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## Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence: A Comparative Analysis of a Rural and Urban Area in Ekiti State

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### ABSTRACT

Globally ubiquitous, violence against women is a general threat that is often recognized by the victims' loved ones. Men in positions of authority, acquaintances, lovers, and other companions are all possible abusers. However, women are more susceptible to victimization at the hands of an intimate partner. Because of the topic's delicate nature, intimate partner violence is generally underreported; occurrences of such violence are typically not reported to the appropriate authorities. The study examined the prevalence of intimate partner violence in Ado-Ekiti and Ilogbo Ekiti which is a representation of a rural and urban area in the State. The study was carried out on 400 selected respondents in total, 200 respondents in each of the study areas. Data was collected through semi-structured questionnaires using the purposive sampling technique on 400 married respondents. The findings revealed that one out of every two (56%) respondents in the urban area had experienced intimate partner violence however the same could not be said about the rural area where (28%) had had the experience. The further revealed economic stress to be the most potent factor (70%) causing intimate partner violence in the urban area while patriarchy and rigid cultural practices are most cited (63%) in the rural area. In summary, the findings showed emotional pains as the highest consequence (62.5%) of intimate partner violence in the urban area and deteriorating physical health (68.5%) in the rural area. Consequently, the study recommends prompt speaking up by abused persons to relevant authorities; training and re-training of agencies who receive intimate partner violence complaints on globally acceptable gender-based response(s), especially in the rural areas.

### INTRODUCTION

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is an international public health concern, which is defined as controlling behavior and acts of psychological, physical, and sexual abuse committed by a spouse or romantic partner (Stewart et al., 2021). Intimate partner violence (IPV) has been reported by around 27% (95% confidence interval [CI] 23–31%) of women who have ever been in a relationship and are between the ages of 15 and 49. Regional estimates of IPV range from 18 to 35% (Peitzmeier et al., 2020). Among the detrimental repercussions of intimate partner violence (IPV) on women include economic insecurity and conditions that affect one's mental,

physical, psychological, sexual, or reproductive health (Moshtagh et al., 2023). IPV jeopardizes a country's economic progress, accounting for roughly 15% of GDP in Sub-Saharan Africa and 5% of global GDP. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is defined by Wormer & Bartollas (2021) as behaviors taken by an intimate partner or ex-partner that cause bodily, sexual, or psychological damage. Bodily aggressiveness, force during sexual interactions, psychological abuse, and controlling tendencies are a few examples of these actions (Tullio et al., 2021).

Regardless of a person's marital status, intimate partner violence affects people of various ages. Several conditions make IPV more likely to occur. Aihie (2019) identified several risk variables,

including low education, drug and alcohol abuse, childhood witnessing or victimization of violence, gender inequality, and unemployment, particularly among male partners. As IPV incidents typically go unreported to the authorities, this type of violence is virtually always underreported due to the sensitive nature of the matter (Bratu & Chaudhuri, 2024). Even though it's difficult to gauge the exact scope of the issue, millions of women are enduring violence and its aftereffects, according to numerous experts (Phionah, 2021). Numerous countries, cultures, and socioeconomic classes have different patterns of domestic abuse, which is still shockingly prevalent and tolerated in many societies (Oladeji, 2018; Shahan, 2021).

Research has shown that there is a correlation between rural-urban domicile and intimate partner violence (IPV), with rural women having higher rates of IPV compared to those living in urban areas (Kozhimannil et al., 2024). The findings are related to the fact that the majority (63%) of the African population lives in isolated rural areas far from accessible resources, as well as the influence of legal systems that prohibit gender-based violence. This situation greatly restricts the effective implementation of stringent laws against Intimate Partner Violence (Gezinski & Gonzalez-Pons, 2021). Furthermore, strict policies that condone domestic abuse change more slowly in rural than in urban settings. As a result, rural women are more vulnerable to intimate partner violence (IPV) than their counterparts in metropolitan regions (Chadambuka, 2021). In Africa, taking alcohol has a history of abuse of children, Children's abuse involves anything that affects a kid or leaves a child in danger of injury. Men who are prone to excessive drinking or drug abuse are more likely to employ violence against their partners, especially when it comes to drinking heavily (Mason et al., 2017). Also, childhood abuse, through witnessing parental violence, is connected to partner abuse in both men and women. Limited financial or social independence may lead women to be unduly subservient to their partners (Alsawalqa, 2023). Hence, this study will examine the prevalence of intimate partner violence in a rural and urban area in Ekiti State.

