



EFFECTS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN UP-BRINGING IN PORTHARCOURT, NIGERIA: 1980 – 2023

Anomneze, Doris Ijeoma (PhD. Tutee)

The University of America Curacao
Willemstad, United Kingdom of Netherlands
Ddanoms@yahoo.com +234(0)8033124723

Abstract

*Domestic violence is a common problem in Nigeria and around the globe, affecting millions of people every year; as many as one in four women and one in nine men are victims of domestic violence. Virtually all healthcare professionals will at some point evaluate or treat a patient who is a victim of domestic violence. Domestic violence includes economic, physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse of children, adults, or elders. Domestic violence causes worsened psychological and physical health, decreased quality of life, decreased productivity, and in some cases, mortality. It can be difficult to identify. Many cases are not reported to health professionals or legal authorities. This work describes the effect of Domestic violence on the lives and education of young children, children, and young people and how they can be supported within the education system. Schools are often the service in closest and longest contact with a child living with domestic violence; teachers can play a vital role in helping families access welfare services. In the wake of high profile cases of child abuse and neglect, concerns have been raised about the effectiveness of multi-agency responses to children living with abuse. Children can also be affected indirectly by violence occurring in their home by seeing or hearing it taking place. Violence in children's lives often causes disruption to their schooling and harms the quality of their educational experiences and outcomes. The abused children experience can result in emotional trauma, physical and psychological barriers to learning, and disruptive behavior in school, while the underlying causes of these problems remain hidden. Frederick Douglas said "It is easier to build strong children than to repair broken adults(men)", as a result, the following recommendations were made: * Raising awareness about the harmful effects that witnessing abuse has on children. *To implement more effective public policies and support systems that protect children and adult victims. *There must be an enhancement of the social services that serve children. * Programs that identify early signs of domestic violence can encourage victims to seek help, thus protecting their children from the harms as well.*

Keywords: domestic violence, education, children, young people, schools, teachers, multi-agency working

1.Introduction

1.1 Overview

Domestic Violence ranges from subtle, coercive forms to marital rape and other violent physical abuses such as choking, beating, female genital mutilation, and acid throwing that may result in disfigurement or death, and includes the use of technology to harass, control, monitor and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence and violence related to exploitation, stalk or hack. Domestic murder includes stoning, bride burning, honor killing, all forms of verbal abuse including nagging and dowry death, which sometimes involves non-cohabitating family members.

Anyone can be a victim of domestic violence, regardless of age, race, gender, sexual orientation, faith, status or social class. Victims of domestic abuse may also include a child or other relative, or any other household member, the victims of domestic violence are overwhelmingly women, and women tend to experience more severe forms of violence. They are also

more likely than men to use intimate partner violence in self-defense. In some countries/cultures, domestic violence may be seen as justified or legally permitted, particularly in cases of actual or suspected infidelity on the part of the woman. Child Welfare Information (1)

Research has established that there exists a direct and significant correlation between a country's level of gender equality and rates of domestic violence, where countries with less gender equality experience higher rates of domestic violence.

Domestic violence is among the most under-reported crimes worldwide for both men and women. In addition, due to social stigmas regarding male victimization, men who are victims of domestic violence face an increased likelihood of being overlooked by healthcare providers and other members of the society.

Domestic violence often occurs when the abuser believes that they are entitled to it, or that it is acceptable, justified, or unlikely to be reported often using the instruments of threats, false empathy, isolation, power and control, traumatic bonding to the abuser, cultural acceptance, lack of financial resources, fear, and shame, or to protect children or family image and secrecy. It literally becomes norm and s being passed down from one generation to another. (1b)

It may produce an intergeneration cycle of violence in children and other family members, who may feel that such violence is acceptable or condoned. Many people do not recognize themselves as abusers or victims, because they may consider their experiences as family conflicts that had gotten out of control. Awareness, perception, definition and documentation of domestic violence differs widely from country to country. Additionally, domestic violence often happens in the context of forced or child marriages. (2), (3)

In abusive relationships, there may be a cycle of abuse during which tensions rise and an act of violence is committed, followed by a period of reconciliation and calm. The victims may be trapped in domestically violent situations through isolation, power and control, traumatic bonding to the abuser, cultural acceptance, lack of financial resources, fear, and shame, or to protect children. (4)

As a result of abuse, victims may experience physical disabilities, dysregulated aggression, chronic health problems, mental illness, limited finances, and a poor ability to create healthy relationships. Victims may experience severe psychological disorders, such as post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). Children who live in a household with violence often show psychological problems from an early age, such as avoidance, solitude, unsocial, hyper-vigilance to threats and dysregulated aggression, which may contribute to vicarious traumatization. (5)

Domestic Violence has very serious effect especially on the vulnerably members of the family (Women and children) but this article emphasizes more on its effect on Children up bringing using Port Harcourt as a study ending with recommendations on how to curb the menace.

1.2 Objectives of the Study

The objective of this study is to explore the effect of Domestic violence in Port Harcourt in Rivers State, Nigeria and covers the period 1980 to 2023, with emphasis on children between zero and twelve years

2.0 Literature Review

2.1 Conceptual Framework

Domestic abuse, can be defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner. Abuse is physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that frighten, intimidate, terrorize, manipulate, hurt, humiliate, blame, injure, or wound someone. Domestic abuse can happen to anyone of any race, age, sexual orientation, religion, or gender. It can occur within a range of relationships including couples who are married, living together or dating. It affects people of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels. In its broadest sense, domestic violence also involves violence against children, parents, or the elderly or even men and may assume multiple dimensions, including physical, verbal, emotional, economic, religious, reproductive technological or sexual abuse.

To these, the World Health Organization (WHO) adds controlling behaviour as a form of abuse. Intimate partner violence has been observed in opposite and same-sex relationships, and in the former instance by both men against women and women against men. Family violence is a broader term, often used to include child abuse, elder abuse, and other violent acts between family members. In 1993, the UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women defined domestic violence as: behaviour by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours (6)

In Australia, domestic violence refers to occurrences of violence in domestic settings between people in intimate relationships. The term can be altered by each state's legislation and can broaden the spectrum of Domestic Violence, such as in Victoria, where familial relationships and witnessing any type of violence in the family is defined as a family violence incident. In the Nordic Countries the term violence in close relations is used in legal and policy contexts.

The statistics about those who are affected by intimate partner violence are staggering; domestic abuse affects 3%-5% of current adult relationships in the United States, including more than 2 million women.

- Despite this issue disproportionately affecting women, the myth that violence against men does not occur is incorrect; 800,000 men are victims of intimate partner abuse.
- Nearly one-third of women can expect to be the victim of intimate partner violence sometime in their lifetime.
- About 25% of gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals are victims of intimate partner abuse, just as often as are heterosexual women.

About 1,300 deaths were attributed to domestic abuse as of 2003. Research into deaths that result from intimate partner abuse in the United States and Austria indicates that more than 50% of women murdered are the result of domestic violence, most often using a gun. About 4%-9% of men are killed as victims of domestic violence. Approximately 65% of the approximate 1,300 murder-suicides that occur in the United States every year involve intimate partners.

