

**FRAMING OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN SELECTED NEWSPAPERS
IN NIGERIA**

BY

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TITLE PAGE

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NIGERIA**

CERTIFICATION

This research project is an original work of Odenigbo, Cynthia Ifeoma with registration number PG/MA/16/81649. It satisfies the requirements for the presentation of a research report in the Department of Mass Communication, University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

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DEDICATION

This research work is dedicated to my darling husband, Mr. Ikenna Odenigbo for his tremendous support, and my adorable children; Sonia, Samantha and Derek whose numerous sacrifices, made this academic journey fruitful.

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ABSTRACT

Domestic violence has become a trendy discourse in the Nigerian society. It is so prevalent that one gets to read about it on social and print media more often. This menace has claimed the lives of many promising Nigerians and has destroyed countless marriages. Globally, the victims of domestic violence are predominantly women, but this does not dispute the fact that men are also victims of domestic violence. For the purpose of this study the term domestic violence was strictly used to refer to violence between couples/partners in relationships such as cohabitation or marriage. The study employed quantitative analysis to examine the framing of domestic violence in selected newspapers in Nigeria. The study purposively selected three newspapers for the study, they include; *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian* and *Vanguard* newspapers. The composite week sampling technique was utilized to select stories from the selected newspapers from 1st January to 31st December, 2017. A total of 252 editions were analyzed from the sampled newspapers. The findings of the study clearly suggest that domestic violence is indeed an underreported crime in Nigeria; because the frequency of coverage of the selected newspapers was relatively poor, and these newspapers failed to give priority, in-depth analysis and prominence to the available stories. Based on the findings of this study, it is recommended that the media should stop playing neutral and indifferent in their reports on domestic violence; they should vehemently condemn the act through their content and language. It is also recommended that prominence and in-depth analysis should be given to these stories because of their importance to the society.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background of the Study

Domestic violence also referred to as domestic abuse, intimate partner violence, battering or spousal abuse is any act of violence or abuse that results in physical, sexual, verbal or psychological harm to one's intimate partner, which may include, intimidation, stalking, neglect, threats, restraining, kicking, shoving, honour killing, dowry killing, acid bath, hitting, biting, objects throwing, marital rape, choking, etc.

The World Health Organization (WHO) defines intimate partner violence as any behaviour within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including acts of physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse and controlling behaviours.

Domestic violence has become a trendy discourse in the Nigerian society. It is so predominant that one gets to read about it on social and print media more often. This menace has claimed the lives of many promising and energetic Nigerians and has destroyed several marriages. Domestic violence which is considered an act of abuse against a person living in one's household, does not always come in the form of physical abuse, it can also be experienced in the sexual and psychological forms, which are also as ubiquitous as the physical form.

The World Health Organization multi-country study indicated that worldwide, domestic violence was widespread in all the countries studied. Thirteen to sixty one per cent (13–61%) reported ever having experienced physical violence by a partner, 6–59% reported sexual violence by a partner at some point in their lives, and 20–75% reported

experiencing one emotionally abusive act, or more, from a partner in their lifetime (Uzoma 2017, p.1).

Globally, the victims of domestic violence are predominantly women. In many African and Asian countries domestic violence can be justified on the ground of infidelity, bad cooking, lack of respect or disobedience to one's husband and/or his people. There seem to be a natural gender role distinction all over the world, which has created gap opportunities between men and women (Nwajiuba 2011, in Adebayo & Kolawole 2013, p. 3).

Domestic violence is one of the underreported crimes in the world, and this has resulted to the perpetrators committing the crime freely and without panic, because the abuser believes the victim is likely not going to report the crime, as the partner knows the action can be justified on certain grounds. It is quite disheartening that some law enforcement agents tend to believe that women are to be blamed for the abuse they suffer, especially the physical form.

Domestic violence could occur vice versa, but in the African society it is most likely to happen to the female folk than it will normally happened to the male folk. Violence against women has been acknowledged globally as a violation of basic human rights. This violence is often as a result of the couple's inability to exercise discretion, patience, tolerance and care for one another.

Worldwide, one in three (35%) women have experienced physical or sexual violence, mostly by intimate partner, one in two women were killed by their partners or family in the year 2012, as many as 38% of murders of women are committed by a male intimate partner. Only one out of twenty of all men were killed in such circumstances.

Globally, almost one in three (30%) of women who have been in a relationship report that they have experienced some form of physical and/or sexual violence by their intimate partner in their lifetime (World Health Organization 2013).

In Nigeria however, there are insufficient data on domestic violence, this is due to the silence of victims owing to fear, shame and stigmatization. Nevertheless a research conducted in 2008 by Nigerian Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) indicates that 28.5% of women aged 15-19, 30.7% within the ages of 20-24, 31.7% within the ages of 25-29, 29.0% within the ages of 30-39 and finally 27.4% within the ages of 40-49 have experienced physical or sexual abuse.

According to UNICEF, there is a common link between domestic violence and child abuse. As many as 275 million children worldwide are exposed to violence in the house. Among victims of child abuse, 40 per cent report domestic violence in their home. This link has been confirmed around the world, with supporting studies from countries like, China, Colombia, Egypt, the Philippines, Mexico and South Africa.

Dodd (2009, in Alokun, 2013, p. 3) opines that there has been an increased acknowledgement that a child who is exposed to domestic abuse during his upbringing will suffer in his development and psychological welfare. This kind of children end up experiencing emotional trauma, that can be detrimental to the development of their brains, which in turn affect their school work, language development, sleep habit and over time lead to depression, suicidal tendencies, criminal behaviours and substance abuse.

The problem of domestic violence in Nigeria is often likened to the cultural beliefs obtainable in the Nigerian society. In most tribes, it is believed that women are

inferior to men and as such it is socially acceptable to hit a woman in order to discipline her. This has led to the widespread of domestic violence across the country and some other African countries where this practice is adopted.

The Yoruba women refer to their husband as “Olowoori mi” meaning 'him who owns me'. So it is customary for a Yoruba woman to believe that her husband has full ownership over her, and as such she gives up her rights as a woman. On the other hand the Tiv view wife beating as a “sign of love” that should be encouraged. As a Tiv woman, it is believed that if you have not encountered beating in your marriage, then you have not experienced the joy of marriage and you are as good as someone that is yet to be married.

All the major ethnic groups in Nigeria, Hausa, Igbo, and Yoruba, have strong patriarchal structure that justifies domestic violence and injustice against women as they are commonly encouraged on the grounds of a wife being stubborn, or failing in her wifely duties. In a patriarchal society like Nigeria, women are expected to be obedient and submissive at all times, you have no right to challenge your spouse as it can often lead to “mental reset” as it has been described by some abusers.

Domestic violence has shown no signs of reduction in Nigeria as the statistics remain almost the same each year. The reports from 2008 to 2013 according NDHS survey have proven that no much effort has been made to curb this menace that has destroyed many Nigerian homes and left many dead.

The survey report of 2013 shows that 28.3% of women aged 15-19, 31.2% within the ages of 20-24, 29.5% within the ages of 25-29, 31.5% within the ages of 30-39 and finally 26.6% within the ages of 40-49 have experienced physical or sexual abuse. It also

went further to expose the perpetrators of the physical and sexual violence experienced by women.

The survey shows that 5.1% of the physical abuse and 57.9% of the sexual abuse committed against women were effectuated by the victim's current husband/partner, 14.8% of (physical abuse) and 21.6% of (sexual abuse) were committed by the victim's former husband/partner, 4.0% of (physical abuse) and 22.9% of (sexual abuse) were caused by their current/former boyfriend and partner, while 6.7 of (physical abuse) and 10.0 of (sexual abuse) were perpetuated by other relatives. According to NDHS, the key finding of this 2013 survey indicates the following;

Twenty-eight percent of women aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence at least once since age 15, and 11 percent experienced physical violence within 12 months prior to the survey. Seven percent of women aged 15-49 report having experienced sexual violence at least once in their lifetime. Overall, 25 percent of ever-married women aged 15-49 report ever having experienced emotional, physical, or sexual violence from their spouse, and 19 percent report having experienced one or more of these forms of violence in the past 12 months. Among ever-married women who had experienced spousal violence in the past 12 months, 33 percent reported experiencing physical injuries. Forty-five percent of women who experienced violence never sought help or told anyone about the violence.

The statistics of domestic violence increased drastically by the year 2017, which led to *punch.ng.com* tagging it the year of deadly domestic violence cases. They were many cases of domestic violence in the country, but by September 2017, a total of 852 cases were recorded in Lagos State alone. The Guardian on the other hand stated that Lagos state recorded 100 per cent increase in domestic and sexual violence by October, 2017.

In Nigeria, the most common form of domestic violence is the physical form. Physical abuse is often encountered in the hands of family members. These kinds of

abuses include; slapping, kicking, beating, acid attacks, rape, and other forms of corporal punishments. The abusers often blame their abuse on drunkenness, socio-economic class differences, infertility, infidelity, substance abuse, age disparity, financial issues, and rejection from their partners on sexual advances.

The media as the fourth estate of the realm and agenda setter exerts enormous influence on its audience, because it has the power to tell the audience what to envision, but this is dependent on how well the story is framed. The media is acknowledged all over the world as an agent of social change, which is presumed to be capable of shaping the morals and perception of the society. The media needs to brace up to the challenge that domestic violence poses to the society by educating and enlightening Nigerians on the need to change the culture and perception that encourages violence.

The Violence Against Person's Prohibition (VAPP) law of 2015 is a law that punishes domestic violence offenders. It has been in existence for close to three years now, but only few people are aware of it. Abusers should be made to understand that spousal battery, forceful ejection, forced financial dependence/economic abuse, harmful widowhood practices, female genital mutilation, substance attacks, are now recognized offences that are punishable by law. This law provides the legal framework that eliminates tolerance for any kind of violence and offer protection and remedy to victims of such violence as well as ensure the stipulated punishment is meted out to the offenders. The media through in-depth reportage and proper framing can educate and enlighten the public on the dangers of domestic violence as well as the punishment meant for offenders, because such awareness can enhance the enforcement of the sanctions meant for violators.

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Domestic violence is a cankerworm that has eaten deep into the Nigerian society. The prevalence of these stories on both the social and traditional media are enormous. The growing statistics of domestic violence in Nigeria is appalling, that a week hardly goes by without the media recording at least a case on domestic violence.

Nevertheless, it is unfortunate that the victims of domestic violence find it difficult to speak up in time as a result of fear, shame or stigmatization. This is invariably dangerous; as such silence has led to the death of many domestic violence victims who chose to endure abusive marriages or relationships. This silence is universal as opined by Watts and Zimmermann (2002, in Adebayo 2014, pp.3) who believe that the under-reporting of domestic violence, is almost universal and may be due to the sensitive nature of the subject.

