

# Wife Beating and Rape in Ghana: A Case in Accra Metropolis

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## Abstract

Violence against women remains widespread in Ghana. To find how critical gender based violence in Accra Metropolis is, the study examined the causes and effects of wife beating in the Accra Metropolis. Descriptive survey design was employed for the study. Purposive, convenience and random sampling techniques were used to select the fifty (50) respondents for this study. The main instruments used in gathering relevant data were a semi-structured questionnaire and an interview guide. The data were presented in the form of percentages and frequency tables to facilitate clearer and easier interpretation of results for the presentation of findings. The findings of the study revealed that, the commonest forms of gender based violence in Accra Metropolis were sexual and physical abuse. Sexual passion, refusal to sexual advances, misunderstanding and financial problems revealed by the study as the causes of gender based violence in Accra Metropolis. The study also identified broken bones, broken home, swollen face, sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy, pains and insomnia as some of the effects of gender based violence in the Accra metropolis. It is recommended that, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and other Governmental Organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to intensify awareness creation and education among women and men, as well as girls and boys to make them aware of the various types of violence that constitute offence and must be discouraged in its practices.

## Keywords

Gender, Violence, Sexual, Physical, Abuse, