



Poverty and Frustration as Predictor of Domestic Violence among Sandwich Students

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ABSTRAK

Prevalensi kekerasan dalam rumah tangga di Nigeria masih sangat tinggi dan tidak menunjukkan tanda-tanda penurunan. Prevalensi fenomena ini terjadi di kalangan pasangan tanpa memandang usia, latar belakang etnis, afiliasi agama, atau status sosial ekonomi. Penelitian ini bertujuan untuk mengetahui hubungan antara kemiskinan dan ketidakpuasan sebagai prediktor kekerasan pasangan di kalangan mahasiswa sandwich. Penelitian ini menggunakan desain deskriptif jenis *ex-post-facto*. Prosedur seleksi multi tahap digunakan untuk mengambil sampel sebanyak 120 responden dari tiga departemen. Para peserta dinilai menggunakan ukuran (instrumen) standar yang sesuai dan data yang dikumpulkan menjadi sasaran analisis statistik menggunakan persentase dan Korelasi Pearson Product Moment (PPMC) dan teknik Regresi Berganda pada tingkat signifikansi 0,05. Oleh karena itu, mengingat penelitian menunjukkan korelasi yang signifikan antara kemiskinan dan kekerasan dalam rumah tangga, disarankan agar para profesional konseling dan psikolog meningkatkan upaya mereka untuk menyelenggarakan seminar bagi pasangan pelajar.

ABSTRACT

The prevalence of domestic violence in Nigeria remains alarmingly high, exhibiting no discernible indications of decline. Prevalence of this phenomenon is observed among couples irrespective of their age, ethnic background, religious affiliation, or socioeconomic standing. This study aims to investigate the relationship between poverty and dissatisfaction as predictors of spousal violence among sandwich students. The research employed a descriptive design of the *ex-post-facto* kind. A multi-stage selection procedure was employed to pick a sample of 120 respondents from three departments. The participants were assessed using appropriate standardized measures (instruments) and the collected data were subjected to statistical analysis utilizing the percentage and Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC) and Multiple Regression techniques at a significance level of 0.05. Hence, in light of the research indicating a significant correlation between poverty and domestic violence, it is suggested that counseling professionals and psychologists should enhance their endeavors to organize seminars for student couples.

1. INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence is still a major problem in Nigeria, with no signs of abating. Physical violence, sexual violence, economic control, psychological assault (including threats of violence, physical harm, attacks on property or pets, acts of intimidation, emotional abuse, isolation, and manipulation involving children as a means of control), and emotional abuse are just some of the factors that can contribute to the occurrence of domestic violence. Aggression toward another person using one's physical power or force is an example of physical aggression (Moustafa, 2022; Niraula, 2021; Rossouw, 2012). The physical assaults listed by previous study range from punching to shoving to clutching to biting to restraining to shaking to choking to burning to forced drug or alcohol usage to attack with a weapon (Whiting et al., 2021). Sexual harassment, which includes acting in a sexually insulting way toward another person or indulging in any other sort of sexual activity (whether physical, verbal, or non-verbal), is also included under this umbrella term (Ali & Kramar, 2015; Handley et al., 2020; Sadruddin, 2013). The intentional blocking of access to

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contraceptive techniques and the forced termination of pregnancies are examples of sexual abuse that interfere with reproductive autonomy (Jamil, 2020; Mehmood & Li, 2018; Merkin, 2008). To synthesize and interpret the relevant research findings and theoretical frameworks, the current study intends to perform a complete review of the available literature. The term "domestic violence" refers to a wide variety of abusive interactions between intimate partners, including physical aggressiveness or assault (such as striking, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping and hurling things) and the voicing of threats (Merkin, 2008; Tyagi & Sen, 2020). Other forms of maltreatment that fall under this umbrella include sexual assault, emotional abuse, physical abuse, intimidation, stalking, passive or hidden abuse (also known as neglect), and material deprivation. Domestic violence as a pattern of controlling and abusive behaviors that includes physical violence, stalking, threats, and other forms of intimidation or coercion against the victim (Bleeker & Van Der Staal, 2017; DeGue et al., 2021). Together, these actions create a hostile atmosphere in which one partner dominates and controls the other, while the latter is forced to submit and comply.

