

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

**STUDY ON SPOUSAL CONFLICT AND HUMAN RIGHTS NEXUS: ABUSE
AGAINST MEN IN TEMA COMMUNITY TWO AND ITS ENVIRONS**



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UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

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**A DISSERTATION IN THE CENTRE FOR CONFLICT, HUMAN RIGHTS AND
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DECLARATION

STUDENT'S DECLARATION

I, MATILDA ASINA hereby declare that this thesis, with the exception of quotations and references contained in published works which have all been identified and duly acknowledged, is entirely my own original work, and it has not been submitted, either in part or whole, for another degree elsewhere.

SIGNATURE:

DATE:



SUPERVISOR'S DECLARATION

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of this work was supervised in accordance with the guidelines for supervision of Thesis as laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

NAME OF SUPERVISOR: DR. BRAIMAH A. IMURANA

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DATE:

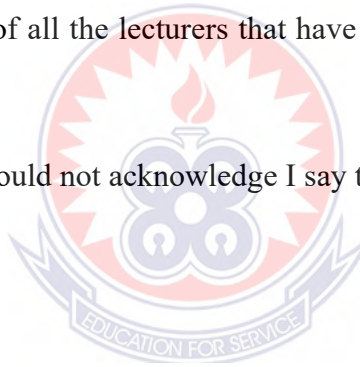
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I would first of all, give thanks to the Almighty God for giving me the strength, knowledge and understanding to start and finish the project successfully. May His Holy name be praised. Many thanks also go to my family and friends who supported me financially, spiritually and emotionally before and during my project. The Lord has been faithful in granting me the strength, wisdom, knowledge and the courage needed throughout the period of study.

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God bless you all.



DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to the Almighty God, my son, Martin Puwurayire, my lovely family and friends whose efforts and inspirations helped me come this far.



TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENT	PAGE
DECLARATION	ii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iii
DEDICATION	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	v
LIST OF FIGURES	vii
LIST OF TABLES	viii
ABSTRACT	ix
CHAPTER ONE:INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Background to the Study	1
1.2 Statement of the Problem	5
1.3 Main Objective	6
1.4 Research Questions	6
1.5 Significance of the Study	7
CHAPTER TWO:LITERATURE REVIEW	8
2.1 Introduction	8
2.2 Concepts of Spousal Conflict	8
2.3 Feminist Theory on Spousal Conflict	10
2.4 Female-Perpetuated Spousal Conflict against Men	12
2.5 Types of Violence Women Use on Men	16
2.6 Prevalence of Female-Perpetuated Spousal Violence against Men	19
2.7 Causes of Female Domestic Violence against Men	22
2.8 Reporting of Domestic Violence by Male Victims	25
2.9 Barriers to Leaving an Abusive Relationship	28

2.10 Effects of Female Domestic Violence against Men	28
CHAPTER THREE:RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	32
3.0 Introduction	32
3.1 Research Design	32
3.2 Research Approach	32
3.3 Sources of data	32
3.4 Case Study	33
3.5 Population	33
3.6 Sample Size	34
3.7 Sampling Technique	34
3.8 Research Instruments	34
3.9 Ethical Consideration	35
3.10 Data analysis	36
CHAPTER FOUR:RESULTS AND DISCUSSION	37
4.1 Introduction	37
4.2 Demography of Respondents	37
4.3 Levels of Reporting by Male Victims of Female Spousal Violence	47
CHAPTER FIVE:SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS	54
5.1 Summary	54
5.2 Conclusion	54
5.3 Recommendations	56
REFERENCES	58
APPENDIX	62



LIST OF FIGURES

4.1 Gender	37
4.2 Marital Status	39
4.3 Occupation of Respondents	40
4.4 Types of Female Spousal Violence against Men	41
4.5 Factors that Leads to Female Spousal Violence against Men	44
4.6 Where Male Victims Report Spousal Violence	47
4.7 The Impact of Female Spousal Violence against Men	51



LISTS OF TABLES

4.1 Age Distribution	38
4.2 Educational Qualification of Respondents	39
4.3 Reported Cases of Spousal Conflict	50



ABSTRACT

The study set out to examine female spousal conflicts against men. The study revealed that female spousal violence was in existence in Tema Community Two and its environs. The common types of spousal violence were physical, verbal, sexual and psychological. The spousal violence were mainly caused by cheating on the part of men, children from other marriages, prevention of male dominance and alcohol abuse. In respect to the impact of these spousal violence, physical injuries, emotional problems and low self-esteem were the negative outcomes of female spousal violence against men. The study concludes that some of the male victims who were physically abused often required medical attention at hospitals. The study concludes that verbal abuse was usually administered when the victim was under financial pressure as he could not provide for the family. The study concludes that some of the major causes of female domestic violence against men infidelity were that husbands are involved in extra marital affairs. The study found out that some of the victims reported the violence of their partners to either the church, relatives or the police while others claimed not to have reported for fear of public ridicule. The study recommended that the top management of the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) should be given international exposure through international conferences on domestic violence because some female perpetrators pretend to be victims. The study further recommended that efforts and resources should be given to the police and other NGOs for campaigns for attitudinal change in the larger society so that masculinity identities which hinder male victims from exposing violence against them could be minimized or curtailed.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Marriage, the first institution of socialization that unites a man and a woman together to commence a family, is accepted by all religious and cultural arena in the world today to ensure the continuation of generations. Therefore, having a spouse is a right for all matured and sound persons to enhance their well-being, for it is a delightful sight to see two lovers united as man and wife. Spousal conflict affects both men and women of all ages, races, religions, and incomes. However, the majority of research within both the medical and social sciences literature on the impact of spousal conflict, has been limited to samples of women (Kaura&Lohman, 2007). Male victims have not been researched as comprehensively as shelter populations of battered women (Hines, Brown, & Dunning, 2007). However, men's experiences of spousal conflict remain an important issue in need of further exploration (World Health Organization, 2005).

The World Health Organization (2012) outlines spousal conflict as a major social and health problem associated with severe physical and mental health difficulties (WHO, 2013b). Whilst the majority of victims including fatalities are female and the majority of perpetrators are male, the World Health Organization (2012) acknowledges that men are also victims of domestic violence in relationships. Numerous studies demonstrate the detrimental impact domestic violence has on the physical and mental health of female and male victims (Hines & Douglas, 2011; Merrill & Wolfe, 2000). Due to the "secrecy" of spousal conflict, it is often a hidden social problem. The "invisibility" of the problem is largely attributed to the belief that it is a private family matter, which should not be

made known to outsiders. However, over the years, men have been branded perpetrators of spousal conflict, rights abusers and the cause of most spousal conflicts which has denied peace to the family structure, a foundation of humanity (WHO, 2013). From marriage, children are born, values are learnt, love is given and received, formation is carried out, yet this very crucial and fundamental institution is faced with extinction or at best, denigration.

Domestic violence was an older term that was used to describe the abuse of one partner against another, this includes, physical, sexual, and emotional maltreatment. Other forms of domestic violence consist of financial manipulation, intimidation, coercion, and threats (Douglas, Hines, & McCarthy, 2012). For this research study, the term intimate spousal conflict (SC) is used instead of domestic violence. Spousal conflict is a repetition of abusive behaviors by one person against another person in an intimate relationship like marriage, living together, dating or in a family. Multiple studies have been published which offer different interventions to help those experiencing spousal conflict.

Men who are victims of spousal conflict need support and help, but are hesitant to seek assistance. The barriers that refrain male victims of spousal conflict from reporting such abuse or seeking assistance as victims of 'Spousal Conflict' are numerous. For instance, one study conducted by Tsui, Cheung and Leung (2010), found that men may not pursue help for their victimization because of the shame, embarrassment, denial, fear, and stigmatization that they feel about being victims of spousal conflict. Men also avoid seeking assistance for their victimization out of fear of being mocked, blamed for the abuse, or sent to a batterer's program (Hines, Brown, & Dunning, 2007).

Research has shown that, the home which is supposed to be the most peaceful abode is rather the most abusive in recent times (Alhabib et al., 2010). George (2002) reports that the history of domestic violence /spousal conflict is linked to the patriarchal society which viewed men as the perpetrators of human rights abuse and spousal conflict because men are masculine in nature therefore turn to bully their female counterparts. Women and children are presumed vulnerable therefore had little or no rights thereby assuming subordinate role for women in marital homes and society at large. He argues however that "English historical evidence and later analysis of it shows that, in the nineteenth century and before, there was not only concerns for male violence against wives, but also considerable concern for the violation of patriarchal norms of the violence of wives against husbands" (George, 2002).

Spousal conflict is a series of event that have been poorly handled over a period of time so as damage the marriage relationship. Marriage issues have fester to the point that stubbornness, pride, anger, hurt, bitterness, mistrust and human rights abuses prevent effective communication (Bell, 2009). Gender relations, hierarchically relates power between men that differs according to economic and social conditions of society and incline to disadvantage women (Smith et al., 2010). Globally, spousal conflict or marital abuse have been a canker that has brought untold hardships to families and society as a whole. A spouse is a life partner in a marriage, civil union, domestic partnership or common-law marriage (Hester, 2013). The term is gender neutral, whereas a male spouse is a husband and a female spouse a wife. Another definition is a spouse is your companion, mate, and partner. In the olden times, spouse was used as a verb meaning" to

marry but now a days, it functions as noun referring to either husband or wife (www.vocabulary.com).

Conflict is a natural and normal part of all relationships. No couple agrees on everything. A couple might be experiencing domestic violence if your partner calls you names, insults or puts you down/ be it yourself worth, prevents you from going to work or school, tries to control your expenditure, your movement and even clothes you should wear. An abusive partner may even try stopping you from seeing friends and family members while blaming you for failures in life as well as instigate your children against you making one feels like a stranger in her /his own home. The words 'regardless of gender' are important as a study by Carlson and Worden (2005) found that "respondents would judge women's aggressive behavior differently from that of men. In the 1970s, women's rights and welfare was championed by the international community even to the point that women's rights and protection was used as a panacea for borrowing from international finance communities and this compelled most developing countries to include the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups in society to enshrine it in their country's constitution. This became necessary due to frequent media reportage on abuse against women and to a point that others were murdered.

While these assumption of women's protection with various legislation to ensure that their rights are protected as demanded by United Nations Charter on Universal Human Rights Declaration made possible on December 10th 1948, and also the introduction of Human Security that championed the rights of all citizens that compelled States to ensure the security of people by ensuring that their rights and freedoms is protected. This

permitted such rights as civil and political rights, rights to safe and clean environment, freedom of association, freedom to choice of spouse and family life. Furthermore, the institution of a legally binding document such as the Commission on the Elimination Of All Forms Of Discrimination Against Woman, (CEDAW), the positions allotted to women in the United Nations high ranking offices, media reportage on abuse against women, and also worldwide seminars educated elite women strengthened issues of women, rather gave rise for some women to commit crimes even worse than those committed by men before this era.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Marriage is a contract between two adults who freely and willingly accepted to be each other's soul mate, in the course of loving each other, what then cause conflict between two lovers when love brings about joy, peace, unity, care and coexistence? Men just like women are also victims of gender violence. Gender based violence against men is largely invisible, unrecognized and trivialized. When an abused man seek help as a victim of domestic violence, majority of society make fun of the situation. Society chooses not to believe the man and this creates the feeling of guilt, shame, rejection and neglect in the male victims.

