DIMENSIONS OF GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN AFRICA: THE COMMON AND THE INDUCED

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Abstract

Aims: This paper is intended to demonstrate the fact that even though violence against men is rare in Nigeria, studies abound that shows that men are also victims of Gender Based Violence (GBV). Gender Based Violence is therefore not gender or location specific, that gender based violence are not limited to feminine issues alone and that beyond physical demonstration of violence against women are the psychological violence which are built in cultural, social and dietary attributes that men tend to flaunt over women.

Content: The paper reviews the fact that (GBV) has been variously described along the UN General Assembly declaration as any act of violence that results in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women and according to context and perception as wife battering, rape, commercial sexual exploitation, intimidation at work places, social exclusion, domestic abuse and violence, female genital mutilation or anything done by man to establish his authority over woman socially, intellectually or economically. But selected Nigerian newspapers were analyzed to determine the perpetration, level, form and the focus of the reportage of violence against men. As a follow up, a set of questionnaires was administered to elicit responses that could accentuate to whether or not gender based violence against men is a reality.

Conclusions: The findings showed that though more reportage is done on Women Based Violence (WBV) as against Men Based Violence (MBV), questionnaire findings showed that, apart from physically exhibited cases, the patriarchal system has in-built practices that could aggravate dastard elements of violence against men at the psychological level, than the physical and the known ones reported.

Key words

Gender Violence Intentional Psychological discomfort Self-defence

Introduction

The issue of Gender Based Violence (GBV) has been a major issue in academic and social discourse, thus, it has been defined variously by different authorities. However, the 1993 UN General Assembly’s definition at the declaration of the elimination of violence against women is serving as the high point of this discourse. This declaration defines (GBV) from the effect of that interaction that results in physical, sexual or psychological discomfort or
suffering to women. Such discomfort could arise as a result of threats or acts of coercion, deprivation of liberty in whatever spheres of life. (Population Reference Bureau 2001:3).

The perception of the UN is that only women are vulnerable to this act of violence as they are perceived to be victims of infertilities, incest, prostitution, psychological abuse and some traditional practices that are harmful.

As a result of this classification, women are seeing to be objects of abuse at three levels, namely the home or family level, the community through patriarchal and cultural dictates or practices; and at the state level, through political, legislative or administrative inhibitions (Jekayinfa 2012). And these three levels are extended to areas of sexual harassment, forced treatments and abusive medication, commercialization of women contraception due to forced labour, selective abortion of foetuses and so on (World March of Women, 2000). But as would be discussed later in this paper and with reference to other sources along the discourse, gender – based violence has been taken as female – domain forgetting the fact that men too are also prone and are actually violently treated. This paper will therefore examine patriarchal dictates and cultural practices arrogated to men which in other words could culminate in violence against men. Because the society has skewed the perception of strength, education, creativity and labour traits to men only, (Njenga 1999), the upbringing of the male child has created serious disparity and this has affected the ego of the male child, with negative consequences. Based on empirical studies carried out, it will be established that apart from women’s violence against men, there are some cultural and psychological practices in Africa especially that can promote subtle but dastard Violence Against Men (VAM). These are regarded as IVAM and UVAM. Hence, (IVAM) will be explained as Intended Violence against Men (IVAM) and Unintended Violence against Men (UVAM).

For the purpose of this discourse, the Intended Violence Against Men (IVAM) shall be defined as those actions that fall within the established literature on the motives behind female – male gender based violence, while the Unintended Violence Against Men (UVAM); the thrust of this essay, are classified as acts or practises ignorantly done based on domestic, dietive and patriarchal dictates which can affect especially the man fatally. It becomes a violence if this practice develops into habitual, inspite of glaring health implications and warnings of the effects of such practices. But, if a woman has been warned either through public lectures, teachings or admonitions by specialists or concerned bodies or individuals of the negative effects of such practices and this does not stop, it becomes intended violence (IVAM).

Literature Review

Universally, studies about GBV has been taken from the angle of the women. And to support this, legislative and health measures are taken to protect the interest of women (George 1994). The argument in support of this is that there are more reports and studies on female victims of violence than male. And some viewed the fact that reports on violent against the female will provide basis for studies on the male as victims, as legal and social contexts also address male victims (Baselow 1989). This is why literature abound that domesticates violence as domestic and social phenomenon attributed to patriarchy, and women as victims and men as perpetrators (Dobash and Dobash 1979).
However, there is the group that believe that the paucity of studies of male victims of violence is the more reason there should be serious studies (George 1994). Thus, data have been drawn from the media (Alooma 2012), internet source (Naijamovie 2012), police reports (Burrel and Brinkworth 1994, Kirsta 1994), medical reports (Asekun–Olarinmoye and Fawole 2010) and counselling agencies (Thomas 1993).

