

UNIVERSITY OF CAPE COAST

ROLE OF NON- GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS  
IN MITIGATING GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN GHANA: A CASE  
STUDY OF ARK FOUNDATION IN ACCRA METROPOLIS

BISMARCK KWASI OSEI

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STUDY OF ARK FOUNDATION IN ACCRA METROPOLIS

BY

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## DECLARATION

### **Candidate's declaration**

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

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

Name: BISMARCK KWASI OSEI

### **Supervisor's declaration**

I hereby declare that the preparation and the 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: Dr. (Mrs.) HENRIETTA ABANE

## **ABSTRACT**

The investigation centered on the role of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in mitigating gender based violence in Ghana, particularly in the Accra Metropolis. Descriptive survey design was employed for the study. In all, fifty (50) respondents comprising fifteen (15) NGO workers, fifteen (15) rape victims and twenty (20) wife battery victims were chosen for the study. The main instruments used in gathering relevant data were a semi-structured questionnaire and an interview guide.

Some of the major findings of the study were that, the commonest forms of gender based violence in Accra Metropolis were sexual and physical abuse. Also, sexual passion, refusal to sexual advances, misunderstanding and financial problems happened to be some of the causes of gender based violence in Accra Metropolis. Moreover, some of the effects of gender based violence identified in the study were broken bones, broken home, swollen face ,sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy, pains insomnia, among others. The research revealed that, emergency shelter, counseling, legal aid support and medical assistance are provided by NGOs to victims. Financial assistance, educational support and advocacy programmes are also offered to victims to address their problems. The study recommended among other things that NGOs should set up telephone hotlines where victims in distress can reach out to these organizations for immediate assistance.

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## **DEDICATION**

To my dear wife, Mrs. Patricia Osei Kwarteng and my lovely daughter, Lynette Akosua Serwaa Osei.

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## **LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS**

CAP	-	Community Awareness Program
CASVP	-	Church Based Anti-Violence Program
CEDAW	-	Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women
CRC	-	Crisis Response Centre
DEVAW	-	Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women
DOVVSU	-	Domestic Violence Victims and Support Unit
FIDA	-	Federation of International Women Lawyers
HIV	-	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
NGO	-	Non Governmental Organisations
SPSS	-	Statistical Package for Social Science
UN	-	United Nations
UNDP	-	United Nation Development Programmes
UNICEF	-	United Nations International Children Emergency Fund
WHO	-	World Health Organisation
WILDAF	-	Women in Law and Development in Africa

## **CHAPTER ONE**

### **INTRODUCTION**

#### **Background to the study**

In pre-revolutionary China, a common proverb was that a wife married was like a pony bought, you would ride her and whip her as you liked (Scroll, 1980). Unfortunately, it went beyond just a proverb as it was often carried out in deed. Up till this day, similar adages and actions can be found in almost all cultures and societies around the world. Violence against women in general is as old as recorded history and cuts across nationalities and socio-economic groups. Violence against women is perhaps the most pervasive, yet often least recognized human right abuse in the entire world (Klim, 1998). More and more women are maimed, beaten or killed because they are females than for any political or religious belief they may hold.

Gender- based violence is recognized today as a major issue on the international human rights agenda. It takes many forms and varies from culture to culture. There is an understanding that it involves behaviour, injuries and impacts that are not only physical but also psychological and sexual in nature. For many, it also incorporates elements of traditional practices identified as harmful and degrading to women. For instance, a wife is not permitted to eat once someone begins to cry at the mourning of her husband (Appiah & Cusack, 1999).

In 2003, the Demographic and Health survey (DHS) conducted by Ghana Statistical Service states that 19.8% of women consider it acceptable for a husband to beat his wife if she goes out without telling him. Women are often expected to silently endure abuse to protect their family, while those who report their husbands or other family members to authorities for abuse may be ostracized. The survey also revealed that 10% of men and 19.9% of women consider it justified if a husband beats his wife for refusing to have sex with him. There is also a widespread belief that a husband is entitled to sexual intercourse from his wife at his command and may enforce this entitlement by force and failure on the part of the wife may result by being beaten by the husband. Harmful attitudes towards women are reinforced by certain religious and other community leaders who exhort women to stand by their husband under all circumstances, while at the same time failing to take a clear stand against wife battery and marital rape. (Ghana Statistical Service, 2003)

The United Nations' definition of violence against women comes from the declaration on the elimination of violence against women adopted by the General Assembly in 1993 to which Ghana acceded (Appiah & Cusack, 1999). At the 1993 UN world conference on human rights, gender violence was defined as violence which jeopardizes fundamental human rights, individual freedom and women's physical integrity (British Council, 1999). The term violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life (UN Declaration, 1993). These include battering, sexual abuse of children, dowry-related violence,

marital rape and female genital mutilation. Others are rape, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, trafficking of women and forced prostitution.

Violence against women, particularly rape and sexual defilement takes place under various conditions including war situations. There are documented reports of this in former Yugoslavia, El Salvador, Guatemala and other American countries (Hearn, 1990)

In the United States, more than a million and a half women are beaten by their partners each year (Straus & Gelles, 1986). In the 1995 Egypt Demographic and Health survey, 35 percent of women reported being beaten by their husbands during marriage (WHO, 2002). Though gender-based violence is widespread, information is fragmented and anecdotal. A culture of silence surrounds cases of violence against women in most countries making it difficult to get a true picture of its extent. Part of the difficulty is that gender-based violence mostly occurs in what is thought of as the private sphere – within families, inside homes, and out of sight. This type of violence is underreported and even deliberately disguised by both the survivors and the societies in which they live.

Rape, a pervasive form of gender-based violence has long symbolized a man's ability to have his way with a woman. Around the world, most rapists are known by those they attack and are often the victim's father, partner, or some other household figure (Menachem, 1971). In many Latin American countries, rape, even by strangers is considered a crime against morality rather than a crime against a person. Consequently, if the judicial system does not consider rape victims to have impeccable morals, the crime may not be prosecuted.

The effects of gender-based violence can be devastating and long lasting. Such violence is particularly dangerous to a woman's reproductive health and can scar a survivor psychologically, cognitively and interpersonally. Since girls are more often subjected to sexual violence, they are at risk of becoming infected with HIV at a much younger age than are boys.

In Ghana, the prevalent form of violence against women and girls include physical violence, sexual violence, economic violence, psychological violence and traditional practices which are harmful to children and women (Aryee, 2000). Physical violence is an act of inflicting pain or causing harm to somebody with the help of a hand, knife, stick, belt or rape. It is one of the frequently reported crimes in Ghana. Physical violence includes cruel punishment and physical torture, forced labour, beatings, assault with a weapon and death. Sexual violence involves defilement of child under 16 years, sexual harassment, forced sex in marriage, incest, etc. Psychological violence can be defined as those acts or behaviours by men in particular and societies in general directed at an emotional level or have various emotional impacts such as inability to eat or sleep, fear, low self esteem and self-doubt (Aryee, 2000). Economic violence can also be defined as an act of withholding resources from women as a form of punishment. Traditional practices defined as violence are the numerous traditional practices considered harmful to women and girls because they could cause physical damage to them. Such practices include female genital mutilation, tribal marking, Trokosi, Cruel widowhood practice, Dowry-related violence, forced marriage and adultery rites that shame the woman publicly. The different forms of violence have

different consequences or impacts on the victim. Whilst it is easy to identify the consequences of physical, sexual and economic abuse, it is difficult to identify those of psychological abuse. Indeed, oftentimes, the impact of physical or sexual abuse has psychological manifestation. Psychological abuse often has long lasting impact which may need professional care (Aryee, 2000).

The various United Nations' institutions since 1992 and 1993 have worked relentlessly to eliminate all forms of violence directed specifically against women. For example, in the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action was geared towards the elimination of sexual harassment, exploitation and trafficking of women and other traditional or customary practices that violate the rights of women. (United Nations, 1996)

Ghana has also made some efforts at addressing violence against women along with several other countries. In 1979, Ghana was part to the UN Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and signed the then organization of African Unity's African charter on Human and People's Right in 1981. These two instruments guaranteed women several rights and freedoms, including; freedom from customs and traditional practices that discriminate against women and freedom from cruel, inhuman and degrading treatments. Ghana has also made some efforts to integrate some of these standards into national legislation as evidenced by the drafting of several amendments to existing laws, including aspects of the criminal code which prohibits female genital mutilation, cruel widowhood rites and other traditional practices considered to be harmful to women. Women and Juvenile Unit of the police service (WAJU), now Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit was set up in 1999 to specifically address issues



of violence against women and Juveniles. The Criminal Code of Ghana and Ghana's 1992 constitution protects women from various forms of abuse that violate their human rights.

The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs as well as Non-governmental organizations have been providing training for all categories of people – Lawyers, magistrates, Judges, Police officers, social workers, who are involved in investigating and dealing with those who commit violence against women for improved sensitivity and seriousness to the issue and to ensure improved corrective measures for perpetrators of violence (Adjetey, 1999).

### **Statement of the problem**

Violence against women remains widespread in Ghana. A study report submitted to UNDP and National Council on Women and Development by Pappoe, and Ardayfio-Schandorf, (1998) indicated that physical abuse by Husband or other intimate partners is widespread. According to the report, 72% of respondents to the 1998 survey reported that wife beating was a common practice in their community.

