EXISTENCE OF WIFE BATTERY AMONG TRADERS IN UGEP COMMUNITY OF YAKURR LOCAL GOVERNMENT AREA OF CROSS RIVER STATE, NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT
Wife battery remains a pressing global challenge, particularly in developing nations like Nigeria. Women, girls, who are affected suffer from mental illness, injuries that need surgical gynecological interventions and are risk for chronic physical and psychological health problems. The study employed a qualitative research design, using a purposive sampling method to select respondents. The study engages 144 participants out of which 62 are males and 82 females. Through semi-structured interviews, participants were divided into two groups; one for in-dept interview (I.D.I) and the other for Focus Group Discussion (F.G.Ds). Two theories were employed to guide the study, which include Frustration Aggression theory and Social Stress theory. Findings reveals that there is need to reform the discriminatory legislations in Nigeria especially as regards the criminal code which makes the indecent assault of a woman a less offence. Religious groups and institutions to embark on programs that will promote awareness and the negative effects of wife battery in the society. Lastly, the findings also have it that societies should begin to re-orientate men and women on the fact that all human beings are equal as the issue of placing more value on the male child than the female child is one of the reasons why this problem still persist in Nigeria.

Introduction

Globally, and in our contemporary society, wife battery goes beyond physical beatings. Battered women are at risk for chronic physical and psychological health problems including posttraumatic stress syndrome (PTSD), depression, chronic pain and substance abuse (Smith and Gittelman, 1994). It a conditions and situations that systematically deny and devalue women, their lives, health, rights, choices, and power. It affects every woman's life in the region even if she herself is not a victim; it is evident in every decision she makes or does not (within homes, social settings or workplace) be it the mode of dress, behaviour or movement (Riggs, Caulifield and Street, 2000).

Battery is referred to by many names: wife beating, intimate partner abuse, wife battery, violence against women etc (Dobash & Dobash, 1998). Wife battery is considered a gender-based issue. It does not mean the same thing with domestic violence; however, it is a type or branch of domestic violence because during battery violence may occur. According to Planned Parenthood Federation of Nigeria (2004), violence against women is a story of suffering, of deprivation and of discrimination. This is not confined to any particular political or economic system but is found in every society in the world.

Wife battery like child battery is a common phenomenon and nobody tends to consider it a problem until it results in death or very serious injury. Finkler (1997) believes that battery is a major cause of injury to women ranging from relative minor wounds to permanent disability and even death in some cases. When a woman receives serious physical harm, she is unable to cope with her daily activities and in the case of death she leaves the children motherless thereby exposing them to the trauma of being looked after by stepmothers if the husband is not arrested by the long arms of the law. In cases where the man is arrested and prosecuted for manslaughter the children are left without either of the parents thereby leaving their fates in the hand of family and relations. It can lead to depression, which can make a woman commit suicide. It does not only affect the women but also the children's lives and behaviour. Juvenile specialists have noted the link between violence at home and the increased likelihood of adolescent crime. Battered women tend to have low self-esteem and this makes them lack confidence in themselves as women, mothers and people that have something to offer to the family and the society.

Statement of Problem

Wife battery is a serious problem in most part of the world (Aremu, Adeboju, & Fayombo, 2000). Report by American Medical Association, (1992) shows that wife battery is one of the leading causes of injuries to women especially between the ages of 18-30 years. Many battered women suffer from mental illness, injuries that need surgical or gynecological interventions at one time or the other. Battered women are at risk for chronic physical and psychological health problems including post-traumatic stress syndrome, depression, chronic pains. When women are battered either at home or public places, they may begin to indulge in alcohol and other hard substances in order to forget or cope with the problems. This can lead to child abuse and neglect by these women which in turns make them loose concentration. It is on this note that this research is aimed at investigating the Existence of Wife Battery among Traders in Ugep Community of Yakurr Local Government Area of Cross River State, Nigeria**.**

Conceptual review

Forms of Wife Battery

Deyessa, Kassaye, Demeke and Taffa (1998) identified different forms of violence against women. Some of them include:

Physical violence which is the intentional use of physical force with the potential for causing injury, harm, disability, or death, for example, hitting, shoving, biting, restraint, kicking, use of a weapon, strangling, chocking etc.

