

PERCEPTION OF NEWSPAPER COVERAGE OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AGAINST MALE AMONG MARRIED MEN IN ILORIN, KWARA STATE, NIGERIA

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Abstract

Globally, gender-based violence is a social menace that has broken many marriages. Meanwhile, the mass media, especially newspapers, are change agents championing the eradication of this problem. Newspapers play a key role in raising awareness about the dangers of this social issue. Scholars have studied newspapers and gender-based violence mainly from the female perspective, while the male perspective is more or less ignored. Therefore, this study examines how newspapers cover gender-based violence against married men in Ilorin, Kwara State. Individual differences theory serves as the theoretical framework for the study. A survey research method was used to gather data from 311 married men selected from Ilorin South Local Government Area of Kwara State. The data were analysed with the help of the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences. Frequency tables and simple percentages were used to present the results. The findings show that married men in Ilorin, Kwara State, perceive newspaper reports on gender-based violence against men as inaccurate, biased, and sentimental, concluding that Nigerian newspapers do not provide detailed reports of these incidents compared to those involving women. The study concludes that this coverage has led married men

concludes that this coverage has led married men to avoid confrontational disputes in marriage. It also recommends that newspaper organisations should give more attention to gender-based violence against men to educate the public about the dangers involved in this issue.

Keywords: *Gender-based violence, married men, newspaper coverage, violence against male*

Introduction

In Nigeria, like most African societies, domestic violence is gendered and culturally patterned (Bature, 2020) as female majorly do experience gender-based violence caused by men (World Bank, 2019). For instance, there are a series of reports of sexual assault and other forms of violence against women in Nigerian society, such as the proliferation of baby production factories, husbands or wives murdering the other, among others (Eteng et al., 2021). Also, a review on violence against women by the WHO (2013) shows that women are mostly sexually assaulted by non-partners and partners.

However, men and boys can also be victims of Gender-Based Violence (Sikamikami et al., 2023). This violence is mostly committed by their intimate partner (Mbandiwa, 2020). In many developed countries and some developing countries, such as the USA, China, and Nigeria, inclusive, males have reported incidences of assault such as pushing, shoving, slapping, grabbing, and hitting (Nabukeera, 2020). For instance, the Lagos State Government states that 1,108 men reported domestic violence in six years (*The Nation Newspaper*, June 2, 2023). Also, the *Nigerian Tribune* indicates that 25% of men suffer violence in Nigeria (*Nigerian Tribune*, May 8, 2022). These types of assaults can lead to physical injuries and long-term health problems, as well as emotional and psychological trauma. This implies that violence against men is real. However, there is a low level of data on abuse of men (*The Punch*, December 11, 2022). This may be based on societal expectations and stereotypes that men should be able to protect themselves, or they may be ashamed to admit they are victims. The report in *The Punch* adds that out of the 110 cases of sexual gender-based violence in 2022, only four are males (*The Punch*, December 11, 2022). Similarly, in 2024, 17,415 gender

violence cases were reported (*The Punch*, 7th February 2025), in which the majority were female. Thus, GBV against males is underreported in Nigeria.

Meanwhile, previous research on gender violence has shown that media coverage of gender violence can have a significant impact on public attitudes towards the issue (Sulaiman et al., 2021). This is because the media, especially the newspapers, can shape perceptions of the prevalence and severity of gender violence, influence beliefs about the causes and consequences, and shape attitudes towards the victims and perpetrators of the societal problem (Ogwuche & Shamo, 2019). This is based on the assumption that the mass media, especially the newspapers, are powerful media that can influence public opinion on issues (Wonuola et al., 2023). However, literature is well-grounded on Gender-Based Violence against females and mass media; there is little or no empirical study on Gender-Based Violence against males and mass media. For instance, Ojemeru et al. (2022) examine gender-based violence in Nigeria under the dimension “uMedia Dimension”. The findings of the study reveal that male right to discipline or control females contributes to the violence against female. Similarly, Okafor et al., (2023) investigate “knowledge and attitude toward media campaigns against Gender-Based Violence among Nigerian women in southwest, Nigeria” and discover that social economic facets such as academic achievements, religion, cultural factors, among others affect people’s attitude towards the menace.

