

A SOCIOLOGICAL REVIEW OF CHILD MALTREATMENT AS A CAUSATIVE FACTOR OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE

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ABSTRACT

With the secondary data extracted from the work of Daisy and Hien (2014), this paper examines the significant relationship between the problem of child abuse and intimate partner violence. The paper shows that child maltreatment or child abuse is a strong causative factor of intimate partner violence. It presents an explanation that intervening variable; (substance use) may exist in between child maltreatment and intimate partner violence. The paper argued that women who experienced child maltreatment are very prone to the use of substances which consequently makes them to be violent against their partner (25% n=13) and some (50% n =26) were both victims and perpetrators of intimate partner violence. The significant relationship between women who experienced child maltreatment and used substance was $X(1=N148) = 7.35, p < .007$ and the significance between women who used substances and perpetrated violence toward their partner was $X(1,=N148) 12.69, P = < .001$. Hence, child maltreatment is significantly related to the use of substances and the use of substances also significantly related to the problem of intimate partner violence. The paper recommends that the problem of child maltreatment and intimate partner violence be given a very wide publicity and that government must establish where parents and partners can be taught the good acts of parenting and intimate partnership. The counseling and therapy centers were also recommended to be created by the government for the counseling and treatment of both the perpetrators and the victims of child maltreatment and intimate partner violence. Finally, it is recommended that strict laws should be made against child maltreatment and intimate partner violence and the offenders must be arrested and prosecuted by a special law enforcement agency to be established by governments.

Key words: Child Abuse, Violence, IPV, Abuse and Child Maltreatment.

INTRODUCTION:

Child maltreatment or child abuse is a very serious social problem in all societies. It is not only problem on its own alone but a problem which breeds other social problems in the families and in the entire society. Child maltreatment is a very wide concept in Sociology, Psychology and other social sciences. Child maltreatment covers a very wide range of behaviour which are perpetrated against the children in the family, schools and outside there in the entire society.

The problem of child maltreatment or child abuse cuts across every society irrespective of age, sex, race, ethnic group, socio-economic status, religion, education and so on. The problem of child maltreatment or child abuse creates other problems in the families and again in the entire

society. The most prominent of these problems is intimate partner violence (IPV). An attempt, therefore, is made in this paper to explain how the problem of child maltreatment can lead to the problem of intimate partner violence and other associated problems.

Secondary data were utilized to explain the interrelationship between child maltreatment and intimate partner violence. A critical examination shows that child maltreatment causes intimate partner violence and intimate partner violence would in turn cause child maltreatment. Hence, the duo – child maltreatment and intimate partner violence cause intergenerational violence within the families and the entire society as observed.

METHOD APPLIED:

This research work relied on the secondary data extracted from Daisy and Hien (2012). Daisy and Hien (2012) sampled 148 women from St. Luke's Roosevelt Hospital in New York. These women were retrospectively examined as women who were involved in an intimate relationship at the time the interview was conducted for them.

THE PRESENTATIONS ANALYSIS AND THE INTERPRETATIONS OF THE SECONDARY DATA:

As explained earlier on, the data used in this study were derived from Daisy and Hien (2014) data. Hence, the data were secondary ones in this study.

The characteristics of the sample of 148 women selected showed that the mean and standard deviation of their age were 32.8 and 7.9 respectively. Concerning the ethnicity of the respondents, those who were Caucasian were 2.7%; African – American 45.9%; Latino 50.0% and Native American 1.4%.

The religions of the respondents were also considered. Catholic members were 50.7% Protestants were 31.8%; others 10.1% and 6.1% did not have any religion or refused to disclose it. The mean monthly income of the respondents was put to be \$ 846.0 (standard deviation of 713.3). The data from education showed that 4.7% attended grade school; 4.1% completed 8th grade; 32.4% had partial high school; 20.3% completed high school; 31.1% had partial college education experience, 6.8% completed college education and lastly, 7.0% had graduate degrees.

For their employment statuses, 39.2% were unemployed; 19.6% had part-time works; 16.9% had full-time works; 2.0% were disabled or retired; 4.1% were students, 16.9% were home makers, while 2 respondents did not disclose their employment statuses..

Out of the 148 women interviewed 33.8% were married, 30.4% resided with a male partner. 7% resided with a female partner, 33.8% dated a male companion and 1.4% dated a female companion. According to the researchers, child maltreatment was operationalized as being comprised of participants with a history of childhood physical abuse, sexual abuse, and /witnessing inter-parental violence. There was an overlap of the types of victimization that the women experienced : 4.9% (n=5) were sexually abused; 40.19% (n =41) were physically abused; 18.63% (n=19) experienced both physical and sexual abuse; 18.63% (n=19) experienced physical abuse and witnessed inter-parental violence ; 16.67% (n =17) experienced physical and sexual abuse and witnessed inter parental violence; and 0.98% (n=1) witnessed inter parental violence only (Daisy and Hien, 2014.

