FAMILY STRUCTURE AND FORMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AMONG MARRIED MEN IN EKITI STATE, NIGERIA

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Family Structure, Domestic Violence, Married Men, Nuclear, and Polygamous

Abstract

***Background to the Study**: There is a notable paucity of research focusing on domestic violence experienced by married men, particularly in Nigeria.*

***Objectives**: The study explores how family structures such as extended and nuclear family, polygamous households, and family size influence the likelihood of married men to experience domestic violence in Ekiti State, Nigeria.*

***Methods**: Descriptive research design and quantitative method were employed to collect data from respondents across Ekiti State. A total of 334 respondents were selected using a multistage sampling technique, and data were analyzed using SPSS version 21 with results presented using descriptive and inferential statistics.*

***Results:** However, findings revealed that married men in nuclear families experience lower levels of domestic violence compared to those in extended families or polygamous unions.*

***Conclusion**: Family size, financial pressure, emotional abuse, psychological manipulation, sexual violence, and jealousy within polygamous unions contribute to domestic violence among married men.*

***Recommendations**: The cultural expectations, patriarchal norms, and the traditional notions of masculinity that often silence male victims of domestic violence underscore a need for an inclusive intervention, including recognition of male victimhood, public campaigns and education, and accessible support services can adequately address the dynamics of domestic violence men experienced in Ekiti State.*

Introduction

Numerous global studies indicate that domestic violence against men is prevalent, with 1 in 3 male victims, or 20.3%, experiencing physical violence from their partners. Contributing factors include alcohol abuse, jealousy, mental illness, physical impairment, and brief relationships, which exacerbate this silent crisis (Kolbe and Buttner, 2020; Robinson and Segal, 2024). The prevalent kinds of domestic violence against males worldwide include physical (20%), psychological (44%), and sexual (7%) abuse. A study in Africa indicated a heightened incidence of domestic violence against men, particularly in Kenya (76%) and Nigeria (22%), as noted by Odembe et al. (2023). McCloskey and Eisler (2021) shown that the nature of sexual relationships, whether through divorce or cohabitation, together with extended family connections, influences domestic violence. The nuclear family structure is significantly correlated with domestic violence when compared to the extended family structure (Stritzel et al. 2022), and Shogbamu's study indicated that 78.2% of

men in polygamous marriages in Ibadan experience domestic abuse. This study aims to investigate family structure as a factor of domestic violence against men in Ekiti State.

The Domestic Abuse Alliance (2025) reported that 1 in 6 males in the United Kingdom suffer various forms of domestic violence in their lifetime, although this figure may be affected by underreporting and stigma. In Africa, domestic violence against males is a considerable concern, as men rarely report the violence they endure, which includes physical, psychological, emotional, and sexual abuse. In Cameroon and Sierra Leone, approximately 27% of men have encountered psychological violence, 24% have faced physical violence, and 2% reported experiencing sexual violence. In Kenya, the incidence of domestic violence against men is 76%, with evidence indicating that men are twice as likely to endure physical and economic violence. In Nigeria, approximately 45% of men encounter some form of domestic violence (Ezenwoko et al. 2023; Odemba et al. 2023; Oyediran et al. 2023).

Statement of the Problem

Despite prior research identifying elements of family structure, including extended families, family size, and polygyny, as pertinent factors in domestic violence (Ayotunde et al., 2017; Thomas, 2013), inconsistencies persist in the literature concerning their direct correlation with men experiencing domestic violence. Ruffin (2021) discovered no substantial correlation between polygyny and domestic violence. The study by Shogbamu (2025), conducted in Ibadan, indicated that 78% of males experienced polygyny, 85% were income providers, and around 48% held secondary education, all of which constitute types of domestic violence inflicted by their wives. Historically, research has concentrated on women as victims; however, there is a growing acknowledgement that men can also experience domestic abuse.

