

Assessment of the Socio-Economic Effect on Violence Against Women Amidst Covid19 Pandemic In Awka South Local Government Area, Anambra State, Nigeria

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Abstract

The study focused on investigated the Socio-Economic Effect in Awka South Local Government Area, Anambra State. The study is motivated by the high level of divorce among different families in the area which is occasioned by various forms of violence against women in the society today.

The specific objectives are to determine the prevalence of violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic in the household in Awka South L.G.A., Assess the effect of violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic on the income level of women in Awka South L.G.A., Evaluate the effect of violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic on the educational level of women in Awka South L.G.A., Examine the effect of violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic on the women's occupation in Awka South L.G.A. The study adopted descriptive survey design. Data collected was analysed using regression analysis. The population of the study consists of all women in the study area. Where the population is unknown, the sample size can be derived by computing the minimum sample size required for accuracy in estimating proportions by considering the standard normal deviation set at 90% confidence level (1.645), percentage picking a choice or response (50% = 0.5) and the confidence interval (0.05 = ±5). Hence, the sample size was 271. 271 questionnaires were randomly distributed in the communities in Awka south. Total number of questionnaires retrieved were 202. The result revealed that violence in the household exists but in an insignificant level. With a regression coefficient for women's income p-value is 0.041 which is below 0.05, income is therefore statistically significantly affect by violence against women in the area. The study therefore, recommend sensitization by relevant government agencies and Non-governmental agencies (NGOs) at the household level against violence against women so as to prevent income reduction among women.

Key words: Covid19 pandemic, violence against women, Awka South, Income and Educational level

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I. Introduction

Background of the Study

Violence is endemic in human society, of special interest is the violence perpetrated against women in devious dimensions and diverse measures across the globe. It is perpetuated in “developed” and “developing” countries alike. Gender violence is replete in the day to day interactions entered into by both sexes. The female folk are often at a disadvantaged end vis-a-vis their male counterparts who are structurally “favoured” by inbuilt stratification mechanisms in most societies, especially agnostic societies with androgynous formations. Unlike any other crime, the manifestation of domestic abuse or Violence Against Women (VAW) remains intensely personal, making it difficult for a majority of women to report on the level and impact of domestic abuse on their lives. Often, the fear of reprisal by the offender, threat from the abuser, honour and social stigma prevent women from reporting on domestic abuse and violence, encompassing emotional, physical, psychological, sexual or any other form of coercion and abuse. As a result, there is often insufficient evidence for the criminal justice institutions to prosecute an offence in cases of domestic abuse and VAW(UNODC, 2020b). Gender-based violence (GBV) can be described as any harm perpetrated against a person, as a result of power of inequalities that are based on gender roles(Ashimolowo & Otufale, 2012). Violence against women (VAW) is prevalent throughout the world and affects women from all socioeconomic strata, cultures, and nationalities. It contributes to the origin of gender hierarchies and imbalance of power between men and women in communities and families. According to the World Health Organization, 3 out of every 10 women in the world have suffered physical violence from an intimate partner, which is the most common type of violence(Tamagno et al., 2013)

Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in December 2019, the effects on human lives have

been devastating. The virus has spread across all 15-member states of the Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS) recording more than 76,355 confirmed cases and 1,323 fatalities as of June 30, 2020. The pandemic has impacted countries in the region differently, but its current and long-term impact indicates an adverse effect on the economic and social vulnerabilities of West Africa. Like most complex emergencies and crises, the gender dimensions of the pandemic pose a threat to pre-existing gender and other intersecting inequalities especially on women and girls. This includes health, economic, security and social protection challenges (United Nations, 2020). Regardless of the form that gender-based violence takes, it is a human rights violation or abuse, a public health challenge, and a barrier to civic, social, political, and economic participation. It is associated with many negative consequences, including adverse physical and mental health outcomes, limited access to education, increased costs relating to medical and legal services, lost household productivity, and reduced income. Gender-based violence undermines not only the safety, dignity, overall health status, and human rights of the millions of individuals who experience it, but also the public health, economic stability, and security of nation USAID, 2012. The emergence of COVID-19 has seen an unprecedented increase in social and economic disruption worldwide. While measures such as lockdowns and directives to stay at home have helped ease the impact of the pandemic, there has been an upsurge of reported cases of intimate partner and domestic violence. This problem has disproportionately affected already socially disadvantaged communities especially those in low and middle income countries (Chipare, 2021). He further opined that The social and economic impacts brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic are vast and sometimes not so easy to quantify. Millions of lives have been affected and in most countries, many have been pushed further into poverty due to the economic slowdown. Additionally, measures instituted by most governments in an effort to curb the spread of the virus have further worsened already vulnerable populations. In the background of the global public health and economic turmoil of the Covid-19 pandemic lurks another crisis: rising rates of violence against women (VAW). The true extent of VAW amidst Covid-19, deemed the “shadow pandemic” by the United Nations, will likely never be known as incidents of violence go unreported, stifled by lockdowns and centuries-old power dynamics around the globe. Amidst the combination of overwhelmed health systems, strictly enforced lockdowns, fear of the virus, stressful economic uncertainty and increased screen time, VAW has found a sordid opportunity to thrive (UN ESCAP, 2020). They noted that Violence against women may be perpetrated by the family, within the general community and by the State. Specific acts that meet the definition of VAW include but are not limited to: battering, sexual abuse (including of female children), sexual harassment and intimidation, rape (including marital rape), harmful traditional practices such as female genital mutilation, trafficking and forced prostitution.

