

**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**  
**COLLEGE OF EDUCATION**  
**SCHOOL OF CONTINUING AND DISTANCE EDUCATION**

**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN IN ACCRA,  
GHANA**

**GIFTY BOATENG**

**(10551226)**

**THIS THESIS IS SUBMITTED TO THE UNIVERSITY OF GHANA,  
LEGON, IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF THE REQUIREMENT FOR  
THE AWARD OF DOCTOR OF PHILOSOPHY IN ADULT  
EDUCATION AND HUMAN RESOURCE STUDIES**

**NOVEMBER 2023**

**ACCEPTANCE**

Accepted by the College of Education, University of Ghana, Legon, in partial fulfilment of the requirement for the award of Doctor of Philosophy in Adult Education and Human Resource degree.



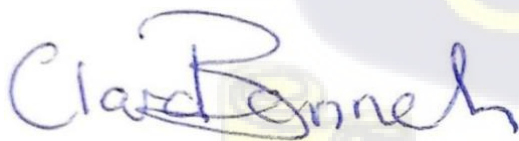
20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

PROFESSOR MICHAEL A. TAGOE  
(PRINCIPAL SUPERVISOR)



20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

DR ELLEN MABEL OSEI-TUTU  
(SUPERVISOR)



20<sup>th</sup> November 2023

DR CLARA BENNEH  
(SUPERVISOR)

**DECLARATION**

I, GIFTY BOATENG, hereby declare that this research “Intimate partner violence against men in Accra, Ghana” is the result of my research and it has neither been presented in part nor in whole for another degree elsewhere, except for references to other people’s work which have been duly acknowledged.



**GIFTY BOATENG**  
**(Candidate)**

**Date: 21<sup>st</sup> November 2023**



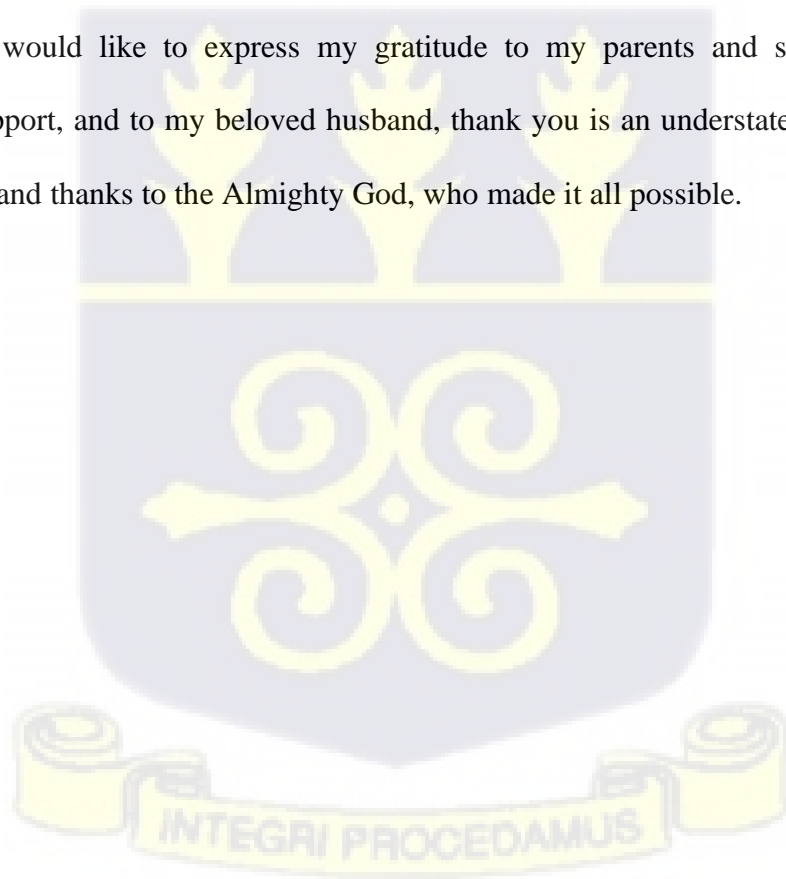
**DEDICATION**

This thesis is hereby dedicated to my beloved husband, Rev. Samuel Boateng and our three blessings, Naana-Nyamekye, Nyameye and Nyamedome-Audrey. To my dear parents Rosina Boateng and Elliot Adjei Nframah, the Lord bless you.



**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

I want to begin with thanking all the participants in this study who took the time to share their stories with me. I would also like to acknowledge the various Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) personnel and investigators, as well as community leaders, who welcomed me and provided me with all the assistance I required. I am also grateful to my supervisors, Dr. Ellen Mabel Osei-Tutu, and Dr. Clara Benneh, whose immense support and encouragement has helped me in diverse ways throughout this research. To my lead supervisor Prof. Michael Ayitey Tagoe, your intense commitment and critique from day one has been incredible, thank you so much. My appreciation also goes to the Doctoral Thesis Completion grant funded by The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation offered during the concluding part of my study. Thank you, to the entire Adult Education and Human Resource Studies faculty for all the support. I would like to express my gratitude to my parents and siblings for their unwavering support, and to my beloved husband, thank you is an understatement; God bless you. All praise and thanks to the Almighty God, who made it all possible.



**ABSTRACT**

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant social and public health problem. Globally, IPV has primarily been conceptualised as an issue of male-perpetrated violence against female intimate partners. However, evidence shows that women also perpetrate this form of violence against their male partners. The phenomenon of IPV is widely recognised in both developed and developing countries globally with a socially accepted narrative of being male perpetrated. However, IPV perpetrated against men is largely overlooked and this is observed in the number of studies conducted on the topic. The Ghanaian context depicts a patriarchal system where boys are socialised to have power and control by being providers and women to be in subordinate positions, minimum attention is paid to the experiences of men as victims of IPV. In Ghana, there is a dearth of studies on IPV against women but limited studies with a focus on the lived experiences of male victims of IPV in the Greater Accra region of Ghana.

The objectives of this study was to explore the types of intimate partner violence against men, identify causes of intimate partner violence against men, to explore the consequences of IPV against men and to examine the help-seeking and non-help-seeking experiences of men as victims of IPV.

The study used the qualitative approach, using a phenomenological research design. Criterion purposive sampling was adopted in recruiting the male victims and key stakeholders in Greater Accra. An in-depth interview was conducted with twenty (20) IPV male victims and three (3) stakeholders. The interviews were audio recorded and transcribed verbatim. Data was analysed thematically using Atlas.ti version 7.0 software.

The study found that the types of IPV experienced by men are psychological, economic, physical, and sexual IPV. It further revealed that the causes of IPV against men emanate from a complex set of concepts which are themed as economic causes, social causes, extramarital affairs, household orderliness and non-performance of marriage rites. The love for money,

poverty and unemployment constituted the economic causes while the social causes were influence from extended family and friends, addiction to social media and misunderstanding. The experiences of male victims with consequences are personal consequences, interpersonal consequences, consequences on children in the relationship and retaliation. The personal level was the most dominant, with divorce and separation, substance abuse, fear of women, and consequences on their emotional and mental state which also constituted of depression, suicidal ideation, trauma, crying, and being hurt and disturbed. The victims' experiences of avenues for help-seeking were family members, friends, religious leaders, counselling and the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service. The male victim's experiences with these avenues are a salvage of marriage as a positive result and bias against men, not getting results, postponement of cases and not feeling satisfied as negative results of help-seeking.

These findings add to the body of knowledge on IPV against men in Ghana and enhance the development of avenues of support for male victims. It is therefore recommended that personnel mandated to support victims of IPV be equipped with the requisite knowledge skills and attitudes in handling male victims of IPV taking into consideration the cultural context of patriarchy. Adult Education practitioners need to acquire the requisite training to educate the adult population on the vulnerabilities of both males and females. This can be achieved by inculcating topics such as vulnerability of adults, conflict resolution methods indicators of abuse and triggers of IPV for both males and females in the Adult Education curriculum design implementation and evaluation. It is also recommended that institutions on the societal level, community, interpersonal and individual levels be trained on identifying and appropriately supporting male victims of IPV.

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

ACCEPTANCE	i
DECLARATION	ii
DEDICATION	iii
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	iv
TABLE OF CONTENTS	vii
LIST OF FIGURES	x
LIST OF TABLES	xi
LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS	xii
CHAPTER ONE	13
INTRODUCTION	13
1.1 Background to the study .....	13
1.2 Statement of the Problem.....	19
1.3 Purpose of the Study .....	20
1.4 Objectives of the Study .....	21
1.5 Research Questions .....	21
1.6 Significance of the Study .....	21
1.7 Organization of the Study .....	22
CHAPTER TWO	25
REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE	25
2.1 Introduction.....	25
2.2 Review of Related Concepts.....	26
2.2.1 Violence-IPV .....	26
2.2.2 Domestic Violence and IPV.....	27
2.2.3 Intimate Partner Violence .....	29
2.2.4 Intimate Relationships in Ghana.....	30
2.2.5 Typologies of IPV .....	31
2.3 Historical Overview of IPV .....	33
2.3.1 The Gender Debate and IPV .....	35
2.3.2 Masculinity and IPV in Ghana.....	40
2.3.3 Underlying Causes of IPV Against Men .....	41
2.4 The Help-seeking experiences of male victims .....	44
2.4.1 Avenues for Help-seeking.....	44

2.4.2 The role of Extended family and friends in IPV .....	45
2.4.3 Law Enforcement Agencies and IPV .....	47
2.5 The Consequences of IPV .....	47
2.5.1 The Consequences of IPV Against Men .....	47
2.5.2 The consequences of IPV on children within relationships .....	50
2.6 Mental Health and General Health Facilities .....	52
2.7 Theoretical Framework .....	54
2.7.1 The Socioecological Model (SEM) .....	54
2.7.2 The Gender Role Strain Paradigm .....	58
<b>CHAPTER THREE</b> .....	<b>63</b>
<b>METHODOLOGY</b> .....	<b>63</b>
3.1 Introduction .....	63
3.2 Philosophical Underpinnings & Positionality of Researcher .....	63
3.3 Research Design .....	65
3.4 Study area .....	66
3.5 Sources of data .....	67
3.6 Study and target population .....	67
3.7 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria .....	68
3.8 Sample Size .....	68
3.9 Sampling .....	69
3.10 Instrumentation .....	71
3.11 Data collection .....	72
3.12 Ethical considerations .....	74
3.13 Establishing Rigour of Qualitative Data .....	74
3.14 Data Analysis .....	76
3.15 Summary .....	78
<b>CHAPTER FOUR</b> .....	<b>79</b>
<b>PRESENTATION OF RESULTS</b> .....	<b>79</b>
4.1 Introduction .....	79
4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents .....	79
4.3 Types of IPV against Men .....	82
4.3.1 Economic Exploitation of IPV .....	83
4.3.2 Physical Abuse IPV .....	84
4.3.3 Psychological Abuse of IPV .....	87
4.3.4 Sexual Deprivation .....	91
4.3.5 Occurrence of IPV abuse .....	94
4.4. Causes of IPV perpetrated by women against men. ....	95
4.4.1. Economic factors .....	96

4.4.2 Extramarital Affair/Infidelity .....	99
4.4.3 Household orderliness .....	102
4.4.4 Performance of marriage rites .....	105
4.4.5 Personal traits .....	106
4.4.6 Social factors .....	107
4.5 Consequences of IPV against Men .....	110
4.5.1 Personal .....	112
4.5.2 Children .....	117
4.5.3 Interpersonal .....	119
4.5.4 Retaliation .....	120
4.6 Help-seeking experiences of men as victims of IPV .....	122
4.6.1 Avenues for help-seeking. ....	124
4.6.2 Experience with the avenues .....	129
<b>CHAPTER FIVE</b> .....	<b>134</b>
<b>DISCUSSION OF RESULTS</b> .....	<b>134</b>
5.1 Introduction .....	134
5.2 Causes of IPV .....	134
5.3 Types of IPV against men .....	140
5.4 The consequences of IPV on male victims .....	145
5.5 Help-seeking experiences of male victims .....	153
5.6 Conclusion .....	158
<b>CHAPTER SIX</b> .....	<b>159</b>
<b>SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS</b> .....	<b>159</b>
6.1 Introduction .....	159
6.2 Overview of Study .....	159
6.3 Key Findings .....	161
6.4 Conclusion .....	162
6.5 Contribution to Knowledge /Scholarship .....	162
6.6 Recommendations of the study .....	163
6.7 Implications for Adult Education and Human Resource Studies .....	165
6.8 Implications for policy development .....	166
6.9 Suggestions for further research .....	167
References .....	168
<b>APPENDIX A: Questionnaire</b> .....	<b>193</b>
<b>APPENDIX B : Background characteristics of participants</b> .....	<b>199</b>

**LIST OF FIGURES**

Figure 2. 1 Socio Ecological Model	54
Figure 4.1: Thematic network of types of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) against men	76
Figure 4.2: Thematic network showing the causes of IPV against men	90
Figure 4.3: Thematic network showing the consequences of IPV against men	107
Figure 4.4: Thematic Network Showing Help-Seeking Experiences of Men as Victims of IPV	118



**LIST OF TABLES**

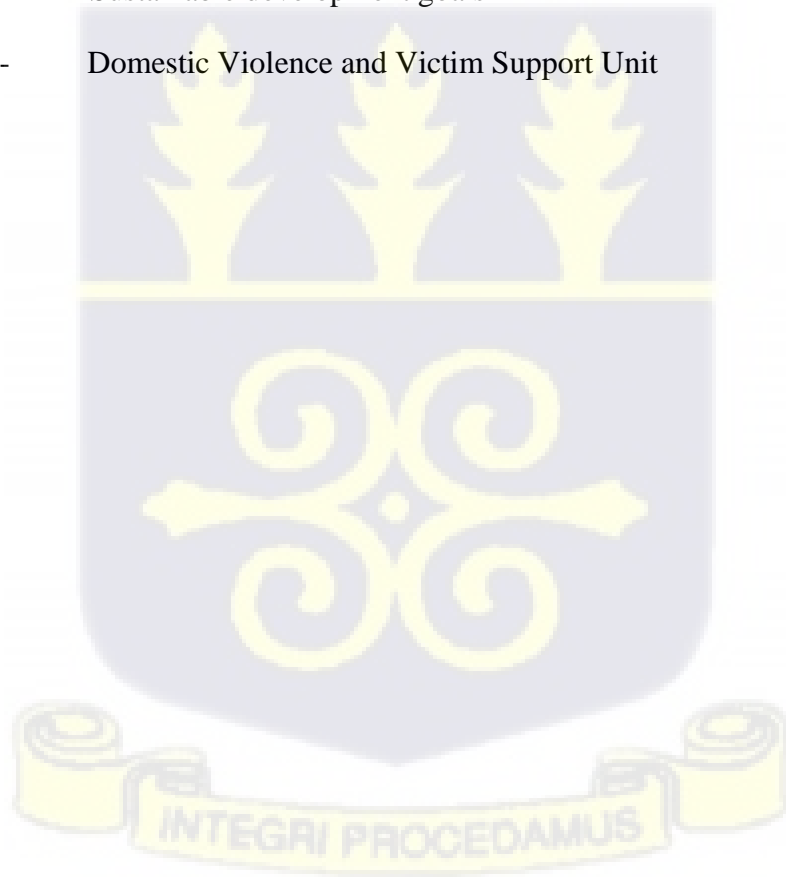
**Table 4. 1: Background characteristics of participants**

74



**LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

IPV	-	Intimate Partner Violence
WHO	-	World Health Organisation
CDC	-	Centre for Disease Control
SEM	-	Socio-ecological model
CEDAW	-	Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women
(ICPD)	-	Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development
MDG	-	Millennium development goals
SDG	-	Sustainable development goals
DOVVSU	-	Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit



## CHAPTER ONE

### INTRODUCTION

#### 1.1 Background to the study

Intimate partner violence, a form of interpersonal violence, was declared a leading global public health problem in 1996 based on the global status reports on health with 30% of women having experienced IPV by the World Health Organisation (WHO, 2013). Violence which results from a multifaceted interaction of a complex set of factors has been tolerated as part of human existence between and among members within various forms of relationships including family and marital relationships (Blume, 1996; Jackman, 2002). Intimate partner violence is a public health problem and a violation of human rights which has lifelong consequences on its victims' physical and mental health and on the nation. It has been of global interest since the 1960s with a focus on violence against women (Sardinha et al., 2022). Intimate partner violence (IPV) occurs in all settings and among all socioeconomic, religious, and cultural groups and cuts across a lifespan.

International treaties and conventions have drawn attention to the far-reaching consequences on women who suffer intimate partner violence (United Nations Women, 2021; World Health Organization, 2010, 2016a). In 1979, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) as the first human rights treaty guaranteeing the human rights of women and protecting them against all forms of discrimination (United Nations Women, 1979). This convention was followed by the Declaration of Elimination of Violence against Women (VAW) in 1993, the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) in Cairo in 1994, and the Beijing Platform of Action (1995) that called on governments to remove barriers facing women and girls towards their development and more especially, to

eliminate violence against women and girls. According to the World Health Organisation (2002), the Forty-Ninth World Health Assembly adopted Resolution WHA49.25, declaring violence a major and growing public health problem across the world.

In 2000, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Millennium Development Goals with Goal 3 focusing on gender equality and empowerment. Though there was no specific target of MDG Goal 3 on violence, the World Health Organisation (2005) and Grown et al. (2009) noted that continued violence against women was inconsistent with MDG 3. In 2015, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that replaced the MDGs, highlighted gender equality and women's empowerment as its Goal 5. Goal 5 focuses on the elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls. Apart from Goal 5, SDG 16 which focuses on peace, justice and strong institutions has one of the targets as reducing all forms of violence globally.

Beyond the international attention on intimate partner violence against women, global and national data on intimate partner violence revealed that between 20% and 50% of all women worldwide had experienced physical violence at the hands of intimate partners or family members between 1990s and 2000 (Kimmel, 2002). According to Krug et al. (2002), based on 48 population-based surveys across low-, middle-, and high-income countries, between 10% and 69% of women had experienced lifetime physical violence by a partner. Even though women experience more intimate partner violence than men, some national surveys also point to women as perpetrators of intimate partner violence against men (Carmo et al., 2011; Scott-Storey et al., 2022; Waller et al., 2022).

In the 1970s, as seminal work by Steinmetz (1978), Straus et al. (1980) and Straus and Gelles (1986) indicated that not all intimate partner violence was perpetrated by men. These studies found that some women were violent toward their husbands, though such observations were rejected or ignored by most researchers in the 1970s and 1980s (Steinmetz, 1978; Frieze, 2005). According to Swan and Snow (2006), the assertion that women were as violent as men was highlighted in several reports that appeared in the American press in the 1990s (e.g., Young, 1999; Zuger, 1998). In the study by Tjaden and Thoennes (2000), they found that 25% of surveyed women and 7.6% of surveyed men indicated they had been raped and physically assaulted by a current or former spouse. They further noted 1.5 million women and 834,732 men were raped or physically assaulted by an intimate partner annually in the United States. They also noted that women were more likely to report intimate violence than men. Other studies in the United States indicated that both men and women had experienced physical violence, rape and psychological violence perpetrated by a current or former intimate partner (Coker, et al., 2002; Hoff, 2006; Breiding, 2014; Breiding et. al., 2015)

In the United Kingdom, statistics from the Office of National Statistics (2018) on crime revealed that an estimated 7.9% of women (1.3 million) and 4.2% of men (695,000) experienced intimate partner violence in the last year. In a study conducted by the Centre for Social Justice in 2022, Broberg (2022) found that though intimate partner violence was portrayed as a gendered crime, perpetrated by men against women, the Office of National Statistics noted that 1.6 million women and 757,000 men reported abuse in 2020. The study noted that men were less likely to report their abuse due to the hostility, social stigma, and suspicion they encountered when reporting to the police and safeguarding services (Broberg, 2022).

In Germany, Kolbe and Büttner (2020) using data from the German Federal Criminal Police Office reported that, 114,393 women and 26,362 men experienced intimate partner violence in 2020. In a study conducted in New Zealand by Fanslow et al. (2022) between 2017 and 2019, they found that about 29% of both males and females had experienced physical forms of IPV.

In Africa, though there have been many studies on intimate partner violence perpetrated by men against women, the trend is changing. Some studies show gender asymmetry in the perpetration of intimate partner violence. In Africa, studies have shown that both men and women perpetrate intimate partner violence, though the scale and the consequences of violence may affect women more than men. In a qualitative study in South Africa, Barkhuizen (2015) revealed how abused men by their intimate partners could not report abuses to the police because of the perceived social stigma associated with abuse by a female partner.

Using data from the Demographic and Health Surveys of twelve countries in sub-Saharan Africa to examine the prevalence and correlates of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) against men in Africa, Tsiko (2016) found that whilst women were violent in their relationships, female perpetrated abuse was significantly associated with education, alcohol consumption, intergenerational cycle of violence, polygamy, wealth, and type of union. There are, however, studies that report of male victims of IPV in Africa indicating a shift in the general findings of women being the sole victims. In Kenya, Ringwald et al. (2023) in a community survey found that women and men experienced similar levels of intimate partner violence. However, a higher proportion of men reported physical and sexual IPV perpetration. In a study conducted by Oyediran et al. (2023) in Sierra Leone and Cameroon, men experienced psychological (26.5% in Cameroon and 23.4% in Sierra Leone), physical violence (24.4% in Cameroon and 14.9%

in Sierra Leone) and sexual abuse (2.3% in Cameroon and 2.7% in Sierra Leone) at the hands of their female partners in the last twelve months.

In Ghana, a report of the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service in 2011 identified 15,495 cases of domestic violence against women and 2,474 cases of domestic violence against men (Institute of Development Studies, 2016). In a report in 2016 on *Domestic Violence in Ghana: Incidence, Attitudes, Determinants and Consequences*, the report noted that 27.7% of women and 20% of men experienced at least one form of IPV in the 12 months before the survey and this is consistent in depicting a shift from the general trend refers of IPV against women. The shift indicates men being reported as victims of IPV which has not been a regular pattern. The common forms of IPV experienced by men in Ghana were psychological, social, economic, physical, and sexual violence in that order. In 2018, domestic violence against men had shot up to about 20% (2599) from 17% (1830) in 2017 according to the National Director for DOVVSU (Peacefmonline, 2019). In 2019, this figure has risen to 3360 cases of domestic violence against men.

Despite these findings, several studies have been conducted in Ghana that have exclusively focused on females as the victims of IPV (Alangea et al., 2018; Amoakohene, 2005; Chirwa et al., 2018; Cofie, 2020; Dery, 2021; Dery et al., 2022; Sedziafa et al., 2016; Issahaku, 2017; Spangenberg et al., 2016; Sikweyiya et al., 2020; Takyi & Lamptey, 2020; Takyi & Mann, 2006; Tenkorang et al., 2018; Tenkorang, 2018; Tenkorang, 2019; Tenkorang & Owusu, 2018). Few studies have been conducted on IPV perpetrated by female partners. Recently, a few studies have begun to emerge on males as victims of IPV in Ghana.

A cross-sectional study (Benewaa, 2021) interviewed 235 respondents on their views of domestic violence against men. A breakdown of the respondents by age showed that 18.1%

were between 18 and 24 years, 37.5% were between 25 and 34 years. In terms of gender, 51% of respondents were males whilst 48.6% were females. The major weakness of the study was that the study focused on respondents' perceptions of IPV against men or witnessed IPV against men in the community. The types of violence meted out to male victims based on having heard or witnessed included, physical violence (slaps, bites, pushes, throwing of items), verbal and psychological violence (insults, yells, and uses of harsh gestures, and refusal to serve meals), sexual violence (kissing them forcefully, playing with their manhood against their will, and denying men sex). Although the study provides some idea of the extent of IPV against men, men who had experienced IPV with their female partners were not selected for the study.

A qualitative study by Mantey, (2019) investigated the attitude of male victims towards reporting domestic violence, and the effect of domestic violence on them in Accra Central and Madina. The author selected ten (10) case studies of men who had suffered one form of domestic violence or another. The study found that the male victims suffered physical, emotional, and psychological effects within the domestic set-up. The effects of this violence resulted in serious health consequences such as depression, cardiac and mental illnesses. The study also found that male victims of IPV were unwilling to report their abuses to either law enforcement agencies or other agencies for counselling. The lack of willingness to attribute factors such as stigma, disgrace, and inaction on the part of law enforcement agencies.

In another study on domestic violence against men, Bernewaa (2021) investigated domestic violence against men and the role of the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU). The study used qualitative methodologies including focused group discussions and direct interviews to collect data on perceptions of domestic violence against men in Nima and East Legon. The author noted that IPV perpetrated by female partners was not physical, rather, it took the form of denial of sex, denying husband food and other forms of

“disrespecting” husbands. It was apparent that failed expectations in marriage by wives also led to domestic violence against men. Recently, Tenkorang (2021) has also conducted a study on women as perpetrators of IPV in Ghana. This study, which was a quantitative study, used nationally representative data from 2,289 ever-married Ghanaian women aged 18 years and older. The results of the study showed that most of the women had committed emotional violence against their husbands or partners. Fewer had committed physical or sexual violence against their partners.

Globally, there is a paucity of research on the victimization of men by their female partners. Studies have shown that most men who are victimised do not report their victimization. In most patriarchal societies in Africa, with Ghana not being an exception, men are perceived to be brave, it is always shameful for a man to report that he has been abused by his partner. In Ghana, there are proverbial undertones that place enormous pressure on men to withstand pain as a sign of masculinity, and these include “*Barima nsu*”(a man does not cry), “*Barima nanom aduro a eyenwunu*”(it is the man that drinks the bitter medicine). In addition, in most countries in Africa where the perception is that IPV is unidirectional (from men towards women) and in instances where women suffer more harm than the violence on men, institutions that protect individuals against violence such as the police and other agencies are not well equipped to deal with the challenges of violence against men.

## **1.2 Statement of the Problem**

It is important to note that though some studies in Ghana have contributed to bridging the gap in research on IPV perpetrated by female partners, it is only the study by Mantey, (2019) that included men who had experienced IPV perpetrated by their female partners. Because the studies did not focus on men as victims, little information was gleaned on their help-seeking needs. This study therefore attempts to fill three important scholarly gaps. First,

it explores the types and causes of female-perpetrated violence in Ghana. Second, most of the studies apart from Mantey (2019) have used quantitative approaches. This study adopts a qualitative approach to understand the different types of violence perpetrated by female partners based on situational couple violence (kind of violence that occurs when arguments get out of control), intimate terrorism (violence used in the relationship that comprises a range of behaviour that men use to dominate and control their female partners), violent resistance (kind of violence that erupts as a basis of self-defence often by women) and mutual violent control (violent and controlling individual may be paired up with another violent and controlling partner) (Johnson, 2006). The third gap to be filled by this study is also the focus on the consequences of IPV on male victims and how men seek help when they are abused. Various studies (Allen-Collinson, 2009; Lysova & Dim, 2020) have shown that the little attention given to help seeking within studies on IPV has contributed to the low reporting of violence perpetrated by female partners (Goodson & Hayes, 2018). Thus, the statement of the problem is to explore the causes, types, and consequences of IPV by female partners.

### **1.3 Purpose of the Study**

The purpose of the study was to explore the causes, types, and consequences of IPV perpetrated by women on their male partners. The help-seeking experiences made up of the avenues and experiences with these avenues were explored as well. The design was a phenomenological case study research approach. The phenomenological case study was used to understand phenomena from the perspective of those who have experienced or to explore the unique brief description of the study. The study selected respondents using the purposive sampling approach. The choice of the approach was due to the sensitive and multifaceted nature of intimate partner violence, particularly with male victims. In-depth interviews were held with respondents and key informants from the DOVVSU. Analysis was done using the Atlas ti.7

software to identify the causes, types, consequences and help-seeking experiences of IPV in male victims.

#### 1.4 Objectives of the Study

This study was guided by the following set of objectives to enable the researcher to understand the lived experiences of male victims of IPV:

- To explore the types of intimate partner violence against men.
- To identify causes of intimate partner violence against men.
- To explore the consequences of IPV against men.
- To examine the help-seeking and non-help-seeking experiences of men as victims of IPV.

#### 1.5 Research Questions

To achieve the above research objectives, the following research questions were posed.

- What are the types of IPV perpetrated by women against male partners?
- What are the causes of violence perpetrated by women against male partners?
- What are the consequences of IPV on male victims?
- What are the help-seeking and non-help-seeking experiences of the male victims of IPV?

#### 1.6 Significance of the Study

IPV has over the years been skewed in favour of female victims. However, there is a growing trend in male victims of IPV. The socio-cultural milieu of Ghanaian society makes the health implications of such male victims more dire. There is therefore the need to focus on the plight of male victims which has been largely ignored.

The study therefore contributes to policy and policy formulation by highlighting the underlying factors that make men predisposed to IPV. The study contributed to information on IPV law-making for practice and policy formulation, with equal emphasis on men as IPV victims as it is on women.

Towards practice, the study provides service providers which includes the Police, and DOVVSU with feedback on their efforts with male victims and enhances major transformative inputs on their work. The study will benefit key stakeholders among which are general healthcare personnel, mental health practitioners, law enforcement agencies, human rights advocates as well as the judiciary towards a concerted action in bridging the gap that exists on male victims of IPV. This will help policymakers understand the reality and seriousness of female-perpetrated IPV against men by focusing on the plight of male victims through literature and data on the lived experiences of male victims as a basis for further research.

There is little knowledge of the experiences of male victims of IPV in relation to Adult Education and Human Resource Studies hence this study will contribute by extending the knowledge base within the field.

### **1.7 Organization of the Study**

The study is organised into six main chapters. The first chapter begins with the background of the study detailing the context and rationale of the study. It also includes the statement of the problem, objectives, research questions and the significance of the study. Chapter two follows by looking at the concepts that relate directly to the topic and a thorough literature search on previous work that has been done within the concepts being researched. This chapter includes the theoretical assumptions underlying the study. It begins with a review of the literature on definitions of violence and subsequently various definitions of IPV. It further explores the underlying causes of female perpetration leading to the lived experiences

of male victims within a gender-stereotyped society. The help-seeking as well as the non-help-seeking attitudes of male victims coupled with the consequences or effects of the various forms of violence meted out to male victims are also presented. Chapter three presents the methodology of the research introducing briefly the ontological, epistemological, and methodological underpinnings of the study. Chapter four presents the results of the study emerging from fieldwork and subsequently analysed using thematic analysis and the Atlas ti software. Chapter Five then discusses the results in relation to literature and theoretical underpinnings while Chapter Six pulls together a summary of the conclusions and provides recommendations and areas for future research.

### **1.8 Operationalization of concepts**

*Male Adult*- In this study, the term applies to heterosexual men within the age range of 18 – 60 years.

*Intimate partner violence* - Physical, sexual, or psychological abuse perpetrated by a person's former or current partner or spouse.

*Gender-Based Violence* - Violence directed against a person because of that person's gender, or violence that disproportionately affects people of one gender.

*DVA-Domestic Violence Act, 732 (2007)* - It is the Domestic Violence Act of the Republic of Ghana to protect its people from domestic violence particularly for women and children and for connected purposes.

*Depression* - Depression is a mood disorder that causes a persistent feeling of sadness and loss of interest.

*Intimacy* - It is the romantic affection that exists between persons in a heterosexual relationship. Intimate partners in this study refer to heterosexual previous or current relationships where partners are sexually or romantically active with each other.

*Anxiety* - The fear of being judged and evaluated negatively by others, which leads to feelings of inadequacy, inferiority, self-consciousness, embarrassment, humiliation, and depression.

*Marriage* - A legally or socially sanctioned union, usually between a man and a woman, governed by laws, rules, customs, beliefs, and attitudes that prescribe the partners' rights and duties and grant status to their offspring (if any).



## CHAPTER TWO

### REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

#### 2.1 Introduction

This chapter looks at a review of related literature on empirical concepts on IPV in relation to both male and female victims highlighting the lived experiences of male victims of what has been done to identify gaps that exist regarding IPV. A review of these sources helped to evaluate and synthesise ideas and thought patterns, methodological options, and findings of the literature on IPV. The literature review also assisted in placing the research within a historical context, identifying relevant concepts while exploring research techniques that have been used previously, which led to the identification of gaps, Hart (1998). It also allowed the lived experiences of both help-seeking and non-help-seeking survivors of male victims of IPV which have been overlooked to be explored. There are two sections to this chapter, section A and section B. The first section consists of review of related literature and the second section presents the theoretical frameworks that undergird the study (and subsequently lead to the choice of methods for this study). The literature search was conducted systematically on various databases including Google Scholar, Educational Research, and Information Centre (ERIC), Academia.edu, Science Direct, and ResearchGate amongst others, using search terms including gender-based violence, spousal violence, domestic violence, intimate partner violence and male victims. Literature on IPV has wide coverage on women with scarce or scanty information on male victims.

Themes that evolved out of the literature search have been grouped into various sub-themes focusing on the concepts and definitions of violence and IPV, forms of IPV presentation in men, consequences (physical, emotional, and mental) of intimate partner violence against men, non-help seeking and help-seeking experiences and resources available to male victims in Ghana and beyond.

## 2.2 Review of Related Concepts

### 2.2.1 Violence-IPV

Various opinions have been expressed on the concept of violence and IPV. Violence is “the intentional use of physical force or power threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or community, that either result in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, maldevelopment or deprivation” (World Health Organization, 2002, p.5). Definitions of violence differ between cultures due to what is perceived as acceptable behaviour in a particular context and notably places the definition under constant review as values and norms evolve (Hamby, 2017). It must be noted that the definition of violence is geographically specific in that certain countries have definitions of IPV that are specific to the context in which they find themselves.

Violence affects a wide spectrum of persons from the personal level to the global level where it affects millions of people through wars or genocides (Mercy et al., 2017). In perpetrating any form of violence there is the probability that the intention to commit violence is sometimes not perceived (Hou et al., 2020). There are, however, disparities between intentionality and outcomes in situations where a non-intentional action results in violence and subsequently results in unintended consequences of causing injury or other major defects, disabilities and eventually death. The scope and nature of violence are exhibited in various forms and degrees such as physical, sexual, psychological, or emotional and these are exhibited globally, and this is evidenced in Ghana as well. The term violence in this study is used interchangeably with aggression and abuse though other authors opt for the use of the word maltreatment as it encompasses all the aforementioned (Machado et al., 2016).

There are differing schools of thought on the diverse types of violence, which comprises, sexual violence, physical violence, emotional or psychological, economic, or

financial violence and the element of cyber violence. The typologies of violence are self-directed violence, interpersonal violence, and collective violence. Self-directed violence comprises suicidal behaviour and self-abuse and comprises thoughts and acts of suicide while self-abuse results in self-mutilation.

Collective violence plays out in social, political, and economic violence and this points out forms of violence perpetrated by larger groups of people or even by whole countries. Social violence includes terrorist attacks, mob violence and crimes of hate and it occurs intending to advance a selected social agenda for matters to be attended to by the authorities. Political violence occurs on a much larger scale and is triggered and conducted by larger groups of people or governments to achieve political goals including conquering territories or defending their territories from threats from without. Political violence includes terrorism, insurgency, and civil war amongst others.

Interpersonal violence evolves in two folds: family violence and intimate partner violence on one side and community violence on the other. Interpersonal violence can also be classified as domestic violence in that it involves a wide continuum of violence that affects children right through to the elderly and it encompasses intimate partner violence.

### **2.2.2 Domestic Violence and IPV**

Domestic violence according to the Domestic Violence Act 732, refers to any act which threatens or harms another person physically, sexually, economically, and emotionally or psychologically. Persons are cons in a domestic relationship when they are married, cohabiting, engaged or are sexually intimate, parents or elderly, co-tenants or house help or any other relationship that will be determined as domestic by the law court (DV. Act 732, 2007). Domestic violence in Ghana is a criminal offence punishable by law which is not justified by

consent and noteworthy that a single act constitutes this form of violence (DV Act 723, 2007)

Domestic violence and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) are related terms that are often used interchangeably, but do not refer to the same phenomenon. Domestic violence is a broader term that refers to any form of violence or abuse that occurs within the family or household, including violence between parents and children, siblings, and other relatives. IPV, on the other hand, specifically refers to violence or abuse that occurs between intimate partners, including spouses, boyfriends/girlfriends, and dating partners. The term domestic violence has been used interchangeably with gender-based violence over the years. However, domestic violence is largely gender-neutral hence affects all age groups, from the elderly to children, and is not specifically related to males or females. IPV is operationally gender-specific where it relates to either the male or female and in other cases homosexual. Hence, domestic violence forms an umbrella under which intimate partner violence falls.

While IPV is a form of domestic violence, not all domestic violence is IPV. IPV is a more specific term that is used to describe violence or abuse that occurs within the context of an intimate relationship whether previous or current. Domestic violence, on the other hand, can refer to any form of violence or abuse that occurs within the family or household, regardless of the relationship between the individuals involved. It is important to understand the distinction between these two terms because they can have different legal and social implications. For example, in some cases, domestic violence may be treated as a criminal offence, while in other cases, it may be treated as a civil matter. Similarly, the types of resources and support available to victims of domestic violence and IPV may differ, depending on the specific circumstances of the abuse. Domestic violence and IPV are similar in that they are both forms of abuse that occur within a relationship. However, there are many differences between them as well. Domestic violence and IPV are similar in that they are both forms of abuse that occur within a relationship. However, there are many differences between them as well. Domestic violence is

a crime that can be prosecuted in criminal court. The law defines domestic violence as a pattern of abusive behaviour in any relationship that is used by one person to gain or maintain power and control over another. Domestic violence may include physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviours that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorise, coerce, threaten, or injure someone.

### **2.2.3 Intimate Partner Violence**

Intimate partner violence refers to any behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner threatened or actual, that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours (United Nations, 1933). IPV as defined, consists of “physical, sexual, and psychological maltreatment” (one may include verbal abuse) meted out by one partner to the other (Walker, 1999, p. 23). The element of intentionality surfaces when it is defined as an individual causing or threatening to cause physical, psychological, emotional, sexual and or financial harm to a current or former intimate partner (Nowshad et al., 2022). The Centres for Disease Control of the United States of America includes the phenomenon of “stalking” of an intimate partner in its definition of IPV (Centres for Disease Control Prevention, 2021). The CDC provides a detailed definition in addition to sexual and physical violence or even threats of these by including psychological and emotional aggression (Breiding et al., 2015). The CDC however intimates that the various components of IPV be looked at individually and then collectively to gain a wholistic meaning of the phenomenon.

Definitions of intimate partner violence have gone through several metamorphoses and emanate from various perspectives including the public health perspective and family research

perspective and this appears to have influenced the multiplicity of definitions however, many researchers have subsequently referred to the definition of violent behaviour given by the World Health Organisation (WHO, 2012).

In conceptualizing intimate partner violence for this research, it is a form of interpersonal violence that is characterized by the intentional or threatened use of physical, economic, sexual or psychological behaviours on a male partner in a heterosexual relationship that results in physical violence, sexual violence, emotional/psychological violence, economic violence, stalking and coercive or controlling behaviours that occur between current or former intimate partners (O'Campo et al., 2015). The various elements of IPV can be acknowledged either separately or collectively to constitute an offence in Ghana. Regarding the definitions of IPV, a breakdown of the various components was observed.

Physical IPV or physical assault which the use of physical force against another person that includes, slapping, kicking, pushing, hitting with various forms of objects,

#### **2.2.4 Intimate Relationships in Ghana**

Marriage in Ghana forms a vital component of the cultural context of the people as it forms the bedrock of family life. Marriage in Ghana can be constituted into three main types customary or traditional marriage, ordinance marriage and Islamic marriage under the Mohammedan ordinance and it is worth noting that any of the three are valid and constitute legal marriage (Marriage Act, 1884-1885). Customary marriage in Ghana is the union between not only the individuals who want to be married but also the union between the families of their families and it can be polygamous (Danquah, 2023). Though different ethnic groups in Ghana reflect variations in the marriage ceremonies, there are key concepts that run through to make the marriage valid. Customary marriage is realised when a man desires to be married to a particular woman, he then makes his intentions known by applying to the lady's family not by

himself but through members of his family. The family of the female then shows consent by allowing the man together with his family to present the dowry (bride price) and other necessary gifts to the bride's family which when accepted indicates total approval (Dodoo, et al, 2020, Takyi, 2001). The Marriages Act, 1884-1985 (CAP 127) forms the approved legislation on marriages in Ghana and it allows for marriages conducted under the customary law to be registered under the act though it is not a requirement in its validity. The customary marriage is valid once both families consent and are present for the ceremony and PNDC LAW 263 does not require a registration of customary marriage to validate.

Comparatively customary marriage in Ghana is the most predominant marriage in Ghana as compared to ordinance marriage (Nukunya, 2013). In customary marriage in Ghana, performing the required rites according to the customs of the people is vital and therefore, performing part of it does not constitute marriage. Nevertheless, there are persons in heterosexual relationships in Ghana who have just presented a drink to serve as an introduction to the marriage rites and have since cohabited for several years without completing the entire process and over the years both partners may separate due to non-commitment as well as the woman pushing for a valid marriage rite to be performed by the man.

Cohabitation occurs when a man and woman live together without performing any accepted marriage rites and it is not accepted as marriage in Ghana. According to the Ghana Demographic and Health Survey, 2022, 15% of women and 7% of men are in cohabiting relationships. In Ghana, 40% of women are married while 38% of men are married and these marriages are from one of the three main accepted means of marriage, GDHS (2022). Intimate partners in Ghana present a variety of the various forms of marriage as well as cohabitation. However, divorce rates in Ghana have been on the increase over the years as 2021 was presented with 345 customary marriages out of which 79 were dissolved by the close of the year which brings it to one out of every four marriages (Adonu, 2023). Reasons given for the

divorce cases were given by the head of public affairs as child non-maintenance, infidelity, and ill-treatment. Divorce and separation among intimate partners seem to form a major result in violent relationships.