Numerous studies have been undertaken, with a significant portion of the literature concentrating on individual factors such as poverty, unemployment, mental illness, physical disability, and alcohol addiction (Kolbe and Buttner, 2020). A separate study examined the control measures of domestic violence, particularly concerning children (Ramat et al., 2025), while offering limited empirical insight into the role of family structure in domestic violence against men. The lack of substantial empirical research on family structure and types of domestic abuse against married males in Ekiti State renders the study pertinent and significant.

Research Objective

The main objective of this study focused on family structure as a determinants of domestic violence against married men in Ekiti State, while the specific objectives were;

i. examine family structure as a determinant of domestic violence against married men in Ekiti State;

ii. identify the forms of domestic violence married men experience in Ekiti State

Methods

A descriptive design was utilised, and a quantitative method was implemented to examine family structures and types of domestic abuse against married males in Ekiti State, Nigeria. This method facilitates the selection of significant regions for data gathering based on respondents' perceptions of the topic. The study was conducted in Ekiti State, Nigeria, involving both males and females aged 18 and above. Multistage sampling methods were utilised to pick respondents. The initial phase involved

employing simple random sampling methods for the designated three senatorial districts in Ekiti State (Ekiti North, Ekiti Central, and Ekiti South). Subsequently, one local government area was randomly selected from each senatorial district: Ikole LGA for Ekiti North, Ado LGA for Ekiti Central, and Ikere LGA for Ekiti South. The third stage employed a convenience sample method to select respondents who were available and accessible, resulting in a total of three hundred thirty-four (334) participants. This study utilised a quantitative data gathering strategy, distributing questionnaires to chosen respondents across the designated LGAs in the State. The retrieved data was analysed and presented in terms of frequency, percentage, and cross-tabulation utilising Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 21.

Domestic Violence against Men

Domestic violence refers to various violent behaviours occurring within intimate relationships, including physical, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse (Cummings, 2022). Men can endure domestic violence in multiple manifestations, encompassing physical, emotional, and psychological assault. A practical example is demonstrated in a study where male victims reported experiencing physical violence from their female partners, including being struck, kicked, or having objects hurled at them. These individuals frequently encountered substantial obstacles in obtaining assistance, such as societal stigma and an absence of specialised support services. Nicole (2023) asserts that male victims often face humiliation and isolation, fearing that their experiences will not be regarded seriously by authorities or that they would be viewed as weak.

Family Structure and Domestic Violence against Men

The composition of family structure considerably influences the probability of domestic violence perpetrated against men. In multigenerational households, privacy is constrained, and disputes are more prevalent. This environment may foster domestic violence, as the continual presence of family members can escalate stress and anxiety. Agboola and Ojo (2022) emphasise that adultery and a deficiency of trust within a familial framework are substantial catalysts for domestic violence. The research demonstrates that men in both nuclear and extended households characterised by elevated levels of suspicion, adultery, or jealousy are more prone to experiencing domestic violence. This is frequently intensified by cultural expectations and the need to uphold the appearance of an ideal marriage, resulting in emotional and even physical violence. Moreover, individuals from poorer socio-economic strata frequently encounter elevated stress and financial strain, which may exacerbate domestic conflicts. Ojo (2021) emphasised that males with low income are more susceptible to domestic violence, as financial instability may incite irritation and anger from their partners. This dynamic is exacerbated by societal shame that deters males from seeking assistance or articulating their experiences.

Forms of Domestic Violence against Men

The forms of abuse they experience may include physical violence inflicted by their partners, as well as emotional manipulation and financial hardship. Economic hardship, substance addiction, infidelity, and power inequalities within the household contribute to domestic violence (Moore, 2021). The psychological repercussions of this abuse encompass feelings of helplessness, guilt, and

dread, which impede males from seeking help or extricating themselves from abusive circumstances. Furthermore, the social isolation stemming from these events intensifies their suffering, underscoring the critical necessity for specific interventions and support systems. Domestic violence perpetrated against married male's manifests in various ways, encompassing physical, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse (Ojo, 2021). Physical abuse, although frequently underreported among men, include actions such as hitting, slapping, or other manifestations of physical aggressiveness. Men can also endure sexual abuse;however, this is significantly underreported due to the profound stigma surrounding it. Emotional abuse may encompass persistent belittlement, threats, and manipulation, while psychological abuse can comprise intimidation, isolation, and coercive control, as stated by Enakele (2019).