With the evolving world of technology and expanding access to the internet, recent definitions of VAW have been revised to include digital violence.

However, Kabonesa & Kindi, 2020 suggested eight (direct and indirect) pathways linking pandemics and Violence Against Women:

- Economic insecurity and poverty-related stress;
- Quarantines and social isolation;
- Disaster and conflict-related unrest and instability;
- Exposure to exploitative relationships due to changing demographics;
- Reduced health service availability and access to first responders;
- Inability of women to temporarily escape abusive partners;
- Virus-specific sources of violence;
- Exposure to violence and coercion in response efforts;

These are: economic insecurity and poverty-related stress; quarantines and social isolation, inability of women to temporarily escape abusive partners; virus-specific sources of violence.

Statement of the problem

Violence against women includes rape and sexual abuse, forced trafficking, intimate partner violence, female genital mutilation, maternal death, feticide, dowry deaths, honour killings, female infanticide, sexual harassment and forced and early marriage. As one women’s international NGO has stated ‘when one thinks of women’s human rights issues, one usually thinks about violence against women and not about poverty, housing, unemployment, education, water, food security, trade and other related economic and social rights issues’. But is there a relationship between women’s poor access to productive resources such as land, property, income, employment, technology, credit, and education, and their likelihood of experiencing gender-based violence and abuse Jacqui, (2015). He also noted that nowhere in the world do women share equal social and economic rights with men or the same access as men to these productive resources. Economic globalization and development are creating new challenges for women's rights as well as some new opportunities for advancing women’s economic independence and equality. The proliferation of armed conflicts, often caused by struggles to control power and productive resources, has also hampered efforts to protect and prevent violence against women.

However, access to productive resources such as land, credit, technical know-how, knowledge, technology transfer is strongly determined along gender lines, with men frequently having more access to all these resources than women, however, when the husband died, the wife may be left without the access she has gained through her husband's clan, as a result her livelihood can be threatened (Gbolahan, 2013). He further opined that Violence against women is reinforced by doctrines of privacy and sanctity of the family and by legal codes which link individual family or community honour to women's sexuality. However, the greatest cause of violence against women is government tolerance and inaction. Its most significant consequence is fear, which inhibits women's social and economic participation. Women are economically exploited, and socio-economically marginalized; they lack power or autonomy over their work particularly because the majority work in the informal sector and in domestic sphere; they have experienced cultural oppression any time in their lives; and they face systematic violence (Kabonesa & Kindi, 2020).

Considering the effect violence against women has on women's socio economic life; and also the limited empirical literature on socioeconomic effect of violence against women amidst covid19 particularly in Anambra state, this study is therefore vital to bridge the literature and knowledge gap, thus warranting an empirical investigation to analyze the socio-economic effect of violence against women amidst covid19 in Awka South local government area, Anambra State, Nigeria.

Objectives of the Study

The main objective of this study is to assess the socio-economic effect of violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic in Awka South L.G.A.

The specific objectives are to:

1. Determine the prevalence of violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic in the household in Awka South L.G.A.
2. Assess the effect of violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic on the income level of women in Awka South L.G.A.
3. Evaluate the effect of violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic on the educational level of women in Awka South L.G.A.
4. Examine the effect of violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic on the women's occupation in Awka South L.G.A.

Research Hypothesis

Ho₁: Violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic has no significant effect on the income level of women in the study area.

Ho₂: Violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic has no significant effect on women's occupation in Awka South L.G.A.

II. Review of Related Literature

Conceptual Review

Violence against women

As the COVID-19 lockdown regulations in Nigeria and in many other countries are gradually easing and life returns to a 'semi-normal' adjustment, governments are now facing the consequences of the lockdown measures which have lasted for several months. Domestic and gender-based violence have increased globally, but the unsettling spikes continue to grow during this pandemic period. Gender-based violence is a human rights violation, and violence against women and girls is a public health crisis with detrimental impacts on the victims/survivors, their families particularly children and the communities. Recent emerging data highlights that since the outbreak of COVID-19, violence against women and girls, including domestic inter-personal violence and sexual abuse has intensified in several countries. However, many victims feared that they would be overheard by their abusive partners or stopped from leaving their home and therefore used texts and emails to ask for help (Graham-Harrison et al., 2020).