### **2.2.5 Typologies of IPV**

The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) identifies four types of intimate partner violence; physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression (Breiding et al., 2015; Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016). Physical violence or abuse occurs in situations where one partner subjects the other to torture or inhumane or degrading punishment, intentional confinement, hitting with an object kicking groins, and slapping amongst others. Sexual violence is engaging in sexual acts against the will of a heterosexual partner which includes rape, sexual acts that humiliates the other and humiliates the other and the transmission of STIs that the perpetrator has prior knowledge of (Bagwell-Gray et al., 2015; Sarandakos, 2004). Economic violence involves damage or removal of property entitled to the partner by law, hindering or use of financial resources belonging to the other. Emotional or psychological violence is any act that makes the other (victim) feel humiliated, depressed, or worthless. It involves acts of verbal assault, acts of threats, coercion, intimidation, controlling behaviour, withholding, and denying access to finances, and acts of stalking (Cares et al., 2021).

In addition to the above, an addition of legal and administrative violence or aggression has been brought to the fore during a study on the experiences of male victims in parts of Australia, where female perpetrators manipulate legal and administrative resources to the disadvantage of their male partners, and this can occur in female victims as well (Berger et al., 2016; Hines et al., 2015; Oyediran et al., 2023). It must be noted that though the perpetration of this form of violence involves an auxiliary source, it has psychological effects on its victims hence there is the need for advocacy for its inclusion in the formulation of a universal definition

of IPV. Digital IPV(DIPV) or cyber intimate partner victimisation is the use of technological resources including the use of tracking devices, cyber coercion or stalking, non-consensual intimate imagery, or the release of sensitive information of the victim and cyberstalking to violate current or previous intimate partners (Douglas et al., 2019, Hearn et al., 2023, Woodlock et. al., 2020). This form of violence came to the fore because of Covid-19 and its outcomes where forms of communication were virtual and therefore, face-to-face forms of abuse were digitised.

Previous studies have shown that the nature and forms of IPV presented in men exhibit similar characteristics as those presented in women. Men are susceptible to being physically harmed when their partners attack them with objects or hit them personally and this includes being hit by various objects that cause various degrees of injuries. According to Corbally (2015), there is a lack of understanding regarding the nature of IPV experienced by men as well as how the men account for their own experience of the abuse hence the need for this study. Corbally, (2018) employed the use of the biographical narrative interpretive method (BINM) which analysed cases from a social constructionist perspective and three narratives emerged as the fatherhood, good husband, and abuse narratives. This study proposed the use of broad questioning which was utilised in this study as a useful tool in enhancing disclosure by way of being able to vividly share their experiences as men suspected to be victims. Men, in their quest to live up to the stipulated gender roles, tend to live undercover with the trauma they experience from day to day (Adebayo, 2014). This study in its totality does not provide an in-depth understanding of their lived experiences as male victims of IPV (Baker, 2018; Centres for Disease Control and Prevention, 2016, 2022; Institute of Development Studies, 2016)

### 2.3 Historical Overview of IPV

The history of IPV dates to the 19<sup>th</sup> century in England and parts of Europe in a culture where men who are known to have been abused by their female spouses were paraded and ridiculed through the streets of the town riding a horse backwards called the ‘skimmington ride’ or the ‘charivari’. It was a public shaming of individuals amidst the noisy clanging of pots and pans following the victims who were mainly men (George, 1994). This custom eventually led men who are victims of violence to live in denial and therefore prefer not to be associated with it for fear of ridicule and shame.

Violence in intimate relationships has over the years been regarded as a private affair between couples and therefore tolerated as such. In Ghana, couples are encouraged to keep issues that occur between them (violence and maltreatment) within the context of the relationship so outsiders will not be a preview of what is happening within the relationship as a sign of maturity and preservation of peace. In Ghanaian customary marriage, men ask for the hand of the woman in marriage, and this presupposes that he is the head of the family in control of the provision of day-to-day leadership including the right to discipline their wives for unacceptable behaviour (Eves, 2019). The right to discipline females in heterosexual relationships was backed by law in places in England, but men were allowed to discipline only to an extent where it was reasonable (Fleming et. al., 2015, Tullio et al., 2021). With urbanisation and an upsurge in research focusing on the plight of female victims, most studies in developed countries were conducted on women using victims from shelters and battered women groups using the Conflict Tactics Scale where it concluded on women being the main victims of IPV focusing on their vulnerability in society and the accepted societal dominance of males. These findings were criticised for reasons of the scale (CTS) not taking into consideration the context within which the violence occurred or the motives for its occurrence but just an act of counting numbers (Dobash & Dobash, 2003). However, studies that used a

national representative survey intimated an equal ability of both males and females in perpetrating IPV (Dragiewicz, 2008).

A novel study conducted by Steinmetz (1977) on 'The battered husband syndrome' questioned whether IPV against men was not a known concept or it was just a deliberate oversight. This eventually led to a general interest in the entire conceptualization of IPV hence the need to look at various debates, concepts and controversies that surround IPV (Merrill et al., 2020).

### **2.3.1 The Gender Debate and IPV**

The gender debate spans from two ends of a continuum of feminist theorists on one end and family violence theorists on the other end of the argument. The feminist theorists emerge from a patriarchal characteristic of society where men are seen to be domineering and in control hence conclusively asserting that IPV is asymmetrical in that it is perpetrated solely by men against their female intimate partners due to their vulnerabilities in society as women (Dobash & Dobash, 2004). They however acknowledge that in rare instances of women meting out violence to their male intimate partners it is always in self-defence and retaliation (DeKeseredy, 2011, Krug, et. al., 2002). Feminists believe that IPV has gender at its core, and it is unidirectional from males to females at all times (Dobash & Dobash, 1992, Johnson, 2008). The feminist researchers have in their studies used samples from shelters, and hospital emergency rooms where even male victims are available are ignored, hence female victims are readily available (Archer, 2002).

According to family violence theorists, women are as equally violent if not more violent than men and, in this regard, acknowledge IPV as a symmetrical, mutual, and human relationship phenomenon (Dokkedahl & Elklit, 2019, Hines, 2015, Straus, 2010) where both partners can be equally violent. Steinmetz (1977) provides evidence of females perpetrating IPV against their male intimate partners and therefore resonates with the family violence

proponents in arguing for a gender-neutral perspective in looking at IPV. Within the symmetrical perspective, research has found that women however have other motivations for assaulting their male partners apart from self-defence and extend beyond gender perspectives, Kernsmith, (2005), and these include being frustrated, jealous, angry, and punishing bad behaviour amongst others which are similar to the motivations for men. The symmetrical theorists also believe that there has been a deliberate selective citation in research that overlooked female perpetrators. Family violence researchers unlike the feminists used community-based samples in their studies which has over time provided evidence of gender symmetry regarding the perpetration of IPV (Archer, 2002; Straus & Gelles, 1986). Other symmetrical scholars assert that both the male and female are possible perpetrators and victims of IPV and that the process of dealing with conflicts in relationships exhibits the centrality of the violence. In view of this family violence theorists conclude that IPV hinges on human relationships and is not gender-related (Straus 2017; Hamel, 2009).

To bring an end to the gender debate, Johnson (1995), argues that both arguments represent distinct parts of reality concerning their ideologies, and Johnson further postulated the typologies of IPV that correspond to both sides of the debate. He further identifies that feminist researchers usually obtain their samples from shelter and rescue centres where mainly women have sought help from their dominating and abusive heterosexual intimate partners while family theorist tends to use survey samples which give a wider coverage of people through anonymous phone calls and others hence the results obtained by the two independent groups form unique realities. These typologies are common couple violence now situational couple violence (SCV) and Patriarchal terrorism, now known as Intimate terrorism (IT). SCV is the type of mutual violence that escalates from arguments is less severe and less likely to lead to fatal consequences though it can result in injuries. Intimate Terrorism (IT) is rather more frequent, brutal, and more likely to result in injuries mainly perpetrated by men as a way of

coercive control (Bonnet & Whittaker, 2015). He further describes that the intent to control in a relationship is the distinguishing factor between these two classifications and not merely their outcomes. The two other classifications by Johnson, are violent resistance and mutual violent control. Violent resistance is violence perpetrated by women resisting violence with the intention of self-defence. Johnson (2006) argues for four major types of intimate partner violence (also known as "Johnson's typology"), which is supported by subsequent research and evaluation, as well as independent researchers. Based on patterns across numerous incidents and perpetrator motives, distinctions are made between types of violence, perpetrator motives, and the social and cultural context (United Nations, 2023). Gandhi et al. (2021), argue that intimate partner violence is one aspect of a global manifestation of violence against women. Other examples cited are selective abortion, female genital mutilation, early, enforced marriage, honour killings, rape, trafficking, prostitution, and sexual violence in war.

Intimate Terrorism - Intimate Terrorism (IT), or Coercive Controlling Violence (CCV), occurs when one partner in a relationship, typically a man, uses coercive control and power over the other partner using threats, intimidation, and isolation (Anne Bogat et al., 2016). CCV relies on severe psychological abuse to maintain control; when physical abuse occurs, it is also severe. One partner, usually a man, has complete control over the victim's, usually a woman's, life. (Anne Bogat et al., 2016; Howe, 2011). Sexual, sadistic control, economic, physical, emotional, and psychological abuse are all types of intimate partner violence. Intimate terrorism is more likely to escalate over time, to be mutual, and to result in severe injury. Victims of one type of abuse are frequently the victims of another. With multiple incidents, the severity tends to rise, especially if the abuse is multifaceted. The long-term effects of abuse tend to be cumulative, more severe abuse is more likely to have chronic effects on victims (Love et al., 2020). There are two types of intimate terrorism batterers: "generally violent-antisocial" and "dysphoric-borderline." People with general psychopathic and violent

tendencies fall into the first category. People who are emotionally dependent on the relationship are classified as the second type (Johnson & Ferraro, 2000). Violence against an intimate partner is frequently used to exert control over the partner, even if this type of violence is not the most common (Djamba & Kimuna, 2015)

**Violent Resistance** - Violence committed by victims against their partners who have engaged in intimate terrorism against them is known as violent resistance (VR), which is a form of self-defence (Miller & McCaw, 2019). VR can happen as a defence mechanism following repeated acts of violence or as an automatic response to an initial attack. If the victim believes that the only way out is to kill their partner, this form of resistance may turn fatal. (Ali et al., 2016)

**Situational Couple Violence** - Situational couple violence, also known as common couple violence, develops during a single argument in which one or both partners physically attack the other. It is unrelated to general control behaviour. This is the most prevalent type of intimate partner violence, affecting both men and women almost equally, especially in the West and among young couples (Flores & Barroso, 2017). According to Johnson (1995) Situational Couple Violence (SVC) involves a relationship dynamic "in which conflict occasionally gets 'out of hand,' leading usually to 'minor' forms of violence, and rarely escalating into serious or life-threatening forms of violence". In situational couple violence, men and women commit violent acts at roughly equal rates, with injuries occurring in very few cases, and without trying to exert control over their partners. (Hines & Douglas, 2018)

**Reciprocal and non-reciprocal** - Domestic violence is classified by the CDC as either reciprocal, in which both partners are violent, or non-reciprocal, in which only one partner is violent. (Ozaki & Otis, 2016; Straus, 2008). Of the four types, situational couple violence and mutual violent control are reciprocal, while intimate terrorism is non-reciprocal. Violent resistance on its own is non-reciprocal but is reciprocal when in response to intimate terrorism.

According to Annapey et. al. (2021), women are socialised and subsequently perceived as more vulnerable than men and this tends to limit men as being immune to situations that make them vulnerable, in this regard, there is the need to empower both sexes in their unique but diverse ways. There are various notions of IPV, with a gender-neutral perspective on one end of the continuum and a gender-based perspective on the other. Results from a study conducted on male victims concluded the importance of the role of gender in the study and practice of IPV to the expectations of society on the phenomenon of masculinity. Scott-Storey et al., 2023.

There is a stereotypical misconception in patriarchal societies including Ghana that looks through a single lens that men are the perpetrators and women are the victims and this has influenced research tilting the balance in favour of women as the sole victims (Darko et al., 2019). Men are generally perceived as strong and are therefore not expected to show signs of weakness or vulnerability, hence any signs of the aforementioned lead to speculations and stigmatisation. The general populace perceives male victims of IPV as weak and not living up to the expectation of their masculinity. The various reasons given as risk factors that predispose men as victims include laziness, drunkenness, unemployment, and inability to provide for the needs of their spouse and children and therefore deserve the violence meted out to them.

During the socialisation process of the male, various bodies make critical and long-lasting impressions on an individual. These include the church, traditional leaders and political leaders and these agencies assert that conflicts that come up in relationships are private matters and must be handled as such without external influence, hence couples tend to enter relationships with such mindsets and subsequently suffer in silence as these perceptions are unknowingly adhered to (Adu-Gyamfi, 2014). These individuals avoid seeking any form of help from health facilities treat their injuries at home and cover up any psychological effects to avoid stigmatisation and maintain the status quo.

In relation to the contentious gender debate, there is the need to acknowledge that both genders experience IPV hence must be addressed from a more practical and humanistic perspective of violence and abuse which requires definite attention. Hence, there is the need to shift from a debate focus to dialoguing and exploring the experiences and consequences of IPV while looking out for patterns and specific forms of presentation among men. (Espinoza & Warner, 2016; Scott-Storey et al., 2023)



### 2.3.2 Masculinity and IPV in Ghana

Over the years' masculinity, the lens through which the male is seen as a symbol of control and dominance which is culturally accepted by the populace has put the male in an authoritative position and the female as the weaker sex and therefore see violence against them as acceptable. Hegemony, according to the Encyclopaedia of Violence, Peace, and Conflict (2008) refers to the dominance of a shared system of ideas, values, and ethics within a particular society at a given historical period. Hegemonic masculinity as propounded by the gender theorist Raewyn Connell (1987) exhibits the dominance of men in society as a whole and how it is accepted by both men and women as a societal norm and is accepted in several cultures. It must, however, be noted that violence is not an ingrained part of masculinity but can be induced by socially accepted norms. Gasura (2014), acknowledges that the Zimbabwean society like many African countries being patriarchal in nature places the man in the position of providing and caring for the family therefore when these roles are not met, and they are rather abused it is difficult for them to acknowledge due to concerns of stigma and embarrassment.

Due to the nature of the Ghanaian culture, and socialisation process, men are perceived as powerful and occupy positions of dominance and entitlement in their homes as well as the economy of their immediate community and the society at large. The patriarchal system in the Ghanaian culture which ties in with hegemonic masculinity does not allow men to exhibit signs of weakness and as such can lead to suppression of pain and subsequent suffering. Literature has revealed that women who are abused are more likely to complain to friends and family as well as law enforcement personnel as compared to the men who will otherwise not report hence the records presented as male victims are underreported figures. Reasons given for the misrepresentation of male victims are embedded in the patriarchal atmosphere where there is the fear of being ridiculed, stigmatised, and perceived as weak and unable to manage domestic issues. Hence most men will rather suffer in silence to maintain the status quo. (Bellringer et

al., 2016). The element of patriarchy has the potential to prevent male victims from seeking help due to feelings of guilt and shame.

### **2.3.3 Underlying Causes of IPV Against Men**

Denson et. al. (2018) indicates little understanding of the causes of IPV against men and that reasons for the perpetration of IPV against men can emanate from a myriad of situations and behaviours. Studies indicate that romantic jealousy, desire to control, alcohol induced aggression gaps in communication and desire for attention while women mentioned retaliation and negative expressions of emotion as the major causes of the perpetration of IPV against men (Elmquist et. al., 2014). Kolbe and Butner (2020) report accusations of infidelity, mental disorders, and financial difficulties as major causes of IPV against men in a study conducted in Germany. A study conducted in the Central province of Nyeri county to determine the contributing factors of the rise in IPV against men in the county reported socio-economic independence and gender power relations by way of economic empowerment, and leadership roles taken up by women as major causes of IPV against men (Tenkorang et. al., 2023). The aspect of economic independence encompasses the contemporary nature of the woman where she works to earn a living just as her male partner and is, therefore, able to meet her personal needs rather than solely depending on her partner.

The concept of wealth and the quest for control has been emphasised by feminists as a major cause of IPV. However, the motives underlying IPV committed by women against their male intimate partners was not clearly spelt out in the study hence the need to investigate further in this study. This current trend is a vivid underlying cause of IPV against men in that with changing contemporary trends in society, women are now part of the society's workforce and hence have earned their economic independence and can make financial decisions that beforehand were dominated by their male partners. The interplay between women's employment and the risk of IPV especially by unemployed male partners is intimated by Stockl

et. al. (2021), however, this same economic empowerment becomes a tool for abusing the male partner. Working and earning daily with monthly income exhibits the power play between economic freedom and power and how it influences the perpetration of violence. The employed female partners use this economic freedom as a caveat to abuse their male victim, especially in situations where the male faces any form of financial complications. Women find themselves in the position of self-dependence especially when they have been through periods of unemployment or total dependence on their male spouses. These periods of dependence, depending on the outcomes for the female partner, unravel moments of independence when she begins to earn some level of income.

Feminist literature tends to hinge on the sole motivation or cause for IPV perpetrated by women as self-defence based on their common experience of being victims of the same (Leisring & Grigorian, 2016). Leading on from self-defence there is also the element of payback and the quest for control and power as is evident in mutually violent relationships. In such violent intimate relationships, both partners look for opportunities to exhibit signs of being in control and this results in violence of varying degrees. (Ali et al., 2016; Rode et al., 2015) Mutually violent partners position themselves not to be abused by the other.

It is important to note that male victims of IPV willingly provide reasons for the forms of violence meted out to them by their partners. Reasons given by some male victims being attacked with harmful objects such as knives, sticks and hot-pressing irons include issues of poverty, irresponsibility, alcoholism, drug abuse, frustration, intimidation, and the key to all, sexual underperformance from them as male victims. (Broberg, 2022)

Women who form the sole perpetrators of intimate partner violence in relationships according to feminists are believed to have been witnesses to various forms of violence in their socialisation process where they have observed persistent violence between siblings and between and against parents (Ruiz-Hernández et al., 2015). The element of parental behaviours

is compared to what characteristics the females observe in their socialisation process is also buttressed by Leonard and Quigley (2017) and Pallock and Lamborn (2006) who identify the exposure to parents with mental health challenges, the abuse of alcohol and drugs and as well as the incarcerated as a potential basis for the perpetration of violence subsequently. All these factors, according to the writers' trigger neglect leading to acts of violence later in life as a means of an outlet if not dealt with in their upbringing. In a study comparing women with and without histories of violence, it was confirmed that women who are violent in their relationships were victims themselves or persistently observed victimisation of a loved one while growing up or had unstable family dynamics. This is consistent with a categorization of women who commit violence in intimate relationships alone as compared to those who are generally violent. This led to a three-dimensional categorization of the typologies of women who perpetrate violence in intimate relationships by Ali et al. (2016) and these consist of women who perpetrate violence as a means of self-defence; women who are involved in mutually violent and aggressive intimate relationships and women who are the main attackers. Regarding women who perpetrate crime as a means of self-defence, Douglas et al. (2021) add the element of fear as a source of motivation. The elements of self-defence and fear as suggested also by Tarrant (2018) are further reasons given by women who have been victims of IPV and subsequently use it as a survival and resistance mechanism.

One major motivation for the perpetration of IPV against men is also the element of unprovoked violence meted out by females to their male intimate partners for various personal reasons. In a related study conducted on reasons given by women arrested for perpetrating violence, it was observed as consistent with past research indicating a high score for self-defence but includes bouts of anger, retaliation, stress, and other negative emotions (Stuart et al., 2006; Austin et al., 2019; Koolick et al., 2016)

Family plays a vital role in people's lives throughout their lives, and when two people enter an intimate relationship and decide to start a family, their separate natal families continue to impact their relationship (Ali et al., 2021). The level and strength of influence, however, differ depending on the culture, ethnicity, and country of origin of the individual. In many countries, especially developing countries, couples live in an extended family.

The family structure and system have a strong influence on an individual's life, decision making, social roles, and selection of profession. Therefore, the family can significantly affect the marital relationship of a couple, especially in the early years of their marriage. The quality of intimate/marital relationships can be affected by many different factors, including intimate partner violence (IPV), which refers to a pattern of abusive behaviour between two individuals in an intimate relationship (World Health Organization, 2016b)

The involvement of intimate partners' families in IPV is frequently overlooked and underplayed, maybe because it is assumed that IPV occurs between two persons whose behaviour is not influenced by their families (Clark et al., 2010). Among various perspectives proposed to explain IPV, the nested ecological framework is one of the most widely used (Heise, 1998). The framework acknowledges that behaviour is shaped through interaction between individuals and their social surroundings (Heise, 1998). It highlights the involvement of individual, relational, community, and societal-level elements in perpetuating, committing, or condoning violence and abuse in relationships.

## **2.4 The Help-seeking experiences of male victims**

### **2.4.1 Avenues for Help-seeking.**

Help-seeking refers to any behaviour exhibited by an individual who sees the need for help in their physical, mental, and emotional well-being and therefore approaches support

services for assistance to enable them to live more meaningfully (Donne et al., 2018). Service providers for victims of IPV are ideally equipped to offer shelter, safety, counselling, and rehabilitation support for victims who seek help (Machado et al., 2016).

With reference to interventions, some researchers posit that the police are regularly accused by ‘abused men’ of ignoring male abuse and favouring women during domestic violence callouts and investigations (Corbally, 2015). Concerns of men experiencing IPV from their female intimate partners are considered ‘forbidden’ or ‘unbelievable’ by the recipients of their accounts (McCarrick et al., 2016). The apathy of the police towards male victims discourages them from presenting themselves as victims who seek justice.

Despite the reasons of stigmatisation, fears of being ignored and even being taken as the perpetrator, some men have taken bold steps in reporting cases of IPV against them by their intimate others to various personalities and agencies. These include friends, family, community leaders, health personnel including mental health officers and law enforcement agencies.

Adebayo (2014) echoed the notion that male victims bear the effects of violence in silence for fear of not being believed, which consequently gives them emotional and psychological stress. These short-term effects could, eventually, have far-reaching health consequences such as depression, cardiac attacks, other mental illnesses and eventually death.

#### **2.4.2 The role of Extended family and friends in IPV**

The availability of someone to provide acceptance and sympathy (emotional support) (Cohen & Wills, 1985; Dias et al., 2019; Lakey & Cohen, 2000), tangible help if needed, such as lending money or childcare (instrumental support) (Cohen & Wills, 1985), information relevant for solving problems or accessing resources (informational support) (Cohen & Wills, 1985) and help with decision-making. A person's level of social support is shaped by the

number of people in their support network and the quality of help they provide in each area. External support from family and friends is vital for the resolution or mediation of issues surrounding IPV victims. This may lead to protection for IPV direct victims and close relations (children and members of the nuclear family).

Low social support among men who have been exposed to IPV may make the condition worse. Social support can be a valuable resource that protects against a variety of unpleasant and difficult life events. Social support can prevent future violence and its escalation by facilitating protective interventions from family and friends, by facilitating instrumental support (such as lending money or providing transportation to help men leave abusive relationships), or by providing fresh approaches to reduce violence. (Žukauskienė et al., 2021).

There is a culture of assumed religiosity in the Ghanaian that emerges in the face of danger and desperation where the individual acknowledges the intervention of the supreme being, 'God' and subsequently dissociates his person from the situation at hand. Male victims tend to appeal to religious leaders in their communities for assistance in their moments of abuse hoping to find lasting solutions (Mantey, 2019).

In places like Europe and others, there is evidence of government-owned helplines that victims can resort to in moments of distress and receive help though men have not found it thoroughly so, Douglas and Hines (2011), on the contrary, this is not evident in most developing countries including Ghana. Hotlines were however created in Ghana during the Covid-19 lockdown period to help victims who at the time could not access physical help due to restrictions, but this was not widely known by the general populace. Shelters, rescue centres, rehabilitation centres and other resources are available and well-equipped for battered females and a few for males in developed countries (Velopulos et al., 2019; Parkinson, 2019) while few are present or non-existent for females in most developing countries. These same resources are non-existent for males in developing countries including Ghana.

### **2.4.3 Law Enforcement Agencies and IPV**

It must be noted clearly that in Ghana, IPV and by extension, domestic violence is an offence, and a perpetrator is liable to punishment of either a fine of not more than five hundred penalty units or imprisonment of not more than two years and may also include a form of compensation for the victim as the court may deem fit ("Domestic Violence Act, Act 732," 2007). The Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of the Ghana police service metamorphosed from the Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU) in a bid to inculcate the needs of men. In a study conducted by Action Aid, it was reported that there were more female officers in most DOVVSU offices in the Greater Accra Region, represented by 73% female and 27% male. Other offices in the Greater Accra Region exhibiting similar trends include the Madina office, having a total of 17 officers, 4 of them were males while 13 were females; Baatsona had 7 female officers with no male representation and the Accra regional office had 41 officers with 13 of them being male and 28 being female. The high number of female officers is a disadvantage to male victims of IPV who are unable to overcome the shame of being a male victim being attended to by a female officer ("Domestic Violence Act, Act 732," 2007). The study did not however focus on the lived experiences of male victims.

There is a need for a critical look into the preparedness by way of training of law enforcement agencies, mental health personnel as well as, friends and family in meeting the needs of male victims (Williamson et al., 2015). The need for the right identification and treatment of male victims of IPV is therefore crucial for the support agencies.

## 2.5 The Consequences of IPV

### 2.5.1 The Consequences of IPV Against Men

According to UNFPA (2009), men tend to deny their victimisation and other forms of violence meted out to them and they attribute this denial to their quest to be able to resolve matters themselves and certain religious beliefs which approve staying in relationships as it provides some form of worth. This, the UNFPA acknowledges does not aid help-seeking as it is in acknowledging violence that change can occur. Research conducted amongst women in a USA community and shelters for battered women encapsulated reasons for self-protection in their use of attack on their male partners (Hines & Malley-Morrison, 2001). Hence male victims must not be overlooked or denied protection. The stigmatisation of male victims of IPV is a major effect that stems from the gap that exists between the societal expectation of femininity and masculinity in this study and the meanings victims attach to their experiences. Secondary victimisation as postulated by (Morgan & Wells, 2016) adds to the stereotypical notion of male perpetrators, female victims being the default victims eventually affects male victims by not acknowledging their experiences and eventually serves as a hurdle to overcome even before the usual victimisation of being a male victim. A related study focused on assessing the mental health outcomes of IPV and it concluded that depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), anxiety, and general psychological distress as major effects on males. (Adebayo, 2014; Greene et al., 2019)

The few studies on IPV against men seem to indicate that women are more likely to be injured where men are the perpetrators however men are also injured when women are the perpetrators and are not immune to severe injury as well and therefore refutes the idea that males do not suffer severe injuries during IPV. A reanalysis of a study conducted in Canada confirms similarities in the effects of IPV in both male and female victims of IPV. The study

intimates that 83% of men 'feared for their lives while women recorded 77%, a report of disruptions in their everyday lives recorded 80% with a record of 77% for women and 84% (both male and female victims) received medical attention. Male victims sought psychological counselling at a rate of 62 percent, while female victims at a rate of 63 percent (Laroche, 2005; Lysova et al., 2019). There is the element of negative consequences on male victims which includes stress, mental health challenges, physical injury, shame, anger, fear, shame, humiliation, and depression. It is however noteworthy that these consequences can eventually lead to death.

Stress and physical intimate partner violence perpetration have been linked in studies (Hahn et al., 2015; Latzman & Swisher, 2005), as have substance and alcohol abuse and various kinds of IPV against women (Foran & O'Leary, 2008). This evidence can also be linked to females as perpetrators of IPV.

There is one school of thought that recognizes the socialisation process on masculinity in our patriarchal or male-controlled and dominated societies restrict boys and men from openly expressing their feelings and this bottling up of varying degrees of pain and anxiety leads to an explosive reaction towards the female who after tolerating for some time is unable to withstand, hence reciprocates resulting in the perpetrating of various forms of IPV as in physical, psychological or sexual forms of violence by way of self-defence. (Mshweshwe, 2020)

One key factor contributing to men's under-reporting of the impacts of IPV in emergency rooms in Philadelphia and Ohio has been ascribed to the gender-biased nature of the level of questioning of women rather than men. Women are questioned on cues for potential domestic violence when they present with injuries at emergencies in clinics and hospitals and that is not as evident in males (Carney & Barner, 2012; Mechem et al., 1999).

This has necessitated the need for this study to focus on health systems and institutions in the identification and effective management of IPV against men. IPV has adverse effects on the

mental and physical well-being of an individual. Bonomi et al. (2006), further explain mental disorders as PTSD, eating disorders, substance abuse, anxiety and depression amongst others and the physical condition on the other hand includes STDs, chronic pain, brain injury, fractures, and others. The study concluded on the basis that the health of men is affected by various facets of IPV including the type, extent of time of exposure as well as frequency. Health facilities, with their current mode of operation, need to reconceptualize the long-term efficacy of any screening done to discover persons who fall under the categorization of IPV.

Divorce in Ghana can be a consequence of intimate partner violence and a study conducted in Ghana to ascertain the causes of Divorce in Ghana revealed six major themes as infidelity, physical and psychological abuse, financial problems, intimacy challenges, third-party intrusion, and gender-role ideologies (Osafo et. al., 2021; Asante et. al., 2014). According to the literature, there is an increasing rate of divorce in Ghana. A study conducted by Osafo et al. (2021), indicates that the average period for men in a relationship to seek divorce was 16.63years while that of women was 9.6years while the average age of men seeking divorce was 50.1years as compared to females with 40.7years.

### **2.5.2 The consequences of IPV on children within relationships.**

IPV is most likely to occur in the presence of children in relationships where there are children. Research has established that children experience distress when they live in homes where there is violence meted out to one partner (Bogat et al., 2023). As a further consequence, the children could experience violence from the abuser in the relationship and in this case their mother as is the focus of this research (Herrenkohl et al., 2022; Kellogg & Menard, 2003). There is the aspect of inconsistent parenting in homes where there is violence. Due to the

violent atmosphere of the home, the focus on parenting is shifted and focused on efforts at resolving one form of violence or the other and the children are neglected. This subsequently alters the developmental capacity of the children where it eventually forms part of the children's socialisation process as they grow and may form part of their conceptualization of violence and re-enacting it as a normal part of human existence (Bogat et al., 2023; Straus, 2008). Most often these circumstances cause multiple stressors on the children that can lead to homelessness, substance abuse use, and involvement in crime among others (Clements et al., 2022). Separation and subsequently divorce, a major outcome of IPV according to research, however, does not always lead to an end of the violence and especially in relationships with children involved, instances of child contact can serve as a trigger for post-separation violence and the violence continues thereafter (Noonan & Pilkington, 2020).

Any incident of violent or threatening behaviour or abuse between adults who are, or have been, intimate partners or family members is defined as a form of child maltreatment and is associated with an increased risk of psychological, social, emotional, and behavioural problems in a child or adolescent (Gilbert et al., 2009). Intimate partner violence (IPV) includes not only physical aggression, such as hitting, kicking, and beating but also emotional abuse, through behaviours such as humiliation, intimidation and controlling actions (eg, isolation from family and friends). Previously, children were described as 'witnessing' IPV, but more recently, 'exposure to' is preferred because 'witnessing' was perceived by some to focus on direct observation. Children can experience the harms associated with IPV through awareness of violence between caregivers, even if they have never directly observed any acts of violence. Victimization of intimate partner violence (IPV) is common among women with children and has negative consequences for both the women's and children's well-being. Despite conflicting evidence about the impact of IPV on women's parenting ability and behaviours, there is a growing emphasis on mothering in the context of IPV, particularly among child welfare and

child protection systems (Austin et al., 2019). The female partners use the children as a form of payback and as a means of obtaining certain demands made on the man by withdrawing access to them or taking them away from school without the consent of the male partner and taking them to unknown destinations. Some women also as a way of introducing a lack of interest in the relationship, take their children away from their homes to use them as tools to reap financial benefits (Austin et al., 2019). Childhood IPV exposure increases the risk of psychological, social, emotional, and behavioural problems in children and adolescents, including mood and anxiety disorders, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), substance abuse, and school-related problems. (Koolick et al., 2016)

## **2.6 Mental Health and General Health Facilities**

The question is, do male victims of IPV seek the services of a counsellor? Men tend to decline the need to seek psychological help from a clinical psychologist when victimised due to the socially constructed attribute of masculinity (Taylor et al., 2022). Hence there is the need to focus on male vulnerability right from the onset to avoid stress-related consequences. (Yim & Kofman, 2019)

In developed countries, there is a deliberate use of emergency rooms in hospitals when there are instances of injuries of various forms inflicted on male victims by their female intimate partners (Thureau et al., 2015). In such instances, the health personnel should be able to identify, treat and record the data of the victims. Comparatively, women consult and present with severe injuries more than men at health facilities. However, this is not a common practice in most developing countries including Ghana as patients out of embarrassment and fear of being stigmatised especially by female health personnel, do not disclose the cause of their injuries (Tawiah et al., 2015).

### **Summary of gaps in literature**

In Africa, studies have shown that both men and women perpetrate intimate partner violence, though the scale and the consequences of violence may affect women more than men.

In Kenya, Ringwald et al (2022) in a community survey found that women and men experienced similar levels of intimate partner violence. However, a higher proportion of men reported physical and sexual IPV perpetration.

In a study conducted by Oyediran, Spenser and Stith (2023) in Sierra Leone and Cameroon, men experienced psychological violence (26.5% in Cameroon and 23.4% in Sierra Leone), physical violence (24.4% in Cameroon and 14.9% in Sierra Leone) and sexual abuse (2.3% in Cameroon and 2.7% in Sierra Leone) at the hands of their female partners in the last twelve months.

In Ghana, a report of the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service indicates that IPV against men increased from 14% (1,830) in 2016 to 19.03% (3,360) in 2019. These studies indicate the existence of IPV against men. Despite the statistics, men are however reluctant to report due to stigma, embarrassment, and inaction on the part of law enforcement agencies (Machado et al., 2016, Mantey, 2019, Barkhuizen, 2015 ). It is important to note that though some studies in Ghana have contributed to bridging the gap in research on IPV perpetrated by female partners, it is only the study by Mantey, (2019) that included men who had experienced IPV perpetrated by their female partners.

In 2015, a study on domestic violence against men within the Ashaiman Community did not include a sample of men who had experienced IPV by their female partners. It focused on the perceptions of respondents. The types of violence meted out to men included physical violence, verbal and psychological violence, sexual violence (Thomas, 2015).

A qualitative study by Benewaa (2022) on domestic violence against men and the role of the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) relied on the perceptions of respondents in Nima and East Legon. The types of violence against men included denial of sex, denying husband food, disrespecting husband, and failed expectations in marriage. Apart from the low reportage by men, there are few studies conducted on males as victims of intimate partner violence in Ghana. Most of the studies conducted on IPV did not focus on men as victims, little information was gleaned on their help-seeking needs. It is important to note that though some studies in Ghana have contributed to bridging the gap in research on IPV perpetrated by female partners, it is only the study by Mantey, (2019) that included men who had experienced IPV perpetrated by their female partners.

It therefore reinforces the fact that there is a paucity of studies on men as victims of intimate partner violence.

## **2.7 Theoretical Framework**

The use of theory in qualitative research is key in providing a premise on which the study can be aligned. Theories as applied in research, enable researchers to make sense of an increasingly complex and changing world. Based on the need to learn by the adult learner, Theoretical underpinnings of research in adult education draw on the principles of adult learning theory also based on other disciplines such as philosophy, psychology, and sociology. Based on the meanings the male victims attach to their experiences, this study is supported with theory to assist in placing the study in context and enhances the transferability of the findings. The two theories provide different lenses with which the findings of the study is positioned by focusing on different aspects of data and providing comprehensive understanding of complex phenomena as IPV against men. With reference to the afore mentioned, this study

has used an interdisciplinary approach in its theoretical underpinnings. Two main theories underpin this study. These are,

- Socioecological theory
- The gender role strain paradigm

### **2.7.1 The Socioecological Model (SEM)**

The socioecological approach for conceptualising IPV is based on its complex nature, and on the interactions between the individual, relationships, community, and the wider society. The framework consists of the individual level (oncogenic), the microsystem also known as the relationship level followed by the exosystem or community level and the outermost circle known as the mesosystem or the societal level. The socio-ecological approach to IPV allows researchers and practitioners the ability to contend with the reality and complexities of violence. Based on the contemporary focus of this study coupled with the interpretive approach of this research, there is the need to locate the male victim within the context and the interactions that occur within his immediate and wider environment, hence the choice of the social-ecological model (SEM). This theory is relevant in providing a comprehensive view of understanding IPV though it has been applied regarding IPV against women it is also applicable to male victims. The risk and protective factors associated with IPV are frequently organised around the Ecological Model, which recognizes that the factors relating to IPV arise from the interaction between various embedded contexts representing the individual, the relationships, the surrounding community, and the larger society support (Carlson, 1984; Dutton, 1995; Heise & Garcia-Moreno, 2002).

The framework suggests that an individual's behaviour is influenced by the interaction between the individual and their social surroundings which eventually influences their probability of being victims or perpetrators of IPV and the experiences that characterise each domain.

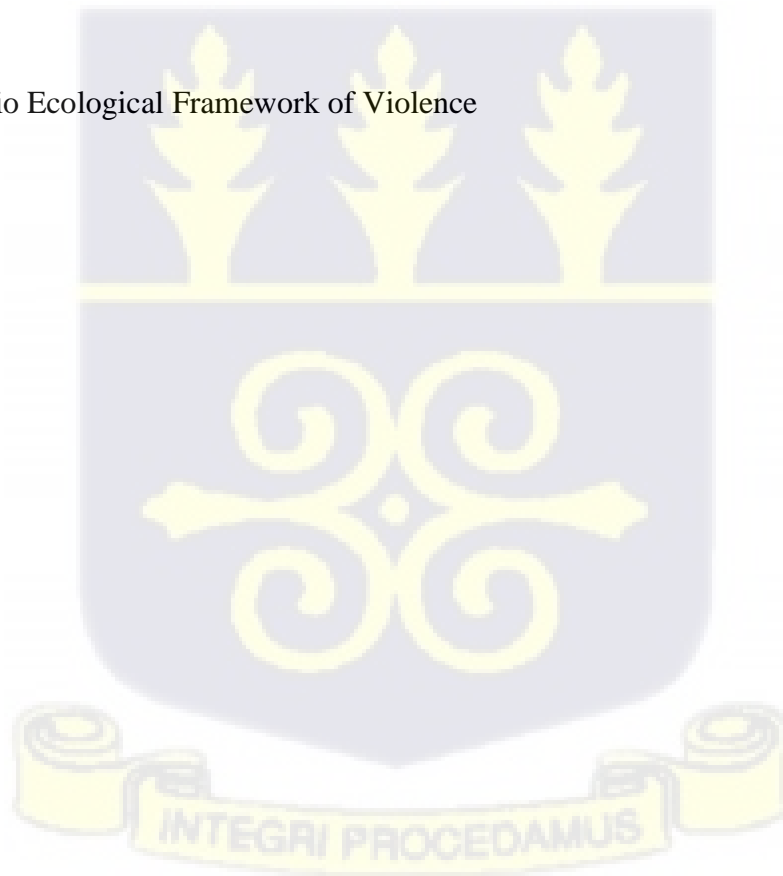
The individual or oncogenic factors to experiences of an individual during their socialisation process influence his reaction with the other levels, namely microsystem and exosystem. It includes being abused personally or witnessing the abuse of a parent and how it predisposes one to IPV as either a victim or perpetrator. The microsystem is the circle closest to the individual which is characterised by the biological and personal factors that influence behaviour and includes age, gender education, income level, psychological problems, and personality disorders among others that have direct contact with the individual.

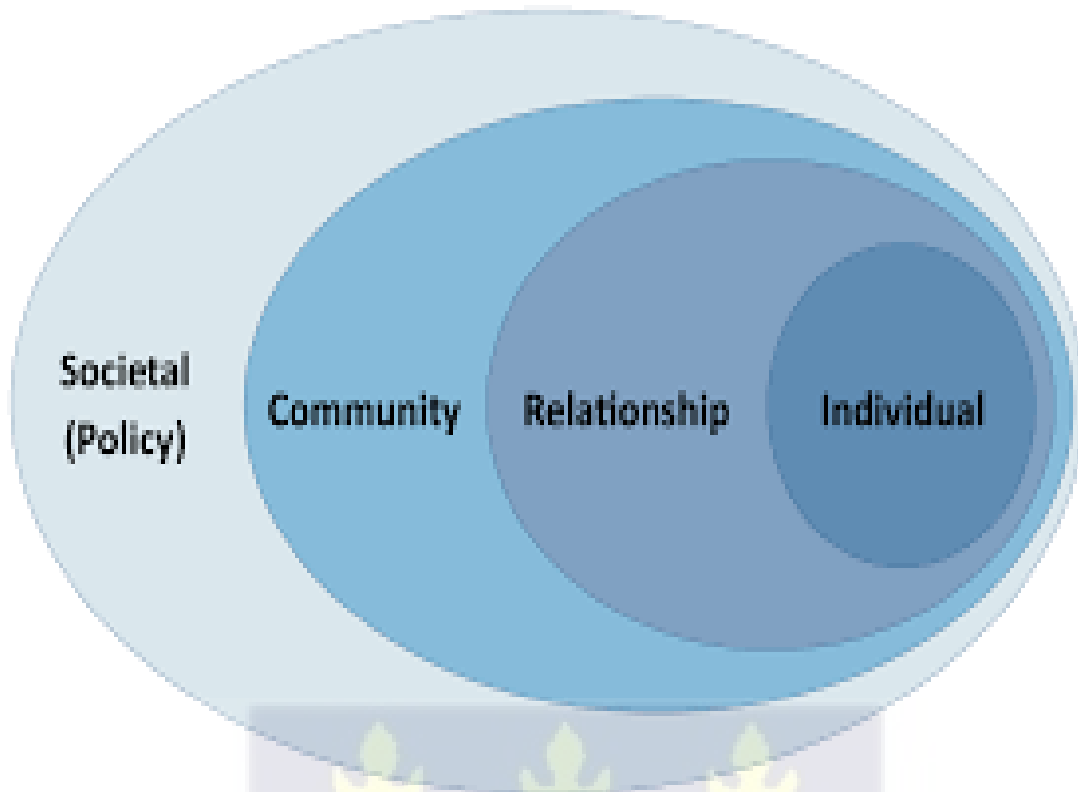
The next relationship level also known as the exosystem focuses on the interactions among the system within the environment that includes relationships of family, interactions with colleagues at the workplace, church, friends, and schoolmates as well as intimate relationships. The exosystem consists of all the social structures both negative and positive that influence the individual though they do not have a direct relationship with the individual and this includes community interactions, unemployment among men that makes them susceptible to being victims, peer influence on the female amongst others.

