
The Role of Women Librarians in Reducing and Eradicating Gender-Based Violence in Nigeria

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ABSTRACT

vulnerable. Human beings are especially vulnerable with respect to gender and therefore, gender based violence is highly devastating. It is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world, it knows no social economic or national boundaries. The researchers highlighted the concepts of violence, Gender based violence, types of violence, causes of violence, the role of women librarians in eradication of gender based violence in Nigeria and some of the impediments in eradicating violence. The researcher concluded that if the recommendations made are fully implemented, gender based violence will be curtailed or totally eradicated in Nigeria and other countries globally.

Keywords: Violence, Gender based violence, Women Librarians, Nigeria, Vulnerabilities, Causes

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I. INTRODUCTION

All societies take a stance on how to ensure that they grow into the women and men wanted by this social or cultural group. Though legislation does not automatically change behaviours or attitude but laws makes a public statement about what is acceptable unacceptable within a given society. For many generation, the avowed theory was that women would care for their families and raised children. Then role was allegedly respected, but over decades most messages to women and girls told them loudly that male breadwinner role, was much more valuable. This outlook conveniently overlook the fact that many working class women had held down paid work over the decades, when middle class women had been force to resign from professionals as soon they were married. In the 21st century, women who chose to put their energies into raising the children are still vulnerable to criticism, sometimes from fellow female. Many more fathers are now the main carrier at home, at least for a while. They, too, experience, although in different ways, the social values that work really has to be paid of caring for children is genuinely valued. Children look towards adult for guidance on what is a normal or generally acceptable way to behave. Gender based violence is not only gross human right violation but hampers development.

2. CONCEPT OF VIOLENCE:

Violence is a behaviour involving physical force intended to hurt, damage or kill someone or something. It can also be defined as a tool used by the strong to dominate the weak and the powerful to dominate the vulnerable. Though, there are many factors that can cause people into violent acts. Act of violence in humans can be caused /associated by triggers to violent acts and propensity to be violent. The propensity to be violent depends on the personal character of the one committing the act of violence Haggard-gram (2006). The trigger represents a social factor that leads a person to crime. Human beings are especially vulnerable with respect to gender and therefore gender-based violence is particularly devastating.

Gender

Gender is a social concept or construct; the total of all the attributes typically associated with a given sex. Jane, S.H and John, W.S (1996) opined that gender is the social-cultural dimension being female or male, a child or adult's behaviour is the observable version of how inclinations and beliefs emerge to be visible through actions.

Gender-Based Violence.

Gender is a social concept or construct. The total of all the attributes typically associated with a given sex. Gender-based violence is one of the most prevalent human rights violations in the world. It refers to harmful acts directed at an individual based on their gender. It is rooted in gender inequality, the abuse of power. In most cases, gender-based violence is directed against women because she is a woman and that affects women disproportionately. Gender-based violence is largely due to systematic gender inequality that disempowers women, girls and stifles their voices so that their stories are not heard and their human rights can be easily taken away. Gender-based violence can manifest in different forms. It can be in the private or public sphere. Gender-based violence includes physical, sexual, mental or economic harm inflicted on a person because of socially ascribed power imbalance between males and females. The threats of violence, coercion and deprivation of liberty. Gender-based violence is the breaking of sacred trust within society.

Types Of Gender-Based Violence

1. Psychological trauma: According to World Health Organization reports, 'gender-based violence causes psychological trauma, depression, anxiety, insomnia which as a result of assault inflicts deep emotional and physical wounds that can carry lifelong scars, in most cases can lead to suicide.
2. Economic violence: People living in abject poverty particularly women and girl child are vulnerable to economic hardship, unfair treatment, abusive relationships, cultural practices deny women and girls opportunities for better lives.
3. Physical injuries: Violence takes different forms and in many cases it is about power and control involving physical force intended to hurt, damage or kill, for instance, cases of rape, verbal abuse etc.

