

Behavioural Communication as Correlate of Domestic Violence among Male Teachers in Ibadan Metropolis

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Abstract

Domestic violence has continued to be a societal menace leading to the loss of lives. However, men are rarely in the positions where they are victims of domestic violence. Male teachers in the five local government areas of Ibadan North, Northeast, Northwest, Southeast, and Southwest were the population for the study. The study employed a self-constructed questionnaire (0.82 level of significance) to source data from 700 respondents, out of which 568 copies of the questionnaire were found valid for analysis. The study used descriptive statistics to analyse the data collected. The findings revealed that there were high levels of aggressive (48.8%), passive-aggressive (42%) behaviours, and exposure to domestic violence (66.5%). There were also low levels of passive (57.2%) and assertive (69.7%) behaviours. Significant relationships existed between behavioural communication and domestic violence (.286, $P < .05$). Behavioural communication was a correlate of domestic violence among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. It is recommended that issues of domestic violence should be attended to with urgency, and a policy should be put in place to curtail its rapid growth.

Keywords: Behavioural communication, Domestic violence, Male teachers, Ibadan Metropolis.

Introduction

Communication has been of prime importance since creation and through the different stages of human history. As an embodiment of history, time, union, and conversations, there is a need for humans to communicate among themselves for different reasons. Communication is a means of transferring thoughts, feelings, and ideas from one person to another through words, signs, and symbols that are usually mutually understood by the sender and the receiver. Hassan (2018) defined communication as a process that regulates and shapes all human behaviour and endeavours. It is the mechanism through which human relations exist and develop. According to Khepar (2019), behavioural communication is a psychological construct that addresses people's day-to-day behaviours as a form of communication. It refers to people's tendency to express feelings, needs, and thoughts employing indirect messages and behavioural impacts. Behavioural communication thus provides a conceptual framework to account for many instances of day-to-day behaviour from the standpoint of communication. There are four types of behavioural communication: aggressive, passive-aggressive, passive and assertive.

Domestic violence was defined as "any incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercing, threatening behaviour, violence or abuse between those aged 16 or over who are or have been, intimate partners or family members regardless of gender or sexuality." (Lloyd, 2018). The types of abuse include psychological, physical, sexual, financial, emotional abuse.

i. Emotional Violence

Emotional violence is the most widespread kind of violence encountered and a component of all forms of domestic violence regarded as psychological or mental abuse and can be in the form of verbal or non-verbal abuse (Agbi et al., 2018). This form of violence includes isolating the victim from socialising or associating with friends and family, harassing or humiliating the victim publicly or privately, controlling the victim on what to do or not to do, and deliberately provoking the victim to anger or making the victim

feel diminished and embarrassed. Although preceded and accompanied by other forms of abuse, it can occur in isolated words and language, threats, and intimidation. It refers to degrading or humiliating conducts a wife has towards the husband, which might be in the form of repeated insults, ridicule or name-calling and keeping malice. Emotional violence traumatises the victim through acts, threats, or coercive tactics (such as humiliating the victim, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information, isolating the victim from friends and family) (Mbadugha, 2016). In most cases, emotional violence is preceded by acts or threats of physical or sexual violence.

ii. Physical Abuse

Physical abuse usually involves contact with another person meant to cause grievous bodily injury, pain or impairment. This form of abuse includes pushing, pinching, property damage, and it can occur at any time or place. In Nigeria, a man physically abused by his spouse is easily identified by the finger marks on his face and teeth marks on his body. Extreme cases include injury on the head and legs caused by the use of sharp objects like knives. Physical abuse involves contact intended to cause feelings of pain, injury, intimidation, physical suffering, or bodily harm, punching, hitting, pushing, and many other kinds of body contact that result in physical injuries (Obarisiagbon et al., 2019).

iii. Financial Abuse

Financial violence is a form of violence that occurs when one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources. Many studies have reviewed that most of the perpetrators of this abuse are men in most developing countries like Nigeria. Financial abuse may involve preventing a partner or spouse from using resources or exploiting the economic resources of the victim (Ojilere et al., 2019).

