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Gender-Based Violence and Agricultural Productivity in Osun State, Nigeria

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Salami, Adekemi Idayat

Department of Psychology
Yorkville University, New Brunswick, Canada
Email: salamiadekemi0210@gmail.com
Phone no: +1 (437) 2264478
<https://orcid.org/0009-0005-9062-6860>

Deji, Olanike Fasilat

Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria
Email: odeji@oauife.edu.ng
Phone no: +234 803 371 6695
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-9316-8544>

Opayinka, Aanuoluwapo Oladipupo

Department of Agricultural Extension and Rural Development
Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria
Email: aopayinka@oauife.edu.ng
Phone no: +234 816 835 5211
<https://orcid.org/0000-0002-5251-9854>

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SAI: Conception/design, development of data collection instrument, data collection, interpretation of data and first draft (40%)

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OAO: Analysis, Interpretation of data, first draft and revised manuscript (25%)

Abstract

This study examined gender-based Violence (GBV) and agricultural productivity. A multistage sampling procedure was used to select 54 GBV victims. Key informant interview was used to elicit qualitative data from the GBV victims about the type(s) of GBV experienced, the relationship of the perpetrator of the GBV victims, their losses and the effect(s) of the GBV on their agricultural productivity. ATLAS.ti 8 was used to conduct a content analysis of the data for this study. The results reveal that GBV occurred weekly (66.67%) and the three most prevalent forms of GBV was the spousal battery (55.56%). A majority (71.11%) of marital violence occurred within the 2nd and 3rd year of marriage and a majority (77.78%) of the violence was perpetrated by husbands. A majority 70.37% of GBV lost 5-8 hours of agriculturally productive activities per day and 77.78% lost at least 16 days of agricultural activities per month due to GBV. Gender-based violence had more adverse effects on the health of 88.33% of the victims. The study concluded that GBV negatively impacted agricultural productivity and recommended that Community leaders and members should promote gender equality and provide support and resources for GVB victims.

Introduction

Agriculture contributes a significant part of many countries' GDP. It accounts for about 40% of GDP in many nations. In Nigeria, agricultural activities are key for the economy as they provide a livelihood for many Nigerians (Eckman, et al., 2022; and Statista Research Department, 2023). It engages about 70% of the Nigerian labour force thereby being by far the most important sector of Nigeria's economy (Nations Encyclopedia, 2024). Despite the engagement of many individuals and families, agricultural productivity and hence the sector's contribution to the country's GDP have been dwindling. This is due to a lot of challenges faced by the sector which include: poor land tenure system, overdependence on rainfall, climate change, land degradation, use of simple tools, high cost of production, lack of credit facilities, appreciable post-harvest losses, poor access to markets and gender-based violence (GBV) (Eckman et al., 2022 and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), 2024).

Gender-based violence (GBV) remains a pervasive issue worldwide and is one of the most persistent human rights abuses in the world. According to Willman (2023)

“GBV is the most extreme manifestation of gender inequality and the most prevalent form of violence worldwide its impacts extend far beyond individual survivors, with implications for the productivity and well-being of families and communities, often across generations”.

It refers to any harm perpetrated against a person or group of people because of their factual or perceived sex, gender, sexual orientation and/or gender identity (Council of Europe, 2019). Gender-based violence (GBV) has significant implications for various aspects of society, including the economy of both developed and underdeveloped nations. It can cost countries up to 4% of their GDP with about 2% being as a result of GBV in agriculture (Eckman et al., 2022). It has a detrimental impact on the general society and victims with serious consequences on employment, health, productivity and overall economic development (Enaifoghe et al., 2021; Chime et al., 2022). GBV manifests in the daily activities of many actors across all levels of the agricultural food system. It negatively affects active engagement, performance, access to benefits, and empowerment in the agricultural value chain as victims may lose up to 10 days of work per year due to GBV (International Finance Corporation (IFC), 2020 and Eckman et al., 2022). According to the World Bank (2022), the first step in providing preventive and supporting services for gender-based violence survivors is to fully understand the full magnitude of the problem: Who is experiencing violence? When is violence most likely to occur? And where? Works have been carried out on GBV in agriculture but only a few address its effects on victims' productivity. Aminu and Edun (2020) assessed gender-based violence among farming households in Epe, Lagos State, Nigeria; Okpara and Anugwa (2022) examined the harms to community food security resulting from gender-based violence; and Chiadikaobi, Ohagwu and Nwokike (2024) worked on navigating gender-based violence impacts on women farmers' livelihoods and mitigation strategies in selected Southeastern states in Nigeria. The effects of GBV on agricultural productivity in Osun state was a gap in the literature which this study filled.