Sexual abuse is the use of physical force to compel a person to engage in a sexual act against their will, whether or not the act is completed or any form of abusive sexual contact

Psychological/emotional *abuse* can include, humiliating the victim, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information from the victim, deliberately doing something to make the victim feel diminished or embarrassed, isolating the victim from friends and family, and

denying the victim access to money or other basic resources.

Economic abuse is when the abuser has complete control over the victim's money and other economic resources. Usually, this involves putting the victim on a strict 'allowance', withholding money at will and forcing the victim to beg for the money until the abuser gives them some money. It is common for the victim to receive less money as the abuse continues. This also includes (but is not limited to) preventing the victim from finishing education or obtaining employment.

Prevalence of wife battery

Scholars are of the view that wife battery is wide spread even though under reported. In a study conducted by Abbot, Johnson, Kozioi-Mclain and Lowenstein (1995) in the Sioux Falls Family Practice to examine the rate of wife battery against adult women by men partners, two hundred and eighteen women at two primary care clinics responded anonymously to a questionnaire. Findings from the study show that 48 percent reported verbal abuse, 44 percent minor physical abuse, and 28 percent severe physical abuse. Respondents whose partners were reported to be chemically dependent or sexually abusive were at greater risk. Respondents with lower socioeconomic status were at increased risk for verbal and physical abuse, as were women whose partners had less formal education. Ages of respondents and partners were not significant factors in abuse. Boyfriends not cohabitating were the least abusive, while couples together for 4 to 6 years had more domestic violence than other couples. According to Aremu, Adepoju & Fayombo, (2000; 35), “domestic violence of any form is now a permanent phenomenon which humanity has come to be associated with”. Statistical evidence abounds to confirm the epidemiological nature of domestic violence and it ravaging effect on the society.

In a Leon Nicaragua study, for example, 60 percent of the women abused in the previous year were abused more than once and 20 percent experienced severe violence more than six times (Population Report 1999). For instance, in Mexico, 27 percent of sampled women have experienced physical abuse (battery) with 15 percent experiencing it in the past twelve months (Finkler, 1997). In Canada, the report shows that 29 percent of the partnered or ever married women have experienced physical or severe assault (Rodgers 1994) while 22 percent of the adult women in USA have been physically assaulted by an intimate partner (Ellsberg, Cadera, Harrena Winkvist & Rullgren, 1997). A study of women presenting in the emergency unit of American hospitals showed 5.6 percent of 359 female trauma patients were identified as having injuries caused by battery (Krug, Dahlberg and Mercy, 2002).

In the Asian and Pacific continent, the figure is quite higher. The survey on battery carried out by (Jejeebhoy 1994) in rural India, had 45 percent of the sampled women living in violent relationships, and in New Zealand according to Leibrich, Pauline and Ransom, (1995) 35 percent of the respondents had experienced beating or sexual assault in their relationships. The story is not different in the high-income countries of Europe. In the United Kingdom, (North London) the study published by Mooney (1998) revealed that 30 percent of the women interviewed had been beaten at one time or the other in relationships while 58 percent of the women in Turkey had gone through the same experience according to Iikkaracanm, (1998).

In Africa, the same prevalence is noticed as 45 percent of Ethiopian women have been physically assaulted while 42 percent of the adult women of Kissi district in Kenya were living in violent relationships according to the 1984-1987 survey (Deyessa, Kassaye, Demeke and Taffa 1998, Raikes, 1992). The survey carried out in South Africa in 1998 on wife battery and in three different phases across the country, showed that 20 percent of the currently married or partnered women in Eastern Cape had been physically assaulted by an intimate partner, 29 percent in Mpumalange and 20 percent in the Northern Province (population report 1999). The story is not at all different in Nigeria, as Ojudirin published survey report of 1993 revealed that 31 percent of adult women interviewed had been beaten at one time or the other by an intimate partner. Ojudurin, (1993) stated that once the problem of wife battery begins in a family, it does not get better rather it gets worse by the day. Aremu, Adepoju and Fayombo (2000) are of the opinion that wife battery is a daily experience and is a way of life for the women and their children. This also agrees with Ojudurin (1993) findings that this is an experience that many women go through always.

