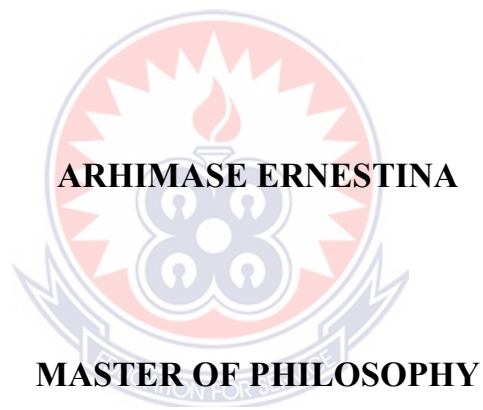


UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AGAINST MEN IN ELMINA TOWNSHIP OF
KOMENDA-EDINA-EGUAFO-ABREM MUNICIPALITY**



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KOMENDA-EDINA-EGUAFO-ABREM MUNICIPALITY**



**A thesis in the Department of Social Studies Education,
Faculty of Social Sciences, submitted to the School of
Graduate Studies in partial fulfilment
of the requirements for the award of the degree of
Master of Philosophy
(Social Studies Education)
in the University of Education, Winneba**

NOVEMBER, 2023

DECLARATION

Student's Declaration

I, Ernestina Arhimase, declare that this thesis, except quotations and references contained in published works which have all been identified and duly acknowledged, is entirely my own original work, and it has not been submitted, either in part or while for another degree elsewhere.

Signature.....

Date.....

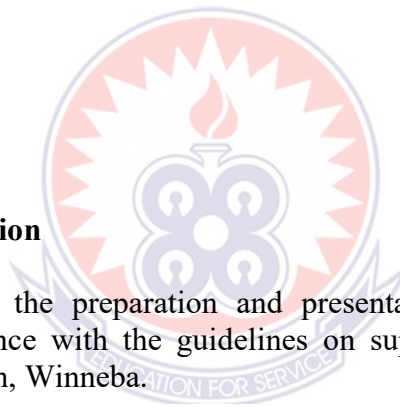
Supervisor's Declaration

I hereby declare that the preparation and presentation of the dissertation were supervised in accordance with the guidelines on supervision of laid down by the University of Education, Winneba.

Name: Prof. Lucy Effeh Attom

Signature.....

Date.....



DEDICATION

To my beloved father, Mr. Edward Arhimase and mother, Mrs Grace Ellen Arhimase, whose unwavering support and encouragement have been my guiding light throughout this academic journey. Your sacrifices, love, and wisdom have been a constant source of inspiration. To my cherished siblings, Mr. Emmanuel Nyen, Dr. Atta Kwenin, Prof. Koawo Edjah, and Dr. Anthony Bordoh, whose camaraderie, belief in my abilities, and shared sense of purpose have enriched my life immeasurably. Your enduring faith in me has propelled me forward.



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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

ABS	Australian Bureau of Statistics
CDC	Center for Disease Control
DHS	Demographic and Health Survey
DOVVSU	Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit
DV	Domestic Violence
FBI	Federal Bureau of Investigation
GSS	Ghana Statistical Service
HIV	Human Immune-deficiency Virus
HIV/AIDS	Human Immune-deficiency Virus/ Acquired Immuno Deficiency Syndrome
IPV	Intimate Partner Violence
NaCCA	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment
NCADV	National Coalition Against Domestic Violence
NCCE	National Commission for Civic Education
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organisations
PTSD	Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
SASS	Sexual Assault Survival Services
STDs	Sexual Transmitted Diseases
STIs	Sexual Transmitted Infections
USA	United States of America
WAJU	Women and Juvenile Unit
WHO	World Health Organisation
WiLDAF	Women in Law and Development in Africa

ABSTRACT

This study aimed to explore domestic violence against men within Elmina Township, located in the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality. It drew its theoretical foundation from the resource and the ecological theories. The study was firmly rooted in the interpretive paradigm and employed a qualitative research approach, specifically adopting phenomenology as its research design. The research focused married male victims of domestic violence in the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality, along with an official from the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU). Snowball sampling technique was employed to select the participants for the study. The study's sample included 11 male domestic violence victims and 1 DOVVSU official responsible for addressing domestic violence issues in the locality. The primary data collection tool utilized in this study was an interview guide. Through this approach, the study sought to gain a deep and nuanced understanding of the experiences and perspectives of male victims and the role of DOVVSU in handling domestic violence cases in Elmina Township. Participants shared a coherent understanding of domestic violence, describing it as the abuse of one person by another within intimate relationships, encompassing physical, sexual, and emotional mistreatment. The findings revealed that various forms of abuse were prevalent, including physical violence leading to injuries, denial of sexual intimacy and food as means of control, and emotional abuse through insults and name-calling, causing long-term psychological effects. The findings indicated that that male victims often suffer in silence due to societal perceptions and underreporting. Cultural norms that primarily focus on women and children as victims contribute to this issue. The study emphasized the urgent need to recognize and address domestic violence against men, highlighting its diverse forms and severe consequences. It also stressed the importance of increasing awareness and support for male victims, extending resources and legal protection, and encouraging the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit to play a more inclusive role in addressing this issue. Barriers such as stigma and fear must be overcome to combat domestic violence against men in Elmina Township effectively.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the Study

Domestic violence (DV) has often portrayed as a problem affecting mainly women and children. However, there is growing recognition that men can also be a victim of abuse in intimate relationships. In many societies, male victimization is underreported, socially stigmatized and frequently overlooked by both public discourse and state institutions. The prevailing believe that men are inherently strong and should not fall victim of violence contributes to their silence and reluctance to seek help when abused (Ayodele, 2017; McCarrick., et al 2016). This societal perception reinforces the visibility of male victims in both research and policy frameworks.

Recent studies have shown that men experience various forms of domestic violence including physical abuse, psychological manipulation, economic control and sexual deprivation. According to the Demographic and Health Survey conducted in Ghana (GSS et al., 2009), over a quarter (27.6%) of Ghanaian men reported having experienced physical or psychological violence by their wives. Despite these alarming figures, most attention continues to be directed toward women experience, leaving male victims without sufficient support or recognition. The lack of awareness and institutional resources for abused men not only worsens their situation but also hampers broader efforts to address domestic violence in a holistic manner.

The Australian Medical Association (1998) defines domestic violence as an abuse of power. It is domination, coercion, intimidation of one person by another through physical, sexual or emotional means within intimate relationships. From this

definition, it is realised that any act that may seem to coerce in an intimate relationship is termed domestic violence. Intimate relationship may mean marriage, concubinage or kinship. Domestic violence encompasses a set of symptoms that may involve physical, emotional and psychological abuse (FIDA- GHANA, 2013). Domestic violence is a problem that affects many people, a problem without geographic borders, age limit, class, ethnicity, race or cultural differentiations. In both developed and developing countries, domestic violence issues are being grappled with as its concomitant consequences have far reaching effects on societies. It is one of most frequent forms of violence; however, it is most of the time silenced as a result of fear for the perpetrator or aggressor and the embarrassment that society associates with such acts especially towards the victim. Domestic violence must not be viewed as a private family issue, but one of a social interest because it affects the entire society.

The sub-Saharan African region is not immune to the worldwide growing problem with intimate partner violence (Takyi & Mann, 2006). The prevalence of physical violence within the domestic settings has been highest in Africa, with almost half of the countries of the continent reporting lifetime prevalence of over forty per cent (40%). The Democratic Republic of Congo having the highest figure of 64% of such cases as at 2007 (Adebayo, 2014). Indeed, studies on various forms of intimate partner violence have found the practice to be quite widespread throughout Africa (Takyi & Mann, 2006).

The Domestic Violence and Victims Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service formerly known as Women and Juvenile Unit (WAJU) was established in October 1998 as Specialized Unit within the Ghana Police Service formed in response

to the increasing number of reported cases of abuse and violence against women and children (Agyedu, Donkor & Obeng, 2013). However, the Unit's name (Women and Juvenile Unit) was perceived by a lot of Ghanaians as a place where only women and children could go and report cases or seek redress. As a result, men who were victims of domestic violence felt reluctant to patronize the services of the Unit. In order to make the Unit open and accessible to all victims of domestic violence, its name was changed to DOVVSU in 2005 (Ghana Police Service, 2021). DOVVSU is expected to, among its numerous functions: provide free services to members of the public; protect the rights of the vulnerable against all forms of abuse be it physical, sexual, emotional or psychological, socio-economic, or harmful cultural practices; establish an effective database for crime detection, prevention and prosecution; treat victims/complainants and their families with respect and courtesy; take statements in a professional manner; provide victims with information on their cases as well as details of the investigations; provide advice on crime prevention at homes, in schools, churches and markets (Ghana Police Service, 2021).

Men experiencing domestic violence are less likely to report compared to women. Some men tend to underplay nonphysical behaviours (O'Campo *et al.*, 2017). Fear of social stigma is a major factor where stereotypes still exist and men are viewed as a stronger gender and should not succumb to violence (Ayodele, 2017; McCarrick *et al.*, 2016; Melchiorre *et al.*, 2016; Obeji *et al.*, 2017). As a result of exaltation of masculinity traits, some men experience double trauma of abuse and have not been believed by the public including law enforcement (MacDonald, 2016; McCarrick *et al.*, 2016). Male victims of domestic abuse, can feel more alone and like they have no one to turn to for support and assistance. Many male victims of domestic abuse do not

realise they are victims due to the stereotype as they also believe that women are the only abused (Mongare *et al.*, 2018).

1.2 Statement of the Problem

Access Economics (2004) in a study that was conducted on the impacts of domestic violence emphasized that domestic violence occurs when one partner attempts by physical and psychological means to dominate and control the other. Domestic violence takes a number of forms. The most commonly acknowledged forms of violence are physical and sexual violence; threats and intimidation; emotional and social abuse. Domestic violence can involve a continuum of controlling behaviour and violence, which can occur over a number of years, before and after separation.

A recent study by Benewaa (2020) using a qualitative approach to collect data on perceptions of domestic violence against men in Nima and East Legon, revealed that domestic violence against men is usually not physical but takes the form of denial of sex, denying husband food and other forms of “disrespecting” husbands. It was apparent that failed expectations in marriage by wives also lead to domestic violence against men. The study further recommended a public awareness campaign through the organization of educational programmes about the need to report all forms of domestic violence to DOVVSU. Also, the government needs to provide services such as counselling and shelters to ensure privacy in such conditions. Finally, the government should implement fully the DV Act 732, 2007 as soon as possible.

Domestic violence against men are less studied, and cases of abuse are underreported, especially in patriarchal societies such as Ghana (Benewaa, 2020). Researchers have documented males as victims (Mongare *et al.*, 2018; Obeji *et al.*, 2017). The notion that this is a social issue rather than a legal one needs to be evaluated (Comas-

d'Argemir's, 2015). Failure to address male victimization may subject men to the same detrimental physical and psychological health issues experienced by women. In a society that continues to fight for gender equality and freedom from discrimination, laws, and resources to support male victims must also be made available (O'Campo *et al.*, 2017).

According to Carey (2010), men are more likely to suffer in silence for the fear of unsavory perceptions and comments from society. He further argued that unlike women, men are more likely to suffer from psychological abuse. It was also posited that due to cultural norms and societal practices, men would be less likely to report abuse to the appropriate authority because anytime one talks about domestic violence, it is mostly women and children as if they are the only vulnerable in the society but men do suffer in silence and that has necessitated this study.

Domestic abuse inflicted upon men by their female partners has notably received limited attention in research. This has resulted in an imbalance in available literature, predominantly favouring female victims, as noted by Dery, Diedong & Science, (2014). Some research in Ghana reveals why and how women are abused and they show at least some interventions put in place to help the abused women ((Dery, Diedong & Science, 2014; Ghana Police Service, 2021; Takyi & Mann, 2006; Dwamena-Aboagye & Famenya, 2005; FIDA Ghana, 2011). The studies examined the prevalence and patterns of domestic violence in Ghana, identifying key factors that contribute to its occurrence. It also discussed the physical, emotional and psychological effects of domestic violence on victims emphasizing the long-term consequences for their well-being. In their interventions, various organizations provided counselling services and support groups for abused women. Also, the

government and non-governmental organizations have established shelters and safe houses to provide temporary refuge for abused women and their children, among others. Studies by Mantey (2019) in Accra and Afari (2017) in Koforidua have also provided valuable insights into the experiences of male victims in urban settings. However, there is currently no research focused on the manner and reasons women inflict violence on men in Elmina, a coastal town. Furthermore, the researcher has observed recent occurrences on the uprising of domestic violence against men in communities within the Elmina Township of Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality. In coastal areas like Elmina, the economic structure often revolves around the fishing industry, where both men and women play distinct roles. However, women in these areas are frequently more resourceful due to their involvement in diverse income generating activities beyond fishing. While men traditionally engage in fishing, which can be seasonal and unpredictable, women often manage the trade, processing and marketing of fish, as well as other forms of petty trading. This economic advantage for women create a power dynamic where women become more financially independent and influential within the household, while men face economic challenges due to the irregular nature of their work. This shift in traditional gender roles can lead to frustration and tension within families, contributing to an increase in domestic violence. In view of the foregoing, this research was conducted to investigate how and why women become violent towards men.

1.3 Purpose of the Study

The purpose of the study was to investigate perceptions, causes and effects of domestic violence against married men in Elmina Township of Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality.

1.4 Objectives to the Study

Specifically, the objectives of the study were to:

1. explore perceptions of domestic violence against men in Elmina Township.
2. examine the various forms of domestic violence perpetrated against men in Elmina Township.
3. analyse the causes of domestic violence against men in Elmina Township.
4. assess the effects of domestic violence against men in Elmina Township.
5. examine the role of DOVVSU in dealing with domestic violence against men in the study area.

1.5 Research Questions

The following research questions guided the study;

1. How do men in Elmina Township perceive domestic violence against men?
2. What forms of domestic violence are perpetrated against men in Elmina Township?
3. What are the causes of domestic violence against men in Elmina Township?
4. How does domestic violence affect men in the study area?
5. How does DOVVSU respond to domestic violence against men in the study area?

1.6 Significance of Study

This study would contribute to the existing literature on the subject by providing a potential reference point for future research, particularly in the Social Sciences, including social work, social policy, and gender studies as well as sociology and criminology.

By highlighting the male perspective, this study would provide some understanding to perceptions men hold about domestic violence, the various forms and causes of domestic violence perpetrated against men, the barriers preventing men from reporting cases of domestic abuse, what men do when they are abused, and the role of DOVVSU in addressing issues of violence against men. This would serve as a guide to policymakers, programme implementers, and other social protection institutions to make them more gender-sensitive in addressing issues of violence. Furthermore, a study of this nature would be useful as an advocacy tool for promoting the welfare and interest of males who experience domestic violence. Also, findings from the study would help in improving DOVVSU's capacity in addressing domestic violence against males.

Moreover, findings of this study would provide information to the Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) who are interested in domestic violence against males to mount enlightenment programmes for both married couples and the youth who intend to go into marriage later in their lives. Likewise, findings of this study would serve as the foundation for future researchers in the same or similar area.

1.7 Delimitations of the Study

According to Simon and Goes (2013), the delimitations of a study are those characteristics that arise from limitations in the scope of the study defining the boundaries and by the conscious exclusionary and inclusionary decisions made during the development of the study plan. Examples of these exclusionary and inclusionary decisions are the choice of objectives and research question(s), variables of interest, the choice of theoretical perspectives used, the methodology, and the choice of participants. This study was limited to domestic violence against men

The study primarily focuses on the married men. In this case, individuals who are in a relationship but not married, those cohabiting, as well as the divorced are exempted from this study. The study is purely qualitative. The researcher did not have a specific number of participants to be involved in the study. Data were gathered until a saturation was reached. Data was collected from men who have been married for least three years.

In terms of content the study was limited to perceptions of domestic violence against men in Elmina Township, forms of domestic violence perpetrated against men in Elmina Township, causes of domestic violence against men in Elmina Township, effects of domestic violence against men in Elmina Township and DOVVSU role in responding to domestic violence against men in the study area.

1.8 Organisation of the Chapters

The study was developed and put into five major chapters with specific subheadings. The First Chapter dwells on the introduction of the study, statement of the problem, purpose of the study, objectives of the study, research questions, significance of the study, delimitations, operational definition of terms and the organization of the study. The second chapter is devoted to review of related literature. This was done using strands derived from the main research questions. Chapter Three looked at the methodology. This included the research paradigm, research approach, research design, population, study area, sample and sampling technique, instrumentation, trustworthiness, procedure for data collection and procedure for analysing the data were outlined. The Fourth Chapter takes a critical look at the analysis and discussion of data using thematic approach while a summary of findings, conclusions,

recommendations and suggestions for further study were provided in the Fifth Chapter.

1.9 Definition of Terms

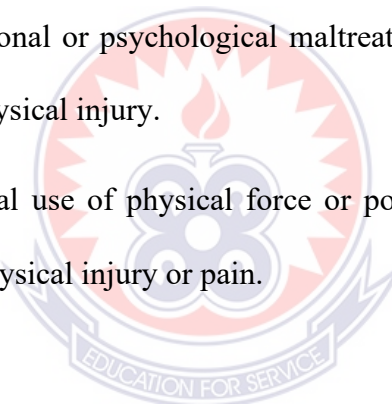
Domestic Violence: Any act of behaviour in a relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner.

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV): An incident in which one partner physically, psychologically or sexually abuses another partner.

Male Victim: Married men who experience domestic violence perpetrated by their intimate partners within a domestic setting.

Abuse: Physical, emotional or psychological maltreatment often resulting in mental, emotional, sexual or physical injury.

Violence: An intentional use of physical force or power against oneself or another person that results in physical injury or pain.



CHAPTER TWO

LITERATURE REVIEW

2.1 Introduction

In this chapter, previous research works are critically reviewed, analysed and synthesized to provide a broader context of knowledge sharing. The literature was reviewed under the following sub themes such as theoretical framework, conceptual framework of domestic violence, concept of domestic violence, forms of domestic violence, causes of domestic violence and effects of domestic violence

2.2 Theoretical Framework

The study was underpinned by Ecological theory and Resource theory

2.2.1 Ecological Theory

The term ecology is used to describe the relationships that exist between plants, animals, people and their environment, and the balances between these relationships. Ecological Theory, proposed by Urie Bronfenbrenner in 1979, describes human behaviour as the outcome of constant interactions between people and the different layers of environments in which they live. Hence, the ecological theory of domestic violence has its root in the study of organisms and their relationships with the environment. This theory focuses on the analysis of humans and the environment in which they live, the interacting systems in the family unit development occurs and the environment in which the family resides. Bronfenbrenner's framework identifies several interconnected systems:

Microsystem: The individual's immediate surroundings and direct relationships, such as family, friends, intimate partners, colleagues, or neighbours.

Mesosystem: The connections between two or more microsystems, for example, how family relationships might influence workplace behaviour or friendships.

Exosystem: External settings that the individual does not participate in directly but that still have an effect, such as a partner's workplace, social service policies, or how the media portrays gender roles.

Macrosystem: The overarching cultural norms, societal values, laws, and belief systems that guide interactions within all other systems.

Chronosystem: The influence of time, showing how personal life events and larger historical changes shape behaviour and relationships over the long term.

The Ecological Theory was used to analyse domestic violence against men in Elmina. The theory allowed for an understanding that such violence is the product of complex and overlapping influences. Microsystem included the direct relationship between the victim and perpetrator, as well as close family and social contacts. Tensions within these spaces can escalate conflict or discourage help-seeking. Mesosystem covered the links between these close environments, such as how advice from friends may shape disclosure to family or community leaders. Exosystem encompassed institutions and structures that indirectly affect the victim, including DOVVSU operations. Macrosystem involved cultural beliefs and societal expectations that may silence male victims, condone certain forms of abuse, or hinder reporting. Chronosystem recognised how changing gender norms, legislative reforms, and shifting public attitudes over time affect both the occurrence of abuse and the responses to it.

Garbarino (1977) established two conditions that must exist under this theory for domestic violence to occur; the environment in which the family lives must accept the use of violence. The ecological theory also assumes that family violence occurs when

partners in a particular relationship are a mismatch to their environment and community.

