

AN EXAMINATION OF THE KNOWLEDGE,  
PREVALENCE AND EXPERIENCES OF FEMALE  
UNDERGRADUATES WITH VIOLENCE  
AGAINST WOMEN AND GIRLS IN OBAFEMI  
AWOLOWO UNIVERSITY, NIGERIA

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**Abstract**

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) persists as one of the most heinous systemic and prevalent human right abuses in the world that permeates the whole facet of societies, including the university system. VAWG has been reported to inhibit women's ability to maximize life's opportunities, hence the need to investigate its prevalence within the Nigerian university system. The study, a survey research, assessed the knowledge of female undergraduates, prevalence of VAWG and its male perpetrators in Obafemi Awolowo University. From a total female population of 8,447, a sample of 380 female undergraduates, from the thirteen faculties in the university, was selected using multi-staged cluster sampling. A self-developed standardized questionnaire SVAWG-Q was used in data collection. Data were analyzed using descriptive statistics. Results show that about 41% of participants have heard about VAWG. Generally, VAWG is rare in Obafemi Awolowo University with a mean value of 6.28

on a scale of 0 to 25 ranging from never to very frequent. Emotional and psychological violence (EPV), with a mean value of 10.78 (accounting for 34.4% of the total VAWG occurrence) is the most prevalent form of VAWG in OAU. This is followed by sexual violence SV, 7.74 (24.7% of total VAWG), and then physical violence, 6.04 (19.3% of total VAWG). 'Insults or name calling', and 'humiliation in the presence of others' are the most prevalent EPV. Also, sexual harassment (mean, 2.65), sexual exploitation (mean 2.20) and then incest (mean, 2.08) are the most prevalent SV in OAU. Assaults, battering, and flogging, caning/belting are the most prevalent physical violence in OAU. Male students, with a mean value of 14.54 followed by male lecturers (11.72) are reportedly the most frequent perpetrator of VAWG in OAU. There are discrepancies across age, marital status, faculties and religious affiliation.

**Keywords:** emotional and psychological violence, Obafemi Awolowo University, physical violence, sexual violence, social and economic violence.

## Introduction

Violence against women and girls (VAWG) has assumed the status of a global epidemic. Therefore government, civil, society, private individuals and communities across national and international boundaries have given attention to it. VAWG features directly or indirectly in the life of every woman from the early stages of life (as foetus) to the grave. In its pervasiveness, it cuts across geographical, historical, religious and social boundaries. This is supported by the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action (1995), paragraph 112 which states that "Violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms... In all societies, to a greater or lesser degree, women and girls are subjected to physical, sexual and psychological abuse that cuts across lines of income, class and culture". It negatively impact on the individual, her immediate family/ community, national and international community. This realization

has necessitated renewed focus and action in reducing VAWG considerably, if not totally eliminating it, from every stratum and facet of human societies. Concerted effort to eliminate VAWG has brought on board international organizations and governments. The level and scope of involvement has included development of legal instruments by the United Nations and regional governmental organizations, as well as the direct funding of programs, activities, researches, and documentation by the funding organizations such as DFID, UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA, AWDF, Mama Cash, Urgent Action Fund and Global Fund for Women to mention but a few (Obilade, 2011).

The UN Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, (1993) defines VAW(G) as 'Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.' CEDAW defines it as "Violence that is directed against a woman because she's a woman or violence that affect women disproportionately, it includes acts that inflicts physical, mental or sexual harm of suffering, threats of such acts, cohesion and other deprivations of liberty." (Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women, General recommendation, CEDAW, recommendation 19). VAWG has five forms as identified in the literature—sexual violence (SV), physical violence (PV), emotional and psychological violence (EPV), socio-economic violence (SEV), and harmful traditional practices (The Commonwealth Secretariat, 2003; Morrison and Orlando, 2004). Each of these has its types as presented in the box 1 below.

