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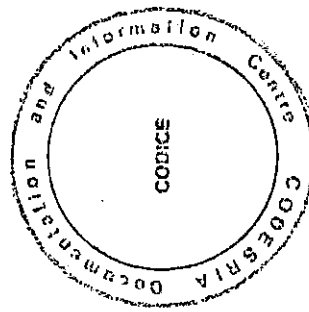
**UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA  
NSUKKA DEPARTMENT OF  
VOCATION TEACHER OF  
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**Pattern of wife abuse within families in Yola Adamawa  
state**

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PATTERNS OF WIFE ABUSE WITHIN FAMILIES IN YOLA, ADAMAWA STATE

A PROJECT REPORT SUBMITTED IN PARTIAL FULFILMENT OF  
THE REQUIREMENT FOR THE AWARD OF MASTERS IN EDUCATION  
(HOME ECONOMICS EDUCATION)

BY

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NOVEMBER, 1998.

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UNIVERSITY OF NIGERIA, NSUKKA  
FACULTY OF EDUCATION

PATTERNS OF WIFE ABUSE WITHIN FAMILIES  
IN YOLA, ADAMAWA STATE

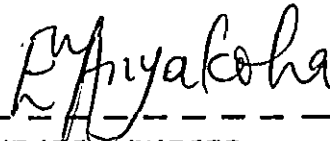
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MBUKURTA MILKAH ELAM (MRS.)

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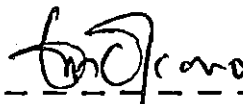
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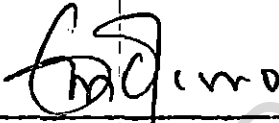


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NOVEMBER, 1998

CERTIFICATION

Mbukurta, Milkah Elam a Postgraduate students in the Department of Vocational Teacher Education with Reg. No. PG/M.ED/92/13663 has satisfactorily completed the requirements of course and research work for the degree of Masters in Education (Home Economics). The work embodied in this project is original and has not been submitted in part or full for any other degree of this or any other University.



Head of Department



Supervisor

DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my darling husband  
Mr. Elam N. Mbukurta and my children Nachanuya  
and Nachafiyada.

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I wish to express my profound gratitude to God for His love, care and kindness towards the completion of the study.

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May God bless them in his own best way.

Millie Na Mbukurta

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## Abstract

This study was designed to find out the patterns of wife abuse within families in Yola Local Government Area. The study sought answers to the following questions:

1. What are the different ways through which wives are abused in families in Yola Local Government Area?
2. What are the causes of wife abuse within the families in Yola Local Government Area?
3. What are the effects of wife abuse on the family (children, wives and family living) in Yola Local Government Area?
4. In what ways can incident of wife abuse be prevented, minimised in Yola Local Government Area?

The population was made up of families in Yola Local Government Area. The sample was made up of a total of 500 respondents randomly selected from the population. Questionnaire was the instrument used for data collection. Data collected were analysed using frequencies, percentages, mean and t-test values at 0.05 level of significance.

Findings of the study include:

1. Ten (10) ways through which wives are abused within families in Yola Local Government Area. There were no significant difference at 0.05 level of significance between the mean responses of husband and wives for the ways except in two instances.

2. Fourteen (14) causes of wife abuse within families in Yola Local Government Area. There were no significant difference at 0.05 level of significance between husband and wives mean responses for 9 of the factors.
3. Fourteen (14) ways through which wife abuse affect the families in Yola Local Government Area. There was no significant difference at 0.05 level of significance between the mean scores of wives and husbands for 12 of the ways.
4. Eighteen ways of preventing/Minimizing wife abuse within the families in Yola Local Government Area. Based on the findings appropriate recommendations for preventing/minimizing wife abuse in Yola Local Government Area were made.

## CHAPTER 1

### INTRODUCTION

#### Background of the Study

The family is made up of a group of persons united by ties of marriage, blood or adoption. The family is the smallest, most personal and most intimate of social groups (Anyakoha and Eluwa; 1991). It is also the smallest unit of culture and the origin of human communities.

There are different types of families. Each family carries out certain functions as a group. Various members of the family also carry out specific responsibilities. It is through the recognition of the responsibilities or functions of each of the family members that they can contribute effectively to family living (Obiadi, 1979).

The husband and his wife are the key persons in a family. And for the well being of the family, the husband-wife relationship must continue to be strengthened through continued affection and effective communication which involves recognising those of the other partner. Affection in husband-wife relationship is the pattern of love which had changed from the pre-marriage "being-in-love" to marital love. Marital companionship requires cooperation and mutual trust in one another. And sex relationship becomes more satisfying as the couple develop the ability to satisfy one another's need. (Anyakoha and Eluwa, 1991) noted that, it is very

important that spouses love and respect the feeling of each other. There is thus need for mutual empathic understanding. In situation where this is lacking, friction may occur and in some cases some family members may suffer some form of abuse. One of such victims of abuse in a family is the wife.

Wife abuse could be in various forms/ways including the maltreatment of wife or inappropriate method of discipline extended to a wife. It could also be the denial of rights and privileges, brutality, battering and negligence of any kind (Massa, 1986). The term abuse is not merely limited to just acts of physical violence but also includes psychological abuse, emotional abuse, social and sexual abuse.

Skolnick, et al (1986) stated that a typical abused wife has no independent source of income and even the relatives who might help are not there to do so. That is why women with children especially are "caught" in the husband's residence because they have nowhere to go to.

Roy (1977) stated that to yield a decline in the rate of wife abuse there should be decreases in:

1. Men's perceived right to abuse their wives.
2. Women's lack of alternatives to the victims role and
3. The unresponsiveness of social institutions to the problems of wife abuse.

If this is not done, the effects will not only be on the wife but the whole family. It also offers little or

no protection for the wife and so requires social solutions ranging from legal intervention to an improvement of women's status through education and employment. The society and the local communities could also make a difference by intervening for battered or abused wives.

To reduced wife abuse will require mass education, sensitisation and the systematic improvement of the economic lot of women. For as long as women continue to be seen as inferior, they will be buff of men's violence at the same home and at the societal level.

#### Statement of the Problem

Women are known to play significant role in families. In order to do this, they have to be accorded some respect, rights, love and so on in the family by members including the husband. The husband has to love the wife and exhibit emphathic understanding. However, where the reverse is the case, wives are abused. The abuse comes in various ways. And where wives are abused they may fail to fulfil their roles. When this occurs, family life suffers in various ways and in extreme cases home may be broken.

In Yola Local Government Area, wife abuse has become a common phenomenon. Sequal to this situation, presently, a programme was organised by Better Life for Rural Women, in 1992, in Yola on "WAR AGAINST WIFE ABUSE". Also records available at the Yola Social Welfare Agency (SWA) further

confirms the incidents of wife abuse in the area (in Appendix 1 table 1 shows 1210 families/spouses who were counselled between 1991 and 1993 of their annual report).

Similar situations were also reported by Rights of Women (1993); Unday Champion (1993), James 1993 and Voice (1993). These reports stressed the various acts of violence and discrimination against women in the area. The reports also pointed out that women are not given their rights to change their status like their counterparts in other parts of the country. Since these women have the right of existence and to contribute to the development of their families and communities they should not be abused. It therefore, becomes necessary to seek ways of preventing/minimising wife abuse in Yola Local Government Area (LGA).

#### Purpose of the Study

The family moulds the character of individuals through effective communication and inter-personal relationship. This can only take place in peaceful family environment where members are free from abuse. It is expected that this study will give information and useful hints for individuals and families on the ills of wife abuse with a view to providing the basis for effective programmes that will help solve the problems of wife abuse.

Results of this study will provide the basis for recommending or proposing strategies that will guide practicing

government agencies, social workers, marriage counsellors unit, Home Economics Extension service on marital issues.

The findings will give further and adequate marriage training and guidance to the young and old couples about the predominant social factors that gradually diminish and to consequently reduce the number of divorce cases within the societies. By exposing men to the need to respect and give women their proper place in the home as partners by organising a workshop on family relationship, television programme and radio.

The findings will further provide protective services and programmes to agents responsible for family education to reach spouses about family relationship in treating wife abuse and their victims.

#### Research Questions

The study sought answers to the following questions:

1. What are the different ways through which wives are abused within families in Yola Local Government Area?
2. What are the causes of wife abuse within the families in Yola?
3. What are the effects of these abuses on the children, wives and family living in Yola?
4. In what ways can incidents of wife abuse be prevented/minimised in Yola?



### Hypotheses

The study treated the following hypotheses:

1. There will be no significant difference in mean perceptions of husbands and wives on ways through which wives are abused in Yola Local Government Area at 0.05 level of significance.
2. There will be no significant difference in the mean ratings of husbands and wives on the causes of wife abuse in Yola Local Government Area at the 0.05 level of significance.
3. There will be no significant difference in the mean rating of husbands and wives on the effects of wife abuse in Yola Local Government Area at the 0.05 level of significance.

### Scope of the Study

This study covered Yola Local Government Area of Adamawa State.

### Definition of Terms

**Abuse :** To ill-use or maltreat, to injure, wrong, or hurt.

To make a wrong use of any one's confidence to impose upon, cheat or deceive a person.

**Abuse Wife :** Any woman who has received deliberate severe and repeated demonstrable physical injury from her marital partner.

**Battered :** A woman who has been repeatedly injured or otherwise ill-treated by her partner.

**Batterer** : One who batters, vigorous assailant, a brawler.

**Brutality** : Inhumanity, savage cruelty an inhuman action, violent roughness of manners, sensuality.

**Conflict** : Occurs when two goals are incompatible, when gratification of one goal frustrates the other.

**Frustration** : The actual blockage of some goal-oriented behaviour. The reasons for frustration are multiple, one of them is the presence of motivational conflict.

**Family Violence** : Means the threat or actual use of force or physical force between members of a nuclear family.

**Lower Class** : These are the group of society who manage to eat out bare life existence and sustenance.

**Spouse** : Any individual involved in an intimate heterosexual relationship with another individual whether in a formal marital union or a non-formal one.

**Spouse Assault** : Is defined as the use of physical attack by one spouse or another such as pushing, slapping, kicking or throwing an object with the intent to inflict, bodily harm.

**Socialisation** : This is the process of internalization of norms, values, moral 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 have imbibed.

**Social work intervention** : This is the process of bringing change in deteriorating social situation. It also means the process

of repairing damaged human interactions and relationships.

Threat : Refers to the anticipation of harm of some kind; an anticipation that is created by the presence of certain stimulus cues signifying to the individual that there is to be an experience of harm.

Upper Class : These individuals in society who are highly placed in relation to their material wealth, education, place and type of residence <sup>and</sup> enhance social status.

Violence : In one part of the broad term abuse, violence especially refers to the use of physical force by one spouse to another.

## CHAPTER 11

### LITERATURE REVIEW

This chapter deals with review of related literature.

The literature was reviewed and organised under the following headings:

1. Meaning, form and problems of wife abuse
2. Causes of wife abuse
3. Studies on wife abuse
4. Wife abuse and family living and
5. Summary of literature review.