## **METHODS**

The study utilized a quantitative research design. The researcher used the descriptive survey approach primarily because of its efficacy in obtaining a representative sample from a large study population. The questionnaire was implemented as the data-collecting instrument. The research area consists of Ado-Ekiti and Ilogbo Ekiti. Ado-Ekiti is a single town that serves as both a local government and state headquarters. It is located around 200 meters above sea level in the southeastern section of the Ireje stream and 500 meters above sea level in the northeastern boundary. While Ilogbo-Ekiti is in the Ido/Osi Local Government Area of Ekiti State. Based on the 2006 census, the population of individuals is 5,437. A multi-stage sampling methodology was used. The research group would include individuals who had been married at least once in Ado-Ekiti and Ilogbo-Ekiti. However, to ensure equal representation from both towns in the case study, a sample size of 400 respondents was calculated, with 200 respondents from Ado Ekiti and 200 respondents from Ilogbo-Ekiti. Data was collected using the multistage sampling approach. To generate a total of 400 respondents, each town was split into four portions, with 50 respondents carefully picked from each area. The respondents were given structured questionnaires by four research assistants, two in each town, who were skilled in the relevant local dialects of Ado and Ilogbo town. The data analysis was conducted using the Statistical Program for Social Sciences (SPSS). Descriptive statistics, such as frequencies and percentages, were used to present the findings.

The primary objective of this work is to investigate the chronicity of intimate partner violence in rural and urban areas in Ekiti State. In addition to the main objective, this research has the following specific objectives.

1. Determine the prevalence of intimate partner violence against ever-married women in rural and urban areas.
2. Identify the factors responsible for intimate partner violence against ever-married women in rural area and urban areas.
3. Ascertain the consequences of intimate partner violence against ever-married women in a rural area than urban areas.

### *Theoretical Framework*

The theories and perspectives that will be a theoretical framework to explain intimate partner violence in this study are the resource theory of power and the theory of family/relationship conflict.

#### *Resource Theory of Power and Violence*

Goode (2015) was the first to apply Blood and Wolfe's (1960) Resource theory of power and violence to explain intimate partner violence and its causes. In other to explain it he develops an integrated model based on social structure and psychological factors.

#### *Social Structural Factors*

According to Goode, violence is a tool that may be used to encourage desired behavior or discourage unwanted behavior, just like money or personal qualities. According to Goode (2015), an individual's ability to use force increases with resource availability, but the likelihood of using violence decreases. Since it is used when other resources are deemed insufficient or ineffective to elicit the desired response, violence is regarded as the "ultimate" resource. According to Zaccour (2023), the use of violence thus can be considered the most extreme and effective mode of men's social control over wives in that it is utilized when other and more subtle tactics to exert power do not elicit compliance.

Regarding the social-economic determinants, he makes use of professional prestige, academic achievement, salary, and satisfaction with earnings as metrics for external resources, as well as employing parameters evaluating interpersonal, intrinsic resources to explain intimate partner violence. He observed a high, positive association between the poor resources/working class factor and the spouse's use of physical force (Allen & Straus, 2015). Intimate partner violence occurs in all social groups and locations; however, it tends to be more prevalent and more severe among lower socioeconomic brackets. He explained that lower levels of income are related to a higher incidence of intimate relationship violence (Mascarenhas, 2020). He indicated, nonetheless, that the association between income and family violence may be indirect and may be mitigated by the stress-reducing methods commonly accessible to families with greater earnings.

