

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Nigeria: Empirical Analysis of Personality traits, Emotional intelligence and Gender as Determinants.

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Abstract

This study investigated the Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Nigeria: Empirical Analysis of Personality traits, Emotional intelligence and Gender as Determinants. The current study adopted a cross-sectional survey research design and a random sampling technique to select eighty-five (85) consisting 43 (50.58%) female and 42 (49.41%) male married adolescents. Their age ranges from 21-41 years, as well as an estimated 56.4% from polygamous family, and 44.6% from monogamous family. On their educational qualification, 7(8.4%) of the respondents had SSCE, 46 (55.4%) had ND/NCE, 25(29.4%) had BSC, while 7(8.2%) had postgraduate qualification. Participants completed the intimate partner violence, emotional intelligence, and personality traits scales as study's means of data collection. Three hypotheses are tested at 0.05 level of significance, and results following multiple regression analysis showed that personality traits jointly ($R^2 = .483$; $F(5, 58) = 10.824$; $p < .000$) predicted intimate partner violence. On the independent basis, agreeableness ($\beta = -.356$, $t = -2.864$; $p < .006$), neuroticism ($\beta = .245$, $t = 2.393$; $p < .020$), openness to experience ($\beta = -.010$, $t = -3.012$; $p < .008$) and extraversion ($\beta = -.524$, $t = -5.604$; $p < .001$) independently predicted intimate partner (IPV) violence. While, conscientiousness ($\beta = -.162$, $t = 1.271$; $p > .209$) did not significantly predict IPV. In addition, emotional intelligence did not significantly predict ($\beta = -.289$, $t = -2.374$; $p > .021$) IPV. Lastly, result revealed a significant gender difference [$t(65) = 1.260$; $p < .212$] in intimate partner (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria. The study recommended that developing and expanding counseling programs for individuals with personality traits associated with IPV to help them manage their emotional intelligence, and gender characteristics more constructively.

Keywords: *IPV, personality traits, emotional intelligence, gender, married adolescents, Nigeria*

Introduction

Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a pervasive social issue that transcends geographical boundaries, impacting individuals across various cultures and societies. In the context of Nigeria, IPV poses a significant challenge to the well-being and safety of individuals within intimate relationships. It's essential to note that cultural, social, and economic factors also play significant roles in shaping the dynamics of IPV. Therefore, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) refers to the violence committed by a partner in the context of an intimate relationship, regardless of whether or not it is legally recognized (Waller et al., 2022; World Health

Organisation (WHO), 2022). The perpetration of IPV by male partners is considered not only a severe human rights violation, but also a global public health issue. Similarly, IPV which encompasses physical, emotional, and sexual abuse within intimate relationships (United Nations Women, 2020). It is also defined as a “behavior by an intimate partner or ex-partner that causes physical, sexual or psychological harm, including physical aggression, sexual coercion, psychological abuse, and controlling behaviors” (World Health Organisation, 2017).

Indeed, in a multi-country study, estimates of lifetime prevalence of IPV ranged from 13% to 61%, with most estimates varying between 23% and 49% (WHO, 2013). Similar numbers were found in a survey including almost 50 countries, in which 10% to 52% of women reported having experienced abuse by a partner at some point in their lives (Heise et al., 1999a, Heise et al., 1999b). Other studies have reported estimates between 4% and 49% for physical violence, 6% and 59% for sexual violence, and between 15% and 71% for physical or sexual violence, or both, by an intimate partner (Women UN, 2019) Garcia-Moreno et al., 2006). Narrowing in on the United States specifically, IPV rates have ranged between 20% to 60% (Heise et al., 1994), with higher rates being observed in states where there is greater economic, political and legal disparity between men and women (Zapata, 2019).

Most epidemiological or demographic studies in Africa focus on women as victims and men as perpetrators, although there are some which include both sexes as either victim or perpetrator (Aroca et al., 2016; Anzaku et al., 2017; Akor et al., 2019). However, higher rates of IPV are observed, with 20% to 71% of African women reporting abuse by their partners (Jewkes et al., 2002). A report by the domestic violence and victim support unit (DOVVSU) of Ghana indicated 15,495 cases of battered women, in 2011 (FIDA-Ghana – International Federation of Women Lawyers, 2013), despite IPV quashing the hopes, standards and expectations these women held for intimate relationships, they tend to justify and remain in the violent relationship (Amoakohene, 2004; Ofei-Aboagye, 1994).

Reports from the Nigerian national population commission estimated women’s lifetime exposure to IPV from their current husband or partner at 19% for emotional IPV, 14% for physical IPV, and 5% for sexual IPV (Fagbamigbe et al., 2020). Previous studies from Nigeria have shown the prevalence of IPV to range from 31 to 61% for psychological/emotional violence, 20 to 31% for sexual violence, and 7 to 31% for physical violence (Fagbamigbe et al., 2020). Furthermore, studies conducted in different regions in Nigeria have reported prevalence of IPV ranging from 42% in the North (Fagbamigbe et al., 2020), 29% in the South West (WHO, 2021), 78.8% South East (Solanke et al., 2018), to 41% in the South South (UN Women, 2020; Ayodele, 2017).