The study described the effects of Gender-based Violence (GBV) on agricultural productivity in Osun State, Nigeria. Specifically, it

i examined the prevalent forms of gender-based violence;

- ii ascertained the vulnerability of each gender to GBV; and
- iii assessed the effects of gender-based violence on the agricultural productivity of the victims.

Methodology

The study was conducted in Osun State, Nigeria. The State lies between latitude 7° 30' 0" N and longitude 4° 30' 0" E (Osun State Official Site, 2023). The population for the study was victims/survivors of gender-based violence. A multistage sampling procedure was adopted for the study. In the first stage, nine (9) LGAs namely: Ifelodun, Odo Otin, Boluwaduro, Egbedore, Ife East, Atakumosa West, Obokun, Ayeedade and Aiyedire were randomly selected out of the 30 LGAs in the State. In the second stage, three of the rural communities in each LGA was randomly selected making a total of 27 communities. Snowball technique was used to select two GBV victims from each of the 27 selected communities to make a total of 54 respondents (49 females and 5 males). Key informant interview was used to collect qualitative data from the respondents on the form(s) of GBV experienced, the relationship of the perpetrator of the GBV, their losses and the effect(s) of the GBV on their agricultural productivity. The data collected were analysed using content analysis and percentages in ATLAS.ti 8 software.

Results and Discussion

Prevalent Forms of Gender-Based Violence

Results in Table 1 show the prevalence of GBV and reveal that more than half (55.56%) of the victims had experienced spousal battery; an appreciable percentage (33.33%) and (29.63%) had experienced verbal assault and rape, respectively. Other forms of GBV experienced by the victims were forced marriage (11.11%), sexual violence (9.26%), marital rape (3.70%), emotional deprivation (3.70%) and inheritance deprivation (1.85%). Spousal battery, sexual violence, marital rape, verbal assaults and emotional deprivation could also be classified as intimate partner or marital violence. Results in the table also reveal that apart from verbal abuse which a few of the males experienced, the females were the ones vulnerable to GBV. This implies that marital violence was the most prevalent form of GBV and females were the main victims. These findings agree with the findings of Idowu et al. (2023) that Intimate partner violence (IPV) was the most predominant GBV in rural Nigerian communities.

Table 1: Prevalence and vulnerability to GBV

Types of GBV	Female (%)	Male (%)
Spousal battery	55.56	
Verbal assault	33.33	7.55
Rape	29.63	
Forced Marriage	11.1	
Sexual Violence	9.26	
Marital Rape	3.70	
Economic Deprivation	3.70	
Inheritance deprivation	1.85	

It can also be implied from the findings that all other forms of GBV were experienced by females only except verbal assault which is experienced by both genders. This reiterates the fact that females were the most vulnerable to GBV. These findings also reiterate the fact that females were the most vulnerable to GBV and corroborate the submissions of the World Bank (2019) and Chime (2022) that GBV had become interchangeable with violence against women and affected every one out of three women in their lifetime.

Prevalence of GBV

The results in Figure 1 show the frequency of GBV. Many (66.67%) of the victims experienced GBV weekly while an appreciable percentage (33.3%) experienced GBV monthly. These findings reiterate that GBV is experienced regularly in the communities. This implies that GBV has been seen as something normal in the society. These findings corroborate the submission of the Centre for Social Awareness, Advocacy and Ethics (CSAAE) (2024) that GBV has been tolerated and normalized in a lot of places including Nigeria.