2.2.2 Resource theory

Resource theory posits that the decision-making power within a given family derives from the value of the resources that each person brings into the relationship. This may indicate resources such as financial, social and organizational (Loue, 2001). The resource theory of domestic violence is based on the assumption that the one who controls the resources, such as money, landed property or prestige, is in a dominant position within a relationship. Gelles (1993) believes that the use of violence within a relationship depends on the resources that a family member controls. It has been suggested by some theoretical writers that due to the female 'emancipation' which has been taking place over the past thirty to forty years, women have gained greater economic and social power within households, which has shifted traditional gender dynamics and sometimes contribute to the use of violence by women against their male partners. The resource theory demonstrates that domestic violence against men can stem from resource-based power imbalances, challenging the stereotype that only women occupy the less powerful position in relationships. The theory also suggests that interventions aimed at reducing domestic violence should not only address attitudes and behaviours but also consider the distribution of economic, social, and emotional resources between partners. (Vyas & Watts, 2008). The resource theory is also based on the premise that men with regular income are less likely to report of ever having experienced or undergone any form of domestic violence than men who are unemployed (Panda & Agarwal, 2005).

Key assumptions of Resource Theory include:

1. Resources as a basis of power: Control over financial and symbolic resources translates into decision-making authority.
2. Inequality breeds dependency: Partners with fewer resources are more vulnerable to coercion and domination.
3. Violence as a strategy: Disparities in resources can provoke violence as a means to establish or challenge control.
4. Gender role shifts matter: As women gain access to education and employment, traditional male dominance is disrupted, potentially contributing to conflict and abuse.

This framework is particularly relevant to the experiences of male victims in Elmina. Women in this community often engage in fish processing, trading, and other forms of petty commerce, which provide them with relatively stable incomes, while men's fishing activities are seasonal and uncertain. Participants in this study described situations where women leveraged financial stability, control over food, or even sexual intimacy as tools of power. Men who lacked steady income or had lower educational levels were more likely to report abuse, including insults, denial of food, and physical assaults. Thus, Resource Theory highlights how economic disparities and unequal control of valued resources can invert traditional power structures and expose men to victimization, directly supporting the aim of this study.

2.3 Conceptual Framework of Domestic Violence

There seem to be a difficulty in defining what exactly constitutes domestic violence. Internationally, there is no one single accepted definition for the menace (Amaral 2012). This is as a result of variations in culture, hence, what will be considered

violence in one place might be considered normal daily family or domestic relationship feud which needs only private intervention. The term ‘domestic violence’ is sometimes also referred to as family violence or intimate partner violence (IPV). These three definitions of domestic violence stated can be defined in contextual manner such as relationship, domestic agreement or understanding, location of offence, legality, policy direction and interpretation of an act (Amaral, 2012).

The conceptual framework for this research is to provide a model within which the term domestic violence can be clearly understood and accepted. The Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) (1999) defines the relationship required between offender and victim under which domestic violence can occur as family, that is based on interpersonal relationships and domestic, that is based on living arrangements. According to the ABS (1999) family may include relatives and family members, as connected by blood or marriage including current and past spousal relationships, relatives through kinship, cultural or religious grounds and situations where people’s lives have become enmeshed through the passage of time, trust and commitment, a level of intimacy whether sexual or not frequency of contact or level of dependency, such as informal care arrangements between people.

These relationships do not automatically mean that offender and victim are legally married or cohabit. Within these identified relationships, domestic violence can take place. From these definitions, it could be deduced that domestic violence does not occur only between a husband and a wife. It can also occur in other relationships such as siblings, sexual partners, between parents and their children and even grandparents and grandchildren. Also, it occurs in situations where two or more people live

together. They may be living as a couple of the same or different sex, or in a partnership. Sometimes, it may occur among friends, housemates or cohabitants.

The Australian Medical Association (1998) defines domestic violence as an abuse of power. It is domination, coercion, intimidation of one person by another through physical, sexual or emotional means within intimate relationships. From this definition, it is realised that any act that may seem to coerce or intimidate in an intimate relationship is termed domestic violence. Intimate relationship may mean marriage, concubinage or kinship.

The Victorian Community Council (2005) also sees domestic violence as ‘coercive and controlling behaviour by a family member that causes physical, sexual, and / or emotional damage to others in the family including causing them to live in fear and threatening to harm people, pets or property. Family violence is most commonly perpetrated by one partner towards another (when it is sometimes called ‘domestic violence’ or ‘intimate partner abuse’) and / or by an adult towards children. Other forms include elder abuse or sibling abuse. Whether the violence is physical, sexual or emotional, it may have long time detrimental effects.’ This definition tends to cover a wide range of situations within which domestic violence can occur. Realisation is that, apart from violence happening against women it also takes place against the elderly and children. This shows that, domestic violence may exist across a wide range of situations.

Access Economics (2004) in a study that was conducted on the impacts of domestic violence on stress also came out with a definition which is quoted as “domestic violence occurs when one partner attempts by physical and psychological means to dominate and control the other”. Domestic violence takes a number of forms. The

most commonly acknowledged forms of violence are: physical and sexual violence; threats and intimidation; emotional and social abuse; and financial deprivation. Domestic violence can involve a continuum of controlling behaviour and violence, which can occur over a number of years, before and after separation (Croft, 2012). This definition tends to cover a wider scope of the phenomenon of domestic violence. Some of these incidents may not necessarily result in justice system response, but may be important in conducting risk assessment in a relationship to ascertain whether an individual faces imminent domestic violence, especially on the part of a female. There may be variations in the definitions of domestic violence, though they tend to share similar themes.

For instance, the Domestic Violence Act of Ghana, (Act 732) defines domestic violence to mean an act which constitutes a threat or harm to a person. This includes physical assault, confinement and deprivation of basic needs like food and shelter. It also encompasses sexual abuse, economic abuse, emotional abuse and verbal or physical abuse. Additionally, it addresses harassment and behaviour that endangers another person's safety, well-being, privacy, integrity or dignity.

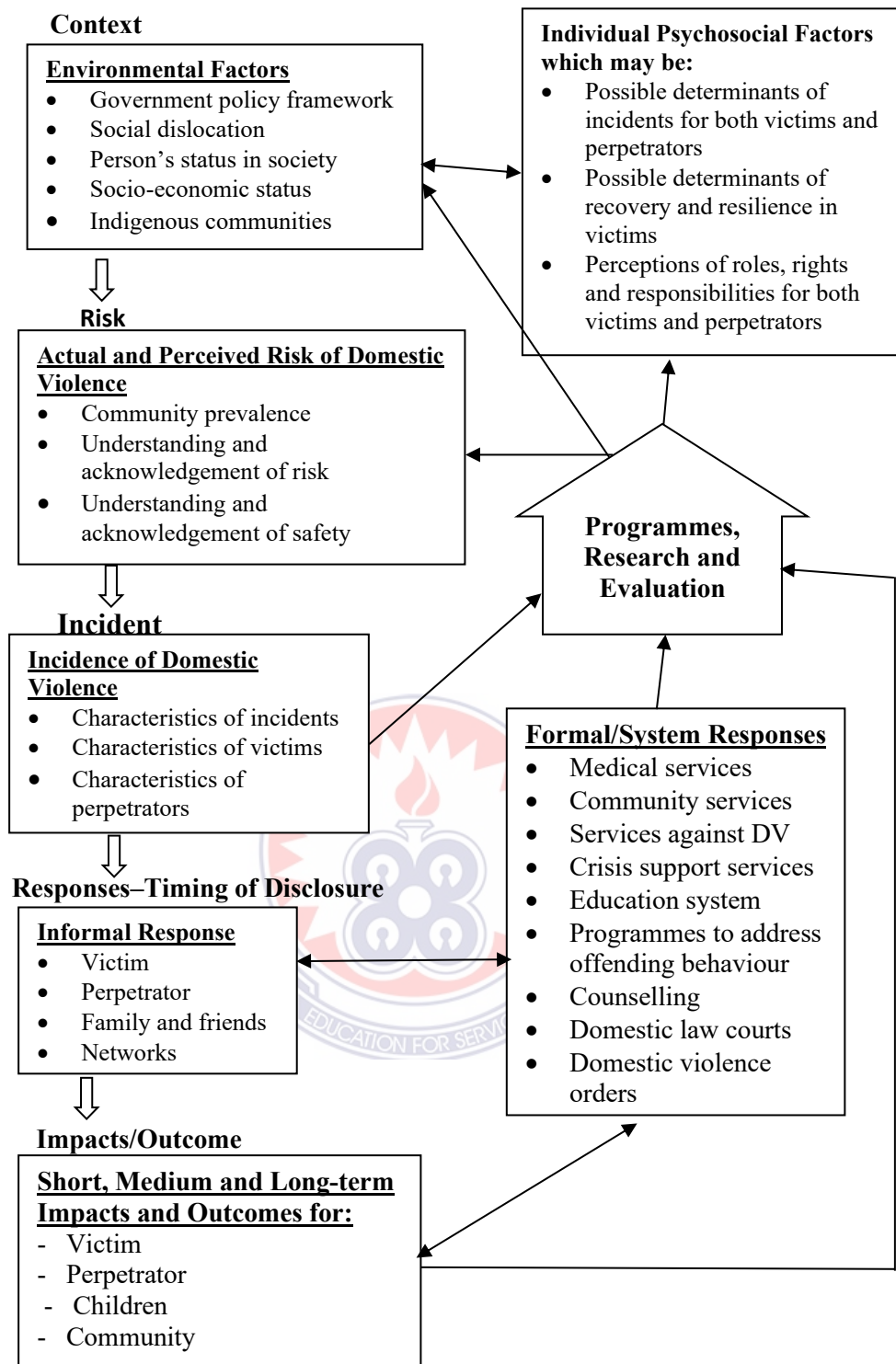


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework for Domestic Violence

Source: Adapted from Australian Bureau of Statistics, (2009)

The scope of this framework is rooted in the Domestic Violence Act of Ghana (2007) and it is also to accommodate any form of violence which may occur on a single occasion in a relation or over a long period of time. This framework also illustrates

the relationships that exist between key concepts and processes that exist between the elements and highlights these elements as; context, risk, incident, responses, impacts and outcomes, and the programmes, research and evaluation. The diagram above shows the representations and the flow of individuals or linear interactions as these can occur in many varied or diverse forms or combination of forms depending on the individual or situation. The arrows that join various elements of inquiry when assessing or evaluating domestic violence shows the links or influences that may exist between each element and many different relationships can occur between these concepts. For instance, the arrow between context and risk indicates that the contextual factors for an individual – whether these factors are environmental or psychosocial, can determine the level of perceived or actual risk or likelihood of a person being a domestic violence victim or perpetrator. Furthermore, a victim's response to domestic violence whether through formal or informal channels, can reduce the extent or depth of effects or results for them, or the effects may equally contribute to whether a victim of domestic violence ultimately and independently chooses to seek services. From the above diagram:

2.3.1 Context

Context refers to the factors that are likely to influence the life experiences of men who have suffered domestic violence and the attitudes held in the community towards domestic violence. For instance, how effective or deterring is the government's policy framework on issues bordering domestic violence? Societal perception of the status of men in their respective societies can also determine whether men suffer domestic violence or not. The socio-economic status of men as to whether they are employed or not may also determine if they will suffer domestic violence or not. Indigenous communities precipitating factors or triggers here refer to practices that may directly

or indirectly expose men to the risk of domestic violence in the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality.

2.3.2 Risk

Risk refers to the probability that a man will be exposed to domestic violence in the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality either for the first time or repeatedly. This includes awareness of personal vulnerability, the presence of controlling or abusive partners and community prevalence of domestic violence. A man's perception of risk can influence his behaviour, for example, taking preventive measures or avoiding certain triggers. In the diagram, the arrow from Context to Risk indicates that background conditions like socio-economic status, influence perceived and actual vulnerability. The arrow from Risk to Incident shows that the higher the risk factors, the greater the likelihood that violence will occur.

2.3.3 Incident

Incidence of domestic violence may sometimes occur in once-in-a-while for some people, but may also occur as a chronic or everyday incident for others. This also helps to know which type of domestic violence is more prevalent in the Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality and in turn help to establish the overall prevalence rate of domestic violence within the Municipality while the necessary anti-domestic strategy is also put in place to tackle the problem. This includes the nature of the abuse (physical, emotional, sexual, economic), its frequency and its severity. The arrow from Risk to Incident highlights the logical progression from high level of vulnerability to the occurrence of violence. The arrow from Incident to Responses indicates that the incident acts as the trigger for subsequent actions taken by the victim or the perpetrators.

2.3.4 Responses

Responses are actions taken by men after suffering domestic violence. These responses could be formal or informal. Informal response refers to not reporting the incidence to or utilising services provided by formal systems like the police, department of social welfare or the human rights commission. In this instance, the abused or violated may choose to report to the abuser's family head or church pastor for redress. Sometimes either friends of the violated or the violator are also brought into the picture. In cases of male victimization, informal responses can be critical in overcoming stigma and encouraging the victim to seek further help. Formal responses involve the violated reporting the violence to formal agencies that have been designated to handle domestic violence issues. These agencies may include but not limited to the police, the department of social welfare, DOVVSU, courts, Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice. A key factor shaping the nature and effectiveness of these responses is the timing of disclosure, that is, how quickly and to whom the incident is reported. The victim's response will determine the impact of outcome of the violence. The diagram indicate that informal response can lead to formal intervention. Formal/System responses can prompt or strengthen informal support. For example, DOVVSU officers involving community leaders in rehabilitation. Both types of responses influence the Impacts/Outcomes for the victim and other stakeholders. This interconnectedness reflects the dynamic nature of support systems in addressing domestic violence, where formal and informal mechanisms must work together to ensure comprehensive and effective intervention for male victims.

2.3.5 Impact and outcome

Impact and outcome refer to short and long-term, tangible and intangible (physical and non-physical) effects of domestic violence on the victim, the perpetrator, their children, other family members and children. These also refer to the effects on the parties in areas of education, physical and mental health, financial standing, employment, and self-esteem and friendship circles and individual psychosocial factors. The arrow from Responses to Impacts/Outcome indicate that the type and quality of response influence the extent and nature of these effects. Supportive responses can prevent harm while inadequate responses can prolong or worsen negative impacts.

2.3.6 Individual psychosocial factors

Individual psychosocial factors refer to life experiences of the abuser and the abused. Did either of them suffer violence in the childhood years? Did they see either of their parents being violent to their partners or spouses? These factors could predispose the abuser to view violence as the quickest way to resolving differences while the abused may also see it normal whenever he is abused. In the diagram, this element is connected to Context with a two-way arrow, signifying a reciprocal relationship. Individual characteristics shape the social and cultural context. For example, the collective attitudes of men in a community influence societal norms about masculinity and violence. Conversely, the context shapes individual factors (socio-economic factors, government policy) which influence how men think, behave and cope in intimate relationships. This mutual influence is important in understanding how both personal and environmental conditions together create the backdrop for domestic violence risk and incidents.

2.3.7 Programmes, research and evaluation

Programmes, research and evaluation centres on intervention strategies put in place in order to prevent and reduce the incidence of domestic violence. These could be spearheaded by the central government, civil society organizations or a partnership between the two. These intervention strategies may include but not limited to sensitization or awareness creation or education, prevention programmes and enforcement of the existing laws on domestic violence. In the diagram, Programmes, Research and Evaluation received arrows from Incident, Responses and Impacts/Outcomes. This indicate that data from actual cases, the nature of interventions and the consequences of violence inform the design and improvement of the programmes and policies. The outgoing arrows from Programmes, Research and Evaluation indicate its role in shaping the future landscape of domestic violence prevention. The effectiveness and efficiency in implementing these programmes as an antidote to domestic violence will determine the future trends and status of the context and risk of domestic violence as shown in the diagram. A good research base is important to the understanding of the domestic violence phenomenon. This conceptual framework sought to inform social policy to respond to, reduce and better still prevent the incidence of domestic violence while supporting victims and perpetrators who have already been involved in these terrible acts of domestic violence. (Australian Public Health Association, 1990)

2.4 Working Definitions of Domestic Violence of the Study

While various scholars have provided definitions of domestic violence that reflect differences in disciplinary focus, cultural context, and legal interpretation, it is important for the present study to adopt a definition that is both contextually relevant and aligned with its research objectives. Drawing on the reviewed definitions and

guided by the Ghana Domestic Violence Act, 2007 (Act 732), domestic violence in this study was defined as any form of physical, psychological, sexual, economic, or emotional abuse perpetrated against a male partner by a current or former spouse, intimate partner, or family member within the domestic setting.

This definition encompasses both direct acts of harm, such as physical assault and sexual coercion, and indirect or controlling behaviours, such as economic deprivation, social isolation, intimidation, and verbal abuse. Within the context of the study, the term is applied specifically to male victims residing in the Elmina municipality, irrespective of their age, marital status, or socio-economic background. It recognised that domestic violence may occur in heterosexual relationships and that its impacts extend beyond physical injury to include psychological distress, reduced self-esteem, and social marginalisation.

2.5 Forms of Violence

Dwamena-Aboagye and Fiamenya (2005) identified the following forms of violence: physical, psychological, socio-economic, some traditional practices considered as abuse and sexual abuse.

2.5.1 Physical abuse

This involves the use of physical force against another. Examples include hitting, showing, grabbing, biting, restraining, shaking, choking, forcing drug or alcohol use and assault with a weapon. According to Cusack and Coker-Appiah (1999), physical violence varies in degrees of physical damage. They also asserted that physical violence can be perceived from five perspectives namely; cruel punishment, forced labour, beatings, assault with weapon and death.

The recent cases of male victims in Kenyan media have presented the worst cases of physical violence such as major facial and bodily cuts and burns by fire and hot liquids (Muhindi, 2018). Existing literature indicates that female perpetrators cause severe physical injuries on their partners compared to men as they are most likely to use objects (Swan *et al.*, 2008). In their research in Nyamira, Kenya, Obeji *et al.* (2017) found more than 65% of the male victims had deep cuts, broken bones, eye injuries, and broken teeth among other visible injuries. In the United States, 1 in 4 men have experienced physical violence with 1 in 7 reported as severe by an intimate partner (NCADV, 2015). In addition, 5% of male homicides were carried out by their intimate partners. Perpetrators believe that they possess the right to inflict pain on their victims and this result in playing the blame game where the victim is made to accept that it is their fault when they are abused. Perpetrators may use jealousy as an excuse or justification for the occurrence of the abuse. In all these incidences of violence, the perpetrators want to control the body and mind of the victim (Dwamena-Aboagye & Fiamenya, 2005).

2.5.2 Sexual violence

Intimate partner sexual violence or abuse is defined as any act of complete or attempted unwanted sexual advances, which include rape, sexual coercion, or unwanted sexual contact by or toward either male or female partners (Smith *et al.*, 2017). Noncontact experiences such as sexting and use of social media platforms, especially among young adults, has received attention lately as a potential and actual avenue for engaging in sex and increased risk of Intimate Partner Violence (Bauermeister *et al.*, 2014). Prior studies have documented a high rate of risky sexual behaviors and sexual related illnesses among partners who use sex related apps especially homosexuals (Bauermeister *et al.*, 2014; Yeo & Ng, 2016). A report by the

Center for Disease Control revealed that in the United States, approximately 1 in 3 women and 1 in every 6 men have experienced various types of sexual violence in their lifetime (Smith *et al.*, 2017). Approximately 1 in every 3 of those men was violated by their intimate partner. The age of initial male victimization varies with 14% of the cases starting early at age 17 years or younger, 41% between 18–28 years, and 43 % started after 25 years of age (Smith *et al.*, 2017).

In their study, Cook *et al.* (2016) found that 6% of the surveyed men aged 18 years or older reported being the victim of forced sex by a woman. Most of these men had multiple female partners and used drugs compared to men who were not sexually victimized in the same study (Cook *et al.*, 2016). Unlike developed countries, sexual violence against men in African countries is rarely reported and research is limited. Anyone can experience sexual violence, but most victims are female (Centers for Disease Control, 2011). Coercing or attempting to coerce any sexual contact without consent of the victim is considered sexual violence. It also involves the violation of an individual's sexual behaviour such as sexual harassment, treating someone in sexually demeaning manner or any other conduct of sexual nature, whether physical, verbal or non-verbal. Sexual abuse may also include behaviour which limits reproductive rights such as preventing the use of contraceptive methods and inducing abortion (Centers for Disease Control, 2011).

The Crises Response Unit of the Ark Foundation Ghana (2003) described sexual abuse as any act that involved force attempt to have sexual relations or engage in any sexual relations or engage in any sexual act against a person's will. These acts of sexual violence include (but not limited to) harming the sexual parts of the body, passing demeaning or humiliating sexual remarks or jokes, threatening physical

violence in case the partners refuses or fail to adhere to sexual demands and defilement; that is, having sex with a person below age fourteen with or without consent. The Unit continued that forced prostitution and knowingly infecting a partner with Sexually Transmitted Infection (STI) or HIV/AIDS are also regarded as sexual violence.