Research has further shown that women who experienced IPV report increased levels of mental health symptomatology. For example, women who were abused by an intimate partner reported increased symptoms of depression, anxiety (Mason et al., 2017), and obsessive-compulsive characteristics (Okenwa et al., 2011). Moreover, it is well established that IPV is associated with a higher incidence of anxiety, depression, psychological distress, suicide attempts, and severe mental illness (Devries et al., 2013; Sugg, 2015; Chandan et al., 2020).

Furthermore, there are many individual-level risk factors associated with IPV victimization, for example, many studies have examined factors or predictors of intimate partner violence in different parts of the world. The documented factors of IPV operate on different levels, ranging from psychological, individual sociodemographic characteristics to culturally related factors,

particularly in the Nigerian context. Commonly reported sociodemographic factors that are positively associated with IPV include the woman's age (Romans et al. 2007; Olayangu et al. 2013), childhood experience of domestic violence (Yount & Carrera 2006), having a low level of education, being unemployed, financial dependence on the partner (Dutton 1988; Gartner 1999; Smith 1990), using drugs or drinking alcohol (Koenig et al. 2006; Kwagala 2013), and having more surviving children (Hindin et al., 2008). In addition to these, personality has been identified as a factor responsible for behavioural and emotional problems among adolescents (Levitan et al., 2019) and emotional intelligence, which involves the ability to recognize and manage one's own emotions and the emotions of others, can also be a determinant in tendency towards aggressive behaviour like psychological violence, and other negative behavioural outcomes (Akgül & Artar, 2020). Hence, this study aims to examine the empirical analysis of personality traits, emotional intelligence and gender as determinants of Intimate Partner Violence among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria.

Statement of the Problem

Incidences of Intimate partner violence (IPV) among adolescent partners is global public health issue and more prevalent in the African societies particularly Nigeria with far-reaching consequences for individuals, families, and society at large. While it is recognized as a global concern, the determinants and contributing factors of IPV are often influenced by local contexts and cultural dynamics (Akanni et al., 2020; Olu, 2020; Fenny & Falola, 2020; Olasanmi et al., 2020). However, there is still a huge gap in research regarding the social-psychological factors responsible for this increase in the number and range of the violence committed may include physical, psychological, and/or sexual abuse, varying in frequency, severity, and intensity (Redondo et al., 2012), among adolescents and refers to the violence committed by a partner in the context of an intimate relationship, regardless of whether or not it is legally recognized. IPV is the most common cause of violence-related trauma in women (Rand, 1997). Despite underreporting (Smith, 1989), IPV accounts for 16% of UK violent crime, and has more repeat victims than other crimes (Nicholas et al, 2005), highlight the threat posed to a substantial proportion of the population. Although IPV raises important concerns about victims' safety, its effects are more extensive, with serious implications for the physical health and psychological well-being of sufferers. The severity of the relationship between IPV and health status (both physical and psychological) is reinforced by the findings that victims generate 92% more lifetime healthcare costs than non-victims (Wisner et al, 1999). For example, sufferers are more likely to visit the accident and emergency department, visit primary care practitioners and contact mental health agencies than normative populations (Bergman et al, 1992).

Interestingly, the rate of IPV is also reportedly on the increase in Nigeria and this poses a huge challenge to the individual personality structure, which in turn has been shown to be associated with higher aggressive tendencies among adolescents. Also, there are gender-related power imbalances that can contribute to violence within intimate relationships. Research on psychosocial determinants of IPV has been conducted in Nigeria (e.g., Popoola et al., 2018) but there is a dearth of literature with respect to its predictive capacity for IPV among adolescents and young people. Some other individual, socioeconomic, political, social and environmental factors have also been identified as potential correlates of IPV (National Population Commission (NPC), 2019). Also, recent meta-analyses and reviews of the literature demonstrate that IPV exposure is associated with psychosocial problems (e.g., mental health and emotional) in adolescent partners relationship (Oladebo et al., 2011; United Nations, 2020; Kwagala 2013; Olu, 2020).

This study was carried to address these gaps. While there has been a focus on the causes of psychological aggressive among couples in Nigeria (Aidonojie et al., 2022, Agbonlue, 2022; Obikeze & Obi, 2020; Omotoso, 2019), less attention has been paid to the phenomenon of IPV in our society especially among adolescent partners in relation to the study's variables. It is based on this premise that this current study aims to evaluate the empirical analysis of personality traits, emotional intelligence and gender as determinants of Intimate Partner Violence among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria.

Objective of the study

The study aims to examine the empirical analysis of personality traits, emotional intelligence and gender as determinants of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria, while specific objectives are:

1. Examine the personality traits prediction in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria.
2. Access the emotional intelligence prediction in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria.
3. Evaluate the gender difference in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria.