Causes of Wife Battery

Wife battery occurs in all communities and across all economic boundaries (project alert, 2005). According to Amnesty international (2005), wife battery is particularly persistent where families are poor, where husband's feel threatened by the wife's independence or where men regard beating their wives as the only way to resolve issues. Amnesty International (2005) is also of the view that men who grew up in violent households frequently perpetuate the cycle of violence in later relationships passing unto another generation the perception that violence in the home is accepted. Some general factors that give free reign to violence are:

Wife Battery and Culture

In all societies, there are cultural institutions, belief and practices that undermine women's autonomy and contribute to gender based violence. For instance, is the issue of bride price and payment of dowry. The giving away of the bride in marriage by her father has its root in the belief that a woman is a man's property. Marriage merely transfers her ownership from her father to her husband (Dobash and Dobash 1998). When a marriage takes place under customary law, the family of the prospective husbands pays a bride price to the family of the prospective wife. Historically, this payment was an appreciation for the characteristics and skills of the bride. However, it is now regarded as payment for a commodity and reinforces the inferior status of women within customary marriages (Amnesty international, 2005). Justification for wife battery frequently evolve from gender norms, that is, social norms about the proper roles and responsibilities of men and women and where concepts of masculinity

Many cultures hold that men have the right to control their wives behaviour, and those women who challenge their husband's right should be punished. Marriage traditions, also undermines the ability of women to escape from an abusive relationship. In some societies where women pay dowry to their husbands as is found in India, the woman is compelled to remain in the violent relationship since her parents are not ready to go through the rigorous hardship of paying another dowry to a second husband (Datta, & Motilar, 1999). Dowry is exchanged in a majority of Indian weddings. Although its practice became illegal in 1961, dowry still flourishes among all social classes. Families of the bride and groom negotiate transfer of assets to the groom and his family in exchange for marrying the bride, often within the context of an arranged marriage. Dissatisfaction with the amount of dowry may result in abuse of the bride (Raikes, 1992).

According to Odimegwu (2001) among Luhya community in Western Kenya and Tiv people of Nigeria, wife battery is accepted as a sign of love. Women have come to accept it as normal and natural and many women even crave for it. Ilika, Okonkwo, & Adogu, (2002), support the claim by Odimegwu that Wife battery is widely accepted in Nigeria where it is believed that a husband may chastise his wife by beating. In most societies, wife battery is often considered an acceptable behaviour and where it is frowned at, women are often blamed for inciting men to engage in it. Offences range from insubordination, to going out without express permission from the man, to giving birth to female children, to not preparing food on time, to not giving the husband her money or giving him the money disrespectfully, to not serving in-laws well, to accusations of infidelity (Dobash & Dobash, 1998). Typically, men are given free reign as long as they provide for the needs of the family and Women are expected to tend house, mind the children and to show their husbands obedience and respect. If a man perceives that his wife has somehow failed in her role, stepped beyond her bounds or challenged the right of the husband, then he has the right to react violently and beat her up (Dobash and Dobash, 1998).

Other cultural norms associated with abuse include tolerance of physical punishment of women and children, acceptance of battery as a means of settling inter-personal disputes and the perception that men have complete ownership of women (Heise 1998, Levinson 1989).

Wife Battery and Religion

According to Christopher, Burris and Jackson, (1999), it is a common assumption among many mental health professionals that devotion to religion can perpetuate abuse of women by men. The Qur'an is very clear on this issue. Almighty Allah says:

"Men are the protectors and maintainers of women, because Allah

has given the one more strength than the other, and because they support them from their means. Therefore, the righteous women are devoutly obedient and guard in the husband's absence what Allah would have them to guard. As to those women on whose part you fear disloyalty and ill-conduct, admonish them (first), (next), refuse to share their beds, (and last) beat them (lightly)" (An-Nisa': 34-35).

There is a strong connection between Christian upbringing and acceptance of battery of women by men. This is because of the belief that it is a woman's God- given duty to submit to her husband and to suffer in silence as a good Christian woman (Rossi, 1993)

In Nigeria, according to Amnesty International, (2005), women who have turned to religious leaders for help as a result of violence in the home are usually discouraged from making formal complain to the police.