**Box 1: Forms and types of Violence against women and girls**

S/N	Forms of VAWG	Types of VAWG
1	Sexual Violence	sexual harassment, incest, rape, forced prostitution and sexual slavery
2	Physical Violence	wife battering and assault, 'honor' killings, female infanticide, child assault by teachers and gay bashing
3	Emotional and Psychological Violence	Threats of Violence, insults and name calling, humiliation in front of others, blackmail, and Threat of abandonment
4	Socio-Economic Violence	female genital mutilation (FGM), denial of certain foods and forced and/or early marriage
5	Harmful Traditional Practices	discriminatory access to basic health care, low levels of literacy and educational attainment, inadequate shelter and food, economic deprivation, armed conflict and acts of terrorism

Source: Adapted from the Commonwealth Secretariat, 2003

The cost of VAWG on survivors and the society at large has been equally documented (Morrison and Orlando, 2004; Human Rights Watch, 2001). Studies (?) reveal that, for the developing countries, the health impact of GBV on women can lead to causes of physical and psychological injuries, especially in the area of reproductive health. Its socioeconomic costs include in terms of "...earnings due to death and lost productivity, job loss, lost productivity of the abuser due to incarceration, and loss of tax revenues due to death and incarceration" (Obilade, O., Makinde, O.N., Omosule M. I., 2003; Morrison and Orlando, 2004). The cost of VAWG on the survivors is summarized in box 2 below.

**Box 2: Cost of VAWG**

**Physical effects**– According to the UNHCR, physical effects of sexual violence include pain, contracting of STIs and HIV in cases where the assailant is infected, mutilated genitalia, unintended pregnancy, abortion or infanticide, unwanted children, and even death.

**Psychological effects**– Psychological trauma is also known to result from GBV and this ranges from paralysis and terror to emotional pain; sense of denial, depression, mental disorder, and sometimes suicide. The victim can also experience nightmares and be haunted by fear and feelings of shame or guilt.

**Social effects**– Social costs to survivors of VAWG include rejection, stigmatization, further sexual exploitation and severe punishment. The development and wellbeing of children and families is also affected. Boys who witness battery are likely to be of violent disposition while girls grow into victims. GBV inhibits girls' access to schooling, may result in poor performance at school and deprives society of the full participation of women in development.

**Economic effects**– Victims bear enormous financial costs in accessing justice and health services. States also bear costs when they commit resources to provision of legal and health services to survivors.

Adapted from (Human Rights Watch, 2001)

VAWG has been acknowledged as a fundamental violation of human rights and a constraint to development throughout the world. However, empirical studies have shown its high prevalence in societies (Morrison & Orlando,., 2004). This is in spite of legislative, administrative, judicial, educational and other efforts by governments, regional and inter-governmental agencies, and non-governmental and civil society organizations to curb it (Commonwealth Secretariat, 2003). Universities are microcosm of societies. As such, what transpires in the larger society will not but reflects, to certain extent, within a university community. In Nigeria, for instance, empirical works support the existence of various forms

of VAWG and an increasing prevalence of rape, sexual harassment in tertiary institutions in Nigeria (Obilade, O., Makinde, O.N., Omosule M. I., 2003; Exchange, 2006). It has also been shown that some forms of religion support some forms of VAWG, notably physical battery, socio-economic violence, and emotional and psychological abuse (Obilade, Oluyemisi and Mejiuni Olutoyin, 2008). Marginalization of the girl-child educationally has also been documented (Obilade O. , 2007a; Obilade O. , 2007b).

Strategies employed in alleviating and eradicating VAWG include research on VAWG, developing the capacity of national women's machineries, providing appropriate gender enhanced tools, amongst others. Howbeit, eradicating the impact of VAWG is especially difficult in Africa where there is "...an unhealthy mix of tradition, inequality and ignorance..." (Plus News, N.D) Studies cited above also have shown that one of the reasons for the perpetuation of VAWG is that both perpetrators and survivors do not recognize it for what it is.

#### Research objectives

1. Determine the level of knowledge of VAWG among female undergraduates;
2. Examine the prevalence of VAWG among undergraduates in Obafemi Awolowo University; and
3. Identify the major perpetrators of VAWG most among male members of the university community.

#### Research Questions

1. What is the knowledge of female undergraduates about VAWG?
2. How prevalent is VAWG among undergraduates in Obafemi Awolowo University?
3. Who are the most frequent perpetrators of VAWG among male students, male lecturers and male non-academic staff in the university?

#### Methodology

The study is a descriptive survey. The population for this study comprised all female undergraduates registered across the thirteen

Faculties in Obafemi Awolowo University during 2010/2011 academic session. The female undergraduates' population was 8,447 (Obafemi Awolowo University, 2011). From this population, a sample size of 381 participants was determined using Bourley's formula (see below) for determining the representative sample of a known population size. Participants were selected using multi-staged cluster sampling. The sample size was further disaggregated along Faculties. Twenty out of 59 Departments were randomly selected across the 13 Faculties using the 'Name-in-Hat' simple random technique, in which names of Department rolled up in pieces of paper were picked randomly. One Department was randomly selected from Faculties with maximum of four Departments and two Departments from Faculties with more than four Departments. This is to ensure that the academic fields' diversities in large faculties are adequately catered for and ensure better representativeness of the sample.