Teen intimate partner abuse takes place at an alarming rate. Facts about domestic violence in this group include that as many as 12% of adolescents in grades 7 through 12 have been victims of physical dating violence, and 20% of

youth have suffered from psychological dating violence. This abuse puts victims in danger of practicing risky sexual behavior, unhealthy eating, drug use, and suicidal behaviors. Other complications can include physical injury and death. These victims are also more likely to become sufferers of intimate partner violence as adults.

*LGBT people often face unique challenges when trying to cope with domestic-abuse victimization. The assumption by family, friends, coworkers, and professionals that abuse is mutual in homosexual couples or is an expected part of what is perceived as a dysfunctional relationship since it is not heterosexual, poses major obstacles to battered Lesbian Gay Bi-Sexual &Trans-gender individuals in getting help. Department for Education [DFE] (7)

*Other barriers for Lesbian Gay Bi-Sexual &Trans-gender battered men and women include the fear of losing their jobs, home, and/or custody of their children should their sexual orientation become known in the context of getting help for intimate partner abuse.

*That LGBT individuals do not receive the legal and financial protections their heterosexual counterparts do can inhibit their ability to support themselves and live independently after leaving the abuser.

*Discrimination against Lesbian Gay Bi-Sexual &Trans-gender people and other minorities is also a deterrent to receiving care.

*Another formidable obstacle includes a lack of knowing other admitted LGBT victims of domestic violence, as well as the smallness of the community, which can make it difficult for battered men and women in the LGBT community to live anonymously from their abusers in the same town. (There tends to be a cycle of behavior, known as the cycle of violence, in abusive relationships. That cycle includes the tension-building, explosive, and tranquility/honeymoon stages.)

- The tension-building stage is described as the phase of the abusive relationship in which the abuser tends to engage in lower-level abuse, like pushing, insulting, coercive behaviors, and escalating demands for control. Simultaneously, the victim of abuse tends to try to appease the abuser to avoid worsening of the abuse.
- Acts of abuse escalate to a severe level during the **explosive stage** of intimate partner violence, manifesting as the most overt and serious acts of abuse and control, like slapping, punching, inhibiting the movements of the victim, rape, or other sexual violence.

The tranquility or honeymoon stage of the cycle of domestic violence tends to immediately follow the overt acts of aggression of the explosive stage and is usually characterized by the abuser seeming to be quite remorseful and apologetic for the abuse, making promises that it will never happen again and showering the victim with affection. (8), (9)

Domestic abuse is typically manifested as a pattern of abusive behavior toward an intimate partner in a dating or family relationship, where the abuser exerts power and control over the victim.

Domestic abuse can be mental, physical, economic or sexual in nature. Incidents are rarely isolated, and usually escalate in frequency and severity. Domestic abuse may culminate in serious physical injury or death.

2.1.2 Reason Abusers Need to Control

Below expresses the views of (10) and (11)

- Anger management issues
- Jealousy
- Low self-esteem
- Feeling inferior
- Cultural beliefs they have the right to control their partner
- Personality disorder or psychological disorder
- Learned behavior from growing up in a family where domestic violence was accepted
- Alcohol and drugs, as an impaired individual may be less likely to control violent impulses

2.1.3 Risk Factors for Domestic Violence

Risk factors for domestic and family violence as opined (12), includes individual, relationship, community, and societal issues. There is an inverse relationship between education and domestic violence. Lower education levels correlate with more likely domestic violence. Childhood abuse is commonly associated with becoming a perpetrator of domestic violence as an adult. Perpetrators of domestic violence commonly repeat acts of violence with new partners. Drug and alcohol abuse greatly increases the incidence of domestic violence.

Children who are victims or witness domestic and family violence may believe that violence is a reasonable way to resolve a conflict. Males who learn that females are not equally respected are more likely to abuse females in adulthood. Females who witness domestic violence as children are more likely to be victimized by their spouses. While females are often the victim of domestic violence, gender roles can be reversed. (13)

2.1.4 Pathophysiology of Domestic violence

There may be some pathologic findings in both the victims and perpetrators of domestic violence. Certain medical conditions and lifestyles make family and domestic violence more likely.

2.1.5 Perpetrators of Domestic Violence

While the research is not definitive, a number of characteristics are thought to be present in perpetrators of domestic violence. Abusers according to (13), and (14), tend to:

- Have a higher consumption of alcohol and illicit drugs and assessment should include questions that explore drinking habits and violence
- Be possessive, jealous, suspicious, and paranoid.
- Be controlling of everyday family activity, including control of finances and social activities.
- Suffer low self-esteem
- Have emotional dependence, which tends to occur in both partners, but more so in the abuser

2.1.6 Signs of Domestic Abuse: This according to (15) includes being:

- Embarrassed or made fun of in front of friends or family members
- Put down even when accomplishments are made
- Made to feel like one unable to make decisions
- Intimidated or threatened to gain compliance
- Told that one nothing without them
- Treated roughly—grabbed, pushed, pinched, shoved or hit
- Called several times a night or shown up to make sure one is where he/she said he/she would be
- Verbally abused under the pretence of the influence of Drugs or Alcohol
- Blamed for how another feels or acts
- Pressured sexually or things that one is not ready for
- Made to feel like there is “no way out” of the relationship
- Prevented from doing things one wants – like spending time with friends or family
- Kept from leaving after a fight or leaving one somewhere after a fight to “teach him/her a lesson”

The acronym AARDVARC (An Abuse, Rape, Domestic Violence Aid, and Resource Collection) describes several warning signs for friends, family members, and coworkers for recognizing people who may be victims of intimate partner abuse. Specifically, teens, men, or women who are often absent from school or work or have numerous injuries they try to explain away, like bruises or black eyes. Individuals with low self-esteem, who show a change in their personality, have a fear of conflicts, engage in passive-aggressive behavior, blame themselves, seem isolated, or demonstrate stress-related physical symptoms (for example, headaches, stomach upset, sleep problems, or skin rashes) may be experiencing abuse in their relationship. If any of these things are happening in one’s relationship, then it is time to talk to someone, else the abuse will continue. (15)

2.1.7 Types of Domestic Violence/Abuse

Types of domestic abuse include physical, verbal (also called emotional, mental, or psychological abuse), sexual, economic/financial, and spiritual abuse. Stalking and cyber-stalking are also forms of intimate partner abuse. (16), (17) and (18) are:

Physical Abuse

It involves hurting or trying to hurt a partner by hitting, kicking, burning, grabbing, pinching, shoving, slapping, hair-pulling, biting, denying medical care or forcing alcohol and/or drug use, or using other physical force. You may be in a physically abusive relationship if your partner: Damages property when angry (throws objects, punches walls, kicks doors, etc.).

- Pushes, slaps, bites, kicks or chokes you.
- Abandons you in a dangerous or unfamiliar place.
- Scares you by driving recklessly.
- Uses a weapon to threaten or hurt you.