Marital Communication Theory

The Communication Theory Model, created by Gregory Bateson in 1956, is based on the premise that communication is an essential component of human contact and relationships. A fundamental assumption of this paradigm is that communication is a continuous process involving the exchange of messages between individuals (Novak, 2019). This process is dynamic and interactive, indicating that both participants in a conversation continuously impact one another.
The notion posits that ineffective communication is really the issue in dysfunctional marriages. Issues in marriage stem from ambiguity or uncertainty in communication (Drew, 2023). This theory posits that communication is crucial in marriage, since it articulates self-esteem and is significantly affected by the fight for control, indicating that individuals are perpetually engaged in communication (Adam et al 2018). Spouses must carefully choose their words during communication to prevent confusion or provocation against one another. They should strive for clarity in their exchanges and refrain from negative communication, since it leads to nagging, misunderstandings, and conflict (Novak, 2019).

Results

Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Variables	Male		Female		Total	
Age	**N=187**	**%**	**N=147**	**%**	**N=334**	**%**
20-30	62	33.2	64	43.5	126	37.7
31-40	81	43.3	45	30.6	126	37.7
41-50	44	23.5	38	25.9	82	24.6
Ethnicity						
Yoruba	155	82.9	114	77.6	269	80.5
Igbo	20	10.7	21	14.3	41	12.3
Hausa	6	3.2	5	3.4	11	3.3
Others	6	3.2	7	4.8	13	3.9
Religion						
Christian	140	74.9	114	77.6	254	76.0
Islam	44	23.5	33	22.4	77	23.1
Tradition	3	1.6	0	0.0	3	0.9

Education Background						
Primary	1	0.5	0	0.0	1	0.3
Secondary	52	27.8	33	22.4	85	25.4
ND/HND	50	26.7	50	34.0	100	29.9
B.Sc./M.Sc./PhD	84	44.9	64	43.5	148	44.3
Occupation						
Self-Employed	68	36.4	68	46.2	136	40.7
Employed	104	55.6	63	42.9	167	50.0
Unemployed	15	8.0	16	10.9	31	9.3
Years of Marriage						
0-5	67	35.8	81	55.2	148	44.3
6-10	75	40.1	33	22.4	108	32.3
11-20	45	24.1	33	22.4	78	23.4

Source: Research Fieldwork (2025)

Table 1 above displays statistics regarding the socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents. The initial variable, representing the age distribution of respondents by gender, indicates that 43.3% of male participants were aged 31-40 years, while 43.5% of female participants were aged 20-30 years, surpassing participation from other age groups. Nevertheless, it indicated that 37.7% of the predominant demographic aged 20-40 was adequately represented in the survey. This data indicates that the majority of respondents, regardless of gender, were aged between 20 and 40 years. Among the respondents, the ethnic composition revealed that approximately 81% identified as Yoruba, 12% as Igbo, 3% as Hausa, and around 4% as belonging to other ethnic groupings, including Ebira, Benue, and Tiv, among others. This outcome indicates that a significant majority (81%) of respondents identified as Yoruba, with approximately 83% being male and 78% female. The religious affiliation is depicted in Table 1. It indicated that 76.0% adhere to Christianity, 23.1% are linked with Islam, and less than 1% of respondents profess traditional religion. Consequently, a substantial 76.0% of respondents indicated their affiliation with Christianity in the study.