The way in which society looks at gender images of men and women are passed down from generation to generation. This has had a severe negative effect on the existence of male victims of spousal conflict in our society. Female victims of domestic conflict are increasingly treated with sympathy and supported by society, while male victims are treated with disbelief and mocked at. Society's perception about gender based violence

and the reinforced media reportage of the issues surrounding and portraying females as the only victims and males as abusers is a major concern for men's rights. Therefore, there is the need to take more comprehensive steps to raise awareness of the magnitude of the problems some men face and effect policies that can lead to its eradication if not minimization of spousal conflict. There are numerous gaps in understanding the pervasiveness of this act in terms of the forms, the causes, levels of reportage and consequences of female perpetrators of violence against men. This study therefore throws the search light on spousal conflicts against men in marriages.

1.3 Main Objective

The main objective is to investigate the characteristics and the consequences of female spousal violence against male rights in and around Tema Community two.

1.3.1 Specific Objectives

- i. To establish the nature of spousal conflict with females as perpetrators of violence against men's rights.
- ii. To explore the factors that lead to spousal conflict in the vicinity.
- iii. To establish the levels of reporting by male victims of spousal conflict.
- iv. To find out the reception accorded male victims who report of being violated with the law enforcement agents.

1.4 Research Questions

The following were four research questions used in the research and these are as follows:

- i. What is the nature of spousal conflict with female perpetrators of violence against men?

- ii. What factors lead to spousal conflict?
- iii. What does human right mean to spouses in conflict and the security personnel who handle the combatants?
- iv. How are male victims received by law enforcement agents?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study will delve into issues of spousal conflict with men as victims, will find out from civil society organizations and the criminal justice system about enacted laws for the protection of the rights of male spouse as was done in the past for women and children and also include current violent laws that will protect men's fundamental human rights. The significance of this research is generally threefold: Firstly, is to generate knowledge that will give the correct profile and dynamics of female domestic violence against men at community two, Tema, in a contextual level. Secondly is to compare the information from this study to other studies generated elsewhere to see if there are any similarities and differences. Thirdly is to hopefully contribute to policy formulations that aim at reducing the problem of female domestic violence against men.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

Males who are victims of spousal conflict are rarely recognized as victims by law enforcement agencies, the Ghanaian judicial system, and agencies that are established to assist victims of spousal conflict. There are many barriers that refrain male victims of spousal conflict from contacting law enforcement or seeking counseling from an agency that is designed with the model of women being the victims of spousal conflict and men as the perpetrators. Society views intimate partner violence as a crime men commit against women. However, a study by Truman and Rand (2010) reported that 117,210 men were physically assaulted by their partners, with women being the major perpetrator, representing 18% of all spousal conflict victims for that year. Spousal conflict should be seen as a human rights dilemma, not as a gender problem (Hines & Douglas, 2011).

2.2 Concepts of Spousal Conflict

Mainstream public discourses characteristically construe violence within intimate relationships as a gendered, heterosexual phenomenon that is typically physical in nature (Donovan & Hester, 2010). This leads to the commonly held assumption that men are the perpetrators of spousal conflict and women the victims (Barber, 2008). Such dichotomous thinking may impede recognition of experiences outside of this dynamic (Ristock, 2002), as reflected in the accounts of some male victims within heterosexual relationships (George, 2003), as well as male and female victims within relationships (Donovan & Hester, 2010; Randle & Graham, 2011). Therefore, comprehensive understanding of violence within intimate relationships is of paramount importance, with

potentially lifesaving consequences (Kelly & Radford, 1990). In an attempt to accommodate the full range of abuse within intimate relationships, the British Home Office (2013) widened its definition from domestic violence to ‘domestic violence and abuse’ in order to reflect patterns of controlling, coercive, and threatening behaviour, including physical, sexual, psychological, financial and emotional maltreatment of one partner by another, regardless of gender or sexuality (Home Office, 2013). In 2015, enhanced recognition was given to controlling and coercive behaviour as a criminal offence (Home Office, 2015). The Home Office proposes that all legislation is gender neutral, and recognizes that men can be victims of such crime (Home Office, 2015). Furthermore, in order to increase awareness of male victims of domestic and sexual violence, in 2011-13 the Home Office launched the ‘Male Victims of Domestic and/or Sexual Violence Fund’, to support services and increase awareness of male victims of domestic and sexual violence (Home Office, 2011).

Domestic violence and domestic abuse are two of the most commonly used terms (Donovan & Hester, 2010). However, critics argue that the term ‘domestic violence’ emphasizes physical violence, precluding wider forms of abuse including financial, sexual and emotional control (Burzawa & Buzawa, 2003; Donovan & Hester, 2010). The term domestic abuse remains popular on account of encompassing physical violence as well as alternative forms of violence including financial, sexual and emotional control (Donovan & Hester, 2010). However, some critics argue that there is a need to expand definitions of this phenomenon in order to accommodate awareness that violence within intimate relationships transcends both genders (Finneran & Stephenson, 2013; Letellier, 1994). Consequently, Burzawa and Buzawa (2003) advocate the use of gender-neutral

terms including intimate partner assault, intimate partner violence and spousal conflict. Therefore, the term spousal conflict will be used within this thesis to explore men's experiences of women abuse. The definition of 'partner' will include legal marriage, de facto relationships, as well as girlfriend relationships (Hegarty, Sheehan, & Schonfeld, 1999).

2.3 Feminist Theory on Spousal Conflict

Feminist theory would explain spousal conflict as an outgrowth of gender inequity and would predict that males would be the perpetrators. In situations where women were arrested as batterers, feminist theory would predict that the women in question were 'fighting back' rather than violence initiators (Abel, 2001). McPhail, Busch, Kulkarni, and Rice (2007) stated that the feminist model is the product of male oppression against women within a patriarchal society in which women are the primary victims and men are the perpetrators of intimate partner violence. Spousal conflict is a learned behavior that can be unlearned. Violence against women from men has become so predominant in our society that women are echoing this abusive behavior by becoming the perpetrators. The feminist model challenges the notion of male privilege and entitlement and the old-fashioned concept that intimate partner violence is a private family matter. The feminist model also contends a necessity for public solutions that include treatment for their male partners, services for women who are victims of spousal conflict, and the requirement of law enforcement engaging in a larger role in persecuting men for their role as perpetrator of spousal conflict towards women. Feminist theory believes in striving for goals for women such as female empowerment and self-determination. Feminist theory also believes that many of the problems that women have to face, including spousal conflict,

are the fault of society, culture, and political powers entailing action at the policy level of government (McPhail et al., 2007).

One theory that should be considered in relation to intimate partner violence is Erik Erickson's Psycho-social Theory. There are eight stages in Erickson's Psycho-social Theory. Stage 6 is intimacy versus isolation. This is the stage where young adults develop intimate relations which can possibly develop into love or promiscuity. Perhaps, a victim of spousal conflict had a horrific ordeal during this stage as a young adult that carried over into her or his adulthood and presently does not know how to escape from an unhealthy relationship. Children can be subjected to intimate partner violence in several different ways. Children can be exposed to spousal conflict as both victims and witnesses.

Puccia et al. (2012) stated that, young children who are exposed to intimate partner violence in the early stages of their lives can provoke a strong sense of helplessness and fear which is offhandedly connected to the crushing of the child's trust in the parent's ability to protect them from harm. Trauma for a child as related to bearing witness or being a victim of spousal conflict can lead to emotional-disconnect, aggression, hyper arousal, attention problems and psychiatric disorders that can alter them for the rest of their lives. Regrettably, these traumatized children of spousal conflict are not receiving the psychiatric counseling they so desperately need, but instead often find themselves in trouble with the law, involved in the criminal system, or struggling with a substance abuse problem, and repeating a pattern of learning behaviors (Harris, Lieberman, & Marans, 2007).

Children who have witnessed and experienced unstable relationships suffer from long term effects ranging from their fear of abandonment and not being loved. As the children grow older and start to have romantic relationships of their own, they struggle with intimacy because they learned inappropriate ways of expressing their emotions and intimacy. Adult children of divorced (ACD) parents sometimes try to satisfy their emotional needs in unhealthy committed relationships (Conway, Christensen, & Herlihy, 2003). ACD sexual activities have been associated with their struggles with intimacy. A study by Gabardi and Rosen (1992) discovered that students from divorced families had considerably more sexual partners than did their peers from unbroken families.

2.4 Female-Perpetuated Spousal Conflict against Men

Gender differences within spousal conflict perpetration rates have been the subject of lengthy, animated debates (Dobash & Dobash, 2004; Hester, 2013). One of the most emotive and controversial issues since empirical research into spousal conflict began has been the subject of female perpetrated abuse of men (Hines et al., 2007). This controversy is due in part to conventional theories which espouse spousal conflict to be the result of patriarchal society (Johnson, 1995), and the use of violence to maintain men's dominance over women within relationships (Hines & Douglas, 2010b).

Discrepancies in findings of spousal conflict prevalence have fueled debate as to whether female perpetrated abuse against men actually exists, with conflicting findings appearing to reflect the methodology employed, influenced largely by the sampling method and instruments used to obtain data (Archer, 2002; Kimmel, 2002). Contradictory findings have resulted in polarized outcomes, with some research revealing limited gender

differences in the perpetration of spousal conflict, whilst other research findings have identified that men are overwhelmingly the perpetrators of spousal conflict against their female partners (Dobash & Dobash, 2004).

Female domestic violence against men has always been the most controversial subject in the field of domestic violence (Carney et al., 2006). Literature shows that domestic violence against women is a norm, while violence against men is not only regarded as an exception but almost non-existence. This kind of conceptualization of domestic violence has historical underpinnings. From medieval times, within patriarchal societies, it has been considered a "great taboo" for a man to be a victim of violence initiated by a woman. George (2004) argues that this was due to the coalescence of two forbidden beliefs in society: firstly, that a man can be beaten by a woman, which is an anathema particularly to men; secondly, the uncomfortable reality that women can be aggressive and violent, which contravenes stereotypical notions of femininity and is an attribution that neither men nor women wish to acknowledge.

