).

For example, one study undertaken in Uganda attributed an increased incidence in domestic violence against women who owned land to strong traditional norms against women’s land ownership (Ezeh 2000). The researchers found that when men felt their authority in the home was challenged, they responded with physical violence against their spouses. Similarly, studies in Bangladesh, Ecuador, and Ghana found that the effects of property ownership on domestic violence greatly depend on the community and cultural context: in areas where traditional norms dominate, gains in women’s property ownership and employment status seemed to increase the risk of domestic violence (Oduro 2012, Koenig 2003). In some cases, a woman’s increased economic power might lead to violence from men seeking to reassert their dominance and power in the home (Jewkes 2002).

Most of the studies were carried out in rural areas where cultural norms and traditionalism dominated. Few scholarly works on the subject matters in urban areas are still inadequate. This study intends to fill the gap

Theoretical Orientation

Household Bargaining models

Non cooperative bargaining models of domestic violence by Farmer and Tiefenthaler(1996) predict that an increase in women's economic empowerment through earned income, ownership of property or financial support from outside the marriage will decrease the level of violence within households. Women's financial independence will increase their probability of leaving the abusive relationship, which may lead to the end of the partnership or a decrease in violence. Tauchen, Dryden Witte, and Long (1991) developed a Nash-bargaining model of domestic violence to represent the effect of changes in income on domestic violence. In their model, every spouse has a specific level of the threat-point, which should provide the minimum level of welfare of each spouse within the relationship. The woman's threat-point determines the level of violence she is willing to accept without leaving the marriage given a specific amount of financial transfers from her husband. The model predicts that an increase in the man's income enables him to "buy" more violence by increasing the financial transfers to his wife. On the other hand, an increase in the woman's income constrains him to reduce violent behaviour. Similarly, in resource theory, women's income leads to a higher household income. This resource effect decreases household economic stress and thereby reduces spousal violence (Gelles 1997)All of these models predict a protective effect for women's employment and property ownership.

The Theory of Male-Backlash

The theory of "male backlash" prominent in the sociological literature predicts that as women's financial independence increases, violence against them should increase. According to Macmillan and Gartner (1999), a wife's independence "signifies a challenge to a culturally prescribed norm of male dominance and female dependence. Where a man lacks this sign of dominance, violence may be a means of reinstating his authority over his wife." A theory of male backlash that predicts that an increase in women's wages leads to an increase in violence is problematic because it ignores the individual rationality constraints faced by women in abusive relationships. That is, as their income increases, women are more likely to end the partnership if transfers decline and abuse continues.

Methods and Materials

The study area for this research work is Lagos state. Lagos state was the former capital of Nigeria. Lagos is Nigeria's most prosperous city and much of the nation's wealth and economic activities are concentrated in Lagos State. Most commercial and financial business is transacted at the central business district situated on Lagos Island. Most of the country's commercial banks and financial institutions and Major Corporations have their headquarters in Lagos State. Lagos state has one of the highest standards of living as compared to other cities in Nigeria as well as Africa (National Population Commission, 2007). Lagos state was formerly the official capital of Nigeria before the capital was re-located to Abuja in 1991. Lagos state has an official population of 9.013534 million according to 2006 population and Housing Census (Federal Government of Nigeria, 2007). Lagos state is divided into twenty local government areas (20LGAs) and thirty –seven local community development associations (37 LCDAs) (Lagos State ministry of Local Government and chieftaincy affairs, 2009).

The study population, which was purposively selected for this research, comprises of two hundred and seventy two women (272) that were married and owned properties, such as land, houses, livestock, shops, cars or in employment, cars, Local and international business enterprises etc

A triangulation method of data collection of qualitative and quantitative was utilized. Quantitatively, Three hundred questionnaires (300) was distributed to women respondents through snowball technique was adopted in Ikeja and Lagos Island Local Governments. These two local government was chosen because of urbanized nature of the local governments. A total of two hundred and seventy were retrieved. Qualitatively, data were generated from interview guide carried out in Lagos Island and Ikeja Local Government between March and April; 2018. Women selected owned properties such as land, houses, livestock, shops, employment, cars etc. A non-probability sampling method (snowball approach) was employed in identifying the respondents. A total of twenty indepth were conducted for women respondents.