Moreover, Table 1 delineates the educational backgrounds of respondents, revealing that 0.3% possess only a primary education, 25.4% hold a secondary certificate, 29.9% have obtained an ND/HND degree, and 44.3% possess a B.Sc./M.Sc./PhD degree. Nevertheless, two-thirds (44.3%) of respondents from the overall sample reported possessing a B.Sc., M.Sc., or PhD degree, with male respondents at 44.9% and female respondents at 43.5%. Table 1 delineates the occupations of respondents, revealing that around 41% identified as self-employed, 50% as employed, and 9% as jobless. Across genders, approximately 56% of men were employed, while 46% of women were self-employed. This indicates that fifty percent (50%) of the total respondents were employed. Finally, Table 1 presents the duration of marriage among respondents, revealing that 44.3% were married for 0-5 years, 32.3% for 6-10 years, and 23.4% for 11-20 years. The majority, comprising 44.3%, reported that they have been married for 0-5 years. Data by gender indicated that 40.1% of males having been married for 6-10 years, whilst over half (55.2%) of females reported being married for 0-5 years.

Table 2: Percentage Distribution of Respondents on Family Structure and Domestic Violence against Married Men in Ekiti State

S/N	Items		Male				Female			
			SA	A	D	SD	SA	A	D	SD
1	Nuclear families experience less DV than extended families	F	61	44	42	40	63	34	26	24
		%	32.6	23.5	22.5	21.4	42.9	23.1	17.7	16.3
2	Men in polygamous families are prone to experiencing DV	F	52	67	30	38	63	33	30	21
		%	27.8	35.8	16.1	20.3	42.9	22.4	20.4	14.3
3	Extended family interference brings about DV on men	F	68	43	45	31	52	54	25	16
		%	36.4	23.0	24.1	16.5	35.4	36.7	17.0	10.9
4	Family size influences domestic violence against men	F	76	57	31	23	49	47	41	10
		%	40.6	30.5	16.6	12.3	33.3	32.0	27.9	6.8
5	Financial pressure increases domestic violence	F	81	64	36	6	73	48	26	0
		%	43.3	34.2	19.3	3.2	49.7	32.7	17.6	0.00
6	Jealousy among wives leads to domestic violence against men	F	96	52	32	7	82	46	10	9
		%	51.3	27.8	17.1	3.7	55.8	31.3	6.8	6.1
7	Traditional structure leads to domestic violence	F	90	58	26	13	78	42	25	2
		%	48.1	31.0	13.9	7.0	53.1	28.6	17.0	1.4
8	Men from a nuclear family are less likely to seek help for DV	F	87	57	32	11	62	40	40	5
		%	46.5	30.5	17.1	5.9	42.2	27.2	27.2	3.4

Source: Research Fieldwork (2025)

Table 2 above delineates data about family structure as a contributing factor to domestic violence against men in Ekiti State. The initial item examined whether the nuclear family encounters less domestic violence compared to the extended family. It indicated that among males, 32.6% highly agreed, 23.5% agreed, 22.5% disagreed, and 21.4% strongly disagreed. Among females, 42.9% strongly agreed, 23.1% agreed, 17.7% disagreed, and 16.3% strongly disagreed. Both genders (male 56.1% and female 66.0%) indicated that the nuclear family encounters less domestic violence than the extended family. Item 2 assesses the propensity of men in polygamous homes to experience domestic violence, revealing that approximately 28% strongly agreed and 36% agreed. Sixteen percent and twenty percent of respondents expressed disagreement and strong disagreement, respectively.

