

# Domestic Violence as a Predictor of Social Vices in South-Western Nigeria

Oluwole Festus Ogunleye; Olanireti Taibat Alabi; Oni Issac Olufemi

*Department of Social Development, Rufus Giwa Polytechnic, Owo, Ondo State.*

## Abstract

Domestic violence remains a major social problem in Nigeria, particularly in the South-West, with consequences for families and community development. This study examined its influence on youth delinquency, substance abuse, and criminal behaviour. A quantitative survey design was adopted, and data were collected from 487 respondents using structured questionnaires. Data were analyzed using both descriptive and inferential statistics, Friedman Chi-square, and linear regression at the 0.05 significance level were employed to run the analysis. Findings revealed that domestic violence significantly contributes to family instability and increases young people's involvement in delinquency, substance abuse, and criminal behaviour. Socio-economic difficulties and harmful social practices were also found to intensify its occurrence and consequences. The study concludes that domestic violence undermines social cohesion and community well-being. It recommends strengthening family support systems, enforcing protective laws, and sustaining public awareness campaigns to prevent domestic violence and promote healthy family relationships.

**Keywords:** Crime Prevention; Domestic Violence; Family Instability; Nigeria; Social Vices; Youth Delinquency.

**How to Cite:** Ogunleye, O. F., Alabi, O. T., & Oni, I. O. (2026). Domestic Violence as a Predictor of Social Vices in South-Western Nigeria. *African Journal of Social Sciences and Humanities Research*, 9(5), 63–92. <https://doi.org/10.52589/AJSSHR-XLK94UBG>

---

## INTRODUCTION

Globally, studies have shown that domestic violence affects millions of individuals, especially women and children (WHO, 2023). According to the World Health Organization, approximately one in every three women worldwide has experienced physical or sexual violence, mostly by intimate partners (WHO, 2021). In Africa, the prevalence of domestic violence remains high due to cultural norms, poverty, patriarchal structures, and weak institutional protection systems (Alawode, 2024; Ogunlade et al., 2023).

Domestic violence remains a significant social problem whose effects transcend the boundaries of the household. In South-Western Nigeria, it has been linked to a range of negative social outcomes, including youth delinquency, substance misuse, and criminal involvement. These outcomes are often rooted in family disruption, emotional distress, and unstable home environments created by abusive relationships. The persistent occurrence of domestic violence undermines social harmony, reduces community trust, and hampers the effectiveness of social support structures. As such, it poses a major challenge not only to family stability but also to sustainable social development.

Domestic violence is a deadly social menace affecting all aspects of the society. It is a pattern of abusive behaviors used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner in any relationship such as dating, family or cohabitation. Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic or psychological actions or threats of actions that negatively impact another person (Reif kay, Jaffe, Dawson & Lee-Straatman, 2020; Yoo-Mi & Scott, 2019).

In Nigeria, domestic violence cuts across ethnic, religious, educational, and socioeconomic boundaries. Studies have revealed that women and children are the major victims of domestic abuse, although men may also experience violence within the home (Alawode, 2024). Domestic violence in Nigeria is often influenced by patriarchal cultural beliefs that promote male dominance and female subordination. In many Nigerian communities, violence within the family is viewed as a private matter that should be resolved internally rather than through formal legal processes. Such perceptions contribute to the underreporting and persistence of abuse (Ogunlade et al., 2023).

South-Western Nigeria, predominantly occupied by the Yoruba ethnic group, has experienced increasing concerns regarding domestic violence and related social problems. Although the region is relatively urbanized and educationally advanced compared to some other parts of Nigeria, cases of wife battering, child abuse, marital rape, emotional abuse, and economic violence remain prevalent. Studies conducted in Yoruba communities indicate that traditional family structures and societal expectations often discourage victims from reporting abuse publicly because of fear of stigma, shame, and family dishonor (Ogunlade et al., 2023).

The consequences of domestic violence extend beyond immediate physical injuries and psychological trauma. Domestic violence significantly affects family stability, child development, and social order. In addition, it often occurs in contexts of other disadvantages and interacts with other family problems to harm children's behavioral and psychological well-being (WHO, 2021).

Children raised in violent homes often experience emotional instability, fear, aggression, depression, and poor social adjustment. Such children are more likely to engage in antisocial behaviors and criminal activities later in life. Scholars have argued that exposure to violence

within the family environment contributes to the normalization of aggression and deviance among youths (Bandura, 1977).

Social vices refer to immoral, antisocial, or criminal behaviors that threaten societal peace, stability, and development. Common social vices in Nigeria include cultism, drug abuse, internet fraud, armed robbery, examination malpractice, and juvenile delinquency. In recent years, South-Western Nigeria has experienced a rise in youth involvement in cybercrime, gang violence, substance abuse, and other deviant behaviors. Scholars have increasingly linked these behaviors to family instability, poor parental supervision, economic hardship, and exposure to domestic violence (Ajoseh, Sifat, & Whesu, 2024).

The family is traditionally regarded as the primary agent of socialization where children learn societal norms, moral values, discipline, and acceptable behavior. However, when violence dominates family relationships, children may internalize aggression, hostility, and antisocial attitudes instead of positive values. According to the Social Learning Theory developed by Albert Bandura, children learn behaviors by observing and imitating others, especially parents and caregivers. Consequently, children exposed to violent family environments may reproduce similar violent or deviant behaviors in society (Bandura, 1977).

We can infer from the above that, domestic violence not only predisposes children to numerous social and physical problems but also teaches them that violence is a normal way of life, therefore increasing their risk of becoming society's next generation of victims or abusers.

Economic hardship and unemployment in Nigeria have further intensified domestic conflicts and social instability. Rising poverty levels, inflation, and frustration among family members often increase tension within households, thereby contributing to domestic violence. Simultaneously, youths from unstable homes may resort to criminal activities and social vices as coping mechanisms or survival strategies. Recent studies have shown that domestic violence contributes significantly to mental health problems, school dropout, substance abuse, and criminal involvement among young people in Nigeria (Ekeigwe, Ikpeama, & Ene, 2024).

Despite the existence of legal frameworks such as the Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act and various advocacy campaigns, domestic violence remains widespread in Nigeria because of weak law enforcement, inadequate victim support systems, and cultural resistance to change. Furthermore, while many studies have focused on domestic violence as a gender or family issue, limited scholarly attention has been given to its contribution to the growth of social vices in South-Western Nigeria. It is against this background that this study seeks to examine domestic violence and the growth of social vices in South-Western Nigeria.

### **Problem Statement**

The family is expected to serve as a secure and nurturing environment that supports the emotional, social, and moral development of its members. However, the growing incidence of domestic violence in Nigeria has weakened this important function, creating unstable home environments and exposing children and young people to various developmental and behavioural challenges. Despite the introduction of legal measures, awareness campaigns, and intervention programmes aimed at curbing domestic violence, reports of physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse remain prevalent in many communities across South-Western Nigeria.

At the same time, concerns about increasing youth involvement in substance abuse, delinquent

behaviour, and other forms of antisocial conduct have continued to grow within the region. Although domestic violence has been widely studied as a family and gender-related issue, limited empirical attention has been given to its role in promoting these social problems among youths. Consequently, there remains insufficient evidence on how experiences of violence within the home contribute to the development of delinquent and deviant behaviours among young people in South-Western Nigeria.

If this issue remains inadequately addressed, efforts aimed at strengthening family relationships, promoting healthy youth development, and maintaining social stability may be undermined. Therefore, this study seeks to investigate the extent to which domestic violence contributes to selected social problems among youths in South-Western Nigeria and provide empirical evidence that can inform policy interventions, family support programmes, and violence prevention strategies.

### **Objectives of the Study**

The main objective of the study is to find out how domestic violence contributes to the growth of social vices while the specific objectives are stated below to:

- 1) To know the rate of domestic violence experience among people in Southwestern Nigeria?
- 2) To know the rate at which social vices occur among people in Southwestern Nigeria?
- 3) To ascertain the possible forms of domestic violence experienced by people in Southwestern Nigeria?
- 4) To ascertain the possible forms of social vices been engaged in by people in Southwestern Nigeria?

### **Research Questions**

The study was guided by the following research questions;

- 1) What is the rate of domestic violence experience among people in Southwestern Nigeria?
- 2) What is the rate at which social vices occur among people in Southwestern Nigeria?
- 3) What are the possible forms of domestic violence experienced by people in Southwestern Nigeria?
- 4) What are the possible forms of social vices been engaged in by people in Southwestern Nigeria?

### **Scope of the Study**

This study examines the correlation between marital violence and the proliferation of social vices in South-Western Nigeria. The study is geographically confined to three states in Nigeria's South-West geopolitical zone: Lagos, Osun, and Ondo States. These states are chosen to ensure sufficient representation of the region, considering their geographical distribution and socio-cultural attributes.

The study investigates the prevalence and diverse manifestations of domestic violence encountered by individuals in families, encompassing physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, and economic abuse. The study examines the incidence and scope of social vices in the chosen states, focusing specifically on drug and substance misuse, cultism, fraud and cybercrime, sexual assault, vandalism, aggressive behavior, and illegal possession of hazardous weapons.

Additionally, the study examines the impact of domestic violence on the prevalence and escalation of these social vices. It particularly evaluates how exposure to domestic violence forecasts involvement in antisocial and criminal behaviors among individuals in the chosen localities. The research also delineates potential intervention techniques that may mitigate domestic violence and diminish the rising incidence of social vices in South-Western Nigeria.

The study focuses on adult inhabitants aged 18 and older residing in the designated Local Government Areas of Lagos, Osun, and Ondo States. Data are gathered by structured surveys with analysis performed using descriptive and inferential statistical methods through the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 27.