Frustration has undergone evolutionary development to address a specific, recurring situation type. It manifests when individuals confront unsolved challenges, including contextual or psychological hurdles or obstructions, that must be overcome to achieve personal objectives, desires, drives, or requirements (Aristovnik et al., 2020; Sultan et al., 2020). Frustration can be defined as the act of impeding or delaying the progress of a current endeavor or the satisfaction of a desired objective. The phrase "frustration" encompasses a wide range of experiences, specifically referring to situations that result in hindrances or subsequent psychological impacts (Fu et al., 2020; Khawar et al., 2021). When individuals experience frustration, they commonly respond with emotions such as rage, withdrawal, melancholy, or distress. Frustration plays a significant role in psychological stress since it hinders crucial wants and goals, potentially leading to adverse consequences. In such instances, individuals may engage in activities aimed at rectifying the damage, if feasible (Harrington, 2005; Kaliannan & Chandran, 2010).

According to previous study frustration can be conceptualized as the hindrance of individuals' fundamental psychological demands for relatedness, autonomy and competence (Ryan & Deci, 2000). Based on this theoretical framework, it is posited that the existence of cues that promote aggression does not possess a compulsory or exclusive relationship with the manifestation of aggressive behavior (Abbas, 2021; Nagovitsyn et al., 2018). According to the findings of a psychologist, it has been seen that stress can result in feelings of irritation, which in turn can escalate into rage. When married students encounter obstacles or challenges in pursuing their goals, such as difficulties in paying school fees, academic stress, disciplinary actions, peer rejection, or failure to achieve desired educational outcomes, they may experience feelings of frustration or anger. These negative emotions can subsequently be displaced onto their partner at home, potentially resulting in instances of verbal or physical violence (Matusov & Sullivan, 2020; Niraula, 2021; Rossouw, 2012). Previous study conducted a study including 116 married women who were experiencing domestic violence (Sprecher, 2002). The study revealed that the female participants had numerous psychological and emotional challenges. A notable proportion of the participants expressed feelings of insecurity about advancing age, and educational experiences and a significant subset, including 34% of the respondents, reported experiencing discontent with their overall life circumstances. The results were likewise in line with the perspective that frustration elicits negative emotions, subsequently intensifying feelings of rage and ultimately contributing to aggressive behavior. The foremost motive of this study is to look into poverty and frustration as predictors of domestic violence among sandwich students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin. The aim of this study is to analyze the relationship between poverty, frustration and domestic violence amongst sandwich students in Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin.

2. METHOD

The research study utilized an ex-post-facto survey research design to examine the impact of poverty and dissatisfaction on instances of domestic violence among students who are concurrently managing academic and familial responsibilities, commonly referred to as "sandwich students," at Al-Hikmah University in Ilorin (Glasow, 2005). The sample for this study comprises 120 sandwich students enrolled at Al-Hikmah University in Ilorin. To facilitate the purpose of this investigation, the researcher utilized the multistage sampling technique. The initial stage involved the implementation of a random sample approach to select two Departments within the faculty of education. The study employed a simple random sampling technique to select three programs from each department and a total of 20 sandwich students. In total, 120 students were included in the sample. The survey was distributed to participants. The study employed the Conflict Tactics Scale (CTS). The author states that the survey consists of 10 items, each measured on a 4-point Likert scale. The reliability of the survey is reported to be 0.85. The

survey consists of ten items, each rated on a five-point Likert scale ranging from Strongly Disagree (SD) to Strongly Agree (SA). Frustration scale consists of a total of 28 items, split among four different subscales. Participants were given a 5-point Likert scale and asked to rate how strongly they believed certain statements. According to the author, the reliability is between 0.84 and 0.86.

To measure dependability, researchers used the test-retest coefficient. To establish the validity of the instruments, a pilot test was conducted on 20 respondents who were not included in the main body of the study. After the preliminary test was given, the instruments were analyzed thoroughly, and any necessary changes were made before the real test was given. It was found that the instrument has a reliability coefficient of 0.81. On the approved testing day at the educational institution, the instruments were given to the participants. Instrument collection and program management occurred simultaneously across all selected programs. The whole data-collecting method took around two weeks. There were 120 total instruments distributed, however only 100 were returned with sufficient responses to be included in the study. To determine if there was a correlation between the variables, and test hypotheses 1 and 2, we used Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient.

3. RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Result

The significant relationship between poverty and domestic violence among sandwich students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin is show in [Table 1](#).

Table 1. Significant Relationship Between Poverty and Domestic Violence

Variable	Mean	SD	DF	N	R	P	Remark
Poverty	44.03	15.65					
Domestic Violence	40.13	13.23	98	100	0.739	0.001	Significant

[Table 1](#) showed that there was a significant relationship between poverty and domestic violence among sandwich students of Al-Hikmah University Ilorin ($r = .739$; $p < 0.05$). The implication of this showed that poverty had a significant impact on domestic violence among sandwich students of Al-Hikmah University Ilorin. The significant relationship between frustration and domestic violence among sandwich students at Al-Hikmah University Ilorin is show in [Table 2](#).