In Nigeria, men are expected to provide for their families. However, in some cases, due to economic downturn/recession, some men have found themselves out of work and so are unintentionally not able to meet the economic needs of their

families. Nothing is as painful to a man when due to a situation beyond his control, he cannot meet the needs of his home, and the closest person to him mocks him with his predicament (Obarisiagbon et al., 2019). Economic abuse occurs where a woman finds herself in a position of economic power and thus uses it against her spouse.

iv. **Sexual Violence**

Sexual violence includes (a) the use of physical force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act unwillingly, whether or not the act is completed. (b) an attempted or completed sexual act involving a person who, because of illness, disability, or the influence of alcohol or other drugs, or because of intimidation or pressure, is unable to understand the nature or condition of the act, decline participation, or communicate unwillingness to engage in the act (Mbadugha, 2016).

Degrading begins with comments about a woman and the continuing attacks and other unpleasant abuse of the victim during or in connection with the sexual act. Rape is a form of violence in which a woman often bears suffering in silence, paying tribute to social norms they believe; intimate relations are primarily a right of man, a territory where he is the master to decide (Agbi et al., 2018).

Men are often victims of this kind of abuse, and it is the hardest to disclose despite the emotional pain that it produces. While men in Nigeria sometimes are accused of forcing their spouses to have sex, women on their part abuse their spouses by denying them sexual intimacy. Some Nigerian women are accustomed to refusing sexual advances from their spouses by saying they have headaches or are tired. At other times, they mock, deride and use demoralizing words on their spouse. It is not uncommon to hear a woman asking her spouse if sex is food while frowning and condemning these acts. These are subtle but damaging abuses against men (Obarisiagbon et al., 2019).

Domestic violence is a widespread social problem. However, due to cultural considerations, especially as perceived in the culture of silence and low report by media and the victims, it is

tasking to get reliable data on the incidence and prevalence of domestic violence in Nigeria (United Nations, n.d.). Domestic violence is a behaviour that carries the intention to hurt someone, something or oneself. If one examines the characteristics of aggression against the components of domestic violence, one would notice that one does not exist without the presence of the other, regardless of how mild it might be. Being aggressive involves the expression of one's needs, feelings, and ideas without putting into consideration other people. Aggressive people do not care about other people's feelings and opinions. So, they do not hesitate to humiliate or talk down to other people till they feel small (McKeown, 2014).

Exploring the relationship between passive-aggression, and domestic violence has proven to be a difficult task because it does not possess overt qualities like that of aggression and domestic violence. A passive-aggressive abuser often attacks the emotions or psychology of the victim. The manifestation of a passive-aggressive abuser is eminent in emotional abuse. Emotional abuse is a chronic pattern of behaviour in which a person is belittled, threatened about his possession or harming someone's sense of self-worth by putting him at risk of various behavioural, cognitive, emotional or mental disorders. Shouting at a partner is a prevalent form of abuse. Also included in emotional abuse are name-calling, criticism, social isolation, intimidation or exploitation to dominate, routinely making unreasonable demands, terrorizing a person verbally or physically and exposing a child to violence (Ishola, 2016).

Domestic violence takes away the victim's inability to be assertive in expressing opinions about different things and sharing emotions because of the fear of the abuser's reaction. The assertiveness of the victim could be misinterpreted by the abuser as dominating or a display of arrogance or defiance. It is misinterpreted as being selfish because of the repetition of the pronoun "I" used during communication even though an expression of feelings is beneficial to both parties (Sims, 2016).

Domestic violence victims are often not outspoken (Ganley, n.d). This is because domestic violence affects its victims in such a way that they are left in forms that are shadows of themselves. Some of these people who show passive patterns or behaviours had been conditioned from childhood in such a situation where the people were raised in environments where either of the parents was abusive. Victims use many different strategies to cope with and resist the abuse. Such strategies include agreeing with the perpetrator's denial and minimisation of the violence in public, accepting the perpetrator's promises that it will never happen again, saying that she "still loves him," being unwilling to leave the perpetrator or terminate the relationship, and doing what he asks. These strategies may appear to be the result of passiveness or submission on the part of the victim when in reality she has learned that these are sometimes successful approaches for temporarily avoiding or stopping the violence.