The support the female has got is not unconnected with the position arrogated to patriarchy by the society, as the men are expected to be in control at all times. But the failure of some men to ensure economic control is transferred to physical control (Njenga 1999). For example in post – renaissance France and England the husband is exposed to humiliation in the society if he fails to ensure control at home (Goerge 1994). But as more efforts were given to reactions against patriarchal intimidation of women, this courage to turn the table was engendered.

What emerged was a situation deduced as riding the donkey backward (George 1994), a situation where women now dictate the pace in violence against men beyond the domestic sphere. Studies therefore showed that in America and Canada, there are serious reports of high level of female violence against husbands or male partner. According to Nisonoff and Bitman (1979) 15.5% of men and 11.3% of women are reported to have hit their spouse and 18.8% of men and 12.7% of women reported that they have at one time or the other being attacked by their spouse. Also in the United States University according to Breen (1985), both male and female students are found to have carried violence attacks against each other. In other words, 18% of the men and 14% of the women were involved. Also, in the study 23% of the males reported that they were slapped, kicked or punched by their female partners. Out of these, 9% reported that they sustained injuries from weapon attacks from women. On the other hand, men constituted 38% of the victims of spousal violence (Goldberg and Toniannovich 1984). And in Australia about 1.5% of domestic violence are against men (Ferrate et al 1996:47), while in a 1999 statistics in Canada 7% or 11,607 of thier men had been subjected to one incident of violence from women of the other. (DeKeseredy and Schwartz 2003:1).

Violence Against Men (VAM)

Other parts of the world also have records of demonstrative cases of violence against men (VAM). Confirming the paucity of material on VAM, Fayankinnu (2007) in a study carried
out in Nigeria reported that 84.2% of the sampled men reported to have experienced at least an act of domestic violence and that verbal or psychological violence took 76% and 60.8% respectively while sexual violence was 58.9% and 68.8%.

And in 2012, about 2,474 men in Africa according to the Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit were beaten by their wives in 2011. This was 62% over the 1,528 recorded in 2010 Ghana (Naija online videos 2012). Among the harmful implements used against the men were knives, sticks and hot pressing irons. The bone of contention against the men includes poverty, alcoholism, drug use, frustration, intimidation, irresponsibility and denial of sex (Alooma 2012). And like what obtains in other parts of the world report of cases of husband battering are now made.

Also in India, more than 98% of Indian husbands face domestic violence (Punjab news 2012). In this group, 22,000 men have terminated their life in reverse due to harassment from their wives. Also more than two-thirds of married men in India between the ages of 15 and 49 are victims of forced sex by their girl friends. According to the report, harassment are always beginning from grumbling, mumurming, cursing, deliberate delay in serving husbands food especially after the days tedious job and withholding sex without reason. And, like in other parts of Africa; sex is a bargaining tool to extort the husbands favour. But,

When man tries to tell his problems, torture or harassment...

no one is ready to listen . instead they laugh at him (sic)

many men are ashamed to talk about how they are beaten

in home (sic) by thier wives.... everyone believes women’s

stories when she tells lies with crocodile tears. (sic)

(Punjab news, George 1994)

This emotional betrayal and sympathetic situation arises because particarchy as an ideological mode defines the system of male domination and female subjugation in the society (Fayenkinnu 2012). It defines sexist supremacy as men are perceived as the leader and thus superior to women. This is expected to be demostrated in every male–female association (Fayenkinnu 2012). A situation of overt power and covert power. While overt power explains the ability to suppress or intimidate the women, covert power explains the situation of little or no importance exhibited in the men’s attempt to treat the women as the weaker sex and thus becomes subtle, serene, calm and cool with the women (Fayenkinnu 2012). When this is demonstrated to the fullest women tend to take advantage of men and thus reports of cases of VAM in its physical form are got.