### *Psychological Factors*

People as well as groups of people that have less money and resources in comparison to the other members of the society are predicted to suffer higher levels of anger and anxiety. Individuals and families in the lower socioeconomic strata feel frustration as a result of their disadvantaged social status (Akinyele-Akanbi, 2022). These people frequently lack the social, emotional, psychological, and material resources necessary to cope well, in addition to having greater stress levels. Frustration from financial hardship may result in intimate partner violence since the husband has constraints to cater financially to his family's needs and conform to the conventional demands of a provider especially considering patriarchal standards. (Gelles, 2014). Hence, if a spouse cannot satisfy role expectations owing to his lack of education, a low prestige work, little money, or because he has less social standing than his wife, the stress and frustration may result in his use of violence. Stress develops when there is a gap between demands and reaction capabilities with social standards enabling wives to be perceived as appropriate targets onto which to express their frustrations (Orbih-Chukwu, 2024). Hence, structural contend that low socioeconomic position is related to extra frustration and stress, leading to higher rates of intimate relationship violence. (Farrington, 2020),

#### *The Theory of Family/Relationship Conflict*

Karl Marx initially proposed the hypothesis. The sociology of family's interest in family conflicts dates back to the eighteenth century, especially in Marxist thought (especially in Engels's writings). However, it was not until the 1960s and 1970s that family conflicts became a major area of study. To comprehend the nature of family conflict, we must be clear on a few basic presumptions. Firstly, divorce and separation are not excellent indicators of family conflict in general; many marriages are stable yet unpleasant or contentious. Second, family conflict is not limited to confrontations in public. Frequently, marital or family difficulties go unspoken, and frequently, such tensions are not recognized as such by all members of the home. Third, disagreements over taste or opinions that are reciprocated do not always signify family strife. Family conflict is better understood as relational tensions, whether overt or hidden, that arise from the family group's inability to define its goals,

acquire the resources and organizational structure necessary to achieve them, or effectively protect the individual interests of its members (Shad, 2023).

The hypothesis of family/relationship conflict was also employed to explain intimate partner violence. Nabayinda (2024), presented this model to explain intimate partner violence. This paradigm made clear that intimate partner violence in families is a problem that affects both men and women. When a wife provokes her husband with a below-the-belt argument, he responds strongly and becomes violent. The family's tension increases due to the male spouse's repeated identical conduct till he loses it and becomes violent.

#### Methodology

The study adopted a quantitative research design. The researcher employed the descriptive survey method principally because of its effectiveness in giving a representative sample amidst the numerous numbers of the study population and employed a questionnaire tool as an instrument of data collection. The study area comprises Ado-Ekiti and Ilogbo Ekiti. Ado-Ekiti is a one-town local Government that doubles as L.G and State headquarters which is about 200m above sea level in the southeastern part of Ireje stream and 500m above sea level in the Northeast limit (Popoola et al., 2017). While Ilogbo-Ekiti is in the Ido/Osi Local Government Area of Ekiti State.

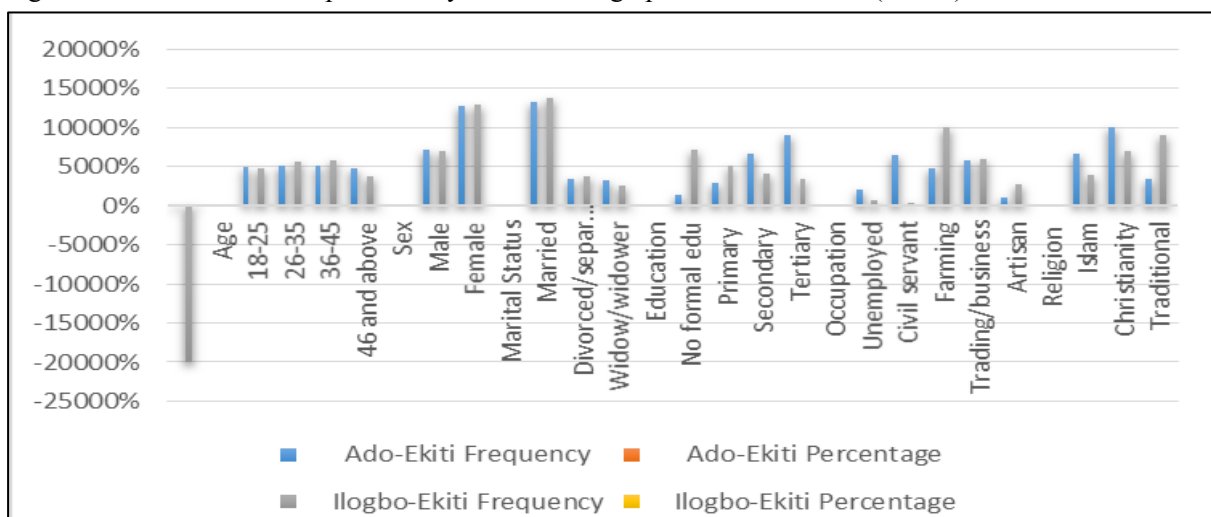
According to the 2006 census, the population of people is 5,437. A multi-stage sampling technique was employed. The study population would consist of persons who are ever married in Ado-Ekiti and Ilogbo-Ekiti, but to provide for equal participation from the two towns that comprised the case study, the calculated sample size is 400 respondents with 200 respondents each in Ado-Ekiti and Ilogbo-Ekiti. The method of multistage sampling was used to gather data. To create a total of 400 respondents, each town was divided into four sections, with 50 respondents carefully chosen from each location. The respondents were given structured questionnaires by four research assistants, two in each town, who were proficient in the relevant local dialects of Ado and Ilogbo town. Data analysis was done using the statistical software for social sciences (SPSS). To display the results, descriptive statistics like frequencies and percentages were used.

## RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

### Socio-Demographic of Respondents

The socio-demographic characteristics of the respondents are an important part of this study. The following shows the socio-demographic data of the respondents in this study.

Figure 1. Distribution of Respondents by Socio-Demographic Characteristics (n=400)



Source: Author's construct, 2024.

Figure 1 shows the socio-demographic characteristics of respondents. It revealed in Ado-Ekiti that 24.5% were between the ages of 18-25 years. 26% fall between 26-35 years, 36-45 years

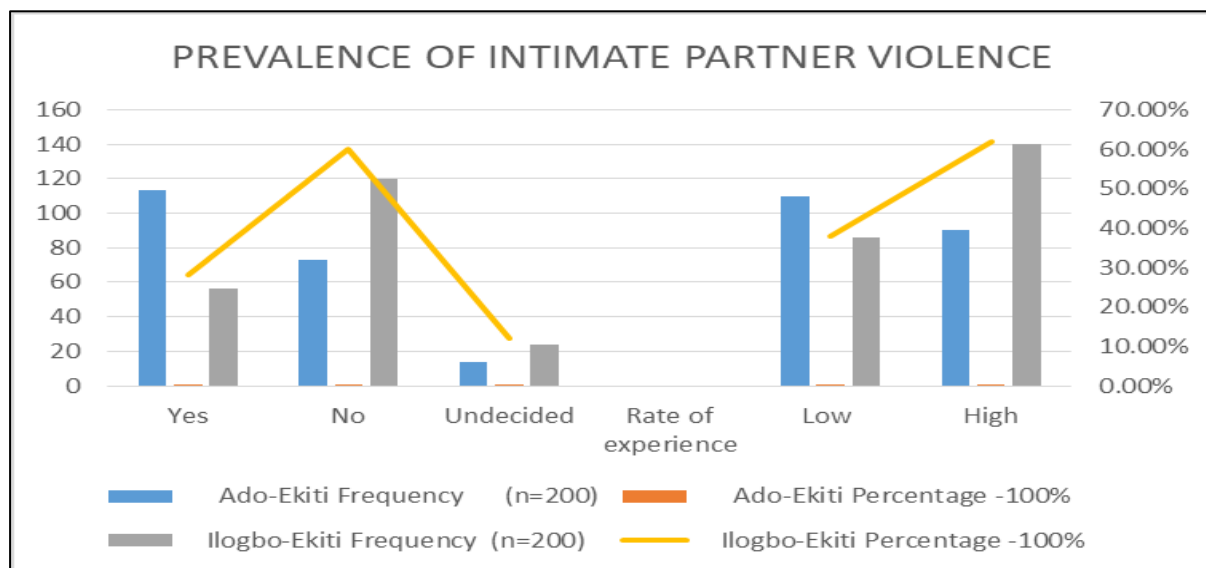
had 25.5%, and age 46 and above had respondent of 24% while in Ilogobo-Ekiti 29% were between the ages of 18-25 years. 24% fall between 26-35 years, 36-45 years had 28.5% and age 46 and above had

