



**Dissertation**

**By**

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**NIGERIA OF NIGERIA NSUKKA.**

**Economics of cocoyam production by small-holder farmers in ihite/uboma local Socialization, Social class and Marital Violence: a Study of Wife Abuse in Nsukka**

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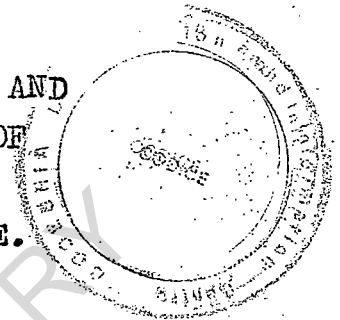
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T O P I C : SOCIALIZATION, SOCIAL CLASS AND  
MARITAL VIOLENCE : A STUDY OF  
WIFE ABUSE IN NSUKKA LOCAL  
GOVERNMENT AREA, ENUGU STATE.



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The above student has satisfactorily completed the Degree of Master's in Social Work and Community Development. The work embodied in this project is original and has not been submitted in part or full for any diploma or degree of this or other university.

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S U P E R V I S O R

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H E A D O F D E P A R T M E N T

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D E A N O F F A C U L T Y .

DEDICATION :

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My wife, Anaka, is closely associated with this project. Her support was invaluable. To my field assistants who helped in gathering the data. I say thank you.

P.C. Ezeah.  
Nsukka, 1993.

A B S T R A C T:

There is a growing increase in family violence in Nigeria, and in particular incidence of wife abuse. Yet, the Nigerian society has not developed serious concern to the plight of women who are abused by their spouses. The Federal, State and Local governments do not channel enough resources and efforts to alleviate the problem. Because of the rise in wife abuse cases and the lack of public interest, it is important to arouse public interest on the matter by collecting and disseminating information on the nature, causes and effects of wife abuse, and to determine what can be done by the government, professional social workers, and the general public to check the incidence. Such is the goal of the present study.

The study was based on a sample survey of 580 married men and women out of some 1,316 cases of wife abuse reported to the Nsukka Local government Social Welfare agency between 1985 and 1991. The instrument comprised of both the structured questionnaire and the interview schedule aimed at finding: (i) whether family violence is a behaviour learned in the family and transmitted across generations, and (ii) the relationship

between social class and wife abuse using Nsukka Local government as a case study.

The data collected were analysed using percentages while the hypotheses were tested using the chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistic. The findings show that men that belong to lower social class abuse their wives more than those in the upper class. It was also found that majority of the men (80%) that grew up in violent homes in turn become abusive husbands.

Finally, the study noted that the services received by abused women and their abusers in the social welfare agency are not sufficient in alleviating their problems, and made some recommendations on how to remedy that.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	<u>Page</u>
Approval Page.....	i
Dedication.....	ii
Acknowledgement.....	iii
Abstract.....	iv
Table of Contents.....	vi
List of Tables.....	viii
 CHAPTER ONE	
1.1 INTRODUCTION.....	1
1.2 Statement of problem.....	5
1.3 Research questions.....	8
1.4 Objective of study.....	8
1.5 Significance of study.....	9
1.6 Scope of study.....	10
1.7 Definition of terms.....	11
1.8 Limitations of study.....	14
 CHAPTER TWO	
LITERATURE REVIEW.....	15
2.1 Wife abuse in Nigeria.....	15
2.2 Theories of causation of wife abuse.....	17
2.3 Characteristics of abused women and their batterers.....	25
2.4 The wife abuse syndromes.....	26
2.5 Social Work practical effect on wife abuse..	32
2.6 Theoretical framework.....	35
2.7 Hypotheses.....	42



## CHAPTER THREE

3.1	RESEARCH METHODOLOGY.....	43
3.2	Study population.....	44
3.3	Sampling method.....	45
3.4	Sample size.....	45
3.5	Instrument of data collection.....	46
3.6	Data collection process.....	48
3.7	Methods of data analysis.....	48

## CHAPTER FOUR

	PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA.....	50
4.1	Introduction.....	50
4.2	Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents.....	50
4.3	Substantive Issues of the research.....	57
4.4	Test of hypotheses.....	78
4.5	Analysis of interview schedule.....	81

## CHAPTER FIVE

	SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION.....	84
5.1	Summary.....	84
5.2	Conclusion.....	85
5.3	Recommendations.....	87
5.4	Recommendation for further research.....	89

	BIBLIOGRAPHY.....	90
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APPENDIX(1):	Questionnaire for women
APPENDIX(2):	Questionnaire for men
APPENDIX(3):	Interview schedule for men
APPENDIX(4):	Interview schedule for women.

LIST OF TABLES

<u>TABLE:</u>	<u>Page</u>
1. The four abuse syndromes.....	31
2. Population of registered cases of wife abuse in Nsukka Social Welfare Agency 1985-1991.....	44
3. Sample size.....	46
4. Distribution of respondents by age.....	50
5. Distribution of respondents by marital status.....	51
6. Educational attainment of respondents.....	52
7. Distribution of respondents by religion.....	53
8. Number of children possessed by respondents.	54
9. Distribution of the respondents by annual income.....	55
10. Distribution of the respondents by occupation.....	56
11. Nature of physical abuse on women.....	58
12. Female respondents on why men abuse their wives.....	59
13. Male respondents on why they abuse their wives.....	60
14. Severity of abuse of women.....	61
15. Frequency of abuse by men .....	62
16. Education and Income levels of the men.....	63
17. Economic conditions of the men and wife abuse.....	65
18. Exposure of men to violence in their family of origin.....	68
19. Female Respondents on the existence of violence in the homes of their husbands.....	69

TABLEPage.

20.	Action taken by abused women to salvage their situation.....	70
21.	Services received by abused women in the social welfare agency.....	72
22.	Perception of the women on the services they received in the Social Welfare Agency..	73
23.	Perception of men on the services they received in the social welfare agency.....	74
24.	Factors that militate against the social welfare agency from handling cases of wife abuse adequately.....	75
25.	Wife abuse and violence in the home of abusive husbands.....	79
26.	Perception of the respondents on the services they received in the Social welfare agency.....	80

CHAPTER ONE:

## 1.1

INTRODUCTION

Violence occurs within an interactional framework of superordinate and subordinate relationships that tie husbands, wives and children into the domestic establishment called the home. According to Denzin (1984:486), this interactional order mirrors and reflects the economic, cultural, social, and ideological contradictions and tensions of the broader society. The cultural, social and economic factors may place the male in the dominant authority position in this structure, transforming him into the master of the home and his spouse a servant - mistress. When the understandings that underlie this interactional order are broken, violence is produced.

Margaret Elbow (1977:515) opined that violent marriages are characterized by rigid role expectations, poor communications, pattern, isolation, an inability to accept responsibility for one's own thoughts, feelings and actions. In such families, love means possession of ego fusion. Disagreement is equated with hostility, discipline is interpreted to mean the right to control by force. The idea of negotiation is rejected as loss of authority or giving in. Needs and wants

are viewed as unwarranted demands, and expression of feelings signifies weakness; loss of control and ultimately violence.

Some individuals living in violent homes are caught in a trap of terror and misery. The victims, usually women, do not express their problems unless they are asked about it in an emphatic manner. At first the victim maybe shy and suffused with feelings of guilt. She fears that people will not believe her story or that her husband may beat her if she talks. Even if she acknowledges that she has been abused, she may not know how to act and what steps to take. Often financial dependence is her biggest problem.

Etiological factors of marital violence include general sociocultural pressures such as poverty, stereotyped sexual role socialization, alcohol and drug abuse etc. Abused women experience strangulations, punches on the face, the stomach and the breast, bone injuries of all sorts and other bizzarre attacks from their spouses.

Given this scenario, there is the need to properly understand and discuss the factors that predispose men to physically abuse their wives. Also, there is the need to identify relevant social work services to help improve the situation of abused women in Nsukka Local government

area as well as in other parts of Nigeria.

## 1.2 STATEMENT OF PROBLEM:

In Nigeria, there has been a growing problem for social workers in most social welfare agencies to articulate programmes that can effectively salvage abused women or to improve their situation. This problem has continued to linger, and has been aggravated because social workers have not been able to develop new methods of helping violent couples to reduce or eradicate their violent tendencies.

In some cases, the services rendered by social workers to violent couples remain vague because the genesis of the problems leading to violence are not properly understood and analysed.

The intensification of the problems of wife abuse resulting from a shallow knowledge of the subject matter and hence lack of relevant interventive techniques by social workers, precipitated the decision of the researcher, as a practising social worker, to set out for a research study of understanding what is wife abuse and what social workers can do to help abused women improve their situation.

The research into this problem was motivated by the feeling that more effective services to alleviate the

suffering of women who are constantly physically abused by their husbands have to be developed in this modern period in Nigeria. Time has gone when the effectiveness of social services rendered to clients by social workers was taken for granted, it has to be demonstrated, researched and proved. Thus, the persistence of the following questions when one witnesses the kind of inhuman treatments violent husbands mete out on their spouses by way of physical abuse had been agitating the mind of the researcher thus:

- (a) What is wife abuse? What class of men abuse their wives more in society?
- (b) What actually breaks the bond of love between a husband and wife that can escalate to open physical abuse?
- (c) What can social workers do to help salvage abused women and their husbands?

To answer these questions, the study focused on the understanding of the concept of wife abuse and the identification of case work programmes to help abused women and their husbands.

There are two contemporary explanations to wife abuse according to Petersen (1980:390). One cites the sexist structure and tradition of some society which awards a husband ownership of and submissions from a wife as the

cause of wife abuse. The norms and values in such societies as in Nigeria, define women as unequal and subordinate to men. The second theory looks at the economic structure in these societies as limiting the opportunities of women towards self-sustenance.

In contrast to this theory of the sexist structure of society is the explanation proposed by Richard Gelles (1981:50). Gelles argues that family violence is a response to the stress that originates in the social structure of societies. Stress such as unemployment, poverty, and unfulfilled social roles. These lead to individual frustration and consequently violence. He submitted that because structural stress affects the lower class to a disproportionate extent, family violence will occur there to a disproportionate extent. Gelles, therefore, proposed two preconditions for family violence - structural stress and a socialization experience that teaches the individual that violence is an appropriate response to stress. This socialization/social structural theory of wife abuse proposed by Gelles has never been subjected to empirical study, using the social cultural background of Nigeria. This is the reason behind this research endeavour.

On the other hand, Olshanky (1962:189) and Wallace (1972:312) carried out studies of violent couples in



England and came out with the result that violence was more among the lower classes of English couples: than the higher classes. Wallace confirmed that the rate of secretion of the hormone called corticosteroid which determines the level of a person's reaction to stress and violence differed between the higher and lower classes. According to him, couples studied among the high class families had moderate secretion of corticosteroid hormones, and were better relaxed to cope with stress. For the lower classes according to him, they experienced hyper secretion of corticosteroid hormones, which contributed to their increased aggressive tendencies. They reacted violently to any stress. This was the stage Wallace emphasised that a couple could mistakenly harm one another only to regret their action when the level of corticosteroid is lowered.