Quantitative information was analysed using simple percentage and frequency distribution. The data collected was subjected to statistical analysis using frequency distribution and percentage. Qualitative information was analysed through content analysis and ethnographic summaries. Two seventy two (272) female who owned one form of

property or the other formed the sample of the study. In-depth interview were conducted for twenty women purposively selected.

Data Analysis and Discussion

Table 1: Frequency distribution of socio economic variables of respondents

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Duration of marriage	1-2 years	45	16.5
	3-4 years	51	18.8
	5-6 years	46	16.9
	7-10 years	81	29.8
	10years and above	49	18.0
		272	100
Number of children	1-2	90	33.1
	3-4	94	34.6
	5-6	52	19.1
	7 or more	10	3.7
	None	26	9.6
		272	100
Level of education	Primary	37	13.6
	Secondary	85	31.3
	Tertiary	110	40.4
	Informal	26	9.6
	Others	14	5.1
	Total	272	100
Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Forms of employment	Civil/ Public servants	85	31.3
	Business women	98	36.0
	Informal traders	89	32.7
	Total	272	100

Source: Autors's Field survey 2018

The distribution of the years in the marriage shows that 7-10 years in marriage had the highest score of 29.8 (81 respondents). This is followed by 18.8% (51 respondents) that had 3-4 years of marital life. There were forty nine (49) that had 10years and above marital life. The rest had 5-

6yrs marital experience and lastly, 16.5% of the respondents had 1-2 years. (51 5-6 years and above 8 years had 16.9% (46 respondents) while 1-2 years had 16.5% (45 respondents). The percentage distribution showed that there are many women with marital experiences, these categories of women could have acquired properties in the course of their marital lives and could be in position to provide qualitative answers.

The table further shows the frequency distribution of the number of children of the respondents. The table revealed that those with 3-4 children recorded 34.6% (94 respondents), closely followed by 1-2 children with 33.1% (90 respondents), 5-6 children had 19.1% (52 respondents), those without a child had 9.6% (26 respondents), while 7 or more children had 4.0% (10 respondents). But it is expected that more number of children will exert some financial constraints in the home, not having children will cause strife between the couples, and not having a male child may cause major friction because of the importance attached to gender in some cultures in Nigerian.

Some women respondents illuminated on this view about number of children and spousal violence.

A respondent expressed her experience:

"I started experiencing domestic violence whenever I get pregnant, the neighbour will always come and separate us when we fight. I have only female children; maybe that is why he maltreats me always (IDI/ 32yrs/ April, 2018/Ikeja).

Another respondent stated her experience

All the trouble in my house started sometime after having my second daughter. He lost his job and he claims it's because I keep having girls (IDI/35yrs/ March, 2018/ Ikeja).

The table shows the frequency distribution of the level of education of the respondent. The finding revealed that majority of the respondents attained tertiary level of education with 40.4% (110 respondents), followed by secondary certificate had 31.3% (85 respondents), primary leaving certificate had 13.6% (37 respondents), those with informal education had 9.6% (26 respondents), while other form of education had 5.6% (14 respondents). Women with higher levels of education relative to their partners have been found to be more at risk, possibly because of the man's perceived lack of power in the relationship may lead to violence to assert dominance (Babcock et al 1993). Women attributed domestic violence to illiteracy, saying that lack of education is

responsible. They say when a man is educated, his ways are polished, his ways are rational and he knows the implications of spousal violence to his family. Some perceived view on lack of education of spouse as it relates to spousal violence from respondents

A respondent shed light on this issue

I think the man that beats his wife would have to be an illiterate, because an educated man would not abuse his wife, when women do not go to school, that is when they will tolerate domestic violence (IDI, 34yrs/5th April, 2018)

Another respondent illuminated more on this:

It seems that lack of formal education is responsible for spousal violence. It has become rampant and it is seen at all social class, but they are more common at the lower class due to the illiteracy (IDI, 56yrs/6th of April, 2018).

This finding were supported by the earlier findings of –Noughani, and Moltashani (2011), that there is correlation between spousal violence and level of education. Education is also assumed to affect behaviour via identity and learning about the normative foundations of society, and it may expand horizons as well as increase exposure to global discourses rejecting partner violence (Pierotti, 2013).

