

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA

**THE PREVALENCE AND CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE
YILO KROBO DISTRICT**

MERCY ACKAH

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DECLARATION

I Mercy Ackah do hereby declare that except for the references to works of other authors, which have been duly acknowledged, this dissertation **the prevalence and causes of domestic violence in the Yilo Krobo District**, is the result of my own research efforts and that, it has neither in whole nor in part been presented for any degree elsewhere.

.....
MERCY ACKAH
(STUDENT)

.....
DATE

.....
REV. DR ADOBEA OWUSU
(SUPERVISOR)

.....
DATE

DEDICATION

I dedicate this work to my family for standing by me throughout the challenging period of the whole programme of study. It is also dedicated to all and sundry who actively or passively supported me through this programme of study especially the respondents for their time in answering questions that were viewed as “private”.



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Firstly, I thank the almighty God for the many ways he has guided and bestowed his blessings on me during my studies.

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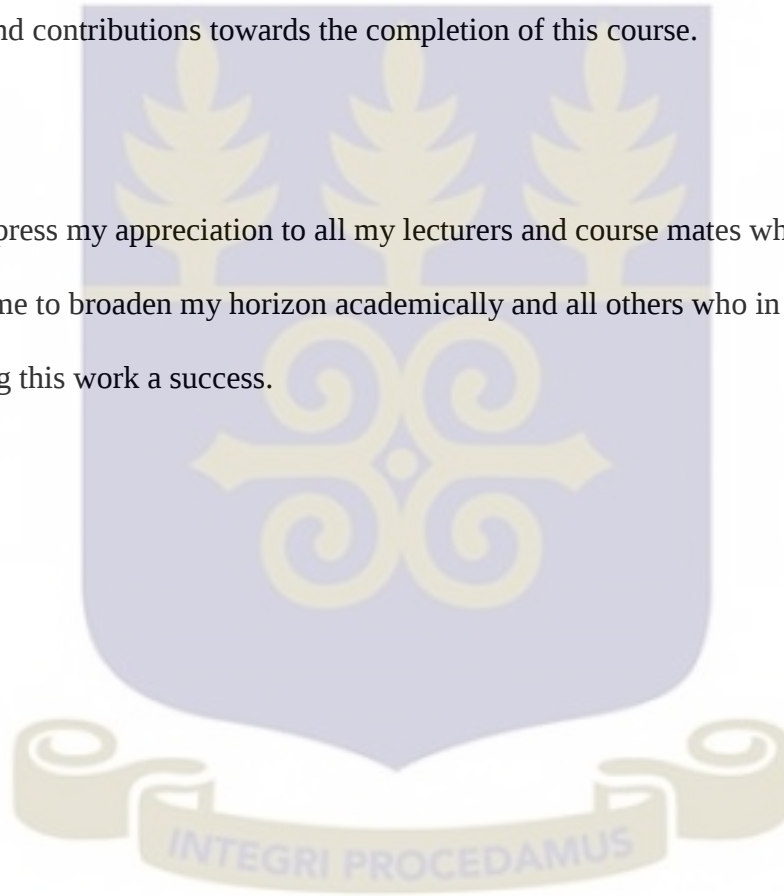


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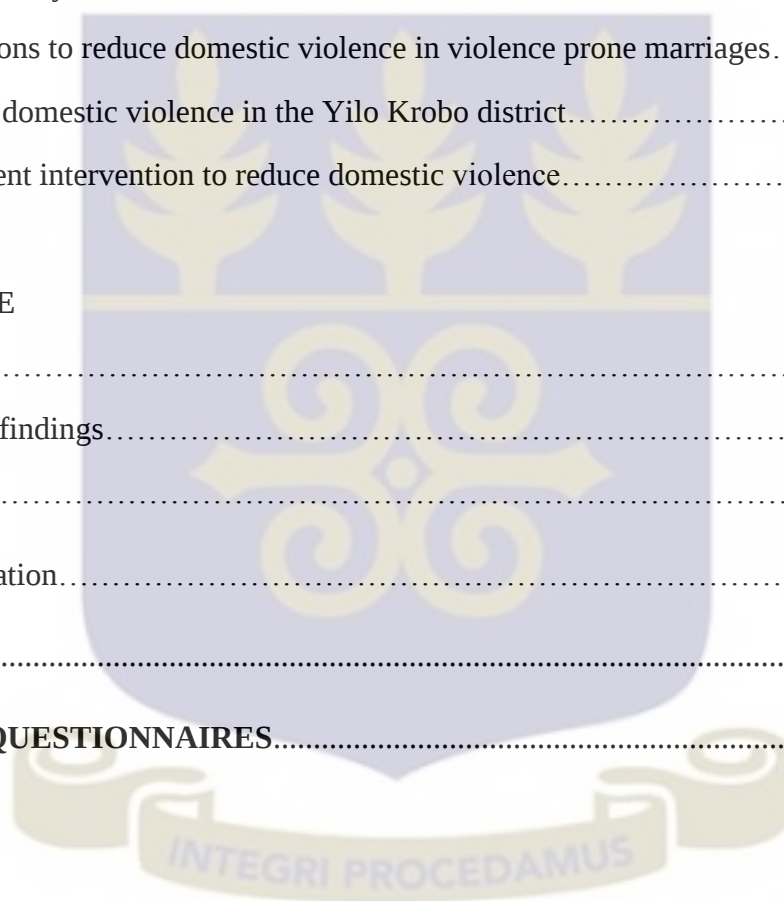
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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

WHO	World Health Organization
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
WISE	Women Issues and Social Empowerment
UNR	United Nations Report
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit
NCCE	National Council for Civic Education
WAJU	Women and Juvenile Unit
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
UN	United Nations
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
BRM	Binary Regression Model
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence



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ABSTRACT

Violence against women is the most prevalent form of gender-based violence worldwide and has been in existence for a long time, this study investigated the prevalence and causes of domestic violence against married women in the Yilo Krobo District.

Using random and purposive sampling techniques, 100 married women were selected from the district. Data were collected using semi-structured questionnaires. The data were analyzed using frequency counts and percentages, cross tabulation and logistic regression.

Results from the study showed that at least seven out of every ten women among the respondents in the district had suffered one form of violence or the other in their marriage, which was significantly alarming.

Again, the study revealed that women who had higher level of education were more abused by their spouses compared to women who had lower level of education. This might be that women with higher education are more exposed, hence know their rights therefore refuse to be submissive to their spouses.

One recommendation is that since the district has no DOVVSU unit, it will be of a great help to establish one due to the fact that the rate at which women were been abused was alarming. The presence of the unit in the district will serve as a warning to men engaged in abusing women

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.0: Introduction

This chapter looks at the background of domestic violence in the world as well as Ghana. It also looks at the statement of problem, objectives, research questions and organization of the study.

The World Health Organization (WHO) describes domestic violence as one of the most blatant manifestations of gender inequality (WHO 2005), and one of the Millennium Development Goals seeks to address the issue of women's empowerment which is a solution to curb gender inequality.

The WHO(2005) further estimates that every one in five women faces some form of violence during her lifetime, insome cases, leading to serious injury or death. Thus, worldwide, the morbidity and mortality rates fromdomestic violence cases are a cause for concern. Hence, studies have since sought to investigate thesubject of domestic violence (DV) or intimate partner violence (IPV) and its various dimensions indifferent nations, including Ghana.

1.1: Background to domestic violence

Violence against women is the most prevalent form of gender-based violence worldwide (Heise et al., 2002; Chamaiacket al., 2005). Domestic violence is not an upcoming practice in our communities but has been in existence for a long time to the extent that it is seen as a normal cultural practice in most of the African societies (Manfrin-Ledet and Porche, 2003).

All over the world, a large number of women suffer several forms of violence in silence because domestic violence is considered as a private issue since it happens domestically. This perception has led to the increase in domestic violence against married women since the victims do not come out to report the issue. Violence against women is a severe deprivation of human rights. The silence surrounding domestic violence increases its prevalence and fear of further violence prevents women from reporting cases of domestic violence.

There has been a lot of focus on its many adverse effects. Research has documented physical consequences such as injuries (broken fractures), miscarriages and permanent disabilities, as well as economic consequences of domestic violence. According to Greaves, besides the human costs of domestic violence, Canada was spending over CDN\$ 1 billion annually on domestic violence services, including police, criminal justice system, counseling and training as at 1995 (Greaves 1995).

Economic empowerment of women has the potential to have either a positive or a negative impact on women's risk of violence. Dobash and Dobash (1979), Hornung et al. (1981) and Gelles (1976) all argue that women with little economic resources find it difficult to leave their partner and therefore are not in the position to negotiate change, which leads to a high endurance of violence. According to Walker (1999), social factors such as acceptance of domestic violence, low social status of women, oppressive political structures, oppressive fundamental religious beliefs that devalue women, civil conflicts, and the existence of states of war are contributing factors to the existing prevalence rates of domestic violence in other countries (Walker, 1999).

However, according to Martin et al. (1999), and Xingjuan (1999) stress related factors, such as poverty, lack of education, lack of financial resources, levels of jealousy, excessive drinking,

substance abuse and living in a large family have been associated with increased risk of domestic violence. For the purpose of this study, I will examine whether the employment status and income levels of women is a contributing factor to domestic violence.

In Ghana, there is extensive violation of women's rights. This includes offences categorized under sexual assault, physical assault and murder inflicted by intimate partners (WAJU, 2003). Statistics shows that in every three women in Ghana, one has suffered physical violence at the hands of an intimate partner (Appiah and Cusacka, 1999). Statistics in Ghana show that between January 1999 and December 2002, the Women and Juvenile Unit of the Ghana Police Service (WAJU) recorded 1,869 cases of assault/wife battering in the nation's capital Accra (WAJU 2003 cited in Amoakohene 2004). In 2009, DOVVSU handled 5,709 cases in Ghana as against 4,904 cases in 2008, an increase of 805, which indicate that the problem of domestic violence against women keep increasing therefore needs much attention. WAJU also reported that the most common type of violence in Ghana is physical spousal abuse.

Government established the Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU) in 1998, now renamed the Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) as a specialized unit responsible for handling crimes against women and children.

Marriage is an institution that is highly valued by the Ghanaian culture and women especially are expected to get married and stay married. In Ghana, there are three forms of marriage recognized by law. These are marriage under the Ordinance, which is expected to be monogamous in nature, customary marriage, which is potentially polygamous, and marriage under Islamic rites, which is also potentially polygamous in nature. In all of the above forms of marriage in Ghana, the system of patriarchy sees male as supreme and therefore the right to exercise control and power over the

women. This system of patriarchy shapes women's rights within marriages in Ghana. Marriage rites where the women's family demands items from the man is been interpreted sometimes to mean that the man has bought the woman and therefore she is his property and can be dealt with as he wishes. This perception of wives as properties is a major contributing factor that causes domestic violence and reinforces the low status and the unequal partnership between husband and wife. Coker-Appiah and Foster (2002) report that among some ethnic groups in Ghana, the man is given cane during the marriage ceremony as an indication that he can discipline his wife when she steps out of line.

Women in Ghana find it uneasy to report issues of domestic violence. This is due to some cultural beliefs that domestic violence is a private family matter and hence must be solved outside of the criminal justice system even though some women report incidents of domestic violence to the Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU). According to Appiah and Cusack (1999), violence against women in Ghana manifests through certain cultural practices such as widowhood rites, widow inheritance, forced marriages, female genital mutilation or female circumcision.

Because of the efforts by Ghanaian women's rights advocates, who in diverse ways increased public awareness about domestic violence against women, Ghana has seen the seriousness of domestic violence. Under the international human rights law, the Ghanaian government is obliged to prevent, investigate and punish the perpetrators of domestic violence. Nevertheless, Ghana still has a long way to go to fully address the issue of domestic violence.

1.2: Statement of the problem

In 1995, the Beijing platform for Action stated that violence against women is a concern to all states and must be addressed. Violence against women is the most pervasive yet under recognized human rights violation in the world. A profound health problem that saps women's energy, compromises their physical and mental health, and erodes their self-esteem (Ellsberg and Heise, 2005).

All over the world, many marriages have been broken up due to domestic violence. Domestic violence is any act that humiliates and lowers one's self esteem by an intimate partner. One of the Millennium Development Goals seeks to address the issue of women's empowerment, which is a solution to curb gender inequality. So much attention has been drawn to the issue of violence against women because there are several adverse effects associated with it. Research has documented physical consequences such as injuries (broken fractures), miscarriages and permanent disabilities, as well as economic consequences of domestic violence.

The situation in Ghana is not different from the above stated adverse effects. Violence against women is deep rooted in Ghanaian society. Day in day out wife battery, acid throwing, body parts being cut off, wives and female lovers being viciously murdered; public humiliations accompanied by severe beatings and so on are reported. The consequences of the above stated issues lead to broken homes, leading to lack of social cohesion, disability, post-traumatic stress disorders, high blood pressure and so on. Before the issue of domestic violence can be addressed, attention must be given to the root of the problem.

Therefore, the purpose of this study is to find out the prevalence and causes of domestic violence in the Yilo Krobo district.

1.3: Objectives

The general objective of this study was to bring to light the prevalence and causes of domestic violence against married women in the Yilo Krobo District.

Specific objectives of the study

- To determine the socio-economic factors that enhances domestic violence in the Yilo Krobo District.
- To examine the prevalence of domestic violence in the Yilo Krobo District.
- To identify what the government and other agencies can do to alleviate domestic violence.

1.4: Research Questions

Attempt was been made to answer the following questions in the study:

- What is the probability that a married woman in Yilo Krobo had ever suffered domestic violence?
- What are the socio-economic factors that contribute to domestic violence in Yilo Krobo?
- What must the government and other agencies do to alleviate domestic violence in Yilo Krobo?

1.5: Significance of the study

The type of customs and traditions women grow up with affects the status of women in most African countries, in this case Ghana. These norms, cultures, traditional values and socializing processes, all seem to give the girl child and Ghanaian women in general a low status. For this to stop there has to be an intervention to eliminate or at least to reduce the incidences that dehumanize Ghanaian women. Domestic violence against women is one factor that dehumanizes women. In order to put a stop or to reduce the prevalence rate of domestic violence against women, policy makers need to know the causes of domestic violence in order to implement policies that will address the issue.