Coker et al. (2008) report a lifetime prevalence of physical spousal violence alone of 5.8% for men. In contrast, Reid et al (2008) report a lifetime prevalence of physical and non-physical spousal violence in men aged 18-54 years of 28.8%. Houry et al (2008) found 21% of men reported spousal conflicts in the year 2007, and in Afifi (2009), victimization rates were higher in men in their existing relationships. Young men appeared most at risk (Gass et al., 2011; Hines, 2007, Reid et al., 2008), although older men were also affected (Drijber, 2011, Reid et al., 2008) with Drijber et al (2013) finding victimization to be most common in men aged 35 to 54 years. Men reported experiencing

physical assaults (Cho & Wilke, 2010; Coker et al., 2008; Drijber et al., 2013; Hines and Douglas; Mele and Roberts, 2011; Mills et al, 2006; Nayback-Beebe and Yoder, 2012; Reid et al, 2008).

An object, such as a household item was commonly used (Drijber et al., 2013) and men were found more likely than women to be victim of aggravated assaults involving use of a weapon (Drijber et al., 2013; Cho & Wilke, 2010). Emotional, psychological, verbal (Coker et al., 2008; Drijber et al., 2013; Hines & Douglas, 2010; Mele and Roberts, 2011; Mills et al., 2006; Muller et al, 2009; Nayback-Beebe and Yoder, 2012; Reid et al, 2008), and sexual abuse (Hines and Douglas, 2010, Prospero, 2007; Prospero and Kim, 2008), were reported. Hines and Douglas (2010) found that female partners of male victims seeking help for domestic abuse were reportedly 5.28 more likely to insist on sex when their partner did not want to compared to the comparison sample. Men were significantly more likely than women to report verbal abuse (Coker et al., 2008).

Men reported harassment (Mele & Roberts, 2011) and threats of harm (Mele & Roberts, 2011; Mills et al., 2006; Nayback-Beebe and Yoder, 2012) with all respondents in Mele and Robert's (2011) sample of men seeking 'Protection From Abuse' (PFA) against their female partners, reporting that they felt "*in immediate danger*". A PFA is a court order granted in Pennsylvania state, US, to a person who is "*assaulted or threatened by a current or former intimate partner*". (Mele & Roberts (2011). Mills et al (2006) found an association between threatening harm and physical violence, which may partially explain male victims' perceptions of fear.

Duration of abuse varied. In Drijber et al. (2013) study, 79% (n=286) men reported spousal conflict victimization lasting over 1 year, with half of those reportedly abused for more than 5 years. Nayback and Yoder (2012) reveal victimization experienced by one man lasting over an 18-year marriage, continuing for 1 year after divorce. Reid et al. (2008) found the duration of non-physical abuse to be greater. Men cited multiple incidents of domestic abuse (Drijber et al., 2013; Mills et al., 2005; Reid et al., 2008) with nearly half of Drijber et al. (2013) respondents reporting more than 10 abuse episodes a year.

Comparing male and female attributions for perpetrating spousal conflict, women reported a higher loss of temper and use of controlling behaviour than men (Whitaker, 2014). Similarly, female partners of men seeking help for IPV were reported to use significantly higher levels of severe psychological abuse, physical aggression, and controlling behaviour, in comparison to a community sample (Hines & Douglas, 2010). However, indicating complexity, bidirectional violence within relationships was reported in 5 studies (Coker et al, 2008; Hines and Douglas, 2010; Houry et al., 2008; Mele & Roberts, 2011; Prospero & Miseong, 2009) with male and female respondents reporting both perpetration and victimization of spousal conflict. Significantly high levels of bidirectional aggression were found in Hines and Douglas's (2010) 'help seeking' sample, with male victims of abuse also using violence against their partners. The authors suggest this could be attributed to retaliation or "*violent resistance*", as these findings are similar to those of studies focusing on 'battered women'.

2.5 Types of Violence Women Use on Men

There are a few types of female domestic violence against men existing in literature and these are physical, emotional, verbal and economic violence. The USA Department of Justice (2007) indicates that both women and men have been killed and physically abused as a result of domestic violence. It further stresses that physical violence often occurs after a period of months or even years of other forms of abuse, such as threats, intimidation and controlling behaviors for instance restrictions of the other person's self-determination, through isolation, manipulation and placing of limits on personal choices and freedoms.

2.5.1 Emotional Abuse

The Istanbul Convention defines emotional violence as "the intentional conduct of seriously impairing a person's psychological integrity through coercion or threats". This is actually the form of violence against men which has been said to be the most common and the most devastating. Follingstad and Dehart (2000) argue that emotional abuse is the form that is common among male victims of violence. They hold that emotional abuse include threatens, intimidations and behavior that undermine the victim's self-worth or self-esteem, or controls the victim's freedom. In the UK qualitative literature, the most severe form of abuse cited by male respondents was emotional victimization, normally cumulative and involving long-term trauma, which at the extreme may lead to suicide attempts, depression, eating disorders, drug and alcohol abuse. This type of abuse also contributes to the escalation of HIV and AIDS as the men usually avoid going home early and eventually find solace in other women who will not abuse them (Josolyne, 2011).

Constant criticism of the husband, devaluing statements, and name-calling are

emotionally abusive behaviors which the majority of the women do to their partners in most homes. Such abusive behaviour in homes lead men to question themselves, causing them to believe that they are making up the abuse or that the abuse is their fault.

2.5.2 Verbal abuse

Verbal abuse is also another form that is coming out of literature. Although in some reviewed literature it usually overlaps with emotional abuse, it can be described as different from emotional violence because it involves the use of language, which can involve threats, name calling, blaming, ridicule, disrespect, and criticism. This also encompasses less obvious aggressive forms of verbal abuse which include attempts to humiliate, falsely accuse, or manipulate others to submit to undesirable behavior, make others feel unwanted and unloved, threaten others economically, or isolate victims from support systems (Carney et al, 2006). Furthermore, Josolyne (2011) says that verbal abuse is one of the major methods women use to inflict violence on men as they can easily insult and undress a husband in the presence of the children.

2.5.3 Economic Abuse

Economic abuse as a form of violence against men happens when their wives have control over their access to economic resources. Brewster (2003) contends that economic abuse is real in situations where the husband doesn't work and depends on the wife for financial support. Economic abuse may involve preventing a spouse from resource acquisition, limiting the amount of resources to be used by the victim, or by exploiting economic resources of the victim. Furthermore, it is argued that the motive behind preventing a spouse from acquiring resources is to diminish the husband's capacity to

support himself, thus forcing him to depend on the wife financially and this makes men to be slaves in the homes (Follingstad & Dehart, 2000).

2.5.4 Physical Abuse

Men are usually physically larger and stronger than their female partners, because of this, some assume that they are able to restrain their spouse and leave an abusive situation without themselves being physically restrained (Hines & Douglas, 2010a). Consequently, violence perpetrated by women against their male partners may be considered to be less serious, trivialized or even considered humorous (Saunders, 2002). Further assumptions that men are capable of defending themselves fuel societal beliefs that ‘real men’ cannot be victims (Yarrow & Churchill, 2009). However, some evidence suggests that women are more likely to employ methods of abuse which are not strength dependent (George, 2003).

Evidence indicates that some women use physical objects such as knives, chairs and crockery in attacks against male partners (Drijber, Reijnders, & Ceelen, 2013). Further findings support the idea that female-perpetrators can use very severe physical aggression including hitting, kicking, punching, stabbing, biting, choking, stalking, scratching and pelting (Drijber et al., 2013; Hines et al., 2007; Hines & Saudino, 2003). Such attacks against male victims have resulted in serious and high rates of spousal conflict within the relationship, including physical, psychological, and sexual abuse (Dutton, 2007; Hines & Douglas, 2010a; Hines & Douglas, 2010b; McNeely, Cook, & Torres, 2001; Williams, Ghandour, & Kub, 2008), with some men reporting that they lived in fear of their female partner’s violent behaviour (Hines et al., 2007).

2.6 Prevalence of Female-Perpetuated Spousal Violence against Men

Family violence researchers employ an ‘act-based’ approach to the measurement of violent within relationships; this approach measures reported acts of violence and injuries within a relationship from both the victim and perpetrator, through the use of scales to assess individuals’ use of violence (Dobash & Dobash, 2004). Findings are subsequently used to estimate men and women’s use of violence within the wider population (Dobash & Dobash, 2004). Some researchers employing this approach have found spousal conflict to be symmetrical, with female partners as likely as their male counterparts to perpetrate spousal violence (Hines & Saudino, 2003). In some instances, female partners have been found to engage in acts of extensive violence against their male partners (Morse, 1995).

One of the most widely used family violence survey methods is the Conflict Tactic Scale, a questionnaire used to measure abusive behaviour between partners (Dobash & Dobash, 2004). Measures based on specific acts of aggression suggest that women are significantly more likely than men to use physical aggression against their partner, and at a more frequent rate (Archer, 2000). Whereas, men are significantly more likely to inflict injury against a female partner (Archer, 2000).

Esquivel-Santoveña and Dixon (2012) claimed that Family Violence Surveys provide sound methodological rigor, given that they are designed specifically to measure family violence rather than the relationship between violence and wider social problems. The authors highlight that family violence findings reflect more equal rates of victimization across both genders, whilst measures of less quality, demonstrate higher rates of female victimization and male perpetration (Esquivel-Santoveña & Dixon, 2012). With evidence that some male victims experience more stigma identifying as a victim of IPV than

female victims (Hamby, 2005; Kimmel, 2002), a more gender-inclusive approach to the measurement of spousal violence, facilitating both genders in reporting their experiences have been called for (Esquivel-Santoveña & Dixon, 2012). Mills, Avegno, and Haydel (2006) recommended computer-based surveys to help minimize stigma. The British Crime Survey, a nationally representative victimization survey of adults in England and Wales, employs two methodologies: a face-to-face interview which asks respondents about crime experienced in a domestic household, followed by a self-completion computerised questionnaire designed to encourage wider reporting of experiencing (Walby & Allen, 2004). Findings revealed that one in ten (10) men have been victims of spousal violence, with evidence that 47 per cent of men experienced one incident of spousal violence within a twelve-month period (Walby & Allen, 2004), leading to an estimated 2.5 million incidents of spousal violence acts against men in England and Wales in a one-year period (Walby & Allen, 2004).

Critics of the ‘act-based’ approach argue that the assumption that both parties will provide reliable accounts of their relationship as evidence for the prevalence of spousal violence is problematic (Dobash & Dobash, 2004). Some evidence suggests that women are more likely to report their use of violence than men (Hester, 2013). Furthermore, the emphasis on ‘acts’ without reference to the impact of context and injury, has led to difficulty in differentiating the experiences of male and female spousal conflict victims (Dobash & Dobash, 2004). Violence against women researchers propose that violence needs to be explored within the context and consequences in which it occurs, including ongoing violent episodes, which act based approaches neglect to consider (Dobash & Dobash, 2001). Violence against women researchers argue that this is of particular

significance given the apparent gender differences in the reported prevalence of spousal conflict.

