

Prevalence of Domestic Violence against Women in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja

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Abstract: The study was carried out to assess the prevalence and evaluate the attitude and practice of domestic violence against women living in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja. Two hundred and forty five questionnaires were used in this study. Simple random sampling method was used in this study; records were also obtained from the Department of Social and Welfare, Abuja, for the years 2005 to 2015 to check prevalence. SPSS version 21 was used to analyze the data obtained. The instrument was reliable at Cronbach's alpha value, $\alpha = 0.92$. Descriptive statistics (mean, percentages, frequencies) was used to answer the research questions. Among the age group sampled, women between the age of 21- 30years of age experienced domestic violence most in Nyanya community In all for the space of 11 years (2005 to 2015) only 159 cases of domestic violence was reported, and documented. Dwindling love relationship was the major reason of domestic violence and next to it was traditional practices and nagging on the part of the women. Domestic violence is not prevalent in Nyanya, however the incidence of it cannot be ignored. Therefore, Governmental, non-governmental, religious and other organizations as well as family members should endeavor to put this ugly incidence to end in our societies.

Key Words: domestic violence, prevalence, practice, attitude, influence

I. BACKGROUND

Violence is obviously now and have always been a major obstacle to growth and development, and when done against women in any part of the world, it negatively impact on the progress of such society. It is quite unfortunate to note that despite the growing recognition of the detrimental effect of violence against women (Abama and Kwaja, 2009), the practice continues to increase in most societies, particularly the developing as well as under-developed nations. The United Nations (2009) estimated that about 70% of women experience violence during their lifetime, while WHO (2017) estimated that globally, about 1 in 3 (35%) of women have experienced either physical and/ or sexual partner violence or non sexual partner violence in their lifetime.

Violence against women occurs in different forms, these include: physical, sexual, psychological and economic. It has been noted that the roots of violence against women is centred around the persistent discrimination against women (United Nations, 2009). WHO (2013) observed that violence against women is a world-wide phenomenon, but prevalence varies from country to country and within countries. This variation suggests that violence against women can be prevented if the affected countries/ states learn from the unaffected ones.

Studies from different countries have further shown that the percentage of women 15 to 49 years old who've experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime ranges from 15% to 71% (WHO, 2013).

Domestic violence is so common, that it has often gone unnoticed and failed to receive the level of concern it deserves in light of the devastating effects on children and families (Igbokwe *et al.*, 2013). In Nigeria as well as other African countries for instance, "while men are trying to exercise authority over their wives and ensuring women are submissive, most men become violent towards their wives, but the African society simply sees it as a man controlling his wife" (Igbokwe *et al.*, 2013). Unfortunately, some women also share this idea with the men, that is why it is possible to hear some young unmarried ladies say they prefer a man that is tough to a man that is too tender, because they need someone who can *handle* them when they become naughty or stubborn. The result of this handling most often than not, is an unimaginable violence.

According to George (2015), the increase in both physical and structural violence against disadvantaged groups such as women and children in Nigeria is a growing source of concern. Most women endure these violence, believing they have nowhere to go and that the law will not protect them. Staggering 97.2% of the women are not prepared to report to the Nigeria Police. As at 2015, only four states of the Federation have passed laws against the insidious crime, whilst several bills against it languish in our male-dominated National Assembly. Of the states that have passed it, the law is yet to be fully tested (Alokan, 2013). In August 2015, Galaxy television Nigeria, reported a case of violence against women in Ogun state. Where a woman trader was seriously battered by a so called community leader after the woman requested for her money from him. The money was meant to be payments for some building materials sold to the community leader; of course the man was nabbed by the State Police force for prosecution.

In Nigeria, there have been documented reports on violence against women generally; however, not much has been documented about "domestic" violence against women. It is against this backdrop that the present study on the prevalence of domestic violence against women in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, has become pertinent.

Research Questions

1. Is there a difference in the frequency of domestic violence among women of different age groups in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja?
2. Is domestic violence prevalent in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja?
3. What are the types of domestic violence in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja?
4. Does socio-economic status influence the occurrence of domestic violence in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja?

II. METHODS

Study site and study design

Nyanya is a satellite town of the Federal Capital Territory (FCT), under the Abuja Municipal Area Council (AMAC). Nyanya is heavily populated by middle and low level income earners, majority of who are Civil Servants. The town has a population close to 2 million, because of the proximity of the town to the city centre. It has a General Hospital which has some modern health facilities and a Health Centre in Gwagwalape a suburb close to Nyanya, which handles the health needs of the town. The ratio of the population of women to men is high in this town. Nyanya is one of the few satellite towns that make up the Federal Capital City itself, in other words it is an urban centre.