### **Rationale for the Research**

Domestic violence has emerged as a pervasive social and public health issue in Nigeria, impacting individuals, families, and communities regardless of age, gender, educational level, or socio-economic status. In addition to its direct physical and psychological effects, domestic violence has been increasingly associated with the emergence of antisocial behaviors and the escalation of social vices. Nonetheless, empirical evidence that thoroughly investigates this link in the South-Western region of Nigeria is still few. This work is thus warranted by the necessity to address this information deficiency.

The study is significant as it offers empirical information regarding the role of domestic violence in the proliferation of societal vices, including drug misuse, cultism, cybercrime, vandalism, sexual violence, and other illegal behaviors. Comprehending this relationship can aid policymakers and development practitioners in formulating evidence-based solutions that tackle the fundamental causes of these social issues rather than simply addressing its repercussions.

The results of this study will be advantageous to governmental bodies, including the Federal and State Ministries of Women Affairs, Ministries of Youth Development, Ministries of Justice, the National Agency for the Prohibition of Trafficking in Persons (NAPTIP), the National Drug Law Enforcement Agency (NDLEA), the Nigeria Police Force, and the National Human Rights Commission. The evidence produced will facilitate the development, execution, and assessment of policies designed to prevent domestic violence and mitigate social vices. The research will also help non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community-based organizations, religious institutions, and civil society organizations engaged in gender-based violence, child protection, youth empowerment, crime prevention, and community development. The results will furnish valuable insights for advocacy, awareness campaigns, counseling programs, and rehabilitation efforts.

The study will benefit families, parents, counselors, social workers, psychologists, teachers, and educational administrators by emphasizing the necessity of fostering peaceful and supportive home environments that deter violent behaviors and encourage positive socialization among children and adolescents.

This study will enhance the existing literature on domestic violence, criminology, sociology, psychology, and social work in Nigeria. This will act as a reference resource for undergraduate and postgraduate students, researchers, and scholars focused on family violence, juvenile development, crime prevention, and social policy. It will also establish a basis for future study on domestic violence and its wider societal implications.

The study is warranted as the attainment of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) 5 (Gender Equality), SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-being), and SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) necessitates evidence-based strategies to eradicate domestic violence and mitigate violence-related social issues. The study elucidates the correlation between domestic violence and social vices, so contributing to national and worldwide initiatives that foster peaceful families, secure communities, and sustainable social development.

This chapter presents the detailed review of related literature in the area of research relevant to the study of domestic violence and the growth of social vices. It also presents critical reviews of concept of domestic violence, forms and causes of domestic violence, concept of social vices, types of social vices, the relationship between domestic violence and the growth of social vices. The chapter ends with a conceptual/theoretical framework that guided the study.

## **LITERATURE REVIEW**

### **Concept of Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence refers to abusive behavior used by one individual to dominate, control, or intimidate another within a domestic setting. According to the World Health Organization, domestic violence includes physical aggression, sexual coercion, emotional abuse, psychological intimidation, and controlling behaviors by intimate partners or family members (WHO, 2021).

Alawode (2024) explained that domestic violence in Nigeria is strongly associated with poverty, unemployment, low educational attainment, and patriarchal cultural systems that reinforce male dominance. Similarly, Ekeigwe, Ikpeama, and Ene (2024) observed that domestic violence in Nigerian society is fueled by anger, frustration, economic hardship, and gender inequality.

Research conducted in Yoruba communities by Ogunlade et al. (2023) revealed that domestic violence is frequently normalized within marriage and treated as a private family issue rather than a criminal offense. This societal attitude often discourages victims from seeking legal protection or external assistance.

### **Forms of Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence refers to abusive behaviors that occur within intimate or family relationships, where one person seeks to control, dominate, or harm another. It can take different forms, and these forms often occur simultaneously within the same household. Scholars and international organizations such as the World Health Organization emphasize that domestic violence is not limited to physical assault but includes a wide range of harmful behaviors (WHO, 2021).

## **Physical Violence**

Physical violence is the most visible form of domestic abuse. It involves the intentional use of physical force that causes injury, pain, or harm to another person. Examples include beating, slapping, kicking, punching, pushing, choking, burning, and the use of weapons.

Physical violence often leads to visible injuries such as bruises, fractures, and in severe cases, permanent disability or death. It is commonly reported in cases of intimate partner violence and child abuse in many societies, including Nigeria (Alawode, 2024). It also creates fear and insecurity within the family environment, making victims emotionally dependent on the abuser.

## **Emotional or Psychological Violence**

Emotional or psychological violence refers to non-physical behaviors that damage a person's mental health and emotional wellbeing. It includes insults, humiliation, intimidation, threats, constant criticism, manipulation, and isolation from family and friends.

Although it does not leave physical marks, psychological abuse can have long-term effects such as depression, anxiety, low self-esteem, and emotional trauma. Studies show that emotional abuse is one of the most common yet underreported forms of domestic violence because it is often normalized or ignored in many cultural settings (Ogunlade et al., 2023).

## **Sexual Violence**

Sexual violence involves any forced or non-consensual sexual act imposed on a partner or family member. It includes marital rape, forced sexual intercourse, sexual harassment, and unwanted sexual contact.

The World Health Organization identifies sexual violence as a major public health concern affecting millions of women and girls globally (WHO, 2021). In many societies, including parts of Nigeria, cultural and religious beliefs often prevent victims from reporting sexual abuse, especially within marriage.

## **Economic or Financial Abuse**

Economic abuse occurs when one partner controls or restricts access to financial resources, making the victim financially dependent and unable to make independent decisions. It may include withholding money, denying access to employment, controlling income, or sabotaging job opportunities.

Ajoseh, Sifat, and Whesu (2024) noted that economic abuse is increasingly recognized as a critical dimension of domestic violence in Nigeria. It traps victims in abusive relationships because they lack the financial independence needed to leave or seek help.

## **Verbal Abuse**

Verbal abuse involves the use of words to insult, degrade, threaten, or intimidate another person. It includes shouting, name-calling, mocking, and persistent criticism.

Although often dismissed as “normal conflict,” verbal abuse can severely damage a person's self-worth and psychological stability. Continuous verbal aggression may also escalate into physical violence if not addressed early (Ekeigwe, Ikpeama, & Ene, 2024).

---

## **Social or Cultural Abuse**

Social or cultural abuse refers to behaviors that isolate or control a person using cultural norms or social structures. This may include restricting movement, preventing social interaction, controlling friendships, or using cultural beliefs to justify abuse.

In many patriarchal societies, including parts of South-Western Nigeria, cultural norms are sometimes used to legitimize male dominance and silence victims of domestic violence (Ogunlade et al., 2023).

## **Conclusion**

Domestic violence is a multi-dimensional phenomenon that extends beyond physical assault. It includes emotional, sexual, economic, verbal, and social forms of abuse, all of which can have severe consequences on individuals and families. These forms of violence disrupt family stability, damage psychological wellbeing, and contribute indirectly to broader social problems such as youth deviance and social vices.

## **Causes of Domestic Violence**

Domestic violence is a complex social problem influenced by multiple interrelated factors at the individual, family, economic, cultural, and societal levels. Scholars and international bodies such as the World Health Organization explain that no single factor causes domestic violence; rather, it results from a combination of risk factors that increase the likelihood of abuse (WHO, 2021).

## **Patriarchal and Cultural Beliefs**

One of the major causes of domestic violence is patriarchal ideology, which promotes male dominance and female subordination. In many societies, men are traditionally viewed as heads of households with authority over women and children. This cultural belief can normalize controlling and abusive behaviors within families.

In South-Western Nigeria, some cultural norms still tolerate wife-beating or discourage women from challenging abusive partners, thereby increasing the persistence of domestic violence (Ogunlade et al., 2023).

## **Poverty and Economic Hardship**

Economic instability is a significant driver of domestic violence. Poverty, unemployment, and financial stress often increase tension within households, leading to frustration, anger, and conflict.

Studies have shown that individuals experiencing financial difficulties may be more likely to express aggression toward family members as a coping mechanism (Alawode, 2024). Economic dependency can also trap victims in abusive relationships because they lack the financial means to leave.

## **Alcohol and Substance Abuse**

Alcohol and drug abuse are strongly linked to violent behavior in the home. Substance use can impair judgment, reduce self-control, and increase aggression, thereby triggering violent outbursts.

---

Research indicates that intoxication often escalates conflicts between partners and increases the severity of domestic violence incidents (Ekeigwe, Ikpeama, & Ene, 2024).

### **Poor Communication and Conflict Resolution Skills**

Many domestic violence cases arise from the inability of partners or family members to manage conflicts peacefully. Poor communication, lack of emotional intelligence, and ineffective conflict resolution strategies often escalate disagreements into violence.

Families that lack healthy communication patterns are more prone to misunderstanding and emotional outbursts that may result in abuse.

### **Exposure to Violence During Childhood**

Individuals who grow up in violent households are more likely to become perpetrators or victims of domestic violence in adulthood. This is explained by the Social Learning Theory of Albert Bandura, which states that behavior is learned through observation and imitation (Bandura, 1977).

Children who witness domestic violence may internalize aggression as a normal way of resolving conflict.

### **Jealousy and Infidelity Issues**

Jealousy and suspicion of infidelity are common triggers of domestic violence. In many intimate relationships, accusations of cheating or mistrust can lead to emotional outbursts and physical aggression.

Such conflicts are often worsened by poor communication and lack of emotional control.

### **Educational Attainment and Ignorance**

Low levels of education and lack of awareness about human rights contribute to domestic violence. Individuals with limited education may be less aware of legal protections and more likely to accept violence as normal.

Awareness campaigns have shown that education plays a key role in reducing tolerance for domestic abuse (WHO, 2021).

### **Weak Legal and Institutional Response**

Inadequate enforcement of laws and weak institutional support systems also contribute to the persistence of domestic violence. Victims often fail to report abuse due to fear of stigma, lack of trust in law enforcement, or belief that justice will not be served.

