

**USMANU DANFODIYO UNIVERSITY, SOKOTO
(POSTGRADUATE SCHOOL)**

**CAUSES AND PATTERNS OF WIFE BATTERING AMONG
MARRIED COUPLES IN SOKOTO STATE: IMPLICATION FOR
COUNSELLING**

A DISSERTATION

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CERTIFICATION

This dissertation by Fatima Binta Musa Adm. No 07/211407005 has met the requirements for the award of the Degree of Master of Education (Guidance and Counselling) of the Usmanu Danfodiyo University, Sokoto and is approved for its contribution to knowledge.



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DEDICATION

This work is dedicated to my late parents, my loving husband Engr. Muhammad Lawal Maidoki and my beloved children.

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Abstract

The main focus of this study was to find out the perception of married people in Sokoto State on the causes and patterns of wife battering. The work also examined if sex, length of marriage and ethnic group have any influence on the perception of the respondents. A total of three hundred and eighty-four (384) married respondents made up of one hundred and eighty-one (181) male and two hundred and three (203) female were involved in the study. The sample was from ten (10) Local Governments randomly selected from Sokoto State. The research instruments used in this study was a questionnaire titled ‘‘causes and patterns of wife battering questionnaire’’ (CPWBQ). It contained twenty-six (26) items designed by the researcher from the review of related literatures. Six (6) research questions were postulated and tested for using tallies, frequency and simple percentages. The results showed that most of the items on the causes and patterns of wife battering were perceived above fifty percent (50%) by the respondents.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

1.1 Background to the study

The home is supposed to be a loving place that provides sustenance and care. It is believed to be a shield that protects its members from aggressive and hostile world in which we live. But Contrary to our beliefs and expectations, both parent and children are often involved in exchange of violence in homes. Many of such interactions end up in assaults more than what is experienced on the streets of violent cities. Reports of such marital abuse reveal that the violence in the society is associated with violence in families.

Worldwide, one of the most common forms of abuses directed at women is physical violence by their husbands or other intimate male partners. Although, women can also be violent, men perpetrate the vast majority of partner abuse against their female partners. It is referred to by many names wife battering, wife-beating and intimate-partner abuse, among others.

Wife battering is considered a gender-based abuse and is a subset of domestic violence. Domestic violence encompasses all acts of violence against women within the context the context of family or intimate relationships. It is an issue of increasing concern because it has manifest and unintended consequences on family members. It tends to erode the basis of social order and has consequences for sexual health and rights of the victims. The act is a complex and multi-dimensional issue. The increasing incidence of acid attacks has been reported and condemned. Wife assault is rarely a one-time occurrence. Each assault increases the likelihood that another violent incident will occur.

Many cultures condone physical chastisement of women as a husband's marital prerogative, limiting the range of behaviours they consider as abuse. Some statutes condone wife-assault, for instance, section of the penal code in Nigeria supports wife-beating. Women are reluctant to report acts of abuse out of shame, or out of fear of incriminating other family members. All these factors point to under estimation of the problem in the society. Most people picture men who batter as being vicious monsters and totally uncaring, but the truth of the matter is that most are not just vicious and uncaring, but also are upset, hurting individuals who unwittingly hurt the very ones they said they love.

Domestic violence, also known as domestic abuse, spousal abuse, child abuse or intimate partner violence can be broadly defined as a pattern of abusive behaviours by one or both partners in an intimate relationship such as marriage, dating, family, friends or cohabitation. Domestic violence has many forms including physical aggression (hitting, kicking, biting, shoving, restraining, throwing objects), or threats thereof: sexual abuse; emotional abuse; controlling or domineering; intimidation; stalking; passive/covert abuse (e.g. neglect); and economic deprivation. Domestic violence may or may not constitute a crime, depending on local statutes, severity and duration of specific acts, and other variables. Alcohol consumption and mental illness have frequently been associated with abuse.

Awareness, perception and documentation of domestic violence differ from country to country, and from era to era. Estimates are that only about a third of causes of domestic violence are actually reported in the United States and the United Kingdom. According to the Centers for Disease Control, domestic violence is a serious, preventable public health problem affecting more than 32 million Americans, or over 10% of the U.S population.

Battering takes many forms, it can occur at varying degrees. Some people try to avoid facing the fact that they batter, rationalizing that it was not that serious. They are ashamed to admit to others, even relations or their doctors that it occurs. Abuse of right between two partners is serious and needs to be discussed with others. Battering as an abuse can occur in many forms.

“In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture”. Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, paragraph 112

Physical abuse is abuse involving contact intended to cause feelings of intimidation, pain, injury, or other physical suffering or bodily harm and physical battering involves graving, shaking, shaving, kicking, checking or striking with any object or weapon. Physical force is used to control the other person; it involves humiliation as well as the danger of serious physical injury. It degrades the dignity of the other person, and can threaten his/her life.

Sexual abuse is common in abusive relationships: The National Coalition Against Domestic Violence reports that between one-third and one-half of all battered women are raped by their partners at least once during their relationship. Any situation in which force is used to obtain participation in unwanted, unsafe, or degrading sexual activity constitutes sexual abuse. Forced sex, even by a spouse or intimate partner with whom consensual sex has occurred, is an act of aggression and violence. Furthermore, women whose partners abuse them physically and sexually are at a higher risk of being seriously injured or killed. Sexual battering involves using of force in any form of sexual encounter with an opposite sex; whether touching, grabbing, punching or punching genital areas or forcing a person into a sexual act without the consent of the

victim. It may be a psychological battering through verbal and emotional abuse involving swearing or pushing the other person down.

Emotional abuse (also, called psychological abuse or mental abuse) can include humiliating the victim privately or publicly, controlling what the victim can and cannot do, withholding information from the victim, deliberately doing something to make the victim feel diminished or embarrassed, isolating the victim from friends and family, implicitly blackmailing the victim by harming others when the victim expresses independence or happiness, or denying the victim access to money or other basic resources and necessities. People who are being emotionally abused often feel as if they do not own themselves; rather, they may feel that their significant other has nearly total control over them. Women or men undergoing emotional abuse often suffer from depression, which puts them at increased risk for suicide, eating disorders, and drug and alcohol abuse.

Verbal abuse (also called reviling) is a form of abusive behaviour involving the use of language. It is a form of profanity that can occur with or without the use of expletives. Whilst oral communication is the most common form of verbal abuse, it includes abusive words in written form.

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

Destruction of property is another form of battering, objects are assets and are emotionally important to the owner, and they are sometime destroyed in order to show the owner a destructive power over that person. A fist show symbolically says “The next time this is done again this might fall on your face”. Sometimes harming or destroying a person’s pet means I can hurt you but hurting this pet should serve you a lesson, or breaking a favorite object or ripping up a picture means to say “I can make this no longer exist from your favorites”.

Battering involves a misuse of power, fueled by a person’s insecurity and the urge to control. Abuse continues to exist because it occurs within a trusting relationship. The other person keeps hoping that the abuse will stop, that the battering will end. The battering may end for a brief time, but this is only calm before the next storm. Batter and victim both become involved in a vicious cycle of denying the violence. Minimizing its extent and falsely hoping that it will not occur again.

With all the evidence cited we cannot doubt the existence of wife battering in Nigeria. The next question one may ask is what causes it in the family? A family is a social institution in which members are expected to be committed to one another. Lands (1975) defines social institution as a systematic way of meeting a major group need provided by the culture. Wright and Weiss (1980) also defines family as a social arrangement based on marriage. Olayinka (1987) defines marriage as a social institution for the union of man and his wife in body and soul. Marriage seems to be the most important human interaction. One then wonders why a social institution which calls for mutual love and co-existence can lead to a battle field, a place of violence, a place of assault and battering.

Husbands are supposed to love their wives as their own bodies. "According to the Qur'an the relationship between the husband and wife should be based on mutual love and kindness. Allah says:

"And among His signs is this that He created for you mates from among your selves, that ye may dwell in tranquility with them, and He has put love and mercy between your (hearts): verily in that are signs for those who reflect". (Al-Qur'an Ar-Rum:21).

Furthermore the Qur'an urges husbands to treat their wives with kindness. (In the event of a family dispute, the Qur'an exhorts the husband to treat his wife kindly and not to overlook her positive aspects). Allah Almighty says:

"Live with them on a footing of kindness and equity. If ye take a dislike to them it may be that ye dislike a thing, and Allah brings about through it a great deal of good". (An-Nisa:19).

According to Stark & McEvoy, (1970) The American National Commission on the causes and prevention of crime and violence found in a large representative sample that between one-fourth and one-fifth of the adults questioned it was acceptable for spouses to hit each other under certain circumstances. People in Nigeria do not seem to feel concerned about wife battering because they seem to say that the man's home is his castle, a private institution which outsiders should not interfere. Decourcy & Decourcy, (1973). Says that the quite unfortunate situation is that it requires extreme evidence such as a severely battered spouse to gain the attention of the public, and even the legal system seems to be reluctant to interfere with the family's right.

Gelles (1974) observes that one fact remains quite clear that, at the end of an intensive and extensive research with eighty interviews that most agencies and most organizations are quite unprepared and unable to provide meaningful assistance to women who have been beaten by their husbands.

Truniger (1971) reports that the courts are often mired in mythology about family violence (e.g. violence fulfils the masochistic need of women victims) and consequently the justice system is in-effective in dealing with marital violence.

Field and Field (1973) echo these sentiments and state that unless the victim dies, the chance that the court system will deal seriously with the offender is slight. Women who are abused by their husbands must suffer grave injury in order to pass legal attention. The California Penal Code states that a wife must be more injured than commonly allowed for battering to pass charges against her husband (Colvert, 1974). Like Field and Field (1973) state that there is an official acceptance of violence between “consenting” adult and that there is a belief that this violence is a private affair. This is the attitude held by the police, the Courts and the citizenry that makes wives believe that it is normal to be beaten.

Most parents are up in arm if they ever hear that their child had been caned at school, yet these same children when come of age are married women living in terror of what their husbands are allowed to do to them.

Although social work agencies are not as indifferent about marital violence as the court and police (Field & Field, 1973), they are often unable to provide realistic answers for victims of violence. There is absolutely no readiness from the police to dabble into what they term “domestic affair”. Though police have undoubtedly received criticism concerning their low response to domestic violence, the response of many other practitioner groups to the need of battered wives is also deficient.

Hatty, (1986) States that Research in Britain indicated that medical practitioners often view wife battering as tangential to their concern. He also concluded that medical practitioners consistently underestimate the proportion of their patients who are self identified victims of the familiar abuse. An English general practitioner, Hatty (1986),

in a conference held in England on battered wives maintained that reality is often seamy and it is easy to overlook unpleasant social factors in the scramble to arrive at a diagnosis and treatment. The research he and his partners embarked upon was initially slow to get going. Patient were unwilling to reveal the wretched side of their lives out of a feeling of guilt and social failure and these days many doctors are only too ready to prescribe tranquilizers or sleeping pills to women appearing despondent, when they should be examining more closely the cause of the despondency.

Some women feel that wife battering is normal in family relationship. As has been reported elsewhere, violence between spouses is often viewed as normative and in fact mandated in family relationship. Wives have reported that they believe that it is acceptable for a husband to beat his wife every once in a while Gelles, (1972).

