

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE and CONSTRAINED CONTRACEPTIVE CHOICES in SELECTED AREAS of OSUN STATE, NIGERIA

This paper examines the impact of Domestic Violence in form of wife-beating and marital rape (non-consensual sexual encounter) on use of modern contraceptive methods in Ife-North Local Government area of Osun State, Nigeria.

The data for this paper were obtained from a survey of four hundred and eight (408) ever married or cohabiting women aged 15-49 in 2003, using multistage random sampling technique. Two hundred and fifty-five eligible respondents were selected from Ipetumodu using systematic random sampling technique, while one hundred and fifty-three eligible respondents were selected from Asipa using a combination of systematic random sampling technique and lottery method. The information required was collected by the use of structured questionnaires and through Focus Group Discussions (FGD). Four Focus Group Discussion sessions were held with some respondents chosen on the basis of marriage and age. Data management was done using Epi-Info version 6.0 while the SPSS PC+ was used for the analysis. The statistical analysis was done using Logistic Regression model.

Results showed that domestic violence in form of wife beating and marital rape existed in the study area as 55.6% of the women reported having been threatened with physical harassment by their partners; and 62.0% had experienced physical abuse from their intimate partner. More than half of the respondents reported experiencing non-consensual sexual encounter with their partners (55.9%). Among the 17.2% who experienced domestic violence during pregnancy, only 13.7% took some steps to protect themselves, and the major coping strategy by those who experienced these forms of violence was pacifying their partners in crisis situation (25.7%).

The paper concludes that the threat of wife beating, and not the actual beating, and experience of marital rape (non-consensual sexual encounter) contributed to the likelihood of the women not using modern contraceptive methods in the study area. Population education should be intensified to emphasise the need for gender equity and respect for women's rights generally, including their right to be free from violence.