Research Hypotheses

The following research hypotheses were formulated and tested at a 0.05 level of significance for this study.

1. Personality traits factors (Extraversion, Agreeableness, Conscientiousness, Neuroticism and Openness to Experience) will significantly predict Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria.
2. Emotional intelligence will significantly predict Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria.
3. There will be a significant gender difference in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria.

Significance of the Study

In the light of the study objective, the current study will be of immense significance in many ways:

1. For instance, understanding the factors that contribute to IPV among married adolescents is essential for protecting the basic human rights and well-being of individuals. IPV can lead to physical, emotional, and psychological harm, and studying its determinants can help mitigate these negative outcomes.

2. By identifying personality traits and emotional intelligence as determinants, the research can contribute to the development of prevention and intervention strategies.
3. Moreso, result findings can help design programs that empower adolescents with the skills to navigate relationships without resorting to violence.
4. Research findings can inform policy development and legal changes. It can lead to the implementation of laws and support systems that protect individuals from IPV.
5. Findings from this study can be used to educate adolescents, parents, and communities about the signs, consequences, and prevention of IPV.
6. More importantly, the research can contribute to the academic literature on IPV, personality, emotional intelligence, and gender studies, as well as serve as a foundation for further research in this area.
7. Moreover, the research can empower communities and individuals by providing them with knowledge and tools to address IPV within their own contexts.

Scope of the study

The study was conducted amongst some selected married adolescent who reported for counseling in Intimate Partner Violence Ilupeju Counseling Centre Ijede, Lagos, Nigeria. This counseling centre is one of the counseling centres in Lagos State, South-West Nigeria. The counseling centre has a total registered population of about 185 who frequently participate in counseling sessions. The counseling centre is largely possesses some urban area components like tarred roads and public electricity with a state government owned district hospital.

Review of Related Literature

Personality traits and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Relationship between personality traits and domestic violence abounds in literature. Along this line, numerous studies have investigated the relationship between the Big Five personality traits (Openness, Conscientiousness, Extraversion, Agreeableness, and Neuroticism) and intimate partner violence (IPV) (Hutz et al., 1998; Nunes & Hutz, 2007). Moreover, several studies have underlined that individuals' personality characteristics may be strong predictors of health, mood states, plans, motivations, and feelings about their future (Farnia et al., 2018; Martins et al., 2010). Some authors argue the importance of studying personality traits to better understand victims' actions because such traits likely influence the presence and expression of various unsafe behaviors (Dillon et al., 2013; Kuijpers et al., 2011; Moreira et al., 2019; Yalch and Levendosky, 2018). Indeed, research by Gruzca and Goldberg (2007) confirms the predictive validity of personality characteristics for individuals' diverse behavior.

Studies (Oguntayo et al., 2018; Oguntayo et al., 2020) have found personality trait such as neuroticism and agreeableness to be strong predictors of attitude towards violence. Neuroticism for instance, has been associated with hostility and impatience, which makes individuals with such personality trait to be aggressive and reactive (Robert, 2015). People with agreeableness personality on the other hand, are considered tolerant and supportive and non-violent in relationships (Oguntayo et al., 2018). Further to the above, conscientiousness is related to the degree of persistence, control, organization and motivation of the individual to achieve goals (Benet-Martínez & John, 1998). While, low conscientiousness has been associated with a higher likelihood of engaging in IPV. Individuals with low conscientiousness may be more

impulsive, disorganized, and less likely to consider the consequences of their actions, potentially leading to aggressive behavior in relationships (Oguntayo et al., 2018).

High levels of neuroticism, which involves emotional instability and negative affect, have often been linked to both perpetration and victimization of IPV (Kamaluddin et al., 2014; Bettencourt et al., 2006). Individuals with high neuroticism may be more prone to anger, jealousy, and anxiety, making them more likely to engage in violent behaviors or tolerate such behaviors from their partners. Similarly, in a study conducted by Sharpe and Desai (2001), the neuroticism factor was positively related to aggressive behavior. The neuroticism dimension is connected to the characteristics of people prone to psychological distress, which tend to have unrealistic ideas and low tolerance for frustration and suffer from anxiety, depression, hostility, impulsivity, self-criticism, and vulnerability (Santos et al., 2003).

The agreeableness dimension has often been associated with aggressive behavior like IPV (Gleason et al., 2004; Jovanovic et al., 2011). Agreeableness refers to behaviors directed toward the needs of others, including aspects such as trust, honesty, altruism, among others (Bettencourt et al., 2006). This dimension is related to the maintenance of positive interpersonal relationships and minimization of conflicts (Benet-Martínez & John, 1998). For example, Miller et al. (2012) conducted a study to assess the association between the agreeableness as dimension of personality traits and aggressive behaviour. The results showed that the agreeableness factor was negatively related with aggressive behavior. On the other hand, low agreeableness, characterized by a lack of empathy, antagonism, and a willingness to engage in conflict, has also been associated with IPV perpetration. People with low agreeableness may be less able to resolve conflicts peacefully and may resort to violence more readily (Miller et al., 2012).