#### Meaning, Forms and Problems of Wife Abuse

The subject of wife abuse has received little attention from scholars. Flynn (1979) argues that a major reason and perhaps the primary reason why so little is known or written about the incident of wife abuse is due to the cultural orientation "towards women's place" or the often assumed superiority of the male and the attendant prerogatives associated with such superiority.

Patriarchal social system such as in Nigerian are marked by male supremacy and the legal dependence of wives and children on the husband and father (men). Nichols, (1979) contend 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 status are now obsolete he noted that the fact is that many women are still being abused by their husbands.

Nichols further described in details 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 produce laughter and some embarrassment".

In thinking about patterns of abusiveness on the part of a husband towards his wife, the use of violence as well as idea of power, masculize, aggressiveness and feminine psychology come to mind. Storr (1970) developed the theory that male aggressiveness is biologically based and a crucial development element. Consequently he argues that the female passivity is biological and normale state that almost all woemn have fantess. about being seduced by men.

There are two contemporary explanations to wife abuse according to Patterson (1980) one cites the sexist structure and tradition of the society which a word a husband ownership of and submission from a wife as the cause of wife abuse. Helen (1944) also described this <sup>institutional</sup> development of the male submissiveness primarily as a biological process, essentially unaffected by social pressures and complementing the same course in most culture.

The second theory looks at the economic structural limits of women's opportunities toward self sustenance. In other words Patterson argued that wife abuse, occurs because of the conditions that are present in social norms, values and tradition and

structure in society.

In contrast to this theory of the sexist structure of society is the explanation proposed by Richard (1972). He argued that family violence is a response to the stress that originates in the social structures of societies. Such sources of stress include unemployment, poverty and unfulfilled 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 also occur there to a disproportionate extent. Richard also proposed two pre-conditions for family violence- structural stress and a socialisation experience that teaches the individual that violence is an appropriate response to stress. This socialisation/social structure theory of wife abuse proposed by Richard has never been subjected to thorough empirical study using the social cultural background of Nigeria.

Obshanky (1962) and Wallace (1972) also carried out studies of violent couples in England and come out with the results that violence was more among the lower class of English couples than the higher classes. Wallace conformed that the role of secretion of the hormone called corticosteroid which determines the level of a person's reactions to the slight stress with hostility, anxiety, fear 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. Among the lower classes they experienced higher secretion of corticosteroid hormones which contributed to their increased aggressive tendencies. They reacted violently to any stress. This was the stage Wallace emphasized that a couple could mistakenly harm one another only to regret their action when the level of corticosteroid is lowered.

Patriarchal social systems such as in Nigeria are marked by male supremacy and the legal dependence of wives and children. Nichola (1979) 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 status are now obsolete the fact is that many women are still being abused by their husbands. Nichols describes in detail how a patriarchal society generally affects women.

Islam according to Mudashir (1976) supported giving an erring wife a specified number of strokes on the leg, depending on the nature of her offence. He said those who turned their wives to punching bags have gone beyond the stipulated law of Islam and they have committed sin.

Ethiological factors of marital violence include general socioculturals, pressures such as poverty, stereo-type, sexual role socialisation, alcohol and drug abuse, etc. Abused women experiences strangulations, punches on the face, the stomach and the breast bore injuries of all sorts and other bizzarred and

sterling attacks from their spouses.

The forms of abuses found in the society could be seen in the following ways: brutality, battering, frustration by hypertension, punching-bags, prostitution and tentation in which Nigerian societies stands to face today. (Toriola; 1976) wife beating is multi-dimensional problems psychologists and sociologists believed that the root cause of wife abuse (beating) lie deep within the personality of those involved and within the society at large.

Bakam (1971) asserted that history of violence factor is part of the battering wife phenominon. Many abused wives are from homes where their mothers inclined to accept abuses as a normal part of marriage than others who do not grow up in the same atmosphere of wife abuse. Such abused wives may rationalised that being beaten is part of a wife's role.

In another development Bakam associated assiltive husband to the battered wife who might have grown up in a violence home. The wife battered may have been a battered child and has a higher tolerance for violence which follows him through life. The assultive husband often believes he has the right to beat his wife. While the battered wife is passive, the assultive husband often is over concerned with living up to the role of the dominating male at least in his home. Many battering husbands are unseccessful, financially, occupationally and socially like their wives, they also suffere from low self-esteem, their frustration and anger is some times directed towards the wife.



Willared (1982) observed that physical violence was seen among people of all ages, socio-economic and educational level in America. However, i identified wife beating to be more among the lower socio-economic level of society because of the "culture of poverty". He concluded that lower socio-economic groups were roted for using yelling, screaming, intimidation and physical violence on all family interaction requires finance:

There was no ethnographic information to affirm whether or not African culture support wife abuse in most pre-modern cultures that are patriarchal men being dominant and heads of houses holds and at the same time being physically stronger tend to abuse women and children.

According to Aina (1967), his awareness of certain African cultures and traditional societies shows that the tradition frowns at ill-treatment of wife. A proprietor and consultant of traditional clinic and maternity home (1990); stated that the villages where tradition holds sways adequate punishment inform of fines or verbal warning to make the man who abuses his wife realise that the action is abhored by the community. He added that as soon as a woman leaves her parents' house and joins a man in materimony the man immediately assumes the responsibility of father/mother to her. But when this happens tradition views it as a serious offense for that same husband to go ahead and maltreat her.

Another traditionalist Baloji (1991) affirms that traditional religion and culture forbid wife abuse of any sort. According to him a man who uses stick or prevents the wife's freedom of any sort is regarded as traditionally lunatic who should not indulge in abusing each other. The children psychologically would take up the situation as normal. They perceive it as good relationship between daddy and mummy. That mummy should always be made to cry by daddy. Girls on the other hand might grow to hate men, thinking women are to be beaten always. Boys feel that naturally a man is supposed to be hostile to the opposite sex. The children when they become adults summarily take wife abuse as a way of life no matter their level of education. They would grow confused. They see their fathers as the aggressor and with time they start to take side with their mothers and correcting their father.

Toyin (1978) states that it is wrong for a man to abuse his wife no matter the provocation because she is created out of the bones and flesh of a man. He said, God's servant are not supposed to raise their hands against each other especially wife/children, but one can discipline any erring member of the family committed with words.

Rev. Tortola (1993) ascertain that, according to the teaching of Jesus Christ, it is wrong for a man to inflict any form of physical punishment on a wife/child. A husband should love his wife, cuddled and well guided spiritually, when there is

misunderstanding, they should allow the love between them to overcome any consideration. A man who did not provide for his family is worst than unbeliever and his prayers will not be hindered.

Wife abuse is an assault though there is no law statutory that deals specifically with wife abuse. It is an offence because it is a form of assault punishment in law. Kole (1980) a legal practitioner stated that in law, it is no defence or justification for a man to argue that he has the liberty to beat, stop her progress, feeding her simply because the woman is his wife. The husband should respect his wife's right to life. He has no right what so ever, to abuse her no matter the gravity of the offence she committed. He said the penalties for a man found guilty of wife abuse are spelt out in Chapter 31, section 332, 335 and 338 of the Criminal Code. He is liable to imprisonment ranging from three years to seven years.

The laws and the society obviously need to take a firmer stand against all sorts of infringement of woman's rights. Although there are law against such violence as assault, battering and rape, they need to be more humanly and delicately applied with consideration for what victims have already suffered (The right of women, 1993).

The problem of wife abuse according to Blumberg (1978); Chafetz, (1984), is the subordinate status of women in American Society, and in most of the world's Societies, is well documented.

Since physical force is the ultimate resource to keep subordinate groups in their place, women in the history of Euro-American society have often been the victims of physical assault.

Straus (1976) in the same development stated that man had the right to chastise or correct his wife for acts of misconduct which he felt infringed upon his right or threatened his position as the head of the household without any inhibition whatsoever from any quarter..

In the same development, "women's right and human right (March 8, 1993) lamented that not even the homes can be trusted to offer a sanctuary to women.. In Nigerian as in many other parts of the world, wife beating and abuse go on unabated while the society turns a blinded eye.

Most Nigerian men are intensely intolerant, of the idea of women liberation; contingent on the cultural belief, man simply cannot fashion the idea of their wives who are culturally bound to be obedient, submissive and compromising now demanding equality with men in the home.. (Fasosi, 1969). Moreover, it is believed that in the African content the man is undoubtedly the head of the family while the wife is expected to assume the role of a partner (in progress) a helper companion and friend. Hence any attempt by the woman to claim equality with her husband would amount to questioning the man's authority as the governor of the home..

Syster (1976) said, marriage institution in Nigeria has been bastardized leaving the woman in its wake, women as the

greatest sufferers. We talk of apartheid in South Africa when there is apartheid in Nigeria against the women. She said that men have had it for long, may be when the Nigerian constitution was drafted no body had the interest of the women at heart. Women are regarded as second class citizens. The issue of honour, respect and dignity does not exist. She stated that women in some parts of the country are not allowed to visit, sit or dine with their husbands' for instance, in Yola Local Government Area, because of their religious belief and ignorance. In some states too example <sup>Katsina</sup> State, unmarried ladies are not allowed to work in the public offices or will not be employed completely. She is also against the idea of women getting lower entry grade into the University. She don't think that women are inferior to men mentally. On issues that involves physical capacity 'yes'.

Women liberation emphasis freedom for women to show their potentials. By and large this tends to reduce the degree of control or authority of the man over his wife. A man who returns home after a hard day's work only to discover that his supper is either not ready or is being prepared by the househelp stays late could likely beat up the woman. The woman liberation usually aggravates the situation by putting up an "I don't care attitude" which normally triggers off the beating.

According to Enwereji (1989) a man can inflict corporal punishment upon his wife leaving the house without permission,

keeping bad company, drinking alcohol and cooking bad food or cooking late.

In the present day Nigerian society with the so called women liberation and emancipation, the situation has not changed much. Most husbands who feel threatened in their position as heads of families always reacted to show their displeasure. Those who feel sufficiently threatened, resort to brutal force in attempt to making their wives understand that "a woman's place is in the kitchen". In most cases violence and intence conflict follows.

In another development Bulema, in scope of (December 15, 1991) reported that a husband was promoted principal in place of his wife who was higher in qualification which resulted into a home dispute in future area of Adamawa State.

James in Voice of (January 22, 1993) reported that a villager in law, Taraba state, matched one of his wives to death for refusing to work on the farm with other wives. There were other numerous complains received from the woman who were either denied of working after graduation or not furthering their education after N.C.E./O.N.D. while others could not freely attain the multi-purpose centres to learn handicraft in urban areas. It could be viewed therefore, that women are subjected to various forms of abuses depending on their environment and locality which call for mass campaign against this unjust treatment to humanity.

In a workshop organised by the Legal Research and Rescource Development Centre, Lagos on the 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 through a universal phenomenon is of particular interest to the Nigerian women who suffered centuries of untold violence from her male counterpart due to harsh cultural practides (Sunday Times 23: 2: 52 pg. 23).