2.5.3 Economic control or violence

This is a form of abuse when one partner has control over the other partner's access to economic resources. This situation diminishes the victims capacity to support themselves and are forced to depend on the perpetrator of the abuse financially (Brewster, 2003; Adams, Sullivan & Sanders, 2008).

Economic abuse also known as financial abuse is the unauthorized use of a person's property or valuables. This can include changing their will to benefit the abuser, fraudulently obtaining power of Attorney, or depriving the victim of money, property or even evicting the victim from their own homes (Carnot, 2003). In its extreme form, the perpetrator may put the victim on a strict allowance withholding money at will and leaving the victim to beg for more. Some perpetrators go to the extent of restricting their victims' access to financial information and resources and destroying possessions. In most cases, the motive behind this heinous act is to mismanage victims' finances (Dwamena-Aboagye & Fiamanya, 2005).

2.5.4 Psychological or emotional violence

Psychological and emotional abuses are used interchangeable (Gryphon, 2011). This form of abuse is characterized by intimidation, threats of harm and isolation. Psychological or emotional abuse is defined as verbal or non-verbal communication with the intent to hurt or control the other person (Smith *et al.*, 2017). It also involves

the undermining of the victims sense of self-worth. Also, the misuse of spiritual or religious beliefs to manipulate the victim is present in psychological abuse. O’Leary (2000) sees psychological or emotional abuse as a form of abuse which is characterized by one person subjecting another to a behaviour that may result in psychological trauma. This trauma may include anxiety, chronic depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Psychological or emotional violence is in most cases associated with situations of power imbalance, such as abusive relationships (Maiuro, *et al.*, 2000).

Examples of psychological violence or abuse include repeatedly making and breaking promises, criticism, belittling victim’s competences, perpetrator threatening to physically harm self, undermining victim’s personal relationships and silent treatment. Psychological violence may be induced directly or occur because of other types of violence (Chirwa *et al.*, 2018; Smith *et al.*, 2017). As a result, these men have a greater risk of developing chronic health problems, mental health issues such as depression, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, and rage which increases the risk of them becoming aggressors. This also contributes to the cycle of violence where partners break-up and make-up repeatedly after violent events (NCADV, 2015; Richards *et al.*, 2017). McCarrick *et al.*, (2016) described this negative psychological effect as a pressure cooker phenomenon which is dangerous.

In the United States, approximately 48% of men experience psychological aggression by their intimate partners in their lifetime which includes stalking, verbal insults, threats, and humiliation (NCADV, 2015). These women use coercion as a form of control such as blackmail, isolation from family and friends, manipulation, withholding affection, money control, and exploitation among others (Kalokhe *et al.*,

2020; NCADV, 2015). Women may use their children to place psychological strain on their partners by denying them custody rights or instigating violence against their fathers. In their study in western part of Kenya, Obeji *et al.* (2017) found that 55% of the male victims expressed being afraid of their wives with majority of them seeking help from their church leaders. Since the effects of emotional abuse are not obviously visible and men are reluctant to report or get psycho-social help, its magnitude in Kenya is unknown.

2.6 The Cycle of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a pattern of coercive behaviour of the perpetrator which is intended to dominate the victim. The recurrence of such behaviours usually escalate in frequency and severity. WiLDAF (1999), states that, the cycle of domestic violence is a general pattern that most abusive relationships follow. It goes through three phases, namely: tension building, explosion and honeymoon (gifts and apologies period). The cycle is dangerous and can lead to serious injury or death. For some people, the cycle is unnoticeable until it results in death. According to WiLDAF (1999), the phases of domestic violence cycle include;

Phase one: It is characterised by tension, fear, anxiety and dominance by the perpetrator. This phase comes with increasing stress and tension. The victim may feel as if he or she is walking on eggshells, waiting for the violence to begin. The victim may also try to stand up for himself or herself or attempt to provoke violence in order to get over with the tension. It appears that the moment tension starts to mount there is nothing the victim can do to prevent the violence from occurring.

Phase two: Aggression, explosion, loss of control by the perpetrator, humiliation and sadness of the victim are characteristics of this phase. Here, the perpetrator explodes and attacks the victim verbally, emotionally and or physically. This phase can last for a few minutes to several days. Research evidence shows that, when the explosion is over, the victim may deny the seriousness of the injuries (Dwamena-Aboagye & Fiamanya, 2005).

Phase three: It is referred to as honeymoon period, and characterised by remorse on the part of the abuser, seeking for forgiveness from the victim, and promises that the violence will not happen again. Also, gifts are given and apology is rendered with a caution against violence. The victim yearns for this phase and hopes the loving behaviour of the abuser will end the cycle, but surprisingly the period is short-lived, and then the cycle begins again.

According to Dryden-Edwards and Stopler (2007), in intimate relationships one partner seeks to control and assert power over their partners and tend to diverse means to achieve this goal. The abuser may use different types of abuse to assert this power, and overall framework in which the abuse occurs in a pattern called the cycle of violence. Dryden-Edwards and Stöpler (2007) describe the cycle of violence as events that may occur in a variety of patterns and that the victim may experience ongoing, non-stop abuse or the abuse may stop and continue, that is, the abuse could be on and of. They continued to say that one pattern of abuse often seen in a violent relationship begins with a tension-building phase, followed by the actual abusive act, and then calm, making up a phase called the honeymoon phase. The phases as described by Dryden-Edwards and Stopler (2007) are as the tension-building phase includes increasing anger on the part of the abuser coupled with attempts by the

person being abused to avoid the incidence. On the other hand, the victim may also attempt to bring on the violence in order “to get over with”.

The second phase is where the actual abuse takes place. The episode of abuse may include various forms of abuse and may occur for an indefinite amount of time.

The honeymoon phase often includes excuses for the abusive behaviour or episode and expressions of love for the injured party or partner. The abuser may deny the violence or blame their on their own drunkenness or the behaviour or drunkenness of the victim. The abuser may promise that the abuse will never happen again (Dryden-Edwards & Stopler, 2007).

2.7 Cause of Domestic Violence

According to WilDAF Ghana (2010), no single factor can account for the causes of domestic violence. However, several and interconnected institutionalized cultural norms and historical manifestations of unequal distribution of power relations have projected men to be particularly vulnerable to violence (WilDAF Ghana, 2010). Thus, although the issue of domestic violence has been considered an issue of global concern, not enough scholarly attention has been given to male victims of the crime. Additionally, scholarly works (such as Adomako Ampofo & Prah 2009; Manuh, 2009; Oduyoye 2009) exist on the architecture of domestic violence against women and children. While it may be true that men are more likely to suffer domestic abuse in our society today, it is equally true that society is evolving and power roles at home are changing in tandem (Kumar, 2012). According to Dery and Diedong (2014), although there is a high and persistent incidence of domestic violence in Ghana, there is a lack of empirically-driven research on the subject of male victims of domestic violence, hence the problem remains largely unexplored. Culturally, males are

considered as the head of the family. Major transformations in African history in the last decade have affected the status of men as well as their relationships. Such changes include formal education, modifications in cultural and social practices that accord male's power and control over females (Adomako Ampofo & Prah, 2009). These changes are likely to result in anger in some men who may feel displaced, emasculated and discontent in relation to some women who have been socialized to see men as providers, a situation that could lead to abuse by their female intimate partners. Additionally, societal perceptions of male victims of domestic violence reinforce their inability to even report cases of abuse against them.

Benewa (2020) in a study on domestic violence against men in Ghana found that the causes of violence against men were financial challenges. The effects of socialization and failed expectations and the educational, as well as the financial status of the man, were the main precursors of violence against men. This also provided the profiling of the abused and the abuser. Her study also indicate that men who were less educated than their women and those who were not financially sound like their female partners were more likely to experience abuse. It was however clarified that even if a man had less education than his female partner but had more money and resources than the woman, then the man was not likely to experience domestic violence.

Again, in all instances, participants held the strong view that an unfaithful man was almost always a candidate for domestic violence. Whereas age was not a significant factor in terms of domestic violence, it was revealed that a woman who had been married for long and thus, had older children with the man could manipulate the children to side with her in abusing the man. Religion played a significant role in shaping men's experiences of domestic violence. In the Nima site, which is

predominantly Moslem, Islamic laws were mostly in force. One such law sanctioned polygyny and a man could take as many as four wives. According to female participants of the study, men used this law as an excuse to indulge in an extramarital affair, as every girlfriend is a potential wife. This led women to respond through emotional and psychological abuse of the men (Benewa, 2020).

Though researchers are not ready to identify specific interventions for couples that are struggling with finances and domestic abuse, they are beginning to see that stressors beyond health, such as financial strain or unstable housing, may be at the root of some health-related problems (Obeji, Mwangi, & Apollos, 2017). Domestic violence and poverty are both part of many people's lives all over the world, regardless of the culture or background. However, some social demographics are more likely to experience domestic violence on a daily basis than others, and poverty is one of areas that has an impact. Poverty has been linked to increased rates of domestic abuse and can affect any member of the family, as to who may become the aggressor (O'Campo, et al., 2017).

Downturns in the economy regrettably cause of both domestic violence and poverty to increase. With the increasing financial problems around the world, health professionals and domestic violence experts cannot foresee the levels of violence in intimate partnerships improving anytime soon. Systemic and cultural changes are needed to increase intervention to reduce violence as an outlet, but solutions to poverty are also needed for long-term reductions in violence (Mongare, Obonyo & Parsitau, 2018). According to Salamone (2010), it is clear that many people do not understand why women who have left abusive relationships often return. Many people place blame on the victim for returning by suggesting that the victim even likes or

thrives on the abuse. The attitude is: If they didn't like being abused they would leave and not return.

But the reasons why men return to abusive relationships are extremely complex and have less to do with the content of the woman's character and more to do with the effects of abuse. It is widely known that an abused woman may leave her abuser seven to eight times before she leaves permanently (Salamone, 2010).

Eighty-five percent of men who leave abusive relationships return. According to the National Coalition against Domestic Violence (USA), a significant proportion of men who return to the relationship attribute their inability to deal with their finances as a major contributing factor, which is often enhanced by the fact that the abuser often has all of the economic and social standing and complete control over the family finances (McCarrick, Davis-McCabe & Hirst-Winthrop, 2016). These men's options are further limited by the fact that many who leave often face one or more additional barriers including having at least one dependent child, not being employed outside of the home, possessing no property that is solely theirs, and lacking access to cash or bank and credit accounts. For these reasons, many of these men would likely experience a decline in living standards and security of life for themselves and their children if they were to leave their partner (McCarrick, Davis-McCabe & Hirst-Winthrop, 2016). As a result of all these combined factors, many survivors of domestic violence who summon the courage to leave the abusive relationship eventually return for financial reasons (Drijber, Reijnders & Ceelen, 2013).

Family plays an important role in developing interpersonal communication in a Domestic Violence relationship. Things a person in a relationship says or does in order to control the other person in the relationship; name calling, put downs, sexual

assault, stalking, intimidation, actual or threatened physical harm, husband and wife, girlfriend and boyfriend, child and parent, it goes both ways. A woman abusing a man is also considered abuse. Have people communicated if the message is misunderstood? What about nonverbal actions? (Hassan, 2011).

A huge issue for communicators is the inability to see and hear how their message is perceived by others. Most of us know only our own personal viewpoint. We also tend to surround ourselves with people who are like us in significant ways: similar socio-economic class, similar racial and ethnic profiles, similar political views or spiritual inclinations (Oti, 2016).

According to Droege (2015), those who do not and who deliberately seek out people different from themselves, have a higher level of tolerance and respect for differences. They often wind up finding those equally tolerant people from the pool of “different” people available. Good intentions, though, and the conversations are far more likely to be productive than, for example, the inevitable explosions between a militant, intolerant atheist and an equally militant, equally intolerant Christian who breathe the same air.

A communicator sends a message, which is then received by others; however, it is not always understood in the same way by everyone. Those from a similar viewpoint hear the words and the intention. Those from a different viewpoint don't hear the intention behind the words. Nor do they interpret the words in the same way (Oti, 2016).

Oti further opines that, the best communicators are aware that not everyone will receive their message in the same way. They step into other people's worlds. Then they turn their message around, examining it from different viewpoints. While they

may not change their message, they may change how the message is conveyed. Words, phrases, actions: these are modified to clearly communicate with others (Oti, 2016).

One issue with these men is that they cannot put themselves in another's position and hear how the words sound to someone not from their background. The joke about domestic violence-Divorce, never. Murder, often!—might possibly be humorous to someone in a loving marriage where violence is not, and never has been, an option. (Droege, 2015).

Cussack and Coker-Appiah (1999), posit that sexual violence is the absence of consent in any form of sexual contact, Cussack and Coker-Appiah (1999) and Beth (2002), have identified the following behaviours as sexual violence; rape or forced sexual intercourse in marriage, women and young girls being touched or being forced to touch someone against their will, sexual harassment-unwanted sexual demands, sexual neglect.

Sexual violence sometimes occurs when one partner has a high appetite for sex than the other partner therefore when their demands are not met, they tend to be violent. In some cases, domestic violence results in homicide. According to Federal Bureau of investigation (FBI) more than 500 men were killed by their wives and girlfriends in 1996, representing about 5 percent of all male homicides victims in the United States (Barnett, 2000).

2.8 Effects of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence has wide ranging and sometimes long term effects on whoever is involved in the violence. The long term effects of domestic violence are far-reaching and devastating for all parties involved in domestic violence (Croft, 2012). The effects of domestic violence range from physical, sexual, psychological and economic and can impact the direct victim as well as any child who witnesses parental violence;

2.8.1 Physical effects on victims

The physical health effects of domestic violence vary. The victims of domestic violence may experience physical injuries such as lacerations, bruises, broken bones, head injuries, internal bleeding, chronic pelvic pain, abdominal and gastrointestinal complaints, frequent vaginal and urinary tract infections (Gluck, 2012). Though physical effects of domestic violence are varied, victims are known to suffer physical problems as a result of battering which is considered as the single most cause of injury to women, more significant than that of auto-accidents, rapes or muggings (O'Reilly, 1983).

Many of the physical injuries that are sustained by men seem to cause medical difficulties in later life. For instance, arthritis, hypertension and heart disease have been identified by some battered women as directly caused or aggravated by domestic violence they suffered in their earlier adult lives (Perrone, 1992). Victims of domestic violence may also experience internal bleeding, urinary tract infections, head injuries and chronic abdominal pain (Jones & Horan, 1997; Bohn & Holz, 1996). Domestic abuse or violence during pregnancy will expose pregnant women to poor weight gain, pre-term labour, miscarriage, low infant birth weight and injury or death of the foetus.

2.8.2 Economic effects on victims

Victims of domestic violence tend to lose their jobs as a result of absenteeism due to domestic violence. Absence from work due to court appearances may also cost a victim their job. This could prevent a victim from seeking redress due to the fear of losing one's livelihood. Some victims may have to relocate many times to avoid violence which can be costly and also interfere with the continuity of their jobs or employment. Many victims also had forgone financial stability during divorce proceedings in order to avoid any further abuse; as a result, they are impoverished as they grow older (Kurz, 1989). Women who are victims of intimate partner violence may cost health plans additional expenses as compared to other female enrollees (Wisner, 1999).

2.8.3 Psychological effects

Though the immediate and primary focus of domestic violence is physical injury suffered by victims, the emotional and psychological abuse meted out by perpetrators has longer term effects and may be more costly to treat than physical injury (Straus, 1990). Depression remains the foremost response, with 60% of battered women reporting depression (Barnett, 2000). In addition, battered women are at a higher risk for suicide attempts, with 25% of suicide attempt by Caucasian women and 50% of suicide attempts by African-American women preceded by abuse (Fischbach & Herbert, 1997). All these are as a result of depression. An episode of a major depression may occur only once, but in most cases can recur throughout a person's life-time (Awake, September 8, 2001). Aside depression, domestic violence victims tend to experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorders (PTSD) Mertin and Mohr (2000) in their interview with 100 women who were in Shelter found out that 45% of those interviewed met the diagnostic criteria for PTSD.

Low self-esteem is also associated with domestic violence. Dwamena-Aboagye and Fiamanya (2005) found out in their study that the end product of repeated abuse or violence is a battered self-esteem. According to them, the longer and more severe the abuse is, the poorer self-image the victim may have. Victims also suffer isolation in their quest to protect loved ones. Development of isolation also may bring about nervous breakdown, suicidal attempts or thoughts, nightmares, sleep disorders, substance abuse and development of sexual phobias (Dwamena-Aboagye & Fiamanya, 2005).

Last but not the least, victims also experience internalized oppression. Dwamena-Aboagye and Fiamanya (2005) explain this phenomenon as a situation where a person believes that they are inferior and deserve to be treated badly. This phenomenon confirms the perpetrators success of making the victim believe that they are the cause of the incidence of violence.

2.9 Effects of Domestic Violence on Children

When people hear or see the phrase domestic violence and children, they see in their mind's eye bruised, beaten and burned children. It cannot be over-emphasised that these physical injuries present the immediate visible effects of domestic violence (Gluck, 2012). However, children who do not suffer, but witness domestic violence also suffer consequences just as far-reaching and damaging as those who have personally experienced it (Gluck, 2012). Children who grow up in violent households may exhibit a cost of adverse behaviours and emotions such as; becoming violent themselves, attempting suicide, using drugs and abusing alcohol, developing eating disorders, abusing themselves, anxiety and depression, poor social skills and entering into an abusive relationship later on in life (Gluck, 2012).

Children exposed to domestic violence in infancy also experience the inability to bond and form secure attachments, often resulting in intensified startle reactions and an inhibited sense of exploration and play (Baker, Jaffe & Ashbourne, 2002). It is also important to note that children exposed to domestic violence are at a higher risk of other forms of maltreatment such as physical abuse and neglect. Research suggests that parents who are violent with one another are also at a higher risk of abusing their children physically (Dong, Anda, Felitti, Dube, Milliamson, Thompson, Loo & Giles, 2004). Children who witness domestic violence may suffer dysfunctions in the form of physical, behavioural, emotional and social areas of life (Stacy & Shupe, 1983) as effects of their exposure to domestic violence.

2.9.1 Physical effects

The physical effects of domestic violence can start when the foetus is in-vitro or in the mother's during the incidence of abuse, this can result in low infant birth weight, premature or pre-term birth, excessive bleeding and foetal death, due to the mother's physical trauma and emotional stress (Horner, 2005).

In general, children who witness domestic violence in the home environment can suffer great amount of physical effects aside emotional and behavioural effects. They may complain of aches and pains such as headaches and stomach ache (Alabaster Coalition against Domestic Violence, 2012). They may also experience irritable and irregular bowel habits, cold sores and bedwetting children may also show symptoms of fatigue and constant tiredness, fall asleep in school and practice poor personal hygiene. Children who witness domestic violence also have the tendency to partake in high risk play activities, self-abuse and attempt or commit suicide (Alabaster Coalition against Domestic Violence, 2012). Children may startle at the least noise

such as a car door slamming or glass cup accidentally falling to the floor. They also show signs of tiredness from lack of sleep and weight nutritional changes from poor eating habits (Volpe, 1996).

2.9.2 Behavioural effects

Children exposed to domestic violence are also likely to develop behavioural problems. Some of the problems are regressing, exhibiting out of control behaviour and imitating behaviours (Alabaster Coalition against Domestic Violence, 2012). Children may think that violence is an acceptable behaviour of intimate relationships and thus become either the abused or the abuser. This phenomenon goes a long way to confirm Bandura's (1971) Social Learning Theory which posits that children learn by observing others and in this instance, their parents children tend to act tough, become attached to other people and isolate themselves from their close friends and family. Sometimes, children like to avoid confrontation and excessive attention-seeking. Adolescents are in jeopardy or danger of academic failure, dropping out of school and or abusing drugs.

Children behaviours are often guarded and are secretive about their family members and embarrassed about their home situation. Adolescents will not invite their friends to their home or go over to spend time away from home. Denial and aggression are most often not the most appropriate way of problem solving. Teens cope with domestic violence by blaming others, encountering violence in a relationship or by running away from home. An estimate of about one-fifth to one-third of teenagers who witness domestic violence experience teen dating violence; regularly abusing or being abused by their partners, sexually, verbally, mentally, physically and/or

emotionally. About 30 to 50% of dating relationships can exhibit the same cycle of violence in their relationships (Sexual Assault Survival Services (SASS), 1996).

