

## Escalation of Domestic Violence

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#### **Abstract**

The research paper is a detailed analysis of the rise of domestic violence in an era that is termed as the most civilized in the history of democracy. To understand why cases of victims of domestic violence sometimes tolerate this behavior and other times, do not report them at all this research paper considers testimonies of victims and looks at the profiling of offenders. It reveals the theoretical explanation of what is deemed as culturing of a society to propagate hate and biasness based on lines of gender, religion, race and other minority affiliations.

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### **Introduction**

The continued escalation of domestic violence or what reviews show, the long trek it has taken to diminish is worrying and needs to be researched into because it causes trauma to victims of violence, makes most of the victims lose self-dignity and leave the victims vulnerable to other forms of harassment and feelings of self-loath amid low self-esteems. This research aims at uncovering the reason why in this era, where there is equal protection of rights and equal opportunities for both genders, domestic violence, which should be a cliché by now thrives. It seeks to unravel the mystery of domestic harassment in terms of verbal abuse and overly aggressive actions that culminate to battery and the worst of cases, murder. The victims, are often unwilling to come out of it and they are either stigmatized or socially cultured to accept being mishandled. Through review of the following research questions, the paper reviews literature that is relevant to studying of the topic.

### **Research questions**

- What is domestic violence?
- What causes domestic violence?
- In what social structure does domestic violence thrive?
- What are the effects on victims?
- What should be done to curb the escalation of domestic violence?

These research questions are a basis upon which the study built its hypotheses on. To understand the rationale of the topic, the following hypotheses were adopted.

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- i. If there is a social culturing of the societal beliefs and practices, domestic violence will drastically decrease.
- ii. The formulation of laws and policies that fight for minority groups help to escalate violence on the minorities and rubber stamp their position in society as inferior.

### **Domestic violence**

This is defined as acts of violence within a home set up, mostly being because of violence meted out on a spouse. It can take various forms such as;

- i. Physical violence
- ii. Intimidation
- iii. Sexual assault
- iv. Battery

Domestic violence under the federal bureau of investigation is listed among hate crimes. Statistically, there is a high percentage gender based violence as part of hate crimes and this has been categorized together with violence reported from homes as domestic violence. There have been incentives geared towards maintaining a health family setup by groups such as the World Health Organization. It has also taken up to helping and campaigning against violation of human civil rights which the docket covers domestic violence.

### **Causes of domestic violence.**

The most rampant reasons being cited as intoxication do not seem to shed light into why this has a direct effect on the domestic affairs since the two share no logical relationship. If these crimes are committed in the streets as peddler's fight, would make more sense that use of drugs

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then attacking people you live with as family and once copulated in matrimony to raise a family. Aggression can be seen in cases of dire economic times but the cases are not exclusive of affluent people and others who are influential in society (WHO Women, 2001). This research then identifies hypotheses such as if the society is involved in seminars that eradicate gender bias and negativity, then there will be a decrease in the number of cases reported of domestic violence. If a slight problem is seen in a spouse that might escalate to violence if it is unattended then there will be need to seek help to avert the culmination to crime. Thus, if cases of drug use and abuse are completely eradicated, it is possible that cases of domestic violence will drop in rates as somehow, they are connected (Lee & Stanko 2014).

Another reason cited as a cause of domestic violence is the social economic pressurization of couples who see decisions they had made earlier as misplaced. Continued harsh economic times pushes the couples to blames on why some reasons they have made previously are their fault and this, when prolonged can lead to acts of aggression and physical assault or willful intimidation. When one of the spouses too is not equal financially in a marriage, there is a tendency of the spouse who has a higher clench taking advantage of the seemingly inferior partner. In most extreme cases, there is always intimidation that occurs and the victim feels helpless because they need the spouses in their survival. While this may not affect most citizens in developed countries, most third world countries experience these.

The most rampant cases of gender violence are meted against females. Therefore, the statistics profile most victims as women and children while the perpetrators are generally men. There is a case of the vice-versa but these are often not reported and research has indicated that

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these are the rarest cases of social intimidation that are never reported since there is little evidence of assault.

### **Theoretical explanation**

Through the study of social learning theories, a key factor to enhancing crimes is the socialization of individuals and groups is the major reason why there are prevalent criminal activities based on certain bias and the higher percentage being racial based. Gender based incidents have been high in number of cases reported consistently from 1992 all the way to the most recent release by the Federal Bureau of Investigations in 2015. The tally shows figures above 9% and are therefore very high figures. Coming close is the crimes related to racial bias then religiously biased based crimes.

To understand the profiles of those who perpetrate these crimes, (Anderson, J. F., Dyson, L., & Brooks Jr, W. (2002) profiled offenders in a way that is not biased or stereotypical. One of the major discoveries made is that the offenders, from statistics are borne of white descent. This is in tandem to what other studies showcased, that whites had historically regarded other races as inferior. Through social learning, the young generations have learnt to mete out hate in public institutions. There has been claims that the federal laws have gone further to influence the existence of such biasness as in the case of Plessy that saw the government policy of equal facilities but different that divided the US into a racially segregated community. Even though this has been changed and curtailed, the young ones have learnt it and it has become a mockery to others who are not Caucasian or white enough. This has then rewarded the culture of those

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who have grown up in social setups that have created gender line bias and thus the home setup becomes the foundation of such violence.

### **Formulation of policies**

In trying to understand the formulation of laws against prejudiced activities and hate crimes, (Grattet, R., & Jenness, V. (2001) has revealed the dilemma that has existed for so long. The research showed that sometimes, the putting in place of rules to fight for the minority groups rubber-stamps them as minorities and thus are even more prone to prejudices. The way the authors argue is that there is need to review the way in which policies are made to ensure that they are not in themselves marginalizing the minorities. This can only be achieved through community and civil education about the nature of the laws as offered by the federal government. The adoption of this policies should also be made mandatory for all states to ensure equal protection of rights regardless of any bias. One such case of a law that had for years seen women victims being paid for being victims of hate crimes has been abolished in good faith. This is to ensure that the policies enacted do not make a group seem greater than the other, instead, it is an equal partner. In this way, the perpetrators of gender violence will perceive the partners as equals and try to avert gender violence.

There are averse and harsh conditions that victims of domestic violence come across. The path to recovery is the most difficult part because it must overcome social stigma and deal with self-esteem. In reading the 'Improving Outcomes for children exposed to domestic Violence', it is recommended that the children are handled with the care of a toddler, being taught how to

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change the perspective of the world (Howarth, E., Moore, T., Welton, N., Lewis, N., Stanley, N., MacMillan, H., & Feder, G. (2016). The world for them is cruel. If allowed to grow up like this, it is either they'll adopt cruelty as part of them or be submissive to cruel acts.

### **Recommendations**

- i. The research recommends that the government invests in community civil education to educate people on channels they can use to report domestic violence
- ii. There should be increased social education about the need to regard each other as equals
- iii. The research also saw it necessary to formulate federal laws that provide punitive measures for perpetrators of domestic violence.



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