Approximately 100 women out of the 145 cases reported at the Federation of International Women Lawyers (FIDA), GHANA, between the months of January and July 1997 indicated that they had suffered some form of violence from their husband partners and in the case of widows from their husband's relatives (FIDA, GHANA, 1997).

There are also various reported cases of violence against women that appear in both the electronic and print media in the country. For example, on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1996, the mirror reported a story about a 37 year old trader who poured acid on his 24 year old girl friend and caused deformities on her body because she decided to end their love relationship. On the 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1998, the Mirrior similarly reported a 26 year old trader living in Tema who was thrashed by her husband till she became unconscious. She had disobeyed her husband's instructions that she should not attend a religious crusade being organized in their neighbourhood. In another development, on the 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1998, the Mirror also reported of an ex-service man who shot and killed his wife in Madina, Accra, because she reversed an instruction he had given to their children. Also, a 45 year old man murdered his 42 year old wife by kicking her in the chest and abdomen, because the wife had resisted her husband's decision that they should spend the night in the same room with his girlfriend. This incident occurred on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2000 at Samsu, a village near Obuasi in the Ashanti region.

Rape cases are also highlighted in the media, but these are also documented. A survey conducted by Domestic Violence Victim and Support Unit (DOVVSU) in Accra revealed that between January and September 1999, about one hundred and nineteen (119) cases of rape were reported. In a study carried out by the Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre in Accra in 1999, it was revealed that out of every ten (10) rape cases, seven (7) do not report the case. In addition, for two in every ten women, their first experience of sexual intercourse was by use of force. A further study conducted by Gender Center in Ghana in 1999 revealed that in over 95% of

rape cases, the perpetrators were male relatives. The most likely offender in this category is the stepfather (Gender Center, 1999).

In recent times, Government and non-governmental organizations have seen the need to end violence against women in the society, particularly those that are associated with spousal violence (wife beating) and sexual violence (rape). One of these non-governmental organizations is “The Ark Foundation, Ghana”. Ark Foundation is an advocacy-based human rights non-governmental organization in Haatso, Accra. Its primary purpose is to seek the protection and promotion of the human rights of women and children. Ark was registered in 1995 and began to operate on a full-time basis in February 1999. The programmes and activities of Ark seek to rid society of attitudes, belief system and practices which nurture and tolerate discrimination, abuse and violation against women and children. Ark provides integrated services, including counselling, legal assistance, temporary shelter, small assistance funds and rehabilitation to survivors of violence. This is conducted through the Crises Response Centre (CRC) Project.

In view of the countless number of services that Ark offers to survivors of violence, particularly those associated with spousal violence and sexual assault, this study was intended to investigate how effective Ark has been in mitigating this problem in Accra.

Table 1 shows some statistics on wife beating and rape cases from 2002 to 2006 in Accra.

**Table1: Reported abuse cases, 2002-2006 in Accra**

Cases	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006
Rape	181	150	259	267	345
Wife beating	1855	2157	2064	2563	3573

Source: Dovvsu (2007), Accra.

Table 1 indicates that there was a decrease of 31 rape cases which represented 17.1% from 2002 to 2003. However, the periods between 2003 and 2006 witnessed a marked increase of rape cases. For instance, the percentage increase of rape cases from 2003 to 2004 represented 72.6%. Similarly, apart from the period between 2003 and 2004 where wife beating reported cases reduced by 4%, 2004 to 2005 and 2005 to 2006 witnessed some percentage increase of 24% and 39% respectively.

The above analysis clearly shows that, wife beating cases were highly reported than rape cases over the period.

### **Objectives of the study**

The main objective of the study was to examine the extent to which “Ark Foundation, Ghana, a local non-governmental organization has helped to curb violence against women in Ghana, particularly those that are associated with Spousal Violence (wife beating) and sexual violence (Rape) in Accra Metropolis.

The specific objectives therefore were to:

- Find out forms of violence against women in Accra Metropolis.
- Identify the causes of wife beating and rape in Accra Metropolis.
- Examine the effects of wife beating and rape in Accra Metropolis.

- Identify the extent to which wife beating and rape become a problem in Accra Metropolis.
- Assess the role of Ark Foundation in addressing violence against women, particularly wife beating and Rape in Accra Metropolis.

### **Research questions**

The above objectives have been achieved with the help of the following research questions:

- To what extent is wife beating and rape a problem in Accra Metropolis?
- What are the causes of wife beating and rape in Accra Metropolis?
- What are the effects of wife beating and rape in Accra Metropolis?
- To what extent has Ark Foundation addressed wife beating and rape issues in Accra Metropolis?

### **Significance of the study**

The study is particularly relevant to all stakeholders, including the Government and Non-governmental organizations that are concerned about bringing gender-based violence to an end. This is because the study highlights some of the indicators that could be used to mitigate gender-based violence in the promotion of gender and development.

There is a public perception that gender-based violence is on the increase in Ghana, however there are few sources of empirical data to confirm this. The study therefore seeks to interrogate the forms, causes, effects and

interventional programmes by NGOs in addressing wife beating and rape issues in Accra Metropolis.

Also, academics will find the study very useful as the findings will promote useful information for future research agenda on gender issues.

Finally, the findings of this study invaluablely add to the existing academic discourse and contribute to the conceptual and theoretical understanding of gender-based violence issues.

### **Organization of the study**

The dissertation has been organized in five chapters. This first chapter has focused on the background to the study, statement of the problem, objectives and research questions as well as the significance of the study.

The second chapter deals with the review of the relevant literature on the subject under discussion. These include related literature on violence against women, its causes and effects, theories of gender-based violence, international efforts at dealing with gender-based violence, interventional programmes of NGOs to deal with gender-based violence and a model used in dealing with gender-based violence.

Chapter three focuses on the methodology for the study. It first presents the study area and then outlines the sampling procedure, research instruments as well as procedure for data processing and analysis.

Chapter four focuses on the presentation and discussion of findings of the study. The last chapter, chapter five is the conclusion to the study.

## **CHAPTER TWO**

### **REVIEW OF RELATED LITERATURE**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter reviews the relevant concepts and theories which have been carried out on the subject matter, 'violence against women'. This will look at the concept of gender-based violence, gender-based violence and development, feminist perspectives of gender-based violence and social learning perspectives of gender-based violence. It will also look at psychological perspectives of gender-based violence, international efforts at dealing with gender-based violence and NGOs and their interventional programmes to mitigate violence against women.

#### **The concept of gender-based violence**

Violence against women is a human rights violation that causes devastating impacts on the health of women as well as their right to equality, development, security and peace (Bortei-Doku, 1999).

The terms violence against women and gender-based violence are used to refer to a range of abuses committed against women that stem from gender inequality and women's subordinate status in society relative to men. In 1993, Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action defined violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result

in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life (UN Declaration, 1993).

In Africa, particularly Ghana, prevalent forms of violence against women and girls include sexual violence (incest, rape, defilement, sexual harassment), harmful cultural practices such as Trokosi, early marriage, widow inheritance, Female Genital Mutilation and Widowhood Rites. Others include wife beating, assault with a weapon, forced labour and cruel punishment and physical torture which come under physical violence (Appiah & Cusack, 1999).

Dolphine (1997) indicated that cultural practices such as Widowhood Rites, Female Genital Mutilation and early marriage discriminate against women and tend to lower their status especially in rural areas. She found that majority of women from Western and African countries called for legislation to ban such dehumanizing cultural practices and thereby set in motion that would put an end to them since they deepen the spirit of initiative of women, inhibit their potentials which ultimately derail socio-economic development of society.

Sam and Isaidoo (2003) said that in the African setting, women are considered to be the property of their fathers and husbands which put them in such a low bargaining position. This happens to be a major obstacle to the attainment of peace and development which are the objectives of many groups at the international, national and local levels. In Peru, ten (10) percent of all crimes reported to the police involved women beaten by their husbands. The



situation is not different in Pakistan where four (400) hundred cases reported involved husbands beating their wives to death.

Rape is another form of violence against women. According to the American Medical Association (1995), rape is a type of sexual assault usually involving sexual intercourse by one person against another person without that person's consent. According to Agyare and Boateng (2003), sexual violence in particular is considered the most underreported violent crime, because the rate of reporting, prosecution and convictions for rape varies considerably in different jurisdictions. Over the years, there have been several newspapers and police reports on rape cases. Agyare and Boateng (2003) revealed that on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1992, three men raped a thirteen year old girl on her way back from an errand. This matter was reported to the police but no arrest was made. A related episode was in April 1994, where a four-year-old girl fell asleep in the room of an adult male who lived in the same building with them. The suspect upon finding the little girl asleep on his bed allegedly raped her. The girl came out bleeding and the mother reported the matter to the police and since then the rapist has not been prosecuted. This shows that rape cases are underreported, thus protecting rapists, thereby increasing the chance that they will repeat the offence. Most rape cases are not reported because of the female victims and their families' fear would be attached to them thereafter. Thus, the violence is going on unreported and also because of the societal attitude in general and law enforcement agencies towards victims of rape. More often than not rape victims are treated as suspect's right from the police station to the courtroom. This treatment is essentially a great discrimination against

women and for that matter constitutes a breach of their basic human right (Agyare and Boateng (2003).

### **Gender-Based violence and development**

Violence against women is a human rights issue. It is also a development issue because of the link between poverty, human insecurity and violence. Although it occurs across strata, there are clear links between violence, poverty and social status. The Beijing Platform for Action identifies gender violence as a critical area of concern. It states that “violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms’ (United Nations, 1996:73). At home, the workplace and on the street, women have fallen and continue to fall victim to gender violence. The violence to which women and girls are subjected to transcends class, race, age and religious categorization.

The enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health has been identified as vital to the life and well-being of women and their ability to participate in all areas of public and private life. However, as a result of negative practices and belief which place women in perpetual subordinate positions in all spheres of society, health and wellbeing elude the majority of women. This situation is further aggravated by violence against women which has been identified through empirical studies as constituting an urgent public health problem worldwide. (WHO, 2003).

According to Osam (2007), the health consequences of gender-based violence are varied and range from short-term health effects such as headaches, bruises and bodily pains to long-term serious effects such as partial

or permanent disabilities, chronic pain, depression and mental disorders. The various types of violence inflicted by 96% of men on women and girls and 4% of women on men and boys had varying effects. Domestic violence for instance is almost invariably accompanied by psychological abuse such as verbal insults and the use of language that constitutes threats and undermines the safety and security of the victim. Other forms of abuse, such as sexual abuse tend to have psychological damage on the victims. Victims of rape can be severely traumatized by the assault and may have difficulty in functioning. For example, after being raped, it is common for the victim to experience acute stress disorder which such as depersonalization or dissociation, difficulty to remember important parts of the assault and also avoidance of things, places, thoughts and memories. Others include anxiety or increased alertness and avoidance of social life.

According to Sam and Insaadoo (2003), violence affects women and children in various ways. These effects could be physical, psychological, sexual, economic among others. Physically, the victim can develop bruises, broken bones, fractures, swollen face, Rashes, broken teeth, wounds, STDS/HIV/AIDS, pregnancy, pain and death. Similarly, some of the psychological effects on the victim are fear, anger, depression, guilty, feeling low self-esteem, insomnia (inability to sleep) and internalized blame. Other psychological effects are isolation, helplessness, high level of anxiety, risk of alcohol and substance abuse and attempt to commit suicide. Additionally, the effects of sexual assault on victims include frigidity, promiscuity, shock and inability to build intimate relationship with anyone. Economic effects on

victims also include loss of income as a result of days lost at work, poverty, financial dependence on man, divorce, among others.

According to world report on violence and health (WHO 2002), women who are abused by their partners suffer more depression, anxiety and phobias than non-abused women, according to studies in Australia, Nicaragua, Pakistan and the United States. Similarly, other studies suggest that women abused by their partners are at heightened risk for suicide and suicide attempts. In Nicaragua, the United States and Zimbabwe, women who have experienced physical or sexual assault, either in childhood or adulthood use health services more frequently than their non-abused peers thereby increasing health care cost (WHO 2002).

Recent evidence suggests that violence may also directly or indirectly affect child mortality .Researchers in Leon and Nicaragua found that after controlling for other possible confounding factors, the children of women who were physically and sexually abused by a partner were six times more likely to die before the age of 5years than children of women who had not been abused. Partner abuse accounted for as much as one-third of death among children in this region (WHO, 2002).

Gender-based violence has serious impact on national development because of its negative mental consequences with women after exhibiting post traumatic stress disorder which further undermines their ability to work effectively, therefore affects productivity. An equally important impact of gender-based violence on development is that, it has a strong association with poor nutritional status of women and their children, because it affects the

economic stability of the family through lost of work which in turn affects food security which results in increased hunger (WHO,2002).

In conclusion, political leaders, civil societies and non-governmental organizations are urged to continue to highlight gender-based violence in international, national and local fora as a fundamental human rights violation and as a priority issue to promote sustainable development and reduce poverty.

### **Feminist perspectives of gender-based violence**

#### Power and domination

Violence against women is influenced by social attitudes and values which see men as naturally superior to women and make it a man's right to have power over and responsibility to control woman's behaviour. What is considered acceptable behaviour is determined by the man and society and failure by the woman to comply with the socially acceptable behaviour leads to violence. Gros, (1990) asserts that the power exercised by man in an intimate relationship is influenced by the social institution of patriarchy which makes men the dominant sex. Power works hand in hand with control often viewed as a mechanism or means through which power is restrained, regulated, directed or maintained. Control relies upon various means such as the threat or the actual use of force and coercion which can be direct or indirect to achieve its end. Men use variety of techniques to control female partners and /or children including physical force, refusing to provide household money, threatening to take on another wife and withholding school fees, to name a few.

Most feminists believe that sexual coercion is motivated by a desire to exert control over women and not out of lust. Rape, according to feminists, is not necessarily a sexual act, but an act of violence. Violence asserts power, and men use this to dominate women. This theory views rape as emerging from a social framework that emphasizes group conflict. Since males have constructed a patriarchal society in which men are holders of wealth and power, they engage in behaviours that maintain this control, whether consciously or unconsciously. Physically, men are stronger and have sexual anatomy that makes rape possible. Men learned that women could be controlled and traumatized by dominating them using sex (Malamuth, 1996; Brownmiller, 1975). This power struggle is inherent in the manner by which the sexes are socialized. Women are taught to be passive and submissive, while men are instructed to be active and dominant. Tenderness, sensitivity and empathy are encouraged for women and discouraged in men. Because of this, men are socialized to devalue women and develop masculine self-concepts. Further, males develop hostility towards women and even learn to find sexual arousal from domination. This power structure exists to maintain a hierarchical structure where violence is available and even necessary.

Feminist theory further asserts that any woman may be a victim of rape, despite her appearance, age or status. This makes any woman a natural target for a rapist, simply because she is a female. Most victims are of the same age as or younger than their attacker, and are especially at risk between the ages of ten and 29. The victim is typically smaller than her attacker in weight and height, and this is both a physical and psychological disadvantage. Because of this, rape prevention programs should focus on girls and young

women, those most at risk, and teach self-defense since rapists target those least likely to effectively resist (Brownmiller, 1975). Women should be taught to express their desires clearly, keep themselves safe and alert in risky situations, Men's self-esteem must not be based on domination of women or rejection of feminist traits in favour of masculine strength. A system that discourages competition and instead encourages a sharing of resources and cooperation will aid in this restructuring (Malamuth, 1996)

Dobash and Dobash (1979) also suggest that the fundamental cause of violence against wives is viewed as being the result of an imbalance of power between men and women. Feminists have asserted that throughout time, women have been subjugated by the greater patriarchal society that has placed limits on their opportunities and left them vulnerable to a number of abuses.

Men, whether they rape or not, are subject to the political, economic and social advantages of a patriarchal society. Men benefit from the preservation of a power structure that limits the rights of women, and therefore may neglect to take the crime of sexual coercion seriously or fight on women's behalf (Brownmiller, 1975).

#### Agents of gender and socialization

Social structures such as the legal system, the community, including family and friends, educational system, mass media, religion and culture have contributed in many ways to the violent behaviour of men against women. For example, the legal system has often considered violence by men against women as a private domestic matter and therefore is reluctant to press charges,

despite the fact that if this same behaviour occurred between strangers on the street, it would be treated as criminal act (Coker-Appiah, 2004).

The education system also reflects, teaches and therefore perpetuates social attitudes and values about women. Traditionally, women have been steered towards jobs and careers that are inferior in status and remuneration. Family life education has often supported a traditional rigid patriarchal family structure that sees the father as the head of the household and every one subservient to him. (Coker-Appiah, 2004).

Religion and culture further reinforce social attitudes and values about women as objects and minors and therefore subject to man's control and discipline. Religion is a particularly powerful tool for social conditioning. The word of God through any religious doctrine is represented as truth unchanging and natural. For example, when a pastor tells the congregation that women were created from the rib of men, it is ordained by God. (Ballou, 1976)

Others argue that the mass media also perpetuates stereotypes by representing males as superior and representing females as seductive, passive and weak. The stereotypes are harmful as they affect attitudes and expectations of others (WILDAF, Ghana, 2004).

#### The cycle of violence

The "Cycle of violence" which emerged from the research conducted by Lenore Walker (1979) on battered wives describes the dynamics of abusive relationship. It is based on the premise that women are not constantly being abused, and that their willingness to remain in abuse relationship is related to cyclical fluctuations between periods of abuse and relatively peaceful



coexistence. The theory also explains how women become victimized, how they fall into learned helplessness behaviour, and why they do not attempt to escape (Walker, 1979). The cycle of violence is made up of three separate and distinct phases. The first phase is called the “tension building” phase, during which the abusing spouse exhibits moodiness, is short tempered, and is critical of his spouse. It is during this phase that the other spouse may feel as if she is “Walking on egg shells”, and attempts to avert any further escalation of the tension. The second phase is called “explosion” phase. This is relatively short-lived phase in which the tension of the previous stage reaches crisis proportions and a physical assault ensues. The third and final phase has been called the “honeymoon” phase, because it is during this phase that the abusing spouse shows great remorse for his actions and promises never to repeat the episode. According to Walker (1979), it is not uncommon that the abused spouse and her perpetrator will engage in lovemaking soon after the assault. It is thought that the interchange between caring and abuse keeps the abused wife from leaving the relationship and the abuser from changing his behaviour. Despite the cyclical nature of the abuse, due to the influence of situational factors, it is difficult to predict the timing of each phase or the repetition of the cycle (Walker, 1979).