The workshop also identified what it believes constituted violence to women in Nigeria among which are 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 masqucrades during festival periods.

Olabisi (1988) stated that, an 18 years old girl is sexually abused when she is given out for marriage to an old chief of 57 years old.

Man is religious by nature which ever way we choose to look at it, there is always the spiritual elements that tends to guide man's actions, (Thomas and Okorie, 1985). Therefore it is reasonable to presume that a man's religious belief will have considerable influence on action taken in his day to day dealings with fellow human beings.

Straus (1981) stated that, men abuse women not only because they are capable of "doing so", but also because of the subordinate role of women. The husband was the authority figure and he was in charge of discipline and physical punishment as a method of discipline applicable to women and children.

### Causes of Wife Abuse

Determining what causes men to assault their wives can only be speculated upon since there is even less information about assaulting husband than about their spouses. Frequently their personalities are complementary and there is some evidence of general violence by both spouse (Martin 1982; Christopher 1983).

Davis (1971) stated that women were not only abused but burned alive "for threatening their husbands for talking back to or refusing a priest for stealing for prostitution, for adultery for bearing a child out of wedlock, for permitting sodomy (even though the priest or husband who committed it was forgiven), for masturbating, for lesbianism for child neglect, for scolding and nagging and for miscarrying, even though the miscarriage was caused by a kick or a blow from the husband".



Chiwete (1989) stated that it is not true that they take delight in beating or abusing their wives, but that the wives nag them to the point of beating, this is because some wives have been brought up in an abusive home.

In another development (Olugbodi, 1987) seen drunkenness as one of the causes of wife abuse. Instead of the wife to realise that a man who is under the influence of alcohol can easily lose his temper he argued, is then the women choose to pester <sup>them</sup> and even start to quarrel. Such nagging even when justified infuriates a man especially when he is under the influence of alcohol and it could lead to violence. No matter what a man must have done wrong a reasonable wife should keep her agitation until when man is sober. But our women often would choose that particular period to release pent-up emotion and frustration on the man.

According <sup>to</sup> Titilayo (1989) wives choose to nagging and quarrelling at <sup>this</sup> stage because they can not according to their psychological make-up keep matters for long. She added that, before a woman resort to nagging, she must have been counselling him, but probably sees her as a foolish, envious and troublesome woman. She might not have food to eat with the children but would come home drunk and start beating her for complaining.

Red and Black witches and wizards causes wife abuse lamented by (Shehu, 1988). He said that they are also responsible for problems like hypertension, barrenness, miscarriages, strokes, blindness, impotence and brutality, so people should wage war against them.

Wife abuse according to Shehu is also caused by the position a woman possesses. Some women are more successful in business than their husbands so they become condescending and disrespectful towards their husbands. In an attempt to subdue such resort to beating.

Virginia (1986) started five causes of wife abuse. This is because they don't know or meet the needs or wants of their husbands:

1. Consecrated concubine - The truth is that every wife should provide her husband with the sexual pleasure solicited from a concubine.
2. He wants confidence - He needs somebody to whom he can truly open-up his heart, his hurt, his hope; man wants a woman who can listen to him as he thinks this way through dreams and aches his way through his problems.
3. Companion - He wants a warm friend, an understanding companion.
4. Conscience - Most men might not admit it, but expect women to be the conscience of their lives and their communities.

5. Create climate controller - A man wants some one who can set the mental climate - control to possible thinking woman. She continued that no man will stop loving a positive thinking woman confidently.

Some causes of wife abuse as observed by Shehu (1978), is when husbands took the advantage of wooing their house-girls as their second wife. The first wife who could not take it lightly will be frustrated and look just a picture of herself. While others become hypertensive, others took to drug addiction. 75% of cocaine addicts are women, believing that it stimulates sexual activities and increase libido.

According to Ruth (1993) in an interview, some women took to lesbianism and homosexuality, she started that, lesbianism does not stop one from being a family infact it is the best. If a woman encourages her man to make a trip often, watch out for your rival. It becomes an abuse when the man refuses to travel.

Numerous theories about the causes of spouse abuse have been proposed. Some have looked toward historical roots (Flick, 1978), Patriarchal (Dobash and Dobash, 1978), sociological factors among others. These theories were developed out of different approaches often reflecting the training of their proponents.

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

Learned helplessness is a phenomenon observed by Seligman (1982) while studying the effects of the relationship of fear to instrumental learning. He demonstrated that when exposed to situation where there is dependence between the organisms and the reinforcement, the organism develops the expectation that its actions are not efficacious in manipulating the environment. This helpless feeling then proactively interferes with productive behaviour in new situations.

This theory is of 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 socialisation, some women may "learn" that they are subordinate to men. They may 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.

In thinking about physical abusiveness on the part of a husband towards his wife, the use of violence as well as idea of power, masculine aggressiveness and feminine, psychology aggressiveness is biologically based and a crucial developmental element. Consequently, he argues that the female passivity is biological and normal state, that almost all women have fantasies about being seduced by men.

Nichols (1979) believes that the wide spread tolerance for the Freudian theory of female personality, development is even more crucial to the future of case work intervention of wife abuse. He says that case workers accept this theory seeing in it a reason for women being abused that is they unconsciously desire pain.

#### Studies on Wife Abuse

Burning at the stake is now part of the dim historical past. Gelles (1967) stated that the right to physically chastise has long since disappeared from the common law. However, what actually takes place in American marriage is a different matter.

Steinmetz (1980) carried out a study on 2143 American couples in 1975 - 76, and found out that about two-thirds of the violent incidents were minor assaults such as slapping and

and throwing things, the other third of the incidents were serious assaults such as punching, biting, kicking, hitting with an object, beating up, or assaults with a knife or gun.

Chiwete (1989) stated that the woman who has been beaten and battered often goes to greater lengths to deny to herself and to others that the man she's suppose to love sees her as a punching-bag. The woman will report her injuries as a resulting from falls nagging and accidents such as waiting into doors, often to a shame and frightened to say my husband dit it. The problem is gender.

Chiwete also stated that, among the man who beat their wives are doctors, bankers, lawyers, teachers and business men and husbands assaultant is not necessarily a drunkered acting under the influence of alcohol.

For the wife who has been physically abused, shame, guilt, economic and emotional dependency and the belief that it is all part of the marriage are only some of the problems. In addition she is without adequate legal remedies (Maccoby, 1974). (Kola, 1980), a legal practioner, states that if the wife signs a complaints against her husband to be arrested (unlikely) would probably be released and given a future criminal court date. In the intervening time, much can happen to modify the assaulted woman but if the couple ever

gets a criminal court the case, unless dismissed will be referred to the family court because the defence counsel, the district attorney and the judge are likely to agree that this is just a family matter. It is possible that our lawmakers who are predominantly male prefer to reserve the status quo not only for existing reasons but also for other political and economic considerations. It is because of the above observations that many abusive women refuse to take up the matter but to suffer in silence.

In the first place, the decision to either stay with an assaultive spouse or to seek for dissolution of marriage is not solely to extent or severity of the physical assault. Some spouse will suffer repeated beatings or even stabbing without so much as calling a neighbour or others call the police after a coercive gesture from their husband.

Secondly the assumption that the victims would flee from a conjugal attacker overlooks the complex subjective meaning of inter-familial violence, the nature of commitment and entrapment of the family as social group and the external constraints limits a woman's ability to seek out sidehelp (Richard, 1976).

Truninger, Rosonwald and Robey, 1971 and 1984), found out that women attempt to dissolve a violent marriages only after a history of conflict and reconciliation. According

to the analysis, a wife makes decision to obtain a divorce from her abusive husband when she no longer believes her husband's promises of no more violence nor forgive past episodes of violence. They postulated that some of the reasons why women do not break off relationship with abusive husbands are that:

- i. They have negative self concept.
- ii. They believe their husbands will change.
- iii. Economic hardship.
- iv. They have children who needs a father's economic support.
- v. They doubt if they can get alone.
- vi. They believe divorcees are stigmatized.
- vii. It is difficult for woman with children to get work.
- viii. She feels that no man will marry her again.

Truninger, proposed that the stronger the commitment to marriage the less a wife will seek for legal action against a violent husband. He states three main factors which influence that actions of the abused wife:

1. The less severe and less frequent the violent the more a woman will remain with her spouse and seek outside aid.
2. How much violence a wife experience as a child, the more inclined she is to stay with her abusive husband. It appears victimization as a child raises the wife's



tolerance for violence as an adult.

3 Educational and occupational factors are associated with staying with an abusive husbands. Wives who do not seek intervention are less likely to have completed high school and more likely to be unemployed.

Truninger et al, concluded that the fewer resources a woman has the less power she has and the more entrapped she is in her marriage, the more she suffers in the hand of her husband without calling for help outside the family.

Abused wife stay because she wants security, economic support, psychological, social and emotional needs and the family's education, and fear of the second wife maltreating the children which in turn will make the children abused.

Jonna (1988) reported that some men abused their wives when they continually giving birth to female children. "As the case of a Bank Manager in Island Maternity in Lagos, on told that the wife gave birth to a bouncing baby girl. But immediately turned his back and told the nurse to tell the wife not to go back to his house with the child again.

In another development a 35 years old Richie (1990) lamented that she couldn't have her marriage that was on a rocky ground because she has a problem with her fallopian tube which carry the egg from ovaries to the womb it creates a lot of tensions as the husband womanized and frustrates her.

Social researchers and home counsellors indicated that there are certain general characteristics prevalent among reported cases of wife abuse. Determining what causes men to assault their wives cannot be speculated upon. Since it is clear that high income has every thing material but are abused psychologically, socially, emotionally and sometimes physically. In most cases abuses in high income families are denial of love, late night keeping and communication gap, sexual satisfaction, right of the woman in which children are being abused of. They suffer lack of concern and attention. They also suffer the labour of making the riches together but later the woman may be thrown out and others will come and enjoy the riches. Some abused wives indulge in drug addiction, lesbianism and homosexuality just to release the tension of house, (Pasasi and Syster, 1969, 1976).

Another case of detached fatherhood as reported by Ovbiagel in Sunday Vanguard (January 10, 1988) causes wife abuse among the high income family. She lamented, though happily married shows a lot of love for her and the kids. Somehow feels terribly alone in her marriage because the husband does not participate in the family activities. This woman is psychologically and emotionally abused.

Harold et al, (1989) asserted that some women cannot keep their husband despite the fact that money is there, but the man

will be left at the mercies of the younger women who sets their sight and giving up everything to win his love. Since the wife does not care about him, he then goes out, before she knows it, he has gone far.

Some women due to lack of understanding keep their children number one in their life and their husband goes out to look for companion, friend and helper.

Another case of wife abuse reported by Dallay and Kebby (1988, 1989) is the case of women flirting refusing to present themselves as married women. Exposing their privacy to men and attract them with the view of inviting them sexually. One can be fashionable without going naked by her hair-style her looks and how she wear her clothes. They provoke their husbands to beating them.