**Theoretical Analysis**

Various studies have demonstrated that women are more recepients of domestic violence than men. However, studies about domestic violence in Nigeria is still at the tooothing age (Dienye and Gbenea 2010). Though this is caused by various factors such as the ego factor, that could not make a man report how he was battered by his wife, methods of identifying what
constitutes violence against men, and whether the violence is motivated by self-defence from perceived and actual bodily and psychological threat from men or a retaliation of previous victimization has been a major problem to researchers (George 1994). Another major flaw in information accessibility is the authenticity of data and information source on violence against men (VAM) that are used for analysis and judgement, and on availability of specific data on the men involved; since this will give clearer and authentic pictures than focusing on medical and police reports which may not always be available. This is why it becomes a botheration informing the public and media about gross misconceptions that arise on the specifics about male victimization. (Mensactivisim 2012).

However, to bridge this gap two approaches were adopted in gathering data and analysing what constitutes violence against men and the prominence in this paper. And because for instance, it has been observed too in the U.K that surveys about incidents of violence against men are more restricted and media reportage has to be taken as evidence, the media aspect has to be taken first. In U.K for instance, 2,075 people were said to have channelled their reports through the media (Moller 1991). Also, individual cases of violence against men was reported in popular media. (Naijamovie 2012, George 1994). Also, the television and newspaper articles were sources of information on violence against men. Because of this it was advocated that media men should be properly trained to ascertain specifically what constitutes VAM and how these can be reported (Asekun – Olarinmoye and Fawole 2010).

**Research Design and Method**

Based on the above, two approaches were adopted to gather data on VAM in Nigeria.

**Media Reportage:** The first approach was the content analysis of selected Nigerian newspapers. The objective here was to determine the level of the reportage of gender based violence generally, to ascertain the victim of the violent and the gender inflicting the violence.

To determine the focus of newspaper reportage of gender based violence in Nigeria therefore random sampling of four popular Nigerian National Newspaper were made. These are the Nigerian Tribune, The Guardian, Vanguard and The Punch. Codes were categorised into,

a) Victim of violence,  
b) form of violence and  
c) the gender inflicting the violence.

Some newspapers published in the month of February 2012 were used for the analysis. Twenty papers were assembled, and selection for content analysis was based on random sampling of the newspapers with a count of five. The fifth paper in each count was taken. After this, the selected papers were content analysed. In essence, the possibility of each week to be sample for analysis was ensured in the sampling. For thorough analysis and to ensure no item is left out, four analysts were chosen for each newspaper. This was made up of two males and female for each newspaper.
The month of February 2012 was selected because Nigerians were just getting over of the fuel subsidy removal protest. Also, it was meant to predict what the year is likely to look like on the GBV prediction for 2012.

**Interpretation of Data According to Selected Newspapers**

Nigeria Tribune was the first paper to be analysed by a team of four analysts. Nigeria Tribune is a paper published in the Western part of Nigeria. It reports more of the news on Yoruba axis and other parts of Nigeria. Content analysis of the reportage of GBV in the newspaper shows that 57.1% of the victims of violence were women while 42.9% were men. And on the perpetrator of violence, 85.7% reports that men are guilty while 14.3% were committed by women. This means that more men than women are guilty of activities likely to cause violence against women than men. And also, more women than men have grievous actions inflicted on them.

The nature of violence against the women includes physical attack like battering, rape and refusal to perform duties as husband. On the other hand, the women are guilty of witchcraft, failure to provide feeding and denial of sex.

The Guardian Newspaper was also analysed. Content analysis of the paper which is a national newspaper shows that both the male and female were victims of violence with 50% each. However, all the inflictions were done by men. In essence, violence against gender was not restricted to female alone but to men also. The main form of violence was brutality and rape.

Furthermore, the Vanguard Newspaper was content analysed. Result showed that women were the victims of violence with 70% while men too recorded 30% as victims. The men were guilty of perpetrating the violence with 90% while the women scored 10%. The forms of violence perpetrated were sexual assault, incest, murder, battering and ritual killing. On the other hand, the 10% women committed such offences as stabbing of husband, denial of food and sex.

Finally, the Punch newspaper was content anaylised. As usual, 75% of the women were the victims of violence and men recorded 25%. However, all the violence were inflicted by men. In essence the men recorded 100% as inflicting violence.

From the analysis above, it can be concluded that more men than women inflict violence while more women than men are the recipients of the violence also. This means that most Nigerians Newspapers focus their reportage of violence mostly on what affects women than what affects men. These findings confirms the vulnerability of women and patriarchal intimidation. (Jekayinfa 2012, Population Reference Bureau 2001, Dobash and Dobash 1979). It also negates of the findings of Nisonoff and Bitman (1979) and Goerge (1994) about men being the receivers, especially domestic violence.