Extraversion which indicates introversion and a tendency to be reserved, positive emotions and sociability (Benet-Martínez et al., 1998). Extraversion has been negatively correlated with aggressive behavior. Some studies suggest that low extraversion may be associated with lower risk of IPV perpetration, as introverted individuals may avoid confrontations (Jones et al., 2011). However, other research has found that a combination of low extraversion and low agreeableness may be associated with IPV (Lee & Egan, 2013). Openness to experience, is related to giving importance to new experiences and exploratory behavior. People who obtain high scores on this factor tend to prefer new activities and emotions (Miller et al., 2012). It also involves a willingness to embrace novel ideas and experiences, is less consistently linked to IPV compared to the other traits. It is not a trait typically associated with aggression, but it may interact with other personality factors or situational factors to influence IPV (Benet-Martínez et al., 1998).

The Big Five Personality traits are not mutually exclusive, and individuals exhibit a combination of these traits, making it challenging to pinpoint a single personality factor responsible for IPV. Meanwhile, research on the association between the Big Five Personality traits and IPV suggests that conscientiousness and agreeableness are protective factors, while neuroticism may be a risk factor for both perpetrators and victims. Extraversion and openness have less consistent associations with IPV. Understanding these personality dimensions can help inform prevention and intervention strategies to reduce IPV and support individuals in abusive relationships. However, it is crucial to recognize that IPV is a complex issue influenced by multiple factors beyond personality traits.

Emotional Intelligence and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

Emotional intelligence (EI) involves the ability to recognize, understand, and manage one's own emotions and those of others. It comprises skills such as self-awareness, self-regulation, empathy, and interpersonal skills. It also plays a critical role in adolescence since it involves a change towards psychological, social, and sexual maturity; a stage in which the foundations of intimate social relationships are established. Emotional competences regulate the quality of these relationships in adolescence and can provide protection against the use of violence within them (Bar-On et al., 2005; Aroca et al., 2016). Earlier researchers like Roberts, et al. (2001) and Ugoani (2015) recognize that emotional intelligence enhances the ability to solve emotion laden problems without necessarily suppressing negative emotions, and also the capacity to stay aware of even unpleasant emotions. Emotional intelligence helps individuals to redirect attention to important events, that is capable of avoiding unnecessary violence.

Some studies suggest a positive correlation between low emotional intelligence and higher instances of IPV perpetration. Individuals with poor emotional regulation may resort to violence in response to relationship stressors (Neilson et al., 2023; Machisa & Shamu, 2018). In addition, several studies explore the mediating role of anger in the relationship between emotional intelligence and IPV. Poor emotional regulation may contribute to heightened anger, increasing the likelihood of violent behaviors (Birkley & Eckhardt, 2015).

Additionally, different studies show that there is an inverse relation between different components of emotional intelligence and the violence exercised by adolescents and the quality of their affective relationships. Those who show higher levels of behavioral problems and anti-social behaviors (aggressiveness, negative thoughts about others and about life, threats, insults, delinquency, etc.) are less able to self-manage their emotions or have inadequate emotional management, and have difficulties in self-control and empathy; that is to say, they generally show low scores in emotional intelligence (Inglés et al., 2014; Suárez et al., 2017).

In addition, other study has previously described the association between EI and violence in young couples. García-González and Quezada (2020) found that EI enhances satisfaction in couple relationships by aiding in the resolution of inherent conflicts, while a low level of EI is associated with stress and violence in relationships. This link between EI and violence has also been emphasized by Zapata (2019), showing a significant negative correlation between EI and the dimensions of coercion, physical, detachment, and humiliation perpetration. Furthermore, various studies have described the association between EI and affective states, indicating that high EI is associated with a positive mood, while low EI is linked to a negative mood (Moreno et al., 2011; Rodríguez-Díaz et al., 2017).