Among females, around 43% and 22% of respondents strongly agreed and agreed, respectively, while 20% and 14% disagreed and strongly disagreed, respectively. This finding indicates that a significant proportion of male (64%) and female (65%) respondents concurred, both strongly and somewhat, that men in polygamous homes are susceptible to domestic violence. Item 3 assessed the impact of extended family influence on domestic violence against men, revealing that 36.4% of male respondents very agreed, 23.0% agreed, 24.1% disagreed, and 16.5% severely disagreed. The female respondents indicated that 35.4% strongly agreed, 36.7% agreed, 17.0% disagreed, and 10.9% severely disagreed. This result indicates that over half (58.4%) of male respondents and a significant proportion (72.1%) of female respondents affirmed that extended family interference contributes to domestic violence against men. The impact of family size on

domestic violence was examined in item 4. It indicated that approximately 71% of male respondents concurred on both counts, whereas about 29% expressed disagreement on both counts. Among female respondents, 65% concurred in both strong and mid-term categories, whereas 34.7% expressed disagreement in both categories. A significant 71% of male respondents and 65% of female respondents affirmed that family size affects domestic violence against men. Additionally, in item 5 of Table 2, evaluate whether financial strain exacerbates domestic violence against men, revealing that 43.3% of males strongly agreed, 34.2% agreed, 19.3% disagreed, and 3.2% very disagreed. Among female respondents, 49.7% strongly concurred, 32.7% concurred, and 17.6% dissented. The data indicate that 77.5% of male respondents and 82.4% of female respondents asserted that financial pressure on men exacerbates domestic violence. Furthermore, item 6 assessed whether jealousy among wives contributes to domestic violence against men, revealing that 51% of male respondents strongly agreed, while approximately 28% disagreed. Additionally, 17% of male respondents expressed disagreement, and around 4% strongly disagreed. Among female responders, around 56% strongly agreed and 31% agreed, while about 7% disagreed and 6% strongly disagreed. A significant 79% of male respondents and an impressive 87% of female respondents concurred, both in strong and moderate terms, that jealousy among wives precipitates domestic violence against males.

Additionally, item 7 investigated if the conventional framework contributes to domestic violence against men. As a result, it stated that for male respondents, 79.1% agreed in both terms, and 20.9% disagreed in both terms. Among females, 81.7% concurred on both accounts, while 18.4% dissented on both counts. A significant 79.1% of male respondents and an overwhelming 81.7% of female respondents affirmed that the conventional structure contributes to domestic violence against males. Finally, Table 2, item 8 included data regarding the likelihood of men from a nuclear family seeking assistance for domestic abuse. Among male responders, over 47% strongly concurred, around 31% concurred, 17% disagreed, and roughly 6% strongly disagreed. Among female respondents, 42% strongly agreed, 27% agreed, and 3% strongly disagreed. Both male and female respondents, at rates of 78% and 67% respectively, said that men from nuclear families are less inclined to seek assistance for domestic violence.

Table 3: Multivariate Analysis of Respondents on Gender Perception and Family Size Influencing Domestic Violence in Ekiti State

Sex	Family Size Leads to Domestic Violence against Men					95% Confidence Interval	P-Value
	SA	A	D	SD	Total		
Male	76	57	31	23	187	0.925 (0.744-1.151)	0.114
Female	49	47	41	10	147	1.081 (0.869-1.343)	0.114

Source: Research Fieldwork (2025)

Table 3 displays data from the multivariate study regarding the impact of gender perception and family size on domestic violence in Ekiti State. This document presents the cross-

tabulation, odds ratio, confidence interval, and p-value of the respondents. Table 3 indicates that of 187 male respondents, 133 concurred on both counts that family size affects domestic violence against males in Ekiti State. This further substantiated the odds ratio (OR=0.925, 95% CI=0.744-1.151), with a significant p-value (0.114), indicating a potential correlation between family size and domestic violence against men. The majority of male respondents indicated that family size may influence domestic violence against males in Ekiti State. The Table indicates that 96 out of 147 female respondents affirmed that family size affects domestic violence against men in Ekiti State, which aligns with the odds ratio (OR=1.081, 95% CI=0.869-1.343) suggesting a correlation between family size and domestic violence against men in the region. This indicates a propensity for domestic abuse against men in Ekiti State due to family size.