### **Social learning perspectives of gender-based violence**

According to social learning theory, children’s acquisition of much complex behaviour ensues from their exposure to competent role models that display appropriate behaviour in solving problems and coping with their world. Inasmuch as positive behaviours can be acquired through positive role

models, conversely, negative behaviours can also be acquired through the modelling of negative behaviours. Hence adult children who observe violence in their family of origin tend to exhibit violent behaviour later in their life. In this direction of behaviour, Men learn to become rapists through shaping and successive approximation and women may play a role in shaping this behaviour. If females initially resist and then give in to a male's pressure, he may later generalize that behaviour to other women.

Ellis, (1989, 1991) suggests some propositions for sexual aggression. Ellis, (1991) suggests that, for human beings, the sex and possession drives are closely linked, and that both comprise the motivation behind all sexual behaviour. Domination and aggression are tactics rather than goals, a means towards a sexual end. For instance, research on date rapes shows that the use of physical force comes after other actions, such as the use of alcohol, pressure and arguing, threats to break off the relationship and ignoring protests, which suggest a sexual motivation. Self-reports show that even most stranger rapists admit to using only the force necessary to subdue a victim, and that very few men and women view power and anger as the main motivation to rape.

Ellis, (1991) also suggests that, due to natural selection, the sex drive of males is stronger than that of females. As a result, men are more likely to desire a large number of partners than females and will employ a wide variety of tactics to reach this goal. Females, on the other hand, have a tendency to prefer sex with a male with whom they have a committed relationship, where the male would take a part in raising offspring. Because men can pass on genes more readily than can women, they have a lot to gain by copulating with a large number of females. The stronger sex drive of men may be a result of

natural selection and lead men to engage in coercive techniques with hesitant women, who are looking for an investment from potential mates in the raising of offspring.

Social Learning theory explains how social institutions and structures affect social behaviour. These structures identify how the source of violence such as stress, frustration and deprivation result from economic crises. Thus people with fewer resources relative to other members of the society are known to experience higher levels of frustration and stress. Frustration from material deprivation may result in physical wife abuse because the husband is limited in his ability to provide for his family and to meet normative expectations with poverty or unemployment, and the stress and the frustration may result in his use of violence (Steinmetze, 1988).

### **Psychological perspectives of gender-based violence**

Eysench and Eysench (1985) developed a genetic theory of personality that proposed that the nature of an individual's biology is a determinant factor of his or her personality make-up. They suggested that some of the variability in human behaviour could be accounted for by the finding that criminals consistently score higher than the general population along extraversion, neuroticism and psychoticism personality dimension. Research by Malamuth (1988) demonstrated that high scores on psychoticism among males were also associated with sexual aggression and predicted aggression against females in a laboratory setting. The existence of a continuum of antisocial behaviour ranging from minor infractions (e.g.

drinking alcohol at a bar while below the legal age) to major criminal offences (e.g. armed robbery) is indicative of an individual's preposition towards criminality. It is along this continuum that the perpetration of partner abuse is thought to lie. According to Eysench and Eysench (1985), an individual who is most likely to abuse his/her partner would be one who is impulsive and disinherited and therefore fails to acquire social rules whose anxiety acts as violence (neurotic) and uncaring and unlikely to feel guilt, empathy or sensitivity and therefore having little difficulty in behaving antisocially. While heredity is thought to be "a strong predisposing factor, the actual way in which a crime is carried out is subject to the vicissitudes of everyday life" (Eysench & Eysench, 1985:79). This delineation suggests that the interface between a person's inborn characteristics and those found in his/her social environment is extremely important in determining the likelihood that a deviant mode of conduct will emerge (Eysench & Eysench, 1985)

From a psychological perspective, alcohol consumption is linked to violent behaviour through its physiological effects, as it releases an individual's violent impulses and tendencies and suppresses inhibitions (Hamilton & Collin, 1981). Kantor and Strans (1987: 214) explain that "alcohol's effects on the central nervous system releases inhibitions by depression of rage." (Walker, 1979) proposed that there may be similarities between the specific blood chemistry changes evident under a generalized stress reaction such as battering and those found in alcoholics. The high rates of alcohol consumption associated with family violence suggest that the disinhibition theory is an appropriate conceptual framework for the study of partner abuse.

Ellis, (1989, 1991) explains how variations in exposure to male-typical sex hormones cause individuals to vary in their sex drives and sensitivity to the threat of punishment and the suffering of others. This proposition focuses on both the motivation and learning that lead to rape behaviours. Ellis (1989, 1991) suggests that testosterone affects brain processing in ways that alter the propensity to rape in terms of both motivation and learning. This neurohormone may influence the strength of sex drive and the sensitivity of a person to the suffering of others. Research shows that androgens affect the structure and functioning of the brain, and that testosterone is tied to sexual behaviour. In castrated primates, most show dramatically reduced sexual motivation. Studies also show that increased testosterone leads to an increase of sexual behaviour or passion and thoughts in both male primates and male humans. The female brain also responds in a similar way to androgens. An increase of testosterone in the brain increases sex drive and exposure to sexual stimuli also facilitates the production of testosterone.

### **International efforts at dealing with gender violence**

As a result of national and international levels of advocacy carried out by women's rights activists, and with the passing of the convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women (DEVAW), gender violence has gained increased recognition and attention worldwide and serious efforts are being made to address it at all levels.

In 1996, the World Health Assembly passed a resolution calling for public health interventions to combat violence. The 1995 Fourth World

Conference on Women in Beijing adopted a platform for Action which declared that violence against women is an obstacle to the achievement of the objective of equality, development and peace. At 1994 International Conference on Population and Development in Cairo, nearly 180 countries recognized the role of violence in the definition of women's reproductive health, which includes the right of all to make decisions concerning reproduction, free of discrimination coercion and violence. (Conveying, 1998)

International conventions and legislation are just beginning to be translated into action at a level that can effectively protect women- the level of families, communities and even national governments. The initiatives are a beacon for women at the grassroots, where there are efforts to pull the issue out of the closet and to clearly define gender-based violence as a problem for society. This is the more reason why in November 2001, representatives from ten United Nations agencies met in Geneva in Switzerland to discuss their work on interpersonal violence and find ways to coordinate future efforts in this field. Although United Nations agencies had previously collaborated successfully on conflict-related violence, little interagency work had been done to prevent everyday acts of violence and crime-incidents that affect individuals, families, communities and institutions such as schools and workplaces. In a message to representatives, the then United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan stated that Men and Women everywhere have the right to live their lives and raise their children free from the fear of violence. 'We must therefore help them to enjoy that right by making it clearly understood that violence is preventable and by working together to identify and address its underlying causes' (WHO, 2002:7). Participants outlined a range of

collaborative activities they would undertake. These included the preparation of a guide to United Nations resources and activities for the prevention of interpersonal violence, highlighting the core competencies of each agency in preventing interpersonal violence and identifying areas not currently addressed by United Nation Organizations. Based on this guide, a web site was developed to help participating agencies exchange information and to serve as a resource for other United Nation agencies, governments, non-governmental organizations, researchers and donors (WHO, 2002).

In recent years, some countries have taken significant steps towards improving laws relating to violence against women. For example, in July 1991, Mexico revised its rape law in several important ways. A provision that allowed a man who rapes a minor to avoid prosecution if he agrees to marry her was eliminated (Papoe and Ardayfio-Schandorf, 1998). On the 9<sup>th</sup> June 1994, the Organization of American States adopted the inter-American Convention to prevent, punish and eradicate violence against Women, a new international instrument that recognizes all gender-based violence as an abuse of human rights. This convention provides an individual right of petition and a right for non-governmental organizations to lodge complaints with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (Papoe and Ardayfio-Schandorf, 1998).

In Australia, a National Committee on Violence Against Women was established to coordinate the development of policy, legislation and law enforcement at the national level as well as community education on violence against women. In 1991, the government of Canada announced a new four-year Family Violence Initiative intended to mobilize community action,

strengthen Canada's legal framework, establish services to help victims and stop offenders and provide housing for abused women.

In Burkina Faso, a strong advertising campaign by the Government, as well as television and radio programmes on the unhealthy practice of genital mutilation were launched to educate and raise public awareness about the dangerous consequences of such an operation. A national Anti-Excision Committees were established in 1990 by the present head of state. Today, the practice of genital mutilation has been eliminated in some villages of Burkina Faso. In others, there has been an incredible drop in the number of girls excised (Papoe and Ardayfio-schandorf, 1998).

### **NGOS' interventional programmes to mitigate gender violence**

Interventional programmes for gender-based violence include all activities that aim at providing women who have been abused with specific needs for their mental, physical, moral and social development (UNICEF, 2000). Oquaye and Katsriku (1996) assert that NGOs are all forms of private organizations set up by individuals or groups for the purpose of pursuing certain aims, policies or programmes independent of government. Though they can be international, national or local based, they have the characteristics of being voluntary, independent, non-profit and self-serving organizations within civil society.

According to the United Nations Development Programme (1993), NGOs have certainly increased their outreach in recent years, both in funds they spend and the number of people they deal with. Rough estimates in the



1980s suggested that their activities touched 100 million people in developing countries, but currently, the total is nearly 250 million and will rise in the years ahead.

NGOs have attracted considerable attention in recent times and the growth in their numbers has made them a distinctive sector within civil society, where they cover a wide span of activities. In the developed world, women's crises centres and battered women's shelter have been the cornerstone of programmes for victims of violence against women. In 1995, there were approximately 1800 such programmes in the United States, 1200 of which provided emergency shelter in addition to emotional, legal and material support to women and their children (Commonwealth Fund, 1998). Such centres generally provide support group and individual counselling, job training programmes, assistance in dealing with social services and with legal matters and referrals for treatment for women abused.

