



Original Research Article

Prevalence, Pattern and Determinants of Intimate Partner Violence among Single Females in Tertiary Institutions in Imo State, Nigeria

Kevin C. Diwe¹, Chukwuma B. Duru¹, Chinyere M. Aguocha², Kenechi A. Uwakwe¹, Irene A. Merenu¹, Chima O. Emerole³, Anthony C. Iwu⁴

¹Department of Community Medicine, Faculty of Medicine Imo State University Owerri, Imo State.

²Department of Psychiatry, Faculty of Medicine, Imo State University, Owerri, Imo State.

³Department of Health Services, Federal University of Technology, Owerri, Imo State.

⁴Department of Community Medicine, Imo State University Teaching Hospital, Orlu, Imo State.

Corresponding Author: Chukwuma B. Duru

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Intimate partner violence or abuse (IPV) includes an ongoing pattern of behavior, attitudes, and beliefs in which a partner in an intimate relationship attempts to maintain power and control over the other through the use of psychological, physical and/or sexual coercion.

Aim: This study was carried out to assess the prevalence, pattern and determinants of intimate partner abuse among single females in tertiary institutions in Imo State, Nigeria.

Methodology: The study design was a cross sectional descriptive study carried out among 422 participants from two tertiary institutions in the State who were selected through a multistage sampling technique. Information about IPV was collected using a pretested, semi structured, and interviewer administered questionnaire. Data was analyzed using a computer software package, EPI INFO version 7.1.3.

Results: The mean age of the respondents was 23±4.4 years with majority of them, (94.8%) being aware of IPV. The commonest form of abuse suffered by respondents was physical abuse (31.1%), while the least was verbal abuse (18.6%). Majority of them were still in an intimate relationship (90.0%) in the last 3months preceding this study and the proportion of them in recent relationship currently experiencing any form of abuse was 41.4%. Factors found to significantly influence the occurrence of current IPV in a relationship were; age of respondent, ($p<0.0001$), Religion attended, ($p<0.0001$), place of residence, ($p<0.0001$), year of study, ($p<0.01$), type of accommodation, ($p<0.01$), and main source of sponsorship, ($p<0.0001$).

Conclusion: Prevalence of IPV among the study population was high so there is need to draw the attention of students, lecturers and policy makers on partner abuse with the possibility of emphasizing IPV in school curriculum.

Key words: intimate, partner violence, single females, tertiary institutions, Imo State.

INTRODUCTION

The United Nations recently identified the abuse of women and girls as one of the top three global problems hindering development. ^[1] Intimate Partner Abuse (IPV) includes an ongoing pattern of behavior, attitudes, and beliefs in which a

partner in an intimate relationship attempts to maintain power and control over the other through the use of psychological, physical and/or sexual coercion. ^[2] Intimate Partner Violence is rooted in power imbalance between individuals, within families and in societies, where the victim is considered

inferior by the perpetrator. [3] Current or former spouses, boyfriends or girlfriends, dating partners or sexual partners can be abused. [3]

IPV is widespread and occurs in all cultures and at every level of society. [4-6] It is worse in African countries where women are looked upon as objects to be used for sexual gratification. [7] In countries like Nigeria a woman would be beaten by her partner and would be expected to prostrate and beg for forgiveness from the perpetrator. [7] These behaviors are meant to ensure total submission of the woman to male dominance, control in ways that perpetuate gender inequality and relegation to second class citizens. [7]

Unfortunately a large percentage of women in Nigeria, especially in the South eastern part of the country justify this abuse. [8] Justification has been attributed to low self esteem, engendered by a feeling of disempowerment and lack of education. [8]

Most undergraduate students are either dating or cohabiting. Intimate partner abuse is common in these relationships and has been reported to be more prevalent than spousal violence. [9-11] More violence has been reported among cohabiting couples than among either married or dating couples, even with controls for age, education, and occupation. [12] Different rates have been reported in different studies. These differences can be attributed to methodical differences ranging from different instruments used in data collection, cultural differences in self report of abuse and sampling bias. [13,14] Prevalence rates ranging from 12.1% to 72.4% have been reported. [15] A large study carried out on students in 31 universities from 16 countries in North America, Europe and Asia found an IPV rate ranging from 17% to 45%. [16] Another study carried out in Brazil showed that 75.9% of undergraduate students had suffered some kind of violence from their partners. [17]

