

**INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF
INNOVATIVE RESEARCH AND KNOWLEDGE**

ISSN-2213-1356

www.ijirk.com

**POLITICAL VIOLENCE, WAR & GENDER IMPLICATION
FOR COUNSELLING****OGHIAGBEPHAN, A.D (Ph.D)**

(MCASSON, MNSEPN, MISPN, MASSE)

SENIOR LECTURER, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL PSYCHOLOGY,
COLLEGE OF EDUCATION, WARRI, DELTA STATE, NIGERIA**OGHIAGBEPHAN DIANA (MRS.)**CHIEF MATRON (SPECIAL GRADE) PSYCHIATRIC UNIT
CENTRAL HOSPITAL, WARRI, DELTA STATE, NIGERIA**Abstract**

This paper discussed political violence, war and gender discrimination proffering some solution through counselling implications. The trend in practice allows cultural orientations, place women in advantageous position in politics thereby marginalizing them without recourse to justice. This study investigated the responses of counselling and nursing students from two institutions. The study adopted the descriptive survey design and use a questionnaire for collecting data. Three hypotheses were raised and the chi-square analytical tool was use for data analysis. The finding in hypothesis one reveal cal.t (2.11) higher than the crit.t (1.86) to reject the hypothesis. The second hypothesis was accepted having found calc.t (0.47) lesser than crit.t (1.86) at 0.05 alpha level, the hypothesis was upheld having shown significance. Based on the findings, it was concluded that violence of all forms either, political or domestic against women is inimical to model behaviour, hence proper counselling training of political actors against violence in politics, war and gender discrimination should be emphasize in order to enjoy the gains of democratic consolidation. It was also recommended among others, that resident counsellors in various institutions and communities should set up counselling clubs and small groups as this will promote and create aware of the counselling practice.

Keywords: Political Violence, War, Gender and Discrimination.

Introduction

The account of violence, war and gender narrations in developing countries and violence prone regions of the world had women and children as the most affected by disease, poverty, natural and man-made disasters and wars. Violence is a conscious act or behaviour that intend to hurt or kill arising from competition and struggles over values and claims to scarce resources, (Osaghae, 2001).

This perception of violence has been the colouration behind Nigeria political elections since independence. It is regularly characterized by struggles and competitions which arises from pursuit of divergent interest, goals and aspirations either among individuals or ethnicities, in a defined social and physical environment. Gender, though possess ascribed distinctions by nature for both males and females, it varies in application among cultures, religions and civilizations. Roles such as sex determination are masculine, while prenatal peri-natal and early infancy care are mainly feminine. (Okobia, 2004). This distinction domesticated women and overtime provided outstanding maturity when given the proper training, which some have displayed in diverse public services. Post humus are Margareth Thatcher of England, Prof. Dora Akunyili while contemporary is serving prime minister Theresa May, former minister Okonjo Iweala, Elen Johnson Sir Leave of Liberia first female Prof. of mathematics and former vice chancellor, university Benin, Grace Alele Williams, the list is inexhaustive. The prevalence of such application had imposed restrictions which had denied women a place of pride till recent times. The previous political administration of the federal government championed thirty-five percent (35%) women affirmation at the federal cabinet (national government) if elected for a second term. This was to enable more women take up appointment and elective roles in governance. By this approach, the powers of the state would have change the narratives over the distribution of rights beyond gender disparities. If the beneficiaries of the subsisting political settlement are not willing to subscribe to such substantive restructuring of the social arrangement, the only non-violent instrument for sustaining their advantage is corruption, (Johnson, 2013). The alternative to peace is chaos, violence upheavals, instability and in extreme cases war. Adesina (2010) emphasized that, the non-recognition and inability of people to maintain peace values means the occurrence and re-occurrence of rancours, political violence, economic related offences, acrimonies, massacre and frustrations which could marr a nation's existence and threaten her stability. Political violence discuss on the basis of institution, ideas and individual motives, arises from a gap between public expectation and state actors in which violent act such as genocide, war crimes and torture are perpetrated. It may occur as a result of feeling of injustice or humiliation. In general definition according to Wang (2007) political violence is a violence outside state control that is politically motivated in order to achieve a collective political struggle using such things as strikes, riots, revolution and war. In line with such development, the federal government has through different avenues sought to establish closer cultural, social, religious and linguistic integration among the people so as to recreate the long-eluded unity in the country.