It is, therefore, evident that studies have examined gender-based violence against women in Nigeria; there is little or no exploration of the phenomenon from the male angle, even though males have also been the victims of GBV. For instance, a Non-Governmental Organisation (NGO), the *Purple Lifeline Connection*, discloses that over 25 per cent of men suffer abuse at the hands of their partners in Nigeria (*Nigerian Tribune*, May 8, 2022). More so, the Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, Lagos State, reveals that 1,108 men report domestic violence in six years (*The Punch*, 8th August 2023). Based on the foregoing, there is a need to fill the existing gap by exploring the mass media and GBV against males. This study, therefore, examines the perception of newspapers’ coverage of Gender-Based Violence against men among married men in Ilorin, Kwara State.

The study is guided by the following objectives: to determine the extent to which married men in Ilorin are exposed to Gender-Based Violence reports against male in the

Nigerian newspapers, to examine the perception of married men in Ilorin to Gender-Based Violence reports against male in the Nigerian newspapers; and to establish the perceived consequences of newspapers coverage of Gender-Based Violence on marital conflict among married men in Ilorin.

Conceptual Framework

Gender-Based Violence and Newspapers

Gender-Based Violence (GBV) violates human rights as stated in the 1999 Constitution as amended. For instance, Chapter four, Section 34(1) of the 1999 Constitution entrenched human rights as fundamental in Nigeria. The subsection categorically stated that ‘no person shall be subjected to torture or to inhuman or degrading treatment (Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria, 1999).

More so, chapter two, section 17 (1a-d) of the constitution adds that the Nigerian State’s social order is founded on the ideals of freedom, equality and justice, and that discrimination on the grounds of sex, religion, and ethnicity, among others, is prohibited. To curb this menace, Nigeria as a signatory to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Charter of African Human Rights; both of which aim to protect individuals against violence and other actions that interfere with fundamental freedom and human dignity (Africa’s freedom struggles and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, December, 2018) have put up several measures in line with the tenets of the Nigerian constitutional provisions on human rights. Specifically, attention is focused on Gender-Based Violence among women with less concentration on violence against men. For instance, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (November 25, 2023), in collaboration with the Nigerian governments at all levels, marks the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women in Nigeria on 25th November 2023. In addition, the World Health Organisation (WHO), in partnership with the Nigerian government, on 14th November, 2020, created awareness on GBV against women to curb the incessant occurrence of GBV against women in Nigeria (WHO, 14 September 2020). This indicates that the general assumption is that GBV affects only females. The assumption may be due to the unwillingness of male victims to speak out, and this may be responsible for less reporting of male victims in the Nigerian mass media, especially the newspapers.

Globally, gender-based violence against males has become a serious issue. For instance, the United Nations (2020) finds that women often threaten their male victims. The victimisation of men by their female partners is a serious social problem, and it is largely ignored by society. This societal ignorance of male victims may be due to the inability of male victims to admit being victims of intimate partner violence (*The Punch*, June 1, 2022). Incidence of home-based violence against men is high, though it is under-reported, and this, consequently, is responsible for very little information about the menace (Machado et al., 2020). Hence, many cases remain unreported. Domestic violence against men is a term describing violence that is committed against men by their intimate partner (Kolbe & Büttner, 2020). Machado et al. (2020), therefore, suggest that a focus on gendered risk of violence in public health policy should target male-to-male public violence and male-to-female intimate partner abuse, with no mention of female-to-male abuse. With the rise of the men's movement, and particularly men's rights, there are some advocacy campaigns for men as victims. For instance, the Lagos State government, through its Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency, unveils 'The hidden crime, Violence against men' initiative in Ikeja on 5th June, 2023, as a measure to encourage men that experienced domestic violence to speak up (*The Punch*, 4th June, 2023). Thus, more attention is globally focused on gender-based violence against women, with little or no exploration of the phenomenon from a male angle.

Previous Studies on Media and GBV

Several scholars have examined gender-based violence with a focus on females. For instance, Okafor et al. (2023) examine "knowledge and attitude toward media campaigns against gender-based violence among Nigerian women in Southeast, Nigeria." The study discovers that socioeconomic factors such as academic achievements, religion, cultural factors, among others, affect people's attitudes towards Gender-based violence. The study recommends that a clear understanding of the relationship between dominant cultures and the suppression of women should inform future campaigns on GBV. Similarly, Miller and Demirbilek (2023) investigate "the role of social media in the fight against gender violence." The findings reveal that social media campaigns play a crucial role in the fight against gender violence against women, as it

provides a space for survivors, activists and advocates to connect and discuss the way forward. The study recommends future studies to examine other methods for fighting gender violence.