In the Nigerian scene surprisingly in one of the interviews conducted by a weekly magazine 'Climax' it was found that some women love batterers instead of running away from them. For example, Mrs. Ibronke George, a teacher, said that her husband beats her every week and she often suffers from this, but she feels that is one great way of assuring her that she really has a man for a husband. Alhaja Okunola, a housewife, said when her husband beats her he apologizes and promises not to beat her again; although he never keeps to his promise, yet she knows he loves her and she loves him also. Mrs. Ogbonnaiye said she will marry her husband ten times over despite the fact that he beats her every other week.

It therefore seems that wife battering is not just African or a Nigerian "disease", it is also western. Besides, it afflicts many people even stars like James Brown the world known legendary rock singer who beats his wife blue and black. Yet Adrienne his wife said "I don't want to lose him... I've already forgiven him".

Although, some women expressed that they love their abusive husbands, still they suffer some psychological distress. Hatty, (1986) notes that in an attempt to accommodate the violence, to preserve the relationship may profoundly hamper the women's psychology. A recent American study has found evidence of history of physical and sexual abuse in almost 50 percent of a sample of discharged psychiatric patients. Husbands or former husbands had inflicted physical abuse in over half of these cases (Hatty, 1986).

Some women in Nigeria who required treatment did not seek it because the perpetrator himself actively restrained the victim from seeking medical attention. Others accommodated battering by adjusting to the attack despite sustaining injuries, either by self medication or by securing treatment from those within their social circle.

When some go to the hospital, they are ashamed to disclose that they have been battered by their husbands. One of such women taken to hospital and detained there for three months never wavered in her story that her broken jaw, arm and ribs were the result of a fall downstairs whereas her cruel husband had in fact beaten her up for some imperfection in her cooking Kimenye, (1976).

Some people assumed that wife battering and neglect do not occur in normal families. They think that wife battering and neglect occur in sick families characterized by some other pathology such as drug, alcoholism, gambling or mental aberrations. The battered wife syndrome therefore seems to be far from being the prerogative of families living at grassroots level without televisions, refrigerators and indoor sanitation. Evidence abounds to indicate that normal families are not conflict free and that they use considerable amount of both verbal and physical aggression in resolving these conflicts. Stratus, Gelles and Steinmetz and (1980) assert that spouse battering is not

unique to any particular socio-economic status, race, religion, identifiable mental illness or personality disorder.

With evidence bound that wife battering is common in Nigerian society; this research is interested in finding out the causes, patterns and extent of wife battering in Sokoto state.

1.2 **Statement of the problem:**

The present economic crunch facing Sokoto State suggests occasional conflict, verbal or physical aggression which somehow worm into marital life of families resulting in domestic violence like hitting, kicking, and strangulation or even, sometimes, the use of deadly weapons and these actions go a long way to affect the stability of marital homes. These forms of conflicts lead to wife battering, divorce or, even, worse. These are situations that have proven to be of serious consequences to the entire economic and social life of the people.

These kinds of problems awaken the interest of the researcher to engage in this study. The situations come in many faces which lead to the researcher's interest in finding out the causes of these problems and the patterns in which they occur in Sokoto State with the intention of finding lasting solutions to it.

1.3 **Research questions:**

1. Does relationship exist between causes and patterns of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State?
2. Are there any causes of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State?
3. Are there any patterns of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State?
4. What are the causes of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State?

5. Does length of marriage causes wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State?
6. What are the patterns of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State?

1.4 **The objectives of the study:**

The general objective of the study is to find out the causes and patterns of wife battering as perceived by married couples in Sokoto State. However specific objectives of the study are;

1. To find out the causes of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State
2. To find out the patterns of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State
3. To know the patterns and causes of wife battering in Sokoto State
4. To determine the relationship between causes and patterns of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State
5. To find out if length of marriage causes wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State
6. To find if difference in ethnicity between couples causes wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State.

1.5 **Significance of the study:**

Considering the fact that marriage is a sensitive issue we should know that when there is crisis in the family it affects every member of the family. In realization of the importance of happy homes the government spends a lot of money to maintain the Social Welfare Centres which look into the problem of family as a whole.

In the review of related literature, the researcher could not lay hand on any study on causes of wife battering in Sokoto State which is one of the major causes of divorce. This study may therefore provide information which can give insight into the

causes and patterns of wife battering for the use of the government, social workers, counselors, and police officers.

This study shall serve the purpose of making parents to realize how their behaviour influences their children's behaviour in life. The study may probably help parents also to realize that children copy their behaviour because children learn from practice in the family.

This study also sets out to help the government, social workers, counselors, medical personnel, police and even couples to be aware of the causes of wife battering. The knowledge of this can help the government and other authorities to know the kind of lecture and seminar they will organize for married people to help them realize the causes of wife battering and the effect on the family.

This study shall also help the counsellors to know the kind of marital counseling they will give to those couples having this problem. It will also help counselors in the schools to be able to help those children whose parents have this problem. The children also will be able to see the problem themselves and how it affects them. And it will help them not to copy their parents' bad behaviour. The study will help the teachers to understand the problem that some children go through at home and be able to render them assistance necessary.

1.6. **Scope and delimitation of the study:**

This study is limited to these variables: sex, length of marital experience and ethnic group of the couples. The scope covers only the married people in Sokoto state.

Furthermore, the study is delimited to ten (10) Local Government in Sokoto state, to serve as representative of the entire population. Other states of the federation were not covered by the study.

CHAPTER TWO

REVIEW OF THE RELATED LITERATURE

2.0 Introduction

In Nigerian society it seems normal to beat a child when he or she does something wrong as a form of correcting the child and deterring him or her from committing the same offence next time. Some children learn from it and never commit the same offence again but some never learn no matter how much they are beaten. Parents do it, teachers do it, aunts and uncles do it and it is considered normal. But it may be abnormal for a man to beat his wife whom he is supposed to love and cherish forever.

There could be several reasons why husbands batter their wives. Some batter their wives to indicate that they have been created strong by nature while their partners are made of weaker substance. It could be out of frustration or from traits he has inherited from his father, or he is battering her just for the fun of it.

Whatever be the reason is what the researcher wants to find out in this study. The researcher will review the related literature under these sub-headings:

- 2.1 Concept of Marriage/Family
- 2.2 Marriage Typologies
- 2.3 The concept of wife battering;
- 2.4 Characteristics of battered wives;
- 2.5 Characteristics of battered husbands;
- 2.6 Causes of wife battering;
- 2.7 Patterns and prevalence of wife battering; and
- 2.8 Effect of wife battering on children.

2.1 Concept of Marriage/Family

Marriage is a special contract of union between a man and a woman, accordance with the law which establishes conjugal and family life. It is the foundation of family and inviolable social institutions whose nature, consequences, and incident are governed by law and stipulation.

Marriage according to images Groups News Froogle (internet) 30/6/2005 “is a relationship and bond, most commonly between a man and a woman, that plays a key role in the definition of many families. Precise definitions vary historically, between and within cultures, but it has been an important concept as a socially sanctioned bond in a sexual relationship, globally, societies that sanction polygamy as a form of marriage are far more common than those that do not. However, monogamy is overwhelmingly most widely practice, followed by polygamy and others”.

“Marriage is also a covenant or partnership of life between a man and woman, which is ordered to the well being of the spouses and to the procreation and upbringing of children. When validly contracted between two people, marriage is a sacrament (Matrimony).

According to Islam, marriage could be seen as follows:

- a. A means of emotional and sexual gratification.
- b. Mechanism of tension reduction;
- c. A means of legitimate procreation;
- d. An approach to inter family alliance and group solidarity, an act of piety.
- e. It is a form of Ībadah” (Worship) of Allah and obedience of His messenger (SAW).

To say one or two more words on the distinctions that exists between the tow terms marriage and family.

The views of Martisons (1960) as cited in Nwoye (1989) indicated that much confusion has arisen in the literature because of the inability of most authorities to keep in mind the fact that any household which contains both parents and children has two social systems operating within it at one and the same time According to Martinson (1960:344).

“Indeed it is correct to speak of the family as a subsystem of marriage as it is to speak of the family. But perhaps it is more correct to speak of both marriage and the family as social systems, closely related to each other and with some overlapping personnel.”

The marriage system according to Martinson addresses exclusively to the needs of husband and wife, while the family system ministered primarily to the children and secondarily but not insignificantly to the need of parents.

His basis for making these finer distinctions is to emphasize that the two social systems namely marriage and the family usually marriage and the family usually operate under one roof with different but overlapping membership and different functions, each demanding equal attention of the members who operate in both, that is the husband/father and wife/mother.

Family is a group of two persons or more (one of whom is a house holder) residing together and related by birth, marriage or adaptation. All such persons (including related subfamily members) are considered as members of one family. Beginning with the 1980 CPS, unrelated subfamily (referred to in the past as secondary families) is no longer included in the count of families, nor is members of unrelated subfamilies included in the count of family members.

2.2 Marriage typologies:

When people hear of types of marriages their minds usually run to such familiar concepts like monogamy (a marriage of a man to one wife only), polygamy which is divided into polygyny (a marriage between one man and two or more women) and polyandry (a marriage between one woman and two or more men at the same time). Such familiar sociological categorizations as these however refer to forms of marital institutions and not forms of marital experience or the type of person to person relationships formed by the couples in their every day dealings with one another.

The concept of marital typologies to be used in this chapter on the other hand refers not just types of marital institutions as have been enumerated above, but forms of marital relationships as represented in the individual couple's style of dealing with one another.

A discussion of styles of marital interaction is crucial in a study of this nature in that, with it, a classification of the different ways by which couples live out their marital experience in practice will be examined. The aim in this case is to emphasize the point that human experience called marriage is not found in the same amount from couple to couple or from family to family. For there is in marriage, like in many other human relationships, a variety of manifestations of one and the same object.

A secondary objective of the discussion is to provide all married couples with a standard classification vocabulary under which to put a name to the type of marital experience they happen to be operating. The typologies to be described in this study are drawn from conclusions reached by Cuber and Harroff (1968) after their study of variations of enduring marital relationships in America. Their classification adapted and amplified in this study is based on the interview materials they had with those people whose marriages had already lasted for ten years or more and who said that they

had never seriously considered divorce or separation. In their study, 211 interviews were conducted involving 107 men and 104 women. The descriptions of the marital experience received from this population focused on how couples said that they had contracted themselves into marriage, and how they felt about their actions while in the marriage, both in the past and in the present.

After the respondents' descriptions, five recurring marital relationship configurations were arrived at each with a central distinct identity. The name given to each configuration is derived from what is central or more common in each particular typology. The five names that address the five typologies are as follows:

- a. The conflict habituated
- b. The devitalized
- c. The passive-congenial
- d. The vital and
- e. The total

The central characteristics of each of these configurations will be discussed below, one after the other, with effort being made at each stage to show how the experiences in Nigerian marriages can be seen reflected in some of these configurations. With such initial remarks as these we are now ready to introduce the typologies beginning with the very first of them, that is, the conflict habituated typology.