Violent cases in Nigeria became sore or took a different dimension over the continuous herder/farmers clashes which had left heavy hearts in the minds of citizens with no end in sight. The growing formations of internally displaced person (IDP) camps is alarming, leading women (mostly mothers) and their children in constant depending on alms for daily survival.

This situation had repeatedly affected beloved one, and good spirited groups in the quest to providing psychological support to victims of political violence and war of which mainly were women and children. Such situations are very fatal to human progress and development. November, 25 every year is recognized as the

international day for the elimination of violence against women. This day was recognized by the General Assembly of the United Nations in 1999 with a view to raising public awareness of violations of the rights of women. In the web of such negligence in human civilization, discrimination still exist in many forms on the basis of race, creed, colour, culture and most embarrassing sex and gender. This occurs despite possession of common history and experience yet differ in the appropriation of public goods and services. According to Bachet quoted by Matthew (2017) the demographic data on world average of participation in politics is 21.8 percent in 2014, such percentage will be far less in demography in political contestation in Nigeria. As, always this reveal the low monumental achievements made by women in the historical discuss of national development in Nigeria. This reveal under representation as voters, in elected office, civil service, the private sector or academia (UN women, 2012). Though, the gap of inequalities in such work places seem to be narrowing but on the political scene, it gets unimaginably wider and is still persisting.

To promulgate the tact in feminism UNESCO (2002) noted that, women education and subsequent encouraging their participation in the political activity of a society will increase the amount of vibrancy of such society. This apt in women will be of immense contribution to the democratic consolidation of the Nigerian young democracy (Fovie, 2014). The disadvantageous position of women calls for a societal transformation of inequality and stratification to allow women partake in meaningful ventures of the society such transformation should be geared toward educational reformation through allocation of slots and equal participation in politics as measures to rectify the negative course of history and in subordination on the female gender. Hence, the emphasis in this study is to promote equity in gender through proper counselling against political barriers and discriminations. This inturn will reduce political violence in order for humanity to benefit maximally on the enormous potentialities in equal gender roles in public service.

Statement of Problem

Political violence and prejudice against women has caused monumental loss of life and properties to humanity in particular. This is a global phenomenon which takes place in all societies and cultures. It affects women no matter their race, ethnicity, social origin, birth or status and had become the most pervasive human rights challenge. The negative effect associated therein is the kind of upbringing giving to children raised by such women. Their state of mind and how it affects their psychic or mental (reasoning) abilities this possess some implications. This influence on social behaviour raging from aggression/violence and trauma as children grow.

The generation of young people today, in most cases undermine self-control which is a vital social tool upon which morality is built failure of democratic actors to consolidate or harness such energy had prepared as agents for propagating political violence. Zunker (2006) postulated that the model life role of women in politics, is all embarrassing as it is of a home maker. Women by their nature get involved in multiple roles as the job may be and are able to manage the pressure as it affects emotions and cognition in a good spirit. Amidst this bravery, their involvement in politics /public office is still grossly limited and at the whims and caprices of dominance by their male counterpart. It is on this note that the study is carried out to examine the perception of counselling and nursing students in relation to political violence. To determine the attitude of victims (women) of war and gender violation in child upbringing and proffer appropriate counselling interventions.

