

Cross Cultural Dynamics of Violence Against Women in Nigeria A Multivariate Analysis Approach



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ABSTRACT: The purpose of the study was to examine Cross Cultural Dynamics of Violence against Women in Nigeria. A multivariate analysis approaches. To achieve this purpose, three research question were raised to guide the study. Literature were reviewed conceptually, empirically and theoretically according to the focus of the study. The study adopted a survey research design with stratified random sampling techniques used to choose participating states in two geopolitical zones, South-South and South -East. A total of 6 states were chosen randomly for the study. The researchers purposively selected 200 respondents from each state, thus having a total of 1200 respondents for the study. A questionnaire title 'Violence Against Women Scale (VAWS)' was the instrument that was used for data collection. The instrument was developed by the researchers and the face validity was ascertained using experts in Measurement and Evaluation and the reliability of the instrument was ascertained using Cronbach Alpha technique. The coefficient of the sub scale was high for the instrument to be adjusted reliable. The data collection was done using Google form administered to various people in different states as well as face to face contacts. The data collected were analysed using factor, cluster analysis and one way analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and the results showed that four dimensions were obtained explaining a total of 62.001% of the observed variation in the scale. More so, the result showed that for physical violence Cross River State indigenes are more violent physically compared to other six states followed by Enugu state indigene and then Anambra and Akwa Ibom State. For social violence, Akwa Ibom indigenes are more socially violent followed by Cross Riveriana and Anambra people. For sexual violence, Anambra indigenes are more involved followed by Enugu people, Cross River and then Anambra. Finally, for economic violence, Anambra is more involved, followed by Cross River, and Akwa Ibom and Enugu state. It was recommended that that strong legal enforcement should be carried out, properly monitored to bring perpetrators to books among others.

KEYWORDS: Cross cultural dynamics, violence against women, economic violence, social violence, physical violence.

INTRODUCTION

Nigeria is a signatory to both the African Human Rights Commission (AHRC) Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which both seek to safeguard people against acts of violence and other conduct that infringe upon their basic human rights and dignity. Furthermore, human rights were acknowledged and enshrined as fundamental principles in Chapter Four of the Federal Republic of Nigeria's constitution in 1999. The social order of the Nigerian state is clearly based on the concepts of Freedom, Equality, and Justice, and discrimination on the basis of sex, religion, and ethnic ties, among other things, is forbidden, according to Chapter 2 of the constitution. As in other underdeveloped nations, GBV is yet pervasive in the nation. (Ajayi, 2019). As a violation of Fundamental Human Rights, violence against women is recognised on a global scale. More studies have brought attention to the negative impacts of such violence on people's health, their future generations, and demographic trends. The Violence Against Persons (Prohibition) Act 2015 was passed in Nigeria in 2015. It intends to outlaw all forms of violence in both the public and private domains and grants the right to housing and other forms of social support to those who have been the victims of violence.

Intimate partner violence, including physical and/or sexual assault, and non-partner sexual assault, affect 35% of women worldwide, according to a 2013 World Health Organization (WHO) report. Women from all socioeconomic backgrounds and

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educational levels are affected by gender-based violence, but according to the United Nations (UN), those who fall into particular social categories are more likely than others to be victims of violence. This was revealed at the 1995 World Conference on Women in Beijing. Minority groups, refugee women, migrant workers, poor women, women in institutions or detention, female children, women with disabilities, elderly women, displaced women, and returned women are only a few examples of the social categories of women. Despite the fact that these types of violence against women occur everywhere, the Middle East, Southeast Asia, and Africa have the highest reported rates of such violence. Gender-based violence (GBV) continues to be a barrier to the realisation of equality (SDG goals 5 and 10), peace, and justice as the international community sets and works towards achieving the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by the year 2030.