- Forces you to leave your home.
- Traps you in your home or keeps you from leaving.
- Prevents you from calling police or seeking medical attention.
- Hurts your children.
- Uses physical force in sexual situations.

Its behavioural traits range from: Pinching, Pushing, Hitting or slapping, Choking, Shooting, Stabbing and Murder

Verbal, emotional, mental, or psychological violence is described as using words to criticize, demean, or otherwise decrease the confidence of the wife, husband, or other intimate partner victims.

Sexual abuse refers to any behavior that uses sex to control or demean the victim, like intimidating the victim into engaging in unsafe sex or sexual practices in which he or she does not want to participate. It involves forcing a partner to take part in a sex act when the partner does not consent. You may be in a sexually abusive relationship if your partner:

- Accuses you of cheating or is often jealous of your outside relationships.
- Wants you to dress in a sexual way.
- Insults you in sexual ways or calls you sexual names.
- Has ever forced or manipulated you into having sex or performing sexual acts.
- Holds you down during sex.
- Demands sex when you are sick, tired or after beating you.
- Hurts you with weapons or objects during sex.
- Involves other people in sexual activities with you.
- Ignores your feelings regarding sex.

Economic or financial abuse is described as threatening or otherwise limiting the victim's financial freedom or security. It involves making or attempting to make a person financially dependent by maintaining total control over financial resources, withholding access to money, and/or forbidding attendance at school or employment.

Spiritual abuse; this entails either the use of force on the victim to participate in the batterer's religious practices instead of their own or to raise mutual children in a religion that the victim is not in favor of.

Stalking refers to repeatedly harassing and threatening behavior, including showing up at the victim's home or workplace, placing harassing phone calls, voicemail, email, or postal mail messages, leaving unwanted items, or vandalizing the victim's property. It is usually committed by perpetrators of other forms of domestic violence. It also involves any pattern of behavior that serves no legitimate purpose and is intended to harass, annoy, or terrorize the victim. Typical stalking activities include repeated telephone calls, unwelcome letters or gifts by mail, surveillance at work, home and other places that the victim is known to frequent. Stalking usually escalates.

Emotional abuse includes undermining a person's sense of self-worth through constant criticism; belittling one's abilities; name-calling or other verbal abuse; damaging a partner's relationship with the children; or not letting a partner see friends and family. You may be in an emotionally abusive relationship if your partner:

- Calls you names, insults you or continually criticizes you.
- Does not trust you and acts in a jealous or possessive manner.
- Tries to isolate you from family or friends.
- Monitors where you go, whom you call and with whom you spend your time.
- Does not want you to work.
- Controls finances or refuses to share money.
- Punishes you by withholding affection.
- Expects you to ask permission.
- Threatens to hurt you, the children, your family or your pets.
- Humiliates you in any way.

Psychological abuse: involves causing fear by intimidation; threatening physical harm to self, partner or children; destruction of pets and property; “mind games”; or forcing isolation from friends, family, school and/or work.

2.1.8 Approaches to Domestic Violence

Despite what many people believe, domestic violence and abuse does not take place because an abuser loses control over their behavior. In fact, abusive behavior and violence is a deliberate choice to gain control. Perpetrators use a variety of tactics to manipulate and exert their power over their victims, including:

Dominance. Abusive individuals need to feel in charge of the relationship. They may make decisions for you and the family, tell you what to do, and expect you to obey without question. Your abuser may treat you like a servant, child, or even as their possession.

Humiliation. An abuser will do everything they can to lower your self-esteem or make you feel defective in some way. After all, if you believe you're worthless and that no one else will want you, you're less likely to leave. Insults, name-calling, shaming, and public put-downs are all weapons of abuse designed to erode your self-worth and make you feel powerless.

Isolation. In order to increase your dependence on them, an abusive partner will cut you off from the outside world. They may keep you from seeing family or friends, or even prevent you from going to work or school. You may have to ask permission to do anything, go anywhere, or see anyone.

Threats. Abusers commonly use threats to keep their partners from leaving or scare them into dropping charges. Your abuser may threaten to hurt or kill you, your children, other family members, or even pets. They may also threaten to commit suicide, file false charges against you, or report you to child services.

Intimidation. Your abuser may use a variety of intimidation tactics designed to scare you into submission. Such tactics include making threatening looks or gestures, smashing things in front of you, destroying property, hurting your pets, or putting weapons on display. The message behind these actions is that violent consequences will follow if you don't obey.

Denial and blame. Abusers are adept at making excuses for the inexcusable. They may blame their abusive and violent behavior on a bad childhood, a bad day, or even on you and the kids, the victims of their abuse. They may minimize the abuse or deny that it occurred. Often, they will shift the responsibility on to you: somehow, their violent and abusive behavior is your fault.

Abusers pick and choose whom to abuse; They don't insult, threaten, or assault everyone in their life who gives them grief, rather, they save their abuse for the people closest to them; the ones they claim to love. They carefully choose when and where to abuse: They control themselves until no one else is around to witness their behaviour and may act like everything is fine in the public, but then lash out instantly as soon as you're alone with them Abusers are able to stop their abusive behaviour when it befits them: Most abusers are not out of control, in fact, they are able to immediately stop their abusive behaviour when it is to their advantage to do so (for example, when the police show up or their boss calls). Violent abusers usually direct their blows where they won't show: Rather than acting out in a mindless rage, many physically violent abusers carefully aim their punches where the bruises and marks would not show. (19), (20), (21) and (22).

2.1.9 Causes of Domestic Violence

One of the most important factors in Domestic Violence is a belief that abuse, whether physical or verbal, is acceptable. Other factors include substance abuse, unemployment, mental health problems, lack of coping skills, isolation, and excessive dependence on the abuser.

An overriding motive for committing acts of domestic and interpersonal violence in a relationship is to establish and maintain relationships based on power and control over victims.

Batterers morality is out of step with the law and society's standards. Research shows the key issue for perpetrators of abuse is their conscious and deliberate decision to offend in the pursuit of self-gratification.

Men who perpetrate violence have specific characteristics: they are narcissistic, they willfully lack empathy, and they choose to treat their needs as more important than others. Perpetrators psychologically manipulate their victim to believe their abuse and violence is caused by the victim's inadequacy (as a wife, a lover, or as a human being) rather than the perpetrators selfish desire for power and control over them. (21), (22), (20), (23) and (24)

Although there is no specific cause for domestic violence, women at the highest risk for being the victim of domestic violence include those with male partners who

*Drug abuse drugs (especially alcohol),

* Unemployed or underemployed,

* Poverty, *Illiteracy or poor Education

*Unmarried individuals in heterosexual relationships tend to be more at risk of becoming victims of intimate partner abuse.

*A mindset that gives men power over women puts individuals at risk of becoming involved in an abusive relationship, either as a perpetrator or as a victim.

*Domestic violence against women tends to be reported more often by victims who are in a relationship with a man with more conservative religious views than their own, regardless of whether or not the couple is of the same or different religions or denominations.

*Regular attendance at religious services is associated with less reported intimate partner abuse.

