

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

PUPILS' PERCEPTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AND ITS EFFECTS
ON THEIR LIVES. A STUDY OF BASIC SCHOOLS IN ASUOYEBOA IN
THE KUMASI METROPOLIS

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THE KUMASI METROPOLIS

BY

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of Social Sciences, College of Humanities and Legal Studies, University of
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of Arts Degree in Democracy, Governance, Law and Development

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DECLARATION

Candidate's Declaration

I hereby declare that this dissertation is the result of my own original research and that no part of it has been presented for another degree in this university or elsewhere.

Candidate's Signature:..... Date:.....

Name: Isaac Adjei Boateng

Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of the dissertation were supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of dissertation laid down by the University of Cape Coast.

Supervisor's Signature:..... Date:.....

Name: Prof. Akwasi Kumi-Kyereme

ABSTRACT

The main purpose of the study was to find out pupils' perception of domestic violence and its effects on their lives. The study sought to find out pupils' level of knowledge on domestic violence, forms of domestic violence, effects of domestic violence as well as strategies and interventions that can be used to combat the problem of domestic violence in the community. Descriptive survey design was used to carry out the study. The population comprised all pupils and social workers in Asuoeyboa, a suburb of Kumasi. Simple random and purposive sampling techniques were used to select 30 pupils and 15 social workers respectively who participated in the study. Questionnaires were administered to collect data. Descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages) was employed to analyze the data.

The study revealed that, domestic violence has negative effects on the lives of pupils. The pupils also expressed similar sentiments on the effects including poor performance in school, affects the way they relate with the people/ persons who abuse them. Based on the research findings, it is recommended that the National Commission on Civic Education should create awareness on the harmful effects of domestic violence especially on the child. The NGOs who advocate for women and children's rights should go to the grassroots where the actual problems lie and sensitise the family on the effects of domestic violence.

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DEDICATION

To my dear wife

TABLE OF CONTENTS

| | Page |
|--|------|
| DECLARATION | ii |
| ABSTRACT | iii |
| ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS | iv |
| DEDICATION | v |
| LIST OF TABLES | ix |
| LIST OF ACRONYMS | x |
| CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION | 1 |
| Background of the Study | 1 |
| Statement of the Problem | 6 |
| Purpose of the Study | 6 |
| Research Questions | 7 |
| Significance of the Study | 7 |
| Delimitation of the Study | 8 |
| Limitation of the Study | 9 |
| Definitions of Terms | 9 |
| Organization of the Study | 9 |
| CHAPTER TWO: REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE | 11 |
| Introduction | 11 |
| Meaning of Domestic Violence | 11 |
| Forms of Domestic Violence | 15 |
| Children's Perception of Domestic Violence | 17 |
| Causes of Domestic Violence | 19 |
| General effects of Domestic Violence | 29 |

| | |
|---|----|
| Effects of domestic violence on the lives of children | 32 |
| National Policy on Domestic Violence | 38 |
| CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY | 41 |
| Introduction | 41 |
| Research Design | 41 |
| Population | 42 |
| Sample and Sampling Procedure | 42 |
| Research Instruments | 42 |
| Validity and Reliability of Instruments | 43 |
| Data Collection Procedure | 44 |
| Data Analysis | 45 |
| CHAPTER FOUR: RESULTS AND DISCUSSION | 46 |
| Introduction | 46 |
| Background Characteristics | 46 |
| Knowledge of Domestic Violence | 48 |
| Forms of Domestic Violence | 50 |
| Effects of Domestic Violence on Pupils' Lives | 52 |
| Measures for Combating Domestic Violence | 54 |
| CHAPTER FIVE: SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS | 57 |
| Introduction | 57 |
| Summary | 57 |
| Key Findings | 58 |
| Conclusions | 59 |
| Recommendations | 60 |

| | |
|--|----|
| REFERENCES | 62 |
| APPENDICES | 69 |
| Appendix A: Questionnaire for pupils | 69 |
| Appendix B: Questionnaire for social workers | 73 |

LIST OF TABLES

| | Page |
|---|------|
| 1 Gender of Pupils | 47 |
| 2 Age Distribution of Pupils | 47 |
| 3 Pupils Levels of Knowledge on Domestic Violence | 48 |
| 4 Pupils' Responses on the Forms of Domestic Violence | 50 |
| 5 Pupils' Responses on the Effects of Domestic Violence | 52 |
| 6 Views of Pupils on Measures to Combat Domestic Violence | 54 |

LIST OF ACRONYMS

| | |
|--------|---|
| APA | American Psychological Association |
| CEDAW | Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women |
| CRC | Convention on the Rights of the Child |
| DOVVSU | Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit |
| FIDA | Federation of International Women Lawyers Association |
| GVSSN | Gender Violence Survivors Support Network |
| IPV | Intimate Partner Violence |
| MOWAC | Ministry of Women and Children Affairs |
| NCCE | National Commission on Civic Education |
| PSTD | Post Traumatic Stress Disorder |
| SPSS | Statistical Package for Service Solution |
| UNICEF | United Nations International Children Fund |
| WAJU | Women and Juvenile Unit |

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

Background to the Study

In our daily lives we are regularly confronted with violence of a kind or the other in our communities. One kind of violence that by its “private” nature tends to be hushed up or at best spoken of in undertones, if at all, is domestic violence. In a family, we usually find people who are members such as husband, wife, children and relatives living together. At times there may be differences and misunderstandings, which lead them to use force or cause sufferings to other members of the family. The people who suffer most are children and women.

In a home where the husband has the propensity for beating up his wife and children, both mother and children live in constant fear. As a result, the atmosphere of peace and love, security and respect that ought to prevail in the home is eroded. The child who grows up in such a home is not likely to achieve a healthy balance in his physical and psychological development and this has dire consequences for the child’s future as a family person and an adult member of society (Catholic Voice, 2003).

For much of history and throughout the world, social and legal traditions have tolerated or even promoted the physical assault of women by men. In ancient Rome, a husband could legally divorce, physically punish or even kill his wife for behaviours that were not permitted for men. Punishment of wives was called chastisement; a term that emphasised the corrective purpose of the behaviour. In the medieval English Common Law, a husband could not be prosecuted for raping his wife because the law provided that a

wife could not refuse consent for sex to her husband. This definition of rape remained in effect in the United State until the 1970s because much of United States law was modelled on English Common Law, when many but not all states modified their rape statutes.

Although the problem of domestic violence is widespread and is not limited to any particular social group or geographical background, in recent times, the incidents of violence against vulnerable groups (women and children) in Africa, especially in Ghanaian societies have been on the ascendancy. Hardly a day goes by without one media or the other reporting on one form of violence being perpetrated against people within these groups. In the past, the law enforcement agencies did not treat the issues of violence mentioned above as criminal due to our socio-cultural orientation, which makes spouses reluctant to bring charges against each other (especially wives against their husbands) and bring solace to often abused and vulnerable groups in the country. For instance, since anything sexual was considered a taboo in the public domain, all sexual excesses were swept under carpet.

Again, in traditional Ghanaian society we have tended to think that some form of discipline, even the harsh type is good for the general growth of children. Thus our concept of child abuse is obscure. In the traditional Ghanaian setting, any adult could discipline any child who misbehaves because of the notion that “we are therefore I am” (Ntneh, 2000). The recent proliferation of reports on these forms of domestic violence makes it an imperative for us to become aware of this very devastating phenomenon.

Experts agree that domestic violence is a widespread problem. However, its actual extent is difficult to measure. Researchers believe that the

extent of violence between partners is higher than reports indicate. Data based on official documents, such as police or hospital records, tend to underestimate the extent of violence because many instances of abuse are never reported. Surveys of individuals generally produce higher estimates of violence than official records, but they are also assumed to underestimate the actual extent of domestic violence. For a variety of reasons, a respondent may fail to report violence that occurs with an intimate partner.

According to the Accra Regional Office of the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit [DOVVSU] (2009), there has been an increase in the number of domestic violence cases that were reported in 2009. In all, DOVVSU handled a total of 5,709 cases in 2009 as against 4,904 in 2008, which is an increase of 805. A total of 4,689 males were suspects or perpetrators and 1,020 were females, registering a rise of 16.5 percent over 2008. In Kumasi, the Unit recorded 1,629 cases between January-December, 2009 with defilement topping the list with 189 cases. This is followed by 68 threat cases, and 40 unlawful child removal cases.

Between June-December, 2002, 53 cases were reported in Secondi Unit. Assault topped the list with 20 cases, threat-10, neglect-8, indecent assault-4 and 3 defilement cases. Tamale Unit also recorded 50 cases of defilement, ranking second between January and October 2009, assault topped the list with 69 cases. The Tema Unit of DOVVSU recorded a total of 1,020 domestic violence cases in 2009. The Unit whose jurisdiction covers Tema Main, Ashaiman Division, Sakumomo District, Tema New Town, Dodowa and Ada Districts also recorded a total of 1, 397 non-maintenance of family related cases during the period. Out of the total domestic criminal cases, 1,019

were true cases, 118 were sent to court, 31 convicted, 77 still pending trial, 71 of the cases had been closed, one was discharged while 830 cases were still being investigated.

The Acting Volta Regional Director of the Department of Women, Madam Thywill Eyra Dordor, has disclosed that in 2009, the region recorded 149 cases of defilement, 24 rape cases, and 142 cases of assault, noting that even though the figure was an improvement over the year 2008, violence against women and children continued to be high, an issue that was affecting the smooth development of the region. She pointed out that the figure was of reported cases to her outfit, saying there were hundreds of such cases occurring in towns and villages, which did not get to the office due to accessibility, and that stakeholders should see the negative development as a threat to development efforts in the region, and come up with strategies that would help reverse the situation. In Cape Coast, 1,117 cases were reported from 2008-2011; rape cases 329, defilement cases 195, assault and parental neglect 593 cases.

Moreover, in a related study conducted at the maternity hospital in Korle-Bu teaching hospital, Accra, indicated that 17 out of 233 pregnant women representing 7.3%, were victims of physical abuse. This finding is comparable to the results in the Komfo Anokye Teaching Hospital in Kumasi (The Mirror, Saturday, February 21, 2004, p. 11).