At University of Ibadan, Nigeria the life-time prevalence of IPV ranged from 34.5% to 42.3% among female postgraduate

and undergraduate students respectively. [18] Level of assertiveness increases with education probably leading to less abuse. [19] Risk factors for abuse included previous history of abuse, being single, being an undergraduate, smoking, alcohol use and experience of interparental violence. [18] Factors that trigger abuse among university students include jealousy or rejection unlike in spousal abuse where issues over housekeeping and childrearing are the more common factors. [20]

Psychological abuse has been reported in Brazil, Nigeria and United States as the most common form of abuse. [17,18,21] Among Nigerian students, the lifetime experience of psychological, physical and sexual IPV were 41.8%, 7.9% and 6.6% respectively. [18] However some studies have reported verbal abuse to more common than physical abuse. [22] This may be due to the overlap of psychological with verbal abuse.

Even among medical students, the curriculum has been found wanting in terms of imparting knowledge and skills about IPV on students. [23] Undergraduate students especially in Sub-Saharan Africa seem to have a poor knowledge base and attitude towards IPV. A study carried out in Tanzania among nursing students found that the students not to fully understand the mechanisms underlying domestic violence and hence blamed the victims for being abused. [24] They believed that women exaggerate the physical and psychological effects of domestic violence and thought it was a husband's right to strike his wife in his own home. [25] Among final year medical students in Ibadan Nigeria, there was a satisfactory level of knowledge of IPV. [23] However less than half of the students expressed sympathy towards a woman who chose to remain in an abusive relationship. [23] Only less than half of the students felt that the abused victim did not deserve the experience and that violence was wrong. [23]

Among African women, the deep-seated and rigid culture of patriarchy makes reporting incidences of violence almost

impossible. [25] Abuse in relationships is seen as a cultural and religious norm which has to be condoned especially with the uncertainties and stigma associated with divorce, which might be a fall out of reporting abuse. [25] This is because doing so is viewed as causing indignity to the husband, self and other family members. [25] This is worsened by the widespread justification of abuse as a means of control and correction of transgressions. [26] Also the burden to prove abuse makes for under reporting. [27] Only few persons are arrested for abusive behavior and this is when the abuse (usually physical) is heinous.

Intimate partner abuse has been associated with a wide range of adverse health consequences which continue even after the abuse has ended. [28] These effects can manifest as poor health status, poor quality of life, and high use of health services and poor academic performance. [18,28] It also lowers a woman's self-esteem and her image in society, leading to a sense of disempowerment. [8]

This study was carried out to assess the prevalence, pattern and determinants of intimate partner abuse among single females in tertiary institutions in Imo State, Nigeria. It is hoped that this paper will draw the attention of students, lecturers and policy makers on partner abuse with the possibility of emphasizing IPV in the curriculum.

METHODOLOGY

Study area: The study was conducted in two tertiary institutions in Owerri, Imo State namely; the Imo State University (IMSU) and Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education (AIFCE). Imo state is one of the 36 states of Nigeria, and lies in the Eastern part of Nigeria of which Owerri is the State Capital. Owerri is an urban town made up of three local government areas, with an estimated population of 400,000 people and it's approximately 40sq miles. Other tertiary institutions in the state are the Federal University of Technology Owerri, (FUTO), Federal Polytechnic Nekede, (FPN), Imo State Polytechnic Umuagwo, (ISPU),

School of Nursing and Health Sciences, Orlu, and College of Health Technology Amaigbo. Imo State University is one of the foremost state Universities in Nigeria and was established 1981 while Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education, Owerri was established in 1963, as the Advanced Teachers Training College by the defunct Eastern Nigerian Government

Study population and Design: The study population comprised single female undergraduate students from the two selected tertiary institutions in Imo State Nigeria. The study design was a cross sectional descriptive study carried out on 422 participants from the two selected tertiary institutions in the State.

Sample size estimation and Sampling Technique: A sample size of 422 participants was enrolled for this study and this was calculated using the Cochran formula for categorical data in populations greater than 10,000 people. [29]

$$n = \frac{Z^2 pq}{d^2}$$

Where n= Sample size estimate, Z= Standard normal deviate at 5% significant level = 1.96, p= prevalence of IPV in a Previous similar study, [8] q= estimate of variance and d= acceptable margin of error set at 0.05.