The macrosystem or the societal level refers to elements of cultural, societal, and religious tenets and their effects on the individual and those around him while influencing the other three layers. Macrosystem factors such as patriarchy is a risk factor for the perpetration of IPV against women, however, this same factor serves as a hindrance for male victims in seeking help (Heise, 1998). Other elements including adhering to rigid gender roles at both the individual and societal levels present devastating consequences for the men. Issues on society's unspoken approval of the use of violence as a means of settling interpersonal conflicts also fall

within the macro system. The SEM has been adopted and used by the Centre for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in preventive health approaches to violence and public health promotion programmes. This theory in its revised state includes the relevance of the biological and genetic components of an individual in the developmental process (Eriksson et al., 2018). This theory acknowledges that no experience occurs in a vacuum and the experiences are therefore affected by dynamic systems and changes going on in and around the individual. One major disadvantage to this is the implementation stage which involves a high amount of funding in order to implement the theory on all the various levels of the model. Due to the contemporary context of this study, the social context is representative of various aspects of life including one's feelings of emotion and ways of thinking.

Figure 2. 1 Socio Ecological Framework of Violence





Source: Heise, 1998.

The various levels of the model are the individual level, the microsystem which represents relationships, the next level is the exosystem which represents the community and the outer level known as the macrosystem representing the society. By applying SEM theory to this work, this study seeks to explore the experiences of male victims of IPV hence, a combination of the two theories will aim at conceptualising the experiences of men in terms of the risk factors, forms, consequences, and their experiences of help-seeking hence its adoption. The SEM seeks to conceptualise the various levels that interact to form the triggers or causes of IPV and has been approved to help address issues bothering causes, consequences and by extension the treatment measures for IPV. Hence in this research, the SET will be used in

conceptualising the experiences of the male victims in terms of the causes and the consequences of the IPV meted out to them. The social ecological theory will seek to expound the various factors and levels of motivations or causes of the perpetration of IPV and the help-seeking avenues as it pertains to the experiences of the male victim.

### **2.7.2 The Gender Role Strain Paradigm**

The gender role strain paradigm has been used in recent studies on male victimisation (Richmond & Levant, 2003; Levant, 2017) hence a combination of Pleck's Gender role strain paradigm with the social-ecological theory will form a novel theoretical underpinning in the study on the experiences of male victims of IPV. The GRSP emanates from the General Strain Theory. The GRSP as explored by Wong and Hines (2016), looks at circumstances under which strict adherence to gender norms has a direct correlation with the mental health challenges of male victims (Gilbar et al., 2021).

This theory emanated from the men's liberation movement and the psychology of women in the early 1980s (Garnets & Pleck, 1979). It has a direct relationship with masculinity ideologies and the gender role conflict theory (GRC) which refers to the psychological state in which socialised gender roles have negative consequences for the individual or people around them (O'Neal, 2008). Pleck hypothesised that strict adherence to culturally accepted masculinity roles has far more devastating consequences for the male than the female. Masculinity ideology refers to the belief in the importance of an individual's adherence to culturally defined and accepted male behaviour.

The GRSP was proposed by Joseph Pleck (1981) and later produced the conceptual model in 1995 which explains that any deviation from the dominant socially accepted roles of masculinity, which dictate accepted masculine behaviours, causes a strain on the individual.

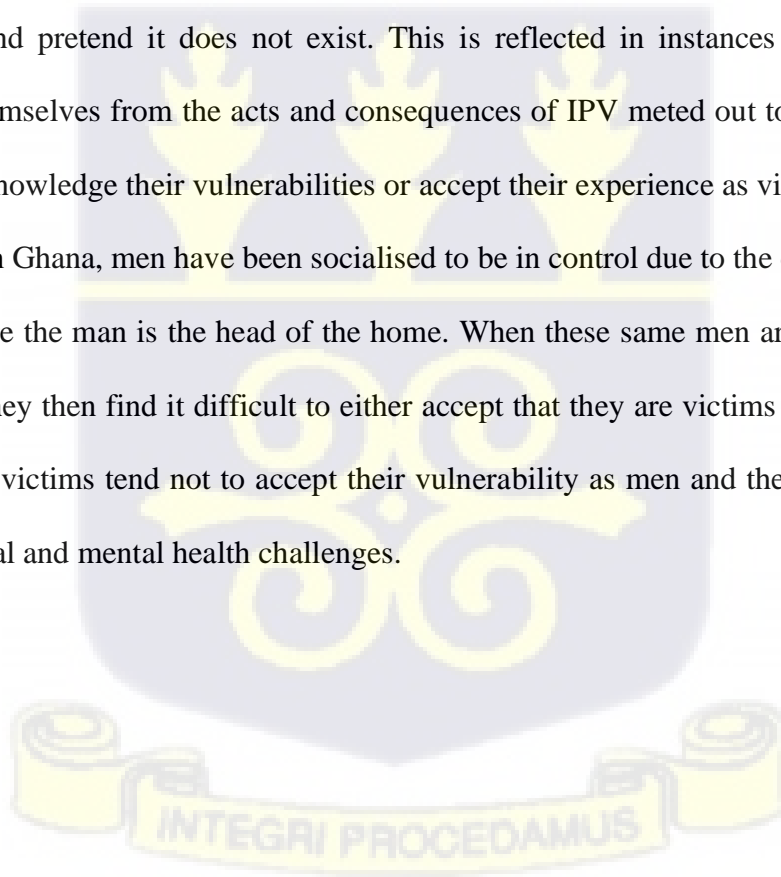
The gender role strain paradigm explains how the cultural socialisation for masculinity poses potential negative effects on individual males when they are unable to live up to the accepted and expected standards and this can have long-term implications. Pleck's gender role strain paradigm hinges on three main theoretical subtypes of masculine gender role strain namely, gender role discrepancy strain, gender role trauma strain and gender role dysfunction strain. The various strains subsequently have the potential to lead to the normative alexithymia hypothesis. Pleck hypothesises that at any time when there is a disconnect between an individual's traits, attitudes and interests with one's biological sexual orientation, the individual's sex role is stressed, disturbed or inadequate (Garnets & Pleck, 1979). This inadequacy results in adverse psychological effects including low self-esteem and a devaluation of self-judgement in relation to others. Gender role discrepancy occurs when men fail to live up to the stereotypic gender role standards and this can result in increasing the stress levels of the individual.

The gender role trauma strain identifies both boys and men in the process of living up to the masculine order itself (gender role socialisation) as stressful and has the potential to subsequently lead to men being victims of sexism (Brooks & Good, 2010) and post-traumatic stress disorder.

Gender role dysfunction results in a situation where the fulfilment of gender roles results in negative consequences for the male himself and others around him. Pleck's theory asserts that masculine role norms inculcated through the process of socialisation, inadvertently affect men when these norms are breached or strained and have a negative correlation with the self-esteem of the persons involved. The GRSP impacts both males and females however, there is an addition in which violating gender norms has more severe consequences for males than females (Pleck, 1995). As part of Pleck's theory he formulated 10 propositions where the 10<sup>th</sup> identifies historical changes also being a cause of gender role strain and that forms an important

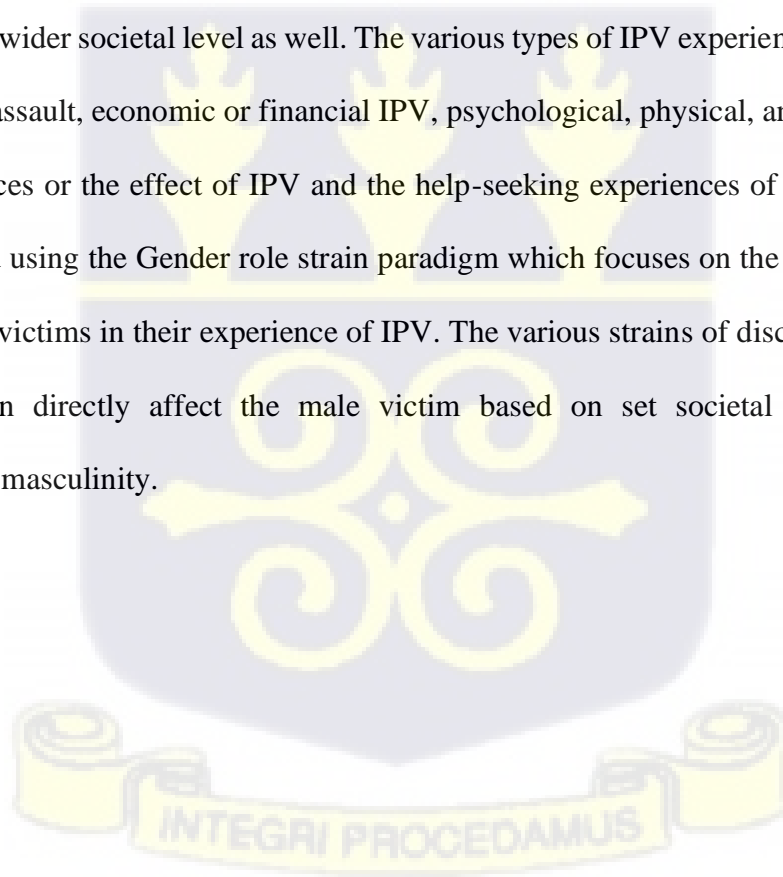
component of this study as reflected in the current contemporary nature of the Ghanaian urban society there are emerging new masculinity roles that men are expected to conform that likewise cause a strain.

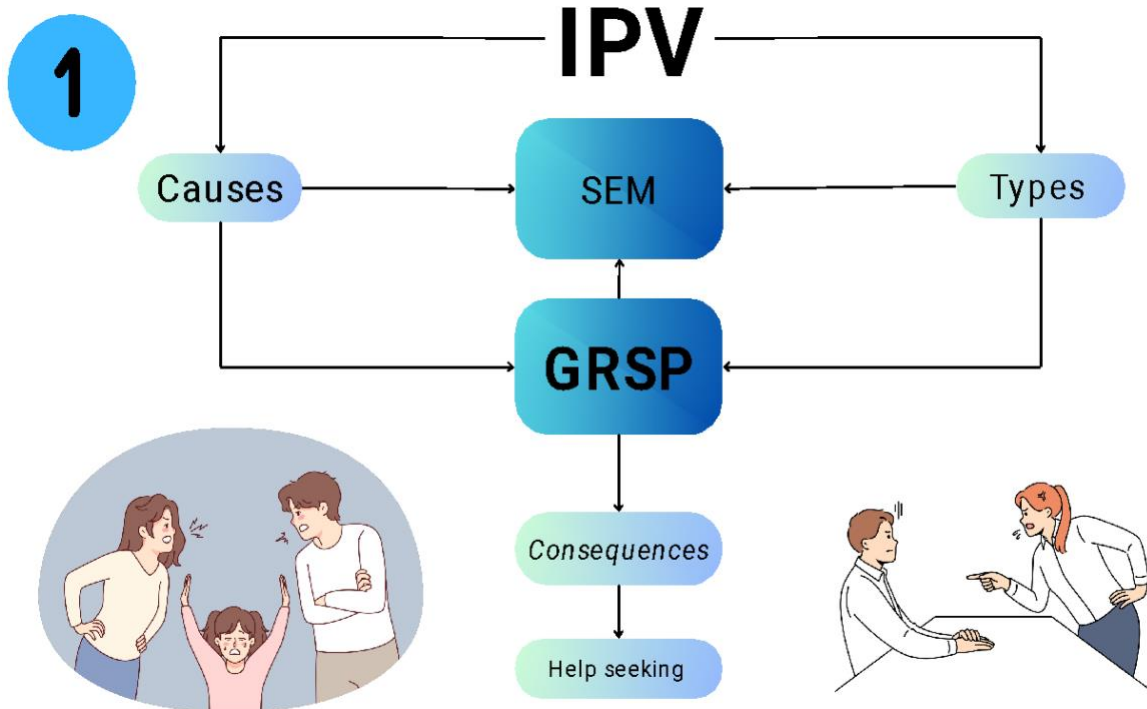
Alexithymia which occurs when an individual is unable to recognise and put his or her emotions into words is also the consequence of IPV. It results in instances where the male who has been socialised to keep their emotions to themselves as a sign of manhood, now becomes a victim and tends to keep their ordeals to themselves and suffer in silence as they are made it feel that it is irrelevant. It is characterised by persons having difficulty in appreciating their emotions and that of others subsequently leading to ineffective emotional control. Persons exhibiting these traits tend to dissociate their personality from whatever abuse they are encountering and pretend it does not exist. This is reflected in instances of male victims dissociating themselves from the acts and consequences of IPV meted out to them where the men do not acknowledge their vulnerabilities or accept their experience as victims of abuse to look for help. In Ghana, men have been socialised to be in control due to the cultural norms of patriarchy where the man is the head of the home. When these same men are abused in their relationships, they then find it difficult to either accept that they are victims or refuse to seek help. The male victims tend not to accept their vulnerability as men and therefore endure all kinds of physical and mental health challenges.



### **Conceptual Framework**

The conceptual framework for this study is based on a synthesis of empirical studies on IPV, the objectives of the study and the various theoretical frameworks as the socio-ecological framework and the Gender Role Strain Paradigm. The causes of IPV were considered from the individual level through the interpersonal level to the societal level. This evolved as the major circumstance that predisposes the male to violence from his female intimate partner at the individual level which comprises the socialization process of both partners on the basis that both victim and perpetrator could exhibit such traits. Relationship dynamics between the couple as well as between members in their immediate environment they interact with regularly could also form causes of IPV. Society and what it mandates as gender roles also interact with the victims and the wider societal level as well. The various types of IPV experienced by men were namely verbal assault, economic or financial IPV, psychological, physical, and sexual IPV. The consequences or the effect of IPV and the help-seeking experiences of the male victims are investigated using the Gender role strain paradigm which focuses on the three strains that affect the male victims in their experience of IPV. The various strains of discrepancy, trauma, and dysfunction directly affect the male victim based on set societal and community expectations of masculinity.





Source: Author's construct

### Summary

The literature review has shown that IPV against men is a reality. The context of this study is to explore the lived experiences of male victims of IPV based on the need for a qualitative approach due to limited research on the phenomenon.

The next chapter presents the methods followed in this qualitative study and discusses the research design, methods for data collection, data analysis and ethical considerations.

## CHAPTER THREE

### METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Introduction

This chapter provides details of the methodology of the study. It discusses the philosophical underpinnings, study area, positionality of the researcher, inclusion and exclusion criteria, research design, the study area, population, sampling, sample size, instrumentation, and issues of rigour, data analysis and summary.

#### 3.2 Philosophical Underpinnings & Positionality of Researcher

According to Guba and Lincoln (1994), a paradigm is a basic set of beliefs, or world views that guide or underpins a study in their ontology, epistemology, and axiological thought patterns. The interpretivist paradigm underpins this study. This philosophy undergirds qualitative analysis in that it focuses on the meaning people give to critical and sometimes life-threatening situations they are experiencing in their everyday lives. An understanding of the context in which specific research is undertaken is important to the interpretation of the data collected to obtain its essence (Willis, 2007). The interpretivist position presents findings that are value-laden and are not free of the researcher's values due to interpretations of what is presented. (Chowdhury, 2014)

In this regard, respondents for this study were obtained from both formal and community settings in a bid to obtain and interpret different experiences from different contexts within the study area. Interpretivists posit that reality is relative and multiple hence there is no single truth but multiple realities (Denzin & Lincoln, 2013). They also believe that knowledge is socially constructed. With interpretivism, this social reality evolves hence the need to gain an understanding of this reality through the lens of those who have experienced a phenomenon (Chowdhury, 2014). Hence, this study explored the individual meanings of IPV experiences of

male victims in heterosexual relationships. A myriad of methods was employed including in-depth face-to-face interviewing and documentary analysis which have all been used in this study.

The ontological disposition of interpretivism is that reality or truth is socially constructed and multiple, and not based on just a single view hence individuals make meaning of their own specific experiences. It also includes how reality is constructed through our everyday experiences and in this case the experiences of violence by men. (Schutz, 1978)

The epistemological disposition of this study is that it is value-laden, and the knowledge generated here is relative in that it is time, context, and culture-specific. The experiences of the male victims are value-laden hence the need for it to be unearthed. IPV as a culture-specific concept emanates from what is considered violent or abusive in one context and might not be regarded as such in another culture. The researcher was responsible for collecting data from the standpoint of an outsider being female without any personal experience of being a victim of IPV, however, seeking to use phenomenological means in discovering the lived experiences of male victims. This helped to reduce any form of bias in the study by being objective in the data collection and analysis.

Positionality refers to a researchers' worldview and the position they adopt in relation to a particular study within its context (Savin-Baden & Major, 2013; Rowe, 2014). It is the researchers' lens through which the study is looked at and reduces bias. Based on the philosophical, theoretical, and personal position of the researcher, being reflective provides the foundation of a positionality statement. The positionality of the researcher was that of an outsider by virtue of being a female with reference to the study participants.

### 3.3 Research Design

The study adopted a qualitative research approach. Qualitative research embodies a wide range of differing strategies and approaches for conducting studies (Leavy, 2014; Sandelowski, 2004). The central focus of qualitative research is to understand how persons make meaning of their individual experiences within their social contexts. Qualitative research combines naturalistic and interpretive approaches including recordings, interviews, and memos among others in studying things in their natural setting to make meaning of a phenomenon from the perspective of those experiencing it (Denzin & Lincoln, 2013). In qualitative research, the researcher forms the main tool for data collection, (Meriam and Tisdell, 2015) and it consists of an interaction between the researcher and participant who is acknowledged as the expert due to their experiences. Denzin and Lincoln (2008) refer to the qualitative researcher as a quilt maker or a bricoleur who selects and brings together their own world views of interpreting data collected and stitching them together to an intricate structure of reality.

A phenomenological research design was used in this study. Phenomenology refers to the study of the significance of a phenomenon as it presents in the lived experience of an individual (Crotty, 1998). The phenomenological perspective enabled the researcher to obtain the lived experiences of the individual male victims of IPV. Phenomenology can be used as a philosophy as a method and as a way of understanding data obtained and it serves as the research design in this regard. The study used the descriptive phenomenological design to obtain information on the basis that reality is intentional and subjective and can only be understood by how it is interpreted by the individual. Husserl and Moran, (2012) emphasizes the study of one's "dassien" as different from the study of consciousness. It hinges on how an individual interacts directly with and experiences his/her 'life world' and makes sense of it. Descriptive phenomenology is committed to an epistemological inquiry by focusing on the source of knowledge and describing and highlighting a participant's lived experience of a phenomenon (O'Halloran et al., 2018) An extension of Husserl's philosophy by Schutz

incorporates the role of the researcher in being able to understand reality as actively and consciously constructed by individuals and their interaction with their everyday world (Schutz, 1978). Phenomenology was employed in obtaining in-depth information on the lived experiences of men who fall victim to IPV as this produced a clear understanding of their personal individual experiences with IPV (Colaizzi, 1973). Phenomenology focuses on understanding what the observed world means to the observed actors with reference to their experiences (Davis, K, 1991; O'Halloran et al., 2018).

Bracketing of the researchers' values and predispositions is applied in this study to highlight the unique experiences of the male victims in this study and obtain rich descriptions of their lived experiences. Phenomenological reduction in this study was obtained through bracketing which involves putting aside one's preconceptions and being conscious of personal experiences and bias in order to appreciate fully as a phenomenon presents itself to consciousness (Bevan, 2014, Giorgi, 2009, 1997, Ashworth, 1999). Hence, efforts were made not to conceive or prejudice any experience. In doing this, the data was collected without any interference from the accounts of the participants. They were allowed to give their accounts of their lived experiences and where necessary probed for clarification. This allows for value-free and non-biased data collection and analysis. In addition, a reflexive journal containing the researchers' personal values and beliefs, biases, and personal experiences as an intimate partner were kept and constant references were made to guide the study. This journal was constantly referred to sustain bracketing (Chan et. al., 2013; Wall et al, 2004).

### **3.4 Study area**

The study was conducted in Accra, the capital of the Republic of Ghana. Ghana is a coastal country in West Africa with a population of about 30,792,608 million of which 50.7% are female and 49.3% are males (GSS, 2021). Greater Accra covers 3,245km land area.

According to the 2021 Ghana Population and Housing Census, about 446,237 population forming 17.7% of the urban population in Ghana were living in Accra, followed by the Ashanti region which exhibits a population of 5,432,487 (17.6%) (GSS, 2021). Accra as the capital of Ghana is the most densely populated, urbanised, and cosmopolitan hence is characterised by a diverse form of participants with a fair representation of victims from various parts of the country due to rural-urban migration. Persons who report at the regional headquarters of DOVVSU are from the various municipalities within the region including persons who have been referred from their immediate districts for further attention due to the intensity of the case or a lack of resources.

### **3.5 Sources of data**

The study used primary and secondary data. The primary data was collected from IPV male victims in Accra and DOVVSU officials at randomly selected offices were interviewed as well as a psychologist at the mental health unit of the University of Ghana Hospital. The secondary data sources were obtained from documentary sources from the DOVVSU Secretariat of the Ghana Police Service. These documents contained raw data on various forms of violence that could be put together to constitute intimate partners; however, IPV as a form of violence was not accounted for in the data.

### **3.6 Study and target population**

The study population for the study consists of all the male victims of IPV. The target population for this study consisted of willing self-identified males of IPV in Accra who had reported at formal agencies by way of seeking help and other male victims within the community who had not sought help from any formal agency. However, due to constraints of time and resources the victims were primarily obtained through the Greater Accra regional

office of DOVVSU, divisional offices, community leaders, religious leaders and NGOs that deal with gender-related issues and this formed a representation of the region since these victims come from the various districts and metropolitan areas of the region.

### **3.7 Inclusion and Exclusion Criteria**

The eligibility criteria for inclusion of a participant for this study were the following:

- This study focused on the adult male population from the ages of 18 through to 60 years who are or have been in an intimate relationship for a minimum of one month and have experienced at least one of the forms of IPV either in public or in private and have or have not sought help.
- The male victim must be a resident in Ghana and the relationship being referred to in this research is the heterosexual relationship.
- The intimate partner is either a current or previous spouse, girlfriend, or a cohabiting partner. It was taken into consideration that, according to the Domestic Violence Bill (2007), just one act of violence in an intimate relationship constitutes IPV.

### **3.8 Sample Size**

Literature does not provide a specific sample size for phenomenological research; however, evidence shows that fewer sample sizes for qualitative studies allow for in-depth data access (Bond, 2013; Mason, 2010). Boyd (2011) recommends a qualitative sample size of 2-10 participants in a qualitative study as appropriate while Baker and Edwards (2012) recommend a sample size of 15 participants. In addition, Creswell (1998) recommends between 5 and 25 participants for a phenomenological study to obtain data saturation.

In this study, 19 participants were interviewed. Participants were obtained and interviewed until a point of saturation where no new information was being recorded. In

addition, 2 principal police investigators and 1 clinical psychologist were also interviewed to ascertain their experiences with male victims of IPV they have encountered in their line of duty.

### **3.9 Sampling**

The study sites and participants for this study were selected using the purposive sampling method and snowballing approach (Dane, 1990). Regarding the study areas, two communities namely Adentan and Jamestown were purposively selected based on the differences in their characteristics, within the Greater Accra metropolis to account for victims who are known within their communities as being abused but have not reported or sought help from any formal or informal avenues. These victims' gatekeepers/informants formed the lead in accessing the victims who were willing to be interviewed, Holoway, (1997). In other settings, the gatekeepers were not willing to disclose the identity of the victims out of confidentiality and the victims were not willing to speak, hence in those instances, the narratives though well-articulated by the informants did not form part of this study.

Participants were recruited from various sectors of society, primarily through the Greater Accra Regional DOVVSU office, divisional offices in the region and NGOs collaborating with male victims within the two communities of the study. Male IPV victims who reported any case at the above-mentioned offices were purposively selected to be part of the study. To make up for both help-seeking and non-help-seeking, victims were recruited in accordance with the suggestion of Douglas & Hines (2010a, 2010b) who suggested that studies look for victims who are unable to use the internet or unable to seek assistance from formal agencies. Due to the sensitive nature of IPV against men, some participants were recruited outside DOVVSU offices specifically within communities.

Another level of recruitment was from the community level to cater for victims who are unable to cross the community level to the formal agencies. There was the utilisation of social capital in the recruitment of the participants. This came about due to the ‘hard to reach’ nature of the participants of the study. The social capital approach uses elements of social networks, social trust, and social norms (Weaver, 2018). This study employed the use of social networking to access some of the male victims who do not want to be publicly known as victims of IPV. These victims were contacted by community leaders through NGOs that worked within the selected communities who knew about their victimisation. Others were also recruited through religious leaders of victims they knew of and consented to be part of the research. Shelters and mental health agencies purposely meant for male victims of abuse served as places for recruiting participants of IPV studies in the Western world, the victims in this study did not resort to these facilities due to the absence of shelters for male victims in Ghana. Some victims resorted to spiritual leaders for help and a majority did not seek help at all because they did not see the need.

In addition, three(3) key stakeholders were purposively selected for this study. A clinical psychologist from the University of Ghana Hospital and police investigators from two (2) DOVVSU offices with the rank of Chief inspectors, were also recruited through formal means and interviewed to obtain their perspectives on male victims who have sought support from them or their offices.

Table of key informants

Key Informant	Occupation
KI1	Clinical psychologist
KI2	Chief Inspector of Police
KI3	Police Officer-Investigator

### 3.10 Instrumentation

In a study conducted by Corbally (2015), the use of broad questioning was proposed as a method of which was used in this study as a useful tool in enhancing disclosure by way of providing a broad spectrum of questioning within which they vividly share their experiences as male victims. In qualitative research, the researcher forms the main instrument. According to Langford (2000), conducting interviews allows the male victims to have a voice for a sense of liberation and to gain a sense of purpose. Hence, an in-depth semi structured interview guide with open-ended questions was employed in this research.

The interview guide was designed based on the themes that emerged from the literature search, consultation with trained personnel within the field of domestic violence and with my supervisors. Two sets of interview guides were prepared one for the male victims of IPV, the other for the law enforcement agencies and mental health professionals and in this study, a clinical psychologist. The semi-structured interview guide consisted of five sections within the framework of having the opportunity to explore the lived experiences in detail. The individual items under each section varied to enhance a conversational interview.

The first section, section A, focused on the personal data of the respondents including their age, occupation, marital status with their intimate partners and the length of their relationship with their abusive partners. Section B, sought to ascertain their acknowledgement of being victims of IPV after which the victims were given the room to narrate their lived experiences in detail. The frequency and types of violence experienced by the victims while giving pointers were also targeted. Section C concentrated on their experiences of what the causes of their victimisation are. Section D inquired about how they have felt about the consequences of the various forms of violence have had on them personally and in relation to others within his immediate and wider community. Section E was to explore the victims' help-seeking experiences in two forms, whether they sought help or not and their reason for their

choice. The specific avenues where the victims sought help whether formal or informal were also enquired together with their expectations as compared to their experiences.

Documents were obtained from the national secretariat of DOVVSU. These were extensive documents that contained records of various forms of violence committed against men against men however IPV as a form of violence was unavailable. Hence there was the need to deduce what constituted IPV for this study. Victims were observed during the interview sessions where the various mannerisms, body language and gestures of the male victims were documented as part of field notes.

### **3.11 Data collection**

#### *Conduct of Interview*

There are deferring schools of thought on females interviewing males. McDowell (1998) indicates that it is the subject of the research that takes the central stage and not only the identities of the researcher and participant. However, to avoid power play by men Scoenger, (1991) adds the element of “class” where the female interviewer feels a part of the class being interviewed to mitigate the complexities of gender and interviewing. Due to the sensitive and multifaceted nature of the research, there was the need to be conscious about the appearance of a female interviewer (McKee & O’Brien, 1983, Lee, D, 1997) by way of clothing, make-up and most importantly maintaining a professional outlook was vital. It must be noted that I went into the interview setting as a female being realistic about any form of challenge that any male victim may pose in view of having no background of the victims and these include, sexual harassment and issues of privacy. First, permission was obtained from personnel of the Greater Accra Regional division, the Madina, Adentan and Nima subdivisional offices of DOVVSU in identifying participants who were willing to be part of the study. Heads

of the various DOVVSU offices were contacted with letters from the University of Ghana through the national headquarters requesting their assistance.

At the onset of the interview process, the participant's consent is obtained for their participation in the research however none of them signed the consent form physically but verbally agreed to be part of the research. The use of technological devices and in this case, audio tape and a personal mobile phone was mentioned to the participants for their approval before their use. The audio recorder and the mobile phone were used in recording the interviews after which transcriptions were done. Jacob and Furgerson (2012), recommend that interviewers come to the interviewing setting well-prepared with the topic in mind and poised to ask relevant questions and listen attentively and to also learn from participants. All COVID-19 protocols were strictly adhered to, in ensuring a transmission-free interviewing process since the interview process was conducted during the Covid-19 era.

A major section of data collection for this study was conducted during the second and third waves of the COVID-19 pandemic and because of that, some participants were unwilling to meet face to face hence arrangements were made for online sessions with the use of online platforms including Zoom and WhatsApp. Three of the interviews were conducted online while the rest were face to face while observing the stipulated COVID-19 protocols within the period of the pandemic. Social distancing and nose mask-wearing were all strictly adhered to in the face-to-face interview sessions.

Three of the victims contacted declined to take part in the study due to various reasons including not wanting to remember the past anymore, moving on in life with their new partners and a loss of interest in sharing their experience. However, most of them expressed their readiness to be part of research that focuses on men and their vulnerabilities. A few participants who were interviewed at the premises of DOVVSU did not feel very comfortable due to the unavailability of male police investigators and interruptions from time to time.

Interviews were audio recorded with approval from participants. They were conducted in the preferred language of the participants and were mostly English.

### **3.12 Ethical considerations**

The necessary ethical clearance was obtained from the Ethics Committee of the University of Ghana for the Humanities (ECH). The researcher made use of informed consent where the participants were informed of my intentions of the research and the fact that the study might not offer them a direct benefit but would help to inform policymakers on domestic violence against men in Ghana. The participants, as part of ethical considerations, were given consent forms which the respondents agreed to either verbally for the online victims or in-person victims as well. There was also the need for introductory letters from my department to the various DOVVSU offices consulted during the process of the study. The DOVVSU offices included the newly constructed national office, the Greater Accra regional office, and some of the Divisional offices in the region. The research was conducted following the World Health Organization's ethical and safety recommendations on domestic violence (World Health Organization, 2001; Ghana Statistical Service, 2009) given the sensitive nature of the topic.

### **3.13 Establishing Rigour of Qualitative Data**

The entire study was conducted in such a manner as to ensure that the findings of the study reflect the meaning of the experiences of the male victims as much as possible (Lincoln and Guba, 1985) Their model of trustworthiness details credibility, transferability, dependability, and confirmability.

#### *Credibility*

To ensure credibility the researcher employed varied prolonged engagement on the field (Forero et al., 2018) A considerable amount of time was spent at both the National

Headquarters and Greater Accra regional division of DOVVSU to familiarise myself with the study settings, obtaining leads, observing the dynamics at the workplace, and developing a rapport with the various station officers, investigators, and victims. The head of the Greater Accra Regional Office of DOVVSU was very instrumental in assisting in obtaining male victims of IPV.

#### *Transferability*

According to Guba and Lincoln (1989), thick descriptions are essential in ensuring rigour in qualitative research and it involves providing a systematic and detailed account of all procedures in the research. The aim of this qualitative research was not to generalise the findings however thick descriptions of the context of the study were provided in the above sessions. Detailed descriptions of the instruments used the setting of the interview and vivid descriptions of the narratives of the male victims were all documented to enhance trustworthiness.

#### *Dependability*

To ensure dependability, an audit trail was ensured through the methodology, data analysis and discussion of findings (Koch, 2006; Long & Johnson, 2000). This was done with field notes and the raw data obtained from the victims in relation to the theory utilised in this study right through to the final report. The various contexts where data was collected from participants were all outlined and the procedure for data analysis was provided.

#### *Confirmability*

In being aware of my bias as a researcher the scrutiny of my supervisors, colleagues and other academics. The questions and observations made enabled the researcher to refine and develop consistency throughout the study. In terms of confirmability, a sequence of field notes, personal notes, raw data, and notes made during analysis supported the extent to which the researcher recognised personal bias by taking steps towards achieving neutrality. Each of the

participants of the study was assured of their confidentiality and was assured that the study was for academic purposes only and thus any information obtained will be used purposely in line with that.

#### *Debriefing*

Participants were asked for clarification on the interview session at the end of the session. However, as a way of expressing gratitude for their time during the interview, a summary of the major highlights of the interview was shared so participants could add or subtract and were allowed to say anything else they wanted to share but were not asked.

### **3.14 Data Analysis**

The data were transcribed verbatim and analysed using thematic Analysis. Braun and Clark's (2013) thematic analysis framework was used to analyse data and present a new perspective in exploring the experiences of male victims of IPV in Ghana. Braun and Clarke (2006) argued that there are six processes involved in the analyses of qualitative data and these are familiarising yourself with the data, generating initial codes, searching for themes, reviewing themes, defining and naming themes and producing a report.

The first stage was to familiarise myself with the data in detail by reading and re-reading the transcripts as well as listening to the audio recording severally while noting initial ideas. This was followed by assigning codes to the transcripts. Inductive coding or open coding was used where coding was done based on the qualitative data itself by allowing the codes to emanate from the narratives of the victims. This form of coding was used because it provided an unbiased focus on what the data provided. Further, similar codes are organised or collated into themes.

The next step involved looking out for repetitive phrases or words that form unique patterns, and this was done by writing exploratory comments beside key statements made by participants. Here, several codes were obtained that reflected the individual experiences of the

victims. The next step, step 3 was to combine the comments written (codes) into themes and stage 4 followed up immediately by looking out for relationships between the various themes and coming up with parent themes and sub-themes. Step 5 was a repetition of the process indicated above with all the individual 19 transcripts in this study. This stage was quicker than the earlier stages since it served as a way of revisiting what had been done beforehand. It helped in observing overlooked but critical meanings given to their experiences. The final stage, step 6 was then to explore and implement connecting, clustering, and refining the themes that emerged from the narratives of the experiences of the male victims. A table of themes and sub-themes was made to show the relationships between the themes and sub-themes and to make access easier.

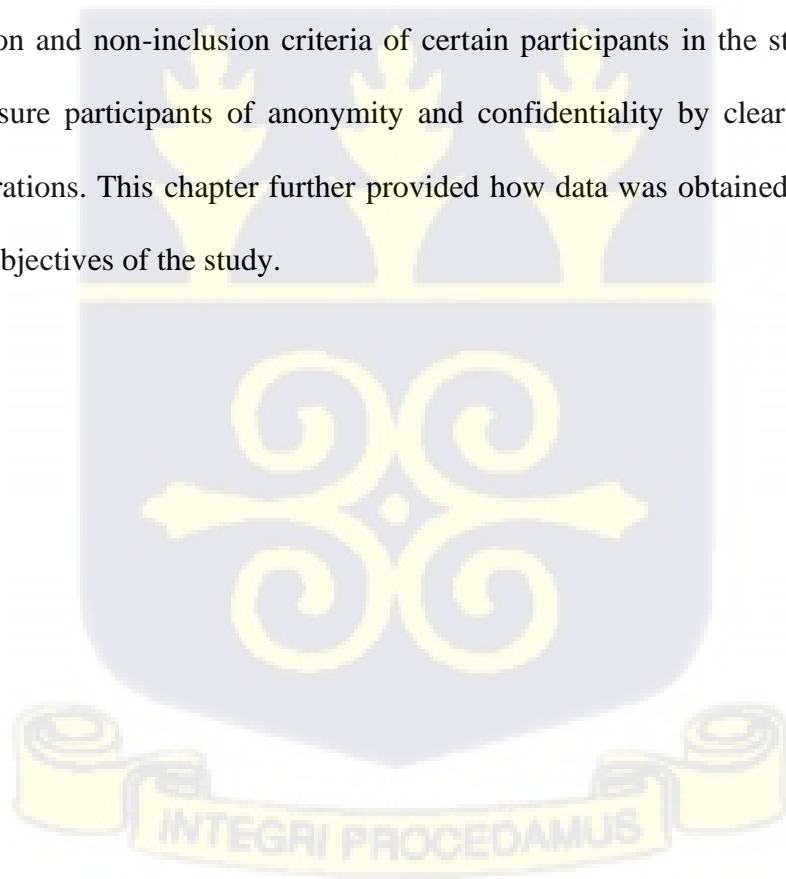
To avoid any form of bias, for consistency and authentication, a qualitative software Atlas.ti version 7.5.16 was also used in analysing the data thematically and this resulted in codes being confirmed and other codes being revised. Atlas.ti is a tool used for analysing qualitative data. This includes coding transcripts, helping in assembling quotes into themes and building network diagrams. The thematic analysis approach involves searching across a range of text or transcripts to find a repeated pattern of meaning and organising these into various levels of themes such as basic, organising, and global themes.

This aspect helped to reduce highlighting portions which were irrelevant and avoid the use of too many quotes (Cocks et al, 2020). The codes were then put together to form themes. The themes were subsequently supported with quotes from the male victims to help give credibility to the interpretations given by the researcher and to avoid bias as well (Roman, et.al., 2020, McPeake et al, (2020). Eldh et. al. (2020) propose that presenting quotations in qualitative research adds to the credibility of the research by throwing more light on the findings while protecting the confidentiality of the participants. In this study the quotations

from the participants were presented verbatim hence confidentiality was ensured using pseudonyms for each of the male victims.

### 3.15 Summary

This chapter presented the methods applied in the study. The study is undergirded by the interpretivist philosophy. The study approach was the qualitative option using phenomenology to obtain the lived experiences of male victims of IPV. The chapter presents the settings for the study as the Greater Accra Region and the justification for its selection. It went on to present the instruments for data collection and reasons for their use in relation to the approach chosen. Additionally, the chapter presented the procedure for participant selection and the inclusion and non-inclusion criteria of certain participants in the study. It provided measures to assure participants of anonymity and confidentiality by clearly implementing ethical considerations. This chapter further provided how data was obtained and analysed in relation to the objectives of the study.



## CHAPTER FOUR

### PRESENTATION OF RESULTS

#### 4.1 Introduction

This chapter examines Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) against men. Various experiences of victims were gathered from in-depth interviews and recorded. The characteristics of the partners are outlined first, followed by types of IPV against men, causes of IPV perpetrated by women against men, consequences of IPV against men, and help-seeking experiences of men as victims of IPV. Except for the background characteristics, the rest of the sessions are presented in themes. The themes are global, organising, basic and sub-basic themes.

#### 4.2 Demographic Characteristics of Respondents

This section presents the background characteristics of respondents as well as basic information on their partners. Nineteen (19) male participants were interviewed for this study. Participants' ages ranged from 27 to 55 years, however, the majority of them were between 30 to 39 years. With regards to occupation, seven (7) of the participants were professionals (lecturers, accountants, teachers, and engineers), six (6) were into craftsmanship, two (2) security and one (1) person was unemployed. In addition, the majority (10) of the participants were cohabiting, while nine (9) were married. On the length of the relationship, most of the participants had been in a relationship between 6 to 10 years, five (5) had been in a relationship for 11-15 years and 3 had been in a relationship for 1-5 years. In terms of the current relationship, more than half of the participants ten (10) had separated, four (4) were married, three (3) were cohabiting and two (2) had divorced. Three (3) of the participants had no children and most of them had at least one (1) child.

**Table 4. 1: Demographics of participants**

<b>Participant Code Number</b>	<b>Age</b>	<b>Occupation</b>	<b>Relationship with partner</b>	<b>Length of relationship with partner</b>	<b>Current state of relationship</b>	<b>Employment status of female partner</b>	<b>Number of children</b>
P1	38	Lecturer/Businessman	Cohabitation	8 months	Separated	Banker	None
P2	39	Engineer	Married	6 years	divorced	Civil servant	1
P3	48	Civil servant	Married	13years	Separated	Civil servant	5
P4	37	Electrician	Cohabiting	6 years	Separated	JSS Leaver	1
P5	35	Mechanic	Married	3years	Married	Unemployed	1
P6	40	Accountant	Cohabiting	12years	Separated	Hairdresser	3
P7	42	Gym instructor and Driver	Married	10 years	Married	Unemployed	3
P8	43	Teacher	Married	10 years	Divorced	Teacher	None
P9	46	Money changer (Forex trader)	Cohabitation	12years	Cohabiting	Unemployed	2
P10	35	Soldier/Military man	Cohabiting	6 years	Separated	Musician	1
P11	38	Lawyer	Married	12years	Separated	Graduate teacher	3
P12	33	Driver	Cohabiting	10 years	Cohabiting	Undertaker	3

P13	35	Security Man	Cohabiting	2.5years	Separated	Unemployed	1
P14	55	Pastor	Married	7years	Separated	Teacher	2
P15	44	Electrician	Cohabitation	16	Separated	Unemployed	5
P16	44	Software Analyst (IT)	Married	11 years	Separated - Remarried	Civil servant	3
P17	52	Fisherman	Married	30 years	Married	Trader	6
P18	30	Unemployed	Cohabitation	7years	Cohabiting	Trader	2
P19	27	Businessman	Cohabitation	2years	Separated	Unemployed	None
P20	30	Businessman	Cohabitation	1.5years	Separated	Unemployed	None



### 4.3 Types of IPV against Men

This section explored the types of Intimate Partner Violence experienced by men. The types of IPV against men generated four main organising themes as

- (a) Economic
- (b) Emotional
- (c) Physical
- (d) Psychological.