Again, Willard (1982:37), observed that physical violence was seen among people of all ages, socioeconomic and educational levels in America. He however, identified wife beating to be more among the lower socio economic level of society because of the "culture of poverty". He concluded that lower socioeconomic groups were noted for using yelling, screaming, intimidation and physical

violence on all family interactions requiring finance

In Nigeria according to Enwereji (1989), wife beating is common as a result of the tradition which awards a husband the implicit control and submission from a wife. A man can physically abuse his wife on a very slight provocation.

In Nsukka Local government area, marital violence is a frequent occurrence. Case records available in the Social Welfare Agency Nsukka indicate that between 1985 and 1991, a total of 3,290 marital cases were reported, of this figure, 1,316 or (40%) were cases of spouse abuse.

In 1991 alone, of the 511 marital cases recorded in the Agency, 235 or (46%) were based on wife abuse. However, only  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the 1,316 cases of wife abuse recorded in the Agency between 1985 and 1991 or about 435 cases were successfully handled while the rest are pending.

Using the above statistics, the specific focus of this study becomes apparent. The causes of wife abuse, and the relationship between socialization, social class and wife abuse in Nsukka Local government area, as well as relevant social work programmes to help abused women will be provided by this study.

### 1.3 RESEARCH QUESTIONS

To further articulate the research problem, the following questions come to mind.

- (1) What is the nature of wife abuse in Nsukka Local government area?
- (2) What class of men abuse their wives in Nsukka Local government area?
- (3) What are the reasons for the abuse? Is it a learned behaviour? Is it due to frustration resulting from economic or social problems facing married men?
- (4) Do women who are abused by their spouses report their experiences to the appropriate quarters for help?
- (5) What forms of social work intervention are there to assist abused women as well as their spouses in the social welfare agency?

### 1.4 OBJECTIVE OF STUDY

This work is intended to make a comprehensive examination of the subject matter of wife abuse from a variety of point of views. It has five main objectives:

- (i) to give an indication of what is known of wife abuse, and to put this knowledge in a social work perspective;
- (ii) to investigate whether or not wife abuse is

a behaviour learned from childhood; (iii) to determine the relationship between wife abuse and social class in Nsukka Local government area; (iv) to consider appropriate intervention programmes to help victims of wife abuse based on the predominant causes of abuse in Nsukka Local government area; (v) to contribute to a long-term process of education for both social workers and other relevant professionals.

#### 1.5 SIGNIFICANCE OF STUDY

This work is intended to be of both theoretical and practical significance.

Theoretically, the work tends to investigate some of the existing theories of wife abuse, as well as the verification of existing theories in Nigeria. Thus, the study shall serve as a reference point for future research endeavours on the subject. Also, the research has the potentials of enriching the existing literature on the subject of wife abuse.

The practical significance of the study is the deviation from merely discussing the theoretical causes of wife abuse <sup>to</sup> ~~concrete~~ recommendations of social work interventions to help abused women and also treat their abusive husbands. Also the research will be of practical relevance to the

current Family Support Programme (FSP) in Nigeria which focuses on the family as an agent of socioeconomic change in society.

#### 1.6 SCOPE OF STUDY:

The study is located in Nsukka Local government area. Nsukka local government area is made up of sixteen communities namely:- Alor-Uno, Anuka, Edem, Ede-Oballa, Eha-Alumona, Eha-Ndiagu, Ibagwa-Agu, Ibagwa-Ani, Iejja, Nsukka urban, Obimo, Obukpa, Okpaligbo, Okpuje, Okutu, and Opi

The five communities selected for the study are Alor-Uno, Iejja, Nsukka urban town, Obukpa, and Okpuje. They were selected because they recorded the highest number of cases of wife abuse as contained in the records of the Nsukka Social Welfare Agency between 1985 and 1991. The respondents for the study are drawn from the five communities. The respondents are married men and women whose case of wife abuse are recorded in the Social Welfare Agency Nsukka.

## 1.7 DEFINITION OF TERMS:

1. The term "Spouse" is to be understood to mean a husband or wife.
2. "Wife" - This means a married woman
3. "Marital partner". This means either a spouse or a cohabitee.
4. The term "Spouse assault" is defined as the use of physical attack by one spouse or another such as slapping, pushing, kicking or throwing of an object with the intent to inflict bodily harm.
5. A "battered or abused wife" is defined as any woman who has received deliberate severe and repeated demonstrable physical injury from her marital partner. The term 'demonstrable' physical injury' is limited to abused women who have been physically assaulted. This does not mean that psychological cruelty is considered of no consequences. But for the purpose of this study, wife abuse is limited to physical violence only.
6. "Violence" is one part of the broad term abuse. Violence specially refers to the use of physical force by one spouse on another.
7. The term "family violence" means the threat or actual use of force or physical force between members of a nuclear family.

8. By Social class we mean social groupings measured by a person's annual income, education, employment condition or occupation. In this study, emphasis is on the social class of the man rather than the woman because it is his social class that determines the abuse on the woman.

9. "Upper class", These are individuals in society who are highly placed in relation to either material wealth or income, education and enhanced social status. For the purpose of this study, "upper class" family means a family in which the husband earning about ₦15,000.00 and above per annum, and having attained post secondary education and hold a minimum of first degree or its equivalent. They are engaged in management, professional and allied jobs.

10. "Middle class" These are individuals that earn between ₦2,000.00 and ₦14,000.00 per annum, and attained Secondary School education and hold the Senior Secondary School Certificate or its equivalent. They are engaged in clerical jobs and semi-skilled jobs. In this study however, the middle class of both the man and woman is not emphasised upon

11. "Lower Class", These are individuals who earn below ₦8,000.00 per annum. They are not formerly educated or attained not more than primary school education

and hold the First School Leaving Certificate.

They are engaged in unskilled or manual works or are not employed at all. Also, it is the lower class of the men that are of significance to this study.

12. "Socialization". This mean the process of internalization of norms, values, mores, and customs from a person's family of origin or parents. For this study, the term applies to those individuals whose parents have incidences of wife abuse which they have imbibed.

13. "Social work intervention". This implies the process of bringing changes in a deteriorating social situation and relationships. 'Case work intervention' is a human relation service given to social welfare clients.

It contains inter-personal interaction designed primarily to enhance or encourage and discover the objective ways or means of solving the problem successfully (Turner 1979:185). The social worker's task is to respond to the realities of the client by helping to control his situation so as to enable him work towards greater fulfilment of life objectives and goals.

14. "Sufficient Social service". This means the perception of the clients on how they were treated in the social



welfare agency which include: counselling, referral to either hospitals or police, provision of shelters or security etc.

### 1.8 LIMITATIONS OF STUDY

There were certain limitations to this study. One major limitation was the dearth of indigenous Nigerian literature on the subject of wife abuse. This affected the work as the researcher was forced to concentrate on foreign authors who had done some work on wife abuse and family violence.

Again, the conclusions drawn in this study relate only to the population of abused women and their abusive men surveyed. Thus, this population was not compared with the general population in the sampled communities for a balanced analysis. This was because of the inability of the researcher to obtain the general population of the sampled communities.

Finally, there was the initial problem of eliciting information from the respondents. This was however overcome because the researcher himself is a social worker in the social welfare agency and had had formal interactions with the respondents.

In spite of these limitations, the research was completed.

## CHAPTER TWO

### LITERATURE REVIEW

The literature will be reviewed under the following headings:

1. Wife abuse in Nigeria
2. Theories of the causation of wife abuse:
  - (a) Sociocultural theories
  - (b) Psychological theories
3. Characteristics of abused women and their batterers
4. The wife abuse syndromes
5. Social Work practical effect on wife abuse.

#### 2.1 WIFE ABUSE IN NIGERIA

In Nigeria, there is a dearth of indigenous work on spouse abuse. This posed some problems. However, available materials were reviewed.

Physical abuse of women in some Nigerian homes can be attributed to the tradition which awards a husband the implicit control and submission from a wife. According to Enwereji (1989), a man can inflict corporal punishment upon his wife for leaving the house without permission, keeping bad company, drinking alcohol and cooking bad food or cooking late.

In a workshop organised by the Legal Research and Resource Development Centre, Lagos on 15th February, 1992 on "Violence against Women", it was agreed that gender violence is common to both literate and illiterate Nigerians. The workshop also observed that violence against women though a universal phenomena, is of particular interest to the Nigerian women who have suffered centuries of untold violence from her male counterpart due to harsh cultural practices (Ifezulike, 1992:13).

The workshop also identified what constitutes violence to women in Nigeria, among which is rape, wife battering, forced early marriages, female child labour, and sexual harassment. Others include female circumcision, marital rape, and certain cultural attitudes and practices such as harassment and beating of women by masquerades during festival periods.

The workshop further agreed that men hide under the cloak of religion and culture to met out violence on women. They usually misinterpret the Bible and the Quoran to lend credence to their violent acts against women. For example, the workshop argued "the Biblical belief that the woman was created from the ribs of the man is an oppressive belief which has often led to wife beating".

## 2.2 THEORIES OF THE CAUSATION OF WIFE ABUSE

Numerous theories about the causes of wife abuse have been proposed by notable scholars. Some of theorists like (Flick, 1981) looked at the problem from historical roots; Patriarchal and culture (Dobash and Dobash, 1981), Sociological factors (Gelles, 1981), (Steinmetz 1981), (Straus 1981); Masochism and other intra psychic personality characteristics (Gayford, 1981), (Snell and Resenwald, 1981); (Starr, 1980), among others.

These theories were developed out of the different approaches, often reflecting the training and Socio-cultural background of their proponents in both Europe and America. For the purpose of this study the theories shall be grouped into two: (a) Sociocultural and (b) Psychological perspectives.

### (a) Sociocultural Theories of Wife Abuse

Straus (1981) was among the sociologists who wrote about the kind of sociocultural conditions that facilitate domestic violence. He saw sex-role stereotyping and sexism, as well as cultural acceptance of all violence in the name of discipline, as underlying factors. Because of the deeply embedded nature of domestic violence, Straus

called for a programme of primary prevention as an important step in the elimination of the problem.

Also, Nicholes (1979:27) contends that acquiescence in wife abuse may be historically rooted in the English Common Law which gave the husband a right to chastise his wife. Although such statuses are now obsolete, the fact is that many women are still being abused by their husbands. Nicholes further describes in detail how a patriarchal society generally affects women. Relative to abuse he says "emotional responses to violence against women in patriarchy is often curiously ambivalent, references to wife abuse for example invariably produces laughter and some embarrassment". Patriarchal social system such as in Nigeria are marked by supremacy of men and the legal dependence of wives and children.

Sociologists have tried to look at several other theories besides the cultural legitimization of violence in the family. The whole body of literature which analyses the use and abuse of power has had interesting application to the understanding of power dynamics between violent spouses (Stahly, 1981). Arguments have also been put forth by Walker (1981), that men who beat their

wives have fewer resources than their women, and so ruling by physical strength allows them to balance power. The limited resources attributed to men include poor verbal skill less education, lower income, greater stress, and more sexual dysfunctions. But this theory has placed a derogatory status on men, implying that they do not have adequate behavioural controls when adverse social conditions occur.

Functionalists models also predict that there should be a high incidence of violence where the husband is in less well rewarded job. The man's inability to achieve the conventional goals in society and to perform his role of breadwinner may lead to frustration and hence aggression, compulsive masculinity, criticism from the wife, all of which may result into violence (Martin, 1979:110).

