

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FACED BY WIDOWS IN RURAL AREAS OF AKWA IBOM STATE, NIGERIA

¹Nkan, V. V. & ²Asa, U. A.

¹Department of Home Economics, Nutrition and Dietetics
University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, NIGERIA

²Department of Agric. Economics and Extension
University of Uyo, Akwa Ibom State, NIGERIA

Corresponding email/phone number: aiteevin@yahoo.com

ABSTRACT

Violence against women is one of the most pervasive human rights violations globally that deny women equality, security, self-worth and the right to enjoy fundamental freedom and peace. Widows in Nigeria, especially the ones in the rural areas, are subjected to various forms of violence. This study assessed domestic violence faced by widows in rural areas of Akwa Ibom State, Nigeria. Specifically, the different types of domestic violence prevalent among the widows and the factors that predispose them to the domestic violence were ascertained. A pre-tested questionnaire was used to elicit information from 400 widows in the rural areas selected using a two-stage sampling procedure; and data obtained from the widows were analyzed using descriptive statistics and factor analysis. Results from the study revealed that 79.5% of the widows had formal education with 48.3% being employed. The average age of the widows is 45 years and the most prevalent types of domestic violence faced by the respondents are psychological/emotional abuse (30.1%), economic abuse (25.5%), sexual violence (16.0%), traditional/cultural violence (15.3%) and physical violence (13.5%). The factor analysis result revealed that socio-cultural factors, children-based factors, legal factors, economic factors and psychological factors were the major factors that predispose widows in the study area to domestic violence. It is recommended that the state government should make laws that protect women from harmful socio-cultural factors such as discriminatory traditional laws regarding inheritance and being inherited by the deceased husband's kin which predispose widows to domestic violence.

Keywords: Widows, domestic violence, rural areas, Nigeria.