In many cases, domestic violence is treated as a private family matter rather than a criminal offense, especially in some cultural settings (Ogunlade et al., 2023).

### **Conclusion**

Domestic violence is caused by a combination of cultural, economic, psychological, and institutional factors. Addressing it requires a holistic approach that includes education, economic empowerment, legal enforcement, and cultural reorientation.

## Concept of Social Vices

Social vices refer to behaviors and practices that violate societal norms, values, and laws, thereby threatening social order and development. Common social vices in Nigeria include cultism, prostitution, internet fraud, drug abuse, armed robbery, examination malpractice, kidnapping, hooliganism, and juvenile delinquency.

Social vices, according to Udebhulu (2009), are vices that negate societal norms and values. Hence, they are practices, behaviors or habits generally considered immoral, sinful or degrading in the society. In the view of Omonijo and Nnedum (2012), social vices are a major issue of concern in Nigeria and most developing countries, where complex vices are alien to their culture.

Several scholars have conducted researches on social vices in Nigeria, prominent among them being the works by Jumaat (2001), Juna (2008), Atabong et al. (2010), Fasaasi (2006) and Williams (2009). According to these scholars, social vices are bad traits, unhealthy and negative behaviors that are against the morality of a society and frowned at by members of the society.

The increasing prevalence of social vices among Nigerian youths has become a major concern for policymakers, educators, religious organizations, and security agencies. Scholars have linked youth involvement in social vices to poor parenting, unemployment, peer pressure, poverty, family instability, and exposure to violence within the home.

The family remains the primary institution responsible for socializing children into acceptable societal norms and values. However, when violence dominates family relationships, children may develop aggressive tendencies and antisocial behaviors. According to the Social Learning Theory of Albert Bandura, children learn behaviors through observation and imitation. Therefore, children exposed to violence are likely to reproduce similar behaviors in society (Bandura, 1977).

## Types of Social Vices

Social vices are immoral, antisocial, and criminal behaviors that violate societal norms, values, and accepted standards of conduct. They are behaviors considered harmful to individuals, families, and society because they threaten social order, peace, and development (Omonijo et al., 2013). Social vices are common among youths and are often associated with poor upbringing, peer pressure, unemployment, poverty, and family instability (Oyelami, 2019).

The following are the major types of social vices examined in the study:

- **Drug /Substance Abuse**

Drug abuse refers to the excessive or illegal use of drugs and harmful substances for non-medical purposes. It includes the misuse of substances such as cannabis, cocaine, tramadol, alcohol, and other illicit drugs. Drug abuse negatively affects physical health, mental stability, academic performance, and social behavior. It is often associated with violence, crime, and juvenile delinquency (Adeyemi & Adeoye, 2023).

- **Cultism**

Cultism refers to participation in secret groups or organizations that engage in violent, illegal,

and antisocial activities. Cult groups are common in schools and higher institutions in Nigeria and are associated with intimidation, killings, drug abuse, and gang violence (Ariyo, 2017). Cultism threatens peace and security within educational institutions and society at large.

- **Internet Fraud (Yahoo Yahoo)**

Internet fraud, popularly known in Nigeria as “Yahoo Yahoo,” involves the use of digital platforms to deceive people for financial gain. This includes online scams, identity theft, cybercrime, and financial fraud. The increasing rate of unemployment and the desire for quick wealth have contributed to the growth of internet fraud among youths in Nigeria (Omonijo et al., 2013).

- **Armed Robbery**

Armed robbery refers to stealing from individuals, homes, or organizations through the use of weapons, threats, or violence. It is a serious criminal offense that threatens public safety and national security. Factors such as poverty, unemployment, drug abuse, and poor socialization contribute to armed robbery (Adeyemi & Adeoye, 2023).

- **Hooliganism and Gang Violence**

Hooliganism involves violent, disorderly, and destructive behavior usually carried out by groups of youths. Gang violence includes fighting, intimidation, vandalism, and attacks carried out by organized groups. These behaviors often result from poor upbringing, peer influence, frustration, and exposure to violence (Igwe, 2014).

- **Gambling**

Gambling refers to staking money or valuables on games or events based on chance with the aim of winning more money. Excessive gambling may lead to addiction, financial hardship, theft, and criminal activities. Many youths engage in gambling because of unemployment and the desire for quick wealth (Oyelami, 2019).

### **Domestic Violence and the Growth of Social Vices**

Several studies have established a relationship between domestic violence and antisocial behavior among youths. Children raised in violent homes often experience emotional trauma, fear, depression, and low self-esteem, which may negatively affect their social adjustment and behavior.

According to studies on child welfare and domestic violence in Nigeria, exposure to family violence significantly increases the likelihood of aggressive behavior, substance abuse, school dropout, and criminal involvement among youths. Victims of domestic violence may also engage in prostitution, cultism, internet fraud, and drug abuse as coping mechanisms or survival strategies.

Ogunlade et al. (2023) observed that domestic violence weakens family cohesion and disrupts effective parenting and child supervision. As a result, many children from violent homes become vulnerable to peer pressure and deviant associations.

Similarly, Ogunlade et.al (2023) further argued that weak institutional responses to domestic violence in South-Western Nigeria contribute indirectly to broader social instability and youth deviance. The study identified poor law enforcement, inadequate stakeholder collaboration,

and societal acceptance of violence as major obstacles to addressing domestic abuse effectively.

### **Empirical Review**

Olasupo (2023) examined domestic violence among married persons in Osun State, Nigeria, and found that economic hardship, work-family conflict, and poor communication significantly contributed to violence within homes. The study concluded that unresolved family conflicts negatively affect child upbringing and social behavior.

Ogunlade et al. (2023) investigated indigenous conflict management approaches to domestic violence in Yoruba communities. The study revealed that traditional methods of handling family violence often prioritize family unity over victim protection, thereby allowing abuse to continue.

Alawode (2024) analyzed the socioeconomic determinants of domestic violence against women in Nigeria using data from the Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey. The findings showed that poverty, unemployment, and low educational attainment significantly increase women's vulnerability to domestic abuse.

### **Gap in Literature**

Most existing studies on domestic violence in Nigeria focus primarily on women's victimization, gender inequality, cultural beliefs, and legal responses to abuse. Few studies have critically examined the relationship between domestic violence and the increasing growth of social vices among youths in South-Western Nigeria. Existing literature has not adequately explored how violent family environments contribute to cultism, internet fraud, substance abuse, juvenile delinquency, and other forms of antisocial behavior. Therefore, this study seeks to fill this gap by examining domestic violence as a contributing factor to the growth of social vices in South-Western Nigeria.

### **Theoretical Framework**

This study on Domestic Violence and the Growth of Social Vices in South-Western Nigeria is anchored on the Social Learning Theory and Structural Functionalism Theory. These theories provide adequate explanations for how domestic violence influences behavior and contribute to the emergence of social vices within society.

- **Social Learning Theory**

The Social Learning Theory was developed by Albert Bandura in 1977. The theory explains that human behavior is learned through observation, imitation, modeling, and interaction with the social environment. According to Bandura (1977), individuals, especially children, learn attitudes, values, and behaviors by observing the actions of significant others such as parents, family members, peers, and community members.

The theory emphasizes that children exposed to violent behavior within the family environment are likely to imitate and reproduce such behaviors in their interactions with others. When children repeatedly witness domestic violence such as physical assault, verbal abuse, emotional intimidation, or aggressive conflict resolution between parents, they may begin to perceive violence as a normal and acceptable way of handling disputes.

Bandura further explained that behavior is reinforced when individuals observe that violent actions produce desired outcomes such as control, fear, or obedience. Consequently, children raised in violent homes may develop aggressive attitudes, antisocial tendencies, emotional instability, and criminal behaviors. Such children are more vulnerable to engaging in social vices such as cultism, drug abuse, gang violence, internet fraud, hooliganism, and juvenile delinquency.

The relevance of the Social Learning Theory to this study lies in its explanation of how domestic violence contributes to the growth of social vices among youths in South-Western Nigeria. The theory helps to explain that exposure to violence within the home environment can influence children and youths to adopt violent and deviant behaviors that later manifest as social vices in society.

- **Structural Functionalism Theory**

The Structural Functionalism Theory was associated with scholars such as Talcott Parsons and Emile Durkheim. The theory views society as a system made up of interconnected institutions such as the family, religion, education, economy, and government, all working together to maintain social stability and order.

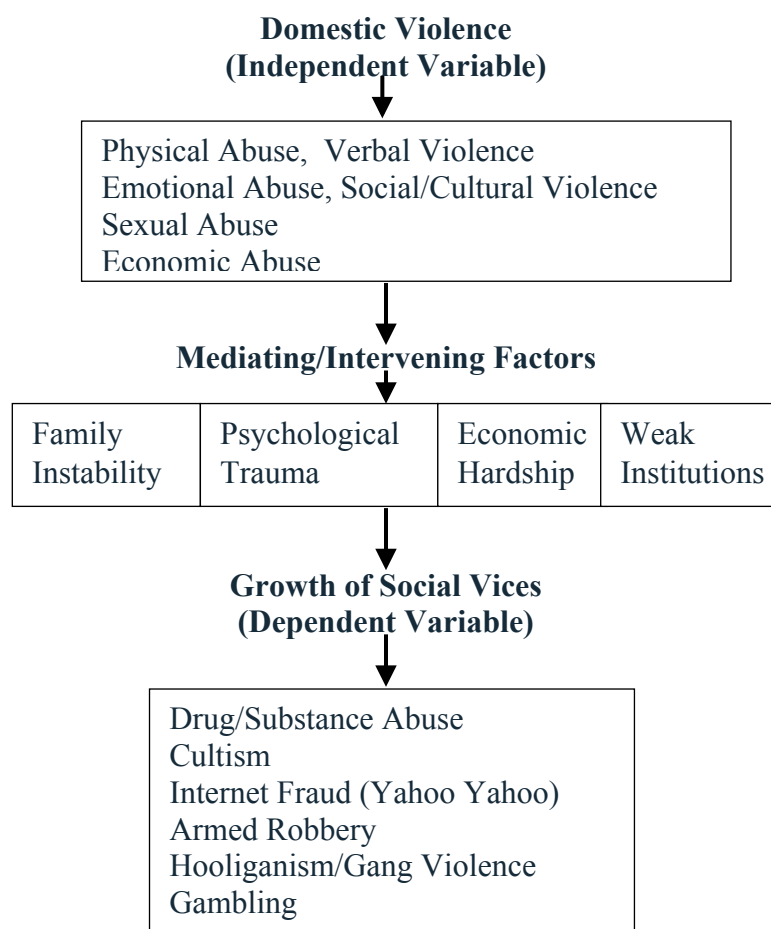
According to the theory, the family performs important functions in society, including child upbringing, socialization, emotional support, moral training, and social control. When the family performs these functions effectively, societal stability and social order are maintained. However, dysfunction within the family institution can lead to social disorganization and deviant behaviors.

Domestic violence represents a dysfunction within the family system because it disrupts family stability, weakens emotional relationships, and negatively affects child development and socialization. Children raised in violent homes may experience trauma, fear, aggression, and poor moral upbringing, thereby increasing their likelihood of engaging in antisocial and criminal behaviors.

Structural functionalists argue that when the family fails to perform its socialization and control functions effectively, society experiences an increase in social problems and social vices. Therefore, domestic violence weakens the family institution and contributes indirectly to the growth of cultism, drug abuse, prostitution, juvenile delinquency, internet fraud, and other social vices among youths.

The relevance of the Structural Functionalism Theory to this study is that it explains how domestic violence disrupts family functions and contributes to social instability in South-Western Nigeria. The theory helps to establish the connection between family dysfunction and the increasing prevalence of social vices in society.

## Conceptual Framework



The conceptual framework for this study explains the relationship between domestic violence and the growth of social vices in South-Western Nigeria. It provides a clear understanding of how domestic violence, which is the independent variable, influences the growth of social vices, which is the dependent variable.

In this study, domestic violence consists of different forms of abuse within the family or household, including physical violence, emotional or psychological abuse, sexual violence, verbal abuse, and economic abuse. These forms of violence create unstable family environments that negatively affect the emotional, psychological, and behavioral development of children and youths (Ekeigwe, Ikpeama, & Ene, 2024).

The framework assumes that children and youths who are exposed to domestic violence are more likely to experience trauma, fear, aggression, frustration, depression, poor self-esteem, and emotional instability. According to the Social Learning Theory developed by Albert Bandura, individuals learn behaviors through observation and imitation of others, especially parents and caregivers (Bandura, 1977). Therefore, children who grow up in violent homes may learn and imitate aggressive or antisocial behaviors from their parents or family members.

The conceptual framework further explains that domestic violence weakens family cohesion and disrupts proper child socialization. The family is expected to serve as the primary institution responsible for teaching children's societal values, discipline, and acceptable behavior. However, when violence dominates family relationships, children may internalize hostility, aggression, and deviant attitudes instead of positive social values (Parsons, 1951).

As a result of poor socialization and emotional instability caused by domestic violence, affected youths may become vulnerable to engaging in social vices such as cultism, drug abuse, prostitution, internet fraud, hooliganism, gang violence, juvenile delinquency, and armed robbery (Omonijo et al., 2013). Exposure to violent home environments may also increase the likelihood of school dropout, peer pressure, substance abuse, and criminal association among youths.

The framework also recognizes that certain intervening variables such as poverty, unemployment, peer influence, weak law enforcement, poor parental supervision, and economic hardship may strengthen the relationship between domestic violence and social vices. For example, a child exposed to domestic violence in a poor or unstable environment may be more likely to engage in criminal activities as a means of survival or emotional escape.

Therefore, the conceptual framework demonstrates that domestic violence contributes directly and indirectly to the growth of social vices in South-Western Nigeria by creating unstable family environments, weakening moral upbringing, and encouraging deviant behavior among children and youths.

## **METHODOLOGY**

This chapter concentrated on the methodology, procedures, and design to be employed in the research project. The subsequent subheadings include research design, study area, study population, sampling strategies, sample size, validity and reliability, data gathering methods, and data analysis methods.

### **Research Design**

The research design employed the survey approach due to the extensive area and insufficient resources to encompass all regions; specific states were selected for data gathering purposes. Creswell (2014) asserts that the survey approach is the most suitable for gathering data from a substantial sample size.

### **Areas of Study**

The study was conducted in South-western Nigeria which is one of the geopolitical zones in Nigeria consisting of six states namely: Ondo, Lagos, Osun, Ekiti, Ogun and Oyo.

It is majorly a Yoruba speaking area, although there are different dialects within the same state. The weather conditions vary between the two distinct seasons in Nigeria; the rainy season (March - November) and the dry season (November - February). The dry season is also the bringer of the Harmattan dust; cold dry winds from the northern deserts blowing into the southern regions around this time.

### **Population of the Study**

The study population comprised all married adults eighteen years and above from the selected communities.

### **Sampling Techniques and Size**

This study utilized a combination of purposive, cluster, and simple random sampling methods to pick respondents. The purposive sampling method was employed to designate South-

Western Nigeria as the study area due to its strategic socio-cultural importance, elevated literacy rates, and growing apprehensions surrounding domestic violence and social vices. The South-West geopolitical zone comprises six states: Lagos, Ogun, Oyo, Osun, Ondo, and Ekiti.

The cluster sampling method was utilized to choose three states: Lagos, Osun, and Ondo from the six states within the region. The selection was predicated on geographical distribution to guarantee sufficient representation in the South-West region. Each designated state is partitioned into three senatorial districts. One Local Government Area (LGA) was selected from each senatorial district using simple random sampling, yielding a total of nine (9) LGAs for the study.

Subsequently, participants were picked from the designated LGAs by purposive selection. Six hundred (600) respondents were selected, with two hundred (200) respondents from each of the three chosen states. Trained field assistants residing in the selected states facilitated the administration of questionnaires to ensure successful data collection and high response rates.

### **Data Sources**

The data for this study was sourced from both primary and secondary origins. Primary data was gathered via structured questionnaires distributed to the chosen respondents. The instrument was developed by the researcher through an extensive review of relevant literature and by adapting items from previous studies on domestic violence and social vices, notably those by Bandura (1977), Heise (1998), the World Health Organization (2021), Ajoseh et al. (2024), Alawode (2024), Ekeigwe et al. (2024), and Ogunlade et al. (2023).

Secondary data was obtained from pertinent textbooks, scholarly journals, conference proceedings, governmental publications, magazines, reports, and reputable online sites concerning domestic violence and social vices.

### **Data Analysis**

The data produced from the study was examined utilizing both descriptive and inferential statistical methods. Descriptive statistics, including frequency counts, percentages, means, and standard deviations, were employed to summarize the demographic characteristics of respondents and address the study objectives. Inferential statistics, encompassing regression analysis and pertinent statistical tests, was utilized to evaluate the hypotheses established for the investigation. All analyses were conducted utilizing the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 27, with findings shown in tables and interpreted accordingly.

## **DISCUSSION OF RESULTS**

The chapter analyzes, presents, and interprets the research data obtained by questionnaires. Frequency counts and percentage summaries were employed to assess the respondents' sociodemographic variables. The formulated research questions were examined using frequency counts and percentage summaries; additionally, mean values and rankings were employed when applicable. The study's formulated hypotheses were examined using linear regression analysis. All analyses were consolidated and displayed in tables.

### **Response Rate**

A total of 600 questionnaires were administered to the selected respondents. Upon retrieval,

some questionnaires were not returned, while a number of the returned questionnaires were incomplete or improperly completed. These questionnaires were excluded from the analysis to preserve the integrity and reliability of the data. Therefore, the analysis was based on 487 valid questionnaires, representing the effective sample size for the study. The findings and conclusions of the study are drawn from these valid responses.

**Table 1: Frequency and Percentage Distribution showing Respondents Personal Information**

| Factors                      | Options             | F   | %     | Factors                   | Options       | F   | %     |
|------------------------------|---------------------|-----|-------|---------------------------|---------------|-----|-------|
| <b>Gender</b>                | Male                | 194 | 39.8  | <b>Marital Status</b>     | Single        | 65  | 13.3  |
|                              | Female              | 293 | 60.2  |                           | Married       | 286 | 58.7  |
|                              | Total               | 487 | 100.0 |                           | Divorced      | 101 | 20.7  |
| <b>Age</b>                   | 18-25 Years         | 53  | 10.9  |                           | Widowed       | 35  | 7.3   |
|                              | 26-35 Years         | 115 | 23.6  |                           | Total         | 487 | 100.0 |
|                              | 36-45 Years         | 226 | 46.4  | <b>Employment Status</b>  | Unemployed    | 211 | 43.3  |
|                              | 46-55 Years         | 75  | 15.4  |                           | Self-employed | 147 | 30.2  |
|                              | 56 Years and Above  | 18  | 3.7   |                           | Employed      | 129 | 26.5  |
|                              | Total               | 487 | 100.0 |                           | Total         | 487 | 100.0 |
| <b>Religious Affiliation</b> | Christianity        | 224 | 46.0  | <b>State of Residence</b> | Lagos State   | 193 | 39.6  |
|                              | Islamic             | 208 | 42.7  |                           | Osun State    | 178 | 36.6  |
|                              | Traditional         | 55  | 11.3  |                           | Ondo State    | 116 | 23.8  |
|                              | Total               | 487 | 100.0 |                           | Total         | 487 | 100.0 |
| <b>Educational Level</b>     | Primary Education   | 55  | 11.3  |                           |               |     |       |
|                              | Secondary Education | 123 | 25.3  |                           |               |     |       |
|                              | Tertiary Education  | 309 | 63.4  |                           |               |     |       |
|                              | Total               | 487 | 100.0 |                           |               |     |       |

The information relating to the respondent's socio-demographics was presented in Table 1. The respondent's gender distribution was such that reasonable numbers of them (60.2%) were females, while 39.8% of them were males. The age categorization of the respondents had shown that 10.9% of them were aged between 18 and 25 years, 23.6% of them were aged ranging 26 and 35 years, 46.4% of them were within the age range of 36 and 45 years, and 15.4% of them were aged between 46 and 55 years, while 3.7% of them were aged 56 years and above.