Gender and Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

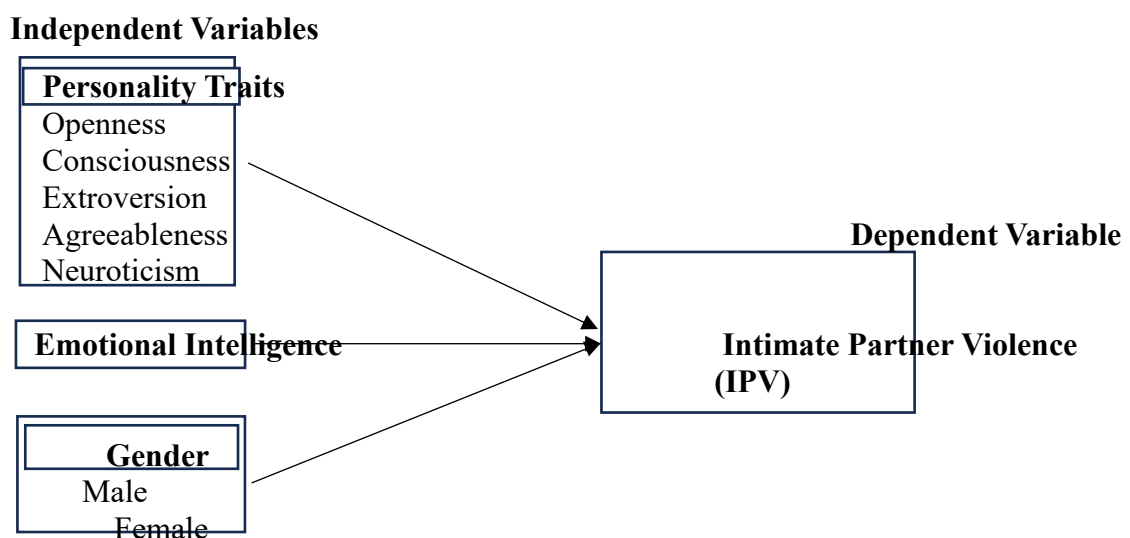
A literature review on gender differences in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) is a complex and sensitive topic that has been extensively researched. IPV is a global public health concern that affects individuals of all genders, but the dynamics and consequences can vary between men and women. Research suggests that men and women may exhibit different patterns of abusive behavior and susceptibility. Other studies consistently demonstrate that women are more likely to be victims of IPV than men (Boyle et al., 2009).

Consequently, research consistently shows that women are more likely to experience severe physical violence from their male partners, while men are more likely to perpetrate such violence. However, men can also be victims of IPV, and women can be perpetrators (Macmillan

& Gartner, 1999; Lawson, 2012). Patriarchal norms and traditional gender roles often reinforce male dominance and female submissiveness, contributing to the perpetuation of IPV (Oyediran & Feyisetan. 2017; Okemgbo et al., 2002). Additionally, other reports argue that violence against women is an expression of patriarchal domination of women by men, rooted in gender and power inequality (Lawson, 2012). In some societies, men are the breadwinners, while women are expected to be homemakers, to care for the children, and to be economically dependent on the men. When changes occur in the traditional gender order and roles, violence can result, particularly in patriarchal societies (Heise et al., 1999). For example, if a wife disobeys or challenges her husband or does not play her gendered role, the husband may resort to violence to discipline her. He does this to put her in her place and to maintain his power and control (Macmillan & Gartner, 1999; Heise, 2011). Gender inequality and discrimination, such as unequal pay and limited economic opportunities for women, can create environments where IPV is more likely to occur (Jejeebhoy, 1998)

Hegemonic masculinity suggests that men who conform to traditional masculine norms may resort to violence as a means to maintain control and dominance in their relationships (Uthman et al., 2009). Apart from individual-level factors, contextual factors such as gender-related sociocultural norms at the community level may play a significant role in influencing the risk of IPV (Oyediran et al., 2017). These norms are shared expectations of how men and women should behave, and they are highly influential in shaping individual behaviour (Koenig et al., 2003; Oyediran et al., 2017). Deviations from these expected behaviours can attract shaming, sanctions, or disapproval by others. Examples are norms that men have the right to correct or discipline their wives and control their behavior (Adegoke & Oladeji, 2008).

Figure 1: Conceptual Framework



Source: Authors compilation

Above conceptual framework gives an understanding of the study's variables, and their relationship. According to Seraken (2003), a conceptual framework refers to network of interrelationship among variables which deemed to be integral part of the dynamics of the situation being investigated. In other words, the conceptual framework shows the relationship

between independent variable and the dependent variable. The main variables in this study are emotional intelligence, personality traits, and gender. While, IPV is the dependent variable. These variables and their relationship are as indicated in the figure above.

Research Methodology

This section of the study presents the various methods used in carrying-out the study. This includes, research design, population, sample and sampling technique, instruments, procedure, and statistical methods.

Design

The study used descriptive survey design. Patricia et al (2013) deems a descriptive study as fit because it gives a clear explanation of the characteristics of the population or situation being studied. In this study the focus was to investigate the empirical analysis of personality traits, emotional intelligence and gender as determinants of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria. Moreso, a descriptive survey allowed the researcher to describe behaviour as it occurred in the environment. This was done through asking a series of specific self-reported questions which allowed for an anonymous peek inside the thought processes of large numbers of people simultaneously thus creating an opportunity to describe what was not outwardly observable. The study independent variables are personality traits, emotional intelligence, and gender. The study dependent variable is intimate partner violence.