The act takes several forms in Nigeria depending on various factors. Physically, it can include being burnt or stabbed, as well as being slapped, shoved, smacked, punched, pushed, tossed downstairs or across the room, kicked their arms twisted, or choked. In terms of psychology, it is exerting control over others through actions like managing finances, cutting off relationships with loved ones, subjecting them to constant humiliation, threatening to harm or kill children, or isolating oneself from social groups. Controlling another person's money or other possessions against their will falls under this category financially. A victim may also be denied access to financial decisions, denied financial control, or denied employment.

There hasn't been much progress made in eliminating this canker worm despite the efforts of the United Nations General Assembly and all relevant United Nations conventions, many of which are signed by different countries. Even countries with local legislation aimed at eradication have not achieved the desired results. It is clear that recent times have seen a number of protests against the prevalence of violence against women and girls both globally and in Nigeria. The widespread anxiety and outrage in favour of justice for women generally is therefore not surprising. The truth is that having a life free from violence is a fundamental human right, but millions of women and girls experience violence at a disproportionately high rate, both during times of peace and during times of war.

The diversity of cultural and religious practices in Nigeria initially led people to believe that these practices were ingrained in all cultures, particularly those in the country's North. In fact, because a man can get married as many times as he wants and divorce anybody he wants to divorce, this violence is practiced in that region of the country even on children. As time went on, the dynamics altered. Everywhere in the nation, there are ongoing reports of abuse, making it unclear to the public in which region the majority of violence against women occurs. Given the prevalence of the issue, it is unclear why certain states cluster together in terms of the severity of the abuse meted out to women. Finding efforts

Theoretical framework

Albert Bandura developed the Social Learning hypothesis, which was first proposed in 1977. According to the hypothesis, people pick up on other people's behaviour tendencies. According to the hypothesis, people behave a certain way because of their social environment. In accordance with Bandura's theories (1986, p. 29), modelling parental behaviour may also be helpful in understanding violence against women. Accordingly, it is generally accepted that a man is more likely to commit VAW than a man who did not witness it while he was a child if he witnessed it. According to the Social Learning theory, exposure to violence at a young age imbues children's cognitive ideas that justify using violence against others, increasing the risk that they would use it (Eriksson & Mazerolle, 2015). They contend that exposure to violence at a young age increases children's likelihood of participating in and endorsing it in later years (Delaney, 2015; Gage, 2016).

These statements apply to many VAW offenders in Nigeria today. As many women as possible experience violence at the hands of their romantic partners, the majority of the time the assault takes place in front of kids. And this usually has a big impact on how they see women and how they ought to be treated in a relationship. In Anderson and Kras's (2005) study on interpersonal and intergenerational violence, the effectiveness of Bandura's Social Learning theory in explaining violence is clear. However, in addition to learning through observation, there are additional elements including culture, religious beliefs, and the low status of women that have an impact on violence against them.

Feminist theory

The Feminist theory uses the conflict approach to examine the reinforcement of gender roles and inequalities, highlighting the role of patriarchy in maintaining the oppression of women (Thompson, 2016, para. 3). According to the Liberal Feminist theory, neither men nor women benefit from gender discrimination as both of them are harmed, and that explanation for gender inequality lies in societal culture and values rather than its structures and institutions. In this vein, socialization into gender roles produce rigid expectations of men and women (Thompson, 2016, para. 4).

The theory is derived from the liberal political philosophy in the enlightenment period which centred on the core ideas of equality, freedom, universal rights and democracy (Tong, 2009).

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The conflict approach is used by feminist theory to explore how gender roles and inequalities are maintained, emphasising how patriarchy keeps women underrepresented and oppressed (Thompson, 2016, para. 3). The Liberal Feminist perspective holds that gender disparity is caused more by societal culture and beliefs than by the institutions and structures of a society, and that neither men nor women benefit from gender discrimination since both of them suffer consequences. In this way, inflexible expectations of men and women result from socialisation into gender roles (Thompson, 2016, para. 4).