Significance of the Study

The research effort will be of immense significance to promoting use of counselling in advocating equity to gender in politics and public life. It is hoped that school head will seize the opportunity to advocate more female enrolment in both internal and external in post primary and tertiary institutions across Delta State and the nation

in general. The presence of more women in paid work force has not meet the quota needed to bridge the gap. Woman force to push for a non-political violence and gender discrimination laws in Nigeria. The clarion call here is to all men of goodwill to champion the struggle and be on the part just promotion. The finding in this study will help leaders, school leaks and those in government circle of administration, educational/counselling psychologists to know the implication of promoting a gender no sensitive society.

Scope of the Study

The scope of this study consists of two tertiary institution namely; College of Education Warri and Delta State school of nursing, Warri. It is aimed at investigating the psychological experiences of students and mothers who were exposed to political violence and gender discrimination in the metropoly Warri metropoly been a city that had experienced political violence in time past pose a fresh reflect of the incident on its residence hence, the study.

Methodology

The research design adopted for this study was the descriptive survey in which questionnaires were employed in collecting data from one hundred and fifty purposively sampled respondents. The respondents were counselling, nursing students of higher institutions of learning in Warri metropoly. A twenty item likert scale questionnaire was designed for the study. To establish the reliability index of the instrument, the test- re-test method was adopted and data obtained were correlated. The coefficient of 0.71 was obtained and was considered appropriate for the study. The data generated from the study were analysed using chi- square data analysis to determine the level of acceptance or rejection of the hypotheses earlier formulated.

Results: The results are presented in tables in response to the earlier formulated hypotheses.

Hyp 1: There is no significant difference on the perception of counselling students to that of nursing students on political violence in Warri metropoly.

Table 1: Analysis of respondents on the perception of students on political violence in Warri metropoly (p<0.05)

Variables	N	Mean (x)	S.D	Df	Calc, t	Cri. T	Remarked
Counselling	75	29.4	5.10	148	2.11	1.86	Rejected
Nursing students	75	23.9	4.02				

The analysis in table one revealed a significant difference existed on the perception of students on the causes of political violence in Warri metropoly. This was reflected on the calculated table value of 2.11 which is higher than 1.86 at 0.05 alpha level of significance which led to the rejection of the hypothesis.

Hyp 2; There is no significant difference in attitude of women victims of war and gender violations against non-experience mothers.

Table 2: Analysis of responses on the attitude of women toward war and gender violations. ($P < 0.05$).

Variables	N	Mean (x)	S.D	Df	Calc, t	Cri. T	Remarked
Women with victimization experience	75	41.2	7.31				
Women without victimization	75	39.8	6.98	148	0.47	1.86	Accepted

Table two shows there was no significant difference in the attitude of women victims of war and gender violations in rights against non-experienced mothers. The calc.t value (0.47) was therefore, the hypothesis was accepted indicating the respondents were not significant in this response.

Hyp. 3: There is no significant difference in behaviour among children raised by women who experience political violence and children of non-existence mothers.

Table 3: Analysis of responses on the behaviour of ahildren from mothers with political and gender violence

Variables	N	Mean (x)	S.D	Df	Calc, t	Cri. T	Remarked
Behaviour of children from mother with experience	75	37.8	8.17				
Behaviour of children from mothers without experience	75	33.6	5.01	148	1.97	1.86	Rejected

Table three shows there were significant differences on the behaviour of children from mothers who experienced political violence against those without such experiences. The calculated chi-square value of 1.97 was found higher than the critical value of 1.86 at 0.05 alpha level. This is respondents indicated delinquencies, aggressiveness lying and other anti-social behaviours among victimized mothers. This indication reflects the multiferous effect which political violence, war and gender infeict on individual members of the society. Hence, the mitigation effect should include equity in public leadership without bias on stereotype.

Discussion

The finding in the study revealed the many negative effects associated with political violence, war and gender discrimination in the society. This lays credence to the finding in table one in which perception of respondents on political violence was analysed. It provided calc, t (2.11) which is above the critical t. (1.86) and led to the rejection of the aftermath impact of political violence on the mind of both victims and nonvictims. This may result from the indirect members of the society. Table two revealed the analysis of responses on the attitude of women victims of war and discrimination against gender in politics and those without such experiences. The calc.t (0.47) was less than the crit.t (1.86) at 0.05 alpha level. This showed significance, thus indicating a total attitudinal change among women and the negative conduct displayed especially those assigned to public office.