Simple random sampling method was used in this study. The women to which the research instrument was given were randomly selected among all women in the study area.

Study Population, Sample size and Sampling Procedure

The population of this study included all female residents in Nyanya in Abuja Municipal Council, from ages of about 18yrs to 50years. A sample size of 196 was used in this study, out of which 34 women had experienced domestic violence. This sample size was obtained using the following simple formula (Daniel, 1999):

$$n = \frac{Z^2 P(1-P)}{d^2}$$

n= sample size

Z= Z statistics for a level of confidence (1.96)

P= Expected prevalence or proportion (50% = 0.5)

D= precision (0.05)

Applying the formula, $n = [1.96^2 \times 0.5(1- 0.5)] \div 0.05^2$

Sample size (n) = $0.49 \div 0.0025 = 196$

Research Instrument, Validity of the Instrument and Reliability of the Research Instrument

The instrument used in this study is a well-structured questionnaire based on Likert four point scaling system, in which SA (strongly agree)= 4; A (agree)= 3; D (disagree)= 2; and SD (strongly disagree)= 1. The questionnaire was divided into two sections, section A, centers on questions that borders on demographic characteristics, while section B is on questions that borders on perception, prevalence and causes of domestic violence.

The instrument was a questionnaire on domestic violence against women was validated by face, construct and content validity. For face validity, the instrument was given to experts in the field of study, and the statements were found to address the subject of study. To determine the construct and content validity, a factor analysis was conducted via SPSS statistical tool, version 21. Upon analysis, all items were retained; the construct validity for “domestic violence” was 63.39% showing that the instrument explained 63.39% of domestic violence while 36.61% was unexplained. For the causes of domestic violence, the construct validity is 75.66%. The content validity for items on Domestic violence ranges from 0.41 to 0.91, while the content validity for items on causes of domestic violence ranges from 0.56 to 0.99.

The reliability of the whole instrument stood at $\alpha = 0.92$. The reliability for section on Domestic violence is 0.97 while for the section on “causes of domestic violence” the reliability value is 0.95.

Method of Data Collection and Data Analysis

The data for this study was collected using the structured questionnaire. The questionnaire was administered by the researcher and by some trained research assistant. The data obtained was analyzed by means of Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23.

III. RESULT

Research Question 1

Is there a difference in the frequency of domestic violence among women of different age groups in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja?

Table 1: Frequency of women experiencing Domestic Violence Based on their Age

	Frequency	Percent
<=20years	5	14.7
21- 30yrs	18	52.9
31- 40yrs	8	23.5
41- 50yrs	3	8.8
Total	34	100.0

Table 1 showed that for women aged 20 years and below, only 14.7 of them experience domestic violence, while those

between the ages of 21 – 30 years, 52.9% of them experience domestic violence. Also for women whose age are between 31- 40 years, 23.5% experience domestic violence and for those whose ages are 41- 50 years, only 8.8% of them experience domestic violence. Among the age group sampled, women between the ages of 21- 30years of age experience domestic violence most in Nyanya community of the Federal Capital territory.

Research Question 2

Is domestic violence prevalent in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja?

Table 2: Data on documented cases from Social and Welfare Department Abuja

	Year	Client Age range		Total
		20- 30years	30 and above	
	2005	10	7	17
	2006	13	0	13
	2007	11	16	27
	2008	17	11	28
	2009	5	2	7
	2010	8	4	12
	2011	20	0	20

	2012	3	1	4
	2013	9	0	9
	2014	10	4	14
	2015	5	3	8
	Total	111	48	159

Source: Social and Welfare Department Abuja (2015)

On the prevalence of domestic violence in Nyanya, the Table 2 showed that from 2005 to 2015, reports of domestic violence reported to the social and welfare department Abuja for the year 2005 was 17, while 2006 was 13, 2007 recorded at total of 27 domestic violence cases while 2008 had a total of 28 domestic violence cases. In 2009 the domestic violence cases reported was just 7 but increased to 12 and 20 in 2010 and 2011 respectively. There was a reduction in the reported cases of domestic violence in 2012 as only 4 cases were recorded for that year. In 2013, 9 cases were recorded while 14 cases were recorded in 2014 and only 8 cases in 2015. In all for the space of 11 years only 159 cases of domestic violence was reported, and documented.