As an academic exercise, it will contribute to the intellectual knowledge on domestic violence against women and will help in policy implementation by the government and the non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that have an interest in domestic violence. This study will also be a useful tool in the hands of the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs.

1.6: Organization of the study

The study is divided into five (5) Chapters. Chapter one (1) gives the introduction of the subject under discussion. It gives a brief background to the study; state out the problem statements, objectives, significance of the study and organization of report. Chapter Two (2) discusses the issue of domestic violence and reviews literature. Chapter Three (3) discusses the profile of the study area including the demographic features of the area, economic activities of the area, educational and healthcare delivery in the area, the sources of data, both primary and secondary. It will also look at the methods used for data analysis in the study. Chapter Four (4) presents the

results and interpretations of the study. Chapter five (5) provides recommendations based on the findings of the study and conclusion.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.0 Introduction

This section looks at both theoretical and empirical literature about the prevalence and causes of domestic violence. This chapter begins with a look at ideas and thoughts of domestic violence, the different types of violence and its causes. This would be coupled with survey of empirical works done in some countries and regions on the prevalence and causes of domestic violence against married women.

2.1 What is domestic violence?

According to Tjaden & Thoennes (2000), any form of physical assaults, rape and stalking perpetrated by a woman's former or current partner is defined as domestic violence.

Another definition by the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (UN, 1993) is that, violence against women is any gender based violence act that ends or might end up with sexual, physical abuse or harm ones mental functioning or causes pain to the victim, in this case woman, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private.

However, The World Health Organization (WHO) report on violence and health defines violence as any deliberate act of violence by using physical force or threats against ones will or a group of people, which might result in death, psychological harm, injury and deprivation (WHO, 2002).

Holden, (2003) defines domestic violence as any assaultive and coercive behavior by adults against their intimate partners.

2.2 Types of domestic violence

Physical violence

Physical assault is the situation whereby a physical force is used against another person including forcible confinement or detention of a person and the deprivation of access to adequate food, water, clothing, shelter, rest, or subjecting someone, in this case a woman, to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment (Domestic Violence Act of Ghana, 2007).

According to Dutton (1992) for instance, physical abuse is any behavior that is intentionally used to force one against his/her body that poses risks, physical injury, harm, and/or pain. Action Aid Ghana (2007), in their study in the Northern Ghana reported that physical violence was predominant. It was also reported that physical assault of wives by their husbands came up as the most common type of violence. In addition, Kaur and Garg (2010) in their research in a rural community in India found out that physical violence was a major cause of concern among women even during pregnancy. In addition, it is reported that one in every three women in Ghana have experienced physical violence through slaps or the use of belts, beating by their current or previous husbands (Gender Studies and Human Right Documentation Center, 1991). Coker-Appiah and Cusack (1999) reported in a study conducted in Ghana that 33% of the women interviewed admitted that they had either been beaten, slapped or physically punished by their current husbands. It is surprising that among the group of women, older women had a higher prevalence of being physically abuse, which constituted 35% while 26% were younger women.

Sexual violence

Sexual violence is forceful engagement of a person in a sexual contact, which includes sexual conduct that abuses, humiliates or degrades the person. Also when one violates a person's sexual integrity or a sexual contact by a person aware of being infected with human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) or any other sexually transmitted disease with another person without that person being given prior information of the infection (Domestic Violence Act of Ghana, 2007). However, Dutton (1994) defines sexual abuse as any unwanted sexual intimacy forced on one individual by another person. He further hinted that it may include oral, anal, or vaginal stimulation or penetration, forced nudity, forced exposure to sexual explicit material or activity.

Coker-Appiah and Cusack (1999) reported that their research showed that the most common form of rape is when the perpetrators know the victim. They concluded that 93% of women who have experienced sexual violence in Ghana knew the perpetrators. It was argued that forced sex happens in marriages although some people do not agree with the idea. Force sex in marriage is nothing to talk about because culturally, women are not to deny their spouse of sex because it is assumed as a man's right therefore if it happens so and the spouse forces her for sex it is in the right direction. When the women were interviewed, 33% of them reported that they have experienced forced sex against their will at a point in their marriage.

Economic Abuse

Economic abuse is the deprivation or threatened deprivation of economic or financial resources, which by law is entitled to a person. It is also the disposition or threatened disposition of moveable or immovable property in which a person has a material interest in and hiding or

hindering the use of property or damaging or destroying property in which the person has a material interest in (Domestic Violence Act of Ghana, 2007). Women are victims of economic abuse in their matrimonial homes since most married women are homemakers or in lesser-paid jobs, they tend to depend on their spouse economically.

According to Women Issues and Social Empowerment (WISE, 1998), socio economic violence is the constant monitoring of one's, in this case a woman's, economic activities, movements and her relationship with friends. The woman is demanded to give accounts of her every movements and in some cases she may be denied the freedom to go out to meet her friends. Again, WISE (1998) says that some men control their wives to the extent of locking them in the house. Such men monitor calls and visitors of their wives. For some men in order to control their wives finances, they prevent them from taking any job outside the home so that they will not earn their own independent income WISE (1998).

Coker-Appiah and Cusack (1999) define socio economic violence as when one is deprived of essential needs that she can have access. They report that it is common when men and male households' heads withhold resources and ignore their responsibilities of providing for their family some essential materials such as school fees, clothing and food. They also mentioned that women who depend on their spouse for essential needs are more likely to be vulnerable to their spouse.

Emotional or psychological violence

Emotional or psychological violence is any conduct that makes a person feel constantly unhappy, miserable, humiliated, ridiculed, afraid, jilted or depressed or to feel inadequate or worthless (Domestic Violence Act of Ghana, 2007). It is in the same vein that WISE (1999) also writes that psychological violence means to frighten the victim of her self-confidence. This is achieved sometimes through depriving the wife of essential personal needs such as shelter, food and sometimes destroying households or personal properties deliberately to cause emotional hurt. They report that one's self esteem can be destroyed by verbal abuse. This is through using abusive words, insults and constant put-downs, which humiliate the woman therefore affecting her self- confidence.

Coker-Appiah and Cusack (1999) found out in their study in Ghana that 27% women get hurt when their partners stay away from home. Women who get hurt when their husbands refuse to eat their food were 16%, 57% get hurt when their husbands refuse to talk to them, 26% of women get hurt because their husbands refuse to provide foodstuff and 27% of women get hurt then their husbands return home late.

2.3 Factors that influence domestic violence

According to Walker (1999), the factors that contribute to domestic violence differ from country to country and area to area. The author added that there are some social factors, which promote domestic violence in various countries. These factors include oppressive fundamental religious beliefs that devalue women therefore giving men the right to dominate their wives at home. Low social status of women and oppressive political structures are also contributory factors.

However, according to Martin et al. (1999) and Xingjuan (1999), when one lives in a large family, there is a high risk of that person been violent. They also report that lack of financial resources, excessive drinking, levels of jealousy, lack of education and substance abuse are also contributory factors of domestic violence. When women do not have any financial resources and lack of education, they tend to depend on their spouse for everything therefore are more likely to suffer economic abuse in the hands of their spouse in their various matrimonial homes. Also, excessive drinking and substance abuse increase the plight of women because such men get offensive with little things when they get home drunk and when that happens, they resort in either abusing their wives sexually or physically.

In a research in Botswana it is reported that factors that are associated with violence against women are alcohol, drug abuse and lack of respect for women (Phorano et al. 2005). It was found that the bride price paid for women in marriage is mostly used as an excuse for violence. Martignoni (2002) in her research conducted in Zambia on violence against women reports that traditional beliefs which privilege men as the holders of authority within the family is a contributing factor to the high level of domestic violence experienced by the women in Zambia. She also report that malobola (lobola) or bride price in marriages in Zambia is also a contributing factor to domestic violence because payments of the pride price exposes the women to violence by their husbands since they are entitle to treat them as a virtual slaves.

Substance abuse

There are conflicting claims as to whether there is a direct link between alcohol consumption and gender-based violence. For example, Gelles and Strauss (1979) argue that some men intentionally get drunk to hit their spouses and use the excuse of being drunk to violate their partners. The authors' further argue that in this instance, alcohol is not a cause but a function of deviant behavior.

However, despite these claims, other authors' research findings revealed that there is a direct link between alcohol consumption and gender based violent because an alcohol abuser's sense of judgment is impaired because of its psycho-physiological consequences (Hamilton and Collins, 1981; Cervantes, 1992). Phorano et al. (2005), report that there is a positive correlation between alcohol and domestic violence. They report that alcohol abuse and related violence increase during weekends and month ends when working men receive their wages and salaries.

Other authors have looked at the link between alcohol and violence in another perspective. They argue that women who consume alcohol are highly likely to be victims of marital violence. Miller et al. (1989), in their research compared the rate of spousal violence between women who consume alcohol and women who do not consume alcohol and found out that women who consume alcohol had experienced higher levels of marital violence.

However, Leonard and Senchak (1996) report that alcohol use by wives is not a contributing factor to their being violated by their spouses even though it is highly correlated with husbands' alcohol use. They are of the view that the perpetrator's alcohol and drug use plays a much greater role.

Education

Women are empowered through education. It gives them the ability to gather and assimilate information, manipulate and control the modern world, secure and protect themselves from any form of violence (Malhotra 1997; Kishor and Johnson 2000, 2004). Kishor and Johnson (2000, 2004) hypothesized that women with more education have greater abilities to protect themselves in times of need, such as when dealing with a violent partner. It is also anticipated that women with higher levels of education experience less violence.

According to Kishor and Johnson (2004), it can be hypothesized that the relationship between husband's education and violence is negative. However, this association is also subject to fluctuation and inconsistencies. For example, research conducted in Haiti revealed that there is a positive relationship between education and violence (Kishor and Johnson 2004). Men with higher educational status than women having both higher ascribed (on the basis of gender) and achieved (on the basis of higher educational attainment) status are more likely to assert unequal, and even violent power in the relationship (Hornung, 1981). It has also been suggested from various other studies that when women have greater achieved status than their husbands do, there is a greater possibility of marital disagreement to occur (Hornung, 1981; Daga, 1998 and INCLEN, 2000).

Employment Status

When it comes to women empowerments, economic dependency is a contributing factor. According to Malhotra (1997) and Garcia (2000), the relationship between women's 'work status and their risk to experience domestic violence can be conceptualized to have a say over their

financial and household's matters in their marriages when they are engaged in paid employment than women who are not active in the markets (Malhotra, 1997; Garcia, 2000). Thus, women who are currently employed are at lower risk to experience domestic violence. However, due to the transition phase towards autonomy, the changing economic control from men to women could also lead to more incidents of violence for women.

Age Difference between Spouses

A wide difference in spousal age, in which the husband is much older than the wife, is hypothesized to imply power imbalances in the relationship. Combination of seniority (achieved) and masculinity (ascribed) in many cultures puts wives younger than their husband at a comparative disadvantaged position (Kishor and Johnson 2004). However, there is little evidence in the empowerment literature regarding the effect of converse situations where the wife is older. Kishor and Johnson (2004), in their multi-country profiling of domestic violence was of the opinion that it may be more likely that because relationships in which women are older than their husbands are so contrary to the normative marital arrangement in most societies, they may be at greater risk for marital disharmony.

Stress and frustration

When a man is faced with challenges such as bad economic conditions, low wages, poor working conditions and unemployment, it can lead to the man being desperate which is likely to lead to violence at home, (UNR,1989).

The Patriarchal Institution

The socialization process begins from the family and into other sectors of society like religion, the economy, politics and education. According to Kambarami (2006), radical feminists define patriarchy as any system of power whereby men appropriate all social roles and keep women in subordinate positions on the assertion of male supremacy. He also reports that patriarchal practices bring about gender inequality that makes women not to have full control over their sexuality, which lead to the control of female sexuality by males.

Socialization is simply a way in which an individual acquires customs, values, norms and traditions in the society he or she lives. These customs, values, norms and traditions are acquired from one's family, in marriages and religion; among others, some of the cultures and traditional values and norms have negative impact on women therefore making them vulnerable in their various marital homes.

The Family

Children are trained in ways girls and boys are supposed to behave by parents and family members they live with. Domestic roles are differentiated right from childhood with regard to girls' roles and boys' roles. In some societies, a girl's place is the kitchen while the boy must be educated. It is common in the Ghanaian society to see a boy playing football while his sister is in the kitchen with the mother cooking because of the wrong perception that cooking is done by women and not men.

Most times, the boy child is preferred to the girl child in some ethnic groups in Ghana as well as West Africa because of the notion that the girl child will one day be married to a different family. For the male child the belief is that he will surely stay in the family, marry and give birth

which will add up to the size of his extended family therefore maintaining the family name (Human Rights Monitor, 2001). The male child is considered the eldest in the family even if the female child is biologically the eldest in the family in most of the African countries. An example of such African country is Zimbabwe (Kambarami, 2006).

The male child is mostly automatically considered as the head of the households and his responsibility is to protect and look after his sisters. Sometimes even the toys parents buy for their children also aid the socialization process. A typical example is that most often parents buy dolls or cooking utensils for the girl child to play with whilst cars, puzzle games and all toys that require physical energy or mental ability are given to the boy child. Such practices socialize the girl child to become a mother, soft, emotionally sensitive, and to have all motherhood features (Kambarami, 2006).

Girls are taught from childhood to be gentle, submissive, and passive whereas boys are taught to be energetic, breadwinners and dependent. According to Charvet (1982), the consequence of such segregation is the reason why women are seen by society as sex objects instead of human beings. In the Shona culture in Zimbabwe, when a girl reaches her puberty stage, most of the training she receives is geared toward the satisfaction of her future husband. She is taught to use her sexuality to please her future husband (Kambarami, 2006). The author also shares in the view that these cultural teachings promote a dependency syndrome and that is why most African women depend greatly on their husbands for support.

The socialization process in the family, which instills patriarchal practices into the young does not end within the family but infiltrates into the other social institutions like marriage, religion, education, politics and the economy.

Marriage

In most African countries, marriage is considered sacred and a married woman is treated with respect in the society she lives. In marriage, the husband can have as many wives as he wants and can have extra-marital affairs as a bonus. When such a scenario happens, however, the wife is blamed for failing to satisfy her husband or for failing to curb his desire to do so. All men are the same is a favorite phrase of older women as they try to make young women accept the inevitable (male infidelity). On the other hand, it is a taboo for married women to have extra-marital affair with another man.