Table 2. Significant Relationship Between Frustration and Domestic Violence

Variable	Mean	SD	DF	N	R	P	Remark
Frustration	41.98	14.44					
Domestic Violence	40.13	13.23	98	100	0.677	0.002	Significant

[Table 2](#) showed that there was a significant relationship between frustration and domestic violence among sandwich students of Al-Hikmah University Ilorin ($r = .677$; $p < 0.05$). The implication of this revealed that frustration has a significant impact on domestic violence among sandwich students of Al-Hikmah University Ilorin.

Discussion

Domestic violence is more common in low-income households, and it can have repercussions on all members of the home and even encourage some of them to take part in the violence. When domestic violence begins in such a setting, it may spiral out of control quickly, leaving victims and their families stuck in a never-ending nightmare. The cycle of poverty that ensues the family of an abusive partner is difficult to break ([Ellis & Rowe, 2020](#); [Kamara & Dadhabai, 2022](#); [Kapur, 2018](#)). The persistent state of financial entrapment in which they find themselves perpetuates heightened levels of frustration and subsequent outbursts. Frequently, instances of domestic violence are concealed, with the perpetrator exhibiting profound regret following each episode of aggression. The female partners will attribute responsibility to themselves for the occurrence of violent acts, asserting that their efforts are insufficient or that they are lacking in support towards their respective partners. Previous study argue that individuals, including women and men, often face a challenging cycle within their environment that proves to be difficult to break free from ([Ahmad et al., 2019](#)). The etiology of frustration exhibits a range of factors but the subsequent reactions employed by individuals to cope with this emotional state frequently demonstrate a degree of predictability. Frequently, couples who possess admirable intentions

encounter difficulties in effectively communicating their thoughts and desires to one another, leading to feelings of tension, stress and frustration (Huang et al., 2022; Yikealo et al., 2018). Feelings of frustration may arise when an individual completely disregards another person, sometimes manifested through actions such as forcefully closing a door or audibly expressing exasperation. The expression signifies a state of annoyance experienced by an individual who is communicating to another party that a significant issue or problem exists. Furthermore, it disseminates feelings of dissatisfaction and discontentment. This phenomenon perpetuates a state of frustration for one individual while simultaneously withholding information from the other partner, hence increasing the likelihood of conflict escalation and even violence within the pair (Aristovnik et al., 2020; Whiting et al., 2021). The initial hypothesis yielded findings indicating a significant association between poverty and marital violence among undergraduate students at Al-Hikmah University, Ilorin. The outcome of the study revealed that socioeconomic factors, specifically poverty, play a significant role in contributing to instances of domestic violence within sandwich communities. This finding aligns with the assertion made by previous study that poverty can serve as a risk factor for domestic violence (Bassuk et al., 2016). Previous study provide substantial evidence that supports the correlation between poverty and domestic violence (Moustafa, 2022). The presence of poverty and its associated challenges can engender feelings of frustration, worthlessness and anger in those residing in economically disadvantaged households.

The second hypothesis provided empirical evidence supporting the existence of a statistically significant association between feelings of frustration and incidents of domestic violence among students who identify as sandwich-generation individuals. The study identified a link between the two factors. When an individual has frustration due to stress and burden, there exists a correlation with engaging in domestic violence as a perpetrator. This perspective aligns with the findings of previous study who posit that the experience of frustration can give rise to feelings of rage, which, if left unaddressed, may escalate and manifest as violent behavior (Matusov & Sullivan, 2020). Base on the result of researcher professionals in the field of counseling and psychology should make a greater effort to organize seminars for student couples on the influence of poverty and frustration on domestic violence among married students and the impacts this has on educational success. Beside of that the government and households should work together to combat poverty by participating in activities that generate money to have sufficient funds with which to provide for their family. Moreover, there is a need for community sensitization regarding the incidence of domestic violence, as well as its causes and the effects on families and society as a whole, and this need must be met by both the government and other development partners.

4. CONCLUSION

Research indicates that multiple reasons might contribute to domestic violence within couples, with poverty and dissatisfaction being among them. There is a higher likelihood of domestic violence occurring in situations where individuals possess lower levels of wage-earning capacity. This scenario exemplifies a situation in which the purchasing power of a household or a person is significantly diminished, resulting in a limited ability to meet essential demands. Domestic violence has the potential to affect individuals from diverse racial, ethnic, religious, and socioeconomic backgrounds, irrespective of their social standing. If the problem of domestic violence is not adequately addressed, this form of abuse will persist across all social classes without resolution.

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