Again, reports from FIDA-Ghana indicate that out of 1000 cases handled between January and July 1997, 145 women suffered some form of violence from their partners and in cases of widows, from relatives of their husbands (Daily Graphic, Thursday June 8, 2000 p. 9).

The above statistics portray that Ghanaian society is saddled with a continuing rise in the incidence of domestic violence. This is might be possible because too many Ghanaians continue to tolerate the conditions that debilitate the family and weaken the child's moral growth and development. Government tries to figure out as to how to protect the existing family structure from total collapse and ensure that the impending law before parliament does not contribute to high divorce cases and increase in violent juvenile crime and streetism. Therefore, its religious, social and political leaders and other agencies like UNICEF must do all they can to keep intact those families that have adhered to a tradition of stable marriage life and encourage couples to negotiate and dialogue instead of being confrontational.

The family and home environment provided by married biological parents is the primary resource for tomorrow's well-adjusted children for the future of the country and for the protection of both women and children. This is because education starts from home, the school is only an extension of the home, and if the right environment is not created it affects children's proper disposition to learning. As a result their moral education will be affected. This confirms the Mexican-American Legal Defence and Education Informational Brochure (1998) that parental involvement in education improves students/pupils morals, attitude and academic achievement across all subject areas. It is therefore the duty of parents to prepare morally responsible citizens trained to subdue evil inclination and to acquire good habits. But one single factor that seems to undermine a positive effect of moral education is menace of domestic violence.

Statement of the Problem

Recent media reports that whirl in our Ghanaian society with the passing of each day about attitude and character development of children and in some cases parents leave much to be desired. The increase in violent juvenile crime, neglect of children by parents, battery, assault, defilement and rape are burning around every community. The question that quickly comes to mind is whether or not pupils understand what domestic violence. The attitudes of some pupils suggest that they do not understand what domestic violence means. For this reason they may be unable to report or seek redress, when their rights have been infringed upon. Could the lack of understanding on the part of pupils and its implications account for numerous juvenile crimes, rape and defilement cases?

At Asuoyeboa where the researcher lives, the story is not different and this aroused the interest to find out whether pupils understand domestic violence; because despite all attempts by advocacy groups and government to educate and sometimes sanction perpetrators of violence by applying punitive measures such as arrests and jail sentences, this state of immorality is rather on the increase. Therefore, there is the need for study of this sort to be carried out in order to assess pupils' understanding of this social canker in order to battle it out of our society.

Purpose of the Study

The purpose of this study was to assess pupils' understanding of domestic violence with particular reference to the children of Asuoyeboa, a suburb of Kumasi. Specifically, the study sought to:

- i. Ascertain pupils' level of knowledge on domestic violence.
- ii. Find out the various forms of domestic violence among children in the Asuoyeboa community.
- iii. Find out the effects of domestic violence on the lives of pupils.
- iv. Identify strategies that can be used to combat the problem of domestic violence in the community.

Research Questions

The study sought to find answers to the following research questions:

1. What level of knowledge do pupils in the Asuoyeboa community possess about domestic violence?
2. What are the various forms of domestic violence in Asuoyeboa community?
3. How does domestic violence affect the lives of pupils in the Asuoyeboa community?
4. What strategies can be used to combat the problem of domestic violence in the community?

Significance of the Study

It is my fervent hope that the findings of this study will enlighten pupils on the problem of domestic violence. This will bring into focus the effects of domestic violence on the character formation of children.

It is also envisaged that evidence will be forthcoming to get the facts on how to curb this social canker. All this is done with the hope that various suggestions and workable recommendations will be made to the Government

and the stakeholders in the formal education setup in the country in enlightening pupils on domestic violence in order to enhance their awareness of the canker.

Moreover, the results of the study would be useful to the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs in drawing up child support policy, which is non-existent in the country. The results would also be useful to the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU), Federation of International Women Lawyers Association (FIDA), Gender Violence Survivors Support Network (GVSSN) and Women's Health Foundation Ghana and other non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in producing information about the vulnerable situation in which women and children find themselves.

It will also help to awaken the consciousness of the public on the adverse effects of their actions on the children and educate those who might wish to involve in that. I hope this will go a long way to help couples to see their roles as complementary to help create a conducive atmosphere that ought to prevail in the home for the child to achieve a healthy balance in his or her physical, psychological and moral development. It is hoped therefore that the findings and recommendations of this study would help intensify the campaign against domestic violence as one of the ways by which Ghana could be transformed into a community of highly responsible people with a great deal of respect for women and children's rights.

Delimitation of the Study

The subject of Domestic Violence is too broad to be dealt with in one breath considering its many and different manifestations whether physical or

psychological. It would have been good to adopt a holistic approach to the issue. However, looking at the time constraint within which the study had to be conducted attention was focused on the understanding of pupils on domestic violence. Besides, this study was limited to Asuoyeboa, a suburb of Kumasi with some selected schools in the area.

Limitation to the Study

Due to time factor, only questionnaires and interviews were employed in investigating the problem of this research. Other plausible methods such as participant observation over a period of time, among others, which could have been useful in enriching the findings, have not been used. The scope of this work and the time available for its completion could not permit me to do so.

Definition of Terms

Pupils: Children of school-going age in schools at the basic level (from class 1 to JHS 3).

Understanding: The amount of knowledge a person has on a subject matter.

Domestic Violence: A threatening behaviour or actual harm inflicted upon a person by a member of his or her own household as a means of control over a situation.

Effect: A change which is produced by an action/inaction or a cause.

Organisation of the Study

The work is made up of five chapters. The first chapter focuses on the introduction. It comprises the background to the study, statement of the

problem, purpose of the study, research questions, significance of the study, delimitation, and limitation, definition of terms and organisation of the study.

In the second chapter, the researcher reviews the related literature on the research topic, dwelling on the causes and effects to enable the researcher have broad-based information to analyse the findings of the field work done.

The third chapter looks at the research methodology that was employed to carry out the study. This consists of the research design, population, sample and sampling procedure, the research instrument, validity and reliability of instruments data collection procedure as well as data analysis. Chapter four focuses on the presentation and discussion of the results of the study. The last chapter is devoted to summary of the research process and findings of the study, conclusions and recommendations that were made based on the findings of the study. This final chapter also contains areas that have been suggested for further research.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE

Introduction

This chapter contains a review of various previous studies that are related to the issue under investigation. The relevant views and findings of scholars are discussed and summarized in this chapter. In this review, particular attention would be paid to the following sub-headings:

The meaning of domestic violence, the forms of domestic violence, the causes of domestic violence, the general effects of domestic violence, the effects of domestic violence on the lives of children, national policy on domestic violence

Meaning of Domestic Violence

Domestic Violence is prevalent cutting across all ages and all sectors of society. Approximately 95 percent of the victims of domestic violence are women. Although the woman is usually the primary target, violence is often directed towards children as well and its effects on them can never be underestimated (www.community.nsw.gov.au/brochures/web.dv.htm). Victims of domestic violence experience both short term and long term effects in different ways. Children who witness domestic violence experience depression and psychological distress and are more likely than other children to be physically violent (Gelles, 2004).

The term 'Domestic Violence' has been defined in various ways by social thinkers-Sociologists, United Nations and Women's Advocacy groups from their own experience or interest.

The Encarta Encyclopaedia (2004) defines domestic violence or spouse abuse as any form of physically or emotionally harmful acts that occur between husbands and wives or between other individuals in intimate relationships. It is further explained as a threatening behaviour or actual harm inflicted upon a person by a member of his or her own household. This definition used the term domestic violence and spouse abuse interchangeably. The term as used here is gender-neutral; that is, it can refer to abuse of either husband or wife and gives the impression that men are as likely as women to be victims of abuse. Some scholars and activists consider the term spouse abuse inappropriate because police and hospital records indicate that the majority of victims of domestic violence are women and children. Hence, these experts use of the term violence toward women and children refer to domestic violence. Applying this to the topic, domestic violence can refer to any abusive act between parent(s) and child.

The Encyclopaedia Britannica (1999) also gives the social and legal concepts of domestic violence in the broadest sense. It refers to domestic violence as any abuse that takes place among people living in the same household although their male partners often use the term specifically to refer to assaults upon women. This definition acknowledges the narrow definition of domestic violence to refer to violence towards women by their partners; it tries to look at the social and legal concept of violence in the broadest sense. It refers to any abusive act between husband and wife and between parent(s) and child. Relating this broadest sense of the social and legal concept of domestic violence to the topic, it can thus be defined as the violation of the child's rights

to interact with other by confining, placing unreasonable limitations on freedom of movement or social interaction.

The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of violence against women in 1993 defined domestic violence as “any act of gender-based violence that results in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threat of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life”. The interest of this definition indicates that it is biased against men, as only women are likely to be victims of abuse.

Although 95 percent of women are usually the primary target, violence is often directed toward children as well and sometimes toward men especially when their roles as the bread winners has been taken over by women. It can thus be defined in relation to our topic as any abusive behaviour used by parents to indecently assault children or force them to look at pornography against their will, or repeatedly damage the interactions between parents and children including committing life threatening acts or failing to express affection, caring and love for a child whether happening in the home or on the street.

The Domestic Violence Act also defines it as engaging in specific acts of or threatening to commit any form of abuse, whether or not covered by the criminal code of Ghana, including but not limited to the following; physical, sexual, emotional, verbal and psychological abuse, economic, intimidation, harassment, stalking, entry into complainant residence without consent. It also covers all other practices that are also forms of abuse and that are inimical to the welfare and development of a person and any other controlling abusive

behaviour towards a complainant. Thus the term can be applied here to mean any form of violence (be it physical, psychological, emotional, etc.) and all other practices (like female genital mutilation, child trafficking etc.) that are also forms of abuse and are hostile to the child's welfare and development.

