

PATTERNS OF DRUG USE AND THE PERPETUATION OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE AMONG PUBLIC SERVANTS IN UYO, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

Despite the high incidence of intimate partner violence in Nigeria, empirical research on the psychological and emotional aspect is very scanty. A review of the few available studies shows a lacuna in research regarding the implication of drug use on the perpetuation of intimate partner violence. The present study was aimed at bridging this gap with a view towards making recommendations to stakeholders so that proactive steps could be taken. In the cross-sectional survey, residents of Uyo (N = 249) were employed, using standardized measures of drug use and perpetuation of intimate partner violence. Results indicated that drug use, age, marital status, religion, ethnic group and gender jointly predicted perpetuation of intimate partner violence [$F(6,242) = 19.52; P < .05$]. However, only drug use and age of the participants independently predicted perpetuation of intimate partner violence; whereas gender, religion, ethnicity, and marital status did not predict perpetuation of intimate partner violence. The study concluded that exposure to drugs accelerates the perpetuation of intimate partner violence and subsequent psychological ill-health of families affected and this should be a source of concern for clinical psychologists and other stakeholders in the behavioral sciences. Implications and recommendations were made which were in line with previous findings.

Keywords: Drug use, intimate partner violence, public servants, perpetuation.

INTRODUCTION

Intimate partner violence (IPV) has been identified as an issue of global concern (Adekeye, 2008). IPV is a major societal problem, though commonly ignored and underreported in many countries

(WHO, 2013); while violence among men and women is a universal problem in many countries, physical violence in particular is very common among intimate partners in both developed and developing countries, (Eze-Anaba, 2005). Intimate partner violence can therefore happen to

anyone regardless of race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender and can take many forms, including physical abuse, sexual abuse, emotional, economic, and psychological abuse (Yusuf, Arulogun, Oladepo, & Olookeere, 2011).

While the level of violence against Nigerian women remains poorly mapped, pilot studies conclude it is —shockingly high, (Eze-Anaba, 2005). Again in Nigeria, reports reveal outrageous level of violence against women (Afrol News, 2007) while in the international community, Amnesty international (2007) reported that a third and in some cases two-thirds of women are believed to have been subjected to physical, sexual and psychological violence carried out primarily by husbands, partners and fathers while girls are often forced into early marriage and are at risk of punishment if they attempt to escape from their husbands. More pathetic is the revelation of gross under reporting and non-documentation of domestic violence due to cultural factors (Oyediran & Isugo, 2005).

Project alert (2001), in a survey on violence against women conducted interviews with women working in the markets and other places of work and girls and young women in secondary schools and universities, in Lagos state, Nigeria. About 64.4% of 45 women interviewed in the work place said they had been beaten by a partner (boyfriend or husband), 56.6% of 48 interviewed market woman admitted experiencing such violence. The incidence of intimate partner violence or domestic violence is high.

In a study carried out by Obi and Ozumba (2007) on the factors associated with domestic violence, in South East, Nigeria, 70% of respondents reported abuse in their family with 92% of the victims being female partners and the remaining

8% being male. The common forms of abuse reported were shouting at a partner (93%), slapping or pushing (77%) and punching and kicking (40%). However, most issues of gender based domestic violence has been centered on men as the perpetrators of domestic violence, thereby, making it appear as if cases of men being victims of intimate violence do not exist. Men can be, and frequently are, also victims of abuse in the home at the hands of their female partners. Some studies such as that of Richard (2003) and Katy (2009) mentioned that men are less likely to report being victims of intimate partner violence due to social and cultural associated stigmas. Other sources, like Trudy (2010) however, argued that the rate of intimate partner violence against men is often inflated due to the practice of including self-defense as a form of intimate partner violence.

In the same light, a study by researchers with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention in 2007, found that women are slightly more likely to be victimized in non-reciprocal violence, whereas men are slightly more likely to be victimized in reciprocal violence. The study also found that almost three quarters of non-reciprocal violence is perpetrated by women. In a similar study, women are more likely to be injured in non-reciprocal violence and men are more likely to be injured in reciprocal violence. The great reluctance of many men and boys to report domestic violence makes it very difficult to accurately assess its scope worldwide.

Drugs on the other hand are chemical substances that destroy the body cell, depending on how it is used. According to Orija (2008), a drug dependent person unknowingly damages his/herself and the society. He goes further to say that peo-

ple who depend on drugs become more absent minded, drop in academic performance, more irritable and moody. In such a state, the tendency to be violent is very high. Ogunsakin (2007) opined that drugs like Indian hemp have the power to impair mental activities and decreases the male sex hormone, damages the heart and causes heart attack, even affecting the menstrual cycle in women.