In addition, Governor and Clever (2023) investigate “newspaper coverage of gender violence in Nigeria with specific attention to *Daily Trust* and the *Daily Sun*” within the duration of 24 months. The findings reveal that the *Daily Trust* and *The Daily Sun*, and the Nigerian newspapers in general, have contributed to the fight against persons based on their gender. The study, therefore, recommends that the Nigerian newspapers should improve their coverage of gender violence with a view to promoting a gender violence-free society. Finally, Christian et al. (2023) examine “empowering women facing gender-based violence amid COVID-19 through media campaign.” The study discovers that the media campaign affects women’s attitudes towards gender on marital equality or on the justifiability of violence. The study recommends that media campaigns should focus on increasing women’s knowledge, hypothetical use and reported use of available resources.

Based on the review of the previous study on GBV, there is a dearth of studies on GBV against males, as the previous studies focus on GBV against females.

Mass Media, Gender-based Violence and Male Victims

Gender-based violence (GBV) is not only against women but also against men (Walker et al., 2020). It can be referred to as a violation of human rights (International Rescue Committee, August 22, 2023). International Rescue Committee (August 22, 2023) adds that GBV can manifest in various ways which include physical violence; assault or slavery, emotional or psychological violence; verbal abuse or confinement; sexual abuse, including rape; harmful practices such as child marriage and female genital mutilation; socio-economic violence, which includes denial of resources; and sexual harassment, exploitation and abuse. Gender-based violence is multi-dimensional as it affects both males and females.

However, male victims of domestic violence are like orphans, since society, caregivers, law enforcers, and the judicial services pay less attention to them (United Nations, 2020). Males have been falsely framed as perpetrators of domestic violence (Gongazalez et al., 2023). Though one cannot compare the figures of domestic violence between men and women, since it is clear from the World Health Organisation, the International Rescue Commission, and other

documents that women are the main victims of domestic violence, the treatment given to male victims is different (Shuler et al., 2013; *The Punch*, 14th November, 2023). This submission may be based on the conclusions of Mbandiwa (2020) and John and Jonathan (2023) that the large number of male victims of domestic violence hardly report to the authorities and professionals about their abuse due to some individual and social reasons. Hope et al. (2021) support this submission by adding that the inability of men to report their abuse is based on their belief that nothing or little action would be taken against the perpetrators. Hence, there is a stereotype in GBV. This may be responsible for the low coverage of GBV against males in the mass media, especially the newspapers.

Newspapers as change agents in a society are endowed with the ability to correct societal menace by setting the agenda on issues that require attention from the public and government. Newspapers can achieve this by reporting incidents of gender violence committed by men and women and also raising awareness about the issue and its impact on victims and society. However, newspapers need to report this issue responsibly, using sensitive language and avoiding victim-blaming or perpetuating stereotypes (Ekweonu, 2020). Additionally, newspapers can also cover efforts to prevent and address GBV, such as educational campaigns and support services for victims. Hence, the Nigerian newspapers should also set an agenda on male victims of GBV.

Theoretical Framework

The study is underpinned by the Individual differences theory. Individual differences theory is propounded by Cattell-Horn-Carroll in 1980 (Baran & Davis, 2014). The theory proposes that individuals respond differently to the mass media messages according to their psychological needs, and that individuals consume the mass media messages to satisfy those needs (Jane et al., 2018). This implies that individuals' values, needs, beliefs, and attitudes play a major role in their manner of reaction to the media messages. Hence, different people will react differently to the same information or message. That is, individuals' reaction to media messages or content will differ based on their motivation, prior beliefs, values, bias, intelligence level, socioeconomic class, geographical region, age, sex, among others (Jane et al., 2018). Thus, married men in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria, perceive the newspaper coverage of domestic

violence against men differently. The theory is, therefore, relevant to this study as it implies that married men will respond differently to the media content on Gender-Based Violence against men.

Methods and Materials

The study adopts a descriptive design, with the survey research method used to gather data for the study.

Population of the Study

The population comprises the married men in Ilorin South local government area in Ilorin metropolis. According to the Independent National Electoral Commission 2023 report, the total registered male voters in Ilorin South are 163,701. Hence, the population for the study is 163,701.