Violence against women and children (VAW) is an important public health, gender equality and human rights issue. Based on estimates by the WHO, around 25% of ever partnered women in Europe have experienced sexual and/or physical violence by a partner and 12% of children aged 2–17 years were reported to have experienced violence in the past 12 months (Isabelle et al, 2020).

Covid-19 pandemic

Since the emergence of the COVID-19 pandemic in December 2019, the effects on human lives have been devastating. The virus has spread across all 15-member states of the Economic Community of West African State (ECOWAS) recording more than 76,355 confirmed cases and 1,323 fatalities as of June 30, 2020. The pandemic has impacted countries in the region differently, but its current and long-term impact indicates an

adverse effect on the economic and social vulnerabilities of West Africa. Like most complex emergencies and crises, the gender dimensions of the pandemic pose a threat to pre-existing gender and other intersecting inequalities especially on women and girls. This includes health, economic, security and social protection challenges(UNODC, 2020a)

COVID-19, a novel disease, became known when it was identified as the causative agent in reported cases of patients with pneumonia admitted in hospitals in Wuhan, China, in December 2019. This disease is spread through airborne zoonotic droplet, and people can get infected when in close contact with the cough and sneeze of persons who have symptoms from the virus(Ebohon et al., 2021).

Effect of violence against women on the intimate partner's relationship

The Covid-19 pandemic is most likely to exacerbate two varieties of VAW: intimate partner violence (IPV) and digital violence. Intimate partner violence is an especially prevalent form of VAW. Worldwide, an estimated 30 per cent of women who have been in a relationship have experienced IPV in their lifetime. This form of interpersonal violence is especially relevant during a lockdown when families are required to stay within the confines of their home. The pandemic is also likely to increase digital violence as the world turns to remote work and higher Internet usage for virtual socialization. Globally, Internet use during the pandemic has increased between 50 and 70 per cent. This facilitates exposure to incidents of sexual harassment, zoom bombing, stalking, threats, and sex trolling UN ESCAP, 2020.

As the covid-19 pandemic intensifies, its gendered effects have begun to gain attention. Though data are scarce, media coverage and reports from organizations that respond to violence against women reveal an alarming picture of increased reports of intimate partner violence during this outbreak, including partners using physical distancing measures to further isolate affected women from resources (Elizabeth, Avni, Jhumka and Claudia, 2020). They further noted that Household stress can increase the likelihood of intimate partner violence. As people stay at home, families spend more time in close contact, including in cramped conditions. Gender-based violence cuts across ethnicity, race, class, religion, education level, and international borders. An estimated one in three women worldwide has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime.² Intimate partner violence is the most common form of violence experienced by women globally.³ As noted previously, gender-based violence can also take the form of harmful traditional practices (USAID, 2012).

Worsening Risks of Intimate Partner Violence and Other Forms of Domestic Violence Mobility restrictions increase women's vulnerability to abuse. Some survivors report being unable to seek legal redress due to court closures and judicial, police and health services that are first responders to victims of abuse are overwhelmed or have shifted priorities(Divide, n.d.).

Effect of violence against women on the income level of women

The financial impact of COVID-19 resulted in widespread closure of businesses and industries, increasing the financial strain on communities, particularly the already vulnerable segments of the population. Women are disproportionately placed in insecure, lower-paid, part-time and informal employment, with little or no income security and social protection, therefore less protections from economic recession during the crisis (UN Women, 2020). Moreover, Elizabeth et al opined that the disruption of social and protective networks may further exacerbate intimate partner violence and its consequences. Women may have less contact with family and friends who provide support and protection from violence by a partner.

Perpetrators may further restrict access to services, help, and psychosocial support from formal and informal networks.

The economic challenges during and after the pandemic pose significant threats to the income and livelihoods of women engaged in micro-level businesses such as farming, street hawking, retail trading, and other domestic services. The implication to food security has raised regional concerns especially as 70% of the subsistence agriculture is dominated by women. As in the case of the Ebola crisis in the region, COVID-19 prevention measures are having a drastic impact on women's livelihoods and economic security(UNODC, 2020a). Country-wide school closures substantially amplified the unpaid work and childcare, carried out mostly by women. With 461 million women working on a temporary basis, women bear the brunt of job losses during the pandemic. Women also comprise 70 per cent of the global health and social care workforce and face huge risks to their right to life and health as frontline workers(Divide, n.d.)