Some men are terribly jealous and so refuse their wives from furthering their education. Most men wouldn't like their wives to work even after graduation; they said the women will claim equality with the man. Some took it on religious ground (Islam). Another instance is when the woman work and will not see the salary. Some will not even know how much they earn. The husband claims the money at the end of every month.

Gill (1980) found out that officially recorded acts of physical abuse against wife and children are much more

likely to be committed by low status of husband and parents. In similar studies by Yarrow (1968), wives of low income suffers a lot of friction because husbands of this category tend to have more children on the parent than the higher status with the birth of these children close together.

Other stressful factors in the low income families, triggering wife abuse include prematurity and special physical or emotional problems with the increasing isolation of nuclear family from relations and the increasing number of one parent families, parents most often mothers are on call 24 hours a day and seven days a week with no relief from the pressures of these job, the stresses therefore results in blow-ups of one sort or another.

Cases of abuses among different groups involve aggression more marital unhappiness and discard each partner complaining of neglect physical or verbal abuse lack of love and matters including mental cruelty. Sometimes resulting as in-law interventions in the marriage and sexual misinacting. Some forms of abuses begin before child birth, where many attacks by fathers begin on mothers during pregnancy, this is more so when unwanted pregnancy occur or as a result of some stressful situation in the home.

It was the effort of the Bureau de National Labour Committee and initially the Federal effort in the progressive

era to link the well-being of children and wives with the economic security of the family, (Journal of United Nations Bureau).

Donal (1978) pointed out that although early epochs progress has been made in protecting the interest of wives from the problem, wife abuse has continued to cause serious concern in the society. Over the years, that concern has been translated into legislative reformed wife. Protective services and programmes, in many countries like United States of America, there are new indicators that recent wide publicity in the press and on television about wife abuse and effort of the United State Wife Bureau to obtain uniform legislation in each state governing the reporting of wife abuse have helped lightened public awareness and interest.

#### Wife Abuse and Family Living

Anyakoha and Eluwa (1991), stated that, when the relationship between husband and wife is distorted, there will be no basic trust and understanding, no effective communication or sexual relationship between them, no tolerance, cooperation and sharing of finance or managerial activities in the family.

The specific factors that produces an abusive relationship within a home vary in each case. However, Teresa (1985) a social therapist and home counsellors; experiences indicated

that there are certain general characteristic prevalent among reported cases of wife abuse.

Families are subjected to all forms of injuries such as brutality, beating, torturing and maltreatments. The psychological build-up of both man and woman and their emotional abuse occur when a wife has been neglected, unloved or not cared for.

The average Nigerian man these days already has much problems to contend with, he is constantly under one form of pressure or the other. He has an increased tendency to be easily provoked, an avenue for letting-off steam ignited by a touchy issue as the women under his roof challenging his authority, (Moji and Ovbiagele, 1988). If she behaves in a manner suggestive of her husband's inability to control his home is no doubt a source of embarrassment. And every man naturally revolt often and violently against it.

According to Odinate (1986) Nigerian men cause wife abuse. They have no time to love their families due to their level of social development. They lack confidence, affection and tolerance. He said a true-life story stated that while other women give their husbands Christmas Gifts, this woman gave her husband venereal disease. She was sexually abused so she went out as a result got a special Gift for her husband.

Harold (1989) also indicated that the need for women to give their husbands number one position and keep their wardrobe

up to date and add romance to their marriage.

The younger women he said, are nourished by romantic trappings candle light, soft music, fresh flowers; when you do not send in a personal gift home cooked dinner write love note to the office or honeymoon like retreat for a weekend the husband will look for a change and abuse will start for the woman at home.

Gil (1976) also found a higher incidence of violence against wives among families with lower socio-economic status, among broken families with many children.

Most frequent single focus on all types of violence in this family ranging from slap to beating, torture to murder. Violence was common in the family that it had been said was at least as typical of family relates as well as love and children were most likely to accept such violence as something normal in life.

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 may be shy and suffered with feelings of guilt. She fears that people will not believe her story or that the man will act 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 dependency is her biggest problem.

Wife abuse is demonstration of weakness in the man. And weakness include ignorance, deformity, illiteracy and economic inadequacy. (Eze, 1980) said man who knows himself understand his manhood and knows that his wife is helpless should not in any case abuse her. The wife in such marriage sees herself as sub-human merely as functioning for the sake of the man as his pendage and property. This type of woman does not derive psychological satisfaction in marriage. She accepts to be the weaker sex. The woman will turn out to be quarrelsome destructive and provocative not only to her husband but to neighbours also.

Social isolation is the characteristic of the abused wife for she is typically trapped both emotionally and physically. Abused wife frequently are withdrawn and avoid contact with neighbours, friends and relatives because of the nature of their problems and their reliance to discuss it. The abused wife knows friendship is communication.

Although there is a considerable ego fusion and expectation of closeness, family members often feel isolated from one another which may account for a high degree of ambivalence within the relationship. The symbolic bond of violent marriages inhibits actions or responses that foster appropriate growth



away from the family unit.

Margaret (1977) deposed that violent marriages are characterised by rigid role expectations, poor communication pattern, isolation and inability to accept responsibility for one's own thoughts, feelings and actions. In such families, love means possession of ego; fussion. 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.

The abuses on the wife has a diverse effect on both parties concerned, their children and the society. The two parties are likely to act like bird in the cage. They no longer move freely indulging in extra sexual excesses and other social misconducts, frustrated, abused woman may resort to prostitution to make two ends meet since the husband has neglected her. Abused family raises abused children. This is because most of the abused husbands are likely to be from either broken homes, quarrelsome parents or father who loves battering his wife more often. Thus the children will grow to be bad eggs and undesirable elements in the society.

They will lack educational training and these other qualities which promote harmonious living. Wife abuse therefore promotes indiscipline, hooliganism and juvenile delinquency (Obiadi, 1992). Abusives and quarrelsome family creates enmity between individuals and groups and strains existing relationship. And they soon lose their respect and recognition and become objects of gossip and ridicule in the community.

There will be bridge of communication in an abusive family. They lack reciprocation to return information which makes the other partner decreasing desire to be open for fear of hostile feeling and the danger that shared information be used against the self disclosing person. This fear in turn can motivate defensiveness in mental communication.

#### Characteristics of Battered Women and their Batterer

Walker (1982) identified ten (10) characteristics of battered women and corresponding characteristics for their husband batterers. The characteristics include the following:

Battered WomenBatterers

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Low self esteem   | 1. Low self esteem  |
| 2. Believe all myths about battering relationship  | 2. Believe all myths about battering relationship   |
| 3. Are traditionalists in the home, strongly believing in family unity and the prescribed feminine sex-stereotype      | 3. Are traditionalist in the home strongly believing and the stereotypical masculine sex-role in the family |
| 4. Accept responsibility for the batter's action   | 4. Blame others for their action  |
| 5. Suffer from guilt yet denies the terror and anger she feels   | 5. They are pathologically jealous and intrusive into their women's lives                                   |
| 6. Present a passive face to the world but have strength to manipulate their environment so as they do not get killed. | 6. Present dual personality   |
| 7. Have several stress reactions with psychological complaints   | 7. Have several stress, reactions during which they use drinking and wife beating to cope                   |

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 8. Use sex as a way to establish intimacy   | 8. Use sex as an act of aggression frequently to overcome importance of bisexuality. |
| 9. Treated as "daddy's little girl as a child.                                      | 9. Suffered from child abuse or neglect as children.                                 |
| 10. Believes no one will be able to help her solve her predicaments except herself. | 10. Do not believe their violent behaviour should have negative consequences         |

#### Summary of Related Literature

In the pre-modern times wife abuse has become controversial because we have entered an age of liberation and under such circumstances child-abuse and wife-abuse are now societal problems such as the pre-modern corporal punishment meted out by husbands to their wives appear similar to what obtains in contemporary times. There is need to separate the wife abuse of traditional societies (which though wrong but it was acceptable to them) from the wife abuse of alienated modern society which at times involves sadism and cruelty. It could also be sentenced to life imprisonment if the abuse is severe.

For instance, feeding and brutality/battering that lead to murder.

This social problems is noted to be diverse and complex with knots so deep in the history of man. There is therefore, no doubt that the Nigerian society is faced with such an immense magnitude that it has a serious threat to the ideas of democracy and to the wives' survivals. To distinguish between different types of wife abuse asserted by (Adediran, 1986, Vbijaro, 1987), women whose husband indulge in heavy pools beating, psychological problems drunkenness, social and emotional, forces, retrenchment foreeful retirement, ignorance, businessmen and lack of educational background.

The abused wife could be seen in the society as a frustrated wife, abused, hypertensive, quarrelsome, prostitute, punching-bags, tentrum and the women becomes a picture of her self.

Going by the above postulations, it is evident that many homes and in particular Nigerian homes, the nature of transaction determines the kind of relationship, to be expected. There is a likely-hood that spouses who interact positively and share their views constructively will experience equilibrium in their energies which results into happy relationships.

## CHAPTER 111

### METHODOLOGY

This chapter describes the methodology adopted in the conduct of this study. This involves the description of the area of the study, the population, the sample, the instrument for data collection and the methods of data collection and analysis.

#### Area of the Study

The area of the study is Yola Local Government Area of Adamawa State which is made up of (16) sixteen communities, Jimeta, Anguwan Lamido, Yola, Luggere, Karewa, lowcost, Naper, Army Barrack, Shagari, Hausari, Malamre, Dubelu, Lamurde, Santuraki, Loko and Song.

#### Population of the Study

The population of this study was made up of all families in Yola Local Government Area where spouses have received counselling services from the social welfare Agency (SWA) in the Local Government Area from 1991 - 1993. According to records available at the S.W.A. a total of 1210 families/spouses were counselled at the S.W.A. Yola is shown in Appendix 1. Records for 1994 are not available.

#### Sample for the Study

Five out of (16) sixteen communities in Yola L.G.A.

were randomly selected. From each of the five communities, 50% of the spouses who had registered with the S.W.A. were randomly selected for the study.

Equal numbers of husbands and wives were selected to give a total of 250 families as shown in Table 1. The total sample was made up of 250 wives and 250 husbands to give the total of 500 respondents.

Table 1

The registered cases (clients) of wife abuse in the five communities between 1991 - 93 in Yola S.W.A.

| S/N | Name of community | No. of wife abuse reported between 1991-93 | 50% of the cases |
|-----|-------------------|--|------------------|
| 1.  | Yola town         | 90   | 55               |
| 2.  | Jemeta            | 150  | 90               |
| 3.  | Luggere           | 70   | 45               |
| 4.  | Karewa            | 71   | 45               |
| 5.  | Anguwan Lamido    | 30   | 15               |
|     | Total             |  | 250              |

Instrument for Data Collection

Questionnaire was used for data collection. The questionnaire items were developed based on extensive review of available .

literature and the research questions.