A total population of 23,861 undergraduate students were enrolled in the thirteen faculties in the University, a study sample of 393 participants was determined using Bourley's formula as shown below.

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + Ne^2}$$

(Where  $n$  is the sample size,  $N$  is the total population size,  $e$  is the tolerable error margin, which is 0.005 for social research generally and 1 is a constant).

### Instruments

Both questionnaire and interview guide were used to collect quantitative and qualitative data respectively. An instrument titled "School-related Violence against Women and Girls among Female Undergraduates Questionnaire" (SVAWG-Q) was developed for the quantitative part of this study. The structured instrument included nominal scale, 5-Point Likert Scale, and an ordinal level rating scale used to measure knowledge, prevalence and experiences of respondents with phenomena investigated. The instrument comprised of mainly close ended items with few open ended ones.

The instrument was pretested and a pilot test was carried out using thirteen undergraduates selected from each of the Faculties but outside the sampled respondents in the University.

Table 1: The Return Rate of the Administered Questionnaires

S/N	Faculties	Administered	Returned	Deviation
1	Administration	39	40	1
2	Agric	30	30	0
3	Arts	40	39	-1
4	Basic Medical Science	14	8	-6
5	Clinical Science	21	18	-3
6	Dentistry	5	4	-1
7	Education	29	28	-1
8	Environmental Design Management	27	29	2
9	Law	23	22	-1
10	Pharmacy	11	11	0
11	Science	62	62	0
12	Social Sciences	42	44	2
13	Technology	52	45	-7
	Total	395	380	-15

Returned =  $380/395 \times 100\% = 96\%$  approximately

From Table 1, 395 questionnaires were administered and 380, that is, 96% were returned.

### Participants

Selected Faculties included Administration, Agriculture, Arts, Basic and Medical Science, Clinical Science, Dentistry, Education, Law, Pharmacy, Sciences, Social Sciences, and Technology. Three hundred and eighty, that is, 96% of 395 questionnaires were returned. This number (380 respondents) of the 381 representative sample (determined using Bourley's Formula above) represents 99.7%. For the qualitative research, 40 participants were interviewed.



Table 2: Distribution of Respondents' Bio-data

VARIABLES	FREQUENCY	PERCENTAGE
Age group		
16 – 20	72	18.9
21 – 25	274	72.1
26 – 30	24	6.3
31 – 35	2	0.5
Void	8	2.1
Total	380	100.00
Marital status		
Single	360	94.7
Married	11	2.89
Void	15	3.9
Total	380	100.00
Religion		
Christian	320	84.2
Muslim	50	13.1
Void	10	2.6
Total	380	100.00

Source: Authors' field survey 2013

## Results and Discussion

### Knowledge of female undergraduates about VAWG

Table 3 below presents the percentage distribution of respondents' knowledge of VAWG. From the table, 156 (41%) have heard about VAWG, while 221 (58%) of respondents have never heard about it, about 1% of the responses was void. All respondents within age group 31-35 have heard about VAWG, while 41.7% of respondents of age groups 16-25 have heard about it and 37.5 of the older age group 26-30 reported to have heard about it. 42.6% of unmarried undergraduates and 9.1% of the married have heard about VAWG.

Table 3: Respondents’ Knowledge of School Related Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG)

S/N		Frequency count/Percentage							
		Yes	%	No	%	Ø	%	Total	%
1.	Aggregated Responses	156	41.1	221	58.2	3	0.8	380	100
2.	Disaggregated Responses								
2A.	Age Group								
i.	16-20	30	41.7	41	56.9	1	1.39	72	100
ii.	21-25	115	41.7	161	58.3	0	0	276	100
iii.	26-30	9	37.5	15	62.5	0	0	24	100
iv.	31-35	2	100	0	0	0	0	2	100
v.	Total	156	41.1	217	57.1	7	1.8	380	
2B.	Marital status								
i.	Single	155	42.6	207	56.8	2	0.6		
ii.	Married	1	9.1	9	88.9	1	9.1		
2C.	Religious affiliation								
i.	Christian	135	42.1	186	57.9	2			
ii.	Muslim	19	38	31	62				

Source: Authors’ field survey 2013

When disaggregated across religious affiliations, 42.1% of Christians and 38% of Muslims have heard about it while 57.9% and 62% respectively have not heard about it.