Out of 148 women interviewed. The data analyses showed that 102 women were maltreated when they were children through physical, sexual or witnessing violence at homes.

The table below shows the breakdown of the data category by category.

Table 1 Nature and Frequency of the Different Kinds of Abuse Experienced

	Total reporting physical, sexual or witnessing inter-parental violence in childhood	N	%
1	Witnessing Inter-parental Violence		
	Total	37	25.00
2	Childhood Physical Abuse		
	Total	96	64.09
	Corporal Punishment	40	41.66
	Pushed or shoved	18	18.79
	Bruised	16	16.66
	Requiring Medical Attention	4	4.17
	Noticed by a Mandated Reporter/Neighbour	9	9.38

	Need to Fight or Flee for Protection	23	23.96
3	Childhood sexual abuse		
	Total	41	28.00
	Molestation	34	82.92
	Fondling	28	68.29
	Exposure to Masturbation or Showing of Genitals	29	70.23
	Oral or Anal Sex (penetration)	16	39.02
	Pornography	2	4.88
	Intercourse	16	39.02
4	Relationship of Perpetrator		
	Intra- familiar		
	Parent or Step/Foster Parent	8	19.51
	Sibling	2	4.88
	Other relative	11	26.83
	Extra-familiar		
	Family Friend or Trusted Adult	11	26.83
	Friend /Peer	4	9.76
	Stranger or Other	5	12.02
5	Frequency of the Abuse		
	1	14	34.15
	2-10	12	29.27
	Chronic	15	36.59
	Some participants experienced more than one type of abuse		

Source: Daisy and Hien (2014) .

The table above shows the child abuse or child maltreatment experienced by the 102 women out of 148 women interviewed. The breakdown of the data shows that 37 women (25%) had witnessed their parents engaging in violence when they were children. 96 women (64.09%) had been physically abused in the past by their parents or other people. Out of these 96 women, 40 women (41.66%) had served corporal punishment in the past, 18 women (18.75%) had been

pushed or shoved violently; 16 women (16.66%) had been bruised; 4 women (4.17) had undergone medical attention which showed they had been physically abused or maltreated, 9 women (9.38%) had been confirmed by reporter or neighbour that they had been physically abused or maltreated, 9 women (9.38%) had been confirmed by reporter or neighbor that they had been physically maltreated and 23 women (23.96%) reported cases which showed that they needed to fight or flee for protection.

Finally, the frequency of the abuse was also investigated. 14 women (34.15%) were abused only once in their childhood life. Those who experienced abused two to 10 times were 12 women (29.27%) and those who experienced abuse more than 10 times (chronic) were 15 women (36.59%).

Daisy and Hien (2014) argued in their data that out of 102 women who experienced childhood abused, only 52 were either victimized by their partner or perpetrated violence against their partner. Out of these 52 women, 25% (n=13) perpetrated violence against their partner, and 50% (n=26) were both victims and perpetrators.

It can be inferred, therefore, that child maltreatment experienced by the women led to the use of substance which in turn engineered interpersonal violence from the women against their partners. Hence, child maltreatment is a factor to reckon with in the explanations of intimate partner violence. Although other factors like substances abuse may act as intervening variables.

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION :

The problem of child abuse or child maltreatment is a fundamental problem. The problem as explained in this paper would give rise to other domestic problems like dating violence, substance abuse, intimate partner violence, depression, anxiety, trauma etc. A child that has been maltreated would maltreat his /her children and exhibit violent behaviour toward his /her partner in the future.

Child maltreatment or child abuse has been recognized as a serious social problem in the western world earlier before the other countries of the world did, where most of the abuses against children were considered to be the part of the cultural up- bringing for the children to undergo before they can grow up to be strong, reliable and responsible adults in the social world.

In conclusion, it has been established that child maltreatment is a great factor to be considered in the act of intimate partner violence for both are significantly related as proved by the data analyses from Daisy and Hien (2014). It showed that any attempt to address the problem of intimate partner violence must start by addressing the problem of child abuse or child maltreatment. It has been proved that intimate partner violence and the other domestic violence and problems were the direct offshoots from the child maltreatment or child abuse (Franklin and Kercher 2012; Muller et al 2012; Davins – Pujols et al 2012; White and Buchler 2012; Ezzo and Young 2012; Kendra et al 2012 and Kim et al 2014). Hence, the problem of child maltreatment is worthy of being judiciously addressed by every country which wants healthy social domestic interactions.

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