Basic, sub-basic themes with supporting verbatim quotes from the participants are indicated to elaborate on the organising themes. The section further presents the occurrence of IPV against men.

Figure 4.1: Thematic network of types of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) against men



Source: Fieldwork, 2021

#### 4.3.1 Economic Exploitation of IPV

Economic IPV is a situation where a perpetrator has access to or controls the resources of a victim. Participants indicated stealing or removal of victims' valuables as the only form of economic IPV they experienced.

##### *Stealing or removal of victim's valuables*

Participants indicated that their partners took away their belongings including electronic gadgets, cooking utensils, and money. Specifically, the items include a television set, gas stove, sound systems, and collective money. A participant indicated that his partner took away everything belonging to him and left the mattress, carpet, and clothing. Another participant mentioned that his partner took away their mutual savings aside from other assets. Most of the belongings were taken away in the absence of the victims.

*"She has packed all our belongings. oh everything. Everything including broom to sweep and Television. Is left with the wooden carpet the mattress for me and some clothing" (P2, 39 years, Married)*

*"When I went home, she had taken the television, my gas stove, and sound systems in addition to an amount of 1500 cedis. I did not have money on me and had pleaded with a friend to give me 1500 cedis out the total of 4000 cedis we had pooled together through our collective savings (susu)" (P5, 35 years, Married)*

Another participant narrated that his partner was a thief and has been stealing from his daily savings. Surprisingly, his partner failed to confess when he first confronted her, but it took the threat of involving the police which made her confess.

*"Madam, this is my girlfriend and she moved from her mother's place to live with me. But I have realised that she is a thief, she has been taking my money all the time and I tell her to stop but she doesn't. This time round I brought a huge sum of money home from work as payment for some goods I took from a partner. Not knowing this lady had been taking the money in bits until the day my friend came for the money only for me to*

*find about 80% of the money gone! I was shocked and embarrassed and so I confronted her and threatened her to bring the money, or I will bring in the police and then I left the house. When I returned, she had brought all the money back and I do not know where she had it from. That was too much and so I asked her to go back to her mum, but she did not want to go. I was just tired of the relationship, it's too stressful living with a thief. I could not take it any longer” (P20, 27 years, Cohabiting)*

#### **4.3.2 Physical Abuse IPV**

Participants experienced various forms of physical abuse, and these are classified as an attack on the genitals, hitting with objects, hitting a partner with a sharp object, pushing, and slapping.

##### *Attack on genitals*

A participant opined that during an argument between him and his partner, the partner used an object to hit his sexual organ.

*“Sometimes she hits. This is not the first time I am coming here. One time she hit me badly, and poured dirty water on me even when I am going to work. She hits me in my sexual organ” (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)*

##### *Throwing/Hurling of hot food and objects*

Some participants indicated that their partners hit them with objects. One participant narrated that his partner threw hot steaming banku (food made from maize) on his back and showed the big scar left after the incident on his back to the researcher and used a chair to hit him amongst others.

He narrates,

*“She was pregnant at the time this happened. We were just having a misunderstanding and I got into the porch to get a shirt to wear. We were throwing insults at each other then; I said one thing and she got triggered and threw the hot banku she was preparing,*

*and it got attached to my back. I have a mark to show. The other day, she used a chair to hit me. She ever even took a knife to stab me before.* (P8, 43 years, cohabiting)

Another participant was hit with an object, but the object wasn't mentioned in the conversation.

*"Yeah, she hit me several times with different objects. She can slap me. She can pull me, just anything she wants to do"* (P16, 44 years, Married)

#### *Hitting a partner with a sharp object*

In addition to the physical abuse, some participants expressed that their partners used sharp objects such as glass and knives on them. Further, a participant indicated that he got hurt by a glass his partner used to hit him. He got very injured, so they had to sew where the glass hit.

*"I don't want police matter, so I don't fight her. There was a time we had a small misunderstanding, she even hurt me. They even sewed my head. I have it on my phone. She took an object to hit my head, a ceramic glass., Before God and man, if I see a man, going to marry a woman, I even cry for the man"* (P9, 46 years, Cohabiting).

There were instances where the perpetrators tried to stab some of the participants, but they failed at it.

*"She even picked up a knife and threw the knife at me. She tried to stab me once another time when I went that I was going to pick the girl out"* (P2, 39 years, Married)

Another participant got to know that the partner had planned to stab him when he was looking for a knife to cook but could not find it. The partner had hidden the knife under his bed intending to stab the man. When the participant confronted the partner, she confessed and told him her intention of cutting him into pieces, but he was lucky her plans couldn't come through.

*"In the evening, I went to the kitchen to prepare food and was looking for the knife, but I could not find it. I then remembered that when she came to the room, she slid her hand under the pillow so let me know what was there. I went there and the knife was under the pillow. I called her, but I didn't ask her where the knife was. I asked her the essence of putting the knife under the pillow. She responded you are lucky; you would have seen what I would have done to you. I would have sliced you into pieces. That was her*

*response. You are lucky that when i came back you were nice” (P1, 38 years, Cohabiting)*

*“When I am coming towards her, she feels I am coming to hit her. She has threatened me with sharp objects. She pulled a knife at me once” (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)*

### *Manhandling*

Another physical IPV experienced by men was manhandling. It includes pushing, pulling and dragging a participant indicated that his partner pushed him away during a confrontation while another victim expressed that she was pushed away when he wanted to pick his children out.

*“I remember once I bought a car for her. She was using the car. I asked and told her I would use it on a particular day. When the day was up, I was like ah, I beg your pardon, I have a lot of rounds to do. Then it became a struggle. I got into the car, she pulled me out by my shirt, and it got torn and dirty” (P16, 44 years, Married)*

*“Leave her, leave her, she shouted at me when I went that I was going to pick the girl out and she pushed me away” (P2, 39 years, Married)*

### *Slapping*

A participant indicated that his partner slapped him after she locked their child in a room and went out.

*“Recently I was with my friends. The little girl was locked inside the house. We had to get one of my cousins to break the glass so we could get the kid out. When she came, she insulted me and slapped me as well, hmmm” (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting).*

Another victim mentioned,

*“She hits me all the time with objects. She can slap me when she wants, she can pull me. I remember once I bought a car for her. She was using the car. I asked her if I would use it on a particular day. When the day was up, I was like ah, I beg your pardon, I have a lot of rounds to do. Then it became a struggle. I got into the car, she pulled me out by my shirt, and it got torn and dirty. That day something happened. I prayed in*

*tongues for about 30 minutes and suddenly she became very calm. Before that she had thrown my Bible into the bush. We were going, we were outside, and she had thrown my bible into the bush and all that and I think a diary. She became quiet after the prayers, and she was like what was I doing to her. She is very sorry, she wouldn't do that again. I told her anytime you said you wouldn't do this again, you do it. I realised she did not have control over it. She did not have control over her emotions. It was a recurring thing". (P16, Married)*

#### **4.3.3 Psychological Abuse of IPV**

Participant's narrations show psychological IPV. These were constant humiliation, insults, intimidation, and threats to kill.

##### *Constant humiliation*

Constant humiliation was psychological violence that was mentioned. Some participants expressed that their partners could go to their workplace to lodge complaints to disgrace them. Others also complained of their partners fighting with their friends and neighbours as well as warning them to stay away from the victim.

*"You go to my office to go and talk about the fact that why am I not allowing you to join me to bring disgrace and ridicule to me at the workplace? Deliberate acts of provocation consistently..... Now you go to my colleagues to tell them about personal allowance" (P11, 38 years, Married)*

*"First, one female family friend called me to come home. The family friend told me that the lady had warned her to stay away from me and had threatened her. The family friend, therefore, told me she was going to cut all contact with me. I did not understand because I was not married to her yet and she was already threatening people. True to her words, the family friend has not called me. I was not pleased with this situation. One early morning, another lady and her family came to inform me that the lady had attacked and cursed her. She went to the lady to warn her to stay away from me. Yes, I was not happy and so I apologised to the lady, I have never spoken to the lady. Another time, I was going to dispose of wastewater. In Labadi, there are not a lot of gutters*

*around. The lady told me to advise my wife. She told me she doesn't want anything bad to happen to her. She told me the lady had quarrelled with her. I begged her to be patient and to allow me to speak to my lady. As we were talking, she came apparently, she had been following me. She started calling the lady a prostitute and insulted her"* (P13, 35 years, Cohabiting)

### *Insults*

Majority of the participants expressed that they were verbally insulted. Their partners shouted at them anywhere and anytime. The insults were due to accusations of cheating and victims not coming home early after work.

*"It doesn't matter who is there, she can be shouting at you. She is violent verbally. It doesn't matter who is there she will still shout and do all sorts of things. I feel very bad when she is doing that because, sometimes right in front of your friends and she starts misbehaving?"* (P3, 48 years, Married)

*"I am with my girlfriend. We have two children. Before the second child, she has been giving me trouble. Anytime she accuses me of chasing other girls she has never been able to prove it. She is always like this my friend says she saw you here with a lady, I saw you speaking to a lady. Anytime I come home she will be insulting me. Sometimes you can't even sleep. She will insult you from evening to the next morning"* (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)

*"When I go to work and overstay because no one has relieved me of my duty, the lady would call and accuse me of spending time with my girlfriends. She was always insulting me. I was able to control myself up to the point where she started insulting my parents and siblings. One day she insulted my parents in my presence and out of anger I hit her, she then went to report me to the police. I called her father and informed them that if they don't settle the case, I might take matters into my own hands. Her stepmother and my auntie went to the police station to settle the issue"* (P13, 35 years, Cohabiting)

A DOVVSU official mentioned that psychological abuse and insults were the common types that male victims experience,

*"It's mainly emotional abuse and sometimes, verbal also comes in. mostly it's emotional and verbal. The physical reports are not much. It's not that the men cannot*

*retaliate but it's like let me fold my hands because should I touch her, she will quickly report to the police, and they will arrest me. So, the man will sometimes allow the violence to continue".(KI,2)*

#### *Intimidation*

Few participants mentioned that they were intimidated based on the actions of their partners.

Some victims were threatened and insulted in the presence of others.

*"She threatened to slap me and even insulted me. She reported me again. Nothing significant came out of the meeting. They decided to forget it. She started threatening me with a lawyer that she would have me arrested. I told her she can exercise her rights. Whatever justification she has, she is free to do what she wants. The lawyer called me and spoke to me about a meeting. I didn't know the lawyer so if he is calling for a meeting, the lawyer has to tell me what the issue is. If the lawyer is still interested in meeting me, the lawyer can come to my church and look for me. The lawyer never came. A week later I spoke to the lady, and she denied reporting me to a lawyer. She threatened me again that she would have me arrested with the help of a lawyer. The reason why I reported the issue to DOVVSU was that she threatened and forbade me from going to the child's school. She told me if I stepped into the child's school, she would pour acid on me or arrange for a gang to beat me. I was not going to school. If there is any payment that has to be done, I would call the headmaster and send it via mobile money and go for the receipt later" (P13, 35 years, Cohabiting)*

*"My wife is a real bother to me, she worries me. As of now, I am not a happy man at all. My spouse does not respect me at all. She insults me all the time that I am not her type, and that she should have married a rich man, not me, as all her friends are doing well riding in cars, but she is not. Can you believe she can wake me up in the night only to ask me what plans I have for her? She then tells me she regrets marrying me because I am not a rich guy like the others. She has threatened me with leaving the marriage several times, but I tell her that she can go but not with my son" (P5, 35 years, Married)*

A participant mentioned that his wife would always beat their daughter whenever there is disagreement. At times she utters unpleasant words against the daughter in front of her

*"We were always quarrelling. She would beat our daughter mercilessly and anytime I complained about that, she would say I hate our daughter in the presence of the child*

*and certain things not meant for our child to hear. She would threaten me with divorce and take our children away from me. It continued like that until one day she told me she had a funeral to attend in her hometown. I expressed concern that she is spending too much money on travelling for funerals. She got angry and threatened me again, saying “I will teach you a lesson”. I had told her earlier to leave the kids behind and that I will take care of them in her absence. All this while she had planned to pick up the children from school on Friday and take them to stay with her friend in our neighbourhood so I would think she took them with her to the village. Anytime I called to speak with the kids, she and her mother would toss me around” (P7, 42 years, Married).*

#### *Denied access to children.*

Some participants indicated that they were denied access to their children after they were taken away by their partners. A participant reiterated that though he pays the children's school fees, he doesn't know the school the children attend.

*“It was around midnight that my sister and a nurse who lives next door came to my rescue and helped me clean my wounds. Meanwhile, Martha had taken the kids away and the padlock to the house” (P4, 37 years, Cohabiting)*

*“Along the way when I paid school fees, I did not know the school the child attended. They were doing everything possible to hide the child sometimes” (P10, 35 years, Cohabiting)*

Another participant expressed that when he was outside the country, his wife would not allow him to talk to the children. Anytime he calls, the wife cuts the call.

*“One, she is very secretive. Two, she denied me access to my children because I travelled. The issues were that she wanted to travel with me. The issue is that as we speak right now, because of the COVID situation, my job requires that you could go with the family, but it would not be fine. Secondly, we travelled to a country, we came back, and we realised that the kid's school was not stable. For the older one we had to bring her back so we decided that it would not be prudent for us to switch within this short time. Let's keep constantly engaging them here. But I did not take the children*

*along, I didn't. For them to be here. But she doesn't like the idea. When I left, she cut me off. When I call, she doesn't pick. I am not able to speak to the children. The only means I can talk to them was through their teachers” (P11, 38 years, Married)*

#### *Threats to kill.*

There were threats from the victim partners to kill some participants. In one instance, a male victim narrated that the wife hid a knife under a pillow with a threat to slice him into pieces.

Another male victim expressed that his partner always threatens and curses him.

*“She put the kitchen knife under my pillow. It was a kitchen knife. She came to my house unannounced. I was on the phone and wasn't paying attention. I went to get her food, drinks and after I brought the food, I was on my phone. She was trying to talk to me but I wasn't minding her. I just saw her get out of bed and into the kitchen. For me in the kitchen you go for a drink or something. On her way back she was holding an apple in one hand and the other hand was behind her. When she came back, I just felt within my spirit that you know just be nice so I put my phone down and we started chatting and we all started laughing. I saw her hand under the pillow. I did not know what she had kept under the pillow because I wasn't paying attention because I only saw her with an apple. We had a confrontation and she told me it was time for her to go home. I assisted her to get home. In the evening, I went to the kitchen to prepare food and was looking for the knife, but I could not find it. I then remembered that when she came to the room, she slid her hand under the pillow so let me know what was there. I went there and the knife was under the pillow. I called her, I didn't ask her where the knife was. I asked her what was the essence of you putting the knife under the pillow. Her response was that you are lucky, you would have seen what I would have done to you. I would have sliced you into pieces. That was her response” (P1, 38 years, Cohabiting)*

*“The threats come in the form of curses. At some point, I told her I will make sure she leaves my place. She told me if she leaves my house, I will see what will happen to me and that she will bring macho men to beat me up”. (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)*

#### **4.3.4 Sexual Deprivation**

Participants highlighted that their partners denied them sex too often and for very long periods. However, two of the victims also mentioned that they could not match up to the sexual demands of their female partners. There was an interesting twist as well when two other participants indicated that sex was a highlight for them and though they were being abused that aspect kept them in the relationship.

Whenever there is disagreement, the partner does not allow the victim to touch or have sex with her.

*“When she conducts herself in that manner, in the evening when I want to have it, Oh, no, no. She doesn’t allow me to have it. She doesn’t allow me to even touch her. She denies me strongly” (P18, 30 years, Cohabiting).*

*“She even denied me sex, she has been wearing ‘nika’ and ‘jeans nika’ and a lot of other things, all sorts of excuses so I can’t have sex with her. She doesn’t even want to cook for me. She used to cut my nails, shave me, all those things before 2018”(P2,39, Married)*

Another partner indicated that he has to beg his wife for sex anytime he desires sex. However, it is not on all occasions that the partner accepts for them to have sex.

*“I’m ashamed to say that our sex life was bad, very bad. I used to beg her a lot to have sex with me. Sometimes I become restless. These are the reasons why men cheat on their wives. Married couples should have sex. God made it that way. I have shared so many details with you today, hmmm” (P7, 42 years, Married).*

A participant indicated that the partner has been denying him sex for almost a year, but the partner was having an extramarital affair with someone.

*“We knocked and some asked whom we were looking for. I mentioned and the reply was he wasn’t there, but his wife was in. My wife was the person they were referring to. Meanwhile, for almost a year, she had denied my sex. She would come up with all*

*excuses just so that it doesn't happen. When she came out and saw us, she vomited"*  
(P14, 55 years, Married)

The effect of denial of sex was also mentioned by a participant. He indicated that for him to cope with the situation, he engaged in extramarital affairs.

*"When we are fighting, she does not allow me. When she is doing these things, I don't even attempt. Sexual denial happens frequently because her behaviour is frequent. Every two weeks we fight. We can be okay this week, laugh and all that then the next week she starts" There are times when she denies me for a long time, then I have to call a few girlfriends to see whether I can spend the night".* (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)

A victim mentioned how he could not satisfy his girlfriend and as a result lost the relationship, He said,

*"She forces me to have sex even after a quarrel. She always forces me to have sex with her. I even got tired at one point and asked if there was something wrong with her. Subsequently, I lost interest in her, it was too much for me!"* (P13, Cohabiting)

Another victim who developed sexual weakness, gave details of his as follows,

*"As you know as a man when you are depressed, you have sexual weakness. It happens to most men because the problems prevent you from eating and living healthy. On top of that for me, I was not having a job and money, plus I was dating a woman who was sexually very active. This girl can carry you for a whole night. There was a day, we had sex from morning to evening around 6:25 pm. So just imagine this kind of girl. You have known her for years and now you cannot last for up to two rounds and you don't have money too, then I realised that the lady was cheating on me instead of staying faithful with me. I thought she would be supportive in my time of troubles, but she wasn't".* (P10, Cohabiting)

Two victims in the study mentioned that their sexual life was good despite all the other forms of violence they were going through.

A victim mentioned that even through his crises their sexual life was good. He mentioned smiling,

*“For her, when it comes to sex, I think that was our strength in the marriage. She did not deny me of sex. One thing my counsellor never understood was that we would still make love even during those tough times”* (P16, 44 years, Married)

From the perspective of a DOVVSU official, victims who report rarely mention sexual denial and when they do, they do not say it plainly,

*“As for the consummate rites the men find it difficult to report sex denial. In a sort of jovial way but really, they are being affected. Especially the Christian men and they will say, she’s pushing me to go outside the marriage which I don’t want to do.”* (KI,2)

#### **4.3.5 Occurrence of IPV abuse**

Two main themes were identified for the occurrence of abuse experienced by men. These are private and public places.

##### ***Public spaces***

There were instances where some men were abused in public. Some were abused amid their friends, neighbours, and other strangers. Participants expressed that they felt very bad being abused in front of people.

*“I feel very bad when that happens because sometimes, right in front of your friends she starts misbehaving”*. (P3, 48 years, Married)

*“We live in a compound house so even behind my window, there is another apartment and people always sit behind my window. They hear all what is going on”* (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)

Another participant mentioned that his wife's utterances were unbearable. He was worried because people will spread rumours and gossip about his wife's behaviour toward him.

*“Yes, she does it in public. The utterances that came from her mouth ... coming from her mouth. She said that in public too. No matter what you say, yours will not be believed. They will say that since she said so while being in the same room with you, it means that she is right. Honestly, I’m distraught. Even when I’m engaged in something, perhaps when speaking to me, none of whatever you say enters my ears; they are all not heard. It makes me think about her utterances since it was in the full glare of the public. Someone who hears whatever your wife says goes to spread it. He or she tells whomever he or she sees, viewing you as garbage, contrary to how they used to view you. Maybe on the way to an outdoor, friends dress impressively well. And while nicely dressed, he may be drinking some liquor. That will make people say that “You, instead of using your money to solve problems at home, this is the sort of things you buy with the money.” (P18, 30 years, Cohabiting)*

#### ***Private spaces***

Though most of the participants expressed that they were abused in public, few of the participants emphasised that they were abused privately.

*“No. She says hurtful things but it’s between us. Aside from the day I came to meet her with the male visitor at night, our disagreements have been indoors. When she insults me like that, I take it as normal because it happens all the time, so I have become used to it now” (P12, 33 years, Cohabiting).*

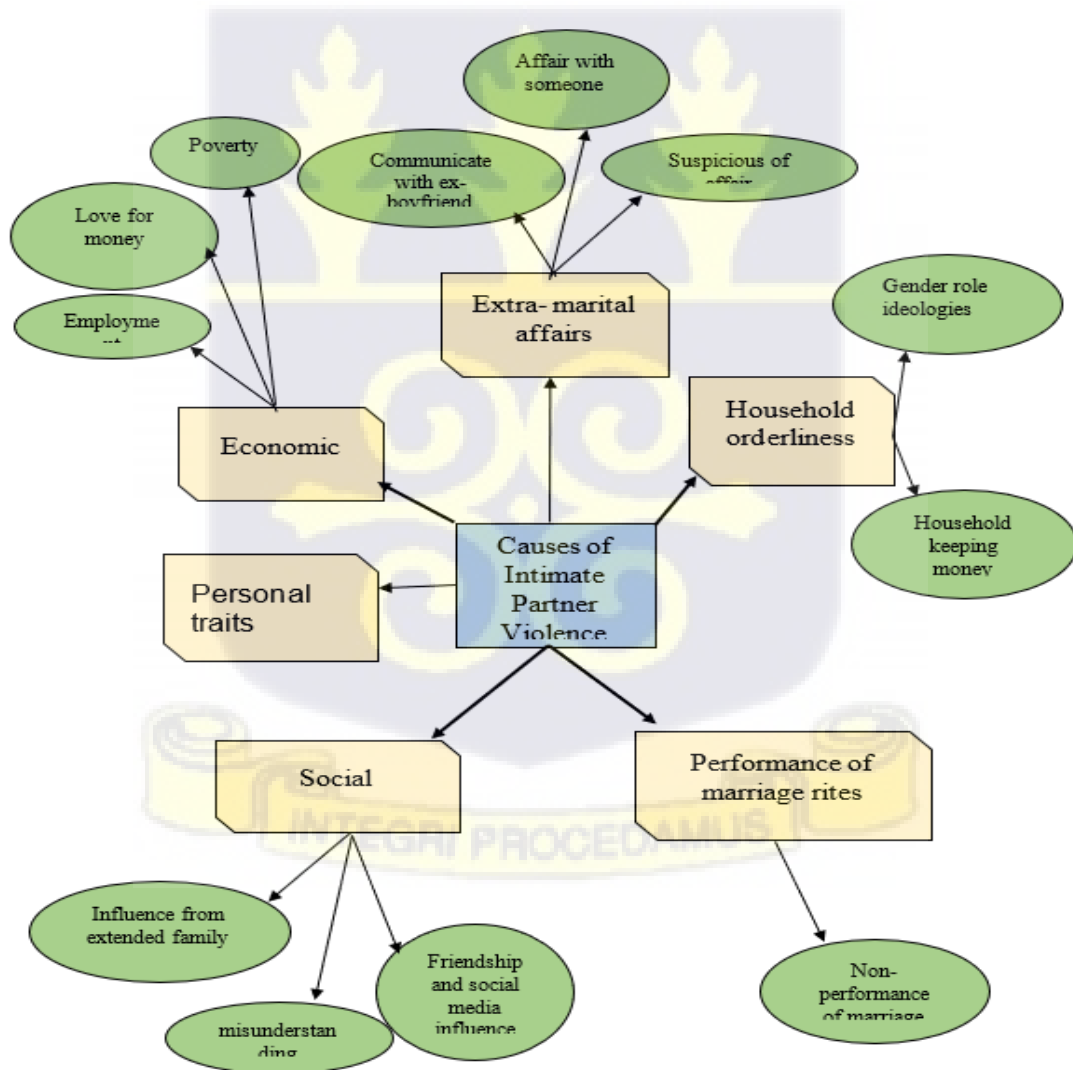
#### **4.4. Causes of IPV perpetrated by women against men.**

This section explores the causes of Intimate Partner Violence against men. Victims’ narration of the causes of IPV they experienced or continue to experience varies relatively from one victim to another. A similar observation is made about the different events that trigger the IPV committed against them. It is worth noting that victims’ narration of the cause of IPV is an account of the major issue that they are aware of though there are similarities. The organising themes due to their extensive nature are classified as economic, extramarital affairs, household orderliness, the performance of marriage rites, personal traits and social factors. The extracts of the basic themes and descriptions of these themes are presented below. The major themes

that were generated in response to the causes of IPV from the perspective of the male victims are;

- Social
- Economic
- Household orderliness
- Extramarital affairs
- Personal traits
- Performance of marriage rites

**Figure 4.2: Thematic network showing the causes of IPV against men.**



Source: Fieldwork 2023

#### 4.4.1. Economic factors

Economic factors were identified as one of the causes of IPV against men. The basic themes are classified as employment, poverty, and love for money.

##### *Employment/Access to sources of income*

Participants recounted that they started experiencing Intimate Partner Violence when their partners got a job. Before then they were comfortable living with them. For instance, a participant expressed that his partner had access to loans with a low interest rate from where she works, and that influenced her partner to exert such actions on him. Another participant indicated that his partner was influenced by her friends at work.

*“It started when she got an appointment at her workplace, she was before working on contract basis. You know they are entitled to a car loan, housing loan, and all these things, and the strategy for payment is low, different from a customer. That why for my place where i work we can go for all those things, but bankers get more opportunity with these things” (P2, 39 years, Married)*

*“There were no signs of this behaviour at the beginning of the relationship leading to marriage, No. All these things started after she got the job. I think it was due to the friends she made there; she met some bad friends that taught her bad things. When we got married, she was not working so getting a job and some money now made me see her true colours” (P3, 48 years, Married).*

Another victim indicated that his partner was not willing to work and coupled with other factors necessitated a lot of arguments leading to the causes of IPV.

*“My job is such that anywhere I go, I can move anytime, I can live anywhere but think of you and the kids so I buy a house, get a work permit, then I ask you to try and study, do something, you can work, help yourself. And you tell me I cannot force you to do that? So, for ten years the burden is on me to take care of you, to take care of all the kids, and still manage to save 120000 to get this so how many people can do that? It is*

*a responsibility, and I am proud to talk about that, that I have been able to do so we come back after you have done all this, and you tell me that you don't care. So, it is torturing, and it is deliberate, so you come back, you go to the mother's school, what you do, I don't know"* (P11, 38 years, Married).

Similarly, a participant whose partner was not currently working explained that he tried to set up a business for his wife, but she was not successful because she ran at a loss. Another participant mentioned because he was working and had other assets that generate income for him, his wife decided not to work.

*"Maybe it is because she is not working. She is always in the house. All she knows is that anytime, I need money to do this. Anytime you are unable to provide, it means you have given the money to another girl. I have tried to set her up. The recent one she said she wanted to start a business. In less than a year the money vanished. Her family members are aware of the money I gave her. Recently, my mum asked her where the money was. She told her that due to the lockdown, she gave some of the items out on credit and has not been able to get back the money"* (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)

*"At first, she used to work with her sister in her salon. For almost two years now she has stopped going there because she thinks her husband works. Anytime I talk she tells me, you are working. You have a 'trotro' working for you. You have this, you have that. So, it means you will not work. Seriously, how much is my salary"* (P13, 35 years, Cohabiting)

According to a clinical psychologist, the main causes per male victims were financial and personal reasons,

*"Money, respect. Those two things are the common ones. This person says the husband is not responsible, the man also says the woman is not respectful. These are the common ones; finance and respect"*(KI 1).

#### *Love of money/insatiable demands for money*

The love of money was identified as one of the causes of IPV against men. For a participant, the partner loves money so anytime he gives her money, she complains that it is not enough.

At times, the partner takes money that does not belong to her, and this always leads to disagreements and fights between the couples.

*“Yes ... eerrmm ... My wife loves money. As soon as I put money down, she takes it. Me, too, since I know her conduct, if I put some money down and she takes it, I can't fight her or hit her. When I realise that she has taken some money that I've put down and I ask her and she admits it, I proceed no further; I neither quarrel with her nor do anything with her. Sometimes when I ask her when I'm angry she will also get angry and insult me other times too She doesn't do anything. If I don't ask her with anger but 'threaten' her that, “I put down some money here; have you taken it? Based on her response, I'll realise that she has taken it, then I drop it there” (P17, 52 years, Married).*

#### *Poverty*

Other participants echoed poverty as the cause of the IPV against them. For a participant, this started when he impregnated his partner and the partner's mother advised her to give the pregnancy to a rich man because the participant was not having money. This later created hatred and disagreement between the participant and the partner after they came back together. Consequently, the man could not meet the demands of his partner and that also resulted in disagreement and the onset of violence.

*“Later, I went with two friends of mine to visit the woman. When I got to the house, she told me my girlfriend was not in the house, which was not true. She was hiding. I did my calculation to determine when the child would be born. So, when she was in the eighth month, I sent my mother and sister to go and see the girl because I was seriously sick. When they got there, the house had been vacated. My mother and sister had a difficult time finding her new residence. When they went there, the woman claimed that the pregnancy had been lost. They told my mother that the girl was not in the house. Meanwhile, when my parents were entering the house, they caught a glimpse of the pregnant lady. The girl's mother kept telling lies. From the onset, I realised that the woman was negatively influencing the daughter. All along, throughout she realised that I didn't have money, so she advised the girl to give the pregnancy to another richer man. Later, I learned the truth from the girl” (P10, 35 years, Cohabiting)*

#### 4.4.2 Extramarital Affair/Infidelity

Extramarital affairs refer to a situation of having another intimate relationship with someone who is not legally or customarily married to you outside one's current relationship. Three sub-themes including communication with an ex-boyfriend, having an affair with someone, and being suspicious of his partner having an affair with others were identified under this organising theme.

##### *Communication with ex-boyfriend*

A participant expressed concern about the communication of his wife with her ex-boyfriend. Though the participant was legally married to the wife, his wife kept on communicating with the ex-boyfriend to the extent that the wife's mother does not see anything wrong with her daughter communicating with the ex-boyfriend. This situation resulted in disagreement and made matters worse for the participant.

*"Yes. It started when her ex-boyfriend used to call her at night. The business setting was not that much of an issue. It was because of her ex-boyfriend that made matters worse between us. Her mother would say things like, "How is it wrong for her ex-boyfriend to call her". My wife used to tell me if she would ever leave me, she'd rather get back together with her ex-boyfriend. That got to me" (P7, 42 years, Married)*

##### *Having affairs with someone*

While a participant expressed that his partner was communicating with her ex-boyfriend, other participants mentioned that their partners were having extramarital affairs. A participant who was a pastor mentioned that the Holy Spirit reveals to him that his wife had an intention of divorcing him. He confronted the wife about the promptings of the Holy Spirit, but the wife denied him. Later, through deliverance, the prompting from the Holy Spirit was confirmed that the wife was having an affair with another man and had an intention of divorcing him.

*"One of the days I was laying down and the Holy Spirit told me, you are lying here. Your wife says she's not marrying again and that she's going to look for money to take*

*care of her dreams. I told her what I had seen so she should be careful. She told me that I had overeaten thus having bad dreams. She knows my pedigree. When it comes to spiritual things, don't go there. I decided not to mind her. So, between 2013/2014, things were getting worse. When she's home, she doesn't talk to anyone. She'll just lie down, she was not nice to the children, I was with a friend when she complained about being uncomfortable. I took my time and had a deliverance session for her. The manifestations were rough. Not knowing, has she been sleeping and waking up with a man in one room? You see your countenance has changed. Not knowing, that is what was going on all this while” (P14, 55 years, Married)*

Another participant recounted that the wife was seeing another man, and she left the children under the care of the participant. He emphasised that on one occasion, the wife left the house and came back pregnant with another man. She packed all her things and left to stay with the man who impregnated her.

*“When I am around, a certain man comes home to look for her that was around the time this whole issue started. She eventually left the children in my care. When she came back home after a while, she was pregnant. While in her pregnant state, she packed all her things out of the house” (P15, 44 years, Cohabiting)*

#### *Suspicious of partner having an affair*

The suspicion of participants having extramarital affairs also leads to IPV against men. Some participants indicated that their partners were suspicious of them cheating because they complained of talking to women often and sleeping with them.

*“This woman, she constantly accuses me of having girlfriends and sleeping around and I tell her I don't do that. Those things do not make marriage concrete. To be frank, my biggest challenge is my wife and I have regrets. I regret that I have a wife right now. Before God and man” (P9, 46 years, Cohabiting)*

Another participant explained that the wife accused him of cheating based on complaints from other people to her. He confronted the wife to provide evidence, but the wife could not provide any evidence to buttress her claims. This resulted in insults and threats from the wife.

*“When the issue started, I asked her to provide evidence. She told me that people saw me and reported to her. I told her to point some of those people out to ascertain the truth, but she wasn’t willing to mention the names. I couldn’t determine the exact reason for her behaviour because I don’t like going out. I usually go out with my brothers, not even my friends. My life is about work, church, and home so I don’t know her reasons for not trusting me. She constantly has my attention because I don’t spend time outside. People around me including elders try to explain to me that her actions are a result of excessive love. But I disagree with them because excessive love cannot drive a person to threaten me and insult me and my family” (P13, 35 years, Cohabiting)*

#### **4.4.3 Household orderliness**

Household orderliness relates to housekeeping by couples. From the narrations, participants mentioned household orderliness as a cause of intimate partner violence against men. Three main themes were identified under this organising theme, and these are not performing household chores and household keeping money.

##### *Gender role ideologies*

There are traditionally constructed roles for both the male and female in relationships and when any of these roles are not adhered to it forms the basis of conflict and violence. Some of the male victims complained of their roles being taken from them as leaders of the home.

*“Our fathers used to control our mothers. He could ask her to do anything, and she would without questioning, but girls of today would not do that. Now, she also has money, she works, she can give money too. So, they think they are at par with us. They feel if you don’t like her, go. She’ll find someone else. But my mother’s generation was different. They were not like that at all”. (P12, 33 years, cohabiting).*

A victim who also shared his experience in relation to gender roles said,

*“We have lost our way in this generation so the women are thinking it is time to pay for the sins of our fathers and uncles because men are all the same. They say, we will treat them how they treated us in the past. You literally ask a lady okay so what do you bring to the table as a life time partner and they will tell you yes I am here. They can't even explain it. Usually, the men will say something stupid which is usual of men. When you have that conversation with a woman, apart from sex and home chores which I do myself because of my upbringing what do you bring to the table apart from sex and money? Nobody can explain, nobody can define it. The whole issue about mindset is one, women need to understand the need and essence of relationship as well as their cultural roles and social pressure”.*

*(P1,38 years, Cohabiting)*

Another victim also lamented in such manner,

*“A man is the head of the house. I had to take care of her three other children she had before I met her, yet she didn't show respect to me. Even when I gave her money for foodstuff, she didn't want to go to the market and would ask me why I didn't get the food items myself. The house was always unkempt. I used to complain all the time because I didn't want the landlord to have the impression that I wasn't taking care of his property. She was always roaming, spending time with other guys, all because she let her beauty get into her head”.* (P4,37, Cohabiting)

In relation to that another mentioned,

*“The earlier stage when we were doing a normal relationship, she was a little bit abusive and tried to play the role of a man rather than a woman. So, getting in, deeper in the relationship, she was more serious about that, and those aspects but rather hid it from me and I was also covered by love”.* (P2, 39years, Married)

#### *Household orderliness*

There were complaints of a wife not performing any household chores. The participant narrated that though they live in a compound house, the wife does not sweep the house when it is her

turn and does not do anything apart from fidgeting with the phone in the morning. All household chores are performed by the daughter who is 11 years old.

*“The problem is that anytime I come, you know we live in a compound house. You know in the compound house we have days where people sweep. By 6 am the house must be swept but she can be in the room, you wake up in the morning even with the children you don’t do anything. You just wake up in the morning, take your phone, and be doing Facebook and WhatsApp. The first child is 11 years old. She has to do everything on her own. She has ironed her cloth, bought her porridge, and taken her bath. She will walk all the way to buy the food. When I see those things, I talk. You are a woman. You are in the room and the house is not swept. Immediately I start talking and she gets angry. We live in the community and people talk and wonder why she does not do anything” (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)*

Another participant expressed that he found it very difficult to tidy a room when they got married. He was very disorganised and failed to lay a bed and flushed the toilet after use. These things always got his wife angry as he kept on doing things that she disliked.

*“With my experience, what I know and remember was that my wife, she gets angry at the least thing. She is naturally like that. She gets angry at the very least thing. But when we are talking of triggers, it is real. When I do something that she does not like, it sparks her off. But that aside, there are times she perceives I have done something, and I have not really done it but still she gets angry. Erm when we got married, let's be practical, I am the type that when I wake up, I would not lay the bed. I was not organised, like flushing the toilet. Those are the practical stuff that gets her annoyed. When I serve myself, she perceives that I have taken more meat than I am supposed to take. Very practical stuff. Sometimes when I say something she does not understand, then she gets angry” (P16, 44 years, Married)*

#### *Household keeping money*

Some participants indicated that their inability to provide sufficient housekeeping money led to their experience of IPV. One participant recounted that he used to give enough housekeeping

money to his wife, but the money was reduced around the time of COVID-19 and that necessitated the disagreement leading to the experience of IPV and separation from the wife.

*“Yeah, I strongly believe that it all started because of the money because we weren't fighting. Around the time of the outbreak of Covid, the housekeeping money I was giving to my baby's mother was not enough. I was giving her 60 cedis daily. On days I give her 50 cedis, she does not allow the child to go to school. It got to a time I couldn't give her the 50 cedis and because of this, the child would stay away from school. She is disgracing me. Because the housekeeping money was not enough it got to the point where she told me she wanted to leave if I couldn't increase the money. She left all the children in my care. Combining my electronics job with taking care of the kids became difficult. When I receive a deposit from people, by the time I get home, the money would be finished” (P15, 44 years, Cohabiting)*

Another participant expressed that though he had explained to the participant to be content with any amount that he gives to her, the partner seems not to be content and always misbehaves.

*“Honestly, for all my problems it has to do with money. But regarding that, I've made it known to her that I'll give as I have – when I have a big one, I'll give her what's big, and when it's not big, I tell her, “This is all I have, wife. Collect this amount and manage it. By the time it gets finished, I'll have obtained some again to manage the house with.” I give you about fifty pesewas and you account for, telling me it's remained about twenty pesewas remaining. That will make me go out there again, more determined, to look for more to add to it. But you use everything everyday and ask for more everyday why? Since it's not enough for her, I make it known to her that it's not enough for her so I'll have to go out there in search of more for her to be happy”. (P18, 30 years, Cohabiting)*

#### **4.4.4 Performance of marriage rites**

The bedrock or genesis of every marriage is the performance of marriage rites. Participants expressed that performance and non-performance of marriage rites were among the causes of IPV.

*Non-performance of marriage rites*

The recognition or foundation of every marriage is the payment of the bride price or performance of marriage rites. Some participants explained that they have not performed any marriage rites on their partners' families. Their partners want them to perform the rites to solidify the relationship. One respondent mentioned that he wanted to marry the woman but he doesn't have enough money to perform all the marriage rites. Another participant recounted the disagreement between him and his partner on whether to perform both traditional and white weddings. The participant expressed that he is not prepared to do the two because he doesn't like the white wedding.

*"It is because I have not married her properly that makes her do all that she's doing, so that is the main problem. I've taken steps about that, but truth be told, before Almighty God, one doesn't just wake up with nothing to perform the marital rites. There are a lot of things that must be done here in the Ga land. There may be an elderly woman in the house for whom such rites haven't been performed, but you, you are going to perform the rites for a small girl. They will look at you with certain eyes"* (P18, 30 years, Cohabiting)

*"I've asked her, and I know it but it is not paramount. I didn't want to tell you earlier but as you asked, I have to tell you. The one problem that is worrying her is doing her engagement or wedding. And I told her the wedding is out of my system. Wedding, I don't like weddings. I can do the engagement so that you know I'm living with you, but I haven't done engagement that shows that you are fully my wife"* (P9, 46 years, Cohabiting)

#### **4.4.5 Personal traits**

These extracts present certain personal traits of their female partners that the victims identified as being the cause of their ordeals.

*"She gets angry at the very least. So, when we are talking of triggers, it is real. When I do something that she does not like, it sparks her off. But that aside, there are times*

*she perceives I have done something, and I have not really done it but still she gets angry. ” (P16, 44years Married)*

*“It does not change the fact that she was a treacherous human being. She is a liar, a very good liar. ” (P01,38years Cohabiting)*

*“I think that if I had gotten married to someone else, who wouldn't be quick tempered, the experience would have been different. She is too quick tempered. ”*

*“All the time she is jealous, very jealous. When I'm free with women, she is upset, and she hasn't even caught me with a woman before. I'm a man, obviously, maybe a nice woman will attract someone or be free with me ”. (P09, 46years cohabiting)*

*“When I went outside to study for one and half years, she never even asked me about my program. When I come home from work it is difficult for her to ask me, how is work. She is not interested in me. She is interested in what I bring and my resources ”(P11,38years, Married).*

Some of the victims also mentioned ways in which according to their experience have contributed to their own victimisation.