Statement of the Problem

Recent researchers have drawn attention to the fact that men are also victims of domestic violence that go unreported most of the time. Also, the causative factors and consequences of domestic violence have been identified to be an imbalance in the social duties of the men and women, abuse of power and feeling of burdensomeness. Nevertheless, minimal research has been done about behavioural communication when it comes to the intervention of domestic violence. The effects of domestic violence on both men, who are often the perpetrators and women as adults put in charge of people whose lives are being moulded are the motivation behind this research. Also, no work placed the men in the five local government areas: North, North-east, North-west, South-east, South-west in Ibadan metropolis in a situation where they are the victims of domestic violence and as a result are nursing suicidal thoughts. It is against this backdrop that this research seeks to examine how behavioural communication can be a correlate of domestic violence and suicidal thoughts among male teachers.

The main objective of the study was to check the relationship between behavioural communication and domestic violence among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. This was translated into two questions and one hypothesis. The questions answered by the study were:

- i. What is the level of behavioural communication among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis?
- ii. What is the level of exposure to domestic violence among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis?

Equally, the study answered a null hypothesis, tested at the significance level of <0.05 thus: There is no significant relationship between behavioural communication and domestic violence among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis.

Research Methodology

The study adopted the descriptive survey design of ex-post-facto. The assumption was that the variables of the study had occurred and as such, they could not be manipulated. The researchers sampled five local government areas in Ibadan Metropolis. The instrument used to collect data was titled 'Behavioural Communication and Domestic Violence.' The instrument was made up of 40 items with a five-point Likert scale of Always (5), Often (4), Sometimes (3), Rarely (2), Never (1). The content and face validity were examined. The reliability of the instrument was established at Cronbach Alpha 0.82. The researchers made use of four research assistants to administer seven hundred copies of the questionnaire to male teachers in the study area. However, five hundred and sixty-eight copies were retrieved and found suitable for analysis. The data collected were analysed using descriptive statistics to answer the research questions and hypothesis of the study.

Findings

Research question 1: What is the level of behavioural communication among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis?

Table 1: Level of behavioural communication among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis.

Items Aggression	Always %	Often %	Sometimes %	Rarely	Never	\bar{x}	Std. Dev.
I am quick to lose my temper with my partner	145(25.5)	80(14.1)	80(14.1)	15(20.2)	148(26.1)	2.93	1.551
I am moody when my partner is around	123(21.7)	201(35.4)	83(14.6)	99(17.4)	62(10.9)	4.39	1.296
I find it hard to concentrate as a result of constant conflict with my partner	79(13.9)	197(34.7)	129(22.7)	108(19.0)	55(9.7)	4.24	1.194
I find it hard to communicate with my partner due to fear of a negative reaction	118(20.8)	179(31.5)	128(22.5)	102(18.0)	41(7.2)	4.41	1.205
I want to hurt my partner or break something when annoyed	136(23.9)	130(22.9)	123(21.7)	63(11.1)	116(20.4)	3.19	1.443
	120(21.2)	157(27.6)	109(19.2)	98(17.3)	84(14.8)		
Total						3.83	1.337

Items Passive- aggression	Always	Often	Sometime s	Rarely	Never	\bar{X}	Std. Dev.
I resent demands of my partner	95(16.7)	172(30.3)	116(20.4)	118(20.8)	67(11.8)	4.19	1.272
I constantly complain about feeling unappreciate d by my partner	86(15.1)	141(24.8)	170(29.9)	107(18.8)	64(11.3)	3.14	1.215
I give silent treatment when wronged by my partner	53(9.3)	154(27.1)	121(21.3)	172(30.3)	68(12.0)	2.92	1.192
I hesitate to help my partner	121(21.3)	137(24.1)	134(23.6)	110(19.4)	6(11.6)	4.24	1.303
I withhold information from my partner when offended	82(14.4)	150(26.4)	126(22.2)	134(23.6)	76(13.4)	4.05	1.270
Total	88(15.4)	151(26.6)	134(23.6)	127(22.4)	68(12.0)		
						3.70	1.250