Effect of violence against women on woman's educational level

For an already fragile education system, the COVID-19 pandemic poses unprecedented challenges on the government, students, and parents, that will highlight and could amplify some of the cracks in the system. As the nation begins to grapple with these challenges, a key question arises: Is the Nigerian education system designed to adapt rapidly to the changing world? Given the state of affairs in the world today, the nation's ability to ensure continuation of learning will depend largely on their ability to swiftly harness available

technology, provide adequate infrastructure, and mobilize stakeholders to prepare alternative learning programs (Obiakor & Adeniran, 2020)

(Samuel, 2020) opined that many countries have (rightly) decided to close schools, colleges and universities. The crisis crystallizes the dilemma policymakers are facing between closing schools (reducing contact and saving lives) and keeping them open (allowing workers to work and maintaining the economy). The severe short-term disruption is felt by many families around the world: home schooling is not only a massive shock to parents' productivity, but also to children's social life and learning. Teaching is moving online, on an untested and unprecedented scale. Student assessments are also moving online, with a lot of trial and error and uncertainty for everyone. Many assessments have simply been cancelled. Importantly, these interruptions will not just be a short-term issue, but can also have long-term consequences for the affected cohorts and are likely to increase inequality. Unlike western countries, the Federal Ministry of Education's school-closure directive did not produce policy measures on how to ease learning disruptions for children and how to address the digital mean of learning which may be alternative method to physical teaching learning process in the dynamic society. In an account of Taibat Hussain, the Coordinated Education response to COVID-19 pandemic on the landing page of the Ministry website is vague and does little to address the learning needs of the most vulnerable and disadvantaged.

However, (Obiakor & Adeniran, 2020) also noted that missed learning for the majority of pre-pandemic in-school-students: According to UNESCO, about 35.9 million primary and secondary school learners are currently out-of-school as a result of the school closures. For primary schools, this number totals approximately 25.6 million students, of which about 87 percent (23.5 million) are students enrolled in public schools. The numbers are just as stark for secondary school learners. Of the roughly 10.3 million secondary school students who are out-of-school as a result of the closures, approximately 81 percent (8.4 million) of them are public school students.

2.5: Effect of violence against women on the women's occupation

Sexual harassment in the workplace affects women's job. Sexual harassment is defined by the US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission as a form of sex discrimination which manifests in "unwelcome sexual advances, requests for sexual favours, and other verbal or physical conduct of a sexual nature constitute sexual harassment when this conduct explicitly or implicitly affects an individual's employment, unreasonably interferes with an individual's work performance, or creates an intimidating, hostile, or offensive work environment". While the extent of the problem is unknown, experts agree that it is pervasive, that women are particularly vulnerable, and that it influences their performance and overall experience in the workplace. Vulnerable Female Migrant and Mobile Workers Studies have found that migrant women are more susceptible to violence and less able to defend themselves from violence (Tamagno et al., 2013).

WANEP, (2020) observed that the evolving socio-economic impacts of the pandemic is expected to be far-reaching across communities and states in sub-Saharan Africa especially when analysed from the perspective of the informal sector with over 92 per cent of workers comprising of women. As a driving force of most micro-economies, the negative impact at this level will lead to significant loss of family earnings and a 22 percentage increase in job losses in the region. This applies to small and medium-sized businesses as well where women dominate the market for essential goods and services such as food and clothing markets that have been amongst the hardest hit by the COVID-19 restrictions. Female-headed households are most likely to be worst hit by the pandemic containment measures as the economic lockdowns lead to recessions and total loss of income. At the domestic level, women's responsibility as primary caregivers within the family increases their risk of infection as they are exposed at two fronts as income generators and primary support for members of their families.

Theoretical framework

THEORY OF CHANGE

This work is anchored on the theory of change. The "**Theory of Change**" (TOC) is the foundation for any mission-driven initiative working on solving the globe's most pressing social and environmental issues. Sometimes referred to as T. O. C., the Theory of Change documents the impact that your organization is seeking to achieve, as well as all the intermediate steps to make sure that your activities and resources are well aligned with said change. The TOC should be defined before starting any new initiative or project, and needs to be revised periodically, as your initiative evolves.

In its early conceptualization in 1995, Weiss described a TOC as "a theory of how and why an initiative works." Weiss (1995) more fully articulated, this can be understood as a way to describe the set of assumptions that explain both the mini-steps that lead to a long term goal and the connections between these activities and the outcomes of an intervention or programme Anderson, (2004). TOC has been called a number of other things: "a roadmap, a blueprint, an engine of change, a theory of action and more." Reisman, Jane,

Anne Gienapp, and Stachowiak (2007). Beyond these initial conceptualizations, there is little consensus on how TOC is defined. However, like Weiss' initial definition, TOC is most often defined in terms of the connection between activities and outcomes, with the articulation of this connection the key component of the TOC process. The ability to articulate this connection rests on the idea that, "social programs are based on explicit or implicit theories about how and why the program will work."

For example, it has been assumed that improving the educational outcomes of children in a region will lead to the community's ability to adapt to new agricultural practices when these children reach adulthood, thereby improving the yield of farm output. By exploring the theory of change of this project, we clarify the underlying assumptions and know what supporting evidence to seek at each stage to confirm that the project is on track to deliver the intended impact.