Sequel to the respondent's religious affiliation; it was reported that 46% of them were Christians, and 42.7% of them were Muslims, while 11.3% of them were Traditionalist. The details of the respondent's attained educational level had shown that 11.3% of them had completed their primary school education, and 25.3% of them had completed their senior secondary school education, while 63.4% of them had completed their Tertiary education.

Concerning the respondent's marital status, 13.3% of them were single, 58.7% of them were married, and 20.7% of them were divorced, while 7.3% of them were widowed.

The distribution of the respondent's employment status had revealed that 43.3% of them were unemployed, and 30.2% of them were self-employed, while 26.5% of them were either employed in a private establishment or engaged as a civil servant. The last reported socio-demographic information was their state of residence; this was such that 39.6% of them reside in Lagos State, and 36.6% of them reside in Osun State, while 23.8% of them reside in Ondo State.

### Test of Research Questions

**Research Questions 1:** What is the rate of domestic violence experience among people in Southwestern Nigeria?

**Table 2: Mean, Standard Deviation, Frequency and Percentage Showing the Rate of Domestic Violence Experience among People in Southwestern Nigeria**

| Factor                          | N   | $\bar{x}$ | SD   | Interval | Level | N   | %    |
|---------------------------------|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|-----|------|
| Experience of Domestic Violence | 487 | 37.42     | 7.33 | 24-36    | Low   | 271 | 55.6 |
|                                 |     |           |      | 37-50    | High  | 216 | 44.4 |

The rate at which people experience domestic violence in Southwestern Nigeria was presented in Table 2. The difference in frequencies was structured such that scores between 24 and 36 indicates low experience, while scores ranging between 37 and 50 indicates high experience. It was reported that 55.6% of the respondents had low experience of domestic violence, although 44.4% of them had high experience of domestic violence. This implies that a good number of persons in the southwestern part of the country had low exposure to been hurt emotionally, physically threatened, sexually or verbally abused by persons' they live with either as a relative or family, although notable number of persons in this part of the country had also at one time or the other had been hurt emotionally, physically threatened, sexually or verbally abused by persons' they live with either as a relative or family, because 44% seems to be a pretty high percentage.

**Research Questions 2:** What is the rate at which social vices occur among people in Southwestern Nigeria?

**Table 3: Mean, Standard Deviation, Frequency and Percentage Showing the Rate at which Social Vices Occurs among People of Southwestern Nigeria**

| Factor                     | N   | $\bar{x}$ | SD   | Interval | Level | N   | %    |
|----------------------------|-----|-----------|------|----------|-------|-----|------|
| Occurrence of Social Vices | 487 | 15.25     | 5.16 | 7-14     | Low   | 196 | 40.2 |
|                            |     |           |      | 15-31    | High  | 291 | 59.8 |

Table 3 presents the result on the rate of occurrence of social vices among people in Southwestern Nigeria. The difference in frequencies used in the grouping was such that scores ranging between 7 and 14 had report low occurrence, while scores from 15 to 31 indicates high occurrence rate. It was reported that 40.2% of the respondents had said there is low occurrence of social vices in their neighborhood, however 59.8% of them had reported that there is a high occurrence of social vices in their area.

Considering the difference in frequency counts it is clarified that to a notable extent there has been high engagement in harmful behavior such as drug use, stealing, fraud, and violent behaviors among people in the Southwestern part of Nigeria.

**Research Question 3:** What are the possible forms of domestic violence experienced by people in Southwestern Nigeria?

**Table 4: Friedman Test on Statement Regarding the Possible Forms of Domestic Violence Experienced by People in Southwestern Nigeria**

| Items                                                                            | Responses      |         |      |      |      |      |       | Mean Ranking |  |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|---------|------|------|------|------|-------|--------------|--|
|                                                                                  |                | SA      | A    | UN   | D    | SD   | Total |              |  |
| Dominance and bullying constitute domestic violence                              | F              | 155     | 164  | 42   | 29   | 97   | 487   | 4.75         |  |
|                                                                                  | %              | 31.8    | 33.7 | 8.6  | 6.0  | 19.9 | 100.0 |              |  |
| Beating or hitting a partner or child is a form of domestic violence             | F              | 167     | 234  | 43   | 25   | 18   | 487   | 5.40         |  |
|                                                                                  | %              | 34.3    | 48.0 | 8.8  | 5.2  | 3.7  | 100.0 |              |  |
| Constant verbal abuse and insults in the home are forms of domestic violence     | F              | 279     | 98   | 54   | 28   | 28   | 487   | 5.86         |  |
|                                                                                  | %              | 57.3    | 20.1 | 11.2 | 5.7  | 5.7  | 100.0 |              |  |
| Denying a spouse financial support as punishment is a form of violence           | F              | 131     | 127  | 120  | 87   | 22   | 487   | 4.30         |  |
|                                                                                  | %              | 26.9    | 26.1 | 24.6 | 17.9 | 4.5  | 100.0 |              |  |
| Neglecting children’s basic needs (food, clothing, care) is domestic violence    | F              | 234     | 126  | 68   | 33   | 26   | 487   | 5.38         |  |
|                                                                                  | %              | 48.0    | 25.9 | 14.0 | 6.8  | 5.3  | 100.0 |              |  |
| Threatening to harm or kill a family member is domestic violence                 | F              | 205     | 117  | 93   | 24   | 48   | 487   | 5.07         |  |
|                                                                                  | %              | 42.1    | 24.0 | 19.1 | 4.9  | 4.9  | 100.0 |              |  |
| Preventing a partner from working, schooling, or social contact is violence      | F              | 140     | 177  | 74   | 56   | 40   | 487   | 4.52         |  |
|                                                                                  | %              | 28.7    | 36.3 | 15.2 | 11.5 | 8.3  | 100.0 |              |  |
| Forcing a partner to have sex without consent is domestic violence               | F              | 235     | 102  | 56   | 68   | 26   | 487   | 5.27         |  |
|                                                                                  | %              | 48.3    | 20.9 | 11.5 | 14.0 | 5.3  | 100.0 |              |  |
| Controlling a partner’s movement or phone calls is a form of psychological abuse | F              | 157     | 105  | 85   | 95   | 45   | 487   | 4.45         |  |
|                                                                                  | %              | 32.2    | 21.6 | 17.5 | 19.5 | 9.2  | 100.0 |              |  |
| Averaged Total                                                                   | F              | 189     | 139  | 71   | 49   | 39   | 487   |              |  |
|                                                                                  | %              | 38.8    | 28.5 | 14.6 | 10.1 | 8.0  | 100.0 |              |  |
| Friedman Chi Square                                                              | X <sup>2</sup> | 188.369 |      |      |      |      |       |              |  |
|                                                                                  | df             | 8       |      |      |      |      |       |              |  |
|                                                                                  | P              | ≥ 05    |      |      |      |      |       |              |  |

Table 4 present responses on the possible forms of domestic violence experienced by people in Southwestern Nigeria. The conducted Friedman test revealed that the reported mean ranking was valid to explain the variation in experience of these forms of domestic violence based on the perception of impact in the homes or the society ( $X^2 = 188.369$ ,  $df = 8$ ,  $p < .05$ ).

The primly rated form of domestic violence experienced by the people was constant verbal abuse and insults at home ( $M=5.86$ ). Majority of the respondents (77.4%) affirmed this impression, 11.2% of them were indecisive, meanwhile 11.4% of them refuted. The next rated form of domestic violence that the people had reported to occur was beating or hitting a partner or child ( $M=5.40$ ). This was such that 82.3% of the respondents supported this idea, 8.8% of them were neither in support nor against it, though 8.9% of them did not bide this idea. The mean value of 9.04 had placed next in ranking of identified form of domestic violence experienced by the people to be neglect of children's basic needs such as food, clothing, and basic care. Higher number of the respondents (73.9%) had agreed with this statement, and 14% of them neither agreed nor disagreed, however 12.1% of them disagreed.

Forcing a partner to sex without consent was placed next in rating as the form of domestic violence experienced by the people with the mean value of 5.27. It was reported that 69.2% of the respondents consent this view and 11.5% of them were not specific in response, meanwhile 19.3% of them report contrarily. Threat to be harm or killed by a family member was the next rated form of domestic violence experienced by the people in Southwestern Nigeria ( $M=5.07$ ). Reasonable number of the respondents (66.1%) had supported this assertion, 19.1% of them were equivocal, though 9.8% of them were of a report contrarily. The experience of dominance and bullying was another identified form of domestic violence experienced by the people ( $M=4.75$ ). It was observed that 65.5% of the respondents were positive to this opinion, 8.6% of them were neither in support nor against the opinion, however 25.9% of them were of a contrary opinion.