*Research shows that those who grew up in a household in which domestic violence took place or in which a parent suffered from alcoholism are more likely to become either perpetrators or victims of intimate partner violence as adults.

*Teenagers who suffer from mental illness are also at risk of being in abusive relationships as young adults. African-American and Hispanic teens are at higher risk for being victims of teen domestic violence, with some studies indicating independence of socioeconomic status.

*Another risk factor for teen dating/domestic violence includes lower grades. (23), (25) and (26)

2.2 Social Influences to Domestic Violence

2.2.1 Cultural View

How Domestic Violence is viewed varies from person to person, and from culture to culture, but in many places outside the West, the concept is very poorly understood. This is because in most of these countries the relation between the husband and wife is not considered one of equals, but instead one in which the wife must submit herself to the husband. This is codified in the laws of some countries – for example, in Yemen, marriage regulations state that a wife must obey her husband and must not leave home without his permission.

In a 2012 news story, *The Washington Post* reported, "The Reuters Trust Law group named India one of the worst countries in the world for women this year, partly because [Domestic Violence] there is often seen as deserved. A 2012 report by UNICEF found that 57 percent of Indian boys and 53 percent of girls between the ages of 15 and 19 think wife-beating is justified." (27)

In conservative cultures, a wife dressing in attire deemed insufficiently modest can suffer serious violence at the hands of her husband or relatives, with such violent responses seen as appropriate by most of the society: in a survey, 62.8% of women in Afghanistan said that a husband is justified in beating his wife if she wears inappropriate clothes.

Victim blaming is also prevalent in many societies, including in Western countries: a 2010 Eurobarometer poll found that 52% of respondents agreed with the assertion that the "provocative behaviour of women" was a cause of violence against women; with respondents in Cyprus, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Latvia, Lithuania, Malta and Slovenia being most likely to agree with the assertion (more than 70% in each of these countries). (28)

2.2.2 Religion

There is controversy regarding the influence of religion on Domestic Violence. Judaism, Christianity and Islam have traditionally supported male-dominant households and "socially sanctioned violence against women has been persistent since ancient times."

Views on the influence of Islam on Domestic Violence differ. While some authors argue that Islam is connected to violence against women, especially in the form of honor killings others, such as Tahira Shahid Khan, a professor specializing in women's issues at the Aga Khan University in Pakistan, argue that it is the domination of men and inferior status of women in society that lead to these acts, not the religion itself. (28)

Among Christians, men and women who attend church more frequently are less likely to commit domestic violence against their partners. The effect of church attendance is not caused by increased levels of social support and community integration, which are not significantly related to the perpetration of domestic violence. In addition, even when variations in psychological problems (namely depressive symptoms, low self-esteem, and alcohol) are accounted for, the salutary effect of church attendance remains. (29)

The Catholic Church has been criticized for opposing divorce, and therefore trapping victims of violence in abusive marriages.

Medieval Jewish authorities differed on the subject of wife beating. Most rabbis living in Islamic lands allowed it as a tool of discipline, while those from Christian France and Germany generally saw it as justifying immediate divorce.

2.2.3 Custom and Tradition

Local customs and traditions are often responsible for maintaining certain forms of Domestic Violence. Such customs and traditions include son preference (the desire of a family to have a boy and not a girl, which is strongly prevalent in parts of Asia), which can lead to abuse and neglect of girls by disappointed family members; child and forced marriages; dowry; the hierarchic caste system which stigmatizes lower castes and "untouchables", leading to discrimination and restricted opportunities of the females and thus making them more vulnerable to abuse; strict dress codes for women that may be enforced through violence by family members; strong requirement of female virginity before the wedding and violence related to non-conforming women and girls; taboos about menstruation leading to females being isolated and shunned during the time of menstruation; female genital mutilation (FGM); ideologies of marital conjugal rights to sex which justify marital rape; the importance given to family honor.

According to a 2003 report by Human Rights Watch, "customs such as the payment of 'bride price' (payment made by a man to the family of a woman he wishes to marry), whereby a man essentially purchases his wife's sexual favors and reproductive capacity, underscore men's socially sanctioned entitlement to dictate the terms of sex, and to use force to do so. (30), (18)

Laws were also enacted in some countries; for example, the 2004 Criminal Code of Ethiopia has a chapter on harmful traditional practices – Chapter III – Crimes committed against life, person and health through harmful traditional practices. In addition, the Council of Europe adopted the Istanbul Convention, which requires the states that ratify it to create and fully adjudicate laws against acts of violence previously condoned by traditional, culture, custom, in the name of honor, or to correct what is deemed unacceptable behavior. The UN created the *Handbook on effective police responses to violence against women* to provide guidelines to address and manage violence through the creation of

effective laws, law enforcement policies and practices and community activities to break down societal norms that condone violence, criminalize it and create effect support systems for survivors of violence. In cultures where the police and legal authorities have a reputation of corruption and abusive practices, victims of Domestic Violence are often reluctant to turn to formal help. (31)

2.3 Public Support for Domestic Violence

Violence on women is sometimes justified by women themselves, for example in Mali 60% of women with education, just over half of women with a primary education, and fewer than 40% of women with a secondary or higher education believe that husbands have the right to use violence for corrective reasons. In Afghanistan instead, 92% of women believe that their husband has the right to use violence.

Generally, more women acknowledge the existence of Domestic Violence compared to men; for example, 16% of men from Ghana support Domestic Violence whereas 32% of women support Domestic Violence. Likewise, 52% of Indian women expressed in favor of Domestic Violence whereas 42% of Indian men expressed in favor. Young generations in some countries lowered the acceptance of male-to-female violence, for example in Nigeria where 62.4% of women supported Domestic Violence in 2003, 45.7% in 2008, and 37.1% in 2013. However, in some cases the acceptance increased, for example in Zimbabwe where 53% of women justify wife-beating. (32), (33) and (34)

In Nigeria, education, place of residence, wealth index, ethnic affiliation, religious affiliation, women's autonomy in household decision-making, and frequency of listening to the radio or watching television significantly influence women's opinions about Domestic Violence. In the opinion of adolescents aged 15 to 19, 14% of boys in Kazakhstan but 9% of girls believed wife-beating is justified, and in Cambodia, 25% of boys and 42% of girls think it is justified. Harper, (35)

2.4 Effects of Domestic Violence

2.4.1 Anxiety

Anxiety can be described as the response to a future or possible threat. Anxiety is closely related to fear, which is the response to a real or perceived immediate threat. Fear and anxiety are normal evolved responses in both humans and animals, and physical responses are linked to the "fight-or-flight" system. Excessive anxiety that causes distress or impairment, or that interferes with normal function, is considered an anxiety disorder.

2.4.2 Emotional (Trauma) Effects

Emotional or psychological abuse is a pattern of behavior that threatens, intimidates, dehumanizes or systematically undermines self-worth. According to the Istanbul Convention, psychological violence is "the intentional conduct of seriously impairing a person's psychological integrity through coercion or threats".