Domestic violence, also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, battering, family violence, and intimate partner violence (IPV), has been broadly defined as a pattern of abusive behaviours by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, friends or cohabitation. Domestic violence, so defined, has many forms, including physical aggression (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, slapping, throwing objects), or threats thereof; sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse (e.g., neglect); and economic deprivation. Alcohol consumption and mental illness can be co-morbid with abuse and present additional challenges when present alongside patterns of abuse.

Domestic violence is epidemic in our society with dramatic, negative effects on individuals, families and communities. Domestic violence is a crime that knows no economic, racial, ethnic, religious, age or gender limits. Women who are victims of domestic violence most likely are also victims of sexual assault and, stalking. Domestic violence is any intimidating behaviour, violence or abuse between adults who are or have been in a relationship, or between family members. It can affect anybody, regardless of gender or sexuality. The violence can be psychological, physical, sexual or emotional. Awareness, perception, definition and documentation of domestic violence differ widely from country to country, and from era to era. According to some

studies, less than one percent of domestic violence cases are reported to the police. According to the Centres for Disease Control, domestic violence is a serious, preventable public health problem. Each year in the United States, 4.8 million women suffer intimate partner related physical assaults and rapes and 2.9 million men are victims of physical assault from their partners (Wikipedia, 2011).

Domestic violence can be defined as any domestic partner or interfamilial altercation that involves emotional, psychological, verbal, or physical abuse. The abuse may be sufficient to warrant the involvement of law enforcement officials, but this definition includes acts that are not illegal, such as verbal abuse. There is no crime labeled domestic violence; rather, the crimes committed defined legally as domestic violence include assault, assault and battery, rape, stalking, aggravated assault, and assault with a dangerous/deadly weapon.

From the foregoing discussion, domestic violence could refer to any form of threatening behaviour or abusive act used by one partner to gain control over another's life. Applying the definition of domestic violence to the study under review, it could be referred to violence in intimate relationship between parents and children.

Forms of Domestic Violence

Violence is not a new thing, and for centuries human beings have been violent one towards another. We as humans have to deal with different types of violence in everyday life and some types of violence that we may experience are; child abuse, spousal abuse or domestic violence, violence

directed towards elderly, sexual assault and harassment, professional misconduct, teen violence, murder is an act of violence, stalking in some way may be classified as type of violence. It is in human nature to do violence one or another way. Domestic violence can take many forms, these include but not limited to the following:

Psychological maltreatment which is a repeated pattern of damaging interactions between parent(s) and child that becomes typical of the relationship. It occurs when a person conveys a message to a child that he or she is worthless, flawed, unloved, unwanted, endangered, or only of value in meeting another's needs. Social abuse is when parents confine and place unreasonable limitation on freedom of movement or social interaction of children.

Physical assault of children occurs when parent(s) rarely, sometimes, often, usually or ever; avoids or pushes, shoves, slaps, punches or kicks the child, uses things as weapons against him or her, threatens to do it again to "keep you in line". Sexual assault is being forced by parent(s) to have sex (rape), indecent assault, or look at pornography against the child's will. Controlling is where a party is always dictating the pace and directing affairs in a relationship much against the will of the other or the child, who looks on helplessly. Domineering attitude is where one partner establishes absolute control over the other in a relationship. Here, the other person does not seem to have a say in issues concerning the two.

Children's Perception of Domestic Violence

Perception as a psychological concept defies a single definition. Bartley (1969) wrote that perception is the immediate discriminatory responses of an organism. The concept perception has been looked at by early psychologists as an act of perceiving in terms of basic data and sensory experience. Allport (1955) on his side defined perception as having something to do with our awareness of the object or conditions about us. He explained that perception is dependent on the impressions these objects make on our senses. It is the way things look to us, or the way they sound, feel, taste, or smell. According to Bruner (1973), perception is based on two important points. The first is that perception is not only dependent on the stimulus attributes of what is being perceived, it is also determined by examining individuals experience, intention and social needs. Again, the perceiver is not a passive and an indifferent organism but one who actively selects information and forms perceptual hypothesis in order to reduce uncertainty and decides what precisely is happening.

Bruner, Goodman, and Augustin (1956) viewed perception as involving decision process, a placement of incoming information into a network of meaningful categories developed largely from prior learning. Past experience in certain kinds of setting leads one to expect certain events with a higher probability than others. This means that the individual is alert for things that have happened in the past. The individual therefore ignores the unlikely possibility of rare events (Bruner et al., 1956). They explained two characteristics of perception.

First, perception is selectively organized. This is the focusing of mental effort on specific stimuli while excluding other stimuli from consideration. In this, new experiences are assimilated selectively and are then incorporated into previous experiences that are meaningful and functionally useful to the individual. Secondly, in the process of perceiving, new experiences are assimilated more readily if they are highly related to past experiences than if they are not. It can be deduced from the views of Bruner et al. (1956) that individual's environment and past experiences are important in his or her understanding and acceptance of a particular concept or event.

Therefore, the success or failure of certain events in the past can affect the individual's perception. Studies show that 3-4 million children between the ages of 3-17 are at risk of exposure to domestic violence each year. U.S. government statistics say that 95 percent of domestic violence cases involve women victims of male partners. The children of these women often witness the domestic violence. Children's development is expected to unfold within a secure and nurturing environment. Where the environment is infected by violence and fear, all the normal tasks of growing up are likely to be adversely affected. These symptoms may affect children's ability to learn to get along with other children or to concentrate in school. Children can experience domestic violence in many ways:

1. seeing the violence or hearing shouts, screams and crying from another room;
2. witnessing the outcome of violence, such as cuts or bruises and the emotional impact on the abused parent;

3. intervening between the abuser and other person, sometimes getting physically hurt in the process;
4. being deliberately injured in order to terrorise the non-abusive parent

Nolan (1998) categorised a broad range of violent acts and abuse child to include:

1. Emotional deprivation of love and physical contact
2. Verbal abuse, that involves constantly being shouted at
3. Exposure to violent aggressive scenes at home
4. Physical neglect
5. Deprivation of food warmth and shelter
6. Lack of adult protection bullying, sexual assault and emotional neglect.

Casey (1987) reported that 28 percent of mothers in a Dublin refuge said that their children had been severely beaten by their partners. In addition 30 percent either knew or suspected that their children had been sexually abused by their partners. He examined the medical records of children who had been abused from indicators of domestic violence. They found that 45 percent of the children had mothers who were also being abuse. They claim, battering is the most common context for child abuse, and that the battering male is the typical child abuser (p. 97).

Causes of Domestic Violence

As regards the causes of domestic violence, scholars have divergent views. There are some who take the unfavourable conditions within marriage as a major cause. Some purport the cause to be socio-economic factors and

still others blame the cause on socio-political. Many more are of the opinion that the cause is not a single factor but rather a concomitant of many factors. A close examination into the incidence of domestic violence indicates that its causes cut across socio-economic, socio-cultural, political and religious and psychological factors of society.

As far as the socio-economic factors are concerned, the study conducted by Marvin Wolfgang (1956) on domestic violence in Philadelphia shows that both the offenders and the victims were young adults with low socio-economic statuses. A similar survey conducted by Sedlak and Broadhurst on the demographics of child abuse confirmed that. The study showed that there is a high incidence of abuse among the very poor. In 1993, the overall rate of maltreatment (abuse and neglect combined) in the United States was lowest in families with incomes above \$30,000 per year 10 times higher in families with incomes between \$15,000 and \$30,000 per year; and 22 times higher for families with incomes below \$15,000 per year.

In Ghana, many cases of the incidence of domestic violence reported in the mass media show that more than 50 percent of the victims and the offenders were in the lower socio-economic class, such as farmers, palm wine tapers, carpenters, masons among others. A report in *The Ghanaian Times* (April 19, 2002) is a classic example of this issue. In this report a palm wine taper allegedly killed his wife on a trivial issue. Questionnaires collected also brought to the fore that the high rate of unemployment among couples could not be underscored in this category. It is an undeniable fact, in Ghana today, that a great number of people are jobless. In such situations, people become frustrated and aggrieved when they are unable to pay children's school fees,

rents, electricity and water bills let alone providing a three-square meal for a day for the whole family. Consequently, the slightest provocation easily results in one or other form of domestic violence. The high cost of living also needs to be underscored. The low levels of salaries vis-à-vis the high cost of living in the country today, lands many people in aggression when they are unable to make ends meet.

Besides, the rise of economic power in the hands of women over men is also a contributing factor. In Ghana today, some women have become breadwinners of their families. In such situations, some women look down on men who may in turn express their superiority as heads of their families through violent means. Comparing examples on this issue are as follows:

In the “Daily Graphic” of April 19, 2002, there is a report that Kwesi Nyarko; a 35 year old mason allegedly caused the death of his wife by hitting her with a hammer on the head. Asked why he committed the act, Nyarko said he did not understand why after giving money to his wife to trade, she would refuse to give him the money when he was in need.

In another development, “The Mirror of February 21, 2004 (p.11), records of a 47 year old farmer, Musa Busanga of Moseaso near Wassa Akropong killed his pregnant wife, Mary Afugu and her seven-month old baby. Conversely, Bassuk (1996) gave co-habitation as the major cause for domestic violence (child abuse). For him the tendency has been to blame poverty for this increase, but there is more to the picture of child abuse in the United States. The inability of families to foster stable environment especially two parent families with married biological parent within which children are loved and protected increases abuse of children and the related increase in

violent juvenile crime. This was confirmed by the British data conducted by the Family Education Trust on the relationship between family structure and abuse. The results of the study showed that overwhelming number of deaths occurred in households in which the child's biological mother was cohabiting with someone unrelated to the child than the poorest families' exhibit.

It is worth mentioning here that one which is not a cause in itself but intrinsically enhances the socio-economic causes is police irresponsibility when called to duty. For instance in the United States, Tracey Thurman, who feared her estranged husband's constant threat to shoot her and her son repeatedly, requested the police to assist, all ended in vain. Her husband eventually stabbed her from the neck rendering her paralysed (Adler Freda et al., 2009) p.240.