Table 2: Types of properties owned by women respondents and reasons for owning them

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Type of property	Landed Properties	80	29.4
	House ownership	86	31.6
	Livestock	36	13.2
	Shops	52	19.1
	Employment	18	6.6
	Total	272	100
Reasons for acquisition of properties	To fulfil destiny	31	11.5
	To be economically empowered	85	31.2
	To avoid spousal violence	24	8.8
	To enhance my status	30	11.0
	To supplement family income	102	37.5
	Total	272	100

Source: Field survey 2018

Women Property Owners Experienced of Intimate Spousal Violence in the last one year and motivation for spousal violence

Table 4a: Frequency distribution of experience of spousal violence

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentages
Experience domestic violence	Yes	214	78.7
	No	58	21.3
		272	100

Source: Field survey 2018

The table 4a revealed that majority of the respondents experienced spousal violence with 78.85% (214 respondents), while 21.3% (58 respondents), said they had not experienced spousal violence. From in-depth interviews, we asked those that had experienced spousal violence the motivation behind spousal violence. And if the spouse was aware that property (ies) can be used as exit point if threat comes in. Majority of the women stated that culture allows husbands to be violent towards their spouses because culturally, the husband is the head of the family and therefore superior to his wife. Society and law they pointed out also condone it. Majority of women respondents however, now observed that with the domestic violence law in Lagos state, husbands will now think twice before beating his wife

Investigations from the perceived view of motivation of spousal violence from property owners’ respondents are cited below:

A respondent illuminated on the issue

I think people believe that a woman who has property more than he husband is using his ‘aura” to get wealth. So the man shuns and maltreats her. Culture does not encourage women to own property , talk less of achieving so much in life, they say after all she will still be in the kitchen, so culture help men to relegate women. Also a man wants to be superior in all things but when it is the other way round and when women are financially stronger it annoys them. It is a way men show superiority and right over their wives because they are men. It is common for a man to beat their wife because they do not value them. Husbands abuse their wives because they can get away with it with no consequences. Government does not come out with strict laws and penalties for offenders (IDI/ 45yrs, 23rdmarch, 2018 Lagos Island)

Another respondent cited her own experience

I am a business woman and earn more money than my husband who is a civil servant, he still want to exact his superiority by calling me names- you’re just a woman, you are below me. A man wants to be superior in

all things but when it is the other way round and women are financially stronger it annoys them (IDI, 37yrs, 24th March, 2018, Ikeja).

Another respondent shed more light on this issue

When the man has girlfriends, spousal violence starts, at times if the man has girl friends outside or wants to marry another wife he will start to beat his wife and be abusing and punishing her (IDI, 50yrs, April, 2018, Lagos Island)

Above responses supported societal beliefs that husbands are superior over their wives. This finding is in line with Male back splash theory that men are likely to go physical/ violent to exert his authority on the woman if his authority is threatened. This work also supports the work of Lenze and Klasen (2017). Women respondents with property ownership and with better employment than their husbands still experience spousal violence. Kishor and Johnson (2004) also found a significant relationship between women with better employment and spousal violence. United Nations (2000) expressed that ownership of property would provide an escape exit for spousal violence, but findings showed that most women would not want to leave such relationship because of stigmatization. Stigmatization is one of the factors that cause victims of domestic violence to remain silent. It causes victims to keep quiet and not cry out for help because many women believed that spousal violence should remain in the family. In many developing countries, commonly held norms about gender roles, including widespread acceptance among women and men of wife beating as justified, are consistent with a high prevalence of wife beating and the social and economic subordination of women (Hindin 2003; Kishor and Subaiya, 2008).

Minority of women respondents (21.3%) who owned property and did not face violence mentioned the role of owning property in protecting them from potential violence. They recognized the current and future expectations from property for a better quality life (e.g., financial independence), enhanced status, and greater respect in marital family and involvement in decision-making in marital family. They also report that they control the use of the property, and it provides regular income. However, there are additional factors that impinge on the experience of violence despite property ownership, such as the husband's employment status and the gender gap in property ownership. Significantly, the woman's access and control over her property seems to determine how protective the property is for her in times of need. However, property does play a role in helping women deal with the situation effectively or escape, if violence does occur. Thus, women with property were more

likely to leave and not return if they faced spouse violence, and all of them reported residing in their own house after leaving.