2.2.1 The Conflict habituated marriage:

The type of relationship is usually placed first in the descriptions, even in Cuber and Harroff's discussion not because it is the most prevalent or common among the typologies but because its ways of showing itself to neighbours and researchers are easily or readily observable and because it appears to present a lot of contradictions.

For even though people in it are known to quarrel too much almost always among themselves, still, those in it appear alright with the experience and feel no need to seek for either separation or divorce.

Marriages in this group show that the spouses are seen often quarrelling and nagging and are in the habit of throwing-up the past against one another. This they do not only in the presence or complete awareness of their immediate family members but also, often under the awareness of neighbours, close friends and relations. It is not every time of course that the couples in this group quarrel, nag or exchange verbal barbs openly. At times, they may only do so discretely, gently and politely. But in whichever fashion they tend to manifest this, what is typical in these marriages is the incessant inter-spouse conflict and in-fighting. Although when in the company of others they may try to quarrel gently yet when in a party, they may not be able to control their usual aggressive temper against each other more especially after a few drinks have been taken at a cock-tail party when the verbal barbs may then fly from one to the other.

Another serious common characteristic of marriages in this group is that parental quarrel, nagging and throwing up of the past, usually take place even in front of their children. This means that such couples do not know how to settle their differences under the cover of their bedrooms but rather usually do so openly and may even at times try to draw their children into a formation of an alliance one against the other. All these go to influence neighbours, friends and even the couples themselves to begin to doubt whether they are really made for each other in building up the marriage. But still such couples tend to go on with their pattern and do with time get used to the discomfort and shame of having to wash their dirty leanings in public.

Couples in this typology in fact often learn to regard this pattern as their only known way of (1) relating with one another; (2) of finding their identity in the marriage and (3) of making their point in the marriage in the most effective way.

It is good of course to mention at this juncture that under the conflict-habituated marriage, couples can at times suspend their quarrels and aggression with each other, in times of crisis or need. For instance, when one spouse is in trouble the other can come out to be of help but when the trouble is over, they go back to their old and combatant way of relating with each other.

It is this very point that one of the spouses found in this group was trying to confirm when he stated during an interview which Cuber and Harroff (1968:210) had with him, saying:

“A number of times there have been a crisis, like the time I was in the automobile accident, and the time she almost died in child birth, and then I guess we really showed that we do care about each other. But as soon as the crisis is over, it’s business as usual.

In trying to explain the basis for the existence and survival of marriages of this nature, some psychiatrists have made bold to suggest that it is precisely the deep need to do psychological battle with one another which constitutes the cohesive factor insuring the continuity of the marriage (Cuber and Harrof 1968). But it is possible to speculate that part of the cause for this pattern of interaction is based on wrong early modeling from the spouses’ families orientation, or else from peer insinuation which try to instigate and encourage in some couples the point of view that to track down one’s spouse before it is too late one has to be up and doing and ready to match force with force as occasions demand. However, the survival of most of such marriages must be based, all in all, to this writer’s mind, Cuber and Harrof (1968) largely on the ability of ach spouse to make his or her needed contribution to the growth of the marriage.

2.2.2 The Devitalised Marriage:

The major characteristic of devitalized marriages according to Cuber and Harroff (1968) is that during the early years of the marriage, the couples were originally “deeply in love”; were used to spending a great deal of their time together; had enjoyed frequent sexual experience with one another and most crucial of all, have had a close identification with one another. With the turning of the years however, this tempo of love, attention, and identification with one another then starts to decline and when this happens the following behaviours among the couples will start to show up:

1. Little time is spent together by them:
2. Their sexual relationships become far less satisfying qualitatively and quantitatively, with the result that the relationship with each other becomes more and more mechanical and less thrilling; and
3. Interests and activities formerly engaged in together will no longer be shared, at least, not in the deeper and meaningful way they once were, (Cuber and Harroff 1968).

This situation usually starts in most of such marriages with the arrival of one or two children in the marriage, at which time, most of the attention of the couple more especially that of the mother will begin to be more directed to the care and welfare of the children. To confirm the authenticity of this trend, one of the housewives belonging to this typology had related their observations about changes in their marriage across the years in the following works:

Judging by the way it was when we were first married say the first five years or so-things are pretty matter-of-fact now even dull. They are dull between us I mean. The children are a lot of fun, keep us pretty busy, and there are lots of outside things. But I mean where Bob and I are concerned if you followed around, you'd wonder why we really got married. We take each other (now) for granted. We laugh at the same things sometimes, but we don't really laugh together the way we used to (p. 212)

The above sentiments try to demonstrate that under the devitalized mode of marriage, marital relationships which began on a high tempo of love and attention for the couples do gradually begin to decline with the turning of the years. Some couples in this group of course, usually take this trend for granted, accepting that this gradual turning of the events or the systematic decline in their crescendo of love relationships should be accepted as how things ought to be; since in life, they believe, things never remain the same for people all the time. To confirm this attitude of resignation to fate by the couples towards their marriage at this time, the house wife quoted above had this to say again:

Now, I don't say this to complain, not in the least. There's a cycle of life. There are things you do in high school. And different things you do in college. Then you're a young adult. And then you're middle-aged. That's where we are now. I'll admit that I do yearn for the old days when sex was a big thing and going out was fun and I hung unto everything he said about his work and his ideas as if they were coming from a genius or something. But then you get the children and other responsibilities. I have the home and Bob has a tremendous burden of responsibility at the office... You are to adjust to these things and we both try to, gracefully (p. 212).

Not all couples in this typology would of course admit that things must get duller about their relationship with the turning of the years. Some like the woman quoted below do really complain against such a downward trend. The woman states thus:

I know I'm fighting it. I ought to accept that it has to be like this but I don't like it, and I'd do, almost anything to bring back the exciting way of living we had at first. Most of my friends think I'm some sort of sentimental, romantic or something - they tell me to act my age but I do know some people not very damn many who are our age and even older, who still have the same kind of excitement about them and each other that we had when we were all in college. I've seen some of them at parties and other places the way they look at each other, the little touches as they go by. Some couples have grand children and you'd think

they were honey mooners. I don't think it's just sex either I think they are just part of each other's lives - and then when I think of us and the numb way we sort of stagger through the weekly routine, I could scream. And I've even thought of doing some pretty desperate things to try to build some joy and excitement into my life. I've given up on Phil. He's too content with his balance sheets and the kids' report cards and the new house we're going to build next year. He keeps saying he has everything in life that any man could want. What do you do? (p. 213)

One major thing to be detected from these observations is that under the devitalized marital relationship, the emotional aspect of the relationship has usually become a void. This is because the basic thrust of the complaints communicated in the last quotation for instance is that the original zest in such marriages usually wanes with the years. And even though no overt sign of tension or conflict is known to be rampant in such marriages; the interplay between the pair is usually apathetic and lifeless as years roll by.

In the African context, many circumstances can cause this trend to develop in a marriage. One of such circumstances is the forced separation which some young couples suffer due to job transfers whereby one spouse may be transferred away from his or her original place of work to another distant city where the pair will remain separated from each other except on holidays and other related periods when they may then have the opportunity of meeting each other once more. Such forced separation experience dislocates the growing pattern of interdependences between the couples, and through this the initial zest cannot but collapse at the forced routine loneliness that the pair is made to suffer at this stage.

Among the business men and traders, of course, the devitalisation process may occur due to constant business trips which most of the business husbands do engage in even right from the early part of the marriage. The problem is compounded in this case

by the fact that most of such trips often do last for weeks or months before the husband can come back to the new wife. Such situations create in the growing relationship a constant emotional void especially for the spouse remaining at home.

Practical every day experience in Nigeria often tend to show that much temptation for infidelity is created in this kind of marital relationship due to such long range forced separation of the spouses from one another, producing the emotional void we have been talking about. Effort is therefore needed to see that the devitalisation phenomenon is controlled as much as possible by all young couples if the marriage is to remain intact to serve the comfort and growth of each of the parties.

2.2.3 The Passive Congenial Marriage:

Marriages in this group resemble those discussed under the devitalized typology. However, on a deeper consideration most marriages in this typology are different from those under the devitalized mode in the sense that unlike in the case of the devitalized relationships the couples under this model are not known to have first begun on a high pitch of deep over for one another and then later on slacked down in their appreciation and love for one another. Rather, the major characteristic of marriages in this typology is that right from the start the couples knew where they were going; had a moderated attention and sentiment for the marriage, or were low-keyed or not over-enthusiatic about the marriage and their love for one another vis-à-vis their other interests in life. Besides, it is discovered that, with marriages in this typology, it is the same average love and attention to the marriage they began with that they often try to continue with throughout the marriage. Hence specific characteristic of marriages in this typology include the fact that in it, the couples not only believe in the importance of doing things together in the marriage, but also assume that other important aspects of their life in the world, such as attention to their professional growth and development

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should not be sacrificed at the altar of the marriage. Based on this conviction, most couples under this typology focus their minds, not only on the need to see to the success of their marriage, but also on the need to see that emphasis is placed equally on performance in civic and professional responsibilities, acquisition of property, attention to children and to the growth of their reputation within the community. This trend is possible because with marriages under this typology, couples have their minds set on the feeling that success in life does not just mean success in married life but rather success in more diversified life opportunities. In other words, a strong characteristic of marriages in this model is that within them couples are facilitated for achievement of other life goals (beside marriage) considered equally significant in their own eyes. This goes to explain why it is often said that the passive congenial mode of marriage enables people who desire a considerable amount of personal independence and freedom to realize it with a minimum of inconvenience from or to the spouse (Cuber and Harroff 1968).

To give a little insight into the way professionals who follow the passive congenial mode of marriage feel and think, one dedicated physician in this group was presented by Cuber and Harroff (1968:215) as saying:

“I don’t know why everyone seems to make so much about men and women and marriage. Of course, I’m married and if anything happens to my wife I’d get married again. I think it’s the proper way to live. It’s convenient, orderly, and solves a lot of problems. But there are other things in life. I spent nearly ten years preparing for the practice of my profession. The biggest thing to me is the practice of that profession; to be of assistance to my patients, and their families. I spend twelve hours a day at it. And I’ll bet if you talked with my wife, you wouldn’t get any of that trapped housewife stuff from her either. Now that the children are grown, she finds a lot of useful and necessary work to do in this community. She works as hard as I do”.

From the sentiments of the physician just quoted one can see that couples in the passive congenial relationships simply do not wish to invest their total emotional involvement and creative effort in the marriage, or in any other male female relationship either. It is this mode of marital typology therefore that appeals to those couples whose interests and creative energies demand to be directed elsewhere than toward the pairing—"onto careers, or in the case of women, into children or community activities."

Cuber and Harroff (1968) of course assume that couples can make their way into this mode of marriage by two quite different routes by default and by intention. By this observation they mean that in some instances people can arrive at this way of living and feeling by mere chance; or because they happen to have little or nothing which they have cared about deeply in each other that a passive congenial mode of marriage is a deliberately intended arrangement; whereby participants are spared the need to give a great deal of their personal attention to "adjusting to the spouse's needs".