respondent of 18.5%. Ages 26-35 has the highest number of populations in both locations. The smaller respondents representing 36.0% in Ado and 35.0% in Ilogbo Ekiti were males while the larger respondents representing 64.0% in Ado Ekiti and 65.0% in Ilogbo Ekiti were females. Out of the sampled respondents in Ado, 63.5% were married, 17.0% were divorced/separated while 16.5% were widow/widower. Also, in Ilogbo, 68.5% were married, 18.5% were divorced/separated, and 13.0% widow/widower. The cumulative frequency of married in the two state is 65.3%, divorced/separated 21.1%, and widow/widower 13.6%. This will help to evaluate the incidence of intimate partner violence. The educational attainment of selected respondents in Ado shows that 7.0% has no formal education, 14.5% attended primary education, 33.5% secondary education, and 45.0% tertiary education. Also, the educational attainment of selected respondents in Ilogbo

revealed that 36.0% of the respondents were without formal education, 26.0% had primary certificates, 20.5% had secondary education, and 17.5% had tertiary education. This implies that the selected sampled populations in Ado are more educated than Ilogbo and that could be assumed to influence the susceptibility of incidence of intimate partner violence in the rural area. The figure above indicated that Ado Ekiti has civil servants as it highest percentage (32.0%) of the sampled occupation while Ilogbo Ekiti has one in every two respondents (50.5%) being a farmer. This implies that a larger proportion of the respondents in the rural area were into farming while in the urban area were civil servants. The religion affiliation of selected respondents shows that the majority of the respondents in Ado-Ekiti 50.0% practice Christianity and 45.0% practice traditional worship in Ilogbo Ekiti.

#### Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence Ina Rural and Urban Areas In Ekiti State

Figure 2. Distribution of Respondents by Prevalence of Intimate Partner Violence in Rural and Urban Areas in Ekiti State



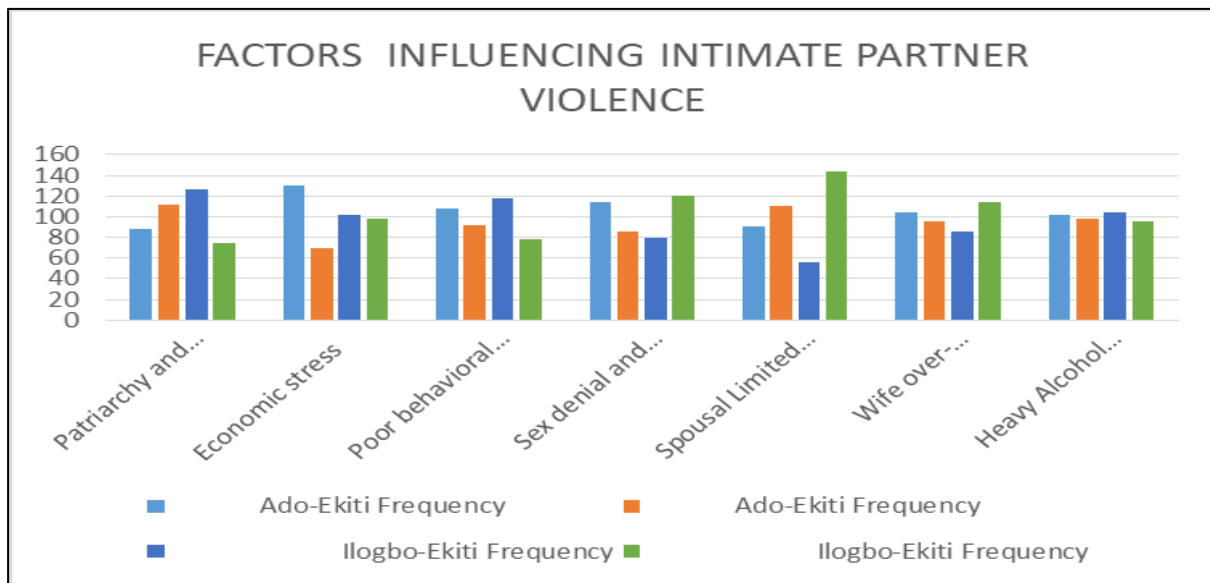
Source: Author's construct, 2024.