This findings also justifies the fear of what is the authentic report of GBV and the suggestion of Asekun – Olarinmoye and Fawole (2010) that the media should be properly trained on the ability to properly ascertain and report what constitutes GBV.

In essence since this newspapers concentrates so much on physical attack than psychological and domestic violence such as abuse, insults and especially the four key aspects of domestic
violence namely the economic, emotional, physical and sexual (Jekayinfa 2011) were not covered by the content analysed newspaper. This shows a poor understanding of what constitutes violence against men (VAM) since there were more information on GBV than VAM. Of course, the reporters were merely informing witness specific reference to a variable of GBV like VAM, it is necessary to be more explicit in the reportage than general reportage of GBV. This findings therefore generally emphasizes what Fayakinnu (2012) calls overt display of power by men.

If some men are capable of exhibiting their overt powers through violence, the women that are described as docile, gentle and imbued with covert powers too have the capability of displaying these powers. These powers are displayed through deliberate delay of food, grumbling, withholding of sex or demanding of sex when a man is fatigued or put up other acts that are likely to debase the ego or psyche of the man. This is what Kuhl (2001) referred to domestic vandalism.

**Analysis of Data on Violence Against Men (VAM)**

To determine the extent to which VAM can be carried out through covert or subtle means, another study was carried out.

**Classification of VAM**

1. This study is based on the fact GBV has the tendency to affect the receiver physically and emotionally. Though more women are recipients of violence than men, the pay-back of the women which is more psychological than physical tends to have more lasting and devastating effects on men than the physical one which readily attracts attention and sympathy. Such actions as harassment, abuse, hunger and wrong diet are likely to produce more emotional effects than physical violence. These are classified as intentional violence against men (IVAM).

2. However, some actions are taken or the man takes some roles in the family which may have devastating effects on him when it has direct proportion from women. For example, partriach has arrogated some authoritarian roles to the man which when exhibited at the expense of the female can have effect on him. Among this is the priority given to the men in family decision and assignment of rights. Dietically, men consume more meat like red meat are said to have negative effects on the adults, male and female. Also, in some cultures, consumption of red oil or cholesterol inducing menu is knowingly or unknowingly a priority. Also, high salt consumption is a virtue in some cultures too.

Also, when some men’s ego are abused as in psychological torture, they go into alcoholism and the hangover can cause depression and thence induce high blood and stroke. Where these occur in a family and it is not intentionally done, this is classified as Unintentional Violent Against Men (UVAM)

To confirm this, a set of questionnaires was distributed to sample the opinions of the respondents on the extent to which men are victim of intentional violence (IVAM) and unintentional violence (UVAM).
The study was based on two major premises that can arise from either IVAM or UVAM. The premises are minor and major premises.

Minor Premises: more men than women are victims of hypertension, stroke induced situation like loneliness, alcoholism, stress and diabetes. Therefore, anything that can induce and aggravate this is VAM. This leads to premise two.

Premise Two: In some communities it is a common occurrence that the man who is the head of the family dies before the woman.

Basic Assumptions: In view of the premises above, aggravating premise ONE can lead to Premise TWO.

In essence anyone who consumes alcohol, narcotics or diets that are detrimental to his health can develop sicknesses like high hypertension and diabetes. These are stress and dietary induced VAM. He is likely to die earlier than those who did not suffer it. Therefore IVAM or UVAM is more serious than any form of GBV.

**Instrumentation**

The instrument for this study is made up of a set of questionnaire which contains ten items. The variables of research were the gender of the respondents which is either a male or Female. The ten items test indices of VAM and the covert variables that can induce VAM.

**Instrument Administration**

These questionnaires were administered to ramdomly selected respondents in Ede Osun State. A total of One hundred and fifty (150) questionnaires were distributed to respondents that volunteered to respond to the items. All the respondents are literate. Literate subjects were chosen because it is assumed that they have clear understanding of what constitute GBV and by inference VAM.

Out of the 150 questionnaires Six (6) could not be accounted for. Therefore, analysis and interpretation of data is based on the 144 that were made available and correctly completed.

**Analysis and Interpretation of Data**

A breakdown of the number of respondents shows that eighty – one (81) were male while sixty – three (63) were female. These people were to respond to the ten (10) items which were made up of 5 – point likert scale where they were expected to Strongly agree, Agree, Undecided, Strongly disagree or Disagree with each of the statements.