Sample Size

The sample size for the study is 320. A multi-stage sampling procedure is used to determine the sample size. At the first stage of sampling, the wards in Ilorin South are retrieved from the local government headquarters. They are : *Agbeyangi/Gbadamu/Osin, Gambari I, Balogun Gambari, Ibagun, Apado, Iponrin, Magaji Are I, Magaji Are II, Marafa/Pepele, Maya/Ile-Apa, Oke Oyi/Oke Ose/Alalubbossa and Zango*. Simple random sampling is also used to select four wards: *Gambari I, Balogun Gambari, Magaji Are Zango, and I*.

At the second stage of sampling. A purposive sampling technique is used to select married men who access newspapers for information on gender-violence against males. The choice of the purposive sampling technique is predicated on the nature of the study. Since the study requires information from married men who have access to Gender-Based Violence against males through newspapers, the purposive sampling technique seems to be appropriate. The table below presents the respondents from the selected wards.

Table 1: Respondents' sample size

Listed Wards	Number of respondents
<i>Gambari I</i>	114
<i>Balogun Gambari</i>	65
<i>Magaji Are I</i>	99
<i>Zango</i>	42
Total	320

Hence, the sample size for the study is 320.

Research Instrument

A questionnaire is used to gather data from the respondents. The questionnaire contains two sections: Section A and Section B. Section A is based on questions that aim to achieve the objectives of the study, while Section B focuses on demographic variables. The questionnaire contains seventeen (17) closed-ended questions designed to elicit information about the respondents' demographics, exposure, perception and perceived consequences of newspaper reports of Gender-Based Violence on marital conflict.

Validity and Reliability of the Research Instrument

The study employs content validity and a pre-test method to ascertain the validity of the instrument. Content validity is achieved by subjecting copies of the instrument to vetting by two senior lecturers selected from the Department of Mass Communication and Centre for Peace Studies, Al-Hikmah University. Their suggestions were incorporated. Thereafter, the pre-test method is adopted by distributing 30 copies of the instrument to 30 randomly selected married men in Ilorin West Local Government Area of Kwara State. The copies were collected and analysed. The findings reveal that the instrument is valid as the variables therein measured what they are aimed to measure.

To ensure the reliability of the instrument, the test-retest reliability technique is used, in which the same copies of the questionnaire were re-administered to the same set of people after two weeks of initial administration. The copies were collected and analysed. The findings reveal that the instrument is reliable, as the findings correlate with the initial findings.

Method of Data Analysis

Data are gathered with the aid of two well-trained research assistants. Data gathered are analysed using the Statistical Package for the Social Sciences (SPSS) version 23. Simple percentages, tables, and frequency counts are used to present the findings and discussion, followed immediately. Out of the 320 questionnaires, only 311 copies were retrieved. Hence, 311 copies of the questionnaire are analysed.

Findings

Research Objectives Explication

The data gathered through the administration of questionnaires are analysed to proffer answers to the research objectives. The study measures the extent, perception and perceived consequences of newspaper reports of Gender-Based Violence against males on marital conflict.

Extent of exposure to gender violence report against males in the Nigerian newspapers:

The respondents' level of exposure is measured by four (4) closed-ended questions. The questions focus on the respondents' level of exposure and means of exposure.

Perception of married men to gender based violence reports against males in the Nigerian newspapers:

The respondents' perception is measured by seven close-ended questions. The questions focus on awareness, victims, adequate reportage of the conflict, as well as attitude and the level of influence that the message has on them.

Perceived consequences of newspaper coverage of gender-based violence on marital conflict:

The perceived consequences of the reportage are measured by six close-ended questions. The study assesses the consequences, such as knowledge of handling marital conflict, ability to prevent marital conflict from degenerating into violence, and seeking marital counselling.

4.2 Research Findings

Table 1: Demographic Variables of the respondents

Respondents' Demographic Profile	Frequency	Percentage
Age		
18-24	8	3
25-31	117	37
32-38	128	41
39-45	44	14
46 and above	14	5
Total	311	100
Religion		
Islam	288	93
Christianity	23	7
Traditional	0	0
Total	311	100
Occupation		
Civil servant	92	30
Self-employed	173	56
Private sector employee	27	9
Student	0	0
Unemployed	19	6
Total	311	100

Table 1 shows the demographic variables of the respondents. It is discovered that 8(3%) of the respondents are within the age of 18-24, 117(37%) are within the age of 25-31, 128(41%) are within the age of 32-38, 44(14%) are within the age of 39-45 while 14(5%) respondents are between 46 and above of age. The table also shows the religion of the respondents, and it is discovered that 288(93%) of the respondents practise Islam, 23(7%) of the respondents practise Christianity, while nobody practises traditional religion. More so, occupation of the respondents shows that 92(30%) are civil Servants, 173(56%) are self-employed, 27(9%) work in a private firm while 19(6%) are unemployed.