However, if it so happens that a married woman engages in an extramarital affair, she is not spared, she is labeled as 'loose' and has to be sent back to her parents so that they can instill some discipline into her or she is divorced straight away. In addition, married women are ordinarily expected to be sexually passive and submissive to their husbands, men are the initiators of sex and set the conditions for the sexual encounter (Kambarami, 2006). On the same note, Messer (2004) states that women are expected to satisfy the sexual desires of their husbands. As a result, when a husband wants sex, the wife should comply because that is part of the marriage contract (Leclerc-Madlala, 2000). This scenario has seen HIV and AIDS spreads, because women cannot insist on safer sex measures as men control the sexual encounter (Kambarami, 2006).

Religion

Patriarchal attitude have strengthened the traditional customs, which men use to control women's sexuality (Human Rights Monitor, 2001). According to Gyekye (1996), religion enters all aspects of African life so fully that, it can hardly be isolated. The arrival of Christianity has

contributed to the beliefs and perceptions that women are subordinate to men due to the wrong interpretation of the Bible. This certainly has influenced the traditions and norms of a society. Many religions condone male dominance over women. Until date, some Christian marriages may be based on a formal recognition that the husband rules the household and the wife is submissive to him.

Biblical symbolism

Throughout the Bible, there are quotations that seem to enhance men domineering women. Some quotations have been wrongly interpreted that women are inferior to men. In Genesis 2 and 3, the creation of a woman from the ribs of a man has been used as a basis to have women occupy a subordinate position in the Church as well as in the family. Women are therefore viewed as second-class citizens who were created as an afterthought. This is to say that if God had seen it fit for Adam to stay alone, then Eve would never have been created and hence women would not exist in this world. Also in Ephesians 5:22-24, it is stated, “Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord. For the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church: and he is the savior of the body. Therefore as the church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives to their own husbands in everything”.

The above quotations have been interpreted in a way that states the role of women and how they must satisfy their husbands at all times. Another quotation that is wrongly interpreted is 1 Corinthians 11:7-9. It states that “for a man indeed ought not to cover his head, forasmuch as he is the glory of God: but the woman is the glory of the man. For the man is not of the woman; but the woman of the man, neither was the man created for the woman; but the woman for the man.

This makes some men adhere to Christianity as a way of controlling the lives of their wives and think that women are created because of them.

2.4 Impacts/Consequences

One critical consequences of women been violated is the denial of their fundamental human rights (UNICEF, 2000). Another impact of domestic violence against married women according to Heise et al. (1999) is that women who are violated are likely to have problems with their health and future lives. The above authors also mention that being a victim of domestic violence is not a health problem per say but it might be contributing risk factor which may lead to different kinds of diseases like hypertension.

Heise et al. (1999), report that low self-esteem, depression, phobias, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), alcohol and drug abuse anxiety, and sometimes-high rate of suicide attempts are common characteristics of women who are abused.

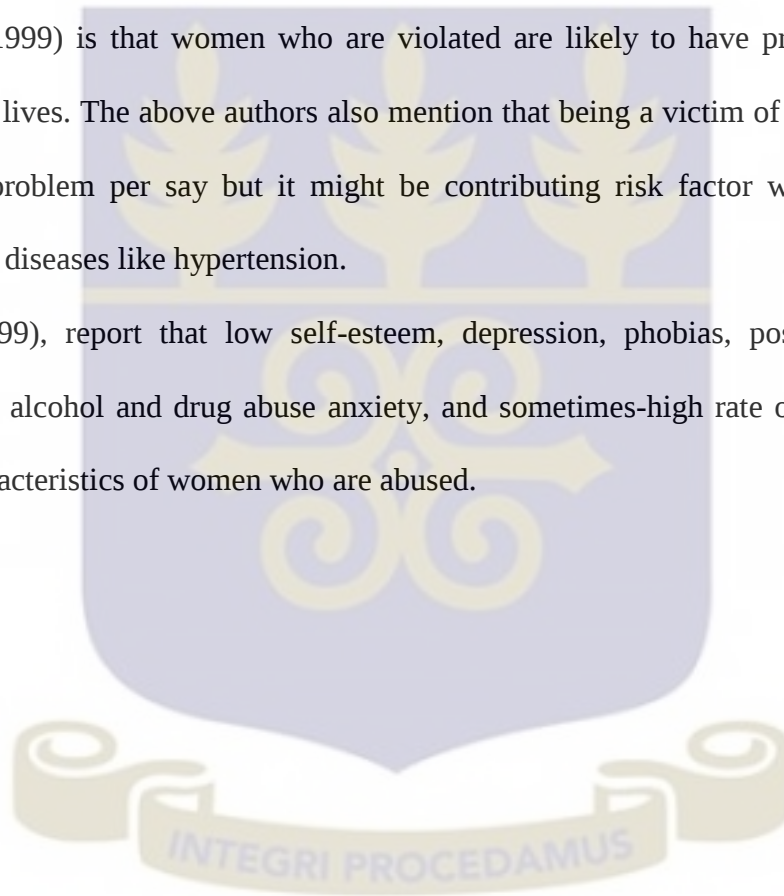
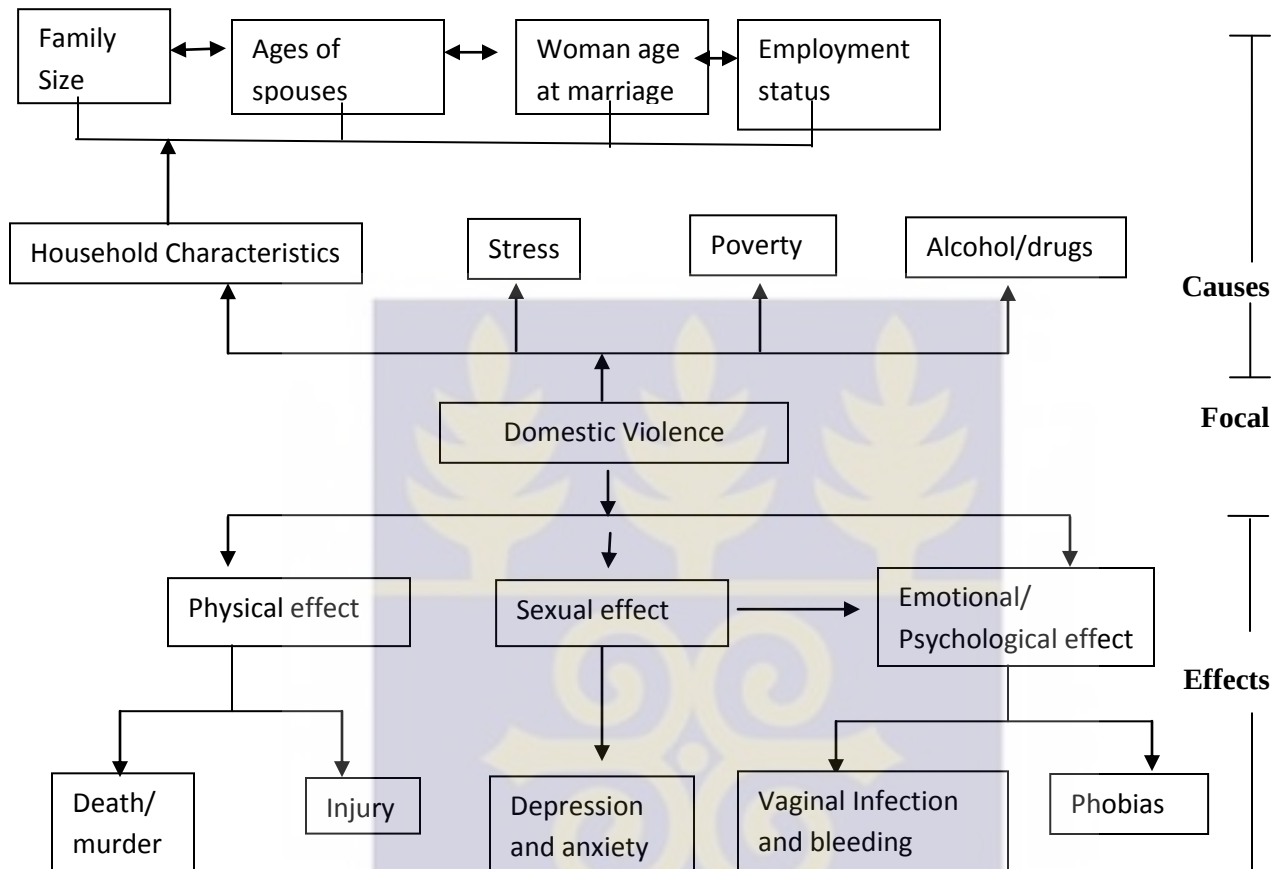


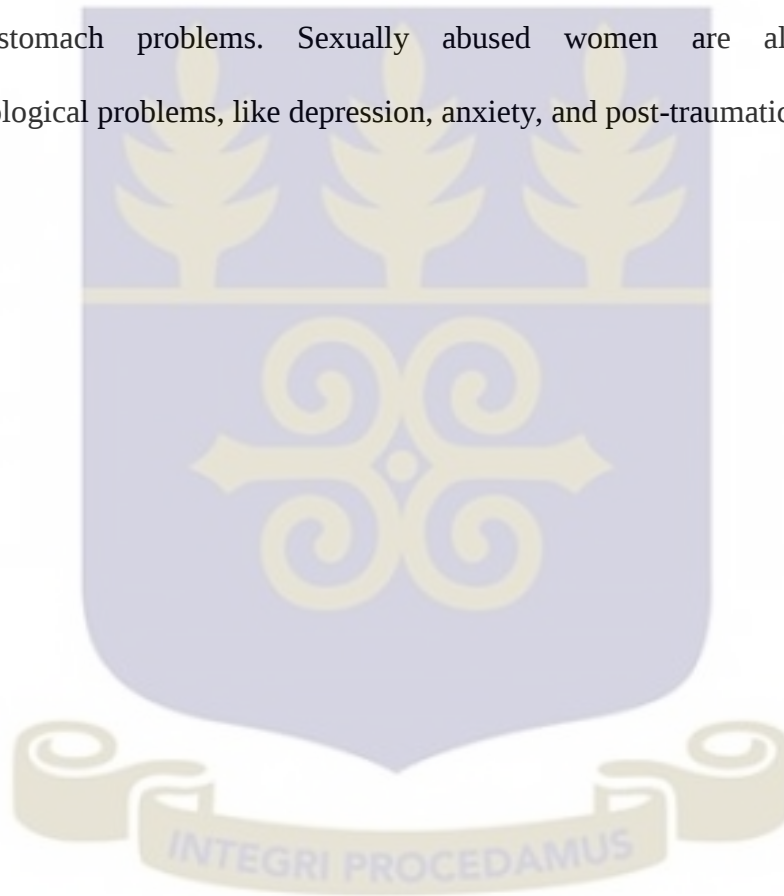
FIGURE 1: CONCEPTUAL FRAMEWORK ON THE CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN THE YILO KROBO DISTRICT



Source: Author, 2012

The design of this framework takes its motivation from the problem tree analysis but with little modification. For the purpose of this study, the prevalence of domestic violence is conceptualized as being caused by four main factors; household characteristics, stress, poverty and alcohol/drug use. Many household characteristic may contribute to domestic violence but for the purpose of this study, the family size (number of people in the household), ages of the spouses, women's age at marriage, and employment status of the couples were adopted.

These causes are assumed to lead to many consequences. The effects are categorized into physical, sexual and psychological/emotional. The physical abuse of women by their spouse may lead to death and injuries and this is especially true in situations where the man beats the woman. The beating and molesting of women may also lead to injuries, which may be severe or trivial. Common injuries include bruises, swelling of eyes, burns, sprains, bleeding, etc. Women who are sexually abused may suffer serious health problems, such as sexually transmitted infections, bleeding and stomach problems. Sexually abused women are also at risk for emotional/psychological problems, like depression, anxiety, and post-traumatic stress disorder.



CHAPTER THREE

STUDY AREA AND METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter is sectioned into two parts. The part one (I) presents a profile of the study area including the physical and demographic characteristics of the district whiles part two (II) presents the methodology that was adopted to retrieve information from the respondents. It also focuses on the target population, sample size, sampling procedures, data collection procedures, data processing and analysis.

3.1 Background of the Study Area

Characteristics of the Area

Location and Size

The Yilo Krobo District was created in the year 2005. It is located in the Eastern Region of Ghana and lies approximately between latitude 60 .0'N and 00 .30'N and between longitude 00. 30' and 10 .0'W. It covers an estimated area of 805 square kilometers, which constituting 4.2% of the total area of the Eastern Region. It shares boundaries with Manya krobo District in the North and East, Dangbe West and Akwapim North Districts in the South, New Jaubeng, East Akim and Fanteakwa Districts in the West.

The land rises from a height of about 100m in the Southeast to cover 600m above sea level on the ridge in the West. Rivers on the eastern side of the ranges flow in eastward direction into the Volta River and those on the west flow into the Densu River. The eastern lowlands are interrupted by the Krobo Mountains in the southeastern part of the district.

Demographic characteristics and human settlements

According to the 2000 Population and Housing Census, the total population of the Yilo Krobo District was 86, 107 people signifying a 4.1% increase over the population in 1984. The district population is currently estimated at 97,898 with a growth rate of 2.6%. The population density of the district is 107 persons per square kilometer. The Krobos are the dominant ethnic group in the district and they represent 76% of the population. Other minority ethnic groups in the district are the Akans, Ewes and Guans. The district has about two hundred and thirty (230) settlements out of which only the district capital, Somanya has a population above 5,000. The district is divided into seven (7) Town/Area Councils namely, Somanya, Oterkpolu, Boti, Nkurakan, Nsutapong, Klo-Agogo and Obawale. According to the 2000 Census, about 67% of the people lived in the rural areas this is because Yilo Krobo district was created in 2005 and the census was done in 2000 when Yilo Krobo district was part of Koaga District that is the reason why it had 67% people living in the rural areas by then.

To be accessible, the District has estimated total road network coverage of 240 km, which includes 80 km of first class roads linking up the district capital to Accra, Tema, Koforidua, Ho, Asesewa and Akosombo. There are also about 160kms of feeder roads linking up the market centers and major settlements (YKDA, 2005). Administratively, the District Assembly is the highest political authority with one town council.

