



Awareness and perception towards gender based violence among adult residents in an urban community, Edo state, Nigeria

Obi Andrew Ifeanyichukwu, Okojie Hilda Obehi and Osula Ephraim Ikponnwosa
University of Benin, Nigeria

Background: Gender based violence (GBV) is becoming increasingly widespread and a socially tolerated form of human rights violations having very strong and deep cultural roots. This study was conducted to assess awareness and perception towards GBV among adult resident in an urban community, Edo, State, with a view to raising awareness and sensitizations towards appropriate behaviour and cultural changes to tackling this emerging public health problem.

Materials & Method: A community based analytical cross-sectional study design was conducted, utilizing pre-tested semi-structured interviewer administered questionnaires to 400 consenting adult residents in Ogbe community in Benin City. Data collected were analysed using SPSS version 20.0 statistical software with statistical significance set at $p < 0.050$ and 95% Confidence Interval.

Results: The mean age of the respondents studied was 30 ± 9 years, awareness of GBV was 400 (100%) with media 281 (70.3%) reported as their main source of information. Three hundred and forty three (85.7%) had negative perception towards GBV while 57 (14.3%) had positive perception towards GBV. Gender (OR=0.102; 95% CI=0.036-0.292; $p < 0.001$), marital status (OR=0.219; 95% CI=0.086-0.556; $p < 0.001$), religion (OR=31.649; 95% CI=9.404-106.515; $p < 0.001$) and knowledge of GBV (OR=0.428; 95% CI=0.181-1.015; $p < 0.001$) among respondents were significant predictors identified influencing perception towards GBV.

Conclusion: This study gaps between awareness and perception towards GBV among adult residents in Ogbe community, Benin City, with Gender, marital status and religion of respondents identified as significant predictors influencing perception towards GBV. There is need to bridge the above gap identified to sensitize better behaviour change intervention to promoting better cultural practices against GBV in our environment.

Biography

Obi Andrew Ifeanyichukwu is a Lecturer in the Department of Community Health, School of Medicine, College of Medical Sciences, University of Benin, Benin City, Nigeria. He teaches Epidemiology, Biostatistics, Reproductive Health, Occupational Health, Environmental Health, International Health, Public Health Nutrition, Rehabilitative and Social Medicine and Health Education at the Department of Community Health, University of Benin. His core areas of specialization are reproductive health, occupational and environmental health. His research area focuses mainly on reproductive health, occupational and environmental health and demographic studies in Nigeria and developing countries. He has over 10 journal articles, conference papers, and dissertations on the above research areas at local, national and international spheres. He has been in Public Health practice for nine years, a Fellow of the National Postgraduate Medical College of Nigeria (2012), an Academic Physician since August 2013. He is a young and vibrant Academic Physician who is gaining strong academic grounds in teaching, training and research.

andrew.obi@uniben.edu

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