Empirical Review

Gbolahan (2013) in his study on Socio-cultural factors influencing gender-based violence on agricultural livelihood activities of rural households in Ogun State, Nigeria, noted that relationships are socially and culturally constructed. A range of socio-cultural factors such as beliefs, norms, values, taboos, community, expectation, rules, laws and policies, economic and physical resources, technological and ethical factors influence an individual's attitudes towards behaviour's in and expectation about relationships. The objective of the study is to analyse socio-cultural factors influencing gender based violence on agricultural livelihood activities of rural household in Ogun State Nigeria. Ogun State Agricultural Development Programme (ADP) has four zones. Multistage sampling techniques were used for this study to select 50% of the zones, blocks, circles and villages respectively. Thereafter, 5 respondents (women) were randomly selected from each village to give a total of two hundred and twenty respondents (220). The statistical tools that were used for analyzing the data include both descriptive statistics and relationship between variables were determined with Pearson Products Moment Correlation Coefficient (PPMC) and chi square(χ^2). The correlation coefficient obtained from the statistical analysis shows that there was a significant relationship between the effect of domestic violence on women agricultural livelihood activities ($r = -0.218$)

Ashimolowo, & Otufale. (2012) in their study on the Assessment of Domestic Violence among

Women in Ogun State, Nigeria, assessed domestic violence among women in Ogun State using data collected using structured interview guide. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 220 respondents in two zones of Ogun State Agricultural Development Programme. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics, Pearson Product Moment Correlation (PPMC). Findings showed that the mean age of respondents was 48.73 years, while the mean household size was 6 persons. Also, 41% of the respondents were Christians. Few, (26.20%) of the respondents had primary education qualification while 30.80% were into farming. Only 43.60% of the respondents belonged to cooperative societies. 18% of the respondents experienced verbal abuse. Similarly, 49.23% of the respondents agreed that domineering attitude of men promote domestic violence. The most preferred coping strategies to ameliorate domestic violence was to remain silent (63.10%). Correlation analysis also showed significant relationship between women's livelihood activities and coping strategies such as fighting back ($r= 0.95$), pleasing and placating the perpetrator ($r= 0.82$), remaining silent ($r= 0.89$), avoiding the perpetrator ($r =0.81$) at $p < 0.05$. It was concluded that domestic violence limits women's potentials and hinders their full involvement in livelihood activities. Therefore, there is need for the patriarch structures that reinforce power imbalance between men and women to be dismantled. Furthermore, women should be empowered through training and access to social assets such as loans and credit.

Krishnadas & Taha, (2020) in their study on domestic violence through the window of the COVID-19 lockdown: a public crisis embodied/exposed in the private/domestic sphere observed that COVID-19 has been recognized globally as a public health crisis, which has directly led to the deaths of more than 40,000 people in the UK (World Health Organization, 2020). The lockdown measures in the public sphere have created a window into the existing violence in the domestic sphere, as increasing incidents and reports have propelled what is more often thought of as private violence into the public gaze. The COVID-19 lockdown in the UK has made visible a collapse of the public and private sphere, blurring the boundaries between the two. As work and childcare have moved within the home, the structural inequalities of austerity have been exposed and the widening gender, class and racial cracks of society are illuminated in lockdown. Our paper draws upon an intersectional cultural and materialist analysis to explore how the cultural and economic bricks of the public and private sphere have been layered through the tools of i) representation and marginalization in the public sphere; ii) the division of labor through the devaluing of care-giving and precarious work; and iii) the location of public and private legal issues. Through this critical intersectional analysis, we explore how the material construction of the public and private sphere is being dismantled in the long-term everyday crisis interventions of domestic

violence support groups, Refuge, Women’s Aid and South all Black Sisters, and in relation to the authors’ local interventions with CLOCK

From the empirical literature reviewed, a myriad of factors has been identified as the effect of violence against women during covid19 Pandemic yet none examines socio-economic effect of violence against women amidst covid19 Pandemic in Awka South.

III. Research Methodology

The descriptive survey design was adopted for the study. The area of study is Awka South Local Government Area of Anambra State. Awka South Local Government Area (LGA) is made up of nine towns, namely, **Amawbia, Awka, Ezinato, Isiagu, Mbaukwu, Nibo, Nise, Okpuno and Umuawulu.**

The population of the study consists of all women in the study area. For this study, the primary source of data was employed.

The population of the study is unknown; the sample size was determined thus;

Where the population is unknown, the sample size can be derived by computing the minimum sample size required for accuracy in estimating proportions by considering the standard normal deviation set at 90% confidence level (1.645), percentage picking a choice or response (50% = 0.5) and the confidence interval (0.05 = ±5). The formula is:

$$n = \frac{z^2 (p)(1-p)}{c^2}$$

Where:

z = standard normal deviation set at 90% confidence level = 1.645

p = percentage picking a choice or response

c = confidence interval

$$n = \frac{(1.645)^2 (0.5)(0.5)}{(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{(2.706) (0.25)}{(0.05)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{(0.6765)}{(0.0025)}$$

n = 270.6 approximately 271

271 questionnaires were randomly distributed in the communities in Awka south. Total number of questionnaires retrieved were 202.