*“I don't drink, I don't smoke, I am not a womaniser. Because you think that I am a Christian, you take my leniency and you do things that you think I would not be able to retaliate because of my Christian faith ” (P11, 38years, Married)*

*“It is due to my upbringing. For my upbringing, you don't fight, you don't insult. So, when I got married and I was experiencing those things, I mean I could easily beat her up and I can match up to her physically, but I felt it was wrong. Once my mindset was that it was wrong, I didn't want to do that. ”(P16, 44years, Married)*

*‘Sometimes I ask myself, a woman who I feed, I don't know whether I'm too lenient or too soft but that is me. I also see my faults not like cheating on her, but we are all not perfect. There are some things I don't have to say and when I do them it creates problems’. (P09, 46years, Cohabiting )*

*‘Though her aunt told me about disrespectful behaviour, and I also got to know about her bad behaviour not long after. I don't know how to explain because I loved her for her beauty. I thought stature also counts because you get to show her off to your friend. I thought she would change by me being patient with her. ’(P03, 48years, Married)*

*“Err at the earlier stage when we were doing the normal relationship, she was a little bit abusive and tried to play the role of a man rather than a woman. So, getting in, more*

*in, she will be more serious about that, those aspects but rather hid it from me and I was covered by love. But I know at least that how it started.”(P02,39years ,Married)*

#### **4.4.6 Social factors**

There were social factors that lead to the causes of IPV against men and these are classified as influence from extended family, friendship social media influence, and misunderstanding.

##### *Influence from extended family*

Some participants attributed their experience of IPV to the influence of their partners' extended family, especially the mother. Some parents connive with their daughters to do certain things that are unpleasant to their partners. Also, some go to the extent of convincing their daughters not to marry their partners because they do not have money.

*“Her parents are always on our marriage, and they do it in a very subtle way. It is not only interference. It is an agreement because what she does, she does it with them. The mother tells people, why I should go and buy a house elsewhere? I don't want to mention the name of the country, but why should I buy a house in another country without telling her as my mother in-law. That are you the one who took me to school and took care of me? Once her father comes to our home and tells me if I want, he is going to dissolve the marriage and I told him that fine he can go on if he wants to and he said he would let them move from my matrimonial home and i told him that if he does that with my wife I will take legal action against them and I did not mince words” (P11, 38 years, Married)*

*“Later, I went with two friends of mine to visit the woman who was my wedded wife at the time. When I got to the house, a tenant in the house told me my girlfriend was not in the house, which was not true. She was hiding. I did my calculation to determine when the child would be born. So, when she was in the eighth month, I sent my mother and sister to go and see the girl because I was seriously sick. When they got there, the house had been vacated. My mother and sister had a difficult time finding her new residence. When they went there, the woman claimed that the pregnancy had been lost.*

*They told my mother that the girl was not in the house. Meanwhile, when my parents were entering the house, they caught a glimpse of the pregnant lady. The girl's mother kept telling lies. From the onset, I realised that the woman was negatively influencing the daughter. All along, throughout she realised that I didn't have money, so she advised the girl to give the pregnancy to another richer man. Later, I learnt the truth from the girl"* (P10, 35 years, Cohabiting)

#### *Friendship and social media influence*

The influence of social media and friends were also identified as triggers of IPV against men. A participant expressed that his partners' life was influenced by social media and friends. She had bad friends and these friends influenced her to put up bad behaviours such as intimate partner violence.

*"Her level of friendships and use of social media is too much. She can be on the phone throughout the night till morning, chatting with friends. She's joined so many WhatsApp groups and it's consuming her time but that's what she likes. Her friends are also not good but that's what she wants and moving around with them. When I'm around she limits her interaction with them though. So, when there's a misunderstanding and she moves away, she falls into their company. She accuses me of not taking her out sometimes too. And I tell her she knows I don't like outings".*

*(P8, 43 years, Married)*

*"She can be in the room; you wake up in the morning even with the children you don't do anything. You just wake up in the morning, take your phone and be doing Facebook and Whatsapping the whole day, what is that?".* (P6, cohabiting)

The victim further registered his displeasure when his partner is always monitoring his phone.

He said,

*"There have been many instances where she used to take my phone and read my messages. When people are calling me, she takes the number and calls them".* ((P6, cohabiting)

Another victim mentioned where his partner has not lived to his expectation in that she ignores her responsibilities by constantly watching television.

*“I tell my wife to do something for me as I go out there to swim in the sea to get some money for us. When I returned, most of the time she hadn't done it. Then I will then call her and enquire about that. She has been watching a movie or playing video games the whole time”. (P18,30, Married)*

#### *Misunderstanding*

Others too echoed misunderstanding as the main cause. A participant explained that misunderstanding between him and his partner always ends up in a quarrel. This resulted in violent behaviour and consequently, the partner left the matrimonial home to rent her own house.

*“Erm... There was a little bit of confusion in the sense that the woman I was living with, got to a time where she decided to go and rent a place to stay and live on her own. There was this little confusion small, confusion... erm misunderstanding. I will say that maybe she was actually, sometimes there used to be a quarrel between us. Sometimes over little things and it ends up in a quarrel. The second issue was that she allowed her mother to take care of the children while she was involved with friends, moving out with friends, and the mother taking care of the children?” (P3, 48 years, Married)*

Another participant explained that he had a misunderstanding with his partner on where to raise their children to ensure that their education is not affected or truncated. In addition, he decided not to travel with his wife to another country where he was posted to work. These arrangements angered the wife to mete violent behaviour toward him.

*“The issues were that she wanted to travel with me. The issue is that as we speak right now, because of the COVID situation, my job requires that fine, you could go with the family, but it would not be fine. Secondly, we travelled to a country, we came back, and we realised that the kid's school was not stable. For the older one we had to bring the back so we decided that it would not be prudent for us to switch within this short time*

*so let's keep constantly engaging them here in Ghana, but she did not understand"*  
(P11, 38 years, Married)

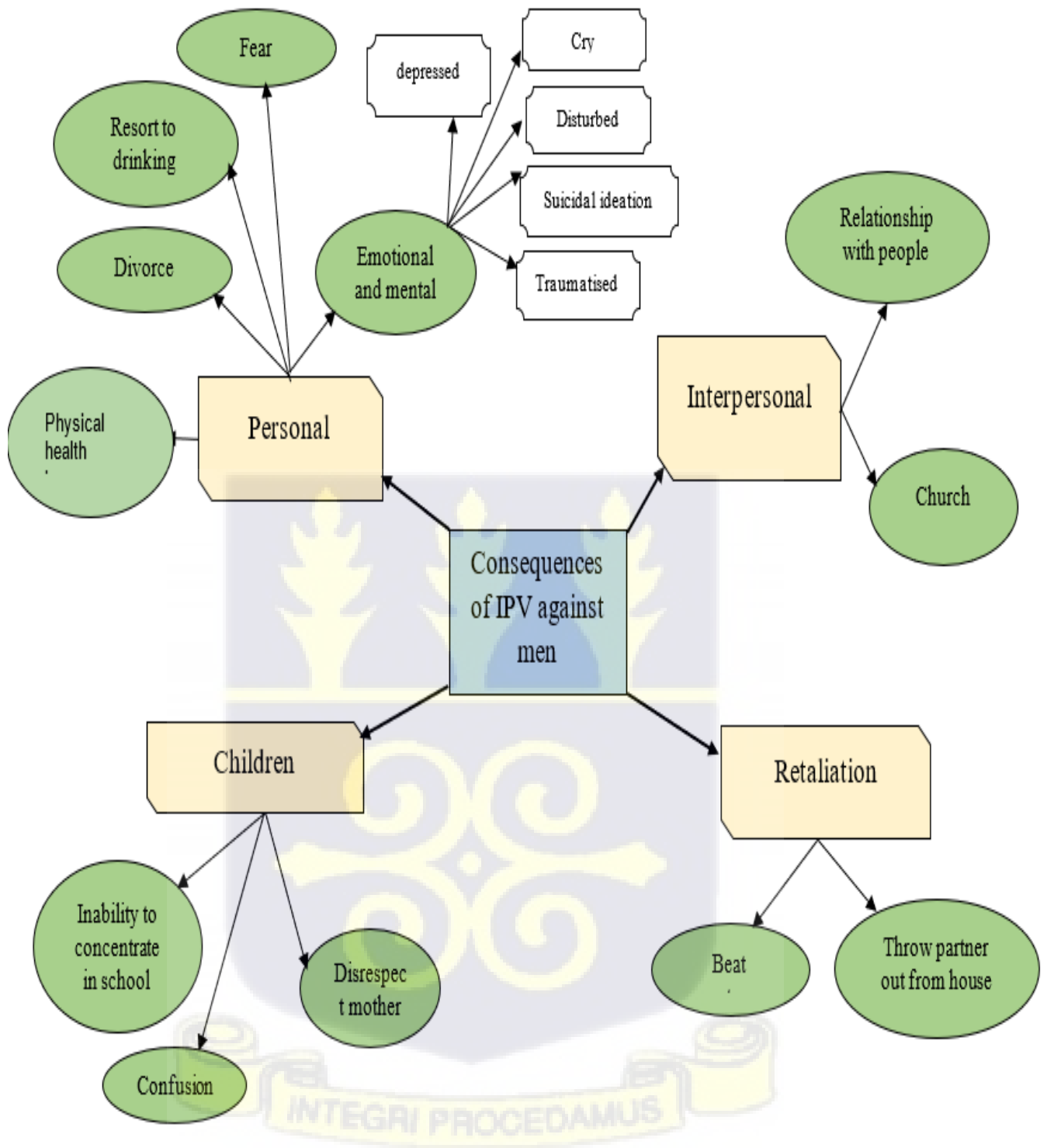
#### **4.5 Consequences of IPV against Men**

With reference to the consequences of IPV against men, four main themes were identified. They are consequences which affect them personally, affect their interpersonal relationships, affect their children within the relationship, and in others cause them to retaliate in self-defence. They are.

- Personal
- Interpersonal
- Children in relationship
- Retaliation



Figure 4.3: Thematic network showing the consequences of IPV against men.



Source: Fieldwork, 2023

#### 4.5.1 Personal

In this theme, victims were allowed to picturesquely express themselves describing their mental and physical state, in relation to their IPV experience. Here, it combined how they feel, and more so, how every detail of the IPV forms might have contributed to their emotional, mental, and physical state with all that they experienced. From the narrations, there were personal factors associated with the consequences of IPV against men. These are divorce, resorting to drinking, fearing women, and emotional and mental health.

##### *Physical Health issues*

Most of the victims complained of physical health consequences by virtue of the violence being meted out to them.

*“Anytime I remember what happened, it really hurts”; “I have even lost so much weight since then even though I am a very slim person” (P03, Married)*

One victim lamented,

*“I don’t want police matter, so I don’t fight her. There was a time we had a small misunderstanding, she even hurt me. They even sewed my head. I have it on my phone. She took a ceramic object to hit my head”. (P9, Cohabiting)*

A participant explained his impact as,

*“I have developed a problem with my heart, and I am spending a lot of money on it. I even have to go for a scan after this discussion”. (P6, 40years, Cohabiting)*

Another victim had severe health challenges as well and indicated,

*“I need to keep my sanity and my mind and my health., because of her actions, my blood pressure was running from 167 to 168 for a period of 6 months consistently”. (P11, 38years, Married)*

### *Divorce*

A participant indicated that the behaviour of her partner necessitated her action to seek divorce because they have never been friendly in the marriage due to incessant fighting.

*“I told her I wanted divorce before I went to DOVVSU. We have never been friendly. She does not tell me where she is going when she is leaving the house” (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)*

Another mentioned,

*“She didn’t have the facts to justify her actions. She has always been like, you need something to prove your basis. You would endure it until you are able to gather your facts and evidence. Secondly, your emotions and feelings are already invested in this person, and it is always the one who has much to lose who keeps on holding on. It gets to a point where in the early stages, it is difficult to leave. It gets to the point where you have had enough so you can wean yourself from the relationship.”*

### *Resort to drinking*

Another participant mentioned that the violent behaviour of her partner made him resort to alcohol drinking. In that, a lot of people talk about his issue, and resorting to drinking alcohol would help him to forget some of the sad notes.

*“Honestly, I have taken to drinking ‘KPOO KƐƐƐ’ a lot. It makes people talk about you ... the whole of Accra. When one word enters the ear of one person, the entire Accra hears. When they see you coming, they’ll pretend they are not looking at you” (P18, 30 years, Cohabiting).*

### *Fear of woman*

Another personal factor relating to the consequence of IPV against men is the fear of women. A participant recounted that though he is healed, he fears women and had a bad mindset about women due to what he went through. He was reluctant to date another woman despite the pressure from family and friends. It took him some days to heal for another relationship.

*“I am naturally self-motivated. What was happening caused me to lose weight and grow weak. I tried my best to solve the issue, but I couldn’t understand her reason and I naturally became scared. I regretted meeting her. I felt she had been sent to destroy my life because that’s the only thing that makes sense. Her actions have caused me to have a certain mindset about women. A lady friend of mine helped me before my impression of women got better. It has become difficult for me to even ask a woman out because I have a fear about the harm the next woman is going to bring. I keep getting a lot of pressure from my mother and church members to start going out, but they don’t know about the fear I have of women. Anytime I meet a lady, I begin to think about what harm that lady is going to cause if we get married” (P13, 35 years, Cohabiting)*

#### *Emotional and mental state*

Most of the participants expressed concern about their emotional and mental state. They indicated depression, crying, traumatized, disturbance, and thoughts of committing suicide as the emotional and mental consequences.

#### *Depression*

Some participants expressed that they were depressed because the actions of their partners demotivated them. For instance, one participant mentioned that he used to be in severe pain and would be thinking wildly.

*“Now I feel I am healed. At that time, I used to feel demotivated. I felt depressed. I was psychologically unhealthy. I used to be in pain. Sometimes I would be there, and the pain would be so severe. You will be there, and you are thinking things are beyond you. You are sharing your problem but not getting a solution and things are recurring. It is very unpalatable. I would not wish that anyone goes through this” (P4, 37 years, Cohabiting).*

#### *Crying*

Another participant mentioned that though he still lives with his partner, he sometimes cries because of her behaviour and actions.

*“Though I’m living with her the way she’s doing, sometimes, I cry. Sometimes, I sit down alone and cry. Because I don’t know what is worrying this girl” (P9, 46 years, Cohabiting)*

#### *Traumatised*

Some participants expressed that they were traumatised to the extent that they become unconscious sometimes when they are crossing the road. In other instances, he would be driving and will be making mistakes. Another participant emphasised that what he has been through really hurts him and he is taking steps to heal.

*“When I was going through this, I used to feel very emotionally disturbed. I went through a lot of emotional torture and turmoil. Sometimes when I am even crossing the road, unconsciously, I am not crossing very well, and a car is about to hit me. I am driving and I am making mistakes. When you are in that state, it affects you. Erm how you think and all that. So, you can be making mistakes even at work” (P16, 44 years, Married)*

*“In summary, I am being traumatised emotionally, and psychologically. It haunts me every day, that is why I keep on making an effort. I am in pain just that I try to overcome it. I see that with time, time heals everything and with time nature would take its course. I just allow nature to take its course. I make steps but you know I try not to allow it to overcome my brain. I am hurt. To be honest with you I am badly hurt. As it stands now, the problem is that I don’t know where she is. I don’t know where the mother is” (P10, 35 years, Cohabiting)*

#### *Disturbed/Hurt*

Others were emotionally disturbed to the extent that they cannot sleep and were having tears in their eyes when they realised that their partners were sleeping with someone. Some of the participants also indicated that they were unable to concentrate at work and when conversing with others. Consequently, some of them were unable to sleep.

A victim shaking his head from side to side and almost in tears narrated,

*"You know, it affected me because you have never thought of such a thing happening. And looking at you (man cheating with his wife) sleeping with somebody's wife. I mean it's beyond comprehension. Everything we are happy about so if it's sex you want, come back home. I couldn't understand her, I just could not. I could yawn and have watery eyes till morning instead of sleeping. If it wasn't for God, you would have seen me on the streets. Because something you had never thought of has happened. Somebody you love, somebody you cherish, somebody that you trust, somebody you are always thinking about has done this to you (breathes heavily) 'I had to go rent a canopy and fix it in somebody's house. That place too I have to leave there because it floods when it rains. I went through all these challenges. '." (P14, 55 years, Married)*

*"Honestly, I'm distraught. Even when I'm engaged in something, perhaps when speaking to me, none of whatever you say enters my ears; they are all not heard. It makes me think about her utterances since it was in the full glare of the public. Someone who hears whatever your wife says will then go to spread it. He or she tells whomever he or she sees, viewing you as garbage, contrary to how they used to view you. Maybe on the way to an outdoor, friends dress impressively well. And while nicely dressed, he may be drinking some liquor. That will make people say that "You, instead of using your money to solve problems at home, this is the sort of thing you buy with the money" (P18, 30 years, Cohabiting).*

*"I became wretched. I couldn't eat or sleep for several weeks. It was then my boss realised how serious the situation had become. Sometimes men go through things and I'm even ashamed to talk about it" (P7, 42 years, Married)*

#### *Suicidal ideation*

In other stances, a participant indicated that there were thoughts of suicide but what restrained him was his savings at the bank because nobody will have access to his bank account when he dies.

*"I feel bad. It worries me. Sometimes, I cry. It worries me. Like I told you, if not for this woman, I would be the best man for myself. Now, I can't go anywhere I want to go. When you go, she'll call you. When she hears the background, she'll be talking. She's over jealous and it's jealous and it's too much. Hmm, sometimes if not of the small*

*monies that I get, like (pause) I commit suicide. This suicide, suicide comes to me, and it rings in my head all the time. The reason why I haven't killed myself is the money in my bank account, who will go and take it? I have some monies in town, I have some dollars somewhere, who will go and take them? This is the reason why I'm still living. Like I would have killed myself a long time ago. Because she will do aaaaaaa then I say, why? People who I'm far better than them, excuse me to say, they don't experience these things. My wife is worrying me. Hmm, we leave it to God. I don't know what to say" (P9, 46 years, Cohabiting).*

A clinical psychologist mentioned details of the consequences on his patients who are male victims which corroborates what P9 narrated.

*"Depression, stress and suicide are the main causes we encounter here, and some actually attempt it. So, the ideation comes first, and they move to the attempt. So those are the four things. Depression, stress, suicidal admission. Then sometimes, homicidal. they tend to kill the other spouse. Because you are the one causing the problem if I take you out, then the problem will be solved".(KI 1)*

#### **4.5.2 Children**

In addition, there were consequences of intimate partner violence on some children within the relationships with children. Participants recounted their children's inability to concentrate in school, some children were confused and disrespected their mother, and others though witnessed the violent behaviour but that did not have any impact on them.

##### *Inability to concentrate in school*

Some of the participants explained that their children will cry when they witness any violent behaviour. A participant mentioned that this affected his child's education, and she was unable to concentrate in class.

*"Sometimes When these things are going on the children are there. And my oldest girl, she would sometimes cry. One time, we had a misunderstanding, I went to some hotel for 3 days just to avoid her, my daughter went to school, and I called the school, the*

*teacher said she couldn't concentrate so she was crying so it has effect on the children too". (P9, 46 years, Cohabiting)*

### *Confusion*

Another participant indicated that his child was always confused because what they have been hearing from their grandmother about their father is not good.

*"The older one tells me he is confused all the time because they go to the grandmother's place all the time and she is telling them stories about me and when they see me, they don't see me be that" (P11, 38 years, Married)*

### *Disrespects mother*

In other instances, some participants indicated that their children have become dull and hate their mother due to her actions. They now do not respect her and walk away anytime she calls them. Though there have been attempts to reconcile her with the mother, all attempts have not been successful.

*"The children, they became dull. And they started hating their mother. They saw what was happening. Especially the girl. She was living with her so all that she was doing to her led her to hate the mother so when she calls, she will walk away. Especially my fellow pastors when they want to talk about the mother, she won't come closer to you again. To date, when you tell her you are taking her to her mother, then you are creating problems between you and her. The gentleman doesn't want to hear his mother's case at all" (P14, 55 years, Married)*

### *Influence by mimicking*

A participant mentioned that his child witnessed the violent behaviour of her mother and sometimes mimicked her mothers' actions when she was a child. The actions of the mother have had an influence on them.

*"The children, sometimes during the verbal assaults are present. That's the reason why I moved out from there. Also, I have not wanted it that way. I realised when I separated,*

*erm when you are under the same shelter, the chances of the occurrences are high but when you separate erm it's better. So, the children don't get to see such stuff. But they saw it a couple of times. They were much younger, so I am sure they did not understand. I tried to find a way to find out from one of them something that happened. She even got involved. I have asked both of them, but they don't even remember. Seem to remember much at this point. I am happy about that. My second daughter is like this, I remember one day I went to visit my wife got angry and was trying to drive me away from the house. My little kid was also following her and also trying to mimic what my wife was doing. (P16, 44 years, Married)*

### **4.5.3 Interpersonal**

#### *Church*

Aside from personal factors, some participants explained that the violent behaviour of their partners affected their church. A participant who was a pastor narrated that some of his church members left and he was evicted from the premise that they were having church service.

*“All these things affected the church oh yes! It collapsed the church. There were only two members of the church who were left because of what my wife was doing to me. I was evicted from where the church was meeting, I could not concentrate. I had to go rent a canopy and fix it in somebody's house. That place too I have to leave there because it floods when it rains. I went through all these challenges (P14, 55 years, Married)*

#### *Relationship with community members*

Some participants mentioned that they were disturbed about the behaviour of their partners as it consequently affected their personalities and how they relate with people in their community. It has led to certain levels of embarrassment and stigmatisation. The violent behaviours are discussed in and out of their presence which sometimes makes them feel embarrassed and less of a man. Their partners also quarrel with their neighbours and at times make the husband feel insecure.

*“In the community where i live they see all that is going on. They talk about it in my presence and absence, and I feel so bad about it. I feel less of a man because of the things she does. In my house, there are a lot of families around and it is sometimes embarrassing” (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)*

*“Sometimes, I feel shy. They hear it. They see it. The other time, my wife was quarrelling with a tenant that that guy was the one giving me bad advice. I said no. She’s not free with the guy now. She’s at loggerheads with them. Sometimes, I feel shy. I tell my wife that these people don’t come near us. We have air-conditioning, we have a washing machine, we have a fridge, we have a microwave. I give you money every time. You alone, you take 900 cedis every month. My children are out of this amount. Altogether, I do about 1400 a month for her. Go and ask the tenants how much they give their wives. So please, what you are doing, let’s stop it. I talk to her. Sometimes when we are fighting, they will be happy in a way, and in some ways, they will not be happy. What is wrong with these people, what worries them? Is what they will be asking. The man has a car, why are they fighting? Because they are not doing that. That thing worries me” (P9, 46 years, Cohabiting)*

*“They talk about it in my presence and absence and I feel so bad about it. I feel less of a man because of the things she does. In my house, there are lot of families around and it is sometimes embarrassing. Psychologically and emotionally I am losing respect.” (P05, 35, Married)*

#### **4.5.4 Retaliation**

Some participants also expressed that the behaviour of their partner necessitated their actions against them. They were pushed to retaliate because they could not bear the abuses of their partners any further.

*Throw partner away from the house.*

A partner indicated that he had to throw away or send the partner packing because of her actions. The participant mentioned that he wanted to sack the wife due to her violent behaviour and that resulted in a fight.

*“It was around midnight that my sister and a nurse who lives next door came to my rescue and helped me clean my wounds. Meanwhile, my wife had taken the kids away and the padlock to the house. I didn’t want to see her again because she wasn’t doing house chores, and she wouldn’t let me touch her either. I wanted to throw her out of the house. That’s what brought the fight. She was always using the law in every quarrel.” (P4, 37 years, Cohabiting)*

#### *Self-defence and retaliation*

Some participants mentioned that they could not stand the abuse of their partners, hence, they retaliated by beating them occasionally.

*“Once my mindset was that all the abuse going on was wrong, I didn’t want to do that but getting to the very end, I slapped her back after she slapped me. That day I was really surprised at myself, and I think it injected some fear into her. She went round and round verbally trying to challenge me expressing how surprised she was that I could retaliate. She kept threatening me, but she could not do anything. Before that, I was not retaliating” (P16, 44 years, Married)*

Another victim mentioned that he used to hit his wife at the beginning of their relationship,

*“Her behaviour was a bit too much. And as for her, if you dare hit her, she will retaliate. She would fight you like you are both males. Initially when she misbehaved, I would hit her thinking that would change her. I beat her occasionally. I could even slap her, but I stopped a long time ago” (P14).*

In some cases, victims resorted to violence as well, to retaliate against what was being done to them:

*“I realised that the lady was cheating on me instead of staying faithful to me. I thought she would be supportive in my time of trouble, but she wasn’t. I got mad to the extent that I hit her. I really beat her and I have regretted that and I vowed never to beat a woman. I apologised to her and tried calling her but she was not responding.” (P 10,35, Cohabiting)*

Another victim instead of retaliating shared how he avoided that,

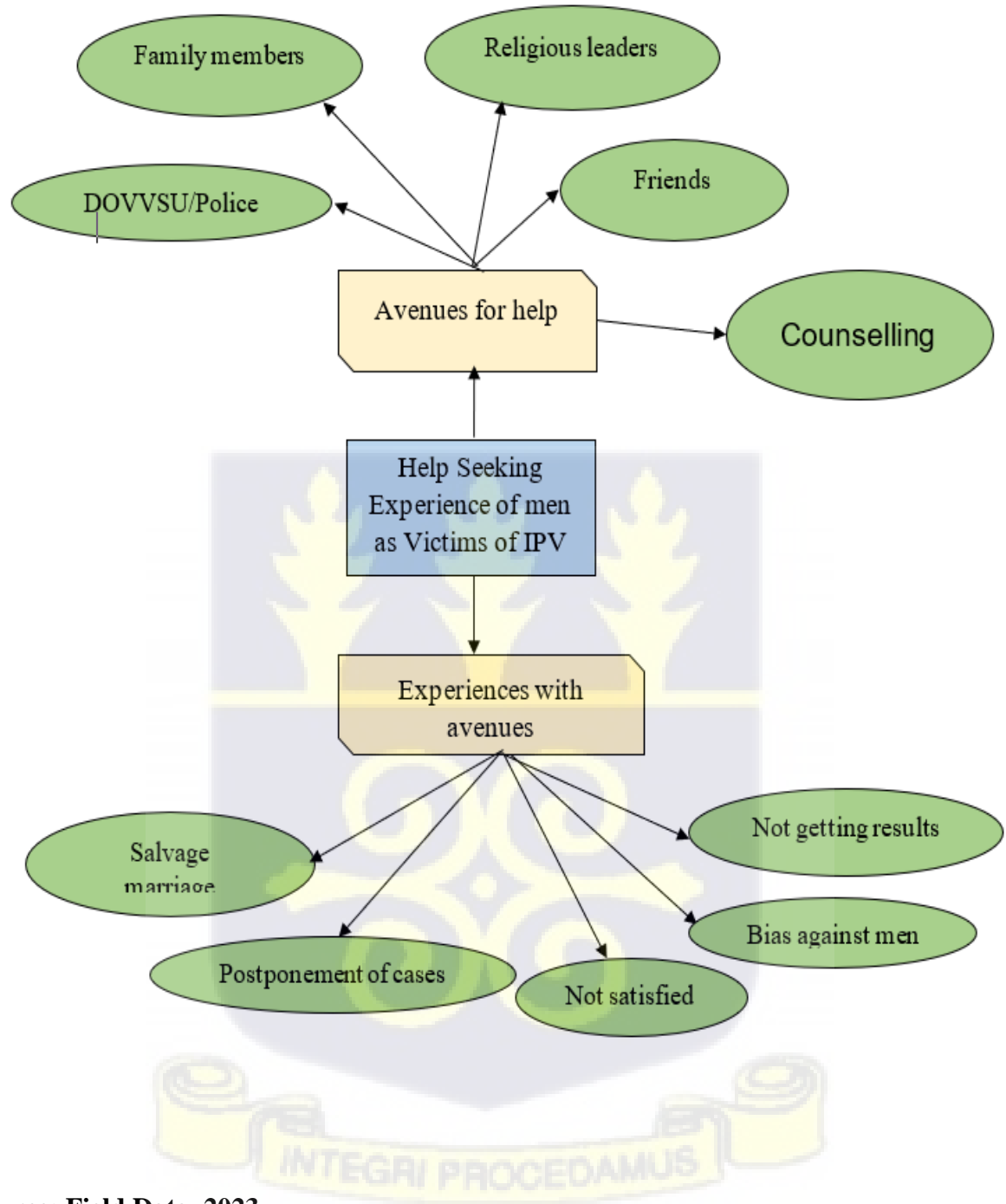
*“Personally, I’ve seen that the way she goes about things is not right. That’s why when she’s talking, when she’s shouting, I can’t shout; when she’s talking, then I won’t be responding to her utterances. I don’t say anything. I just quit her presence. If you don’t take care, you’ll even hit her and you see my hand (shows palm to researcher), if I hit her she will not get up” (P17,52, Married)*

#### **4.6 Help-seeking experiences of men as victims of IPV**

Due to the IPV against men, almost all participants sought help either to resolve the issues or seek divorce or separation. The two main themes that were generated include avenues that the victims resorted to for help and experiences they had with the avenues.



**Figure 4.4: Thematic Network Showing Help-Seeking Experiences of Men as Victims of IPV**



Source: Field Data, 2023

#### 4.6.1 Avenues for help-seeking.

Almost all participants indicated that they sought help to enable them to deal with the abuses that were meted out to them by their partners. The avenues the victims in this study resorted to were legal agencies such as,

- Police/ DOVVSU
- Family members
- Friends
- Religious leaders
- Counselling services,

*Police and DOVVSU*

*DOVVSU*

A Chief Inspector at DOVVSU indicated that men generally find it difficult to report their victimization,

*“The men have been suffering but for them to come out is difficult because of their nature. They thought people might laugh at them that your wife has beaten you and you’ve gone to the police station to report it. Sometimes they find it difficult to report, but the majority of them are women. Unlike us (women) our lips are light. We just open it. But men find it difficult”. (KI 2)*

Some participants expressed that because they could not take the law into their own hands, they sought redress at DOVVSU. A participant indicated he first contacted the family members to address the problem because they couldn’t help, he had to go to DOVVSU for help.

*“I went through these people before going to DOVVSU because the family members did not help me including the father and sister. The father kept telling me he was going*

*to call one of his elder brothers to talk to us, but it has not happened” (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)*

*“I had to do something legally. I then decided to go to DOVVSU. When I went to pay the child’s fees then she threatened me. Based on that I decided to go to DOVVSU for the court to give me a letter. I had threatening recordings and messages detailing everything that had happened, but I lost everything. We were able to get some messages from my father to support our case. We printed the messages out as evidence. I got fed up especially when she started telling me that the child was not mine. That I was wasting my resources in trying to cater for the child” (P13, 35 years, Cohabiting).*

It is not only the victims who reported the partners to DOVVSU. Some participants mentioned that their female partners also reported them to DOVVSU when they realised that the victims had reported them.

*“I decided to come to DOVVSU because I don’t want to take the law into my hands. When I saw what was happening, I decided to take immediate action. When I brought the case to DOVVSU, she had also already reported me to DOVVSU for neglecting the children which was not true. Since then, for about three weeks, I had not sent her money and so she decided to report me to DOVVSU. She didn’t know I had already reported her to DOVVSU” (P15, 44 years, Cohabiting).*

#### *Police*

Due to the nature of the IPVs, some participants reported their partners to the police. With the explanation from the police, a participant indicated that he had to stop the police from arresting his wife.

*“She had come here to put a knife under my bed, and I was like I don’t know what to believe anymore because this girl is capable of doing anything. I called a police friend and we complained so that we could get to the bottom of this matter. It is not even about the knife. I want to know whether she is pregnant because that is where this whole issue is. If she is pregnant, I will take responsibility” (P1, 38 years, Cohabiting)*

*“The time that she hit me with the object, I went to a Police station and they said it’s rather if you want us to arrest your wife right now, you will have to bail her, feed her*

*and they didn't think it's the best thing so we should go and settle the matter. So, I ended it there. I moved to the police, but I just had to end it"* (P9, 46 years, Cohabiting)

### *Counselling*

With reference to the victims' experiences of seeking counselling, only one(1) victim mentioned that he sought the services of a counsellor for a brief period.

However, two (2) of the respondents did not see the relevance in seeking the services of a counsellor. One victim stated categorically that it was his abuser who needed help,

*"I don't think I need counselling; she should rather seek the help of a counsellor; she is the one who needs counselling not me".* (P03,48 years, Married )

Another victim also did not see the need for a counsellor and mentioned,

*"Who is a counsellor? Counsellor that you share problems with and will try to help you mentally, psychologically, and blah blah. like what you are doing now. I felt that the end result for a counsellor is that you have to motivate yourself, discipline yourself and take steps to achieve what belongs to you. It is like knowing what you want to do when you wake up, you know what you want to do in the day, and you are going to ask somebody. So, I did not see the need for a counsellor. I recently saw the need for DOVVSU because I saw something like a way of criminality one way or the other but that was a wrong decision. So, counsellor de3, Madam, I can counsel myself".* (P10, 35years, Cohabiting)

Another victim also acknowledged that he had no information on having access to the services of a counsellor, he mentioned,

*"A few friends have mentioned that I should see a counsellor because of what I was going through, but I have not sought the help of a counsellor. I don't know of any counsellor that is why I have not spoken to one".* (P06,40years, Cohabiting)

A key informant mentioned his experience with male victims of IPV,

*"Men also come for consultation. They come with different issues. But most at times, it is when they are advised to come for counselling. From what I have gathered 60% is*

*when they are advised to come for counselling. And I'll say 40% is they coming on their own and most of them are the learned. Those who understand and know what counselling is, they do come but you know, most of them, men with their ego, they think they can solve issues on their own and all that, so they don't come". (K11)*

### *Family members*

The first place where most victims sought help was from the family, either the victims' or spouse's family members. Some of the perpetrators were very remorseful of their behaviour to the extent that participant's family members were very surprised by the abuses meted on the victims,

*"My father came. We sat down to talk. And the way she was behaving showing no remorse at all, my father mentioned he had never thought my wife would do that. We don't know her like that. Because of her lifestyle, she was the reference point for most of her family. Even church. Sometimes when I'm preaching, I make mention" (P14, 55 years, Married)*

*"I went to her father, my mother, my elder brother. One night she called my elder brother that I have reported her to the police. He told her she did not have to call him" (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)*

Another participant mentioned that his family met the partner's family to address all grievances. During the meeting, there was negotiation, and he was finally charged to pay an amount to compensate the partner's family to help him have access to his child.

*"My mother knew what was going on and decided that at the appropriate time, she would go and speak to her. We informed our family head and involved our chief. When the time came for the meeting, we were taken to a different quarter. We were taken to a different house. Most of the people we met were strange people and the mother introduced them as relatives. My family members include my aunts, mother, friends, etc... The gathering was a huge one almost like a durbar. We attended the meeting with a friend of mine who was a member of parliament. We agreed after settling our differences. The woman told them that I had to compensate them because I was not*

*engaged to the girl. We negotiated and agreed on an amount. We agreed that I had the right to have access to the child. The so-called family members who were present also agreed” (P10, 35 years, Cohabiting).*

### *Religious leaders*

Some of the victims turned to their pastors for help. The pastors offered the needed assistance such as counselling, prayers, and advice to both the perpetrators and victims. Almost all the participants who sought help from the pastors reported that their partners did not change. A participant recounted that despite the effort of his pastor and some elders, his wife’s behaviour is the same and hasn’t changed. Consequently, he assumes that is the wife’s character and she is not going to change. He narrated,

*“I have gone to see our pastor for help, and he has called us and spoken and prayed with us, but she has not changed her ways. A few other elderly people have come in to help but also to no avail. I do not think this is a DOVVSU issue, she just has a bad character that is all. DOVVSU cannot help me” (P05, 35 years, Married).*

One victim shared how his church came in to assist,

*“The church came in and she snubbed the church and the leaders of the church; my family wasn’t even allowed to go to the house to visit the children”(P11, Married)*

Another participant mentioned that the partner failed to listen to the pastor and her behaviour was like someone who was possessed.

*“As I was going through all this, I spoke to a lot of pastors. All the pastors that matter, you name them. They tried to talk to her and to solve the issues. As if she was possessed so wasn’t listening to anybody” (P14, 55 years, Married)*

There were instances where a pastor and his wife were involved in resolving some of the issues. The participant indicated that despite the advice from the pastor and the wife, the partner still threatened him with divorce and took the kids away from him.

*“Yes, I did seek for help. When the problems started, I spoke to my pastor and his wife about it to talk to my wife because we got married in their church. I would even say I’m fed with my wife, and he’d advise me. Pastor’s wife used to come to our house, but she stopped coming because we stopped going to their church. Another time she had to travel again and when I complained she threatened me with leaving and that she is fed up with our marriage. I told her she can go but she knows I haven’t divorced her, and I haven’t said anywhere that I want to divorce her. Our pastor has spoken to her severally, she keeps saying she wants to go. I’m tired of her threats, she can go if she wants to, but she should leave the kids with me, I’d take good care of them. She had already planned to run away with the kids” (P07, 42 years, Married)*

### *Friends*

While some participants mentioned that they involved their friends to talk to their partners' others indicated that they did not involve their friends because they will gossip about them

*“I have spoken to a lot of people to speak with her, so, this is my friend that I talked about, my Okyeame, my Abusua Panyin too, two of my friends who are prominent that she knows very well. The siblings also talk to her. I don’t know why she’s not cooperating (P9, 46 years, Cohabiting)*

*“Because the very friends of the woman whom you report to will let others know about it. You go about telling people about an issue between you and your partner. It’s not fine. It could be that the friend of your wife to whom you report may not be on good terms with your wife and you may not be aware of it. Therefore, when you report it to her, she will be spreading it all over the place, to the effect that, “your husband says this, your husband says this, your husband says this” (P17, 52 years, Married)*

### **4.6.2 Experience with the avenues**

Participants narrated their experiences of the places where they sought help. Almost all the experience was based on their interaction with DOVVSU of the police service. These were

good salvage marriages, not getting results, not being satisfied, bias against men, and a series of postponements of the case.

#### *Salvage marriage*

A participant expressed that the avenue he sought help from really helped him to save his marriage.

*“What I can say is, they helped us see a reason to work out our marriage, and with God’s intervention, we are still living together peacefully. I haven’t heard her say she wants to leave the marriage again, so they helped me save my marriage”* (P7, 42 years, Married)

#### *Not getting results*

Some participants explained that they were not getting the results of their complaints from DOVVSU. A participant mentioned that the investigator has not communicated any results or outcomes to him. He does his best to contact the investigator for feedback but he doesn’t get any satisfactory results.

*“The first instance, she was invited and cautioned but nothing happened. They did not communicate anything back to me. I called the investigator twice. Anytime I call her she is in court, so I stopped calling. Nothing came out of it. I am back here hoping something would happen”* (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)

Another participant mentioned that despite the financial support to the CID to print documents and pay for some of the expenses, he was not getting any results from the investigator.

*“I was still not getting any results from the district, so I just called the CID. She will call you and tell you that our printer has broken down. You send her money to print the document and you won’t hear anything from her. You call her and she will tell you I went to the eye clinic, and I have not been to the office. I need urgent answers. I cannot wait for you for over a month. So, if that is what it is I have applied to your office, no. I will go above you..... So, when people think about the things, they would endure just to get the truth, they would rather take matters into their own hands. You are right it is*

*at the headquarters that issues of fairness and seriousness are given to the issues. But for the community and district level, they are just playing” (P1, 38 years, Cohabiting)*

*Not satisfied*

Some of the participants were not satisfied with the treatment they had from the DOVVSU office. The experience was more at the district level than at the national headquarters. At the district level, there were complaints that the workers did not show commitment and professionalism. To the extent that nobody in the district took a participant seriously. He was called to pay for some of the expenses on his case at the office.

*“I think the sad reality is that the best place to work with is the national headquarters. For me, the community level is a challenge. It is a huge challenge. The only place I have been to where I felt comfortable expressing myself and addressing my issue with some level of professionalism was at the national headquarters. At the district levels and community levels, they do what they like. Nobody takes anything serious. At the district level, the CID can tell me that their printer is broken so I have to send them mobile money for them to print it somewhere else. It was only at the national headquarters that some level of seriousness was demonstrated” (P1, 38 years, Cohabiting)*

*Bias against men*

Most participants who reported their partners to DOVVSU narrated that they were not treated fairly. The workers were biased toward men to the extent that they take women's issues more seriously than men. A participant indicated that men are treated unfairly at the district level than the national level.

*“Yeah, like I told you earlier until I got to the national headquarters, I always felt men were not treated fairly. It was at the national headquarters that they made me understand that it is domestic violence. It used to be for women WAJU but now we take all abuse violence. From children to women and men. At the community level, they only take the women serious” (P1, 38 years, Cohabiting).*

*“I want to say the DOVVSU, it not like an attack on them but they should do well when men report issues on abuse by the spouse because for instance there is no way a woman can defeat a man ..... sometimes you have to take your heart under control and try to breathe in for tomorrow’s sake. I think some way they should do better than just referring to social welfare and legal aid” (P2, 39 years, Married)*

Another participant mentioned that they downplayed his complaint. The reaction of some of them was discouraging. In addition, comments from some of the workers were offensive as they instructed a respondent to take the case to wherever he wanted because they were not there when they got married.

*“I reported on a Monday and that was my first time. When I came here, I met one lady at the counter and she brought me here. When I narrated my story, some of them seemed to have downplayed it. One lady asked me what I wanted from them. I told her what you guys do here. The hope I have is around 30 percent. Coming here, all the people I see around are mostly females. When I started with my complaints, their reaction was discouraging, one woman was like she was not around when we were doing lovey-lovey together so wherever you would take it go ahead. When you hear things like this it discourages you. Going forward, I think they should balance things a little so that men would also listen to you” (P6, 40 years, Cohabiting)*

#### *Postponement of cases*

A participant mentioned they kept on postponing his case and this gave him the impression that they were not interested in his case.