Wife Battery and Socio-Economic Status

Ojudirin (1993), reports that women who live in poverty are more likely to experience violence than women of higher economic status. In his opinion for some men, living in poverty is likely to generate stress, frustration and a sense of inadequacy for having failed to live up to their responsibility as required by culture. Poverty may also provide cause for marital disagreements and also make it difficult for women to leave violent or otherwise unsatisfactory relationships (Population Report 1999). It goes to say therefore, that financial consideration, cultural factors and high cost of justice often prevent women from pressing charges against their husbands or other intimate partners in case of domestic violence. Ezebilo, (2005) writes that the law as it is also has not provided adequate respite for women and this has further compounded the issue

Reasons given for Wife Battery

According to (Immigration and refugee board of Canada, 2007) reasons given for wife battery are the following:

- Refusing sex
- Nagging- challenging the man's behaviour
- Showing no respect for the husband's family
- Having too much engagements outside the home
- Having or suspecting the woman of having an extra marital affair
- Being accused of witchcraft

Effects of Wife Battery

According to World populations report, (1999; 15) **b**attered women are at risk for chronic physical and psychological health problems including high blood pressure, depression, chronic pain, and substance abuse. The high prevalence of battery, and its psychological and physical consequences, means that battered women present with a multitude of acute and chronic symptoms that are not easily identified. The negative effects of wife battery go beyond women's sexual and reproductive health to their overall health, the welfare of the children and the economic and social fabric of the nation. By sapping women of their energy, undermining their confidence and compromising their health, gender violence or wife battery deprives the entire society of women's contribution and participation to growth and development.

Bodily Injury

According to Ellsberg, Pena, Herrera, Lijestrand & Winkivist (1999); O'Conner, (1995) and Rodgers, (1994) battery is a major cause of injury to women ranging from relative minor wounds to permanent disability and even death in some cases. These Studies show that 40 percent to 75 percent of women who are physically abused by a partner are injured by this at one point in life. The consequences of such injuries can be quite serious. In Canada, 43 percentage of the women injured by their partners had to receive medical care, 50 percent of them had to take time off from work (Rodgers, 1994). Even in Nigeria, Ojudurin, (1993) reports that 35.6 percent of women injured by their partners have had to seek medical attention and 23.3 percent had to stay off work due to injuries sustained during the battery. Abused women also have a lot of physical

symptoms and spend more days in bed than non-abused women (Finkler, 1997; Sutherland, Bybee & Sullivan, 1998). The increasing incidence of acid attacks has been reported and condemned in Nigeria (Voice of America June 4, 2007).

Depression

According to Chalk & King (1998), depression is becoming widely noticed as a major health problem around the world. World Health Organization (2006), reports that the situation is particularly serious among adult women. Sutherland, Bybee & Sullivan, (1998), have suggested that most of the difference between the incidence of depression in women and in men may be due to gender based discrimination and gender based violence. Women who are abused by their partners suffer more depression, anxiety, phobia etc than women who have not been abused according to studies in Australia, Nicaragua, Pakistan, and USA (Cascardi O'Leary, Lawrence, and Schlee, 1995, Ellsberg, Pena, Herrera, Lijestrand, and Winkivist, 1999). In Nigeria, Odujirin's study (1993) revealed that a large percentage (97.6 percent) of the abused women, reported depression or being stressed after battery episodes. Some victims of wife battery develop what psychiatrists call "posttraumatic stress disorder" (more commonly called posttraumatic syndrome). This syndrome consists of feelings of depression, anxiety and helplessness. Some go ahead to develop another disorder known as "battered wife battery syndrome". This is a specific deadly pattern of loosing self esteem, feeling trapped, expecting constantly the terror of violence but eventually striking back by killing the abusive husband (Thio, 2001).

Death

Stout, (1999) is of the view that four women are killed every day in United States of America by their intimate partners in the context of domestic violence. He goes on to say that many men do not actually wake up in the morning with the intention of killing their wives (though some do). The fact remains that in the process of battery and in anger and rage, a man may not really know what he is doing to the woman until he suddenly finds out that she has stopped breathing. Nigeria Newspapers and television news are full of bizarre stories of men killing their wives for reasons that range from the absurd to minor infringements (Project Alert, 2005).