Emotional abuse includes minimizing, threats, isolation, public humiliation, unrelenting criticism, constant personal devaluation, coercive control, repeated stonewalling and gaslighting. Stalking is a common form of psychological intimidation, and is most often perpetrated by former or current intimate partners. Victims tend to feel their partner has nearly total control over them, greatly affecting the power dynamic in a relationship, empowering the perpetrator, and disempowering the victim. Victims often experience depression, putting them at increased risk of eating disorders, suicide, and drug and alcohol abuse. (36), (37)

Coercive control involves a controlling behavior designed to make a person dependent by isolating them from support, exploiting them of independence and regulating their everyday activities. It involves the acts of verbal assault, punish, humiliation, threats or intimidation. Coercive control can occur physically, for example through physical abuse, harming or frightening the victims. The victim's human rights might infringed through being deprived of their right to liberty and reduced ability to act freely. Abusers tend to dehumanize, make threats, deprive basic needs and personal access, isolate, and track the victim's daily schedule via spyware. Victims usually feel a sense of anxiety and fear that seriously affects their personal life, financially, physically and psychologically. (38)

2.4.3 Economic Effects

Economic abuse (or financial abuse) is a form of abuse when one intimate partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources. Marital assets are used as a means of control. (1b) asserted that Economic abuse may involve preventing a spouse from resource acquisition, limiting what the victim may use, or by otherwise exploiting economic resources of the victim. Economic abuse diminishes the victim's capacity to support themselves, increasing dependence on the perpetrator, including reduced access to education, employment, career advancement, and asset acquisition. Forcing or pressuring a family member to sign documents, to sell things, or to change a will are forms of economic abuse.

A victim may be put on an allowance, allowing close monitoring of how much money is spent, preventing spending without the perpetrator's consent, leading to the accumulation of debt or depletion of the victim's savings. Disagreements about money spent can result in retaliation with additional physical, sexual or emotional abuse. In parts of the world where women depend on husbands' income in order to survive (due to lack of opportunities for female employment and lack of state welfare) economic abuse can have very severe consequences. Abusive relations have been associated with malnutrition among both mothers and children. In India, for example, the withholding of food is a documented form of family abuse. (38)

Domestic abuse has significant health and public health consequences. Between 25%-50% of homeless families have lost their homes as a result of intimate partner violence. Such victimization is also associated with nearly \$6 billion in health care costs and lost work productivity per year. Domestic violence sufferers are at higher risk of facing discrimination in securing any form of insurance, including health, life, disability, and property insurances. Victims of domestic violence are more likely to experience trouble raising their children and suffer family disruption, as well. Although psychological abuse can be harder to define than overt physical abuse, it has been found to cause at least as much damage. Victims of intimate partner violence are vulnerable to developing depression, anxiety, and substance abuse disorders. (38)

2.4.4 Substance Abuse

Domestic Violence typically co-occurs with alcohol abuse. Alcohol use has been reported as a factor by two-thirds of domestic abuse victims. Moderate drinkers are more frequently engaged in intimate violence than are light drinkers and abstainers; however, generally it is heavy or binge drinkers who are involved in the most chronic and serious forms of aggression. The odds, frequency, and severity of physical attacks are all positively correlated with alcohol use. In turn, violence decreases after behavioral marital alcoholism treatment. (39)

2.4.5 Possible link to animal abuse

There are studies providing evidence of a link between domestic violence and cruelty to animals. A large national survey by the Norwegian Centre for Violence and Traumatic Stress Studies found a "substantial overlap between companion animal abuse and child abuse" and that cruelty to animals "most frequently co-occurred with psychological abuse and less severe forms of physical child abuse," which "resonates with conceptualizations of domestic abuse as an ongoing pattern of psychological abuse and coercive control."

2.4.6 Relation to forced and child marriage

A forced marriage is a marriage where one or both participants are married without their freely given consent. In many parts of the world, it is often difficult to draw a line between 'forced' and 'consensual' marriage: in many cultures (especially in South Asia, the Middle East and parts of Africa), marriages are prearranged, often as soon as a girl is born; the idea of a girl going against the wishes of her family and choosing herself her own future husband is not socially accepted – there is no need to use threats or violence to force the marriage, the future bride will submit because she simply has no other choice. As in the case of child marriage, the customs of dowry and bride price contribute to this phenomenon. A child marriage is a marriage where one or both parties are younger than 18.

The UN Population Fund states, "Despite near-universal commitments to end child marriage, one in three girls in developing countries (excluding China) will probably be married before they are 18. One out of nine girls will be married before their 15th birthday." The UN Population Fund estimates, "Over 67 million women 20–24 year old in 2010 had been married as girls, half of which were in Asia, and one-fifth in Africa." The UN Population Fund says that, "In the next decade 14.2 million girls under 18 will be married every year; this translates into 39,000 girls married each day and this will rise to an average of 15.1 million girls a year, starting in 2021 until 2030, if present trends continue." (40)

2.4.7 Legislation

Lack of adequate legislation which criminalizes Domestic Violence, or alternatively legislation which prohibits consensual behaviors, may hinder the progress in regard to reducing the incidence of Domestic Violence. Amnesty International's Secretary General has stated that: "It is unbelievable that in the twenty-first century some countries are condoning child marriage and marital rape while others are outlawing abortion, sex outside marriage and same-sex sexual activity – even punishable by death." According to WHO, "one of the most common forms of violence against women is that performed by a husband or male partner." The WHO notes that such violence is often ignored because often "legal systems and cultural norms do not treat as a crime, but rather as a 'private' family matter, or a normal part of life." (41)

Many countries consider Domestic Violence legal or have not adopted measures meant to criminalize their occurrence, especially in countries of Muslim majority, and among those countries, some consider the discipline of wives as a right of the husband, for example in Iraq.

2.5 Domestic Violence and Its Impact on Children

Effects of domestic violence on children

Many children exposed to violence in the homes are also victims of physical abuse. Children who witness domestic violence or are victims of abuse themselves are at serious risk for long-term physical and mental health problems. Children who witness violence between parents may also be at greater risk of being violent in their future relationships. (42)

Children in homes where one parent is abused may feel fearful and anxious. They may always be on guard, wondering when the next violent event will happen. This can cause them to react in different ways, depending on their age:

Children in preschool: Young children who witness intimate partner violence may start doing things they used to do when they were younger, such as bed-wetting, thumb-sucking, increased crying, and whining which can affect their emotional and physical growth. They may also develop difficulty falling or staying asleep; show signs of terror, such as stuttering or hiding; and show signs of severe separation anxiety. Children may also act the same as their parents who are in an abusive relationship. This may include hitting others or keeping to themselves too much.

School-aged children: Children in this age range may feel guilty about the abuse and blame themselves for it. They may not participate in school activities or get good grades, have fewer friends than others, and get into trouble more often. They also may have a lot of headaches and stomachaches. Children in this age may be violent and have difficulty following rules or making friends. They may feel fear, anxiety, guilt, shame, depression and have low self-esteem or possibly Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), which may include flashbacks about the violence. Children may have a hard time concentrating and focusing on tasks which may be an indication of an attention deficit hyperactivity disorder (ADHD). Over time, children will learn to believe that violence is a normal part of relationships and a way to get what you want. To feel like they have some control in their lives, they may become bullies at school. These children may also be the ones who are bullied, because they often don't have many friends.