The figure above revealed whether respondents had experienced Intimate Partner Violence before. The result revealed that the majority of the respondents (56.5%) in Ado-Ekiti had experienced intimate partner violence before while the majority of the respondents (60.0%) in Ilogbo-Ekiti had not experienced intimate partner violence before. This implies that intimate partner violence is more prevalent in urban areas than the rural areas. Also,

on the rate of intimate partner violence experienced, the majority 62.0% had a high-rate experience in Ilogbo-Ekiti while in Ado-Ekiti majority (55.0%) had a low-rate experience. The above finding that although a larger population in the urban centers had experienced intimate partner violence before, the rate is alarming in the rural areas

### Factors Responsible for Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Area and Urban Areas in Ekiti State

Figure 3. Distribution of Respondents by Factors Influencing Intimate Partner Violence



Source: Author's construct, 2024.

Figure 3 reveals the factors responsible for intimate partner violence among couples in the urban area (Ado-Ekiti) and rural area (Ilogbo-Ekiti), the findings revealed patriarchy and other rigid cultural practices to be a unifying cause responsible for intimate partner violence among couples. With majority of the population in Ado and Ilogbo agreeing with (56.0%) and (63.0%) respectively. This implies that Patriarchy and other rigid cultural practices still has its footing in our society with its highest prevalence in rural areas. Also, the finding revealed economic stress to be a unifying cause responsible for intimate partner violence among couples. With majority of the population in Ado and Ilogbo agreeing with (70.0%) and (51.0%) respectively. This implies that economic stress is a common numerator responsible for intimate partner violence among couples with its highest prevalence in the urban area. Also, the finding revealed Poor behavioral control and impulsiveness to be a unifying cause responsible for intimate partner violence among couples. With majority of the population in Ado and Ilogbo agreeing with (51.0%) and (64.0%) respectively. This implies that Poor behavioral control and impulsiveness is a common numerators responsible for intimate partner violence among couples with the highest prevalence in rural areas.

In addition, the finding revealed sex denial and marital infidelity to be a factor responsible for

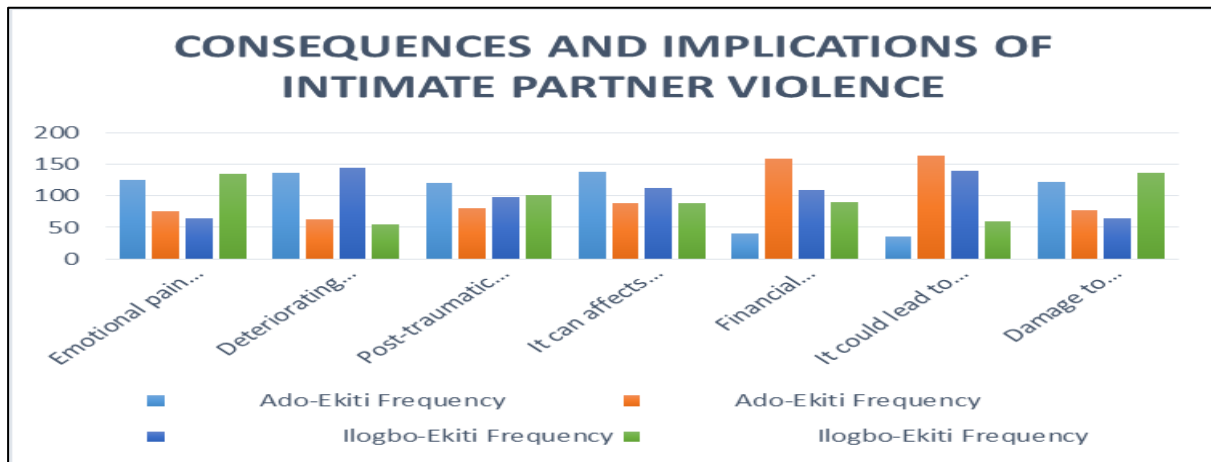
intimate partner violence among couples in the (urban area) Ado-Ekiti and not (rural area) Ilogbo-Ekiti, with (57.0%) agreeing in Ado-Ekiti and (60%) disagreeing in Ilogbo-Ekiti. This implies that sex denial and marital infidelity is only a causal factor responsible for intimate partner violence among couples in urban areas and not in rural areas. Also, the finding revealed spousal limited education to be a unifying cause not responsible for intimate partner violence among couples. With majority of the population in Ado and Ilogbo disagreeing with (55.0%) and (77.0%) respectively. This implies that Spousal Limited education is a common numerator not causing intimate partner violence. Also, the finding revealed Wife over-dependence on their husband to be a factor responsible for intimate partner violence among couples in the (urban area) Ado-Ekiti and not (rural area) Ilogbo-Ekiti, with (53.0%) agreeing in Ado-Ekiti and (57.0%) disagreeing in Ilogbo-Ekiti. This implies that Wife over-dependence on their husband is only a causal factor responsible for intimate partner violence among couples in urban areas and not in rural areas. In conclusion, the findings revealed heavy alcohol and drug abuse to be a unifying cause responsible for intimate partner violence among couples. With majority of the population in Ado and Ilogbo agreeing with (60.0%) and (52.0%) respectively. This implies that heavy alcohol and drug abuse still