Table 4: Respondents' Knowledge of School Related Violence against Women and Girls (VAWG) Across Faculties

S/N	Faculty	Heard of the VAWG					
		Yes	Yes % of Fac.	Yes % of Univ.	No	No % of Fac.	No % of Univ.
1.	Administration	15	37.5	9.6	25	62.5	11.3
2.	Agricultural Sciences	13	43.3	8.3	17	56.7	7.7
3.	Arts	18	47.4	11.5	20	52.6	9.0
4.	Basic Medical	0	0.0	0.0	8	100	3.6
5.	Clinical Science	5	29.4	3.2	12	60.6	5.4
6.	Dentistry	2	50	1.3	2	50	0.9
7.	EDM	9	32.1	5.8	19	67.9	8.6
8.	Education	21	72.4	13.5	8	27.6	3.6
9.	Law	12	54.5	7.7	10	45.5	2.7
11.	Sciences	28	45.2	17.9	34	54.8	15.4
12.	Social Sciences	21	48.8	13.5	22	51.2	10.0
13.	Technology	7	15.5	4.5	38	84.5	17.2
	Total	156	41.4	100	221	58.6	100

Source: Authors' field survey 2013

From table 4 above, 41.4 and 58.6 of respondents have heard and have not heard about VAWG. The disaggregated data across faculties revealed that respondents from the Faculty of Education, with 72.4%, are most familiar with the term VAWG. This is followed by Faculty of Law and Dentistry with 54.5% and 50% respectively.

In all other Faculties, the percentage of respondents who have heard about VAWG is less than 50%. The next three faculties are Social Sciences (48.8%), Arts (47.4%) and Pharmacy (45.4%). Faculties of Basic Medical Science, Technology and Clinical Science ranked lowest with 0%, 15.5% and 29.4% respectively. Holding all other variables (socio-economic background, religion, etc.) constant, it is probable that the differentials in hearing about VAWG among the respondents are accounted for by the differential in the learning environment (academic curriculum, pedagogy, lecturers' awareness of VAWG and extra-curricular activities in the faculties) provided in each faculty. For instance, in the Faculty of Education, two lecturers—Professor Oluyemisi Obilade and Dr. Toyin Mejuini are actively involved in Women Studies and advocacy (The two are co-founders of Women Against Rape, Sexual Harassment and Exploitation—WARSHE). Respondents from the Faculty of Law could have heard about it through their curriculum from the perspective of Law.

Respondents who have heard about VAWG reported that they got to know about it from various avenues including school, friends, media, journals, seminar, street, home, and peer group. (Statistical data to be included in later version of the work)

Moreover, from Table 5 below, 96.8% of respondents reported the occurrence of VAWG in the University.

Table 5: Respondents' Perception of the Occurrence of VAWG in OAU

Occurrence of VAWG in OAU	Frequency	%
Yes	362	96.8
No	12	3.2
Total	374	100.0
Void	6	

Source: Authors' field survey

Table 6: Perception of Occurrence of VAWG in OAU Cross-tabulated with Demographic Statistics

S/N	Frequency count/Percentage										
		Yes	%	Valid %	No	%	Valid %	Void	%	Total	%
Age Group Section											
	Age Group										
1	16-20	68		94.4	4		5.6			72	19.4
2	21-25	267		97.4	7		2.6			274	73.9
3	26-30	22		95.7	1		4.3			23	6.2
4	31-35	2		100	0		0			2	0.5
5	Total	359		96.8	12		3.2			371	100
Marital status											
1	Single	347		96.7	12		3.3			359	97
2	Married	11		100	0		100			11	3
3	Total	358		96.8	12		3.2			370	100
Religious Affiliation											
1	Christian	307		96.2	12		3.8			319	86.5
2	Muslim	50		100	0		0			50	13.5
3	Total	357		96.8	12		3.2			369	100

Source: authors' fieldwork 2013

From the Table 6 above 96.8% of the respondents reported that there is VAWG in OAU. 3.2% reported to the contrary. All respondents in the age bracket 31-35, all married people and all Muslim respondents reported that there is VAWG in OAU. Therefore, majority of the respondents reported the occurrence of VAWG in the institution.