Participants, Sample and Sampling Technique

A sample of 85 married adolescents were selected using convenience form of sampling method, which is part of the non-probabilistic approach of sampling, which relies on the researcher's convenience to approach the participants to respond to the research instrument. Participants' demographic characteristics shows that there were 42 (49.41%) males and 43 (50.58%) females. Their age ranges between 21-40 years. Other demographic features shows that 31(36.5%) were Christians, 50(58.8%) were Islam. In terms of their educational qualifications, 7(8.2%) had Senior Secondary School Certificate, 46 (54.1%) had Diploma and equivalent, 25 (29.4%) had Bachelor degree and its equivalents, while 7 (8.2%) had postgraduate degrees. Regarding respondents' family type, 48 (56.4%) were from polygamous family, while 37 (44.6%) were into monogamous family. The purposive sampling technique was used in the present study and participants were identified with the help of professional counselors. Majority of the sample belonged to middle and lower socio-economic status. As inclusion criteria, only married adolescents who were identified having cases of intimate partner violence, as well participate in the counseling sessions for intimate partner violence were made part of the study. All the willing participants confirmed their participation in the study by informed consent commitment.

Instruments

A structured questionnaire which comprises of sections was used to captured the study data. The **section A** of the questionnaire, elicited the respondents' demographic characteristics. This includes, age, gender, levels of education, family type and religion. While, **section B** is the intimate partner violence. This was captured using Composite Abuse Scale developed by (Ford-Gilboe et al., 2016), The CAS is a 15-item with response format includes; not at all=0, 'once'=1, 'a few times'=2, 'monthly'=3, 'weekly'=4, and 'daily or almost daily'=5. The scale covers three SV domains thus: physical, sexual and psychological. Some of questions in the

scale asked respondents to assess lifetime, recent and current exposure, and abuse frequency. Moderate correlations were observed between the CAS and the measures of depression, post-traumatic stress disorder and coercive control. The composite internal consistency of the CAS ranged between 0.942 to 0.975 while each subscale had an acceptable Cronbach alpha (0.938 for psychological abuse, 0.847 for physical abuse, and 0.884 for sexual abuse). The scale is scored by adding all responses together. Scores range from 0-75; below 30 is considered low, 31 to 45 is considered moderate while above 45 is high. The present study recorded reliability Cronbach's alpha of .77. **Section C** is the Big Five Inventory that measures five-dimension of PT (openness to experience, conscientiousness, extraversion, agreeableness and neuroticism) [25]. The scoring format is based on a five-point Likert scale which ranges from 1= disagree strongly to 5=agree strongly. The reliability of each dimension was reported; extraversion traits =.79, agreeableness=.69, conscientiousness=.70, neuroticism=.76, and openness to experience =.65 (Rammstedt & John, 2006). While the present study recorded a composite Cronbach alpha of .82 for the inventory, some of the items with 'R' denoted reverse scoring while the others were directly scored. The dimension of the inventory included; extraversion (items; 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 and 7, 1R), agreeableness (items; 2, 6 and 7R), conscientiousness (items; 3R, and 8), openness to experience (items; 5R and 10) and neuroticism (4R and 9). **Section D** is the Trait Emotional Intelligence Questionnaire—Short Form (TEIQue-SF): The TEIQue-SF is a 30-item scale designed to measure global trait of emotional intelligence (Petrides & Furnham, 2006). Two items from each of the fifteen subscales of the TEIQue were included in the short form, which were chosen based on their "correlations with the corresponding total subscale scores" (Petrides et al., 2006). It comprises of four subscales namely; wellbeing (items; 5, 20, 9, 24, 12, and 27), self-control (items; 4, 19, 7, 22, 15, and 30), emotionality (items; 1, 16, 2, 17, 8, 23, 13, and 28), and sociability (items; 6, 21, 10, 25, 11, and 26). Items 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 22, 25, 26, and 28 are reverse-coded. While questions 3, 14, 18, and 29 only contribute to the global trait EI score. There are seven possible responses to each statement ranging from 'Completely Disagree' (number 1) to 'Completely Agree' (number 7). The reversely scored items are; 2, 4, 5, 7, 8, 10, 12, 13, 14, 16, 18, 22, 25, 26 and 28 while others are directly scored. The Cronbach alpha recorded in the current study was .73.

Procedure and Data Analysis.

Given the nature of this present research, the participants were randomly selected in one of their counseling sessions. As such, the participants were given equal opportunity of being part of the research process. Participants were duly informed of the aims and objectives of the study. Also, assured of confidentiality of the information given. Thereafter, participants were verbally consented to participate in the study and questionnaire was distributed. In this light, 115 questionnaires were distributed to the participants who were present for counseling session, and 105 were retrieved. In the course of screening, 85 of the questionnaires were found useful and was used for data analysis. This gave a response rate of 75% which is good for the study. The data generated was analyzed using descriptive and inferential statistics. The descriptive statistics which include frequency counts, percentages, mean and standard deviation were used to answer the questions raised while the hypotheses were tested using Multiple regression analysis and t-test for independent sample. The hypothesis was tested at 0.05 level of significance.

Results

Table 1:

Frequency Table Representing Demographic Characteristics of Respondents.