A systems approach to the subject of violence in the family on the other hand holds that violence is learned and reinforced in children through example in the family and the mass media. According to Henry (1979) when the child grows up and encounters frustrating contexts in adult life, particularly in marriage, he will tend to use the violent behaviour he has learned as a solution, and use it on his own wife and children who he has learned are victims.

According to Gelles (1981), the home is seen as a general institution in society unusually prone to induce stress and violence. The family demands a highly diffused and enduring commitment from which it is difficult to opt out. Family members meet frequently in close interaction, and issues are raised which may not necessarily be resolved to everyone's satisfaction, and hence conflict is bound to arise.

(b) Psychological Theories of Wife Abuse

The earliest studies on domestic violence were concerned with the strength of the bonding between the men and the women involved. After observing that women repeatedly returned to abusive husbands, only to receive more violence, psychologists concluded that there must be a flaw in these women's personality development. Because of the intense sexuality often seen in these couples and the continued presence of the feeling of love (in addition to other feelings) these women were labelled "masochistic". Deutsch (1964:20) describes the instinctual development of the female personality as a biological process, essentially unaffected by social pressures and complementing the same course in most cultures.

Deutsch identified female masochism as the personality type pertinent to the discussion of wife abuse. This is

the type of woman who seeks, or accepts punishment or suffering as a condition for love.

Deutsch further argued that some social workers believe that the woman who is abused "asked for it". Others according to her are self conscious and defensive and afraid of being judged as being allied with feminism. The result is that case workers' feelings of anger and frustration are often silenced, and the client's experience played down in such a way as to alter reality. This, in turn serves to reinforce the client's task of self esteem and supports the system in which the violent behaviour is occurring. Perhaps the inability of social workers to recognise and therefore effectively treat wife abuse, accounts, to some degree the limited literature on the subject.

Florence Hollis, an extremely influential theorist promotes the orthodox Freudian view on the issue of female masochism. This view was summarized by Karen Horney (1973:15-17):-

The specific satisfaction sought and found in female sex life and motherhood are of a masochistic nature. It follows that if most women are masochistic in their attitude towards sex and reproduction, they would undubitably reveal masochistic trends in their own sexual attitudes towards life.



Such views militate against action aimed at either educating women against the acceptance of violence or removing them from it. The social worker is encouraged to see violence as inevitable and to believe that women who are abused may well subconsciously "provoke", "need", or even enjoy it (Deutsch 1964:20).

Some scholars blame marital violence on the woman. Snell (1981:25) make the sweeping statement that women who are abused are aggressive, effecient, masculine, and sexually frigid. The idea is very convinient as it allows the dismissal of cases, as described, with the widely inaccurate implication that women enjoy their beating.

It is hard to see how any human being can enjoy having her eyes blackened, her teeth or nose broken, and her ribs or abdomen kicked. In fact, Scott (1979:36) would argue that abused wives do not enjoy their suffering, in fact, very much <sup>the</sup> reverse. The term "masochistic" according to him is ever used and rarely applied to the fantasy concepts of assault and domination. The first taste of reality will kill the fantasy and all the supposed enjoyment.

Psychological theorists would believe that all acts of violence are due to frustration or provocation.

According to Dollard (1944:30), different levels of frustration could be tolerated by each man. This might vary from time to time and in different external and emotional circumstances. He opined that it would be possible to place men on a continuum from high frustration tolerance to low frustration tolerance. The men of low frustration tolerance are more likely to be provoked to violence in the marital relationship. Women could be placed on a scale according to their provocation level which again could vary according to external and emotional circumstances. There could be women of low to high provocation rate. If men with high frustration tolerance are paired with women of high provocation rate, violence is not likely to arise, but if women of high provocation rate are paired with men of low frustration tolerance, such a combination is likely to trigger off violence.

For Dollard (1944:32) closer examination of the man of low frustration tolerance and the woman of high provocation rate seems necessary. This type of man has an aggressive personality. which maybe marked in many ways.. It may give rise to many useful qualities, or simply result to be quickly gratified. Some of these men may have high sophisticated veneer, while others are cu

crude, some are useful citizens while others are idle layabouts.

Perhaps the most promising theories of wife abuse are those based on social learning, Walker (1981:49), submitted that the learned helplessness model is based on learning that the voluntary responses do not produce expected outcome, resulting in deficits in three domains: motivational, cognitive, and emotional domain.

Learned helplessness is a phenomenon observed by Seligman (1981:42) while studying the effects of relationship of fear to instrumental learning. He demonstrated when exposed to situations where there is independence between the organism's response and the reinforcement, the organism develops the expectation that its actions are efficacious in manipulating the environment. This helps feeling then, proactively interferes with productive behaviour in new situations.

This theory is <sup>of</sup> particular relevance to wife abuse and domestic violence in general. If women learn that they cannot control aversive outcomes, such as being beaten, yet also learn that they need a man to take care of them, helplessness and paralysis can result. During the sex-role socialization, some women may "learn" that they are subordinate to man. They also learn that their

identity will depend on their relationship with a male in marriage. Such women are thus conditioned to give up the power of being in charge of their own lives and become dependent on men.

### 2.3 CHARACTERISTICS OF ABUSED WOMEN AND THEIR BATTERERS

Walker (1981:52) identified ten characteristics of abused women and their men batterers as follows:-

<u>Abused Women</u>		<u>Abusers</u>
1. Low self esteem	1	Low self esteem
2. Believes all myths about abusive relationship	2	Believes all <del>myths</del> about abusive relationship.
3. Is a traditionalist in the home, strongly believing in family unity and the prescribed family- sex- stereotype	3	Is a traditionalist in the home strongly believing in male supremacy and the stereotypical masculine sex-role in the family.
4. Accepts responsibility for the abusers action	4.	Blames others for the action
5. Suffers from guilt yet denies the terror and anger she feels.	5.	Is pathologically jealous and instructive into his woman's life.
6. Presents a passive face to the world but has strength to manipulate her environment so she does not get killed	6.	Presents a dual personality
7. He has several stress reactions with psychological complaints	7.	Has several stress reactions during which he uses drinking and wife beating to cope.

<u>Abused Women</u>	<u>Abusers</u>
8. Uses sex as <sup>a</sup> way to establish intimacy	8. Uses sex as an act of aggression frequently to overcome impotence or bi-sexuality
9. Treated as "daddy's" little girl as a child	9. Suffered from child abuse or neglect as a child.
10. Believes no one will be able to help her resolve her predicament except herself.	10. Does not believe his violent behaviour should have negative consequence.

## 2.4 THE WIFE ABUSE SYNDROMES

Elbow (1977:545-526) documented four patterns of behaviour, personality and family relationship characteristics. The four behaviour patterns or syndromes are of help to professional social workers to tailor their intervention plans to meet the needs of couples. She also explained how anger, pain, or frustration become rage leading to violence is of primary concern in attempting to explain the abuse phenomenon. She therefore presented the following theoretical propositions to explain the wife abuse phenomenon:-

(1) The human being and the family are systems which attempt to maintain equilibrium or state of homeostasis, and develop (learn) coping mechanism to maintain the homeostasis.

2. Threats to homeostasis may be internal, external or both.
3. If the usual coping mechanism fail and tension is not relieved, it becomes progressively more difficult to maintain a sense of well being and control. As the individual finds it more difficult to control or discharge aggressive feelings, he is likely to experience ego rupture and become violent.
4. Violence arises from a sense of helplessness or powerlessness.

According to Elbow (1977:515-526), the categorization of abuses into four syndromes is based on the emotional need central to each syndrome. Homeostasis is maintained if the basic need is met. The syndromes are referred to as: CONTROLLER, DEFENDER, APPROVAL SEEKER, AND INCORPORATOR.

But before the discussion of the syndromes, the emotional needs sequel to homeostasis need to be highlighted. The emotional needs basic for the maintenance of homeostasis are: AUTONOMY, PROTECTION, CONFIRMATION, AND AFFIRMATION.

AUTONOMY: Controlling self by controlling others.  
The controller does not experience self control, he

depends upon stronger, external control which he reverses, and discounts as invalid. He constantly strives towards self control which to him means not allowing anyone or anything to stand on his way. Imposition of limits by others is not tolerated.

PROTECTION: Stricking before being attacked, In contrast to the controller, the defender has internalized controls in that he acknowledges that limits exist. If his desires come into conflict with internalized limits, he experiences harm. To fend off harm, he harms the person who symbolizes the threat to his well-being.

AFFIRMATION: Validating of being. The Incorporator has little, if any, sense of who he is. Therefore, he seeks validation by incorporating others into his personality. Whereas the Approval seeker looks at others to strengthen his sense of self worth, the Incorporator sees self in the behaviour of others; that is, a good wife makes a good husband.

#### THE FOUR ABUSE SYNDROMES:

THE CONTROLLER:- The controller gets his way by convincing others through his persuasive abilities, threats, or by use of force. The controller may be described as confident and in control of his emotions and situations confronting him. He is never to blame: and if he does not

succeed, he projects blame. Relationship lack emotional reciprocity. If other persons set limits, they are viewed as unfair demanding, and disloyal.

THE DEFENDER: The difference between the defender and the controller is the basic anxiety from which behaviour arises. The defender is not afraid of being harmed. To the defender, the mate is one both to guard against and to protect. The defender needs his mate to cling to him so that he can feel that he is strong. He is not interested in controlling but in rescuing and protecting. The wife of the defender symbolizes a person who assumed that he was aggressive and motivated by male violent forces.

THE APPROVAL SEEKER: The approval seeker has high expectation of himself. He is frequently viewed by others as an achiever, but he seldom feels satisfied with his accomplishments. He often experiences depression and is vulnerable to what he considers to be criticism. His self esteem is contingent upon the acceptance and approval of others and must be constantly reinforced.

Incidents of abuse, both verbal and physical are related to his feelings about himself. When his positive self image is reinforced or confirmed, he is less likely



to abuse because he feels acceptance by his mate.

On the other hand, when his esteem is low, he expects rejection reaction.

THE INCORPORATOR: The incorporator can also be considered as a stage at which ego rupture becomes imminent. Nonetheless, whether considered as a syndrome or a stage the individual should be considered potentially dangerous. Depression becomes the predominant feeling and may be manifested as clinging to the mate, public displays of anger, threats to kill, depression or expression of suicidal thoughts. Heavy use of alcohol or drugs may also occur. The depression stems from his need to incorporate the ego of another to experience self as a whole.

Children may also be extensions of the Incorporator's ego and consequently threats to his equilibrium. Frequently, the children are abused or neglected by him and the more his wife attempts to compensate for his hostility, the greater the threat of alienation. We cannot feel validated without his mate, and the depression increases. He over steps the bound of propriety and may batter or threaten his wife in the presence of family, friends, or in the public places.