A classic example in Ghana on police irresponsibility in preventing the incidence of domestic violence was reported in the "Daily Graphic of April 19, 2002 (p.3); reported of Adwoa Mansa who was strangled by her husband in bed. Prior to her death, source revealed that she made several reports to the police but the effort to arrest the husband who threatened her with death proved futile.

However, it must be noted that some of the victims of domestic violence in Ghana, specifically Asuoyeboa in Kumasi are responsible for their own woes. The reason is that some simply decide not to report such violent acts to the police for fear of public ridicule and criticism or that the culprit would be embarrassed. For instance a lady interviewed (name withheld) said she did not report an uncle who raped her (sexual assault) for fear of family

criticism and that the uncle will face public ridicule that would consequently strip the uncle of his reputation in society.

Social and cultural influences also contribute to domestic violence. Most victims of intimate violence who are women researchers who analyse social factors contributing to domestic violence often focus on the role of women in society. In most societies, economic and social processes operate directly and indirectly to support a patriarchal (male-dominated) social order and family structure. Patriarchal is associated with the subordination (restriction to inferior status) and oppression of women. Some analysts believe that patriarchy accounts for the historical pattern of violence directed against women in intimate relationships.

The violence is often institutionalized or formalized in societal structures, for instance in traditional laws and customs that permit husbands to physically punish their wives. Also, analysts say, patriarchy contributes to lower economic status for women which may make women dependent on men. This dependence may increase a woman's likelihood of becoming involved in an abusive relationship or may limit a victim's ability to live such a relationship. In affirming the above point Christian noted that rape is culturally related to societal norms that approve of aggression as the demonstration of masculinity of males over the females. For her, "rape is the mechanism by which men maintain their power over women". (Adler Freda et al., p.244) such acts against women dominate in societies where women have no status and do not have much influence in decision making.

The story is not different in Ghana specifically in the area under study as far as all cultures are concerned. The traditional norm on the division of

labour, which is based on age and gender where women perform instrumental roles such as looking after children, doing household chores are contributing factors to the incidence of domestic violence when the contrary becomes the order of the day. Also, the traditional rates men higher in society and expects them to show their dominance and superiority over the females. This gender inequality is heightened by the payment of expensive bride price in marriage institution, which makes some men treat women as their properties rather than as partners.

Another cultural factor is the peculiar Ghanaian extended family pressure in marriage. Procreation in marriage is highly valued in most Ghanaian cultures and hence the showing up of the ugly head of barrenness on the part of the women or impotence on the part of men in marriage provokes the concern of the extended family members. Too much pressure from them on the couple therefore lands men especially in confusion leading to frustration that consequently results in violent acts as they are easily provoked by any action of their wives.

Another area worth mentioning is the traditional arrangements of marriage where partners are forced on are lived together. The typical Ghanaian parent prefers to make the choice of partner for the son rather than the man making the choice himself. Some partners thus do not feel they owe any allegiance to their mates. They go in not for love and commitment but for their perceived benefits. This, when such attraction diminishes, the other party tries to abandon the relationship leading the neglected mate in a quandary. Pushed to the wall, these mates resort to all forms of violence.

A further cultural cause is the traditional practice of polygamy within the marriage institution. In such situation, one man shares his love with more than one woman. Women usually demand higher attention from men to seek the assurance of love from their husbands. Women, consequently pick quarrel with the men with any least provocation when aspiration are not met. This is evident in many interview sessions conducted as a number of respondents were of the view that shared love has been and is still the cause of the incidence of domestic violence in Ghana. Researchers into the cause of domestic violence have shown that psychological factors also contribute to intimate violence. It was clear from the message that some of the culprits were themselves once victims in one form or the other. Some who grow to abuse children were either abused during their early years or were themselves abused as children.

Some adults might have probably experienced an intense humiliation by women especially at the hands of domineering mothers. Some were brought up in homes of quarrel where they never experience peace as the father and the mother were always quarrelling or arguing over trivial issues sometimes resulting in physical assault among others. This evident is aptly summarised by Cathy Spatz Wisdom (1989) “violence begets violence”. Agreeing with the above opinion to some extent noted that witnessing or experiencing abuse and violence increases the likelihood that a child will become violent adult. It is not all children who grow up witnessing abuse between their parents or experiencing abuse themselves go on to become abusers; however, approximately one-third of them do. Likewise, Ruttler et al.

(1991), writes that those who experience sexual abuse in childhood are likely to become perpetrators themselves when they become adults.

Another cause worth mentioning here is infidelity among couples. Experts like Salzinger Suzanne (1992), identified fights over infidelity as another characteristic that will be key in identifying the abuse. In line with this, Whelan (1993) further identified other factors closely related to domestic violence. These are alcohol or substance abuse, sexual difficulties, anger, infidelity and jealousy among others. These researchers have shown that are more dangerous with cohabiting couples than stable couples. Similarly, Milner (1990) and Salzinger (1992) asserted that the most likely causes of child abuse by a mother can be traced to the violence and substance present in the mother's childhood, followed by the stress and discord in her current household. Parents, who abuse drugs too much, do things aggressive and deviant, developing a hostile and rebellious way of acting toward anybody for the least offence.

Another area that deserves equal attention here is the mass media. In spite of the numerous benefits of information technology, it has also brought in its wake the phenomenon of media violence, which is ruining the lives of many by luring them into all sorts of criminal violent activities. Jean Holf (1973), noted that pornographic films have led to sexual aggression against women. Affirming this Owusu-Ansah (1999), noted that "the electronic media are influential in shaping the culture, outlook and the perception of people as well as affecting their emotional feeling". Again, a recently conducted study on media violence by the American Institute of Public Health which has found corroboration in similar study by the American Psychological Association

(APA) concluded that as a result of exposure to media violence, people especially children become less sensitive to sufferings of others, more fearful of the world around them and become more likely to behave in aggressive ways towards others (Catholic Voice, 2003).

Writing on the impact of the electronic media on people, Acquah (2003) posited that even though there seems not to be any scientific proof that a man who watches a violent scene, say, a rape on television is suddenly likely to commit rape, it cannot be denied that the mindless violence from our movies, television, music and books has cumulative effect on people and ultimately makes people prone to violence and tolerant of violence. As to why a story must be spruced up in this manner make it more appealing to the public is a sad commentary on the state of our collective psyche as a people.

Domestic violence perpetrated especially to women and children seems to find its footing in religious practices. According to Akomeah et al. (2002), St. Paul's second letter to the Corinthians already refers to the image of marriage between Christ and the Church and associates it with the deception of Eve (2 Cor. 11: 2-3). The Pseudo-Pauline Pastoral epistles explicitly link the Kyriachal theology of submission with the teaching on woman's sinfulness. They prescribe the silence of women and prohibit women authority over men by claiming that not Adam but the woman was deceived and became a transgressor (1 Tim. 2: 11-15) and obedience and honour of parents by children (Eph. 5: 21-6: 1; Col. 3: 18). Hence, the cultural pattern of making victims of rape, incest or battering feel guilty and responsible for their victimization may have its religious roots in the scriptural teaching that sin came into the world through Eve.

Not only theological discourse but also Christian scriptural texts, theologize the Christologise Kyriachal suffering and victimization. When we preach to women, children and subordinated men, central Christian values such as love and forgiveness help to sustain relations of domination and to accept domestic violence. Hence scriptural texts and Christian ethics often maintain the cycle of preventing resistance to it. For instance, bothered wives, in turn, who believe that divorce is against God's will, cannot but remain in violent marriage relationships for "better for worse".

Although, their original intention might have been quite different, scriptural texts such as "blessed are the peace makers and those who suffer for righteousness sake", "but I say to you that everybody who is angry with his brother is liable to judgement", love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" (Matt. Chapter 5 to 6) construct a sacred canopy which compels victims to accept their sufferings without resistance. Injunctions of Jesus, to forgive the "one who sins against you not seven times but seventy times seven (Mtt. 18: 21-22) or Paul's praise of love" as patient and kind, not jealous or boastful, as not insisting on its own way, irritable and resentful bearing all things, believing all things, enduring all things and as never" (1 Cor. 13: 4-8), make those who do not practice these Christian values feel guilty. Since they do not want to feel guilty, they patiently and wrongly submit to sexual abuse, physical abuse and other forms of domestic violence or ecclesia control for resisting such violence and for having failed in their Christian calling.

General effects of Domestic Violence

Under this section I shall examine the effects of domestic violence on victims in general. The woman is usually the primary target (approximately 95 percent of them are victims), of the violence which is often directed towards children and the longer the violence the intense its effects on the victim.

Gelles (2004) argues that victims of domestic violence experience both short term and long lasting effects. Physical injuries can range from bruises, cuts, and burns to broken bones, stabbing, wounds, miscarriages (in women) and death. Also, victims experience depression and other psychological distress, eating disorders; alcohol and substance abuse problems and they are more likely than other people to contemplate or attempt suicide. Children who witness domestic violence experience depression and psychological distress and are more likely to be physically violent than other children.

Becker (1982), limiting himself to the effects of sexual assault on victims of domestic violence, noted that women and children who have been victims of rape and sexual assault bear the physical injury and profound emotional trauma such as nightmares depression, inability to concentrate, sleeping and eating disorders, feelings of anger, humiliation and self-blame. In addition, 50-60 percent experience severe sexual problems including fear of sex.

Wolf and Jaffe (1991) went further to look at the social effects of sexual assault and rape on the victims. They found out that marriage becomes a fearful institution for the victims; they tend to adopt distorted beliefs about social relations between people such as the belief that all men are abusers or that the marriage relationship must be exploitative.

Hall (1995) also noted the effects of domestic violence on the victims religiously. She indicated that victims make mockery of marriage as a sacred institution by God for mutual love and understanding. In addition, victims feel less loved and accepted by God, have less trust in God and are less likely to believe in his purpose for the future.

For Fagan (1997), the society cannot be left out as domestic violence poses a serious and escalating social problem. He indicated that the underline demographics of abuse reveal a worsening and social infrastructure that is more and more incompatible with social order and for which an increasingly heavy price will have to be paid: serious crime and crime-control costs; addition and related crime costs, robbery, theft and expanded prisons to contain the robbers and thieves, and a growing demand for drugs and all of the attendant problems associated with the drug culture and industry. The leading indicator of an increase in these problems tomorrow is their by products today: the abused infant and young children.