Table 4: Multivariate Analysis of Respondents on Extended Family Interference and Family Size Leads to Domestic Violence against Men in Ekiti State

Extended Family Interference leads to DV against men	Family Size Leads to Domestic Violence against Men					OR (95% Confidence Interval)	P-Value
	SA	A	D	SD	Total		
SA	89	19	4	8	120	2.173 (1.110-1.272)	0.000
A	8	63	26	0	97	3.116 (2.152-4.512)	0.000
D	10	22	38	0	70	3.926 (2.635-5.848)	0.000
SD	18	0	4	25	47	5.792 (3.677-9.123)	0.000

Source: Research Fieldwork, (2025)

Table 4 presents data on the multivariate analysis of respondents on extended family interference and family size results in domestic violence against men in Ekiti State. This is to show cross tabulation, the odds ratio, confidence interval, and p-value of respondents. The majority of the respondents, 179 out of 334 respondents, agreed in both terms that family size enables extended family interference, which results in domestic violence against men in Ekiti. This is further supported by the odds ratio (OR=3.116, 95% CI=2.152-4.512), with a significant p-value (0.000) that there is a three times greater likelihood of family size and interference resulting in domestic violence against men in Ekiti. Though the odds ratio of minority respondents that disagreed in both terms shows otherwise with(OR=5.792, 95% CI=3.677-9.123, 0.000) more than 5 times the likelihood that family size with interference causes domestic violence against men in Ekiti State. The implication here is that the majority of the respondents affirmed that there is more than a three times likelihood of family size and interference to cause domestic violence against men in Ekiti State.

Table 5: Percentage Distribution of Respondents on the Forms of Domestic Violence Experienced by Men in Ekiti State

S/N	Items		Male				Female			
			SA	A	D	SD	SA	A	D	SD
1	Men do experience physical violence	F	38	43	45	61	32	55	26	34
		%	20.3	23.0	24.1	32.6	21.8	37.4	17.7	23.1
2	Emotional blackmail is a form of DV that men experience	F	107	53	18	9	87	28	32	0
		%	57.2	28.3	9.6	4.8	59.2	19.0	21.8	0.00
3	Men experience psychological abuse from their wives	F	87	59	30	11	65	54	26	2
		%	46.5	31.6	16.0	5.9	44.2	36.7	17.7	1.4
4	Men suffer sexual violence from their wives	F	94	47	35	11	54	65	22	6
		%	50.3	25.1	18.7	5.9	36.7	44.2	15.0	4.1
5	Financial control and restriction is a type of DV that men experience	F	91	64	26	6	61	54	31	1
		%	48.7	34.2	13.9	3.2	41.5	36.7	21.1	0.7
6	Verbal abuse is a form of DV that men experience	F	114	49	23	1	83	41	21	2
		%	61.0	26.2	12.3	0.5	56.5	27.8	14.3	1.4
7	Men experience social isolation as a form of DV	F	93	63	21	10	62	46	37	2
		%	49.7	33.7	11.2	5.3	42.2	31.3	25.1	1.4
8	Destruction of men's property is a form of DV	F	102	45	22	18	81	43	19	4
		%	54.5	24.1	11.8	9.6	55.1	29.3	12.9	2.7

Source: Research Fieldwork, (2025)

Table 5 above presents data on the forms of domestic violence men experienced in Ekiti State. Item 1 in Table 4 investigates whether men do experience physical violence, which revealed that male respondents, 43.3% agreed in both terms, and 56.7% disagreed in both terms. While for female respondents, 59.2% agreed in both terms, and 40.8% disagreed in both terms. In a nutshell, what this finding implies is that while more than half, 56.7%, of male respondents disagreed with having experienced physical domestic violence, more than half, 59.2%, of female respondents confirmed that men do experience physical domestic violence. Also, item 2 examined if emotional blackmail is a form of domestic violence that men experienced, and it stated that for males, 57.2% strongly agreed, 28.3% agreed, 9.6% disagreed, and 4.8% strongly disagreed.