The first part of the questionnaire consisted of items on the independent variable - marital status and family type. Other part of the questionnaire dealt with research question 1, 2, 3 and 4 with the following scales:

1. The four point rating scale low extent;
  2. Strongly Agree, Agree, Disagree and Strongly Disagree
- Questionnaire items for research question 4 were unstructured, items and <sup>dealt</sup> with suggestions on strategies for preventing wife abuse in the family.

The instrument was validated by two experts in Home Economics, two Sociologists and two social Welfare Workers. Based on their recommendations the instruments was reviewed.

#### Reliability of the Instrument

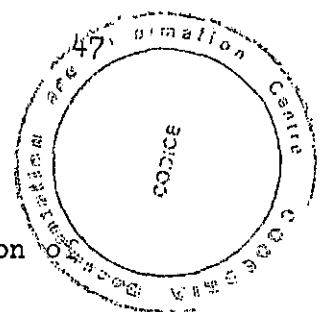
The test retest reliability was carried out by administering the questionnaire to the same group of 20 subjects i.e. the husband and wife, twice within a time lag of two weeks.

Pearsons' was used to test the coefficient of the stability of the instrument. The formula for  $r$  used was:

$$r = \frac{N \sum XY - \sum X \sum Y}{\sqrt{(N \sum X^2 - (\sum X)^2) (N \sum Y^2 - (\sum Y)^2)}}$$



Where N = Total number of husband/wife  
 X = Score at first trial  
 Y = Second score at second administration  
 instrument  
 = Sum of



Reliability co-efficient was 0.86

Data Collection Technique

The researcher with the aid of three trained research assistants visited all the respondents in the 250 households where 500 copies of the questionnaire were distributed to them on a daily basis for the period of one month. Some of the respondents filled and returned their questionnaire. For others, namely, the illiterates, the questionnaire served as interview schedule. All 500 questionnaires were completely filled and returned for analysis.

Data collected were analysed using the following techniques

1. Frequencies and percentages : These were calculated with the following techniques:

$$i \% = \frac{f}{N} \times \frac{100}{1}$$

Where N = Total number of respondents

F = Number of respondents to each cell/category

- ii. Mean : These were used to determine the extent to which items were important. The following formula was used.

$$\bar{X} = \frac{fx}{N}$$

Where  $\bar{X}$  = Mean

X = Number of respondents for each response category

N = Total number of respondents in the item/questions.

### Decision Rule

The Thurstone equal appealing interval scale was used to determine the decision rule for the 4 points scales. Any mean between 3.5 - 4.0 is taken as very important or Strongly Agree 4.

2.5 - 3.4 is taken as important or Agree 3

1.5 - 2.4 is taken a little important or disagree

1. - 1.4 is taken as not important or strongly disagree.

A mean of 2.50 will be taken as an appropriate score each criterion must attain to be considered important

2. t-test : This was used to test the Null hypotheses at 0.05 level of significance because the items are 30 with the following formula :

(Nworgu, 1991)

$$t = \frac{\bar{X}_W - \bar{X}_H}{\sqrt{\frac{S_W^2}{n_W} + \frac{S_H^2}{n_H}}}$$

Where  $\bar{X}_W$  and  $\bar{X}_H$  = The mean of the mean responses of ways through which wives are abused and Husbands respectively.

$S_W$  and  $S_H$  = Standard deviation of the mean response of causes of wife abuse and Husbands respectively.

$n_W$  and  $n_H$  = Husbands and wife mean opinion of the effect of wife abuse in the family respectively.

If calculated t-test is greater than the table t-value at 0.05 level of significance reject the null hypothesis in favour of the alternative hypothesis.

## CHAPTER IV

### PRESENTATION AND ANALYSIS OF DATA

This chapter deals with the presentation and analysis of data collected. Data were analysed and presented based on the research question and the hypothesis of the study. Personal data of respondents were also analysed.

#### Personal Data

Data analysed revealed the following:

- i. 52%, 16.4%, 16.2% and 17.2% of respondents were married, separated, divorced and others respectively.
- ii. 40.4% and 59.6% of respondents were from polygamous and monogamous families respectively.
- iii. 16%, 39.2% and 29.8% of respondents had no formal education, secondary education, Teacher Training (TC.11) and tertiary education respectively.
- iv. 54.4%, 46.% and 23.6% of respondents fall between ages below 18 years, 18-23 and 23 and above years respectively.
- v. 25.4, 46.% and 23.6% of respondents fall between age below 18 years, 18-23 and 24 and above years respectively.
- vi. 45.6%, 24.4% and 18.6% of respondents were christians, muslims and others respectively.
- vii. 21%, 38.2%, 29.8% and 17.6% of respondents have no children, 1-5, 6-11 and 12 and above respectively.

Research Question 1

What are the different ways through which wives are abused within families in Yola L.G.A.?

In order to answer this research question, respondents (husbands and Wives) were requested to indicate ways through which wives are abused. Their responses are summarised in Table 2.

Table 2

Mean Response of Husband and Wives with their t-test values on ways through which wives are abused

| S/No | Ways through which wives are abused                   | $\bar{X}_W$ | $\bar{X}_H$ | t-   |
|------|---|-------------|-------------|------|
| 1.   | Injuring/hurting the wife                             | 3.39        | 3.12        | 3.29 |
| 2.   | Making wrong use of the wife                          | 3.18        | 3.16        | 0.21 |
| 3.   | Imposition of ideas on wives                          | 3.34        | 3.03        | 3.51 |
| 4.   | Husband cheating wife                                 | 3.36        | 3.15        | 1.69 |
| 5.   | Brutality on wife by husband                          | 3.32        | 3.48        | 1.92 |
| 6.   | Violence on wife by husband                           | 3.38        | 3.34        | 0.49 |
| 7.   | Causing wife to be frustrated                         | 3.49        | 3.34        | 1.79 |
| 8.   | Sexual unfaithfulness directed towards wife           | 3.42        | 3.37        | 0.59 |
| 9.   | Husband threatening wife                              | 3.35        | 3.30        | 0.57 |
| 10.  | Husbands do not give money and other means of support | 3.35        | 3.29        | 0.66 |

No. of wives (NW) - 250; No. of Husbands (NH) = 250

$\bar{X}_W$  = Mean for wives;  $\bar{X}_H$  = Mean for husbands

Table  $t = 1.96$ .

Df = 498; F = 0.05.

Table 2 shows that the mean rating for each way through which wives are abused is above 2.50. This shows that the respondents' view each item as a way through which wives are abused.

t-test values also show no significant difference between the mean rating of husbands and wives for all the ways except No. 1 and 3. Therefore hypothesis of no significance difference between the mean ratings of husbands and wives on the ways through which wives are abused is rejected at 0.05 level of significance for only item Nos. 1 and 3.

### Research Question 2

What are the causes of wife abuse within the families in Yola L.G.A.?

In order to answer this question, respondents were asked to indicate the extent to which they agree with the following causes of wife abuse in the family. Their mean responses are summarised in Table 3.

Table 3

Mean Responses of Husbands and Wives on 14 Factors that Cause Wife Abuse with their t-test

| S/No | Causes of Wife Abuse                     | $\bar{X}_w$ | $\bar{X}_H$ | t-   |
|------|--|-------------|-------------|------|
| 1.   | Childlessness                            | 3.36        | 3.28        | 0.99 |
| 2.   | Controversy over income                  | 3.32        | 3.30        | 0.07 |
| 3.   | Poor family income                       | 3.32        | 3.26        | 0.81 |
| 4.   | Drunkenness on part of the husband       | 3.37        | 3.32        | 0.84 |
| 5.   | Educational gap between husband and wife | 3.32        | 3.38        | 0.86 |
| 6.   | Religious differences                    | 3.31        | 3.22        | 1.16 |
| 7.   | Polygamous marriage                      | 3.35        | 3.18        | 2.14 |
| 8.   | Nagging on part of the wife              | 3.23        | 3.20        | 0.37 |
| 9.   | Company the wife keeps                   | 3.41        | 3.33        | 1.10 |
| 10.  | Violence learnt from friends and parents | 3.40        | 3.21        | 2.42 |
| 11.  | Hot temper on both side                  | 3.39        | 3.22        | 2.11 |
| 12.  | Inherited tendency from family           | 3.46        | 3.18        | 3.04 |
| 13.  | Misplaced aggression on both side        | 3.42        | 3.38        | 1.84 |
| 14.  | Forced marriage                          | 3.38        | 3.22        | 2.06 |

No. of wives (NW) = 250; No. of Husbands (NH) = 250.

$\bar{X}_W$  = Mean for wives;  $\bar{X}_H$  = Mean for Husbands.

Table t = 1.96

Df = 498; p = 0.05

Table 3 shows that the mean rating for each cause of wife abuse is above 2.50. This shows that the respondents' view each item as a cause of wife abuse within families.

t-test values also show no significant difference between the mean rating of husbands and wives for all the causes except No. 7, 10, 11, 12 and 14 respectively. The mean responses of wives on the 5 items is higher than that of husbands because they are party to those causes. Therefore, the hypothesis of no significant difference between the mean ratings of husbands and wives on causes of wife abuse is rejected at 0.05 level of significance for 5 items.

### Research Question 3

What are the effects of wife abuse on the families in Yola L.G.A.?

To answer this research question on effects of wife abuse on the family, respondents were asked to react to 14 items. Their mean responses are summarised in table 4.



Table 4

Mean Responses of Husbands and Wives on Effects of Wife Abuse within Families with their t-test Values

| S/No. | Effect of wife Abuse   | $\bar{X}_W$ | $\bar{X}_H$ | t-   |
|-------|--|-------------|-------------|------|
| 1.    | Unhealthy husband/wife relationship  | 3.38        | 3.31        | 0.82 |
| 2.    | Overall situation lead to social disharmony among parents and their children hence the neglect | 3.27        | 3.44        | 2.30 |
| 3.    | The enstraged relationship between husband/wife can engulg the extended family                 | 3.36        | 3.30        | 0.76 |
| 4.    | Can lead to a fight between husband/wife   | 3.35        | 3.52        | 2.63 |
| 5.    | It can lead to children hating their home  | 3.30        | 3.40        | 1.49 |
| 6.    | Some may prefer more peaceful environment outside.   | 3.36        | 3.32        | 0.53 |
| 7.    | Creates division among children in the home  | 3.39        | 3.49        | 1.52 |
| 8.    | Creates a sense of insecurity on the part of the children                                      | 3.29        | 3.35        | 0.78 |
| 9.    | it can lead to child abuse   | 3.36        | 3.25        | 1.48 |
| 10.   | The differences can expose either party to the temptation of unfaithfulness                    | 3.49        | 3.48        | 0.16 |
| 11.   | It opens the door for outside interference in the marriage                                     | 3.36        | 3.46        | 1.84 |
| 12.   | It can lead to potential wife abuse  | 3.32        | 3.35        | 0.41 |
| 13.   | Divorce or separation may result.  | 3.36        | 3.39        | 0.42 |

No. of wives (NW) = 250; No. of Husbands (NH) = 250.