With evidence that nearly half of male victims experienced just one incident of spousal violence within the previous year, compared to one third of female victims who experienced more than three incidents of spousal violence (Walby & Allen, 2004). This has implications on police arrest statistics for spousal violence perpetration rates within the UK, as the UK criminal justice system is incident focused, with decisions about prosecution and arrest made in relation to separate reported incidents, which fails to accommodate for spousal violence, which is typically a pattern of abusive behaviour over time (Hester, 2013). Measures of the consequences of spousal violence reveal that women are more likely to report physical injuries and psychological problems as a result of spousal violence victimization (Dobash & Dobash, 2001). Furthermore, men are more likely to perpetrate violence against their female partners at both a lethal and non-lethal level (Hester, 2013). Findings from the British Crime Survey reveal that men are less likely to report their experiences of spousal violence victimization to the police, on account of their incidents being too trivial (Smith et al., 2010).

Gadd et al. (2003a) argued that statistics surrounding spousal violence rates overestimate men's victim status, highlighting that discrepancies in gender differences surrounding spousal violence victimization have been used by some 'Men's Rights' activists and campaigners to undermine feminist projects and support services set up to help female spousal violence victims (Gadd et al., 2003a). Therefore, Dobash and Dobash (2004) concluded that priority should continue to be given to policies that address violence

against women. Although men may be less likely than their female counterparts to be victims of IPV, Dobash & Dobash (2004) recognised the need for further studies on this subject, in order to aid a holistic understanding of this form of violence (Dobash & Dobash, 2004). Whilst there is evidence that female-perpetrated abuse against men does exist (Carmo, Grams & Magalhães, 2011; Hines et al., 2007; Hines & Douglas, 2010b), there remains uncertainty as to the prevalence of such abusive relationships (Hines & Douglas, 2010b), given the lack of a sound measure of spousal conflict prevalence (Alhabib et al., 2010).

2.7 Causes of Female Domestic Violence against Men

There is no consensus in literature about the causes of female domestic violence against men. Most of the literature, especially those which have feminist overtones, suggest that women only engage in violence in self-defense, fear or retribution for real or perceived wrong doing on the part of men (Barnett et al., 1997). Self-defense is often listed as a motivation for committing violence. In an analysis of women's motivations for violence by Swan and Snow (2003), self-defense was the most frequently endorsed motive, with 75 per cent of participants stating that they had used violence to defend themselves. The same study provides some evidence that women often used violence to get even with their partners for something they had done against them. In terms of fear, Archer, (2000) indicates that some women's violence occurs in the context of fear of assault from their partners and the need to protect themselves from physical harm.

It is further argued that in the 1980s "the construction of the "victimized woman" drew attention to women's experiences in violent intimate relationships thereby highlighting

intimate partner violence as a major social problem. Women's victimization by their partners has been shown to be the primary etiological factor in their perpetration of lethal and non-lethal violence". To this end, it can be argued that women who initiate violence against men are playing the masculine gender role. However, some scholars have refuted the above hypotheses and tagged them, a feminist way of denying the phenomenon of women as perpetrators of violence. Fiebert and Gonzales (1997) are perhaps the fiercest critics of the self-defense hypothesis. They argue that data doesn't support such a hypothesis, instead, they posit that there are three reason found from empirical studies why female violence against men exist: "to resolve an argument; to respond to family crisis; and to stop him bothering me."

The other possible cause of female domestic violence which was proposed by Corry (2000) is that of masculinisation. The concept entails that females are capable of taking on a more masculine role in society and this makes them perform gender roles typical for men. Such women are able to enact controlling behavior on other people including men. This is similar to the 'concept of performativity' as coined by Judith Butler, which she uses to deny the existence of rigid and natural gender roles in society (Butler, 1999). Both concepts posit that people choose to either perform masculine or feminine gender roles depending on their social environment. It is significant that in profiling the type of women who kill, the literature often concludes that masculine traits can be identified. Comack and Brickey (2007) put it clearly that the construction of the masculinized woman provides a plausible explanation for her acts and in this way the masculine-feminine binary is maintained and violence and aggression remain within the masculine realm.

Furthermore, Felson 1998 in Cope (2008) argues for what he calls an opportunity based crime as another motivation for female perpetrated violence. Although this concept was not originally meant for female-induced violence, it can thus be applicable. He argues that offenders “typically behave like criminals only in certain settings, that is, slices of time and space within which relevant people and things are assembled”. In this case whenever females engage in violence against their male counterparts, it means they have usurped that behavior only in conducive and specific circumstances and such are not meant to be sustainable.

White and Kowalski (1994) also drew from social learning theory to consider that as females move into the male workplace, they experience role strain which will increase the likelihood of them taking out anger and frustration on their male partner. On the other hand, they consider the opposite tendency, where there is frustration at not being able to participate in a male work environment that leads to aggressive behavior to obtain money and power from the male partner. It is not clear whether this argument is valid as there is no empirical study done to elucidated evidence in that respect.

Robertson and Murachver (2009) have pointed to the emotional imbalance manifested in all perpetrators of violence and they argue that female perpetrators are not an exception in this regard. They hold that perpetrators of both sexes often have emotional control problems and a related inability to communicate while talking through issues in homes. They also argue that many perpetrators were victims of domestic violence themselves previously, this could be when they were growing up as children.

2.8 Reporting of Domestic Violence by Male Victims

A broad body of literature has identified that men's ambivalence towards seeking help is strongly associated with adherence to social norms and ideologies surrounding masculinity (Addis & Mahalik, 2003; Berger, Addis, Green, Mackowiak, & Goldberg, 2013). Such norms endorse being stoic, self-reliant, emotionally inexpressive, and in control (Addis & Mahalik, 2003; Nam et al., 2010), values which are typically perceived by men as being inconsistent with help-seeking behaviour. Cook (2009) puts forward the argument from his study on domestic violence, that one of the main reasons for men not reporting the abuse and remaining within the relationship could be known as "Internal Excuses". In other words, putting off reporting or leaving their abuser because of the belief that with time things would change. Denial prolongs the under-reporting of domestic violence by male victims.

A meta-analysis by Nam et al. (2010) identified that gender is a significant predictor of attitudes towards help-seeking behaviour, with women more likely to hold positive attitudes towards help-seeking than men. The admission of a need for help, and dependence on others (Heimerdinger-Edwards, Hammer, & Hubbard, 2011), and the associated stigma (Nam et al., 2010), may result in some men perceiving help-seeking as a failure to adhere to internalized standards of masculinity (Vogel et al., 2011). However, the nature, source and manner in which help is offered may influence men's openness to seeking help (Berger et al., 2013), with some evidence suggesting that men react more positively to psychotherapy given its emphasis on maintaining a sense of autonomy and self-reliance (Berger et al., 2013).

Extensive research has focused on barriers surrounding female victims' reporting of spousal conflict and help-seeking behaviour (Kaukinen et al., 2013;). However, limited research has focused on men's experiences of help-seeking as a result of female-perpetrated spousal conflict (McCart, Smith, & Sawyer, 2010). The narrative that has emerged from the literature on this topic to date reflects a picture of complexity, underpinned by internal and external barriers including shame, embarrassment and a lack of awareness of support services (Douglas & Hines, 2011; Tsui, Cheung, & Leung, 2010). These pioneering findings indicate that underreporting of IPV victimization may be prevalent across both genders (Walby & Allen, 2004).

Tsui et al. (2010) undertook a national US based online self-administered survey investigating whether, and how, abused men seek help. Results indicated that abused men did not seek help because of feelings of shame surrounding their inability to protect themselves, and perceived threats to their masculinity. The men feared losing dignity and respect, alongside a perception that seeking assistance for their victimization was a sign of weakness, leading to feelings of fear and embarrassment (Tsui et al., 2010). Hines and Douglas (2010) identified that male victims believed that support services could not help them. Drijber et al. (2013) further identified that male victims feared that their victimization would not be taken seriously, that they would be ridiculed, humiliated or that they would be accused of being a perpetrator if they sought help. Consequently, male victims were more likely to disclose their abuse to family or friends in their immediate surroundings whom they felt confident would maintain secrecy, rather than access support services (Drijber et al., 2013).

Research on the help-seeking experiences of men who sustained spousal conflict from their female partners suggests that these fears are not misplaced. Male victims who sought help for their victimization experienced having limited access to sources of support for male victims, or receiving gender stereotyped treatment based on the assumption that men are abusers, resulting in some male victims being treated with suspicion, disbelief, and ridiculed when seeking support (Douglas & Hines, 2011; Tsui et al., 2010). The need for proof of their victimization resulted in some men feeling isolated because their stories of victimization were not believed (Hines et al., 2007).

Furthermore, the men were rejected or ridiculed by the service providers from whom they sought help (Cook, 2009; Douglas & Hines, 2011). The nature of these negative help-seeking experiences has been shown to have lasting and significant implications on victims' mental health, leading to higher rates of PTSD. Research by Hines (2007) demonstrated that the association between sustaining spousal conflict and PTSD was stronger where there were greater levels of hostility toward male victims when voicing their experiences. Whilst service provision for male victims within the UK has increased, information on victim's perceptions of these services remains underreported (Tsui et al., 2010). For male victims who do seek help and utilize services, individual counselling appears to be among the most popular form of support because of its perceived helpfulness and availability (Tsui et al., 2010).

However, Tsui et al. (2010) outlined the need for services to address factors including cultural and societal expectations, masculine identity, secretiveness, and shame, which may limit help-seeking behaviour in male victims. Tsui et al. (2010) concluded that

intolerance against male victims of female-perpetrated spousal conflict remains prevalent within society. However, following recent increases in public awareness about this problem, Portuguese based researchers estimate that the number of male victims who seek help for their victimization will rise in the near future (Carmoet al., 2011). Research on men's help-seeking experiences as a result of female-perpetrated spousal conflict is in its infancy, with the majority of research US based (Douglas & Hines, 2011), where sources of support for male victims are more common than in the UK (Tsui et al., 2010).

2.9 Barriers to Leaving an Abusive Relationship

Whilst extensive research has investigated the reasons why some woman stays in abusive relationships (e.g., Chang et al., 2006; Hendy, Eggen, Gustitus, McLeod, & Ng, 2003; Lerner & Kennedy, 2000), there is limited understanding as to why some abused men stay with their partners (Hines & Malley-Morrison, 2001). Anecdotal accounts demonstrate that men experience conventional barriers to leaving a violent relationship including embarrassment, limited financial resources, a commitment to the relationship and concerns for the safety and welfare of their children (e.g., Cook, 2009; Flynn, 1990; Pagelow&Pagelow, 1984). However, further research exploring the reasons why abused men stay with their partners is warranted (Hines & Malley-Morrison, 2001).

2.10 Effects of Female Domestic Violence against Men

Gender based violence affects men's human rights in fundamental ways that present a serious challenge to realizing men's rights as citizens and realizing their agency to fully participate in public and in private life. Female violence incurs considerable social and economic costs to men such as personal insecurity, lost income, and productivity.

Wiehe(1998) held the view that being the victim of domestic abuse was destructive to one's self-esteem and self-image. A man that had been beaten by his wife or partner was most likely to be a psychologically broken man; the male being sexually abused by a female was usually a very vulnerable personality who felt absolute shame and worthlessness.