Kwawukume (2002) also noted that domestic violence also brings about tensions that result in protracted conflicts among extended families with it's by product of the disintegration of marriage, family and the community. In institutions where marriages are contracted across tribal lines, domestic violence heightens tribal animosity. For instance domestic violence resulting among couples of different ethnic group backgrounds is likely to create hatred and prejudice between the two tribal groups.

In addition to the above, he also noted some religious and cultural practices in the context of violence against women and children and their effects on the health of the victims. He found out that female genital

mutilation or circumcision and excision pose serious and enormous health risks to women and girls including bleeding, infection, keloid scarring, various gynaecological and obstetric consequences and increased vulnerability to contraction of acquired immune deficiency syndrome (AIDS). Many of the pregnant women find it difficult to deliver because the outside of the womb is tight, leading to prolonged labour and sometimes death of the baby if there is no immediate help from health personnel.

Again, Kwawukume (2002) found that victims of domestic violence are affected economically since they have to bear the cost of medical treatment as well as a loss of income or employment due to having to take time off work because of the violence. This leads to loss to jobs and decreased productivity caused by absenteeism and poor performance in the work place by both the abusers and victims or survivors of violence. In the area of tourism, it will be a disturbance to the tourism equilibrium, which sends wrong signals to the outside world, and prevent prospective tourists and investors from coming into the country. Furthermore, the pressure on the health sector would consequently affect the nation's economy since it requires the training of personnel and expanded hospitals to deal with physical and mental disorder.

Heise (1994) identified that domestic violence affects victims psychologically and emotionally. He noted that victims experience emotional and psychological distress such as mental derangement, fear and sleeplessness; weakens the will power, drastic change in behaviour, alcohol and substance abuse problems and they are more likely to contemplate or attempt suicide. For many women, the psychological effects of domestic violence are more crippling than the physical effects. Fear, anxiety, fatigue, post traumatic stress

disorder (PTSD) and sleeping and eating disturbances are common long-term reactions to violence. Again, abused women may become dependent on suggestible and they may find it difficult to make decisions on their own.

Effects of Domestic Violence on the Lives of Children

Character formation aims at inculcating good moral virtues in the shape of attitudes, behaviours, etc into children in order to fit them into society. It must prepare men and women to be ready to see and accept responsibilities, be able to discern between right and wrong and to order their conduct accordingly. This means that education has the task of preparing pupils in character formation so as to produce morally responsible citizens. It is in this light that McWilliams and Kwamena Poh (1975) have noted that the purpose of education, be it formal or informal, is to produce people who will be meaningful members of society. Then education should produce people who will fit into society, be cultured and morally responsible.

Similarly, Lloyd (1992) asserted that the family and home environment are the most important agents in early socialization and education of a child. Families and parents are supposed to educate the child morally. To him effective character formation education can take place in a stable environment within which children are loved and protected. The barometer of this failing, which is as a result of abuse on children, undermines the positive effects of character formation because it impedes children's proper disposition to learning. As a result good morals of children are affected.

Karys et al 109 (4), writing on the effects of abuse on children noted that kids who grew in dysfunctional family systems, control is what they saw

as both the means to safety and the means to personal power. Since domestic violence has as its purpose-control, kids learn that whoever is in control is the one who is safe and with the safety comes power. Again, he said that psychological maltreatment of children, which is a form of domestic violence, impairs the child's socialization and moral reasoning and promotes disobedience in children. It impairs child's socialization because it damages the interaction between parent(s) and the child and moral reasoning also becomes impaired because their understanding of virtues, rules, norms, and integration of these into moral choice is affected.

Javad et al (1992), comparing children who saw their mother being abused to those who did not in their study, they indicated that the former is 24 times more likely to commit sexual assault crimes, 50 time more likely to abuse drugs or alcohol, 74 times more likely to commit crimes against another person and 6 times more likely to commit suicide.

Emery (1989), writing on the effects of physical abuse by mother on the child noted that physical acts of violence by mother may seem very destructive when the mother is not emotionally attached to the child. Karen (1994), expanding on this notes that this lack of attachment can result in life-long damage to the child's emotional life and capacity for developing social relations; weakening future relationship with peers, spouse, and offspring.

Culp et al (1991) and Sternberg et al (1993), all agreed that physical abuse by mothers harm the child's emotional and intellectual growth, leads to poor performance in academic areas, frequently distort the child's self – image and view of the world and leads to depression and a weakened ability to regulate emotions. Again, abused children tend to know they are different, and

knowingly behave in ways likely to get them in trouble with others; they know they are unwanted and even that they are less healthy physically than their peers. In line with the above Wolfe and Jaffe (1991), also made the point that as a consequence, abused children tend to adopt distorted beliefs about social relation between people, such as the believe that all men are abusers or that the marriage relationship must be exploitative.

On the effects of sexual abuse on children, Lloyd and Taluc (1999) noted that sexual abuse affects children socially and one of the most debilitating social effects on the child is isolation. This social isolation of many at-risk families increases opportunities to experience the good influence of other adults or the friendship of other children. This isolation makes it easier for adults to hide even massive abuses.

Mawyer (1987), noted that child sexual abuse goes beyond just the social isolation. It also affects children physically. People who abuse children sexually do hurt them, sometimes physically and almost always in spirit. The bodily damage can include thorn vaginas and rectums and venereal diseases. Often the abusers in sickening manner use foreign objects. The more extensive the sexual abuse is, the greater the chance of mental damage. Consistent with the above, a study directed by Ann W. Burgess, a professor at the University of Pennsylvania School of nursing, found that the victims of child sex rings suffered from nightmares, hyper alertness, insomnia and flashbacks- the same symptoms of post-traumatic stress disorder that the victims of sadistic sexual abuse dope with repeated assault by developing multiple personalities.

A comparative study done on the effects of sexually abused children with non-abused adolescents by Morrow and Sorell (1989), revealed that

teenagers who were sexually abused as children are more depressed, more anxious, more self-conscious and more prone to poor self-esteem. Lanz (1995), while appreciating the work of Morrow and Sorell also held that sexually abused children are more likely to use drugs and be delinquent, have poor relationship with the rest of their families, feel they have received less emotional support from families and friends and perform more poorly at school; they also tend to move between domiciles more frequently thus adding their levels of anxiety and stress.

Likewise, Laumann (1992), writing on early sexual experiences noted that unlike other maltreated children, sexually abused children are also much more likely to display behaviours indicative of deviant or precocious sexual development including severe difficulty in establishing and maintaining close friendships and engaging in high-risk sexual behaviour. These behaviours may persist in some form into adulthood, leading to further sexual victimisation.

The national association of social workers conducted a survey of 360 agencies that provided basic shelter and crisis to runaway and homeless youth. The responses indicated sexual abuse frequently leads to truancy and running away from home. The study presents concrete evidence that more than 60 percent of the youth served had been seriously abused by their parents and that 23 percent of them had been sexually abused. It also revealed that teenage prostitution is often preceded by a child's run-away from home, it has deeper roots in early sexual abuse in the home (National Association of Social Workers, 1991).

Erickson, Stroufe and Pianta (1989) noted that the behaviour of sexually abused children was characterised by extreme anxiety and

attentiveness and difficulty in following directions. Their social behaviour ranged from withdrawal to extreme aggression and consequently they often were rejected by their classmates. These children commonly depended much more than their peers did on adults, appearing to have a strong need for their teachers' affection and approval. Their dependent behaviours seemed to reflect their roles as victims at home. Again, they noted that emotional abuse result in a myriad of long-term consequences for the child's moral education. Their study found that emotionally abused young children displayed more disruptive, non-complaint behaviour and a lack of persistence in their school work compared to their non- abused peers.

Ryan (1995), points out that emotionally abused children may exhibit emotional problems, cry excessively or be withdrawn or shy, may have difficulty making friends or have fear of adults. Children may suffer from depression and excessive absence from school and use violence for solving problems at school and home. Children may be at greater risk of being a runaway, being suicidal or committing criminal acts as juveniles and adults. Children who are experiencing stress may show it in different ways including difficulty in sleeping, bedwetting, over-achieving, and behaviour problems, with drawing stomach aches, headaches and diarrhoea.

Rosenbaun (1980) looked at how emotional abuse destroys a child's sense of self. He noted that emotionally abused child lacked trust and security necessary for self-esteem and both. They learn to view themselves as unworthy, unlovable and incompetent in school related and cognitive tasks. This view was consistent with Graig (1992) and Garbarino et al (1992), statement that the emotionally abused children show symptoms of sleep,

disturbances, inability to concentrate, or flashbacks, images of terror and nightmares.

Hart et al (1998), writing on evidence for the effects of psychological maltreatment, noted that a chronic pattern of psychological maltreatment destroys a child's sense of self and personal safety. This leads to adverse effects on the interpersonal thoughts, including feeling of low self-esteem, negative emotional or life view, anxiety symptoms, depression and suicide or suicidal thought. Emotional health, including emotional instability, borderline personality, emotional unresponsiveness, impulse control problems, anger, physical self-abuse, eating disorders and substance abuse. It also affects their social skills including anti social behaviours, attachment problems, low social competency, low sympathy and empathy for others, self-isolation, non compliance, sexual maladjustment, dependency aggression or violence and delinquency or criminality. Again it affects their learning, including academic achievement, learning impairment and impaired moral reasoning. Physical health including failure to thrive somatic complaints, poor adults and high mortality are affected.

In conclusion, all types of maltreated children behave similarly, because forms of abuse often overlap. In other words, children may suffer from more than one type of abuse, such as a combination of emotional, sexual and physical maltreatment no matter what type prevents further maltreatment and to assist these children with their learning problems to become responsible individuals and fit into the society.