S/No	Items	Group	Frequency	Percentage
1	Gender	Male	42	49.41
		Female	43	50.58
		Total	85	100.00
2	Age	Below 20 years	2	2.4
		21 – 30 years	35	41.2
		31 – 40 years	34	40
		41 years and above	14	16.5
		Total	85	100.00
3	Religion	Christianity	31	36.5
		Islam	50	58.8
		Others	4	4.7
		Total	85	100.00
4	Marital Status	Married	44	51.8
		Divorced	26	30.6
		Separated	15	17.5
		Total	85	100.00
5	Highest Level of Education	SSCE	7	8.2
		ND/NCE	46	54.1
		HND/BSC	25	29.4
		Postgraduate	7	8.2
		Total	85	100.00
6	Family Type	Polygamous	48	56.4
		Monogamous	37	44.6
		Total	85	100.00

Sources: Authors compilation

Hypothesis 1

This hypothesis stated that personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experience) will significantly predict Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria. This hypothesis was tested using multiple regression analysis and the result is presented in table 2.

Table 2:

Summary of Multiple Regression Analysis Showing the Prediction of Personality Factors on Intimate Partner Violence among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria

DV	Predictor(s)	R	R ²	F	df	B	t	P
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Domestic Violence	Constant	.695	.483	10.824**	5, 58		
	Agreeableness					-.356	-2.864 .006
	Neuroticism					.245	2.393 .020
	Conscientiousness					-.162	-1.271 .209
	Openness					-.010	-3.012 .008
	Extroversion					-.524	-5.604 .001

***p* < .001

Result in table 2 shows that personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experience) significantly predict intimate partner violence among married adolescents in Lagos [$R^2 = .483$; $F(5, 58) = 10.824$; $p < .000$]. Observation of coefficient of determination shows that personality traits significantly accounted for just 48.3% of the total variance observed in IPV. On the independent basis, the result showed that agreeableness ($\beta = -.356$, $t = -2.864$; $p < .006$), neuroticism ($\beta = .245$, $t = 2.393$; $p < .020$), openness to experience ($\beta = -.010$, $t = -3.012$; $p < .008$), and extraversion ($\beta = -.524$, $t = -5.604$; $p < .001$) significantly and independently predicted IPV among samples. On the other hand, conscientiousness ($\beta = -.162$, $t = 1.271$; $p > .209$) did not independently predict IPV among married adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria. Based on this result, hypothesis one which stated that personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experience) will significantly predict Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria, was therefore confirmed.

Hypothesis 2

This hypothesis stated that emotional intelligence will significantly influence Intimate Partner Violence among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria. This hypothesis was tested using simple linear regression and the result is presented in table 3.

Table 3:

Summary of Simple Linear Regression Showing the Influence of Emotional Intelligence on Domestic Violence Among Couples

Model		Unstandardized Coefficients		Standardized Coefficient	t	Sig
		B	Std. Error	β		
Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)	Constant	41.669	9.283		4.489	.000
	Emotional Intelligence	-.204	.086	-.289	-2.374	.021

***p* < .001

Result in table 3 shows that emotional intelligence did not significantly influence IPV ($\beta = -.289$, $t = -2.374$; $p < .021$). The result showed a negative influence meaning that couples who scored high in emotional intelligence significantly scored low on IPV and vice versa. Based on this result, hypothesis two which stated that 'emotional intelligence will significantly predict IPV was therefore not supported.

Hypothesis 3

This hypothesis stated that there will be a significant gender difference in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria. This hypothesis was tested using independent sample t-test and the result is presented in table 4.

Table 4:

Summary of Independent Sample t-test Showing Gender Difference in Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria.

DV	Groups	N	Mean	SD	SE	t	df	p
IPV	Female	42	30.76	9.12	1.40	2.372	83	<.05
	Male	43	26.37	7.91	1.21			

Result in table 4 shows that, there was a significant gender difference on IPV [$t(83) = 2.372$; $p < .05$]. Observation of mean difference shows that, female respondents (Mean = 30.76; SD = 9.12) significantly scored higher than their male counterparts (Mean = 26.37; SD = 7.91) on IPV. Based on this result, hypothesis three which stated that ‘there will be a significant gender difference on IPV among married adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria, was therefore accepted.

Discussion of the Findings

The study aims to investigate Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in Nigeria: Empirical Analysis of Personality traits, Emotional intelligence and Gender as Determinants. Meanwhile, the first hypothesis which stated that personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experience) will significantly predict Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) among Married Adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria, was therefore confirmed. The probable reason could be that certain personality traits may have associated with an increased likelihood of perpetrating IPV. Also, personality traits such as low agreeableness, low extraversion and low agreeableness, neuroticism might be linked to a higher risk of engaging in abusive behavior. This is consistent with other studies (Oguntayo et al., 2018; Oguntayo et al., 2020) who have found personality trait such as neuroticism and agreeableness to be strong predictors of attitude towards violence. Also, result agreed with (Robert, 2015) who associated neuroticism with hostility and impatience, which makes individuals with such personality trait to be aggressive and reactive. On the other hand, result disagree with (Benet-Martínez et al., 1998) whose report picture that personality dimensions can help inform prevention and intervention strategies to reduce IPV and support individuals in abusive relationships.