Arranging the possible forms of domestic violence experienced by people in Southwestern Nigeria on order of hierarchy had placed next in rating the prevention of a partner from working, schooling, or having social contact with the mean value of 4.52. It was reported that 65% of the respondents were positive to this statement, 15.2% of them were indecisive, meanwhile 19.8% of them refuted. The mean value of 4.45 had placed in rating of identified psychological abuse to be the control of partner's movement or phone calls. It was observed that a good number of the respondents (53.8%) complied this view, 17.5% of them were neither in support nor against this view, although 28.7% of them were of a contrary view. The least reported form of domestic violence experienced by the people was denying one's spouse financial support so as to punish him or her ( $M=4.30$ ). This thought was consented by 53% of the respondents, 24.6% of them were indecisive, and however 22.4% of them thought differently.

In the average summary, it was observed that reasonable number of the respondents (67.3%) consenting this statement had indicated that the aforementioned were the possible forms of domestic violence experienced by people in Southwestern Nigeria. This was such that 38.8% of them strongly agreed these statements, and 28.5% agreed, though 14.6% of them were not specific in response, and 10.1% disagreed, while 8% of them strongly disagreed.

Sequel to the variation observed in frequencies, it could be affirmed that this result is valid for further clarification. Therefore, it is justified that the aforementioned were the possible forms of domestic violence experienced by people in Southwestern Nigeria.

**Research Question 4:** What are the possible forms of social vices been engaged in by people in Southwestern Nigeria?

**Table 5: Friedman Test on Statement Relating to the Possible Forms of Social Vices Been Engaged in by People in Southwestern Nigeria.**

| Items                                                                                                                 | Responses      |        |      |      |      |      | Mean Ranking |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------|--------|------|------|------|------|--------------|
|                                                                                                                       |                | SA     | A    | UN   | D    | SD   | Total        |
| It is now an habit for youths to engage in drug or alcohol abuse                                                      | F              | 120    | 257  | 52   | 38   | 20   | 487          |
|                                                                                                                       | %              | 24.6   | 52.8 | 10.7 | 7.8  | 4.1  | 100.0        |
| There are reports relating to sexual assault in my neighborhood                                                       | F              | 139    | 159  | 56   | 31   | 102  | 487          |
|                                                                                                                       | %              | 28.6   | 32.6 | 11.5 | 6.4  | 20.9 | 100.0        |
| Cult Groups or Cultism was not common in the ages like in our present time                                            | F              | 183    | 131  | 62   | 63   | 48   | 487          |
|                                                                                                                       | %              | 37.6   | 26.9 | 12.7 | 12.9 | 9.9  | 100.0        |
| Fraud related activities and cyber-crime is the order of the present day                                              | F              | 146    | 175  | 122  | 28   | 16   | 487          |
|                                                                                                                       | %              | 30.0   | 35.9 | 25.1 | 5.7  | 3.3  | 100.0        |
| Vandalism and violent behaviors of the youths is becoming a treat to people in the society                            | F              | 149    | 129  | 112  | 42   | 55   | 487          |
|                                                                                                                       | %              | 30.6   | 26.5 | 23.0 | 8.6  | 11.3 | 100.0        |
| Non checkmating unlawful possession or carrying dangerous Arms of the people encouraged bad behavior among the people | F              | 124    | 159  | 143  | 33   | 28   | 487          |
|                                                                                                                       | %              | 25.5   | 32.6 | 29.4 | 6.8  | 5.7  | 100.0        |
| Averaged Total                                                                                                        | F              | 144    | 168  | 91   | 39   | 45   | 487          |
|                                                                                                                       | %              | 29.6   | 34.5 | 18.7 | 8.0  | 9.2  | 100.0        |
| Friedman Chi Square                                                                                                   | X <sup>2</sup> | 34.697 |      |      |      |      |              |
|                                                                                                                       | df             | 5      |      |      |      |      |              |
|                                                                                                                       | P              | >.05   |      |      |      |      |              |

The result on the possible forms of social vices been engaged in by people in Southwestern Nigeria was presented in Table 5. The conducted Friedman test revealed that the reported mean ranking were valid to explain the preference with the identified social vices based on the perceived rate of occurrence ( $X^2= 34.697$ ,  $df= 4$ ,  $p < .05$ ).

The highest rated occurring social vices was that youths now engage in drug or alcohol abuse ( $M=3.77$ ). Higher percentage of the respondents (77.4%) affirmed this impression, 10.7% of them were indecisive, though 11.9% of them refuted. Next rated form of social vices occurring was fraud-related activities and cybercrime which is almost becoming the order of the day ( $M=3.64$ ). This was such that 65.9% of the respondents affirmed this idea, 25.1% of them did not support nor did they negate this idea, meanwhile 9% of them did not bide this idea.

The mean value of 3.55 had placed next in ranking of the occurring social vices to be increasing rate of cultism. It was observed that 64.5% of the respondents complied with this opinion, and 12.7% of them were equivocal, however 22.8% of them were of a contrary opinion. Vandalism

and violent behaviors among youths were another reported occurring social vices been engaged in by the people ( $M=3.40$ ). This was such that 58.1% of the respondents consent this statement, 23% of them were wavering in response, and however 19.9% of them report differently.

The failure to check unlawful possession or carrying of dangerous arms was the occurring form of social vices that was rated before the least ( $M=3.38$ ). It was reported that 64.1% of the respondents were positive to this view, 29.4% of them were equivocal, although 12.5% of them were of a contrary view. The least reported occurring social vices was issues relating to sexual assault in the neighborhood ( $M=3.27$ ). This was such that (61.2%) been positive to this perception, even when 11.5% of them were neutral in response, while 27.3% of them refuted.

Averagely, it was observed that reasonable number of the respondents (64.1%) with consent to these statements affirmed that the aforementioned were the possible forms of social vices been engaged in by people in Southwestern Nigeria, which signals that homes with high domestic violence are situated in neighborhoods with high social vices. This was such that 29.6% of them strongly agreed these statements, and 34.5% agreed, though 18.7% of them were indecisive, 8% of them disagreed, while 9.2% strongly disagreed.

Inference from the variation observed in frequencies indicated that this result is valid for further clarification. Therefore, it is ascertained that the aforementioned were the possible forms of social vices been engaged in by people; which implies that homes with high domestic violence are situated in neighborhoods with high social vices in Southwestern Nigeria.

### Test of Hypothesis

**Hypothesis 1:** Domestic violence experience does not significantly influence occurrence of social vices in the society

**Table 6: Linear Regression Analysis Showing Experience of Domestic Violence Influencing Occurrence of Social Vices in the Society**

| Predictors                   | B   | SE B | $\beta$ | t     | p    | 95% CI      | R   | R <sup>2</sup> | Ad R <sup>2</sup> | df     | F         |
|------------------------------|-----|------|---------|-------|------|-------------|-----|----------------|-------------------|--------|-----------|
|                              |     |      |         |       |      |             | .90 | .82            | .82               | 1, 485 | 2165.27** |
| Domestic Violence Experience | .52 | .011 | .90     | 46.53 | .000 | (.50 – .54) |     |                |                   |        |           |

**Note:** \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*  $p < 0.05$ ;  $N = 487$ ; Ad  $R^2$ =Adjusted  $R^2$ ;  $B$  = Unstandardized Beta;  $\beta$ = Standardized Beta; SE  $B$  = Standard Error, ( $Dv$ = Occurrence of Social Vices)

The result in Table 6 had shown that the experience of domestic violence significantly influences occurrence of social vices in the society ( $B = .52$ ,  $\beta = .90$ ,  $t = 46.53$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This implies that individual exposure to emotional turn, physical threat, sexual or verbal abused by persons' they live with either as a relative or family determines the extent at which they will engage in harmful behavior such as drug use, stealing, fraud, and violent behaviors.

This was such that experience of domestic violence had contributed 82% variation to changes observed in the occurrence of social vices in the society [ $R^2 = .80$ ;  $F(1, 485) = 2165.27$ ;  $p < .05$ ]; which implies that there are other factors not considered in this study that contributes to engagement in social vices. This result negates the formulated hypothesis 1 and it was then rejected.

**Hypothesis 2:** Domestic violence experience does not have any significant influence on occurring dimensions of social vices in the society

**Table 7: Linear Regression Analysis Showing domestic violence experience Influence on Occurring Dimensions of Social Vices in the Society**

| Criterion Variable                 | Predictor                    | B   | SE B | $\beta$ | t     | p    | 95% CI      | R   | R <sup>2</sup> | Ad R <sup>2</sup> | df    | F        |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|-----|------|---------|-------|------|-------------|-----|----------------|-------------------|-------|----------|
| Engaging in Drug and Alcohol Abuse | Domestic Violence Experience | .06 | .01  | .45     | 11.19 | .000 | (.05 – .07) | .45 | .21            | .20               | 1,485 | 125.19** |
| Sexual Assault Involvement         | Domestic Violence Experience | .12 | .01  | .58     | 15.65 | .000 | (.10 – .13) | .58 | .34            | .33               | 1,485 | 244.84** |
| Involvement in Cultism             | Domestic Violence Experience | .06 | .01  | .34     | 7.82  | .000 | (.05 – .08) | .34 | .11            | .11               | 1,485 | 61.19**  |
| Fraud and Cyber Crime              | Domestic Violence Experience | .07 | .01  | .50     | 12.55 | .000 | (.06 – .08) | .50 | .25            | .24               | 1,485 | 157.56** |
| Vandalism and Violent Behaviors    | Domestic Violence Experience | .10 | .01  | .56     | 14.78 | .000 | (.09 – .11) | .56 | .31            | .31               | 1,485 | 218.58** |
| Carrying Dangerous Weapons         | Domestic Violence Experience | .09 | .01  | .59     | 16.08 | .000 | (.08 – .10) | .59 | .35            | .35               | 1,485 | 258.71** |

**Note:** \*\*  $p < 0.01$ , \*  $p < 0.05$ ; N= 487; Ad R<sup>2</sup>=Adjusted R<sup>2</sup>; B = Unstandardized Beta;  $\beta$ = Standardized Beta; SE B = Standard Error, (Dv= Occurring Dimensions of Social Vices)

The result of the summarized six different linear regression analyses was presented in Table 7, in respect to the influence of domestic violence experience on the occurring dimensions of social vices had shown that experience of domestic violence significantly influences engagement in drug and alcohol abuse ( $B = .06$ ,  $\beta = .45$ ,  $t = 11.19$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This implies that individual exposure to emotional turn, physical threat, sexual or verbal abuse by persons' they live with either as a relative or family determines the extent at which they are engaged in inordinate use of substances and drinking alcohol. This was such that domestic violence experience had contributed 21% variation to changes observed in the involvement in drug and alcohol abuse [ $R^2 = .21$ ;  $F(1,485) = 125.19$ ;  $p < .05$ ].