The data analysis was made using mean score from a 5-point scale thus:

$$\text{Mean } X = \frac{\sum fx}{\sum f}$$

DECISION RULE

An item is accepted when the mean is equal to or greater than 2.5, but rejected if below 2.5 cut off point. 2.5 was gotten by adding the points of each response, which is rated from 4-1 and divided by the total number of possible response option.

$$\frac{N+S+O+A}{4} = \frac{4+3+2+1}{4} = \frac{10}{4} = 2.5$$

Using SPSS package, regression analysis was run at significance level of 0.05 with the degree of freedom (df) = (n-1)

Data Analysis

Descriptive Statistics

Table 1: Descriptive Statistics of Responses

S/N	Characteristics	Respondents Category	Frequency	Percentage
1	Gender	Female	202	100%
		Total	202	100%
2	Age	Less than 25	64	31.7%
		26 - 35	96	47.5%
		36 - 45	42	20.8%

		Total	202	100%
3	Educational Qualification	Secondary School	122	60.4%
		Tertiary Education	8	39.6%
		Total	202	100%
4	Marital Status	Single	67	33.2%
		Married	121	59.9%
		Divorced	14	6.9%
		Total	202	100%
5	Business Age	1	16	7.9%
		2	48	23.8%
		3	29	14.4%
		4	47	23.3%
		5	30	14.9%
		6	26	12.9%
		13	6	3.0%
		Total	202	100%

Source: Field Data, 2021.

Table 1 above shows that only female respondents responded to this study. It also indicates that of the total respondents, 31% represents those less than 25 years, 47.5% represents respondents between 26 – 35, while 20.8% represents respondents between 36- 45.

Concerning educational qualifications, 60.4% represents respondents with secondary school certificates or equivalent, while 39.6% represents respondents with tertiary education certificates.

33.2% of respondents were single, 59.9% of respondents married, while 6.9% of respondents were divorced.

Concerning the age of respondents' business ventures; 7.9% of respondents had businesses that were just a year old, 23.8% of respondents had businesses that were 2 years old, 14.4% of respondents had businesses that were 3 years old, 23.3% of respondents had businesses that were 4 years old, 14.9% of respondents had businesses that were 5 years old, 12.9% of respondents had businesses that were 6 years old while 3% of respondents had businesses that were 13 years.

Table 2: Employment Source of Income

S/N		Frequency	Percentage
1	Catering Service	8	4.0%
	Civil Servant	36	17.8%
	Factor Worker	7	3.5%
	Lecturer	13	6.4%
	Receptionist	10	5.0%
	Sales Girl	8	4.0%
	Saloon Business	20	9.9%
	Secretary	8	4.0%
	Teaching	14	6.9%
	Trading	78	38.6%
	Total	202	100%

Table 2 shows the various sources of income for respondents. 4% of respondents were caterers, 17.8% of respondents were civil servants, 3.5% of respondents were factory workers, 6.4% of respondents were lecturers, 5% of respondents were receptionists, 4% of respondents were sales girls, 9.9% of respondents were into saloon business, 4% of respondents were secretaries, 6.9% of respondents were teachings, while 38.6% were traders.

Analysis of response relating to Violence against women in the household.

Table 3 Analysis of response relating to Violence against women in the household.

Statement	N	S	O	A	MEAN	STD
How often does your current partner keep you from seeing your friends?	73	109	6	16	1.81**	0.796
How often does your current partner restrict you from social media?	93	109	0	0	1.54**	0.500
How often does your current partner restrict you from your family?	120	82	0	0	1.41**	0.492
How often does your current partner insist knowing where you are going?	69	94	13	26	1.98**	0.962
How often does your current partner get angry if you speak to another man?	109	55	38	0	1.65**	0.779
How often does your current partner get suspicious you are unfaithful?	141	61	0	0	1.30**	0.460
How often does your current partner forbid you from leaving the house?	151	41	10	0	1.30**	0.558

How often does your current partner prevent you from completing school or starting a new school?	155	20	14	13	1.43**	0.880
How often does your current partner forbid you from working?	155	47	0	0	1.23**	0.424

Key: N=Never, S=Sometimes, O=Often, A=All the time

Source: Field Data, 2021. (Note: * Accepted, ** Rejected. N = 202)

Table 3 shows responses on violence against women in the household. Concerning how often a partner prevent respondents from seeing friends, 73 respondents had never been prevented, 109 respondents had sometimes been prevented, 6 respondents had once been prevented, 16 respondents had always been prevented from seeing their friends.