The role of the media in the issue of domestic violence is very crucial, as capturing and conveying the right message to the public, will eventually determine if the message will elicit the intended response and reaction from the public. The media through proper reportage and framing can be a veritable tool in assisting both the government and non-governmental organizations in creating awareness and implementing programmes geared towards combating the menace.

However, the pattern of reportage remains the problem because the media are yet to play a cogent role in curtailing or eradicating domestic violence in Nigeria, as they have been accused of covering domestic violence in a way that makes it look like a second assault, because of their indifference in using pictures, names and other violations of privacy.

Media coverage of domestic violence has often been superficial, exploitative, and lacking in serious analysis of the prevalence. Hence, this study sought to examine the dominant frames the selected newspapers; *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian* and *Vanguard* used in reporting domestic violence stories, while putting into consideration the frequency of coverage, depth of coverage, story prominence and the sources of domestic violence stories available in the selected newspapers.

1.3 Objectives of the Study

This study generally aims to ascertain how the selected newspapers frame domestic violence stories, specifically this study seeks to:

1. Ascertain the frequency of coverage of the selected newspapers on domestic violence;
2. Ascertain the prominence of domestic violence stories in the selected newspapers;
3. Determine the depth of coverage of domestic violence stories in the selected newspapers;
4. Identify the sources of the stories on domestic violence in the selected newspapers;
5. Determine the story genres in which domestic violence stories appeared most;
6. Identify the dominant frames used in reporting domestic violence stories in the selected newspapers;
7. Determine the direction of these reports;

1.4 Research Questions

The following research questions seek to generate answers to the study:

1. How frequent is the coverage of the selected newspapers on domestic violence?
2. Do Nigerian newspapers give prominence to domestic violence stories?
3. What is the depth of coverage given to domestic violence stories in the selected Nigerian newspapers?
4. What are the sources used in the reportage of domestic violence stories in the selected Nigerian newspapers?
5. What are the story genres in which domestic violence stories appeared most?
6. What are the dominant frames used in reporting domestic violence stories?
7. What is the direction of these reports?

1.5 Significance of the Study

This study has both theoretical and empirical significances. Theoretically, this study will enrich existing literatures available on domestic violence in Nigeria. The study will also provide an opportunity for experimenting the validity and efficacy of existing theories on domestic violence.

Moreover, this research will be a resource of incalculable value to future researchers, as it will serve as a reference point on domestic violence issues in Nigeria. This study will also be essential in filling the gaps on existing literatures on domestic violence. It will also provide an analytical strategy on how appropriate newspaper framing of domestic violence stories in Nigeria can affect people's perception or attitude on the subject matter.

Empirically, this study hopes to examine how the print media through in-depth reportage and story prominence can ameliorate the threat that domestic violence poses to an average Nigerian citizen.

This study will definitely be relevant to the government, non-governmental organizations and even social workers who may be interested in this field of study as it will x-ray certain factors that will be helpful in curtailing domestic violence cases in the society.

1.6 Scope of the Study

The scope of this study will be restricted to the newspaper contents of the three selected dailies; *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian* and *Vanguard* newspapers. The print media was chosen for this study because of its in-depth reportage and permanency which makes it ideal for a study of this nature. The study will cover 252 editions of the selected newspapers for the period of one year (January 2017 - December 2017).

1.7 Definition of Terms

Acid bath: This is referred to as acid throwing, and is the act of throwing acid on another person with the intention of disfiguring or killing the person.

Corporal punishment: Also known as physical punishment. This is the kind of punishment given to someone with the sole aim of causing pain on the person. They include flogging or slapping.

Domestic Violence: This is an aggressive, abusive or coercive behaviour within the home, involving a spouse or partner in a relationship such as marriage or cohabitation.

Dowry killing: This is the death of women who were killed or driven to suicide by constant harassment and torture by their husbands and in-laws in an effort to extort an increased dowry. This is mainly experienced in countries like; India, Pakistan, Iran and Bangladesh.

Honour killing: This is the killing of a member of a family, especially a girl or woman, who is assumed to have brought shame or dishonour to the family, usually for reasons such as refusing to consent to an arranged marriage or relationship. This is mainly practiced in countries like; India, Pakistan, Iran and Bangladesh.

Marital rape: Marital rape or spousal rape is the act of engaging in sexual intercourse with one's spouse without the consent of the spouse.

Mental reset: This is the name given to the slapping, kicking or beating received by the victims of domestic violence, which is given to the victims to reboot or improve the performance or productivity of the brains.

Patriarchal system: This is a system where men are the favoured gender, and in which they exercise power, authority and dominion over their female counterpart.

Physical abuse: This is a deliberate or intentional act of inflicting injury on another person. Physical violence often begins with a push or slap and gradually becomes worse over time.

Physical aggression: This is any behaviour that causes or threatens to cause physical harm or damage towards others. This often includes hitting, biting, use of weapon or kicking.

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD): This is a mental health condition that is triggered by a terrifying or life threatening event either by experiencing or witnessing it. Some of symptoms may include flashbacks, nightmares, severe anxiety and hyper vigilance.

Psychological abuse: Also known as emotional or mental abuse. This is the type of abuse that exposes another person to behaviour that often results to psychological trauma, such as chronic depression, anxiety or post-traumatic stress disorder.

Sexual abuse: This is also known as molestation, and it refers to an undesired or unwanted sexual activity perpetrated by one person against another through the use of force.

Sexual coercion: This is the act of using pressure, violence, force, harassment, threats, drugs or alcohol to have sexual intercourse with someone.

Framing: Framing refers to the process of reporting issues in the newspaper with particular angles stressed more than the others. It describes the patterns and slants employed by journalists to present newspaper messages.

1.7 Limitation of the Study

The set back this study had was in collating the newspaper editions to be analyzed for the study. It was realized that they were rarely stories available on domestic violence.

The researcher sampled 252 editions of the three selected newspapers; *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian* and *Vanguard* newspapers. Surprisingly, only 29 editions had stories on domestic violence. This was an obstacle, because it is only when data are available that they can be analyzed.

CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Conceptual Review

2.1.1 Framing

2.1.2 Domestic Violence

2.2 Review of Opinions

2.2.1 Women, Media and Domestic Violence

2.2.2 Men, Media and Domestic Violence

2.2.3 Media Framing of Domestic Violence

2.3 Empirical Review

2.4 Theoretical Framework

2.4.1 Framing Theory

2.4.2 Agenda Setting Theory

2.5 Gaps in Literature

2.1 Conceptual Review

This section of the study will examine related ideas pertaining to the subject under study.

This review will be done using a subheading to introduce each literature.

2.1.1 Framing

The concept of framing was first postulated by Gregory Bateson in 1972 in his work "Steps to an ecology of mind: Collected essays in anthropology, psychology, evolution

and epistemology". Where he defined psychological frames as a "spatial and temporary bounding of set of interactive messages" (Bateson, 1972, p. 197).

Framing as a theory of media effects was first put forth to media studies by Erving Goffman in 1974, in his classic work, *Frame Analysis: An Essay on the Organization of Experience* where he asserts that when the individual in the western society recognizes a particular event, he tends to imply in his response one or more frameworks of interpretation of a kind that is called Primary. However, primary framework is one that is seen as rendering what would otherwise be a meaningless aspect of the scene into something meaningful (Goffman, 1974, p.21).

However, notable work on media framing is credited to Robert Entman. In 1991 Entman studied how framing is employed by the media in his work "Framing US Coverage of International News: Contrast in Narratives of KAL and Iran Air Incidents", where he studied the news frames used in covering and reporting the Korean Air-Line and Iran Air Coverage incidents.

Nevertheless, Framing was popularized by Entman in his 1993 article "Framing: Towards Clarification of a Fractured Paradigm" which posits that framing selects some aspect of reality and give greater emphasis to them, so as to define the problem, diagnose the cause as well as suggest the moral judgment and propose appropriate solutions and actions.

Framing theory has experienced a rapid development since the mid-1960s, when it emerged in the field of sociology. Framing has become a multidisciplinary paradigm that allows the holistic study of media effects on individuals and audiences. Far from being exclusively located in the sender of information, framing is located in four elements of the communication process: the sender, the receiver, the (informative) message and culture.

Frames draw attention to some aspects of reality at the expense of others, so in order to define them we must take into account what is described and what is left out. Framing is, thus, present in the mind of the journalist who writes the news report, but also in the news report that he builds, reaching the reader through a decoding process that is necessary to understand the news report and the reality to which it refers.(Ardèvol-Abreu, 2015, p.1.).

Framing theory explains that they create this frame by introducing news items with predefined and narrow contextualization. Frames can be designed to enhance understanding or are used as cognitive shortcuts to link stories to the bigger picture (Arowolo, 2017).

Frames provide context for understanding communication by including and centering on certain topics (Bowen, 2008, p.342). News framing explains the practice of thinking about news and story content within familiar context (Hallahan, 2008 in Arowolo, 2017).

Entman (1993, p. 52) suggested that frames in the news can be examined and identified by ‘the presence or absence of certain keywords, stock phrases, stereotyped images, sources of information and sentences that provide thematically reinforcing clusters of facts or judgments.

The concept of framing can be likened to a picture hung on the wall of the living room, it is common knowledge that the best picture is often selected and framed, so that everyone that visits that household will behold a wonderful reflection of the person framed. This is also how frames work in the media, the media select that aspect of reality, they consider relevant and make it conspicuous by framing it in such a way that it will elicit the desired reaction from the members of the public.

In other to identify framing in the news, five popular ways of framing news stories was identified in Entman 1991. They include:

Human interest Frame: This is when a story provides a human example or human face and their testimonies. This frame triggers emotional reactions from people.

Responsibility Frame: This is when the story suggests that an individual or group should take action on the issue.

Morality Frame: This is when the story involves cultural, religious or human interest perspective, often offering social prescriptions on how to behave towards the problem.

Consequences Frame: This is when the story mentions the impact of domestic violence on the individual, society, economy or country, which may include health, economic or political consequences.

Conflict Frame: This is when the story provides two or more opposing views or statements..

2.1.2 Domestic Violence

Domestic violence has been generally acknowledged as an understandable behaviour, as a result of male dominance and the power they exercise. While men tend to be attacked and killed by strangers or casual acquaintances, women are most at risk at home or in the society with men or other family members whom they trust (Mouzos & Makkai 2004, in Oli 2012, p. 20). Violence can come in many forms but physical violence in particular is very rampant among spouses in the western and third world countries. This kind of abuse may include choking, punching, acid bath, slapping, battering, beating, torture, killing etc.

The statistics of domestic violence has been on the increase; this is due to the culture of silence. Victims of domestic violence often choose to stay silent due to the abashment and humiliation that usually accompany such revelation, especially the male

counterpart. The societal belief is that men are courageous and heroic, therefore cannot experience such agony, but the fact still remains that domestic violence is no respecter of persons and can only be tackled if the victims can learn to speak up and fight for their rights.