Table 1: THE FOUR ABUSE SYNDROMES

Source: (Margaret Elbow 1977:515)

Basic Need (homeostasis met when need is fulfilled)	Significance of mate	Mate Symbolizes	Loss of mate means
A. Controller  Autonomy	Object of control	Parents who controlled  Parental message: Be controlled	Loss of control  (I cannot be in control unless I control you)  Experiences shame
B. Defender	Object to harm and be loved and/or forgiven	Seductive and hostile Parents who encouraged assertiveness but punished it  Parental message: You are assertive but don't be	Loss of protection and acceptance (I cannot be an asser- tive person without you)  Experiences guilt and anxiety
C. Approval Seeker  Confirmation/ Strengthen	Reinforcement for self image	Conditional love Parents  Parental message: I love you if ...	Loss of esteem  (I cannot be as I see myself unless you see me as I want to be seen)
DD. Incorporator  Affirmation/ Validate	Part of self	Parental love  Parental message: You are part of me so, I must love you	Loss of self  (I cannot be ie exist without you)  Experiences ali- nation and emptiness

## 2.5 SOCIAL WORK PRACTICAL EFFECT ON WIFE ABUSE

According to Jordan and Packman (1979:325), working with family violence raises certain characteristic social work dilemmas in a particularly acute form:-

- (i) What are social worker's rights to intervene, and what protection do families have against undue interference and invasion of their privacy?
- (ii) How can individual family members be protected from undue suffering and hardship without attracting stigma to themselves and punishment to their persecutors?
- (iii) Is a Social Worker who gets embroiled in a violent family situation, or in its aftermath, capable of making objective assessment, and of acting decisively yet fairly?
- (iv) Indeed, can understanding of the emotional dynamics of conflict be effectively employed in modifying its expression and mitigating its effects?
- (v) Is Social work, therefore, a viable form of intervention in such a situation, or is it a weak substitute for more traditional approaches or for more thorough going changes in the social order in social provisions?

Jordan and Packman further contend that different capacities are required of individuals in many jobs. The policeman for example is quite overtly an unambiguously agent of social control. His uniform and manner

are plainly those of an official who is concerned with law and order and with the suppression of conflict and violence. But a social worker's role is anything but clear-cut and simple. Unlike the policeman, the social worker is unlikely to be dealing once and for all with a single incident; he is usually expected to take longer-term responsibility for the family's welfare.

Continuing, the authors argue that there are, however, many situations into which a social worker's intervention (rather than that of a policeman) seem justifiable especially when the situation is not very clear, that is, whether an approach based firmly on family counseling may resolve the conflict or whether firmer action is necessary. For them, in such situations, complexity of role and of theoretical perspective cannot be avoided or disclaimed; they are essential features of social work intervention.

To further demonstrate the place of social work intervention in domestic violence, Starr (1980:340) conducted a short role-play using a group of second-year students. The problem was for the students to stage a violent situation in the home and exaggerating certain features of real-life situation in the process. A social worker was at hand to direct and analyse the exercise

in the end.

The consideration according to Starr was to explore whether the fact of violence or intimidation was an important factor in the effectiveness of social work intervention. Thus, he was able to draw the following conclusion as the role of social work in family violence and wife abuse:

In most levels of family violence the Social Worker is probably welcomed as a referee. Most fights are looking for an ending, other wise they would result in the serious injury or death of one of the protagonist. In my experience, the very presence of a social worker to "hold the ring", as distinct from a police-man in uniform may calm the situation down.

CONCLUSION: Attempt has been made to present the general existing views and findings about the subject of wife abuse. Thus, it can be inferred from the review of literature that there is an obvious link between personality and family relationship characteristics and wife abuse. Again, there is a relationship between social and economic variables and wife abuse. However, the extent to which socioeconomic factors like education, income, and occupation can influence wife abuse using Nigerian socio-cultural environment has not been investigated fully. The need to fill this gap in knowledge is the reason for embarking on this study.

It can also be said that social work intervention in any situation of family violence and wife abuse can be effective and sustaining.

Finally, this review of literature has helped to set the theoretical base for future research and the current research into perspective.

## 2.6 THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

In this study, Transactional Analysis as propounded by Eric Berne was adopted as the theoretical framework.

Berne (1964:29) described Transactional Analysis as follows: The unit of social interaction is called a Transaction. If two or more people encounter each other, sooner or later one of them will speak, or give some other indication of acknowledging the presence of the others. This is called the transactional stimulus.

A primary assumption of this theory is that people are OK, which means that people can think, act spontaneously, and get close to other people in intimacy that is beneficial for all concerned. Furthermore, the theory holds that people can and deserve to feel good both physically and mentally most of the time, and that we have awesome power to decide whether we will get this kind of life for ourselves and whether we have social systems that foster autonomy.

One of the theoretical concepts of Transactional Analysis relevant to this study is the concept of Strokes.

Strokes are defined as units of social recognition of another's presence. It is a fundamental unit of social action. An exchange of strokes constitute a transaction which is the unit of social intercourse. There are four kinds: negative, positive, conditional and <sup>un</sup>conditional strokes. Strokes can be given in three ways:- verbally, non verbally eg gestures, facial expression and body movements; physically by contact such hugging, slapping, touching or pushing.

Furthermore, Berne (1964:24) stated that the human personality is made up of three ego states each with a set of coherent systems of thoughts and feelings manifested by corresponding patterns of behaviour. The three ego states are: Parent, Adult, and Child (P.A.C).

The Parent ego state is like a tape recorder containing recorded messages about how to get along in life. It means acting in the same state of mind as one's parents (or parent substitute) with the same postures, gestures, vocabulary, feelings etc.

The Adult ego state is like a computer. It gathers facts and makes autonomous, objective appraisal of a situation and drawing a conclusion in a non-prejudicial manner.

There are no feelings in the Adult ego state.

The Child ego state contains natural feelings, sensations, and urges present in an individual ~~service~~ life. It implies that one's behaviour and reaction is the same as it would have been when he was a little child. An appropriate flow of energy from one ego state to another is essential to satisfying social interaction.

Berne stated that in a social interaction the stimulus is sent from one ego state to another. If the response to the stimulus comes from the expected ego state the line is parallel. This is called complimentary transaction and the accompanying communication rule is that communication can go on indefinitely as long as the lines are parallel. The converse rule is that communication is broken off when a crossed transaction occurs if the response comes from unexpected ego state and the lines are crossed. Then, the rule is that communication will stop abruptly, and to resume, a switch in ego states will be necessary by one or both people. Identification of ego states and their appropriate use brings awareness and coping power to clients.

The kernel of the theory of Transactional Analysis relevant to this study is the fact that by nature man is created to radiate and receive love from others. The degree



of happiness and the content of love in a person differs between individuals. Every individual is expected to maintain specific positive communication while interacting with people, in order to continue to experience happiness and love in the response of the person the individual is communicating with. This continuous communication is what helps to develop virtue on them.

But if however, there is a breakdown in communication, and we fail to enjoy the happiness and love as ordained by nature, we are bound to act through positive interaction in a manner that would enable us regain the lost happiness and love without much strain on us. This practice as shown by this theory is necessary for the understanding of the interdependent nature of human beings; and the scientific knowledge that energy lost is equal to energy gained. According to Enwereji (1989:32), this also explains the value of kinetic and potential energies in spouses where each is expected to complement the other in a balanced way. The disequilibrium in these energies is what causes the impulsive violent action in a couple. The equilibrium of these energies could be motivated in form of complementary transaction between a couple in order to encourage continuous communication flow during transaction.

Harris (1969:89) also gave an illustration of a complementary transaction in the following communication between a couple: A husband says to his wife "where did you hide the opener?" The main stimulus is Adult because it seeks objective information. But there is a secondary communication in the word "hide". The progress of this transaction depends on which stimulus the wife wishes to respond to. If she wants to maintain an amicable transaction, she gives him the information he desires if her Adult ego computes that it is important in marriage to do something about her husband's inquiry. However, if her NOT OK Child ego is hooked, her primary response will be to the word "hide", and she may respond uncomplementarily to her husband and which may lead to arguments and "uproar". In other words, if the stimulus is Adult but the wife turns it over to the Parents, the result is a crossed transaction. This is because as a rule, when stimulus and response are crossed on the (P.A.C) transaction, communication stops. The husband and wife cannot talk any more. This can result into a violent relationship. This transaction illustrates that eventhough Parent and Child egos may be involved in a transaction, the outcome can be amiable and advance a good marriage only if the Adult ego is <sup>in</sup> charge.

Harris (1969:95) further contends that the Adult ego develops later than the Parent and Child and seems to have a difficult time catching up through life. The parent and Child occupy primary circuits, which tend to come on automatically in response to a stimuli. According to him the first way, therefore to build the strength of the Adult is to become sensitive to Parent and Child signals.

The Adult, functioning as a probability estimator, can work a system of values that encompasses not only the marriage relationship but all relationships. Unlike the child, it can estimate consequences and postpone gratifications. It can establish new values based on more thorough examination of the historical, philosophical, and religious foundation for values. Unlike the Parents, it is concerned more with the preservation of the institution of marriage. The Adult can consciously commit itself to the position that to be loving is important in every relationship.

Harris (1969:97) summarized ways in which a strong Adult is built as follows:-

1. Learn to recognise your child, its vulnerabilities, its fears, its principal methods of expressing these feelings.

2. Learn to recognise your Parent, its admonitions, injunctions, fixed positions and principal ways of expressing these injunctions admonitions, injunctions, and positions.
3. Be sensitive to the Child in others, talk to that Child, stroke that Child, protect that Child, and appreciate its needs for creative expression as well as the NOT OK burden it carries about.
4. Count up to ten, if necessary, in order to give the Adult time to process the data coming into the computer, to sort out Parents and Child from reality.

The theory of transactional Analysis was adopted in this study because it is appropriate for analysing and healing marital breakdown arising from uncomplementary transactions between couples. Thus, by using the theory of Parent, Adult, Child (P-A-C) transactions, couples experiencing poor communication could be assisted to express complementary transactions which could improve their marriage relationship. The theory assumes that anybody with positive ideas could attempt to alter violent and coercive words which excel during conflict.

The theory also enhances the development of an order based on reason, and one that harnesses the latent virtues in conflicting couples, which encourages cordial marital relationship.

## 2.7 HYPOTHESES

The aim of this study is to explore the relationship between socialization, social class and wife abuse in Nsukka Local government area. The following hypotheses therefore stand out as guidelines for the exploration:

1. Men that belong to the 'Lower class' abuse their wives more than those in the 'Upper class'.
2. Husbands who had witnessed their fathers abuse their mothers will tend to abuse their wives more than husbands who had not witnessed their father abuse their mother.
3. Sufficient services are not being provided by social workers to salvage abused women in Nsukka Local government area.

### CHAPTER THREE

#### 3.1 METHODOLOGY:

This study is a survey of 580 married men and women living in autonomous communities of the sixteen communities that make up Nsukka Local government area.

The argument here is whether survey data can reflect the actual experiences of men and women to be interviewed and reflect answers that mirror the social norms of respondents. There is no fool proof answer to this problem, but some points favour the validity of the survey data:

(i) The respondents are known individuals with reported cases of spouse abuse in Nsukka Local government Welfare agency.

(ii) The instrument for the survey was successfully pretested with some six known abused women and their husbands on treatment at the Nsukka Social Welfare agency; and were unaware they would be interviewed. This was made possible because the Researcher is a practicing social worker in the Welfare Agency.

Each of the six women who were known to have been abused admitted this abuse in the pretest of the questionnaire and were willing to discuss further the circumstances surrounding the abuse.