National Policy on Domestic Violence

Many countries have made and strengthened laws and policies on combating domestic violence. These countries include United States, Australia, Canada, Turkey, South Africa to mention but a few. Ghana is working towards this. There are some significant interventions by the Government of Ghana and other developmental partners towards the eradication of violence against women and children. In Ghana, emphasis is on working community leaders to break down the silence and structures that allow men to believe that beating and raping women are acceptable (www.womankind.org.uk/news). The Government has also established the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit of the Ghana Police Service (DOVVSU) in response to the increasing number of cases involving abuse and violence against women and children. The unit deals with cases relating to domestic violence, child trafficking and failing to provide the necessities of life and health.

The Unit is also involved in the training of personnel for dealing with spousal assault and juvenile delinquency. Again, the Government has established the Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs whose main goals, among others, is to promote women and children's rights and strengthen their role in economic, social, political and cultural life (WAJU Newsletter, 2003).

At the moment there is legislation on domestic violence in the shape of the Domestic Violence Act. Other frameworks which seek redress for violence against women and children are The 1992 Constitution of Ghana and The Criminal Code (Act 29) 1960 and subsequent amendments to the code. There were limitations in the remedies of those laws provided including civil

protection orders and sometimes punitive measures applied such as arrests and jail sentences, were not favourable for the promotion of unity and welfare of existing family structures. It is against this background that the Federation of International Women Lawyers Association (FIDA) - Ghana, in collaboration with the other development partners is seeking to initiate a private member bill in Parliament on domestic violence. This proposed bill is expected to provide a comprehensive set of provisions that specifically protects vulnerable groups, particularly women and children from unbridled acts of violence within the home environment.

The bill also seeks to provide victims of domestic violence with a broader spectrum of remedies including civil protection order that extends beyond the already existing but inadequate criminal systems. The ultimate objective of this proposed bill is to create user-friendly provisions that will unite families and make people behave responsibly towards one another. However, there are some provisions in the proposed bill that people have expressed their misgivings and have called for a public debate and modification of these parts of the bill, especially the controversial “marital rape”. The public is of the view that it would be culturally irrelevant and would undermine the stability of marriage if it were passed into law, as it were. One of such people who shares such opinion is Dr. Akosua Danquah of the Sociology Department of the University of Ghana, Legon, when she suggested that “Amicable ways must be found to deal with violence against women (and children) and therefore correction and reformation of offenders to make the bill more relevant to society’s aspirations”.

The Government is still considering all that in order to arrive at a more humane way of combating violence against women and children. The proposed bill is before parliament for consideration to be passed into law (WAJU Newsletter December, 2003). This is to fulfil international commitments and obligations of Ghana under the Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) both ratified by Ghana.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

Introduction

This chapter basically outlines the various methods and procedure employed to conduct the study. This comprises the research design, population, sample and sampling techniques, research instrument, validity and reliability of instruments, data collection procedure and data analysis.

Research Design

The design used for this study was the descriptive survey research design. According to Best & Kahn (1993), “Descriptive research deals with the relationships among non-manipulative variables, since the events or conditions have already occurred” (p. 20). McMillan (1996) also contends that a descriptive survey research essentially describes existing phenomena without changing some conditions to affect subjects’ responses.

This design was selected because it enabled me collect data in order to answer questions concerning the current status of domestic violence in Asuoeyebua, a suburb of Kumasi. Descriptive research design was also important for this study because it helped the researcher to describe precisely the phenomenon under consideration with intense accuracy or accurately. Again, the descriptive study normally lays the foundation for later research. Even though the descriptive research design is susceptible to distortion of information through the introduction of bias, particular attention was given to safeguard the data from the influence of bias either from the researcher or the respondents.

Population

The research was conducted in Asuoeyboa, a suburb of Kumasi in the Ashanti Region. The researcher used as his target population pupils in Asuoeyboa D/A Junior High School.

Sample and Sampling Procedure

In selecting the sample size for assessing pupils understanding of domestic violence and its impact on the lives of children, the researcher fell on both victims and eye witnesses to domestic violence and pupils. The researcher also had to rely on some officers at various departments responsible for dealing with abuse and violence against women and children such as DOVVSU and FIDAs. The random sampling method was used to cover Asuoeyboa Junior High School. In all thirty respondents were used as the sample for the study. The sample population answered questions in the questionnaire.

Research Instrument

The main instrument used to collect the needed information for this study was questionnaire, since all the respondents were literate and responded to items without much difficulty. The study relied essentially on the use of questionnaires, which were made up of both close-ended and open-ended questions, supplemented by observations. Only two types of questionnaire were designed for all the sampling units of the researcher. The questionnaires were in two parts: Part one which dealt with personal data had three items. Part two had four sections with the following headlines;

- a. Background information
- b. Pupils' knowledge of domestic violence
- c. Forms of domestic violence
- d. Effects of domestic violence on the victims
- e. Strategies for combating domestic violence

The use of the two sets of questionnaires enabled me to collect factual information on the effects of domestic violence from both groups of respondents in wide areas. The use of the questionnaire also allowed the respondents to complete it at their own convenient time, and they were offered a greater assurance of anonymity with regard to whatever information they provided.

Validity and Reliability of Instruments

According to Best and Kahn (1993) "reliability is the degree of consistency that the instrument or procedure demonstrates: whatever it is measuring, it does so consistently. Validity is that quality of data-gathering, instrument or procedure that enables it to measure what it is supposed to measure" (p.208). It should be noted that it is impossible to have 100 per cent validity of research because on the inbuilt standard error. Validity therefore, should be seen as a matter of degree rather than as an absolute state. However, validity can be improved through careful sampling, appropriate instrumentation and appropriate statistical treatments of the data (Gronlund, 1981).

After developing the questionnaire, I gave it to an expert for inspection to make sure that the study covers relevant areas it is meant to measure. Also,

I carefully sampled the respondents for the study and used the appropriate statistical tool for the treatment of the data so as to report on accurately on the results of the pilot study. To test for reliability and validity of the instrument, I carried out a pilot testing in Kwadaso R/C basic school. Fifteen pupils were involved. The Cronbach alpha was used to test for reliability co-efficient of 78 were obtained for the pupils' questionnaire.

Data Collection Procedure

Some of the questionnaires were administered personally by the researcher. Out of the thirty five copies of questionnaire sent out, the researcher received thirty of them from the respondents giving a return rate of about 86%. Others were done by a research assistant. In both cases the items of the questionnaire and their confidential nature were explained to the respondents. They were given about two weeks to provide the needed data after which the researcher and the research assistant went round to collect them. There were, however, some instances where the researcher and the research assistant had to explain carefully each item for the respondents to provide immediate answers and questionnaires were collected on the same day.

Aside from the questionnaire, the researcher also took pains to observe pupils' behaviour in classroom and teacher's attitude towards them especially those who have been victims of domestic violence.

Data Analysis

Prior that actual data analysis, the questionnaires were checked to ensure that only those questionnaires that were completely filled were coded, and entered into the SPSS (Version 16.0) data editor for further analysis.

According to Ary, Jacobs and Razavieh (1985), descriptive surveys do not typically require complex statistical analysis. Consequently, data on all the research questions were analyzed by using descriptive statistics (frequencies, percentages, means and the standard deviations). The results were then presented in tables for discussion and interpretation.

CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

Introduction

The study was aimed at examining the perception of pupils on the effects of domestic violence in their lives. Specifically the study examined pupils' level of knowledge on domestic violence, find out the various forms of domestic violence among children in the Asuoyeboa community, find out the effects of domestic violence on the lives of pupils, identify strategies and interventions that can be used to combat the problem of domestic violence in the community.

Background Characteristics

Two sets of self-developed questionnaires were used to collect data from pupils. Descriptive statistics was the main statistical tool that was employed to analyze the data in order to answer the research questions. This chapter therefore deals with the interpretation and discussion of the findings that emerged from the study. The results are organized and discussed with regard to the various research questions that were formulated to guide the study. The implications of the findings are also considered in this section. Table 1 shows the gender of pupils.

Table 1: Gender of Pupils

| Gender | No. | % |
|--------|-----|-------|
| Male | 15 | 50.0 |
| Female | 15 | 50.0 |
| Total | 30 | 100.0 |

Source: Fieldwork Boateng (2013)

Out of the thirty respondents, fifteen of them were males and the remaining fifteen were females. This shows that the questionnaires were fair to both sexes as equal numbers were chosen for each sex group. This also presupposes that the responses so obtained will not be tilted towards one group against the other. The age distribution of the pupils is portrayed in Table 2.

Table 2: Age Distribution of Pupils

| Number of Years | No. | % |
|-----------------|-----|-------|
| 5-9 years | 16 | 53.3 |
| 10-14 years | 9 | 30.0 |
| 15-19 years | 5 | 16.7 |
| Total | 30 | 100.0 |

Source: Fieldwork Boateng (2013)

From Table 2, 16 of the respondents constituting 53.3% fall within the ages 5-9. Nine of the respondents, which form 30.0%, were within the age range of 10-14 years; and five of them representing 16.7% were between 15-19 years. The significance of this is that the selection of the respondents was based on the target group.

Knowledge of Domestic Violence

In an attempt to find out the pupils' knowledge on domestic violence, I posed a number of questions to the respondents. Since the pupils are the direct recipients of this violence, I collected data from them in order to answer the research question: What level of knowledge do pupils in the Asuoyeboa community possess about domestic violence? The results of the respondents are shown in Table 3:

Table 3: *Pupils Levels of Knowledge on Domestic Violence*

| Statement | Mean | Std. Deviation |
|--|------|----------------|
| Beating a wife or a husband in the family | 1.37 | .49 |
| Placing unreasonable limitations on freedom of movement of a family member | 1.47 | .68 |
| Sexual abuse against a family member | 1.43 | .57 |
| Emotional abuse by parents on their children | 1.37 | .67 |
| Physical assault from other family members | 1.57 | .57 |
| Verbal abuse by parents on their children | 1.17 | .38 |
| Sexual harassment from ex-partner | 1.57 | .63 |
| Threatening to physically attack a family member | 1.23 | .57 |
| Depriving a family member of food, money, sleep, rest etc | 1.37 | .49 |
| Forcefully controlling a family member | 1.10 | .31 |

Source: Fieldwork Boateng (2013)

The values assigned to the various mean scores are as follows: 1.0-1.4=True, 1.5-2.4= Not True and 2.5-3.0= Uncertain. In trying to find out the respondents' knowledge of domestic violence, this item sought from respondents whether beating a wife or a husband in the family constitutes such. From Table 3, the respondents agree that such an action constitutes domestic violence as indicated by $M=1.37$ and $SD=0.49$. The response given respondents is in consonance with the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of violence against women (1993) which defined violence as "any act of gender-based violence that results in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women including threat of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty whether occurring in public or private life". It is important to note also that a little over one-third of the respondents do not know which action constitutes violence.