*“I was treated well by DOVVSU. The only problem I had was with the delay and the successive postponement of the meeting. I had an impression that maybe they were not interested in the case” (P13, 35 years, Cohabiting).*

#### Summary

This chapter focuses on the narratives of the male victims who formed the main participants of this study, and how they were analysed, and it presents the various themes and subthemes that emerged. The help-seeking experiences of the male victims were represented in two main

forms as help-seeking avenues and the experiences that the victims had with these avenues. The help-seeking victims resorted to either formal or informal interventions while there were non-help-seeking victims too. The main triggers of IPV perpetrated by females against their male intimate partners were detailed with quotes to buttress them.

The next chapter focuses on the discussion of the results obtained based on the objectives of the study and the theoretical basis of the study.



## CHAPTER FIVE

### DISCUSSION OF RESULTS

#### 5.1 Introduction

This chapter discusses the empirical results of the study. The discussion puts forth the key findings, establishes the literature relevance to the study and underscores the importance of theoretical framework on the findings and interpretations. The discussion is presented in various sections according to the themes of the study. The main themes outlined in this chapter are discussed in relation to the study objectives, while theoretical explanations are offered where it is necessary, to enable understanding of the key findings.

#### 5.2 Causes of IPV

The first objective of the study was to explore the causes IPV against men. The results show complex sets of factors that led to IPV against men. The causes of IPV against men are discussed below.

##### **Economic factors**

The findings of the study show that employment is a key factor towards the cause of IPV against men. Female partners who were previously unemployed perpetrated violence against their partners when they got employed. The findings of the study are consistent with other studies (Ajayi & Soyinka-Airewele, 2018; Darko et al., 2018). The probable reason for the IPV against men could be that when women are unemployed, they turn to be submissive to their partner but when they are employed, and they earn an income closer to or above their partners, they become autonomous because feel that they have sufficient of what they need to survive (Njuguna, 2014). Financial dependence serves as a known major cause of domestic violence against women (Adjah & Agbemaflle, 2016; Cusack, 2009), and it relates directly to

financial independence which has been shown to be a trigger of IPV against men. Evidence shows that Ghanaian women have over recent years been autonomous due to their economic empowerment and this has had implications on decisions they have made with reference to their health and freedom of movement (Fuseini & Kalule-Sabiti, 2015). Women's economic empowerment and disempowerment have been identified as both triggers of IPV towards their male intimate partners and this is in tandem with studies conducted by Cools and Kotsadam (2017).

In addition, unemployment by males also leads to IPV against them. The probable reason could be that unemployment subsequently leads to a reduction in male earnings. The reduction in their earnings was received with a pushback by their female partners who subsequently refused a reduction in their daily housekeeping revenue and decided to move on to other relationships. The finding of this study is consistent with a study conducted in southern Nigeria on the culture and prevalence of IPV against men (Obarisiagbon, & Omage, 2019). The economic dependence of women on their male partners within the African context is gradually shifting to economic independence due to the changing trends in African society.

### **Household orderliness**

Household orderliness in this study was evident as a cause of IPV where some woman neglects their role of being a wife as the one who cares for everything in the home and so when these activities are left for the man to perform it is seen as an abuse by the men. In addition, some women were providing money for housekeeping which also triggered gendered-based violence. Gender role ideologies exhibited in this study formed a contrary opinion to the outcomes of the study on factors contributing to divorce in Ghana where women were complaining about their intimate partners sticking to the traditional stereotypical roles. In this study, it was men who were complaining of the women taking over their traditional roles of

manhood as working to provide the end means. This can be traced to the changing trends in the traditional constructs of gender roles giving way to contemporary characterised relationships. Generally, African societies are in transition from traditional cultures to a modern society characterised by urbanisation. Women are taking on jobs unlike many years ago when they had to be home. The employment status of females has an indirect link to their household orderliness which further leads to a level of aggression or violence they inflict on their male intimate partners. This is consistent with a study conducted by Darko et al. (2019) and Levinson (1989) who reported that women who worked outside the home exhibited violent behaviours towards their intimate partners. Due to the changes in society without any level of intervention, women are going to resist any attempt of domination by males due to their levels of education and empowerment coupled with the many changes of modernity. This subsequently leads to the development of a new generation with different expectations in intimate relationships. An example is in Canada where dual earner families have doubled over the years, 36% of families had both couples in the labour force in 1976 but doubled to 69% by 2015 indicating families in which both spouses work to support the household (Uppal, 2015).

### **Experience from childhood**

Experiences of childhood abuse formed a part of the causes of the perpetration of violence by the female partners as was mentioned by men. It was evident from the experiences of the male victims that their female partners avoided being abused by initiating an attack due to reasons of experiencing their mothers being abused by their male partners when they were younger. Hence this formed a part of the risk factors in this study and is consistent with a study by Tenkorang and Owusu (2018). Their exposure to violence enabled them to learn and continue such actions to their partners. The probable reason for women initiating abuse against their partners could be as a way of self-defence by preventing themselves from experiencing

abuses that they witness their mother going through. Therefore, any sign that they see which possibly could lead to abuse will be retaliated by them. In addition, because of what they went through during their childhood, some of them have certain attitudes towards men, such that they have grown bitter about them. Therefore, any actions of men which they think are contrary to their main action will trigger IPV against them.

### **Performance of marriage rites-Legalisation of marriage**

The formal payment of bride price (dowry) to the family of the woman whose hand has been asked in marriage serves as a form of honour for the lady and her family. Hence, ladies of marital age tend to demand a legalisation of their customary marriages as a public display of their worth and as a show-off of their bridegroom to their peers or contemporaries and the entire community. By legalising marriages, women are given the role of a wife who is recognised by law and as a result is mandated by the intestate succession law in Ghana (PNDCL 111, 1985) to be a beneficiary of the property of her husband or both of them in the absence of a will. This has become very important to female spouses due to the ways in which wives have been treated by the families of deceased males over the years, where they were sacked from their household and subsequently denied and their children any of the properties belonging to her late husband and their father respectively. Hence women expected their partners to perform their marital rites to legitimate their relationship and this necessitated intimate partner violence. Another probable reason for the IPV against men could be that these women felt that their partners were delaying in performing the marriage rites after being with them for a while and the delay could be intentional which necessitated. Though there were issues where some males were preparing financially to perform the marriage rites, some female partners felt that their partners were delaying and the fault was theirs.

### **Extramarital affairs-Infidelity**

In this study, there were five (5) victims who had evidence of their spouses engaged in extramarital affairs. The finding of this study is consistent with other studies that found that infidelity is a major cause of IPV in men (Obeji et al., 2017; Bowman, 2003; Fiktee & Bhah, 1999). For instance, Obeji et al., (2014) reported that about 61% of victims of IPV are due to extramarital affairs. In this study, cheating was seen as an act by both the man and the woman. Some of the female perpetrators were in romantic relationships with other men apart from male partners hence their intimate partners feel they have become victims of infidelity. Consequently, when their partners suspect and confront each other, it leads to violence against men. Though, it was seen as an act by both women and men, infidelity was more predominant among men. Another probable reason could be that women felt cheated by their partners after staying with them through their economic hardships and they ought to fight to retain their partners. This situation could lead to anger thereby necessitating violence against their partners.

Aside from suspecting partners of their infidelity, there were instances of jealousy by females where female perpetrators were against their spouses interacting with any female whether in their household or within the community in which they live and at their workplace as well. They were constantly accusing the males of having extramarital affairs but with no evidence to prove. This was a real challenge to the male victims since they interacted with ladies on a day-to-day basis in their line of duty. The finding of the study is similar to a study by Elmquist et al. (2014). The probable reason for the violence could be a result of men defending themselves from the suspicion that they are not cheating on their spouse. Another reason could be that women were afraid to share their partners with another female so they will engage in any form of activity or confrontation to get their partner which probably could lead to IPV against men.

### **Health conditions**

There were instances of health conditions triggering IPV against men. The findings of the study show that one female partner was mentally unstable which was concealed from the male victim and this resulted in chronic changes of behaviour necessitating violence when the health condition got worse. A male victim expressed that he found the partner's medication which he was not aware of. The findings of this study are similar to other studies (Dowd et. al., 2005; Swan et al, 2005) which have reported that ill health or mental instability among women could lead to IPV in men. The probable reason for the violence could be that partners who suffer from a health condition such as anxiety, depression, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), alcohol and drug abuse, whether diagnosed or undiagnosed sometimes act involuntarily. They become unconscious and are not aware of the behaviour once their condition is triggered which mostly leads to IPV against their partners. Therefore, any traits or acts that violate that mental condition could result in IPV against their partners.

Comparing the findings of the study to the social-ecological model. Some of the causes of IPV against men were personal factors at the individual level such as uncontrolled angry, being quick-tempered, love for money and being jealous of partners. The individual level also includes experiences of childhood violence where the female perpetrator experienced her mother being abused everyday causing her not to be a victim and therefore ended up being a perpetrator. The interpersonal factors consist of relationships that exist between the couple, extended family and neighbours that result in extramarital affairs, the non-performance of marriage rites and negative influence from friends and family members. The community factors also comprise the community's view of masculinity as well as the stigma and embarrassment that comes with being a male victim. The economic causes which comprise of poverty, and the employment status of either the victim or perpetrator, could also be classified under the societal factors. The societal factors encompass the economic and cultural elements as well as gender

roles stipulated within it. IPV with its multifaceted concepts, for social change, individuals must endeavour to appreciate the economic independence of one another as economic independence for both and see it as a collective income.

Table illustrating the causes of IPV using sociological theory.

Microsystem	Mesosystem	Exosystem	Macrosystem
Employment	Communication with ex- boyfriend	Influence from extended family	Non-performance of marriage rites
Love for money	Infidelity	Friendships	Gender role prejudices
Poverty	Misunderstanding	Social media	
Personal traits	Suspicious of affair	Housekeeping money	

### 5.3 Types of IPV against men

In this study, the various forms of IPV that were observed are economic violence, psychological or emotional violence, physical violence, and sexual violence. The various types of IPV according to literature are based on the characteristics of the violence which include, the nature of the violence and characteristics of both the perpetrator and the victim (Carlson & Jones, 2010).

### **Economic violence**

An interesting finding in this study was economic violence discovered in this study was unusual from what is usually experienced in other studies as economic violence. Economic violence occurs when a partner withholds finance from the other or prevents the victim from accessing money for their daily upkeep. However, in this study, economic violence evolved where women take the belongings of men such as electronic gadgets and others away from their partner's house. Similar findings of this study have been reported by other studies (Johnson et al., 2022; Voth et al., 2019) who reported that economic violence against men is a reality. The probable reason for the economic abuse could be a result of the men's absence in the house which triggers the actions of the females to abscond with their partners properties. In this study, it was observed that it was only economic violence that the victims did not resort to the other avenues of support before seeking support from the formal agencies especially DOVVSU and the police. This might have been due to the extent of the economic abuse in this study where there were two cases of removal of valuables and property belonging to male partners and one case of stealing money. With the economic violence meted out to the male victims in this study, the male victims went directly to the law enforcement agencies to seek assistance unlike the other forms of violence where the victims visit the DOVVSU offices as a latter resort after they had tried other sources of support, and either being ignored or not being satisfied with the results of the resolution process and also encountering issues of bias against them.

### **Physical violence**

In this study, there were several cases of physical violence in varying forms. These varied from slapping and kicking of the male genitals, holding, and dragging, hitting with objects, threatening with knives, and scalding with hot food substances. Some of these attacks resulted in severe injuries. Other forms of physical behaviour include when the victims were

physically attacked in very harmful ways including kicking of their genitalia, use of sharp objects and putting of hot malleable food on them in which cases hospitalisation was needed. The findings of the study are consistent with other studies that reported on physical violence against men (Alsawalqa, 2023; Gubi & Wandera, 2022; Tsiko, 2016). In the UK 68% of males experienced physical violence out of a national victim rate of 3.8% for men and 7.5% for women in 2018/19. As compared to the United States, 31% of men reported a lifetime prevalence of physical violence, where 14.9% constituted intense physical violence (Smith et al., 2018). With this, 55.8% of males experience their victimisation before the age of 25 (Smith et al, 2017). In this study however not in a bid to generalise, almost all the male victims were above the age of 25. In this study, the probable reason for the predominance of physical violence could be a result of it being easier to occur compared to other forms of violence. It is also mostly triggered by anger and disagreement.

The social ecological theory's relationship with physical violence against men in this study begins with the biological and personal history of both victims and the perpetrators. Research has shown that women who live in urban areas as in Ghana and Uganda are more susceptible to perpetrating violence against their male intimate partners than those in rural areas and this confirms the context of this study being the capital city of Ghana (Tsiko, 2016). The socialisation process of the victims who formed a good percentage indicates that due to that element, they could not be hit back anytime they were hit by their female partners. They felt they would harm their spouses and hence refrained from retaliating. On the interpersonal level, behaviour,

and experience with other members of their household can either make them violent or not. In a case of physical violence in this study, a victim mentioned his spouse's witness of maternal violence and therefore resolved to attack physically as an initial response. This is in tandem with a study conducted in 12 countries in Africa which reported that women in Ghana,

Côte d'Ivoire, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Malawi, Tanzania, and Zambia who witnessed physical violence from their fathers towards their mothers were consistently much more likely to perpetrate physical violence against their male intimate partners (Tsiko, 2016)

### **Sexual violence**

In this study, prolonged periods of sexual denial formed sexual violence experienced by men. Many of the victims reported unwanted sexual experiences and activities. There was a victim who was abandoned by his female intimate partner based on a decline in his sexual performance over a period of time. This was explained by the victim as due to his unemployment state and a lack of healthy meals that affected him sexually, but his partner deserted him in his low moments. Similar findings have been reported by other studies (Gandhi et al., 2021; Johnson et al., 2022; Voth et al., 2019) on males experiencing sexual violence. Women sometimes deny their partners sex when they have issues which sometimes affect their partners emotionally. This is done either to punish the husband and hope for a change in attitude or the woman is not happy with the situation(s) in their relationship. Consequently, there are at times males are tempted to engage in extra marital affairs to satisfy their desires.

### **Psychological and or emotional violence**

Consistent with other studies (Gubi & Wandera, 2022; Alsawalqa, 2023), the findings of this study show that behaviours of threats, humiliation, manipulation, use of children against the victim, and attention seeking were emotional violence against men. Verbal abuse which formed a dominant form of psychological violence relates to both the interpersonal and community levels of the ecological model. The perpetrators use insults on their male intimate partners both in private and public settings. The institutional level comes in the cases when female perpetrators went off to the victim's workplace to further abuse him verbally (Scott-

Storey et al., 2023). These situations were embarrassing moments for them amongst their colleagues who have formal relationships with them. With reference to Johnson's typologies of IPV there were both instances of situational couple violence (SCV) where there were no injuries as compared to intimate terrorism (IT). Johnson, (1995) argues that intimate terrorism is attributed to male perpetrators due to the patriarchal nature of society, however, in this study some of the female perpetrators fall within the category of intimate terrorists based on the injuries that they inflicted on their male victims, and this is consistent with the findings of this research. Some of the female perpetrators used various coercive behaviours to control their male victims. These behaviours include the taking away of children from their fathers either physically or by blocking all forms of communication with them and these affected them psychologically due to the bond they had with their children. This formed a form of controlling behaviours from the female perpetrators on their male partners and is consistent with studies done by Bates et. al. (2019) and Morgan and Wells (2016).

The social-ecological model provides a multi-level approach where society does not accept victimisation of men due to the patriarchal nature of Ghanaian society. These social norms and policies do not support the vulnerabilities of the male and therefore cloud the victimisation of men by imposing what constitutes acceptable behaviour by men within their immediate and wider communities. The interpersonal and individual levels include friends, family and personal characteristics that predispose men to IPV (CDC, 2017; McCormack et al., 2016). It emanates from the interactions between the victim and the people within his immediate community. The individual factors of the social-ecological theory predispose men to the various types of IPV. He bears the physical, economic, sexual, and psychological forms of violence together with its consequences. The community level including community centres, workplaces and health care centres is not equipped to identify male victims experiencing the various forms of IPV and it prevents these agencies from providing the appropriate support.

Microsystem	Exosystem
Hurling of hot food	Verbal abuse
Manhandling	Humiliation
Hitting with objects	Intimidation
Slapping	
Attack on genitals	
Stealing/removal of victim's valuables	

Table showing summary of types of IPV in relation to SEM.

#### 5.4 The consequences of IPV on male victims

The consequences of IPV on the male victims emanated from various domains including embarrassment, physical injury, sleeplessness, life-threatening health conditions and suicidal ideation amongst others and this is consistent with the literature (Abramski, et. al., 2011; Randle & Graham, 2011; Breiding et al., 2014; Onigbogi, et. al., 2015). The WHO, (2019) confirms that the exposure of men to IPV tends to result in drug and alcohol abuse leading to mental illness and suicide, other diseases, social problems, and further violence.

According to Adebayo, (2014) male victims of IPV experience diverse forms of consequences, including physical, emotional, and psychological that can lead to health challenges and even death. This study provided certain insights into their specific experiences which are worth noting. Strict adherence to socially constructed gender roles does not allow male victims to seek help unless it is very necessary and in very critical cases. The male victims experienced embarrassment within their households' neighbourhoods and in some public organisations as there were several instances of their victimisation in public and feeling of not being respected as a man as he ought to be and that affects their daily lives and is confirmed in literature by Shephard & Rabinowitz, (2013).

### **Physical and Mental Health consequences**

This study revealed that there are both physical and mental consequences on the male victim due to IPV and these are, inability to sleep, absent-mindedness, high blood pressure, depression and suicidal ideation. The findings of this study are consistent with other studies (Hines & Douglas, 2018; Berger et al., 2016). The probable reason for the increase in blood pressure could be as a result of the tension and stress that men go through when they experience violence. Sometimes, females put them into several conditions which overstress them, and they are unable to have enough time to rest. These situations therefore trigger some worse conditions. In addition, the experience of mental health signs or problems such as sleeplessness, anxiety, absent-mindedness, being in deep thought amongst others could also be attributed to long experience of violence and lack of a support system for men to address these violence problems leading to mental consequences. These psychological consequences on the male victim have the potential to linger on for prolonged periods after the victimisation and are confirmed by Barnes, (2013). The use of the social-ecological theory in addressing mental health highlights how mental health is influenced not only by individual factors but the social,

economic, and physical environments in which people live (WHO, 2014). This could be due to a lack of education and awareness of the male victims and by extension the adult populace on the effect of traumatic experiences on our mental health. The male victims also suffered from physical health complications and common among them were heart-related issues validated by WHO, (2019).

### **Divorce and separation**

Marriage occurs at the interpersonal level within our communities in Ghana as it brings together both families of the couple (Nave, 2017). Most of the episodes of IPV in this study resulted in separation and divorce, and this was similar to other studies (Waila et al., 2022; Dienne & Gbeneol, 2009). Due to the increasing rate of divorce in Ghana, it is gradually being seen as a public health issue (Ambert, 2009). Divorce is the final termination of a marital union, and it is interpreted by sociologists as evidence of postmodern realities where individuals are increasingly becoming self-centred rather than family-oriented due to a weakening of the institution of marriage and family (Whitehead, 1996; Coontz, 1997). Reasons given in the literature as contributing to divorce in Ghana include women's independence, infidelity, drug use and unemployment and some of these formed triggers in this study. The probable reason for divorce/separation in this study is that most victims perceive that the only solution to end violence is through separation or divorce. Hence, conflict resolution should form a major component of the educational curriculum. Alsawalqa (2021) reported that men who experience violence sometimes think that their partners will change with time but in cases where they do not see any sign of changes, they opt for divorce to reduce the impact of the violence they are going through. Another probable reason for the divorce could be that male victims deserve to have a good life, preserving and protecting their children and avoiding the social stigma which they experience due to the several abuses meted out to them by their spouse.

Though divorce has been tagged as an embarrassing situation for men and they intend to avoid it to prevent stigmatisation (Asante et al., 2014; Baloyi, 2010), most of the men in this study who had divorced or separated were based on reasons of not being in the position to endure any further forms of violence meted out to them. These reasons are similar to other studies (Oliffe et. al., 2014; Messing et. al., 2015). According to Osafo et. al. (2021), taking children away from the relationship and women's economic independence that leads to insubordination constituted causes of divorce and it is in tandem with this study.

### **Suicidal ideation**

In this study, there were instances of suicidal ideation among some of the male victims. The victims had suicidal thoughts because they wanted to escape the embarrassment their partners were taking them through which was a major source of worry for them. Alhusen et. al. (2015) argued that suicidal ideation is a significant predictor of suicidal attempts and subsequently suicide must be treated with utmost concern. In Ghana, the causes of suicide range from threats to sexual competence, breach of patriarchal norms, personal challenges facing some men in relation to their masculinity and loss of economic control (Andor-Arthur et al., 2020; Connell & Messerschmidt, 2005; Moller-Leimkuhler, 2003).

Some of the male victims dissociated themselves from the victimisation that they were going through by not acknowledging it and by doing that, avoided seeking for help and sometimes deny their victimisation in a bid to maintain hegemonic masculinity and this is similar to a study by Burcar and Acerstrone (2009) and Tsui et. al. (2010). These victims made a conscious effort not to identify themselves as victims of abuse but see it as a series of occurrences and they tend to use the term.

There is an element of degendered parenting from the male victims in this study where they seek to be directly involved in the daily lives of their children as compared to earlier years where men remained isolated from their childcare and housework due to the stipulated norms

of patriarchy which demanded a focus on work in order to provide for the family and being away from home. Hence in situations where the children are being taken away from them as a bargaining tool by their female spouses, it constitutes a trigger of IPV. These victims have made shifts from the old narrative to share in the responsibility of caring for the home and the children as well as it emerged from this research. This paradigm shift is also buttressed by (Levant & Wong, 2017; Gough, 2018). A study conducted in Canada comparing contemporary urban men to rural men shows an increased level of involvement of urban men with their children and proposed that the socio-structural dynamics and cultural dynamics of one's immediate environment shape the masculine identities and influence their understanding of fathering, unlike rural men who are determined to uphold the concept of hegemonic masculinities (Creighton et al., 2017). This assertion applies to the Ghanaian context where most of the men in the study reflect this pattern due to the context in which they live and the exposure they have had under that context. This is also based on empirical studies which indicate that fatherhood is socially constructed and therefore metamorphosizes with changes in space and time and reflects on the contemporary male.

The gender role strain paradigm focuses on the socially constructed gender roles that reflect the cultural standards of the people within the community. These roles tend to position the man within the framework of masculinity and therefore place expectations on them (Pleck, 1981). The theory adopts the position that masculinity as it pertains to men has negative implications for them. Most of the male victims in this study stated several times that the society including the avenues they sought help from either did not believe them or expected them to be 'men' by either ignoring it or taking matters into their own hands. This causes gender role discrepancy strain for the male victim. This is explained in instances where societal expectations of dominance, power and cultural sentiments are in direct congruence to what is currently and practically prevailing then, it causes a lack of congruence in the victim's reality.

It has the possibility of causing them to dissociate themselves from this reality and that leads them to be embarrassed about their victimisation (Wetherell & Edley, 2014). In this study, most of the men seem to emphasize masculinity even in their victimisation and trauma leading to gender role discrepancy which subsequently causes mental health outcomes, and this is confirmed by Alfred et al. 2013, and Sanders (2015). In this study this situation was evident in the victims resorting to substance abuse, absent-mindedness, depression, and these behaviours according to Reidey et al. (2014) will be to maintain the status quo as society approves and also to be like other men.

### **Self-defence and Retaliation**

Cascardi and Vivian (1995), indicate gender differences with up to 20% or less of both males and females reporting self-defence and retaliation as the major triggers of IPV especially for women, however in this study, some of the male victims retaliated to their episodes of IPV and this is in contrast to what feminist attribute to only females as a means of self-defence, men resort to the same means to express their vulnerability as well. The findings of this study are similar to Hines et al. (2015) who reported that female behaviour pushes men to retaliate so that the female perpetrators can make complaints with formal agencies. Other victims also indicated that they were brought up not to hit a woman while others showed how physically heavy their hands were and expressed pride in not retaliating (Salter, 2016). The probable reason for the retaliation of men could be as a result of incessant violent behaviour of their partners which is probably because they were fed up with their actions and that led to retaliation as a coping mechanism.

### **Fear of women and subsequent relationships**

Some of the participants expressed fear for women because of their victimisation and this is confirmed in a study by Hines et. al. (2007) where a helpline dedicated to male victims with 246 participants who reported found that about 20% of the male- victims fearful of their female partners. According to Barnes, (2013), the fear of women experienced by the male victims subsequently affects their romantic relationships with the notion of experiencing another IPV violence.

### **Drug and alcohol abuse**

Drug and alcohol misuse has been found to be a trigger of IPV (Jewkes, et. al, 2002) however in this study, it formed one of the effects of IPV on the male victims. Resorting to alcohol use was mentioned as a consequence of their victimisation and this is consistent with other studies on experiencing IPV and alcohol use (Haeesler, 2013; Douglas & Hines, 2010a). In this study, the probable reason for the misuse of alcohol formed a coping strategy for males to escape several cases of abuse.

### **The consequences of IPV against men on Children in the relationship**

According to Bates, et. al, (2019), IPV have a significant impact on children. In this study, there is evidence of a twofold effect on the children where the children in these relationships witnessed violent episodes between parents and also being taken hostage or removed by one partner or the other. The instances of children's exposure to or witnessing partners assault one another are consistent with studies conducted by Lieberman et al, (2011). Children who witness or are exposed to the various forms of IPV may develop PTSD, mood, and anxiety disorders (McLaughlin et al., 2010) that may lead to a repeat of what is observed or a conscious decision not to allow it to happen to them. Other effects include depression, fear,

and anxiety towards the opposite sex and in themselves (Cummings et al., 1999; Little & Kantour, 2002). In other instances, children in such situations experience abuse and neglect, developmental disruptions, disruptions in their cognitive development (Burke et al., 2015), mental illness and substance abuse (Turner et al., 2010). It can also lead to children growing up with the mentality that resorting to violence is the only way of resolving conflict. It also promotes negative parent-child engagement (McLeod et al., 2020). In a study conducted by Mutumba and Harper (2015), on the use of the ecological model on minority youth, the study recommended developing and enforcing child protection systems by policymakers as a way of protecting children and youth from the trauma of being witnesses IPV however, it failed to link them to the various ecological level that they belong to. Children from homes where there has been one form of abuse or the other must be assessed for emotional trauma.

Consistent with other studies (Renner et al., 2023; Lloyd, 2018), the findings of this study show that IPV affect children's academic performance to the extent that they are unable to concentrate in class leading to low academic performance. Lloyd, (2108) reported that children's experience of IPV can result in emotional trauma, physical and psychological barriers to learning, and disruptive behaviour in school. The inability of children in a home where there is IPV leads to a lack of concentration in school evident in this study and confirmed by Bourassa et al. (2017). This situation makes it very difficult for the child to bounce back or perform well academically. In addition, the decision of some wives to take the children away also prevents the child from going to school thereby distracting their attendance and performance in school.

### 5.5 Help-seeking experiences of male victims

Help-seeking gave rise to two main themes: the avenues for help-seeking and the experiences they had in resorting to the various avenues. In all eight (8) victims sought formal help while ten (10) sought informal means of support.

The avenues that the male victims resorted to in this study are family, friends, religious leaders, DOVVSU, the Police General Health practitioners and counselling. Consequently, in this study, informal help-seeking avenues such as family and friends were the most used and the findings are consistent with other studies (Kaukinen et. al., 2013; Machado et. al., 2016; Tsui et al., 2010; Tsui, 2014). Regarding the access and use of mental health facilities and personnel, none of the male victims had any contact with a mental health officer or facility. Two victims however were assisted when they had injuries as a result of IPV by a professional health personnel who was in an informal setting (neighbour) but not in the formal setting. The probable reason for the frequent use of informal avenues could be a result of easy accessibility and the patriarchal nature of Ghanaian societies where males feel too shy to report violent behaviour of their wives at the police station or formal places or they will be stigmatised after reporting.

In this study, the majority of the victims did not resort to formal or professional agencies for assistance but rather involved either side of their families for support at the initial stages. It must be noted however that the victims who resorted to the family for assistance did not receive satisfactory feedback examples include the family admitting that the female was wrong but did not know what to do or kept avoiding meeting to resolve issues bothering violence and practically showed indifference to their victimisation and this is confirmed by Walker, et. al., (2019). A victim was too embarrassed to tell his family as he felt it would make him look like

not in control as a man and this bothers on societal perception of masculinity and the patriarchal culture in Ghana (Huntly et.al., 2019; Morgan et. al., 2014).

Some victims were non-help seeking but were rather reported by their intimate female partners to the various DOVVSU offices where the cases upon investigation took a different turn when it was discovered that the males were the victims. This represents false accusations and is confirmed by Tilbrook et al. (2010) in a bid to control and also report them to legal avenues. Due to cultural and societal preconceptions of masculinity, some of the male victims did not seek help and this is in tandem with studies that show most victims non-help-seeking attitude (Morgan et al., 2014; Machado et. al., 2016). Other cases involved both the male and female reporting to the formal agencies to make complaints (Douglas & Hines, 2011). Another probable reason could be that most male victims felt the need to report their victimization to formal institutions despite the stigmatisation and culturally constructed society. This enabled them to overcome the violence experienced.

There were educational differences in terms of avenues for seeking help. Male victims who were educated readily sought help from formal agencies while the less educated had no knowledge of the formal avenues available to them or did not use them unless forced to be there as observed in the victims who were reported by their female perpetrators. The findings of this study agree with a study by Tenkorang, et. al., (2023), who reported that highly educated male victims had more knowledge on help-seeking avenues and were more likely to seek help from formal sources than less educated victims.

There are obvious signs of gender role strain in instances where the male victims struggle to seek help from their friends or relations due to situations where they feel they will be stigmatised and will not be seen as responsible men as has been prescribed per our cultural norms. This forms gender role dysfunction as well as discrepancies. There is a need to augment

the capacity of DOVVSU officials in rolling out strategies for handling female perpetrators of IPV. Education on alternatives to violence as a means of conflict resolution must be emphasised in our schools by its inclusion in the curriculum. Regarding the experiences of some of the victims in relation to DOVVSU, some victims mentioned that they would have preferred to speak to males and not females while others were just interested in receiving support from whoever was available to provide it. Hence the gender of whoever receives male victims is an important element in help-seeking.

### **Counselling services**

Among all the participants in the study, only one (1) of them had sought the services of a professional counsellor while others did not know where to access the services of a counsellor. Regarding the need for a professional counsellor, one respondent responded by saying it is the perpetrator, his wife in this case who needs the services of a counsellor, and another mentioned he did not see the need for a counsellor and that he could counsel himself. This is a clear indication that the knowledge of the services of clinical psychologists or counsellors is not widely known and appreciated by most of the victims in this study. Hence, the consequences of depression experienced by most of the male victims would have been reduced to the barest minimum if most of the victims had sought the services of professional counselling services. Hegarty et al. (2013) reported that counselling services are very important for IPV victims as they help to reduce the symptoms of depression, emotional and consequences that may arise from the violence.

### **General Medical care**

Of all the participants of this study only two (2) of the victims sought the services of medical health personnel for injuries they sustained during their victimisation. One accessed a

community clinic directly while the other went knocking on the doors of a neighbour who is health personnel to assist in attending to his injury.

Regarding the use of helplines and shelters which are available in some developed countries, to the male victims in accessing help from the formal agencies, none of the respondents had any knowledge of it. However, there is an orange call centre in the city of Accra by UNDP in collaboration with the Ministry of Gender, Shelters for male victims in Ghana are non-existent and victims had not been offered any in their experience. Literature shows that the shelters available in the country are privately owned and are for women and not men. Safe spaces for male victims are woefully inadequate.

Policymakers must endeavour to include the construction of shelters for male victims during the formulation of policies on intimate partner violence and not focus on female victims exclusively. Throughout England and Wales, there are sixty (60) shelters for male victims as compared to 7500 shelters for female victims. However, in Northern Ireland, a shelter for male victims of IPV was constructed in 2013 to cater for their needs, McNeilly (2013).

The avenues resorted to by the male victims in this study in relation to the social-ecological model consist of various levels.

### **Barriers to help-seeking.**

The apathy of the police/DOVVSU officials was observed in the male victims being treated unfairly and being discriminated against was found to be the major barriers to help seeking by the male victims. Similar studies (Hutley et al., 2019; Tenkorang et. al., 2023) found barriers within the same category. It was evident that there was a general lack of professionalism and apathy on the part of law enforcement agencies in addressing the needs of male victims and this is consistent with the literature. One of the male victims in this study who sought support from DOVVSU reported that they were not comfortable speaking with a female

and would have preferred a male instead. This could mean that being able to share their experiences with another man would have reduced the embarrassment.

In addition, there were instances where male victims were ridiculed by the police when they sought help from them, and this finding is consistent with other studies (Walker et. al., 2019; Wallace et. al., 2019). Most of the help-seeking victims started as non-help-seeking until they could not take it anymore and then they resorted to the formal agencies for assistance and support. Others also began with family members and friends and felt they were not being treated fairly under their gender hence they needed to proceed further to the formal agencies for redress. However, due to the gravity of some of the forms of violence, and in this research instances of removal of personal properties, false accusations, and denial of access to children, the victims resorted to the formal agencies as the direct place of help-seeking and this conforms with the assertions of Mantey, (2019).

According to Carlyle et al. (2014), and Dobash and Dobash, (2004), social service providers, health personnel, policymakers and community advocates amongst others have focused mainly on IPV perpetrated by men against their female partners and have ignored the victimisation of male by females. There are also stereotypes among readers of studies conducted on IPV where it is assumed that both males and females commit IPV at similar rates with identical consequences and in similar contexts (Scarduzio et al, 2017). However, Dobash and Dobash, (2004), tend to suggest that there are differences with reference to the intensity, nature, frequency, and consequences of IPV perpetrated by females. Generally, there were negative experiences in help-seeking which resulted in stress as confirmed by Djriber et. al. (2013).

## 5.6 Conclusion

In this study, most of the female perpetrators were employed, and this is confirmed by a study conducted on 12 African countries where Ghana emerged as the only country where employed females had a significant positive association with IPV. Conclusively, both males and females experience IPV however the difference between the two sexes has to do with the interpretations given to their various experiences. IPV within the context of this study is a multi-causal phenomenon that demands a similar approach with an effort on various levels including, social reconstruction, in its resolution as a means of support for male victims of IPV. It was observed in this study that the study on the experiences of men as victims of IPV is understudied, however, there is evidence that gender symmetry exists which implies that men and women are and can be subject to violence by their intimate partners (Straus, 2010). The results showing the experiences of the male victims show similarities to those experienced by females however, the gender of the perpetrator being a female shapes the experience and subsequently, its interpretation. One key feature of this research happens to be the circumstance within which the violence occurs. Black et al. (2014) and Bates (2020) also found gender symmetry in IPV with their studies conducted in Australia. This study confirms that gender symmetry is evident in Ghana as confirmed by Darko et al. (2019). A few musical artists have over the years sung songs depicting the plight of the male victim in Ghana but seem to have been a source of entertainment without it being critically analysed an example is “Tom and Jerry Aware3”(Tom and Jerry’s marriage) by Kojo Antwi which talks about IPV.

**CHAPTER SIX**  
**SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

**6.1 Introduction**

This chapter presents the overview of the study, a summary of findings, a conclusion, and recommendations for the study. It includes what the study adds to existing scholarship on IPV and its implications for Adult Education and Human Resource studies and suggestions for further studies.

**6.2 Overview of Study**

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant social and public health problem. Globally, IPV has primarily been conceptualised as a concept of male-perpetrated violence against their female intimate partners. However, evidence shows that women also perpetrate this form of violence against their male partners. The phenomenon of IPV is widely recognised in both developed and developing countries globally with a socially accepted narrative of being male perpetrated. Recent evidence shows that females are also perpetrators while males are the victims. However, IPV perpetrated against men is largely overlooked and is observed in the number of studies conducted on the topic. IPV against men is largely underreported as a social concern and has over the years been identified as a global social problem and is now a major public health concern but recast a trend of a higher concentration on male against female IPV. Much attention and emphasis, over the years, has been given to intimate partner violence against women while the same cannot be said for IPV against men by women.

The consequences of IPV include living in fear, suicidal thoughts, and subsequent death in men unlike in women who have access to various avenues of rescue and support. The phenomenon of IPV against men may be due to a variety of reasons including cultural norms of patriarchy male domination or machismo which will have consequences for these men

suffering in silence. The Ghanaian context depicts a patriarchal system where boys are socialised to have power and control by being providers and women to be in subordinate positions, minimum attention is paid to the experiences of men as victims of IPV.

In Ghana, there is a dearth of studies on IPV against women but limited studies with a focus on the experiences of male victims of IPV in the Greater Accra region of Ghana. This study sought to investigate the lived experiences of male victims of female perpetrated IPV. Specifically, it focuses mainly on the issues related to the nature, triggers, consequences, and help-seeking attitudes of male victims. The study relied on two main theoretical frameworks, thus the socioecological theory and the gender role strain paradigm.

This study contributes theoretically to the literature by providing evidence on IPV against men. In addition, the study would contribute to policy formulation by highlighting the underlying factors that make men predisposed to IPV. Furthermore, the findings of the study will improve practice by providing service providers which include the Police, DOVVSU with feedback on their efforts with male victims and enhance major transformative inputs on their work.

A qualitative research approach using an interpretivist philosophy was adopted to achieve the objectives of the study. The study employed a phenomenological approach using a semi structured interview schedule to obtain the lived experiences of the study participants. Criterion purposive sampling was adopted in recruiting the male victims and key stakeholders in Greater Accra. An in-depth interview was conducted with twenty (20) IPV male victims and three (3) stakeholders. The data obtained was then analysed using thematic analysis and the results presented based on the objectives of the study.

### 6.3 Key Findings

1. The study found that the types of IPV experienced by male victims are physical, economic, psychological, and sexual forms of IPV.
2. The study found that the major causes of IPV perpetrated by females against their male intimate partners are economic causes emanating from poverty, lack of employment and the love of money, social causes stemming from extended family influence, misunderstandings and friendship and social media, extramarital affairs, household orderliness emerged as a result of non-performance of household duties and discrepancies in housekeeping money and non-performance of marriage rites.
3. The study found that the consequences of IPV experienced by the male victims were personal, and interpersonal, effects on children within the relationship and sometimes led to retaliation. The personal consequences were divorce or separation, substance abuse, fear of women, and effects on their mental and emotional health which subsequently generated depression, crying, feelings of being disturbed and hurt, trauma and suicidal ideation. The interpersonal consequences were a disruption in their relationships with others within their communities.
4. Help-seeking experiences of male victims of IPV evolved into the avenues they seek help from as family, friends, DOVVSU, religious leaders and counsellors. The experiences they had were a salvage of their marriages being positive and the negative experiences being frequent postponement of cases, not getting results, bias against men and generally not being satisfied with outcomes.
  - The help-seeking experiences of male victims of IPV come in two forms with the first consisting of avenues where victims sought help during and after their victimisation and secondly whether they sought help or not after their victimization. The avenues that the male victims resorted to in this study are in a sequence of

family and friends as the initial point of call which largely ends in bias towards the female perpetrator hence leads the victims to formal agencies which is mainly DOVVSU as observed in this study. Religious leaders formed the next avenue utilised by the male victims with counselling forming the least avenue accessed.

- Non-help-seeking victims assumed this position due to prejudice in not wanting to be disbelieved, embarrassed and subsequently stigmatised. The experiences the victims obtained from these help-seeking avenues include not feeling satisfied, not getting results, bias against men, postponement of cases and a salvage of marriages which is positive.

#### **6.4 Conclusion**

Based on the findings of the study, conclusively IPV against men occurs within multifaceted levels of issues that collectively relate to the sociocultural dynamics within the community including the individual and the immediate and wider community of the male victim of IPV.

#### **6.5 Contribution to Knowledge /Scholarship**

This research has contributed to scholarship particularly within the field of Adult Education and Human Resource Studies by bringing to the fore the reality of intimate partner violence against men in Ghanaian society and laying the underlying principle of IPV occurring in both sexes and gender and therefore a symmetrical phenomenon.

The study contributed to knowledge in the adoption of a phenomenological research design in eliciting answers from male victims on a phenomenon that has been and still is considered a taboo its methodological approach has come to add rare data to this knowledge area. The choice of this approach allowed for eliciting the lived experiences of the male victims within the Ghanaian cultural context where men are expected to be dominant. The combination of the

socioecological theory and Pleck's gender role strain theory as theoretical underpinnings in the study of IPV against men also serves as a contribution to knowledge. The study also fills the gap on the lived experiences of male victims of IPV within the Ghanaian context by indicating that IPV is symmetrical based on sociocultural factors that are influenced by patriarchal cultural norms.

Recognizing the vulnerability of men as victims together with females will lead to a wide range of data sets that will eventually drive policy and practice in curbing this social and public health issue.

### **6.6 Recommendations of the study**

Based on the findings of the study, it is recommended that,

1. Due to insufficient recognition and societal education on male victimisation perpetrated by their female intimate partners, there is a need to educate the entire populace on the reality of IPV as part of the school's curriculum from the basic school level and within communities, to create awareness as part of the socialisation process to remove misconceptions. In addition, intentional widespread education on the rights of both male children and adult men must be incorporated into the educational structure from the basic years, as there seems to be a major focus on women's empowerment due to the patriarchal ideologies, that suggest that men do not seem to need any form of empowerment and therefore leads to the male victims suffering in silence. Educational campaigns must exhibit neutral connotations and not target men as the sole perpetrators. The socialisation process for boys must be altered from the position of domination to equality. The implementation of the above requires collaboration with relevant institutions as well as funding for the various training sessions.