### 3.2 STUDY POPULATION

The population for this study consisted of some 1,316 families, being the total number of cases of wife abuse reported in the Nsukka Social Welfare Agency between 1985 and 1991. This population was comprised of married spouses living in Nsukka Local government and receiving or who had received treatment services in the Nsukka Welfare Agency. The population was drawn from the entire sixteen communities that make up Nsukka Local government area as follows:-

Table 2: Population of registered wife abuse cases

S/No	Name of Community	Number of cases of wife abuse reported between 1985 and 1991
1	Alor-Uho	100
2.	Anuka	30
3.	Edem	60
4.	Ede-Oballa	70
5.	Eha-Alumona	65
6.	Eha-Ndiagu	66
7.	Ibagwa-Agu	69
8.	Ibagwa-Ani	71
9.	Ieda	100
10.	Nsukka Urban Town	200
11.	Obimo	73
12.	Obukpa	100
13.	Okpaligbo	65
14.	Okpuje	80
15.	Okutu	61
16.	Opi	72
		1,316

Source: Annual Progress Reports from 1985-1991  
Social Welfare Agency, Nsukka.

### 3.3 SAMPLING METHOD

The multiple sampling approach involving the purposive and simple random sampling techniques were adopted in this work. Five communities out of the sixteen communities in Nsukka Local government area were selected based on the large number of cases of wife abuse in them as recorded in the Nsukka Social Welfare Agency between 1985 and 1991, (see table 2). The five communities are: Alor-Uno, Iejja, Nsukka Urban Town, Obukpa and Okpuje.

From the five communities, individuals whose cases of wife abuse were on the records of the Nsukka Social Welfare Agency were selected as respondents. To do this, the researcher assigned numbers to each of the individuals in the selected five communities and all the even number were selected as the sample. However, 50% of the total population of the cases from the selected five communities was sampled for the study. This was because of time and financial constraint facing the researcher.

### 3.4 SAMPLE SIZE

The sample size based on the method of sampling for the work is given as follows: Of the 100 cases reported in Alor-Uno 50 families were sampled, Iejja 50 out of 100, Nsukka urban 100 out of 200, Obukpa 50 out



of 100, and Okpuje 40 out of 80 cases were sampled. Consequently, a total of 290 families or 580 respondents were sampled for this work.

Table 3: STUDY POPULATION AND SAMPLE

S/No.	Name of Community	Population	Sample
1	Alor-Uno	100	50
2	Iejja	100	50
3	Nsukka Urban Town	200	100
4	Obukpa	100	50
5	Okpuje	80	40
		580	290

### 3.5 INSTRUMENT OF DATA COLLECTION

The researcher used the questionnaire and interview schedule to collect data for the study.

Questionnaire: Two different questionnaires were administered to the female and male respondents (see Appendix 1 and 2). Each questionnaire consists of three parts:

Part one: The personal data of respondents as sex, age, education, and all other socio-economic variables.

Part Two: Consist of the respondents memories of childhood and adolescent reasons for marriage, perception of marital status, social and sexual life of husbands and wives.

Part Three: Deals with questions about the nature and type of abuse between spouses

Interview Schedule: An interview schedule was used to probe respondents further on the subject matter (see appendix 3 and 4). The concern was to fish out more information from the respondents whether they were eager and willing to give more information on the subject.

Specifically, the interview schedule was designed to help yield indepth information from the respondents regarding socialization and wife abuse, the dimensions of abuse, duration and frequency of abuse, the perception of abuse as a problem, history of violence in the family, of both spouse and the need for community assistance or response in times of abuse. Also the interview helped to discover the proximate strokes and communication pattern that lead to violent behaviour in order to boost the research.

The researcher interviewed ten respondents purposively selected from the sampled respondents because they were willing to give further information on the subject. In other words, a couple was was selected and interviewed from each of the sampled five communities. This was because the selection of the sample for the study was based on spouse relationship. Consequently a total of five couples or ten respondents were selected and interviewed.

### 3.6 DATA COLLECTION PROCESS:

The questionnaire were distributed by the researcher and some assistants. The respondents were served the questionnaire in their homes or places of work. Illiterate respondents were assisted by translating the questionnaire items while the literate respondents were able to complete the questionnaire by themselves.

All the questionnaires distributed were collected. The researcher collected back the questionnaires from the respondents.

### 3.7 METHODS OF DATA ANALYSIS

In order to analyse the data inferential statistics such as the chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ), was used to verify the stated hypotheses. Specifically, the ( $\chi^2$ ) was used to determine the nature of and strength of the relationship between the dependent and independent variables in the stated hypotheses:-

Independent variables	Dependent variables
Socialization	Wife abuse
Social class, measured by income, education and occupation	Wife abuse

In addition, descriptive statistics such as percentages and means were used to simplify the problem of

comparison. In this connection, all the data that have to do with categorization of the respondents were analysed using percentages. For instance, what percentage of all the male respondents with non formal education abuse their wives as compared to those with post secondary education?

Also, the qualitative data gathered through the indepth interview were analyzed using the analytic induction method of data analysis. This is an attempt to provide from the data a generalized explanation of the problem, methods or issues which emerge from the population (Obikeze 1990:76).

CHAPTER FOUR:

PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

4.1 INTRODUCTION.

In this chapter, the data collected for the study are presented. The chapter is divided into four major sections. The first section, presents the distribution of the major socio-demographic variables like age, educational attainment, annual income level and others using percentages. The second section presents the analysis of the substantive issues of the research. These are done using percentages. The study hypotheses are tested in the third section, while the last section is devoted to the analysis of the interview schedule.

4.2 SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF RESPONDENTS

This section deals with the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents.

4:2(a) Age:

Table 4 shows the distribution of the respondents by age.

Table 4: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age	Male	Female	Total	%
Below 20 years	-	10	10	2
21 - 40 years	200	180	380	66
41 - 60 years	70	90	160	27
60 years and above	20	10	30	5
Total	290	290	580	100

This table shows that greater number of the respondents 380 (66%) are within the age bracket 21-40 years while

10 (2%) are below 20 years of age. This shows that majority of the respondents are in their prime age, while very few of them are either younger or very old.

4:2(b) Marital Status:

Table 5 shows the distribution of the respondents based on their marital status.

Table 5: Marital Status of Respondents

Marital Status	Respondents		Total	%
	Male	Female		
Married	290	290	580	100
Divorced	-	-	-	-
Separated	-	-	-	-
Total	290	290	580	100

The table shows that all the respondents 580 (100%) are married. This means that none of the respondent is either divorced or separated. This is because the study is designed for married couples living together.

#### 4:2(c) Educational Attainment

Here, a look will be taken at the respondents' level of educational attainment.

Table 6: Educational Attainment of Respondents

Level of education	Respondents			
	Male	Female	Total	%
Non formal education	98	168	266	46
Primary Education	85	74	159	27
Secondary Education	60	34	94	16
Post Secondary Education	47	14	61	11
Total	290	290	580	100

According to this table, majority of the respondents 385 (73%) had not more than primary education and are classified as lowly educated, while 61 (11%) attained post secondary education and are classified as highly educated. From the above findings, it could be inferred that majority of the couples who reported their cases of abuse to the Nsukka Social Welfare agency are lowly educated.

4:2(d) Religious Affiliation:

Table 7 shows the distribution of the respondents by religion.

Table 7: Respondents According to their Religious Denominations.

Religious Denomination,	Respondents		Total	%
	Male	Female		
Roman Catholic	80	80	160	28
Protestant	45	45	90	16
African Traditional Religion	160	160	320	55
Others	5	5	10	2
Total	290	290	580	100

The table indicates that majority of the respondents 320 (55%) belong to African Traditional Religion: 160 (28%) Roman Catholic: 90 (16%) protestant, while 10 (2%) belong to other religious denominations. However, the researcher was unable to obtain the 1963 census data on religion in Nsukka Local government area to be able to know whether the above distribution is normal or if religion is a factor in wife abuse.



4:2(e) Number of Children

Table 8 shows the distribution of the respondents according to the number of children they had.

Table 8: Distribution of Respondent According to Number of Children

Respondents		
No. of Children	Frequency	%
No Child	20	4
1-5 children	296	51
6-10 children	192	33
11 children and above	72	12
Total	580	100

According to this table, majority of the respondents 296 (51%) have between 1-5 children, while 20 (4%) have no children. It could be inferred from the findings above that wife abuse is not dependent on the number of children respondents have. This is because cases of abuse as indicated in the table are more with respondents who have lesser number of children than those with higher number of children; this follows also from the fact that the entire respondents comprise of families that reported cases of abuse to the social welfare agency under study and were purposively sampled.

4:2(f) Annual Income of Respondents

Table 9 indicates the annual income of the respondents.

Table 9: Distribution of Respondents by Annual Income.

Respondents				
Annual Income	Male	Female	Total	%
₦1,000.00 - ₦4,000.00	70	138	208	36
₦5,000.00 - ₦8,000.00	88	68	156	27
₦9,000.00 - ₦14,000.00	92	55	147	25
₦15,000.00 and above	40	29	69	12
Total	290	290	580	100

The table shows that majority of the respondents 208(36%) earn between ₦1,000.00 - ₦4,000.00 annually; 156 (27%) ₦5,000.00 - ₦8,000.00; 147 (25%) ₦9,000.00 - ₦14,000.00, while 69 (12%) earn ₦15,000.00 and above per annum.

The above finding reveals that the respondents surveyed for this study belong more to low income group.

4:2(g) Occupation:

Table 10 shows the distribution of the respondents by occupation.

Table 10: Occupational Distribution of Respondents

Occupation	Respondents		Total	%
	Male	Female		
Civil/Public Servant	40	25	65	11
Trading/Business	75	45	120	21
Artisan	160	210	370	64
Others	25	-	25	4
Total	300	280	580	100

This table indicates that majority of the respondents 370 (64%) belong to the artisan occupation, while 120 (21%) are engaged in trading/business, 65 (11%) are civil/public servants, and 25 (4%) are engaged in other occupations. The implication here is that majority of the couples surveyed belong to the artisan occupation such as crafts, skilled and unskilled occupations.

Thus, far, the discussions have focused on the background variables of the respondents. In the next section, the discussion and analysis will be on the substantive issues of the research.

#### 4:3 SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES OF THE RESEARCH

This section is divided into five sub-sections. The first sub-section presents respondents' view on the nature, severity, and frequency of wife abuse in Nsukka local government area. The second sub-section deals with social class and wife abuse. The third sub-section is an analysis of the relationship between socialization and wife abuse. The fourth sub-section presents the action taken by abused women to salvage their situation while the fifth sub-section focuses on social work services for abused women and their spouse in Nsukka Social Welfare agency.

##### 4:3(a) Nature, Severity And Frequency of Abuse

Here, a look is taken at the respondents' views about the nature, severity and frequency of abuse in their homes. The women were first asked if their husbands had ever beaten or assaulted them physically (appendix 1 item II). The responses showed that 250 (86%) confirmed physical abuse on them by their husbands, while 40 (14%) did not confirm physical abuse on them by their husbands. In response to similar question (appendix 2, item 8), 212 (73%) of the men agreed that they had beaten their wives at various times, while 78 (27%) did not beat up their wives.

On the other hand, the men were asked if their wives had ever assaulted them or beaten them up (appendix 2, item 13). Their responses showed that 281 ((97%) were never assaulted or beaten up by their wives, while only 9 (3%) confirmed having been abused by their wives at one time or another. The implication here is that it is the men who initiate physical abuse on their wives.

The study goes further to find out from the women the nature of the physical abuse they received from their husbands (appendix 1, item 12). Table 11 summarizes their responses.