Psychoactive substance use and violence is not limited to geographic boundaries (Atkinson, McCurdy, & Williams, et al., 2011). There is no doubt that rapid socioeconomic changes including urbanization and globalization appear to have contributed to the use of these substances. However, one major factor militating against its control in many developing countries is poverty (Omigbodun & Babalola, 2004; Obot, 2005; Gureje et al., 2007; Parry, 2005). Illiteracy and ignorance have also contributed significantly to a fair share of this social problem in many rural communities. In Nigeria, the presence of some of these substances in large quantities in traditional functions and ceremonies implies that the use is not restricted. This is because of the traditional importance attached to them. Substances like alcohol in the form of palm wine and local gin; kolanuts, tobacco and snuff are local substances often required as a custom in many traditional ceremonies (Adelekan & Ndon, 1997; Obot, 2005; Gureje et al., 2007). Failure to provide them in such functions may be regarded as an offence and usually attract penalties.

Coming to Akwa Ibom State of Nigeria, myriad of social problems exists; there is disruption of interpersonal relationship, especially within the family, criminal behavior, school failure, acute and chronic health problems, social and psychological

problems, bad study habits by students and failure to achieve normal adolescents' milestones, (Eno & Ekaete, 2015). All these social problems in most cases have a way of triggering drug use as an 'escape option' and eventually violence among intimate partners.

On the wider spectrum, Nigeria in recent times seems like a culture where social order and the extended family structure may have broken down. The emerging trend of use of alcohol and other substances has assumed a dangerous proportion. The socioeconomic impact has been widely reported and youths and young adults are at risk. The dramatic resurgence of social and economic phenomena with risk of people developing mental illness and being violent has been attributable to the use of these substances (Adamson, Adebowale, & Jinadu et al., 2000; Igwe & Ojinnaka, 2010). Some of these social problems have been associated with the use of habit-forming substances such as alcohol, cannabis, cocaine and heroin (Abasiubong, Bassey, Atting, & Ekott, 2008; Abasiubong, Abasiatai, Bassey, & Ogunsemi, 2013).

In addition to the aforementioned problems, the paucity of empirical data to properly assess the situation and create enabling grounds for proper policy implementation has been a cause for concern; hence, the imperativeness of the study. Although previous studies have attempted to assess mainly the physical aspect of perpetuation of violence, but in so doing, have sidelined the psychological aspect, which in all indication is as important as the physical counterpart. In light of the forgone, the present study seeks to investigate the patterns of drug use and the perpetuation of intimate partner violence among public servants within Uyo metropolis.

This research work will be of relevance to public servant and people in general as it will help them to discover their risk in being a victim or perpetrator of intimate partner violence, to rediscover themselves and to be able to handle any challenges they come across in life. The study will also add to the body of knowledge regarding the psychological aspect of IPV. The following main hypothesis was tested: Participants with drug dependence will be more likely to perpetuate intimate partner violence compared to those with drug-related problems.

METHOD

A descriptive cross-sectional survey design was utilized for the study. Cross-sectional survey design draws from the population of public servants in Uyo, making it possible to explore the relationship between related variables (Fife-Schaw, 2006). Surveys allowed the collection of a large amount of data in a relatively short period of time and for the assessment of information on a wide range of things such as participant's personal facts, thoughts, opinions, feelings, and attitudes on intimate partner violence among adult women and men in Uyo metropolis of Akwa Ibom State. Descriptive and inferential statistics such as means, standard deviations, independent t-test, and multiple regressions were used to summarize quantitative variables while qualitative variables were summarized by proportions and percentages.

Setting/Participants

The study was conducted in Uyo, the capital of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. The study adopted a purposive sampling

technique to select to obtain data from a heterogeneous population in Uyo metropolis after randomly distributing 300 questionnaires. A total of 249 usable questionnaires were utilized in this study. Out of the 249 participants, 107 were male and 142 were female. The married among them were 142, singles were 101, widowed were 2, and divorced were 4. Participants were further analyzed based on their age groups and it was discovered that ages 15-19 were 6, 20-24 were 41, 25-29 were 52, 30-34 were 60, 35-39 were 36, 40 and above were 54. Of the 249 participants, 246 were found to be Christians, 2 were Muslims, and 1 from Eckankar. With regards to participants' ethnicity, 168 were Ibibio, 32 were Efik, 22 were Igbo, 17 were Annang, 4 were Oron, 1 was Tiv, and 5 were Yoruba.