Domestic violence transcends racial, religious, cultural and social status, this menace threatens the psychological disposition of the victims and their children. This social abnormality calls for urgent concern as the resultant effect on children can be overwhelming, because children who are products of domestic violence, often tend to be abusive in the future, many of them are prone to psychological challenges which many at times result to criminal inclination.

According to World Health Organization in a statistics gathered in the year 2005. It is estimated that one in every three women suffers domestic violence in the hands of their loved ones who often promise to protect them. It is also estimated that one in every five women suffers some forms of violence during their life time often resulting to serious injury or death in many cases.

In this part of the world, especially in West Africa, domestic violence is often justified by some cultures on certain grounds, but the predominance of this menace is becoming alarming; this is due to the backings the male counterparts enjoy in a patriarchal setting like Nigeria. In Nigeria, men have absolute power over their wives which often serve as a catalyst to domestic violence. It is believed that women are the subordinate and can be discipline through beating like children whose excesses are curbed through beating.

Domestic violence in recent times has reached its climax in Nigeria, with many of the victims afraid and ashamed to report the incident to the authority for prompt action. In a society like ours, where the male counterpart are practically worshipped, many of them refuse to acknowledge their mistakes or seek redress because of their bloated ego, and this pride has constantly lead to more violence.

Records have shown that between fifty per cent (50%) and two thirds of Nigerian women are subjected to domestic violence in their homes, sixty five per cent (65%) or more educated women are in this horrible situation as compared to their low income counterparts, fifty five (55%). Unfortunately, a staggering 97.2 per cent of the abused women do not report the crime to the authorities (Adebayo & Kolawole 2013, p. 3).

Domestic violence produce intergenerational cycle of abusers, both the children and other members of the family grow up to accept violence as a normal way of life, since the victim never reported the crime and no drastic action was taken against the abuser. Children who are born into this kind of homes often times grow up to become abusive, aggressive, and hyper vigilant to threats. In many situations, people endure abusive marriages due to lack of financial resource, fear, shame, stigmatization, cultural acceptance, or desire to protect ones children, but whatever the reason might be, it is inappropriate to lose one's life in the hands of another.

However, the language choices that are adopted when reporting domestic violence stories can play a subtle, but very influential role in how domestic violence is presented as an issue to the broader community. By calling out domestic violence for what it is, and placing the blame where it belongs, will eventually help change the way the society talk about domestic violence. Across all media, active language is a key element for delivering strong stories about domestic violence(*Media Guide*, 2015, p.4).

The psychological trauma associated with being a witness or victim of domestic violence can maim a child's future, this is because spousal battery is mostly performed in

the presence of the children, who subconsciously develop aggressive tendencies from repeatedly viewing a violent scene. Children who are victims or witnessed domestic violence pass through a lot of crises as they grow from infancy to adulthood. During infancy they encounter challenges such as difficulty in learning and developing their speech, toilet training, sleep disturbance, emotional distress, temper tantrums and fear of being alone.

As these children advance in life the symptoms become more pronounced and evident. The evidence of domestic violence on the adolescent transcends its effect on children. At this stage, the main trait becomes anger, adorned with sadness, fear, loneliness and a very high suicidal tendency. Children who are constantly disciplined by hitting, kicking or beating are most likely to attempt suicide due to depression.

Whitfield, Anda, Dube, & Felitti (2003, in O'Bryan 2008, p. 21) noted that among women, being exposed to intimate partner violence during childhood increases the risk of intimate partner violence, victimization, and among men, exposure to domestic violence in childhood increases the risk of perpetrating intimate partner violence. This is to say that children who witnessed domestic violence while growing up are likely going to commit domestic violence frequently later in life.

Parents/guardians should avoid exchanging words or blows in front of their children, because the more they witness this violent behaviours, the greater their chances of becoming abusers or victims someday, and this kind of development is not healthy for the society, as they will grow up to be not only aggressive children but children with very low self-esteem.

Some children not only witness the abuse of their loved ones but are sometimes abused alongside, the main victim. Many children who are products of abusive relationships react with disinterest when they encounter someone in pain or agony. The devastating effect of domestic violence on children is disastrous, as witnessing your loved one being mercilessly beaten can be very traumatizing.

Domestic violence can come in several forms, but the most common types of domestic violence include;

Physical abuse: This is the type of abuse perpetrated with the aim of inflicting pain and injury on the victim. This is the most common form of domestic violence and it may include slapping, choking, kicking, shoving, acid bath, hitting, biting, objects throwing or choking.

Physical violence often begins with a push or slap and gradually becomes worse over time. Many abusers blame their victims for provoking them; other reasons associated with physical abuse include alcoholism, substance abuse and frustration.

Sexual abuse: This is the type of violence that refers to an undesired or unwanted sexual activity perpetrated by one person against another through the use of force. This crime can be committed by the victim's current husband, former husband, current/former boyfriend and other relatives according to Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (2013).

Psychological abuse: Also referred to as emotional or mental violence, this is the form of abuse that exposes or subjects another to emotional trauma. This traumatic experience can be witnessed in the form of bullying, neglect, intimidation, controlling or restraining.

Economic abuse: This type of abuse may include refusing to assist your partner settle financial needs like food, medical treatment and/or general upkeep simply because you are the one with the economic resources. It may also include controlling, extorting or defrauding one's partner.

Spiritual Abuse: This is the kind of abuse, where the abused is restricted to a certain belief, religion or means of worship. In this kind of relationship the victim does not have the right to choose his/her religion for reasons best known to the abuser.

Some of the domestic violence cases recorded in Nigeria in the past include the following;

S/N	Domestic violence stories	Date
1.	Airwoman, Solape Oladipupo, aka Shomzy Shomzy was shot dead by her lover, Airman Kalu Bernard on the suspicion of having another lover. Source: <i>punch.ng.com</i>	March 12, 2017
2.	In Gboko, one 33-year-old Joshua Terkaa-Uhir, allegedly massacred his wife, Lucy, with an axe after accusing her of infidelity. Source: <i>punch.ng.com</i>	August 21, 2017
3.	The former chairman of the People's Democratic Party (PDP), Haliru Bello's son Bilyamin was killed by his wife Maryam Sanda, daughter of former embattled Aso Saving, Bank boss, Haja Maimuna Aliyu. The accused stabbed her husband in his neck and chest while asleep in their bedroom over allegation of	November 21, 2017

	infidelity. Source: <i>punch.ng.com</i>	
4.	Mr. Efua Omoghoti Was allegedly hacked to death in Ikotun, a suburb of Lagos, for speaking up against his affairs with a younger lover. It was confirmed by residents that he had been enduring an abusive marriage and has been serially assaulted and emotionally battered by his younger wife until the last quarrel when his wife Maggie hacked him to death in the night. Source: https://thenigerialawyer.com/domestic-violence-why-abused-men-dont-talk-special-report/	November 2017
5.	David Suleiman has been arrested by the Lagos State Police for allegedly pouring acid on his fiancée, Chika Egbo, a 300 level student of Enugu State College of Education and a yet to be identified Okada rider at Ikotun area of Lagos State. The trouble began when Mr. Suleiman abandoned the lady with her pregnancy claiming he was travelling outside the country, only to return after her delivery to lay claims on her child. According to the report, she was tricked into coming to Lagos where she was eventually attacked. Source: <i>Vanguard</i>.	November 26, 2012
6.	A 51-year-old lecturer, Henry Eбенуwa committed suicide because he could not face the public disgrace of his wife's confession to infidelity with his close friends and relatives. The	November 2017

	deceased, a father of four, was said to have been subjected to emotional trauma, physical abuse and harassments from his wife, Omiyowa, for the better part of their marriage of a decade and a half years. Source: https://thenigerialawyer.com/domestic-violence-why-abused-men-dont-talk-special-report/	
7.	An ex-boxer attacked his wife Fidelia, during a disagreement at their home in Uli, in Ihiala Local Government Area of Anambra State and beat her to death because she demanded money for Christmas food. Source: <i>punch.ng.com</i>	December 28, 2017
8.	Sunday Akpan of Eda Street, Uyo, AkwaIbom State, killed his wife, Martha Akpan over a misunderstanding and dumped her remains in a rubbish dump. Source: <i>punch.ng.com</i>	October 11, 2017
9.	Friday Njoku committed suicide after he allegedly murdered his fiancée, Cynthia Nwofia, over suspicion of infidelity in Abakaliki, the Ebonyi state capital. Source: <i>The Punch.</i>	September 3, 2017
10.	32 year old banker, Olaoluwa Adejo was arrested by the Police for beating his wife of five years Maureen with a belt and forcing a local insecticide down her throat. Source: <i>punch.ng.com</i>	November 2017

2.2 Review of Opinions

This part of the study will analyze different views and perceptions relating to the subject under study. This review will be done using a subheading to introduce each literature.

2.2.1 Women, Media and Domestic Violence

Violence against women has been characterized as the most pervasive yet least recognized human rights abuse in the world (Heise1993, in Oli 2012, p. 19).

Erroneously, wife beating is considered a “private affair” of the home. Wife battering is “culturally” acceptable; it is considered as a “normal way of life” and even as a “sign of love” (Nwankwo2003, p. 5 in Ishola 2016, p. 2).Harvey & Gow (1994, in Alokun 2013, p.2) believe that the history of violence against women is tied to the history of women being perceived as being a property. There seem to be a natural gender role distinction all over the world, which has created gap opportunities between men and women (Nwajiuba, 201,1 in Adebayo & Kolawole 2013, p. 3).

Violence against Women according to the definition of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action is any act of gender based violence that results in or 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.

Violence against women is a technical term used to refer to violent acts that are exclusively committed against women. Globally, many women are violently mistreated by their spouses but they still chose to suffer in silence, which have severally led to the death of such women. Some men believe that just as child beating is viewed as an ideal way of disciplining and instilling moral values in children, same approach should also be

adopted in addressing and curbing their spouse's excesses, invariably reducing their spouses to children whose indiscipline are curbed through beating.

Domestic violence against women is an issue of global concern that is becoming widespread by the day. This problem transcends national, cultural, racial and class boundaries. It is a social malady that threatens the stable and balanced psychological development of many children in Nigeria. Children who are raised in violent environment often imbibe violent tendencies as they advance in life.

The social acceptability of domestic violence against women in many countries of the world remain the major challenge in eradicating this problem that has continuously threatened and claimed the lives of many vulnerable women. For example, in 2010, the United Arab Emirates' Supreme Court ruled that their men have the right and legal backing to physically discipline their wives and children as long as they do not leave any physical marks on their bodies. Similarly, according to a study conducted in Nigeria by Oyediran and Abanihe (2005), 65% of the women in the study believe that a man is justified to beat his wife.