Items Passiveness	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	\bar{X}	Std. Dev.
I seek my partner's approval even when it's not needed	34(6.0)	117(20.6)	76(13.4)	132(23.2)	209(36.8)	2.36	1.319
	13(2.3)	131(23.1)	117(20.6)	114(20.6)	193(34.0)	2.40	1.233
I put my partner first even when at a disadvantage	72(12.7)	108(19.0)	107(18.8)	138(24.3)	143(25.2)	2.70	1.363
	14(2.5)	114(20.1)	132(23.2)	172(30.3)	136(23.9)	2.47	1.131
I constantly doubt my abilities	28(4.9)	95(16.7)	57(10.0)	180(31.7)	208(36.6)	2.22	1.239
	32(5.6)	113(19.9)	98(17.3)	147(25.9)	178(31.3)		
I am often honest about my emotions with my partner							
I live in constant fear of my partner							
Total						2.43	1.257
						2.43	1.257
Items Assertiveness	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	\bar{X}	Std. Dev.
I am confident	6(3.2)	15(2.6)	128(22.5)	143(25.2)	276(48.6)	1.82	.939
I am expressive	23(4.0)	53(9.3)	143(25.2)	125(22.0)	224(39.4)	2.17	1.166
I am spontaneous	45(7.9)	19(3.3)	104(18.3)	207(36.4)	193(34.0)	2.15	1.162
	23(4.0)	28(4.9)	74(13.0)	209(36.8)	234(41.2)	1.94	1.050
I am honest	68(12.0)	39(6.9)	90(15.8)	168(29.6)	203(35.7)	2.30	1.335
I am considerate of my partner	30(5.3)	31(5.5)	108(19.5)	170(29.9)	226(39.8)		
Total							
						2.07	1.130

The table revealed that there was a high level of aggressive behaviour among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. While 27.6% indicated that aggressive behaviours were exhibited often, 14.8% indicated that they have never exhibited aggressive behaviours. There was a high level of passive-aggressive behaviour among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. A total number of 26.6% of the respondents chose 'often' to statements indicating passive-aggressive behaviours, while 12% indicated that they have

never shown passive-aggressive behaviours. 31.3% of the respondents indicated that they have never exhibited passive behaviour, while 25.9% indicated that they rarely exhibited passive behaviour, and 5.6% indicated that they always showed passive behaviours. The results showed there was a low level of passive behaviour among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. The results showed that the majority of the respondents exhibited a low level of assertive behaviour. The table revealed that 226 of the respondents indicated that they have never exhibited assertive behaviour, while 170 respondents indicated that they rarely exhibited assertive behaviour, and 30 respondents indicated that they always showed assertive behaviour.

Research question 2: What is the level of exposure to domestic violence among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis?

Table 2: The Level of Exposure to Domestic Violence among Male Teachers in Ibadan Metropolis

Items	Always	Often	Sometimes	Rarely	Never	\bar{X}	Std. Dev.
Physical Violence							
I get hit by my partner	235(41.4)	157(27.6)	109(19.2)	46(8.1)	21(3.7)	3.95	1.123
My partner destroys my property	236(41.5)	158(27.8)	75(13.2)	9(1.6)	90(15.8)	3.78	1.411
I give excuses about my bruises that my partner inflicted	201(35.4)	167(29.4)	92(16.2)	66(11.6)	42(7.4)	3.74	1.257
I am reluctant to report bruises at the hospital	165(29.0)	181(31.9)	107(18.8)	57(10.0)	58(10.2)	3.60	1.280
My partner refuses me treatment when sick	202(35.6)	188(33.1)	64(11.3)	30(5.3)	84(14.8)	3.69	1.386
						3.75	1.291