**Analysis of Male Respondents Perception of VAM**

For the table on the male respondents opinions, please see the appendix. First, the eighty – one males were asked if women receive more violence than men. This statement is testing their understanding of what constitutes GBV and who is the likely victim. Thirty – nine 39 or (48.1%) of the male strongly agree and 30 or 37% agreed while 12 or 14.8% strongly disagree. This means that majority of the men actually agreed that more women than men are
more likely to be victims of violence than men. However, the 12 or 14.8% that disagreed could have focused their mind on the fact that some women too have been found to violently deal with men. The same respondents were asked also if some men too are victims of violence (item 2). Twenty – seven or 33.3% and 45 or 55.6% said yes while 6 or 7.4% could not say and 3 or 3.7% strongly disagree. The majority of the respondents that accept that men also could be victims of violence corroborates the 12 or 14.8% in item 1 that strongly disagree that women receive more violence than men. This means that men as well as women too could be victims of GBV.

After establishing that both genders could be victims of GBV, (items 1 and 2). The remaining eight items were meant to establish VAM. This could either be IVAM or UVAM. In item 3, therefore, they were asked if some of our cultural practices could promote subtle violence against men. 30 or 37.6% are not sure, 24(29.6%) strongly disagree while 18(22.2%) agreed and 6 (7.4%) disagreed and 3(3.7%) strongly agreed. The majority of the male respondents are not sure that any of Nigeria cultural practices can promote subtle violence against men. This findings buttress the likely question or confusion that may enshroud what constitutes IVAM or UVAM, and how cultural or patriachal dictates can aggravate it. This means that there is need to do more studies on the variables of GBV and indeed IVAM and UVAM.

To be specific on what could likely constitute IVAM or UVAM the male respondents were asked if “In most homes children keep the company of mothers than fathers”. The insinuation here is that regression may come in on the face of rejection or loneliness. Majority of the respondents support this state with 36(44.4%) strongly agreeing and agreeing respectively while 9 or 1.1% are not sure. The instrument did not ask if the respondents are married or single. Those who are not sure therefore are likely to be single respondents or have not got a large family where this could be noticeable. However, the consensus of opinion is that children are more likely to keep company of their mothers than their fathers. Where there is no wrangling in the family, this could be classified as UVAM. The fact that the man at first enjoys loneliness which may have developed by pursing the children to their mothers or by his overt aggressive disciplinar disposition may give hint to the children that they should keep the permissive environment of their mother. This is like sitting on an emotional time bomb. As a follow up to item 4, the respondents were asked if the loneliness this situation provides could be termed as “violence”. Majority of the respondents 27(33.3%) agreed and 15 (18.5%) strongly agreed. In essence a total of 42 (57.8%) of the respondents are in the affirmative while 36 (44.4%) are either not sure or strongly disagree. Majority of the respondents may be considering the psychological implication of alcoholism or loneliness which may either aggravate hypertension, stroke or when taken to negative extreme induce one to result to suicide when faced with what patient considers as insufferable problem. This could be classified as IVAM which could be aggravated domestic environment.

The respondents based on item 4 above were asked if “men are more lonely at home than women”. A total of 45 (48.5%) of respondents said ‘no’ while a total of 21 (25.9%) said ‘yes’ and 15 (18.5%) are not sure. This analysis shows that 45 or 48.5% of the respondents said ‘no’. This opinion could be as a result of some of the reasons some always give for wanting to be alone. They may want to rest after the days hectic work, a luxury the woman never enjoys or he may keep himself busy reading newspapers or watching TV.
For easy analysis, items 7 to 10 were collapsed into three variable answers of “I support”, “I do not know” and “I do not support”. In item 7 therefore, the respondents were asked if to serve a man only the type of menu that can affect his health is a sign of violence. This can be inform of IVAM or UVAM. This means that if somebody is served with food containing too much salt, red oil, too much red meat or unwholesome deliberately or indeliberately is a form of violence. 69(85.2%) of the respondents support this belief while 12(14.8%) did not support it. These respondents know the implication of dietary misapplication on the health of the consumer, thus majority supported the fact that some diets when taken continuously and out of proportion can endanger the health of the consumer. In essence, not only narcotics or alcohol endanger health some diets too could.