2.9.3 Emotional Effects

Children who are exposed to violence in their home may have conflicting feelings towards their parents. For instance, distrust and affection co-exist for the abuser. The child becomes over-protective of the victim and feels sorry for them (Baker, Jaffe and Ashbourne, 2002). Children may develop anxiety, fearing that they be injured or abandoned, that the abused parent will be injured or that they may be blamed for the violence that is occurring in their homes. Grief, shame and low self-esteem are common emotions that children experience as a result of domestic violence (Edleson, 1999).

Depression is also another problem that children exposed to domestic violence experience. The child may feel helpless and powerless (Edleson, 1999). Girls tend to internalize their emotions more than boys. Boys are more likely to act with aggression and hostility. Witnessing violence in the home can make the child believe that they are not worth being kept safe which contributes to their feelings of low self-worth and depression (Miller, 2010). Some children also act out through anger and are more aggressive than other children. Even, in situations, that do not call for it, children will respond with anger (Stannard, 2009).

Post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) can also affect children exposed to domestic violence. Symptoms to this may include nightmares, insomnia, anxiety, increased alertness to the environment, having problems concentrating and this can lead to physical effects in the long run (Stannard, 2009).

There is role reversal sometimes between the child and the parent and the responsibilities of the victim who is emotionally and psychologically dysfunctional are transferred to the child (Newton, 2001). In this instance, parents treat their child as a therapist or confidant rather than as their child. Sometimes, children are forced to mature faster than the average child, taking on household responsibilities such as cooking, cleaning and caring for younger children.

As a result, the parentified child is at risk of becoming involved in rocky relationships because they have been isolated and are not experienced at forming successful relationship. Lastly, they tend to become perfectionist because they have been forced to live up to such high expectations from their parents (Campbell, 2010).

2.9.4 Social effects

Children exposed to domestic violence do not have the foundation of safety and security that is normally provided by the family. The children may experience desensitization to aggressive behaviour, poor anger management and problem solving skills and engage in exploitative relationship (Alabaster Coalition against Domestic Violence, 2012).

Secondly, school going children tend to present with excessive worry of possible danger and feelings of resentment towards the perpetrator of the violence (Baker, Jaffe and Ashbourne, 2002). Children also tend to isolate themselves from friends and relatives in an effort to stay close to siblings and the abused parent (Alabaster Coalition against Domestic Violence, 2012). Adolescents who have witnessed violence in the home may also have the difficulty trusting adults and hence engage in excessive social involvement in order to avoid volatile situations at home. They may also gang or get involved in drugs or engage in relationships that mimic a learned

behaviour (Bandura, 1971) from home. The long term effects of domestic violence may result in high school dropout rate, violence, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse, eating disorders and sometimes suicide attempts (Herrenkohl, Sousa, Tajima, Klika, Herrenkohl & Moylan, 2008).

A study following children from the pre-school through adolescence found that young children who witnessed domestic violence were more likely to engage anti-social behaviours during adolescence. They were also more likely to assault others and engage in delinquent behaviours in adolescence than those not exposed to all (Sousa, Herrenkohl, Moylan, Tajina, Klika, Herrenkohl & Russo, 2011).

There has also been found a connection between multiple categories of childhood trauma (for example, child abuse, household dysfunction, including domestic violence and child neglect) and health or behavioural outcomes later in life (Sousa et al, 2011). The more trauma a child is exposed to, the greater the risk for disabilities, social problems and adverse health problems. Researchers have more recently used these elements to continue analysis into different aspects of trauma and stressful experiences in childhood and its effects on later development (Dube, Felitti, Dong, Giles & Anda, 2003).

2.10 Effects of Unemployment on Marriage

Unemployment remains a pervasive societal issue with profound implications for individuals, families and communities. Unemployment have significant implication on marriage affecting various aspects such as financial stability, emotional well-being, communication patterns and individual coping strategies. Unemployment often brings about financial strain within marriages and worsens the feeling of inadequacy among men. As the primary breadwinner role is challenged, men may experience a loss of

identity and self-worth, which can contribute to tension and conflict within marriage. Loss of income or reduced income can lead to heightened stress and tension, as couples grapple with managing expenses, maintaining their standard of living and possibly facing debt. The resulting power imbalances may increase the likelihood of insecurity (Johnson & Wu, 2002). The emotional well-being of men can manifest in various ways, ranging from depression and anxiety to increased aggression and hostility. Men may struggle to cope with a reduced income and status and this can further strain marriage, increasing the risk of conflict and violence as tensions rise in response to stressors (Paul & Moser, 2009).

Unemployment can disrupt communication patterns within marriages, creating barriers to effective problem-solving and conflict resolution. Effective communication becomes significant during times of financial stress, yet couples may struggle to express their concerns and needs constructively. Men in particular may feel reluctant to discuss their struggles openly, perceiving weakness. This communication breakdown can lead to feelings of isolation and alienation (Nomaguchi, 2009).

Despite the challenges posed by unemployment, many couples demonstrate remarkable resilience and employ adaptive coping strategies to navigate the crisis together. These strategies may include seeking external support from family, friends or counseling services, reassessing financial priorities and fostering mutual support and understanding (Meadows et al, 2008).

2.11 The Role of State Institution in Responding to Domestic Violence

State institutions such as the police, courts and social welfare departments play a critical role in addressing domestic violence by enforcing legal protections, offering victim support and facilitating justice. In Ghana, the Domestic Violence and Victim

Support Unit (DOVVSU) of the Ghana Police Service was established to respond to increasing reports of domestic abuse (Ghana Police Service, 2001). While DOVVSU has historically focused on protecting women and children, efforts have been made to broaden its mandate to include male victims. However, institutional responses remain gender-biased, often neglecting the experiences of men due to entrenched societal perceptions (Obeji et al., 2017; Mongare et al., 2018). Studies by Benewaa (2020) and Diery, Diedong & Science (2014) highlighted how state agencies often lack the training, resources and frameworks to support male victims, leading to underreporting and a lack of access to justice.

Ghana has developed a comprehensive legal framework for addressing domestic violence, centered on the Domestic Violence Act (Act 732) of 2007. This legislation provides broad definitions of domestic violence that theoretically include male victims, though implementation and interpretation may vary. Ghana's Domestic Violence Act defines domestic violence broadly to include physical, sexual, emotional, psychological, and economic abuse within domestic relationships. The Act's gender-neutral language theoretically covers male victims, though research on implementation reveals significant gaps in practice.

Studies by Cusack and Manuh (2009) and Cantalupo et al. (2006) examine the development and early implementation of the Domestic Violence Act, finding that while the legislation represents significant progress, implementation challenges persist, particularly regarding public awareness, training, and resource allocation.

2.11.1 DOVVSU Structure and Mandate

DOVVSU operates at national, regional, and district levels, with units in major population centers across Ghana. Research by Tonah (2007) and Tetteh (2010) documents DOVVSU's mandate to investigate domestic violence cases, provide victim support, and coordinate with other agencies. The unit's broad mandate theoretically includes supporting male victims, though research suggests that practice may not always align with policy. Studies by Dery et al. (2015) and Amoakohene (2004) examine DOVVSU operations and identify challenges including limited resources, inadequate training, and cultural attitudes that may affect service delivery. Studies by Cusack & Manuh (2009) found that DOVVSU officers receive basic training on domestic violence but may lack specific preparation for addressing male victimization or challenging traditional gender assumptions. Boakye (2009) examined DOVVSU officer attitudes and found that while officers generally supported helping domestic violence victims, traditional gender role beliefs influenced their perceptions of who could be considered a "legitimate" victim.

The accessibility of DOVVSU services for male victims in Elmina may be affected by factors including geographic accessibility, community awareness, cultural acceptance, and the specific training and attitudes of local officers.

2.11.2 Institutional Barriers on Domestic Violence Against Men

Ghana's state institutions face several challenges in responding effectively to male domestic violence victims, ranging from resource constraints to training deficits. Studies by Cussack & Manuh (2009) and Boakye (2009) identifies significant training gaps among institutional personnel that may affect responses to male victims. DOVVSU officers, judicial personnel, and social service providers may lack specific

training on male victimization or hold assumptions that prevent appropriate responses. These training gaps may be particularly problematic in smaller communities where institutional personnel may have limited exposure to diverse domestic violence cases and may rely more heavily on cultural assumptions about gender roles and victimization. Limited resources affect institutional responses to all domestic violence victims but may create particular challenges for male victims who fall outside traditional service models. Studies by Dery et al. (2015) documents resource constraints facing DOVVSU and other institutions that may limit their capacity to develop specialized approaches for male victims. The lack of male-specific services, such as emergency housing or specialized counselling, creates additional barriers for male victims seeking institutional support.

Understanding how male victims of domestic violence interact with institutions requires examining help-seeking behaviour patterns and the factors that influence decisions to seek or avoid institutional assistance. Studies on male help-seeking behaviour suggests that men are generally less likely to seek formal help for personal problems, including domestic violence victimization (Addis & Mahalik, 2003). This pattern may be particularly pronounced in cultural contexts where masculinity norms strongly discourage acknowledgment of vulnerability. In Ghana, research by Adomako Ampofo (2001) suggests that men may be more likely to seek help from informal networks, including friends, family members, or traditional authorities, rather than formal state institutions. This preference for informal help-seeking may mean that male victims in communities like Elmina are less likely to come to the attention of institutions like DOVVSU.

2.12 Empirical Review of the Study

Although the phenomenon of domestic violence has been widely studied globally, empirical research that specifically examines male victimization remains relatively limited, particularly in the Ghanaian setting.

Studies from higher-income countries shows that men are affected by multiple forms of intimate partner violence, yet social perceptions and systemic arrangements often keep their experiences hidden. Siemieniuk, Krentz, Gish, and Gill (2010), for example, used in-depth interviews with male victims in Canada to explore the obstacles they encounter when seeking help. They found that fear of disbelief, the absence of gender-sensitive services, and feelings of shame were common deterrents to disclosure. Reports by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV, 2015) and the World Health Organization (WHO, 2020) also indicate that psychological aggression and coercive control are frequently reported forms of abuse among men. Across these studies, a recurring issue is that service provision frameworks are predominantly structured to assist female victims, leaving the needs of men inadequately addressed.

Studies in African setting have revealed both the existence and the culturally specific nature of abuse against men. Obeji et al. (2017) reported that in certain Kenyan communities, male victims sustained serious physical injuries and were subjected to non-physical tactics such as economic restriction and verbal humiliation. Mongare et al. (2018) observed that social norms in many African settings actively discourage men from reporting abuse, as doing so is perceived to undermine traditional masculine identity. These findings suggest that in addition to experiencing violence, men in such setting face strong cultural barriers to acknowledging and addressing it.

In Ghana, scholarship on domestic violence has largely centred on female victims. However, emerging work has begun to shed light on men's experiences. Benewaa (2020) carried out qualitative research in Accra's Nima and East Legon communities, revealing that male victims experienced both physical harm and non-physical abuse, such as denial of sexual intimacy, deprivation of food, and public humiliation. Dickson et al. (2020) similarly found that psychological abuse was the most prevalent form among their male participants in Accra. Mantey (2019) and Afari (2017) offer further evidence from other localities, confirming that male victimisation exists yet remains under-recognised in policy and service provision. National data from the Ghana Statistical Service (GSS et al., 2009) also indicate that a notable percentage of men have experienced some form of partner violence, though such cases rarely attract public or media attention.

Findings from both local and international studies indicate that while institutional services are central to addressing domestic violence, they are often ill-suited to the needs of male victims. Siemieniuk et al. (2010) and O'Campo et al. (2017) point to gaps such as the scarcity of male-focused services, limited professional training for responding to male disclosures, and legal processes that may reinforce scepticism toward male victimhood. In Ghana, although the establishment of the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) marks an important step in responding to all victims, empirical work (Benewaa, 2020; Dickson et al., 2020) suggests that men still perceive the unit as primarily serving women and children, discouraging them from seeking assistance.

Despite the growing body of research on domestic violence in Ghana, no comprehensive studies have examined male victimization in coastal communities like Elmina township. This represents a significant empirical gap given the unique socioeconomic and cultural characteristics of fishing communities that may influence both abuse patterns and help-seeking behaviours. International studies on domestic violence in fishing communities suggests unique risk factors including seasonal male migration, dangerous working conditions that may normalize violence, economic instability, and strong gender role traditions (Kaur & Garg, 2008). However, these studies have not examined male victimization specifically, nor have they been replicated in African coastal contexts. The absence of research on institutional responses to male domestic violence victims in coastal Ghanaian communities represents a critical knowledge gap. Understanding how traditional authorities, DOVVSU units, the judiciary, and other institutions respond to male victims in communities like Elmina is essential for developing effective intervention strategies and ensuring equitable service delivery.

2.13 Summary of Literature Review

Violence generally is perceived as the unlawful use of physical force against another person intended to cause physical or emotional harm, with domestic violence representing the type of violence that occurs in the home setting, also known as family violence, which may start when one partner feels the need to control and dominate the other. Studies suggest that violent behaviour often is caused by situational and individual factors, with literature suggesting domestic violence includes physical abuse, sexual abuse, psychological abuse and abuse to property. The effects of unemployment on marriage have been documented to create increased stress levels, changes in power dynamics, and financial strain that can contribute to

domestic violence incidents, as job loss affects both perpetrators and victims within the household structure. State institutions play a crucial role in responding to domestic violence through government agencies, law enforcement, judicial systems, and social services that implement policy frameworks, intervention strategies, and support services, though the effectiveness of these institutional responses varies significantly across different contexts. Empirical evidence from various studies reveals statistical data and research findings that demonstrate the complexity of domestic violence through different methodological approaches, with key findings from researchers providing evidence-based conclusions that both support and challenge existing theories about domestic violence causation and intervention. There is a myth that when a couple is having a domestic violence problem, it is just that they have a bad relationship, but often it is poor communication that is the problem as well as financial stress, and researchers have found an association between financial stress and severe domestic abuse, which is an important step in the effort to develop effective interventions, though their findings do not prove that one leads to the other, but they do affirm the complexity of domestic violence.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.0 Introduction

This chapter provides a description of research procedures used. It covers the philosophical underpinning of the study, research approach, research design, population, study area, sample size and sampling procedures, instrumentation, data collection, trustworthiness of the study, data analysis and ethical issues.

3.1 Philosophical Underpinning of the Study

An important academic research of this nature deserves to lay claim to philosophical perspectives regarding knowledge on the assumption on how to study what the researcher intends to learn as paradigm embedded in the research methodology (Goldkuhl, 2012). The philosophical perspective underpinning this study is interpretative worldview which argues that, meaning is constructed not discovered, so subject construct their own meaning (Kusi, 2012). This is linked to the nominalist ontological position which posits that knowledge of the world is socially constructed, understood and interpreted by the individual participants based on their experiences of the world in which they live and work (Kusi, 2012).

Interpretive paradigm is chosen because the purpose of the study is to explore a phenomenon. Interpretive research acknowledges the feelings, experiences and viewpoints of the researched as data (Kusi, 2012). According to Goldkuhl (2012), the interpretivist uses open-ended research questions and also focuses on qualitative data, from which the researcher will interpret its meanings. Interpretive paradigm was chosen for this particular study for three reasons. Interpretive paradigm allows the researcher to access the experiences and viewpoints of the research participants,

recognises the role of the researcher and the research participants in knowledge construction and is useful in an attempt to understand a phenomenon in all its complexity in a particular socio-cultural context (Kusi, 2012). It also said that the interpretivist studies often use small numbers of participants. This is because the purpose is not to generalize, but to explore the meaning which the participant place on the social situation under investigation. The approach is interested in understanding the view of the participants, rather than predicting what the individual will say. This approach does not consider the knowledge generated from the study to be permitted but accepts it as relative to the time, context or culture in which the study is conducted. This approach also allows the researcher to interact more with the participants, making the researcher active in the research.

3.2 Research Approach

The qualitative research approach was used in exploring the experiences of male victims of domestic violence in Elmina Township of Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality. According to Creswell (2013), the researcher should give an opportunity to participants who have experienced the phenomenon being studied. In qualitative research, raw data collected consisting of words and numbers are carefully analysed to bring meaning to suit the research (Ravitch & Riggan, 2017). The qualitative methodology considers reality to be subjective and diverse. The researcher's epistemological assumption in this qualitative study is to get closer as possible to the participants being studied.

According to Goldkuhl (2012), qualitative research is grounded in the lived experience of the people. It looks at the subjective experiences of the participants in the study. This approach was adapted because it enable the researcher to obtain in-

depth information from the participants. Opened ended questions and probing questions asked gave the participants the opportunity to answer the questions in their own words on how they are experiencing domestic violence rather than forcing the respondent to choose from fixed answers. More so, qualitative design helped the researcher explore participants' different perceptions and understanding of the problem under study (Ravitch & Riggan, 2017). The nature of the questions gave the participants the ability to provide responses that are rich and explanatory in nature, unanticipated by the researcher. This approach also helped the researcher to get a better understanding of the issue being explored, through first-hand experience, truthful reporting and quotations of actual conservation, it also helps to understand how the participants derive meaning from their surrounding and how their meaning influences their behaviour. In addition, Creswell (2014) opines that a qualitative research method is used in exploring people's lives, lived experiences, behaviours, emotions and feelings as well as cultural phenomena.

3.3 Research Design

A phenomenological design was used to explore domestic violence against married men in Elmina Township of Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality. Phenomenology, broadly defined for the purpose of encompassing the varied phenomenologies, is the study of or inquiry into how a person's conscious experience with things with phenomena provides deeper and more truthful understandings of those things and ultimately of the self and of the world. The basic unit of analysis in phenomenology is phenomena, not people (Shaduk, 2018). The purpose of the phenomenological approach is to illuminate the specific, phenomenon through how it is perceived by the actors in a situation (DeVellis, 2016).

Phenomenology, then, is an approach to researching and understanding more deeply our everyday lived experiences, a method of taking what is commonplace and ordinary and looking at it so that it becomes new, unique, and extraordinary. In this study, the phenomenon being explored is the lived experiences of married men who have suffered domestic violence in Elmina Township.

Phenomenological research focuses on exploring lived experiences resulting in a more truthful way of being in and with the world (Shaduk, 2018). In the human sphere this normally translates into gathering 'deep' information and perceptions through inductive, qualitative methods such as interviews, discussions and participant observation, and representing it from the perspective of the research participant(s) (DeVellis, 2016).

Phenomenological methods are particularly effective at bringing to the fore the experiences and perceptions of individuals from their own perspectives, and therefore at challenging structural or normative assumptions. Adding an interpretive dimension to phenomenological research, enabling it to be used as the basis for practical theory, allows it to inform, support or challenge policy and action (Creswell & Creswell, 2017). The data collected in a qualitative study include more than words; attitudes, feelings, vocal, facial expressions, and other behaviours.

3.4 Study Area

The study was conducted in communities within the Elmina Township of Komenda-Edina-Eguafo Abrem (K-E-E-A) Municipality. Recent observation and informed reports of domestic violence against men made at the Elmina Police Station necessitated this study. Elmina is a historically significant fishing town with a strong patriarchal and traditional cultural setup. In many households, men are seen as the

heads and primary decision-makers, which often makes it socially difficult for male victims of domestic violence to speak out or seek help. The shame and stigma associated with male victimhood in such a conservative cultural context create a hidden and underreported problem. Economically, Elmina is dominated by informal sector employment, especially fishing, petty trading and artisanal work. In recent years, the town has experienced economic hardship due to declining fishing yields and increased competition, contributing to rising tensions in homes. Some men who are unable to fulfil traditional gender roles as breadwinners become more vulnerable to psychological and even physical abuse from their partners. Socially, the area has a strong kinship ties and communal living patterns that often discourage men from reporting abuse for fear of ridicule, social exclusion or emasculation.

The Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality is made of four Traditional Areas or States, which have been put together to constitute a political Municipality. Carved out of the Cape Coast Municipal Council, the KEEA Municipality is one of the forty-six (46) districts created in 1988 as part of the Decentralization Programmes in Ghana. The Municipality is bounded on the South by the Atlantic Ocean (Gulf of Guinea), the East by the Cape Coast Metropolis, the North by the Twifo-Hemang-Lower Denkyira District and the West by the Mpohor–Wassa East District. Perched between longitude 1° 20' West and 1° 40' West and latitude 5° 05' North and 15° North, the District covers an area of 452.45 kilometers square (919.95 square miles). The Municipality has a fantastic assemblage of culture. Elmina, the Municipal capital, prides itself as the first point of call by the Europeans on their exploration tour of Africa. Elmina had the first contact with the Portuguese in 1471. The oldest Castle in Africa, south of the Sahara, the Elmina Castle was built by the Portuguese in 1482.