$\bar{X}_W$  = Mean of wives;  $\bar{X}_H$  = Mean for Husbands

Table t = 1.96

Df = 498; P = 0.05

Table 4 shows that the mean responses for each effect of wife abuse on the families are above 2.50. This shows that the respondents view each response as effect of wife abuse on the families.

t-test values also show no significant difference between the mean responses of husbands and wives for all the effects except No. 2 and 4. Therefore, hypothesis of no significant difference between the mean rating of husbands and wives on the ways through which wives are abused is rejected at 0.05 level of significance for only items No. 2 and 4.

#### Research Question 4

In what ways can incidents of wife abuse be minimised/prevented in Yola L.G.A.?

To answer this research question, the respondents were asked to indicate freely what each of the following could do in order to help minimise/prevent wife abuse within the families in Yola L.G.A. The social Welfare, the family the community, the school, religious organisation and women organisation. Their percentages (%) "Yes" responses are summarised in Table 5.

Table 5

Ways of Minimising Wife Abuse in the Family

| S/No |  | Yes %<br>W | Yes %<br>H |
|------|--|------------|------------|
| A:   | <u>Social Welfare Agency</u>   |            |            |
| 1.   | Counselling/Mediating in the family dispute                          | 30         | 30.1       |
| 2.   | Teach parents their responsibility                                   | 30.9       | 30         |
| 3.   | Help parents create feelings of understanding through communication  | 30.1       | 30.9       |
| B:   | <u>The Home/Family</u>   |            |            |
| 4.   | There should be mutual understanding through effective communication | 62.4       | 32.7       |
| 5.   | Forgiveness/love/patience/faithfulness                               | 30.6       | 30         |
| 6.   | Both parents/couples should sacrifice towards their marriage         | 60         | 40         |
| C:   | <u>The Community</u>   |            |            |
| 7.   | Form men's forum to discuss family issues                            | 28         | 28         |
| 8.   | Teach men to uphold the integrity marriage.                          | 83.2       | 30         |
| 9.   | Punishes the unfaithful man as an example                            | 86.4       | 27.7       |
| D:   | <u>The school</u>  |            |            |
| 10.  | Teach the basic facts of marriage                                    | 42         | 26.5       |
| 11.  | Show the glorious side of family living                              | 20         | 30.5       |

| S/No |   | Yes %<br>W | Yes %<br>H |
|------|---|------------|------------|
| 12.  | Incooperate family living into school curriculum.                   | 48         | 40         |
| E:   | <u>Religious Organisation</u>                                       |            |            |
| 13.  | Mediate in marital disputes   | 76         | 33         |
| 14.  | Teaching ethics of family living                                    | 43         | 47         |
| 15.  | Marriage counselling programme                                      | 60         | 23         |
| F:   | <u>Women Organisation</u>   |            |            |
| 16.  | Seek legal backing to handle any wife abuse                         | 73.6       | 30.6       |
| 17.  | Help women become aware of their responsibilities                   | 70         | 36         |
| 18.  | Conduct seminars/workshops on problems and issues on family living. | 80         | 24.5       |

No. of wives (NW) = 250; No. of husbands (NH) = 250. Yes % W -  
Yes Percentage of Wives

Yes % H = Yes percentage of husbands

Table 5 reveals that 30.9% 62.4%, 80.4%, 58% and 80% respectively of the respondents indicated that social welfare agency, home/family, the community, the school, Religious and women organisations can help minimise the incidence of wife abuse within the family.

## Findings

From the analysis of data collected, the following findings were made:

A: Ten (10) ways through which wives are abused within families in Yola include the following:

1. Injury/hurting the wife
2. Making wrong use of the wife
3. Husbands who impose ideas on their wives
4. Husbands cheating their wives
5. Brutality on wife by husbands
6. Violence on wife by husbands
7. Causing wife to be frustrated
8. 'Sexual unfaithfulness directed towards wife
9. Husbands threatening wife
10. Husbands non support of wife/does not give money and other means of support.

## Hypothesis

There will be no significant difference in mean preception of husbands and wives and t-test values on ways through which wives are abused in the family at 0.05 level of significance.

In order to test this H<sub>0</sub> t-test values were used to be ascertain the significant difference in the mean opinion of

the respondents. Data revealed to this hypothesis that the respondents had similar opinion on 2 items. Therefore the null hypothesis for this work is accepted with the exception of two items.

B: Fourteen causes of wife abuse within families include:

1. Childlessness
2. Controversy over income
3. Poor family income
4. Drunkenness on part of the husband.
5. Educational gap between husband/wife
6. Religious differences
7. Polygamous marriage.
8. Nagging on part of the wife
9. Company the wife keeps
10. Violence learnt from friends and parents
11. Hot temper on both side
12. Inherited tendency from family
13. Misplaced aggression on both side
14. Forced marriage.

### Hypothesis

There will be significant difference in the ratings of husbands and wives on the causes of wife abuse within the families.

t-test was used to test the mean rating of the respondents on the causes of wife abuse within families. Data revealed that the respondents had similar opinion on all items but differ significantly on 5 items at 0.05 level of significance.

The null hypothesis for this research question is accepted but reject 5 items.

C: Fourteen effects of wife abuse on the family include the following:

1. Unhealthy husband/wife relationship
2. Overall situation lead to social disharmony among parents and their children hence the neglect.
3. The enstraged relationship between husband/wife can engulf the extended family
4. Can lead to a fight between husband and wife
5. It can lead to children hating their home
6. Some may prefer more peaceful environment outside
7. Creates division among the children in the home
8. Creates a sense of insecurity on the part of the children
9. It can lead to child abuse
10. The differences can expose either party to the temptation of unfaithfulness
11. It opens the door for outside interference in the marriage.
12. It can lead to potential wife abuse
13. Divorce or seperation may result
14. Illiteracy and economic inadequacy affect family maintenance.

### Hypothesis

Husbands and wives in Yola L.G.A. will not differ significantly in their mean opinion of the effect of wife abuse in the family.

The mean opinion of the effects of wife abuse on the family was tested using t-test values, at 0.05 level of significance. Data revealed that the opinion significantly differ in items No. 2 and 4.

Therefore the null hypothesis for this research is accepted but reject two items.

D: Eighteen ways of preventing/minimising the incident of wife abuse within families in Yola L.G.A. These include:

1. Counselling/mediating in family disputes
2. Teach parents their responsibilities
3. Help parents create feelings of understanding through meaningful communication
4. There should be mutual understanding through effective communication
5. Forgiveness/love/patience/faithfulness
6. Both parents/couples should sacrifice towards their marriage.
7. Foremen's forum to discuss family issues
8. Teach men to uphold the integrity of marriage.
9. Punish the unfaithful man as an example



11. Show the glorious side of family living
12. Incooperate family into school curriculum at all levels
13. Mediate in marital disputes
14. Teaching ethics of family living
15. Marriage counselling programme
16. Seek legal backing to handle any wife abuse
17. Help women become aware of their responsibilities
18. Conduct seminars/workshops on problems and issues on family living.

The respondents revealed that the incident of wife abuse can be minimised in the family.

### Discussion

The discussion of the findings is organised under four major headings which correspond with the research questions and hypothesis of the study.

1. Ways through which wives are abused within the families in Yola Local Government Area

Ten ways through which wives are abused include:

1. Injury/hurting the wife by the husband
2. Making wrong use of the wife by the husband
3. Husbands who impose ideas on their wives
4. Husbands cheating their wives
5. Brutality on wife by the husband
6. Violence on wife by the husband
7. Causing wife to be frustrated

8. Sexual unfaithfulness directed toward the wife
9. Husbands threatening wife
10. Husbands non-support of wife/does not give money and other means.

The findings reveal that there is no significant difference between the mean responses of husband and wives on ways through which wives are abused except on 1 and 3. This shows that the t-test values of No. 1 and 3 that is rejected at 0.05 level of significance is not that the men (husbands) reject it completely, but their ego could not allow them to believe that they injure/hurt their wives nor impose ideas on their wives; which is supported by Kole (1980); Toriola (1976); Shehu (1988) James (1993) and Bulama (1991), who stated that women are subjected to various forms/ways of abuses depending on their environment and locality which call for mass campaign against this unjust treatment to humanity.

## 2. Causes of Wife Abuse Within Families in Yola LGA

Determining what causes men to abuse their wives, the research reveals that:

1. Childlessness
2. Controversy over income
3. Poor family income
4. Drunkenness on part of the husband

5. Educational gap between husband and wife
6. Religious differences
7. Polygamous marriage
8. Nagging on part of the wife
9. Company the wife keeps
10. Violence learnt from friends and parents
11. Hot temper on both side
12. Inherited tendency from family
13. Misplaced aggression on both side
14. Forced marriage are causes of wife abuse which was supported by Martin (1982); Christopher (1983); Virginia (1986) and Chiwete (1989).

The finding also reveal that men do not take delight in beating or abusing their wives but that the wives, nag them to the point of beating. Agreed by Olugbodi (1987), Davis (1972) and Titikyo (1989).

As revealed by the findings, the five items rejected by the t-test does not mean the husbands disagree but that their psychocological built-up could not allow them to succumb to the wife, which is supported by Ojo Shehu (1988), Truninger, Rosen Wald and Robey (1971; 1983).

### 3. The Effects of Wife Abuse on the Families in Yola Local Govt

The findings reveal that the effects of wife abuse on the family include:

1. Unhealthy husband/wife relationship
2. Overall situation lead to social disharmony among parents and their children, hence the neglect
3. The enstraged relationship between husband/wife can engulf the extended family
4. It can lead to children hating their home
5. It can lead to fighting between husband and wife
6. Some may prefer more peaceful environment outside
7. Creates divisions among the children in the home
8. Creates a sense of insecurity on the part of the children
9. It can lead to child abuse
10. The differences can expose either party to the temptation of unfaithfulness
11. It opens the door for outside interference in the marriage
12. It can lead to potential wife abuse
13. Divorse or seperation may result
14. Illlteracy and economic inadequacy affects family maintenance.

As supported by Odunade (1986), Anyakoha and Eluwa (1991), Eze (1980) and Margaret (1977).

As revealed by the findings, the husband/wife mean responses rating could not differ significantly, except on 5 items. Though the t-test value show differences in the five items but husbands also know that when there is division in the house, children are mostly affected, and the differences will expose both husband/wife to the temptation of either sexual unfaithfulness or becoming a bird in the cage as revealed by Mbji and Ovbiagele (1988).

As revealed in the table t-test on research findings the effect of wife abuse, will not lead to potential wife abuse, Hardd (1989) and Walker (1982) believed that when husbands receive romantic nourishment from the young (girls) women outside the wives will be frustrated and become potential wife abuse

The study also found out that abuses on wife have diverse effect on both parties concerned, the children and the society at large. The two parties are likely to act like bird in the cage. The children raised by such families will also become abused children. They also become quarrelsome and aggressive in the society. Children will grow to be bad eggs and undesirable elements in the society. And will lack educational training and those qualities which may promote harmonious living Obiadi (1992); Anyakoha (1991).