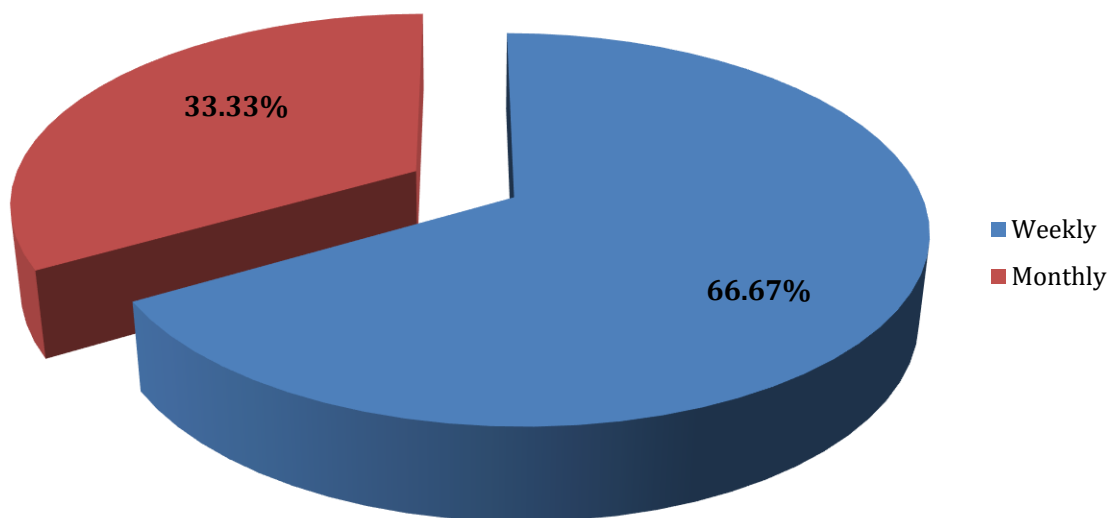


Figure 1: Frequency of GBV

Pattern of Marital Violence

Results in Table 2 show the pattern of marital violence and reveal that a majority (71.11%) of marital violence occurred within the 2nd and 3rd year of marriage while 28.8 percent of marital violence occurred within the 4th and 6th year of marriage. This means that marital violence, which was the most prevalent form of GBV occurred more during the early years of marriage. It can also be deduced that as the couples get to know each other more and more in the marriage and spend more years together, marital violence reduces drastically. This is seen in the reduction from 71.11 percent in marriages of 2 – 3 years to 28.8 percent in marriages of 4 to 6 years. Results in the Table also show that marital violence was more perpetrated by husbands (77.78%) than by wives (15.56). These findings align with the Council of Europe (2019) that GBV affects women disproportionately and most of it is inflicted by men.

Table 2: Pattern of marital violence

Pattern	Percentage
Period of violence	
2-3 years of marriage	71.11
4-6 years of marriage	28.89
Perpetrator of violence	
Husbands	77.78
Wives	15.56

Effects of GBV on the Agricultural Productivity of the Victims

Results in Figure 2 show that the majority (77.78%) of victims lost at least 4 days in a week due to GBV while 22.22 percent lost below 4 days in a week. Also, results from Figure 2 show that working hours lost by victims due to GBV ranged from 1-12 hours per day. The majority (70.37%) of the victims lost 5-8 hours of their productive time per day due to GBV while 20.37 percent lost 9-12 hours in a day. Few (9.26%) lost 1-4 hours. It can be deduced from these results that majority of victims of GBV lost more than half of a month (16 days) of productive activities due to GBV. This is quite enormous and it reduces the activities of victims. The time lost by majority of the GBV victims is also substantial. These can reduce the rate of victims' productivity and since the majority of victims were farmers, this would be detrimental to their agricultural productivity and food security. This invariably would reduce the level of income of victims of GBV whose main source of sustenance is agriculture. This supports the position of the World bank (2023) that GBV deters development worldwide and affects the well-being and productivity of individual survivors, families and communities, often across generations. It also agrees with the stance of the Council of Europe (2019) that GBV leads to loss of resources or means of livelihood, affects productivity negatively and makes victims achieve less at work. Furthermore, the findings agree with the position of Enaifoghe et al. (2021) that "GBV poses significant costs for the economies of both developed and developing countries alike, including low productivity, low earnings and low accumulation of human and social capital"