Teens: Teens who witness abuse may act out in negative ways, such as fighting with family members or skipping school. They may also engage in risky behaviors, such as having unprotected sex and using alcohol or drugs. They may have low self-esteem and have trouble making friends. They may start fights or bully others and are more likely to get in trouble with the law. This type of behavior is more common in teen boys who are abused in childhood than in teen girls. Girls are more likely than boys to be withdrawn and to experience depression. Young people at this age are at risk of dating violence and could be caught by the strong arms of the law. They may also do poorly in school, drop out or run away. They may become depressed, develop Post Traumatic Stress Disorder or attempt suicide. To deal with these feelings, they may try to hurt themselves, abuse substances such as drugs or alcohol, develop eating disorders or engage in risky sexual behavior. Many teens act like parents by caring for the younger siblings and trying to predict or prevent future violence. After seeing abusive relationships throughout childhood, the cycle of abuse may continue as they find themselves in similar abusive relationships.

Long-Term Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

More than 15 million children in the United States live in homes in which domestic violence has happened at least once. These children are at greater risk for repeating the cycle as adults by entering into abusive relationships or becoming abusers themselves. For example, a boy who sees his mother being abused is 10 times more likely to abuse his female partner as an adult. A girl who grows up in a home where her father abuses her mother is more than six times as likely to be sexually abused as a girl who grows up in a non-abusive home. Children who witness or are victims of emotional, physical, or sexual abuse are at higher risk for health problems as adults. These can include mental health conditions, such as depression and anxiety. They may also include diabetes, obesity, heart disease, poor self-esteem, and other problems

Each child responds differently to abuse and trauma. Some children are more resilient, and some are more sensitive. How successful a child is at recovering from abuse or trauma depends on several things, including having Risk Factors:

*Dementia * Pathologic characteristics of perpetrators including dementia, mental illness, and drug and alcohol abuse

*A shared living situation with the abuser and Social isolation. (43)

Ability to leave

The ability of victims of Domestic Violence to leave the relationship is crucial for preventing further abuse. In traditional communities, divorced women often feel rejected and ostracized. In order to avoid this stigma, many women prefer to remain in the marriage and endure the abuse.

In many countries a woman's access to property hinges on her relationship to a man. When she separates from her husband or when he dies, she risks losing her home, land, household goods and other property. Failure to ensure equal property rights upon separation or divorce discourages women from leaving violent marriages, as women may be forced to choose between violence at home and destitution in the street. (43)

The legal inability to obtain a divorce is also a factor in the proliferation of Domestic Violence. In some cultures where marriages are arranged between families, a woman who attempts a separation or divorce without the consent of her husband and extended family or relatives may risk being subjected to honor-based violence. The custom of bride price also makes leaving a marriage more difficult: if a wife wants to leave, the husband may demand back the bride price from her family. (44)

In advanced nations like the UK, Domestic Violence victims may have difficulties getting alternative housing which can force them to stay in the abusive relationship.

Many Domestic Violence victims delay leaving the abuser because they have pets and are afraid of what will happen to the pets if they leave. Safehouses need to be more accepting of pets, and many refuse to accept pets.

Other Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

Domestic violence at home results in emotional damage, which exerts continued effects as the victim matures.

- Approximately 45 million children will be exposed to violence during childhood.
- Approximately 10% of children are exposed to domestic violence annually, and 25% are exposed to at least 1 event during their childhood.
- Ninety percent are direct eyewitnesses of violence.
- Males who batter their wives batter the children 30% to 60% of the time.
- Children who witness domestic violence are at increased risk of dating violence and have a more difficult time with partnerships and parenting. (44)

- Children who witness domestic violence are at an increased risk for post-traumatic stress disorder, aggressive behavior, anxiety, impaired development, difficulty interacting with peers, academic problems, and they have a higher incidence of substance abuse.
- Children exposed to domestic violence often become victims of violence.

Children who witness and experience domestic violence are at a greater risk for adverse psychosocial outcomes. (45)

- Eighty to 90% of domestic violence victims abuse or neglect their children.

On Pregnant and Females

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) recommends all women be assessed for signs and symptoms of domestic violence during regular and prenatal visits. Providers should offer support and referral information. The danger of domestic violence is particularly acute as both mother and fetus are at risk. Healthcare professionals should be aware of the psychological consequences of domestic abuse during pregnancy. There is more stress, depression, and addiction to alcohol in abused pregnant women. These conditions may harm the fetus.

On Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender

Gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender victims may be reticent to report domestic violence. Part of the challenge may be that support services such as shelters, support groups, and hotlines are not regularly available. This results in isolated and unsupported victims. Healthcare professionals should strive to be helpful when working with gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender patients. (46)

Prenatal Stage

Domestic violence may begin, or increase, when women become pregnant. Pregnant women may feel more dependent on their partners for emotional and financial help during the pregnancy. They may also rely on their partners to fulfill their desire to be a family. Abusive partners may use this dependency to gain further control in the relationship. They may be jealous about the pregnancy and may use violence to make sure their needs are being met. Physical violence may cause women to deliver early or have a miscarriage. Violence can also cause stress, which may affect women's eating habits and coping behaviour (e.g. smoking, substance abuse). This can affect the baby's weight or cause Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder. As a result, children may be affected by domestic violence even before they are born. Infancy (birth to 12 months) (47) and (48)

Babies may become upset in a loud and chaotic home where there is no routine. This can cause babies to get sick or have eating and sleeping problems.

Parents may not be able to meet the needs of the baby because of the negative effects of domestic violence (e.g., physical injuries, emotional exhaustion, depression, substance abuse, money problems). The abusive parent may be jealous of the baby because of the time and attention the baby needs. To try to avoid further abuse, the parent may not always put the baby's needs first. This affects the relationship between the parent and baby and the baby's ability to grow in a healthy way. (1)

Conclusion

Abusers are very good at controlling and manipulating their victims. People who have been emotionally or physically abused are often depressed, drained, scared, ashamed, and confused. They need help getting out of the situation, yet their partner has often isolated them from their family and friends. There is a clear difference between the behavior and psychological health of children exposed to domestic violence in the home and those who are not. In light of the overwhelming evidence that depicts both the short-term and long-term damage that witnessing domestic violence in the home can have on children, it is important to be proactive in protecting them from these harms through education, support for abused parents, and improved identification and intervention for their children.

Recommendations/Possible Solutions

*** Raising Awareness about the Harmful effects that Witnessing Abuse has on Children:** It is not necessarily a commonly known fact that children are affected by the presence of violence despite not being the direct victims themselves. Education on this issue can take many forms, such as public awareness campaigns in Communities, Churches, Mosques and other places of trust.