Research Question 3

What are the causes of domestic violence in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja?

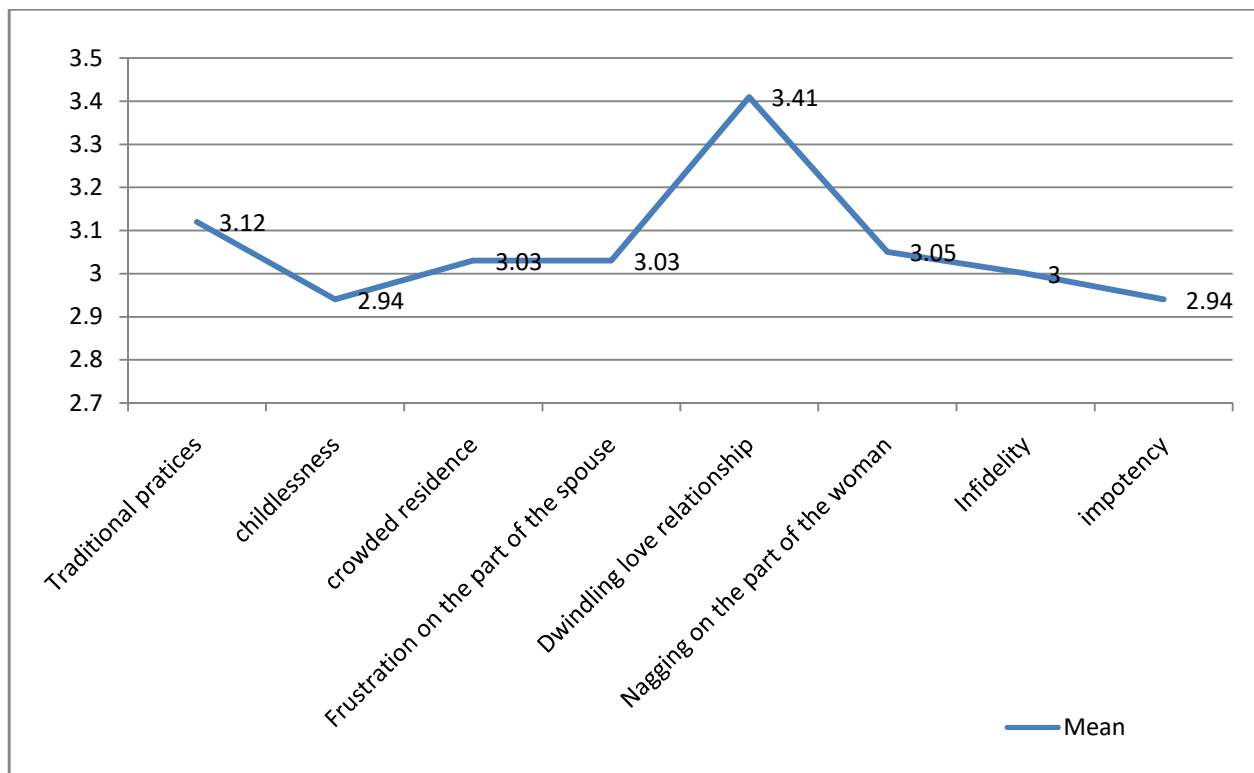


Figure 1: Causes of Domestic Violence in Nyanya, FCT.

From the figure 1, it showed that the causes of domestic violence as outlined by the respondents living in Nyanya are Traditional practices (3.12), childlessness (2.94), crowded residence (3.03), frustration on the part of the spouse(3.03), dwindling love relationship(3.41), nagging on the part of the woman(3.05) , infidelity (3.00) and impotency(2.94). from the mean scores observed dwindling love relationship was the major reason of domestic violence and next to it was traditional practices and nagging on the part of the women.

Research Question 4

To what extent does socio-economic status influence the occurrence of domestic violence in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja?

Table 3: Occurrence of domestic violence in Nyanya, Federal Capital Territory, Abuja, based on socio-economic status

Partners Socio Economic Status	N	Mean on domestic Violence	r	Impact
Low	10	76.4000	-0.252 (ns)	0.064 (6.4%)ns
Middle	21	71.8095		
High	3	64.3333		
Total	34	72.5000		

*ns: not significant

The Table 3 showed that partners’ socioeconomic status has a negative influence of on the occurrence of domestic violence in Nyaanya, FCT, Abuja. To extent to which partners socioeconomic influence is 0.064 indicating that socioeconomic status of the partners had only 6.4% on the occurrence of domestic violence. This influence size is quite low.