Table 11 Nature of Physical abuse on women

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Slapping	116	40
Kicking and throwing of objects	102	35.1
Infliction of bruises	58	20
Intimidation and threats	14	4.8
Total	290	100

This table shows that majority of the female respondents 216 (75%) identified slapping, kicking and throwing of objects as the predominant form of abuse they received from their husbands, while only 14 (4.8%) received intimidations and threats from their husbands.

The women were further asked what they think precipitates violent actions in their husbands (appendix 1, item 14). The aim was to find out why a man should choose to physically abuse a woman whom he loved and married. The responses are shown in table 12.

Table 12: Female Respondents on Why Men Abuse Their Wives.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
When he drinks alcohol	180	62
When he is angered in the work place	25	8.6
When his food is served late	10	3.4
When he is interrupted in discussion	70	24.1
Others	5	1.7
Total	290	100

In this table, it is observed that more than half of the female respondents 180 (62%) identified alcoholism as the leading factor to abuse on them by their husbands. Similarly, the men were asked to state why they abuse their wives (appendix 2, item 9). Their responses are shown in table 13.

Table 13: Male Respondents on Why They Abuse Their Wives.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
When I want to show masculine strength	3	1
When I want to show that a man is superior to a woman	10	3.4
When I am angry for one reason or another	97	33.4
When she fails to obey my instruction	173	59.6
Others	7	2.4
Total	290	100

The table shows that majority of the men 173 (59.6%) abuse their wives when they fail to obey their instructions, while only 3 (1%) indicated that they beat up their wives when they want to show masculine strength. The implication of these data is that men who abuse their wives do so either to bring their wives to submission or as a disciplinary measure. This finding supports Enwereji (1989) which attributed physical abuse of women in some Nigerian homes to the tradition which awards a man the implicit control and submission from a wife. According to Enwereji, a man can inflict corporal punishment on his wife if she fails to carry out his directives.

Also, anger can lead a man to physically abuse his wife at a very slight provocation.

Furthermore, the women were asked to rate the severity of the abuse they received from their husbands, (appendix 1, item 15). The responses are shown in table 14.

Table 14: Severity of Abuse on Women

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Very severe	141	48.6
Severe	139	47.9
Not severe	10	3.4
Total	290	100

This table shows that majority of the women 141 (48.6%) were very severely abused by their husbands. The implication of this finding is that the women may have been inflicted with injuries on their bodies. This situation may lead the women to fight back thereby resulting into heightened violence in the family.

The men were further asked how often they abused their wives (appendix 2, item 10). Their responses are shown in table 15.



Table 15: Frequency of abuse by Men

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Very often	205	70.6
Often	73	25
Not often	12	4
Total	290	100

The table shows that 205 (70.6%) of the men abused their wives very often. This means that wife abuse occurs frequently among the majority of the respondents.

The findings so far show that it is the man that physically abuses his wife mainly by slapping, kicking and throwing of objects. The abuse can be very severe and occurs frequently among the respondents.

#### 4:3(b) Social Class And Wife Abuse.

The discussion here is focused on the relationship between social class and wife abuse. Social class is measured in this study by a man's level of education, income and type of occupation.

First, the responses of the men on the variables of education and income levels as shown in tables 6 and 9 are combined. The aim is to establish a relationship between the two variables and wife abuse. This is demonstrated in table 16.

Table 16: Education and Income Levels  
Of the Men.

Educational Levels	Income Levels				Total
	₦1000.00- ₦4000.00	₦5000.00- ₦8000.00	₦9000.00- ₦14000.00	₦15000.00 & Above	
Non formal Education	24	30	30	14	98
Primary Education	19	25	29	12	85
Secondary Education	14	18	19	9	60
Post Secondary Education	5	6	20	16	47
Total	62	79	98	51	290

This table shows a relationship between education and income levels and wife abuse. For instance, while 98 (53%) of the men who had no formal education and primary education classified as low education earned below ₦8,000.00 per annum, only 11 (23%) men with post secondary education earned similar income annually. On the other hand, while 26 (17%) men with non formal and primary education earned ₦15,000.00

and above per annum, 16 (34%) men with post secondary education earned the same income per annum. The implication here is that the lower the level of education and income, the higher the incidence of wife abuse; and the higher the level of education and income the lower the incidence of wife abuse by men. In other words, men with low education and income abuse their wives more than those with high income and high educational levels.

Furthermore, the women were asked to estimate their husband's annual income if they know (appendix 1, item 18). The aim was to further establish a relationship between income levels of the men and wife abuse. In this regard, 122 (42%) of the women estimated their husbands annual income below ₦8,000.00 per annum, while only 15 (5%) estimated their husbands annual income above ₦15,000.00 per annum. Again, these data support the findings that majority of the men that abuse their wives belong to low income group more than those with high income.

The study goes further to discuss the relationship between economic conditions of men and wife abuse. The men were asked if their present economic conditions influenced them in abusing their wives (appendix 2, item 12). Table 17 summarizes their responses.

Table 17: Economic condition of the Men  
And Wife Abuse.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	209	72
No	81	27.9
Total	290	100

The table shows that majority of the men 209 (72%) are aware that their present economic conditions influence their violent behaviour on their wives. The implication here is that bad economic conditions can lead men to frustration and stress which can result to violence. Some of the men interviewed also confirmed that their present economic conditions affected their happiness in their homes. The result is constant quarreling which sometimes lead to violence. The men interviewed agreed that as a result of poor economic conditions, they are faced with frustration and anger in their homes, and at a slight provocation by their spouse they resort to violence as a way out. This finding is in line with Gelles (1981). According to Gelles, Social structural stress resulting from bad economic condition and poverty can lead to family violence.

Going further, the study tried to establish a relationship between wife abuse and occupational groups of the men

respondents. To this end, responses to item 7 on the questionnaire for men as shown in table 10 was utilized. The table shows that majority of the male respondents 160 (55%) belong to the artisan occupation, 75 (26%) are engaged in trading/business, 40 (14) are civil/public servants and 25 (7%) are engaged in other occupations. The implication of this finding is that majority of the male respondents who abuse their wives are artisans such as craftsmen, unskilled and semi-skilled occupations.

The finding suggest that occupational groups may have norms or codes of behaviour that influence men to abuse their wives. For instance while it maybe relatively more acceptable for an artisan to be violent to his wife because the behavioural code of his occupational group accepts his behaviour, it maybe relatively more important for a civil servant to be non violent in his behaviour because restrained and controlled behaviour is accepted to people in this occupation.

The findings in this sub-section indicate that men that belong to lower social class (measured by income, education and occupation) abuse their wives more than those in the upper class. (Statistical testing of this statement will come later). The reasoning here is that while members of the upper class may have other means of solving their domestic problems, those in the lower class

are often disadvantaged and prone to stress and frustration. Thus, according to Walker (1981), and Willard (1982) men with fewer resources such as education, income etc and therefore of lower socio-economic group beat their wives more because of frustration.

However, this conclusion is not definitive. This is because the population for this study consists of only abused and abusive spouses. The percentage of the general public in the sampled areas in relation to the variables of education, income and occupation and wife abuse is not known. This is a major limitation to this work.

#### 4.3(c) Socialization And Wife Abuse

In this sub-section an attempt is made to find if there is a relationship between exposure of men to violence in their homes of origin and wife abuse. The idea is to find out if men by watching their fathers beat up their mothers and so are socialized into violence can in turn abuse their wives.

The men were asked if their father did ever beat their mother (appendix 2, item 15). Their responses are shown in table 18.

Table 18: Exposure of men to Violence in Family of origin:

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	232	80
No	58	20
Total	290	100

According to this table, more than three quarters (¾) of the male respondents (80%) agreed that they were exposed to violence by watching their fathers beat their mothers. Only 58 (20%) of the male respondents did not report any violence from their homes. This finding shown that majority of the male respondents were exposed to violence early enough in their families of origin.

The views of the female respondents on the existence of violence in their husbands homes were also tapped. They were asked if the father of their husband ever beat their wives (i.e their husbands mothers), (appendix 1, item 20). The idea was to complement the responses of the men on the issue. Their responses are shown in table 19.

Table 19: Female Respondents on the existence of Violence in the homes of their husbands.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Yes	261	90
No	29	10
Total	290	100

The distribution in this shows that 261 (90%) of the women indicated that they are aware that the father of their husbands used to beat their wives (i.e their husbands mothers). Only 29 (10%) did not report any such violence in their husbands family of origin. This finding shows that majority of the women respondents are aware of the existence of violence in the homes of their husbands prior to their marriage.

These results therefore suggest a positive relationship between wife abuse and socialization. This means that men whose fathers abused their mothers are likely to grow up to learn to abuse their wives in turn because they have been socialized into such a behaviour from their homes (stastical test to confirm this statement will come later)



However, the data presented here do not suggest that all inter-spousal violence is a behaviour learned in a violent or disrupted childhood.

4:3(d) Action Taken By Abused Women To Salvage Their Situation.

This sub-section deals with the steps usually taken by abused women to help overcome their problems. Attempt is also made to see whether these steps are appropriate for solving their problems.

The responses of the women when asked what they do when their husbands charge violently on them (appendix 1, item 21) are summarized in table 20.

Table 20: Action taken by abused women to Salvage their situation

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Run to neighbours for help	29	10
Beg him to stop	5	1.7
Report to the police	87	30
Report to the Social Welfare	119	41
Run to their parents	44	15
Fight back	6	2
Total	290	100

This table shows that 29 (10%) of the women said they ran to neighbours for help when their husbands descend

violently on them, 5(1.7%) said they begged their husband to stop the abuse, 87 (30%) indicated that they reported to the police for protection; while 119 (41%) said they reported their problems to the social welfare agency for help. Only 6 (2%) said they tried to fight their abusive husbands back. The implication of these findings is that majority of the abused women reported their problems to the social welfare agency and the police.

The action of the women in reporting their abuse problem to the social welfare agency and the police is quite appropriate. This is in view of the fact that the two agencies have roles to play in solving domestic violence. While the police provides physical protection for abused women, the social welfare is supposed to have social work programmes that can bring permanent relief to abused women as well as change the behaviour of their abusive husbands. The question however is whether the Nsukka Social Welfare agency provides sufficient services to the victims of wife abuse and their abusive husbands. To this the study now turns.

#### 4.3(e) Social Work Services For Abused Women In The Nsukka Social Welfare Agency.

The concern of this sub-section is the examination of the types of social services available for abused women in the Nsukka Social Welfare agency. The section also <sup>tried</sup> to find

the out whether services are sufficient in helping abused women and their abusive husbands.

To ~~first issue~~ to be discussed are the types of services received by abused women to salvage their situation in the social welfare agency. The responses of the women when asked to indicate the types of services they received in the social welfare agency to salvage their situation (appendix 1, item 22) are summarized in table 21.

Table 21: Services Received by abused women in The Social Welfare agency.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Counseling	232	80
Referral to hospitals	35	12
Referral to the police	23	7.9
Link with the community for help	-	-
Total	290	100

This table indicates that 232 (80%) of the women received counseling services from the welfare agency, 32(12%) were referred by the agency to hospitals for treatment, 23 (7.9%) were referred to the police. None of the women was linked to any community resources such as legal aid, material support, shelter etc to help alleviate their problems. The findings above show that the social welfare

agency uses counseling services as a major therapy for helping abused women as well as their abusive husbands.