According to a UNICEF survey, the percentage of women aged 15–49 who think that a husband is justified in hitting or beating his wife under certain circumstances are, for example: 90% in Afghanistan and Jordan, 87% in Mali, 86% in Guinea and Timor-Leste, 81% in Laos, 80% in Central African Republic. Refusing to submit to a husband's wishes is a common reason given for justification of violence in developing countries: for instance 62.4% of women in Tajikistan justify wife beating if the wife goes out without telling the husband; 68% if she argues with him; 47.9% if she refuses to have sex with him. 80% of women surveyed in rural Egypt said that beatings were common and often justified, particularly if the woman refused to have sex with her husband (in Adebayo 2014, p.1).

In Nigeria, as is the case of most third world countries, violence against women is culturally sanctioned such that the dichotomous relationship between the male and female

folk is seen as a norm (Akanle & Busari 2015, p. 3). According to the study on domestic violence carried out by Gender and Development Action (GADA), it shows that the abuser often believes that there is a justifiable reason for his or her action. This belief in “righteous anger” is usually strong in cases of domestic violence, especially wife battering (Adebayo & Kolawole 2013, p. 3)

International agencies such as UN WOMEN, UNICEF, African Union (AU) and other organizations like the International Federation of Female Lawyers (FIDA), Women in Law and Development in Africa (WiLDAF), Women Consortium of Nigeria WOCON, Gender and Development Action (GADA), are in the forefront for the advocacy that will mitigate the increasing level of violence against women around the world. But their effort will be inconsequential without the cooperation of the media and the government. The role of the media is to assist in creating adequate awareness on the dangers of domestic violence in the society while the government ensures that the security operatives prosecute offenders.

In a survey by Project Alert (2001), as cited in Aihie (2009), the interviews conducted with women working in the markets and other places of work and girls and young women in secondary schools and universities, in Lagos state, Nigeria, indicate that 64.4% of 45 women interviewed in the work place said they had been beaten by a partner (boyfriend or husband), 56.6% of 48 interviewed market women admitted experiencing such violence. (in Adebayo 2013).

Similarly, a study carried out by Obi and Ozumba (2007), on the factors associated with domestic violence, in South East, Nigeria, shows that 70% of the respondents reported abuse in their families with 92% of the victims being female partners, while the remaining 8% were male.

Furthermore, a report on Nigeria from Amnesty International, (2005) affirms that on a daily basis, women are beaten and ill-treated for supposed transgressions, raped and even murdered by members of their family. In some cases, vicious acid attacks leave them with horrific disfigurements. Such violence is frequently excused and tolerated in communities and not denounced. Husbands, partners and fathers are responsible for most of the violence against women.

Many Nigerian women have in the past experienced all manner of abuse, most of this stories are reported on the pages of the newspapers, some are aired by different radio channels and television stations across the country, many of these stories on the other hand end up on the pages of some social media sites, but whatever the case may be, such stories are always devastating and torturing.

The story of a late banker, Mrs. Titilayo Arowolo, who on June 24, 2011 was allegedly stabbed 76 times by her husband, Akolade at their residence, at 8 Akindeinde street Isolo, Lagos is one of such stories. There are also cases of acid attack recorded in the past, the stories of Olokode Musiliu, who was charged to court for allegedly rendering Lateefah Adesope blind on December 30, 2011 by pouring acid on her face with the intention of killing her.

Furthermore, the story of Fatima Usman, a 23 year old final year student in the department of Nursing, University of Maiduguri, who on March 16, 2018 was bathed with acid by two unknown tricycle operators at shagari Quarters, Maiduguri, are just a few out of the several traumatizing situations some women in Nigeria experience.

According to Sutherland, McCormack, Pirkis, Easteal, Holland, & Vaughan (2015) the media, both print and electronic does not engage in wars or battles with

machine guns but with words neatly woven to achieve certain aims and objectives. This implies that the media can successfully play the role of sensitizing the masses against inflicting violent actions on women as this can be catastrophic to the society, because victims of wife battery are reported to suffer both physical and psychological damages, which can be detrimental to the crucial role that women play in the growth and development of any nation and the world at large.

2.2.2 Men, Media and Domestic Violence

Anybody can become a victim of domestic violence; but the general notion is that women are often the victims, but this assertion is not always correct, because men encounter domestic violence in different forms as well. Domestic violence can occur vice versa, but people consider it strange when it has to do with the male counterpart as there are often the abuser and not the abused.

Adebayo (2014, p.1) asserts that Domestic violence is a reality in many parts of the world. However, domestic violence is mostly seen as synonymous with violence against women. Women only, are often perceived to be the victims of domestic violence, and men as the perpetrators, while most men victims continued to suffer in silence from their intimate partners.

Even though there have been so much hues and cries about domestic violence against women across the globe, domestic violence against men is a reality. It occurs virtually in every society in varying degrees (Adebayo, 2014, p.2).

Violence against men however, is a term use to describe any form of violence or abuse perpetrated against the male counterpart by his intimate partner. It is often considered impossible by many, but it is indeed a reality that we cannot shy away from. Everyone, irrespective of their sex, race, language, religion or nationality deserves to feel safe, at home and even in public. Therefore there is no acceptable excuse for violence and as such must not be commended on any grounds.

The discrimination against men as victims of domestic violence can be quite disheartening, as they are ridiculed rather than getting help and support from friends, family and even the authorities.

It was on this note that Adebayo (2014, p. 4) affirms that; while it is a fact that women suffer as victims of domestic violence, it is also a fact that men suffer as victims of domestic violence as well. While the majority of domestic violence victims are women, male-oriented abuse occurs more often than many think. Naturally, men are stronger than women, but that does not necessarily make it easier for them to have their way all the time.

The relative prevalence of intimate Partner Violence against men to that of women is highly disputed between different studies, with some countries having no data at all. Some researchers believe the actual number of male victims of domestic violence may be greater than what the law enforcement statistics suggest due to the number of men who do not report their abuse due to one reason or another. (Watson & Parsons, 2005)

Adebayo further asserts that the problem is that the man who suffers domestic violence is hardly given a listening ear. He is first of all assumed to be the aggressor even if he has bruises all over him. An abused man faces a shortage of resources, skepticism from the police and other major legal obstacles especially when it comes to gaining custody of his children from an abusive mother. The various advocacy and sensitization is more or less in favour of women victims, thereby leaving the men victims to suffer in silence. (p.4).

Domestic violence against men is a controversial yet underreported area of research, men who are victims of domestic violence experience stigmatization and are often mocked for lacking masculinity which further reduces the number of men who report their abuse or seek help.

Equivalently, Adebayo asserts that the tragedy is that men who find themselves in this situation hide and do not talk openly about their experience, as talking about it will bruise their ego and expose them to ridicule in a patriarchal society. *I was*

beaten by my wife is a misnomer! It is unheard of in a male egoistic society. Hence such men prefer to suffer in silence until it becomes critical to the point of likely death (p.3).

The various advocacy and sensitization is more or less in favour of women victims, thereby leaving the men victims to suffer in silence. There is great similarity between female and male victims and their abusers. The biggest difference is that male victims find themselves in the same position women were 30 years ago. Their problem is viewed as of little consequence, or they are to blame, and there are few available resources for male victims. Three-quarters of the men who contact an abuse shelter or hotline report that the agency would provide services only to women, and nearly two-thirds were treated as the abuser rather than the victim (p.4).

In Nigeria, there have been a number of cases in domestic violence against men, with some of them resulting to death. This might sound strange but in recent times several men have lost their lives in the hands of abusive and violent women.

The case of a female lawyer, Yewande Oyediran who was sentenced to seven years imprisonment for man slaughter over the death of her husband, Lowo Oyediran, who was allegedly stabbed to death on February 2, 2016 over infidelity, was one of such stories on domestic violence that kept the social media busy for a long time. Social media users took to Facebook and Instagram to share their wedding pictures and some other personal pictures, which left many wondering what suddenly went wrong with the love birds.

Again, the story of Folashade Idoko who reportedly stabbed her husband, Lawrence; to death on August 21, 2017 is yet another disturbing story. Folashade, an auxiliary nurse stabbed her husband in the leg over an intense disagreement, but the victim lost a lot of blood by the time neighbours could intervene, which eventually led to his death.

Men undoubtedly are also victims of this menace and not always the abuser. Thus, they should be made to understand that it is not a crime for a man to be abused; rather they should be encouraged to seek help when the need arises. The media should desist from portraying domestic abuse as a gender violence, rather it should be presented in such a way that the problem is depicted as a societal challenge.

2.2.3 Media Framing of Domestic Violence.

Of the many influences on how we view men and women, media are the most pervasive and one of the most powerful. Woven throughout our daily lives, media insinuate their messages into our consciousness at every turn (Wood, 1992, p.1).

Domestic violence occurs in all settings and among all socioeconomic, religious and cultural groups. The overwhelming global burden of domestic violence is borne by women. It is a global burden with serious public health and social implications (Uzoma 2017, p. 1).

Domestic violence can be defined as an aggressive, abusive or coercive behaviour within the home, involving a spouse or partner in a relationship such as marriage or cohabitation. Domestic violence is not peculiar to any particular gender, hence, anyone can be a victim.

Uzoma posits that domestic violence is a public health challenge that deserves greater attention with a strong need for far reaching advocacy, economic empowerment, community level enlightenment/engagement, provision of universal access to education particularly for girls/women, a legislative framework that emphasis on victim protection as well as support system for victims of abuse (p.5).

According to Meyers (1997, pp.98) many journalists view domestic violence as so common, that even when it results in murder, it is often not considered to be significant enough to merit media attention. She argues that “women who are battered, raped, or

even murdered appear to be journalistically unimportant unless they are white and middle class or if they can serve as a warning to other women”.

Queensland's Media Guide affirms that domestic/family violence is not caused by unemployment, financial stress, or addiction. Perpetrators use violence (whether physical or not) to maintain power and control over their victims. Regardless of the challenges a perpetrator has in life, their decision to use violence is deliberate. A victim is not to blame for the actions of the perpetrator. The perpetrator has made a deliberate decision to use violence and fear to control the victim. In many cases, a woman has remained because of the economic consequences of leaving, concerns about housing for herself and any children, or fear of what the perpetrator may do in retaliation to her or her family. Due to the extent of the power and control that may have been exerted by the perpetrator, the victim may also not have the confidence to leave the relationship and may feel she still loves the perpetrator, despite his actions (*Media Guide*, 2015, p.2)

The media play a substantial role in shaping the perception of the people on issues of social importance. Domestic violence are often given less attention and coverage than sexual assault. The media often tend to imply that women are responsible for the assault and beating they are given, as it is depicted in a way that assumes they provoke the beast in their spouse.

Stories on domestic violence are often presented in a way that focuses more on minutiae rather than on the context. Domestic violence reportage is often minimal with little or no attention given to cause, extent and consequences of the menace.