Age and Sex Composition

The sex ratio for the district in 1970 and 1984 Population Censuses were 97 for males and 98 for females. The total male population from the 2000 population was 41,830 and the female was 44,277. These figures are currently estimated at 59,335 for males and 62,753 for females.

Table 1: Population Structure by Age and Sex

Age	Male	Female	Total	Percentage
0-4	5,732	5919	11651	13.53
5-9	5874	5773	11647	13.52
10-14	5268	5083	10351	12.02
15-19	4551	4222	8773	10.20
20-24	3504	3879	7383	8.57
25-29	3033	3481	6514	7.56
30-34	2597	2869	5466	6.35
35-39	2334	2591	4925	5.72
40-44	1975	2145	4120	4.78
45-49	1565	1644	3209	3.73
50-54	1441	1506	2947	3.42
55-59	902	949	1851	2.15
60-64	985	1079	2064	2.40
65-69	627	799	1426	1.66
70-74	543	852	1395	1.62
75 and over	899	1486	2385	2.77
Total	41,830	44,277	86,107	100

Source: Ghana Statistical Service, 2009

Socioeconomic Profile

The major economic activities in the district are agriculture, services, trading and small Scale Industrial activities. About 58% of the working population is engaged in agricultural activities producing mainly staples like maize, cassava, plantain and cocoyam. Service, trading (commerce) and small-scale industrial activities employ 18.1%, 12.9% and 7.2% of the working population, respectively.

However, about 70% of the rural communities of the district depend on agricultural activities for their livelihoods. The main trading activities in the district are the sale of cooked food, provisions and hardware, most of which is imported into the district from Accra, Tema and

Koforidua. Trading in agriculture produce especially foodstuffs is also common and a great number of women are involved especially in petty trading at Somanya.

The Ghana Living Standards Survey (GLSS) 5 placed the average household income for the district at GHc1,145.00 (\$618.92) in the current exchange rate and the average per capita income for the district at GHc379.00 (\$204.86) per annum in the current exchange rate, however, the distribution of income is uneven. Boti Area Council is considered the most poverty stricken, followed by Nsutapong, Obawale, Klo-Agogo, Oterkpolu and Nkurakan. The least is Somanya Town Council.

The Yilo Krobo District had three (3) Private Clinics, seven (7) Reproductive/Child Health/Family Planning (RCH) Clinics, one (1) Health Centre, three (3) Private Maternity Homes, and seventy-two (72) trained Traditional Birth Attendants (TBAs). There were also eight (8) Community Health Planning and Services (CHPS) Centres at Obenyemi, Wurapong, Labolabo, Aboabo, Oterkpolu, Ahinkwa, Ponponya and Opersika. A polyclinic has been established in Somanya and it is in full operation.

Despite the above facilities, health service delivery is still not adequate due to the absence of a district hospital. There are no medical doctors and other specialized medical personnel in the district.

Major Diseases

Malaria is still the most prevalent disease in the district since 1994. Current records available at the District Health Management Team's (DHMT) office indicate that malaria is the number one health problem among households. There is however, prevalence of other communicable

diseases like diarrhea, cholera, tuberculosis, sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) and others like skin diseases, hypertension, diabetes, mental illness and anemia in pregnancy & malnutrition in children.

Cultural Profile

The Krobo are known for their rich culture of special beads during puberty rites for girls, called “Dipo”. Dipo is a puberty rite in the Krobo culture, which marks the passage of girls into womanhood, by performing a series of ceremonies and rituals.

Another important cultural practice in the district is “Lapomi”. According to the Krobo Custom, a child born out of wedlock does not belong to the father, unless the father performs a custom known as “Lapomi”. This is a practice, which denies a father’s ownership to his child unless the marriage rites are performed. Tradition has it that many young men are unable to marry customarily due to the expensive nature of the Krobo marital rites. This custom was put in place to prevent the young men who cannot afford to marry, but want children, from taking advantage of the young women.

Educational Profile

Out of the total population in the district, about 41.7% of the people aged 15 years and above can neither read nor write. Yilo Krobo District has one hundred and nine (109) kindergarten/nursery schools, one hundred and ten (110) primary schools, forty-two (42) Junior High Schools (JHS), two (2) Senior High Schools (SHS), one (1) technical school and one (1) Teacher Training Institution. Out of the total number of schools in the district, 32%, 62%, 29% and 46% of

classrooms at the Kindergarten, Primary, Junior and Senior High Schools respectively, representing 42.3%, were in good condition.

There are 1,287 teachers in the district for both public and private schools. Kindergarten has 232 teachers, Primary has 627 teachers, Junior High School has 325 teachers and Senior High School has 103 teachers. The teacher/pupil ratio is 1:29 for KG, 1:26 for primary, 1:23 for JHS and 1:27 for SHS. The teacher/pupil ratio has increased due to the enrolment drive by the Capitation Grant and the School Feeding Programme.

The district experienced a steady improvement in the performance of education in J.H.S (BECE) over the past five years. In 2006, the percentage of students who passed the BECE exams was 40.8%. In 2007, the percentages who pass dropped to 37.7% signifying a 3.1% drop from the previous year's result. Out of the 42 schools which took the exams that year, 6 schools scored 0% (students obtained aggregate 31 and above). In 2008, the performance improved from 37.7% to 39.9% signifying a 2.2% increase in the previous year's performance. Out of 37 schools, which took the exam in 2007, 2 of them scored 0%.

The percentage of students that passed for the 2009 BECE was 41.25% indicating a 1.35% improvement in the previous year's exams. However, three schools scored 0%. The district recorded a drop in the BECE performance from 41.25% the previous year to 31.25% in 2010 signifying a 10% drop in performance with 4 schools scoring 0%. The percentage of students that passed in 2011 was 22.52% signifying a 5.73% drop in performance with 11 schools scoring 0% in the district. This made Yilo Krobo the worst performing district in the Eastern region.

Profile of Somanya

Somanya has a population size of 23,973 and the capital of the Yilo Krobo district. Unlike the other rural communities, Somanya can boast of several social amenities and services such as markets, schools (preschool, SHS, Vocational/Technical) Community Centre and health post. It can also boast of the presence of a police station, banks, lorry parks, court, post office, fuel stations, electricity and potable water.

In addition, Somanya is a centre of ministries, institutions and departments such as the Ministry of Education, Ministry of Agriculture, Town and Country Planning, Judiciary Services, Department of Social Welfare, Department of Community Development, National Disaster Management Organization (NADMO), National Commission for Civic Education (NCCE), Electoral Commission and Statistical Service among others.

3.2Method

The study focused on quantitative method with the use of structured questionnaires.

3.2.1 Quantitative methodology

According to Cohen and Manion (1980), quantitative research is defined as social research that employs empirical methods and empirical statements. He stated that an empirical statement is defined as descriptive statements about what is the case in the “real world” rather than what ought to be the case. Quantitative research methods were originally developed in the natural sciences to enable researchers to study social and cultural phenomenon (Berry, 2006).

In the social sciences, quantitative research refers to the systematic empirical investigation of social phenomena via statistical, mathematical or computational techniques (Berry, 2006).

Quantitative research relies mainly on a hypothesis, which is derived from a theory pertaining to phenomenon. The process of measurement is central to quantitative research because it provides the fundamental connection between empirical observation and mathematical expression of quantitative relationships (Ahiadeke, 2008). The objective of a quantitative research is to test the theory by way of observation and data collection, the findings of which analysis would confirm or reject the theory (Ahiadeke, 2008).

Quantitative researchers ask a specific, narrow question and collects numerical data from participants to answer the question. The researcher analyzes the data with the help of statistics. In quantitative research the aim is to determine the relationship between one variable (an independent variable) and another (a dependent or outcome variable) in a population. In this study, the dependent variable is domestic violence and the independent variables are age difference of spouses, employment status, alcohol, stress and traditional practices.

Quantitative research is useful for soliciting opinions, attitudes and behaviors and finding out how the whole population feels about a certain issue and a suitable way of explaining a phenomenon. It indicates the extensiveness of attitudes at large (Suphate, 2010).

For the above reasons, quantitative primary data was collected through structured questionnaires to determine the prevalence and causes of domestic violence against married women in the district.

3.2.2 Structured questionnaires

The study used structured questionnaire to get information from the respondents. Questionnaires are one of the most widely used instruments for collecting data in survey research. Questionnaires enable one to collect standardized information in respect of the same variables for everyone in the sample selected (Parfitt 1997). This makes the questionnaire an indispensable tool in gathering primary data about people, their behaviors, attitudes and awareness of specific issues.

For the quantitative primary data collection, a semi structured questionnaire comprising closed and open-ended questions were used for the field survey. The close-ended questions sought direct answers to specific questions. Information on the socio-demographic background of respondents and that of their spouses such as age, educational status, and occupational status were solicited. The open-ended questions enabled respondents to provide variety of answers for the study in unrestricted manner.

One hundred (100) married women were administered questionnaires with the help of two persons who assisted in doing the interpretation in the Dangbe language, which is the dominant and widely spoken language in the Yilo Krobo District. The purpose of the research was explained to these women before the questionnaire was administered to them. Participants were thanked for agreeing to participate in the research after responding to the questions in the questionnaire.

3.3 Methodology

This section presents the methodology that was used to retrieve information from the respondents and the target population for the study.

3.3.1 Target Population

In all one hundred 100 questionnaires were administered to currently married women between the ages of 21 years to 60 years. This age bracket was chosen because in the Ghanaian constitution, it is stated that a girl can marry at the age of 18 years. The researcher believes that if a girl marries at the age of 18 years, by age 21 she would have gotten some experience in marriage to contribute more meaningfully to this research. In addition, the researcher had observed that couples who are 60 years and above live together like brother and sister hence the choice of 60 years cut off.

3.3.2 Sampling Technique

The study made use of systematic random sampling. Systematic random sampling is a probability sampling where the number of sampling units is selected from a sampling frame at a regular interval (Black, 2004). The starting point in the first interval is selected from a formal random basis. This type of sampling will permit the selection of interviewees whose questions or experiences reflect the entire Yilo Krobo District.

Sampling is the selection of a portion of a population in a research area, which will be a representation of the whole population. The sampling frame of this study was all currently married women in the Yilo Krobo District.

This study also made use of purposive sampling. Purposive sampling is a form of non-probability sampling. It is a method where the participants in the study are selected by the researcher based on certain characteristics and interest to be researched (Patton, 2002). A purposive sampling technique was used to select Somanya town council because it is the capital of the Yilo Krobo District and the only urban area in the district.

A random sampling was used to pick three other area council out of the remaining six councils. The names of the six area councils were written on pieces of paper and shuffled. Klo Agogo, Nsutapong and Obawale were randomly selected. Choosing one urban and three rural communities will help in making a general comparison in the aspect of the issues related to domestic violence against married women in the Yilo Krobo District. The researcher purposively chose the head communities of the area councils for the study because they have large populations compared to the sub-areas under them.

Listing was done for all the households in the four area council headquarters with the help of three employed field staff in the district.

According to the listing, Somanya township had 400 households so every 10th household was interviewed. Klo Agogo township had 74 households so every 3rd household was interviewed. Nsutapong township had 90 households so every 3rd household was interviewed. Obawale township had 60 households and also the smallest community so every 4th household was interviewed.

Therefore, to get the regular interval, the number of population of each community was divided by the number of households to be interviewed in each community, that is, 40 for Somanya township (this is because Somanya township had the largest population compared to the other

three area councils heads), 20 for Klo Agogo township, 25 for Nsutapong township and 15 for Obawale township. The above number of respondent was chosen in each area council due to the number of households listed.

In all the four area councils headquarters, when a household was visited and there was more than one married woman there, one of them was selected at random and in the case whereby no married woman was found, the next household with a married woman was used.

3.3.3 Data collection procedure

Any researcher setting out to investigate any new field must make a series of decisions. In most cases, the very decision that a researcher must take in deciding to carry out a piece of research is the choice between qualitative and quantitative tools of data collection (Palys, 1997). In this study, quantitative methodology was used.

3.3.4 Data Analysis Methods

Data analysis for the quantitative data was done by the use of the Statistical Package of Social Sciences (SPSS) version 16 software. This was to generate descriptive statistics mainly in the form of frequencies and percentages and cross tabulations to help in discussions of the study results. Graphs were used to represent some of the data collected. The main analytical tool used in the study was the logistic regression. Specifically the logit model was used in analyzing the data since the dependent variable in the research topic is binary, that is, is either yes that is a respondent who has experienced domestic violence or no which is a respondent who has not experienced domestic violence.

3.4 The logit model

Regression models for binary outcomes are the foundation from which more complex models for ordinal, nominal, and count models can be derived. Binary dependent variables have two values, typically coded as 0 for a negative outcome (i.e, domestic violence did not occur) and 1 as a positive outcome (i.e, domestic violence did occur). Regression models for binary outcomes allow a researcher to explore how each explanatory variable affects the probability of the event occurring. Mostly, focus is on two most often used models, logit and binary probit models, referred to jointly as the binary regression model (BRM) (Long and Freese, 2006).

Because the model is nonlinear, the magnitude of the change in the outcome probability that is associated with a given change in one of the independent variables depends on the levels of all the independent variables (Long and Freese, 2006).

The challenge of interpretation is to find a summary of the way in which changes in the independent variables are associated with changes in the outcome that best reflect the key substantive processes without overwhelming yourself or your readers with distracting detail. Maklevey and Zavoina (1975) noted that linear regression models provide misleading outcomes when used to analyze nominal/categorical variables. He, however, noted that logistic regression is a better estimator for analyzing such variables.

Based on the above, logistic regression will be used to analyze the probability of married women in the Yilo Krobo District being abused by their spouses.

The comparative strengths of the independent variables regarding the likelihood of women being abused domestically by their spouses in the study are assessed through Binary Logistic

Regression. This is premised on the assumption that a woman being abused by her spouse was predicted by a set of demographic and family variables of both spouses.