Barnett (2001) brings out other long term effects on men who have been abused. These are guilt, anger, depression or anxiety, shyness, nightmares, disruptiveness, irritability, and problems getting along with others. A victim's overwhelming lack of resources can also lead to homelessness and poverty. Men who have suffered abuse are at risk of a lot of negative consequences that can put them on a destructive path for their future as their life is usually shattered.

Vitanza et al. (1995) posit that psychological effects of abuse against men are many. Men who are victims of domestic violence also commonly experience long-term anxiety and panic, and are likely to meet the diagnostic criteria for Generalized Anxiety Disorder and Panic Disorder. The most commonly referenced psychological effect of domestic violence is Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). PTSD (as experienced by victims) is characterised by flashbacks, intrusive images, exaggerated startle response, nightmares, and avoidance of triggers that are associated with the abuse.

In Africa, domestic or spousal violence is rater increasing by the day as a result of ignorance of the fundamental human rights of the women themselves. Cultural and traditional values subjugate women to men since the twilight of history. Women in Africa to some extent have accepted the status quo by playing second fiddle to their male

counterpart. Women in Africa usually resist the temptation of reporting their husbands to law enforcement agencies whenever they are physically and psychologically abused in their matrimonial homes. They do so for fear of being stigmatized. Accordingly, domestic violence is still pervasive in Africa. Through series of agitations from women groups and enactments of legislation to change the status quo, women are now asserting themselves and are now on the contrary, physically abusing their husbands. For instance Tanzania and Kenya are cited as countries where women accuses their husbands of excessive alcoholism and then hiding behind it to perpetuate violence against their male counterparts. Some men in Kenya have resorted to wearing metal pants with locks to bed for fearing that their gentiles maybe chopped off by their wives due to the men's failure to perform their conjugal obligation.

In Ghana, domestic violence against women reached its peak in the 1990s where there were daily reported cases in the media and by the police of women being murdered, physically battered, and driven out of their homes by husbands, family of disease husbands, denial of inheritance and their like. The perpetuation of physical violence against women became so endemic that civil society organizations (CSOs) took it upon themselves and put sustained pressure on government to pass a Bill or an Act to protect the rights of women and children in Ghana. The promulgation and implementation of the Domestic Violence Act in Ghana led to minimal reduction of spousal abuse against women. The Act was however criticized for given excessive protection for women and children's' rights to the neglect of male adults. Many women exploited the Domestic Violence Act by falsely accusing their husbands to DOVVSU of the Ghana police. Many men were locked up in police cells to teach them a lesson. The police usually do not

listen to the side story of men who have been reported to the Unit by women. The men were treated as criminals upon their invitation to the police administration. The thrust of this paper is to explore the mind-boggling upsurge of spousal violence against men in and around Tema Community Two in spite of the existence of the Domestic Violence Law in Ghana.



CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

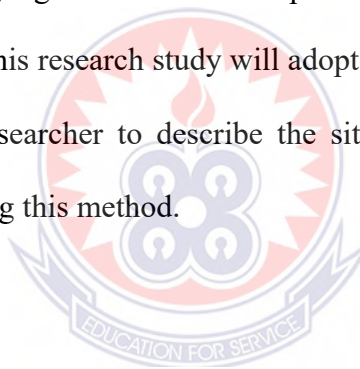
3.0 Introduction

This chapter includes a detailed overview of the research methods used in the study.

It also takes into consideration, the steps taken to assure credibility and high validity, the process of data collection and limitations of the research.

3.1 Research Design

Burns and Bush (2006) define research design as a set of advance decisions that makes up the master plan specifying the methods and procedures for collecting and analyzing the needed information. This research study will adopt a descriptive design approach; this design will enable the researcher to describe the situation more completely than was possible without employing this method.



3.2 Research Approach

To achieve the main objective of this study, the researcher adopted quantitative research approach. The quantitative approach was chosen in order to be able to turn the raw data into meaningful information through the application of rational and critical thinking (Bryman and Bell, 2011). For quantitative approach, the same figure within data set can be interpreted in many different ways hence the researcher applied fair and careful judgment.

3.3 Sources of data

The source of data used in this study comes from both primary and secondary sources.

3.3.1 Primary Data Source

The primary source of data is obtained through the administration of structured questionnaires to elicit information from spouses within the Tema community Two.

3.3.2 Secondary Data Source

Secondary data was collected for the statistic population of the Tema Community Two Divisional Police Office about the reported spousal conflicts.

3.4 Case Study

For this research, Tema community two was used by the researcher as the case study since. It is closely related to the research purpose. Yin (2009) asserted that case study approach requires ‘cases’ which are “based on things like an individual, an organization, an industry, a workplace, an educational program, a policy or a country”. Denscombe (2010) defines a case study as the research strategy that is commonly used in research. Case study is more often than not adopted to investigate the contemporary phenomenon within the real life context; however, the relevant behaviour is not influenced by the context.

3.5 Population

For this study the population is the spouses and people who are currently in a relationship or had been in a relationship before. Considering the large size of the target population, it will be impossible to conduct the research on every person in the population because of time constraint. Hence the research will be conducted on selected samples of person within the population.

3.6 Sample Size

Bryman and Bell (2003) defines sample as the segment of the population that is selected for the investigation. Hence, this study uses sample size of fifty respondents (50).

3.7 Sampling Technique

Purposive and convenience sampling techniques were adopted for this research. With the purposive sampling technique, police personnel at the Tema Community Two Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) were sampled because they are the category of persons who receive and deals with complaints of all forms of domestic violence. The researcher will move from one area to another in the community two vicinity to sample respondents. In cases where the respondents will not fall within the target of having been or is in a relationship; Researcher moves to the next person who provided vital information hence the use of convenience sampling technique.

3.8 Research Instruments

According to Gay (1992), all research studies involve data collection with the help of research instruments. There are therefore, various data collection instruments but with this study, the data collection instrument used in collecting the data from the respondent is the questionnaire.

3.8.1 Questionnaire

The questionnaire is defined by Timane (2012) as a research instrument consisting of a series of questions and other prompts for the purpose of gathering information from respondents. In this study the questionnaire will be used to collect data from the respondents. The questionnaire is selected for this study because it increases the speed of

data collection, low cost requirements and higher levels of objectivity compared to many alternative methods of primary data collection. Data collection through the questionnaire will be done by structured and predefined questions. The questions will be both open ended and closed ended questions.

3.8.2 Reliability of Instruments

Reliability is the extent to which an indicator accurately measures a concept (Fielding & Gilbert, 2000). In cases where questions are ambiguous and not well explained to the respondent, errors can be made. A considerable amount of discussion and experimentation was done to fine-tune the content of the questionnaire and wording before its final administration. In the case of the present study, a review of related literature and expert judgments were made to determine the content and face validity of the items of the questionnaires. In determining the face validity of the questionnaires, colleague students and some respondents assisted while the content validity of the instruments was done by the supervisor. All these people mentioned above assessed the items and made significant corrections and contributions, which eventually helped in improving upon the instrument and hence improve the face and content validity of the questionnaires. This was done to correct the items that were ambiguous and difficult to understand.

3.9 Ethical Consideration

For ethical purpose, the participants were notified of the aims, methods, anticipated benefits and the right to abstain from participation in the research as well as the right to terminate participation at any time. Manion and Morrison (2003) state that, “the

obligation to protect the anonymity of research participants and to keep research data confidential is all-inclusive. It should be fulfilled at all costs unless arrangements to the contrary are made with the participants in advance”. Participants were assured of anonymity and confidentiality of their responses. In other words, the identity of individuals from whom information was obtained in the course of the study was kept strictly confidential. This was done by making the questionnaire anonymous where the names of respondents were not collected.

3.10 Data analysis

The data collected constitutes the key findings of the research. The data analysis will be both qualitative and quantitative analysis because the questions are both open and closed ended. The data collected as indicated on the questionnaire will be coded and entered into the computer based program Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS v 23) for data analysis. To present the data gathered, there will be a direct quotations of responses obtained from respondents from the opened ended questions. Tables, charts, frequency distribution and percentages and inferential.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

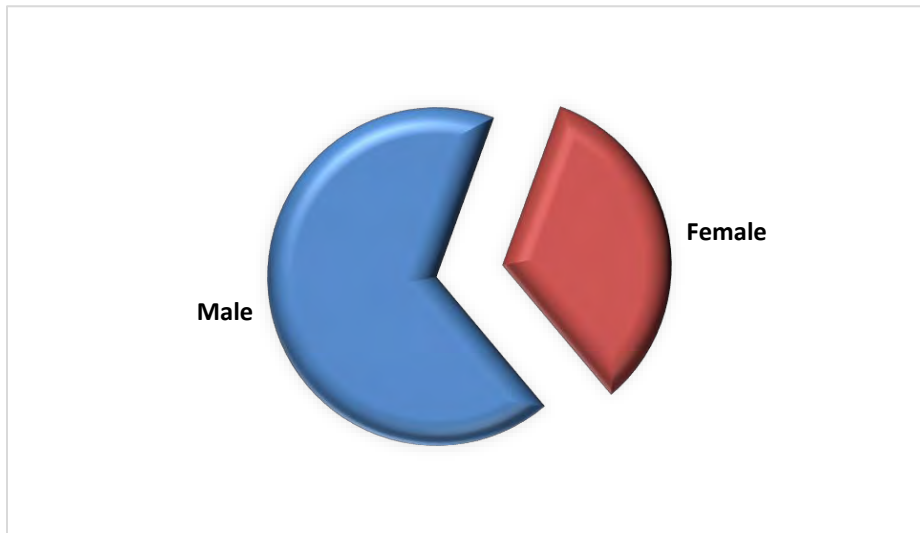
4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the primary data analysis and discussions of the results. The chapter starts with the analysis of the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents to reveal the background factors influencing the respondents' understanding of the subject matter of the study. 50 questionnaires were administered to the respondents. The results were generated through frequency distribution, and percentage. Meanings and interpretations are inferred from the results are presented in tabular and figure form.

4.2 Demography of Respondents

This comprises of the gender, age, marital status, educational qualifications and occupations of the respondents.