4. Ways Through Which Wife Abuse Can be Minimised/Prevented Within Families in Yola L.G.A.

As revealed by the findings, social welfare agency, home counsellors and lawyers can help minimise wife abuse in the family/society by counselling/mediating in family disputes. Teach parents their responsibility; help parents create feelings of understanding through meaningful communication. Kole (1980) a legal practitioner stated that penalties for men found guilty of wife abuse are spelt out in Chapter 31 sections 332, 335 and 338 of Criminal Code. The Rights of women (1993) and Bureau de National supported the labour and Federal effort to link the Welfare and well-being of children and wives with the economic security of the family.

Donald (1978) pointed out that although since early epochs progress has been made in protecting the interest of wives from the problem, wife abuse that concern has been translated into legislative reformed wife United States of America are now indicators that recent wide publicity in the press and on television about wife abuse and effort of the United States Wife Bureau to obtain uniform legislation in each state governing the reporting of wife abuse have helped heightened public awareness and interest.

As revealed by the study, home/family can help minimise wife abuse in the family by having mutual understanding through effective communication, forgiveness, patience, love, faithfulness;

couples to sacrifice towards their marriage and members of the family could be involved only when it is necessary.

The research findings also reveal that community can help minimise the incident of wife abuse in the family by forming man's forum to discuss family issues; teach men to uphold the integrity of marriage; and punish the unfaithful husband as an example.

The findings also reveal that school can help minimise wife abuse by incorporating family living into school curriculum teach basic facts of marriage; show the glorious side of family living.

Religious organisation according to the research findings has a lot to play in minimising wife abuse in the family by mediating in marital disputes; teaching ethics of family living marriage counselling programme.

Research findings also reveal that women organisation has a lot to give in minimising wife abuse in the family by seeking legal backing to handle any wife abuse, help women become aware of their responsibilities; and to conduct seminars/workshops on problems and issues on family living.

The hypothesis shows that the respondents had similar opinion on all the ways through which wives are abused but differ in number 1 and 3 because the wives mean rating is higher than that of man (husbands) because they are more abused

in that area, at 0.05 level of significance.

The fourteen causes of wife abuse, the respondents had similar opinion but differ in No. 7, 10, 11, 12 and 14 respectively, the mean rating is also higher because wives are subjected to them than husbands at 0.05 level of significance and rejecting 5 items.

The fourteen effects of wife abuse on the family has no significant differences between the mean responses of husbands and wives except for No. 2 and 4 respectively at 0.05 level of significance.

The agreed with the study carried out on 2,143 American couples in 1975-1976 by Steinmetz (1980) and found out that about two-thirds of violent incidents of wife abuse were minor assaults such as slapping and throwing things at, the other third of the incidents were serious assaults such punching, biting, kicking, hitting with an object, beating up or assaults with a knife or gun.



## CHAPTER V

### SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This chapter is organised under seven (7) major headings which correspond with the research findings.

#### 1. Statement of the Problem

Where wives are abused they may fail to fulfil their roles as wives, mothers and home makers. When this occurs, family life suffers in various ways and in extreme cases, homes may be broken. It is therefore important to seek means of preventing wife abuse and stopping it, in places where it is presently practised. To do this, it is important to first study the patterns of wife abuse in the family and related problems.

Specifically, the study

1. Investigates the various ways through which wives are abused within families in Yola L.G.A.
2. Find out the causes of wife abuse within the families in Yola.
3. Find out the effects of wife abuse on the family.
4. Determine ways of preventing/minimising the incidents of wife abuse in Yola.

Thus the study sought answer to the following questions:

1. What are the different ways through which wives are abused in families in Yola L.G.A.?

2. What are the causes of wife abuse within the families Yola?
3. What are the effects of these abuses on the family, children; wives and the family living in Yola?
4. In what ways can incident of wife abuse be prevented /minimised in Yola?

## 2. Description of the Method Used

The population for the study was made up of all families in Yola Local Government Area wherein spouses, have received counselling services from the social welfare Agency (SWA) in the L.G.A. from 1991-1993. The sample for the study was made up of 500 respondents (comprising husband/wife) five out of the sixteen (16) communities in Yola L.G.A. was randomly selected.

Instrument for data collection for this study was questionnaire, five hundred copies of the questionnaire was distributed to the sample. And the same five hundred copies were completed. filled and returned.

The data collected were analysed using frequencies distribution, percentages, mean and t-test value at 0.05 level of significance.

## Principal Findings

The following principal findings were made from the analysis of data collected:

A: Ways through which wives are Abused

Ten ways through which wives are abused in the family include:

1. Injury/hurting the wife.
2. Making wrong use of the wife
3. Imposition (lack of communication)
4. Husband cheating wife
5. Brutality on wife by husband
6. Violence on wife by husband
7. Causing wife to be frustrated
8. Sexual unfaithfulness directed towards wife.
9. Husband threatening wife
10. Husbands non-support/does not give money and other means of support.

There was no significant difference between wives and husbands' mean rating at 0.05 level of significance for all the ways except in injury/hurting and husbands imposing ideas on wives.

B: Causes of Wife Abuse Within the Family

Fourteen causes of wife abuse within families include :

1. Childlessness
2. Controversy over income
3. Poor family income
4. Drunkenness on part of the husband.

5. Educational gap between husband and wife.
6. Religious differences
7. Polygamous marriage
8. Nagging on part of the wife.
9. Company the wife keeps
10. Violence learnt from friends and parents
11. Hot temper on both side
12. Inherited tendency from family
13. Misplaced aggression on both side
14. Forced marriage.

There was no significant difference between wives and husbands' mean rating at 0.05 level of significance for all the causes except on polygamous marriage; violence learnt from friends and parents; hot temper on both side; inherited tendency from <sup>family</sup> and forced marriages.

C: Effects of Wife Abuse within Families in Yola

Fourteen factors on effects of wife abuse within families include:

1. Unhealthy husband/wife relationship.
2. Overall situation lead to social disharmony among parents and their children, hence the neglect.
3. The enstraged relationship between husband/wife can engulf the extended families.
4. Can lead to a fight between husband/wife.

5. It can lead to children hating their home.
6. Some may prefer more peaceful environment outside.
7. Creates division among the children in the home.
8. Creates a sense of insecurity on the part of the children.
9. It can lead to child abuse.
10. The differences can expose either party to the temptation of unfaithfulness.
11. It opens the door for outside interference in the marriage.
12. It can lead to potential wife abuse.
13. Divorce or separation may result.
14. Illiteracy and economic inadequacy affect family maintenance.

There was no significant difference between the husband/wives mean opinion at 0.05 level of significance for all the effects of wife abuse except on overall situation lead to social disharmony among parents and their children, hence the neglect can lead to a fight between husband and wife.

D : Determining the ways of preventing/minimising wife abuse social welfare agency, the home/family, the community the school, religious organisation and women organisation can help minimise wife abuse through:

1. Counselling/mediating in the family dispute
2. Teach parents their responsibility .

3. Help parents create feelings of understanding through meaningful communication.
4. There should be mutual understanding through effective communication.
5. Both parents/couples should sacrifice towards their marriage.
6. Forgiveness/patience/love/faithfulness
7. Form men's forum to discuss family issues
8. Teachmeneto uphold the integrity of marriage.
9. Punish the unfaithful man as an example
10. Teach the basic facts of marriage.
11. Show glorious side of family living
12. Incorporate family into school curriculum at all levels.
13. Mediate in marital disputes
14. Teaching ethics of family living
15. Marriage counselling programmes
16. Seek legal backing towards any wife abuse
17. Help women become aware of their responsibilities.
18. Conduct seminars/workshops on problems and issues on family living.

There was no significant difference in the responses of husbands and wives except the school that has very low scores at 0.05 level of significance for the ways through which wife abuse can be prevented/minimised within the families.

The hypothesis shows that respondents had similar opinion on all the ten items on ways through which wives are abused. 14 factors on causes of wife abuse on the family which were not different in their mean responses except in 19 items at 0.05 level of significance.

#### 4. Implication of the Study

The findings of this study have implications for all individuals who are products of the family.

- A. The wife - shame, guilt, economic dependency and the belief that is all part of the marriage will stop her from taking legal action.
  2. Women attempt to dissolve marriage after a long history of conflicts and reconciliations.
  3. The women have negative self concept.
  4. They become a picture of themselves.
  5. The women behave like a bird in a cage.
- B. The husband :
  1. If not cared for by the wife, he is left at the mercies of young girls.
  2. The man becomes more aggressive, as a result of some stressful situation in the home.
  3. Men have no time to love their families and naturally, revolt often and violently against any touching issue by the wives.

C; The youths

1. Youths fear marriages nowadays because of the divorce cases and problem of husband/wife relationship.
2. They prefer to be single parenthood
3. Many chose to be single/remain unmarried
4. Some even when married abuse each other because he/she is brought up in an abused home

D : Family Living Education

1. The family is neglected, unloved and cared for.
2. The psychological build-up of both man, woman and their emotional abuse occur when there is a lot of stress.
3. The family has no basic trust, understanding and lacks tolerance, cooperation and sharing of financial activities in the family.
4. Children suffer the effects, no good education and will lack good training.

E. Recommendation for Action

1. Social welfare Agency should help in counselling/mediating in the family dispute.
2. Help parents create feelings of understanding through meaningful communication.



3. There should be mutual understanding through effective communication within the families.
4. The couples should sacrifice towards their marriage.
5. There should be forgiveness/love/patience/faithfulness within the family.
6. The community should form men's forum to discuss family issues.
7. They should also punish unfaithful husband as an example for others.
8. The school should incorporate family living education into the school curriculum at all levels.
9. The religious organisation should mediate in marital disputes and also teach ethics of family living.
10. They should also organise marriage counselling programmes.
11. The women organisation should seek legal backing and campaign against wife abuse.
12. They should conduct seminars/workshops on problems and issues on family living.

#### Recommendations for Further Research

1. Comparative study between low and high income groups on patterns of wife abuse.

2. Patterns of husbands' abuse in other Nigerian culture states.
3. The relationship between the size of a family and child abuse.

### Conclusions

The family is composed of individuals who are unique. Husbands and wife are the key persons in a family and for the well-being of the family the husband/wife relationship must continue to be strengthened through continued recognizing and expressing one's own feelings as well as recognizing of the other partner.

Ways through which wives are abused are characterised by rigid role expectation, poor communication pattern, isolation and inability to accept responsibility for one's own thoughts, feelings and actions, imposition, cheating, brutality, sexual unfaithfulness, and hurting or injury. In such families, love means possession of ego, fusion. Disagreement is equated with hostility. The idea of negotiation is rejected as less of authority or giving.

The causes of wife abuse among others could be nagging, drunkenness, religious differences, forced marriage, inherited tendency, poor family income and childlessness, misplaced aggression, violence learnt from friends and parents.