It can, therefore, be deduced from Table 1 that married men in Ilorin are above the age of 24, are self-employed, and practise the Islamic religion.

RQ1: What is the extent to which married men in Ilorin are exposed to gender violence reports against married men in the selected newspapers?

Table 2: Extent of Exposure to gender violence reports against married men

Item	Frequency	Percentage
How often do you read the newspaper?		
Every day	184	59
Seldom	74	24
Every week	31	10
Monthly	18	6
Occasionally	4	1
Total	311	100
Do you access content on gender violence against married men?		
Yes	311	100
No	00	00
Total	311	100
What are the sources of accessing newspaper reports on gender-based violence against males?		
Radio Newspapers' Reviews	131	42
Newspapers	8	3
Social media (E-newspapers)	172	55
Others		
Total	311	100

How often do you get exposed to gender violence reports against married men in the newspaper?

Every day	143	46
Sometimes	97	31
Every week	35	11
Monthly	7	2
Occasionally	29	9
Total	311	100

Findings from Table 2 display the extent to which married men in Ilorin are exposed to gender violence reported against married men in the Nigerian newspapers. It is gathered that 184(59%) of the respondents read newspapers every day. 74(24%) read newspapers seldom, 31(10%) read newspapers every week, 18(6%) read newspapers monthly while 4(1%) read newspaper occasionally. From these findings, it is deduced that the majority of the married men in Ilorin read newspapers. Also, another result shows that 293(94%) of the respondents read newspaper content on gender violence against married men, while 18(6%) do not read newspaper content that relates to gender violence against married men. The findings also indicate that 131(42%) of the respondents access gender-based violence reports through radio programme newspapers reviews, 8(3%) access the reports through hard copy, while 172 (55%) access the reports through e-newspapers. Hence, most of the respondents access the reportage through e-newspapers. More so, 143(46%) of the respondents affirm that they read about gender violence reports against married men in newspapers every day, 93(31%) sometimes read gender violence report against married men stories in newspapers, 35(11%) read gender violence reports against married men in newspapers every week, 7(2%) read gender violence reports against married men in newspapers monthly while 29(9%) occasionally read gender violence report against married men in newspapers.

It can, therefore, be deduced from Table 2 that the majority of the respondents are highly exposed to gender violence reports against married men in the Nigerian newspapers, as 293(94%) of the respondents read newspaper content on gender violence against married men.

RQ2: What is the perception of married men in Ilorin of gender violence reports against married men in the selected newspapers?

Table 3: Perception of married men in Ilorin of gender violence reports against married men in the selected newspapers

Perception of married men	Frequency and Percentage				Total percentage
	Disagree	Strongly disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	
Newspaper covers news on gender violence against married men	13(4%)	27(9%)	154(50%)	117(38%)	311/100%
Most times, women are guilty of gender abuse against married men in a newspaper report	31(10%)	48(15%)	92(30%)	140(45%)	311/100%
Most times, men are found guilty of gender violence reported against married men in a newspaper	88(28%)	105(34%)	64(21%)	54(17%)	311/100%
Newspapers always give detailed reports on gender violence against married men	146(47%)	119(38%)	25(8%)	21(7%)	311/100%
Newspaper reportage on gender violence focuses more on women	25(8%)	52(17%)	211(68%)	23(7%)	311/ 100%
Newspapers always portray men as being guilty in the conflict	40(13%)	33(11%)	173(55%)	65(21%)	311/100%
Newspapers hardly report follow-up stories on gender violence against males.	28(9%)	17(5%)	193(62%)	73(24%)	311/100%

Findings from Table 3 show the perception of married men in Ilorin of gender violence reports against married men in the Nigerian newspapers. It is gathered that 40(13%) disagreed that newspapers report news on gender violence against married men. 271(87%) agree that

newspapers report news on gender violence against married men. Thus, newspapers report news on gender violence against married men.