Concerning how often a partner restricted respondents from family members, 93 respondents had never been restricted, while 109 respondents had sometimes been restricted.

Concerning how often a partner seeks to know their whereabouts, 120 respondents had never been quizzed on their where about, while 82 respondents had sometimes been quizzed on their where about.

Concerning how often a partner gets angry when they speak to another man, 109 respondents had never had their partners get angry, 55 respondents have had their partners sometimes getting angry, while 38 respondents had had their partners once get angry.

In summary, all indicators of violence in the household have a mean score of less than 2.5, therefore, are all rejected as indicators of violence against women in the household.

Analysis of response relating to Violence against women on Income levels.

Table 4 Analysis of response relating to Violence against women on Income levels.

Statement	Yes	No	MEAN	STD
Have you been prevented from earning an income as a result of violence or abuse?	24	172	1.88**	0.329

Source: Field Data, 2021. (Note: * Accepted, ** Rejected. N = 202)

Table 4 shows responses on violence against women on income. 24 respondents representing 11.9% indicated that they have been prevented from earning an income as a result of violence or abuse while 172 respondents representing 85% indicated that they have never been prevented from earning an income as a result of violence or abuse. With a mean score of 1.88, which is less than 2.5, income is therefore rejected as one of the outcomes of violence against women in the study area.

Analysis of response relating to Violence against women on Educational levels.

Table 5 Analysis of response relating to Violence against women on Educational levels.

Statement	N	O	2-5	>6	MEAN	STD
How often has threatening or offensive SMS being sent to you at work?	182	20	0	0	1.10**	0.299
How often has threatening or offensive Letter being sent to you at work?	182	20	0	0	1.10**	0.299
How often has threatening or offensive phone call being made to you at work?	196	6	0	0	1.03**	0.170
How often have intimate photos or video of you on the internet or by mobile phone been shared?	194	8	0	0	1.04**	0.196
How often has some loitered or waited for you outside your house, or office without reason?	188	0	14	0	1.14**	0.509
How often has someone deliberately followed you around?	174	22	6	0	1.17**	0.448
How often has someone deliberately interfered with or damaged your property?	190	6	0	6	1.12**	0.533

Key: N=Never, O=Once, 2-5=2-5 time, >6= 6 or more times

Source: Field Data, 2021. (Note: * Accepted, ** Rejected. N = 202)

Table 5 With a mean score of less than 2.5, show that the use of threatening or offensive SMS, letters, phone calls as means of violence against women concerning education were rarely employed in the study areas. Also, variables like; the threat to share intimate photos or video on the internet, loitering or waiting for one outside one’s house or office without reason, deliberately following one, and deliberately damaging one’s property were all rejected as VAW indicators affecting women’s educational level.

Analysis of response relating to Violence against women on Occupation.

Table 6 Analysis of response relating to Violence against women on Occupation.

Statement	N	O	2-5	>6	MEAN	STD
How often has threatening or offensive SMS being sent to you at work?	145	20	31	0	1.42**	0.750
How often has threatening or offensive Letter being sent to you at work?	151	41	10	0	1.30**	0.558
How often has threatening or offensive phone call being made to you at work?	165	27	10	0	1.23**	0.528
How often have intimate photos or video of you on the internet or by mobile phone been shared?	202	0	0	0	1.00**	0.000
How often has some loitered or waited for you outside your house, or office without reason?	186	0	6	10	1.21**	0.724
How often has someone deliberately followed you around?	158	38	6	0	1.25**	0.497
How often has someone deliberately interfered with or damaged your property?	202	0	0	0	1.00**	0.000

Key: N=Never, O=Once, 2-5=2-5 time, >6= 6 or more times

Source: Field Data, 2021. (Note: * Accepted, ** Rejected. N = 202)

Table 6. With a mean score of less than 2.5, showing that the use of threatening or offensive SMS, letters, phone calls as means of violence against women in the work place were rarely employed in the study areas. Also, variables like; the threat to share intimate photos or video on the internet, loitering or waiting for one outside one’s house or office without reason, deliberately following one, and deliberately damaging one’s property were all rejected as VAW indicators affecting women’s occupation level.

Estimation of respondents that have experienced any form of violence.

Table 7 Estimation of respondents that have experienced any form of violence.