The study goes further to tap the perception of the female respondents on the services they received in the social welfare agency. The aim is to determine whether the women perceive the services as sufficient in dealing with their problems. The women were asked if they think the services they received in the social welfare agency were sufficient in solving their problems (appendix 1, item 23). Their responses are shown in table 22.

Table 22: Perception of the women on the services They received in the Social Welfare agency.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Sufficient	44	15
Not sufficient	246	84.8
Total	290	100

The table shows that majority of the women 246 (84.8) perceive the services they received in the social welfare agency as not sufficient in salvaging their situation.

Similarly, the perception of the men was tapped on whether the services they received in the agency was

sufficient in helping them stop their abusive behaviour (appendix 2, item 20). Their responses are shown in table 23.

Table 23: The Perception of the men on the services they received in the Social Welfare agency.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Sufficient	116	40
Not sufficient	174	60
Total	290	100

This table shows that majority of the male respondents 174 (60%) perceived the services they received in the social welfare agency as not sufficient in dealing with their problem, while 116 (40%) perceive the services in the agency as sufficient in helping them change their abusive behaviour. It can therefore be stated that sufficient services are not being provided by the Nsukka Social Welfare agency to salvage abused women and their husbands (statistical test to confirm this statement will come later).

This finding also indicates that the men see the same services in the Social Welfare agency in more positive light than the women. The reason could be because the agency focuses its treatment efforts more on the men since

they are the initiators of abuse on the women.

Furthermore, the male respondents were asked to indicate factors which they think militate against the social welfare agency in handling cases of abuse adequately (appendix 2, item 21). Their responses are shown in table 24.

Table 24: Factors that militate against the Social Welfare agency from handling cases of wife abuse adequately.

Responses	Frequency	Percentage %
Lack of trained social workers	93	32
Lack of working materials	6	2
Frequent adjournment of cases	12	4
Non use of community resources to assist victims of abuse and their husbands	179	61.7
Total	290	100

A look at this table shows that majority of the male respondents 179 (61.7) think that the Social Welfare agency does not utilize community resources in solving abuse problems; 93 (32%) think the agency does not have enough trained social workers, 12 (4%) indicated that frequency adjournment of cases affects the agency in achieving set goals, only 6 (2%) men see lack of working

materials in the agency as the factor that militates against its ability to handle cases of abuse adequately. The implication of these findings is that the social welfare agency does not link the victims of abuse with vital community resources such as, material support, medicare, legal aid, vocational training and skill acquisition which can be provided by voluntary social organisations and other non-governmental organisations concerned with family support and development such as churches, women organisations, the Family Support Programme (FSP), Legal Aid Council etc.

The non use of community resources in solving family violence by the social welfare agency in part relates to lack of trained social workers with the knowledge base to deal with the various social problems reported to the agency adequately. At the moment, the agency has only one social-worker-in-training. The other four staff designated Social Welfare Officers have no proper training in social work. Thus, their functioning is limited to the use of counseling services. By using counseling services mainly in handling family violence, the problem is viewed by the agency as resulting only from interaction between husband and wife which can be dealt in the same way as other family problems. This keeps the agency away from the services and facilities that exist in the area that can

also help in solving the problem of family violence.

Abused women can be seen as a system with a variety of interrelated problems such as emotional difficulties, relief from the potential physical harm, financial and legal problems, physical injuries and many other needs depending on the individual circumstances. Because of these unique problems, there is the need to identify community resources or other agencies that can help with some of the problems.

The point here is that wife abuse is a complex problem that requires the involvement of related agencies and community resources for help. It is only when this is done that sufficient services can be rendered to victims of wife abuse and their abusive husbands. Thus, the use of counseling as the major form of therapy for abused women and their husbands as is presently the case in the Nsukka Social Welfare agency cannot meet with the desired effects.



#### 4.4 TEST OF HYPOTHESES:

Three hypotheses were posited for the study.

The hypotheses were tested and reported below:

Hypothesis 1: Hypothesis one stated "men that belong to lower class abuse their wives more than those in the upper class". Data in table 15 formed the basis for testing hypothesis one. The hypotheses was tested with the chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistic.

FORMULA: Chi-Square ( $\chi^2$ ) =  $\frac{(O-E)^2}{E}$

The calculated chi-square value tested at 0.05 level of significance was 4.82. The calculated ( $\chi^2$ ) value is greater than the tabulated value of 3.841 required to uphold the hypothesis. Hence we accept the hypothesis. This shows that there is a positive relationship between social class and wife abuse in Nsukka Local Government area

Hypotheses 2: Hypothesis two stated "husbands who witnessed their fathers abuse their mothers will tend to abuse their wives more than those husbands who had not witnessed their fathers abuse their mothers". To test the hypothesis data in tables 17 and 18 are combined as shown in table 25.

Table 25: Wife abuse and violence in the home of abusive husband.

Respondents	Responses		Total
	Yes	No	
Males	80	20	100
Females	90	10	100
Total	170	30	200

Table 25 formed the basis for testing hypothesis two. The hypothesis was tested with the chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistic. The calculated ( $\chi^2$ ) value is 3.94. The calculated ( $\chi^2$ ) value is higher than the table value of 3.841 at .05 level of significance required to uphold the hypothesis. Thus, we accept the hypothesis. This shows a positive relationship between wife abuse and violence in the home of abusing husbands.

Hypothesis 3: Hypothesis three stated that "sufficient services are not being provided by social workers to salvage abused women in Nsukka Local government area".

To test the hypothesis data in tables 21 and 22 were combined as shown in table 26.

Table 26: Perception of respondents on the Services they received

Respondents	Responses		Total
	Sufficient	Not Sufficient	
Males	40	60	100
Females	15	85	100
Total	55	145	200

Table 26 formed the basis for testing hypothesis three. The hypothesis was tested with the chi-square ( $\chi^2$ ) statistic. The calculated ( $\chi^2$ ) value is 24.9. The calculated ( $\chi^2$ ) value is higher than the table value of 3.841 required to uphold the hypothesis. Thus, we accept the hypothesis. This finding shows that sufficient services are not being provided by social workers to salvage victims of wife abuse in the social welfare agency Nsukka.

#### 4.5 ANALYSIS OF INTERVIEW SCHEDULE

The interviews schedule was designed to yield further information to boost the research. A total of ten respondents, five males and five females were interviewed for this purpose.

Some of the men interviewed identified extreme jealousy to explain why they beat up their wives. Others reported that they were under stress for a variety of reasons and hence they descend violently on their wives. Examples of the conditions that induced them into stress include financial problems, health or employment problems, or conflict over the management of children. Some of the men interviewed said they had the expectation of humility, loyalty and submission from their wives. When these expectations were not met, violence and abuse followed. This is in line with Enwereji (1989) that identified physical violence in Nigeria as a result of the tradition which awards a husband implicit control and submission from a wife; and when these expectations fail violence and abuse followed.

Some of the women interviewed said abuses usually occurred at home, most frequently at night, and over weekends. In some instances abuses occur in series or follow a set of episodes and maintain some regularity. The women reported a

frequency of abuse ranging from daily to three times a month. Generally, the abuses encountered are often very severe. Weapons are often involved and some of the women said they were at various points in danger of losing their lives.

Frequently, the abuse takes place in the presence of children, but rarely in the presence of others.

Both the men and women interviewed indicated that abuses began with a verbal argument that transform into physical violence. Some of the men interviewed maintained that they often switched from argument to violence when their wives failed to stop arguing with them. This finding supports the theory of Transactional Analysis expounded by Eric Berne (1964). According to Berne, the three ego states of Parents, Adult, and Child (P-A-C) that make up the human personality are always in contact when individuals interact. If the stimulus comes from the expected ego state, then, the lines are parallel, and communication can go on in a complementary manner, but communication is broken off when a crossed transaction occurs because the response comes from unexpected ego state and the line are crossed. To resume normal communication, a switch in ego state is necessary by one or both people. Berne opined that crossed transaction causes

social difficulties in marriage, love, friendship, and work. Thus, the findings suggest that violence that sparks off between a husband and wife following an argument is as a result of crossed transaction between them. To help such couple to resume better marital relationship, they must be taught the principles of the (P-A-C) in transaction as put forward by Eric Berne (1964).

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## CHAPTER FIVE

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 5.1 SUMMARY:

In evaluating the findings in this study, the focus is on the five research questions and the three stated hypotheses. Attempt was made to ascertain the extent to which the work proved the hypotheses.

The findings show that there is a positive relationship between socialization, social class and wife abuse in Nsukka Local government area.

The results are comparable with Gelles (1981) Social Structure and stress explanation of family violence. According to Gelles, wife abuse occurs because of the social structural and stressful conditions affecting man. Although Gelles had proposed that both the structural and stressful conditions will be present before violence occurs, the result of this study suggests that in some cases just one condition can lead to violence in the home. For instance, abused women<sup>who</sup> are married to husbands with very low annual income but with no history of violence in their family background, others are married to husbands with violent background and high annual income.

Therefore it can be summarized as follows:-

1. Wife abuse can result from either private or structural stress. Private stresses such as alcoholism or dispute over children etc, are caused by conditions other than an individual's position in the social structure.
2. Wife abuse is a learned behaviour. This behaviour is either learned by a man in his family of origin or learned by contact with and acceptance of norms existing in certain groups that define violence as legitimate. This behaviour learning process is rewarded and reinforced by violence in the group.

#### 5.2 CONCLUSION:

This study attempted an examination of the relationship between socialization, social class and wife abuse and social work services available for victims in Nsukka Local government area. The following are the findings:

1. That physical abuse of women are often very severe and occurs in repeated sequence.
2. That majority of the men that belong to lower social class abuse their wives more than those in the upper class.



3. That majority of the men (80%) who were exposed to violence in their homes of origin in turn grow up to abuse their wives because they have been socialized into violence.

4. Abused women and their husbands that reported their problems to the Nsukka Social Welfare agency were not adequately treated because the agency did not provide them with sufficient social work services that can help salvage them from their situation.

5. The Social Welfare agency is handicapped in handling cases of family violence because: (a) it does not have trained social workers, and (b) the agency does not utilize available community resources or invalue relevant agencies that can render necessary social services to abused women and their husbands.

In conclusion, this study shows that there is a relationship between socialization, social class and wife abuse using the socio-cultural background of Nigeria. However, this conclusion is not final because the findings relate only to the population of the abused women and their husbands studied.

### 5.3 RECOMMENDATIONS:

The findings in this study formed the basis for the recommendations. These recommendations would serve useful purpose to social workers in agencies in improving the quality of services they give to violent families. Also, the recommendations can serve as a major policy instrument for the government to help reduce violence among family members in Nigeria. The following recommendations are therefore made:

1. Social workers should organise public enlightenment programmes, such as seminars and workshops on the role of social workers in the treatment of family violence. This will make the public more aware of social workers roles in family violence, and encourage them to report such problems to social welfare agencies.
2. More professionally trained social workers should be employed in the various social welfare agencies to provide needed services. In-service training schemes should be organised for social welfare workers to equip them better with professional skills for treating violence in the family.
3. Social workers that encounter cases of family violence should: (i) stroke the clients with verbal or non verbal complements such as smiles, involved listening,

touching, handshake etc. This is because understanding, and warmth from the social worker expressed by listening with attention, giving Adult feed back, and displaying optimism about change are expressions of caring which are very essential to effective therapy (ii) Teach the clients better communication pattern. Clients can be assisted to develop and express complementary Transactions necessary for happy marriage relations. In other words, clients can be assisted to develop skills in classifying meanings, avoidance of mind-reading and appropriate expressions of feelings. (iii) The social worker should work out programmes aimed behaviour change of abusive spouse. (iv) The social worker should look for possible replacement or repair of losses, such as jobs, financial assistance, medicare, vocational training etc for clients. (v) The social worker should elicit the co-operation of other agencies like police, the courts, hospitals, and women development organisations to help the clients.