It needs be mentioned that it is not always possible that a passive congenial mode of marriage will be "congenial" for all involved. It is more hitch free and less conflict prone where the two parties making up a give marriage are both "passive" and low-keyed about sex relations in marriage. Conflicts and other related complications will therefore begin to arise where one of the married pair appears not quite comfortable with the type of apathetic life that is usual under the passive congenial typology. Cases of infidelity and sometimes divorce arise in this typology due to this kind of incompatibility of pairing. Some cases of infidelity for instance can occur under the passive congenial mode, where the less comfortable male/female (because he needs more spirit or life in the marriage for instance) happens to meet an outsider who satisfied the urge in him or her but which the partner under this mode of marriage all

along meets an opposite friend outside who satisfied his or her dire need for more sex relations in the marriage, the passive congenial partner that had located this new and richer life opportunity may put up for divorce should the new affair he or she is involved in be discovered and disputed about. This situation will be of more rampant occurrence in passive congenial marriages involving a considerably old man and a very tender and younger girl from the village. The old man, due to his failing strength and tenor may in this case be more comfortable with the passive congenial mode of marriage, while on the other hand the younger wife may appear comfortable for sometime till she is able to come across an outside friend who can give her more sexual pounding than she has been used to all along. When this happens, she will have been able to get convinced that the passive congenial way of marriage is not, after all, the only opportunity she really has. And should the husband discover the new booty she has captured and try to frown about it, the young girl or wife may threaten to quit the marriage.

The passive congenial marriage in other words is only a congenial mode of life when a marriage takes place between males of the same emotional temperature, and as we have said earlier, between people who have less interest in each other or in all man woman relationship generally than they do with other engagements of life. This is why it is therefore of little wonder to hear from the account of Cuber and Harroff (1968) that many a time marriages under this typology involve couples who belong to the same occupation, have the same common interests, agree completely on religious and political matters, and often like listening to classical music. The homogony principles then are at work in most of such marriages.

2.2.4 The Vital Marriage:

Marriages under the vital typology contrast sharply with others in the three groups mentioned above. This is because in this typology couples take and try to live out a romantic view of their marriage. And that is because they consider their marriage as the most vital aspect of their life in this world, and try to accord the marriage their first pride of place, and see it as the first thing that should count in their lives together.

To ensure that they make the most out of their marital experience then couples in this group, tend to be intensely bound together. In this regard of a genuine, honest type; they see in their ability to share things together the life essence of their existence as couples. Hence for them activities of life have no meaning for each spouse unless the other spouse is also involved in them. This is because the presence of the male is in this typology considered indispensable to the feelings of satisfaction which the activity provides. Any life activity in other words, is flat and uninteresting for such couples if the other spouse is not a part of it. Hence couples in this group end to share the same hobbies, enter the same careers, join the same religious organizations/societies such as being in the same Choir, in the same Charismatic Renewal Movement and in the same St. Jude Society or Deeper Life Fellowship, just to mention but a few.

In addition to all these too, for couples in this group (their) life of sharing permeates almost everything they do in this world. Hence such couples would always try to eat together, visit friends together, recreate themselves together, bath together, sleep together, go to market together, go to church together, and where it is possible would like to share Sunday Readings together, the husband taking the first reading and the wife the second. Where the two of them cannot all read on the same day, they would rather leave off reading entirely.

The most important characteristic of marriages in this group is of course the fact that couples who follow this mode of life believe in the supremacy (as we have already said) of their marriage above all other considerations and are always ready and willing to forgo other activities of life in order to ensure that their marriage remains strong and vibrant.

In support of this orientation to extreme commitment to the marriage common among couples in this group, Cuber and Harroff (1968) quoted one spouse in this group as confessing thus:

I cheerfully, and that is putting it mildly, passed up two good promotions because one of them would have required some traveling and the other would have taken evening and weekend time and that's when Pat and I live. The hours with her (after twenty-years of marriage) are what I live for. You should meet her...

With this entire evidence one can see that marriages in this group are really in the minority the world over. For their life style, do times, tend to appear incomprehensible, because the major characteristic orientation championed in this case, would appear often to conflict with what is possible in the real life situation. It is for instance very difficult to practice in real life situation. It is for instance very difficult to practice in African communities where in most social functions men and their wives are not often expected to sit in the same place, to eat from the same plate and to drink from the same cup, but may be required to stay according to their own sex groups: men with men, and women with women.

We need of course to mention that in as much as couples in such marriages tend to value more, everything they do together, as couples. Yet they do not by that very fact lose their separate identities in this group can times be rivalrous or competitive with one another and in some few cases among them, open conflict can occur. One thing,

however, which is special about couples in this group, is that unlike those under the conflict habituated marriages, their conflict does not arise from trifles of life but rather on issues that they regard as important to their lives: such as concerns the question of which college their daughter or son should attend. This means that rarely do they disagree like those in the conflict habituated marriage on such trifles as “who said what first and when”, or “I can’t forget when you...”

Yet another significant difference between marriages in this typology as opposed to those in the first typology relates to the fact that couples who belong to this typology tend to settle disagreements quickly and seek to avoid conflicts, as much as possible. This is as opposed to life in the conflict habituated typology where the couples routinely look forward to conflict and appear to operate by an informal rule that conflict is the soul of success in marriage; and that the other spouse can never be considered right. The two kinds of conflicts (those in the vital, and those in the conflict habituated relationships) are therefore said to belong to radically different perspectives.

Perhaps the final point about the nature of life in marriages that belong to this mode is the fact-that whereas in the case of conflict-habituated typology infidelity is practiced merely as hostility weapon; while in the case of the vital relationships infidelity can occur where one spouse happens to get bored with over familiarity with the other spouse; or rather feels the need to get emancipated from the strange hold and clutches of the emotional grips of the other.

2.2.5 The total marriage:

The total marriage refers to one where the two partners are, as in the case of the vital model of marriage, very close to each other, and try to do things together. However, marriages in this group are said to be richer than marriages in the vital typology. This is because, in the total relationship, the couples are not just after being

in each other's presence in all things they do in life, but are able to give both their marriage and their other aspects of life the pride of attention that each appears to deserve. Hence, while in the case of vital relationship, the couples appear almost as made for one another in the sense of wanting to remain in the company of each other every now and then, and would really give their marriage first place, and if possible, close up from outside commitments, couples in the total relationship try as much as possible to be effectively married without however having to lose grip of their total vital concerns of life. The total marriage is thus total in the important sense that the couples share and distribute their attention to their various aspects of life and not just their attention to their various aspects of life and not just to their life together in marriage.

What all these would mean then is that whereas in the case of the vital relationship, where one of the spouses can accept to lose a promotion rather than get it and stay away from the other spouse, in the case of the total marriage, the couple will discuss the promotion opportunity with one another and will finally decide on how it can be accepted and still they can retain the vitality of the marriage. One way the couple may try to achieve this is for the traveling spouse to see that he or she does always keep in touch (e.g through letter writing and telephone calls) to ensure that he/she remains close to the other spouse throughout the days or weeks or months they would stay apart from one another.

Cuber and Harroff (1968) confirming this illustration cited the case of one marriage in this typology which they came across during their study. The marriage in question involves a husband who is an internationally known scientist. The marriage has lasted for thirty years, and throughout that period, the wife, it was discovered, has been for him a friend, mistress, and partner. The husband in his own case is discovered

to still go home at noon whenever possible, even at considerable inconvenience to himself, to have a quiet lunch and a conversational hour (the type he refers to as their little seminar) with his wife.

One major quality of marriages in this group is thus, the ability of each of the spouses to shift roles according to need, rather than to stick to the thinking that marriage is marriage in just being, for the economic provider for the home, (in the case of the husband) or a good bed fellow to the husband (in the case of the wife). Healthy and total kind of marital relationship on the other hand, requires elaborate role differentiation and the ability of each spouse to perform a variety of roles in the marriage and in the society.

The description given above should not of course be taken to mean that marriages in this group are without their occasional tensions. Like all marriages, occasions for tensions exist with them too. But unlike other marriages, the items of difference which arise once in a while among them are usually settled as soon as they arise. Even serious differences that do arise in such marriages are usually handled, "sometimes by compromise, sometimes by one or the other yielding"; each time, the main consideration being not who is right or who was wrong, but how the problem could be resolved without causing a bruise to the unity of the marriage. Hence in total marital relationships, the endearing thing about the couples is that when faced with differences, they can and do dispose of the difference without losing their feeling of unity or their sense of vitality and centrality of the relationship (Cuber and Harroff 1968).

In addition to this, one other major thing which Cuber and Harroff discovered in the course of their study of a consulting engineer whose marriage belong to this typology is that the various parts of the total relationship are reinforcing. This fact is

learnt from the account of the consulting engineer whose company frequently sends abroad by his co-operation. In talking about his relationship with his wife even as he does all these travels, he remarks as follows:

She keeps my files and scrapbooks up to date... I invariably take her with me to conferences around the world. Her femininity, easy charm and wit are invaluable assets to me. I know it's conventional to say that a man's wife is responsible for his success and I also know that it's often not true. But in any case I gladly acknowledge that it's is not only true but she's indispensable to me. But she'd go along with me even if there is nothing for her to do because we just enjoy each other's company deeply. You know the best part of a vacation is not what we do, but that we do it together. We plan it and reminisce about it and weave it into our work and other play all the time. (p. 222).

Cuber and Harroff (1968) reported that the engineer's wife's own account is substantially the same except that her testimony demonstrates more vividly the geniuses of her "help" to the husband: Her testimony runs as follows:

It seems to me that Bert exaggerates my help. It's not so much that I only want to help him; it's more that I do these things any way. We do them together, even though we may not be in each other's presence at the time. I don't really know what I do for him and what he does for me. (p. 222).

This concordance introduces the final point about the nature of life in the total marital relationships. And that is that: there is practically no pretense between persons in the total relationship or between them and the world outside. The peace between the couple is not of a make believe type. It is something that is natural to the pattern of the marriage: That is, a relationship where the growth and happiness of the one is the concern and preoccupation of the other, and an arrangement where the total rather than partial life of one is positively influenced and enriched by the concern and efforts of the other.

Marriages of this kind are of course generally rare. But as Cuber and Harroff went on to emphasize, there are times when one can find relationships that are so total that all aspects of life of the partners in the relationship are mutually shared and enthusiastically participated in. Hence in such relationships, it usually looks like neither partner "has or has had a truly private existence" (Cuber and Harroff, 1968). In line with this opinion one can say that some few marriages in Nigeria do approach to this level of quality of life.

2.3 Concept of wife battering:

There is a problem in defining wife battering because some violence is considered normal and not problematic, that sometimes the victim can in fact feel that she truly deserved to be beaten (Gelles, 1972). What is considered normal for one individual may be abnormal for another. Goods (1971) suggests that force is the sanctioned use of physical control. With these definitions, it is difficult to say categorically which one is sanctioned and which one is unsanctioned when cases of wife battering are involved.

Gelles (1980) addresses the difficulty in defining abuse or violence in the family. He hypothesize that this difficulty arises because much of the physical abuse, such as hitting (in the family) is culturally approved and normatively accepted. Violence between spouses may often be viewed as normatively and in fact mandated in family relations. Wives reported that they believe that it is acceptable for a husband to beat his wife "every once a while" (Gelles, 1972).