The theory was derived from the liberal political philosophy of the Enlightenment period, which was based on the fundamental values of equality, freedom, universal rights, and democracy (Tong, 2009). Therefore, in contrast to Radical Feminists, Liberal Feminists are opposed to radical reforms in a democratic setting as a means of resolving the gender discrimination issue. Instead, they are in favour of several measures that would advance gender equality in all spheres, such as laws and adjustments to the current political structure. The fundamental objective is to fully include women in the development process by increasing their participation, increasing their share of the resource distribution, employment, and income, and greatly improving their living conditions (Peet and Hartwick, 2009).

Conceptual Framework

These four terms—gender-based violence, violence against women, domestic violence, and intimate partner violence—form the basis of our analysis. They are to be imagined in this part. Gender-based violence (GBV). This refers to any gender-based socially harmful act, threat of act, or omission against an individual. Despite the fact that the terms are sometimes used interchangeably, sex and gender are not the same. While gender refers to the socially attributed differences that make people either masculine or feminine, sex refers to the biological traits that give them those qualities. Sex is a key factor in determining the duties and responsibilities that men and women are allocated in various cultures, which in turn determines their respective genders and provide them with various possibilities and benefits. It is GBV regardless of the genders of the victim and the perpetrator once the victim's gender is the basis for any kind of violent act. Therefore, GBV can affect both genders equally. VAW: Violence Against Women As a result, DV make up a sizable portion of VAW in many nations. Any abusive behaviour in a man/woman relationship is referred to as intimate partner violence (IPV). Typically, one person engages in such abusive behaviour to seize or keep control over their partner. The victim's social and emotional ties to the abuser serve as the foundation for this form of violence.. Therefore, IPV can affect either sexe, much like GBV and DV. However, females, particularly those who are married, are the majority of the time the victims because of their perceived physical and cultural inferiority. If the couples reside together as a family, IPV may also be regarded as DV.

Violence against Women in Nigeria

Nigerian women have long faced political, social, and economic inequality. While fighting for social, political, and economic rights, they face rape, physical assault, verbal abuse, incest, Female Genital Mutilation (FGM), denial of food, forced marriage, and underage marriage, among other forms of violence. GBV has become a common occurrence for most women in many groups around the country as a result of cultural and religious norms, fast urbanisation, and westernisation. The rate of VAW in Nigeria is rising by the day, with a shocking number of women facing violence in diverse communities. According to the Women At Risk International Foundation (WARIS), over 30% of women in the country experience some kind of DV in a given year. , In a similar vein, according to the 2018 Nigeria Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS), 31% of women between the ages of 15 and 49 have experienced physical violence in some capacity since they turned 15, and 14% have experienced it in the 12 months prior to the survey. In order to quantify the prevalence of GBV in Sub-Saharan Africa, Muluneh (2020) conducted a systematic review and meta-analysis. They gathered information on the prevalence of IPV among women in the Sub-Saharan African countries, ages 15 to 49, from 25 studies. The results showed that the prevalence varied widely, reaching as high as 97% in a study of rural Nigerian women. The prevalence was as low as 13.9% in a study on perinatal women with depression symptoms in South Africa. According to the review's findings, GBV against women has been most prevalent over the years in Nigeria and other parts of Eastern and Western Africa.

Ezeilo and Ohia (2006) sampled 2000 respondents for a study on torture and women in Nigeria, with 1052 women and 948 men included in the sample. Their research showed that women in Nigeria were subjected to a variety of forms of torture, including beatings, wage deductions, denial of needs, repression, sexual harassment, rape, forced widowhood practises, abusive speech, property destruction, deprivation, threats, and child abuse, to name a few. These also affect women in all social classes, according to the study.