The abuses on the wife have diverse affects on both parties concerned, the children youth and the society. The two parties are likely to act like a bird in the cage. Abused family raises abused children.

The abused wife could be seen in the society as a frustrated wife, abused, hypertensive, quarrelsome, prostitution, punching bags, tontrum and the woman becomes a shadow of herself.

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## APPENDIX 1

The sixteen communities that made up Yola L.G.A. and the population as reported in the S.W.A. between 1991 - 1993

| S/No  | Name of Community | Number of wife abuse cases reported between 1991 - 1993 |
|-------|-------------------|---|
| 1.    | Jimeta            | 150   |
| 2.    | Anguwan Lamido    | 30  |
| 3.    | Yola town         | 90  |
| 4.    | Luggere           | 70  |
| 5.    | Kerewa            | 71  |
| 6.    | Low cost          | 65  |
| 7.    | Neper             | 61  |
| 8.    | Army Barrack      | 69  |
| 9.    | Shagari           | 60  |
| 10.   | Hausari           | 64  |
| 11.   | Melamre           | 73  |
| 12.   | Dubeli            | 80  |
| 13.   | Lamurdi           | 62  |
| 14.   | Santuraki         | 68  |
| 15.   | Loko              | 66  |
| 16.   | Song              | 90  |
| Total |                   | 1,210   |



## APPENDIX 11

QUESTIONNAIRE ON PATTERNS OF WIFE ABUSE

INSTRUCTIONS: - Please study the following items carefully  
Tick the respond option that applied to you.

HUSBAND'S QUESTIONNAIRE

1. Marital Status : (i) Married ( ) ii. Seperated ( )  
iii. Divorced ( ) (iv) Others, Specify ( )
2. How old were you when you first got married  
(i) Below 18 years ( ) (ii) 18-23 ( )  
(iii) 24 and above ( )
3. Types of marriage (i) Polygamous ( ) Monogamous ( )
4. What is your educational level.  
(i) Non-formal education ( ) (ii) Sec/TC ( )  
(iii) Tertiary level ( )
5. What is your Religion :  
(i) Christian ( ) (ii) Muslem ( ) (iii) Others  
Specify ( )
6. What is your annual income?  
(i) Below ₦1000.00 ( ) (ii) ₦1000.00 and above ( )
7. As a business man how much do you earn monthly: \_\_\_\_\_
8. How many children do you have? (i) None ( ) (ii) 1-5 ( )  
(iii) 11 and above ( )
9. Which community do you come from? \_\_\_\_\_

SECTION 'B' WAYS IN WHICH YOU HAVE BEEN ABUSED BY YOUR WIFE

Please make a tick in the given response option to indicate how frequently you have been abused by your wife through the following ways:

KEYS :

- VHE - Very high extent  
 HE - High extent  
 LE - Low extent  
 VLE - Very low extent

1. Injuring/hurting by your wife
2. My wife makes wrong use of me
3. My wife imposing ideas on me
4. My wife, she cheates me
5. Brutality from my wife
6. She frustrates me
7. Violence by my wife
8. Sexual unfaithfulness
9. My wife threatens me
10. She maintains home poorly

|                                  | VHE | HE | LE | VLE |
|----------------------------------|-----|----|----|-----|
| 1. Injuring/hurting by your wife |     |    |    |     |
| 2. My wife makes wrong use of me |     |    |    |     |
| 3. My wife imposing ideas on me  |     |    |    |     |
| 4. My wife, she cheates me       |     |    |    |     |
| 5. Brutality from my wife        |     |    |    |     |
| 6. She frustrates me             |     |    |    |     |
| 7. Violence by my wife           |     |    |    |     |
| 8. Sexual unfaithfulness         |     |    |    |     |
| 9. My wife threatens me          |     |    |    |     |
| 10. She maintains home poorly    |     |    |    |     |

SECTION 'C' CAUSES OF WIFE ABUSE

Indicate the extent to which you agree with the following causes of wife abuse in the home?

KEY:-

- SA - Strongly Agree  
 A - Agree  
 DA - Disagree  
 SD - Strongly Disagree

|  | SA | A | DA | SD |
|--|----|---|----|----|
| 11. Childlessness                                |    |   |    |    |
| 12. Controversy over income                      |    |   |    |    |
| 13. Poor family income                           |    |   |    |    |
| 14. Drunkenness on my part                       |    |   |    |    |
| 15. Educational gap between                      |    |   |    |    |
| 16. Religious differences                        |    |   |    |    |
| 17. Polygamous marriage                          |    |   |    |    |
| 18. My wife naggs top much                       |    |   |    |    |
| 19. She beats me often                           |    |   |    |    |
| 20. Violence learnt from friends and<br>parents. |    |   |    |    |
| a. My wife is hot tempered                       |    |   |    |    |
| b. Inherited tendency from the<br>family         |    |   |    |    |
| c. Misplaced aggression                          |    |   |    |    |
| d. Forced marriage.                              |    |   |    |    |

SECTION 'D' EFFECTS OF WIFE ABUSE ON THE FAMILY

|  | SA | A | DA | SD |
|--|----|---|----|----|
| 21. Unhealthy husband/wife relationship  |    |   |    |    |
| 22. Overall situation lead to social<br>disharmony among parents and their<br>children, hence the neglect. |    |   |    |    |
| 23. The entraged relationship between<br>husband/wife can engulf the extended<br>family.                   |    |   |    |    |
| 24. Can lead to a fight between husband<br>wife.   |    |   |    |    |

|   | SA | A | DA | SD |
|---|----|---|----|----|
| 25. It can lead to children hating their home                                   |    |   |    |    |
| 26. Some may prefer more peaceful environment outside.                          |    |   |    |    |
| 27. Creates divisions among the children in the home.                           |    |   |    |    |
| 28. Creates a sense of insecurity on the part of the children.                  |    |   |    |    |
| 29. It can lead to child abuse.   |    |   |    |    |
| a. The differences can expose either party to the temptation of unfaithfulness. |    |   |    |    |
| b. It opens the door for outside interference in the marriage.                  |    |   |    |    |
| c. It can lead to potential wife abuse.   |    |   |    |    |
| d. Divorce or separation may result.  |    |   |    |    |
| e. Illiteracy and economic inadequacy affect family maintenance.                |    |   |    |    |

#### SECTION 'E' WAYS OF MINIMISING WIFE ABUSE

Kindly give 3 ways you think the following can help minimise wife abuse in the family/society.

#### QUESTIONNAIRE ON PATTERNS OF WIFE ABUSE

INSTRUCTIONS: - Please study the following items carefully tick the respond option that applied to you.

#### WIVES QUESTIONNAIRE

- Marrital Status : (i) Married ( ) (ii) Separated ( )  
iii. Divorced ( ) (iv) Others specify ( )
- How old were you when you first got married:  
(i) Below 18 years ( ) (ii) 18-23 ( ) (iii) 24-above ( )
- Types of marriage (i) Polygamous ( ) (ii) Monogamous ( )
- What's your educational level (i) Non-formal education ( )  
(ii) Sec/TC ( ) (iii) Tertiary level ( )

5. What is your religion: (i) Christian ( ) (ii) Muslem ( )  
 (iii) Others specify ( )
6. What is your annual income? (i) Below ₦1000.00 ( )  
 (ii) ₦1000.00 and above ( )
7. As a business women you earn ..... monthly.
8. How many children do you have? (i) None ( )  
 (ii) 1-5 ( ) (iii) 6-10 ( ) (iv) 11 and above ( )
9. Which community do you come from ?  
 .....

SECTION 'B' WAYS IN WHICH WIVES ARE ABUSED

Please make a tick in the given response option to indicate how frequently you have been abused by your husband through the following ways:-

key:-

- VHE - Very High Extent  
 HE - High Extent  
 LE - Low Extent  
 VLE - Very Low Extent

1. Injuring/hurting the wife
2. Making wrong use of the wife
3. Imposition of ideas on wives
4. Husband cheating wife
5. Brutality on wife by the husband
6. Violence on wife by husband
7. Causing wife to be frustrated
8. Sexual unfaithfulness
9. Husband does not give money and other means of support

| VHE | HE | LE | VLE |
|-----|----|----|-----|
|     |    |    |     |
|     |    |    |     |
|     |    |    |     |
|     |    |    |     |
|     |    |    |     |
|     |    |    |     |
|     |    |    |     |
|     |    |    |     |
|     |    |    |     |

SECTION 'C' CAUSES OF WIFE ABUSE

Indicate the extent to which you agree with the following causes of wife abuse in your home?

Key:

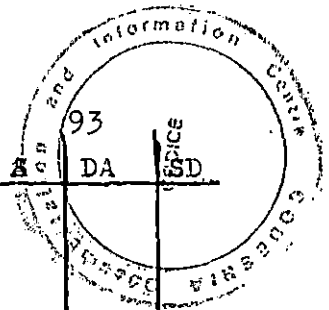
- SA - Strongly Agree  
 A - Agree  
 DA - Disagree  
 SD - Strongly disagree

11. Childlessness
12. Controversy over your income
13. Poor family income
14. Drunkenness on part of the husband
15. Educational gap between husband and wife
16. Religious differences
17. Polygamous marriage
18. Nagging on part of the wife
19. Objection to the company you keep
20. Violence learnt from friends and parents.
  - a. Hot temper on both side
  - b. Inherited tendency from family
  - c. Misplaced aggression
  - d. Forced marriage by parents.

SECTION 'D' OF WIFE ABUSE ON THE FAMILY

21. Unhealthy husband/wife relationship
22. Overall situation leads to social disharmony among parents and their children, hence the neglect.
23. The entraged relationship between husband/wife can engulf the extend family.
24. Can lead to a fight between husband wife
25. It can lead to children hating their homes.
26. Some may prefer more peaceful environment outside
27. Creates divisions among the children in the home

SA



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DA

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- 28. Creates a sense of insecurity on the part of the children
- 29. It can lead to child abuse
  - a. The difference can expose either party to the temptation of unfaithfulness.
  - b. It opens the door for outside interference in the marriage.
  - c. It can lead to potential wife abuse.
  - d. Divorce or seperation may result.
  - e. Illiteracy and economic inadequacy affect family maintenance.

| SA | A | DA | SD |
|----|---|----|----|
|    |   |    |    |
|    |   |    |    |
|    |   |    |    |
|    |   |    |    |
|    |   |    |    |
|    |   |    |    |

SECTION E WAYS OF MINIMISING WIFE ABUSE

30. Kindly give 3 ways you think the following can help minimise wife abuse in the family.

a. Social welfare Agency, home counsellors and lawyers

- i. ....
- ii. ....
- iii. ....

The Home/Family.

- i. ....
- ii. ....
- iii. ....

The community

- i. ....
- ii. ....
- iii. ....



30. d     The School

i.         .....

ii.        .....

iii.       .....

e.     Religious Organisation

i.         .....

ii.        .....

iii.       .....

f.     Women (Organisations) of the Lineage

i.         .....

ii.        .....

iii.       .....

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