Ill Health

Finkler, (1997),; Dickson, Degruybrd, Dickson, & Candib,(1999 believe that in addition to causing immediate physical injuries and mental anguish, violence also increases women's risk of future ill health. A wide range of studies show that women who have experienced physical abuse or sexual abuse are at greater risk of future ill health. Schechter's (1982) research in Norway revealed that chronic pelvic pain is significantly associated with a history of domestic violence A significant study in the United States found that having been the victim of childhood abuse or violent crime doubled a woman's likelihood of suffering from severe menstrual problems, sexually transmitted diseases or urinary tract infection (Griffith, 1986). Gilbertson continues that battery has also been linked to other serious physical problems like chronic pain syndrome, eye problems, ear problems and gastro intestinal disorders and a range of mental health problems including anxiety and depression. Battery also undermines health by increasing a variety of negative behaviour like smoking, alcohol and substance abuse. In Nigeria, 13 percent of the women admitted that their alcohol consumption was related to emotional disturbance due to violence in their home while 3.5 percent claimed that though they used to drink before, the incidence has increased since violence in the home started (Odujurin, 1993).

Suicide

Domestic violence can have long-term psychological effects. Studies have shown that one out of every four suicide attempts by women is preceded by abuse (Heise, 1993). A study by Fagan and Brown, (1990) shows that for some women, the burden of abuse is so great that they take their own lives or try to do so. Taking the risk of delivering another child in order to satisfy a husband even when a doctor seriously warns against this can be said to be committing suicide Fagan and Brown, (1990) continues. Studies from a number of countries including Nicaragua, Sweden and USA have shown that domestic violence (battery) is closely related to depression and subsequent suicide (Abbott, Johnson, Kozioi-Mclain & Lowenstein, 1995). Carmen, Reiker, and Mills (1984) are of the opinion that battered women who develop post-traumatic stress disorder PSTD appear to be most likely to try suicide. In Nigeria, 1.7 percent of battered women felt like committing suicide due to incessant fight (Odujurin, 1993).

Methodology

A purposive sampling method is utilized to select both men and women engaged in or affected by battery. The sample size comprises of 144 participants out of which 62 are males, while 82 are females. The participants were divided into two groups for Focus Group Discussion (F.G.Ds), and In-dept Interview (I.D.I). Due to the private and intimate nature of the research topic, a lot of women do not come out openly to say that there are victims but only return their questionnaires.

Demography characteristics of respondent

Socio-demographic variables	No. of respondents	Percentages (%)
Sex		
Male	62	43.1
Female	82	56.9
Age range		
Below 20 years	20	13.8
20-24	58	40.2
25-29	39	27.0
30 & above	27	19.0
Educational qualification		
FSLC	116	80.5
SSCE	24	16.6
B.Sc & above	4	2.9
Marital Status		
Single	7	4.80
Married	133	92.4
Divorcee/separated	4	2.8
Occupation		
Student	3	2.0
Civil servant	4	2.7
Farming	21	14.5
Trading	116	80.8

Source: Field survey (2023)

The table illustrate the distribution of socio-demographic characteristics among 114 respondents. For sex 62 respondent representing (43.1%) were males while 82 respondents representing (56.9%) were females. Predominantly, the highest respondents fall between the ages of 20-24 constituting (40.2%) of the sample, followed by individuals aged 25-29 representing (27.0%). In terms of educational qualifications, the majority possesses FSLC (80.5%). Regarding marital status, a significant portion of respondents are married (92.4%) while (4.80%) are single. Moreover, the occupation distribution of respondent reveals that (80.8%) are in trading with (14.5%) engaging in farming.

Theoretical framework

i. Frustration Aggression Theory

This theory was propounded by Dollard, Doob, Mowrer & Sears in 1939. It basic assumption is that frustration results in aggression as its brings about rudimentary emotional responses associated with fight and struggles. The application of this theory to the study is that before a man reacts violently or aggressively towards his wife or partner, he would have been frustrated in one way or the other.

ii. Social Stress Theory

Gelles (1981) assert that stress may be increased when a person is living in a family situation with increased pressure such as inadequate finances and other social problems. Families, partners and couples in poverty may likely to experience domestic violence, due to increased stress and conflict about finances and other aspects. Poverty may hinder a man's ability to live up to expectations and thus may lead to stress. The application of the theory to the study is that when a man is unable to economically support his wife or partner and maintain control due to stress and hardship, he usually not respected and this might in turn cause disharmony between him and his wife or partner.

Conclusion

Wife battery cuts across all cultures, educational levels, religions and financial considerations. Though it has begun to receive attention worldwide, a lot still needs to be done to control the social problem and also to give support to women who are going through it. The research shows that policies are in place domestically and internationally, however, these are not as relevant as they should be as a result of many reasons. Losses experienced by individuals, families and the society can be avoided if these policies are made to work. More women will have confidence to report cases of battery when they are sure that they will get support from family, friends and society. Meanwhile, a lot of men who batter will also be checked when they know that wife battery is regarded as an offence and not a way of settling family problems.