Lower-income women, particularly full-time housewives and those working in the informal sector, are more vulnerable to GBV than those from the middle and higher classes, particularly those working in the formal sector (Adebayo, 2003,). In other words, women's victimisation is influenced by their social class and economic dependence on men. As a result, many women in the country are seeking economic independence through entrepreneurship, skilled and unskilled labour. Domestic violence, among

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other forms of GBV, has just recently become so prevalent in the society that even highly educated and strong women are not entirely free of it.

The reasons for wife battery range from silly offences like refusal to respect a husband to more serious ones like having extra marital affairs. Others include refusal to have sex,, leaving the house without permission, keeping bad company, drinking alcohol, cooking bad food or cooking late and disrespect shown to in-laws. Adebayo (2003, p. 19) cited poverty, stalking, direct interference in husband's supposed secret affairs,, wickedness, lack of trust, uncaring nature, power tussle and impatience as factors leading to wife battery.. It goes without saying that the practice of wife battery is very injurious to the women's health. It is linked with a multitude of adverse physical health outcomes including acute injuries, chronic pain, gastrointestinal illness and substance abuse (Taft and Watson 2008).

Others health consequences of the act are, mental instability, gynecological problems, miscarriage, permanent disabilities, depression and haemorrhage. In fact, it is a significant cause of female morbidity and mortality. Even widows are not spared as many have, over the years, found themselves at the receiving end of harmful widowhood practices which prevent them from living normal life and even forced some to engage in risky sexual practices to sustain themselves and their children. Widows are often accused of killing their husbands and are consequently either ostracized from the community or subjected to degrading widowhood rites to prove their innocence. The resulting stigma of such rites is often too much for many to bear regardless to whether or not they are immediately proved guilty. While only malicious reasons make some in-laws to dispossess widows of all family belongings and or evict them from their homes, some cultures in the country out rightly exclude women from inheriting their husbands' (or even fathers') properties.

Victims of sexual assaults, like those of wife battery, experience significant health, social and economic consequences which may be immediate or delayed. It is noteworthy that the violence involved in an attempted sexual assault can have the same impact on the victim as a completed one (Akinlusi 2014, para14). The health consequences of sexual assault include sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancies, unsafe abortions, physical injuries, immediate psychological reactions such as shock, shame, guilt and anger; and long-term psychological outcomes like depression, post-traumatic stress disorder, suicidal ideation, lack of sexual enjoyment, and fear (Furthermore, a review on violence against women by WHO (2013) showed that women who have been sexually assaulted by non-partners are 2.3 times more likely to use alcohol and 2.6 times more likely to experience depression or anxiety, while those abused by partners are 1.5 times more likely to have sexually transmitted diseases including HIV. This is because most of them hardly disclose their predicament to anyone to seek help due to fear or the fear of stigmatization. Of course, Nigeria has one of the lowest rates of help-seeking behaviour in the world with north east geopolitical zone – where only 23% of female survivors of IPV were reported to have sought help – having the lowest rate in the country (World Bank, 2019, p.13).

Female Genital Mutilation (FGM) is another violent cultural practice which many women in Nigeria are now facing its negative consequences having being subjected to it as children. Over 1 in 4 Nigerian women (27%) aged 15-49 have undergone FGM, with the absolute number being about 20 million, a figure that makes the country the third with the highest absolute number of FGM victims worldwide (UNICEF, 2018,). The practice existed in many societies across the world for various reasons but has now greatly declined. It has even totally disappeared in many societies due to its obvious health consequences and enlightenment. Unfortunately, there are many communities in Nigeria that still justify its continuation on grounds of perceived moral obligation or desire to preserve girls 'virginity for family honour.