The logit model for this study considered the probability that a married woman in the Yilo Krobo District with a set of certain demographic and family characteristics (X) is likely to be abused (Y) by her spouse

This is simplified as:

$$P^{(X)} = E(Y/x) \quad \text{where } -\infty \leq x \leq \infty$$

This can be written as:

$$P^{(X)} = 1/1+e^{-z_i} \quad \text{where } z_i = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x_i \dots\dots\dots (1)$$

This means that $1-P^{(X)}$ is the probability that a woman is not likely to experience violence by her spouse given the same set of demographic and family characteristics. This can therefore be summarized as:

$$1-P^{(X)} = 1/1+e^{-z_i} \quad \text{where } z_i = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x_i \dots\dots\dots (2)$$

The linear regression model cannot estimate the parameters in z_i but the ratio of the probability that a woman will experience violence to the probability that her spouse does not violate her can be used to achieve an estimate of the parameters in Z_i . This is the odd ratio and it is given as:

$$P^{(x)}/1-P^{(x)} = 1+e^{-z_i}/1+e^{-z_i} \quad \text{where } z_i = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x_i \dots\dots\dots (3)$$

The natural log of the ratio is the logit model, which is an estimate of Z_i . This is given as:

$$Z_i = \ln[p^{(x)}/1-p^{(x)}] \quad \text{where } z_i = \beta_1 + \beta_2 x_i \dots\dots\dots (4)$$

The logit model relating to the causes of domestic violence against married women to the demographic and family characteristics of the woman can be simplified as:

$$\text{Log } [p^{(x)}/1-p^{(x)}] = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \beta_3 X_3 + \dots + \beta_n X_n + \mu \dots \dots \dots (5)$$

Where:

$p^{(x)}$ = the situation that a married woman given a set of demographic and family characteristics experiences domestic violence by her spouse.

$1-p^{(x)}$ = the situation that a woman given a set of demographic and family characteristics does not experience domestic violence by her spouse.

β_0 = Constant

$\beta_1 \dots \beta_n$ = Co-efficient

$X_1 \dots X_n$ = Demographic and family factors

μ = Error term

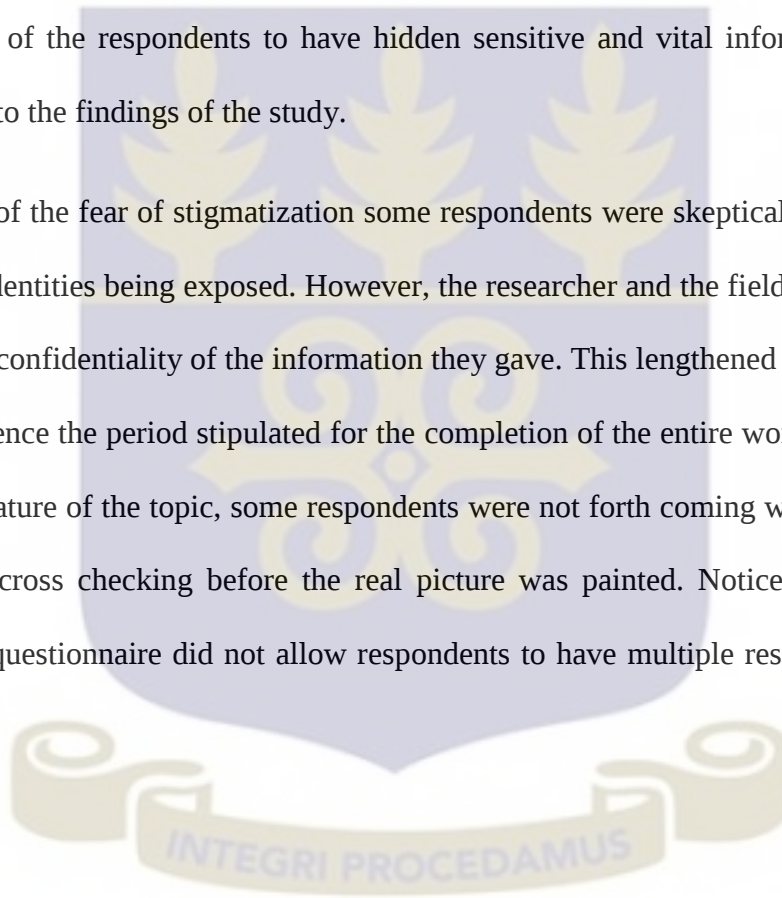
3.5 Ethical considerations

As domestic violence is an issue that is extremely personal and sensitive, it was quite clear that the research needed to be conducted with respect and sensitivity for those involved. Payne and Payne (2004) point out that ethical practice is not a switch that can be turned on or off when one feels like it, but that it ‘lies at the very heart of research, from beginning to end’. The respondents for the study were adequately informed and their consent was sought. In addition, respondents were assured of confidentiality while their names were not recorded as part of the data collected.

3.6 Limitations of the Study

Considering the subject matter of the study, it required caution in order to elicit responses on very sensitive issues concerning the topic. It was, however, difficult for the respondents to be forth coming with response to some of the questions. This is because they found some of the questions to be too probing. Also because issues of domestic violence are treated as sacred topics, the respondents did not find it comfortable narrating some of their experiences so there was a possibility of the respondents to have hidden sensitive and vital information that could have contributed to the findings of the study.

Further, because of the fear of stigmatization some respondents were skeptical about opening up for fear of their identities being exposed. However, the researcher and the field assistants assured the people of the confidentiality of the information they gave. This lengthened the period for data collections and hence the period stipulated for the completion of the entire work. Again, because of the sensitive nature of the topic, some respondents were not forth coming with the truth and it took a series of cross checking before the real picture was painted. Noticeably, some of the questions in the questionnaire did not allow respondents to have multiple responses to some of the question.



CHAPTER FOUR

FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

4.0: Introduction

This chapter presents the findings and discussions of the results from the study. The chapter begins with an examination of the socio-demographic backgrounds of the respondents and their spouses and continues with presentations on meaning of domestic violence by the respondents. This chapter also dilates on type of domestic violence experienced by respondents, agencies women reported cases of domestic violence to, action taken by women who do not report cases of domestic violence. In addition, women's knowledge of Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU), customs that influence domestic violence in the Yilo Krobo District, causes of domestic violence from the viewpoint of women who have been violated was also dilated. Besides, logistic regression analysis of the causes of domestic violence, interventions to reduce domestic violence in violence prone marriages, reducing domestic violence in the community and government's intervention to reduce domestic violence.

4.1.1: Social-Demographic characteristics of the respondents

From Table 1.1 it would be realized that the minimum age of women who participated in the study was 26 years and the maximum age was 60 years. The median age was 40 years. Similarly, the minimum age of their spouses was 32 years and maximum age of 66 years. The median age was approximately 45 years. This means that the men were much older than their wives were. The minimum age at marriage for the women was 19 years and the maximum age at marriage

was 35 years, showing 16 years age difference. The average age at marriage was therefore 27 years.

Table 1.1: Age of respondents and spouses

Descriptive Statistics						
	Median	Range	Minimum	Maximum	Mean	Std. Deviation
Respondents' Age	40	34	26	60	40.08	7.892
Spouses' Age	44.5	34	32	66	44.6	7.576
Age at marriage	27	16	19	35	26.95	3.295

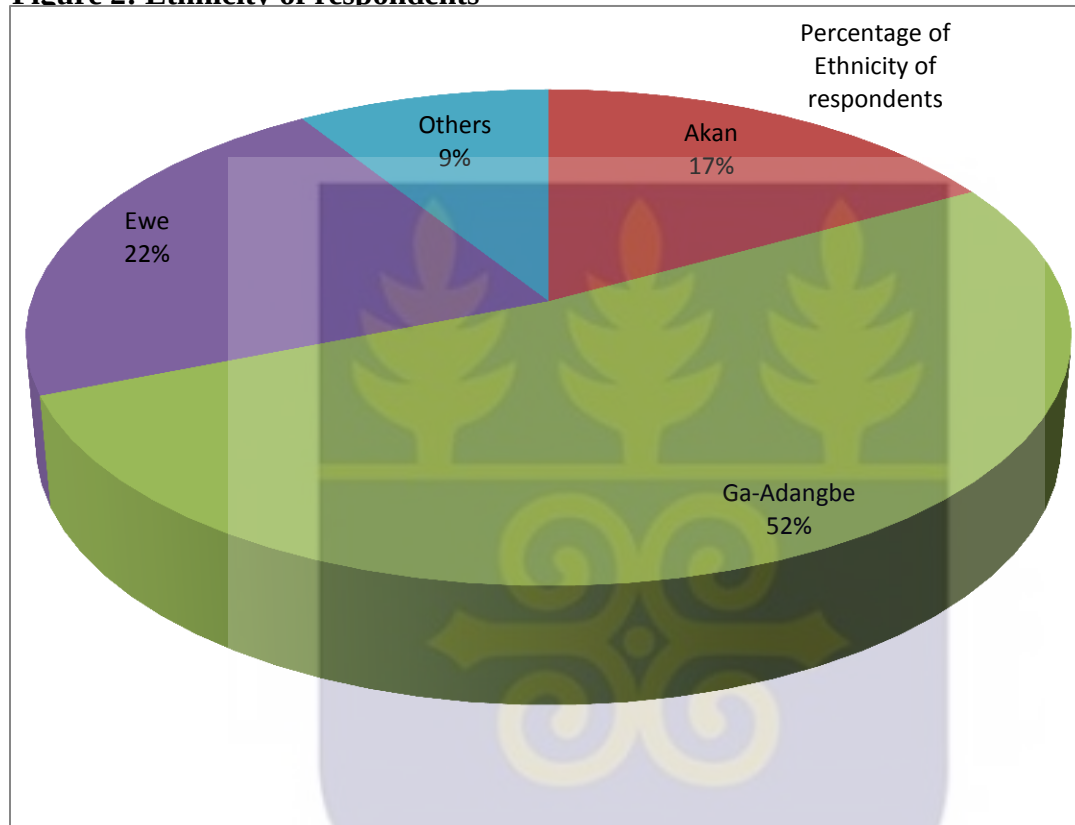
Source: Field survey, 2012



4.1.2: Respondents ethnic affiliation

From Figure 1, out of the 100 women interviewed, most of them were Ga-Adangbe (52%), followed by Ewes (22%).

Figure 2: Ethnicity of respondents



Source: Field survey, 2012

4.1.3: Descriptive statistics on religious affiliation

From Table 1.2, majority of the respondents and their spouses were Christians (79% for women and 71% for spouse). The proportion of Muslims was 12% for both the respondents and their spouses. Similarly, 4% of both the respondents and that of their spouses were traditionalist. Nevertheless, as 5% of the women professed no faith, 13% of their spouses had no faith.

Table 1.2: Religious affiliation of respondents and spouses

Religion	Percent of respondents' religious affiliation	Spouse religious affiliation
Traditionalist	4.0	4.0
Non-Faith	5.0	13.0
Muslim	12.0	12.0
Christian	79.0	71.0
Total	100.0	100.0

Source: Field survey, 2012

4.1.4: Descriptive statistics on education

The results in Table 1.3 shows that out of the 100 women interviewed, 39% of them had Middle/Junior High School education (JHS); while 40% of their spouses had the same level of education, showing no significant difference. The results also revealed that 21% of the women had Primary education while 18% of their spouses had primary education. In addition, 17% of the women had Senior High School education while 22% of their spouses had the same level of education. For vocational/commercial education, 12% of the women and 7% of their spouses had that level of education. Again, 6% of both the women and their spouses had technical/nursing education and for University education, 2% of the women and 6% of their spouses had that level of education.

Table 1.3: Educational level of respondents and their spouses

Education	Education of women	Education of spouses
None	3.0	1.0
Primary	21.0	18.0
Middle/JHS	39.0	40.0
SHS/O' Level	17.0	22.0
Vocational/commercial	12.0	7.0
Technical/Nursing	6.0	6.0
Poly/University	2.0	6.0
Total	100.0	100

Source: Field survey, 2012

4.1.5: Descriptive statistics on occupation

From Table 1.4, more than half of the respondents were traders (53%) and 22% of their spouses were also traders. Also, 15% of the women interviewed were seamstresses/hairdressers but none of their spouses was engaged in such occupation. Similarly, 12% of the women were civil servants and 27% of their spouses were civil servants. Interestingly, 9% of the women were unpaid workers/housewives but only 1% of their spouses were engaged in unpaid work. In addition, 4% of the women were farmers and 16% of their spouses were engaged in farming while 2% of the women were apprentices, none of their spouses was an apprentice.

Table 1.4: Occupation of respondents and their spouses

Occupation	Occupation of respondents	Occupation of spouses
Farmer	4.0	16.0
Trader	53.0	22.0
Civil servant	12.0	27.0
Seamstress/hairdresser	15.0	0
Unpaid worker/housewife	9.0	1.0
Apprentice	2.0	0
Other	5.0	33.0
Total	100.0	100

Source: Field survey, 2012

4.1.6: Descriptive statistics on the number of children

From Table 1.5, it shows that the women had at least three (3) children. However, the minimum number of children the women had was zero (0) and the maximum was seven (7).

Table 1.5: Number of children

Mean	Minimum	Maximum
3	0	7

Source: Field survey, 2012

4.2: Meaning of Domestic Violence

Like any social term, different people define domestic violence differently. From Table 2.0, 36% of the women who participated in the survey perceived domestic violence as violation of women's right, 33% saw it as abuses and conflicts in the home, 25% also saw it as certain bad

acts (behaviors) of men towards women and 3% of them defined it as men beating women and bullying someone at home. These understandings of domestic violence were not different from the definition given by Tjaden & Thoennes (2000), who defined domestic violence as any form of physical assaults, rape and stalking perpetuated by a woman's former or current partner. The views of the respondents also support World Health Organization (WHO) definition of domestic violence as any deliberate act of violence by using physical force or threats against one's will or a group of people, which might result in death, psychological harm, injury and deprivation (WHO, 2002).