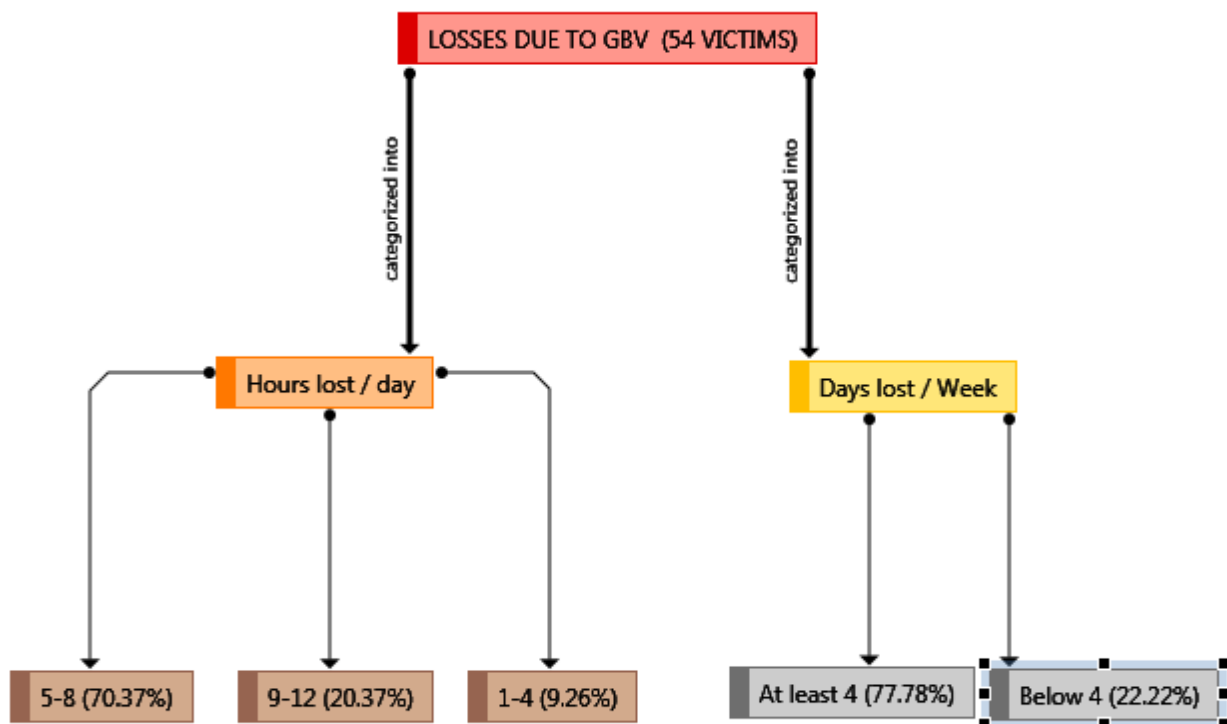


Figure 2: Losses due to GBV

Other Effects of GBV on Victims

Results from Figure 3 show that that GBV had adverse effects on the health of majority (88.33%) of victims; the social life of more than half (55.56%) of victims and the psychology of a few (11.11%) of the victims. These imply that gender-based violence GBV affected other aspects of the victims' lives. It is detrimental to the health of majority of the victims with some sustaining injuries and pains from batteries and some being hospitalized due to pains from rape. Money that could have been used to improve agricultural productivity would have to be channelled towards health improvement. GBV negatively affected victims' social interaction with other society members and their participation in their various community associations' activities by reducing their level of interaction and participation respectively. The victims were also affected psychologically. The victims preferred to be alone and this also affected the rate at which they recovered from the violence perpetrated on them. These findings correspond with the position of the World Bank (2022) that violence causes lifelong damage to victims, affecting their physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health.