2. Adult education practitioners must be trained in the identification of the various types of violence against men within their areas of specialisation. This includes focusing on scholarly publications on social media, websites and print media highlighting the causes of violence, conflict resolution practices, help seeking avenues, types, and consequences of IPV. Females who have experienced violence during childhood must be supported in order to prevent a continuation of the observed from generation to generation. They should be supported with counselling services to enable male victims to overcome such violence. Sustained efforts are however needed to reach a wider audience.
3. There is an overwhelming need for mental health assessment for people who show signs of mental health traits, especially for both victims and perpetrators of IPV, as this will help to ascertain the reality of the vulnerability of men, risk factors and triggers so the appropriate mitigating strategies can be employed. Mental health care should be easily accessible to the adult population of the country. There should be a means of screening to identify victims of IPV to aid in administering appropriate and effective measures of support for victims.
4. From the findings of this study, health professionals, the police, DOVVSU, counsellors need to inculcate screening to identify IPV as part of their routine questioning even if the males do not mention it during periods of interaction. The creation of more diverse and easily accessible support platforms (virtual and on site) where male victims can resort to or report freely without fear of being perceived as weak and being judged as not ‘man enough’ must form a priority in the enactment of policies. There is the need for the creation of safe spaces in help seeking agencies for men to freely speak and be supported. A nationally based sensitization programme on violence against men must be made and rolled out systematically and male victims encouraged to seek help to reduce the consequences on them and them as individuals, their immediate communities, and the nation at large. Governmental and nongovernmental agencies and personnel that support victims of IPV

must be equipped with frequent in-service training to acquaint them with current competencies needed to offer professional assistance to male victims based on their unique characteristics taking the Ghanaian cultural context into consideration. General health practitioners, mental health practitioners and law enforcement personnel must be trained and equipped to approach victims of IPV in a non-judgemental manner to encourage more male victims to seek help rather than suffer in silence. Findings from the study also indicate the need to have both male and female professionals who are well equipped readily available to support victims who are comfortable with either of them. Having a platform for male victims to encourage sharing and support from one another is also much needed.

### **6.7 Implications for Adult Education and Human Resource Studies**

There is a need to deconstruct gender stereotyping in IPV by applying lifelong adult education strategies. These strategies include awareness creation through education and information sharing by creating specific educational programmes and training personnel to lead it. These must target our culture as Ghanaians and our socialisation process. Another element is by adult education practitioners liaising with the Ministry of Gender and Social Protection in advocating for the recognition of the need to sensitise and empower adult males equally as females have been empowered on the need to be assertive in reporting violence meted out against them by their intimate partners over the years. Conscientization of the adult male to be empowered to take active participation in IPV victimisation is key in not allowing socially constructed gender roles of exhibiting masculinity to gravitate them in the direction of suffering in silence.

There is a need to form support groups for male victims of IPV and to encourage male victims and survivors to speak up for those in their immediate and wider community and to support them in doing that. The study and practice of IPV must be looked at from a violence perspective

rather than from a gendered perspective to present a neutral basis and this can be achieved through learning by obtaining knowledge through the deliberate inculcation of violence of all forms, triggers, consequences on an individual in the curriculum for instruction. There is however the need to secure adequate funding for implementation purposes.

### **6.8 Implications for policy development**

Based on the findings of this study, there is a need for awareness creation on the individual level, interpersonal level, community level and society at large on the experiences of male victims of IPV by deconstructing the stereotypes accepted by society from feminist perspectives. These include posters and advertisements on IPV affirming male perpetrators and female victims and this needs to be done in a systematic manner within the various levels of society.

The provision of shelters for male victims of IPV should be a priority as it is being advocated for female victims as these male victims in these shelters could assist in advancing research on IPV against men within adult education and human resource development. This ability to provide shelters must not be relegated to the NGOs only to provide but as a national focus where equal attention is given to all victims irrespective of gender. Reliable contact centres where male victims can call to receive assistance to cater for victims who are unable to visit formal agencies or family and friends due to a disability. Domestic violence personnel should be given frequent training to educate the investigators on modern modes of abuse and how to work alongside male victims specifically. There is a need to ensure a balance of both male and female investigators in DOVVSU offices to encourage male victims to have the opportunity to be supported by male investigators to reduce embarrassment during the period of help-seeking. There is also the need for well-structured preventive and interventive measures to address the

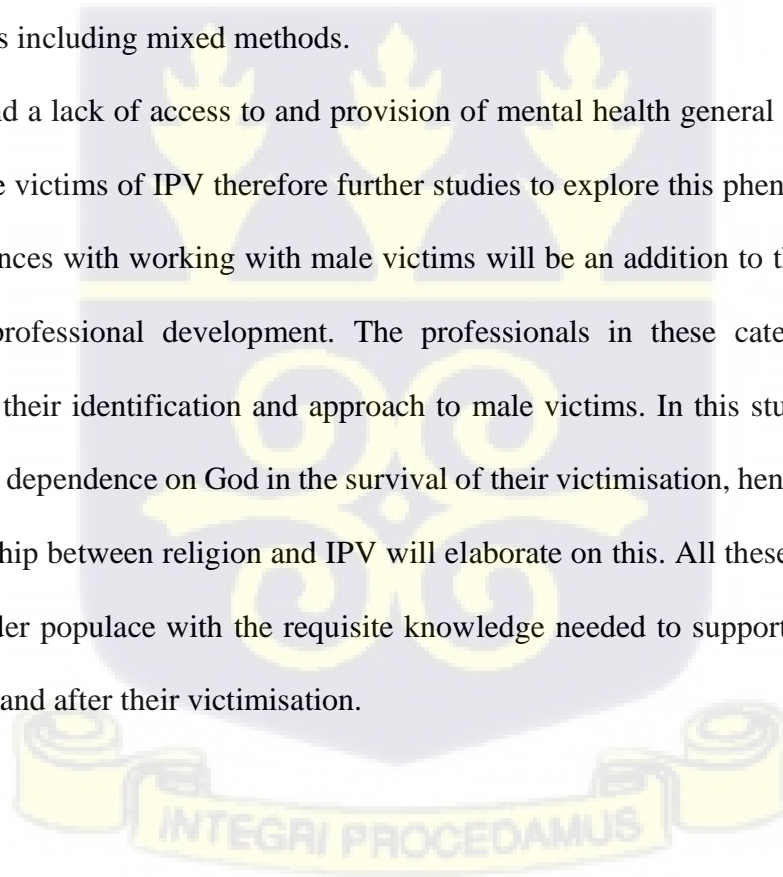
problem of IPV. However, there is the need for political will, stakeholder engagement and allocation of resources.

### **6.9 Suggestions for further research**

It is suggested that further studies be carried out where both the victim and perpetrator are interviewed for their reasons for perpetuation. An analysis of the experiences of both male and female victims of IPV in a comparative study will also seek to account for the similarities and deviations in the testimonies of both genders in Ghana. This will seek to bring clarity on the neutrality of IPV.

This study indicates the need to research a wider geographical area using more inclusive research designs including mixed methods.

This study found a lack of access to and provision of mental health general health and social services to male victims of IPV therefore further studies to explore this phenomenon in terms of their experiences with working with male victims will be an addition to the scholarship of IPV and for professional development. The professionals in these categories could be interviewed on their identification and approach to male victims. In this study some victims mentioned their dependence on God in the survival of their victimisation, hence further studies on the relationship between religion and IPV will elaborate on this. All these approaches will provide the wider populace with the requisite knowledge needed to support male victims in thriving during and after their victimisation.



## References

- Abramsky, T., Watts, C. H., Garcia-Moreno, C., Devries, K., Kiss, L., Ellsberg, M., Jansen, H. A., Heise, L. (2011). What factors are associated with recent intimate partner violence? Findings from the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence. *BMC Public Health*, *16*, 11-109. doi: 10.1186/1471-2458-11-109.
- Adebayo, A. A. (2014). Domestic violence against men: Balancing the gender issues in Nigeria. *American Journal of Sociological Research*, *4*(1), 14-19.
- Adjah, O. E. S., & Agbemafle, I. (2016). Determinants of domestic violence against women in Ghana. *BMC Public Health*, *16*, 368. <https://doi.org/10.1186/s12889-016-3041-x>
- Adonu, R. M. (2023). *Greater Accra recorded the highest divorce figures in 2021 – AMA reveals*. Myactiveonline. Retrieved 12th July, 2023 from <https://myactiveonline.com/general/greater-accra-recorded-the-highest-divorce-figures-in-2021-ama-reveals/20220118/>
- Adu-Gyamfi, E. (2014). Challenges undermining domestic violence victims' access to justice in Mampong municipality of Ghana. *JL Pol'y & Globalization*, *27*, 75.
- Ajayi, L., & Soyinka-Airewele, P. (2018). Key triggers of domestic violence in Ghana: A victim centered analysis. *Etude de la Population Africaine*, *32*, 4097-4018.
- Alangea, O. D., Addo-Lartey, A., Sikweyiya, Y., Chirwa, E., Coker-Appiah, D., Jewkes, R., & Adanu R. (2018). Prevalence and risk factors of intimate partner violence among women in four districts of the central region of Ghana: Baseline findings from a cluster randomised controlled trial. *PLOS ONE*. *13*. e0200874. 10.1371/journal.pone.0200874.
- Alsawalqa, R. O. (2023). A qualitative study to investigate male victims' experiences of female-perpetrated domestic abuse in Jordan. *Current psychology*, *42*(7), 5505-5520.
- Alhusen, J. L., Ray, E., Sharps, P., & Bullock, L. (2015). Intimate partner violence during pregnancy: Maternal and neonatal outcomes. *J Womens Health (Larchmt)*, *24*(1):100-6. doi: 10.1089/jwh.2014.4872.
- Ali, P. A., Dhingra, K., & McGarry, J. (2016). A literature review of intimate partner violence and its classifications. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, *31*, 16-25. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2016.06.008>
- Ali, P. A., O'Cathain, A., & Croot, E. (2021). Influences of Extended Family on Intimate Partner Violence: Perceptions of Pakistanis in Pakistan and the United Kingdom. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *36*(9-10), 3965-3993. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260518785378>

- Allen-Collinson, J. (2009). A marked man: A case of female-perpetrated intimate partner abuse. *International Journal of Men's Health*, 8(1), 22-40. *International Journal of Men's Health*. 8. 22-40.
- Ambert A. M. & Vanier Institute of the Family. (2009). Divorce facts causes & consequences (3rd ed.). Vanier Institute of the Family. L'Institut Vanier de la famille. Retrieved from: <http://lpintrabp.parl.gc.ca/lopimages2/bibparlcat/>
- Amoakohene, M. (2005). Violence against women in Ghana: A look at women's perceptions and review of policy and social responses. *Social science & medicine* (1982). 59. 2373-85. 10.1016/j.socscimed.2004.04.001.
- Anapey, G. M., Adu-Marfo, A. O., & Kwapong, O. A. T. F. (2021). Conceptualising Male Vulnerability in a Ghanaian Context: Implications for Adult Education and Counselling. *Journal of Black Studies*, 52(4), 379-402.
- Andoh-Arthur, J., Knizek, B. L., Osafo, J., & Hjelmeland, H. (2020). Societal reactions to suicide in Ghana: A qualitative study of experiences of the bereaved. *Crisis: The Journal of Crisis Intervention and Suicide Prevention*, 41(2), 128–134. <https://doi.org/10.1027/0227-5910/a000618>
- Anne Bogat, G., Levendosky, A. A., & Garcia, A. M. (2016). Intimate Partner Violence. In H. S. Friedman (Ed.), *Encyclopedia of Mental Health (Second Edition)* (pp. 411-416). Academic Press. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/B978-0-12-397045-9.00237-8>
- Archer, J. (2018). Violence to partners: Gender symmetry revisited. In *The Routledge international handbook of human aggression* (pp. 155-169). Routledge.
- Archer, J. (2002). Sex differences in physically aggressive acts between heterosexual partners: A meta-analytic review. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 7, 313-351. 10.1016/S1359-1789(01)00061-1.
- Austin, A. E., Shanahan, M. E., Barrios, Y. V., & Macy, R. J. (2019). A Systematic Review of Interventions for Women Parenting in the Context of Intimate Partner Violence. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 20(4), 498-519. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838017719233>
- Bagwell-Gray, M. E., Messing, J. T., & Baldwin-White, A. (2015). Intimate Partner Sexual Violence A Review of Terms, Definitions, and Prevalence. *Trauma, Violence & Abuse*, 16(3), 316-335. <https://www.jstor.org/stable/26638362>
- Baker, L. L. (2018). Domestic Violence in the Domestic Church: An Argument for Greater Attention to Intimate Partner Abuse in Catholic Health Care. *Journal of Moral Theology*, 7(2), 18-35.

- Baloyi, G. T. (2010). Factors influencing resilience in men after divorce: Exploring pastoral method of care to an African situation (Unpublished PhD thesis). University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa. Retrieved from <http://upetd.up.ac.za/thesis/available/etd-12072011-143725/>
- Barkhuizen, M. (2015). Police reaction to the male victim of domestic violence in South Africa: Case study analysis. *Police Practice and Research*, 16, 1-12. 10.1080/15614263.2015.1038025.
- Barnes, S. (2013). Victims of crime. In J. Clarke & P. Wilson (Eds.), *Forensic psychology in practice: A practitioner's handbook* (pp. 205–219). Palgrave Macmillan/Springer Nature. [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-137-29723-5\\_13](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-1-137-29723-5_13)
- Barnes, R. (2013). "I'm Over It": Survivor narratives after woman-to-woman partner abuse. *Partner Abuse*, 4, 380-398. 10.1891/1946-6560.4.3.380.
- C. Bourassa, N. Letourneau, G. W. Holden & P. Turcotte (2017) Fathers' Perspectives Regarding Their Children's Exposure to Intimate Partner Violence, *Journal of Public Child Welfare*, 11:3, 261-278, DOI: 10.1080/15548732.2016.1275919 To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/15548732.2016.1275919>.
- Bates, E. A. (2020). "No one would ever believe me": An exploration of the impact of intimate partner violence victimization on men. *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*, 21(4), 497–507. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000206>
- Bates, E. A., Kaye, L. K., Pennington, C. R., & Hamlin, I. (2019). What about the male victims? Exploring the impact of gender stereotyping on implicit attitudes and behavioural intentions associated with intimate partner violence. *Sex Roles*, 81(1-2), 1-15. doi: 10.1007/s11199-018-0949-x
- Bellringer, M., du Preez, K. P., Pearson, J. R., Garrett, N., Koziol-McLain, J., Wilson, D., & Abbott, M. W. (2016). *Problem gambling and family violence in help-seeking populations: Co-occurrence, impact and coping*. AUT University Auckland, New Zealand.
- Berger, J. L., Douglas, E. M., & Hines, D. A. (2016). The mental health of male victims and their children affected by legal and administrative partner aggression. *Aggressive behavior*, 42(4), 346-361. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1002/ab.21630>
- Bernewaa, K. (2021). Domestic violence against men in Ghana: Perceptions and the role of the domestic violence and victim support unit (DOVVSU). *Afribary*. Retrieved from <https://afribary.com/works/domestic-violence-against-men-in-ghana-perceptions-and-the-role-of-the-domestic-violence-and-victim-support-unit-dovvsu>

- Blume, T. W. (1996). Social Perspectives on Violence. *Michigan Family Review*, 02(1).  
<https://doi.org/10.3998/mfr.4919087.0002.102>
- Bogat, G. A., Levendosky, A. A., & Cochran, K. (2023). Developmental consequences of intimate partner violence on children. *Annual review of clinical psychology*, 19, 303-329.
- Bonnet, F., & Whittaker, V. (2015). Intimate Partner Violence, Gender, and Criminalisation An Overview of American Debates. *Revue française de sociologie (English Edition)*, 56(2), 264-287. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/90007824>
- Bowman, C. G. (2003). "Theories of domestic violence in the African context." American University. *Journal of Gender Social Policy and Law*, 11(2), 847-863.
- Breiding, M., Basile, K. C., Smith, S. G., Black, M. C., & Mahendra, R. R. (2015). *Intimate partner violence surveillance: Uniform definitions and recommended data elements. Version 2.0.* <https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/31292>
- Breiding, M. J., Smith, S. G., Basile, K. C., Walters, M. L., Chen, J., & Merrick, M. T. (2014). Prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization--national intimate partner and sexual violence survey, United States, 2011. *MMWR Surveill Summ*, 63(8), 1-18.
- Breiding, M. J. (2014). Prevalence and characteristics of sexual violence, stalking, and intimate partner violence victimization—national intimate partner and sexual violence survey, United States, 2011. *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*, 63, 1-18.  
<https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/ss6308a1>
- Broberg, R. (2022). *Why are men often overlooked as victims of domestic abuse?* Retrieved 20th January, 2023 from <https://www.centreforsocialjustice.org.uk/newsroom/why-are-men-often-overlooked-as-victims-of-domestic-abuse>
- Burcar, V., & Akerstrom, M. (2009). Negotiating a victim identity: Young men as victims of violence. *Journal of Scandinavian Studies in Criminology and Crime Prevention*, 10, 37-54. 10.1080/14043850902815073.
- Burke, J. G., Insetta, E. R., Akers, A. Y., Miller, E., Yonas, M. A., Hintz, L., & Chang, J. C. (2015). Intimate partner violence victims as mothers: Their messages and strategies for communicating with children to break the cycle of violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 30(4), 703-724. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260514535264>
- Cares, A. C., Reckdenwald, A., & Fernandez, K. (2021). Domestic violence and abuse through a sociological lens. *The Routledge International Handbook of Domestic Violence and Abuse*, 40-54.

- Carlson, B. E. (1984). Causes and maintenance of domestic violence: An ecological analysis. *Social Service Review*, 58(4), 569-587.
- Carlson, R. G., & Jones, D. K. (2010). Continuum of conflict and control: A conceptualization of intimate partner violence typologies. *The Family Journal*, 18(3), 248-254. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1066480710371795>
- Carlyle, K. E., Scarduzio, J. A., & Slater, M. D. (2014). Media portrayals of female perpetrators of intimate partner violence. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 29(13), 2394-2417. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260513520231>
- Carmo, R., Grams, A., & Magalhães, T. (2011, 2011/11/01/). Men as victims of intimate partner violence. *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine*, 18(8), 355-359. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2011.07.006>
- Carney, M. M., & Barner, J. R. (2012). Prevalence of partner abuse: Rates of emotional abuse and control. *Partner Abuse*, 3(3), 286-335.
- Cascardi, M., & Vivian, D. (1995). Context for specific episodes of marital violence: Gender and severity of violence differences. *Journal of Family Violence*, 10(3), 265–293. <https://doi.org/10.1007/BF02110993>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2022). *Fast facts*. Retrieved 10th May, 2023 from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/fastfact.html>
- Centers for Disease Control Prevention. (2021). *Intimate partner violence: Definitions*. Retrieved 9th May, 2023 from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/definitions.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2017). Risk and protective factors. Retrieved 9th May, 2023 from <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence/riskprotectivefactors.html>
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2016). Intimate Partner Violence. Retrieved 10th May, 2023 from <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/intimatepartnerviolence/definitions.html>
- Chirwa, E. D., Sikweyiya, Y., Addo-Lartey, A. A., Ogum, A. D., Coker-Appiah, D., et al. (2018). Prevalence and risk factors of physical or sexual intimate violence perpetration amongst men in four districts in the central region of Ghana: Baseline findings from a cluster randomised controlled trial. *PLOS ONE* 13(3): e0191663. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0191663>

- Clark, C. J., Silverman, J. G., Shahrouri, M., Everson-Rose, S., & Groce, N. (2010). The role of the extended family in women's risk of intimate partner violence in Jordan. *Social Science & Medicine*, 70(1), 144-151.  
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.socscimed.2009.09.024>
- Clements, K. A. V., Sprecher, M., Modica, S., Terrones, M., Gregory, K., & Sullivan, C. M. (2021). The Use of Children as a Tactic of Intimate Partner Violence and its Relationship to Survivors' Mental Health. *Journal of Family Violence*, 37(7), 1049-1055. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-021-00330-0>
- Cohen, S., & Wills, T. A. (1985). Stress, Social Support, and the Buffering Hypothesis [Review]. *Psychological Bulletin*, 98(2), 310-357. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0033-2909.98.2.310>
- Cofie N. A. (2020). Multilevel analysis of Contextual risk factors for intimate partner violence in Ghana. *Int Rev Victimol* 2020, 26, 50–78. doi:10.1177/0269758018799030
- Coker, A. L., Davis, K. E., Arias, I., Desai, S., Sanderson, M., Brandt, H. M., & Smith, P. H. (2002). Physical and mental health effects of intimate partner violence for men and women. *Am. J. Prev. Med.* 23, 260–268. 10.1016/S0749-3797(02)00514-7
- Connell, R. W., & Messerschmidt, J. W. (2005). Hegemonic masculinity: Rethinking the concept. *Gender & Society*, 19(6), 829-859.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0891243205278639>
- Cools, S., & Kotsadam, A. (2017). Resources and intimate partner violence in Sub-Saharan Africa. *World Development*, 95, 211-230.
- Coontz, S. (1997). Divorcing reality. *The Nation*. Nov. 17, 21.
- Corbally, M. (2015). Accounting for intimate partner violence: A biographical analysis of narrative strategies used by men experiencing IPV from their female partners. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 30(17), 3112-3132.  
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260514554429>
- Creighton, G., Oliffe, J., Ogrodniczuk, J., & Frank B. (2017). “You’ve Gotta Be That Tough Crust Exterior Man”: Depression and Suicide in Rural-Based Men. *Qualitative Health Research*, 27(12), 1882-1891. doi:10.1177/1049732317718148
- Cummings, E. M., Davies, P. T., Myers, R. L., & Heindel, S. (1999). Adult conflict history and children's subsequent responses to conflict: An experimental test. *Journal of Family Psychology*, 13(4), 610–628. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0893-3200.13.4.610>
- Cusack, T. M. T. (Eds.) (2009). *The architecture of violence against women in Ghana*. Accra, Ghana: Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre.

- Danquah, D. Y. (2023). Ghana: Customary marriages in Ghana, its registration and effects in Ghana. Retrieved from: <https://www.mondaq.com/family-law/1298632/customary-marriages-in-ghana-its-registration-and-effects-in-ghana>
- Darko, G., Björkqvist, K., & Österman, K. (2019). Low intensity intimate partner aggression in Ghana: Support for the revised gender symmetry theory in an African country. *Aggressive behavior, 45*(1), 52-61. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1002/ab.21796>
- Darko, P. A., Frempong, L. N., & Agbenyo, W. (2018). The impact of job satisfaction on employees' loyalty and commitment: A comparative study among some selected sectors in Ghana. *European Journal of Business and Management, 10*, 95-105.
- DeKeseredy, W. (2011). Feminist contributions to understanding woman abuse: Myths, controversies, and realities. *Aggression and Violent Behavior, 16*, 297-302. 10.1016/j.avb.2011.04.002.
- Dery I. (2021). "Give her a slap or two... she might change": Negotiating masculinities through intimate partner violence among rural Ghanaian men. *Journal of interpersonal violence, 36*, 9670–9690.
- Dery, I., Akurugu, C. A., & Baataar, C. (2022). Community leaders' perceptions of and responses to intimate partner violence in Northwestern Ghana. *PLOS ONE 17*(3): e0262870. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0262870>
- Dias, N. G., Costa, D., Soares, J., Hatzidimitriadou, E., Ioannidi-Kapolou, E., Lindert, J., Sundin, Ö., Toth, O., Barros, H., & Fraga, S. (2019). Social support and the intimate partner violence victimization among adults from six European countries. *Fam Pract, 36*(2), 117-124. <https://doi.org/10.1093/fampra/cmz042>
- Dienye, P. P. (2008). Domestic violence against men in primary healthcare in Nigeria. University of Port Harcourt.
- Dienye, P. O., & Gbeneol, P. K. (2009). Domestic violence against men in primary care in Nigeria. *American journal of men's health, 3*(4), 333-339.
- Djamba, Y. K., & Kimuna, S. R. (2015). *Gender-based violence: perspectives from Africa, the Middle East, and India*. Springer.
- Dobash, R., & Dobash, R. (2004). Women's violence to men in intimate relationships: Working on a puzzle. *British Journal of Criminology, 44*. 10.1093/bjc/azh026.
- Dobash, R. E., & Dobash, R. P. (2003). *Women, violence and social change* (1st ed.). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203450734>

- Dodoo, N. D., Horne, C., & Nii-Amoo D. (2020). Do bridewealth payments reduce female reproductive autonomy? *Evidence from a Vignette Study in Ghana, Social Problems*, 67(1), 77–95. <https://doi.org/10.1093/socpro/spz008>
- Dokkedahl, S., & Elklit, A. (2019). Understanding the mutual partner dynamic of intimate partner violence: a review. *Partner Abuse*, 10(3), 298-335.
- Domestic Violence Act 2007, (2003). <https://evaw-global-database.unwomen.org/en/countries/africa/ghana/2007/domestic-violence-act-2007-act-732>
- Donne, M. D., DeLuca, J., Pleskach, P., Bromson, C., Mosley, M. P., Perez, E. T., Mathews, S. G., Stephenson, R., & Frye, V. (2018). Barriers to and facilitators of help-seeking behavior among men who experience sexual violence. *American journal of men's health*, 12(2), 189-201. <https://doi.org/0.1177/1557988317740665>
- Douglas, H., Harris, B. A., & Dragiewicz, M. (2019). Technology-facilitated domestic and family violence: Women's experiences. *British Journal of Criminology*, 59(3), 551–570. [10.1093/bjc/azy068](https://doi.org/10.1093/bjc/azy068)
- Douglas, H., Tolmie, J., & Tarrant, S. (2021). Social entrapment evidence: Understanding its role in self-defence cases involving intimate partner violence. *The University of New South Wales Law Journal*, 44(1), 326-356.
- Dowd, L. S., Leisring, P. A., & Rosenbaum, A. (2005). Partner aggressive women: Characteristics and treatment attrition. *Violence and Victims*, 20(2), 219–233.
- Dragiewicz, M. (2008). Patriarchy reasserted: Fathers' rights and anti-VAWA activism. *Feminist Criminology*, 3, 121-144. <https://doi.org/10.1177/155708510831673>
- Dutton, D. G. (1995). *The domestic assault of women: Psychological and criminal justice perspectives*. UBC press.
- Elmquist, J., Hamel, J., Shorey, R., Labrecque, L., Ninnemann, A., & Stuart, G. (2014). Motivations for intimate partner violence in men and women arrested for domestic violence and court referred to batterer intervention programs. *Partner Abuse*. 5. [10.1891/1946-6560.5.4.359](https://doi.org/10.1891/1946-6560.5.4.359).
- Eriksson, M., Ghazinour, M., & Hammarström, A. (2018). Different uses of Bronfenbrenner's ecological theory in public mental health research: what is their value for guiding public mental health policy and practice? *Social Theory & Health*, 16(4), 414-433. <https://doi.org/10.1057/s41285-018-0065-6>
- Espinoza, R., & Warner, D. (2016). Where Do We Go from here?: Examining Intimate Partner Violence by Bringing Male Victims, Female Perpetrators, and Psychological

- Sciences into the Fold [Article]. *Journal of Family Violence*, 31(8), 959-966.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-016-9881-4>
- Eves, R. (2019). 'Full price, full body': norms, brideprice and intimate partner violence in highlands Papua New Guinea. *Culture, Health & Sexuality*, 21(12), 1367-1380.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/13691058.2018.1564937>
- Fanslow, J. L., Malihi, Z., Hashemi, L., Gulliver, P., & McIntosh, T. (2022). Prevalence of interpersonal violence against women and men in New Zealand: results of a cross-sectional study. *Australian and New Zealand Journal of Public Health*, 46(2), 117-126. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/1753-6405.13206>
- Fiktee, F. F., & Bhah, L. I. (1999). Domestic violence and health of Pakistani women. *International Journal of Gynaecology and Obstetrics*, 65, 195-201
- Fleming, P. J., McCleary-Sills, J., Morton, M., Levitov, R., Heilman, B., & Barker G. (2015). Risk factors for men's lifetime perpetration of physical violence against intimate partners: Results from the International Men and Gender Equality Survey (IMAGES) in Eight Countries. *PLoS ONE*. 2015;10:e0118639.
- Flores, D., & Barroso, J. (2017). 21st Century Parent-Child Sex Communication in the United States: A Process Review. *J Sex Res*, 54(4-5), 532-548.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/00224499.2016.1267693>
- Foran, H. M., & O'Leary, K. D. (2008). Alcohol and intimate partner violence: A meta-analytic review. *Clinical Psychology Review*, 28(7), 1222-1234.  
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.cpr.2008.05.001>
- Frieze, I. H. (2005). *Hurting the one you love: Violence in relationships*. Pacific Grove, CA: Wadsworth
- Fuseini, K., & Kalule-Sabiti, I. (2015). Women's autonomy in Ghana: does religion matter? *African Population Studies*, 29(2), 1831– 1842, doi:10.11564/29-2-743
- Gandhi, A., Bhojani, P., Balkawade, N., Goswami, S., Kotecha Munde, B., & Chugh, A. (2021). Analysis of Survey on Violence Against Women and Early Marriage: Gynaecologists' Perspective. *J Obstet Gynaecol India*, 71(Suppl 2), 76-83.  
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s13224-021-01578-8>
- Garnets, L., & Pleck, J. H. (1979). Sex role identity, androgyny, and sex role transcendence: A sex role strain analysis. *Psychology of women quarterly*, 3(3), 270-283.
- George, M. J. (1994). Riding the donkey backwards: Men as the unacceptable victims of marital violence. *The Journal of Men's Studies*, 3(2), 137-159.

- Ghana Statistical Service (GSS) and ICF. 2023. Ghana Demographic and Health Survey 2022: Key Indicators Report. Accra, Ghana, and Rockville, Maryland, USA: GSS and ICF.
- Gilbar, O., Wester, S. R., & Ben-Porat, A. (2021). The effects of gender role conflict restricted emotionality on the association between exposure to trauma, posttraumatic stress disorder and intimate partner violence severity. *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*, 22, 88-100. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000266>
- Gilbert, R., Widom, C. S., Browne, K., Fergusson, D., Webb, E., & Janson, S. (2009). Burden and consequences of child maltreatment in high-income countries. *Lancet*, 373(9657), 68-81. [https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736\(08\)61706-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/s0140-6736(08)61706-7)
- Goodson, A., & Hayes, B. (2018). Help-seeking behaviors of intimate partner violence victims: A cross-national analysis in developing nations. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 36. 088626051879450. 10.1177/0886260518794508.
- Greene, M. C., Rees, S., Likindikoki, S., Bonz, A. G., Joscelyne, A., Kaysen, D., Nixon, R. D., Njau, T., Tankink, M. T., & Tiwari, A. (2019). Developing an integrated intervention to address intimate partner violence and psychological distress in Congolese refugee women in Tanzania. *Conflict and Health*, 13, 1-16.
- Grown, C. A., Gupta, G., & Kes, A. (2009). Taking action-achieving gender equality and empowering women. [http://lst-iiiep.iiiep-unesco.org/cgi-bin/wwwi32.exe/\[in=epidoc1.in\]/?t2000=022384/\(100\)](http://lst-iiiep.iiiep-unesco.org/cgi-bin/wwwi32.exe/[in=epidoc1.in]/?t2000=022384/(100)).
- Guba, E. G., & Lincoln, Y. S. (1994). Competing paradigms in qualitative research. *Handbook of qualitative research*, 2(163-194), 105.
- Gubi, D., & Wandera, S. O. (2022). Prevalence and correlates of intimate partner violence among ever-married men in Uganda: a cross-sectional survey. *BMC public health*, 22(1), 535.
- Haeseler, L. (2013). Themes of coping in the spectrum of domestic violence abuse: A review of the literature. *Journal of evidence-based social work*, 10, 25-32. 10.1080/15433714.2013.751230.
- Hahn, J. W., Aldarondo, E., Silverman, J. G., McCormick, M. C., & Koenen, K. C. (2015). Examining the association between posttraumatic stress disorder and intimate partner violence perpetration. *Journal of Family Violence*, 30, 743-752.
- Hamby, S. (2017). On defining violence, and why it matters. *Psychology of Violence*, 7, 167-180. <https://doi.org/10.1037/vio0000117>

- Hart, S. D. (1998). The role of psychopathy in assessing risk for violence: Conceptual and methodological issues. *Legal and Criminological Psychology, 3*, 121-137
- Hegarty, K., O'Doherty, L., Taft I, A., Chondros, P., Brown, S., Valpied, J., Astbury, J., Taket, A., Gold, L., Feder, G., & Gunn, J. (2013). Screening and counselling in the primary care setting for women who have experienced intimate partner violence (WEAVE): A cluster randomised controlled trial. *Lancet, 382*(9888), 249-58. doi: 10.1016/S0140-6736(13)60052-5. Epub 2013 Apr 16. PMID: 23598181.
- Heise, L., & Garcia-Moreno, C. (2002). Violence by intimate partners. In E. G. Krug, L. L. Dahlberg, J. A. Mercy, A. B. Zwi, & R. Lozano (Eds.), *World report on violence and health* (Vol. 1, pp. 87-113). World Health Organization.
- Heise, L. L. (1998). Violence against women: an integrated, ecological framework. *Violence against women, 4*(3), 262-290. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801298004003002>
- Henry, J., Phillips, L., Ruffman, T., & Bailey, P. (2012). A Meta-analytic review of age differences in theory of mind. *Psychology and aging, 28*.10.1037/a0030677.
- Herrenkohl, T. I., Fedina, L., Roberto, K. A., Raquet, K. L., Hu, R. X., Rousson, A. N., & Mason, W. A. (2022). Child maltreatment, youth violence, intimate partner violence, and elder mistreatment: A review and theoretical analysis of research on violence across the life course. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 23*(1), 314-328.
- Hearn, J., Hall, M., Lewis R., & Niemistö, C. (2023). The spread of digital intimate partner violence: Ethical challenges for business, workplaces, employers, and management. *Journal of Business Ethics, 100*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10551-023-05463-4>.
- Jewkes, R., Levin, J., & Penn-Kekana, L. (2002). Risk factors for domestic violence: findings from a south African cross-sectional study. *Social science & medicine, 55*(9), 1603-1617. 10.1016/S0277-9536(01)00294-5.
- Hines, D. (2015). Overlooked victims of domestic violence: Men. *International Journal for Family Research and Policy, 1*(1). Retrieved from <https://ijfrp.journals.yorku.ca/index.php/ijfrp/article/view/39581>
- Hines, D. A., Brown, J., & Dunning, E. (2007). Characteristics of callers to the domestic abuse helpline for men. *Journal of Family Violence, 22*, 63-72.
- Hines, D. A., & Douglas, E. M. (2018). Influence of intimate terrorism, situational couple violence, and mutual violent control on male victims. *Psychology of men & masculinity, 19*(4), 612.

- Hines, D. A., Douglas, E. M., & Berger, J. L. (2015). A self-report measure of legal and administrative aggression within intimate relationships. *Aggressive behavior, 41*(4), 295-309. <https://doi.org/10.1002/ab.21540>
- Hines, D. A., & Malley-Morrison, K. (2001). Psychological effects of partner abuse against men: A neglected research area. *Psychology of men & masculinity, 2*(2), 75-85.
- Hoff, E. (2006). How social contexts support and shape language development. *Developmental Review, 26*(1), 55–88. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.dr.2005.11.002>
- Hogan, K., Clarke, V., & Ward, T. (2021). Men’s experiences of help-seeking for female-perpetrated intimate partner violence: A qualitative exploration. *Counselling and Psychotherapy Research, 21*. [10.1002/capr.12409](https://doi.org/10.1002/capr.12409).
- Holmes, A. G. D. (2020). “Researcher Positionality - A Consideration of Its Influence and Place in Qualitative Research - A New Researcher Guide.” *Shanlax International Journal of Education, 8*(4), 1-10. DOI: <https://doi.org/10.34293/education.v8i4.3232>
- Hou, W. L., Lin, C. Y., Wang, Y. M., Tseng, Y. H., & Shu, B. C. (2020). Assessing Related Factors of Intention to Perpetrate Dating Violence among University Students Using the Theory of Planned Behavior. *Int J Environ Res Public Health, 17*(3). <https://doi.org/10.3390/ijerph17030923>
- Howe, T. R. (2011). *Marriages and families in the 21st century: A bioecological approach*. John Wiley & Sons.
- Huntley, A. L., Potter, L., Williamson, E., Malpass, A., Szilassy, E., & Feder, G. (2019). Help-seeking by male victims of domestic violence and abuse (DVA): A systematic review and qualitative evidence synthesis. *BMJ Open, 9*(6), e021960.
- Husserl, E., & Moran, D. (2012). *Ideas: General introduction to pure phenomenology*. Routledge.
- Institute of Development Studies. (2016). *Domestic Violence in Ghana: Incidence, Attitudes, Determinants and Consequences*. Institute of Development Studies.
- Intestate Succession Act 1985, (PNDCL 111)
- Issahaku, P. A. (2017). Correlates of intimate partner violence in Ghana. *Sage open, 7*(2), 1-14. <https://doi.org/10.1177/2158244017709861>
- Jackman, M. R. (2002). Violence in Social Life. *Annual Review of Sociology, 28*, 387-415. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/3069247>
- Johnson, M. (2008). Gender and types of intimate partner violence: A response to an anti-feminist Literature Review. *Aggression and Violent Behavior - Aggress Violent Behavior, 16*, 289-296. [10.1016/j.avb.2011.04.006](https://doi.org/10.1016/j.avb.2011.04.006).