Household bargaining models predicted, that improved outside options through individual education and employment possibilities should reduce intimate partner violence—all else equal (Farmer & Tiefenthaler, 1997).

Some of the women respondents that did not experience spousal violence illuminated on the issue and their responses could be situated within household bargaining model

A respondent stated:

I think it is very good for women to own property so that it gives them autonomy to decide about the household and future. Also, I have a right to property. Since I have a large good quality house, I could decide to start a business. I am also able to save rent. We are able to manage well financially. I also know that I can make a better life due to my property. Better living is possible if one owns a house. My husband is very happy that I have this property, and he respects me. He involves me in all decisions. There is no scope for violence (IDI/56yrs/ Ikeja/23rd April, 2018).

Another woman respondent stated her own experience

I think that the income from the houses is an important contribution to providing a livelihood to the family. I think all people in the family recognize this aspect. Therefore, I think that my husband and in-laws respect me for this, and there is no question of violence or conflicts. I think that owning property is good, and it protects women from violence up to an extent (IDI/52yrs/30th March/ Lagos Island).

The above responses can be situated within the I household bargaining models that would predict that increased opportunities for women in the labour market reduce domestic violence by leveling the balance of power between partners (Aizer, 2010). United Nations Development Programme (UNDP, 2008) also noted that women’s rights to inheritance of property are a crucial factor in reducing women’s vulnerability to violence. This is also the implicit position taken by the summary document of the Committee on the Status of Women that sees women’s economic empowerment as a critical means to reduce domestic violence (United Nations CEDAW,2013)

Many women owning property but not experiencing violence, explicitly told that they would not like to tolerate violence from husband in future “in case it occurred”, and they would seek alternatives. Many women mentioned that the property they own contributed to the economic

security of their marital family. They took independent decisions on property and controlled the money that was received.

Table 4b: Types of Spousal Violence Experienced in the last One year

TYPES OF SPOUSAL VIOLENCE EXPERIENCED	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Experience of any types		
Any physical violence	34	15.8
Any sexual violence	87	40.7
Any emotional violence	85	39.7
Financial Violence	70	32.7
Experience of more than one type	Frequency	Percentage
Physical and financial violence	46	21.5
Physical and sexual Violence	82	38.3
Physical and emotional violence	56	26.2
Emotional and sexual Violence	125	58.4

Authors Field Work 2018

Table 4c: The Acts of Spousal Violence in the last one year

The act of spousal violence	Frequency	Percentage
Experience of physical violence acts		
Pushed, shook, or threw something at you	12	35.2
Slapped you	8	23.5
Twisted your arm or pulled your hair	10	29.4
Punched you with the fist or with something that could hurt you	8	23.5
Severe acts		
Kicked you, dragged you, or beat you up	07	20.5
Tried to choke or burn you on purpose	na	
Threatened or attacked you with a knife, gun or any other weapon	na	
Sexual violence acts		
Physically forced you to have sexual intercourse with him even when you did not want to	34	39.0
Neglect you sexually	53	60.9
Emotional violence act		
Say or do something to humiliate you in front of others	36	42.3
Threatened to hurt or harm you or someone close to you	19	22.4
Insult you or make you feel bad about yourself	30	35.3
Financial Violence		
Denial of monetary support	28	40.0
Inadequate monetary support	20	28.6
Lack of support both financial and material	22	31.4

Authors' Field Work: 2018

Findings revealed that one of the spousal violence suffered most was emotional violence. 58.4% indicated that that what they suffered most in

the hand of their spouses was emotional violence and this emotional violence expressed here includes: insults to make you feel bad about your yourself or the spouse doing something to humiliate you in front of others. These women respondents had experience the emotional violence for more than three times in the last one year.

This study corroborated the work done on spousal violence by, Avdibegoviv, Brkic and Sinannovic (2017); USAID (2012). The other type of violence common to this group of women was sexual violence. Sexual violence could be perceived from two angles: "spousal rape" (Being forced to have sex or sexual denial). 40.7% had experienced sexual violence for the past one year.