Measures

The following variables were recorded as socio-demographic factors of the participants and were collected using open-ended items in the first part of the questionnaire: sex, age, marital status and highest educational qualifications. Most of these socio-demographic variables have been implicated as determining factors for drug use among young adults which generally constitutes the bulk of public servants.

Perpetuation of Intimate Partner Violence was assessed using a 17-item psychological abusive behavior questionnaire which is a subscale of Abusive Behavior Inventory developed by Shepard & Campbell (1992). Adequate psychometric properties have been reported for the scale with evidence of convergent, discriminant, criterion, and factorial validity (Shepard & Campbell, 1992) including an average reliability of .88. The scale is scored along a five-point Likert-format

with options ranging from Never (1) to Very Frequently (5) as high scores denotes perpetuation of intimate partner violence. The mean score of these items is computed by summing the values of the items and dividing by the applicable number of items.

Pattern of Drug Use was measured using the Drug Use Disorders Identification Test (DUDIT) developed by Berman, (2005). The 11-item scale has a combination response Likert format of 5-points and 3-points. Items 1–9 are scored on scale of 0-1-2-3-4 points and Items 10 and 11 are scored on scale of 0-2-4 points. The DUDIT is scored directly and distinguishes between drug-related problems (lower scores) and dependence (higher scores) on one or more drugs. The scale has been widely used and has robust psychometric properties. In the present study, a mean score of 4.65 was obtained for the scale. In other words, those who scored above the mean are dependent on one or more drugs, whereas those who scored below the mean are categorized as people with drug-related problem.

Procedure/Sampling

The cross-sectional survey was conducted within Uyo metropolis. A

purposive sampling technique was used to select participants. Data collection for the study was conducted only in Federal and State agencies/organizations located in Uyo. Participation was made voluntary and the participants were assured of the confidentiality of their responses. Four (4) research assistants helped in the administration of questionnaire. A total of 300 questionnaires were distributed within the period of one month. Out of the number of questionnaires distributed, 289 questionnaires were returned, but only two hundred and forty nine (249) questionnaires that were appropriately filled were used for the data analysis representing a response rate of 83%.

RESULTS

Hypothesis one stated that drug use, age, marital status, religion, ethnic group and gender would independently and jointly predict perpetuation of intimate partner violence among public servants in Uyo; it was tested with the linear multiple regression. Summary of the result is presented in Table 1.

Table 1 showed that there was a joint prediction of drug use, age, marital status,

Table 1. Summary of multiple linear regressions showing independent and joint prediction of drug use, age, marital status, religion, ethnic group and gender on perpetuation of intimate partner violence

Model	R	R ²	B	T	p	F	p
Predictors	.57	.33	40.64	9.46	<.05	19.52	<.05
Drug Use			.81	9.65	<.05		
Age			-1.06	-2.50	<.05		
Marital Status			-0.20	-0.31	>.05		
Religion			-3.30	-1.22	>.05		
Ethnic Group			-0.16	-0.36	>.05		
Gender			-2.18	-1.84	>.05		

religion, ethnic group and gender on perpetuation of intimate partner violence [$F(6,242) = 19.52; p < .05$]. The joint prediction further showed that all the predictor variables jointly accounted for 33% of variance in perpetuation of intimate partner violence. Also, in terms of independent prediction drug use independently predicted perpetuation of intimate partner violence [$\beta = .81; t = 9.65; p < .05$]. Age of the participants independently predicted perpetuation of intimate partner [$\beta = -1.06; t = -2.50; p < .05$]. However, marital status did not predict perpetuation of intimate partner violence [$\beta = -.26; t = -.31; p > .05$].

Further, religion did not predict perpetuation of intimate partner violence [$\beta = -.330; t = -1.22; p > .05$]; while ethnic affiliation of the participants did not also predict perpetuation of intimate partner violence [$\beta = -.16; t = -.36; p > .05$]. Finally, Gender did not predict perpetuation of intimate partner violence [$\beta = -2.18; t = -1.84; p > .05$]. The stepwise linear regression was also carried out and it showed that drug use was the best predictor of

perpetuation of intimate partner violence accounting for 30.0% variance alone; while age was the second best predictor in perpetuating intimate partner violence. Both drug use and age accounted for 31.1% variance in perpetuation of intimate partner violence.

Hypothesis two states that participants with drug dependence issues will score high on perpetuation of intimate partner violence than those with drug-related problem; it was tested with Independent sample subject t-test. Result indicates that there is a statistically significant difference in drug use between drug dependent and drug-related participants [$t_{\text{calculated}} = 6.95, P < 0.05$]. The result also shows that participants categorized under drug dependence had a mean score of 39.83 higher than those under drug-related problems who scored 29.32. Therefore, the hypothesis that stated that participants with drug dependence issues will score high on perpetuation of intimate partner violence than those with drug-related problem stands confirmed.