With respect to hypothesis two which states that emotional intelligence will significantly predict Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) was therefore not supported. This simply explains that, participants’ emotional intelligence is not a predictor of their exposure to IPV. Meanwhile, result contracts earlier studies (Ugoani, 2015) who recognizes that emotional intelligence enhances the ability to solve emotion laden problems without necessarily suppressing negative emotions, and also the capacity to stay aware of even unpleasant emotions. Result also not conform with other opinion that emotional intelligence helps individuals to redirect attention to important events, that is capable of avoiding unnecessary violence (Roberts, et al., 2001). Consequently, finding disagrees with recent opinions García-González and Quezada (2020) who found that EI enhances satisfaction in couple relationships by aiding in the resolution of inherent conflicts, while a low level of EI is associated with stress and violence in relationships, as well as high emotional intelligence acts as a protective factor against IPV perpetration. Individuals with better emotional regulation and communication skills may navigate conflicts

more constructively. However, study outcome is in agreement with some studies that suggest a positive correlation between low emotional intelligence and higher instances of IPV perpetration. Individuals with poor emotional regulation may resort to violence in response to relationship stressors (Salovey & Mayer, 1990; Brackett & Mayer, 2003).

Regarding hypothesis three which specified that there will be a significant gender difference on IPV was therefore accepted. This simply explains that gender characteristics determines IPV. The possible reason for this result could be the influence of practical experience in IPV. For instance, both men and women can experience physical violence, but women are more likely to suffer severe injury. This is consistent with some studies (Boyle et al., 2009) who demonstrate that women are more likely to be victims of IPV than men. Moreover, Macmillan & Gartner, (1999) found that women are more likely to experience severe physical violence from their male partners, while men are more likely to perpetrate such violence. Likewise, Lawson (2012) report revealed that historically, women have been more commonly identified as victims of intimate partner violence. This includes physical, sexual, and emotional abuse. Conversely, study findings disagree with some studies (Okemgbo et al., 2002) who reported that both men and women can be victims of sexual violence within intimate relationships, as such, men can also be victims of IPV, and women can be perpetrators. As well as IPV can affect individuals of any gender, but there are often distinct patterns and prevalence rates associated with different genders.

Conclusion and Recommendations

This empirical analysis seeks to contribute to the growing body of knowledge on Intimate Partner Violence by examining the intricate connections between personality traits, emotional intelligence, and gender dynamics in the Nigerian context. To this end, this study makes the following conclusions: Personality traits (extraversion, agreeableness, conscientiousness, neuroticism and openness to experience) significantly predict intimate partner violence. On the other hand, emotional intelligence did not significantly influence IPV. While, there was significant gender difference on IPV among married adolescents in Lagos, Nigeria.

Recommendations

In view of the above discussion and conclusions, the researchers make the following practical recommendations:

1. Establishment of targeted intervention programs focusing on modifying identified negative personality traits associated with IPV.
2. Suggest educational initiatives aimed at enhancing emotional intelligence skills, emphasizing empathy, communication, and conflict resolution within intimate relationships.
3. Emphasize the importance of collecting disaggregated data on gender, personality traits, and emotional intelligence to inform targeted strategies.
4. Advocate for community-wide awareness campaigns to challenge stereotypes and traditional gender norms that may contribute to IPV.
5. Development or strengthening of policies that address IPV, with a focus on both prevention and support for victims.
6. Integration of educational modules on healthy relationships and conflict resolution into school curricula.

7. Formation of counseling services for individuals with a history of perpetrating or experiencing IPV.

Limitations of the study and suggestions for future research

The first noticeable shortcoming of this research relates sampling bias in the approach of data collection. The research only adopted the quantitative method, which limited the opinions of research respondents to the response options provided to statements in the questionnaire, hence the findings may not be generalizable. This study therefore, suggests that future studies should consider adopting more than one method of data collection. The second acknowledged limitation of this study is the fact that the study was designed only to explore the empirical Analysis of Personality traits, Emotional intelligence and Gender as Determinants of IPV, and did not consider the impact of situational variables. Moreover, the study focused only the married adolescents in Nigeria, and neglected the other categories of individuals who are not married but most have experienced different kinds of relationship violences. Another limitation of the study was the use of a cross-sectional design, which may limit the ability to establish causation. In view of the above limitations, it is therefore, suggested that future research should test beyond the prediction of personality traits, emotional intelligence, gender, but inculcate longitudinal studies to provide a more robust understanding of the dynamic relationships between personality traits, emotional intelligence, gender, and IPV over time, and widen the scope of participation to involve all categories of individuals regardless of their status.

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