This according to Achigbe, (2017) agitates the United Nation Women Fund for Gender Equality (2011) to request for the removal of legal structures that impede on the rights of women to participate in active politics. The agitation centered on developing adequate capacity to vie for elective offices or found eminently qualified for appointment. Table three as well as revealed analysis of behaviour of children raised by victimized mothers and those without. The calc.t (1.97) was found higher than the crit.t (1.86) hence, the hypothesis was rejected on the premise that children of victimized mothers display high sense of delinquencies, aggressiveness, lying among other anti-social behaviours not fit for the society.

This call for collective end to political violence among political elites, in our quest to building a virile society. It also promotes the agitation of gender equality both in politics, social, religious and economic life of the society.

Implication for Counselling

The discipline of counselling is a professional calling that directs, define, explore and discover resourcefulness in individuals with zero tolerance on gender. As a helping institution, it helps in behaviour modification which allow professional to be creative in nature and help their client(s) to become selfactualized. This placement role of the counsellor is deeply need to help the continuous propagation of mainstreaming gender in politics, economy and appointment positions. This can be done by organizing seminars, conferences, workshops, orientation training among others. This will provide avenue to take a large group of people not only in resolving political violence but all forms of violence that undermine gender stereotype. As well reducing verbal, psychological, emotional or financial controlling behaviours which are abusive and in human in nature. Psycho-analytic experts will also help children of women who suffer political violence and gender discrimination to provide remedial attention inorder to model positive behaviours.

Conclusion

Violence of all forms either, political, domestic or any sort against women is inimical to model behaviour. The prudence of counselling profession through proper counselling training of political actors against violence in politics, war, and gender discrimination will be a stand point in promoting democratic consolidations. This will allow the nation to harness inherent benefits that will come with mainstreaming gender discrimination.

Recommendations

Following the findings of this research effort the following recommendations are outlined;

- That an act of the law should be promulgated to provide equal opportunity for gender in the political contestation and appointments.
- Stringent disciplines should be melted on propagators of political violence as its triviality may cause the upbringing of psychologically traumatized members of the society.
- Resident counsellors in various institutions, communities and schools should set up counselling clubs and small groups as this will promote counselling practice.
- Women should be made to undergo family life education and effective parenting to promote the training of socially well behave children.

References

- Achigbe, M.O. (2017). Discrimination Against Women Rights to Education. *The counsellor*, vol.36, 2017.
- Adesina, A.D.O. (2010). "Peace Dilemma in Nigeria: A Case for *Peace Education Programme for Elementary School*", Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.
- Fovie, B.O. (2014). Women Education and Democratic Consolidation in Nigeria. *Academic Scholarship Journal*, vol. 9, December 2014.
- Johnson, E.E. (2013). Politics, corruption and under-development. The Nigeria paradox. *Journal of socio - political conflicts and challenges of democratic consolidation in Nigeria*. John Archers publishers limited, Ibadan.
- Matthew, O.A. (2017). Discrimination against women in politics. *The counsellor*. Vol. 36 (www.cassonnigeria.org).
- Osaghae, E.E. (2001). Ethnic groups and conflicts in Nigeria. Ibadan Universty Press.
- Okobia, D.O. (2004). "Essentials of Human Growth and Development". End-Time publishing limited, Ibadan, Nigeria.
- United Nation (2015). Women's Leaderships and Political Participation. UN, women fund for gender equality.
- UNESCO (2002). Women and Management in Higher Education: A good practice handhood, Paris: UNESCO.
- Wang, C.S. (2007). Dilema of Electoral Clientelism, Taiwan, 1993. *International political review*.
- Zunker, V.G. (2006). Career Counselling: A Historic Approach. Canada. Thomson Brook/Cole.