Similarly, in a meta-analysis on the effect of rural-urban residence and education on IPV, Nagabbala (2021) analysed IPV data on 233,585 women aged 15-49 years from 44 demographic and health surveys conducted between 2000 and 2018 in 29 Sub Saharan African countries. Their findings revealed that women living in rural areas were more likely to have experienced higher rates of IPV compared to women living in urban areas. They further revealed that the prevalence of any form of IPV was generally higher among women living in rural areas (60% of the surveys) and the less-educated women (73% of the surveys) with the most common forms of IPV reported being physical (31.5%), emotional (27.4%) and sexual (12.9%). Finally, it is important to mention that although women are the primary victims of GBV, its overall social and economic costs negatively affect the developmental trajectory of the t entire country. The economic costs of GBV include expenditures on service provision, foregone income for women and their families, decreased productivity, and negative impacts on human capital formation, which are burdensome to developing economies (World Bank, 2019). Therefore, being key actors in the developmental process, the freedom of Nigerian women is directly linked to the country's development. Thus, there is a dire need to address this problem

Research Questions

The following research questions were raised to guide the study:

- i. What are the dimensions of the violence against women scale?
- ii. What are the psychometric properties of the instruments?

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iii. What are the similarities and differences in violence against women based on geopolitical zones?

METHODOLOGY

The study adopted a survey research design with stratified random sampling techniques used to choose participating states in two geopolitical zones, South-South and South -East. Each of the Geopolitical zone was made a strata. In each of the strata, 3 states were chosen. A total of 6 states were chosen randomly for the study. The researchers purposively selected 200 respondents from each state, thus having a total of 1200 respondents for the study. A questionnaire title 'Violence Against Women Scale (VAWS)' was the instrument that was used for data collection. The instrument was developed using a focus group discussion and extensive literature review. The instrument was developed by the researchers and the face validity was ascertained using experts in Measurement and Evaluation and the reliability of the instrument was ascertained using Cronbach Alpha technique. The coefficient of the sub scale was high for the instrument to be adjusted reliable. The data collection as done using Google form administered to various people indifferent states as well as face to face contacts. The data collected were analysed using factor, cluster analysis and one way analysis of Variance (ANOVA) and the result is presented beloww

Presentation of result

Research question one

What are the dimensions of the violence against women scale? To answer this research question, factor analysis and the result is presented in Table 1, 2 and 3. The result in Table 1 and 2 showed that principal component analysis was used for extraction of factors and orthogonal rotation (varimax option) was used to obtain non-correlated. Kaiser criterion was used for the choice of the number of factors in factor analysis (Eigen value of >1.0) which was also based on the Eigen plot (scree plot). Scree plot also shows the total variance associated with each other. The KMO value as found to be 0.890 and acceptable principal component analysis. another indicator of the strength of the relationship among variables is the Bartlett's test of sphericity. in this study, the observed significance level was $p < .001$. it was concluded that the strength of the relationship among variables was strong.

Factor analysis obtained total 14 components, from which only 4 components were significant according to Kaiser Criterion. The components are numbered in ascending scale according to amount of variance explained. These four factors extracted from factor analysis, explain the variation of violence against women (VAW) by 45.094, 7.403, 4.924 and 4.520 percentages respectively. These factors in total explains about 62.001% of the observed variation in the scale. Table 1, 2 and 3 illustrates the eigenvalues, percentage of variation explained by each eigenvalue and the cumulative percentage of variation explained by those eigenvalues. The first extracted factor (the factor which explained highest variation) have high factor, named physical violence with 10 items. The second factor have high loadings with 7 items Third obtained factor from factor analysis have high factor loadings with 8 number of items and the fourth factor have high loadings with 5 number of items.

Table 1: Sample adequacy and test of

Kaiser-Meyer-Olkin Measure of Sampling Adequacy.		.890
Bartlett's Test of Sphericity	Approx. Chi-Square	51783.356
	df	703
	Sig.	.000