Figure 4.1 Gender



Source: Filed data, 2019

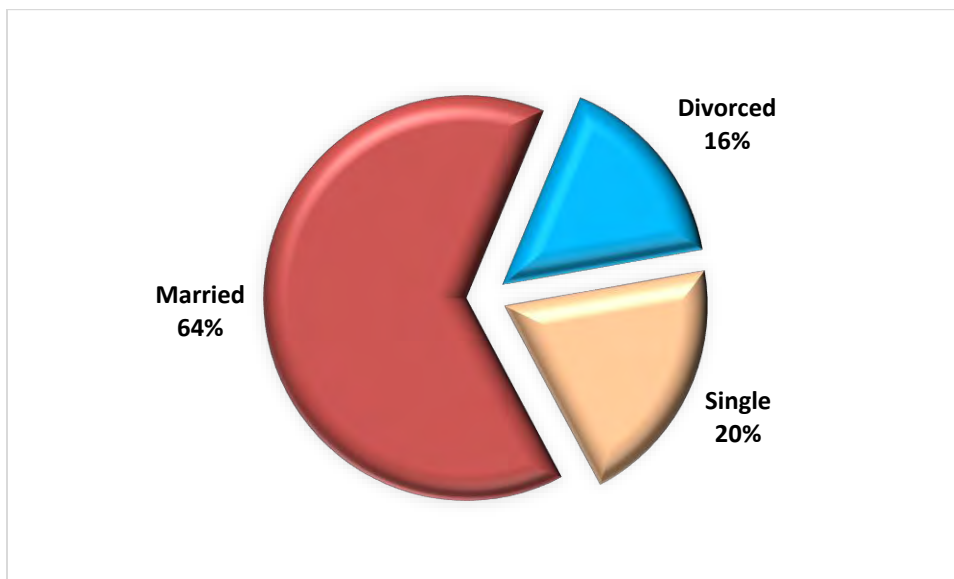
The results show that 72% of the respondents were males whiles 28% of the respondents were females. The study is focused on the male gender because the main objective is to investigate spousal abuse against men by women.

Table 4.1 Age Distribution

Years	Frequency	Percentage
20-30	15	29
31-40	30	60
41-50	5	11
Total	100	100

Source: Field data, 2019

The findings reveal that most (60%) of the respondents were within the age group of between 31-40 years and 29% of the respondents were within the age group of between 20-30 years. This shows that the female spousal conflict against men cut across all ages but not limited to any specific age group of men.

Figure 4.2 Marital Status

Field data, 2019

The results show that majority (64%) of the respondents were married, 20% of the respondents were single while 16% of the respondents were divorced. This shows that most of the men have experienced female spousal abuse before or is still experiencing female spousal abuse now. This makes the information they provide borne from personal experience hence more credible and accurate.

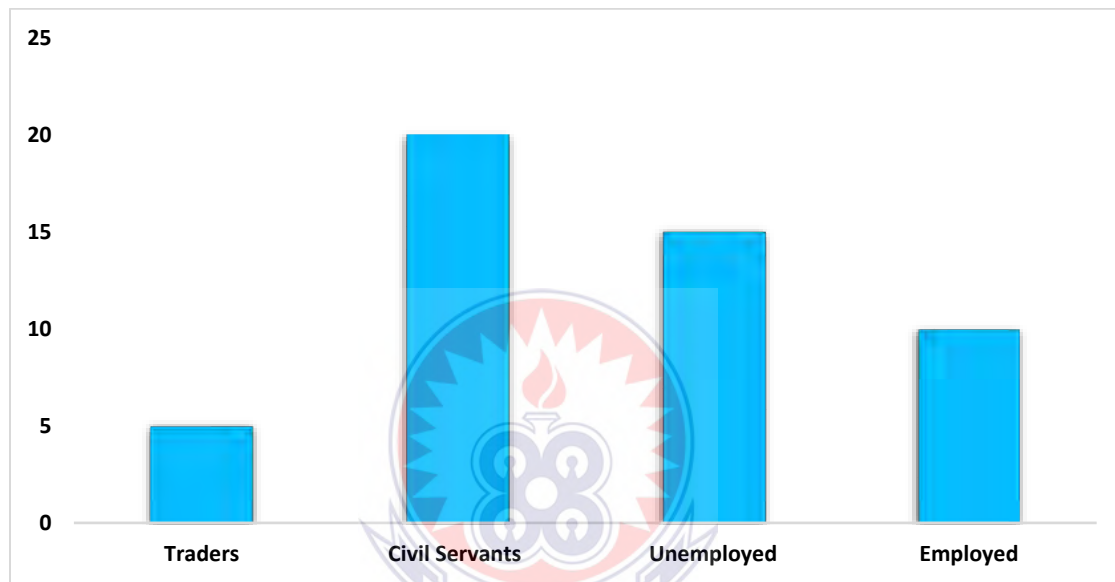
Table 4.2 Educational Qualification of Respondents

Qualification	Frequency	Percentage
JHS/SHS	15	30
HND	10	20
First Degree	20	40
Masters	5	10
Total	100	100

Source: Field data, 2019

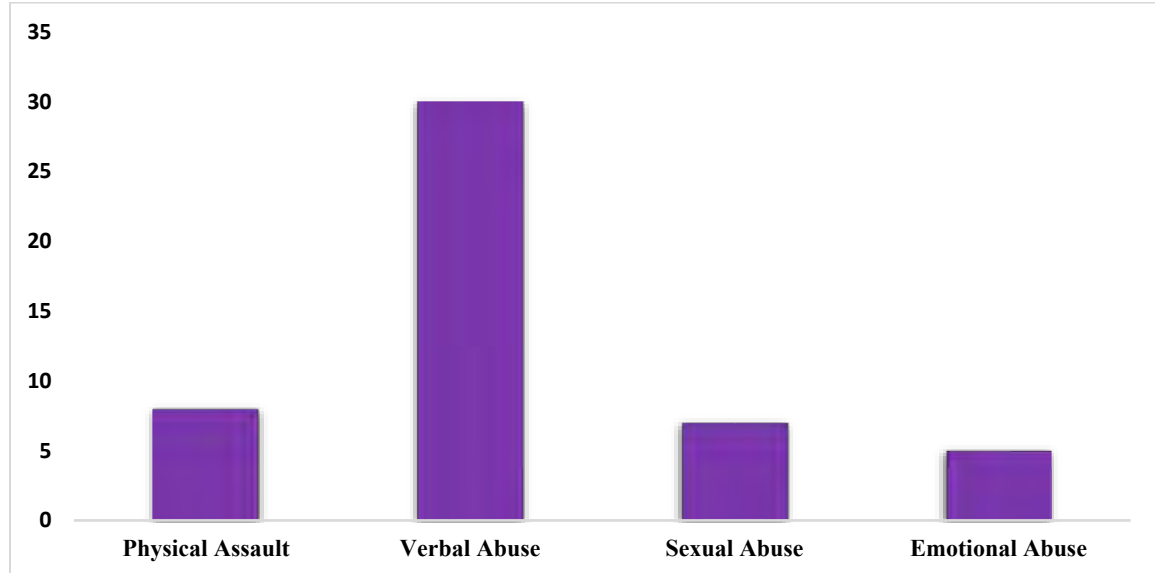
The results show that most (40%) of the respondents had first degree educational qualifications, this is closely followed by respondents with JHS/SHS qualifications. This shows that the all the have had some level of education hence have fair knowledge about the issue of spousal abuse.

Figure 4.3 Occupation of Respondents



Source: Field data, 2019

The results show that most (40%) of the respondents are civil servants, 30% of the respondents are unemployed, 20% are employed in the private sector and 10% of the respondents are traders.

Figure 4.4 Types of Female Spousal Violence against Men

Source: Field data, 2019

The results show that majority (60%) of the respondents asserted that verbal abuse, 16% of the respondents said physical assault, 14% said sexual abuse and 10% said emotional abuse are the types of spousal violence against men.

Verbal Abuse against Men

Verbal abuse involves the use of language, which can involve threats, name calling, blaming, ridicule, disrespect, making sarcastic remarks and criticism. This means the women calls their partners names, disrespect them, threatens them and overly criticize them. Verbal abuse is a psychological abuse that affects the self-esteem of men leading to loss of self-confidence. Furthermore, the respondents asserted that these verbal abuses usually happen when there are financial difficulties. This can be that their family expenses have increased while the man's income has not increase so he cannot take care of the family needs. Some men also loss their job or the job is struggling to survive hence the result of poor financial standing and difficulties.

Josolyne (2011) findings agrees with the respondents' assertion by stating that verbal abuse is one of the major methods women use to inflict violence on men as they can easily insult and undress a husband in the presence of the children.

Physical Assault

The respondents indicated that they were physical assaulted by women. The respondents further indicated that the women used object such as knives and crockery to attack them. These attacks usually result in mind to severe injuries sustained by the male victims. Drijber et al. (2013) supports the respondents' assertion by stating that the idea that female-perpetrators can use very severe physical aggression including hitting, kicking, punching, stabbing, biting, chocking, stalking, scratching and pelting. Hines and Douglas (2010a) also agrees with the respondents by asserting that female physical assault their male partners and such attacks against male victims have resulted in serious and high rates of spousal conflict within the relationship including psychological and sexual abuse with some men reporting that they lived in fear of their female partner's violent behaviour.

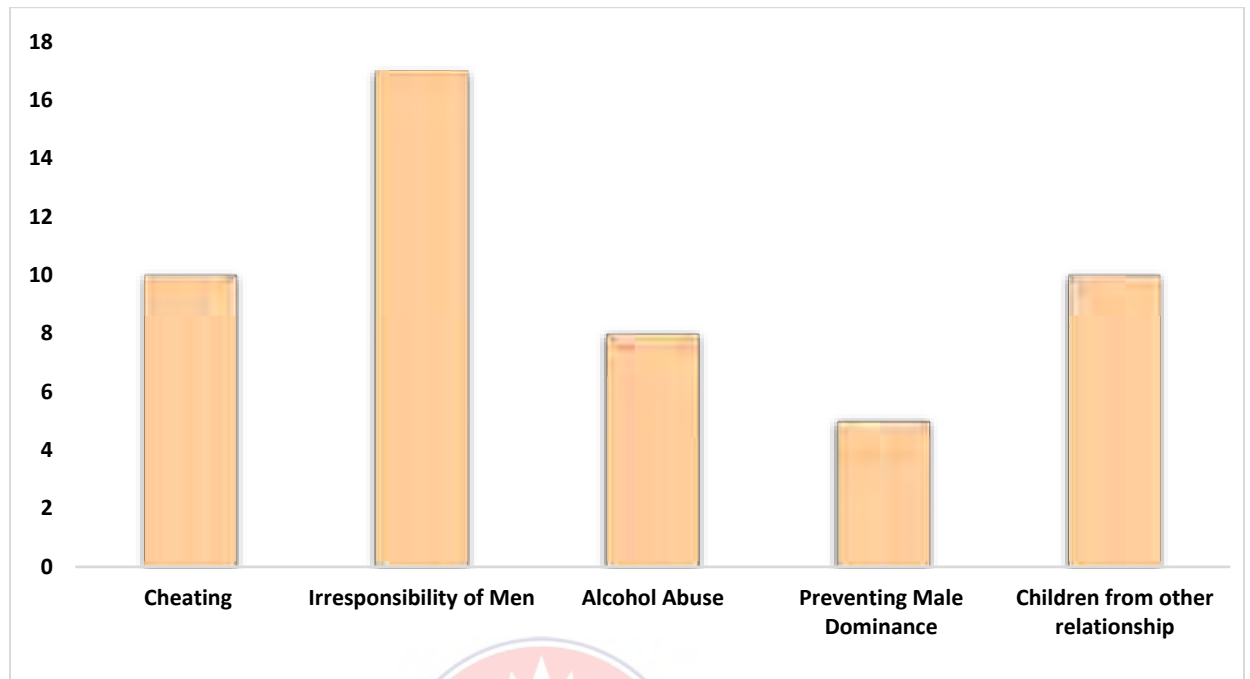
Sexual Abuse

Sexual abuse or violence is any sexual act or attempt to obtain a sexual act by violence or coercion, unwanted sexual comments or advances, regardless of the relationship to the victim. It occurs in many homes, is widespread and is considered to be one of the most traumatic, pervasive and most common human rights violations. This study reveals that sexual violence is not only directed to women but men are also victims of the scourge. Although these incidences are rare and hardly reported and heard off the findings of the

study, however shows that these incidences are worth noting with 14% of the respondents indicated that they were sexual abused by their female partners. The findings show that the sexual violence against men is in existence and mostly involves over-demanding of sexual encounters, using sex as a means of manipulation, issuing demeaning comments of a sexual nature and threatening to sleep with other men on occasions of sexual dissatisfaction. The sexual violence is rarely discussed as a form of violence in Africa and specifically in Ghana due to cultural taboos associated with sexuality. This is even much less when the subjects of sexual abuse are men.