Sexual Violence							
My partner forces me to have sex when I don't feel like it	172(30.3)	113(19.9)	86(15.1)	104(18.3)	93(16.4)	3.29	1.472
I am starved of sex when my partner is angry	143(25.2)	185(32.6)	130(22.9)	22(3.9)	88(15.5)	3.48	1.328
My partner uses drugs/alcohol to compromise my ability to consent	188(33.1)	144(25.4)	164(28.9)	29(5.1)	43(7.6)	3.71	1.194
My partner threatens to leave me if I do not have sex	212(37.3)	166(29.2)	108(19.0)	48(8.5)	34(6.0)	3.83	1.190
My partner takes sexual pictures or films of me without my consent	268(47.2)	118(20.8)	84(14.8)	50(8.8)	48(8.3)	3.89	1.313
						3.64	1.30
Emotional Abuse							
My partner withdraws affection from me	140(24.6)	153(26.9)	132(23.4)	81(14.3)	62(10.9)	3.40	1.295
My partner criticises me at all times	164(28.9)	147(25.9)	108(19.0)	104(18.3)	45(7.9)	3.49	1.293
I am usually being accused of having sexual affairs with others by my partner	180(31.7)	33(23.4)	93(16.4)	117(20.6)	45(7.9)	3.50	1.332
My partner hurls insult at me	209(36.8)	102(18.0)	110(19.4)	102(18.0)	45(7.9)	3.58	1.348
I am being isolated from my family and friends by my partner	181(31.9)	179(31.5)	74(13.0)	73(12.9)	61(10.7)	3.61	1.334
						3.64	1.320
Financial Abuse							
I am being insulted for not being able to meet some needs by my partner	182(32.0)	151(26.6)	81(14.3)	108(19.0)	46(8.1)	3.55	1.326
My partner steals my money	182(32.0)	130(22.9)	105(18.5)	88(15.5)	63(11.1)	3.49	1.367
My partner misuses my funds	168(29.6)	149(26.2)	105(18.5)	61(10.7)	85(15.0)	3.45	1.398
My partner does not return my money after borrowing	181(31.9)	99(17.4)	150(26.4)	62(10.9)	76(13.4)	3.43	1.381
My partner tricks me into making bad investments	219(38.6)	126(22.2)	101(17.8)	107(18.8)	15(2.6)	3.75	1.223
						3.54	1.34
Total	208(36.6)	170(29.9)	89(15.7)	42(7.4)	59(10.4)		

The results showed that most of the responses indicated a high exposure to domestic violence among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. Table 4.6a shows that 36.6% of them were always exposed to domestic violence; 29.9% indicated that they are often exposed to domestic violence, while 7.4% indicated that they are rarely exposed to domestic violence.

Hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between behavioural communication and domestic violence among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis.

This was tested with a Pearson Product Moment Correlation analysis as shown in Table 3.

Table 3: Summary table of Pearson Product Moment Correlation showing the relationship between behavioural communication and domestic violence among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis.

		Behavioural Communication	Domestic Violence
Behavioural Communication	Pearson Correlation	1	.286**
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000
	N	568	568
Domestic Violence	Pearson Correlation	.286**	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	
	N	568	568

**, Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

The results from Table 3 above shows that there was a significant relationship between behavioural communication and domestic violence at a 0.000 significance level based on the probability value of <0.05 . As a result, the finding showed that the null hypothesis was rejected. It also showed that there was a 28.6% level of variation between behavioural communication and domestic violence. This means that a person exposed to domestic violence most likely showed 28.6% of behavioural communication traits like aggressive behaviour, passive-aggressive behaviour, passive behaviour and assertive behaviour. To a large extent, there was a relationship between behavioural communication and domestic

violence, although the level of variation of behavioural communication in domestic violence was low.

Discussion of Findings

Research Question 1: What is the level of behavioural communication among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis?