The result of these dietary abuse could be diabetes as in excess sugar intake and hypertension as in alcoholism, excess salt, red oil or red meat intake. Because, by virtue of their positions in the family some men are likely to indulge in some of these dietary traits, item 8 was raised. It was therefore asked if more men than women suffer from incurable diseases like hypertension and diabetes. Thirty-nine (48.1%) supported this statement, while 27(33.3%) said ‘no’ and 15(18.5%) are not sure. Those that supported the statement have probably done so because in some cultures, some men who are the head usually die before the women. This maybe as a result of the accumulated effect of dietary abuse or ab– use or improper feeding habit. This means that consciously or not, where a member of the gender indulges in any of these habits, this could have a catastrophic effect on the person. This could either be a UVAM or IVAM.

As an escapist measure to cover up all forms VAM, the respondents were asked if they accept that some men cover up their loneliness at home by either consuming alcohol or reading newspaper (item 9). 78 (96.3%) of the respondents said yes while 3 or (3.7%) are not sure. This means that at a stage in life some men are likely to cultivate some habits to hide their loneliness. These habit can also include engaging in extra – marital affairs, alcoholism, staying outdoors unnecessarily with negative implications. This means that when the atmosphere at home is not conducive, the tendency to adopt escapist habits is likely to be high.

Finally, the respondents were asked, that much of child upbringing is centred around the women could be a form of violence against men. The interest here is to determine if domestic and family roles constitute to a form of violence. Here, 39 (48.1%) of the male respondents said ‘no’ 24 (29.6%) are not sure while 18(22%) said ‘yes’. That the bulk of the respondents are in opposition means that some men do not see the patriarchal assigned roles of the women as a form of violence is restating the produce and nurturer of children role of women. However, it probably becomes a violence as pointed out in item 4, when at grown up stage the women still maintain a monopoly of these roles due to already identified measures. In essence, assigned roles where originally meant to be complimentary but when opinions are formed out of this it becomes VAM.

**Analysis of Female Respondents Perception of VAM**

A total of 63 respondents female respondents were served the same instruments. The instruments were meant to determine the extent of the awareness female understanding of what constitutes VAM. These responses were collapsed into three-digit responses of “yes”, “not sure” and “no”. This is because of the constraints of space, volume, deadline and for easy interpretation of the responses. They were asked if women receive more violence than
men. Fifty – one 51 or (81%) said yes, 9 (14.3%) said ‘no’ while 3 (4.8%) are not sure. From this findings, it could be concluded that women are likely to receive more violence than men. This is the general believe and this replicates the consensus believe that women are more prone to GBV than men.

The respondents were also asked if they share the opinion that men too are also victims of violence (2). A total of 57 (90.5%) agreed while 3 (4.8%) respondents do not agree or are not sure. This lends credence to the fact that not only men possess the right to be violence. This agrees with Kuhl (2001), that violence knows no gender.

To elicit responses on their perception of the roles of patriarchy in determining the women’s domestic posture and how these can be instrument of violence, they were asked if some of Nigerian (African) cultural practices promote subtle violence against men. (Item 3) of total of 33 (52.4%) do not agree while 18 (28.5%) said ‘yes’ and 12 (19%) are not sure. This means that it is likely that women would like to resort to IVAM as a means of self-defence. It also means that domestically more women are likely to be guilty of UVAM which may result from the aspiration of the women to fit into patriarchal dictates.

They were also informed that, in most homes children keep the company of mothers than fathers (Item 4); 57 (90.5%) of the respondents said they agree while 6 (9.5%) are not sure. This popular opinion confirms the general view, that women are more likely to enjoy the company of the children than the men.

They were also asked in item 5 if they consider loneliness as a form of violence 30 (47.6%) of the respondents are in the affirmative that loneliness is a form of violence while 18(28.6%) are not sure and 15(23.8%) do not agree. This means that the men are more likely to be exposed to UVAM in the home due to their self – imposed seclusion, negative habits or loneliness.

The statement was also made that “men are more lonely at home than women. (Item 6) 27(42.8%) agreed, 21(33.3%) said ‘no’ while 15 (23.8%) are not sure. This findings is controversial though there is a concensus of 27 respondents. But if the number of those who are not sure is added to those who said ‘no’, then it could mean that men are not more lonely at home than women. This controversy could be as a result of the fact that the period of loneliness is not specified and considering the fact that unemployed women also stay more at home than men and thus a form of violence against them.