has its footing in our society with its highest prevalence in the urban area.

### Consequences of Intimate Partner Violence in Rural Area And Urban Areas in Ekiti State

Figure 4. Percentage Distribution of the Respondents by Consequences of intimate partner violence



Source: Author's construct, 2024.

Figure 4 is on the consequences and implications of intimate partner violence in rural areas and urban areas in Ekiti State. The finding revealed emotional pain (depression, anxiety) as a unifying consequence and implication of intimate partner violence. With majority of the population in Ado and Ilogbo agreeing with (62.5%) and (82.5.0%) respectively. This implies that emotional pain (depression, anxiety) is a common experience to both urban and rural dwellers with its highest prevalence in rural areas. Also, the findings revealed deteriorating physical health as a unifying consequence and implication of intimate partner violence. With majority of the population in Ado and Ilogbo agreeing with (68.5%) and (72.5.0%) respectively. This implies that deteriorating physical health is a common experience to both urban and rural dwellers with its highest prevalence in the rural area. Also, the finding revealed post-traumatic stress to be a consequence and implication of intimate partner violence in the (urban area) Ado-Ekiti and not (rural area) Ilogbo-Ekiti, with (60.0%) agreeing in Ado-Ekiti and (51.0%) disagreeing in Ilogbo-Ekiti. This implies that post-traumatic stress is only a consequence and implication of intimate partner violence in urban areas and not in rural areas. Also, the findings revealed affected self-esteem and personality development of their children as a unifying consequence and implication of intimate partner violence. With majority of the population in Ado and Ilogbo agreeing with (69.5%) and (56.0%) respectively. This implies that

the affected self-esteem and personality development of their children is a common experience to both urban and rural dwellers with its highest prevalence in the urban area.

In addition, the finding revealed financial pressure and poverty to be a consequence and implication of intimate partner violence in the (rural area) Ilogbo-Ekiti and not (urban area) Ado-Ekiti, with (55.0%) agreeing in Ilogbo-Ekiti and (80.0%) disagreeing in Ado-Ekiti. This implies that financial pressure and poverty is only a consequence and implications of intimate partner violence in rural areas and not in urban areas. Also, the finding revealed that to be a consequence and implication of intimate partner violence in the (rural area) Ilogbo-Ekiti and not (urban area) Ado-Ekiti, with (70.0%) agreeing in Ilogbo-Ekiti and (82.0%) disagreeing in Ado-Ekiti. This implies that leading to the death of the abused is only a consequence and implication of intimate partner violence in rural areas and not in urban areas. In conclusion, the finding revealed damage to relationships with friends and family to be a consequence and implication of intimate partner violence in the (urban area) Ado-Ekiti and not (rural area) Ilogbo-Ekiti, with (61.5%) agreeing in Ado-Ekiti and (68.0%) disagreeing in Ilogbo-Ekiti. This implies that damage to relationships with friends and family is only a consequence and implication of intimate partner violence in urban areas and not in rural areas. The finding is similar to a finding by Masoudzadeh et al., (2015) on the impact of intimate partner violence on the family in

which the study revealed that there were many psychological effects of abuse on the respondents. About 72% of the respondents said that they feel a great threat due to the domination of their husbands and they always remain fearful. Owing to fear and domination of the husband and stress, 47% of the respondents lose their memory and generally forget necessary things and bear all sorts of mauling helplessly.