Table 2.0: Meaning of domestic violence

Meaning	Percent
Violation of women's rights	36.0
Bullying someone at home	3.0
Bad acts towards women by men	25.0
Men beating women	3.0
Abuse and conflict at home	33.0
Total	100.0

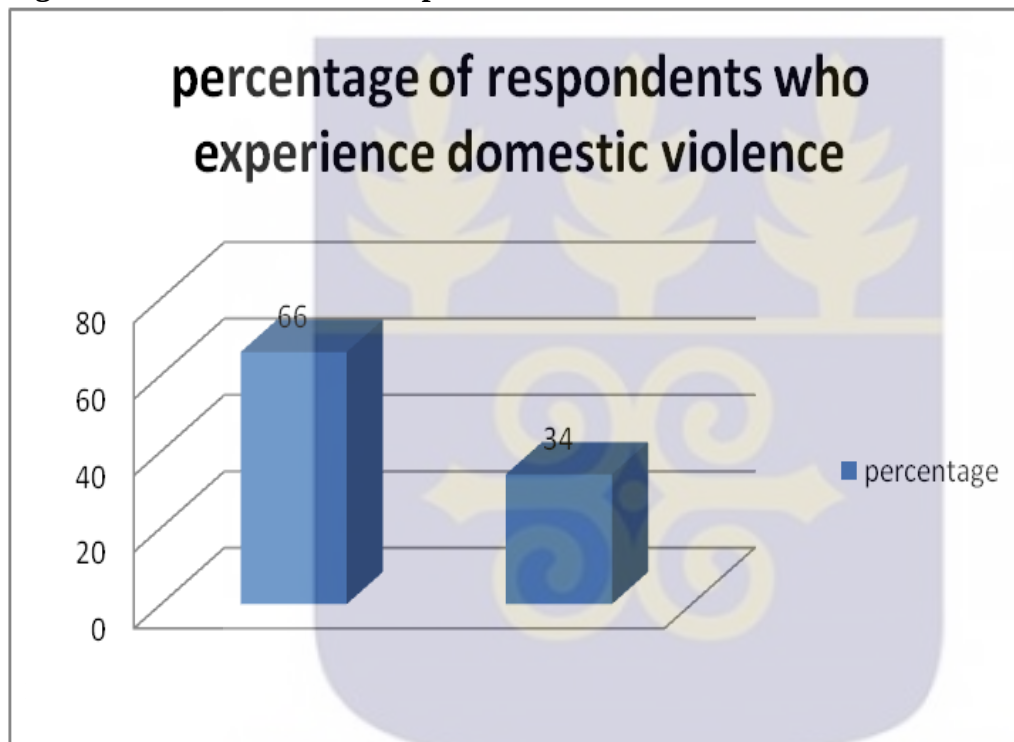
Source: Field survey, 2012

4.3 The probability that a married woman in Yilo Krobo District had ever suffered domestic violence

From Figure 2, about two-thirds 66 of the women had experienced domestic violence in their marriage. This therefore means that domestic violence against married women is an area that needs intervention in the Yilo Krobo District. The high prevalence of domestic violence in the

Yilo Krobo district confirms the works of Appiah and Cusacka (1999), Heise et al. (2002) and Chamaia et al. (2005) who noted that violence against women is the most prevalent form of gender-based violence worldwide.

Figure 3: Women who have experienced domestic violence



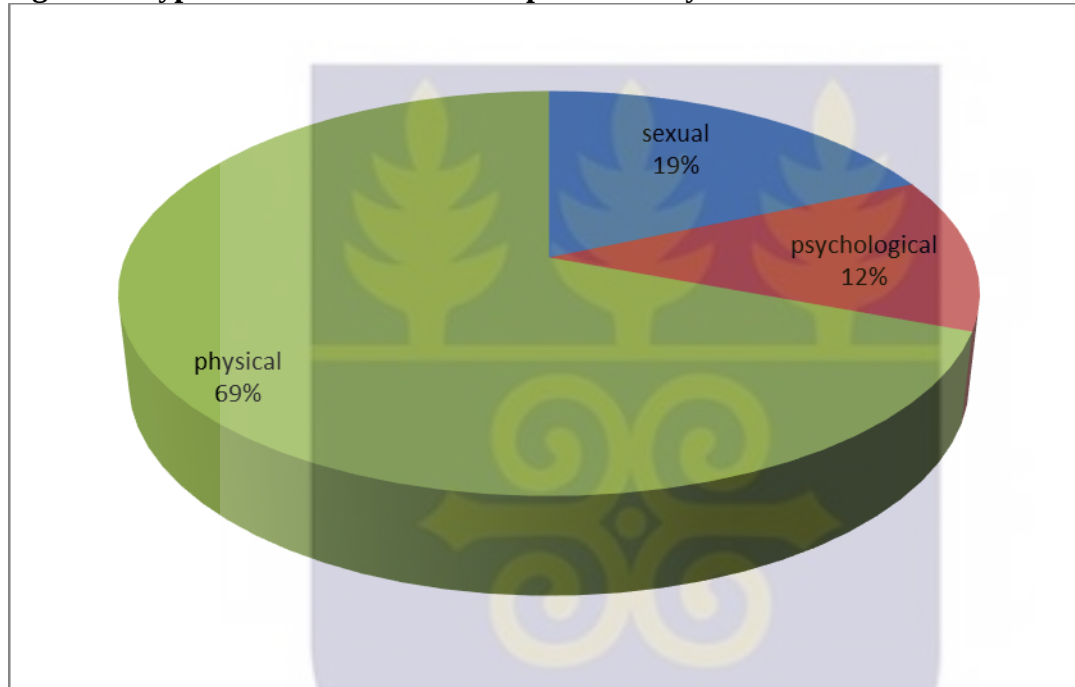
Source: Field survey, 2012

4.4.1: Type of Domestic Violence experienced

From figure 3, out of the 66 women who had experienced domestic violence in their marriage, it is clear that physical violence (45 respondents) was the highest form of violence against married women in Yilo Krobo district. However, quite a significant number had experienced sexual violence (12 respondents) and psychological violence (9 respondents). This is similar to the findings of Action Aid Ghana (2007) in the Northern Ghana where it was reported that physical

violence was predominant. In addition, the Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre (1991) also noted that one in every three women in Ghana have experienced physical violence.

Figure 4: Type of domestic violence experienced by victims



Source: Field survey, 2012

4.4.2: Type of sexual violence against women

Out of the 19% of the women who have experienced sexual violence, majority of them reported that their spouses forced them to have anal sex (10%) whereas 6% reported that their spouses insert their hands into their vagina forcefully. In addition, 3% of the respondents said that their spouses forced them into oral sex. This finding corroborates the work by Dutton (1994) who noted that sexual abuse include oral, anal, or vaginal stimulation or penetration, forced nudity, forced exposure to sexual explicit material or activity.

Table 2.1: Kind of sexual violence you are exposed to

He forces you to perform sexual act	Kind Of Sexual Act			Total
	Anal sex	Oral sex	Inserting hands into the vagina	
	10%	3%	6%	19%

Source: Field survey, 2012



4.5: Who do women report cases of domestic violence to?

Forty-three respondents who reported violence cases formed 65% of the total number who has experienced domestic violence (66). It is interesting to note that from table 2.2, out of the 66 women who had suffered domestic violence, none of the women reported any case of violence to the police or any law enforcement agency. Majority rather chose to report to their family members or relatives (46%) and friends (8%).

Table 2.2: Whom women report cases of violence to

Reports violence	Whom you report violence to				Total
	Chief/Elders	Family/Relatives	Friends	Church leader	
yes	6%	46%	8%	5%	65%
Total	6%	46%	8%	5%	65%

Source: Field Survey, 2012

4.6: Action taken by women who do not report cases of domestic violence

From the Table 2.3, out of 66 women who had ever experienced domestic violence in the marriages, 43 were able to report cases of domestic violence and 23 were unable to report cases of domestic violence to anyone, which formed 35% of the total number of women who had experienced domestic violence. It interesting to note that out of the 35% who did not report, most of them chose to isolate themselves by staying in-doors for some time after the abusive act (10%). Also a significant proportion of them also complied with their husband's bidding (9%) that is; by doing what their husbands wanted from them being it oral or anal sex whiles others also apologized to their spouse (6%). Others also refused to have sex with their husbands (10%).

Table 2.3: Action taken by women who do not report cases of domestic violence

Report violence	What you do after the violence				Total
	Keep myself indoors for sometime	Do what he wants me to do	Apologize to him	Refuse my spouse sex	
Did not report	10%	9%	6%	10%	35%
Total	10%	9%	6%	10%	35%

Source: Field survey, 2012

4.7: Women's knowledge of Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU)

Figure 4 shows that majority of the women interviewed (91%) were not aware of the Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) in the district. Only 9% of the respondents knew of Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit. This may explain why most of the victims reported to family members mostly when their spouses abused them.

Figure 5: Knowledge about Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU)



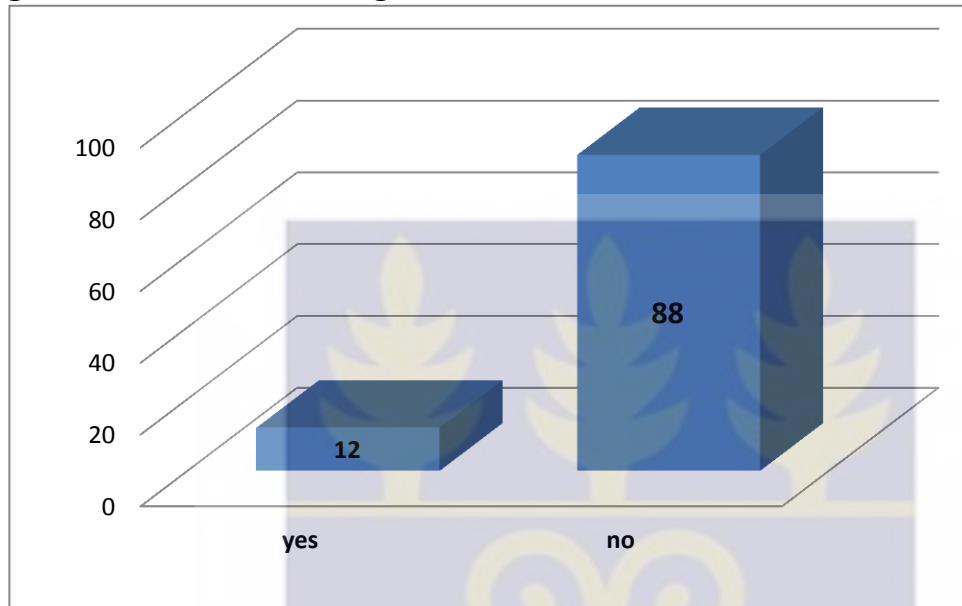
Source: Field Survey, 2012

4.8: Customs that influence domestic violence

The results in Figure 5 shows that 12% of the women interviewed were aware of some cultural practices that enhance domestic violence while 88% of the women were not aware of any custom that enhances domestic violence. For the women who were aware of a custom that enhances domestic violence, they all cited Dipo as the customary practice that enhances domestic violence because it forces girls into early marriage without any skills therefore making them to depend on their spouses for everything. This confirms the finding of Kambarami (2006) that stated that

certain cultural practices induce women to become dependent on their husbands thereby making them vulnerable to their spouses.

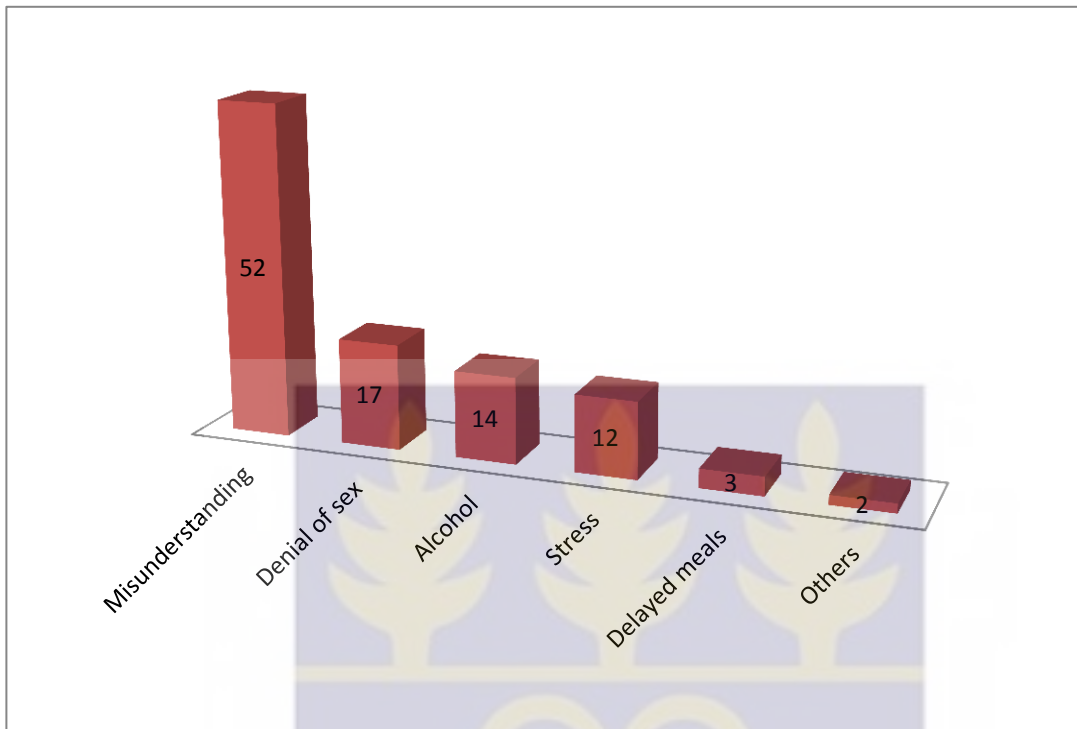
Figure 6: Women's Knowledge of Customs that enhance domestic violence



Source: Field Survey, 2012

4.9: Causes of domestic violence from the viewpoint of women who have been violated

Figure 6 shows that from the perspective of the women who have been violated (66), misunderstanding was reported as the major cause of domestic violence in their marriages (52%). Besides misunderstanding, other factors such as denying one's husband sex, alcohol, stress and delayed meals also contribute to domestic violence. It is interesting to note that what women in general perceived to be the cause of domestic violence is quite different from what the victims noted as the causes. For instance as respondents who had been violated pointed misunderstanding and denying spouse of sex as the major causes of domestic violence, respondents who have not experienced violence mentioned that unfaithfulness, poverty and alcohol/drugs as the possible causes of domestic violence.