Consequently, the ways in which the news media choose to frame domestic violence can have important ramifications, influencing how society perceives the dynamics of such violence as well as solutions and public responsibility. Extant research indicates that the media paid little attention to the abuse of women by their male partners until latter part of 1970s; prior to this time, "domestic violence " was referred to as riots and terrorism. From 1970 - 1975 there were very little coverage of domestic violence. However, in 1976, more widespread coverage of violence against women began,

including the first discussion of a new innovation: battered women's shelters (Gillespie, L. K. Richards, T. N. Givens, E. M. and Smith, M. D 2013, pp. 2).

The Media can play a powerful role in building a society where fewer people find excuses to engage in violent behaviours and probably blame the victims, but a society where all members of the community are informed and empowered to take actions to stop every form of domestic violence. Emphatically, proper structuring and framing of domestic violence stories can increase public attention, awareness, and understanding and subsequently empower the society to challenge the awful notion many have on gender based violence.

2.3 Empirical Review

This part of the study will examine past literatures relating to the subject under study. This review will be done using a subheading to introduce each literature and they will be based on the objectives of this study.

Mwai (2016), *The Framing of Gender based Violence in the Print Media in Kenya: A discourse analysis.*

The study employed content analysis method of research and a total of 25 stories were analyzed. These stories were published between February 11th and August 8th 2016 in four Kenyan daily English language newspapers, namely, *Daily Nation*, *The People Daily*, *The Standard* and *The Star* as well as two weekly English language newspapers, *Saturday Nation* and *Sunday Nation*.

Thus, an analysis was undertaken and the data show that the articles were published in February, June and August while no cases of such violence made it into the

sampled news prints in March, April, May and July. Similarly, majority of the stories were covered during the month of June.

The most common form of gender-based violence encountered in the reviewed newspapers was female genital mutilation/cutting. The 2008/2009 Kenya Demographic and Health Survey (KDHS) reports that about 45% of women aged 15-49 have experienced either physical or sexual violence. Twenty five per cent (25%) have experienced physical violence while 14% have suffered both physical and sexual violence (Kenya National Bureaus of Statistics 2015).

The different types of stories published by the selected print media were analyzed by splitting the stories into the following groups: news, news analysis, features, editorials, opinions and letters-to-the-editor. The results indicate that a majority of 72.0% were drawn in the news category while news analysis constituted 28.0% only.

To assist in analyzing the placement of the stories, the following four subheadings were derived: Lead story, pages 2 and 3, inside pages and back pages. A content analysis of these areas demonstrates that 8.0% of the items were lead stories, 12.0 were placed on pages 2 and 3 while a majority of 76.0% was put inside the pages.

The findings further indicate that the size and space allocated to the stories on gender-based violence were relatively small. As regards space, 36.0% of the stories occupied a space measuring less than a quarter of a page, 24.0% one paragraph, 8.0% two paragraphs, 12.0% a quarter of a page, 12.0% half of a page and 8.0% three-quarters of a page.

The stories were put into five categories, namely, edition lead, page lead, second story, third story and brief or round-up. The analysis indicates that 36.0% of the stories

constituted page leads and briefs or round-ups were 28.0% while only 4.0% made it to the edition lead of the newspapers.

Finally, this study discovered that the information sources for the articles in the reviewed newspapers consisted of perpetrators, victims and eyewitnesses of each incident of gender-based violence. These are primary sources and, thus, they give authenticity, credibility and evidence to the stories represented in the newspapers.

The study concluded that in terms of size and space allocation the sampled newspapers failed to give high priority to gender-based violence. This is because the largest size and space occupied by any of the stories was three-quarters of a page and many of them were merely briefs or round-up. Furthermore, the data indicate that many stories on gender-based violence in the sampled publications were news which is an indication that the stories were of no importance to the respective media houses. The researcher further added that there is a need for the print media in Kenya to prominently frame these two types of gender-based violence; genital mutilation and physical violence so that the people will know their consequences especially to the body of girls and women.

Nzuma (2015), *The Framing of Violence Against Women (VAW) in Print Media: An Analysis of two Namibian Newspapers, The Namibian and New Era.*

This research study was aimed at appraising the extent media ownership affects the framing of certain issues such as Violence against women. This study examined how ownership can affect the prominence the selected newspapers gave to VAW news coverage and how often the stories were reported.

The study employed content analysis using Namibian major newspapers; *New Era* and *The Namibian* newspapers which revealed that violence against women reportage was framed as a masculine narrative; women who are the prominent actors in violence against women related issues were neglected. However, the discourse on VAW in the two newspapers did not differ from the general women's talk.

A total of 266 news articles on VAW were available for analysis, within the period under study, 136 news stories were used from *The Namibian* and 130 from *New Era*.

This study, in its effort to analyze the different frames employed by the newspapers in reporting VAW stories utilized the generic frames as identified by Semetko and Valkenburg (2000) and these are; Consequence, Morality, Responsibility, Conflict and Human Interest frames. All the frames were frequently used in both newspapers; Morality frame 58.6%, Responsibility frame 14.2%, Consequence frame 13.2%; Human interest frame 12.8% and Conflict frame 3.0%.

For the purposes of this study, the information cited and/or quoted in the articles were divided into eight source categories, these include; police, perpetrator, victim/survivor, social worker, community, judiciary, government officials and others. These were the people whom the reporters consulted for comment and quoted in their news reports on VAW stories. The study established that majority of the people who spoke on VAW issues were men in both publications. This shows the invisibility of women in the media even on an issue that directly concerns them, women were still not given fair and equal chance to speak. Only 10.5 % of the articles analyzed used women as sources in their news stories and the rest were men.

The findings show that both publications rely heavily on the police for VAW information for their publications. The police, government officials, legal professionals were the sources most quoted and paraphrased in the news articles.

The study reveals that both publications did not give prominence to VAW news stories, this was shown by the low number of articles placed on the front pages. They did not frequently report VAW issues, most of the news articles were event-based, how bizarre the VAW case was, and who was involved, especially if prominent people were involved.

The research revealed that the reporters who covered VAW stories in the this study from both sides of the publications, were obsessed with reporting on events rather than with themes which will give room for in-depth analysis of the issue understudy. Social issues such as VAW require in-depth analysis, and adequate linkage to other phenomena with accurate statistics to shows the seriousness of the subject matter.

The study however, concluded that there was rarely in-depth and sustained dialogue on this social problem. The media again failed to give a holistic coverage of the issue, which will fully informs the audiences on what policy, efforts and interventions are been made by the legislature regarding VAW which has become a big concern. The media continues to deal with VAW in a very simplistic way as if it's some pick-pocket crime. VAW is still reported as if someone is announcing football match results, who won and who lost and let us wait for the next match. Many women and girls have failed to live to their full potentials and contribute to the nation because of the effects of VAW. The implications of VAW are not fully explored and explained in the media, its

consequences to the society, economy and the world at large should be well communicated.

Summary of Review

From the literatures reviewed above it is glaring that the media needs to play a crucial role in the fight against domestic violence. Stories on domestic violence should be given prominence, high priority and in-depth reportage. The stories should be framed in such a way that they will be objective, yet responsible.

It is obvious that the literatures reviewed were from other parts of the African continent, nevertheless, there are still some striking resemblances with what is obtainable in the Nigerian print media. This data has really motivated the researcher to dig deep into this topic to ascertain what is applicable in the Nigerian society.

The reviewed literatures revealed that the level of prominence accorded to domestic violence stories by the several newspapers the researchers studied were substantial, given to the fact that the stories available were very few and was lacking in-depth analysis, since 72% were straight news.

Most of the articles did not make it to the front pages of the newspapers under study, as over 70% of the newspapers were found on the inside pages, moreover, the size and space given to those stories were very small, as 36% of the stories appeared on pages less than quarter.

Nzuma indicated that the main source of domestic stories in the newspapers under review was the Police, while Mwai stated that the perpetrators, victims and eyewitnesses were the main sources of the stories available on the analyzed newspapers.

The dominant frame employed by the newspapers was morality frame, this simply imply that most of the stories available (58.3%) on the selected newspapers involved cultural, religious or human interest perspective, and probably offered social prescriptions on how to behave towards the problem.

2.4 Theoretical Framework

This section will address the two theories used for this research; Framing Theory and Agenda Setting Theory.

2.4.1 Framing Theory

This study is anchored on framing theory; knowledge they say does not exist in a vacuum, in every discipline, there is a body of theories that provide the explanation for observable phenomena in that field (Ohaja, 2003:63-64 in Ezea, G.H. Asogwa C.E. &Edogor, I.O. 2013, p.2).

The framing theory is ideal for this study. It is a theory of media effects which was first put forth to media studies by Erving Goffman in 1974 and was popularized by Entman in his 1993 article "Framing: Towards Clarification of a Fractured Paradigm" which posits that framing selects some aspect of reality and give greater emphasis to them, so as to define the problem, diagnose the cause as well as suggest the moral judgment and propose appropriate solutions and actions.

Gamson (1989, p.157), defines a frame as "a central organizing idea for making sense of relevant events and suggesting what the issue is". Entman (1993 in Brown 2013, pp. 5). Suggests that framing essentially involves selection and salience. To frame is to select some aspects of a perceived reality and make them more salient in a

communicating text, in such a way as to promote a particular problem definition, causal interpretation, moral evaluation, and/or treatment recommendation for the item described. Journalists' word choice or language also influences the framing of domestic violence. Word selection in both the title/headline and throughout an article can potentially influence the general public's understanding of an event and the participants involved (Bullock & Cubert 2002, in Gillespie et al. 2013, p.5).

Bullock & Cubert (2002 in Gillespie et al. 2013, p.4). further stated that media frames are often shaped by three components: sources, word choice or language, and context. In regards to media coverage of domestic violence, these components not only shape the frame, but also convey a specific understanding of domestic violence to consumers.

The framing approaches in media studies relate to the psychological and sociological proposition that individuals need certain interpretative frames to be able to establish an opinion or an evaluation about a matter (Carstea 2012, p.98 in Ukonu & Ajaero 2015, p. 6). Ajaero (2014 in Ukonu & Ajaero 2015, p. 6) further posits that the way a particular issue or event is presented effects the way it is perceived and understood.

Okoro, Ezeah and Agbana (2017) view framing as one of the ways which the news media form perceptions of key events in the society. Bryant & Mirion (2004 in Gorp, 2007, p. 60) aver that framing has become a veritable research tool in the hands of media scholars seeing that it has become the most commonly applied research approach in the field of communication science.

The proper use of frames by the media makes it possible for the story to be shaped in a way that it will be clearly understood by the audience. Media framing can greatly

influence an audience to buy a product that is not needed; simply because of the way the news was packaged to catch the audience's attention.

The influence of the media towards public opinion is colossal and the efficacy of the media as an agent of social change has been globally acknowledged. The potentiality of the media in the speedy dissemination of information cannot be overemphasized. Hence the media have the power to frame stories in a way that it will elicit the desired response as well as attract public outrage and prompt government/non-governmental intervention.