The result showed a high level (48.8%) of aggressive behaviour among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. The high number of respondents (23.9%) who indicated that they found it hard to communicate with their partners due to the fear of a negative reaction was unexpected in comparison to the pattern of answers that were given to other questions. The statement 'I am moody when my partner is around' had the highest percentage (35.4%). It was also an unanticipated answer because aggression was usually associated with outbursts. Some of the respondents (57%) indicated that they were always quick to lose their temper with their partners and wanted to hurt their partners or break something when annoyed. It corroborated the finding that aggression is sometimes associated with negative affect (usually anger). The result shows that 70.1% of the respondents indicated that they often exhibit aggressive behaviours such as being moody when their partners are around and finding it hard to concentrate as a result of constant conflict with their partners. These were indicative that aggression does not always lead to harmful situations. The characteristics of aggression, when placed beside those of domestic violence, would show that one does not exist without the presence of the other, regardless of how mild it might be. With the level of aggressive behaviour identified, one could also assume that they are prone to developing psychological disorders or an increased risk of legal punishment. The need for anger-management classes might arise to find more direct approaches to communicating. It becomes necessary to check for other causes of short temper as this might be a sign of the presence of an underlying disorder such as alcoholism. The result showed a high level (42.0%) of passive-aggressive behaviour

among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. Some respondents (53.5%) indicated that they often withheld information from their partners and gave silent treatment when offended. These results are supported by the finding that passive-aggressive behaviour happens when negative emotions and feelings build up and are then held in on a self-imposed need for either acceptance by another, dependence on others or to avoid even further arguments or conflicts (Harrn, 2015). Passive-aggressive behaviour manifests in avoidance, evasion, procrastination, obstruction, sulking or self-pity. Besides, common signs of passive-aggressive behaviour include bitterness and hostility towards other people's requests, intentionally delaying or making mistakes when dealing with other peoples' demands, having a cynical, pessimistic, or aggressive demeanour; and frequently complaining about feeling underappreciated or deceived (Martel *et al.*, 2016). Some of the respondents (24.8%) indicated that they often complained about feeling unappreciated by their partners when offended, 30.3% indicated that they often resented the demands of their partners, and 24.1% pointed that they often hesitated to help their partners. These supported the above finding of passive-aggressive behaviour such as hostility towards other people's demands and feeling unappreciated. The presence of a high level of passive-aggressive behaviour could translate to aggressive behaviours if not curbed because of the undertone of violence that can be unleashed as a result of pent-up frustration and anger. There was a thin line separating passive-aggressive behaviour from aggressive behaviour as it also possessed a slight undertone of anger which was salient in aggressive behaviour. The result found there was a low level (57.2%) of passive behaviour among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. It was an unexpected result as most of the victims in studies relating to domestic violence were identified to be highly passive communicators. Most of the respondents (31.3%) chose never to the indicators of being passive. Some respondents (36.8%) indicated that they have never sought their partners' approval even what it was not needed, while 34.0% pointed that they have never put their partners first even when at a disadvantage, and 36.6% indicated that they did not live in

constant fear of their partners. These clashed with the finding that people who were exposed to domestic violence allow people to walk over them (the doormat syndrome) (Javier, 2019). They enable their rights to be violated in the belief that they have fewer rights or more responsibilities than others, and that they have less personal worth than they do. The implication of the low level of passive behaviour among these men was they refused to be considered walk-overs and be perceived as weak despite the abusive relationship they were in. The result found a low level (69.7%) of assertive behaviour among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. With the finding regarding research question three, it was anticipated that the level of assertive behaviour among these men to be high. However, most of the respondents (39.8%) chose the never option regarding the manifestations of assertive behaviour. Nevertheless, the fact that there was a low level of assertive behaviour showed that they were somewhat passive. Some of the respondents (48.6%) indicated that they were never confident, while 39.4% pointed that they were not expressive. These findings corroborated one of the results of a study that the self-confidence of domestic violence victims has been stripped away as a result of the constant badgering of the abuser (Sims, 2016). However, it opposed the finding also by that across cultures, men are more likely to be assertive compared with women being reticent to show self-advocating assertive negotiation when they anticipate a backlash (Sims, 2016). Another set (35.7%) indicated that they were not considerate of their partners and 41.2% depicted that they were not honest. Based on these findings, the low levels of passive behaviour (52.7%) and assertive behaviour (69.7%) made it evident that male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis exhibited more aggressive behaviour and passive-aggressive behaviour.