Figure: 7 Causes of domestic violence from the viewpoint of women who have been violated

Source: Field Survey, 2012

4.10: Regression analysis of the causes of domestic violence

This section presents the results on the factors that cause domestic violence. The dependent variable used in this study is binary. This is because the dependent variable is either the respondents have experienced domestic violence or not. Women who had never experienced domestic violence in their marriages were coded as 0 and women who had experienced domestic violence were coded as 1. The independent variables used to predict the dependent variable were respondents' age, age at marriage of respondents, number of children of respondents, educational level of respondents, employment status of respondents, age of spouse, employment status of spouse and educational level of spouse. Educational level and employment status were recoded into binary form. Those with no education or primary education were coded as 1 while those whose education status were above primary were coded as 0. For employment status, it was

coded as 0 for employed and 1 for unemployed. Those who fall into the employed category were those engaged in farming, trading, self-employed, other professional and unprofessional jobs that earn them income. Unemployed category was those who were apprentice, unpaid workers and housewives.

The result in Table 3.1 shows that age is a contributing cause of domestic violence and it has a positive relationship with domestic violence. From Table 1, the minimum age of respondents was 16, maximum age was 60 and the mean age was 40. This means that holding all factors constant, women who were older (above 40 years) are 1.277 times more likely to experience domestic violence in their marriages than the younger ones (below 40 years) and this is statistically significant at 1% ($p=.007$).

There is a negative relationship between age at marriage and domestic violence ($B=-0.199$). From the descriptive statistics in Table 1, the minimum age at marriage was 16, the maximum age at marriage was 35 and the mean age at marriage was 27. Therefore, those who marry below 27 years were considered younger and those above 27 years were considered older. Thus, controlling for all factors, women who married below 27 years were more likely to experience domestic violence than women who married above 27 years. This relationship is statistically significant at 5% ($p=0.022$, <0.05). This may be because of the fact that women who marry at an early age may know less about their roles in their marriage and their human rights.

Similarly, there is a negative relationship between age of spouse and the possibility of a woman experiencing domestic violence in her marriage ($B=-0.189$). The minimum age of the men was 32 years, the maximum age was 66 years, and the average age was 45 years. Therefore, men who were below 45 years were more likely to have abused their wives than men who were above

40 years. There is less evidence to support these findings but Kishor and Johnson (2004) postulated that in a situation where the man is much older than the wife, there is a probability for the man to suppress the woman.

The expectation of the study was that women who had no education or at most primary education may be more susceptible to domestic violence than women whose educational level were above primary but unexpectedly, the results proved otherwise ($p = 0.990, >0.05$). Martin et al. (1999) and Xingjuan (1999) outlined lack of education as one of the risks contributing to increased risk of domestic violence. Malhotra (1997) and Kishor and Johnson (2000, 2004) believed that women with higher education have greater abilities to protect themselves from any form of violence but this was not true in the case of Yilo Krobo.

Similarly it was expected that unemployed women (housewives/unpaid workers and apprentices) may be more vulnerable to domestic violence but the results also proved otherwise ($p = 0.538, >0.05$). The number of children women had was also insignificantly related to the cause of domestic violence which was also contrary to the expectation of this study ($p=0.312, >0.05$).

Also contrary to available literature was employment status of spouse ($p=0.360, >0.05$) and the educational level of spouse ($p=0.360, >0.05$). The literatures show that women with little economic resources find it difficult to leave their partner and therefore endure high level of violence in their marriages (Dobash and Dobash, 1979; Hornung et al., 1981 Gelles, 1976). Malhotra (1997) and Garcia (2000) also noted that women who are currently employed are at lower risk to experience domestic violence.

The contradiction in the findings of this study to other study is assumed to be because of the small size of the sample used in this study. All the other studies used large samples in their

studies. Also the cultural disparities across and within the populations under study might also have attributed to the disparities in the findings. Most of the researches conducted in the area of domestic violence were conducted in different geographical environment with unique socio-cultural characteristics.

Table 3.1: Summary Results of the Logistic Regression analysis of the independent variables

Factors	Coefficient	Standard error	p	Exp(B)
Age	0.245	0.090	0.007	1.277
Age at marriage	0-.199	0.087	0.022	0.820
No of children	0-.140	0.227	0.538	0.869
Education	0.008	0.586	0.990	1.008
Employment	0.508	0.502	0.312	1.662
Age spouse	0-189	0.085	0.026	0.828
Spouse employment	0-474	0.517	0.360	0.623
Spouse education	0-471	0.603	0.434	0.624
Constant	4.074	2.319	0.079	58.777

Source: Field survey, 2012

4.11.1: Interventions to reduce domestic violence in violence-prone marriages

This section outlines the interventions that the abused women noted as possible factors that can reduce domestic violence in their marriages. A chi-square test was used to show the significant level of the variation of the responses that the women gave to help reduce violence. The alpha

level used in the Chi-square test was 0.05 (95% confidence level). From Table 4.0, out of the 66 women (63%) of the respondents who had experienced domestic violence in the marriages, 20% suggested that to help reduce domestic violence in their marriages, there is the need to seek regular and effective counseling from elders and leaders in the community.

Also, 14% believed that respect and love is key to reducing domestic violence in their marriages, 9% also believed that faithfulness, trust and obedience can also help to reduce domestic violence in marriages. The test statistics show that the differences in frequencies is statistically significant at 1% (sig =.000). This means that proper counseling before marriage is believed by the respondents as core factor to reducing domestic violence in marriages. Aside the proper counseling, respect and love for one another and faithful, trust and obedience among partners will help reduce domestic violence. Making men face the law does little to reducing domestic violence, they thought.

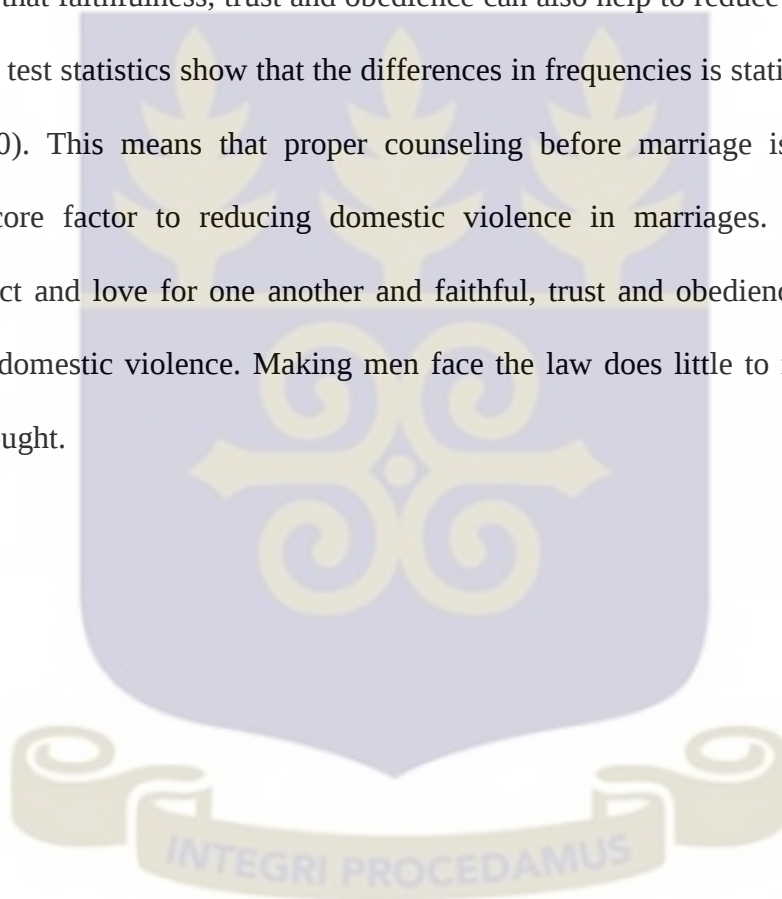


Table 4.0: Reducing domestic violence in violence-prone marriages

Reducing domestic violence in marriage	Percent	Test Statistics (Chi – square)
Faithful, trust and obedient	9.0	X=24.444 p = 0.000
Respect and love for one another	14.0	
Talked to by relatives	7.0	
Seek proper counseling before marriage	20.0	
Understanding	6.0	
Separation (divorce) if it persistence	4.0	
Making him face the law	3.0	
Total	63.0	

Source: Field survey, 2012

4.11.2: Reducing domestic violence in the Yilo Krobo district

This section presents the possible factors that can help reduce domestic violence in the district. This section covers all the responses that the women who participated in the study gave as possible means of reducing domestic in the district. Similarly, the alpha level used to test the variations in the frequency of responses is 0.05 (95% confidence level), thus a 5% margin of error.

From Table 4.1, 40% of the respondents noted that to help reduce domestic violence in the community, issues relating to domestic violence should be settled with family members, 31% also believed that the court would be the suitable place to settle issues relating to domestic

violence. In addition, 25% noted that husbands' needs to compensate their spouses when they abuse them and 4% believed that divorce or separation would help reduce domestic violence in the community. The difference in frequencies is statistically significant at 1% ($X = 47.700$, $p = .000$). This means that the women believes that family members should primarily try to settle domestic violence cases and when that fails, the court should be employed to settle domestic violence issues. They also noted that the abused women should be compensated.

Table 4.1: Reducing domestic violence in the community

Measures	Percent	Chi-square test
Settle violence issues with family members	40.0	$X=47.700$ $P=0.000$
Settle violence issues at the court	31.0	
Partners should be separated	4.0	
Compensation from spouse	25.0	
Total	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2012

4.11.3: Government's intervention to reduce domestic violence

The women interviewed believed that the challenge of reducing domestic violence in the district and the country as a whole does not rest on only the couple and the community members but the government also has a role to play. This section provides the responses the women gave as intervention needed from the government. Again, a chi-square test was used to test the variation in the frequency of responses with an alpha value of 0.05 (95% confidence level).

From Table 4.2, 44% of the respondents noted that the government should punish offenders, 26% believed that public education will best help to reduce domestic violence to its barest minimum while 15% of the respondent noted that laws should be set and enforced to protect women against domestic violence. Also, 9% of the women interviewed believed that if governments put up a law which will demand compensation from their spouses whenever they violate them, it will help reduce domestic violence. They were of the view that since each time they violate them they will have to compensate them in one way or the other, it will deter them from doing so. Also, 6% of the respondents noted that the government should imprison offenders. This was significant at 1% ($X = 59.800$, $p = 0.000$). This means that the women believed that the government should punish offenders to serve as a deterrent to others and offer public education in order to reduce domestic violence.

Table 4.2: Government's intervention to reduce domestic violence

Measures	Percent	Chi-square test
Public education	26.0	X=59.800 P=0.000
Make offenders compensate victims	9.0	
Punish offenders	44.0	
Imprison offenders	6.0	
Set and enforce law to protect women	15.0	
Total	100.0	

Source: Field survey, 2012

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.0: Introduction

This study sought to examine the prevalence and causes of domestic violence in the Yilo Krobo District in the Eastern region of Ghana. It also examined the socio-economic factors that enhance domestic violence in the Yilo Krobo District. Again, it identified the interventions by the government and other agencies that can help in alleviating domestic violence from the district. The target population was married women. In all one hundred semi-structured questionnaires were administered. This chapter presents the main findings of the study.

5.1: Summary of findings

The findings from the study showed that at least seven out of every ten women in the Yilo Krobo district has suffered one form of violent or the other in their marriages, which is significantly alarming. The women experienced either physical violence, sexual violence or psychological violence and the results showed that the common form of violence against married women in the district is physical violence. Sexual violence was the second highest form of violence against women and forced anal sex was the dominant form of sexual abuse against the respondents. However, men forcing their hands into their partner's vagina and oral sex were equally other forms of sexual abuse against the respondents.

The study also revealed that from the viewpoint of the respondents, misunderstanding over issues is the basic cause of violence in marriages among the respondents. Aside misunderstanding, the failure to give their spouse sex was also a contributing factor to violence. Other factors that

caused domestic violence were alcohol, stress, delayed meals, among other related factors. However, the regression analysis on the possible causes of domestic violence showed that age is a contributing factor to domestic violence. Thus, the older a respondent was (above 40 years), the more likely she is to be exposed to domestic violence. Also age at marriage was another predisposing factor for domestic violence. Respondents who married at an early age (below 27 years) were more prone to domestic violence than older respondents were. The age of the spouse was equally a predisposing factor for domestic violence among the respondents. With regards to this study, younger men (below 45 years) tended to abuse their wives than older men.

Again, the study revealed that when the respondents were abused some were able to report such cases while others were unable to report. But it was noted that instead of reporting cases of abuse to law enforcement agencies as anticipated, majority of the women rather chose to report such cases to family relatives while others reported them to friends, chiefs, elders and church leaders to seek redress. For those who were unable to report cases of abuse, they chose to stay indoors and do what their husbands wanted or apologized to help calm the situation.

The study also showed that even though a large number of the respondents were not aware of any cultural practices that encourage or expose women to domestic violence, the few who knew cited dipo as the cultural practice that exposes women to violence. It was felt that dipo exposes women to early marriage, which makes them vulnerable to men.

It was also noted that majority of the women (91%) studied were unaware of the existence and activities of the Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) and even the small number who knew could hardly spell out the functions the agency performs.

The study showed that the respondents shared the view that to help minimize the incidents of domestic violence in respondents marriages, couples should seek proper counseling before their marriage and learn to love, trust and be faithful to each other. On the part of the community, the leaders were enjoined to settle issues, make offenders pay high compensation and where possible punish offenders to serve as examples to other members in the community. On the part of the government, the respondents suggested that the government should punish offenders (if possible imprison some) to serve as deterrent to other men. Also the respondents mentioned that the government should also intensify public education, set and enforce laws that will protect women.

5.2: Conclusion

There is no doubt that domestic violence is an issue of great concern to all. Day-in and day-out, women are being violated in one form or the other. The findings from the study showed that at least seven out of every ten women in the Yilo Krobo district had suffered one form of violent or the other in their marriage.

From the research, about two-thirds (66 of the 100) women interviewed had experienced domestic violence in their marriage. This therefore means that domestic violence against married women is an area that needs intervention in the Yilo Krobo District.

The result showed that age is a contributing cause of domestic violence and it has a positive relationship with domestic violence. This means that holding all factors constant, women who were older (above 40 years) are 1.277 times more likely to experience domestic violence in their marriages than the younger ones (below 40 years). This might probably be because the older women were trained by their parents to be submissive to their spouses and that men are the heads

of the family, they become timid and endure violence perpetuated by their spouse by remaining quiet so the men take advantage of them.