This theory is considered to be appropriate since the study is out to ascertain the frames used in reporting domestic violence stories. Again it is highly relevant to this study because framing selects some aspect of reality and gives greater emphasis to them, so as to define the problem and proffer solutions to the situation basically by adopting selection and salience approach. It was on this ground the study adopted this theory to ascertain the different types of frames employed in domestic violence reportage and how the dominant frames made domestic violence stories conspicuous and relevant to the society.

2.4.2 Agenda Setting Theory

The principal outlines of this influence were sketched by Walter Lippmann in his 1922 classic, *Public Opinion*, which began with a chapter titled “The World Outside and the Pictures in Our Heads.”

Agenda setting theory states that the news media have a large influence on audiences, in terms of what stories to consider newsworthy and how much prominence and space to give them. Agenda setting theory's main postulation is salience transfer.

Salience transfer is the ability of the news media to transfer issues of importance from the media to the public. The media through its day-to-day selection and display of news focus our attention and perceptions on what are the most important issues of the day. The agenda setting theory, thus states that issues that receive prominent attention on the national news become the topics that the public considers to be most important.

According to McCombs, the power of the news media to set a nation's agenda, to focus public attention on a few key public issues, is an immense and well-documented influence. Not only do people acquire factual information about public affairs from the news media, readers and viewers also learn how much importance to attach to a topic on the basis of the emphasis placed on it in the news. Newspapers provide a host of cues about the salience of the topics in the daily news – lead story on page one, other front page display, large headlines, etc. Television news also offers numerous cues about salience – the opening story on the newscast, length of time devoted to the story, etc. These cues repeated day after day effectively communicate the importance of each topic. In other words, the news media can set the agenda for the public's attention to that small group of issues around which public opinion forms.

This theory is relevant to this study because since the media exert enormous influence on the public, it is imperative to use the media to set an agenda that will condemn domestic violence and encourage domestic violence victims to speak up, because this will help them heal, as well as enlighten the public on the issue of domestic violence using their experiences. The media should exercise this function without fear of victimization as staying neutral contradicts the watchdog and agenda setting roles of the media. This can be achieved through detailed reportage and proper page placement, so that the targeted audience can be adequately reached.

2.5 Gaps in Literature

Countless literature are accessible on domestic violence, both globally and nationally. But many of them emphasize on men being the abuser and women the victim.

They are scarcely detailed resources available on violence against men. This menace was rather treated with bias, instead of presenting the issue as a societal problem that threatens the physical and psychological disposition of its victims, irrespective of the gender.

Consequently, the researcher tends to fill in the gap existing between the male and female victims of domestic violence, by addressing the problem generally without giving priority or preference to any sex.

CHAPTER THREE

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

3.1 Research Design

The research method adopted for this study is content analysis method of research. Krippendorff, (2004, p.18) defined "content analysis as a research technique for making replicable and valid inference from texts (or other meaningful matter) to the context of their use".

Walizer and Wienir (1978) in Wimmer & Dominick (2011, p.156) defined "content analysis as any systematic procedure devised to examine the content of recorded information". Ohaja (2003, p.14), noted that "content analysis refers to the examination of the manifest content of communication to discover the patterns existing therein".

Kerlinger as cited in Okoro and Ekwueme (2013, p. 14) state that content analysis helps in making a systematic and objective measurement of variables. White & Marsh (2006) added that content analysis, as a research methodology has its roots in the study of mass communication.

Berelson (1952, p. 18) as cited in Asemah, Gujbawu, Ekhareafo and Okpanachi (2012, p. 79), defined content analysis as "a research technique for the objective, systematic, and quantitative description of the manifest content of communication"

The manifest content for this study include features, editorials, news stories, letter-to-the-editor and opinions articles available in the selected newspapers.

3.2 Population of the Study

The population of this study includes all the editions/issues published by the three selected newspapers: *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian* and *Vanguard* newspapers for the period of one year (January 2017 to December, 2017) which amounted to 1095 editions.

The figure was arrived at by multiplying the total number of publication for each newspaper ($365 \times 3 = 1095$) by the three selected newspapers for the period of the study.

Hence, a total number of 1095 editions of the selected newspapers will constitute the population for the study.

3.3 Sample Size

This study will make use of 84 editions per newspaper for one year. This means that there will be a total of 252 editions for the three selected newspapers understudy for the period of one year. The procedure employed to arrive at this sample size was composite week approach and it will be properly explained in the sampling techniques below.

3.4 Sampling Technique

This study adopted the purposive or judgmental sampling technique to select three out of the 267 newspapers in circulation in the country. The newspapers selected for this study include; *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian* and *Vanguard* newspapers and for the following criteria; national coverage, circulation strength, higher readership and consistency in publication.

In determining the sample size, the composite week approach was adopted. According to Riffe, Aust and Lacy (1993) as cited in Wimmer and Dominick (2011, p.163) “a composite week sampling technique was superior to both random and consecutive day sample when dealing with newspaper or magazine contents”.

3.5 Instruments for Data Collection

The code sheet was used as the instrument for data collection, because the researcher considers it the most appropriate tool for analyzing the contents of the selected newspapers. The code sheet containing the prepared content categories was employed to objectively record all the relevant data available on the field.

3.6 Unit of Analysis

Unit of analysis is the smallest element of content analysis. In print, units of analysis might be a single word, a theme, a headline etc” Asemah et al., (2012, p. 84). However, the units of analysis for this study include: news, features, editorials, letters-to-the-editor and opinion articles. Thus, the data collected were coded and analyzed under the following content categories.

Unit of Classifications

The units of analysis were coded into content categories, which will serve as a guide for the study, and they are as follows:

Media (Frequency of Coverage)

A (01) *Daily Sun*

A (02) *The Guardian*

A (03) *Vanguard*

Here, the researcher considers the frequency of coverage among the three selected newspapers. It will be used to determine the number of times stories on domestic violence appeared in each newspaper.

Page Placement (Prominence)

B (01) Front page

B (02) Back page

B (03) Centre spread

B (04) Inside page

This content category will be utilized to determine the level of prominence that was given to domestic violence stories by the selected newspapers. The level of importance attached to domestic violence stories will be ascertained by considering the page where the story was placed. The page placement will be analyzed using the front pages, back pages, centre spread or inside pages of the selected newspapers.

Front page: It is often believed that this page is what sells a newspaper, because only very important stories make it to the front page. This is where editors place the most essential and compelling stories of the day. The headlines on the front page give the reader an idea of what should be expected from the paper. Therefore if stories on domestic violence make it to the front page, it obviously signifies that they are of great importance to the editors and the general public at large.

Back page: The back page of a newspaper is still an important part of every newspaper, although is not as important as the front page. This is because it is normal for a reader to turn over to the back after scanning through the front page, because of the type of stories that are often carried at the back page. Most columnists utilize the back page of the newspapers to publish their articles. Hence, stories on the back page are next in prominence.

Centre spread: Centre spread is yet another key part of a newspaper; these are the two pages you get when you open up the centre of a newspaper. These pages are one of the hot spots for information on most Nigerian newspapers, because they publish crucial interviews and articles on subjects of great importance on these pages, so if in the course of this research a story on domestic violence is recorded on the centre spread, it will be of great benefit to this research.

Inside page: The stories on the inside page of a newspaper is not usually as conspicuous as the other pages of the newspaper and this often affect the readership of these stories. These stories are the least in the order of importance, so having domestic violence stories on one of the inside pages will indicate that it was not given priority.

Depth of Coverage

C (01) Full page

C (02) Half page

C (03) Quarter page

C (04) Below quarter page

This refers to the quantity of coverage, in terms of the total space allotted to domestic violence related stories in the newspapers.

Full page: Stories available on a full page will be graded under this option. This type of stories are always the most important, because when a stories is given full page in any newspaper, it means such stories are given priority and are of great benefit to the general public.

Half page: Stories found on half pages in the selected newspapers will appear here. Stories under this category are the next in the order of importance, although not as importance as the full page, but stories here are still given priority, as the page allotment still shows the information is still beneficial to the audience.

Quarter page: Stories that occupy quarter pages will be analyzed here. A story that occupy quarter page is not perceived as being significant, because such a small page allotment will be barely enough to carry the summary of the story, let alone a detailed account of the story.

Below quarter page: This is the least in the order of importance, because any page below quarter is barely enough to carry the summary of an essential story. Hence, any story on domestic violence on this category will be considered as a story treated with little or no importance.

Story Source

D (01) Government officials

D (02) Police

D (03) Victims

D (04) Perpetrators

D (05) Victim's families and friends

D (06) Community members

D (07) NGOs

D (08) Court

D (09) Unspecified sources

This refers to the means through which domestic violence stories came to the knowledge of the audience. The story source however, is the person the stories available on domestic violence were credited to.

Government officials: Stories under this source will include stories made available to the press by government agencies, be it at the federal, state or local government levels.

Police: This will represent stories that are gotten from the police.

Victims: This stands for stories provided by the victims of domestic violence. When such stories are narrated by victims of an assault it will be recorded under this section.

Perpetrators: This is when the abuser is now the one telling the story, of how he dealt with his/her victim.

Victim's families and friends: Stories from the family members and friends of the victims of domestic violence will be presented here.

Community members: This includes domestic violence stories gotten from neighbours.

NGOs: Non-governmental Organizations that help abused women, often share some of the stories available to them, to help victims of domestic violence who are dying in silence. These stories will appear under here.

Court: Domestic Violence stories gotten from court proceedings and rulings from any Nigerian court will be recorded here.

Unspecified sources: These are stories written without a known by-line.

Story Genre

E (01) News

E (02) Features

E (03) Editorials

E (04) Letters-to-the-Editor

E (05) Opinion Articles

This refers to the format employed in the reportage of domestic violence stories by the selected newspapers. The stories will be analyzed from the following angles; news, feature, editorial, opinion article or letter-to-the-editor.

News: Stories presented in a straightforward style without editorial comment will be recorded here. They are often concise and exact.

Features: Articles that are given detailed and in-depth analysis will be analyzed here. It is always given more page allotment, with more flexibility to utilize wider range of formats and are often accompanied by pictures.

Editorial: This is an article expressing the personal opinion of editor on a topical issue. Hence, any editorial found on domestic violence will be recorded here.

Letters-to-the-editor: This is a letter written to a newspaper/Magazine or other periodicals by its readers about issues of concern.

Frames

F (01) Human Interest Frame

F (02) Responsibility Frame

F (03) Morality Frame

F (04) Consequences Frame

F (05) Conflict Frame

This describes the point of view from which domestic violence stories were reported in the selected newspapers. It also indicates the areas which the newspapers lay more emphasis on, in the cause of their reportage.

Entman (1993, p. 52) suggested that frames in the news can be examined and identified by ‘the presence or absence of certain keywords, stock phrases, stereotyped images, sources of information and sentences that provide thematically reinforcing clusters of facts or judgments.

The following frames will be used to ascertain the dominant frames employed by the three selected newspapers in reporting domestic violence stories. The stories will be analyzed using Semetko & Vallkenburg (2000) frames and they are as follows;

Human interest Frame: This is when a story provides a human example or human face and their testimonies.