This is interesting because it presupposes that their lack of understanding can affect their lives daily as their lives even when their rights are infringed upon. Also, the respondents agreed that placing unreasonable limitations on freedom of movement of a family member is a case of violence ($M=1.37$ and $SD=0.68$). Furthermore, Table 3 sought respondents' idea whether sexual abuse of a family is violence. In response to the statement regarding whether, emotional abuse by parents could be considered as violence. Out of the thirty respondents, an overwhelming majority agree that emotional abuse by parents is an act of violence as represented by ($M=1.37$, $SD=0.57$). As shown in Table 3, the pupils variedly supported ($M=1.57$, $SD=0.57$) the statement that physical assault from a family member constitutes violence. Finally, in Table 3, the respondents were asked whether forcefully

controlling a family member constitutes domestic violence. Out of the thirty respondents, twenty-seven (27) which is equivalent to $M=1.37$, $SD=0.49$ agree that the statement is true. This suggests that an overwhelming majority of respondents understand what violent acts are.

Forms of Domestic Violence

Research Question 2 set out to find out the various forms of domestic violence. Two self-developed questionnaire were therefore collected in order to ascertain the forms of domestic violence. The results concerning the forms of domestic violence as generated by the questionnaire for pupils.

Table 4: *Pupils' Responses on the Forms of Domestic Violence*

| Statement | Yes | | No | |
|--|-----|------|-----|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| Do they beat you in the house? | 13 | 43.3 | 17 | 56.7 |
| Do they insult you in the house? | 23 | 76.7 | 7 | 23.3 |
| Do they deny you of your freedom of movement? | 7 | 23.3 | 23 | 76.7 |
| Do they prevent you of eating food eat? | 15 | 50.0 | 15 | 50.0 |
| Do your family members attempt to have sex with you? | 5 | 16.7 | 25 | 83.3 |
| Do other family members hurt your feelings? | 17 | 56.7 | 13 | 43.3 |

Source: Fieldwork Boating (2013)

The results in Table 4 ascertained that, an overwhelming majority of the respondents; twenty-three constituting 76.7% answered in the affirmative. Only seven respondents, constituting 23.3% said they are not insulted at home. This means that more respondents are insulted, rather than beaten in their

houses. In a study conducted by Morrel (1999) it was revealed that African parents and other member of extended family believed in corporal punishment as a means of maintaining. Also, Item 15 sought to find out whether respondents' freedom of movement is either restricted or denied. Reacting to this question, seven of them (23.3%) said that they are restricted whereas majority of them, twenty-three (76.7%) said they are not restricted nor denied of their freedom of movement.

Furthermore, Table 4 tried to find out whether respondents were prevented from eating when they wanted to eat. Out of the number (30), fifteen of them constituting 50% answered in the affirmative, while the remaining fifteen, also constituting 50% disagreed by answering in the negative. This suggests that half of the respondents were denied food even when they felt hungry and wanted to eat. This supports the assertion by that food and sleep deprivation is now recognized as a form of torture by Amnesty International (2004). In addition, reacting to the question as to whether their family members attempt to forcefully have sex with them, five respondents constituting 16.7% answered in the affirmative. An overwhelming majority of respondents, twenty-five (83.3%), answered in the negative. This means that most of the respondents are not forced into sex.

Finally, Table 4 sought to find out whether family members hurt the feelings of respondents. Out of the thirty respondents, seventeen (56.7%) of them agree that their family members cause emotional pains by hurting their feelings. Thirteen of them (43.3%) however do not experience hurting of feelings by family members. From the evidence, scolding, quarrelling and the denial of food, which are forms of psychological violence impact considerably

on the emotional well being of pupils and that is consisted with the findings of Cusack (1999) who observed that violence may be psychological which is behaviour that is directed at an emotional level or has emotional impact.

Effects of Domestic Violence on Pupils' Lives

Another issue that the study sought to find out was the effects of domestic violence on pupils' lives. In order to find out these effects, the respondents were asked to respond to items by answering yes or no with each statement. The frequencies and percentages were computed in order to provide an in-depth understanding of the responses. Table 5 shows results that were collected.

Table 5: *Pupils' Responses on the Effects of Domestic Violence*

| Statement | Yes | | No | |
|---|-----|------|-----|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % |
| I feel anxious and stressful | 11 | 36.7 | 19 | 63.3 |
| Such violence makes me perform poorly in school | 22 | 73.3 | 8 | 26.7 |
| It affects the way I relate with the person who abuses me | 17 | 56.7 | 13 | 43.3 |
| I learn and imitate those violent behaviours from my parents and other family members | 17 | 56.7 | 13 | 43.3 |
| I get physical injury from home | 14 | 46.7 | 16 | 53.3 |
| I become worried as a result of those acts by my parents or other family members | 22 | 73.3 | 8 | 26.7 |
| I run away from home | 11 | 36.7 | 19 | 63.3 |
| I hate parents or family members who hurt me | 19 | 63.3 | 11 | 36.7 |
| It makes me become aggressive | 11 | 36.7 | 19 | 63.3 |

Source: Fieldwork Boateng (2013)

The results as depicted in Table 5 clearly show that domestic violence has some negative effects on the lives of pupils. Thus, it has been realized from the study that a greater number of domestic violence acts/activities affect pupils lives negatively. Among the negative effects of domestic violence on pupils lives as shown in Table 5 include; such violence makes them perform poorly in school, affects the way they relate with the people person who abuse them, learn and imitate those violent behaviours from my parents and other family members, become worried as a result of those acts by my parents or other family members, hate parents or family members who hurt them. This findings on the effects of domestic violence on pupils' lives are consisted with the earlier finding of Lanz (1995) who also held that sexually abused children are more likely to use drugs and be delinquent, have poor relationship with the rest of their families, feel they have received less emotional support from families and friends and perform more poorly at school; they also tend to move between domiciles more frequently thus adding their levels of anxiety and stress.

Surprisingly, the pupils' responses brought forth that domestic violence does not make them feel anxious and stressful, get physical injury; run away from home, makes them become aggressive. This present findings contradict the assertion by Erickson, Stroufe and Pianta (1989) who noted that the behaviour of sexually abused children was characterised by extreme anxiety and attentiveness and difficulty in following directions. Their social behaviour ranged from withdrawal to extreme aggression consequently they often were rejected by their classmates.

Measures for Combating Domestic Violence

There are various initiatives and interventions addressing domestic violence acts or activities. This section explores some of the possible attempts that can be used to combat domestic violence in the present society. The responses given by the pupils are portrayed in Table 5.

Table 6: *Views of Pupils on Measures to Combat Domestic Violence*

| Statement | SD | | D | | A | | SA | |
|---|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|-----|------|
| | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % | No. | % |
| Family counselling services on domestic violence | 4 | 13.3 | 6 | 20.0 | 12 | 40.0 | 8 | 26.7 |
| Public education of the adverse effects of domestic violence | - | - | 10 | 33.3 | 12 | 40.0 | 8 | 26.7 |
| Holding perpetrators accountable through punishment | 2 | 6.7 | 4 | 13.3 | 10 | 20.0 | 14 | 60.0 |
| Providing specialist assistance to victims of domestic violence | - | - | 4 | 13.3 | 24 | 80.0 | 2 | 6.7 |
| Providing safety place for victims of domestic violence | 2 | 6.7 | 4 | 13.3 | 18 | 60.0 | 6 | 20.0 |
| Imposing fine on perpetrators of domestic violence | 8 | 26.7 | 4 | 13.3 | 2 | 6.7 | 16 | 53.3 |
| Using legal sanctions against abusers | 10 | 33.3 | 8 | 26.7 | 2 | 6.7 | 10 | 33.3 |

Source: Fieldwork Boateng (2013)

The results in Table 6 indicate that a majority of 20 (66.7%) of the pupils were of the view that family counseling services is a way of combating domestic violence. Counselling services from father, mother, brothers and other family members could be used to combat domestic violence in the society. Moreover, the pupils were in support of the idea that public education of the adverse effects of domestic violence could be a way to combat domestic violence as indicated by 10 (66.7%) of the respondents. Educating the general public on the adverse effects of domestic violence on the lives of pupils by holding forums for parents to highlight the negative effect of domestic violence on their children could reduce the extend of abuse by parents. Ten of the respondents constituting 33.3 % however shared a different view that public education on the effects of domestic violence cannot combat domestic violence activities in the society.

Also, 24 (80.0%) of the social workers admitted that holding perpetrators accountable through punishment can be used to combat domestic violence. Meting out punishment to those who abuse children in any way can help reduce the extent of domestic violence cases among children because the punishments would deter others from committing similar crimes. The responses gathered shows that out of the 30 pupils, 24 (80%) of them agreed that providing safety place for victims of domestic violence could be a way to combat domestic violence. Pupils should be supported so that they are brave enough to speak out, they know they'll be safe and supported. This support includes a child support worker, therapeutic groups for children, counselling availability, specialist services which can be accessed, a perpetrator

programme which meets minimum standards and a supervised contact centre.

All children should also have access to helplines.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Introduction

As a society we are beginning to acknowledge that living with domestic violence has serious implications for the well-being of children. To date, domestic violence has either been kept firmly being closed doors viewed as ‘family problem’ with no relation to society at large or it has been considered a man’s right to use violence against his wife and children. Consequently, this study sought to find out the perception of pupils on domestic violence with particular reference to the children of Asuoyeboa, a suburb of Kumasi. This final chapter seeks to present a summary of the research process as well as the key findings that emerged from the research. The chapter also contains the conclusions and recommendations that were made based on the findings of the study. Regarding the findings of the study, I have also suggested a number of areas for further research studies to be carried out.