Government and its institutions, international organizations, non-governmental organizations, stakeholders, opinion leaders, community leaders should educate women about their human rights as well as educate the men of the health implications it might bring to their spouses when they abused them and what the law says about offenders. During the study, 44% of the respondents noted that the government should punish offenders, 26% believed that public education would best help to reduce domestic violence to its barest minimum.

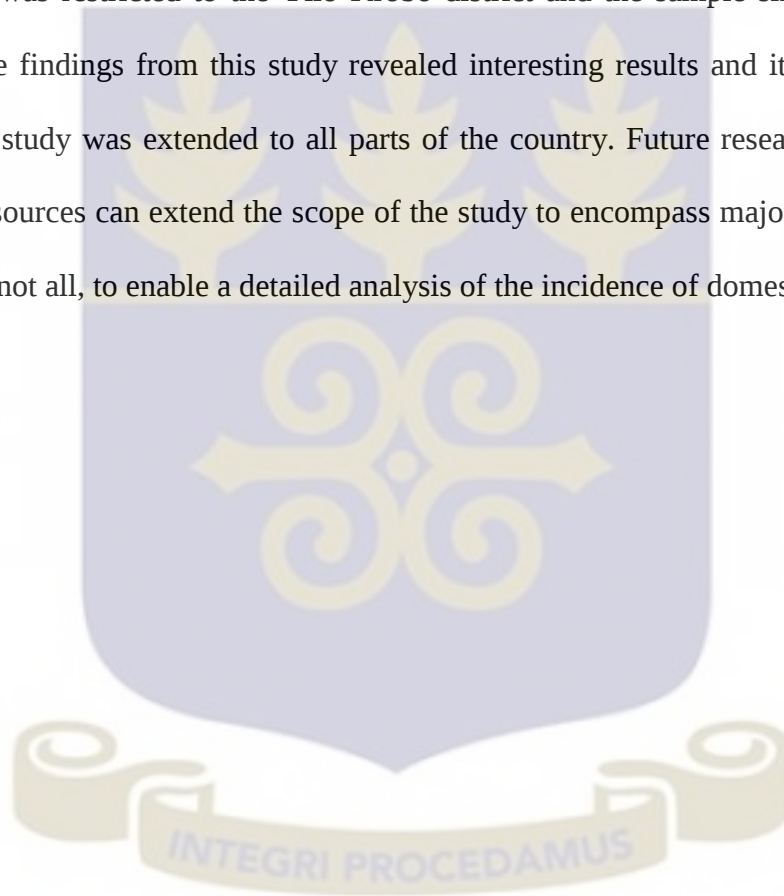
5.3: Recommendations

The study revealed that certain cultural practices enhance domestic violence. This therefore should be a wake-up notice to the National Council for Civic Education (NCCE), local council of chiefs and non-governmental organizations to intensify their campaign against those cultural practices that put women in danger. There is no doubt that some of these cultural practices are still on-going and the earlier the government intervenes with strict measures to abolish some of these cultures which are treats to women's wellbeing, the better for the nation.

Also from the findings, almost all the women were unaware of the Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU). This might be because there is no DOVVSU in the district. The Manya Krobo district (the nearest district) has it. The first suggestion for policy purposes is that the government and other stakeholders should make every effort to establish this unit in the Yilo Krobo District. From the study, the rate at which women were being abused is alarming therefore; the presence of the unit in the district will serve as a warning to men engaged in

abusing women. The unit can also increase public education. Their presence alone is not enough to achieve results but they should learn to mobilize women's groups and offer public education to them especially on their rights and how to channel their grievances to the appropriate authorities in cases of abuse. This will go a long way to help reduce the incidents of domestic violence against women.

Lastly the study was restricted to the Yilo Krobo district and the sample size was small (100 respondents). The findings from this study revealed interesting results and it would have been interesting if the study was extended to all parts of the country. Future researchers in this area with available resources can extend the scope of the study to encompass majority of the districts in the country, if not all, to enable a detailed analysis of the incidence of domestic violence.



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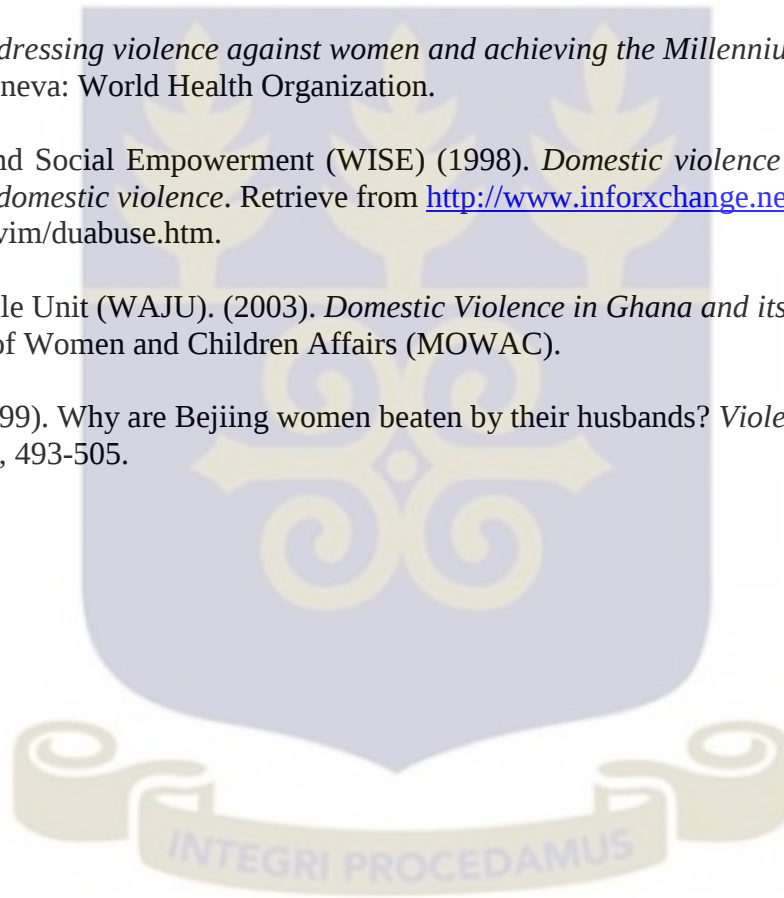
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APPENDIX 1

UNIVERSITY OF GHANA: LEGON

INSTITUTE OF STATISTICS, SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC RESEARCH

THE PREVALENCE AND CAUSES OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST MARRIED WOMEN: A CASE STUDY OF YILO KROBO DISTRICT

MA IN DEVELOPMENT STUDIES DESERTATION

QUESTIONNAIRE

DATE:...../...../.....

DD

MM

YR

Interviewer's Name

Please tick where appropriate

1. Which ethnic group do you belong to?

1. Ga-Adangbe [] 2. Akan [] 3. Ewe []

4. Others (specify)

2. Age in complete years

3. At what age were you married?

4. How many children do you have currently?.....

5. Formal educational background

1. None [] 2. Primary [] 3. Middle Sch/JHS[] 4. SHS/O/A level []

5. Vocational/Commercial [] 6. Teaching/Nursing [] 7. Poly/University []

6. Religious Background

1. Traditionalist [] 2. Non-faith [] 3. Muslim []
4. Christian [] 5. Others (specify).....

7. Occupation

What is your present employment status?

1. Farmer [] 2. Trader [] 3. Civil servant [] 4. Seamstress/hairdresser []
5. Unpaid worker/Housewife 6. Apprentice of Seamstress/Hairdresser []
7. Others (specify)

8. Age of spouse (in completed years)

9. Which ethnic group does your spouse belong to?

1. Ga-Adangbe [] 2. Akan [] 3. Ewe []
4. Others (specify)

10. Formal Educational background of spouse

1. None [] 2. Primary [] 3. Middle Sch/Jhs [] 4. SHS/O/A level []
5. Vocational/Commercial [] 6. Teaching/Nursing [] 7. Poly/University []

11. What is your husband's present employment status?

1. Farmer [] 2. Trader [] 3. Civil servant [] 4. Seamstress/hairdresser []
5. Unpaid worker/Housewife [] 6. Apprentice of Seamstress/Hairdresser []
7. Others (specify).....

12. Religious Background of spouse

1. Traditionalist [] 2. No-faith [] 3. Muslim []
4. Christian [] 5. Others (specify).....

PART 2 DOMESTIC-VIOLENCE

Now I will like to ask you questions about some other important aspect of women's lives. I know that some of these questions are personal. However, your answers are crucial for helping to understand the condition of women in this district. Let me assure you that your answers will be strictly treated as confidential.

13. What does domestic-violence mean to you?.....

14. What do you think are some of the causes of domestic-violence against women?

1. Poverty or financial distress ☐
2. Forced marriage ☐
3. Unfaithfulness ☐
4. Effect of Alcohol/drugs ☐
5. When sex is denied by spouse ☐
6. Others

15. Are you aware of any cause of domestic violence in your community?

1. Yes ☐
2. No ☐

16. Do you know any woman who is/has being abuse by her spouse?

1. Yes ☐
2. No ☐

17. What types of domestic violence have you observed in the Yilo Krobo District, including your village/Town?

1. Physical ☐
2. Sexual ☐
3. Psychological/Emotional ☐
4. Others (specify)

18. First I am going to ask you about some situations which happen to some women. Please tell me if it apples to your relationship with your spouse?

- 1.He is/was jealouse or angry if you talk /talked to other men ☐
- 2.He frequently accuses/accused you of being unfaithful ☐
- 3.He does/did not permit you to meet your female friends ☐
- 4.He does/did not permit you to meet your male friends ☐

- 5. tries/tried to limit your contact with your family []
- 6. He insists/insisted on knowing your whereabouts often []
- 7. He does/did not trust you with money []

19. Have you ever experienced any kind of violence in your marriage?

- 1. Yes [] 2. No []

If yes , complete question 20-31

20. Which type of domestic violence were you exposed to?

- 1. Physical [] 2. Sexual [] 3. Psychological/Emotional []
- 4. Others (specify)

21. Under what circumstances were you subjected to violent attack?

- 1. Whenever there is a misunderstanding/disagreement []
- 2. Whenever meals are delayed []
- 3. Whenever he is under the effect of alcohol []
- 4. Whenever he is denied sex []
- 5. when he is under stress []
- 6. Others(specify) []

22. What happens after any of the selected statement in (21)

- 1. Partner beats me []
- 2. Refuses to provide housekeeping money []
- 3. Does not speak to me []
- 4. Sends me to my parents/family []
- 5. Others(specify).....

23. Does your spouse ever do any of the following things to you?

Push you, beat you up or throw things at you?

- 1. Yes [1] 2. No [2]

24. If yes, how frequent?

- 1. Several times a week [] 2. Once in a week [] 3. Several times in a month []
- 4. Once in a month [] 5. More than once a month []

25. Does your spouse force you to perform any sexual acts you do not want to do?

Yes [1] No [2]

26. If yes, what kind of sexual act does he force you to do?

.....

27. If yes to question (25), how frequent?

1. Several times a week [] 2. Once in a week [] 3. Several times in a month []
4. Once in a month [] 5. More than once a month []

28. Do you report the violence meted out to you by your spouse to anyone/any agency?

1. Yes [] 2. No []

29. If yes, whom do you report to?

1. Police [] 2. Chief/elders [] 3. Family/Relatives []
4. Friends [] 5. Church leaders []
6. Others (specify).....

30. If no to question (28), what do you do after the violent act?

1. I keep myself indoors for some time []
2. I do what he wants me to do []
3. I compensate him []
4. I apologize to him []
5. I refuse sex from my spouse []
Others (specify).....

31. What do you suggest can / should be done to reduce the act of domestic violence in your marriage?

32. In the last month, how many times have you used alcohol and/or drugs?

1. Every day []
2. 2-3 times a week []
3. 1-2 times a week []
4. More than once in 2 weeks []
5. Never []
6. Do not know/do not remember []

33. In the last month, how many times have your spouse used alcohol and/or drugs?

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 1. Every day | [] |
| 2. 2-3 times a week | [] |
| 3. 1-2 times a week | [] |
| 4. More than once in 2 weeks | [] |
| 5. Never | [] |
| 6. Do not know/do not remember | [] |

34. How would you describe the relationship between you and your spouse ?

- | | |
|----------------|-----|
| 1. Very good | [] |
| 2. Good | [] |
| 3. Not so good | [] |
| 4. Bad | [] |
| 5. Not so bad | [] |
| 6. Very Bad | [] |

35. Do you feel secured living together with your spouse (i.e relating closely to him?)

1. Yes [] 2. No [] 3. Can't tell []

36. What do you suggest can be done to reduce the incidence of domestic violence between you and your spouse?

.....

37. What do you suggest can be done by the government to reduce the incidence of domestic violence in Yilo Krobo District?

.....

38. Which of the following can help reduce domestic violence among spouses in your community?

- | | |
|---|-----|
| 1. Settle violence issues with family members | [] |
| 2. Settle violence issues at the court | [] |
| 3. The partners should be separate | [] |
| 4. The marriage should be dissolved | [] |
| 5. Compensation from spouse | [] |
| 6. Others (specify)..... | |

38. Would you prescribe any punishment for those who indulge in domestic violence against women?

1. Yes [] 2. No []

39. If yes, what type(s) of punishment would you prescribe for those who indulge in domestic violence against women?

1. They should be imprisoned []
2. They should be made to compensate the victim []
3. The marriage should be dissolved []
4. Others (specify).....

40. If no, why not?

.....
.....

41. Are you aware of domestic violence victim support unit (DOVVSU)?

1. Yes [] 2. No []

42. If yes, what is its role in dealing with domestic violence?

.....
.....

43. What do you think gives women greater say in household decisions?

1. When they have higher education []
2. When they work to earn money []
3. When they support their spouses financially []
4. Others.....

44. Is there any traditional custom(s) that enhances domestic violence against women in the Yilo Krobo District?

1. Yes [] 2. No []

45. If yes, which custom(s) contribute to domestic violence against women?

.....

46. How does it contribute to domestic violence against women?

.....
.....
.....