Moreover, 79(25%) of the respondents disagree that women are guilty of gender violence against married men in the newspaper reports, and 232 (75%) agree that most times, women are guilty of gender abuse against married men. Thus, newspapers present women as being guilty of gender abuse against married men. More so, 193(62%) of the respondents strongly disagree that men are guilty of gender violence reports against married men in newspapers, and 118 (38%) agree that most times, men are found guilty of gender violence reports against married men in newspapers. Thus, newspapers report on gender violence against male present women as being guilty of the offence. In addition, 265(85%) of the respondents disagree that newspapers always give detailed reports on gender violence against married men, and 46 (15%) agree that newspapers always give detailed reports on gender violence against married men. It can therefore be deduced from the findings that newspapers do not give detailed reports on gender violence against married men. In addition, 265 (85%) respondents disagree that the Nigerian newspapers always give detailed reports on gender violence against married men, while 46(15%) agree. Hence, the Nigerian newspaper reports of gender violence against males are inaccurate. Furthermore, 77 (25%) of the respondents disagree that Newspaper reports on gender violence focus more on women, while 234(75%) agree. This implies that there is gender disparity in the Nigerian newspaper reports on domestic violence. In addition, 73 (23%) respondents disagree that the Nigerian newspapers always portray men as being guilty in the conflict, while 238 (77%) agree. Hence, the Nigerian newspapers accord more significance to women than men in gender-based violence reports. Also, 45(14%) disagree that the Nigerian newspapers hardly report follow-up stories on gender violence against males, while 266 (76%) agree.

It can therefore be deduced from Table 3 that married men perceive newspaper reports on gender violence against males as inaccurate, biased and sentimental compared to the reports against females. This submission is based on the findings that 265 (85%) respondents disagree that the Nigerian newspapers always give detailed reports on gender violence against married men. Hence, the Nigerian newspaper reports on gender violence against males are inaccurate.

This finding is corroborated by *The Punch* (14th November 2023) that women and girls are mostly affected by gender-based violence.

RQ3: What are the perceived consequences of newspaper coverage of gender-based violence on marital conflict among married men in Ilorin?

Table 4: The perceived consequences of newspapers' coverage of Gender-Based Violence on marital conflict among married men in Ilorin

Factors	Frequency and Percentage				Total
	Disagree	Strongly Disagree	Agree	Strongly Agree	
Gender violence report against married men makes me always shout at my partner whenever we have a misunderstanding	134(43%)	148(47%)	19(6%)	10(3%)	311/100
Newspaper content on gender violence against married men deters me from being confrontational to my partner.	122 (39%)	113 (36%)	45(15%)	31(10%)	311/100
Exposure to a newspaper story on gender violence against married men makes me pay attention to my partner.	42(13%)	24(8%)	108(35%)	137(44%)	311/100
Newspapers report on gender violence against males, which empowers me with the skills to manage marital conflict	66 (21%)	33 (11%)	161 (52%)	51 (16%)	311/100
Gender based violence against males through newspapers deterred me from engaging in confrontational conflict with my spouse.	23(7%)	51(16%)	213 (69%)	24(8%)	311/100 %
Newspapers report on gender-based violence to enhance the establishment of Non-Governmental Organisations that focus on male victims.	17(5%)	27(9%)	235(76%)	32 (10%)	311/100 %

Table 4 presents the perceived consequences of newspaper coverage of Gender-Based Violence on marital conflict among married men in Ilorin. 282(90%) of the respondents disagree that gender violence reports against married men make them always shout at their partners whenever they have a misunderstanding, while 29(10%) agree. In addition, 235(75%) of the respondents strongly disagree that newspaper content on gender violence against married men deters them from being confrontational to their partner, while 76(25%) agree. Additionally, 66(21%) of the respondents strongly disagree that exposure to newspapers' stories on gender violence against married men makes them pay attention to their partner, while 245(79%) agree. Moreover, 99(32%) disagree that the Nigerian newspaper reports on gender violence against males, empower them with skills to manage marital conflict, while 212 (68%) agree. More so, 74(24%) of the respondents disagree that gender violence against males through newspapers debarred them from engaging in confrontational conflict with their spouse, while 237(76%) agree. Also, 44 (14%) of the respondents disagree that the Nigerian newspaper reports on gender violence enhanced the establishment of Non-Governmental Organisations that focus on male victims, while 267(86%) agree. It can be deduced from Table 4 that the Nigerian newspaper reports on gender violence against males have contributed to the reduction of domestic violence among married men in Ilorin, as they perceive the reportage to be partly responsible for why married men refrain from confrontational arguments in their matrimony. This is supported by the submission of the majority of the respondents, 212 (68%), that the coverage of male victims in GBV has empowered them with skills to manage marital conflict.