According to the Oxford Advanced Learner's Dictionary, "battered" means "to be beaten out of shape". Abuse is defined as to treat in a harmful or offensive way. Battered or abused was used interchangeable in the research though battered is more severe than abuse. Scott (1974) defines abused or battered woman as someone who

suffered serious or repeated injury from the man with whom she lives. This definition includes both physical and psychological abuse. The physical abuse includes: rape, spouse battering and any form of observable harm inflicted on a woman. Experts emphasize the definition of this violence as a “welfare problem derived from psychological or interpersonal difficulties. This diverts attention from the severity of the violence Hatty, (1986). Rownsaville (1978) defines battered wife as a woman whose intimate opposite sex/partner has used violent/physical force upon her.

Although, the lack of common definition of abuse makes it difficult to determine the type and extent of abusive incidence, the characteristics of the victims and the batterers seem to be consistent.

2.3.1 Characteristics of battered wives

Wife battering seems to cut across all socio-economic status. The literature indicates that this problem is prevalent in all socio-economic and at all occupational levels (Straus, 1980; U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, 1978). There are some characteristics in these women that make their husbands think they deserve battering.

Walker (1978) interviewed battered women representative of all ages, races, religions, educational levels. The common characteristics of battered women that emerged are as follows:

1. Low self-esteem
2. A belief in all the myths characteristic of battering relationship (e.g. “I must have done something to deserve this”. “This man needs me”. “He will change”. “He was drunk when he did it”. “It is the man’s right to strike his wife and children”).
3. A belief in traditional value regarding the family, home and sex role stereotypes.

4. Acceptance of responsibility for the abuser's action.
5. Feeling of guilt and denial, of terror and anger.
6. Passive behaviour and inability to manipulate their environment to protect themselves.
7. Severe stress reaction with psychosomatic complaints.
8. Use of sex to establish intimacy.
9. A belief that they are the only one who can resolve the issue.

In addition, Bell (1977) adds the following characteristics: insecurity and isolation, conviction that spouse or partner will reform, economic depression, doubts and getting along in hostile world and fear of stigma of divorce.

According to Rowsaville (1978), some women who required medical treatment for being battered do not seek it and when they sought it, they did not say exactly what had happened. One woman almost died because she only presented the injury on her toes. There are a very large group of women who present to private practitioners or to no personnel at all. Interview shows that many are unwilling to seek medical attention. As one woman stated "until recently my mother was my nurse when I was hurt" (Scott, 1974).

Rowsaville (1978) stresses that most women described disbelief and deny their first reaction to the onset of battering. As one woman said "I couldn't believe that someone who loved me so much would want to hurt me...he always apologized and I tried to forget about it".

Some women stay with their husbands not because they love them but because of the fear of inability to manage on their own. The decision to leave usually comes after instigation from someone such as growing children, outside sexual partners or relative or after the woman had obtained a job.

Snell, Rosenwald and Robey (1964) observe that wives of abusive alcoholic husbands who had been battered for years finally leave when teenage children began to join the couple's quarrels. The decision to leave an abusive partner may be similar to the life change described by Levine (1974) as part of a mid-life self-evaluation.

Rownsaville (1978) in his semi-structured interview with battered women, Hale Emergency room and Hospital chart review, and New Haven Census Information by address, the information presented in the results section was obtained to understand the factors contributing to the use of mental health resources, the "follow through group was compared with the non-follow through group" on a number of socio-demographic and clinical characteristics. Many of the differences between the groups may be seen as manifestation of social resourcefulness.

Those that follow through are different in their ability to use public assistance of many kinds. Indicators of this are the non-follow through group's failure to seek police protection, failure to obtain medical insurance coverage, lack of a telephone and financial dependence on their partners. Failure to call police suggests a failure of woman to use readily available social resources to deter battering, lack of phone in the home makes contacting police or other helping agencies more difficult.

A higher percentage of battered wives are dependent on their husbands for income. Hence their relative power in the relationship diminished and their options for alternative are somewhat constricted. Gelles (1977) suggests that women with few outside resources are entrapped in abusive relationship. Battered wives frequently see their situation as hopeless and they express skepticism that anything could be done about their situation.

Truninger (1971) has proposed that the stronger the commitment to the marriage the less a wife seeks legal action against a violent husband. Here Gelles

(1980) went further by proposing that the fewer the resources a wife has in the marriage, the fewer alternatives she has to her marriage. And the more “entrapped” she is in the marriage, the more reluctant she will be to seek outside intervention. As a result, unemployed wives may not do anything when battered.

Gelles (1980) in his study found that while only 25 percent of those wives who sought no help worked, 50 percent of the wives who called the police, went to social service agency or were separated or divorced from their husbands held jobs. This confirms Gelles’ hypothesis that the more resources a wife has, the more she is able to support herself and her children, therefore, the more she will have a low threshold of violence and call outside agents or agencies to help her. So, the less dependent, on her husband, the more prone she is to call for help in instance of violence.

In addition, some wives reported that holding a job gave them a view of another world or culture. This new perspective made their own family problem more serious than they had felt when they were at home. One client of social service agency who had been battered by her husband reported that she sought agency service after she got her first job (Gelles, 1980). Some battered wives are also often lacking in skills needed by employers so their may not be able to find job.

The battered wife’s fear is that the myths of her peaceful family life will be exploded. Many women never think of calling the police, going to social work agency or filling for divorce because those actions will rupture the carefully nurtured myth of their fine family. One woman who had been battered often and had over 30 years marriage said she would never call the police because she was afraid it would appear in the papers. Tuninger (1971) supports the findings by stating that part of the reason why the court is ineffective in dealing with marital violence is the wrong social pressure on individual to keep marital alterations private.

The abused wife may unwittingly reinforce her abusive husband by her being unable to set limits against physical abuse, her tacit assumption because of fear or guilt that she deserves to be for that physical abuse is the only form of physical contact available to her.

The battered wife typically has a negative self-concept and low self-esteem. Her emotionally cautious tends to suppress her most feelings (especially anger), and tends to assume that she cannot change her situation (Hunt, & Rydman, 1979). Her background is often a cold restrictive childhood. Some women may have developed an expectation that physical violence is part of their relationship with a man. In spite of this, their intense dependency and desire to be accepted may create a willingness to put up with physical abuse in order to have their husband's attention and to have a place to stay.

2.3.2 Characteristics of battered husbands

Wife battering is not unique to any particular socio-economic status, race, religion, identifiable mental illness or personality disorder (Gelles, Steinmetz & Straus, 1980). Wife battering can occur in any family. Data indicate that the frequency and severity of abuse are related to the amount of conflict and verbal aggression between spouses (Gelles, 1977).

Abusive men are confused, frightened and guilt ridden about domestic violence. It is important to recognize that men, as well as women, are in pain. They are trapped in a destructive pattern that has severe, negative consequences for their mental health and adjustment as well as for their loved ones.

A wife batterer tends to deny that she has a problem and is likely to place the blame on her spouse when he is confronted with evidence about a violent incident (Wetzel & Ross, 1983). If forced to admit to have physically assaulted his wife, he

tends to minimize the extent of the aggression. He would describe it as “a light slap”, “a little push to get her out of the way”, or “holding her to keep her in control”, actions that actually resulted in injuries requiring hospitalization. He would usually say that it is only the first or second time it has ever happened. When the counselor presses the wife batterer for details about her husband’s problems that are related to battering, she tends to become defensive, often saying he really has no problem and suggesting that it is his wife who needs to change. The man is highly conscious of the stigma with psychotherapy and resists accepting treatment (Waldo, 1987).

Typically batterers are isolated having few friends with whom they could discuss their concerns (Benjamin & Walz, 1983). This is especially true when their concern is domestic violence. Shame often prevents most men from discussing this problem with anyone. It becomes a festering worry, causing considerable stress. The more severe the stress, the more the men need to hide it from others resulting in further isolation. This pattern contributes to low self-esteem which is also typical of wife batterers (Rouse, 1984). Isolation, coupled with low esteem, results in many of the men becoming highly dependent. They often become dependent on excessive amount of alcohol (Rosenbaum & O’Leary, 1981). Also dependency needs are almost always focused on the spouse.

Due to lack of ego strength, an abusive man chooses a spouse upon whom he can focus his dependency needs. His relationship to remain is highly dependent on his spouse he is not capable of developing other sources of emotional intimacy and validation (Bernard & Bernard, 1984). His need for her is so strong that he has trouble differentiating her as a separate human being, and he fails to recognize her thought, emotions and motivations. Furthermore, he expects that his wife will understand all of his thoughts and feelings. He is disappointed when his spouse does not anticipate and

satisfy his needs and he is out-raged when she does something that seems contrary to his desires.

Waldo (1987:386) observes the followings:

The man's acutely low-esteem makes him vulnerable to criticism and hypervigilant for threat to the relationship and in particular cause for jealousy. At the same time, he is not adopting as expressing his feelings or requesting what he wants. Most wife batterers perceived that they lose verbal argument with their spouses. They tend to remain passive while their feelings about each disappointment and perceived insults are dammed up adding to their reservoir of anger. Eventually, the dam breaks and they become violent with their spouses.

Giles-Sims (1983) also stresses that violence is rewarding to the wife batterers because in addition to relieving tension, it often resolves in a momentarily pleasing change in his spouse's behaviour. Having temporarily satisfied his esteem needs, he may then become extremely guilt-ridden and afraid that he will miss the relationship he is dependent on. He often tries to alleviate his spouse's fear and to win back her heart. In this phase, often called the "honeymoon" phase, the man experiences a heightened sense of intimacy and commitment, which also serves as a reward for having been violent.

Allen and Straus (1977) have also observed the following about wife batterers:

The abusive husband is also lacking in self-esteem and typically perceives his wife as having more resources than he has. Since personal power is associated with having the resources (that is ability, control, skills, etc), to gain ones objectives, it is the relative lack of resources of the husband, as he perceives himself in relation to his wife, that is perhaps most important. The abusive husband is likely to have grown up in the family situations in which his father physically abused his mother. Often he may feel abused or put down by others, such as employers or associates or parents. The one relationship left in which he might be able to dominate and reclaim his loss of sense of respect is with his wife but the violent method he uses have the opposite

effect. Since his wife does not set personal boundaries by refusing to accept initial violent treatment of her, the man may assume that his show of force is acceptable and appropriate. (p. 317)

When a man feels inferior everywhere else, his superior physical strength may be his last resort to get his way with his wife and children. The superior strength of husbands in relation to their wives thus regains loss of self-esteem.

Hanks and Rosenbaum (1977) researched on 22 women who lived with violence-prone alcohol-abusing men, who were physically abused by them. The researchers found that the men themselves expressed little, if any, bitterness, regret over the injury they inflicted on their women. The violent behaviour often tinged with a sadistic quality, appeared compatible with the men's self image, they are often hyper masculine type who felt justified in keeping women in their place.