Some NGOs which see the maintenance of shelter as being expensive instead set up telephone hotlines and "safe houses" where women in distress can seek temporary shelter in the home of neighbours. Some communities have designated their local place of worship as a temple where women can stay with their children overnight to escape drunken or violent partners. NGOs frequently recruit and train outreach workers who visit victims of violence in their homes and communities, advocate individuals who have been abused with information and advice, particularly with help in negotiating the intricacies of the legal system and of family welfare and other benefits (Commonwealth Fund, 1998).

According to Prah (1999), a number of NGOs in Ghana such as the Ark Foundation, The Gender Centre, Advocates for Gender Equity, Action Aid, and ABANTU for Development among others have intensified programmes such as awareness creation, advocacy, counselling services, financial assistance and credit facilities to address economic needs of women to make them less dependent on their abusive husband. For example, WILDAF (Ghana), an international NGO based in Ghana has since September 1992 trained over three hundred women leaders of grassroots organizations on legal education and leadership skills with the view to helping women to articulate their needs by intensifying issues which could form the basis for future planning for rights awareness programmes or law reform. (Coker-Appiah, 2004). The sensitization programmes adopted by these NGOs will make people aware of the various forms of violence against women and that they constitute offence and therefore must not be condoned (Prah, 1999).

It is therefore worthwhile to note that the efforts being put in place by NGOs and other development partners are steps in right direction in addressing gender based violence issues, particularly in Ghana.

## **CHAPTER THREE**

### **METHODOLOGY**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter discusses the methodology for the study. It deals with the data collection procedure and data analysis techniques. First, it introduces the study area.

#### **Study area**

Accra has been Ghana's Capital since 1877, and it is today one of the most populated and fast growing Metropolis in Africa. It is the smallest of the 10 administrative regions in terms of area, occupying a total land surface of 173 square kilometers or 1.4 percent of the total land area of Ghana. Accra has a population of 1,883,407 million and this makes it the second most populated region after Ashanti Region. It is located on the coast of the Atlantic Ocean and shares boundaries with the Central region to the west, Eastern to the north and Volta to the east and lies between latitude  $0^{\circ} 13'$  in the west and longitude  $5^{\circ} 33'$  ([www.ghanadistricts.com](http://www.ghanadistricts.com)).

The major ethnic groups are Akan, Ga-Dangme and Ewe. Ga however, forms the largest single sub-ethnic groupings accounting for 18.9 percent. Accra Metropolis is made up of eleven sub-metros namely Okai Koi North, Okai Koi South, Ashiedu Keteke, Ayawaso East, Ayawaso West,

Ayawaso Central, La, Osu Klotey, Ablekuma Central, Ablekuma North and Ablekuma South (Refer to Appendix D for map of study area).

### **Climate**

The average annual temperature in Accra is 26.4C where the highest mean temperatures occur in March and the lowest occur in August with a relative humidity between 52% and 73%. Accra records low annual rainfall averaging 810mm which is distributed over less than 80 days. The vegetation of Accra is mainly savannah with remnants of forest vegetation at Achimota and Dodowa, and mangrove and swampy vegetation along the coastal lagoons. (www.ghanadistricts.com).

### **Economy**

The economically active population of Accra Metropolitan Assembly (AMA) is estimated to be 1,377,103 or 70.8 percent. However, the daily influx of people from surrounding town makes the figure higher than estimated. Accra is a major centre for manufacturing, marketing, finance, insurances, transportation and tourism. Accra Metropolitan Assembly's economy consists of primary sector (farming, fishing, mining and quarrying), secondary sector (manufacturing, electricity, gas, water and construction) and tertiary sector (wholesale trade, retail trade, hotel, restaurant, transportation, communication, education, health and other social services). Accra has 114,198 of its labour unemployed, making an unemployment rate of 12.2% (www.ghanadistricts.com).

## **Festivals**

The most important common religious institution that has survived as an expression of the unity of the GA-Dangme people relates to the three main annual festivals celebrated in the region. These are the Asafotufiam celebrated in the Ada areas, Ngmayem in the shai Osudoku area and the Homowo by the Gas. The festivals provide an occasion for the gathering together of the Ga-Dangme from every part of the country, where they happen to be temporarily domiciled in order to eat communally together and at the same time to welcome new members while remembering the dead ([www.ghanadistrict.com](http://www.ghanadistrict.com))

## **Research design**

This study has used a qualitative methodology. The research has been largely descriptive. According to Fraenkel and Wallen (2000), obtaining information from a large group of people by setting carefully worded questions and carefully administered questionnaire lies in the heart of a descriptive survey. Gay (1992) also notes that, descriptive research involves the collection of data in order to answer research questions concerning current state of affairs of the subject under investigation. Descriptive research thus determines and reveals the way things are and is directed towards the determination of the nature of a situation as it exists at the time of the study. With descriptive research, the events or conditions either already exist or have occurred and the researcher merely selects the relevant variables for an analysis of their relationships.

The reasons for choosing descriptive design are that, it has the merit of gathering various responses from a wide range of people. It also helps one to have a clear picture of events and people's behaviour on the basis of the data gathered for a particular period of time. Again, in-depth follow-up questions can be asked and items that were not clear could be explained further using descriptive survey design. Furthermore, descriptive survey helps to present the true state of affairs of a given situation after data have been collected from a number of people who respond to the same set of questions about a given situation.

### **Study population**

The study targeted workers of Ark Foundation as well as their clients. The NGO workers were included in the research because, the study sought to examine their roles in addressing their clients' problem, and also to seek confirmation from them about what their clients would say in the interview process. Records obtained from the office of Ark Foundation indicated that, there are 35 workers of Ark Foundation who are made up of 10 programme officers, 10 programme coordinators, 5 social workers, 5 volunteers, 2 accountants, 2 drivers and 1 Executive Director. Also, there are 60 clients at the time of the research which was made up of 25 rape victims and 35 battered women. This brings the total population to 95. This is presented in Table 2.

**Table 2: Target population-workers and clients of Ark Foundation**

Category of respondents	Frequency
Executive Director	1
Programme Officers	10
Programme Coordinators	10
Social Workers	5
Volunteers	5
Accountants	2
Drivers	2
Rape Victims	25
Wife battered victims	35
Total	95

Source: Field study, 2009.

### **Sample size and sampling procedure**

In all, a sample size of 50 respondents, representing fifty - nine percent (59%) of the entire population was randomly selected for the study. This was made up of 5 programme officers, 5 Programme Coordinators, 3 Social workers, 2 Volunteers, 15 rape victims and 20 wife battered victims. In this case, ‘Yes’ and ‘No’ were written on pieces of papers and were folded. The NGO workers from different categories were asked to pick the folded pieces of papers, and all those who picked ‘Yes’ from the different categories were selected as respondents for the study. This brought the total number of NGO workers to 15. The same procedure was used to select rape and wife battered victims which also brought their total number to 35. A sample size of 50 was used for the study because, it is economical to use a wisely selected sample

size as compared to a very large sample size. Also, using 50 respondents will help the researcher to obtain the needed information about the respondents quickly, since it saves time. Finally, appropriate sample size selected will help the researcher to take precautions measures to reduce sampling errors in order to provide valid and reliable information about the respondents. The simple random sampling was used in order to give respondents equal chance of being selected for the study.

### **Pre -testing**

In order to ensure the validity and reliability of the instruments, the questionnaire was pre-tested using 5 respondents who were not part of the sample size selected for the study, but were part of the target population of Ark Foundation. They were made up of 1 NGO worker, 2 wife battered victims and 2 rape victims. This was done to revise and improve the questions to make them more specific and effective in eliciting the needed information. The five respondents were selected for the pre-test because they had the same characteristics as the people selected for the study.

### **Data collection procedure**

The main instruments used to collect data for analysis in the study were semi-structured questionnaire and interview guide. According to Sarantakos (1998), the use of questionnaire is useful because, it standardizes data collection and ensures high confidentiality of respondents, thus eliciting truthful information from respondents. Open-ended questions were used and these were to give the respondents freedom to answer questions in an unrestricted manner. The questionnaire which was answered by NGO workers



was in four sections, A to D. The section A dealt with the background information of the respondents. The variable covered here were category and sex of respondents, educational level and marital status. Section B of the questionnaire sought information on the forms, causes and effects of gender violence. Section C dealt with interventional programmes adopted by Ark Foundation to mitigate gender violence. The fourth section which was section D focused on the outcome of the interventional programmes in mitigating gender violence. This semi-structured questionnaire was administered to the NGO workers. The questionnaire was left with the NGO workers for two weeks to be filled. With permission granted to the researcher by Ark Foundation, the victims were interviewed one on one with the help of a guide at Ark Foundation's office having assured the victims of confidentiality. Among other items covered by the interview guide include the background information of rape and wife battered victims. Other items in the guide include the causes and effects of the victim's predicament.

This was to give the respondents the opportunity to freely answer the questions asked in an unrestricted manner. This method helped the researcher to get detailed information from the respondents.

### **Data analysis**

Due to the qualitative nature of the study, the data collected were sorted manually to check if all inconsistencies had been cleared. The data collected were then analysed with the help of descriptive statistics using frequency tables and percentages.

Data collected were checked for consistency and coded along identified themes for discussion. Trends and patterns were then generated and discussed. The voices of respondents were used to present their fears, hopes and aspirations.