4. The government should develop shelters for abused women through the Family Support Programme (F.S.P), or the Women Commission. Shelters provide a warm and supportive family-like environment free from the dangers of physical abuse as well as help the women bind their anxiety, and express feelings without fear of reprisal from their

spouses, Shelters also provide children from abusive families the opportunity of interacting with supportive and non-violent adults.

5. The Federal, State, and Local governments should develop and implement legislations in the realm of family violence in order to reflect a new commitment to the family unit and the quality of life in the family.

6. Voluntary agencies such as churches, women organisations, community development associations, etc should provide support and care to distressed and violent family by way of financial and material assistance, vocational training/skill acquisition, jobs etc. These are necessary if the rising trend of violence among family members in Nigeria is to be checked.

#### 5:4 RECOMMENDATION FOR FURTHER RESEARCH.

Further research can be carried out in the following areas:

1. The role and influence of culture on domestic violence.
2. The effectiveness of social work intervention strategies on battered women.
3. The influence of group norms in family violence.
4. This study, can also be repeated in other parts of the country for a more comprehensive analysis.

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Department of Sociology/Anthropology  
University of Nigeria  
Nsukka.

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am a student of the Department of Sociology/  
Anthropology in the University of Nigeria, Nsukka.

I am collecting information on Family Life in  
Nsukka Local government Area. The study is in partial  
fulfilment for the award of M.Sc. degree in Social  
Work/Community Development.

You have been selected to participate in the  
study. The information collected will be treated as  
confidential.

I am therefore soliciting your co-operation in  
supplying the information required for the study.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

Peter C. Ezeah.

APPENDIX 1:

A. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR WOMEN

Instructions: Mark 'X' against the option or the alternative answers to the questions that best suits your choice. Choose only one alternative at a time.

SECTION 1:

1. What is your age?  
(a) Below 20 years ( ) (b) 21-40 years ( )  
(c) 41 - 60 years ( ) (d) 61 and above ( )
2. Marital Status:  
(a) Married ( ) (b) Divorced ( )  
(c) Separated ( )
3. What is your educational qualification?  
(a) Non formal education ( ) (b) Primary Education ( )  
(c) Secondary education ( )  
(d) Post Secondary education ( )
4. What is your Religious denomination?  
(a) Roman Catholic ( ) (b) Protestant ( )  
(c) African Traditional Religion ( )  
(d) Other, specify.....
5. How many children do you have?  
(a) No child ( ) (b) 1-5 children ( )  
(c) 6 - 10 children ( ) (d) 11 and above ( )
6. What is your annual income?  
(a) ₦1,000.00 - ₦4,000.00 ( )  
(b) ₦5,000.00 - ₦8,000.00 ( )  
(c) ₦9,000.00 - ₦14,000.00 ( )  
(d) ₦15,000.00 and above ( )

7. In which of the following occupational categories do you belong?
- (a) Civil/Public servant ( )
  - (b) Trading/Business ( )
  - (c) Artisan ( )
  - (d) Other, specify.....

SECTION II:

8. What did you consider very important in your choice of marriage?
- (a) an understanding and loving man ( )
  - (b) a protective and kind man ( )
  - (c) a man who will be able to provide your needs ( )
  - (d) a disciplinarian ( )
  - (e) all of the above ( )
9. Can you consider your self as a happily married person?
- (a) Yes ( ), (b) No ( ) (c) Cant say ( )
10. If your answer to No 9 above is "No", do you think the problems is because your husband is violent?
- (a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )
11. Has your husband ever beaten you or assaulted you physically?
- (a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )
12. If your answer to No 11 above is "Yes", what is the nature of the physical abuse on you?
- (a) Slapping ( ) (b) Kicking and throwing of objects at you ( )
  - (c) Inflicting bruises and marks on your body ( )
  - (d) Intimidation and threats ( )
13. Do you think your husband beats you up because
- (a) He does not love you ( )
  - (b) He learnt violence from his father ( )
  - (c) Learnt violence from his neighbours ( )
  - (d) He drinks alcohol always ( )
  - (e) All of the above ( )
  - (f) Other reason, specify.....

14. Can you identify what precipitates violent actions in your husband?
- (a) When he drinks alcohol ( )
  - (b) When he is angered in the work place ( )
  - (c) When his food is served late ( )
  - (d) When he is interrupted in a discussion ( )
  - (e) Other, specify.....
15. How severe is the assault unleashed on you by your husband?
- (a) Very severe ( ) (b) Severe ( )
  - (c) Not severe ( )
16. In your opinion, do you think your husband assaults you physically because
- (a) He is frustrated ( )
  - (b) You don't satisfy him sexually ( )
  - (c) He is always psychologically disturbed ( )
  - (d) All of the above ( )
17. Do you know your husband's annual income?
- (a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )
18. If your answer to No. 17 above is "Yes" estimate your husband's annual or monthly income:  
annual £.....: monthly £.....
19. Do you think that the occupation of your husband in any way contributes to his violent behaviour?
- (a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( ) (c) Don't know ( )
20. Did the father of your husband ever beat his wife (i.e. your husband's mother)?
- (a) Yes ( ), (b) No ( ) (c) Don't know ( )
21. What do you do when your husband comes charging at you?
- (a) Run to neighbours for shelter ( )
  - (b) Beg him to stop ( )
  - (c) Report to the police ( )
  - (d) Report to the social welfare agency ( )
  - (e) Run to your parents ( )
  - (f) Fight back ( )
  - (g) Other, specify.....

22. If you have ever reported your problem of abuse to social welfare agency, what services did you receive to salvage your situation?
- (a) Counselling ( )
  - (b) Referring you to a hospital for treatment ( )
  - (c) Referring you to the police for protection and security ( )
  - (d) Directing your community leader to provide you with shelter ( )
  - (e) All of the above ( )
- Other, specify.....
23. Do you think the services you received in the Social welfare agency were sufficient to solve your problem?
- (a) Sufficient ( ) (b) Not sufficient ( )
24. If your answer to No. 23 above is 'No' do you think the reason is because the social welfare agency does not have enough trained social workers to handle such cases like your own?
- (a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( ) (c) Don't know ( )
25. Do you think that if the services rendered by the Social Welfare agency are improved, it would be able to salvage abused women to change their situation?
- (a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )
26. Have you settled or will prefer to settle your domestic violence by the following ways:-
- (a) by yourselves ( )
  - (b) With relations ( )
  - (c) With colleagues ( )
  - (d) Professional helpers ( )
  - (e) Judicial/Criminal system ( )

APPENDIX 2

B. QUESTIONNAIRE FOR MEN

INSTRUCTION: Mark 'X' against the option or the alternative answers to the questions that best suits your choice. Choose only one alternative at a time.

SECTION 1:

1. What is your age?  
(a) Below 20 years ( ) (b) 21-40 years ( )  
(c) 41 - 60 years ( ) (d) 61 and above ( )
2. Marital status:  
(a) Married ( ) (b) Separated ( ) (c) Divorced ( )
3. What is your educational qualification?  
(a) Non formal education ( )  
(b) Primary education ( )  
(c) Secondary education ( )  
(d) Post secondary education ( )
4. What is your Religious denomination?  
(a) Roman Catholic ( ) (b) Protestant ( )  
(c) African Traditional Religion ( )  
(d) Other, specify.....
5. How many children do you have?  
(a) No child ( ) (b) 1-5 children ( )  
(c) 6 - 10 children ( ) (d) 11 and above ( )
6. What is your annual income?  
(a) ₦1,000.00 - ₦4,000.00 (b) ₦5,000.00 - ₦8,000.00 ( )  
(c) ₦9,000.00 - ₦14,000.00 ( )  
(d) ₦15,000.00 and above ( )
7. In which of the following occupational categories do you belong?  
(a) Civil/Public servants ( )  
(b) Trading/Business ( )  
(c) Artisan ( )  
(d) Other, Specify.....

8. SECTION II:

Have you ever beating up your wife?

(a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )

9. If 'yes' what is the reason behind this your action?

(a) When you want to show your masculine strength ( )

(b) When you want to show that a man is superior to a woman ( )

(c) When you are angry for one reason or another ( )

(d) When she fails to obey your instruction ( )

(e) Other, specify.....

10. How often have you beaten up your wife

(a) Very often ( ) (b) Often ( )

(c) Not very often ( )

11. How severe have your assault on your wife been?

(a) Very severe ( ) (b) Severe ( )

(c) Not severe ( )

12. Do you think your economic condition influence your action of abusing your wife?

(a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )

13. Has your wife ever assaulted or beaten you up?

(a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )

14. If 'Yes', what do you think is the cause?

(a) She is stronger than you ( )

(b) She is very stubborn ( )

(c) She learnt it from her father ( )

(d) She learnt it from her mother ( )

(e) Don't know ( )

15. Did your father ever beat your mother?

(a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )

16. Did your wife's father beat her mother?

(a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )

17. Have you ever thought of dropping this habit of beating up your wife?  
(a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )
18. Do you like to stop it but you don't know how to?  
(a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )
18. Have you ever received treatment services in a Social agency?  
(a) Yes ( ) (b) No ( )
20. If your answer to No 17 above is "Yes", do you think the services you received were sufficient to solve your problem?  
(a) Sufficient ( ) (b) Not sufficient ( )
21. If you answer "No" to No 20, what do you think was responsible to the insufficient services you received in the social welfare agency?  
(a) Lack of trained social workers in the agency ( )  
(b) Lack of working materials in the agency ( )  
(c) Frequent adjournment of your cases ( )  
(d) No knowledge of community resources to assist victims of abuse and their husbands ( )



APPENDIX 3:

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR NEN

1. Can you tell me your experiences about domestic fights or beating between husband and wife in your family when you were a child? That is the nature, frequency, causes and results?
2. What effects do you think the present economic conditions have on the happiness of families or such as your own in relation to wife beating?
3. What actions of your wife generally lead you to fight or beat her up?
4. Can you give details of the causes of the last fight between you and your wife?
5. Do you think you would like to stop the habit of beating your wife?
6. What social service helps have you been able to seek to stop you from beating up your wife and how effective have they been in solving your problem.

APPENDIX 4:

INTERVIEW SCHEDULE FOR WOMEN

1. Can you enumerate your experiences about domestic violence or beating between husband and wife in your family when you were a child. What is the nature, frequency, causes and results of such fightings in your family.
2. What are the implication of the present economic condition in the happiness of families such as yours in relation to wife beating by husbands?
3. Can you recount some actions which lead to a break down in communication between you and your husband which result into physical violence?
4. What safety mechanisms do you employ whenever your husband decends violently on you?
5. How effective have these measures been in ameliorating your problem?