Responsibility Frame: This is when the story suggests that an individual or group should take action on the issue.

Morality Frame: This is when the story involves cultural, religious or human interest perspective, often offering social prescriptions on how to behave towards the problem.

Consequences Frame: This is when the story mentions the impact of domestic violence on the individual, society, economy or country, which may include health, economic or political consequences.

Conflict Frame: This is when the story provides two or more opposing views or statements.

Direction of Reportage

G (01) Positive

G (02) Negative

G (03) Neutral

This refers to the angle through which domestic violence stories were perceived. The available stories will be analyzed putting into consideration the tone of the reportage. Whether it is positive, negative or neutral.

Positive: These are stories in the selected newspapers that support the domestic abuse perpetrated on any gender.

Negative: These are reports that do not support domestic abuse but rather condemns it.

Neutral: These are stories/reports that are either positive or negative in both content and language of the presentation.

3.7 Validity of the Instrument

Wimmer & Dominick (2011) defined validity as the degree to which an instrument actually measures what it sets out to measure. Ezeji (2004) on the other hand posits that

the validity of research instrument ensures that the instrument is able and fit enough to measure what it has set out to measure. Creswell (2011) defined validity as the degree to which all the evidence points to the intended interpretation of test scores for the proposed purpose. To achieve the objective of this study, face validity was used, with the necessary suggestions and corrections made by the Project supervisor.

3.8 Reliability of the Instrument

Reliability according to Wimmer and Dominick (2011, p. 170), is arrived at when repeated measurement of the same material results in similar decisions or conclusions. To ascertain the reliability of the study, the researcher engaged the services of two (2) independent coders.

However, in checking the reliability of the instrument, inter coder reliability test of some sample editions of the selected newspapers was conducted to serve as a parameter for determining the degree of consistency between the coders.

To calculate the inter coder reliability, Holsti's (1969) formula in Poindexter & McCombs (2000), was adopted.

Formula:

$$\text{Reliability} = \frac{2M}{N_1 + N_2}$$

Where M is the number of coding decisions on which two coders agree.

N_1 and N_2 are the total number of coding decisions made by each coder.

No. of coders = 2

No. of coding decisions = 20

No. of agreement = 16

$$\text{Reliability} = \frac{2(16)}{20+20}$$

$$R = \frac{32}{40} \text{ Reliability} = .8$$

3.9 Method of Data Analysis and Presentation

Simple frequency distribution tables will be used for easy interpretation, analysis and presentation of the data gotten from the newspapers.

CHAPTER FOUR

DATA PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS

4.1 Data Presentation and Analysis

This study examined framing of domestic violence in selected newspapers in Nigeria. The period studied was January to December 2017. The data analyzed were gathered from the three national newspapers under study; *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian* and *Vanguard*. Out of the 252 editions selected for the study using the composite week approach, which constructs one week in each month, 29 editions had stories on domestic violence, with some of them having multiple stories in one edition. There were a total of 33 stories from the three selected newspapers on the topic understudy.

Data generated in this research were presented in frequency distribution tables with figures and simple percentages. The tables comprise of data from all the domestic violence stories collected from the three selected newspapers for this study.

Research question 1: How frequent is the coverage of the selected newspapers on domestic violence?

Tables 1 was used to answer the above research question.

Table1: The Frequency of Coverage of the Selected Newspapers on Domestic Violence

Newspaper	Frequency	Percentage (%)
Daily Sun	7	21.2%
The Guardian	14	42.4%
Vanguard	12	36.3%
Total	33	100%

From the data analyzed on the frequency of coverage of the selected newspapers on domestic violence it was discovered that *The Guardian* featured the most stories. This implies that The Guardian will have the highest number of editions.

Research question 2: Do Nigerian Newspapers give prominence to domestic violence stories?

Table 2 was used to answer the above research question.

Table 2: Placement of Stories

Placement	Daily Sun	The Guardian	Vanguard	Total	Percentage (%)
Front Page	-	-	-	-	-
Back Page	-	-	-	-	-
Centre Spread	-	-	-	-	-
Inside Page	7	13	12	33	100%
Total	7	13	12	33`	100%

From the data analyzed on the prominence of domestic violence stories in the selected newspapers, it indicate that all the stories were placed on the inside pages of the three selected Nigerian newspapers. This implies that the available stories were not given importance at all.

Research question 3: What is the depth of coverage of domestic violence stories?

Table 3 was used to answer the above research question.

Table 3: Depth of coverage

Depth	Daily Sun	The Guardian	Vanguard	Total	Percentage (%)
Full page	-	-	-	-	-
Half page	1	4	1	6	18. %
Quarter page	6	9	10	25	76%
Below quarter	-	1	1	2	6%
Total	7	14	12	33	100%

This table shows the depth of coverage of domestic violence stories, in the selected newspapers which was measured by the column/inches each of the stories fit into.

It clearly shows that none of the stories were recorded on a full page and more than half of the stories were reported on a quarter page.

Research question 4: What are the sources of domestic violence stories in the selected newspapers?

Table 4 was used to answer this research question.

Table 4: Sources of the stories

Sources of Domestic Violence stories	<i>Daily Sun</i>	<i>The Guardian</i>	<i>Vanguard</i>	Total	Percent age (%)
Government agencies	1	1	1	3	9%
Police	1	2	2	5	15%
Victims	-	2	2	4	12%
Perpetrators	1	1	1	3	9%
Victim's families/friends	1	2	2	5	15%
Neighbours	2	3	3	8	24%
NGOs	-	1	-	1	3%
Court	1	1	1	3	9%
Unspecified sources	-	1	-	1	3%
Total	7	14	12	33	100%

From the data analyzed on the sources of domestic violence stories in the selected newspapers, it was discovered that neighbours were the major source of domestic violence stories.

This implies that domestic violence is highly underreported, because if the victims of domestic violence were bold enough to report this crime to the police, government agencies or even the NGOs that support abused persons, these three groups could have been the highest sources of domestic violence stories.

Research question 5: What are the story genres in which domestic violence stories appeared most?

Table 5 was used to answer this research question.

Table 5: Story genres employed by the newspapers in their reportage

Story Genre	Daily Sun	The Guardians	Vanguard	Total	Percentage (%)
News	6	13	12	31	93.9%
Features	1	-	-	1	3%
Editorials	-	1	-	1	3%
Letters-to-the-Editor	-	-	-	-	-
Opinion Articles	-	-	-	-	-
Total	7	14	12	33	100%

From the data analyzed on the story types in which domestic violence stories appeared most, it was realized that majority of the stories were straight news stories. This indicates that the available stories will be more informative and less detailed/educative.

Research question 6: What are the dominant frames used in reporting domestic violence stories?

Table 6 was used to answer this research question.

Table 6: Frames used for the reportage

Frames used for the reportage	Daily Sun	The Guardian	Vanguard	Total	Percentage (%)
Human Interest Frame	3	6	8	17	52%
Responsibility Frame	1	1	2	4	12%
Morality Frame	-	1	-	1	3%
Consequence Frame	-	2	-	2	6%
Conflict Frame	3	4	2	9	27%
Total	7	14	12	33	100%

This table shows the frames utilized in the reportage of domestic violence stories in the selected newspapers. Several frames were sampled but the dominant one is human

interest frame, which provides a human example or human face and their testimonies to help the readers to understand the situation better.

Research question 7: What is the direction of domestic violence stories in the selected Newspapers?

Table 7 was used to answer this research question.

Table 7: Direction of reportage

Direction	Daily Sun	The Guardian	Vanguard	Total	Percentage (%)
Positive	-	-	-	-	-
Negative	1	7	3	11	33%
Neutral	6	7	9	22	67%
Total	7	34	19	33	100

From the data analyzed on the direction of domestic violence stories in the selected newspapers, it was discovered that more than half of the stories were neutral. This means that the stories were neither in support nor against the menace, the stories were just reported the way it happened without further analysis.

4.2 Discussion of Findings

This study on Framing of Domestic Violence in selected newspapers in Nigeria focused on analyzing the different frames used in reporting domestic violence stories from (January to December, 2017) using *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian* and *Vanguard* newspapers.

Research question one: This seeks to ascertain the Frequency of Coverage of the Selected Newspapers on Domestic Violence.

The Data presented in table 1 indicates that *The Guardian* covered the most stories on domestic violence. *The Guardian* had 14 (42.4%) stories; *Vanguard* had 12 (36.3%) stories while *Daily Sun* had 7 (21.2%) stories. The level of coverage given to domestic violence by the three newspapers was insufficient and inadequate.

The implication of this finding is that since the sampled newspapers failed in giving adequate coverage to domestic violence stories, the people and even the government in turn will pay little or no attention to the topic, because the media through their agenda setting role emphasizes on what should be of public interest, through constant reportage. Therefore if the media make domestic violence a topic of great concern by attaching relevance to it and making it a public discourse, the public will eventually learn about it and attach as much significance as the media have attached to it.

Research question two: This sought to ascertain the prominence given to domestic violence stories by the selected newspapers.

The study found out that all the stories on domestic violence were placed on the inside pages, 33 (100%). None was seen on the cover page, back page or centre spread. All the stories found on domestic violence were placed on the inside page. This clearly shows that the prominence attached to stories on the domestic violence is quite low. Front

pages are cardinal in drawing the attention of readers to particular stories. Many a times the information available on the front page determine if the reader will proceed to the inside pages. Therefore it is customary for one to believe that only important or relevant stories make it to the front pages, in other words front page stories can be referred to as the selling point of any newspaper.

Thus, it is expedient to note that domestic violence stories not making it to the front page, back page or centre spread simply means that the topic is of no importance to the selected newspapers, hence no prominence was accorded.

Nyakeri (2015 in Mwai, 2016) state that stories placed on the front page and back page are considered important because they immediately attract and catch the eye and attention of readers.

Nzuma's finding on the level of prominence concurs with the finding of this study as she stated clearly that the analyzed newspapers failed to give prominence to stories on violence against women.

The implication of this finding is that the chances of readers accessing stories on domestic violence will be rare, because most people glance through the pages of the newspaper paying attention to the stories found on the front page. Moreover, with all the domestic violence stories appearing on the inside page, there is a possibility that many might not have the opportunity of reading the stories available on domestic violence.

Research question three: This research question x-rayed the depth of coverage of domestic violence stories by the selected newspapers.

The study, however, found out that 76% (25 stories) of the stories were reported on quarter pages, 18% (6 stories) were found on half pages, whereas the remaining 6%

were reported on pages below quarter. This is just buttressing the finding of research question two which indicates that the level of prominence given to domestic violence is appalling as all the (33 stories were found on the inside pages). Relegating most of the stories to quarter pages indicate that domestic violence is not a critical topic.