2.3.3 Causes of wife battering

There are many studies of violence in marriage and in dating. Stez and Straus (1988) examined assaults on wives by their husbands. Data were obtained by telephone interviews in 1985 with a national probability sample of 6,002 households. The wife abuse data came from wives reports in 3,665 households containing a currently married or cohabiting couple. Survey questions measured drunkenness and drug abuse violence, and approval of violence. The sample was classified into three groups, non-abused wives, women who experienced minor violence in the hands of their partners and women who were the victims of severe assaults by their partners. Discriminate analysis was used to determine the extent to which these groups could be differentiated on the basis of 11 variables: 1) wife's drug use; 2) wife's drunkenness; 3) Husband's drug use; 4) husband's drunkenness; 5) low-income; 6) violence by victim's parents; 7) Housewife Status; 8) husband unemployment; 9) pregnancy; 10) violence norms; and

11) number of children. The result revealed that relative to other factors examined, husband's drug use was the most important predictor of wife abuse, and husband's drunkenness was second in importance. Women who drank heavily or used other drugs have a higher risk of being victims of wife abuse than did other woman. Other important factors were low income, unemployment and attitudes which tolerate violence.

Gelles (1972) in an in-depth interview of 80 families concludes that those families characterized by low education, occupational Status, and income are more likely to experience violence. Other structural conditions are explored, such as number of children, social isolation, role structure and pregnancy.

When some of the spatial and temporal dimensions of family violence usually take place in the privacy of the home with no outsiders present, usually in the kitchen, it usually takes place during the weekend in the evening or late evening. This information indicates that family violence usually takes place at a time and place where there is no one to turn to for help or any place to escape to. Many of the violent families are isolated from neighbours (Gelles, 1972).

Gelles (1977) suggests that women with few outside resources are entrapped in abusive relationship. One factor that may play a part in the social isolation and "entrapment" of battered women is the enforced contracted of their activities by sexually jealous controlling husbands.

The effect of the husband's occupational prestige on violence depends on the wife's prestige. Smith (1988) in his study of 2,143 American couples in 1926 used a questionnaire that was completed through interview of 960 men and 1,183 women. Characteristics measured were husband to wife violence, socio-economic status, status discrepancies between spouses, marital power, and status concern and background

variables. The relationship between husband's occupational prestige and husband to wife violence was found to vary according to the wife's occupational prestige. When the wife's status was low she has a relatively high probability of being assaulted regardless of the husband's prestige; and while high prestige wives had a lower risk of abuse overall, the chance of high status wives being victimized increased as their husband's prestige decreased.

Hatty (1986) in British survey notes that social workers rated money as the most significant precipitating factor of wife battering while general practitioners rated alcohol. This shows that both money and alcohol are important causes of wife battering. Alcohol consumption seems often to be associated with aggressive behaviour. Gelles (1974) compares the context and reasons for drinking of martially violent men and he found that at least one-half reported that drinking accompanied abusive events at least occasionally while one-third reported it often accompanied their abuse.

Those with religious differences have higher rate of wife battering. Gelles (1972) finds that those with religious difference have violence (67 percent) while those with no differences have less (48 percent). This shows that wife battering is caused by many factors depending on the couples.

2.3.4 Patterns and prevalence of wife battering

A recent study on battered women in Canberra, conducted by Hatty (1986) found that the extent to injury suffered by many of the women ranging from inconsequential to severe physical abuse is often inflicted through punching, Kicking or hitting (38 percent), attempted strangulation or smothering (16 percent) or use of weapon (13 percent). Stark and McEvoy (1970) find three major categories of resolving marital conflict which are discussion, verbal aggression, and physical

aggression (such as throwing something at each other pushing or grabbing, hitting each other with fist or hitting with an object).

Arias and Johnson (1968) in evaluating physical aggression in marriage, observe that the occurrence of physical aggression in marriage is quite high but there is distinction between ordinary violence (frequent slapping, pushing) and severe violence (less frequent use of hitting with objects or use of lethal weapons). Wife battering can go to the extent of killing the wife.

In Sokoto State social welfare centre, the records show that there are some women that are battered yearly, but only few had the courage to report at the centre.

Table 1: Women that reported being beaten at Sokoto State Social Welfare Centre

Year	Family Cases	Kindred	Total
2001	2	2	4
2002	42	16	58
2003	79	80	159
2004	99	51	150
2005	40	18	58
2006	67	53	120
2007	53	54	107

Source: Social Welfare Record Sokoto, 2001-2007

The number of women being beaten up by their spouses in Nigeria is not known. There are many cases settled with family elders and some with immediate family that are not brought up under the record of the social workers.

A study on battered women in Canberra of Australia conducted by Hatty (1986) finds that victims indicated that the last reported incident was characterized by the following: Thirteen percent of victims were sexually assaulted, 22 percent sustained severe injuries, such as broken bones, internal injuries, or loss of consciousness, and 66

percent experienced severe bruising, lacerations, or blood loss. Violence typically occurred once a week for 24 percent of the victims, and daily for 16 percent of the victims. In a quarter of the sample, the violence had been continuing for fifteen to twenty years or longer and for 37 percent of women, the violence had persisted for five to ten years.

Straus (1973) using a sample of college students, found that 16 percent reported that their parents used physical force to resolve marital conflicts during that last year. Also Gelles (1974) in an intensive interview of 80 families reported that about 60 percent of the husbands and wives had used physical aggression during a marital conflict.

Rownsaville (1978) identifies thirty-five (35) women from the semi-structured interview with the abused women. Although twenty-eight (28) out of the thirty-five (35) agreed to an emergency psychiatric consultation, yet only thirteen (13) kept their follow-up appointments. Although the questions were not asked of all subjects, eight (21.6%) stated that their partners had threaten to kill them if they left and six (16.2%) stated that their partners had beaten them while they were pregnant. One would wonder if it ever occurred to them that they might injure or even kill the innocent baby they jointly conceived.

Also Gelles (1972) obtains data from two towns in New Hampshire, U.S.A. through the cooperation of social work and from the police records of "family problem" calls. In addition a neighbouring family of each of these cases was interviewed. Over half (55 percent) of the sampled families had engaged in at least one incidence of conjugal violence and 26 percent of the sample practiced violence on a regular basis, ranging from six times in a year to every day. Respondents reported that there are numerous occasions where family violence was considered routine or normal

and thus need little justification. These incidences of normal violence were left to be legitimate and even necessary for the family. They were considered normal because they were seen as instruments in accomplishing goals.

In another research done by Smith (1980), data was drawn based on a cross-sectional sample of 2,143 American couples, 1,839 couples reporting no violence and 250 couples reporting violence in the past year. Although, the number of battered women identified was large (considering the general neglect of the issue), there is reason to believe that this represent a small picture of the extent of the problem. Firstly, only those who admitted to abuse were identified. In an interview a number of the women admitted that they had hidden their being abused and lied about the source of their injuries at previous emergency room presentations. Secondly, of those women presenting to surgery, only few were asked due to error of personnel or low index of suspicion of the injury Rownsaville (1978). Thirdly, there are a very large group of women who present to a private practitioner or administer the treatment themselves. Rownsaville interview reveal that many are unwilling to seek medical attention.

2.3.5 Effect of wife battering on children

There are previous studies that have shown that receiving abuse as a child or observing violence between parents correlate with expressing violence as an adult (Bernard & Bernard, 1984; Laner & Thompson, 1982; Steinmetz, 1977). Kalmuss (1984) finds that receiving and observing abuse as a teenage between parents led to an increased receipt of violence as an adult. Straus, Gelles and Steinmetz (1980) also realize that spouse battering increased from 2% to 200% as a function of having parents who abused each other.

Previous studies that were done on different violent act like studies of murderers (Gultmacher, 1960), child abusers (Gil, 1971; Gelles, 1974; Kempe, 1952;

Steele & Pollock, 1974) and violent spouses (Gelles, 1974; Owen & Straus, 1975) support the assumption that the more an individual is exposed to violence as a child (both as an observer or as a victim) the more he or she is violent as an adult. The experience teaches the observer how to be violent and also to approve of the use of violence. In other words, exposure to violence provides a "role model" for violence (Singer, 1971). If experience with violence provides a role model for the offender, then perhaps it can provide a role model for being a victim.

Women who observed spousal violence in their family orientation were more likely to be victims of conjugal violence in their later families of procreation. Of the twelve women who observed their parents exchange blows, all of them were victims of violent attacks.

Gelles (1980) gives two interrelated reasons why women who were exposed to or were victims of interfamilial violence would be prone to be the victims of family violence as adults. It is possible that the more experience with violence a woman is, the more she is inclined to approve the use of violence in the family. She may grow up with the expectation that husbands are "supposed" to hit wives, and this role expectation may in turn become the motivator for her husband to use violence on her. Another explanation of these findings integrates the subculture theory of violence (Wolfgang & Ferracuti, 1967) with homogamy theory of mate selection (Center, 1974; Ecklund, 1968; Hollingshead, 1950). Thus, it could be argued that women who grew up in surroundings which include and approved of family violence are more likely to marry a man who is prone to the use of violence.

Gelles (1972) scrutinizes the training for violence. It seems that those who use violence tend to learn it from their parents. The more one is exposed to violence as a child the more one learns to use violence later in married life. However, many (30

percent) of those who do not remember observing conjugal violence in their family of orientation fight with their spouses while 50 percent of those who remember observing violence also fight their spouses.

Steinmetz's (1977) research finds that children reared in a family setting where physical violence, such as spouse beating was a frequent occurrence were likely to commit physical violence acts such as rape, murder and assault themselves. Furthermore, Dublin, Lourie and Silver (1969) also finds that many abusive parents were simultaneously engaged in spouse beating and their children were rapidly accumulating criminal records for committing physical violent acts in future family life.

2.3.6 Summary

From the review of the literature on causes and patterns of wife battering, it has been found that wife battering is not what will phase out with improvement in socio-economic status. There have been many causes of wife battering identified by researchers. These included alcoholism, low income, low education, occupational status, religious differences, drug use and house wife status. Wife battering also has social and psychological effect on the wives and children. From the review of literature it seems as if not much research studies have been done on wife battering in Nigeria. Earlier researches indicated that although the society approves of wife battering, it is an ugly thing that our government should look into.

CHAPTER THREE

METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction:

This chapter discusses the relevant information concerning the design of the study population, the sample and procedure for sampling, the instrument to be used, its reliability and validity. It also describes the method of administration of the questionnaire, scoring and data analysis technique.

3.2 Research design:

The research design adopted for this study is the simple descriptive survey method. According to Durosaro (1985), descriptive survey method tries to collect information from a representative group and based on such information, inferences are drawn about the behaviour of the entire population. He stresses that survey method has advantage of being an effective way of collecting data from a large number of sources within a short time and it is relatively inexpensive.

In view of these factors, the survey method has been chosen for this study which investigates the causes and patterns of wife battering as perceived by married couples in Sokoto State.

3.3 Population of the study:

The population of the study is entire Sokoto State marriage couples. According to 2006 population and housing census of the federal republic of Nigeria priority tables volume 1 Sokoto State has 1,432,584 married couples.

Table 2; Married couples in Sokoto State

Male	622,003
Female	810,581
Total	1,432,584

The population is homogenous, that is, the couples are of same cultural background, same religion and same tribe the age of the marriage couples starts from fifteen years.

3.4 Samples size:

A sample represents the parent population. Therefore a sample should have the same characteristic with the main population. According to Kreycie & Morgan, (1971) "Determining Sample size for Research Activities" population above one million should have a sample size of three hundred and eighty four (384). Therefore, the sample size for study was three hundred and eighty-four (384) married couples in Sokoto State.