Twelve most common types of VAWG from four forms of VAWG—Sexual Violence (SV), Physical Violence (PV), Emotional & Psychological Violence (EPV), and Social & Economic Violence (SEV)—are listed in Table 7 below. The list of the most popular forms of VAWG that respondents were aware of includes sexual

harassment, incest, rape, and humiliation, assault, and molestation (see Table 7 below).

Table 7: Frequency of Forms of VAWG in OAU

S/N	Forms of VAWG	Frequency	% of respondents
1	Sexual harassment	368	98.4
2	Incest	366	97.8
3	Rape	364	97.3
4	Battering	355	94.9
5	Assault	355	94.9
6	Flogging, canning or belting	355	94.9
7	Insults or name calling (by female)	358	95.7
8	Humiliation in front of others	360	96.2
9	Threats violence	355	94.9
10	Discriminatory access to basic health care	355	94.9
11	Inadequate shelter	356	95.1
12	Economic deprivation	355	94.9

Source: Authors' field survey 2013.

### Perception of the Prevalence of VAWG in Obafemi Awolowo University

Respondents were provided with the five forms of VAWG—sexual violence (SV), physical violence (PV), emotional and physical violence (EPV), social and economic violence (SEV), and harmful traditional practices (HTP) and their types. Based on the information provided, respondents were asked to rate the prevalence of VAWG in OAU. Those that answered 'yes' to occurrence of VAWG in OAU were asked to tick all VAWG they have heard of in OAU and rate them on a scale of 0 to 5, with zero representing never, one (very rare), two (rare), three (sometimes), four (frequent), and five (very frequent). Their ranking (in valid percentages) of the prevalence of the forms of VAWG is presented in the Table 8 below. Also, respondents' scoring of the types of each form was aggregated and their mean scores

calculated to determine the prevalence of each form. Prevalence are ranked as never (0), very rare (1-5), rare (6-10), sometimes (11-15), frequent (16-20), very frequent (21-25). This is presented in Table 8 below.

**Table 8: Perception of Prevalence of VAWG in OAU**

S/N	VAWG	Valid Responses	Void	Mean	Sum	Never %	Very Rare %	Rare %	Sometimes	Frequent %	Very Freq.	Prevalence %	Total
1	SV	358	22	7.74	2771	3.1	32.1	39.1	19.8	5.9	0	Rare	100
i.	Rape	364	16	.81	296	69.1	17.9	9.1	4.4	3.6	3.6		100.0
ii.	Sexual harassment	368	12	2.65	977	5.7	16.8	24.5	25.5	14.1	13.3		100.0
iii.	Sexual exploitation	362	18	2.20	797	18.8	16.3	21.8	20.7	13.8	8.6		100.0
iv.	Incest	366	14	2.08	760	13.4	29.5	21.9	17.5	6.8	10.9		100.0
2	PV	330	50	6.04	1992	13	41.8	25.8	14.2	3.0	2.1	Rare	100
i.	Battering	355	25	1.63	580	25.1	31.8	18.0	11.5	6.8	6.8		100.0
ii.	Assaults	355	25	1.83	650	19.7	28.5	22.0	16.3	5.9	7.6		100.0
iii.	Flogging	355	25	1.31	464	45.4	20.3	12.1	9.9	5.4	7.0		100.0
iv.	honor killing	351	29	.26	93	86.6	6.8	2.8	1.4	1.7	.6		100.0
v.	Female infanticide.	353	27	.38	133	82.4	7.4	4.8	2.3	1.7	1.4		100.0
vi.	gay bashing	344	36	.72	247	67.7	12.5	7.8	7.0	2.0	2.9		100.0
3	EPV	347	33	10.78	3742	3.5	18.2	29.1	26.2	14.2	6.8	Sometimes	100
i.	insults	358	22	3.23	1155	6.4	10.6	15.9	19.8	15.4	31.8		100.0
ii.	Humiliation	360	20	2.90	1044	11.4	11.9	13.1	24.7	16.7	22.2		100.0
iii.	Threat of Violence	355	25	1.71	606	29.6	23.1	14.6	17.5	10.1	5.1		100.0
iv.	Black-mail	358	22	1.57	562	31.8	26.5	14.5	13.7	6.7	6.7		100.0
v.	Threat of Abandonment	352	28	1.37	482	39.5	23.6	14.5	11.1	5.7	5.7		100.0
4	SEV	344	36	4.24	1457	43.7	25.4	17.8	8.5	3.5	1.2	Very rare	100
i.	Discriminatory access to basic health-care	355	25	.69	245	67.3	13.8	9.0	4.5	3.1	2.3	100.0	
ii.	Ltd. Access to education	353	27	.88	310	65.4	12.7	8.8	7.9	2.8	2.0		100