While for female respondents, 59.2% strongly agreed, 19.0% agreed, and 12.8% disagreed. That is, the implication of this finding shows that a very high staggering (85.5%) of male and a very high (78.2%) proportion of female respondents affirmed that emotional blackmail is a form of domestic violence men do experience in Ekiti State. Item 3 also determined whether men experience psychological abuse from their wives. For males, it stated that 78% agreed in both terms, and about 22% disagreed in both terms. while for females, 81% agreed in both terms and 19% disagreed in both terms. In other words, what this means is that both male (78%) and female (81%) attested those men do experience psychological abuse from their wives. Item 4, on the other hand, assesses whether men suffer sexual violence from their wives, and it shows that for males, 75.4% and 24.6% agreed and disagreed, respectively, in

both terms. While for females, it shows that 80.9% and 19.1% agreed and disagreed in both terms, respectively. Nonetheless, the finding connotes that a very large proportion of males, with 75.4% and an overwhelming distribution of female respondents, with 80.9% affirmed that men do suffer sexual violence from their wives.

Furthermore, item 5 further presented data on whether financial control and restriction are a type of domestic violence that men experienced. In the case of male respondents, it explained that about 49% strongly agreed, 34% agreed, about 14% disagreed, and 3% strongly disagreed. While in the case of female respondents, about 42% strongly agreed, about 37% agreed, 21% disagreed, and about 1% strongly disagreed. Therefore, what this result implies is that 83% of male respondents and 79% of female respondents claimed that financial control and restriction is a type of domestic violence men experienced. In addition, item 6 determined whether verbal abuse is a form of domestic violence that men experience. As a result, it shows that for male respondents, 87.2% and 12.8% agreed and disagreed in both terms, respectively, and while for female respondents, it stated that 84.3% and 15.7% agreed and disagreed in both terms, respectively. Nonetheless, what this result indicates is that an overwhelming distribution of respondents from both male (87.2%) and female (84.3%) confirmed that verbal abuse is a form of domestic violence that men experience. Item 7 also examined whether men experienced social isolation as a form of domestic violence in Ekiti State. It illustrated that for males, 83% agreed in both terms, and about 17% disagreed in both terms.

For female respondents, it explained that about 74% agreed and about 26% disagreed in both terms. This finding indicated that both males and females, with 83% and 74% respectively, affirmed that men experience social isolation as a form of domestic violence. Lastly, in Table 4, item 8 investigated whether the destruction of men's properties is a form of domestic violence. It stated that for males, 54.5% strongly agreed, 24.1% agreed, 11.85% disagreed, and 9.6% strongly disagreed. For female respondents, it shows that 55.1% strongly agreed, 29.3% agreed, 12.9% disagreed, and 2.7% strongly disagreed. What this result indicates is that a very large proportion (78.6%) of male respondents and a very high staggering (84.4%) of female respondents attested that destruction of men’s properties is a form of domestic violence in Ekiti State.

Discussion of Findings

While research has been undertaken on domestic violence, there is a scarcity of evidence regarding family structure as a factor influencing domestic violence against men in Ekiti State. This study indicated that males in nuclear families face less domestic abuse than those in extended families. This discovery substantiates the findings of Ali et al. (2021), which identify three themes: privacy and absence of personal space within a family, interference and provocation of issues by in-laws, and conflicting and unarticulated expectations, leading to domestic violence against men in an extended family context. Conversely, Critchley (2017) contended that the nuclear family is excessively diminutive, prone to significant discord, and perpetually embroiled in conflict. The study also indicates that men in polygamous homes are susceptible to domestic violence. Polygamy exhibits a strong link with domestic violence, particularly among elder women, who experience a heightened incidence of violence (Jansen and Agadjanian, 2021). This data supports Ahinkorah's (2021) claim that polygamy is a significant factor in domestic violence, and the study area exhibits a

polygamous family structure. The study's findings confirmed that influence from extended family contributes to domestic violence against men. Clark et al. (2024) asserted that familial interference was substantially correlated with domestic violence. Moreover, family size affects domestic violence perpetrated against men. This research corroborates Pritadrajati (2023), which asserts that the number of children, irrespective of biological relation, will intensify pressure, perhaps resulting in domestic violence.