Implications of the Study

There is need to reform the discriminatory legislations in Nigeria especially sections 353 and 360 of the criminal code which makes the indecent assault of a woman a less offence, carrying a lower penalty than the indecent assault of a man. Empowering women is also a key strategy in the elimination of battery in the Nigerian society. As long as women are not given equal opportunities in education, ownership of property, employment and political appointments and as long as women remain dependent on men for their social value and financial dependence, battery and violence against women will continue. Empowerment will not happen in a day but can only occur over a period of time. It will take the form of equal education, increase access to education, increase access to control and own economic power, increase in leadership and decision making processes both at home and outside and increase their control of their health and over their own bodies.

Courts, police stations and hospitals should also be mandated to employ qualified social workers to carry out their responsibilities. They should stop substituting sociologists, psychologists and counsellors for social workers. They actually do not perform the same functions. Imagine the situation that as at when the three abused women had to seek for assistance for their cases, they never had any contact with a social worker employed by the Human rights commission. This could be because there is no social worker employed there or that the office does not know the role a social worker can play in mediation of family crises. Social workers can develop and offer counselling services to families that have problems in their relationships between couples. Many families are having difficulty trying to live together especially with all the stress that is evident in Nigeria today. Counselling services will help families learn how to resolve conflicts positively without resorting to violence. Social work intervention may also be necessary in developing programs exclusively for the marriages.

Recommendations

I. Religious groups and institutions cannot be left out in this study. A lot of respondents pointed to the fact that Nigerians are religious and rely and depend a lot on what they are taught from the pulpit. As a result, religious leaders should see it as a matter of urgency to break the silence and talk about wife battery. The way they broke the silence and began to talk about HIV/AIDS and to embark on programs to promote awareness on it is also what is needed for them to do about wife battery. Religious groups should also do a better job of counselling intending couples before the actual marriage and also make efforts to teach them nonviolent methods of resolving issues in the home. There is need to organize abuser's treatment groups in religious groups and the community where

individual and group counselling will be made compulsory for barterers. There should be legal ramification for non-attendance and non-compliance.

II. Reformed barterers can be used as peer educators providing follow up or advocacy services. These reformed barterers can be used to encourage man that batter that it is possible to stop by sharing their own personal experiences and also allowing them to freely talk about triggers and red flags that cause them to batter. Doctors, lawyers and law enforcement agents should be trained on how to recognize victims of battery treat them with understanding and give them the support and encouragement that they desperately need. Hospital social workers and psychologists should be trained to understand the plight of battered women and also taught strategies to assist them to cope with their problem.

III. Society should begin to re-orientate men and women on the fact that all human beings are equal. The issue of placing more value on the male child than the female child is one of the reasons why this problem is still present in Nigeria. When parents and society begins to value the girl child as much as the boy child, people's perception will begin to change and brothers will begin to value their sisters and this will transcend into value for their wife's in future. Borrowing from some of the research findings, age has some part to play in existence of battery or not. It may therefore be imperative to put a stop on early marriages since the more a woman is married, the more likely she is to experience battery.

IV. The girl child should be given equal opportunity for education like the boy child. Education should be made free and also compulsory especially for the girl child. There is therefore need to stop trafficking of female children and using them as cheap labour. This is due to the fact that the research showed that women who are highly educated perceive wife battery as unacceptable. In order for wife battery to be a thing of the past in Nigeria, there is need for concerted effort both by policy makers, women feminists and activists' working through civil societies even from the villages and also international groups all working together in Nigeria. There is also need to empower women and change the orientation of Nigerian to regard the girl child as equal to the boy child.

V. There is need for government and NGO's to build and equip more shelters and home for battered women and their children. Here they will be able to be free and safe. They will also have the opportunity to share their experiences and learn coping strategies from one another. The community leaders and members of the extended family should make efforts to settle family disputes before it gets out of hand and uncontrollable.

VI. The role of social work in mediation and conflict resolution cannot be over emphasized. Government can therefore build new schools of social work and also help in equipping already existing ones across the nation. Books and social work literature should be made available and social workers should not agree to take the back seat when it comes to wife battery and other forms of violence against women.

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