The mutual trade relations between the people of Elmina and the Dutch span over 300 years.

The Municipality still has the traces of those relationships in terms of architecture, monuments (Dutch Cemetery in Elmina) and European offspring as well as names. In all, there is one major festival in the municipality which is the Bakatue (Harvest Festival) celebrated on the first Tuesday of July by the Elmina Traditional area. The KEEA Municipality is dominated by the agricultural sector with fishing, and crop farming being the predominant activities. The service and the industrial sectors are the other supporting areas of the Municipal Economy. Domestic violence occur in both lean fishing season and bumper harvest period but it is more often pronounced during the lean fishing season. During the lean fishing seasons, financial strain often intensifies in Elmina due to reduced income. The frustration and feelings of inadequacy due to the inability to provide for the family aggravates existing tensions within households leading to conflict.

The Municipal has key institutions dedicated to addressing social welfare, human rights and legal matters relate to domestic violence. Department for Social Welfare is responsible for providing various support services such as counselling and rehabilitation programs. They collaborate with law enforcement agencies to ensure that male victims receive appropriate care and protection. The office for Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice plays a role of protecting all individuals' rights, regardless of gender. They raise awareness of male victims of domestic violence, challenge stereotypes and ensure that laws and policies address the needs of domestic violence survivors. The court system handles legal matters related to domestic violence. They provide legal recourse and protection. The court issues

restraining order to keep perpetrators away from victims, prosecute offenders and ensures that victims have access to justice and support services.

3.5 Population of the Study

In research methodology, population refers to the entire group of individuals, events or objects that share common characteristics relevant to a particular study and from which the researcher seeks to draw conclusions (Bryman, 2012). The population therefore defines the scope within which the study's findings may be generalised. The target population for this study was male victims of domestic violence in Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality. The accessible population for this study was married male victims of domestic violence in Elmina Township. For the purpose of this study, "married men" were defined as men who were legally married under Ghana's statutory, customary, or religious marriage systems and who had lived continuously with their wives for a minimum of three years at the time of data collection. The three-year threshold was established to ensure that participants had sufficient marital experience to reflect meaningfully on domestic violence within a sustained relationship. At the time of the study, DOVVSU in Elmina municipality reported that there were no official records of domestic violence cases involving male victims in their annual statistics. This lack of documented data highlights the limited institutional attention to male victimization and further underscores the importance of this research.

3.6 Sample and Sampling Technique

Sampling is the method or the technique constituting selection of sample size for the study, they are part or the portion of the population, with a view to draw conclusion about the population (Tahadoost, 2016). Creswell and Creswell (2018), explain that a

study aiming at exploring a phenomenon is best achieved using a sample size of 5-20 participants. In addition, Thorne (2008) is of the view that with qualitative research, a sample as small as 5 and as large as 30 can be used. In line with these assertions, the study sampled 11 married male victims of domestic violence based on saturation. In other words, occurrence of responses led to the total number of participants. Specifically, the study employed data saturation, which refers to the point at which no new information, codes or perspectives emerge from additional interviews (Guest, Bunce & Johnson, 2006). The choice of 11 participants for the study fell well within the range and was informed by both methodological and contextual considerations. Given the qualitative design, the aim was to obtain rich, detailed accounts of participants' experiences and the target population, male victims of domestic violence in Elmina township, is small and difficult to identify due to underreporting, social stigma and absence of official statistics. Snowball sampling technique was used in the selection of the victims. This is a type of sampling technique in which the researcher identifies the target population for the research by locating one person who fits and can provide data for the study and then use the person to locate others. This is used in cases where the target population is not easily accessible (Ofori & Dampson, 2011).

In this case, the researcher identified one victim in Elmina Township. The victims whose identities were not known, the researcher asked the first victim to help identify others. The process continued until saturation was achieved, that is, the point at which additional interviews yielded no new themes, insights, or variations relevant to the research questions. The diversity among the participants in terms of age, educational background, occupation, and marital duration further enhanced the range of experiences captured. Guest, Bunce, and Johnson (2006) emphasize that data saturation in qualitative interviews often occurs within the first twelve participants,

particularly when the study population is relatively homogeneous in relation to the research focus. Therefore, the selection of eleven participants was adequate to capture the necessary variation in perspectives while also ensuring analytical depth and credibility of the findings.

Purposive sampling technique was used to select 1 DOVVSU official to serve as key informant who provided an in-depth information on the issue of domestic violence against men. She also offered information on the perceptions of the society on male victims of domestic violence and the intervention she provided as alternate means of addressing domestic violence against men.

3.6.1 Participant Profile

The study included eleven married men who had been victims of domestic violence from Elmina Township and one officer from the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU). The men were identified through snowball sampling, and it was appropriate because of the sensitivity and stigmatization attached to male victimization. There was a variety of socio-demographic factors among the participants, which provided sufficient contextual information for analysing and understanding the data. For age, most participants were in their late twenties to fifties and included men with perspectives from relatively new marriage agreements, and some that had lived in marriage agreements past a score of twenty plus years. The participants retained a variety of educational achievements that scored low and high levels of formal training, with some with no formal education at all, those with basic or secondary school completion, and a few with tertiary educational accomplishments. The participants' occupancies reflected the economic structure of Elmina; while some were fishermen with seasonal jobs, others earned livings through artisanal trades,

small-scale businesses, or small paid workers. As the study developed into conversations with the men who were participating, a number of participants reported unemployed at the time of the study, which increased their vulnerability in their home. The participants' lengths of marriage were a minimum of three years (the required length of time in the marriage for inclusion in the study) and carried into beyond twenty years of marriage; this distance of marriage length provided information into domestic violence experience across the life of the marriage journey. Most of the men lived in nuclear households; some however discussed the role of extended family while negotiating the way in which domestic violence was treated within their household. Also, the DOVVSU officer, provided an institutional view on how cases against men were treated and were received, which made sense of the lived experiences of the males being victimized. This socio-demographic diversity among participants is crucial, as it contextualizes the findings and highlights the interplay between economic, educational and marital factors in shaping men's vulnerability to domestic violence in Elmina.

3.7 Sources of Data

Primary source of data was collected and used for this study. For the purpose of this research, primary data is obtained through interview.

3.8 Instrumentation

The researcher used semi-structured interviews to obtain data for the study. Interview is the principal data collection method for the research. Yin (2011) argued that it is very important to consistently ask why events appear to have happened or to be happening. The researcher conducted one-on-one interviews by letting the respondents give answers without interrupting them. This allowed the researcher to

ask open ended questions that required follow-up questions. In line with this research approach, the researcher got more reliable and valid data from the participants for analysis of the data collected. Also, the interviewer gave the participants enough time to build and establish their points as they experienced the problem under study (See appendix A) for the question on interview guide

3.9 Trustworthiness of the Study

Qualitative research is trustworthy when it accurately represents the experiences of the study participants (Cropley, 2019). In other to ensure the trustworthiness of the study, the researcher adopted member checking. After the transcription of the data, the researcher went back to the participants to cross check whether the data transcribed correspond with the information they gave out. With this, the researcher was able to rectify all misinformation in the transcribed data. In any systematic enquiry into human condition, it is vital to establish true value of the study. Thus, the study must be judged against certain criteria to ensure that the findings and interpretations are a true reflection of the participants or reality and are reliable (Mcmillan & Schumacher, 2010). Four criteria proposed by Guba and Lincoln (1985) used to measure the trustworthiness of qualitative data collected are credibility, dependability, transferability and confirmability.

In terms of credibility, Trochim and Donnelly (2006) assert that the results of qualitative research are credible or believable from the perspective of the participant in the research. Qualitative research explores people's perceptions, experiences, feelings and beliefs, and it is believed that the participants are the best judge of whether or not the research findings have been able to reflect their opinions and feelings accurately.

Creswell (2013) posits that participant validation is where the result of the research is submitted to them for confirmation as a means of establishing credibility. Bryman (2012) also holds the view that the establishment of credibility of findings demands that the research is carried out according to good practice and by submitting it to the social world that were studied for confirmation that the researcher understood that social order correctly. Guba and Lincoln as cited in Kumar, (2012) suggested that prolonged engagement is a technique to ensure credible and interpretation of findings. To achieve credibility in this study, the researcher engaged in prolonged engagement by spending 2 months in the field collecting data. Also, the researcher took the research findings to those who participated in the study for confirmation, congruence, validation and approval. It is noted that the higher the agreement of the participants with the findings, the higher the validity of the study (Kumar, 2012).

Care was taken to avoid the disclosure of any information that might make participants identifiable, particularly given the close-knit nature of communities in Elmina. Given the potential psychological and emotional risks associated with recounting experiences of abuse, risk integration measures were put in place. Interviews were conducted in safe, neutral, and private locations to minimise the risk of further violence or exposure. The researcher remained sensitive to participants' emotional well-being during interviews and allowed breaks or pauses whenever distress was observed. Where signs of distress persisted, participants were gently encouraged to discontinue or reschedule the session

The researcher was mindful of the possibility of re-traumatisation and made deliberate efforts to adopt a compassionate and non-judgmental interviewing style, ensuring that participants felt respected and heard. By integrating these safeguards,

the study prioritised the dignity, safety, and psychological welfare of participants, while simultaneously ensuring the trustworthiness and integrity of the research process.

Transferability is equivalent to generalizability of findings in qualitative study (Kusi, 2012). This refers to the degree to which the results of qualitative research can be generalized or transferred to other contexts (Bhattacharjee, 2012). The researcher achieved this in this study by extensively and thoroughly describing the process that was adopted for others to follow and replicate. Thus, the researcher kept all relevant information and documents regarding the study. Also, in this study, the research context, and methodological processes were provided. These could enable other researchers to replicate this study to similar settings of their choice. Furthermore, there was adequate background information about the participants; the research context and setting that allow others to assess the transferrable of the findings. The researcher kept accurate record of all the activities while carrying out the study. These include the raw data (transcripts of interviews) as well as details of the data analysis.

Dependability corresponds to reliability of findings in quantitative research (Kusi, 2012). Guba and Lincoln (1985), admit there could be no credibility without dependability in qualitative research. Also, it is concerned with whether the same results would be obtained if the same study is repeated (Trochim & Donnelly, 2006). An extensive and detailed evidence of the process in which the research is conducted was documented in order that others can replicate and ascertain the level of dependability. To ensure dependability, interpretive researchers must provide adequate details about their phenomenon of interest and the social context in which it

is embedded in order to allow readers to independently authenticate their interpretive inferences (Tom, 2017).

In this study, dependability was established through the establishment of appropriate enquiry decision. This included review of interviewer bias to resist early closure and at the same time prevent the provision of unreliable data due to boredom on the part of the participants because of prolonged interview sessions. In addition, information from literature assisted the researcher to develop questions that elicit appropriate responses to answer the research questions that are formulated to guide the study. There was a systematic data collection procedure that enabled the data to reach the point of saturation. The extensive documentation of the data (transcriptions of interview narratives), methods and decisions in the memo were steps that provided the dependability of the data. The thesis supervisor assessed the work to find out whether or not the findings, interpretations and conclusions supported by the data.

Ravitch and Riggan (2017) declare confirmability to mean the degree to which the results could be confirmed or corroborated by others. Also, confirmability refers to the extent to which the findings reported in interpretive research can be independently confirmed by others, typically, participants. This is similar to the notion of objectivity in functionalistic research. Since interpretive research rejects the notion of an objective reality, confirmability is demonstrated in terms of "intersubjectivity", that is, if the study's participants agree with the inferences derived by the researcher. In order to establish confirmability, the researcher after coding and transcribing the audiotapes on interview questions, and all other relevant information and documents regarding the study, it was given back to the participants to confirm the responses. The researcher effected changes where necessary and gave the

transcribed data back to the participants again for them to authenticate the inferences derived by the researcher. The researcher then took the final transcribed data from the participants as a true record of what they factually provided.

3.10 Positionality

Growing up in Elmina, the researcher witnessed first-hand the complexities of gender dynamics and social expectations placed upon men and women. These observations have led the researcher to question and critically analyse the traditional narratives surrounding domestic violence, which predominantly focus on female victims. The researcher's position as an insider within this cultural context provides her with a subtle understanding of the social stigmas and barriers that male victims face in seeking help and support.

However, the researcher is also aware of the potential biases her background may introduce to the research. The researcher's experiences and cultural upbringing could have led her to assumptions or interpretations that differ from those of participants with varied backgrounds. To mitigate this, the researcher was committed to maintaining reflexivity throughout the research process, continuously questioning and reflecting on how the researcher's positionality influences her interactions with participants and the interpretation of data.

3.11 Data Collection Procedures

The researcher got the first participant from the police station who eventually directed her to three other victims. Other victims were identified through trusted contact and after interaction with the victims, they also directed the researcher to other victims. The researcher located each victim's resident, studied the environment to know the right time to approach them. The researcher introduced herself to them and explained

her purpose of visit. Some victims were not willing to cooperate. The researcher had to visit them several times before they gave their consent. Days, time and venue were booked by the victim's own will. Some of them hosted the researcher at their homes. The researcher also hosted some at the beach and behind the castle with the reason of not being heard by their neighbours. The researcher had snacks with victims she hosted outside their homes. The researcher used interview guide to explore the experiences of the participants. It was a face – to – face interview. This was useful for gathering in-depth information on the subject under investigation. All the interviewees were interviewed in a location which was free from distractions. To ensure consistency during and after the interview, the researcher developed an interview protocol to guide her (Pandey & Pandey, 2015).

During the interview participants were given ample time to respond to the questions. Each interview lasted between 50 - 60 minutes. The researcher used one month to interview the participants of the study. The sessions were audio-taped with a recording device and later transcribed for data analysis. On completing each of the interview schedules, the researcher showed her appreciation to each of the interviewees for their cooperation and participation.

3.12 Data Analysis

All data collected through the interview schedules were analysed using thematic approach. Kusi (2012) explains that this analytical strategy requires the researcher to organise the data, and transcribe the data, generate themes, code the data, and describe them. This strategy required the researcher to organise the data to identify consistencies and differences.

The researcher critically listened to the interview recordings and transcribed them. The themes that emerged from the data guided the analysis. The recording was played over and over again in order to be able to identify the key themes that emerged from the interview. The themes that emerged were organised based on the research questions. The general themes that emerged were developed after which sub themes were also created and assigned codes. During the coding process, saturation was used as a guiding principle to determine when sufficient data had been collected. After the ninth interview, the researcher observed that no new codes or categories were emerging, and subsequent interviews largely confirmed or reinforced existing themes. By the eleventh interview, the data had reached a point of data saturation, where additional narratives yielded repetition rather than new insights. This process of constant comparison ensured that the themes identified were both comprehensive and grounded in the lived experiences of participants.

3.13 Ethical Considerations

Bryman, (2008) posit that ethical guidelines direct researchers so that their studies are of high standard. It is imperative to adhere to ethical issues in research of this kind in order to avoid participants withholding vital information from the researcher. Ethical issues include seeking permission, voluntary participation, no harm to participants, informed consent, anonymity and confidentiality (DeVellis, 2016). The researcher up-held all ethical aspects of the research through the following:

Seeking permission: The researcher first requested for a letter of introduction from the Head of Department of the Social Studies Education from the University of Education, Winneba to the participants for their permission to carry out the study with

them. The nature of the study was explained fully to the participants before the interviews. The need to collect data from the participants was justified.

To ensure voluntary participation the researcher made sure that all participants were physically and psychologically protected by arranging for them a conducive and safe venue for interviews.

Consent was obtained from the participants to be involved in the study and ensure that they participate voluntarily. Before the interviews, participants had to consent to the involvement in the study (Creswell & Creswell, 2018). The participants were assured of confidentiality. The researcher was open and honest in dealings with participants. Participants' verbatim responses were used. Participants were also assured of protection of their identity so that they remained anonymous. In attributing quotations to the interviewees, the participants were given the serial numbers P1 – P10 (where P stands for Participant).

Before the start of the interview, the researcher explained the purpose of the research and confidentiality of the participants were assured (Cropley, 2019).

All relevant journal articles and books from which information was drawn were properly cited. In respect to this, the researcher made use of in-text citations and references in the study.

3.14 Chapter Summary

This chapter talked about how the study was conducted. Thus, how data was collected on the field, analysed and interpreted. It presented researchers philosophical assumptions, research approach, research design, population, sample and sampling techniques, instruments, study area, sources of information, trustworthiness of the

study, positionality, data collection procedure, data analysis procedure and ethical issues. The next chapter presents the analysis and discussion of the data.



CHAPTER FOUR

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

4.0 Introduction

This chapter focuses on the comprehensive analysis of the data collected through in-depth interviews. It provides a detailed discussion of the findings, aiming to highlight the real-life experiences of the participants regarding various aspects of domestic violence, such as its forms, root causes, resulting effects, and potential interventions for both victims and perpetrators. The study included twelve participants in total, eleven male victims and one DOVVSU official. Among these, eleven shared their first-hand experiences as victims of domestic violence, offering valuable insights into the different dimensions of this issue. Additionally, the study incorporated the perspective of a DOVVSU (Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit) official who played a key role in working with individuals involved in domestic violence cases. The forthcoming sections of this chapter are dedicated to presenting the study's findings, organized around the significant themes that emerged from the data analysis. These themes encapsulate the collective experiences and perspectives of the participants, shedding light on the diverse nature of domestic violence against men. By exploring these themes in depth, this chapter seeks to offer a rich and nuanced understanding of the realities faced by male victims of domestic violence in Elmina Township.

4.1 Bio Data on Victims of Domestic Violence

The researcher gathered data on the background information on the participants. Issues considered include age, occupation, educational qualification, etc. The data is presented in Table 4.1.

Table 4.1: Bio Data of Victims of Domestic Violence

	Age	Occupation	Educational Qualification	Marital Status/ Years of marriage	Number of Children
(P1)	43	Business man	(HND)	Married(21yrs.)	4
(P2)	36	Architect	NVTI	Married (6yrs)	2
(P3)	56	Fisherman	NONE	Married(21yrs.)	3
(P4)	38	Shop operator	B.E.C.E	Married(8yrs.)	1
(P5)	49	Fisherman	NONE	Married (23yrs.)	4
(P6)	39	Trader	B.E.C.E	Married (19yrs.)	0
(P7)	53	Fisherman	NONE	Married (20yrs.)	5
(P8)	39	Driver	WASSCE	Married (9yrs)	3
(P9)	37	Plumber	WASSCE	Married (7years)	2
(P10)	57	Fisherman	WASSCE	Married (17years)	5
(P11)	36	Architect	NVTI	Married (6 years)	2

Source: Field data, 2023

Key: 1st Participant (P1), 2nd Participant (P2), 3rd Participant (P3), 4th Participant (P4), 5th Participant (P5) 6th Participant (P6) 7th Participant (P7), 8th Participant (P8) 9th Participant (P9) 10th Participant (P10) and 11th Participant (P11).

As illustrated in Table 4.1, the 1st participant is a forty-three (43) year old businessman with four children. His highest educational background is Higher National Diploma (HND). He is married for 21years. The 2nd participant is an Architect, who has three children and married for six years. The level of education is NVTI. The 3rd participant is a 46-year-old fisherman married for 21years who has three children. He has no formal education. The 4th participant is a 49-year-old shop operator has married for 8 years and has one child. His highest level of education is Junior High School. The 5th participant is a 49-year-old fisherman married with four children. He also has no formal education. The 6th participant is a 39-year-old trader with one child. The level of education is Junior High School graduate. The 7th participant is a 53-year-old fisherman married for 5 years and has five child. He also

has no formal education. The 8th participant is a 39-year-driver married with three children.

The age of the participants range between 36 and 56 years. It is expected that the varied backgrounds of the participants would present diverse views of their perceptions and experiences of domestic violence in the study area.

4.2 Organization of Main Themes and Sub-themes

Thematic analysis was employed to derive the main themes and sub-themes from the data obtained by analysing the interview transcripts conducted with married men from Elmina. The analysis yielded several main themes, with most of them being in alignment with the study's objectives. These themes and their corresponding sub-themes are presented in detail in Table 4.2. This rigorous analysis aims to provide a comprehensive understanding of the insights gained from the interviews with the participants of the study. The identified themes and sub-themes shed light on the various domestic violence against men in Elmina township of Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem municipality. Table 4.2 serves as a structured and concise representation of the major themes and sub-themes, effectively capturing the essence of the findings. The thorough analysis of these themes will enable a deeper comprehension of the implications of domestic violence against men in Elmina.