The study further indicated that financial pressure on men exacerbates domestic violence, corroborating the findings of Renzetti and Larkin (2009) and Umukoro and Okurame (2022), which assert that financial strain and stress are significant contributors to domestic violence against men. Hardship can generate friction within the family, fostering domestic violence. Moreover, rivalry among spouses in a polygamous household result in domestic violence directed at men. This validated the conclusions of Shogbemu (2025), which indicated that excessive possessiveness and jealousy exhibited by women result in domestic violence against males in Ibadan. Furthermore, Kyegombe et al. (2021) assert that jealousy may lead to domestic violence. The influence of jealousy manifests through distinct gender channels, with women interrogating men about their locations and intents stemming from jealously over infidelity, while men exhibit jealousy towards women who socialise to attract male attention. The study's findings indicated that the conventional family structure contributes to domestic violence against men, as males from nuclear families are less inclined to seek assistance for such behaviour.

The study indicated that both male and female respondents acknowledged various forms of domestic violence against men, including emotional blackmail (85.5% male, 78.2% female), psychological abuse (78.1% male, 80.9% female), sexual violence (75.4% male, 80.95% female), financial control (83.9% male, 78.2% female), verbal abuse (87.2% male, 84.3% female), isolation (83.4% male, 73.5% female), and property destruction (78.6% male, 84.4% female). However, there is a disparity between genders regarding the physical abuse experienced, with 55.7% of males disagreeing and 59.2% of females agreeing. This can be ascribed to the phenomenon that, owing to humiliation, men may be reluctant to engage in discussions regarding physical violence with others (Shogbemu, 2025).

Emotional blackmail, psychological manipulation, sexual abuse, financial control and limitation, isolation, and the destruction of men's property constitute forms of domestic violence frequently encountered by males in Ekiti State. This finding corroborated the Australian Bureau of Statistics (2022) data indicating that 1 in 6 men endure emotional abuse when faced with threats and demeaning conduct aimed at controlling their social and financial behaviours. The study by Ezenwoko et al. (2023) indicates that men in Nigeria encounter multiple forms of domestic violence, including sexual, emotional, financial, and physical abuse. Shogbamu (2025) also suggested that sexual denial and physical abuse constitute the essence of domestic violence faced by men. Huecker et al. (2023) said that one in seven men experiences physical abuse from their partners. The Australian Bureau of Statistics estimates that 1 in 8 men have experienced domestic abuse from a partner or family member (NSW Bureau of Crime Statistics and Research, 2025). The Domestic abuse Services Network (2024) reports that 1 in 71 males experience marital rape, 1 in 38 men have encountered either completed or attempted marital rape, and nearly 1 in 4 men have faced sexual abuse at some point in their lives.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This study examined family structure as a factor influencing domestic violence against men in Ekiti State, uncovering significant findings, including cultural expectations and traditional masculinity norms, particularly within nuclear family contexts, which deter men from seeking assistance, thereby exacerbating their susceptibility to ongoing domestic abuse. This study enhances the current literature on domestic violence by examining the experiences of males, an area that prior research has predominantly overlooked in favour of women's victimisation. It elucidates the distinct nature of men's experiences of domestic violence within various family configurations in Ekiti State.

This study concluded that family structures influence domestic violence against males in Ekiti State, and men experience various forms of domestic abuse. Based on this premise, the study recommends that government entities, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), religious institutions, and other pertinent stakeholders acknowledge married men as potential victims of domestic violence. This recognition should catalyse public campaigns and educational initiatives designed to dismantle the stigma surrounding male victimhood, thereby promoting reporting and fostering open discourse regarding domestic abuse, particularly among married men and across all genders.Addressing financial strain through job development, business assistance, and income stabilisation empowerment is essential to mitigate men's susceptibility to domestic violence.

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