3.5 Sampling Techniques:

Ten (10) Local Governments were sampled out of twenty-three (23) Local Government using simple random sampling techniques. Three hundred and eighty-four (384) questionnaires was distributed among the ten (10) Local Governments areas. Thirty-eight (38) questionnaires were given to thirty-eight (38) respondents in six (6) sampled Local Governments while thirty-nine (39) questionnaires were given to thirty-nine respondents in four (4) sampled Local Governments. The Local Governments were Kebbe, Dange/Shuni, Yabo, Gudu, Silami, Illela, Sokoto North, Sokoto South, Tambuwal, and Wamakko.

3.6 Instrumentation:

The instrument used for the collection of data for this study was a questionnaire. The questionnaire was designed by the researcher based on the literature reviewed on title- "Causes and Patterns of wife battering Questionnaire" (CPWBQ).

The instrument (CPWBQ) consisted of two parts; the first part required the respondents to give some background information such as sex, length of marriage and

religion. Name of the respondents were not required to assure them of confidentiality. The second part is divided into two sections. Section one is to collect information on the individual of their opinions on what they think is the causes of wife battering. Section two is to collect information on what they think are patterns of wife battering. The options presented in the questionnaire are based on yes or no answer to be ticked by the respondents.

3.6.1 Validity:

Fox (1969) stresses that for any data gathering procedure like questionnaire; content validity is the strongest technique available to researchers. According to Ipaye (1982), content validity is concerned with whether or not the behaviour demonstrated in testing represents a fair sample of the universe of behaviour to be measured. In view of this, the researcher gave the constructed instrument to some lecturers in the department of Educational Foundations for vetting and for content validity. The comments made by the lecturers were noted and some items were included and some were adjusted. Finally the content validity was adjudged for the instrument.

3.6.2 Reliability of the Instrument:

Reliability is to test the score over time. The researcher used the test-retest reliability technique to determine reliability of consistency of the instrument. The test was administered to 20 married males and females and after four weeks, the same questionnaire was re-administered to the same set of people.

The test was scored and the two sets of data collected were correlated using the Pearson Product Moment Correlation Co-efficient to give reliability index of 0.72 which was considered high enough for this research.

3.6.3 Administration of questionnaire and data collection procedure

The researcher used research assistants. The assistants were trained on how to administer the questionnaire.

3.7 Method of data analysis:

Being a qualitative research the data was allowed to speak for itself. Therefore, simple percentages frequencies, and tallies were used.

CHAPTER FOUR

ANALYSIS AND PRESENTATION OF DATA

4.0 Introduction

This chapter presents the findings based on the research questions generated in chapters one, two and discussion of the findings respectively. The main purpose of the study was to determine the causes and patterns of wife battering as perceived by married couples in Sokoto State. Simple percentages and frequencies were used to analyze the findings.

4.1 Data Analysis

4.1.1 Research Question 1: Does relationship exist between causes and patterns of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State.

Table 3: Responses on relation between causes and patterns of wife battering.

Responses	Yes		No	
	No. of response	Percentage	No. of response	Percentage
Cause of wife battering	238	62%	146	38%
Pattern of wife battering	287	75%	97	25%

Source researchers field work 2009

From the table above it can be seen that the number positive responses in the causes and patterns of wife battering is higher while the negative responses are low. This indicates that relationship do exist between causes and patterning of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State.

4.1.2 Research Questions 2: Are there any causes of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State?

Table 4.1: Distribution of respondent on the basis of sex, length of marriage, and ethnic groups in frequency counts and percentage.

Variables	Groups	Frequency	Percentages
Sex	Male	181	47.14
	Female	203	52.86
	Total	384	100
Length of Marriage	0-5years	99	25.78
	6-10years	84	21.88
	11-19years	107	27.84
	Above 20years	93	24.46
	Total	384	100
Ethnic Groups	Same Ethnic Group	345	89.84
	Deferent Ethnic Group	39	10.16
	Total	384	100

Source; Researchers field work 2009.

Table 4.1 above presents the distribution of respondents by frequency count and percentage. It shows that one hundred and eighty one (181) male and two hundred and three (203) female participated in the research. There were four groups with different lengths of marriage duration ranging from 0-5 years; 6-10 year's 11-19 years and 20 and above. The distributions were 99; 84; 107; 93 respectively. In terms of ethnic groups differences those from the same ethnic group were three hundred and fourty-five (345) while those from different ethnic group were thirty-nine (39). Out of two hundred and three (203) female respondent, one hundred and ninety-nine (199) female respondents said that they have never been beaten by their husbands and the remaining four (4) respondent accepted that they have been beaten by their husbands, and out of one hundred and eighty-one (181) male that responded to the questionnaires one hundred and seventy-eight (178) reported that they have never have cause to beat their wives but the remaining three (3) accepted that they use to beat their wives.

Table 4.2: Item by item analysis in frequency counts and percentages of the causes of wife battering.

ITEMS	YES		NO		NO RESPONSE	
	FREQ	%	FREQ	%	FREQ	%
1.	324	84.38	54	14.06	6	1.56
2.	267	69.53	108	28.13	9	2.34
3.	210	54.69	160	41.67	14	3.65
4.	174	45.31	203	52.87	7	1.82
5.	329	85.68	51	13.28	4	1.04
6.	325	84.64	51	13.28	8	1.08
7.	257	66.93	126	32.81	1	0.26
8.	250	65.10	134	34.90	-	-
9.	136	35.42	246	64.06	2	0.52
10.	231	60.16	144	37.50	9	2.34
11.	85	22.14	299	77.84	-	-
12.	322	83.85	62	16.15	-	-
13.	205	53.39	172	44.80	7	1.82
14.	217	56.51	164	42.71	3	0.78

Source researchers field work 2009

Table 4.2, above shows that eleven (11) out of fourteen (14) items were accepted as causes of wife battering, while three (3) were rejected. Out of eleven (11) items that were accepted, the highest was item five (5) whose level of agreement was 85.68% followed by item six (6) and

one (1) respectively with 84.64% and 84.38% level of agreement. Items eleven (11), nine (9) and four (4) had the lowest level of agreement of 22.14%, 35.42% and 35.31% respectively.

4.1.3 Research Question 3: Are there any patterns of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State?

Table 5: item by item analysis in frequency count, percentage of the pattern of wife battering

ITEMS	YES		NO		NO RESPONSE	
	FREQ	%	FREQ	%	FREQ	%
15	296	77.08	85	22.14	3	0.78
16.	296	77.08	82	21.35	6	1.56
17.	301	38.39	76	19.79	7	1.82
18.	277	72.14	103	26.82	4	1.04
19.	274	71.35	104	27.08	6	1.56
20.	320	83.33	61	15.89	3	0.78
21.	314	81.77	69	17.97	1	0.26
22.	306	79.69	74	19.27	3	0.78
23.	285	74.22	95	24.74	4	1.04
24.	281	73.18	97	25.26	6	1.56
25.	228	59.38	150	39.06	6	1.56
26.	267	69.53	117	30.43	-	-

Source researchers field work

Table 5 above shows that all the twelve (12) items were accepted as the patterns of wife battering in Sokoto State. Out of these twelve (12) items, the highest was item twenty (83.33%) and Item twenty-five has the lowest level of agreement of (59.38%).

4.1.4 Research Question 4: What are the causes of wife battering among couples in Sokoto State?

Table 6; Are these causes of wife battering in Sokoto State?

ITEMS	CAUSES OF WIFE BATTERING	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	When there is lack of love between couples	324	84.38
2	When there is forced marriage	267	69.53
3	When there is low level of education by the couples or one spouse	210	54.69
4	Presence of pressure from respective in-laws	174	45.31
5	when the husband is a drunkard or drug addict	329	85.68
6	When the husband is having slight mental illness.	325	84.64
7	When the wife is unclean/untidy	257	66.93
8	When the wife cannot satisfy the husband sexually	250	65.10
9	When the husband cannot satisfy the wife sexually	136	35.42
10	When the couples disagree on a particular mode of discipline for their children	231	60.16
11	When the couple belong to different ethnic groups	85	22.16
12	When the wife does not respect her husband	322	83.85
13	When the husband cannot cater for his family financially	205	53.39
14	When the wife cannot cook well	217	56.57

Source; researchers field work 2009

The table 6, above shows that eleven (11) out of the fourteen (14) items were accepted as causes of wife battering, while three (3) were rejected, out of the eleven (11) items that were accepted, the highest level of agreement is 85.68% and it was item five (5) which says that “wife battering occurs when the husband is a drunkard or a drug addict, while the lowest was item eleven (11) which says that wife battering occurs when the couples belong to different ethnic group, from this findings we can say that all the eleven (11) items are causes of wife battering among couples in Sokoto State.

4.1.5 Research Question 5: Does length of marriage cause wife battering among couples in Sokoto State?

Table 7; Responses of respondents on length of marriage

S/NO	LENGTH OF MARRIAGE	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
1	0-6	99	25.78
2	6-11	84	32.88
3	11-19	107	27.86
4	Above 20	93	24.48
	Total	384	100%

Source researchers field work 2009

From the table above we can see that the highest respondent on a item which shows 11-19 years length of marriage one hundred and seven (107) respondents representing 27.86 while the lowest is 6-11 length marriage eighty-four (84) respondent representing 21.88% from this finding it indicates that length of marriage does not cause wife battering among married couples in Sokoto State.

4.1.6 Research Question 6: What are the patterns of wife battering among couples in Sokoto State?

Table 8: Are these patterns of wife battering in Sokoto State?

ITEM	PATTERN OF WIFE BATTERING	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
15.	Yells and insult the wife	296	77.08
16.	Threatens to beat the wife	296	77.08
17.	Throw an object at the wife	301	78.39
18.	Pushes the wife from his way	277	72.14
19.	Grabs and shakes the wife	274	71.35
20.	Kicks the wife	320	83.33
21.	Beat the wife with fist rather than object	314	81.77
22.	Hit the wife with object	306	79.69
23.	Gags or chokes the wife	285	74.22
24.	Uses deadly instruments to attack the wife	281	73.18
25.	Refuses to talk with the wife	228	59.38
26.	Denies the wife sexual relationship	267	69.53

Source researchers field work 2009

Table 8 above shows that all the items were accepted as the patterns of wife battering in Sokoto State out of the twelve (12) items the highest was items twenty (20) with (83.33%) and item twenty-one (21) (81.77%) which say when the husband kicks the wife and when the husband beats the wife with fist rather than which object respectively, from this finding one can deduced that all the twelve (12) items are patterns of wife battering.

4.2 Discussion

The result of the responses of entire respondents on each of the items on causes and patterns of wife battering questionnaire (CPWBQ) shows that most of them attracted positive responses. Therefore the researcher considered the perception of the respondent studied on most of these item positive because of their recorded high percentage responses on each of identified twenty-four (24) items as shown in the percentage distribution of responses on causes and patterns in tables 5 and 6. This result supports that of Kantor and Straus (1986) which reported that drug use was the most important predictor of wife abuse and husband drunkenness was second in importance

The positive responses show that people perceived husband drunkenness or drug addiction the most important cause of wife battering.