A multi stage sampling technique was used to select the participants. The first stage involved the stratification of the institutions into 2 categories: The Universities and other tertiary institutions (Polytechnics, College of Education and monotechnics) and then, simple random sampling by balloting were used to select the institution that was studied in each Category. Thus Imo State University Owerri (IMSU) and Alvan Ikoku Federal College of Education Owerri (AIFCE) were selected respectively in each of the categories. Stage two involved the selection of Faculties to be studied and using simple random sampling by balloting, three Faculties were selected from each of the Institutions.

Stage three involved the selection of the departments that were studied and using random sampling by balloting, two

departments were selected from each of the faculties. The fourth stage involved the selection of the study participants that were interviewed. In each of the departments, proportionate stratified simple random sampling was used to select the number of female students that were studied based on the estimated population of the departments and the class levels until the required size for each department obtained.

Data Collection and Analysis: The data from the participants concerning the study was collected using a pretested, semi-structured, self-administered questionnaire, comprising information on socio-demographic characteristics of participants, awareness and knowledge about IPV, prevalence and pattern of IPV experienced. The level of knowledge was scored using five awareness questions about IPV and was graded thus; good i.e. having a score greater than 70% of the total score, fair i.e. 51-70% of the total score and poor i.e. having 0-50% of the total score. The returned questionnaire was checked for errors and analyzed using computer software (EPI INFO. Version 7.1.3) and the results of the analysis were presented in frequency tables and percentages. The chi-square was used to test associations between categorical variables while multiple regressions were used to assess likely predictors of ever experiencing an IPV. The p-value was set at 0.05.

Ethical Approval: Ethical clearance was gotten from the department of Community Medicine, Imo State University before proceeding to the study. Appropriate permission was sought and gotten from the relevant authorities of the studied institutions and verbal consents were obtained from the participants before proceeding to the interviews.

Study limitations: The study was a questionnaire based cross-sectional study and so findings are based on participants' response. Thus there is need to exercise caution when generalizing the findings of the study.

RESULTS

Table 1: Socio-demographic Characteristics of Respondents

Variable	Frequency (n=422)	Percentage
Age group(yrs)		
<20	129	30.6
20-25	158	37.4
>26	135	32.0
Total	422	100
Mean=23.0±4.1years		
Religion		
Pentecostal	153	36.3
Catholic	135	32.0
Orthodox	117	27.7
Moslem	15	3.5
Others	2	0.5
Total	442	100
Tribe		
Ibo	372	88.2
Yoruba	35	8.3
Hausa	15	3.6
Total	422	100
Faculty		
Medical & Health	100	23.7
Humanities	100	23.7
Sciences	61	14.5
Education	61	14.5
Arts	50	11.8
Agriculture	50	11.8
Total	422	100
Year in school		
100 level	100	23.7
>100 level	322	76.3
Total	422	100
Place of residence		
Off campus	200	47.4
Living with family members	122	28.9
School hostel	100	23.7
Total	422	100
Type of accommodation		
Living 2 in a room	218	51.7
More than 2 in a room	24	5.7
Squatting	165	39.1
Living alone	15	3.5
Total	422	100
Occupation of parents/guardians		
Civil servant	176	41.7
Artisan	166	39.3
Professional	50	11.9
Farming	17	4.0
Clergy	7	1.7
Trader	6	1.4
Total	422	100
Sponsor in school		
Parents	219	51.9
Relatives	179	42.4
Friends	20	4.7
Others	4	1.0
Total	422	100
Institutions		
IMSU	211	50.0
AIFCE	211	50.0
Total	422	100

The mean age of respondents was 23.0 ±4.1 years with a slightly higher proportion of respondents being within the age bracket of 20-25 years, (37.4%). More,

(36.3%) of the respondents were Pentecostals with majority of them being of Ibo Origin, (88.2%). Sizable proportion of the students were enrolled from Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences (23.7%) and Humanities, (23.7%)

Majority of the respondents were in year 2 and above, (76.3%), live off campus, (47.4%) and were living two in a room (57.7%). The commonest occupation of their parents/ guardians was civil service, (41.7%) which was followed closely by Artisan, (39.3%). Most of them were sponsored in school by their parents, (51.9%) and relatives, (42.4%). Table 1

Table 2 showed that most of the respondents (90.0%) have heard about IPV, though many of them, (42.2%) had poor knowledge about IPV. The commonest source of information about IPV was from friend/relatives/neighbors, (30.3%) while the least source was from posters and bill board, (2.1%).