Table 4: Demographic representation of respondents

Variables	Sub groups	Frequency	%
Respondents Age	<=20years	17	6.9
	21- 30yrs	105	42.7
	31- 40yrs	101	41.1
	41- 50yrs	23	9.3
Partners’ Age	<=20years	3	1.2
	21- 30yrs	63	25.6
	31- 40yrs	118	48.0
	41- 50yrs	56	22.8
	>=yrs	6	2.4
Partner’s socio economic status	Low	28	11.4
	Middle	168	68.3
	High	50	20.3
Marital Status	Single	33	13.4
	Married	210	85.4
	Separated	3	1.2

Partner’s Religion	Christianity	221	89.8
	Islam	21	8.5
	Others	4	1.6
Occupation of respondents	civil/public servant	96	39.0
	Students	27	11.0
	full house wife	40	16.3
	private Business woman	83	33.7
Educational Level	no formal education	6	2.4
	Primary	10	4.1
	Secondary	95	38.6
Domestic Violence Experience	Tertiary	135	54.9
	Experiencing	34	13.8
	Not Experiencing	212	86.2

The results in Table 4 shows that majority of participants belong to the age range 21- 40yrs, N= 206 (83.8%); the age range of most of their partners is 31- 41yrs, N= 118 (48.0%); most of the participants were married, N= 210 (85.4%); majority have tertiary education, N= 135 (54.9%); majority of the participants have experiences domestic violence, N= 212 (86.2%).

IV. DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

The study revealed that 14.7% women aged 20 years and below, experienced domestic violence, while 52.9% of those between the ages of 21 – 30 years experienced domestic violence. 23.5% women whose age are between 31- 40 years experienced domestic violence and while 8.8% of those whose ages are 41- 50 years, experienced domestic violence. Among the age group sampled, women between the ages of 21- 30years of age experienced domestic violence most in Nyanya community of the Federal Capital territory. This implies that middle aged women often suffer domestic violence more than other women in Nyanya community of the Federal Capital Territory. Bearing in mind that there are different types of domestic violence, (Bloom, 2008), reported that most women of ages 15- 19 have undergone FGC, which is a form of domestic violence. According to George (2015), Women,especially the aged, are often accused of witchcraft in their homes and communities, which results in violence. The World Health Organization (WHO) has observed that among women aged 15 to 44, intimate partner violence is a major cause of death and disability in the African population, which agrees with the outcome of this study, with respect to the ages of the women. Domestic violence occurs in all countries of the world. Studies from different countries show that the percentage of women 15 to 49 years old who've experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner in their lifetime ranges from 15% to 71% (WHO, 2013), this report is in consonant with the outcome of this study. Abayomi (2014) however observed that ‘One in three of all women and girls aged 15-24 have been a victim of violence both domestic and otherwise. Women both married and unmarried have been

subjected to inhumane attacks from men. These attacks include, rape, sexual insult and assault, brutalization and victimization, domestic violence on girls and women, and they have in recent time been on the increase in Nigeria (Abayomi, 2014).

On the prevalence of domestic violence the cases of domestic violence reported to the Social and Welfare Department Abuja for the For ages 20- 30yrs, domestic violence report in Nyanya was highest in 2011, followed by 2008, but least in 2012. For ages group 30yrs and above, domestic violence was highest in 2007, followed by 2008, but was least in 2006 and 2011, where there was no case reported. Generally, it can therefore be deduced that there was no prevalence of domestic violence in Nyanya.

With respect to the causes of domestic violence as outlined by the respondents living in Nyanya, dwindling love relationship was the major reason of domestic violence and next to it was traditional practices and nagging on the part of the women. According to Alokun (2013), there are many different theories as to the causes of domestic violence. These include psychological theories that consider personality traits and mental characteristics of the perpetrators, as well as social theories which consider external factors in the perpetrator's environment, such as family structure stress and social learning. As with many phenomena regarding human experience, no single approach appears to cover all cases (Alokun, 2013). According to Olujide *et al.* (2011), violence against women occurs in all social and economic classes, but women with low socioeconomic status are more likely to experience violence. They added that more research is needed to fully understand the connections between poverty and violence against women. It is clear that poverty and its associated stressors are important contributors. A number of theories about why this is so have been explored. Men in difficult economic circumstances (e.g. unemployment, little job autonomy, low socioeconomic status or blocked advancement due to lack of education) may resort to violence out of frustration, and a sense of hopelessness, a condition akin to displacement in psychoanalysis. According to Abama and Kwaja (2009), poor women who experience violence may have fewer resources to escape violence in the home. The study by Olujide *et al.* (2011), showed that socioeconomic status was the most potent predictor of domestic violence. They explained that the higher the socioeconomic of the family, the lower is the incidence of domestic violence. This however is not in line with the outcome of this study.