The research finding of Mwai (2016), on *The Framing of Gender based Violence in the Print Media in Kenya*, supports this finding, her finding also disclosed that in terms of size and space allocation the sampled newspapers failed to give high priority to gender-based violence. This is because the largest size and space occupied by any of the stories was three-quarters of a page and many of them were merely briefs or round-up.

Nzuma (2015) in her study on *The Framing of Violence Against Women (VAW) in Print Media* also stated that there is rarely in-depth and sustained dialogue on this social problem. She added that the media again fails to give a holistic coverage of the issue, which will fully inform the audiences on what policy, efforts and interventions have been made by the legislature regarding VAW which has become a big concern.

The implication of this finding is that with such a small page allotment there will be barely enough space to tell the story let alone for an in-depth analysis of the reportage.

Research question four: Seek to identify the sources of domestic violence stories in the selected newspapers. It was discovered that 24% of the information came from neighbours, 15% came from the victim's families/friends and the police, 12% of the stories came from victims, 9% came from perpetrators, the court and Government agencies, while 3% came from NGOs and unspecified sources. Mwai recorded perpetrators, victims and eyewitnesses as her main sources while Nzuma stated that the Police was her main source.

This implies that domestic violence is highly underreported because the police, government agencies or NGOs that support abused women who were supposed to be at the fore front of the fight against domestic violence have little or no information on the menace. The police/government agencies are expected to be the major sources of domestic violence stories but because many of the victims of domestic violence choose to stay silence, they are no means this information will get to the appropriate agencies.

Research question five: sought to determine the story types in which domestic violence stories appeared most. The findings of this study indicates that News was the most dominant story genre as was clearly shown by the statistics below; News (94%), Feature (3%) and (3%) for Editorial.

The implication of this finding is that the available stories lack educational and narrative analysis; the stories were just informative and may be incapable of eliciting the desired response from both the government and the general public. News are usually short and straight to the point but feature, editorial, opinion article etc., deal with these subject in greater depth and length, and are often written in an inventive and compelling manner.

The research finding of Mwai (2016), on *The Framing of Gender based Violence in the Print Media in Kenya*, supports the finding of this study on the area of story genre. Her data indicate that most of the stories available on gender-based violence in the sampled publications had news as the majority with 72%, which shows that gender-based stories were of no importance to the respective media houses sampled.

Mogambi and Nyakeri (2015 in Mwai, 2016) agree that editorials, in particular, are one of the most salient sections of any publication since they convey the significance

of an event or issue by highlighting, detailing and bringing it out to the attention of the audience and policy-makers.

Hence the absence of editorials, feature, and opinion articles in the sampled newspapers is a clear indication that they did not attach significance to the issue, because straight news is short and to-the-point unlike feature, editorial and opinion articles that are detailed and well analyzed.

Research question Six: Sought to identify the dominant frames used in reporting domestic violence stories. 52% of the stories were framed using human interest frame, 27% employed conflict frame, 12% used responsibility frame, 6% utilized consequences frame while 3% used morality frame. As indicated by the finding, it is glaring that half of the stories employed human interest frame which means that these stories provided a human example or human face and their testimonies in their reportage.

This implies that the stories were presented in a way that will make readers feel emphatic towards the situation and suffering of the victims. These newspapers want to attract audience rather than emphasize on the issue of domestic violence, because the general public needs to understand the consequences of domestic violence on the victim and victim's children, the abuser should also be made to understand the legal actions that can be taken against him as well.

However, insufficient attempt was made by the selected newspapers to employ other frames that will explore morality, responsibility and consequences frames which are unquestionably pertinent in reporting domestic violence.

Nzuma's study however recorded morality frame, as the most dominant frame utilized by the sampled newspapers, this means that most of the stories available (58.3%)

on the selected newspapers involved cultural, religious or human interest perspective, and probably offered social prescriptions on how to behave towards the problem.

Research question Seven: Seek to ascertain the direction of reportage of domestic violence stories in the selected newspapers. None of the newspapers recorded any story that was positive, that is stories that support domestic violence against anyone, 33% of the stories were negative, that is to say that stories in this category condemned domestic violence against any gender, while 67 % of the stories were neutral, this implies that these stories were neither in support of domestic violence or against it. These stories reported the incidents the way it occurred, without applauding or condemning it.

The implication of this finding is that the direction the selected newspapers took is one that is incapable of addressing this societal abnormality, nothing meaningful will come out from a neutral report on domestic violence, the stories should always be negative, condemning it in all totality, that is the only way the stories will have the required content and language needed to properly address this issue.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.1 Summary of Findings

The prevalence of domestic violence in Nigeria is due to the culture of silence. Victims of domestic violence often choose to stay silent rather than voice out and face the abashment and humiliation that usually accompany such revelation, especially when the male counterpart is involved. The societal belief is that men are courageous and heroic, therefore cannot experience such agony, but the fact still remains that domestic violence is no respecter of persons and can only be tackled if the victims can boldly speak up and fight for their rights.

Domestic violence can come in several forms but physical violence in particular is very rampant among spouses in the western and third world countries. This kind of abuse may include choking, punching, acid bath, slapping, battering, beating, torture, killing etc. Domestic violence transcends racial, religious, cultural and social status. This menace threatens the psychological disposition of its victims and their children.

Hence, the research attempted to examine the newspaper framing of domestic violence in some selected newspaper in Nigeria starting from January 2017 to December 2017.

In conducting this study, three national dailies were purposively selected, they include; *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian* and *Vanguard* newspapers. Content analysis method of research was used to collect data on the sources of domestic violence stories, frames employed by the newspapers, level of frequency, story genre, depth of coverage, prominence given to the stories and the direction of reportage.

The findings of the study indicate that the dominant frames employed by the three national dailies are human interest frame and conflict frame. Human faces and testimonies were used to buttress the human interest angle of the stories. On the other hand, the conflict frame stressed argument and disagreement as causes of violent behaviours.

More than half of the stories were straight news which was informative but less educative. The stories were reported with little or no effort made to educate the audience on the consequences, management and prevention of domestic violence.

The research also discovered that the depth of coverage of domestic violence stories were substantial because 76% of the available stories were on quarter pages, which is barely enough to tell the story let alone educating the public on the dangers of the menace. Again the prominences given to domestic violence by the selected newspaper were insufficient as all the stories were placed on the inside pages which will drastically reduce the readership of these stories.

The frequency of coverage of the selected newspapers on domestic violence was appalling, as the three selected newspapers produced 33 stories out of the 252 editions sampled.

5.2 Conclusion

Domestic violence is one of the underreported crimes in the world, and this has resulted to the perpetrators committing the crime freely and without fear, because the abuser believes the victim is likely not going to report the crime, as the partner knows the action can be justified on certain grounds. It is quite disheartening that some law enforcement agents tend to believe that women are to be blamed for the abuse they suffer, especially

the physical form, and they often refuse to believe men that report abuse. They deny them the support and assistance that are due to them.

The findings of this study clearly indicate that domestic violence is indeed an underreported crime in the Nigeria; because the three selected Nigerian newspaper failed woefully in giving adequate story direction, coverage, priority, in-depth analysis and prominence to domestic violence stories.

It is obvious Nigerian newspapers are incapable of addressing this societal abnormality; stories on domestic violence should always be negative, condemning it in all totality, using both the content and language. These newspapers should employ other frames like consequences and responsibility frames, making the readers feel emphatic about the situation and suffering of the victims are not just enough. Emphasizes should be made on the cause, effect, management and prevention of domestic violence, which will help the general public to better assimilate the experiences of the victims on the issue.

News are usually short and straight to the point but feature, editorial, opinion article etc., deal with the subject in greater depth and length, and are often written in an inventive, detailed and compelling manner, capable of propelling both the public and the government to take actions against the threat the issue poses to an average Nigerian.

Hiding the stories inside the pages of the newspapers will decrease the chances of readers accessing these stories, because many readers glance through the pages of the newspaper paying attention to the stories found on the front page. Again quarter page is barely enough to tell the story let alone for an in-depth analysis of the reportage.

Therefore if the media make domestic violence a topic of great concern by attaching relevance to it and making it a public discourse, the public will eventually learn about it and attach as much significance as the media have attached to it.

Hence, Nigerian newspapers are yet to give a holistic and comprehensive reportage to domestic violence stories.

5.3 Recommendations

In light of the findings of this research, the researcher recommends the following;

1. The media should stop playing neutral and indifferent in their reports on domestic violence; they should vehemently condemn the act through their content and language. The language choice that is adopted by the media should be one that calls out domestic violence for what it are, placing the blame where it belongs.
2. Domestic violence should be made a topic of relevance by ensuring the stories make it to either the front, back page or centre spread, this will make the audience attach importance to this social issue. Moreover, if these stories are relegated to the inside pages alone the chances of readers accessing these stories will be minimal, because most people glance through the pages of the newspaper paying attention to the stories found on the front page.
3. It is absurd that the social media report all the domestic abuse recorded in Nigeria but the print media have little or no story each year to report. The traditional media should be at alert and ensure stories on domestic violence are given holistic coverage and sufficient page allotment, so as to ensure that the stories are well detailed, narrated and adequately analyzed.

4. Reports on domestic violence should not be straight news only. This is because news are usually short and straight to the point but feature, editorial, opinion article etc., deal with its subject in greater depth and length, and are often written in an inventive and compelling manner. Thus, Nigerian newspapers should put this into serious consideration, and produce reports that will benefit the public.
5. These newspapers should employ other frames like consequences and responsibility frames, making the readers feel emphatic about the situation and suffering of the victims are not just enough. Emphasizing also on the cause, effect, management and prevention of domestic violence, will help the general public to better assimilate the experiences of the victims on the issue.

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APPENDIXI: CODE SHEET

S/I.D	UNIT OF ANALYSIS	ATTRIBUTES	CODE
A	MEDIA	<i>Daily Sun</i>	01
		<i>The Guardian</i>	02
		<i>Vanguard</i>	03
B	PAGE PLACEMENT (PROMINENCE)	Front page	01
		Back page	02
		Centre spread	03
		Inside page	04
C	DEPTH OF COVERAGE	Full page	01
		Half page	02
		Quarter page	03
		Below quarter page	04
D	STORY SOURCE	Government	01
		Police	02
		Victims	03
		Perpetrators	04
		Victim's families and friends	05

		Community members	06
		NGOs	07
		Court	08
		Unspecified sources	09
E	STORY GENRE	News	01
		Features	02
		Editorials	03
		Letter-to-the-Editor	04
		Opinion Articles	05
F	FRAMES	Human interest frame	01
		Responsibility frame	02
		Morality frame	03
		Consequences frame	04
		Conflict frame	05
G	DIRECTION OF REPORTAGE	Positive	01
		Negative	02
		Neutral	03

APPENDIX II: COPIES OF THE ANALYZED NEWSPAPERS

Some copies of the three selected Newspapers; *Daily Sun*, *The Guardian* and *Vanguard* newspapers will be made available in this section, for reference purposes.