It is evidently clear that the method adopted by the researcher gave him the opportunity to gather the required information from the respondents for better analysis.

## **CHAPTER FOUR**

### **RESULTS AND DISCUSSION**

#### **Introduction**

This chapter presents the results and discussion of the study. Presentations under this section have been put into two categories. The first part deals with the results of the analysis of demographic data or background information of the respondents who took part in the study. The analysis of the main data to generate answers to the research questions is covered in the second segment.

#### **Background of respondents**

On the category and sex of respondents of NGO workers, Table 3 illustrates that out of the 15 respondents, 33.0% who are made up of one(1) male and four (4) females were programme officers, 20.0% who are made up of two (2) males and only one female were social workers. Also, 33.0% of the respondents, made up of only one male and four (4) females were programme coordinators, while all the volunteer workers of the organization who represent 14.0% were only females.

The analysis demonstrates that the category and sex of the entire NGO workers are dominated by women.

**Table 3: Categories and sex of respondents of NGO workers**

Category	Sex		Respondents
	Male	Female	Frequency
Programme officers	1	4	5(33.0)
Social workers	2	1	3(20.0)
Programme Coordinators	1	4	5(33.0)
Volunteers	–	2	2(14.0)
Total	4	11	15(100.0)

Source: Field study, 2009.

Table 4 illustrates the educational background of the victims. Concerning the rape victims, only 7.0% have university education, while 20.0% and 53.0% have Senior High and Junior High School education respectively. 20.0% of the rape victims said that they have never had any formal education.

Similarly, 30.0% of wife battered victims specified that they have never had any formal education. However, 5.0%, 20.0% 15.0% and 30.0% of wife battered victims have University, Polytechnic, Senior High and Junior High School education respectively. Majority of the rape and wife battered victims have Junior High School Certificates and they form 53.0% of rape victims and 30.0% of wife battered victims.

It can therefore be deduced from the analysis that people with low or basic level of education are prone to be victims of rape and wife beating.

**Table 4: Educational background of victims**

Level of Education	Rape Frequency	%	Wife Battered Frequency	%
University	1	7.0	1	5.0
Polytechnic	-	-	4	20.0
S.H.S	3	20.0	3	15.0
J.H.S	8	53.0	6	30.0
No education	3	20.0	6	30.0
Total	15	100.0	20	100.0

Source: Field study, 2009.

Table 5 presents the occupation of rape and wife battered victims. Concerning the rape victims, 46.0% of them are students, followed by trading and farming, which represent 20.0% each. Those who are unemployed represent 14.0%. This indicates that students form majority of those who are raped in Accra Metropolis.

On the other hand, out of the 20 wife battered victims, 35.0% of them are traders, 25.0% are farmers and 40% who form majority are said to be unemployed. None of the wife battered victims is a student. Unemployed wives record high incidence of wife beating than farmers, students and traders. This explains why frustration from material deprivation may result in physical wife abuse, because the husband is limited in his ability to provide for his family and to meet normative expectations with poverty or unemployment (Steinmetze, 1988).

**Table 5: Occupation of victims**

Occupation	Rape Frequency	%	Wife Battered Frequency	%
Trading	3	20.0	7	35.0
Farming	3	20.0	5	25.0
Student	7	46.0	-	-
Unemployed	2	14.0	8	40.0
Total	15	100.0	20	100.0

Source: Field study, 2009.

Table 6 illustrates the age distribution of both rape and wife battered victims. Majority of rape victims are within the age range of 15-19 years representing 41%. This is followed by 20% of rape victims who fall within 20-24 years. It is worthy to note that none of the rape victims falls within 40-45 years and above. Moreover, 13% each of rape victim falls within the age ranges of 25-29, 30-34 and 35-39 years respectively.

In the case of wife battered victims. Majority of them fall within 35-39 years which represents 35%. This is followed by those who fall within 25-29 years representing 20%. Those who fall within 45 years and above represent only 5%. This suggests that about 60% of rape victims are aged 15-24 years while women between 30 and 44 years who represent 65% are more assaulted by their spouses.

**Table 6: Age distribution of victims**

Age of victims	Rape	%	Wife Battered	%
15-19	6	41	-	-
20-24	3	20	2	10
25-29	2	13	4	20
30-34	2	13	3	15
35-39	2	13	7	35
40-44	-	-	3	15
45 and above	-	-	1	5
Total	15	100.0	20	100.0

Source: Field study, 2009.

The NGO workers were interviewed on the forms of violence against women that are reported frequently to their office and the result is presented in Table 7. With this, 67.0% of the NGO workers indicated that sexual abuse is one of the forms that are frequently reported to their office. Also, 33.0% of the respondents indicated that physical abuse is one of the forms of gender base violence that are reported to their office. This suggests that sexual and physical abuses are the major forms of violence that are prevalent and frequently reported in Accra Metropolis.

The above findings agree with a study conducted by Adjetey (1996) that rape of children and adults is the commonest form of gender based violence in Accra Metropolis.

**Table 7: Forms of gender based violence**

Forms	Frequency	Percentage
Sexual Abuse	10	67.0
Physical Abuse	5	33.0
Total	15	100.0

Source: Field study, 2009.

On the causes of rape, Table 8 illustrates that 80.0% of the NGO workers indicated sexual passion as the cause of rape, 13.0% of them attributed rape of the victims as a result of drunkenness on the part of the rapist, while only 7.0% said that women are raped because of the type of dress they wear. The answers given by the NGO workers on the causes of rape are as a result of their personal experience with victims during their outreach programmes in the various communities.

Rape victims were also interviewed and the outcome was that, close to half of the respondents, representing 40.0% indicated that they do not know why they were raped, 13.0% said that they were raped because they slept on the same bed with relatives, but the majority who represented 47.0% attributed their predicament to their refusal to accept the love of the men who raped them.

In conclusion, one can say that sexual passion is the most potent cause of rape in Accra Metropolis as indicated by NGO workers. This supports a research conducted by Ellis (1989) that increased testosterone can lead to an increased sexual behaviour or passion which can cause men to rape.



**Table 8: NGO workers and rape victims' opinion on the causes of rape**

Causes of rape	NGO workers	Rape victims
Sexual passion	12(80.0)	–
Drunkenness (rapist)	2(13.0)	–
Type of dress worn	1(7.0)	–
Do not know	–	6(40.0)
Slept on the same bed	–	2(13.0)
Refusal of sexual advances	–	7(47.0)
Total	15(100.0)	15(100.0)

Source: Field study, 2009.

With respect to why women are beaten, 33.0% of the NGO workers attributed it to misunderstanding between couples due to family issues, 60% said that wives are beaten because of financial problems, while only 7.0% attributed wife beating to disrespectfulness on the part of women, because according to the NGO workers, some battered wives who report to the NGO office and are interviewed appear to have shown some kind of disrespectfulness towards their husbands. A practical experience was when a certain woman who was asked why she was beaten by her husband said that her husband refused to give her house-keeping money on time, so she only shouted on the husband and the husband beat her. However, the NGO workers did not say anything about drunkenness and denial of sex. According to them, they did not notice these attitudes during their outreach program.

Moreover, wife battered victims were asked why they were beaten by their husbands and only 5.0% said that they were beaten because of their husbands' drunkenness. Half of the victims representing 50.0% attributed their

predicament to misunderstanding between them and their husbands, while 25.0% of them attributed their predicament to financial problems. However, 20.0% of the victims claimed that they were beaten because of denial of sexual advances from their partners. Victims gave various reasons for their husbands' attitudes towards them. For instance, one wife- battered victim interviewed said that she decided not to have sex with her husband again because she has many children and that, she can no longer cater for any additional mouth. This brought a misunderstanding between her and her husband and so the husband always came home drunk and beat her. Another victim also confessed that her husband has lost his job and so he is so frustrated that the woman has become the breadwinner of the house. However, when the wife is unable to cook, the husband harasses her.

The analysis above indicates that most of the reasons for wife beating in Accra Metropolis are misunderstanding between partners and financial problems. Other causes indicated by respondents are wives' refusing to have sex with their husbands and drunkenness on the part of the men. This is in consonance with the assertion raised by Pappoe and Ardayfio-Schandorf (1998) that a husband beats his wife for refusing to have sex with him. Also, the notion that, drunkenness is one of the causes of gender-based violence confirms the assertion raised by Walker (1979) that the high rate of alcohol consumption is an appropriate conceptual framework for the study of partner abuse. The result is presented in Table 9.

**Table 9: NGO workers and wife battered victims' opinion on the causes of wife beating**

Causes of Wife beating	NGO workers	Wife battered victims
Misunderstanding	5(33.0)	10(50.0)
Financial problem	9(60.0)	5(25.0)
Disrespectfulness (wives)	1(7.0)	--
Drunkenness	--	1(5.0)
Sex denial		4(20.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>15(100.0)</b>	<b>20(100.0)</b>

Source: Field study, 2009.

Table 10 explains the effects of gender based violence in Accra. According to 27.0% of the NGO workers, rape victims have the chance of being infected with sexually transmitted diseases, 53.0% said that rape may lead to unwanted pregnancy. While 13.0% can live promiscuous life according to NGO workers, 7.0% of the same NGO workers claimed that, sexual effect on the victim could lead to frigidity. It could be deduced from the analysis that, NGO workers' opinion on the effects of rape may be due to their personal encounter with some of these victims and also reports from medical officers who work on the victims.