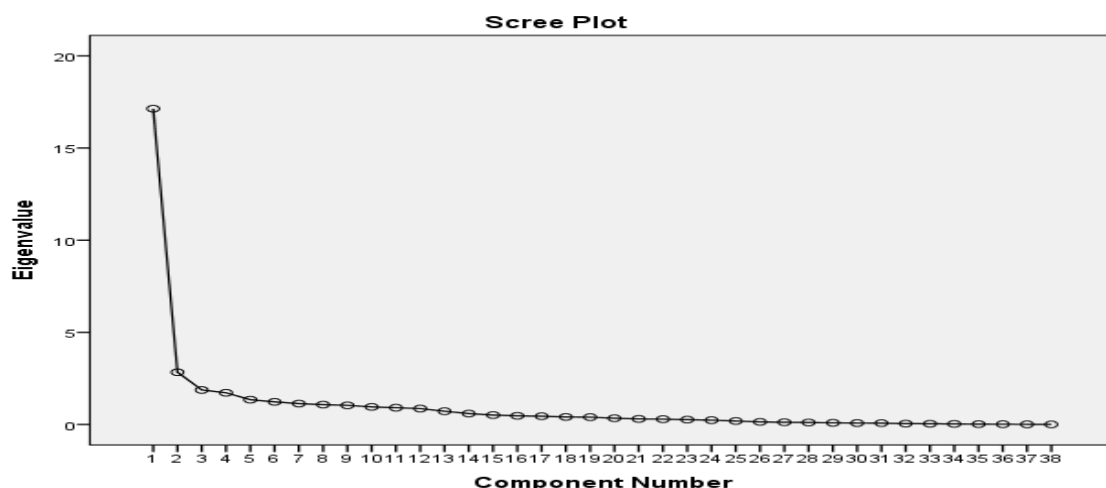


Fig 1. Scree Plot of the components of factors that were produced in the analysis

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Table 2: Factor structure and loading of violence against women

S/N	Physical violence	PV	SV	SVI	EV
1	Sometimes, making a woman to get bruises make them humble	.971			
2	I have no sympathy in slapping a woman who is stubborn	.962			
3	Most times, you lock a woman inside the house to control her	.958			
4	Some communities do not see anything bad in harassing a woman	.951			
5	Members of my community do not allow molestation of a woman	.941			
6	Beating a woman in my community is a capital offence	.936			
7	Most times, I beat beaten women to calm their mouth	.934			
8	It is not necessary to raise a hand on a woman to get compliance	.925			
9	Men that beat their women, do so sometimes to mould their behaviour	.918			
10	There is no moral need of using legs on a woman	.910			
	Social violence		.895		
11	My wife is not allowed to visit anybody anywhere		.892		
12	I sometimes stay a month without saying a woman to my woman		.887		
13	In most communities, women do not sit where men are sitting		.837		
14	In my community, women are only allowed to join their ages grade and not any other club		.815		
15	My wife has no right to visits anybody without my consent		.793		
16	The woman can only be part of a community meeting but has no right to say anything		.740		
17	I have no time to sit and discuss with a woman for anything		.666		
	Sexual violence				
18	Sleeping with a woman without consents is not a bad thing			.636	
	Most women are rapped without any arrest			.628	
19	The body parts of a woman are not sacred			.695	
20	The man has the right to sleep with as many women as he likes			.671	
21	Touching a woman private part is not			.653	
22	Most women don't take it kindly with men that touches them carelessly			.618	
23	It is a taboo for a woman to report that a man rapes her in the community			.582	
24	Most times, nobody cares about the sexual offences that are meted on women in the community			.425	
	Economic violence				
25	The woman has no right in the man's money				.688
26	The man alone device what to do with money				.594
27	Sometimes, the man allows the woman to work for the family upkeep				.519
28	The woman has the right to own her money				.447
29	I don't think men have issues with women holding to money for themselves				.426

PV=Physical violence, SV=Social Violence, SVI=Sexual Violence, EV=Economic violence

Research question two

What are the similarities and differences in violence against women based on geopolitical zones? To answer this research questions, cluster analysis was used, and the result is presented in Table 3. The result in Table 3 showed the characteristics of each group according to their distances from the centroid. The result showed that for cluster one, Akwa Ibom with an Euclidean distance of .6039 was very integral in that cluster. In cluster2, Cross River State with an Euclidean distance of .3515 was at the heart of the cluster. In cluster 3, Enugu state with an Euclidean distance of .3769 was close the centre and for cluster four, Anambra with an Euclidean distance of .2782 was at the heart of that cluster. The characteristics of each cluster and the Euclidean distance of each status Table 3.