***Speak up if you Suspect Domestic Violence or Abuse:** If you suspect that someone you know is being abused, speak up, do not hesitate —keep in mind that expressing your concern will let the person know that you care and may even save their lives. Talk to the person in private and let them know that you're concerned. Point out the signs you've noticed that worry you. Tell the person that you're there for them, whenever they feel ready to talk. Reassure them that you'll keep whatever is said between the two of you, and let them know that you'll help in any way you can.

***Implement more Effective Public Policies and Support Systems that Protect Children and Adult Victims:** Often, the cycle of violence continues in families because victims have no place to go or no family to turn to. This becomes increasingly difficult when children are involved and a parent worries about how to support them if they were to leave the abuser. Therefore, there must be an increase in services for victims of domestic violence so they have more options in terms of housing and other social services. By providing such resources, victims are more likely to be able to leave their abuser, thus protecting their children from exposure to violence as well.

***There Must Be an Enhancement of the Social Services that Serve Children:** A large piece of this enhancement should come in the form of allocating financial resources to protect children affected by violence. Services in schools can help children affected by violence and prevent them from falling behind academically.

***Establishing a good support system or good relationships** with trusted adults can help abused children, this will help restore their self-esteem as well as learn to have healthy relationships.

*** Social Welfare Groups, Church Leaders and Other Trusted Adults Should** be having routine private times with the children in schools to know the goings on in their home and assuring them that they abuser will not kill them like they usually threaten to do if they tell anyone else. This will include counselors and therapists.

***Talking to them about healthy relationships.** Help them learn from the abusive experience by talking about what healthy relationships are and are not. This will help them know what is healthy when they start romantic relationships of their own. They should always be encouraged to speak up in the event of any threat

***Talking to them about boundaries.** Teach them what private parts are, letting them know there is restricted access to such places to everyone else except with express permission from the child. Let your child know that no one has the right to touch them or make them feel uncomfortable, including family members, teachers, coaches, or other authority figures. Also, explain to your child that he or she doesn't have the right to touch another person's body, and if someone tells them to stop, they should do so right away.

***Make sure children know that abuse is not their fault** and they are not responsible for the family problems. Let them talk openly about their feelings and teach them healthy ways to deal with these emotions. Get them connected with worthy role models

***Praise your children for who they are and for good behavior and reprimand** /caution them each time they behave badly. Allow children to be kids and discourage them from acting like parents or dealing with adult problems.

***Acts of bullying by peers or adults should be taken seriously** because exposure to domestic violence can have long-lasting effects on their self-esteem.

***Create age-appropriate safety plans with your children**, teach them not to become involved during a violent incident and discuss safe places to go (e.g., a neighbour's home or the police station). Ensure that children go to school regularly where they can keep positive relationships. Talk to teachers and school staff and include them in the safety plan.

Let us join in the efforts to end children's exposure to domestic violence. Children need to feel loved and protected in a safe environment. See something! Say Something!

References

1. Child Welfare Information Gateway. (2014). Domestic Violence and the Child Welfare System. Washington, DC: Children's Bureau, Administration for Children and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services..
- 1b. Siemieniuk, R. A. C.; Krentz, H. B.; Gish, J. A.; Gill, M. J. (2010). "Domestic Violence Screening: Prevalence and Outcomes in a Canadian HIV Population". *AIDS Patient Care and STDs* 24 (12): 763–770. doi:10.1089/apc.2010.0235. PMID 21138382
2. Refuge (2008). Starting in School, To End Domestic Violence. <http://www.refuge.org.uk/files/Starting-in-schools.pdf>
3. Chemtob, C. (2004). Psychological effects of domestic violence on children and their mothers. *Journal of Stress Management*, 11(3), 209-226.
4. American Civil Liberties Union. (2014). "Domestic Violence and Homelessness." Women's Rights Project. Accessed March 1, 2014, <https://www.aclu.org/sites/default/files/FilesPDFs/housing%20paper.4.pdf>.
5. Calder, M. C., and Regan, L. (2008). "Working with mothers in situations of sexual and domestic abuse: reframing resistance as restricted choices," in *The Carrot or the Stick? Towards Effective Practice with Involuntary Clients in Safeguarding Children Work*, ed. M. C. Calder (Lyme Regis: Russell House Publishing),249–76.
6. World Health Organization. (2020). "Child Maltreatment." Accessed July 31, 2020. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/child-maltreatment>.
7. Department for Education [DFE] (2016). *Keeping Children Safe in Education, Statutory Guidance for Schools and Colleges*. Available at: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/55051/Keeping_children_safe_in_education.pdf
- 8.U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Administration for Children and Families, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, Children's Bureau. (2020). "Child Maltreatment 2018." <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>
9. Center for Domestic Peace. (2016). Calling the Police . <https://www.womenshealth.gov/relationships-and-safety/domestic-violence/effects-domestic-violence-children>
10. Dryden-Edwards, R. (2022)._ Things to know about Domestic Violence https://www.medicinenet.com/domestic_violence/article.htm
11. Berhanie E, Gebregziabher D, Berihu H, Gerezgiher A, Kidane G.(2019). Intimate partner violence during pregnancy and adverse birth outcomes: a case-control study. *Reprod Health*. 2019 Feb 25;16(1):22.
12. Digby, A., and Fu, E. (2017). Impacts of Homelessness on Children – Research with Teachers. Report by Kantar Public Commissioned by Shelter. Available https://england.shelter.org.uk/_data/assets/pdf_file/0011/1474652/2017_12_20_Homelessness_and_School_Children.pdf doi: 10.1001/jama.286.24.3089