iii.	Inadequate shelter and food	356	24	1.11	396	54.2	13.8	12.4	10.4	4.8	4.5		100.0
iv.	Economic deprivation	355	25	1.04	370	57.7	11.0	13.5	9.0	4.5	4.2		100.0
v.	Armed conflict and acts of terror	351	29	.62	218	70.1	13.7	6.8	4.8	2.6	2.0		100
5	HTPs	346	34	2.58	891	54.9	26.6	11.3	5.5	1.7	0	Very rare	100
i.	Female Genital Mutilation	352	28	.57	199	75.6	8.8	7.1	3.1	2.8	2.6		100.0
ii.	Denial of certain foods	354	26	.58	204	74.3	10.2	6.5	4.0	2.8	2.3		100.0
iii.	Forced /early marriage	356	24	.84	300	64.3	13.5	8.1	6.5	2.8	4.8		100.0
iv.	Forced widowhood practices Aggregate	349	31	.57 6.28	200	77.4	6.6	5.7	5.2	2.0	3.2		100.0

Source: Authors' fieldwork 2013

From Table 8 above, with the overall mean value of 6.28 (of a maximum of 25), VAWG is rare in OAU. The mean values of the five forms of GBV range between 2.58 and 10.78. Emotional and psychological violence (EPV), with a mean score of 10.78 is the most prevalent form of VAWG in OAU. It is followed by sexual violence with the mean score of 7.74 and physical violence with the mean score of 6.04. However, 64.8% respondents reported that sexual violence occurs from sometimes to very frequent. While emotional and psychological violence is reported as occurring 47.2% from sometimes to very frequent. Harmful traditional practices with the mean score of 2.58 are clearly the least occurrence of the five forms of VAWG in OAU. The next least occurring form of VAWG is socio-economic violence.



'Insults or name calling' with a mean value of 3.23 is the most frequent type of EPV. It is scored 31.8% on 'very frequent' (31.8%). It is followed by 'humiliation in front of others' with a mean value of 2.9 and 'threats of violence' with a mean value of 1.71. Compared with types of other forms of VAWG, all types of EPV scores relatively higher mean value. The table shows that sexual harassment with a mean value of 2.65 is the most frequent type of sexual violence perpetrated in OAU. This is followed by sexual exploitation and then incest. Rape on the other hand has a very low level of occurrence. 69.1 respondents reported that it never occurred. Sexual harassment on the other hand has 5.7% reporting it never occurring. Even at that, with the mean value of 2.65, sexual harassment still a rare occurrence in OAU. Assaults, battering, and flogging, caning/belting are the most prevalent physical violence in OAU. The first two are reported to have over 25% of occurrence from sometimes to very frequent. However, with a mean value of 1.83 and 1.63 assaults and battering respectively are the most recurring forms of physical violence in OAU. Also, from table 3 above, inadequate shelter and food is the most frequent type of socio-economic violence, with a mean value of 1.11. This is followed by economic deprivation with a mean value of 1.04. Harmful traditional practices are the least occurring form of VAWG in OAU. All types of Harmful traditional practices have mean values lower than 1.

Each of EPV, SV and PV (being the most prevalent forms of VAWG, ranging from rare to sometimes) was cross tabulated with age, marital status and religious affiliation of the respondents. The results are presented in Table 9 below. Comparisons were done by adding the percentage occurrence from 'sometimes,' 'frequent', to 'very frequent'. Hence these three parameters served as the basis of analysis. From the table, 48.8% of single respondents reported that EPV as compared to 70% of married respondents occurs sometimes through very frequent. Also, while 50.4% of Christians reported occurrence of EPV from sometimes to very frequent, 44.4% of Muslims did. Across the age groups, 62.7%, 45.2%, 58.4%, and 50% of respondents aged 16-20, 21-25, 26-30 and 31-35 respectively reported EPV as occurring from sometimes through very frequent. This shows respondent in age 16-20 reported the highest occurrence of EPV.