Table 2: Awareness and knowledge about IPV among respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Awareness about IPV (n=422)		
Yes	380	90.0
No	42	10.0
Total	422	100
Level of knowledge (n=422)		
Poor (0-49%)	178	42.2
Fair (50-70%)	84	19.9
Good (>70%)	160	37.9
Total	422	100
Main source of information (n=380)		
Friends/relatives/neighbors	115	30.3
Television	90	23.7
Newspaper	55	14.5
Internet/social media	55	14.5
Radio	30	7.9
Books	15	4.0
School	12	3.2
Posters/billboards	8	2.1
Total	422	100

Age of respondents was associated with being currently abused ($\chi^2=11.496$, $df=2$, $p=0.000$) with those 20-25 years of age (OR: 2.743; 1.632-4.609, $p=0.000$) and ≥ 26 years (OR: 2.028; 1.181-3.485, $p=0.010$) being more likely to have been currently abused compared to their counterparts below 20 Years of age. Religion of students was found to affect current abuse significantly ($\chi^2 =23.329$, $df= 3$, $p=0.000$)

with Pentecostals being the least likely to be abused while Catholics (OR: 5.260, 2.064-9.030, $p= 0.000$) have a greater likelihood of being currently abused.

Place of residence of students was significantly associated with currently experiencing any form of abuse, ($\chi^2=32.984$, $d=2$, $p= 0.000$) with those living with family members, (OR: 0.245; 0.145-0.414, $p= 0.000$) and in school hostels, (OR: 0.333; 0.196-0.567, $p=0.000$) being the least likely to be currently abused when compared to their counterparts living off - campus alone.

Table 3: Prevalence and pattern of IPV Experienced among Respondents

Variable	Frequency	Percentage
Ever had an intimate partner in the last 12 months (n=422)		
Yes	400	94.8
No	22	5.2
Total	422	100.0
Ever experienced IPV in the last 12 months (n=400)		
Yes	161	40.3
No	239	59.8
Total	400	100
Main IPV suffered (n=161)		
Physical abuse	50	31.1
Emotional/mental abuse	41	25.5
Sexual abuse	40	24.8
Verbal abuse	30	18.6
Total	161	100
Currently having an intimate partner i.e. 3months preceding survey(n=400)		
Yes	360	90.0
No	40	10.0
Total	400	100
State of current relationship (n=360)		
Engaged	185	54.4
Boyfriend	161	44.7
Man friend	5	3.9
Total	360	100
Currently experiencing any form of IPV (n=360)		
Yes	149	41.4
No	211	58.6
Total	360	100
Reported abuse (n=149)		
Yes	13	8.7
No	136	91.3
Total	149	100
Person reported to (n=13)		
Friends	9	69.2
Police	3	23.1
Parents/siblings	1	7.7
Total	13	100
Major reason for not reporting case (n=136)		
Fear of making it public	110	81.0
To avoid stigmatization	12	8.8
Pose danger to my life	12	8.8
Fear of being blamed	1	0.7
I forgave him	1	0.7
Total	136	100

Table 4: Association between socio-demographic characteristics of respondents and currently experiencing IPV