Some of the views women respondents are as follows:

I have never thought of leaving a life like these .I have told his family about this violence, I don't think I can tolerate the mental harassment anymore. If he comes home late and food is not ready, he gets angry. If I try to explain he slaps me, I started taking some very alcohol because of all these problems (IDI, 38years/ Lagos Island/April 2018).

Another respondent expressed her own experience

Violence happens frequently. It is a normal behaviour for him, he will hit, slap me in front of the children and my mother. I have suffered a lot. After, he will forced himself on me to have sex with him (IDI/42years/IKeja, April 2018)

Majority of the respondents expressed their feelings about emotional and sexual violence experienced from their spouses in the last one year. The women respondents found emotional and sexual violence more devastating more than physical and financial violence. This finding supports the findings of Fareo(2015 and Bakare,Asuquo and Agomah, (2010) .

Table 5: Women Property Owners perceptions of Intimate Spousal Violence on Women's Health

Variables	Categories	Frequency	Percentage
Effects of spousal violence	Injury	81	29.8
	Mental health problems	39	14.3
	Low productivity	38	14.0
	Low self esteem	53	19.5
	Death	2	.7
		272	100

Source: Field survey 2018

Intimate Spousal violence injuries are not limited to broken bones, bruises, black eyes, and cuts. Studies have shown that chronic

conditions from diabetes to asthma can be caused by or exacerbated by spousal violence and the stress abusive relationships have on patients. Frequency distribution of the effects of spousal violence on women’s health revealed that majority of the respondents said they suffered various types of injuries with 29.8% (81 respondents), low self-esteem had 19.5% (53 respondents), mental health problem 14.3% (39 respondents) and low productivity had 14.0% (38 respondents) respectively. The effect of domestic violence is quite distressing and terrifying because of the effect experienced. Injury could lead to loss of pregnancy, cuts, mental health problems such as PTSD and depression, insecurity and fear; low productivity will in addition lead to low income in the home even affecting the children; low self-esteem will lead to the woman placing no value on herself. Other effects experienced include use of harmful drugs to drown away sorrows or attempt to commit suicide. Migraines and headaches are not uncommon among domestic violence victims. The cause of migraines is relatively unknown; however, migraines are closely associated with anxiety, depression, and distress, all of which are often present in domestic violence victims. Headaches can also be caused by traumatic brain injuries from hits and impact

Testing of Hypothesis

Hypothesis 1: *There will be no significant relationship between properties owned and experience of spousal violence.*

Table 3: Cross tabulation of types of property owned and experience of domestic violence

Types of property owned	Experienced domestic violence		Total
	Yes	No	
Land	56 (70%)	24 (30%)	80 (100.0%)
House	64 (74.4%)	22 (25.6%)	86 (100.0%)
Livestock	30 (83.3%)	6 (16.7%)	36(100.0%)
Shop	40.9 (96.2%)	11.1 (3.8%)	52 (100.0%)
Others	14 (77.8%)	4 (22.2%)	18 (100.0%)
Total	214 (78.7%)	58(21.3%)	272 (100.0%)
Person Chi-Square Contingency Coefficient .225	Value 14.461	df 4	Asymp Sig .006

The first hypothesis in Table 3 shows the relationship between the types of property owned and experience of spousal violence. From the above table Pearson Chi-square value 14.625 with Asymptotic Significance (2-sided) of .006 less than the 0.05 level of significance revealed that the hypothesis tested is statistically significant, therefore the postulated

hypothesis is accepted. Thus, there is no significant relationship between the type of property owned and experience of domestic violence.

Discussions

In this paper we have explored the relationship between Property ownership and women's risk of intimate partner violence in Lagos State Using Ikeja and Lagos Island Local Government. Using Household Bargaining and Male-backsplash models, the findings showed that majority of women with properties still experience intimate spousal violence, this is because men want to exert authority and superiority over women. A respondent stated: *Culture does not encourage women to own property , talk less of achieving so much in life, they say after all she will still be in the kitchen, so culture help men to relegate women. Also a man wants to be superior in all things but when it is the other way round and when women are financially stronger it annoys them. It is a way men show superiority and right over their wives because they are men.*

The finding from this study shows that intimate spousal violence is cultural and acceptable by some women irrespective of their level of achievements of rights to some properties. Findings showed that majority of women who owned rights to properties do not own them to escape intimate spousal violence, but own them to supplement family income and enhance their statuses as a woman and be financially independent. The findings support male-backlash theory which stated that men are likely to be violent if their authorities as the head of the family threatened. Violent behaviour operates as a route to achieving and maintaining male domination, power and control.