- Johnson, L., Chen, Y., Stylianou, A., & Arnold, A. (2022). Examining the impact of economic abuse on survivors of intimate partner violence: a scoping review. *BMC public health*, 22(1), 1-19.
- Johnson, M. P. (1995). Patriarchal Terrorism and Common Couple Violence: Two Forms of Violence against Women. *Journal of marriage and family*, 57(2), 283-294. <https://doi.org/10.2307/353683>
- Johnson, M. P. (2006). Conflict and control: gender symmetry and asymmetry in domestic violence. *Violence against women*, 12(11), 1003-1018. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801206293328>
- Johnson, L., Chen, Y., Stylianou, A., & Arnold, A. (2022). Examining the impact of economic abuse on survivors of intimate partner violence: A scoping review. *BMC public health*, 22(1), 1-19.
- Johnson, M. P., & Ferraro, K. J. (2000). Research on domestic violence in the 1990s: Making distinctions. *Journal of marriage and family*, 62(4), 948-963.
- Johnston, J. R. (1995). Domestic violence and parent-child relationships in families disputing custody. *Australian Journal of Family Law*, 9(1), 12-25.
- Kaukinen, C. E., Meyer, S., & Akers, C. (2013). Status compatibility and help-seeking behaviors among female intimate partner violence victims. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 28(3), 577-601. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260512455516>
- Kellogg, N. D., & Menard, S. W. (2003). Violence among family members of children and adolescents evaluated for sexual abuse. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 27(12), 1367-1376. .
- Kimmel, M. S. (2002). Gender symmetry in domestic violence: A substantive and methodological research review. *Violence Against Women*, 8(11), 1332–1363. <https://doi.org/10.1177/107780102762478037>
- Kolbe, V., & Büttner, A. (2020). Domestic violence against men—prevalence and risk factors. *Deutsches Ärzteblatt International*, 117(31-32), 534.
- Koolick, J., Galano, M., Grogan-Kaylor, A., Clark, H., Montalvo-Liendo, N., & Graham-Bermann, S. (2016). PTSD symptoms in young children exposed to intimate partner violence in four ethno-racial groups. *Journal of Child & Adolescent Trauma*, 9, 97-107.
- Krug, E. G., Dahlberg, L. L., Mercy, J. A., Anthony B., Zwi, A. B., & Lozano, R. (2002). World report on violence and health. World Health Organization (WHO), Geneva. Available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/54aa8f744.html>

- Lakey, B., & Cohen, S. (2000). Social Support Theory and Measurement. In S. Cohen, L. G. Underwood, & B. H. Gottlieb (Eds.), *Social Support Measurement and Intervention: A Guide for Health and Social Scientists*. Oxford University Press.  
<https://doi.org/10.1093/med:psych/9780195126709.003.0002>
- Laroche, D. (2005). *Aspects of the context and consequences of domestic violence*. desLibris.
- Latzman, R. D., & Swisher, R. R. (2005). The interactive relationship among adolescent violence, street violence, and depression. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 33(3), 355-371. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1002/jcop.20051>
- Leisring, P. A., & Grigorian, H. L. (2016). Self-Defense, Retaliation, and Gender: Clarifying Motivations for Physical Partner Violence. *Journal of Family Violence*, 31(8), 949-953. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-016-9874-3>
- Leonard, K. E., & Quigley, B. M. (2017). Thirty years of research show alcohol to be a cause of intimate partner violence: Future research needs to identify who to treat and how to treat them. *Drug and alcohol review*, 36(1), 7-9.
- Levant, R. F., & Wong, Y. J. (2017). Introduction: Maturation of the psychology of men and masculinities. In R. F. Levant & Y. J. Wong (Eds.), *The psychology of men and masculinities* (pp. 3–11). American Psychological Association.  
<https://doi.org/10.1037/0000023-001>
- Levinson, D. (1989). *Family violence in cross-cultural perspective*. Newbury Park, CA: Sage.
- Li, S., Zhao, F., & Yu, Guoliang. (2020). A meta-analysis of childhood maltreatment and intimate partner violence perpetration. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*, 50. 101362. 10.1016/j.avb.2019.101362.
- Lieberman, A.F., & Horn, P. (2011). Psychological impact on and treatment of children who witness domestic violence. *Child Abuse and Neglect*, 501-515. 10.1016/B978-1-4160-6393-3.00052-X.
- Little, L. & Kantor, G. K. (2002). Using ecological theory to understand intimate partner violence and child maltreatment. *Journal of Community Health Nursing*, 19(3), 133-145, DOI: 10.1207/S15327655JCHN1903\_02
- Love, H. A., Spencer, C. M., May, S. A., Mendez, M., & Stith, S. M. (2020). Perpetrator Risk Markers for Intimate Terrorism and Situational Couple Violence: A Meta-Analysis. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 21(5), 922-931.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838018801331>

- Lysova, A., & Dim, E. (2020). Severity of victimization and formal help seeking among men who experienced intimate partner violence in their ongoing relationships. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 37*. 088626052092235. 10.1177/0886260520922352.
- Lysova, A., Dim, E. E., & Dutton, D. (2019). Prevalence and consequences of intimate partner violence in Canada as measured by the national victimization survey. *Partner Abuse, 10*(2), 199-221.
- Machado, A., Hines, D., & Matos, M. (2016). Help-seeking and needs of male victims of intimate partner violence in Portugal. *Psychology of men & masculinity, 17*(3), 255.
- Machado, A., Santos, A., Graham-Kevan, N. et al. (2017). Exploring help seeking experiences of male victims of female perpetrators of IPV. *J Fam Viol, 32*, 513–523. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-016-9853-8>
- Mantey, E. E. (2019). Domestic violence in Ghana: The attitudes of male victims of Accra. *African Journal of Social Work, 9*(1), 1-8.
- Marriages Act, 1884–1985 CAP. 127 [Ghana], 1885, available at: <https://www.refworld.org/docid/548edd8f4.html>
- McCarrick, J., Davis-McCabe, C., & Hirst-Winthrop, S. (2016). Men’s experiences of the criminal justice system following female perpetrated intimate partner violence. *Journal of Family Violence, 31*, 203-213.
- McCormack, L., & Thomson, S. (2016). Complex ytrauma in childhood, a psychiatric diagnosis in adulthood: Making meaning of a double-edged phenomenon. *Psychological trauma. Theory, Research, Practice, and Policy, 9*. 10.1037/tra0000193.
- McLaughlin, K. A., Kubzansky, L. D., Dunn, E. C., Waldinger, R., Vaillant, G., & Koenen, K. C. (2010). Childhood social environment, emotional reactivity to stress, and mood and anxiety disorders across the life course. *Depress Anxiety, 27*(12), 1087-94. doi: 10.1002/da.20762.
- McLeod, D. A., Havig K., Natale, A., & Pharris, A. (2020). Intimate partner violence: Innovations in theory to Inform clinical practice, policy, and research. *Social Sciences, 9*(5), 71. <https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci9050071>
- McNeilly, C., (2013). Domestic violence against men at its highest level in Northern Ireland since police began recording statistics. *Belfast Telegraph*, p. 1.
- Mechem, C. C., Shofer, F. S., Reinhard, S. S., Hornig, S., & Datner, E. (1999). History of Domestic Violence among Male Patients Presenting to an Urban Emergency

- Department. *Academic Emergency Medicine*, 6(8), 786-791.  
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1553-2712.1999.tb01207.x>
- Mercy, J. A., Hillis, S. D., Butchart, A., Bellis, M. A., Ward, C. L., Fang, X., & Rosenberg, M. L. (2017). Interpersonal Violence: Global Impact and Paths to Prevention. In *Disease Control Priorities, Third Edition (Volume 7): Injury Prevention and Environmental Health* (pp. 71-96). [https://doi.org/10.1596/978-1-4648-0522-6\\_ch5](https://doi.org/10.1596/978-1-4648-0522-6_ch5)
- Merrill, K. G., Campbell, J. C., Decker, M. R., McGready, J., Burke, V. M., Mwansa, J. K., Miti, S., Frimpong, C., Kennedy, C. E., & Denison, J. A. (2020). Prevalence of physical and sexual violence and psychological abuse among adolescents and young adults living with HIV in Zambia. *PLoS One*, 15(6), e0235203.
- Messing, J. T., Ward-Lasher, A., Thaller, J., & Bagwell-Gray, M. E. (2015). The State of Intimate Partner Violence Intervention: Progress and Continuing Challenges. *Soc Work*, 60(4), 305-13. doi: 10.1093/sw/swv027. PMID: 26489351.
- Miller, E., & McCaw, B. (2019). Intimate partner violence. *New England Journal of Medicine*, 380(9), 850-857.
- Moller-Leimkühler, A. (2003). The gender gap in suicide and premature death or: Why are men so vulnerable? *European archives of psychiatry and clinical neuroscience*. 253. 1-8. 10.1007/s00406-003-0397-6.
- Morgan, W., & Wells, M. (2016). 'It's deemed unmanly': men's experiences of intimate partner violence (IPV). *The Journal of Forensic Psychiatry & Psychology*, 27(3), 404-418.
- Morgan, K., Williamson, E., Hester, M., Jones, S., & Feder, Gene. (2014). Asking men about domestic violence and abuse in a family medicine context: Help seeking and views on the general practitioner role. *Aggression and Violent Behavior*. 19. 10.1016/j.avb.2014.09.008.
- Mshweshwe, L. (2020). Understanding domestic violence: masculinity, culture, traditions. *Heliyon*, 6(10), e05334. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.heliyon.2020.e05334>
- Myers, K., & Demantas I. (2016). Breadwinning and bread-losing: Exploring opportunities to rework manhood. *Sociol, Compass*, 10(12), 1119–1130.
- Nave, C. (2017). Marriage in Kumasi, Ghana: Locally emergent practices in the colonial/modern gender system. *Hypatia*, 32(3), 557-573. doi:10.1111/hypa.12338
- Noonan, C. B., & Pilkington, P. D. (2020). Intimate partner violence and child attachment: A systematic review and meta-analysis. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 109, 104765. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.chiabu.2020.104765>

- Nowshad, G., Jahan, N., Shah, N. Z., Ali, N., Ali, T., Alam, S., Khan, A., Mahmood, M. A., Saba, M., Arnone, D., & Shah, S. M. (2022). Intimate-partner violence and its association with symptoms of depression, perceived health, and quality of life in the Himalayan Mountain Villages of Gilgit Baltistan. *PLoS One*, *17*(9), e0268735. <https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pone.0268735>
- Nukunya, G. K. (2013). *Tradition and change in Ghana* (7th ed.). Ghana Universities Press.
- Njuguna, J. K. (2014). *Causes and consequences of domestic violence against men in Mukurwe-Ini constituency, Kenya* (Doctoral dissertation, University of Nairobi).
- Obarisiagbon, E. I., & Omage, M. I. (2019). Emerging trend in the culture of domestic violence against men in southern Nigeria. *International Journal of Humanities and Social Science*, *9*(3), 50-56.
- O'Campo, P., Smylie, J., Minh, A., Omand, M., & Cyriac, A. (2015). Conceptualizing acts and behaviours that comprise intimate partner violence: a concept map. *Health Expect*, *18*(6), 1968-1981. <https://doi.org/10.1111/hex.12291>
- O'Halloran, L., Martin, L., David, R., David, Tod, & M. N. (2018). Doing descriptive phenomenological data collection in sport psychology research. *Sport in Society*, *21*(2), 302-313. DOI: 10.1080/17430437.2016.1159199
- Oliffe, J., Han, C., Sta.Maria, E., Lohan, M., & Howard, T., Stewart, D., & MacMillan, H. (2014). Gay men and Intimate Partner Violence: A Gender Analysis. *Sociology of Health & Illness*. 10.1111/1467-9566.12099.
- O'Neal, J. (2008). Summarising 25 years of research on men's gender role conflict using the Gender Role Conflict Scale. *The Counselling Psychologist*, *36*(3), 358-445. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0011000008317057>
- Onigbogi, M., Odeyemi, K., & Onigbogi, O. (2015). Prevalence and factors associated with intimate partner violence among married women in an urban community in Lagos State, Nigeria. *African Journal of Reproductive Health*, *19*, 91-100.
- Organisation for Economic Co-operation Development. (2011). *Report on the gender initiative: Gender equality in education, employment and entrepreneurship*. <https://www.oecd.org/education/48111145.pdf>
- Oyediran, K., Spencer, C. M., & Stith, S. M. (2023). Men as victims of intimate partner violence in Cameroon and Sierra Leone. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, *38*(5-6), 5211-5235.
- Ozaki, R., & Otis, M. D. (2016). Gender Equality, Patriarchal Cultural Norms, and Perpetration of Intimate Partner Violence: Comparison of Male University Students in

- Asian and European Cultural Contexts. *Violence against women*, 23(9), 1076-1099.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801216654575>
- Pallock, L. L., & Lamborn, S. D. (2006). Beyond parenting practices: extended kinship support and the academic adjustment of African-American and European-American teens. *J Adolesc*, 29(5), 813-828. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.adolescence.2005.12.003>
- Peace FM Online (2019). "Domestic Abuse Against Men Up By 20% - DOVVSU | General News | Peacefmonline.com  
<https://www.peacefmonline.com/pages/local/news/201911/396357.php>
- Randle, A., & Graham, C. (2011). A Review of the evidence on the effects of intimate partner violence on men. *Psychology of Men & Masculinity*, 12. 10.1037/a0021944.
- Renner, L. M., Piescher, K. N., & Mickelson, N. L. (2023). Academic outcomes among children who experienced or were exposed to physical abuse. *Journal of interpersonal violence*, 38(3-4), 2510-2533.
- Reidy, D., Berke, D., Gentile, B., & Zeichner, A. (2014). Man enough? Masculine discrepancy stress and intimate partner violence. *Personality and Individual Differences*, 68, 160–164. 10.1016/j.paid.2014.04.021.
- Richmond, K., & Levant, R. (2003). Clinical application of the gender role strain paradigm: Group treatment for adolescent boys. *Journal of Clinical Psychology*, 59(11), 1237-1245. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1002/jclp.10214>
- Ringwald, B., Tolhurst, R., Taegtmeier, M., Digolo, L., Gichuna, G., Gaitho, M. M., Phillips–Howard, P. A., Otiso, L., & Giorgi, E. (2023). Intra-Urban variation of intimate partner violence against women and men in Kenya: Evidence from the 2014 Kenya demographic and health survey. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 38(5-6), 5111-5138. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605221120893>
- Rode, D., Rode, M., & Januszek, M. (2015). Psychosocial characteristics of men and women as perpetrators of domestic violence. *Polish Psychological Bulletin*, 46(1), 54-64.  
<https://doi.org/10.1515/ppb-2015-0006>
- Ruiz-Hernández, J. A., García-Jiménez, J. J., Llor-Esteban, B., & Godoy-Fernández, C. (2015). Risk factors for intimate partner violence in prison inmates. *The European Journal of Psychology Applied to Legal Context*, 7(1), 41-49.  
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.ejpal.2014.11.003>
- Salter, M. (2016). ‘Real men don't hit women’: Constructing masculinity in the prevention of violence against women. *Australian & New Zealand Journal of Criminology*, 49(4), 463-479. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0004865815587031>

- Sanders, C. K. (2015). Economic abuse in the lives of women abused by an intimate partner: A Qualitative study. *Violence Against Women, 21*(1), 3-29.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801214564167>
- Sarantakos, S. (2004). Deconstructing self-defense in wife-to-husband violence. *The Journal of Men's Studies, 12*(3), 277-296.
- Sardinha, L., Maheu-Giroux, M., Stockl, H., Meyer, S. R., & Garcia-Moreno, C. (2022). Global, regional, and national prevalence estimates of physical or sexual, or both, intimate partner violence against women in 2018. *Lancet, 399*(10327), 803-813.  
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(21\)02664-7](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(21)02664-7)
- Scarduzio, J. A., Carlyle, K. E., Harris, K. L., & Savage, M. W. (2017). "Maybe she was provoked": Exploring gender stereotypes about male and female perpetrators of intimate partner violence. *Violence Against Women, 23*(1), 89-113.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801216636240>
- Schneider, D., Harknett, K., & McLanahan, S. (2016). Intimate partner violence in the great recession. *Demography, 53*, 471–505. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s13524-016-0462-1>
- Schutz, A. (1978). Phenomenology and the socialsciences: Some structures of the life world. In T. Luckmann (Ed.), *Phenomenology and Sociology* (pp. 134-135).
- Scott-Storey, K., O'Donnell, S., Ford-Gilboe, M., Varcoe, C., Wathen, N., Malcolm, J., & Vincent, C. (2023). What About the Men? A Critical Review of Men's Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 24*(2), 858-872.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380211043827>
- Scott-Storey, K., O'Donnell, S., Ford-Gilboe, M., Varcoe, C., Wathen, C., Malcolm, J., & Vincent, Charlene. (2022). What About the Men? A Critical Review of Men's Experiences of Intimate Partner Violence. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse, 24*.  
152483802110438. [10.1177/15248380211043827](https://doi.org/10.1177/15248380211043827).
- Sedziafa, A., Tenkorang, Eric., & Owusu, A. (2016). Kinship and intimate partner violence against married women in Ghana: A qualitative exploration. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 33*. [10.1177/0886260515624213](https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260515624213).
- Shepard, D., & Rabinowitz, F. (2013). The power of shame in men who are depressed: Implications for counseling. *Journal of Counseling & Development, 91*, 451-457.
- Sikweyiya, Y., Addo-Lartey, A. A., Alangea, D. O., Dako-Gyeke, P., Chirwa, E. D., Coker-Appiah, D., Adanu, R. M., & Jewkes, R. (2020). Patriarchy and gender-inequitable attitudes as drivers of intimate partner violence against women in the central region of Ghana. *BMC public health, 20*, 1-11.

- Smith, S. G., Basile, K. C., Gilbert, L. K., Merrick, M. T., Patel, N., Walling, M., & Jain, A. (2017). National intimate partner and sexual violence survey (NISVS): 2010–2012 state report Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Smith, S. G., Zhang, X., Basile, K. C., Merrick, M. T., Wang, J., Kresnow, M., & Chen, J. (2018). The national intimate partner and sexual violence survey: 2015 data brief – updated release. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
- Spangenberg, K., Wobil, P., Betts, C., Wiesner, T., & Gold K. (2016). Intimate partner violence among mothers of sick newborns in Ghana. *Health Care for Women International, 37*, 583-594.
- Steinmetz, S. K. (1977). The battered husband syndrome. *Victimology, 2*(3-4), 499-509.
- Straus, M. (2010). Thirty years of denying the evidence on gender symmetry in partner violence: Implications for prevention and treatment. *Partner Abuse, 1*, 332-362. 10.1891/1946-6560.1.3.332.
- Straus, M. A. (2008). Dominance and symmetry in partner violence by male and female university students in 32 nations. *Children and Youth Services Review, 30*(3), 252-275. <https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.childyouth.2007.10.004>
- Straus, M.A., & Gelles, R.J. (1986). Societal change and change in family violence from 1975 to 1985 as revealed by two national surveys. *Journal of Marriage and Family, 48*, 465-479. <https://doi.org/10.2307/352033>
- Straus, M. A., Gelles, R. J., & Steinmetz, S. K. (1980). *Behind the closed doors: Violence in the American family*. Garden City.
- Stuart, G. L., Moore, T. M., Hellmuth, J. C., Ramsey, S. E., & Kahler, C. W. (2006). Reasons for intimate partner violence perpetration among arrested women. *Violence against women, 12*(7), 609-621.
- Swan, S. C., & Snow, D. L. (2006). The development of a theory of women's use of violence in intimate relationships. *Violence Against Women, 12*(11), 1026-1045. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801206293330>
- Swan, S. C., Sullivan, T. P., Meese, K. J., Mazure, C. M., & Snow, D. L. (2005). Precursors and correlates of women's violence: Child abuse traumatization, victimization of women, avoidance coping, and psychological symptoms. *Psychology of Women Quarterly, 29*(3), 290-301. <https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1471-6402.2005.00223.x>
- Takyi, B. (2001). Marital instability in an African society: Exploring the factors that influence divorce processes in Ghana. *Sociological Focus, 34*, 77-96. 10.1080/00380237.2001.10571184.

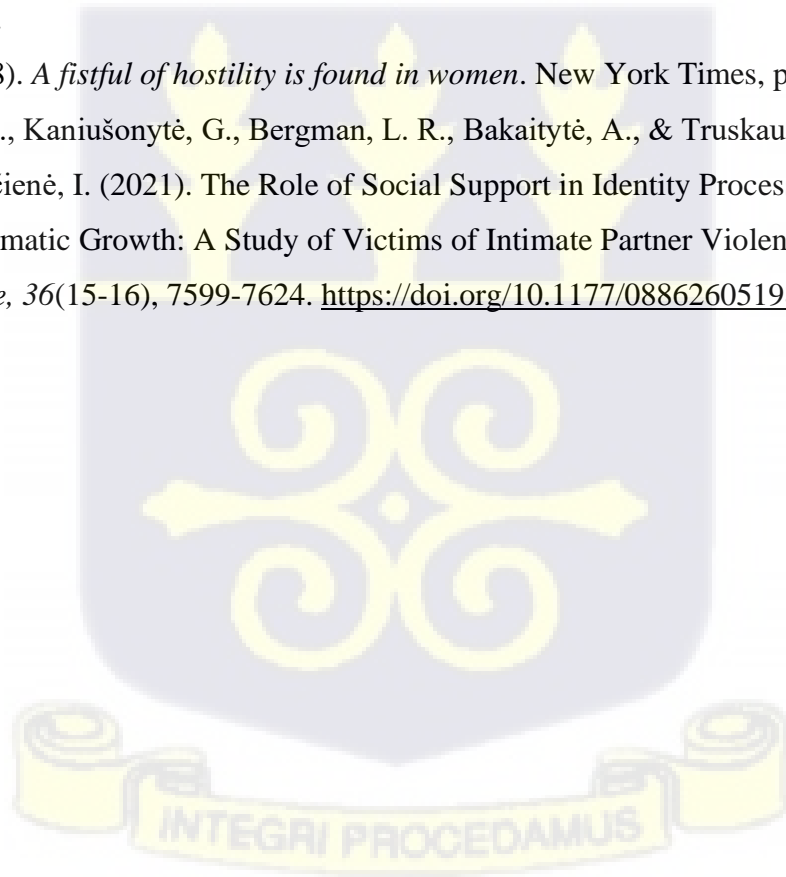
- Takyi, B. K., & Mann, J. (2006). Intimate partner violence in Ghana, Africa: The perspectives of men regarding wife beating. *International Journal of Sociology of the Family*, 2006, 32(1):61–78.
- Tawiah, P. E., Adongo, P. B., & Aikins, M. (2015). Mental health-related stigma and discrimination in Ghana: Experience of patients and their caregivers. *Ghana Medical Journal*, 49(1), 30-39.
- Tarrant, S. (2018). Self defence against intimate partner violence: Let's do the work to see it. *University of Western Australia Law Review*, 43(1), 196-220.
- Taylor, J. C., Bates, E. A., Colosi, A., & Creer, A. J. (2022). Barriers to Men's Help Seeking for Intimate Partner Violence. *J Interpers Violence*, 37(19-20), Np18417-np18444. <https://doi.org/10.1177/08862605211035870>
- Takyi, B. K., & Lamptey, E. (2020). Faith and Marital Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa: Exploring the Links Between Religious Affiliation and Intimate Partner Violence Among Women in Ghana. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 35(1-2), 25-52. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260516676476>
- Tenkorang E. Y. (2021). A survey analysis of barriers to help-seeking at the Ghana domestic violence and victim support unit (DOVVSU). *Journal of Family Violence*, 37(601–611), 1–11. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-021-00324-y>
- Tenkorang, E. (2019). Intimate partner violence and the sexual and reproductive health outcomes of women in Ghana. *Health education & behavior*, 46. 109019811985942. 10.1177/1090198119859420.
- Tenkorang, E. Y. (2018). Women's autonomy and intimate partner violence in Ghana. *International perspectives on sexual and reproductive health*, 44(2), 51-61.
- Tenkorang, E., & Owusu, A. (2018). A life course understanding of domestic and intimate partner violence in Ghana. *Child abuse & neglect*, 79, 384-394. 10.1016/j.chiabu.2018.02.027.
- Tenkorang, E. Y., Owusu, A. Y., & Kundhi G. (2018). Help-seeking behavior of female victims of intimate partner violence in Ghana: The role of trust and perceived risk of injury. *Journal of Family Violence*, 33(5), 341–353. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-018-9959-2>
- Tenkorang, E. Y., Zaami, M., Kimuna, S., Owusu, A. Y., & Rohn, E. (2023). Help-seeking behaviors of male survivors of intimate partner violence in Kenya. *Journal of Family Issues*, 44(1), 187-202. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0192513X211042847>

- Thureau, S., Le Blanc-Louvry, I., Thureau, S., Gricourt, C., & Proust, B. (2015). Conjugal violence: A comparison of violence against men by women and women by men. *Journal of Forensic and Legal Medicine*, 31, 42-46.  
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jflm.2014.12.014>
- Tilbrook, E., Allan, A., & Dear, G. (2010). Intimate partner abuse of men. Men's Advisory Network. Perth: Western Australia. Retrieved from [http://www.ecu.edu.au/data/assets/pdf\\_file/0007/178297/10\\_Tilbrook\\_Final-Report.pdf](http://www.ecu.edu.au/data/assets/pdf_file/0007/178297/10_Tilbrook_Final-Report.pdf)
- Tsiko, R. (2016). A spatial latent gaussian model for intimate partner violence against men in Africa. *Journal of Family Violence*. 31. 10.1007/s10896-015-9784-9.
- Tsui, V. (2014). Male victims of intimate partner abuse: Use and helpfulness of services. *Social work*, 59, 121-30. 10.1093/sw/swu007.
- Tsui, V., Cheung, M., & Leung, P. (2010). Help-seeking among male victims of partner abuse: Men's hard times. *Journal of Community Psychology*, 38, 769 - 780. 10.1002/jcop.20394.
- Tullio, V., Lanzarone, A., Scalici, E., Vella, M., Argo, A., & Zerbo, S. (2021). Violence against women in heterosexual couples: A review of psychological and medico-legal considerations. *Medicine, Science and the Law*, 61(1\_suppl), 113-124.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/0025802420936081>
- Turner, H. A., Finkelhor D., Ormrod, R. (2010). Poly-victimization in a national sample of children and youth. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 38(3), 323-330.
- Tjaden, P., & Thoennes, N. (2000). Prevalence and consequences of male-to-female and female-to-male intimate partner violence as measured by the national violence against women survey. *Violence Against Women*, 6(2), 142-161.  
<https://doi.org/10.1177/10778010022181769>
- UN Women. (1979). *Convention on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women*. Retrieved 4th May, 2023 from <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>
- UN Women. (2021). *Statement by Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations and Executive Director of UN Women, Sima Bahous, on the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women*. Retrieved 4<sup>th</sup> May, 2023 from <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news-stories/statement/2021/11/statement-by-under-secretary-general-of-the-united-nations-and-executive-director-of-un-women-sima-bahous-on-the-international-day-for-the-elimination-of-violence-against-women-25-november-2021>

- United Nations. (2023). *What Is Domestic Abuse?* Retrieved 10th MY, 2023 from <https://www.un.org/en/coronavirus/what-is-domestic-abuse>
- Uppal, S. (2015). "Employment patterns of families with children". Insights on Canadian Society. June. Statistics Canada Catalogue no. 75-006-X.
- Velopulos, C. G., Carmichael, H., Zakrison, T. L., & Crandall, M. (2019). Comparison of male and female victims of intimate partner homicide and bidirectionality-an analysis of the national violent death reporting system. *The Journal of Trauma and Acute Care Surgery*, 87(2), 331-336. <https://doi.org/10.1097/TA.0000000000002276>
- Voth Schrag, R. J., Robinson, S. R., Ravi K. Understanding pathways within intimate partner violence: economic abuse, economic hardship, and mental health. *Journal of Aggression Maltreatment & Trauma*, 28(2):222-42. doi: [10.1080/10926771.2018.1546247](https://doi.org/10.1080/10926771.2018.1546247)
- Waila, J., Lule, H., Lowery Wilson, M., Bärnighausen, T., & Abio, A. (2022). Ugandan men exposed to intimate partner violence: a cross-sectional survey of nationally representative data. *Journal of Prevention*, 43(4), 567-588.
- Walker, L. E. (1999). Psychology and domestic violence around the world. *American Psychologist*, 54(1), 21-29. <https://doi.org/10.1037/0003-066x.54.1.21>
- Walker, A., Lyall, K., Silva, D., Craigie, G., Mayshak, R., Costa, B., Hyder, S., & Bentley, A. (2019). Male victims of female-perpetrated intimate partner violence, help-seeking, and reporting behaviors: A qualitative study. *Psychology of Men & Masculinities*, 21(2), 213-223. <https://doi.org/10.1037/men0000222>
- Wallace, S., Wallace, C., Kenkre, J., Brayford, J., & Borja, S. (2019). An Exploration of the needs of men experiencing domestic Abuse: An interpretive phenomenological analysis. *Partner Abuse*, 10, 243-261. [10.1891/1946-6560.10.2.243](https://doi.org/10.1891/1946-6560.10.2.243).
- Waller, B. Y., Harris, J., & Quinn, C. R. (2022). Caught in the Crossroad: An Intersectional Examination of African American Women Intimate Partner Violence Survivors' Help Seeking. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 23(4), 1235-1248. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1524838021991303>
- Wetherell, M., & Edley, N. (2014). A Discursive Psychological framework for analyzing men and masculinities. *Psychology of Men & Masculinity*, 15, 355-364. <https://doi.org/10.1037/a0037148>
- Whitehead, M. (1996). Editorial. *Health Education Journal*, 55(1), 1-2. <https://doi.org/10.1177/001789699605500101>
- Williamson, E., Jones, S. K., Ferrari, G., Debonnaire, T., Feder, G., & Hester, M. (2015). Health professionals responding to men for safety (HERMES): feasibility of a general

- practice training intervention to improve the response to male patients who have experienced or perpetrated domestic violence and abuse. *Primary health care research & development*, 16(3), 281-288.
- Wong, W. I., & Hines, M. (2016). Interpreting digit ratio (2D:4D)–behavior correlations: 2D:4D sex difference, stability, and behavioral correlates and their replicability in young children. *Hormones and Behavior*, 78, 86-94.  
<https://doi.org/https://doi.org/10.1016/j.yhbeh.2015.10.022>
- Woodlock, D., McKenzie, M., Western, D., & Harris, B. (2020). Technology as a weapon in domestic violence: Responding to digital coercive control. *Australian Social Work*, 73(3), 368–380. 10.1080/0312407x.2019.1607510
- World Health Organization. (2002). Violence - a global public health problem. In E. G. Krug, L. L. Dahlberg, J. A. Mercy, A. B. Zwi, & R. Lozano (Eds.), *World report on violence and health* (pp. 5-19). World Health Organization.
- World Health Organization. (2005). WHO multi-country study on women’s health and domestic violence against women: Summary report of initial results on prevalence, health outcomes and women’s responses. Geneva, Switzerland: Author.
- World Health Organization. (2010). *Preventing intimate partner and sexual violence against women: taking action and generating evidence* (9789241564007).  
<https://apps.who.int/iris/handle/10665/44350>
- World Health Organization. (2012). *Understanding and addressing violence against women: Intimate partner violence*. World Health Organization.  
[https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77432/WHO\\_RHR\\_12.36\\_eng.pdf?sequence=1](https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/77432/WHO_RHR_12.36_eng.pdf?sequence=1)
- World Health Organization, London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, South African Medical Research Council. *Global and Regional Estimates of Violence Against Women: Prevalence and Health Effects of Intimate Partner Violence and Non-partner Sexual Violence*, Geneva, World Health Organization, 2013
- World Health Organization. (2016a). *Intimate partner violence*. Retrieved 12<sup>th</sup> July, 2023 from <http://iris.wpro.who.int/handle/10665.1/13134>
- World Health Organization. (2016b). *Violence against women: Intimate partner and sexual violence against women: Intimate partner and sexual violence have serious short-and long-term physical, mental and sexual and reproductive health problems for survivors: Fact sheet*. World Health Organization.  
<http://www.who.int/mediacentre/factsheets/fs239/en/>

- World Health Organization. (2019). Violence prevention. Retrieved 12<sup>th</sup> June, 2023 from:  
[https://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/en/](https://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/en/)
- World Health Organization & Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation. (2014). Social determinants of mental health. World Health Organization, Geneva.  
<https://myactiveonline.com/general/greater-accra-recorded-the-highest-divorce-figures-in-2021-ama-reveals/20220118/>
- Yarrow, C., & Churchill, S. (2009). Counsellors' and psychologists' experience of working with male survivors of sexual trauma: A pilot study. *Counselling Psychology Quarterly*, 22(2), 267-277. DOI: 10.1080/09515070903171926
- Yim, I. S., & Kofman, Y. B. (2019). The psychobiology of stress and intimate partner violence. *Psychoneuroendocrinology*, 105, 9-24.
- Young, C. (1999). *Feminists play the victim game*. New York Times, p. A-1.
- United Nations.(1993). *Declaration on the elimination of violence against women*. United Nations.
- Zuger, A. (1998). *A fistful of hostility is found in women*. New York Times, p. F-1.
- Žukauskienė, R., Kaniušonytė, G., Bergman, L. R., Bakaitytė, A., & Truskauskaitė-Kunevičienė, I. (2021). The Role of Social Support in Identity Processes and Posttraumatic Growth: A Study of Victims of Intimate Partner Violence. *J Interpers Violence*, 36(15-16), 7599-7624. <https://doi.org/10.1177/0886260519836785>



**APPENDICE A: Questionnaire**

**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**

**INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN IN CONTEMPORARY**

**GHANAIAAN SOCIETY**

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR MALE VICTIMS**

This study is purposely for academic purposes and seeks to explore the experiences of males who have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) in one form or another.

Kindly note that you can withdraw from this research at any time without any penalty or adverse effects to you. As and when there is any legal document that approves or disapproves your participation in this study, note that you will be notified.

- If you have any issues on your rights as a participant, do not hesitate to contact the address below:

**The Administrator,**

**Ethics Committee for the Humanities**

**University of Ghana**

**P. O. Box LG 68**

**Legon – Accra**

**SECTION A- DEMOGRAPHICS**

Name

Age Range:18-25() 26-30() 31-35() 36-40() 41-45() 46-50() 51-55()56-60()

Marital Status: Married: Cohabiting: Divorced:

(Relationship status with intimate partner)

Educational Qualification

Employment Status:

Occupation:

Partners Age range:

Partners educational background:

Partner's employment status:

### **Length of relationship**

For how long have you been /were you in the (abusive)relationship?

## **SECTION B**

What would you describe as violent behaviour?

Tell me about your experience of Intimate partner violence?

How often did/do you experience violence in your relationship? (Frequency)

Tell me about the types of IPV have you experienced in this relationship? (**REFER TO SEC.**

### **B.1) Section B.1**

#### **Physical IPV pointers.**

Attack on genitals, Chocking, Punching, scratching, kicking, slapping, biting, pushing, grabbing, hitting with object, use of sharp object, Others(specify)

#### **Sexual IPV**

Do you experience any form of sexual IPV (forced sexual intercourse, sexual coercion)?

How often do you experience this form of IPV?

What is the nature of sexual violence you encounter from your intimate partner?

What is the effect of sexual IPV on you and others around you?

#### **Psychological IPV**

Intimidation

Insults

Constant humiliation

Various forms of threats of; taking away children, threatening to kill you or herself, of leaving a relationship.

Stalking/spying/monitoring your movements

**Controlling Behavior**

Exercising control over relationship with friends and family

Control over use of phone and internet

Restricting access to education, medical care, employment, financial resources

Others(specify).....

In what ways do these forms of psychological IPV affect you and those around you?

**Economic Violence**

Has your female partner been keeping the finances of the family from you?

Destruction of property, stealing or removal of victim's valuables, restricting access to financial resources, education, Alimony-not adhering to economic responsibilities

**Section C-Triggers**

What in your view is/are the major triggers/ circumstances that lead to the abuse?

In what ways do you think you have contributed to your experience of IPV; being a perpetrator yourself, childhood experiences of being abused or through observation?

**Section D-Emotional and mental state(consequences)**

How did you feel during your initial IPV encounter?

Are you afraid of your intimate partner?

How do you feel when you are abused physically, sexually, emotionally, economically?

How will you describe the consequences of the forms of violence you have experienced (emotional, mental, and physical state )

How has these consequences affected the people around you and the wider society?

When was the last episode of IPV you experienced?

### **Section E- Help seeking Resources/Agencies**

Did you seek any form of assistance during or after your experience?

If no, why not?

If yes, what are the various help -seeking/support systems/ avenues you resort to or use as a male victim of IPV? Formal/Informal

What are your reasons for your choice?

What experiences did you have with each of the resources you accessed?

indicate which one and explain why.

How helpful were these help seeking avenues you contacted?

Did you observe any bias against men by law enforcement agencies?

What experiences did you receive from family, friends, or members of your community as a male victim?

Tell me what your expectations of these resources were and were they met after your encounter?

Tell me, based on your experience as a male victim of IPV, how these avenues can best meet your needs and that of others.

Is there anything else you would like to share?

**INTERVIEW SCHEDULE – (For law enforcement agencies and Health personnel)**

Preamble: The aim of this interview schedule is to find out how your organisation identifies, monitors, investigates Intimate Partner Violence against men in Ghana and how the victims are helped.

Name of organisation

Name of personnel

Sex

Educational background

Marital status:

What has the trend of IPV/DV against men in Ghana been over the past 5-10 years per your records?

Per your records has there been any change/increase in the trend of IPV against men in Ghana over the past 5 years?

What is the attitude of your unit to cases of IPV against men?

Do you encounter any form of reluctance by men in reporting IPV against them?

Do men often and easily identify as victims?

If yes in above, what are some of the reasons given?

**Section 3-Forms of IPV against men.**

What are the common forms of violence presented by the reported cases in men?

How are you able to identify a case as a form of IPV?

What systems of support are in place for male victims, (e.g. shelter, counselling)

#### **Section 4-Procedure for assistance**

What is the procedure after a male victim report to your office?

What procedure do you adopt to assure victims of their confidentiality?

What attitude do you observe differently from male victims as compared to female victims?

What resources are available to male victims?

How often do male victims call your hotline/helplines?

#### **Consequences**

What are some of the consequences that male victims experience as a result of their victimisation?



**APPENDIX B : Background characteristics of participants**

<b>Age</b>	<b>Frequency</b>
21-29	2
30-39	9
40-49	7
50-59	2
<b>Occupation</b>	
Professionals	7
Businessman	2
Craftsmanship	6
Security	2
Other	2
Unemployed	1
<b>Relationship with partner</b>	
Married	7
Cohabiting	13
<b>Length of relationship</b>	
1-5 years	4
6-10 years	9
11-15 years	5
16-20 years	1
20 years and above	1
<b>Current relationship</b>	
Married	4
Cohabiting	4
Divorced	2
Separated	10
<b>Number of children</b>	
0	4
1	5
2	3
3	5
4	-
5 and above	3

*Source: Field work 2021-2022*



**PERCENTAGE OF MALE AND FEMALE VICTIMS FROM 2016 -2019**

<b>YEAR</b>	<b>MALE VICTIMS</b>	<b>FEMALE VICTIMS</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF MALE VICTIMS</b>	<b>PERCENTAGE OF FEMALE VICTIMS</b>
2016	1830	10460	12290	14.89%	85.11%
2017	2599	12103	14702	17.68%	82.32%
2018	1764	7506	9270	19.03%	80.97%
2019	3360	14920	18280	18.38%	81.62%





**UNIVERSITY OF GHANA**  
**ETHICS COMMITTEE FOR THE HUMANITIES (ECH)**

*P. O. Box LG 74, Legon, Accra, Ghana*

My Ref. No...ECH 162/ 20-21 ...

June 6, 2021.

Gifty Boateng  
Department of Adult Education and  
Human Resource Development  
University of Ghana  
Legon

**ETHICAL CLEARANCE**  
**(ECH 162/ 20-21)**

The protocol title below has been reviewed and approved by the ECH Committee.

**TITLE OF PROTOCOL: INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN IN CONTEMPORARY GHANAIAAN SOCIETY**

**PRINCIPAL INVESTIGATOR: GIFTY BOATENG**

Please note that the final review report must be submitted to the Committee at the completion of the study. Your research records may be audited at any time during or after the implementation. Any modification of this research project must be submitted to ECH for review and approval prior to implementation.

Please report all serious adverse events related to this study to ECH within seven (7) days verbally and in writing within fourteen (14) days.

This certificate is valid till June 5, 2022. You are to submit annual reports for continuing review.

Please accept my congratulations.

Yours Sincerely,

**Professor C. Charles Mate-Kole**  
**ECH Chair**

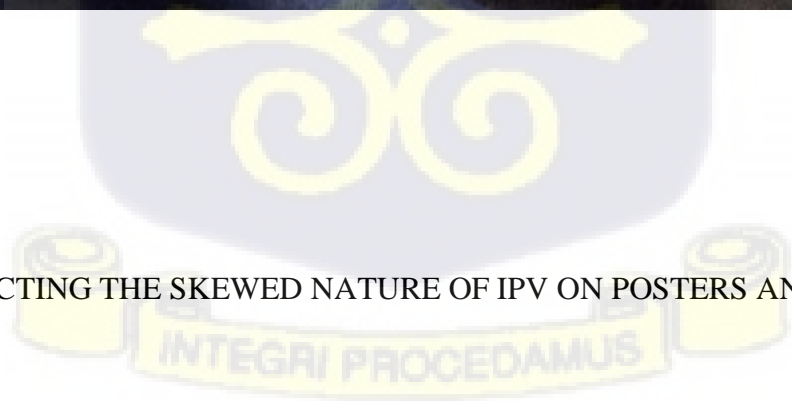
Cc: Prof. Michael Tagoe, Dept. of Adult Education and Human Resource Development, UG  
Dr. Ellen Osei-Tutu, Dept. of Adult Education and Human Resource Development, UG  
Dr. Clara Benneh, Dept. of Adult Education and Human Resource Development, UG

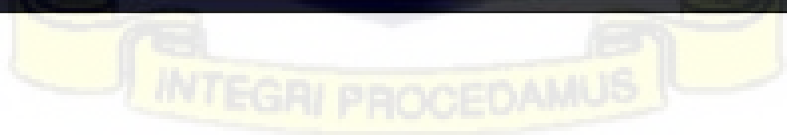
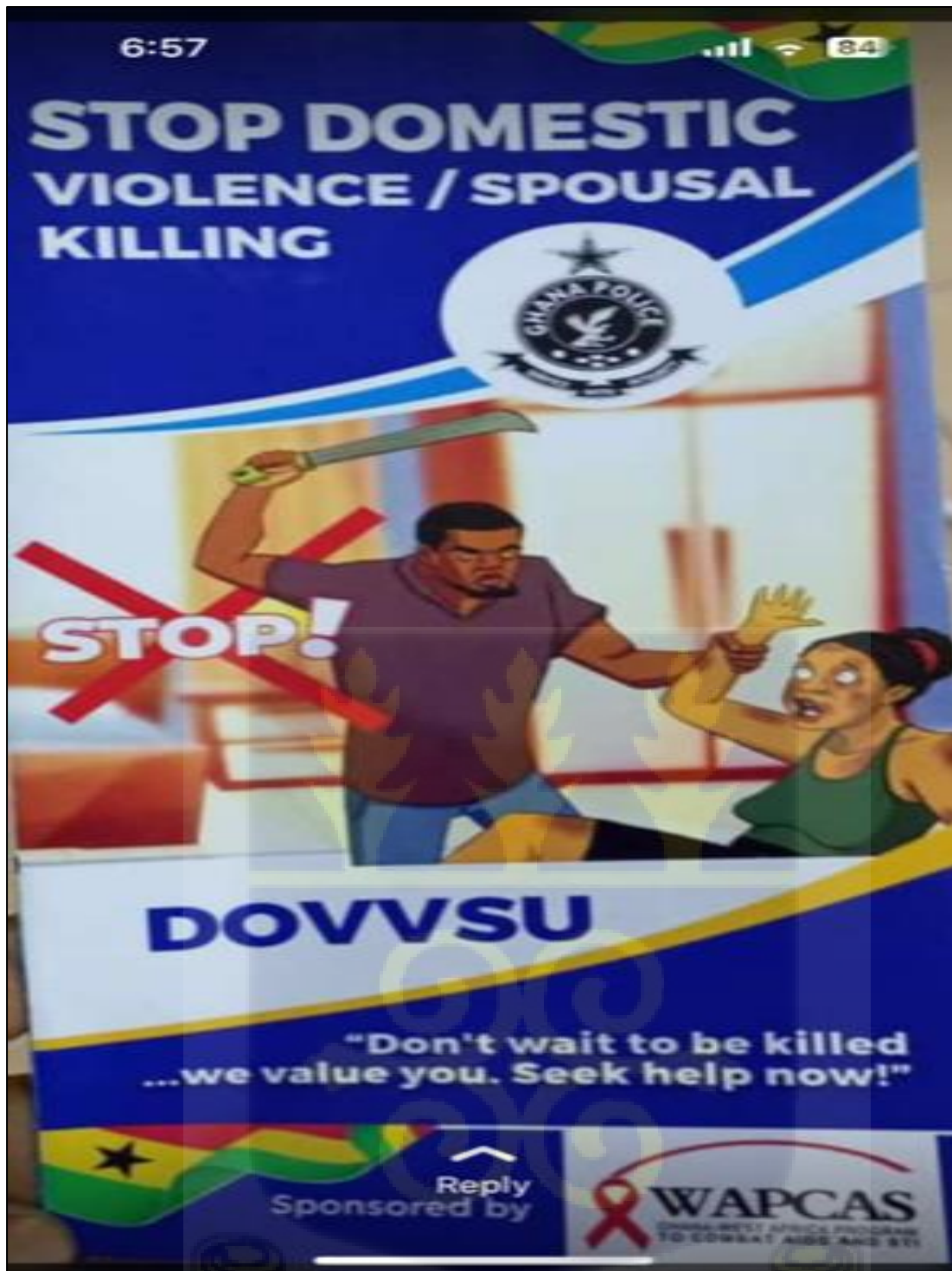
Tel: +233-303933866

Email: [ech@ug.edu.gh](mailto:ech@ug.edu.gh)



PHOTOS DICTING THE SKEWED NATURE OF IPV ON POSTERS AND SOCIAL MEDIA







## Intimate partner violence

and **sexual violence**

are the most common forms of violence against women and girls. They happen in ALL countries around the world.



human  
reproduction  
programme **hrp** 50  
**research for impact**  
UNDP · UNFPA · UNICEF · WHO · WORLD BANK



**World Health  
Organization**

INTEGRI PROCEDAMUS