4.2 Major Themes and Sub-Themes on Domestic Violence

MAJOR THEMES	SUB-THEMES
Perceptions of Domestic Violence Among Men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Definition of Domestic Violence • Awareness of Domestic Violence Among Men
Domestic Violence Against Men in Elmina Township	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Personal Experiences of Domestic Violence • Physical Abuse • Denial of Sex and Food • Insults and Name-Calling
Forms of Domestic Violence Perpetrated Against Men in Elmina Township	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Physical Abuse • Denial of Sex and Food • Insults and Name-Calling • Psychological and Emotional Abuse • Financial Control and Exploitation • Using Children for Manipulation • Fear of Reporting
Causes of Domestic Violence Against Men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jealousy and Insecurity • Financial Challenges • Lack of Respect
Effects of Domestic Violence Against Men	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Alcohol Drinking • Marital Dissatisfaction • Infidelity
Expectations from DOVVSU	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reluctance to Report • Need for Awareness • Establishment of Counseling Centers

Source: Author's construct, 2023

4.3 Perceptions of Domestic Violence among Men Victims

One objective of the study was to delve into the participants' perceptions of domestic violence against men within the confines of Elmina Township. In pursuit of this objective, the research sought to understand how men in Elmina township comprehended this issue and the various dimensions they associated with. The insights garnered from the participants during the interviews provided a critical foundation for comprehending the prevailing attitudes and beliefs concerning domestic violence against men in this particular geographical setting. What emerged from these interactions was a collective perception that domestic violence encompasses situations in which one person perpetrates abuse or maltreatment upon another, ultimately causing harm to the victim. The participants' comments and sentiments, vividly captured during these discussions, provide valuable qualitative data that helps unravel the depth and nuances of their understanding.

As individuals shared their thoughts and experiences, it became evident that domestic violence was not merely a theoretical construct for these participants but a stark reality that had manifested in their lives. Their narratives shed light on the nature of domestic violence, revealing that it transcends gender, socio-economic status, or any other factor that one might presume to be a barrier. In these expressions, the participants conveyed not only their understanding of domestic violence but also that it was not confined to any specific demographic. This shared understanding creates the framework for additional investigation, allowing the research to move forward and reveal the complex web of domestic abuse against men in Elmina Township. Commenting on the issue, the participants expressed the following sentiments:

Participant 2 had this to say:

Domestic violence is a situation whereby one person abuses another person. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 4 corroborated and stated:

Domestic violence is when someone causes harm to another person. Domestic violence against men is when a woman causes harm to a man. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 6 concurred that:

Domestic violence is when cruel things against a man is done by a woman. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 7 stated:

It is the sufferings that women make men go through at home. Two of my friends are in this similar situation so I am not alone in this town. (Field Data, 2023)

It is evident from the comments given by these participants that some of them have a fair knowledge of what constitutes domestic violence. The findings are in consonance with the Australian Medical Association (1998) definition domestic violence as an abuse of power. It is domination, coercion, intimidation of one person by another through physical, sexual or emotional means within intimate relationships. From this definition, it is realised that any act that may seem to coerce in an intimate relationship is termed domestic violence. Intimate relationship may mean marriage, concubinage or kinship. Domestic violence encompasses a set of symptoms that may involve physical, emotional and psychological abuse (FIDA- Ghana, 2013).

The Domestic Violence Act of Ghana, (Act 732) defines domestic violence to mean an act which constitutes a threat or harm to a person, specific acts, threats to commit, or acts that result in physical abuse, namely physical assault or use of physical force against another person including the forcible confinement or detention of another person and the deprivation of another person of access to adequate food, water,

clothing, shelter, rest or subjecting another person to torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, sexual abuse, namely the forceful engagement of another person in a sexual contact which includes sexual conduct that abuses, humiliates or degrades the other person or otherwise violates another person's sexual integrity.

Instances of Domestic violence against men

Domestic violence against men is a complex and relatively underexplored issue, particularly in societies with deeply ingrained patriarchal norms, such as Ghana. The existing body of research has shown a conspicuous gender bias, where male victims have often been overlooked. This gendered perspective has resulted in significant underreporting of cases involving male victims. While domestic violence has predominantly been framed as a women's issue, emerging studies, such as those by Mongare et al. (2018) and Obeji et al. (2017), have started to challenge this skewed narrative by documenting cases where men are the victims. This recognition is crucial in highlighting the fact that domestic violence is not confined to one gender, and both men and women can experience it as either victims or perpetrators. It's essential to recognize that domestic violence is not merely a legal matter but a profound social concern.

The conventional understanding of domestic violence has predominantly revolved around a legal framework designed to protect women from abuse. While these legal mechanisms are indispensable in addressing domestic violence, they need to evolve to encompass male victimization comprehensively. The paradigm should shift to acknowledge that domestic violence is fundamentally a societal issue, affecting individuals regardless of their gender. This shift in perspective is vital in promoting

gender equality and ensuring that all victims, regardless of their gender, receive the necessary support and protection. The failure to address male victimization can have grave consequences (Deressa & Azazh, 2011). Just as female victims of domestic violence often suffer detrimental physical and psychological health effects, men who are victims experience similar trauma. The physical harm, psychological distress, and emotional scars that male victims endure are as real and damaging as those experienced by their female counterparts. However, the reluctance to acknowledge and address male victimization perpetuates a cycle of silence and suffering. In a contemporary society that champions gender equality and strives to eliminate all forms of discrimination, it is paramount that laws and resources are extended to support male victims of domestic violence. Fostering an environment where men feel safe and empowered to report abuse, seek help, and access the necessary resources is an integral component of the broader mission to eradicate domestic violence entirely. Only when domestic violence is recognized as a human issue, affecting all members of society, can comprehensive and effective interventions be developed to address it (Chikere & Mayowa, 2011). The perspectives shared by the participants in this study emphasize the urgency of this shift in societal awareness and policy-making. Some of the participants shared their views and said:

Participant 1 said:

My wife has slapped me more than five times, insults and hit me. Each time it happened, I feel a mix of shock, embarrassment and helplessness. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 4 said:

I will never forget the day my wife hit me with a wood because of a small misunderstanding we had. The argument was over something trivial, yet it escalated so quickly. I did not see it coming. One moment we were arguing, and the next, she was holding a piece of wood and hitting me with it. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 7 stated:

My wife used her pillow to hit me while I was sleeping for refusing to give her the money she requested. I was in a deep sleep, and the next thing I knew, I was being hit repeatedly. (Field Data, 2023)

Although the participants indicated that any harm caused to a man is considered domestic violence, some struggled to associate their experiences at home to domestic violence. The Victorian Community Council (2005) also sees domestic violence as coercive and controlling behaviour by a family member that causes physical, sexual, and / or emotional damage to others in the family including causing them to live in fear and threatening to harm people, pets or property. Family violence is most commonly perpetrated by on partner towards another (when it is sometimes called ‘domestic violence’ or ‘intimate partner abuse’) and / or by an adult towards children. Other forms include elder abuse or sibling abuse. Whether the violence is physical, sexual or emotional, it may have long time detrimental effects.”

The participants' understanding of domestic violence against men was generally consistent. They viewed it as a situation where one person abuses or maltreats another, causing harm or suffering. Participants recognized that domestic violence could manifest in various ways and could affect men within their households. Some mentioned that they had learned about domestic violence through TV or personal experiences, and a few noted that they had friends who were also victims. This perceptions of domestic violence align with the definition that emphasizes the abuse of power and control through physical, sexual, or emotional means within intimate relationships. The study revealed that various forms of domestic violence were prevalent in Elmina Township.

4.4 Forms of Domestic Violence perpetrated against men in Elmina Township

The researcher further solicited the views of the participants on the forms of domestic violence perpetrated against them. Commenting on the issue, the participants mentioned the following forms of domestic violence that were rife in Elmina Township; physical abuse, denial of sex and food, insults and name calling. These various forms of domestic violence against men are part of a complex and interconnected web of abusive behaviours that perpetrators employ to exert control and dominance over their male partners. Each form of violence, whether physical, emotional, or psychological, can have severe and lasting consequences for the victims. These findings are consistent with what Gelles, 1993 believes in the resource theory, that the control and distribution of resources within a relationship influence power dynamics and potentially lead to abuse. Denial of sex and food for instance was commonly reported, where female partners used these resources to exert control, leading to dependency and power imbalances. This supports the notion that resource control is a significant factor in the perpetration of domestic violence, affirming Resource Theory. The participants' willingness to share their experiences sheds light on the hidden suffering of male victims in Elmina Township and underscores the need for comprehensive support and awareness campaigns to address this issue. Recognizing these forms of domestic violence and understanding their consequences is a critical step in creating an environment where all individuals, regardless of their gender, can seek help, escape abusive situations, and heal from the trauma they have endured.

a. Physical abuse

The following views were shared by some participants to support this proclamation.

For example, participants 1 said:

She sometimes slap me when I am unaware, insults and hit me. There was a time she was listening to a conversation I was having with a friend on phone. She was standing by the door and I was not aware of it. Upon saying 'oh I did only one', she rushed in, took the phone from me and slapped me saying at long last I have caught you. I was speechless and she was giving me all sort of names at the top of her voice. (Field Data, 2023)

Participants 3 shared his experience:

She hits me with anything she lays her hands on when we fight. One time I returned from a sea travel and wanted to mate my wife. I realized the place was not the same as I left it. Upon several questions I was waiting for answers, she raised her voice at me and later hit me with a vessel beside the bed. (Field Data, 2023)

Participants 7 also added:

She prepared fufu with soup, served herself and the children. I waited for a call that never came so I went to the kitchen to find my fufu bowl empty. I took the bowl to her and asked of my share. She got up, looked at me top and down and left me. I followed her with questions. She turned her back, took the bowl and hit me on the face and started insulting me. I also slapped her and she used her hand she was using to eat to smash my face so we fought. (Field Data, 2023)

Participants shared experiences of physical abuse, including slapping, hitting, and using objects as weapons during conflicts. These incidents often resulted in injuries, such as deep cuts, broken bones, and eye injuries, aligning with previous research findings.

The findings of this study concerning the prevalence of physical abuse among married men in Elmina Township strongly align with existing research, particularly the study conducted by Obeji et al. (2017) and statistics from the United States (NCADV, 2015). These findings emphasize the universality of physical violence as a form of domestic abuse that affects men in various societies, both in Ghana and the United States. In the study by Obeji et al. (2017), more than 65% of male victims of domestic violence experienced severe physical injuries, including deep cuts, broken bones, eye

injuries, and broken teeth. These shocking statistics reveal the extent of the harm inflicted upon men in abusive relationships. It explains the fact that domestic violence against men is not limited to psychological or emotional abuse; rather, it can manifest in extreme physical violence, leading to serious health consequences and long-term trauma.

Statistics from the United States, as reported by the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV, 2015), further support these findings. In the United States, one in four men has experienced physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner, and one in seven of these cases was reported as severe. These statistics indicate that physical abuse is a significant component of domestic violence, affecting a substantial portion of the male population. This issue is not confined to a specific geographical area but extends to different parts of the world. The fact that these findings parallel studies conducted in other countries and settings highlights the urgent need to address physical violence against men as a critical aspect of domestic violence. It explores the universality of this problem and emphasizes the importance of implementing measures to prevent and respond to such violence. In Elmina Township, and by extension in other regions, it is vital to raise awareness about domestic violence against men and provide support for victims to ensure their safety and well-being. Moreover, these findings reveal that domestic violence against men is not limited to one particular culture or society; it is a pervasive issue that transcends boundaries. This underscores the necessity for a global effort to combat domestic violence, with a focus on addressing the unique needs and experiences of male victims. By recognizing the prevalence of physical abuse and its severe consequences, society can take steps toward creating a safer and more inclusive environment for all individuals, regardless of their gender.

b. Denial of sex and food

Benewaa's (2020) recent study, which focused on perceptions of domestic violence against men in Nima and East Legon, presents a significant shift in the understanding of domestic violence against men. This research, conducted using a qualitative approach, brought forth valuable insights that challenge traditional assumptions about domestic violence. One key revelation from this study is that domestic violence against men often does not manifest as physical abuse but instead takes on various forms, such as the denial of sex, withholding food, and what the participants described as "disrespecting" husbands. This finding is particularly significant because it highlights the need to broaden the definition of domestic violence to encompass these non-physical forms of abuse. It demonstrates that violence within intimate relationships can manifest in multiple ways, and not all of them involve physical harm.

The denial of sex and food as a form of abuse against men is a striking revelation. It sheds light on the power dynamics within intimate relationships and how they can be used as tools for control and manipulation. In these cases, the perpetrators use the denial of basic human needs, such as sexual intimacy and food, as a means of exerting power over their male partners. This form of abuse can lead to psychological and emotional distress, as well as physical health consequences. Moreover, the study highlights that failed expectations in marriage, often related to the roles and responsibilities of wives, can trigger domestic violence against men. When husbands perceive that their wives are not fulfilling their expected roles, it can lead to tension and conflict within the marriage. Commenting on denial of sex and food, the participants shared their views.

Participant 2 said:

She denies me sex, insults me in public and calls me names. When I fail to give her house keeping money. When she conceived our second child, things were a bit difficult for me so I was not able to meet my weekly housekeeping money. Anytime, I wanted to perform my manly duties in bed, she denied me. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 5 also opined:

Hitting me with items, on countless times, insults me, sometimes she denies me food and sex, and even smashes water at me, restrict me from certain things in the home. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 6 shared his experiences:

When I do not give her money, I expect her to use the savings from the water she sells to cater for the home. When I return from shop, this lady will tell me that she did not cook so I will then go to town to buy food. When I buy for myself alone too, she will talk and accuse me that I am selfish and did not think about her and our son. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 4 also revealed:

For a month, my wife cooked and never served me. When I ask, she will give me a cheeky answer. She denied me sex and was not talking to me. It started when the 'fishing' business dwindled. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 8 said:

Unwelcomed indirect statements before and after food is served, sometimes deny me sexual pleasure. It happens at the least opportunity she get at home. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 9 stated:

She prevents me from having sex with her. Anytime I try having sex with my partner, she demands money before I penetrate and if I refuse, she denies me access. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 10 corroborated and said:

My wife and I do not have sex anymore. She uses the denial of sex to punish me and I feel emotional distance and being unwanted. I cannot even remember the last time we had a normal, loving conversation. (Field Data, 2023)

The participants' accounts, which indicate that their partners often refuse to adhere to their sexual demands and sometimes deny them food, are in line with broader research on the prevalence of domestic violence against men, particularly regarding sexual violence. The significance of these findings becomes even more apparent when viewed in the context of existing research and statistics. The Centres for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) report, as mentioned, provides a sobering perspective on the extent of sexual violence in the United States (CDC, 2011). It reveals that approximately 1 in 3 women and 1 in every 6 men have experienced various forms of sexual violence during their lifetimes. Of particular relevance to this study, the report highlights that a significant proportion of male victims experienced this violence at the hands of their intimate partners. This emphasizes the importance of recognizing that domestic violence against men is not limited to physical abuse; it encompasses various forms, including sexual violence.

Moreover, the report reveals the alarming trend that male victimization occurs across different age groups. While 14% of cases begin at a young age of 17 years or younger, the majority (41%) occur between the ages of 18 and 28, with 43% of cases starting after the age of 25. This data underscores the need for early intervention and support for male victims of domestic violence, as the consequences of such experiences can have long-lasting effects on their psychological and physical well-being. The finding is also consistent with research by Cook et al. (2016), which highlights that in many African countries, sexual violence against men is a common but rarely reported phenomenon. This points to the existence of a widespread issue that remains largely hidden or unaddressed, reflecting not only the prevalence of abuse but also the cultural and societal factors that contribute to underreporting and silence.

The participants' experiences of sexual violence and food denial align with established research, emphasizing that domestic violence against men is a complex and pervasive issue that extends beyond physical and emotional abuse. These findings provide a valuable contribution to the broader discourse on domestic violence and underscore the urgent need for comprehensive support and intervention programs for male victims in various cultural contexts, including Elmina Township.

c. Insults and name-calling

Insults and name-calling meted out by perpetrators could amount to emotional and psychological abuse. The following comments from participants attest to the fact that they received insults and undesirable name calling from their partners. Sharing his experience, participant 1 had this to say:

P1: Sometimes when I do not give housekeeping money, I receive all sort of insults. She gives me attitudes in the house she calls me all kind of names. (Field Data, 2023)

Another participants said:

P3: From my observation, I will say names calling is one of the common abuse. I have witnessed couple exchanging words and the wife calling the husband names. My wife too does same to me. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 6 also reiterated:

Insults and throwing of items. It occurs when we disagree on an issue in the house. I think insults has been the common abuse that I endure. Ladies in this town are fond of insulting men. (Field Data, 2023)

Participants 11

The insults are always the order of the day. I receive insults from her. Any little thing that happens. (Field Data, 2023)

The problem of domestic violence against men has gained increasing attention in recent years. The scope and magnitude of the problem are the subject matter of many debates in recent times. Domestic violence is a well-known and often used term. From

the views expressed by the interviewees, the forms of domestic violence common in the study area were physical, denial of food and sex, psychological and emotional abuse. Perpetrators of domestic violence against men may adopt a wide range of coercive and abusive behaviour against their victims. Some of these behaviours that are used by perpetrators or abusers result in physical injuries. Other techniques employed by perpetrators were emotionally abusive in nature. Such behaviours include insults, name calling and other non-verbal gestures that are demeaning. These behaviours are psychologically damaging to their victims. Perpetrators adopt different abusive behaviours at different times depending on the circumstances.

Domestic violence takes a number of forms. The common forms of violence are physical and sexual violence; threats and intimidation; emotional and social abuse; financial and sex deprivation as revealed by the study. Domestic violence can involve a continuum of controlling behaviour and violence, which can occur over a number of years, before and after separation (Croft, 2012).

Domestic violence includes verbal or psychological abuse namely any conduct that makes another person feel constantly unhappy, miserable, humiliated, ridiculed, afraid, jittery or depressed or to feel inadequate or worthless, harassment including sexual harassment and intimidation by inducing fear in another person. Behaviour or conduct that can harm in any way or may harm another person, endangers the safety, health or well-being of another person, undermines another person's privacy, integrity or security, or detracts or is likely to detract another person from his or her dignity and worth as a human being are all considered domestic violence.

d. Psychological and emotional abuse

Psychological or emotional abuse involve verbal or non-verbal communication with the intent to hurt or control the other person (Smith *et al.*, 2017). It also involves the undermining of the victims sense of self-worth as revealed by the study. O'Leary (2000) sees psychological or emotional abuse as a form of abuse which is characterized by one person subjecting another to a behaviour that may result in psychological trauma. This trauma may include anxiety, chronic depression and post-traumatic stress disorder. Psychological or emotional violence is in most cases associated with situations of power imbalance, such as abusive relationships (Maiuro, *et al.*, 2000). Examples of psychological violence or abuse include repeatedly making and breaking promises, criticism, belittling victim's competences, perpetrator threatening to physically harm the person, undermining victim's personal relationships and silent treatment. Psychological violence may be induced directly or occur because of other types of violence (Chirwa *et al.*, 2018; Smith *et al.*, 2017). As a result, these men have a greater risk of developing chronic health problems, mental health issues such as depression, PTSD, and rage which increases the risk of them becoming aggressors. This also contributes the cycle of violence where partners break-up and make-up repeatedly after violent events (NCADV, 2015; Richards *et al.*, 2017). McCarrick *et al.*, (2016) described this negative psychological effect as a pressure cooker phenomenon which is dangerous.

In the United States, approximately 48% of men experience psychological aggression by their intimate partners in their lifetime which includes stalking, verbal insults, threats, and humiliation (NCADV, 2015). These women use coercion as a form of control such as blackmail, isolation from family and friends, manipulation, withholding affection, money control, and exploitation among others (Kalokhe *et al.*,

2020; NCADV, 2015). Women may use their children to place psychological strain on their partners by denying them custody rights or instigating violence against their fathers. In their study in west Kenya, Obeji *et al.* (2017) found that 55% of the male victims expressed being afraid of their wives with majority of them seeking help from their church leaders. Since the effects of emotional abuse are not obviously visible and men are reluctant to report or get psycho-social help, its magnitude in Kenya is unknown.