According to UW Extension (2012), Women's economic status is linked to domestic violence in three primary ways. First, although domestic violence occurs across socioeconomic classes, poorer women are more likely to be survivors of domestic abuse than wealthier women, both due to contextual (e.g. neighborhood) and individual (e.g. male employment instability) factors. Second, women who are economically dependent on their abusers are less able to leave and more likely to return to abusive partners. Further, the

degree of women's economic dependence on an abuser is associated with the severity of the abuse they suffer. Greater economic dependence is associated with more severe abuse. Third, economic abuse is in itself a form of domestic abuse since abusive partners may act in ways that harm women financially and undermine their ability to become financially independent. Examples of economic abuse include limiting women's access to funds and undermining their ability to gain employment or attend school. George (2015), observed that across Nigeria, some women are completely dependent on their husbands for survival. They are usually full-time housewives whose duties range from child bearing and rearing to cooking, laundry, and shopping (George (2015). Low income in the family often 'triggers' violence—due to monetary problems, for example, when a wife requests money for family upkeep and the husband is unable to fulfill these responsibilities (George, 2015).

V. CONCLUSION

Domestic violence against women is a public menace that ought to have been eradicated in Nigeria, and indeed the world at large, although, it is still on the rise in many parts of the world, whether developed, developing and underdeveloped. Only 159 cases were reported and documented in the Department of social and Welfare, Abuja. Religion, age and socioeconomic status of the respondents did not influence their experience of domestic violence in Nyanya. Religion of partner does not influence domestic violence. This study however, showed that partners' socioeconomic status has a negative influence of on the occurrence of domestic violence in Nyanya, FCT, Abuja.

VI. RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the outcome of the result obtained in this work, and the relevant related temperatures considered, the following recommendations were made:

1. Mothers should resist it in its simplest form, coming from their boy-child to their girl- child.
2. All women with the help of the women affairs ministry and non-governmental organizations should vehemently resist domestic violence in all forms.
3. Governmental and non-governmental organizations should discourage the practice.
4. Religious bodies (churches, mosques etc) should speak against it.
5. The women affairs ministries should fight against it.
6. Women lawyers should resist it
7. Families should disallow it.
8. The legislatures should enact laws against domestic violence against women.

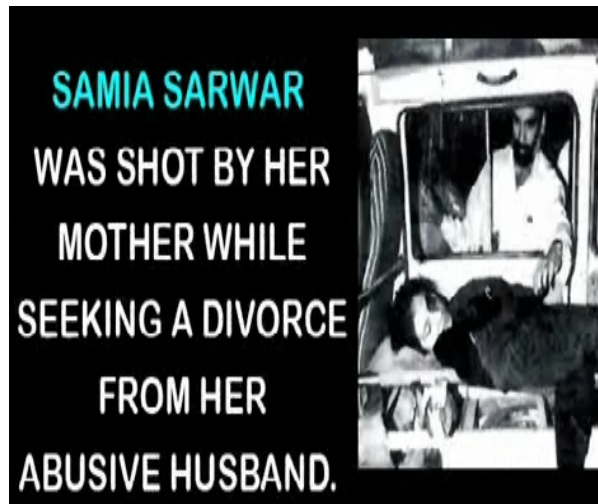
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Figure 2: Husband (aged 40) cuts off his wife's (16- years old Nazia's) ears, nose, hair and damaged her teeth on Eid day 2007, due to his unfounded suspicion of adultery. Source: WikiIslam (2014).



x Figure 3: A woman who was shot by her mother while seeking a divorce from her abusive husband. Source: WikiIslam (2014).