The low percentage responses of the sampled items on nine, ten and eleven shows that couples coming from different ethnic groups, disagreement on particular mode of discipline of their children and when the husband cannot satisfy the wife sexually are not causes of wife battering in Sokoto State, this contradicts Gelles (1972) study which concluded that those families characterized by low education are more likely to experience violence.

Patterns of wife battering was considered to be a way many men use in resolving marriage problems with their wives, this is true because all the items on patterns use wife battering were accepted and the highest item of item twenty (20) with 83.33%.

This is inline with a research by Steinmetz (1977) which reveals that nearly all respondents 95% reported the used of verbal aggression and 30% reported the use of physical aggression to resolve marital conflicts.

Comparing the perception of different length of marriage it is found that there is no difference in their perception of the causes of wife battering. This implies that what a year old in marriage perceives to be the causes of wife battering is the same from what above 20years old marriage receives as the causes.

Also Straus, Gelles, and Steinmetz (1980) asserted that spouse battering is not unique to any particular socio-economic status, race, religion, identifiable mental illness or personality disorder. Since wife battering is not unique to any particular group, that may be the reason why there is no difference in the perception of different length of marital experience on causes of wife battering from the research findings we can also see that 62% of the sampled population of 384 indicated that there are causes of wife battering in Sokoto State this support a research conduct by Stez and Straus (1988) examined assaults on wives by their husbands, data were obtained by telephone interviews in 1985 with a national probability sample of 6,002 household. The abuse data came from wives reports in 3,665 households containing a currently married or cohabiting couple survey questions measures drunkenness and drug abuse violence, and approval of violence. The result revealed that relative to other factors examined, husband drug use was the most important predictor of wife battering and husband drunkenness was second in importance women who drank heavily or used other drugs has a higher risk of being victim of wife used them did other women other important factors were low income, employment and attitudes which tolerate violence.

Gelles (1972) in an in-depth interview of eighty (80) families conclude that those families characterized by low education, occupational status, and income are

more likely to experience violence. Other structural conditions are explored, such as number of children, social isolation, role structure and pregnancy.

A close look at the table of responses on patterns of wife battering it shows that two hundred and eighty-seven (287) respondent representing 75% of the sampled population of three hundred and eighty-four (384) indicated that there are patterns of wife battering in Sokoto State. These goes along with a research conducted by Knight and Hatty (1986) on battered women in Canberra, found that the extent of injury suffered by many of the women ranging from inconsequential to severe physical abuse is often infected through punching, Kicking or hitting (138 percent), attempted strangulation or smothering (16percent) or use of weapon (13percent). Stark and McEvoy (1970) find three major categories of resolving marital conflict which are discussion, verbal aggression, and physical aggression such as throwing something at each other pushing or grabbing, hitting each other with fist or hitting with an object.

Also Arias and Johnson (1968) in evaluating physical aggression in marriage observe that the occurrence of physical aggression in marriage is quite high but there is distinction between ordinary violence (frequent stopping, pushing) and severe violence (less frequent use of hitting with objects or use of lethal weapons). Wife battering can go to the extent of killing the wife.

Furthermore the finding shows that eleven out of fourteen items were accepted as causes of wife battering, while three were rejected out of the eleven items that were accepted, the highest level of agreement is 85.68% and it was item five which says that wife battering occurs when the husband is a drunkard or drug addict. These support a research conducted by state and Straus (1986) examined assault on wives by their husbands. Data were obtained by telephone interviews in 1985 with a national probability sample of 6,002 households. The wife abuse data came from wives reports

in 3,665 household, containing currently married or cohabiting couples. Survey questions measured drunkenness and drug abuse violence, and approval of violence. The sample was classified into three groups: non-abused wives women who experienced minor violence in the hands of their partners, women who were their partners and women who were the victims of severe assaults by their partners. Discriminate analysis was used to determine the extent to which these groups could be differentiated on the basis of eleven (11) variables;

- i. Wife's drug use
- ii. Income
- iii. Husband drug use
- iv. Husband drunkenness
- v. Low-income
- vi. Violence by victim's parents
- vii. House wife status
- viii. Husband unemployment
- ix. Pregnancy
- x. Violence norms
- xi. Number of children

The result revealed that relative to other factors examined, husband's drug use was the most important predictor of wife abuse and husband's drunkenness was second in importance women who drank heavily or used other drugs has a higher risk of being victim of wife abuse than did other woman other important factors were low income, unemployment and attitudes which tolerate violence. There is a relationship between causes and patterns of wife battering because of the high positive responses of both items and causes and patterns of wife battering the causes recorded 62% while the

patterns recorded 75% and in normal crisis their must be a cause and a patterns. This goes in this with a research conducted by Gelles, (1977) which starts that data indicate that the frequency and severity of abuse are related to the amount of conflict and verbal aggression between spouses.

CHAPTER FIVE

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION, IMPLICATIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

5.0 Introduction

This chapter includes the conclusion arrived at; the implications of the findings to counseling practice in Nigeria; recommendations for further research and the limitations of the study.

The purpose of the study was to find out what married people perceive as causes and patterns of wife battering in Sokoto State. The study also attempted to examine the differences in the perception among the different groups of the sample. Differences on the bases of sex, length of marital experience, and ethnic group of couples were analyzed.

In this study the researcher postulated six research questions using simple percentages and frequencies.

Ten electoral wards were randomly selected from Sokoto State. A total of 384 subjects were used. Two hundred and ninety (290) married couples, twenty-five (25) social workers, twenty-five (25) medical personnel and forty-four (44) police officers.

In carrying out the study the questionnaire (CPWBQ) was used, which was designed by the researcher from the related literature reviewed. The questionnaire contained twenty-six items fourteen items on causes of wife battering and twelve items on patterns of wife battering with two responses.

5.1 Summary of Findings

1. Majority of the respondents on research question one indicated that relationships do exist between causes and patterns of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto state.

2. Majority of the respondents on causes of wife battering indicated that causes of wife battering do exist among married couples in Sokoto state.
3. All the respondents on the statements that sought to find out if there are of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto state indicated that patterns of wife battering do exist among couples.
4. From the questionnaires items and responses from majority of the respondents on such, it is evident that the causes of wife battering identified on the questionnaire do exist among married couples in Sokoto state.
5. From the findings of this research, it is discovered that length of marriage do not in any way cause wife battering among married couples in Sokoto state.
6. From the findings of this research on what the patterns of wife battering among married couples in Sokoto state are, it was discovered that those items on the questionnaires that sought that information reveals that the items are accepted as patterns of wife batterings

5.2 Conclusion

Based on the findings of this study the following conclusions are made:

1. Male and female perceive causes and patterns of wife battering to be the same.
2. Length of marital experience does not make a difference in couple's perception of causes of wife battering.
3. Couples from the same ethnic group and couples from different ethnic groups perceive causes of wife battering the same.

5.3 Implications for Counselling

The positive response from the subjects shows that there are different patterns of wife battering. With these the counsellors need to intensify their enquiry on their clients especially women to identify the battered ones. Those identified can be assisted. In doing this, they will treat the emotional wounds of their clients.

• The finding of the study, that the causes of wife battering have the same perception with the male and female, implies that counselors should know that what can annoy male can annoy female this will help in marital counselling.

Counsellors should be aware that drunkenness and drug use; lack of love; when the husband is having slight mental illness received high percentage of response. This lack of love may be due to forced marriages in some part of the state. For harmony of marital wife, the counselor could counsel his/her clients along the factors that have been identified as important in causing wife battering. The study also revealed that victims of wife battering have the tendency to hide information about the incidence. Counsellors could counsel their clients to be more open and be prepared to report cases of wife battering.

5.4 Recommendations

1. People should be counseled on the danger of drugs and drug addiction since it has been discovered that such behaviour can cause serious disharmony in the family.
2. Community and religious leaders should be up and doing by seriously discouraging physical assaults on women
3. Parents should be advised to make sure that they give their children out in marriage to the one's they love; and the behaviour of the would-be husband be investigated on drug addiction, alcoholism, slight mental illness, etc

4. Our youths should be encouraged to attend premarital and in-marriage counseling in order to avoid wife battering.
5. The government, social workers and non-governmental organizations should be encouraged to organise seminars and lectures on the effect of wife battering in and family as a whole
6. Religious organizations should set up marital counselling centres in towns and villages so that the manners of wife battering can be eradicated or minimized.

5.5 **Suggestions for further Research**

From the findings of this study it will be suggested here that a research study be carried out on the effect of wife battering on the children. This will be very useful for the proper development of counseling in schools and juvenile homes.

It is also suggested that a research should be carried out on why battered women stay with their husbands. That is, battered women stay because they enjoy it or they want it.

Also another study can be carried out on different types wife abuse and the effect on the wives.

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APPENDIX

QUESTIONNAIRE ON CAUSES AND PATTERNS OF WIFE BATTERING

Dear Sir/Ma,

This questionnaire is to find out information from couples about what they perceive to be the causes and patterns of wife battering. The information being sought is only for research purposes. As such, all information voluntarily given will be treated with absolute confidentiality. Therefore, please feel very free to respond honestly and carefully as much as possible. Thank you for the anticipated cooperation.

By way of further clarification, "wife battering is frequent beating that may cause discomfort, influent injury on any woman by her husband.

PART A: PERSONAL INFORMATION

Sex: Male () Female ()

Length of marriage:

Less than 6 years () 6-10 years () 11-19 years () 20 years and above ()

Do you come from the same ethnic group with your spouse? Yes () No()

Have you ever had a cause to beat your wife? Yes () No()

Have you ever been beaten by your husband? Yes () No()

PART B:

Please go through the items below and tick (/) the response as appropriate to you or indicate your own opinion.

Yes () No ()

SECTION 1:

S/NO	CAUSES OF WIFE BATTERING WITH BATTERING OCCURS	YES	NO
1	When there is lack of love between couples		
2	When there is forced marriage		
3	When there is low level of education by the couple or one spouse		
4	Where there is pressure from respective in-laws		
5	When husband is a drunkard or a drug addict		
6	When the husband is having slight mental illness.		
7	When the wife is unclean/untidy		
8	When the wife cannot satisfy the husband sexually		
9	When the husband cannot satisfy the wife sexually		
10	When the couples disagree on a particular mode of discipline of their children.		
11	When the couple belong to different ethnic groups		
12	When the wife does not respect her husband.		
13	When the husband cannot cater for his family financially		
14	When the wife cannot cook well		

SECTION: 2 PATTERN OF WIFE BATTERING

S/NO	ONE PERCEIVE THAT WIFE BATTERING OCCURS WHEN HUSBAND	YES	NO
15	Yells and insult the wife		
16	Threatens to beat the wife		
17	Throw an object at the wife		
18	Pushes the wife from his way		
19	Grabs and shakes the wife		
20	Kicks the wife		
21	Beat the wife with fist rather than with object		
22	Hit the wife with object		
23	Gags or chokes the wife		
24	Uses deadly instruments to attack the wife		
25	Refuses to talk with the wife		
26	Denies the wife sexual relationship		

What are some of the causes of wife battering that you observed and are not mentioned here? _____

What are some of the patterns of wife battering that you observed and are not mentioned here? _____

Thank you.