Table 2. Summary of Drug Use Patterns among Public Servants in Uyo Metropolis

S/N	ITEMS					
1	Drug use other than alcohol.	Never=165 (66.27%)	Once a month =53 (21.29%)	2-4 times a month =12 (4.82%)	2-3 times a week= 12 (4.82%)	4 times a week or more =7 (2.81%)
2	Heavy influence on drug.	Never=195 (78.31%)	Less often than once a month=25 (10.04%)	Every month=15 (6.02%)	Every week=8 (3.21%)	Daily=6 (2.41%)
3	Drug use after heavy use the day before.	Never=189 (75.90%)	Less often than once a month=25 (10.04%)	Every month=17 (6.83%)	Every week=12 (4.82%)	Almost every day= 6 (2.41%)
4	Harm to oneself and others due to drug use.	No=209 (83.94%)	Yes, but not over the past year=31 (12.45%)	Yes, over the past year=9 (3.61%)		
5	Concerns from relatives and friends as a result of drug use.	No=201 (80.72%)	Yes, but not over the past year=33 (13.25%)	Yes, over the past year=15 (6.02%)		

Tables 2 indicates that out of the sampled 249 public servants, 165 (66.27%) never used drugs other than alcohol; indicating that 84 (33.73%) used drugs other than alcohol and using descriptive statistic, Table 3 below further itemized the types of drugs used by the eighty-four (84) respondents.

DISCUSSION

This study examined the patterns of drug use and the perpetuation of intimate partner violence among public servants within Uyo metropolis. In the initial analysis, the finding showed that drug use, age, marital status, religion, ethnic group and gender jointly predicted perpetuation of intimate partner violence. However, only drug use and age of the participants independently predicted perpetuation of intimate partner violence. This suggests that the more drugs that workers use, the more they abuse their spouse or close ones; and the likelihood that the intimate violence will continue.

In support of this finding is Orija (2008), who opined that a drug dependent person unknowingly damages his/herself and

the society. He goes further to say that people who depend on drugs become more absent minded, drop in academic performance, more irritable and moody. In such a state, the tendency to be violent is very high.

The statistically significant difference in drug use between drug dependent and drug-related participants was supported by the study of Eno & Ekaete (2015) and Abasiubong et al., (2008) who found that there is disruption of interpersonal relationship, especially within the family, criminal behavior, school failure, acute and chronic health problems, social and psychological problems, bad study habits by students and failure to achieve normal adolescents' milestones; and these social problems in most cases have a way of triggering drug use as an 'escape option' which eventually leads to violence among intimate partners.

The findings of this study have a major implication for improvement on psychological adjustment among public workers. To remedy the intimate partner violence situation in Nigeria, all hands must be at deck – the communities, religious groups, institutions, and government at all levels. People should be made to understand

Table 3. Types of drugs used by public servants in Uyo

Type of Drugs used	Frequency (%)
Cannabis	34 (40.48%)
Kola nuts	11 (13.10%)
Solvents	4 (4.76%)
Cocaine	3 (3.57%)
Heroin	6 (7.14%)
Other inhalants	7 (8.33%)
Hashish	5 (5.95%)
Tobacco/snuff	9 (10.71%)
Others	5 (5.95%)
Total	84 (100%)

that adults can change the social norms that justify intimate partner violence by (1) being role models and working together to end violence in the home (2) modeling non-violent relationship (3) disseminating information which condemns intimate partner violence in homes and encouraging partners to use disciplinary measures, which are non-violent if need be on their partners; otherwise, these violent acts are witnessed by their children and, thereby, they oil the wheel of intimate partner violence for future generations. Churches and mosques should organize seminars and outreach programs where professional counselors are invited to enlighten the people on the need for violence free society with the home as the cradle.

This may include seminars, workshops, and symposiums propagating the anti-intimate partner violence campaign, should be organized especially during August occasions or yuletide period. There is the need to create awareness at these forums, to underscore the fact that violence in the home serves as a breeding ground for violence in the society. Young couples planning to get married should be guided on the ways to avoid violence in the intimate relationship of marriage. Finally, the study has some characteristics that may limit the freedom of generalization. The study used a sample of participants within Uyo; suggesting the results may not be generalized to Nigerians as residents of Uyo may not be a true representation of Nigerians. The study used self-reported measures of drug use and perpetuation of intimate partner violence which could be susceptible to measurement errors and personal biases. In this regard, future research should consider using interviewing to collect robust data from the participants.

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