Variable	Currently experiencing IPV (n=422)			Statistic(χ^2)/p-value
	Yes (%)	No (%)	Total (%)	
Age group (yrs)				
<20	29(22.5)	100(77.5)	129(100)	11.496
20-25	70(44.3)	88(22.7)	158(100)	df=2
≥26	50(37.0)	85(62.9)	135(100)	p=0.000*
Total	149(35.3)	273(64.7)	422(100)	
Religion				
Pentecostals	26(17.0)	127(83.0)	153(100)	
Orthodox	40(34.2)	77(65.8)	117(100)	23.329
Catholics	70(51.9)	65(48.1)	135(100)	df=3
Moslems	12(80.0)	3(20.0)	15(100)	p=0.000*
Traditional religion	1(50.0)	1(50.0)	1(100)	
Total	149(35.3)	273(64.7)	422(100)	
Tribe				
Ibo	135(36.3)	273(63.7)	372(100)	0.529
Yoruba	10(28.5)	25(71.5)	35(100)	df= 2
Hausa	4(26.5)	11(73.3)	15(100)	p=0.467
Total	149(35.3)	273(64.7)	422(100)	
Institution of study				
IMSU	69(32.7)	142(67.3)	211(100)	1.037
AIFCE	80(37.9)	131(62.1)	211(100)	df=1
Total	149(35.3)	273(64.7)	422(100)	p=0.308
Faculty of study				
Humanities	45(45.0)	55(55.0)	100(100)	
Medical & Health	29(29.0)	71(71.0)	100(100)	1.247
Sciences	20(32.8)	41(62.2)	61(100)	df=5
Education	30(49.2)	31(50.8)	61(100)	p=0.265
Arts	20(40.0)	30(60.0)	50(100)	
Agriculture	5(10.0)	45(90.0)	50(100)	
Total	149(35.3)	273(64.7)	422(100)	
Residence				
Off campus	100(50.0)	100(50.0)	200(100)	32.984
Living with family members	24(19.7)	98(80.3)	122(100)	df=2
Living in hostel	25(25.0)	75(75.0)	100(100)	p=0.000*
Total	149(35.3)	273(64.7)	422(100)	
Year in school				
Year 1	48(48.0)	52(52.0)	100(100)	8.529
≥year2	101(31.4)	221(68.6)	322(100)	df=1
Total	149(35.3)	273(64.7)	422(100)	p=0.003*
Type of accommodation				
Living 2 in a room	100(45.9)	118(54.1)	218(100)	
>2 in a room	5(20.8)	19(79.2)	24(100)	6.873
Squatting	37(22.4)	128(77.6)	165(100)	df=3
Living alone	7(46.7)	8(53.4)	15(100)	p=0.008*
Total	149(35.3)	273(64.7)	422(100)	
Occupation of guardian				
Civil servant	63(35.8)	113(64.2)	176(100)	
Artisan	59(46.8)	67(53.2)	126(100)	0.011
Profession	16(32.0)	34(68.0)	50(100)	df=3
Farming/trading	7(30.4)	16(69.6)	23(100)	p=0.917
Clergy	4(57.1)	3(42.8)	7(100)	
Total	149(35.3)	273(64.7)	422(100)	
Main source of sponsorship				
Parents	100(45.7)	119(54.3)	219(100)	21.435
Relatives/friends/others	49(24.1)	154(75.9)	203(100)	df=1
Total	149(35.3)	273(64.7)	422(100)	p=0.000*
Level of knowledge				
Poor (0-50%)	68(38.2)	110(61.8)	178(100)	0.062
Fair (51-70%)	32(38.1)	52(61.9)	84(100)	df=2
Good (>70%)	49(30.6)	111(69.4)	160(37.9)	p=0.804
Total	149(35.3)	273(67.7)	422(100)	

*=significant

The year of study of the respondents was significantly associated with experiencing any form of current abuse, ($\chi^2 = 8.529$, $df=1$, $p=0.003$) with those in their

first year of study, having two times likelihood of currently experiencing an abuse than others, (OR: 0.495; 0.313-0.782, $P=0.003$). Also the type of accommodation

lived by respondents was found to significantly influence being currently abused, ($\chi^2 = 6.873$, $df=3$, $p=0.008$) with those living more than two in a room (OR: 0.311; 0.112- 0.862, $p=0.019$ and squatting with somebody in a bed, (OR: 0.341; 0.217-0.536, $p=0.000$) being the least likely people to have been currently abused. Students main source of sponsorship in school was found to affect having currently being abused significantly, ($\chi^2=24.435$, $df=1$,

$p=0.000$) with those trained by their parents being more likely to have been currently abused than their counterparts being trained by other relatives or friends, (OR: 0.379; 0.250-0.575, $p=0.000$). On the contrary, the tribe the respondents are from, institution of study, faculty of study, occupation of guardian and level of knowledge about IPV showed no significant association with being currently abused, ($p>0.05$). Tables 4 and 5.

Table 5: Socio-demographic predictors of current experience of IPV among respondents using logistic regression model

Variable	Odds Ratio	95% CI	p-value
Age group(yrs)			
<20	1.000	-	-
20-25	2.743	1.632-4.609	0.000*
≥ 26	2.028	1.181-3.485	0.010*
Religion			
Pentecostal	1.000	-	-
Catholics	5.260	3.064-9.030	0.000*
Orthodox	2.537	1.436-4.483	0.001*
Moslems	19.539	5.149-74.147	0.000*
Traditional religion	4.885	0.296-80.630	0.221
Residence			
Off campus	1.000	-	-
Living with family members	0.245	0.145-0.414	0.000*
Hostel	0.333	0.196-0.567	0.000*
Year in school			
First year	1.000	-	-
>2 nd year	0.495	0.313-0.782	0.003*
Type of accommodation			
Living 2 in a room	1.000	-	-
>2 in a room	0.311	0.112-0.862	0.019*
Squatting	0.341	0.217-0.536	0.000*
Living alone	1.033	0.362-2.947	0.952
Main source of sponsorship			
Parents	1.000	-	-
Relatives/friends/others	0.379	0.250-0.575	0.000*