On the other hand, when the rape victims were contacted, 66.0% of them who form majority said that, they developed severe pains when they were raped, 20.0% said that, they were shocked when they were raped, 7.0% of the victims said that they have developed promiscuous life while the rest

who represent 7.0% claimed that they dislike sex (frigidity) as a result of the situation they have gone through.

The above findings on the effects of rape being raised by the NGO workers and rape victims endorse a study conducted by Sam and Insaideo (2003) that victims who are subjected to rape can develop sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy, frigidity, pains and promiscuity.

**Table 10: NGO workers and rape victims’ opinion on the effects of rape on victims**

Effects of rape	NGO		Rape
		Workers	Victims
Sexually transmitted disease		4 (27.0)	–
Unwanted pregnancy		8 (53.0)	–
Promiscuity		2 (13.0)	1 (7.0)
Frigidity		1 (7.0)	1 (7.0)
Pains		–	10(66.0)
Shock		–	3 (20.0)
Total	15	15 (100.0)	15 (100.0)

100.0

Source: Field study, 2009.

Table 11 illustrates NGO workers and wife battered victims’ opinion on the effects of wife battered. With respect to the effects of wife beating on victims, 13.0% of NGO workers said that victims develop swollen face, 7.0% said that wife assault results in broken bones, while 7.0% thought that victims get their teeth broken when they are beating. However, majority of the workers who constitute 73.0% said that wife assault could result in separation (broken home).

However, 55.0% of those women who have been assaulted by their partners said that they had their faces swollen, 25.0% said that, the assault was so severe that they got their bones broken, while 20.0% of the victims said that the effects on them as a result of the assault were depression, fear and insomnia (inability to sleep).

It can therefore be concluded, considering the above analysis that separation between partners and developing of swollen face happen to be the major effects of wife battery in Accra metropolis and this due to the high percentages recorded by the NGO workers and the wife battered victims.

The findings of the effects of wife beating and rape corroborate or agree with the assertion raised by Sam and Insaideo (2003) that victims of wife battered could develop swollen face broken bones and depression. Victims of rape could also develop promiscuous behaviour.

**Table 11: NGO workers and wife battered victim’s opinion on the effects of wife beating**

Effects of Wife beating	NGO workers	Wife battered
Swollen face	2 (13.0)	11 (55.0)
Broken home	11 (73.0)	– –
Broken teeth	1 (7.0)	– –
Broken bones	1 (7.0)	5 (25.5)
Others (fear, depression, insomnia)	– –	4 (20.0)
<b>Total</b>	<b>15 (100.0)</b>	<b>20 (100.0)</b>

Source: Field study, 2009.

## **Ark Foundation's interventional programmes in mitigating gender-based violence**

Any individual, group of people or organizations that commit themselves to the task of ending gender based violence must recognize that it is a difficult task that requires a multi-faceted approach. Indeed, it will take a great deal of commitment, sustained interest and adequate allocation of resources for us to make headway to save the lives of millions of women from the brutalities of men.

The annual reports from 2007 to 2008 of Ark Foundation discuss a number of activities that aim among other things to mitigate gender based violence. These include counselling, temporal shelter and rehabilitation, medical assistance support and capital support. Others include community awareness programs which lay much emphasis on sexual assault awareness campaign and church-based anti-violence programme.

### **Counselling**

Counselling is an integral part of the services provided by Ark Foundation to its clients. All abused women are taken through various forms of counselling such as face-to face meetings, telephone interviews and internet interactions. This enables the needs of the clients to be well addressed. As part of the intervention, victims are referred to clinical psychologists for professional advice. In 2007 for instance, fifteen (15) clients who were made up seven (7) wife battered victims and eight (8) rape victims received counselling services. In 2008, ten (10) wife battered victims and ten (10) rape victims equally received counselling services. These counselling services

centred on how victims could seek legal redress on legal actions against perpetrators. By this process, clients are encouraged to make their own choices and decision to enhance their self-awareness and potentials for resolving their own problems. The process also empowered the clients to a level where they could be independent.

### **Legal counselling and representation**

Legal services have been very beneficial to clients. There are volunteer Lawyers who provide legal counselling and also represent clients in court. In 2008, the legal centre forwarded sixteen (16) cases to the Juvenile, Circuit and High courts in Accra and Tema. Ten (10) of these cases were pre-financed by Ark Foundation. These efforts by Ark Foundation have made clients prefer to settle their cases with the legal centre than to go the court.

### **Temporary shelter and rehabilitation**

Temporary shelter is the last resort for clients at risk of abuse after all avenues have been explored. In 2008, twenty-one (21) clients, made up of fifteen (15) rape victims and six (6) wife battered victims were admitted to the shelter. Majority of these clients were mostly referred from agencies like Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU). By 2008, all the twenty-one (21) clients had been rehabilitated and resettled. Eleven (11) out of the fifteen(15) rape victims went back to their families, while the remaining four (4) remained at the shelter because, their cases were still in court and were being assisted by Ark Foundation. However, the entire wife battered victims resettled into new communities of their choice, because they feared

that they would still be harassed by their husbands. Regular follow up were often made by Ark to ensure that clients were fully integrated into their new environment.

### **Medical assistance and support**

Apart from the psycho-social support that Ark offers to clients, medical support needs are also offered to clients for treatment. Medical officers diagnose women who have been abused and are being advised to seek legal redress. Counsellors of Ark Foundation visit hospitals more often to respond to cases that need attention. From 2007 to December 2008, eighteen (18) rape victims and twelve (12) wife battered victims benefited from medical assistance. (Ark Foundation Report, 2007, 2008). Also, counsellors of Ark Foundation visit hospitals twice for counselling service.

### **Capital support**

In Ark Foundations' bid to empower clients, they assist the clients through the provision of small grants to embark on income generating activities of their choice. Clients of school going age are also given educational support to enable them continue their education. In 2008, Ark supported twelve (12) rape victims through junior, senior and tertiary levels of their education. Also, fifteen (15) wife battered victims were provided with subsistence aid in the form of cash for their travel expenses, food and related costs as they follow up on their cases. These initiatives by Ark have empowered the clients to undertake skills training and trade of their choice.



These initiatives have equally helped Ark to address school dropout problems in Accra.

### **Community Awareness Program (CAP)**

As part of Ark's effort to address gender based violence problems, two (2) activities have been implemented under the Community Awareness Program (CAP). These include Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign (SAAC) and the Church Based Anti-Violence Program (CAVP).

#### **(i) Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign (SAAC)**

The main purpose of the Sexual Assault Awareness Campaign program is to raise public awareness on the incidents, causes and impact of sexual assault, particularly on women and children. In this direction, Ark Foundation has been offering training for officers at Department of Social Welfare and Domestic Violence Victim Support Unit on how to conduct and write social enquiry reports. Apart from that, a number of Police Officers in the Eastern Region, particularly Akim Oda District have been trained on sexual and gender based violence to equip them to understand issues related to these vices. Also, street and market campaigns in Accra are being frequently organized to raise public awareness on issues of sexual and gender based violence.

From 2007 to 2009, according to Ark's record, a total of twenty-five (25) awareness campaigns have been conducted in designated districts in and outside Accra.

(ii) Church Based Anti-Violence Program (CAVP)

Church Based Anti-Violence Program is vigorously undertaken by Ark Foundation to commit the church and other religious leaders to the debate to work on sexual and gender based violence. The aim of the program is to support specific churches and religious bodies to develop coordinated community action-oriented response systems within their institutions to address sexual and gender based violence. For this reason, Ark has held more than ten (10) fora in selected churches in Accra to sensitize them on issues of domestic violence and sexual assault. This has created the platform for Ark to assess how sexual and gender based violence issues are being handled by the various churches. Members in the various churches have been well equipped with how to handle violent related issues.

**Victims' perceptions about Ark Foundation's interventional programmes**

This section reports on the perceptions of victims on the various interventional programmes instituted by Ark Foundation. Indeed, all the clients interviewed had the following to share with the researcher.

Majority of the victims who constituted 69% claimed that they benefited from the emergency shelter and rehabilitation programmes of Ark Foundation. For instance, ten (10) rape victims of school going age were enrolled in school and fourteen (14) wives who had been beaten by their husbands due to financial problems were engaged in business and skills training before going back to their families.

Also, 80% of the victims, made up of twelve 34% rape victims and 46% wife battered victims confirmed that they were taken through counselling services and this has largely empowered them to solve most problems on their own. The victims said that they have had enough knowledge and skills on how to resist the temptation of being abused, and appropriate place to immediately seek redress.

Another area where victims see Ark standing tall in its interventional programmes is the legal services that it offers to clients. All the victims acknowledged the effort of Ark to offer them free legal services. For instance, a rape victim whose case had been long overdue and was at the verge of giving up commended Ark by saying,

‘I would have been out of school if it had not been for the representation by Ark’s Lawyers’.

Concerning medical support, majority of the victims reacted positively to the medical support that Ark Foundation has been offering them. They said for instance that their medical bills are being paid for them. Also, Ark Foundation has registered them into the National Health Insurance Scheme and now enjoy free medical care. A 32 year old client who was kicked by her husband in the stomach in order to destroy her pregnancy had this to say:

“I am very grateful to Ark Foundation’s workers for their medical and legal support. I am equally grateful to Ark for the assistance I had when they pre-financed my legal case when it was sent to the court when my husband kicked my stomach. May God richly bless all workers and restore all energy lost”

According to a study conducted by Commonwealth Fund (1998) in the developed world, women crises centres and battered women's shelters have been the cornerstone of programmes for victims of violence against women. These centres generally provide support for group and individual counselling, job training programmes, assistance in dealing with social services and with legal matters and referrals for treatment for women abused. This study conducted by Commonwealth Fund is in line with the findings that NGOs provide emergency shelter, counselling, legal aid support and medical care to rape and wife battered victims.