To further measure the perception of respondents about the prevalence of VAWG in OAU, respondents were asked to report on types and cases of VAWG they have heard about in the University. The results, by age groups and across faculties are presented in tables 9 and 10 below.

Table 9: Cases of VAWG ‘Heard of’ by respondents across Faculties

S/N	Faculty/ No of Resps.	Types of VAWG (Frequency in %)											
		Sh	Inc	Rape	Bat.	Asslt	Flog	Ins	Hum	Thrt	Disc	Inad	Eco. dp
1	Admin (40)	90	77.5	40	67.5	70	52.5	90	52.5	65	42.5	57.5	55
2	Agric. (39)	96.7	73	30	60	66.7	36.7	80	70	53	13	20	23
3	Arts (30)	92	89.7	51	69	82	69	89.7	66.7	66.7	48.7	64	44.9
4	Basic Med (8)	100	75	25	87.5	100	62.5	100	50	50	12.5	25	25
5	Sl. Sci (18)	88.9	83	27.8	72	66.7	50	94.4	66.7	66.7	11	22	22
6	Denstistry (4)	100	100	75	50	50	50	75	75	75	50	50	50
7	EDM (29)	89.6	79	24	72	72	27.5	82.7	75.8	65.5	27.6	44.8	37.9
8	Education (28)	96	78.5	53.5	75	85.7	39	92.8	67.8	78.6	57	50	60
9	Law (22)	86	72.7	27	72.7	90.9	63.6	95.5	72.7	81.8	22.7	50	27
10	Pharmacy (11)	81.8	72.7	36	45.5	45.5	18	81.8	45.5	45.5	45.5	45.5	81.8
11	Sciences (62)	91.9	82	37	67.7	66	48	83.8	48	62.9	33.8	38.7	38.7
12	Social Sc. (44)	95.5	90.9	50	92.5	86	70.5	90.9	72.7	77.3	31.8	54.5	40.9
13	Tech (45)	93	93	17.8	66.7	75.6	51	88.9	46.7	57.8	4.4	22	13

(key: sh=sexual harassment; Inc=incest; Bat=battering; Asst=assault; Flog=flogging; ins=insult; hum=humiliation; thrt=threat of violence; disc=discriminatory access to basic healthcare; inad=inadequate shelter; Eco.dp=economic deprivation)

Table 10: Cases of VAWG 'Heard of' by respondents across age groups

S/N	Age group	Types of VAWG											
		Sexual Violence		Physical Violence			Emo & Physhc Viol			Sock Eco Violence			
		Sh	Inc	Rape	Bat.	Asslt	Flog	Ins	Hum	Thrt	Disc	Inad	Eco.dp
1	16-20 (72)	86	80.6	47.2	63.9	75	52.8	90	79	68	25	50	47
2	21 - 25 (274)	92.7	85	32.5	71.2	75.9	50.7	88	86	65	30	41	36.5
3	26 - 30 (24)	100	87.5	58	83	79	62.5	95.8	83	75	41.7	54	62.5
4	31 - 35 (2)	100	100	50	100	100	50	100	100	100	0	0	0

Source: author's field survey 2013.

(key: sh= sexual harassment; Inc= incest; Bat= battering; Asslt= assault; Flog= flogging; ins= insult; hum= humiliation; thrt= threat of violence; disc= discriminatory access to basic healthcare; inad= inadequate shelter; Eco.dp= economic deprivation)

Table 11: Frequency of Occurrence of VAWG cross tabulated with Demographic Statistics

S/N	VAWG/ Occurrence (%)	Marital Status		Age				Religion	
		Single	Married	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-35	Christian	Muslim
1	SEXUAL VIOLENCE								
	Never	3.2	0	3	3.4	0	0	3.3	2.2
	Very Rare	32.2	27.3	24.2	34.7	25	50	31.7	32.6
	Rare	39.2	36.4	36.4	40.5	33	0	39.2	41.3
	Sometimes	19.9	18.2	28.8	17.2	25	0	19.3	21.7
	Frequent	5.6	18.2	7.6	4.2	16.7	50	6.5	2.2
	Very Frequent	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
	Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100.0	100.0
2	EMOTIONAL & PSYCHOLOGICAL VIOLENCE								
	Never	3.6	0	3.0	3.6	4.2	0	3.0	6.7
	Very Rare	18.1	30.0	20.9	16.8	29.2	0	17.6	24.4
	Rare	29.5	0	13.4	34.4	8.3	50.0	29.1	24.4