In a similar trend; domestic violence experience also significantly influences involvement in sexual assault ( $B = .12$ ,  $\beta = .58$ ,  $t = 15.65$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This shows that individual exposure to emotional turn, physical threat, sexual or verbal abused by persons' they live with either as a relative or family determines possible involvement in forceful sexual behavior in the neighborhood. This was such that experience of domestic violence had contributed 34% variation to changes observed in the occurrence of sexual assault in the society [ $R^2 = .34$ ;  $F(1,485) = 244.84$ ;  $p < .05$ ].

The likelihood of involvement in cultism was also significantly predicted by the experience of domestic violence ( $B = .06$ ,  $\beta = .34$ ,  $t = 7.82$ ,  $p < .05$ ); which implies that individual exposure to

emotional turn, physical threat, sexual or verbal abused by persons' they live with either as a relative or family determines their possibility of forming alliance with bad gangs in the neighborhood. This was such that experience of domestic violence had contributed 11% variation to changes observed in the occurrence of cultism in the society [ $R^2=.11$ ;  $F(1,485) = 61.19$ ;  $p < .05$ ].

Occurrence of fraud related acts and cyber-crime involvement was also significantly predicted by domestic violence experience ( $B = .07$ ,  $\beta = .50$ ,  $t = 12.55$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This shows that individual exposure to emotional turn, physical threat, sexual or verbal abused by persons' they live with either as a relative or family determines their possible involvement in theft related acts and other criminal actions through the cyber space. This was such that experience of domestic violence had contributed 25% variation to changes observed in the occurrence of fraud and cyber-crime in the society [ $R^2=.24$ ;  $F(1,485) = 157.56$ ;  $p < .05$ ].

Domestic violence experience also significantly influences act of vandalism and violent behaviours ( $B = .10$ ,  $\beta = .50$ ,  $t = 14.78$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This shows that individual exposure to emotional turn, physical threat, sexual or verbal abused by persons' they live with either as a relative or family determines possible involvement in deliberate action of destroying properties and acting in ways to hurt people either by fighting or bullying in the neighborhood. This was such that experience of domestic violence had contributed 31% variation to changes observed in the occurrence of vandalism and violent behaviors in the society [ $R^2=.31$ ;  $F(1,485) = 218.58$ ;  $p < .05$ ].

Lastly, domestic violence experience also exerts significant influence on engagement in carrying dangerous weapons ( $B = .09$ ,  $\beta = .59$ ,  $t = 16.08$ ,  $p < .05$ ). This shows that adults who are exposed to emotional turn, physical threat, sexual or verbal abused by persons' they live with either as a relative or family are highly likely to live in neighborhoods with severe weapon-carrying. This was such that experience of domestic violence had contributed 35% variation to changes observed in the occurrence of people carrying dangerous weapons in the society [ $R^2=.34$ ;  $F(1,485) = 258.71$ ;  $p < .05$ ].

Inference from the possible prediction of domestic violence experience to occurring dimensions of social vices had indicated that living in neighborhood where individuals carries dangerous weapons ( $R^2=.35$ ); involvement in sexual assault ( $R^2=.34$ ); vandalism and violent behavior ( $R^2=.33$ ), as well as engagement in fraud and cyber-crime ( $R^2=.31$ ), seems to be most occurring social vices in the society sequel to domestic violence experience. This result negates the formulated hypothesis 2, and it was therefore rejected.

## SUMMARY

This study examined the impact of domestic violence on the proliferation of social vices in South-Western Nigeria, utilizing data gathered from 487 respondents in Lagos, Osun, and Ondo States. The study investigated the frequency of domestic violence, the incidence of social vices, the types of domestic violence encountered, the prevalent social vices in society, and the degree to which domestic violence affects social deviant behaviors.

The results indicated that 44.4% of respondents encountered a significant level of domestic violence, whilst 55.6% reported minimal exposure. Despite the majority indicating minimal exposure, the percentage of respondents who encountered domestic violence is considerable, highlighting that domestic violence is a serious social concern in the region.

The research further indicated that social vices are widespread in South-Western Nigeria, with 59.8% of participants acknowledging a significant prevalence of such vices in their communities. Substance addiction, encompassing drug and alcohol misuse, has become the predominant societal vice, succeeded by fraud, cybercrime, cultism, vandalism, aggressive conduct, illegal possession of hazardous weapons, and sexual assault.

The predominant forms of domestic violence reported include persistent verbal abuse and insults, physical assault such as beating or striking a partner or child, neglect of children's fundamental needs, coerced sexual relations, threats of harm, dominance and bullying, limitations on social and economic activities, psychological manipulation, and economic deprivation.

The regression analyses demonstrated that domestic violence strongly affects the prevalence of social vices in society. Domestic violence constituted 8% of the variance in social vices overall. Moreover, domestic violence was a major predictor of particular aspects of social vices, encompassing substance misuse, sexual assault, cult activities, fraud and cybercrime, vandalism, violent conduct, and possession of dangerous weapons. The most significant consequences were noted for the possession of lethal weapons, sexual assault, and vandalism or violent conduct.

The findings indicate a robust correlation between exposure to domestic abuse and participation in several types of social deviance within communities.

### **Comparison of Results with Prior Research**

The results of this study align with other prior empirical investigations that have explored the correlation between domestic violence and societal issues in Nigeria and elsewhere.

The study indicated that a substantial percentage of respondents had encountered domestic violence, notably in the forms of verbal abuse, physical assault, neglect, sexual coercion, and psychological abuse. This finding corroborates the research of Alawode (2024), which indicates that domestic violence persists extensively in Nigeria, significantly shaped by socio-economic factors, cultural norms, and gender disparities. Ajoseh et al. (2024) indicated that economic abuse is a significant aspect of domestic violence, especially among financially dependent family members.

The discovery that verbal abuse and physical violence are the predominant manifestations of domestic violence corroborates the research conducted by Ekeigwe et al. (2024), which determined that familial instability in Nigeria is frequently marked by emotional maltreatment, physical aggressiveness, and neglect. Similarly, Ogunlade et al. (2023) discovered that psychological and emotional abuse were among the most prevalent forms of domestic violence within Yoruba families.

The current study identified a significant prevalence of social vices, notably substance addiction, fraud, cybercrime, cult activities, vandalism, sexual assault, and illegal possession of firearms. This discovery corresponds with Yusuf et al. (2022), who recognized drug misuse, cultism, prostitution, and criminal activities as significant indicators of moral decay among Nigerian adolescents. Igwe (2014) noted that the rising participation of young in crime, substance misuse, and antisocial behavior presents significant obstacles to national development.

Moreover, the discovery that drug and alcohol misuse is the most widespread social vice supports Oyelami's (2019) assertion that deteriorating community values and family structures greatly contribute to substance abuse and other deviant behaviors among Nigerian adolescents. The findings corroborate the assertions of Adeyemi and Adeoye (2023), who indicated that insufficient familial support and inadequate socialization heighten the propensity for youth engagement in social vices.

A key contribution of this study is its observation that domestic violence substantially affects the prevalence of social vices. This outcome aligns with Bandura's (1977) Social Learning Theory, which asserts that individuals acquire behaviors through observation and imitation. Children and family members exposed to violence are more prone to internalizing aggressive and deviant habits, then manifesting them in society. This research also corroborates Bandura's (1986) Social Cognitive Theory, which underscores that contextual experiences influence behavioral patterns and social outcomes.

The study's conclusion that domestic violence is a significant predictor of drug abuse, cultism, sexual assault, fraud, vandalism, and weapon possession is corroborated by Omonijo et al. (2013), who contended that dysfunctional family environments substantially contribute to youth delinquency and criminal behavior. Adeyemi and Adeoye (2023) similarly discovered that youths from unstable family environments exhibit a heightened susceptibility to engaging in antisocial and criminal behaviors.

The results can be elucidated through a sociological lens, employing Durkheim's (1964) theory of social disorganization, which posits that the deterioration of social institutions, such as the family, fosters deviant conduct. Parsons (1951) contended that the family functions as a principal agent of socialization, and when it inadequately fulfills its roles owing to violence and conflict, social instability is likely to ensue.

The study concludes that domestic violence has extensive societal repercussions, aligning with the World Health Organization's 2021 report, which highlighted that familial violence adversely impacts victims' physical and mental health while also fostering enduring social issues, such as criminality, substance abuse, and community instability.

### Domains of Distinction

The current study indicated that 55.6% of participants reported minimal exposure to domestic violence, however other prior studies have documented greater prevalence rates. The World Health Organization (2021) estimates indicate that violence against women is still widespread globally, particularly in numerous poor nations. The diminished prevalence noted in this study may result from underreporting, cultural stigma, fear of disclosure, or variations in geographical coverage and measurement methodologies.

Furthermore, although sexual assault was recognized as the least reported social vice in this study, prior research has indicated elevated incidence of sexual violence in specific Nigerian communities. This gap may be related to respondents' hesitance to address sexual issues because of cultural sensitivity and social stigma.