Note that the smaller the Euclidean distance, the closer the variable is to the centre and the more characteristics it possesses of that group

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Table 3: Clusters analysis based on states and their Euclidean characteristics

Cluster one	Euclidean distance from the centre	Cluster two	Euclidean distance from the centre
Akwa Ibom	.6039	Cross River	.3515
Enugu	.6037	Akwa Ibom	.3500
Anambra	.6043	Enugu	.4774
River State	.8076	Rivers	.4794
Cross River	.8067	Anambra	.5111
Abia State	1.020	Abia state	.5975
Cluster three		Cluster four	
Enugu	.3769	Anambra	.2782
Akwa Ibom	.3760	Akwa Ibom	.2780
Cross River	.4778	Cross River	.2954
Abia	.4841	Rivers	.2950
Rivers	.5875	Enugu	.3299
Anambra	.6396	Abia	.4774

Similarly, in Table 4, the result showed that physical violence against women, those in Cluster two and in specifics people from Cross River State are more prone to this act as they have the smallest distance to the centred (.3515) followed by those in Enugu State (.3769) in Cluster three and then, those from Akwa Ibom in cluster one (.6039) and those from Anambra State (.2782) in cluster four. This implies people from Cross River state are more physically violent to women compared to those from other geographical zones. In terms of social violence against women, the result showed that those in Cluster one and in specifics people from Akwa Ibom State are more prone to this act as they have the smallest distance to the centred (.6039) followed by those in Cross River State (.3515) in Cluster two and then, those from Enugu in cluster three (.37692) and those from Anambra State (.2782) in cluster four. This implies people from Akwa Ibom are more socially violent to women compared to those from other geographical zones. Furthermore, for sexual violence against women, the result showed that those in Cluster one and in specifics people from Akwa Ibom State are more prone to this act as they have the smallest distance to the centred (.6039) followed by those in Anambra State (.2782) in Cluster four and then, those from Cross River in cluster two (.37692) and those from Enugu State (.37692) in cluster three. This implies people from Akwa Ibom are more sexually violent to women compared to those from other geographical zones. More so, for economic violence, the result showed that those in Cluster four and in specifics people from Anambra State are more prone to this act as they have the smallest distance to the centred (.2782) followed by those in Cross River State (.3515) in Cluster two and then, those from Akwa Ibom in cluster one (.6039) and those from Enugu State (.37692) in cluster three. This implies people from Anambra State are more economically violent to women compared to those from other geographical zones

Table 4: Final cluster centres of the variables

Components of violence	Cluster			
	Cluster 1	Cluster 2	Cluster 3	Cluster 4
Physical violence	-.29587	1.08274	1.07248	-.90684
Social violence	.75567	.06147	-.59389	-.26064
Sexual violence	1.04072	-.24982	-.18132	-.43763
Economic violence	-.34101	1.09847	-1.44825	.19853

To strengthen the claims in Table 4, One Way Analysis of Variance (ANOVA) was carried out and the result as presented in Table 5 showed that for physical violence ($F=1222.646$, $p<.05$), for social violence ($F=139.209$, $p<.05$), for Sexual violence ($F=138.278$, $p<.05$) and for economic violence ($F=643.365$, $p<.05$). since $p(.000)$ is less than $p(.05)$ for all the dimensions of violence against women, this implies that the clusters differ according to various dimensions of violence against women.