Research Question 2: What is the level of exposure to domestic violence among men in Ibadan Metropolis?

The result showed a high level (66.5%) of exposure to domestic violence among the male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. Regarding

physical violence, most of the respondents (36.6%) indicated they always experienced a form of physical violence or the other which ranged from getting hit (41.4%); destruction of properties (41.5%), got bruises inflicted by their partners and gave excuses about them (29%), and had their partners refuse them treatment when sick (35.6%).

The answers regarding sexual abuse were expected because there have been recent conversations around men also getting abused, contrary to popular opinion that men are not victims of sexual abuse. Some respondents (30.3%) indicated that their partners forced them to have sex, while 32.6% disclosed that they were starved of sex when their partners were angry. Some respondents (33.1%) that their partners used drugs or alcohol to compromise their abilities to consent to sex. Some respondents (26.9%) disclosed that their partners always withdrew affection from them; others (36.8%) revealed that their partners always hurled insults at them when asked about emotional abuse. Part of the respondents (32%) pointed that their partners always stole their money, while others (31.9%) revealed that their partners did not return money after they borrowed it.

This further support the findings on domestic violence against men in Nigeria that showed that 84% of men had suffered at least one act of domestic violence perpetrated by women, and that out of the number, 76% experienced verbal violence, 61% suffered psychological violence, while 59% suffered sexual violence (Ojilere *et al.*, 2019).

Hypothesis: There is no significant relationship between behavioural communication and domestic violence among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis

The researchers tested the hypotheses at a P-value of <0.05 significance level to examine the relationship between behavioural communication, domestic violence. The null hypothesis was to check if there was no significant relationship between behavioural communication and domestic violence among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. The result showed a significant relationship between behavioural communication and domestic violence

among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. The relationship was established with a correlation analysis at (.286 $P < .05$). A study supported the finding that being exposed to destructive forms of conflict increased the likelihood of aggression, whereas being exposed to constructive forms of conflict, decreased the likelihood of this behaviour in children (Carpenter, 2017). Also, when aggression and domestic violence are compared, it is found that one does not exist without the presence of the other. It means that aggressive behaviour could either be an offshoot of domestic violence or could lead to domestic violence. It also shows that passive-aggressive behaviour is not as overt as aggressive behaviour and can be identified in terms of domestic violence's aftermath or the mild beginning of domestic violence. The respondents who chose the options: always, often, and sometimes in the behavioural communication section were noticed to have also selected similar options in the domestic violence option. It indicated that the behavioural traits communicate the presence of exposure to domestic violence. The result was in line with the research that found that people, more than others, tend to engage in behavioural communication despite the plausible alternatives of using verbal communication. When humans communicate, they do not swap ideas; they exchange symbols that stand for ideas. Words are just symbols that do not have any inherent meaning; humans use them in specific ways to convey an idea or give it a meaning, and no two people use the same word in the same sense at all instances. The symbols attached to these words are a result of who humans are; personal communication skills depend heavily on people's cultural background and unique histories (Khepar, 2020). It supports the assumption that observing people's behavioural traits will enable one to decipher what is being unconsciously communicated. For the case of this study, it proves that behavioural communication is a correlate of domestic violence since it was discovered that behavioural communication had a 28.6% variation with domestic violence.

Conclusion

The answers from respondents showed a significant relationship between behavioural communication and domestic violence among male teachers in Ibadan Metropolis. In conclusion, with the review of the different views the scholars had concerning the issue of domestic violence and data collated from respondents, it was evident that men are also victims of domestic violence. These abuses were not in place as means of self-defence, but to prove that violence is not gender-specific.

Recommendations

Media and non-governmental organisations should include slots dedicated to creating awareness against domestic violence against men. and organise seminars where men can be taught how best to express their thoughts and feelings without aggression or fear. Correctional facilities should also incorporate counselling to help men heal from the trauma of abuse. Matters of domestic violence should be attended to with urgency and a policy should be put in place to shrink its rapid growth.

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