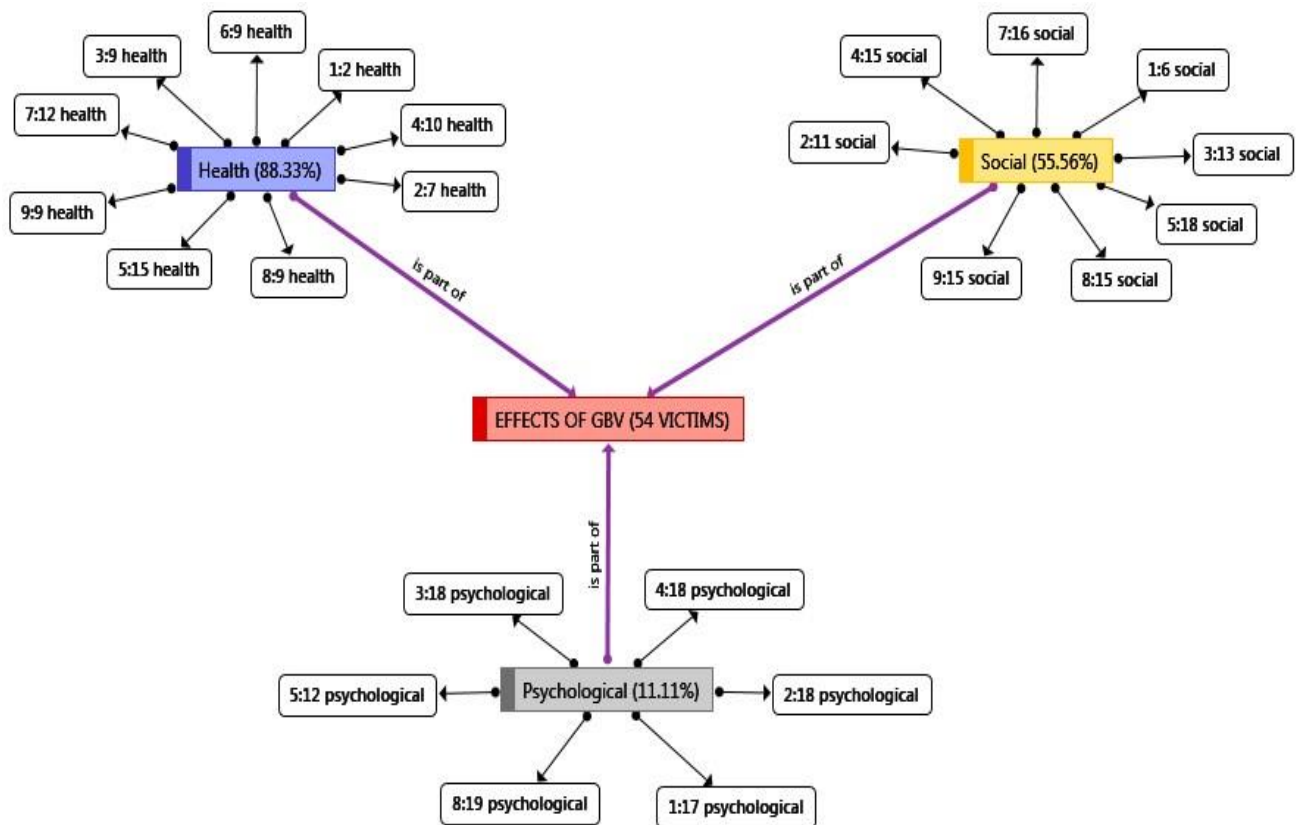


Figure 3: Effect of GBV on victims

Conclusion and Recommendation

Women remained the most vulnerable to GBV. The most prevalent form of GBV was intimate partner violence. The violence was prevalent during the earlier years of marriage but reduced as the years went by. The health, social interaction and psychology of victims were affected by GBV leading to the loss of productive hours and days in agriculture and reducing agricultural productivity.

Leaders and members of communities should make efforts to promote gender equality and provide support and resources for GVB victims.

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