Discussion of the Findings

This study aims to unveil the perception of newspaper coverage of gender violence against males among married men in Ilorin, Kwara State. Findings of the study revealed that: (i) majority of the respondents are highly exposed to gender violence reports against male, (ii) married men perceive newspapers reports on gender violence against male as inaccurate as the Nigerian newspapers do not give detailed reports on the incidents; and (iii) the perceived consequences of newspapers reports on gender violence against male among married men in Ilorin is that the reportage is partly responsible for why married men refrain from confrontational argument in their matrimony.

Married men are highly exposed to gender violence reported against males in the Nigerian newspapers. The finding corroborates with Governor and Clever (2022), who submitted that newspapers have been effective in raising awareness on Gender-Based Violence. Also, the findings relate to Ekweonu (2020), whose study discovers that mass media are interested in the public health-related issues that domestic violence can cause in society. The finding is also in consonance with Agudosy and Ikegbunam (2020)'s perspective on the Agenda-setting theory that through effective and repeated reporting of an issue in the focal points of the news media, people will get to know about the activity and possibly act in line with the media directives on such development. This theory makes the mass media a critical opinion controller and director of public views and discourse on prevailing issues around the world. Hence, newspapers are critical in keeping people abreast of the happenings in a society.

In addition, married men perceive newspaper reports on gender violence against males as inaccurate, as newspapers do not give detailed reports of the incidents. The finding is in relation to the tenets of Individual differences theory, as viewed by Perrin et al. (2019); Baran and Davis (2014), that individuals have a way of viewing a particular message on media based on their predispositions. The perceived inaccuracy of the reports may be predisposed by the submissions of Hope et al. (2021) that men are disinclined to report their abuse as they believe no or little action would be taken against the perpetrators.

The perceived consequence of newspaper reports on gender violence against males among married men in Ilorin is that the reportage is partly responsible for why married men refrain from confrontational arguments in their matrimonial homes. The finding corroborates with Menon et al. (2020) that newspapers have a crucial role to play in combating Gender-Based Violence as they can raise awareness on the issue, challenge cultural norms and attitudes, hold perpetrators accountable and influence policy. This may therefore imply that the Nigerian newspaper coverage of Gender-Based Violence against males has contributed significantly to the eradication of marital conflict in Nigerian society.

5. Conclusion

The study investigates the perception of newspaper coverage of Gender-Based Violence against males among married men in Ilorin South, Kwara State, Nigeria. Findings from the study establish that the Nigerian newspapers contribute to shaping married men's understanding of GBV against men as they create awareness about the menace in the Nigerian society. In addition, married men in Ilorin, Kwara State, perceive the newspaper reports on gender violence against males as inadequate, as the Nigerian newspapers do not give detailed reports of the incidents. However, the coverage has prompted married men to refrain from any matrimonial argument that is confrontational in nature.

Hence, the study has contributed to the existing knowledge by reaffirming the submission of the individual differences theory that people have different ways of interpreting a phenomenon. The findings of the study also inform the Nigerian policy makers on the need to empower the Nigerian law enforcement agencies to pay utmost attention to Gender-Based Violence reports against males. In addition, the study informs the Nigerian Government at all levels, especially at the grassroots levels, to collaborate with Non-Governmental Organisations and other stakeholders in peace and national development, such as community leaders and mass media organisations, to create a robust awareness on Gender-Based Violence against males.

The Nigerian newspaper coverage of Gender-Based Violence against males is, therefore, critical in strengthening marital bonds; promoting peaceful marital relationships, thereby enhancing individual and national development.

Arising from the conclusion of this study, the study is significant to other researchers and all stakeholders in peace and conflict studies, such as peace advocacy, facilitators, newspaper organisations, media regulatory agencies, etc. The study would enable newspaper organisations to accord significance to Gender-Based Violence against males to enlighten people about the danger inherent in the menace. The study would also enable peace advocacy together with Non-Governmental Organisations to embark on an advocacy campaign on the need to eradicate Gender-Based Violence in society, as this will strengthen individual and national development. The study is also significant to future researchers who are interested in comparative studies on the framing pattern of newspaper coverage of domestic violence against males and females.

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