3. CAUSES OF GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

There are many factors that can cause people into violent acts

1. **Drugs and alcohol:** Use of drugs and alcohol can affect one's personality making them violent most of the time, cases that lead to incarceration can be connected to the use of drugs and alcohol. Alcohol and drugs have been connected to property offences and domestic violence. Parker and Averham (2008). Alcohol contributes to more violent acts than the use of illegal drugs, alcohol has been formed to contribute to rape, physical attacks, robbery, massacre and domestic violence. Statistics connected to the use of alcohol and drugs show that drunk offender commit most of the assault. There are times when violent offenders commit the crime to meet their demand for drugs.
2. **Mental illness:** Mental illness is another factor that can cause people into violence, when a person is not mentally balance, there is tendency that the person(s) with brain damage or mental illness are discriminated in the community for assumptions that they are violent. Though, there are some cases where mentally ill person(s) are not violent.
3. **Tradition / culture:** Tradition is one of the causes of gender-based violence, over time, there are some primitive culture that promotes gender-based violence, for instance forcing a girl child into early marriage without her consent thereby mortgaging her future, genital mutilation and so on.

4. THE ROLE OF WOMEN LIBRARIAN IN ERADICATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN NIGERIA

Librarians can be transformed into something much more interesting than being a custodian /dispenser of information resources in the library. Its librarians we flourish in the thinking world, participating in the collaboration activities which is the fundamental component of a learning community. Most of us chose our field of scholarly endeavour because somewhere along the line we developed a passion for it. Part of the attraction of a career in academic is the opportunity to share our enthusiasm that makes somebody want to do something. Children look towards adults for guidance on what is a normal or generally acceptable way to behave. Girls and boys need positive input from adults and they look towards the adults of their own sex for ideas. What you say matters. Behavioural traits stretch over a broad period of time. Wright (2001) opined that information promotes and empowers citizen's participation in the democratic process. Women librarians should redefine their concept in information services delivery, focus should be on measures to adopt in solving common problem(s).

- **Access To Information:** There is one adage that says 'if you are not informed you are deformed'. Women librarians should endeavour to make information available to the youth/citizens, for instance, increase reading costume and literacy among the youth.
- **Oganising Conferences, Seminars:** It is essential for women librarians to play a pivotal role and work as agents of change by dividing a campaign to address gender-based violence. inform the population that gender-based violence is not only gross human right violation, but fractures families and hampers developments. Women librarians should organize seminars for girl children and women on the need for adequate provision for education or skills to enable them have economic opportunities that will alleviate them from economic hardship.

4.1 Challenges /Impediments Encountered By Women Librarians In Eradication Of Violence

- 1. Funding:** lack of funds to support women librarians in organising activities for the youth/adult.
- 2. Inability Of Some Families To Attend To Their Family Needs:** For instance, psychological needs, safety needs, love needs. Needs theories emerged as an alternative to behavioural theories. According to Maslow's hierarchy of needs remains popular and influential.
- 3. Lack Of Recognition On The Part Of The Government:**To acknowledge the importance of women in the educational development of the society and *the of the citizens to co-opted in the scheme of the programmes
- 4. Procrastination** of activities and unwillingness of some women librarians in information dissemination to the populace.

5. CONCLUSION/RECOMMENDATIONS

When citizens are engaged in meaningful activities that occupy their minds * reduction of war and conflict are eminent, thereby the conditions that increase the risk of aggression towards women and girls will reduce to its barest minimum. Thereseachers however proffer some recommendations that will help in curbing gender-based violence in Nigeria

1. Co-ordination of conferences seminars for women or girls enlightening them on gender equality, especially, rural dwellers
2. Organisation of entrepreneurship skills among the youth, both genders.
3. Collaborations with government and NGO to organize and deli v0er impact workshop on the right of women /girls. Teach the next generations the example we set for the younger generation will definitely sharpen the way the think about gender, respect and human right
We must stand against rape culture and beliefs for biases that permits rape culture to continue.

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