Summary

The study was primarily designed to examine the perception of pupils on domestic violence. A study of pupils in Asuoyeboa, a suburb of Kumasi. The study addressed the following specific research questions:

1. What level of knowledge do pupils in the Asuoyeboa community possess about domestic violence?
2. What are the various forms of domestic violence in Asuoyeboa community?

3. How does domestic violence affect the lives of pupils in the Asuoyeboa community?
4. What strategies and intervention can be used to combat the problem of domestic violence in the community?

A descriptive survey design was adopted as the study design and the target group for the study comprised pupils and social workers in Asuoyeboa. The sample for the study consisted of 30 respondents using the random and purposive sampling techniques. A self-developed questionnaire was used to collect data from the pupils. The research instrument were validated through expert judgment, pilot-tested and used as the instruments for data collection. Due to the descriptive nature of the study, descriptive statistics (frequencies and percentages) were used to analyze the quantitative data that were collected.

Key Findings

The essential findings of this study can be summarized as follows:

1. An overwhelming majority of the 27 out of the 30 pupils have adequate knowledge about domestic violence. Regarding their level of knowledge on domestic violence, 25 (83.3%) of the pupils said they are verbally abused. Similarly, 25 (83.3%) and 19(63.3%) of the respondents asserted that they are physically attacked by family members and deprived of food, money, sleep, rest etc respectively. The responses generated by the questionnaire shows that they are very much aware of the problem and as such hopeful that measures would be instituted to combat the problem.

2. The pupils mentioned several forms of domestic violence including physical assault, verbal assault, restrictions on their freedom of movement, intimidation by family members, sexual abuse among others.
3. The pupils believed domestic violence has negative effects on their lives. The pupils stated various effects including poor performance in school, affects the way they relate with the people/ persons who abuse them, learn and imitate those violent behaviours from my parents and other family members, become worried as a result of those acts by my parents or other family members, hate parents or family members who hurt them.
4. Concerning the measures to combat domestic violence, the pupils stated that holding perpetrators accountable through punishment can be a way to combat domestic violence. Also, the pupils were in support of the idea that public education of the adverse effects of domestic violence could be a way to combat domestic violence. Other measures suggested were; family counselling, providing special assistant to victims, providing safety place for victims as well as imposing fines on perpetrators of domestic violence.

Conclusions

The work was designed to find out about how children understood or perceived domestic violence and how their perception or knowledge could affect their lives. After the work, it was established that by per the responses generated by the questionnaire, they are very much aware of the problem and

as such have the hope that measures would be instituted to combat the problem. The pupils and social workers expressed similar sentiments on the effects of the menace, including poor performance in school, their relationship with the people/ persons who abuse them, learn and imitate those violent behaviours from parents and other family members, become worried as a result of those acts by parents or other family members, hate parents or family members who hurt them, as well as all perpetrators of this act. The study also revealed that there is a correlation between violence and negative behaviour. When are introduced to violence, they learn and imitate those violent behaviours from parents and other family as well as the perpetrators of the act. To combat the canker respondents were in support of the idea that public education of the adverse effects of domestic violence and family counselling.

Recommendations

Based on the findings of the study and the conclusions that have been drawn, the following recommendations are made for the purpose of addressing the menace of domestic violence in our communities

1. The National Commission on Civic Education should create awareness on the harmful effects of domestic violence especially on the child. The NGOs who advocate for the women and children's rights should go to the grassroots where the actual problems lie and sensitise the family on the effects of domestic violence
2. Teachers, school counsellors and parents should know their limitations and obligations in handling issues of abuse. They are required legally to report suspected and eye witnessed abuse and victimisation to the

law enforcers. Counsellors more especially are required to handle abuse cases with care.

3. The teacher and the school counsellor as well as parents should provide a caring, compassionate, supportive environment for the school child and to rebuild trust that has probably been destroyed by abusers.
4. The Ministry of Education and Sports should provide every school with at least counsellors or para-counsellors to encourage children discuss their personal problems in confidence.

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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR PUPILS

The purpose of this study is to find out your knowledge on domestic violence and its effects on your life. Please, you are kindly requested to provide truthful information to the various items on this questionnaire. You are expected to tick [√] in the appropriate spaces and for others, you may write in the spaces provided to indicate your opinion. Thank you.

SECTION A

Background Information

1. What is your gender? Male [] Female []
2. How old are you? 5-10years [] 11-15years [] 16-20years []
Above 20years []

SECTION B

Knowledge of Domestic Violence

Which of the statements constitute domestic violence?

| No. | Statement | True | Not True | Uncertain |
|-----|--|------|----------|-----------|
| 3. | Beating a wife or a husband in the family | | | |
| 4. | Placing unreasonable limitations on freedom of movement of a | | | |

| | | | | |
|-----|--|--|--|--|
| | family member | | | |
| 5. | Sexual abuse against a family member | | | |
| 6. | Emotional abuse by parents on their children | | | |
| 7. | Physical assault from other family members | | | |
| 8. | Verbal abuse by parents on their children | | | |
| 9. | Sexual harassment from ex-partner | | | |
| 10. | Threatening to physically attack a family member | | | |
| 11. | Depriving a family member of food, money, sleep, rest etc. | | | |
| 12. | Forcefully controlling a family member | | | |

13. In your own opinion, what is meant by domestic violence?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

SECTION C

Forms of Domestic Violence

- 14. Do they beat you in the house? Yes [] No []
- 15. Do they insult you in the house? Yes [] No []
- 16. Do they deny you of your freedom of movement in and around the house? Yes [] No []
- 17. Do they prevent you from eating food if you want to eat? Yes [] No []
- 18. Do your family members attempt to rape you? Yes [] No []
- 19. Do other family members hurt your feelings? Yes [] No []
- 20. In what other ways do your parents and other family members abuse you?
 - i.
 - ii.
 - iii.
 - iv.

SECTION D

Effects of Domestic Violence on Pupils' Lives

Which of these occur to you as a result of abuse from parents and other family members?

(Please, you can tick more than one)

- 21. I feel anxious and stressful. Yes [] No []
- 22. Such violence makes me perform poorly in school. Yes [] No []
- 23. It affects the way I relate with the person who abuses me. Yes [] No []

24. I learn and imitate those violent behaviours from my parents and other family members. Yes [] No []

25. I get physical injury from those violent acts. Yes [] No []

26. I become worried as a result of those acts by my parents or other family members. Yes [] No []

27. I run away from home. Yes [] No []

28. I hate parents or family members who hurt me. Yes [] No []

29. It makes me become aggressive. Yes [] No []

30. In which other way(s) do you think abusive acts from parents and other family members affect your life?

i.

ii.

iii.

iv.

APPENDIX B

FACULTY OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

INSTITUTE FOR DEVELOPMENT STUDIES

QUESTIONNAIRE FOR SOCIAL WORKERS

The purpose of this study is to find out the various forms of domestic violence that occur in the Asuoyeboa community and their effects on your life. Please, you are kindly requested to provide truthful information to the various items on this questionnaire. You are expected to tick [√] in the appropriate spaces and for others, you may write in the spaces provided to indicate your opinion. Thank you.

SECTION A

Background Information

1. What is your gender? Male [] Female []
2. How old have you been in this work? 5-10years [] 11-15years []
16-20years [] Above 20years []

SECTION B

Forms of Domestic Violence

Please, tick [√] in the appropriate space to indicate the forms of domestic violence that occur in this community.

| No. | Form of Violence | Yes | No |
|-----|--|-----|----|
| 3. | Physical assault | | |
| 4. | Verbal insults | | |
| 5. | Confining or limiting the freedom of movements of children | | |
| 6. | Depriving other family members of access to | | |

| | | | |
|----|---|--|--|
| | food, water, rest, etc | | |
| 7. | Sexual abuse | | |
| 8. | Intimidation or frightening of other family members | | |
| 9. | Child trafficking | | |

10. Please, which other forms of domestic violence do occur in this community?

- i.
- ii.
- iii.
- iv.

SECTION B

Effects of Domestic Violence on Pupils' Lives

Please, tick [] in the appropriate box to reflect your opinion on the following statements as effects of domestic violence on the lives of pupils.

| No. | Statement | Yes | No |
|-----|---|-----|----|
| 11. | It causes anxiety and stress among children | | |
| 12. | It leads to poor academic performance among pupils | | |
| 13. | It makes children to develop bad relationships with people who abuse them | | |
| 14. | Children learn to imitate those violent acts | | |
| 15. | Pupils experience physical injury | | |
| 16. | It causes truancy among pupils | | |

| | | | |
|-----|---|--|--|
| 17. | It makes pupils to develop hatred for parents or family members who abuse them | | |
| 18. | Victims (pupils) may develop aggressive behaviour as a result of undergoing domestic violence | | |

19. Please,

state any effect (s) of domestic violence on the lives of pupils.

- i.
- ii.
- iii.
- iv.

SECTION C

Measures for Combating Domestic Violence

Please, tick [√] in spaces provided to indicate your degree of agreement or disagreement with the following as strategies that can be used to combat domestic violence in this community by using the key: SD=Strongly Disagree; D=Disagree; A=Agree; SA=Strongly Agree

| No. | Strategy | SD | D | A | SA |
|-----|--|----|---|---|----|
| 20. | Family counselling services on domestic violence | | | | |
| 21. | Public education of the adverse effects of domestic violence | | | | |
| 22. | Holding perpetrators accountable through punishment | | | | |
| 23. | Providing specialist assistance to victims of | | | | |

| | | | | | |
|-----|---|--|--|--|--|
| | domestic violence | | | | |
| 24. | Providing safety place for victims of domestic violence | | | | |
| 25. | Imposing fine on perpetrators of domestic violence | | | | |
| 26 | Using legal sanctions against abusers | | | | |

27. Which other strategies should be put in place to help combat the issue of domestic violence in this community?

i.

ii.

iii.