It is a way to curtail women's excess and that most uneducated men are guilty of these despite the ability of women to earn an income does not automatically mean the relaxation of patriarchal controls. This finding was supported by Noughani, and Moltashani (2011), that there is correlation between spousal violence and level of education. Education is also assumed to affect behaviour via identity and learning about the normative foundations of society, and it may expand horizons as well as increase exposure to global discourses rejecting partner violence (Pierotti, 2013). Intimate spousal violence such as physical, sexual, emotional, financial and was analysed and emotional and sexual violence came up as the most prevalent among women with property ownership

On the other hand, in line with household bargaining model, minority of women owning rights to properties did not experience intimate spousal

violence because according to a respondent: *I think that the income from the houses is an important contribution to providing a livelihood to the family. I think all people in the family recognize this aspect. Therefore, I think that my husband and in-laws respect me for this, and there is no question of violence or conflicts. I think that owning property is good, and it protects women from violence up to an extent*

One interesting thing this study found out was that part of the women that claimed did not experience spousal violence was because many of them live outside their matrimonial homes. However, the ownership of properties was used as social protection for them.

This paper argued that change and elimination of intimate spousal violence can only occur if men begin to value women as equal players in the country's social and economic development. This is much more than economic empowerment is that is campaigned for to resolve the issue of intimate spousal violence in the country. Lagos state is among the few Nigerian states that have a law in place to address domestic violence, the countries penal code makes room for husbands to beat their wives , provided the violence does not result in serious injury, the police are usually reluctant to intervene in domestic violence cases unless the woman has incurred serious injuries. Strategies that focus on capabilities and that acknowledge and challenge the ideologies and institutions by which women are constrained are needed for effectiveness of the change process.

Encouraging transformative cultural change from within is crucial. Contesting gender inequality and building alliances through using the "culture lens" (that is, understanding the unique needs and aspirations of particular groups of women) will help to develop the cultural fluency needed for negotiating, persuading, and cultivating cultural acceptance and ownership. Strategies for elimination of intimate spousal violence cannot be achieved unless they are also rooted in culture. Though, the process may be slow, the change should start now. It is not an individual task. It is a collective one which should be approached from multifaceted perspectives.

Recommendations

Internet portal should be set up specifically for women, to get information, help, resources, support centres and groups fora to share and exchange information on cases of Intimate spousal violence. Women should be encouraged to voice out their problems and not die in silence. Society should also be sensitizing on effect of stigmatization, so that people do not victimize women that exit violent relationship. The

media should device more effective programmes on raising awareness on spousal violence and desist from portraying women in a negative and degrading manner. The Yoruba slogan that says : A ki de ile ejo, ka pada di ore (We cannot come back from and be friends again) should be revisited.

The education of women is important and should be pursued by government and other non-profit organisations. An educated woman is better equipped to influence gender policies and educate the community on the effects of domestic violence or violence of any sort to women. Awareness on spousal violence should also target men to educate them on the negative effects on gender biases and social norms as it affects spousal violence.

It should be recommended that spousal violence perpetrators are mandated to go for counselling to facilitate proper communication between couples and if problem of violence still persist arrest and persecution of perpetrators of violence against women should be made public, which will serve as a deterrent to other perpetrators. The government of Nigerian should pass into law the abolition of religious or customary law that promote spousal violence against women, this can be achieve through collaboration with religious heads ,traditional rulers and other stake holders to ensure that all harmful practices are abolished.

To effectively improve women's conditions against spousal violence their voices must be heard in issues that involve them. More political appointments should be allocated to women also policy makers should involve women in decision making and policy formulations and they should not be passive recipients of reforms concerning their issues, particularly in areas where crucial resources are allocated. This will allow women to influence decisions that affect their lives and to realize their potentials as agents of change.

The Nigerian Government through the Ministry of Women Affairs needs to pay more attention to issues of gender based violence. More research investigations are also needed in the area of intimate spousal violence in Nigeria. This would help in policy formulation to prevent spousal violence and protect women and children from attendant complications arising from gender based domestic violence.

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