13. Lock, R. (2013). Coventry Safeguarding Children Board Final Overview Report of Serious Case Review re Daniel Pelka. <https://cscb-new.co.uk/downloads/Serious>
14. Baker, L., and Cunningham, A. (2009). Inter-parental violence: the pre-schooler's perspective and the educator's role. *Early Child. Edu. J.* 37, 199–207. doi: 10.1007/s10643-009-0342-z
15. Modi, M.N., Palmer, S., Armstrong, A. (2014). The Role of Violence Against Women Act in Addressing Intimate Partner Violence: A Public Health Issue. *Journal of Women's Health*; 23(3): 253-259.
16. Gilbert, L.K., Breiding, M.J., Merrick, M.T., Parks, S.E., Thompson, W.W., Dhingra, S.S., Ford, D.C. (2015). Childhood Adversity and Adult Chronic Disease: An update from ten states and the District of Columbia, 2010. *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*; 48(3): 345-349.
17. Wonnacott, J., and Watts, D. (2014). Daniel Pelka Review Retrospective Deeper Analysis and Progress Report on Implementation of Recommendations, Coventry Safeguarding Children Board. Birmingham: BASW
18. Springer, Kristen et al. (2003). "The Long-term Health Outcomes of Childhood Abuse." *Journal of General Internal Medicine*. October 18, 2003. <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC1494926/>.
<https://www.dosomething.org/us/facts/11-facts-about-domestic-and-dating-violence>
19. Women's Aid (2018). Survival and Beyond: The Domestic Abuse Report 2017. <https://1q7dqy2unor827bqjls0c4rn-wpengine.netdna-ssl.com/wp-content/uploads/2018/03/Survival-and-Beyond>
20. Ramon, S. (2015). Intersectionalities: intimate partner domestic violence and mental health within the European context. *Intersectionalities* 4, 76–100.
21. Lloyd, M. (2018) Domestic Violence and Education: Examining the Impact of Domestic Violence on Young Children, Children, and Young People and the Potential Role of Schools. *Front. Psychol.* 9:2094. doi:10.3389/fpsyg.2018.02094
22. Wahi A, Zaleski KL, Lampe J, Bevan P, Koski A. (2019). The Lived Experience of Child Marriage in the United States. *Soc Work Public Health.* 2019;34(3):201-213.
23. Vargas, L. Cataldo, J., Dickson, S. (2005). Domestic Violence & Children In G.R. Walz & R.K. Yep (Eds.), *Vistas: Compelling Perspectives on Counseling*. Alexandria, VA: American Counseling Association; 67-69
24. Pingley, T. (2017). The impact of witnessing domestic violence on children: A systematic review. (Master's thesis). St. Catherine University, USA.
25. McDonald, R., Jouriles, E.N., Ramisetty-Mikler, S., Caetano, R., Green, C.E. (2006) . Estimating the Number of American Children Living in Partner-Violent Families. *Journal of Family Psychology*; 20(1): 137-142.
26. Wardle D, Finnerty F. (2018). Work of the BASHH Sexual Violence Special Interest Group. *Sex Transm Infect.* 2018 Dec;94(8):552
27. Smith, M.A. and Segal, J. (2021). Domestic Violence and Abuse <https://www.helpguide.org/articles/abuse/domestic-violence-and-abuse.htm>
28. Thornton, V. (2014). Understanding the emotional impact of domestic violence on young children. *Educational & Child Psychology*, 31, 90-99. <https://education.victimsofcrime.org/?mdocs-file=360>
29. Roscoe LA, Schenck DP.(2018). Victim of Abuse, or Bully? The Case of the 800-Pound Man. *Narrat Inq Bioeth.* 2018;8(3):261-27
30. Baldry, A. (2007). "It does affect me" disruptive behaviors in preadolescents directly and indirectly abused at home. *Eur. Psychol.* 12, 29–35. doi: 10.1027/1016-9040.12.1.29
31. Callaghan, J. E. M., Alexander, J. H., Sixsmith, J., & Chiara Fellin, L. (2018). Beyond "Witnessing": children's experiences of coercive control in domestic violence and abuse. *J. Interpers. Violence* 33, 1551–1581.
32. Ofsted, Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Probation, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, Fire, and Rescue Services, and HM Inspectorate of Constabulary (2017). The Multi-Agency Response to Children Living with Domestic Abuse, Prevent, Protect and Repair. Joint Targeted Area Inspection. Available https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/680671/JTAI_domestic_abuse_18_Sept_2017.pdf
33. Curry S.J, Krist AH, Owens DK, Barry MJ, Caughey AB, Davidson KW, Doubeni CA, Epling JW, Grossman DC, Kemper AR, Kubik M, Landefeld CS, Mangione CM, Silverstein M, Simon MA, Tseng CW, Wong J.B. (2018). Interventions to Prevent Child Maltreatment: US Preventive Services Task Force Recommendation Statement. *JAMA.* 2018 Nov 27;320(20):2122-2128.
34. Katz, E. (2016). Beyond the physical incident model: how children living with domestic violence are harmed by and resist regimes of coercive control. *Child Abuse Rev.* 25, 46–59.
35. Harper, B., Ogbonnaya, I. N., and McCullough, K. C. (2018). The effect of intimate partner violence on the psychosocial development of toddlers. *J. Interpers. Violence* 33, 2512–2536. doi: 10.1177/0886260516628286
36. WomensHealth Staff. (2021). Facts About Domestic Violence.

- <http://www.idph.state.il.us/about/womenshealth/factsheets/dv.htm>
37. Campbell, Jacquelyn, Webster, Daniel, et al.(2015). "Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicide." NIJ Journal: Issue No. 250. Accessed March 4, 2015.
 38. Meltzer, H., Doos, L., Vostanis, P., Ford, T., & Goodman, R. (2009). The mental health of children who witness domestic violence. *Child & Family Social Work*, 14(4), 491-501.
 39. Barter, C., Aghtaie, N., Larkins, C., Wood, M., and Stanley, N. (2015). *Safeguarding Teenage Intimate Relationships (STIR), Connecting online and offline contexts and risks*. Bristol: University of Bristol.
 40. Belfield, C., Crawford, C., and Sibieta, L. (2018). *Long-run Comparisons of Spending Per Pupil Across Different Stages of Education*. London: The Institute for Fiscal Studies
 41. Caffo, E., Belaise, C. (2003). Psychological aspects of traumatic injury in children and adolescents. *Child and Adolescent Psychiatric Clinics of North America*; 12(3): 493-535.
 42. U.S Department English, D., Marshal, D., & Stewart, A. (2003). Effects of family violence on child behavior and health during early childhood. *Journal of Family Violence*, 18(1), 43-57.
 43. Staff. Newhope (2021). Facts About Domestic Violence
<https://www.new-hope.org/facts-about-domestic-violence/>
 44. Hughes, K., Bellis, M. A., Hardcastle, K. A., Sethi, D., Butchart, A., Mikton, C., et al. (2017). The effect of multiple adverse childhood experiences on health: a systematic review and meta-analysis. *Lancet Public Health* 2, e356–e366. doi: 10.1037/vio0000111
 45. Stephenson R, Koenig MA, Ahmed S. (2006). Domestic violence and symptoms of gynecological morbidity among women in North India. *Int Fam Plan Perspective*. 2006;32:201–8.
 46. HM Government (2018). Changes to Statutory Guidance: Working Together to Safeguard Children; and New Regulations, Government Consultation Response. London: HM Government.
 47. Howarth E., Moore, T. H. M., Welton, N. J., Lewis, N., Stanley, N., MacMillan, H., et al. (2016). IMPROving outcomes for children exposed to domestic Violence (IMPROVE): an evidence synthesis. *Public Health Res*. 4:10. doi: 10.3310/phr04100.
 48. Skott S. (2019). Disaggregating Violence: Understanding the Decline. *J Interpers Violence*. 2021 Aug;36(15-16):7670-7694.
 49. Dube, S. R., Anda, R. F., Felitti, V. J., Chapman, D. P., Williamson, D. F., and Giles, W. H. (2001). Childhood abuse, household dysfunction, and the risk of attempted suicide throughout the life span, findings from the adverse childhood experiences study. *JAMA* 286, 3089–3096.
 50. Ellis, J., Downe, S., Farrelly, N., Hollinghurst, S., and Stanley, N. (2015). "School-based prevention and the disclosure of domestic violence," in *Domestic Violence and Protecting Children, New Thinking and Approaches*, eds N. Stanley and C. Humphreys (London: Jessica Kingsley Publishers), 50–62.