### **Discussion of Findings**

This study investigated the prevalence of intimate partner violence: a comparative analysis of a rural and urban area in Ekiti State. The findings in Figure 2 revealed the prevalence of intimate partner violence in rural and urban areas in Ekiti state, the majority of the respondents in Ado-Ekiti had experienced intimate partner violence before while the majority of the respondents in Ilogbo-Ekiti had not experienced intimate partner violence before. This backed up Obilor's (2021) research on the relationships between self-compassion, male gender role stress, and views towards psychological intimate partner abuse against women. According to Obilor's research, married South East Nigerians often mistreat their wives. This is due to the fact that their research revealed that husbands are not exempt from abusing their wives. Intimate partner violence is a negative phenomenon that is increasingly common among couples, as evidenced by the findings, which also showed that most respondents had witnessed intimate partner violence in action. Additionally, the majority of respondents reported having experienced intimate partner violence themselves. Regarding the incidence of intimate partner violence, the majority in Ilogbo-Ekiti (62.0%) reported experiencing high rates, whilst the majority in Ado-Ekiti reported low rates. This finding aligns with the findings of the NDHS (2018) study, which showed that intimate partner violence is quite widespread, more so in rural than in urban regions. The paper made use of additional research done in Kano, Lagos, and Sokoto, Nigeria, as well as secondary data from the NDHS 2018.

Also, on factors responsible for intimate partner violence in rural areas and urban areas in Ekiti state. The findings revealed patriarchy and other rigid cultural practices, economic status, poor behavioral control and impulsiveness, and heavy alcohol and drug abuse to be unifying causes responsible for intimate partner violence among

couples. Also, the finding revealed sex denial and marital infidelity, wife over-dependence on their husband to be a factor responsible for intimate partner violence among couples in the (urban area) Ado-Ekiti and not (rural area) Ilogbo-Ekiti. In addition, the finding revealed spousal limited education to be a unifying cause not responsible for intimate partner violence among couples. With majority of the population in Ado and Ilogbo disagree. The research conducted by Javaid (2015) supports this. Alcohol's part in violence against intimate partners: Causal behavior, also known as excusing behavior, has shown that intimate partner violence instances are more common in sexual relationships when one partner suffers from an alcohol or other drug use disorder.

Furthermore, on the consequences and implications of intimate partner violence in rural areas and urban areas in Ekiti State. The findings revealed that financial pressure and poverty, damage to relationships with friends and family, and affected self-esteem and personality development of their children as a unifying consequence and implication of intimate partner violence in the (rural area) Ilogbo-Ekiti and not (urban area). Ado-Ekiti Also, the finding revealed that post-traumatic stress, its leads to the death of the abused is a consequence and implication of intimate partner violence in the (urban area) Ado-Ekiti and not (rural area) Ilogbo-Ekiti. In conclusion, the finding revealed that damage to relationships with friends and family is a consequence and implication of intimate partner violence in the (urban area) Ado-Ekiti and not (rural area) Ilogbo-Ekiti.

### **CONCLUSIONS**

The conclusion arrived at by the study is that Intimate partner violence is one of the many dimensions of gender issues that threaten social freedom, and increase mental and health burdens of women empowered by the financial dependency of women which indirectly affects their children, family members and the society at large. Based on the feedback provided by study participants, the following conclusions are made and carefully considered as strong recommendations:

1. Prompt speaking up by abused persons to relevant authorities.



2. Training and re-training of agencies who receive intimate partner violence complaints on the globally acceptable gender-based response(s) especially in the rural areas.
3. Offer financial and legal assistance to those leaving abusive relationships.
4. Challenge cultural norms that perpetuate violence and inequality by promoting gender equality and empowering women economically especially women in rural areas.

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