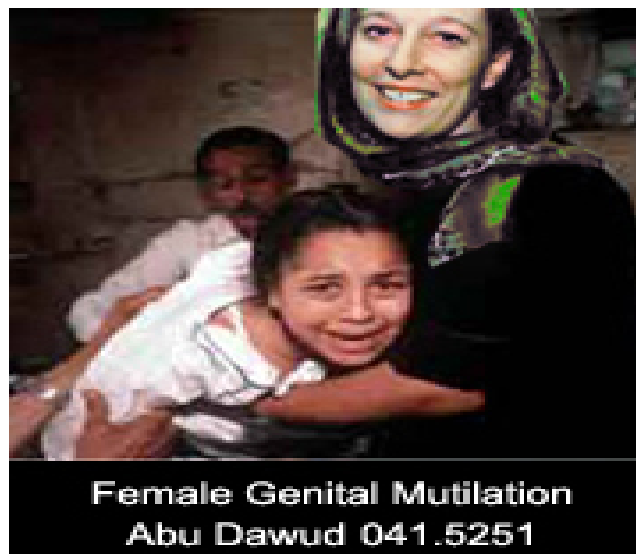


Figure 2.3: Female Genital Mutilation. Source: WikiIslam (2014).

APPENDIX 1
NOVENA UNIVERSITY, OGUME
COLLEGE OF HEALTH SCIENCES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC AND COMMUNITY HEALTH

QUESTIONNAIRE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

INTRODUCTION

This questionnaire is for educational and research use only; it is not aimed at your personality. Therefore, I enjoin you to please fill in appropriate answers.

Thanks.

SECTION A
DEMOGRAPHIC VARIABLES

1. Age: ≤ 20yrs (), 21- 30yrs (), 31- 40yrs (), 41- 50yrs (), ≥50yrs ()
2. Partner’s age: ≤ 20yrs (), 21- 30yrs (), 31- 40yrs (), 41- 50yrs (), ≥50yrs ()
3. Partners socio-economic status: Low (), Middle (), High ()
4. Marital status: Single (), married (), separated ()
5. Partner’s religion: Christianity (),Islam (), others ()
6. Occupation: civil/ public servant (), students (), Full house wife (), Private business woman ()
7. Educational level: no formal education (),Primary (), Secondary(), Tertiary()

SECTION B

F- frequently, S- sometimes, R- rarely, N- never

S/N	ITEM	F	S	R	N
	DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN				
8	My partner monitors my time and makes me account for every minute (when I run errands, visit friends, commute to work, etc.).				
9	My partner accuses me of having affairs with others or acts suspicious that I am having extra marital affairs.				
10	My partner is often rude to my friends				

11	My partner discourages me from starting friendships with others.				
12	I feel isolated and alone, as if there is no one close to confide in.				
13	My partner is overly critical of daily things, such as my cooking, clothes, or appearance.				
14	My partner demands a strict account of how I spend money.				
15	My partner's moods change radically, from very calm to very angry.				
16	My partner is disturbed by my working, or by the thought of me working.				
17	My partner becomes more easily angry if he takes alcoholic drinks.				
18	My partner pressures me for sex more often than I would like.				
19	My partner becomes angry if I don't want to go along with his request for sex.				
20	We quarrel much about having children or raising them.				
21	We quarrel about financial matters.				
22	My partner hits me with his hands or feet.				
23	My partner hits me with an object.				
24	My partner threatens me with an object or weapon.				
25	My partner threatens to kill either himself or me.				
26	My partner gives me injuries (such as welts, bruises, cuts and/or lumps).				
27	I have had reasons to treat injuries with first aid from his violence.				
28	I have had reason to seek professional aid for an injury at a medical clinic, doctor's office, or hospital emergency room.				
29	My partner does hurt me sexually or make me have intercourse against mine will.				
30	My partner is violent toward my children.				
31	My partner is violent toward people outside of mine home or family.				
32	My partner throws objects or break things when he is angry.				
33	My partner has once been in trouble with the police.				
34	I have called the police or tried to call them because I or a family member was in danger.				
35	My partner belittles me in the presence of others.				
36	My partner injures my pets intentionally.				
37	I feel anxious or nervous when I am around my partner.				
38	I watch what I am doing in order to avoid making my partner angry or upset.				
39	I feel obligated or coerced into having sex with my partner.				
40	I am afraid of voicing a different opinion than my partner's.				
41	My partner check up on what I have been doing, and do not believe mine answers.				
42	My partner tells me that he will stop beating me when I start behaving myself.				

43	I try to please my partner rather than myself in order to avoid being hurt.				
44	My partner says that if I try to leave him, I will never see mine children again.				
45	My partner always gives an excuse for his behavior.				
CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE					
46	Traditional practices				
47	Childlessness				
48	Crowded residence				
49	Frustration on the part of the spouse				
50	Dwindling love relationship				
51	Nagging on the part of the woman				
52	Infidelity				
53	Impotency of the man				