*=significant

DISCUSSION

This study shows that almost all the respondents currently in a relationship were unmarried (dating or engaged). We also found a high prevalence of abuse (41.4%) among the students. This rate falls within the range of what has been reported in Nigeria and other countries. [16,18] The high rate may be due to cultural sanctioning of beating as a means of ensuring control by the partner.

This rate is higher than the 25% reported among married women in Nigeria. [8] This has been corroborated by some other studies carried out in different countries which reported greater prevalence and severity of intimate partner abuse in unmarried couples compared to married

couples. [30,33] This high rate among undergraduates may be due to failure or unwillingness by these females to subscribe to traditional gender roles prescribed for women. This could result in their being abused by their partners, who are desperate to remain in control of the relationship. Also they may not have been exposed to the social and religious norms that stop the married women from admitting to abuse resulting in more disclosure of abuse. Undergraduates have been found to be non-assertive; this could also in its own way lead to an increased rate of abuse. [19]

This study revealed a poor level of knowledge about IPV among the respondents. Only about 3.2% of the respondents got their information about IPV

from schools. This implies that attention is not paid to teaching students about IPV in Nigerian schools. [23] Rather what is seen in this study is that a sizable proportion of the students obtained their information about IPV from friends and relatives who most of the time they tell them to endure it quietly. [23] This is quite unfortunate given high rate of justification of abusive behavior towards women. [8] The end result may be indoctrination to the belief that abuse is justified and should be tolerated. [23] Thus the vicious cycle continues.

Only 13 (8.7%) of the respondents reported their experience of abuse. This was mainly out of fear of making their experience public. This could be because reporting their experience may anger their partner, worsen the abuse and perhaps result in an end to the relationship. Many of these students depend on their partners for financial support. For those that are engaged, ending the relationship would not be supported by their families because of the attendant shame and blame for the lady and her mother when relationship breaks down. It would be attributed to bad behavior on her part and getting suitors subsequently may be difficult. This is worsened by a culture which stigmatizes an unmarried state in women. So they keep quiet about their experience.

It is surprising that verbal abuse was found to be the least frequent form of abuse. It is at variance with the report of a study done at Nsukka Nigeria which showed verbal abuse to be more common than physical abuse. [22,34] Verbal abuse may be so common as to be thought of as a norm, such that the respondents may not know that they have been abused. [35]

The greater rate of abuse among those aged 20 years and above is similar to what has been reported by other studies. [36] This may be due to greater assertiveness by the women as they get older.

Catholics were more likely to be abused compared to those that belong to Pentecostal denomination. This is similar to what has been reported in some other

studies which showed that catholic women ranked above other Christians, Muslims and traditionalists in their experience of physical abuse. [8] This may be as a result of the very traditional nature of the Catholic Church which emphasizes submissiveness and subservience on the part of the woman for her to be considered a good wife or good wife material. Men may therefore feel wrongly justified in chastising their wives or partners when they do not submit totally to their control.

This study found that the students living outside the school campus more likely to be abused than those living in hostels or with their parents. This could be that the high number of students in the hostels and school environment provide a form of protection. This can also explain why those that are living alone experienced a greater level of abuse.

The greater rate of abuse experienced by those in the 1st year of compared to other years could be explained by the greater number of new relationships that take off during the first year of school. There is a scramble for the females resulting in issues of jealousy and territoriality.

Those being trained by their parents are more likely to be abused than those trained by friends and relatives. This is difficult to explain. But issues of financial independence and thus a belief that the partner is not essential for continued stay in school can explain this.

CONCLUSION

This study has shown that there is a high prevalence of IPV among students but a poor knowledge and attitude about IPV among students in this study. It is recommended that the curriculum of schools be reviewed with more attention paid to improving the knowledge of IPV among students.

Limitation: The study is a cross sectional survey and care should be taken in generalizing the findings of the study. Data collection is by self report and because of the sensitive nature of the study; the

prevalence gotten may be an underestimated.

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