Moreover, the findings indicated that financial assistance and advocacy programmes are offered to victims, and this confirms the assertion put forward by Prah (1999) that a number of NGOs in Ghana have intensified programmes such as awareness creation, advocacy, counselling services, financial assistance to address the needs of abusive women.

In conclusion, there is clear evidence from the above analysis that the various interventional programmes instituted by Ark Foundation have yielded a good result. This could be deduced from the responses given by their clients.

Table 12 illustrates the performance of Ark Foundation (NGO) as far as their interventional programmes are concerned. Out of the 35 respondents of both rape and wife battered victims, 34% of the clients indicated the performance of the NGO as "Excellent," 54.0% indicated 'Very Good', while only 6.0% indicated the NGO's performance as 'Good'. However, 6.0% of the respondents indicated 'Below Average' to be the performance of the NGO.

The above analysis therefore suggests that majority of the victims appreciated the good performance of Ark Foundation.

**Table 12: Victims' rating of Ark Foundation's performance**

Performance of NGO	Clients	Percentage
Excellent	12	34.0
Very Good	19	54.0
Good	2	6.0
Average	2	6.0
Total	35	100.0

Source: Field study, 2009.

## **CHAPTER FIVE**

### **SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

#### **Introduction**

This last chapter of the study consists of summary, conclusions and recommendations arising from the study.

#### **Summary**

The study was conducted to examine the role of NGOs in mitigating gender-based violence in Ghana, particularly Accra Metropolis. The study sought to find out forms of gender-based violence, the effects of gender-based violence and the interventional programmes employed to address the problem.

Literature related to the study was theoretically and empirically reviewed. In all, 50 respondents, consisting of 15 NGO workers from Ark Foundations (Ghana), 15 rape victims and 20 wife battered victims were selected by using the simple random sampling method. In order to gather enough data to answer research questions, interview guide and questionnaire were used and they were both open-ended type. The questionnaire for NGO workers (Appendix A) was divided into four sections consisting of twenty (20) items, while the interview guide for wife battered victims (Appendix B) and rape victims (Appendix C) were divided into four sections each consisting twenty (20) items.

The data gathered were sorted manually and analyzed by the help of descriptive statistics to provide answers to the research questions by using frequencies and percentages. This enabled the researcher to present a clear picture on the issue under investigation.

The study revealed the following findings:

- The commonest forms of gender-based violence in Accra Metropolis were sexual and physical abuse.
- The findings revealed that majority of rape victims are within the age range of 15-24 years, while majority of wife battered victims fall within 30-44 years.
- It was also indicated that sexual passion, refusal to sexual advances, misunderstanding between couples and financial problem were the most common causes of gender-based violence in Accra Metropolis.
- Some of the effects of gender-based violence identified in the study were broken bones, broken homes, bruises, swollen face and broken teeth. Others were sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), unwanted pregnancy, pain, depression and insomnia.
- The research revealed that, emergency shelter, counselling, legal aid support and medical care are provided by the NGO to victims. Also, financial assistance and advocacy programmes are offered for victims to empower them to withstand their problems.

## **Conclusions**

One would want to conclude that, violence against women has emerged as a serious issue, a problem that calls for individual, local and national concern and action. It is an anti-development phenomenon that occurs in almost every society. It is noted that individual victims of gender related violence suffer from health and psychological problems. It is therefore very imperative for legal interventions to be formulated and action taken as effective means of bringing gender-based violence to an end, otherwise, the menace will remain a growing problem for Ghanaians.

## **Recommendations**

The following recommendations were therefore made:

- The study revealed that no respondent indicated telephone hotlines as one of the measures to address gender-based violence problem, it is therefore imperative that NGOs set up telephone hotlines where victims in distress can reach out to these organizations for immediate assistance.
- Also, those who get abused sexually do not know that it constitutes a crime and that they have a right to make a report. The worst part of it is that even those who might dare to make a report might keep silent because their abusers threaten to harm or kill them if they report. This therefore calls for the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and other Governmental Organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to intensify awareness creation and education among



women and men, and girls and boys to make them aware of the various types of violence and the fact that they constitute offences and therefore must not be encouraged.

- The media must intensify its coverage of issues of violence against women for educational and advocacy purpose. This calls for journalists to actively search for and report on incidences of violence against women.
- The government should support women organisations to prioritise the coordination of programmes and policies across sectors such as health, justice, social welfare and education to ensure that the composite needs of survivors of gender-based violence are addressed.
- Finally it is recommended that, the Domestic Violence Bill that has been passed into law in 2007 must be seen in its fullest implementation to enhance the protection of the right of women.

### **Areas for further research**

In order to extend the literature on assessing the role of NGOs in gender-based violence in Ghana, a study can be carried out in the following areas:

- A nationwide research on NGOs' role in mitigating gender-based violence; this will serve as convincing grounds for policy makers to enforce already existing laws to curb maltreatment of women and asset their subordinate function as mere receptacles for male lust.

- Also, challenges faced by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) in their quest in mitigating gender based violence must be examined for appropriate recommendations.

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**APPENDICES**

**APPENDIX A**

**Questionnaire for NGO workers**

**Introduction**

A research is being conducted by one of the M.A (**Peace and Development studies**) students from the Institute for Development Studies, University of Cape Coast.

The purpose of this study is to assess the role of NGOs in mitigating gender violence in the Accra Metropolis. You have been identified randomly as one of the respondents for the study and your responses are therefore very important.

You are assured that any information given would be kept confidential and would be used only for the purpose of the study.

Thank you,

**SECTION A: background information**

1. Category of respondents

A. Programme officer [ ]

B. Social worker [ ]

C. Others [ ] specify.....

2. Sex:

A. Male [ ]

B. Female [ ]



3. Educational Level:
  - A. University
  - B. Polytechnic
  - C. Others  specify.....
4. Marital status:
  - A. Single  D. widowed
  - B. Married  E. divorced
  - C. others  specify.....

**SECTION B: forms, causes, effects and interventions of gender violence**

5. State forms of violence against women that are reported to your organization.
6. How often are these cases reported to your organization?
7. How do victims become aware of you as an organization?
8. Who reports such cases?
9. In your opinion, what category of age group do victims fall within?
10. What are the possible causes of violence reported by victims?
11. Mention some of the effects that victims experience from these forms of violence.
12. What interventional programmes do you offer victims of rape and wife battered?
13. Who bears the expenses that you incur on rape and wife battered victims?
14. How do you educate the general public about your programme to end gender violence?
15. How do people rate the performance of your organization as far as your programme to end gender based violence is concerned?

16. What are the reactions of rape and wife battered victims towards your programme?
17. What activities are involved in your community awareness outreach?
18. How successful is your training and advocacy programmes on gender based violence?

## APPENDIX B

### Interview Guide for Wife Battered Victims

#### SECTION A: background information of victims

1. Which of the following age group do you fall within?
  - A. 20-24 years [ ]
  - B. 25-29 years [ ]
  - C. 30-34 years [ ]
  - D. 35-39 years [ ]
  - E. 41 years and above [ ]
2. Educational Level:
  - A. University [ ]
  - B. Polytechnic [ ]
  - C. S. H. S. [ ]
  - D. J. H. S. [ ]
  - E. Others [ ] specify.....
3. Marital status:
  - A. Single [ ]
  - B. married [ ]
  - C, widowed [ ]
  - D. divorced [ ]
  - E. others [ ] specified.....
4. What is your occupation?
5. How does your husband relate to you?
6. Why does your husband beat you?
7. How often does your husband beat you?
8. What kind of injury did you sustain when your husband beat you?
9. Did you experience any other effects from the beating?

10. What step did you take when you were beaten by your husband?
11. How did you get to know about the NGO that you reported the case to?
12. What benefit did you get from the NGO that came to your aid?
13. What happened to your husband when you reported him to the NGO?
14. How did your husband relate to you after he had been dealt with by the NGO?
15. How would you rate the performance of the NGO that came to your aid?

## APPENDIX C

### Interview guide for raped victims

#### SECTION A: Background Information

1. Which of the following age group do you fall within?
  - A. 15-19 [ ]
  - B. 20-24 [ ]
  - C. 25-29 [ ]
  - D. 30 years and above [ ]
  
2. Educational Level
  - A. University [ ]
  - B. Polytechnic [ ]
  - C. S. H. S [ ]
  - D. J. H. S [ ]
  - E. others [ ] specified.....
  
3. Marital status
  - A. Single [ ]
  - B. Married [ ]
  - C. widowed [ ]
  - D. divorced [ ]
  
4. Occupation:
  - A. trader [ ]
  - B. farmer [ ]
  - C. student [ ]
  - D. unemployed [ ]
  
5. How many times have you been raped?
  
6. Who raped you?

7. How do you relate the one who raped you?
8. Where were you raped?
9. Why were you raped?
10. What effects did you get when you were raped?
11. What step did you take when you were raped?
12. Mention some assistance you got from the NGO that came to your aid
13. How did you get to know about the NGO that came to your aid?
14. What action was taken against the perpetrator?
15. How would you rate the performance of Ark Foundation?