	Sometimes	25.6	50.0	29.9	25.2	29.2	0	25.7	31.1
	Frequent	15.7	10.0	22.4	14.0	16.7	0	16.6	8.9
	Very Frequent	7.5	10.0	10.4	6.0	12.5	50.0	8.1	4.4
	Total	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
3	PHYSICAL VIOLENCE								
	Never %	13.1	9.1	10.6	13.6	9.1	0	12.9	11.4
	Very Rare %	41.7	45.5	36.4	44.1	36.4	50.0	40.0	54.5
	Rare %	25.8	27.3	27.3	25.4	27.3	50.0	27.1	20.5
	Sometimes %	14.0	18.2	21.2	11.0	27.3	0	14.6	11.4
	Frequent %	3.2	0	3.0	3.4	0	0	3.2	0
	Very Frequent %	2.2	0	1.5	2.5	0	0	2.1	2.3
	Total %	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100

Source: Authors' fieldwork 2013

From Table 11 above, 25.5% of single and 36.4% of married, 25.8% Christians and 23.9% Muslims reported SV occurring from sometimes to very frequent. 36.4%, 21.4%, 42.7%, and 50% of age groups 16-20, 21-25, 26-30, and 31-35 respectively reported SV as occurring from sometimes to very frequent. Sexual violence occurrence from sometimes to very frequent is again reportedly lowest amongst respondents aged 21-25 with 21.4% of them reporting it occurrence. It occurrence is reportedly highest among respondents aged 31-35 reporting 50% occurrence from sometimes to very frequent. 36.4% and 41.7% of respondents aged 16-20 and 26-35 reported SV as occurring from sometimes to very frequent. On PV, 19.4% and 18.2% of single and married respectively reported PV as occurring from sometimes to very frequent; while 19.9% and 13.7% of Christians and Muslims respondents respectively reported the same. From occurring sometimes to very frequent, PV is reportedly lowest among respondents aged 31-35 with 0%, followed by 15.9% of 21-25, 25.7% and 27.3% of respondents aged 16-20 and 26-30 respectively.

### Experiences with Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

A standardized instrument—HITS Tools for intimate partner violence screening—developed by Kelvin Sherin (MD, MPH) was section D of the questionnaire. HITS is a four-item instrument that measure respondents' experience with physical hurts and emotional and psychological violence. The results as presented in Table 12 below shows that 81.4% of respondents have experienced IPV.

Table 12: Experiences with Intimate Partner Violence

Have had an opposite sex as your partner?	Frequency	Percent
Yes	294	81.4
No	67	18.6
Total	369	100.0

Source: Authors' field survey 2013.

### Major perpetrators of VAWG among male members of the University community

Three categories of male members of the University community were presented to respondents for assessment on their perpetration of the five forms of VAWG in the University in Section E of the questionnaire. They were asked to rate each male category on a 5-point scale ranging from 0 (never) 1 (very rare), 2 (rare), 3 (sometimes), and 4 (frequent). The scores for each form of VAWG were summed up for each category of males. The sum was then divided by the number of respondent for each male category to determine the mean. The results are presented in Table 11 below.

Table 13: Perpetrators of VAWG against female undergraduates in OAU

S/N	Male Perpetrators	Valid	Missing	Sum	Mean
1	Students	344	36	5003.00	14.54
2	Lecturers	330	50	3868.00	11.72
3	Non-academic Staff/other members of university community	333	47	3064.00	9.20

Source: Authors' field survey, 2013

With a mean value of 14.54, accounting for about 41%, male students are responsible for most occurrence of VAWG against female undergraduates in OAU. Male lecturers follow suit with 11.72 mean score, that is, 33.1% of VAWG occurrence in OAU, while male non-academic staff and other male members of the university community account for the rest.

### Conclusion

Knowledge of violence against women and girls is below average amongst the female undergraduates in Obafemi Awolowo University. There are slight variations across age, faculty, marital status and religion. Knowledge of the term is lowest among the 26-30 age group and highest among respondents from the Faculty of Education and lowest among respondents from Basic Medical Sciences. Most respondents perceived emotional and psychological violence as the most prevalent form of VAWG in OAU, this is followed by sexual violence. Male students are the most frequent perpetrators of VAWG against undergraduates in the University.

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