Emotional Abuse

The respondents also asserted that the women emotional abuse them. This includes threatens, intimidations and behavior that undermines the victim's self-worth or self-esteem, or controls the victim's freedom. The women usually do this by constantly criticizing of their husbands, devaluing statements, and name-calling behaviors. Such abusive behaviors in homes lead the men to question themselves, causing them to believe that they are making up the abuse or that the abuse is their fault. Josolyne (2011) findings support the respondents' assertion by explaining that emotional abuse contributes to the escalation of HIV and AIDS as the men usually avoid going home early and eventually find solace in other women who will not abuse them.

Figure 4.5 Factors that Leads to Female Spousal Violence against Men

Source: Filed data, 2015

The results show that 20% of the respondents said cheating of male partners leads to female spousal conflict against men, 34% of the respondents said irresponsibility of men, 16% of the respondents said alcohol abuse, 10% said preventing male dominance and 20% of the respondents said children from other relationships were the main causes of female spousal conflict against men.

Cheating

Twenty percent (20%) of the respondents asserted that cheating is major factor fueling female abuse against men. Even though some of the men admitted of actually cheating on their female partners, they still blamed their spouses for instituting unconventional ways of handling the situations. This shows that at times the women have a good reason to be angry with their partner however, expressing that anger in the form of violence is not the best form.

Irresponsibility of Men

The respondents also indicated that their inability to provide for their families have also cause their partners to abuse them and calling them names such as useless and lazy. The men further explained that this may be due to loss of jobs or collapse of business hence cannot make enough money to take care of themselves and their family. Mainly the kind of abuse associated with job loss was psychological which was seen as an attack on their ego whereby been continuously reminded of their uselessness to the family society; worse of all, is comparing them with fellow men of good financial standing.

Alcohol Abuse

Men with alcohol addiction lacks the respect of their partners because when the men are drunk they misbehave by falling and sleeping in gutters, shouting and singing by the roadside and engaging in other funny things that brings shame and embarrassment to the family especially the woman. Some other respondents also asserted that some women who abused their partners are engaged in alcohol abuse and that these women were peaceful when in sober moods. The respondents' assertion agrees with Cope (2008) findings that in situations where females are intoxicated, they may be influenced to do things that they may not do under normal circumstances including becoming violent.

Preventing Male Dominance

The respondents also explained that women abuse them because they do not want to be subjugated by their husbands. The women believe that both men and women are equal in marriage and that the man is not the head of the family hence they fight with the men to let the men know that they are all equal and his is not his head but equal partner. Other

respondents also explained that some of the women who were exhibiting violence against their husbands were doing so as a way of revenging the violence perpetrated against them by their partners and husbands. The respondent's' assertion agrees with Swan and Snow (2003) explanation that women's acts of violence maybe an expression of resistance in response to victimization by partners or to protect their children. Others were also of the view that women who grew up in abusive homes see it as a normal practice or may not want to suffer the pain their mothers suffered.

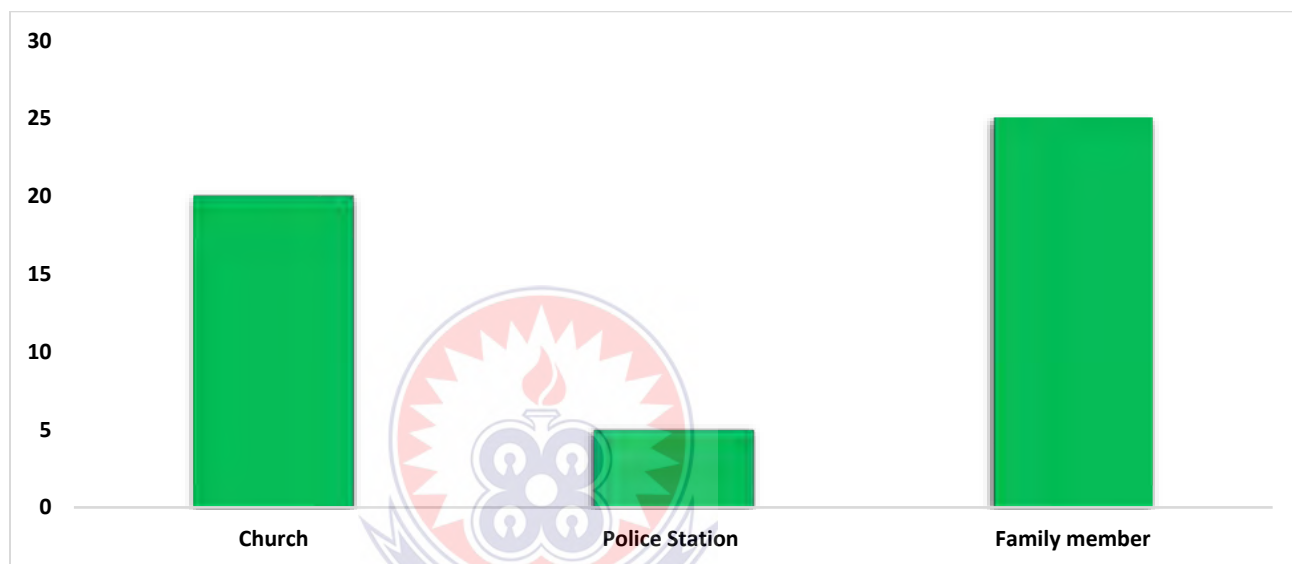
Children from other Relationships

The findings of the study have also revealed that children from previous marriages or other women were a factor which caused female violence against men. The moment the husband started rendering support to the children from another marriage; wives became insecure by thinking that their husbands were doing that just to get closer to the other woman. Robertson and Murachver (2009) support the respondents' assertion by explaining that perpetrators of both sexes often have emotional control problems and a related inability to communicate while talking through issues in homes. Emotional control problems could be used to explain how children from other marriages caused violence and also suspected infidelity. Issues of jealousy for instance can be explained by this orientation of affected individuals failing to control their emotions making them become violent towards their partners.

4.3 Levels of Reporting by Male Victims of Female Spousal Violence

This section examines where and how the male victims reports spousal violence against them. Records were taken from the Tema Community Two Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) from 2012 to 2018.

Figure 4.6 Where Male Victims Report Spousal Violence



Source: Field data, 2019

The results reveal that 50% of the respondents reports spousal abuse to the family members, 40% of the respondents report to the churches and only 10% of the respondents reports to the police station.

Churches

The findings show that a significant number of the men reports spousal abuse against them to the church. But the church leaders are more interested in portraying a good picture of their denomination so that they attract more members hence the leadership of these churches pretends as if the problem is solved and sweep all family problems under the carpet. This behavior is not helping out because the canker is continuously being

perpetrated in society. The leadership of the churches needs to take seriously the issue of spousal violence to prevent its occurrences. The churches do not keep records of these cases hence the researcher cannot get the officially reported spousal cases against men.

Family Members

Most (50%) of the respondents asserted that they reported the spousal abuse to their families. For the family cases, most the respondents who reported spousal abuse to the family usually report it again to the church or police if it happens again later on in the marriage. Some of the respondents expressed lack of help from their family members to whom they reported cases involving their abusive wives. Other respondents asserted that some family members refused to accept that the men were beaten by their wives while others said that they were not interested in having problems with the wife of the man.

Police Station

The police station a place where a number of abused men went to report having been abused by their partners was that, victims ended up at the police station mostly because it was a requirement by hospital authorities where they went for treatment of injuries sustained as a result of the female perpetrated violence against men. Although in the past the police ridiculed or mocked male victims of spousal conflict, the sorry is not the same today as the police service have received training to assist in all manner of domestic violence. The male victims are however unable to report to the law enforcement agency due to public ridicule and also for cultural and religious reasons which has the perception that the male is the head of the family and must be physically strong to defend his household and financially capable of taking care of their needs.

Violence against women in Ghana was a fact. But the extent of the violence has been exaggerated over the years by women groups and the media. The newspaper's captions on violence against women are so horrific that it catches the attentions of by passers and by extension sympathy to women in general. Usually, such captions by the mass media do not reflect the body or the story. Certainly, the intent has been to increase sales of the news media concerned. Saddened by these daily news media reportage and the attempt to protect the rights of women have led to the passage of obnoxious and hastily legislations that discriminated against men. Most women who in one way or another were abused, have taken the advantage of knowing the law is on the side of women to retaliate or teach their male counterparts a lesson. Some women have concocted stories against stories against their husbands that led to their arrest and detention. Such men are usually treated like criminals and whose statements or plea are usually not taken serious by the police. Heads of these Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service are women whose actions or inactions are pre-judgmental to the case – the man is aggressor. The unbridled legislations or inactions are the woman is a major cause of violence against in contemporary times in Ghana.

The researcher was able to gather records of spousal conflict of various degrees from 2012-2018. This is illustrated in the table below.