Furthermore, the respondents were asked whether to serve a man only the type of menu that can affect his health is a sign of violence. (Item 7); 51 or (81%) of these respondents said ‘yes’ while 6(9.5%) respondents either did not agree or were not sure. That majority of the women agreed that wrong, poor and dietary abuse can affect not only the men but also the women, confirms the fact that some women can fall fowl of IVAM. In essence, it is possible under the guise of taking care of the man serve him diets that are likely to infringe on his health.

To determine what is likely to be the outcome of this infringement, they were also asked if more men than women are likely to suffer from incurable diseases like hypertension and diabetes. (Item 8) A total of 27 (42.9%) of the women said no, while 24 (38.1%) said yes. Also, 12 (19%) are not sure. Those who said they are not sure implicates the fact that both
gender can be victim of these ailments whether in IVAM or UVAM situation. This does not eliminate the fact that both of the factors can aggravate it.

The women were also asked for their connects on whether some men are likely to cover up their loneliness by consuming alcohols or reading newspapers, (Item 9). A total of 60 or 95.3% of the respondents said ‘yes’ while 3 or 4.8% are not sure. This findings shows the pathetic situation most men have found themselves. Communication gap is a major problem in most homes. More women are likely to complain against this than men. This is why most women have taken solace in the comfort and warmth offered by their children. On the long run, this is why by implication most men than women suffer stroke or hypertension.

To round off the investigation, the women were given item 10, which states that “because much of the children upbringing are centred around the women is a form of violence against men. Like the male respondents, 33 or 42.4% of the women do not agree while 21(33.3%) said ‘yes’ and 9(14.3%) are not sure. This confirms the fact that the women has been seen as performing the roles nature and patriachy have arranged for her. The implication of this therefore is that some men are likely to expose themselves to one form of UVAM situation or the other.

**Summary of Findings across both genders**

Summary of the analysis of the data on what is likely to constitute VAM and especialy IVAM and UVAM showed varied responses across the genders. On the perception of GBV majority of the men agreed that the more women than men are likely to be victims of GBV than men. The Women also corroborated this finding by restating the fact that they have always been victims of GBV. Both genders also agreed that in the same vain, that men too could be victims (Kuhl 2011). However in the effect of culture at inducing VAM, majority of the responses are not sure if this can be. This finding calls for the need for thorough studies into the culturally induced GBV. Thus, it was concluded that the tendency to have UVAM than IVAM is more likely in this situation.

On loneliness due to children staying more with the mother (item 10 ), more women agreed that this is likely to happen, the men too agreed with the statement. This was therefore interpreted to mean that the situation can create any of the IVAM or UVAM. On loneliness as form of VAM therefore, majority of the men agreed, thus this opinion tallied with that of the women too.

However, on the possibility of the male contacting deadly sicknesses like stroke or diabeties, the women did not agree that more men than women are likely to be victims of this.

**Conclusion**

The attempt of this paper has been to generally review what constitutes GBV, to find out if men are affected too, and to determine the focus of media reportage. Findings showed that though more men than women were implicated. The study concluded that there is a flaw in the definition of what costitutes Gender Based Violence (GBV), Domestic Violence (DV)
and Violence Against Men (VAM), because the psychological aspects were not really treated in the literatures. However, further analysis showed that VAM can either take the form of IVAM or UVAM thus, viewing these as culturally induced violence against men. Findings however showed that why more men are likely to be victims of both UVAM and IVAM, the paper is of the conclusion that there is need to do more studies on VAM as against what has been the norm, interpreting GDV from the angle of female alone. But, the prescription is that such studies should not create dichotomies but that it should create harmonious cohabitation.

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Appendix

Table showing the analysis of male respondents’ perception of VAM

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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Key:

Above are the items from which responses were elicited according to their numbers as used in the analysis

1. Women receive more violence than men.
2. Men too are also victims of violence.
3. Some of our cultural practices promote subtle violence against men.
4. In most homes children keep the company of mothers than fathers.
5. Loneliness is a form of violence.
6. Men are more lonely at home than women.
7. To serve a man only the type of menu that can affect him is a sign of violence.
8. More men than women suffer from incurable diseases like hypertension and diabetes.
9. Some men cover up their loneliness by a) staying outdoors, b) reading newspaper.
10. That much of child upbringing is centred around the women is a form of violence against men.

Table showing the analysis of female respondents’ perception of VAM

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