Participant 1 said:

Sometimes she uses my children against me. She tells them things that make them lose respect for me and that hurts me more than any physical blow. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 4 corroborated and said:

She does not want me to spend time with my friends or family. I have lost touch with most people that care about me. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 6 corroborated and said:

When she gives me money, she always remind me that I am failing as a man. It is hard to even look in the mirror anymore. I do not feel like a man in my own home. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 9 also said:

She constantly calls me lazy and useless, especially when the fishing season is bad. It is like no matter what I do, I am never good enough for her. (Field Data, 2023)

According to Carey (2010), men are more likely to suffer in silence for the fear of unsavoury perceptions and comments from society. He further argued that unlike women, men are more likely to suffer from psychological abuse. It was also posited that due to cultural norms and societal practices, men would be less likely to report abuse to the appropriate authority because anytime one talks about domestic violence, it is mostly women and children as if they are the only vulnerable in the society but men do suffer in silence and need attention as well.

Emotional and psychological abuse manifested as insults and name-calling, with some participants sharing experiences of being belittled and degraded by their partners. This form of abuse could have long-term psychological effects on the victims. The findings also highlighted that male victims of domestic violence often suffer in silence due to societal perceptions and cultural norms that tend to focus on women and children as the primary victims of domestic violence.

Under the Ecological Theory, these forms of abuse can be understood at the microsystem level, where the direct interactions between husbands and wives generate conflict. Everyday disputes over household responsibilities, financial contributions, or unmet expectations often escalated into physical or verbal violence. The mesosystem was also evident, as abuse sometimes spilled into the public domain when wives insulted or ridiculed their husbands in front of neighbours or extended family members. Such dynamics demonstrate Bronfenbrenner's (1979) claim that violence is shaped by the interplay of immediate relationships and broader social contexts. Also, under the Resource Theory, men described how women sometimes used food and sex (critical resources in the marital relationship) as tools of control, withholding them to assert dominance or express dissatisfaction. Economic abuse was particularly evident when women, who often had more stable incomes through trading and fish processing, leveraged their financial power to belittle or control their husbands. This echoes Afari's (2022) study in Koforidua, where men reported that financial disparities and women's greater independence often resulted in verbal humiliation and neglect. Empirical evidence from Ghana and beyond further supports these findings. Mantey (2019) found that men in Accra experienced similar forms of abuse, including insults, denial of food, and physical assault, though many were reluctant to disclose them due to stigma. Benewaa (2020) also reported that male

victims in Ghana frequently described sexual deprivation and verbal humiliation as central features of their abuse. International studies confirm this pattern: Obeji et al. (2016) found that men often sustained severe injuries such as broken bones and deep cuts, while the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence (NCADV, 2019) reported that more than 65% of male victims in the United States experienced physical harm from their partners. These parallels show that although the cultural context of Elmina is unique, the forms of abuse men face are consistent with global trends

4.5 Causes of Domestic Violence against Men in Elmina Township

The study was also interested in ascertaining the participants' views on causes of domestic violence against men in Elmina Township. In responding to the common issues that generated misunderstanding between partners, the following themes emerged; jealousy and insecurity, financial challenges and lack of respect.

a. Jealousy and insecurity

One prominent theme that emerged from the participants' responses was the role of jealousy and insecurity as contributing factors to domestic violence. In many cases, participants reported that jealousy on the part of their partners had escalated into abusive behaviours. This jealousy often stemmed from suspicions of infidelity or perceived threats to the relationship. Insecurity about the stability of the relationship or one's own worth could trigger abusive responses from the partner, manifesting as physical, emotional, or psychological abuse. The presence of jealousy and insecurity in relationships can create an environment conducive to domestic violence, where any perceived transgression becomes a trigger for abusive actions.

The participants shared their views concerning jealousy and insecurity.

Participant 1 stated:

When she sees me conversing with my female friends, and I come home late, she asks me, who was that lady I saw you with and start accusing me. (Field Data, 2023)

Another participant shared his experience and said:

P1: For my wife, she is so jealous and feels insecure. She knows weekends, I hang out with my friends so I don't go home early but ever since she overheard my conversation and anytime I go home late, she accuses me of mingling with ladies and calls me names. One time, she locked the bedroom so I slept in the hall. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 7 also shared his experience:

In my case, it is when I come home late that she gets the opportunity to do what she does. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 8 had this to say:

Insecurity is killing my wife too much and that of my friends, it is when they get the chance to perform some of the duties of husbands then they want to show superiority in the house. I usually come home late when market is not good but this woman will not understand. When it is time for her to serve me with food, she will be saying statements I do not like and when I complain, she will tell me to go for the food myself and go to sleep. In the bedroom when I want to have fun, she will refer me to go to the one I left before coming home late. I will explain to her that I was not coming from any other place but work but this woman will not let me be. Sometimes I feel like raping her and in my attempt I get a slap on the face and this has happened four times. You are the only one I am saying this to hhhmm....for this slap is like a mint on my face. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 9 reiterated

When she found out that I have a child with another woman. My case for instance, I hid it from her and she finally found out and now she is overdoing things in the house which I am not pleased. It all started when she found out that I have a child somewhere then our communication broke for almost 2 years now, she has not permitted me to make love to her. (Field Data, 2023)

b. Financial challenges

Financial difficulties also emerged as a significant factor contributing to domestic violence against men. The economic strain on households was reported to be a source

of tension and conflict. The inability to meet financial obligations or expectations within the relationship, such as providing for the family or fulfilling traditional gender roles, could lead to frustration and aggression. This financial stress often served as a catalyst for abusive behaviour, further highlighting the complex interplay between economic pressures and domestic violence.

Participant 2 shared his experience and stated;

My inability to provide weekly housekeeping money is the cause of the violence. There was a time after visiting the hospital, my wife passed by my workplace. She saw me and my boys counting money so she waited for us to finish. I asked of her visit and she went all out like “it is really good I passed by so since you didn’t leave any money at home, give me money to buy drugs that they wrote for me and also prepare food at the house”. I tried to let her know that the money she saw was not for me but a client. This woman refused to understand and started calling me names on top of her voice. I was so embarrassed. After her noisemaking, she left. (Field Data, 2023)

Another Participant corroborated:

P3: When I am unable to give her money there is a problem. She also expect I pay our son’s fees in full so when I pay in bits and he brings notice of school fees, she will vex and call me names. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 4 shared his view and stated:

It is because she has her expectations that I am not meeting. When our son got to class one, she wanted me to pay everything in full all because her friends have done so. I told her to take money from the water sales to add up. Come and see my wife barking like a dog, calling me names, knowing very well when I am paid and how much I am paid. That day after work, this woman cooked but never served me. She gave me names and shut the bedroom door. (Field Data, 2023)

Another Participant said:

P5: She demands money and other things especially when it is fishing season. When the season is not good and I cannot meet her demands, she compares me with her friends. When they close the fishing season and I am unable to provide for the house, she becomes the boss with lot instructions. They think they are performing some of our duties in the house. Because it was not my money she used to prepare the meal, she misbehaved herself and I also fought with her. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant P.7 shared his experience and said:

It all started when the “Saiko” fishing business came to a halt. Money was not forthcoming and she was providing for the house. She became bossy because I was not having money. After the day’s work, she wears three-quarter shorts to bed and when I make an attempt, she sacks me to sleep in the couch. There was a time that I was holding a knife and she demanded for it. She just snatched it from my hand and I got hurt at my right palm. (Field Data, 2023)

P8: She loves money too much, so when she asks and I refuse, she abuses me in the house. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 11 also opined that

Most often money issues. Anytime there is no money the arguments and the insults start. My wife insults me and even use harsh words to make me feel that I’m nothing and the most useless person on earth. We are really suffering. As a man, it’s good to always have money. (Field Data, 2023)

The causes vary from home to home. When men fail to provide housekeeping money, when women are the bosses in the house, when men cheat on their wives and when women are naturally disrespectful and ungrateful. Wives engage in domestic violence depending on the situation at hand. Some abuse their husbands depending on the causes whereas others are based on the kind of upbringing they had from infancy. Maybe the lady is from an abusive family so in this case, when she marries, the possibility that she will also be abusive on the husband is high.

It can be inferred from the responses that financial problems can trigger domestic violence against men. With the increasing financial problems around the world, health professionals and domestic violence experts cannot foresee the levels of violence in intimate partnerships improving anytime soon. Systemic and cultural changes are needed to increase intervention to reduce violence as an outlet, but solutions to poverty are also needed for long-term reductions in violence (Mongare, Obonyo & Parsitau, 2018).

Participants reported that their inability to provide money for household expenses or fulfil certain financial expectations of their partners resulted in domestic violence. Some participants mentioned that their wives disrespected them by disregarding their orders and engaging in insulting behaviours.

Goode (1971) argued that power within relationships is tied to the control of valued resources. Where women in Elmina controlled household finances or withheld sex and food, they were able to assert dominance over their husbands. Men with limited resources (whether economic or educational) were more vulnerable to victimization. This finding echoes Afari's (2022) study in Koforidua, which showed that financial instability and men's dependence on their wives were major triggers of abuse. With the Ecological Theory, the causes of abuse are shaped by factors operating at multiple levels. At the individual level, men's unemployment and low educational attainment increased their vulnerability. At the relational level, conflicts over provision, sexual expectations, and respect created tension between spouses. At the community level, the fishing economy of Elmina, with its seasonality and instability, placed additional stress on households. Finally, at the societal level, gender norms that increasingly accept women's economic empowerment but still expect men to remain primary providers created contradictions that fuelled conflict. This reflects Bronfenbrenner's (1979) claim that violence cannot be separated from the layered social systems in which individuals live. Empirical evidence from Ghana and beyond reinforces these findings. Mantey (2019) found that in Accra, men who were unemployed or earned less than their wives were more likely to experience humiliation and neglect. Benewaa (2020) also reported that infidelity, changing marital expectations, and men's failure to meet provider roles often triggered abuse. International studies mirror these dynamics: Vyas and Watts (2009) argued that economic inequalities between

spouses increase the likelihood of domestic violence, while Jewkes (2002) identified poverty and shifting gender norms as consistent risk factors across African societies.

c. Lack of respect

The participants also highlighted the issue of a lack of respect as a root cause of domestic violence. In relationships where respect was not mutual, participants reported that their partners frequently resorted to abusive actions as a means of asserting dominance or control. Disregard for the feelings and autonomy of the male partner created a power imbalance, fostering an environment where domestic violence could thrive. The absence of mutual respect within relationships served as a catalyst for various forms of abuse, including physical, emotional, and psychological. Some of the participants indicated that their partners sometimes disrespect their orders.

For example, one of them commented;

Ladies in this town are fond of disrespecting their men especially my wife. She insults and throw items at me in the house and even in public.
(Field Data, 2023)

Another participant reiterated:

She sometimes defies my orders. I returned from the shores and the children complained of hunger, I asked the mother's whereabouts and they could not tell so when she returned and I asked her, she ignored me. I asked again, she chuckled at me and talked harshly at me. My temper could not withstand it so I fought her and she threw the kitchen chair at me. (Field Data, 2023)

The major triggers of misunderstanding from the point of view of the respondents were jealousy and insecurity, financial challenges and lack of respect, accusation of infidelity and verbal abuse. These findings affirm the ecological theory by demonstrating that causes are rooted in a complex interplay of factors at different ecological levels. Additionally, the role of the resource control in these causes

supports the resource theory, highlighting how financial challenges and disparities trigger conflicts and abuse, emphasizing the importance of addressing economic inequalities to prevent domestic violence.

Benewa (2020) in a study on domestic violence against men in Ghana found that the causes of violence against men were infidelity committed by men, the effects of socialization, failed expectations and the educational, as well as the financial status of the man, were the main precursors of violence against men. This also provided the profiling of the abused and the abuser. Her study also indicate that men who were less educated than their women and those who were not financially sound like their female partners were more likely to experience abuse. It was however clarified that even if a man had less education than his female partner but had more money and resources than the woman, then the man was not likely to experience domestic violence. Again, in all instances, participants held the strong view that an unfaithful man was almost always a candidate for domestic violence. Whereas age was not a significant factor in terms of domestic violence, it was revealed that a woman who had been married for long and thus had older children with the man could manipulate the children to side with her in abusing the man.

4.6 Effects of Domestic Violence against Men in Elmina Township

Responding to some of the effects of domestic violence, these themes were captured; drinking of alcohol, marital dissatisfaction and infidelity.

a. Alcohol drinking

Ferreira-Borges et al. (2017) asserted that alcohol consumption in Africa are expected to increase, but that policymakers have paid little or no attention to the issue of increasing alcohol consumption. Studies conducted in various parts of Africa reported

a significant prevalence of alcohol consumption. For instance, reported lifetime and current prevalence of alcohol consumption ranged from 16.9 to 34.5% in Ethiopia (Gebreslassie, Feleke & Melese, 2013), 31.1 to 78.4% in Nigeria (Ajayi, Owolabi & Olajire, 2019), 31.9% in Botswana (Olashore, Ogunwobi, Totego & Opondo, 2018), 50.7–63.2% in Kenya (Atwoli, Mungla, Ndungu, Kinoti & Ogot, 2013), and 2.7% in Sudan (Osman, Victor, Abdulmoneim, Mohammed, Abdalla & Ahmed, 2016). Some depend on alcohol as a source of entertainment and means of socialization (Osei-Bonsu, Appiah, Norman, Asalu, Kweku & Ahiabor, 2017).

These were the views expressed by the participants:

P1: I feel like retaliating and you know women. When I retaliate, it will be like heaven is coming down so I just resort to the use of alcohol. I take some few bottles with friends, come back home and sleep. (Field Data, 2023)

P3: I just leave the house to take some tots to cool down and entertain myself. (Field Data, 2023)

P5: I take some bottles to cool off, go back home and sleep. (Field Data, 2023)

b. Marital dissatisfaction

Marital satisfaction is the relationship in which couples live together in marriage, enjoying the closest possible loving and fulfilling relationship without any intention of breakup (Adesanya, 2012). This implies a peaceful relationship is achieved when married couples understand their individual roles and work together towards it. Adesanya (2012) identified certain factors that ensure marital satisfaction such as economic wellbeing, responsiveness, social obligation and religion. However, the strongest factor of marital satisfaction and wellbeing is economic satisfaction (Adesanya, 2012). According to Owuamanam (2007) inadequate provision of

essential needs for wives and children within the family is capable of creating tension, conflict and marital dissatisfaction.

Regarding marital dissatisfaction, this is what the participants had to say:

P1: We are not how we used to be when we got married. There is no happiness in the house and now my first child is exhibiting some bad traits of my wife which is getting me worried. (Field Data, 2023)

P3: I am not happy. My family does not encourage divorce and I also do not want my children to have another mother. I do not know what she will also display in years to come so I just have to be in it like that. Moreover, I do love her. (Field Data, 2023)

P4: I feel bad and not happy about it, I am still observing things, if it persist, I may end the marriage. (Field Data, 2023)

P5: I get hurt and feel betrayed for I am the sole contributor of her financial status but when I do not have, she does not think that I made her so. We are not on talking terms. (Field Data, 2023)

P6: It is because of the children and I love my wife despite my ordeal. I take counsel in the saying that weeping may endure for a time but joy comes in the morning I reported to her parents but there was no change so a friend told me to go to DOVVSU and directed me there. I met a lady and made me narrate my issue but then she told me to be back the next day to make a formal complaint since her boss was not around. (Field Data, 2023)

P8: I feel bad I cannot face society's fingers so I have to be in it and suffer in silence. (Field Data, 2023)

P11: During those moments, I felt trapped, both physically and emotionally. It's a mix of emotions that are hard to describe. First and foremost, I felt fear. Fear for my safety, fear of the person I loved, and fear of what might happen next. It's a constant state of hyper-vigilance, never knowing when the next outburst might occur. (Field Data, 2023)

The responses suggest that some of the participants were experiencing marital dissatisfaction. Marital dissatisfaction in homes could lead to separation and divorce. In their study, Ambakederemo and Ganagana (2006) found that marital dissatisfaction is caused by sex-related issues, love and trust, socio-cultural factors, anti-social vices and lastly economic factors.

c. Infidelity

Couples are predisposed to acting in a negative way based on certain conditions in marriage such as infidelity. Infidelity committed by men could result in domestic violence against them.

On the issue of infidelity, one of the participants articulated:

P5: It was not easy for me, I was having a lot of blue balls so I took a girlfriend and satisfied myself. (Field Data, 2023)

Another supported:

P7: Some of the incidents, I just take a walk and finally I had to get someone to satisfy me in bed. (Field Data, 2023)

The responses revealed that the effect of domestic violence ranged from alcoholism, infidelity, lack of communication, frustration and marital dissatisfaction. Consistent with Ecological theory, these effects manifest at multiple levels. Individually, victims often turn to alcohol drinking as a coping mechanism. At the relational level, constant conflict and mistrust eroded intimacy and marital cohesion. At the community level, the public nature of insults or ridicule intensified men's humiliation, as neighbours and peers became witnesses or participants in their abuse. At the societal level, cultural beliefs that men should be strong and invulnerable deepened stigma, silencing victims and discouraging them from seeking help. This demonstrates Bronfenbrenner's (1979) argument that outcomes of violence are not isolated to individuals but are shaped by the interplay of systems within their environment. The Resource Theory also sheds light on the effects of abuse. When men lacked control over financial or intimate resources, they not only lost decision-making power but also experienced diminished confidence and social standing. Participants who were economically dependent on their wives described feeling "less of a man," and this loss of symbolic power had long-term psychological consequences. This confirms

Goode's (1971) assertion that resource control is central to household power relations, and its absence can create vulnerability and lasting harm. Empirical studies corroborate these findings. Mantey (2019) observed that male victims in Accra suffered low self-esteem, social withdrawal, and feelings of worthlessness. Afari (2022) similarly found that men in Koforidua often turned to alcohol or isolation to cope with abuse. Internationally, Migliaccio (2001) reported that men in the United States frequently experienced depression and questioned their masculinity after being abused, while Obeji et al. (2016) found that male victims often sustained both physical injuries and psychological trauma. The NCADV (2019) also highlighted that beyond physical harm, emotional consequences such as fear, anxiety, and loss of identity were common among male victims of domestic violence.

4.7 DOVVSU Response to Domestic Violence against men in Elmina Township

This theme solicited the views of participants of their expectations about DOVVSU responsibilities towards domestic violence against men.

Participant 1 said:

When I reported her to DOVVSU, they invited her. When she got back home, she denied me food for some days and was not talking to me until I apologised to her. I did not go to DOVVSU office next day because I felt shy that my name will be written in their book, that my wife beats me and she being a lady, she might have it as conversation with friends when she close. Her parents did not take me serious when I reported her and the mother is even encouraging my wife to have an affair with another man. (Field Data, 2023)

The Participant 2 did not miss words when he forthrightly expressed that he will be mocked. He put it this way:

P2: Our ego, I will be mocked at so it is better you keep it to yourself. I have not reported her to DOVVSU. I will not go and report for them to laugh at me. Thank God, her parents witnessed it. I think if women are given frequent advice on their marriage, it will help us. I say this because I think counselling before marriage is not enough for couples. They think of what they will benefit in the marriage and not the

sacrifices in it and that creates problems in marriages. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 4 referenced the Bible and remarked:

The Bible says a man is the head of the family so imagine I tell my wife about this. That is why I fight her when she raises her voice and she does not spare me at all. Anything she gets, she will either throw or hit me with it. Wives should be taught how to respect their husbands no matter the situation. (Field Data, 2023)

Another Participant disclosed:

P3: Ever since we got married, we promised not to disclose our challenges to our families. It is the neighbours who get to know when we fight and exchange words and I know by now, the gossipers have sent it to either of our parents. (Field Data, 2023)

Moreover, Participant 5 expressed:

When I discussed my problem with a friend about going to DOVVSU concerning how my wife is treating me, he also told me what other men are also facing the same problem in their home so he made me feel that it was okay because my situation is better than others. (Field Data, 2023)

Participant 11 stated:

Our ego will not permit us to do that. (Field Data, 2023)

Other Participants also shared their experiences:

P6: No one but friends, neighbours and some family members are aware. It came to a time that I was fed up and went to Police station. They referred me to DOVVSU and upon seeing ladies, I returned to the house. If I had met a man, I would have told him my situation and see how best he could help, but a lady, not the best. (Field Data, 2023)

P7: It is not easy. How I even had the courage to go to DOVVSU, I still cannot tell. It is because we all think DOVVSU is for females to make complaints. My friend said DOVVSU help solve marital issues. How to reach an agreement and how to respect men in all circumstances should be emphasized in marriages in this town. (Field Data, 2023)

P8: If DOVVSU is an active institution, I will suggest they have details of married couples, visit them and talk to them about violence in the home before it gets out of hand. (Field Data, 2023)

P10: There should be an establishment of counselling centers for husband and wife. There should also be organization programs about this issue on a national television. (Field Data, 2023)

The DOVVSU official also commented on the issue:

Per the records at the moment, no man has come to report a violent case here but years ago, I cannot really tell the exact year, a certain man came to report the wife that she insults and hit items at him. As of then, the record book was not available since we relocated to this station and yet to settle properly so I listened to him and gave him a date to return. He never showed up till now. As time went on, I had a conversation with one of the officers and he disclosed to me that some men came to the counter to report about violations by their wives but the in-charge made him refer them to my office. I also told him that if he had not told me, I would not have known that such had happened. In my solemn moment I thought of it and asked myself that, is it because I am a woman that is why they are not coming to me? And I just let things be. So on records, we do not have a case on domestic violent against men. (Field Data, 2023)

According to the DOVVSU official, their role is to offer interventions or support and programs to victims, create awareness of abuse and how to overcome it. For now, they do not have a reported case on domestic violent against any man. Men experiencing domestic violence are less likely to report compared to women as revealed by some participants. Some men tend to underplay nonphysical behaviours (O'Campo *et al.*, 2017). Fear of social stigma is a major factor where stereotypes still exist and men are viewed as a stronger gender and should not succumb to violence (Ayodele, 2017; McCarrick *et al.*, 2016; Melchiorre *et al.*, 2016; Obeji *et al.*, 2017). As a result of exaltation of masculinity traits, some men experience double trauma of abuse and have not been believed by the public including law enforcement (MacDonald, 2016; McCarrick *et al.*, 2016). Male victims of domestic abuse, can feel more alone and like they have no one to turn to for support and assistance. Many male victims of domestic abuse do not realise they are victims due to the stereotype as they also believe that women are the only people who can be abuse (Mongare *et al.*, 2018).