### Comprehensive Implication

The findings of this study robustly corroborate existing literature indicating that marital violence is a substantial predictor of social vices. The findings bolster the assertion that initiatives to mitigate crime, substance misuse, cultism, and other manifestations of social

deviance in Nigeria must incorporate strategies to avoid domestic violence and enhance familial stability.

## CONCLUSION

This study concludes that domestic violence remains a major social challenge in South-Western Nigeria and is significantly associated with the prevalence of social problems within affected communities. The findings indicate that communities characterized by higher levels of domestic violence are more likely to experience increased incidences of youth delinquency, substance abuse, criminal activities, and other forms of social disorder.

The study further establishes that domestic violence extends beyond the immediate family environment and has broader implications for social stability and community well-being. Persistent abuse within households contributes to family instability, weakens social cohesion, and creates conditions that may foster the emergence of antisocial behaviours among young people.

Therefore, addressing domestic violence should not be viewed solely as a family welfare issue but as an essential component of efforts aimed at reducing social disorder, promoting community safety, and supporting sustainable social development in Nigeria. By strengthening family relationships, enforcing protective legislation, and improving support systems for victims, stakeholders can contribute to the reduction of both domestic violence and its wider social consequences.

## Recommendations

In light of the study's findings and conclusions, the subsequent recommendations are proposed:

- The government must enhance the enforcement of domestic abuse legislation by guaranteeing swift investigation, conviction, and punishment of perpetrators to deter similar incidents.
- Public awareness efforts must be amplified via media, educational institutions, religious organizations, and community groups to inform residents about the perils and repercussions of domestic abuse.
- Counseling and rehabilitation services must be augmented for both victims and perpetrators of domestic abuse to mitigate psychological trauma and avert the perpetuation of violence.
- Parents and guardians ought to foster healthy familial ties by employing non-violent conflict resolution techniques and affirmative parenting practices.
- Community and religious leaders ought to engage proactively in the prevention of domestic violence by promoting harmonious familial ties and reporting instances of abuse.
- Economic empowerment initiatives must be developed, especially for women and at-risk family members, to diminish reliance and susceptibility to maltreatment.

- Educational institutions ought to integrate violence prevention and social responsibility instruction into their curricula to foster the development of positive attitudes and actions among youth.
- Law enforcement agencies ought to engage with community partners to identify and mitigate locations where social vices are prominent, while also providing early interventions for at-risk youngsters.
- Programs targeting youth to mitigate drug misuse, cultism, and cybercrime should be reinforced, especially in neighborhoods with elevated incidences of domestic violence.
- Subsequent research should investigate additional factors influencing social vices, as domestic violence represents merely a portion of the variance in deviant behaviors, suggesting that other social, economic, and environmental elements may also be significant contributors.

If effectively implemented, these proposals will mitigate domestic violence and its related impact on the proliferation of social vices in South-Western Nigeria.

### **Limitation and Direction for Future Research**

This study was confined to Lagos, Osun, and Ondo States in South-Western Nigeria; hence, the outcomes may not be entirely applicable to other states or regions of the country. The research depended on self-reported data, which may have been affected by respondents' hesitance to reveal sensitive information due to fear, stigma, or social desirability bias. The cross-sectional approach also restricted the capacity to ascertain causal links between marital violence and social vices. The study concentrated on certain types of social vices, but other contributing factors, like poverty, unemployment, peer influence, and inadequate institutional assistance, were not thoroughly investigated. Ultimately, limitations of time, finances, and logistics restricted the study's scope and sample coverage.

Subsequent study should broaden the geographical scope by including additional states or undertaking nationwide investigations to improve the generalizability of results. Researchers are urged to employ longitudinal and mixed-methods approaches to gain a deeper comprehension of the enduring impacts of marital violence on social vices. Subsequent research should examine additional factors affecting social deviance, including poverty, unemployment, family dynamics, peer influence, mental health, and social media exposure. Furthermore, research should assess the efficacy of governmental policies and intervention programs designed to prevent domestic violence and mitigate social vices, while investigating protective variables and evidence-based measures to enhance family stability and community development.

Another limitation of this study is that the majority of respondents (63.4%) possessed tertiary education, resulting in a sample that was largely dominated by highly educated individuals. This may have introduced social desirability bias, as respondents could have been reluctant to disclose personal experiences of domestic violence.

### **Policy Implications**

This study underscores vital directions for social policy and community development in Nigeria. Embedding domestic violence prevention within national and state crime reduction strategies could help mitigate substance abuse, youth delinquency, cybercrime, and related

social problems. Strengthening institutional mechanisms by expanding access to counselling, legal aid, shelters, and psychosocial support is essential, while community organizations, traditional leaders, and religious institutions should intensify awareness campaigns that challenge harmful cultural norms and promote peaceful family relations. Social workers must take a proactive role in early identification, intervention, and coordination of support services, and stronger collaboration among government agencies, educational institutions, civil society, law enforcement, and community leaders is needed to design integrated approaches that address both domestic violence and broader social vices.

### Ethical Approval

The study adhered strictly to established ethical standards in social science research. All participants were engaged on a voluntary basis, with informed consent obtained prior to involvement. Confidentiality was safeguarded throughout, and respondents were assured that their contributions would be used exclusively for academic purposes.

### Conflict of Interest

The author affirms that no competing interests are associated with the preparation or publication of this manuscript.

### Acknowledgments

The author extends heartfelt gratitude to all participants who generously shared their experiences and took part in this study. Special thanks are owed to the field assistants whose dedication ensured the effective distribution and collection of the questionnaires. The insightful feedback and guidance provided by academic mentors and colleagues during the research process are deeply appreciated. Their encouragement and support played a vital role in the successful completion of this work.

### REFERENCES

- Adeyemi, K., & Adeoye, T. (2023). *Truancy and school dropout: Implications for youth crime in Nigeria*. *Educational Research and Reviews*, 18(2), 78–89.
- Ajoseh, M., Sifat, R., & Whesu, T. (2024). Food-based domestic violence and anemia among women in sexual unions in Nigeria: the effect of urbanization. *Journal of Public Health Policy*, 45(3), 441–456. doi.org
- Alawode, O. A., & Bolarinwa, O. A. (2023). Is intimate partner violence vertically transmitted among women in sub-Saharan Africa? Evidence from demographic health surveys between 2010 and 2019. *International Journal for Equity in Health*, 22(1), Article 260. doi.org
- American Psychological Association. (2020). *Publication manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). American Psychological Association.
- Bandura, A. (1977). *Social learning theory*. Prentice Hall.
- Bandura, A. (1986). *Social foundations of thought and action: A social cognitive theory*. Prentice Hall.
- Creswell, J. W. (2014). *Research design: Qualitative, quantitative, and mixed methods approaches* (4th ed.). SAGE Publications.
- Durkheim, E. (1964). *The division of labour in society*. Free Press. (Original work published 1893)

- Ekeigwe, T. O., Ikpeama, C. R., & Ene, J. C. (2024). Examining traditional methods of handling domestic violence in a Southeastern Nigerian state: the imperative for social workers' involvement. *Journal of Religion & Spirituality in Social Work: Social Thought*, 43(4), 515–537. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15426432.2024.2418951>
- Gelles, R. J. (1997). *Intimate violence in families* (3rd ed.). Sage Publications.
- Heise, L. L. (1998). Violence against women: An integrated, ecological framework. *Violence Against Women*, 4(3), 262–290. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801298004003002>
- Juna, M. A. (2008). *Domestic violence and the escalation of social vices in Nigeria*. Ahmadu Bello University Press.
- Merton, R. K. (1968). *Social theory and social structure*. Free Press.
- Ogunlade, O. B., Olowokere, A. E., Agunbiade, O. M., Olajubu, A. O., Oyelade, O. O., & Irinoye, O. O. (2023). Context and indigenous structures for managing family violence in a Yoruba community. *The Qualitative Report*, 28(1), 177–199. <https://doi.org/10.46743/2160-3715/2023.5310>
- Olasupo, M. A. (2023). Religiosity, work-family conflict and domestic violence among married persons in Osun State, Nigeria. *European Research Area Studies*, 6(2), 77–91.
- Omonijo, D. O., Nnedum, O. A. U., Fadugba, A. O., Uche, O. O. C., & Biereenu-Nnabugwu, M. A. (2013). Causes of social vices among youths in Nigeria and their remedies. *Mediterranean Journal of Social Sciences*, 4(6), 223–231.
- Oyelami, A. A. (2019). Community values and social vices among Nigerian youth. *Nigerian Journal of Community Development*, 12(1), 56–70.
- Parsons, T. (1951). *The social system*. Free Press.
- Reif, K., Smith, H., & Wallace, J. (2020). Exposure to domestic violence and youth involvement in antisocial behaviour: A systematic review. *Trauma, Violence, & Abuse*, 21(5), 1053–1070. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1077801298004003002>
- Straus, M. A., & Gelles, R. J. (1990). *Physical violence in American families: Risk factors and adaptations to violence in 8,145 families*. Transaction Publishers.
- Udebhulu, J. O. (2009). *Domestic violence and its implications for family stability in Nigeria*. Ambrose Alli University Press.
- United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. (2023). *Global study on homicide 2023*. United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.
- World Health Organization. (2021). *Prevalence estimates of violence against women 2018*. World Health Organization. <https://doi.org/10.1007/9789240022256> (doi.org in Bing)
- World Health Organization. (2024). *Violence against women*. World Health Organization. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/violence-against-women>
- Yoo, M., & Johnson, S. D. (2019). Domestic violence and its impact on family functioning: A systematic review. *Journal of Family Violence*, 34(5), 421–435. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10896-018-0006-5> (doi.org in Bing)
- Yusuf, A., Adebayo, K., & Olatunji, M. (2022). Family instability and youth involvement in social vices in South-Western Nigeria. *Nigerian Journal of Sociology*, 18(2), 115–132.