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Table 5: One way analysis of variance (ANOVA) result on the influence of the clusters on violence against women

Violence dimensions	Cluster	N	Mean	Std. Deviation
Physical violence	Cluster 1	242	10.276	2.894
	Cluster 2	228	14.087	2.274
	Cluster 3	168	12.072	2.231
	Cluster 4	396	10.909	2.138
	Total	1034	21.220	5.511
Social violence	Cluster 1	242	15.896	2.841
	Cluster 2	228	14.061	2.890
	Cluster 3	168	13.593	2.846
	Cluster 4	396	13.331	2.818
	Total	1034	19.546	4.131
Sexual violence	Cluster 1	242	15.961	2.829
	Cluster 2	228	14.249	1.003
	Cluster 3	168	11.181	2.849
	Cluster 4	396	13.766	3.748
	Total	1034	20.098	5.165
Economic violence	Cluster 1	242	12.354	3.562
	Cluster 2	228	13.098	3.639
	Cluster 3	168	11.448	3.430
	Cluster 4	396	15.198	2.635
	Total	1034	22.543	4.109

Dimension	Source of variation	Sum of Squares	df	Mean Square	F	Sig.
Physical violence	Between Groups	806.520	3	268.840	1222.646*	.000
	Within Groups	226.480	1030	.220		
	Total	1033.000	1033			
Social violence	Between Groups	298.010	3	99.337	139.209*	.000
	Within Groups	734.990	1030	.714		
	Total	1033.000	1033			
Sexual violence	Between Groups	296.590	3	98.863	138.278*	.000
	Within Groups	736.410	1030	.715		
	Total	1033.000	1033			
Economic violence	Between Groups	673.555	3	224.518	643.365*	.000
	Within Groups	359.445	1030	.349		
	Total	1033.000	1033			

*=significant at .05 level

DISCUSSION OF FINDINGS

A fifty items scale was developed measuring violence against women with a view of finding out the cross-cultural perspective of the insidious activities of selected six states in the two geopolitical spaces in Nigeria, (South-South and South -East). The instrument was developed using a four-point modified Likert scale. The Violence Against Women Scale (VAWS) was subjected to factor analysis for determining the dimensions that can be used for the study and four factors accounting for 62.001% of the observed variation. Our sample of 1034 according to Tahachnick and Fidel (2001) is sufficiently large to allow meaningful factor analysis to scrutinize the construct validity of the VAWS. The four factors derived were Physical violence, social violence, sexual violence and economic violence. Cronbach alpha reliability was used to estimate the degree of consistency of the new instrument. The coefficients of the subscales ranged from 0.71-0.85 which is a string indication that the instrument was valid and reliable (Ofem, Ovat, Nwogwugu and Effiom, 2021). It was concluded that the instrument was valid and reliable for utilization.

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To further ascertain the characteristics of each state in respect cluster analysis was used with Hierarchical and K-means clustering to get four clusters and the characteristics of each cluster. The result showed that for physical violence Cross River State indigenes are more violent physically compared to other six states followed by Enugu state indigene and then Anambra and Akwa Ibom State. For social violence, Akwa Ibom indigenes are more socially violent follow by Cross Riverians and Anambra people. For sexual violence, Anambra indigenes are more involved followed by Enugu people, Cross River and then Anambra. Finally, for economic violence, Anambra is more involved, followed by Cross river and the, Akwa Ibom and Enugu state. The findings of this study could be in line with the assertion of Gregory (2021) that noted that most people believe that these violence against women is rooted in the North, probably because of their cultural and religious perception of women, but it has gradually permeated in the south and most women are suffering it severely

CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Based on the findings of the study, it is concluded that violence against women has taken roots in the south especially in states like Cross River, Akwa Ibom, Anambra and Enugu states. These practices are silent in states like Rivers and Abia that appeared very far from the centroids. Based on the findings, it was recommended that such practices against women should be properly monitored to bring perpetrator to books. That value reorientation should be carried out to ensure that abuse of all forms is avoided with strong legislative implementation.

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