Table 4.3 Reported Cases of Spousal Conflict

Spousal Conflict	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Physical Abuse	14	10	20	16	29	23	26
Offensive Conduct	12	1	0	1	22	31	10
Causing Harm/Damages	10	0	2	2	11	3	0
Threat of Death/Harm	23	3	4	10	9	11	3
Non. Maint/Others	34	39	29	10	22	2	10
Emotional Abuse	0	0	0	1	12	10	15
Total	93	53	55	40	105	80	64

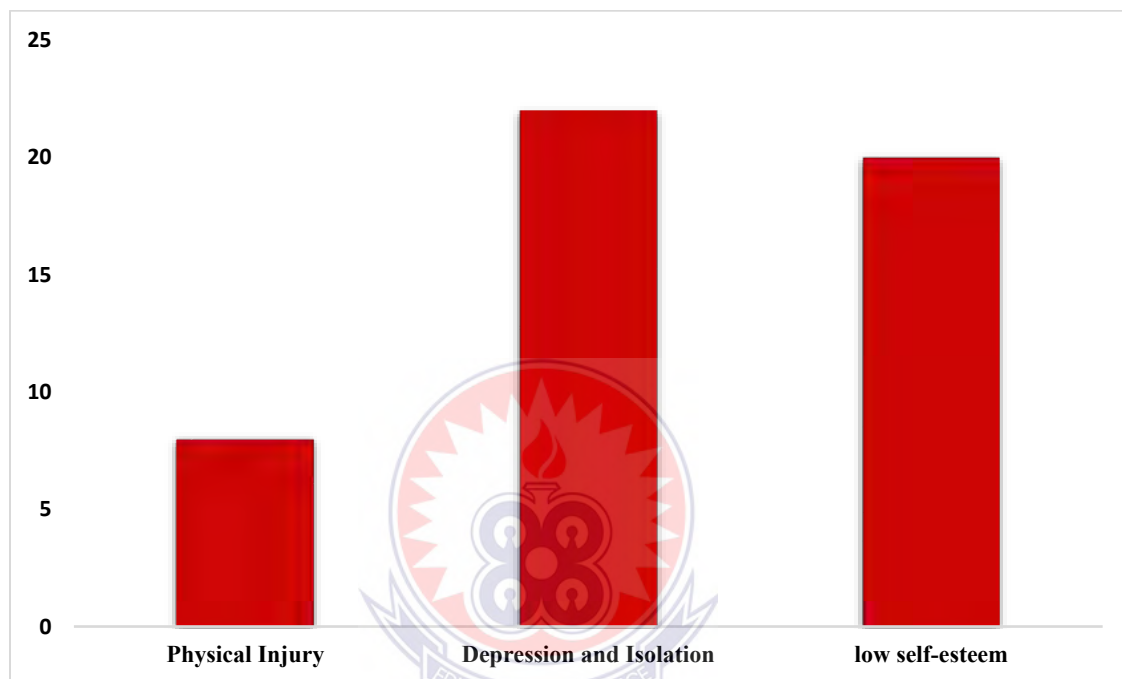
Source: Tema Community Two Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU)

From the records at the Tema Community Two Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) reveals that the year that had the highest cases of spousal abuse was 2016 followed by 2012. However, 2015 had the lowest record of spousal conflicts.

The findings from this study indicated that male victims of female violence were still reluctant to report their violation to the police or family members. They outline different factors for this but major among them is the fear of being ridiculed and respect for cultural norms. In some cases where victims have reported these cases they have done so to the relatives of both families and the police or the church. The respondents' assertion agrees with Cook (2009) who explains that one of the main reasons for men not reporting the abuse and remaining within the relationship could be known as "Internal Excuses".

Which means putting off reporting or leaving their abuser because of the belief that with time things would change. Denial prolongs the under-reporting of domestic violence by male victims.

Figure 4.7 The Impact of Female Spousal Violence against Men



Source: Field data, 2019

The findings show that the impact of spousal abuse against men are physical injury, depression and isolation and low self-esteem.

Physical Injury

The respondents indicated that they experienced pain due to the abuse from their partners. The victims who were battered by their wives experienced physical pain as was be seen where some had broken legs and arms which led to the inability to physically function properly. The assertion corresponds with the findings of Cascardi et al. (1992) who

stated that of the victims who reported experiencing minor or severe spousal abuse reported suffering broken bones, broken teeth, or injury to a sensory organ.

Depression and Isolation

The respondents revealed that most of the men experienced despair. The abused men were in a situation where they had no other option but to either leave or stay in the home by accepting the situation as it were. These men felt powerless leading to emotional pain and as a result avoided their abusive wives. The methods used were to avoid contact and confrontation with their wives and coming home late in order to find the woman already asleep. A number of these men had even divorced their wives in order to regain their lost self-esteem. But in the process they got isolated and depressed. The respondents' assertion agrees with Barnett, (2001) who explained that isolation, despair, and depression make the victims of violence to feel guilty, irritable, shy and to have problems getting along with others. These findings are also closer to what Vitanza et al (2003) describe as Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). PTSD is characterised by flashbacks, intrusive images, exaggerated startle response, nightmares, and avoidance of triggers that are associated with the abuse.

Low Self-esteem

Low self-esteem is another problem caused by female-induced violence especially through verbal and emotional abuse. The findings of this study indicate that victims of female-induced violence have low self-esteem and lack self-confidence. It was not uncommon for the respondents to indicate that they did not know if any women would ever accept their proposal because of the damage caused by previous marriages. This indicated lost self-esteem and confidence which are very important in a man's life.

Violence affects men's involvement in social life in totality. The findings of the respondents correspond with Vogel et al. (2011) that abuse of a domestic nature was destructive to one's self-esteem and self-image. They further stated that a man who has been beaten by his wife or partner was most likely to be a psychologically broken man.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary

The study set out to examine female spousal conflicts against men. The study revealed that, female spousal violence was in existence in Tema Community Two environs. The common types of spousal violence were physical, verbal, sexual and psychological. Spousal violence were mainly caused by cheating on the part of men, children from other marriages, prevention of male dominance and alcohol abuse. In respect to the impact of these spousal violence, physical injuries, emotional problems and low self-esteem were the negative outcomes of female spousal violence against men.

5.2 Conclusion

The study concludes that some of the male victims who were physically abused often required medical attention at hospitals. The study concludes that verbal abuse was usually administered when the victim was under financial pressure as he could not manage to provide for the family. It was also noted that issues of men's inadequacies in fulfilling their sexual roles was also a typical point of reference and victims of verbal abuse detested going home after work in order to avoid the abusive partner. Abusive wives were reported to target the husband's feelings and emotions and the soft spots that affected his mood, self-esteem and confidence. This type of abuse is mainly in the form of derogatory statements regarding sexual performance and generally lack of respect for husbands. This study also notes that most of the cases had some aspects of sexual abuse of husbands whereby women demanded for sex frequently in the homes.

The study concludes that some of the major causes of female domestic violence against men infidelity were husbands are involved in extra marital affairs. The study also concludes that failure to provide for the family as another cause of female domestic violence. This usually happens when the men cannot provide for their families. The study also concludes that another cause of female domestic violence is children from another woman. Here wives would become insecure when husbands begin to support these children. The findings from this study deduce that some of the women who were violent perpetrated against them by their husbands. Alcohol abuse seems to be a factor in conflict relationships where women seem to abuse alcohol to exhibit violence against their husbands when they have taken alcohol.

The study found out that some of the victims reported the violence of their partners to either the relatives or the police while others claimed not to have reported expressed lack of help from family members and the police who ridiculed them. It was also established that those who did not report the cases feared family embarrassment and the husbands love for the abusive wives and hope for change of behavior by the wives. The study indicates that the effects of female spousal violence ranged from physical injury, lack of economic power, isolation, fear, depression, low self-esteem. The study also concludes that all physical pain as could be seen where some had broken legs and arms some of the abused men experienced lack of economic power as they could not continue in their jobs because their skills were affected as they were traumatized by the abuse. The study points out that some of the victims felt powerless leading to emotional pain and as a result avoided their abusive wives. This was done in order to avoid contact by coming home

late in order to find the women already asleep. It can also be concluded that male victims experienced low self-esteem and lack of self-confidence as a result of the abuse.

5.3 Recommendations

On the basis of the above findings indicated above, this paper proffers the following suggestions or recommendations to guide policy makers and other interest groups in the international arena whose focus is to promote the human rights.

First, the legal regime must be revisited to ensure that, the promotion of fundamental human rights is universal irrespective of gender. The laws on protection of human rights or violence in general should treat offenders of domestic violence as a ‘criminal’ cat irrespective of ones gender, education or hierarchy in society. This will in one way or another, give protection to both men and women.

Second, the social institutions or societal arrangements where men are considered the strongest’, the ‘aggressors’ and the head of family’ is a catalyst to the rise of domestic violence against men. This is because, it is odd for a man to report to family members, elders in society or to the police that he was beaten or abused by the wife. The stigma and name calling of the man is enough deterrence for the man to rather endure the pain of repeated abuse by the wife than to report for societal support. This, many women are exploiting by constantly unleashing torture, brutalities and harm to men’

Third, public education is necessary as a way of eliminating or reducing the incidence of spousal violence in Ghana. The content of the education must incorporate co-existence of spouse or couples that include mutual respect for one another as a basis for peace and

nurturing of responsible children for the benefit of Ghana. The education would enable couples to realize that the existence of such laws is for the protection and safety of men and women and not an avenue for women's prosecution of the male for extra marital affairs.

Four victims and their wards should be assisted to go through counseling in order to regain their self-confidence so that it does not affect their education and future life style to make them misfits in society. Support groups could be formed so that abused members could tell their sorry and learn from others to create the awareness that they are not alone.



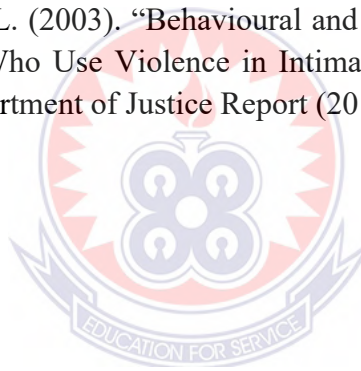
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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE

UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

TOPIC: SPOUSAL CONFLICT AND HUMAN RIGHTS NEXUS: ABUSE

AGAINST MEN IN TEMA COMMUNITY TWO AND ITS ENVIRONS.

I am seeking information to contribute to the understanding of spousal conflict and human rights nexus: Abuse against men in Tema Community Two and its Environs. The study will contribute to enhancing knowledge on spousal conflict in the Tema Metropolis, develop and suggest improved policies directions. I wish to assure you that all information given by you will be treated confidentially. Therefore, I shall be grateful if you can provide information as much as possible.

SECTION A: Demography of Respondents

INSTRUCTION: Please tick the appropriate box;

1. Gender: Male { } Female { }
2. Age: 20 - 30 years { } 31 - 40 years. { } 41 - 50years. { } 51-60 years. { }
3. Educational Qualification: HND { } Degree { } Masters { } Others,
please specify
4. Marital Status: Gender: Married { } Single { } Divorced { }
5. What is your occupation? Traders { } Civil Servants { } Unemployed { }
Employed { } Please any other specify.....
6. What types of violence have you experienced?
.....

7. What factors lead to the occurrence of spousal violence?

.....

8. Did you report after being

abused?.....

.....

9. How often does the abuse occur?

.....

10. Is the abuse getting worse?

.....

11. Has (had) problems in the past with drugs, alcohol, mental health?

Drugs { } Alcohol { } Mental Health { }

12. Is there history of violence in your family and that of your

husband?.....

.....

13. What problems have you gone through as a result of this violence?

.....

14. How has this violence affected you as a man?

.....

15. Would you have your wife arrested and prosecuted for being violent to you?

.....

16. How do you think the children have been affected by this violence from your

partner?.....