Participants had varying views on what they expected from DOVVSU concerning domestic violence against men. Some hesitated to report cases to DOVVSU due to stigma and fear of mockery, while others expressed concerns that DOVVSU seemed more focused on female victims of abuse. Participants made several suggestions for how DOVVSU could better address domestic violence against men, including the need for increased awareness and the establishment of counselling centres for both husbands and wives. It's evident from the responses that domestic violence against men in Elmina Township is a complex issue, and men face significant barriers to seeking help and support.

The Ecological Theory helps to explain these findings by situating DOVVSU within the exosystem and macrosystem levels. At the exosystem level, institutional policies and practices directly shape how men experience help-seeking. The dismissive attitudes of officers serve as barriers that prevent men from accessing justice and protection. At the macrosystem level, cultural norms that portray men as strong and invulnerable influence not only the behaviour of victims but also the attitudes of service providers, who may unconsciously replicate societal stereotypes in their responses. This demonstrates Bronfenbrenner's (1979) view that systemic structures and cultural contexts interact to produce unequal outcomes for different groups. The Resource Theory also provides insight into the institutional response. Men who lacked financial independence or social connections felt particularly powerless in their interactions with DOVVSU. Without the resources to pursue legal cases, such as paying for transportation, legal advice, or court processes, many victims described abandoning their complaints. This reflects Goode's (1971) assertion that resource control determines power, not only within households but also in wider systems of justice and protection. Empirical evidence supports these findings. Mantey (2019)

reported that men in Accra often refrained from seeking help from DOVVSU because they feared being mocked or dismissed. Afari (2022) similarly found that men in Koforidua rarely reported cases to authorities, citing stigma and institutional neglect. Benewaa (2020) further observed that male victims frequently turned to religious leaders rather than formal institutions for support, highlighting the gap in official responses. Internationally, Tsui (2014) in Hong Kong and Migliaccio (2001) in the United States documented similar barriers, where male victims of domestic violence were either disbelieved or ridiculed by law enforcement, reinforcing patterns of underreporting.

4.8 Incidental Findings and Observations

While the primary study objectives focused on documenting male perceptions of domestic violence, its forms, underlying causes, and consequential effects alongside DOVVSU responses, the fieldwork process yielded several unanticipated discoveries that significantly enhance comprehension of male victimization dynamics within Elmina Township.

A particularly illuminating incident occurred during the initial participant recruitment phase. As the researcher attempted to arrange the first interview, a domestic altercation erupted between the prospective participant and his spouse. The participant's hostile reaction upon observing the researcher—demanding she cease interference with her academic pursuits—provided immediate insight into the volatile nature of domestic violence situations and the complex emotional responses surrounding disclosure attempts. This unscheduled observation demonstrated the heightened sensitivity and defensive mechanisms employed by male victims when confronted with potential exposure of their circumstances.

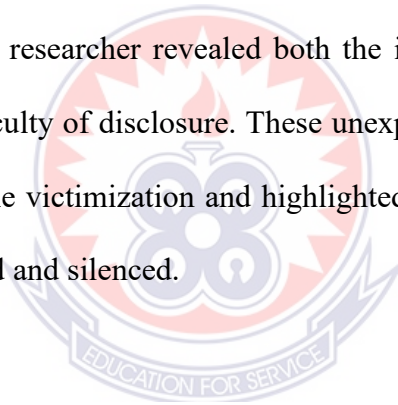
Systematic observation during interview sessions revealed consistent behavioural patterns among participants. Notable manifestations included hesitation-preceding discussions of intimate deprivation, deployment of humour as an emotional distancing mechanism, and visible physiological responses when recounting experiences of verbal humiliation. These observations underscore the pervasive stigmatization surrounding male victimization and the difficulty men face in openly articulating their suffering.

4.9 Chapter Summary

This chapter revealed and presented all aspects of the findings of the study conducted on domestic violence against men in Elmina Township. The findings were organized thematically based on the participants' perceptions, the forms of abuse men experience, the causes of abuse, the effects of abuse, and the response of the Domestic Violence and Victim Support Unit (DOVVSU) or resources of support available to them. The findings reveal that participants in general viewed domestic violence as including emotional, physical, sexual, and economic abuse despite that culture denies men the recognition of being victims of domestic violence. A number of different forms of abuse were identified including some physical assault, denial of food or sex (refusal), verbal humiliation, and emotional neglect. This was seen to have negative psychological effects on victims in the long term potentially. Perpetrators and participants each indicated the causes of violence as connected to financial disempowerment or inequality, unemployment, a shift from roles attributed to gender or traditional gender roles, and marital expectations that are unmet. Notably, women's increased financial independence seemed to play a part in all descriptions provided between the two groups. The effects of abuse included injury, emotional trauma, social isolation, and lowered self-esteem which positioned or curtailed men's holistic

wellness and marital stability. Although it appeared that DOVVSU was the most widely recognized institution as the designation to intervene in men's domestic violence experiences, participants noted barriers that included stigma, underreporting, and systemic support for victims such as men being limited. Overall, the chapter demonstrated that while domestic violence against men is real, it is also complex, influenced by cultural perceptions, resource disparity, and imperfect systemic response.

In addition to these themes, incidental findings and emergent observations provided further depth to the study. For example, during an attempt to schedule an interview with the first participant, a violent altercation occurred between him and his wife, and his reaction toward the researcher revealed both the immediacy of abuse in his life and the emotional difficulty of disclosure. These unexpected insights underscored the stigma surrounding male victimization and highlighted the hidden, everyday ways in which abuse is managed and silenced.



CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSIONS, AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This concluding chapter offers a comprehensive overview of the research, drawing conclusions and exploring implications and future research possibilities. In a broader context, it assesses critical insights gained from the study and discusses how this research contributes to academic theory and managerial practice. The chapter is structured into four main segments. Firstly, it summarizes the research problem and objectives, highlighting the significant outcomes achieved for each objective. The second part focuses on the potential contributions and implications for theory, research, management, and practice. The third section candidly discusses the limitations of the research. Finally, the chapter concludes by suggesting future research directions, identifying relevant areas for further exploration of domestic violence against men.

5.1 Summary of Findings

The study explored domestic violence against men in Elmina Township of Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality. The study employed qualitative method of inquiry and phenomenological design. Snowball sampling technique was used in the selection of the victims. The instrument used for data collection was the interview guide. The sample comprised 11 victims of domestic violence, and 1 DOVVSU official who handled domestic violence issues. Data was analysed using thematic approach.

5.2 Conclusions

Understanding and Perception of Domestic Violence

The study established that domestic violence was universally recognized as a pattern of behaviour involving power and control, transcending power boundaries. The study confirmed that awareness of domestic violence against men exists but remained limited by traditional gender stereotypes.

Forms of Domestic Violence Experienced

The findings demonstrated that men in Elmina Township experience comprehensive forms of abuse including physical abuse, resulting in serious injuries, sexual coercion through denial of intimacy, emotional abuse through insults and name-calling and economic control through resource deprivation. The study proved that male victimization mirrors the complexity of abuse patterns traditionally associated with female victims.

Causes of Domestic Violence Against Men

The study identified jealousy, insecurity, financial challenges and marital disrespect as primary catalyst for violence against men. The study confirmed that domestic violence against men stems from relationship dysfunction and power struggles rather than inherent gender characteristics.

Effects of Domestic Violence on Men

The findings established that male victims suffer severe psychological trauma, resort to alcohol abuse as coping mechanisms, experience marital breakdown, and frequently engage in extramarital relationships as emotional escape routes. The study demonstrated that the psychological impact on male victims was as devastating as that experienced by female victims.

Expectations from DOVVSU

The study revealed critical institutional failure in addressing male victimization. The study concluded that DOVVSU's female-centered approach created barriers for male victims, resulting in underreporting and inadequate support. The findings asserted that current institutional frameworks perpetuate gender bias and fail to provide equitable protection for all domestic violence victims.

5.3 Recommendations of the Study

Based on the findings of the study on domestic violence against men in Elmina Township, the following recommendations are made:

1. Public Awareness and Education Campaigns

The NCCE should implement targeted public awareness campaigns to educate residents of the township about the existence and impact of domestic violence against men. There should be the use of local media, workshops and community gatherings to disseminate information.

2. Community Leadership Training and Engagement

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection should involve community leaders and influencers in discussions and training sessions to reshape societal attitudes towards domestic violence against men.

3. Comprehensive Reporting Systems Development

DOVVSU should develop and implement detailed reporting systems that allow for the accurate recording of different forms of domestic violence against men ensuring they can identify physical, emotional, psychological and financial abuse, aiding in the collection of data and resource allocation.

4. Destigmatization And Help-Seeking Campaigns

DOVVSU should develop and implement public awareness campaigns that highlight the existence of domestic violence against men. These campaigns should aim to destigmatize male victimization and encourage men to come forward and seek help. These campaigns should be culturally sensitive and tailored to the local context to effectively challenge stereotypes and traditional gender roles.

5. Specialized Support Services Establishment

The Ministry of Gender, Children and Social Protection in collaboration with Social Welfare should establish dedicated support services, including counselling centres, helplines, and safe shelters for male victims of domestic violence. These services should offer trauma-informed care and address the specific needs of male victims. Ensure that these support services are accessible, culturally sensitive, and adequately funded.

6. Feedback and Continuous Improvement Mechanism

DOVVSU should establish feedback mechanisms where male victims can report their experiences with DOVVSU, allowing for continuous improvement of services and approaches.

7. Community Support Network and Peer Groups Formation

DOVVSU in collaboration with community centers or advocacy groups should promote the formation of support networks and peer groups for male victims of domestic violence. These networks can provide emotional support, share coping strategies, and reduce the isolation that male victims often feel.

8. Research Expansion Initiative

Government institutions should encourage further research in this area to expand the understanding of domestic violence against men in different contexts and cultures. Comparative studies can help identify commonalities and variations in male victimization.

5.4 Implications of the Research

The research on domestic violence against men in Elmina Township has several significant implications for academia, practice, and policy. These implications extend beyond the local context and can inform a broader understanding of domestic violence against men in different cultural and societal settings.

Academic Implications

This research helps fill a significant gap in the academic literature by shedding light on the experiences of men as victims of domestic violence, especially in patriarchal societies like Ghana. It contributes to the growing body of research that recognizes male victimization and offers insights into the complex dynamics of domestic violence. The study employed qualitative methods, which allowed participants to share their experiences and perceptions in-depth. This approach demonstrates the value of qualitative research in exploring sensitive and underreported topics, providing a template for future research in this area.

Practice Implications

Practitioners, including counsellors, social workers, and healthcare providers, can benefit from the findings to increase awareness of domestic violence against men. This knowledge can help them recognize and support male victims effectively. The research explains the importance of providing trauma-informed care to male victims

of domestic violence. Practitioners should consider the psychological, emotional, and physical trauma experienced by these men and tailor their interventions accordingly. Again, Community organizations and support services can use the insights from this research to tailor their programs to the specific needs of male victims. This may involve the establishment of counselling centres and helplines dedicated to male victims of domestic violence.

Policy Implications

The findings revealed the need for gender-neutral legal protections and policies against domestic violence. Policymakers should recognize that both men and women can be victims and ensure that the law provides equal protection to all. Policymakers can use the research to inform and support public awareness campaigns focused on domestic violence against men. These campaigns can help break down societal stereotypes and encourage male victims to report abuse.

5.5 Limitations of the Study

The study's focus on a single fishing community in Ghana limits understanding of how domestic violence against men manifests across different socioeconomic, educational, and occupational contexts within Ghana and other cultural settings.

The researcher encountered disclosure issues as participants were often reluctant to openly discuss their experiences due to stigma associated with being male victims of domestic violence. The researcher explained the purpose of the study to the participants and assured them of non-disclosure of information and non-usage of information for other interests other than for academic purposes.

Identifying appropriate and private locations for conducting interviews was another challenge. Ensuring a safe and confidential environment for participants was essential,

yet difficult to secure, which may have affected the comfort level and willingness of participants to share their experiences. The researcher utilized the beach which was a neutral and non-threatening environment to overcome location challenge.

The snowball sampling method, while appropriate for accessing hard-to-reach and stigmatized populations, may have introduced selection bias by potentially recruiting participants from similar social networks, thereby limiting the diversity of experiences captured and possibly excluding isolated victims. The snowball sampling approach may have created homogeneity bias, as participants tend to refer others with similar characteristics or experiences. This could have resulted in overrepresentation of certain types of abuse experiences while underrepresenting others, potentially skewing the findings toward particular patterns of victimization.

Relying solely on interviews without triangulation through other data sources (such as medical records, police reports, or partner perspectives) may have limited the comprehensiveness and validation of findings.

The process of analysing the collected data also presented challenges. The sensitive nature of the subject matter required careful handling and interpretation to avoid misrepresentation and to ensure the accuracy of the findings. The researcher employed rigorous qualitative data analysis methods. This included using a coding software to systematically categorize and interpret the data.

Linking major findings with the study's objectives proved to be complex. The multifaceted nature of domestic violence against men necessitated a level of subtlety to draw clear connections between the data and the research objectives, which was challenging given the varied and personal nature of participants' experiences. The researcher addressed this challenge by maintaining a clear focus on the research

questions throughout the analysis process. The researcher employed thematic analysis to identify key themes that directly related to the objectives.

The study provided limited in-depth analysis of institutional responses beyond DOVVSU, missing perspectives from healthcare providers, traditional authorities, and other support systems that may influence male victims' experiences.

The absence of comparative data from female victims or non-abused men limits understanding of gender-specific patterns and the unique aspects of male victimization.

5.6 Directions for Future Research

Conducting longitudinal studies to track the experiences of male victims of domestic violence over time can provide a deeper understanding of the dynamics, recurrence, and long-term effects of abuse.

Comparative research that includes multiple regions, cultures, or countries can help identify variations in the prevalence, forms, and perceptions of domestic violence against men. Such studies can highlight cultural and contextual factors that influence this issue.

Investigating the experiences of men who are victims of domestic violence perpetrated by female partners is an area that warrants more attention. This research can explore the unique challenges and dynamics in such situations.

Understanding how children are affected by domestic violence against their fathers is a critical research area. This includes examining the impact on child development, behaviour, and well-being.

Research on the effectiveness of intervention and prevention programs tailored specifically for male victims of domestic violence is needed. Evaluating the impact of support services and counselling can inform best practices.

Exploring the physical and mental health outcomes of male victims, including the relationship between domestic violence and health conditions, substance abuse, and mental health issues.

Research on the legal and policy responses to domestic violence against men, including the enforcement of existing laws and the need for specific protections, can guide legislative and policy changes.



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APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

Interview Guide for Participants

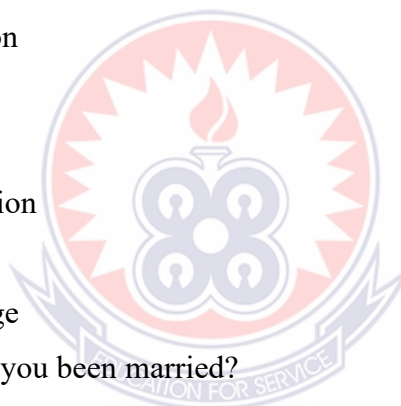
UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION, WINNEBA

Dear Sir,

This interview is meant to generate a discussion on Domestic Violence against men in Elmina Township of Komenda-Edina-Eguafo-Abrem Municipality. You have respectfully been selected as one of the favourable interviewees and your views and responses would be treated with utmost respect and confidentiality to ensure your anonymity. Thank you.

Background Information

1. Age
2. Religion
3. Level of education
4. Occupation
5. Type of marriage
6. How long have you been married?
7. How many children do you have?



Perception of Domestic Violence Against Men

8. Have you heard about domestic violence? If yes, tell me what it is
9. In your opinion, what is domestic violence against men?
10. Do you think men experience domestic violence in Elmina Township? Please explain your answer.

Forms of Domestic Violence Against Men

11. What forms of domestic violence do you experience?
12. How often do such forms of domestic violence occur?

13. Where does it occur?
14. Which of these forms are common in Elmina Township?
15. Narrate any form of domestic violence situation you have experienced?

Causes of Domestic Violence Against Men

16. What do you think are the causes of the violence?
17. Why do you think wives engage in domestic violence?
18. Narrate any incident that resulted in domestic violence?

Effects of Domestic Violence Against Men

19. How do you feel about your experience?
20. Where were your children when the incident happened?
21. What did you do after the incident?
22. Why are you still in that abusive marriage?

How DOVVSU Responds to Domestic Violence Against Men

23. Whom do you report to after being abused?
24. What challenges have you identified as far as the issue of addressing domestic violence is concerned?
25. Why do men find it difficult to seek help when they are abused?
26. What is the role of the authority for example the DOVVSU in protecting men from domestic violence by their wives?
27. How well is DOVVSU doing in protecting men against domestic violence?

What do you think can be done to improve husband and wife relationship in Elmina Township.

APPENDIX B

Interview Guide for DOVVSU Official

Background Information

1. Age
2. Religion
3. Level of education
4. How many years have you been in this office?

Perception of Domestic Violence Against Men

5. Have you heard about domestic violence? If yes, tell me what it is
6. In your opinion, what is domestic violence against men?
7. Do you think men experience domestic violence in Elmina Township? Please explain your answer.

Forms of Domestic Violence Against Men

8. What forms of domestic violence do you know?
9. How often do such forms of domestic violence occur?
10. Where does it occur?
11. Which of these forms are common in Elmina Township?

Causes of Domestic Violence Against Men

12. What do you think are the causes of the violence?
13. Why do you think wives engage in domestic violence?

How DOVVSU Responds to Domestic Violence Against Men

14. How many abused men come to report in your office?
15. What challenges have you identified as far as the issue of addressing domestic violence is concerned?

16. Why do men find it difficult to seek help when they are abused?
17. What is the role of the authority for example the Police and DOVVSU in protecting men from domestic violence by their wives?
18. How well is DOVVSU doing in protecting men against domestic violence?
19. What do you think can be done to improve husband and wife relationship in Elmina Township?



APPENDIX C

Letter of Introduction



Our Ref.: SSE/SM.1/VOL.1/302

Date: 30th August, 2023

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir/Madam,

LETTER OF INTRODUCTION

We write to introduce Ms. Ernestina Arhimase, an MPhil Social Studies student from the above named Department to your outfit.

As part of the requirement for the award of MPhil degree, she is undertaking a research on the topic "*Domestic Violence Against Men in the Elmina Municipality*". We will be most grateful if you could grant her permission to undertake the study including collecting data.

We count on your cooperation.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,


Faustina Oduro Amissah (Mrs.)
for: Ag. Head of Department