Statement	N	O	2-5	>6	MEAN	STD
How often do you experience people acting towards you offensively, to physically hurt you	104	76	8	0	1.53**	0.712
How often do you experience people acting towards you offensively, Push to hurt you	180	0	14	8	1.26**	0.755
How often do you experience people acting towards you offensively, to SLAP to hurt you	152	50	0	0	1.25**	0.433
How often do you experience people acting towards you offensively, throwing Object to hurt you	166	28	0	0	1.14**	0.352
How often do you experience people acting towards you offensively, grabbing or pulling your hair	182	0	0	0	1.00**	0.000
How often do you experience people acting towards you offensively, beating you	166	14	14	0	1.22**	0.460
How often do you experience people acting towards you offensively, burning you	194	0	0	0	1.00**	0.000
How often do you experience people acting towards you offensively, tried to suffocate or strangle you	194	0	0	0	1.00**	0.000
How often do you experience people acting towards you offensively, tried cut or stab or shot you	194	0	0	0	1.00**	0.000
How often do you experience people acting towards you offensively, tried to have sex with you	143	22	37	0	1.48**	0.787

Key: N=Never, O=Once, 2-5=2-5 time, >6= 6 or more times

Source: Field Data, 2021. (Note: * Accepted, ** Rejected. N = 202)

Concerning estimation of respondents’ experience of any form of violence; table 7 shows that the total respondents who have experienced people acting towards them offensively, to physically hurt them between 2 – 5 times in the period in review were 8, while those who have experienced this often were 76. However 104 respondents, representing 51% of respondents had never experienced this. 89.1% of respondents had never experienced people pushing them with an intent to hurt them.

75% of respondents had never experienced people slapping them with intent to hurt them. While 50 respondents representing 24.7% had often experienced this.

82.1% of respondents had never experienced people throwing objects at them with intent to hurt them. While 50 respondents representing 13.8% had often experienced this.

90% of respondents had never experienced people grabbing and pulling their hair with intent to hurt them.

82.1% of respondents had never experienced people beating them with intent to hurt them. While 14 respondents representing 6.9% had often experienced this and 6.9% have experienced this 2 to 5 times.

Concerning trying to burn and suffocate them, 96% of respondents representing 194 persons had never had people acting towards you offensively to burn or suffocate them.

70.2% of respondents had never experienced people acting towards you offensively, trying to have sex with them, representing 143 respondents. While 22 respondents representing 10.8% had often experienced this and 18.3% have experienced this 2 to 5 times.

In summary, since all variables to assess respondents experience of any form of violence has mean scores that are less than 2.5, they are all rejected.

Test of Hypotheses

The test is used to know the statistical significance of the individual parameters.

Hypothesis One

Ho₁: Violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic has no significant effect on the income level of women in the study area.

Table 8: Regression Estimates of Violence against women and income level of women

Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
1					
	(Constant)	.070		.077	.905
	Women's income	-.220		-.152	-2.062

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.152 ^a	.023	.018	.99806654

Source: Researcher's computerization

Interpretation

From the regression analysis on table 8, the coefficient to multiple determination $R^2 = 0.023$, describes the extent to which the dependent variable is being explained by independent variable. This implied that 2% of variations in income are caused by the violence against women.

Only variable with p-value less than 0.05 is statistically significant, looking at Table 8 the variable analysed is all significant. The regression coefficient for women's income p-value is 0.041 which is below 0.05.

Ho₂: Violence against women amidst covid-19 pandemic has no significant effect on women's occupation in Awka South L.G.A.

Table 9: Regression Estimates of Violence against women and women's occupation.

Model	R	R Square	Adjusted R Square	Std. Error of the Estimate
1	.083 ^a	.007	.001	1.00633262

Coefficients^a

Model	Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficients	t	Sig.
	B	Std. Error	Beta		
1	(Constant)	.013		.075	.171
	Women's Occupation	.091		.082	1.113

Source: Researcher's computerization

From the regression analysis on table 9, the coefficient to multiple determination $R^2 = 0.007$, describes the extent to which the dependent variable is being explained by independent variable. This implied that 0.07% of variations in women's occupation/work place are caused by the violence against women.

Only variable with p-value less than 0.05 is statistically significant, looking at table 9 the variable analysed is not significant. The regression coefficient for women's occupation p-value is 0.267 which is above 0.05.

IV. Discussion Of Findings

From the findings of the study, it was discovered that violence in the household exists but in an insignificant level.

With a regression coefficient for women's income p-value is 0.041 which is below 0.05, income is therefore statistically significantly affect by violence against women in the study area.

With a mean score of less than 2.5, show that the use of threatening or offensive SMS, letters, phone calls as means of violence against women concerning education were rarely employed in the study areas. Also, variables like; the threat to share intimate photos or video on the internet, loitering or waiting for one outside one's house or office without reason, deliberately following one, and deliberately damaging one's property were all rejected as violence against women (VAW) indicators affecting women's educational level.

With regression coefficient for women's occupation p-value is 0.267 which is above 0.05, occupation is therefore statistically insignificantly affect by violence against women in the study area.

V. Conclusion

In conclusion, violence against women exists in the household at an insignificant level yet has a significant effect on women's income in Awka South L.G.A., which education and occupational levels of women have not significantly been affected by violence against women in the study area.

VI. Recommendation

We therefore, recommend sensitization by relevant government agencies and Non-governmental agencies (NGOs) at the household level against violence against women so as to prevent income reduction among women.

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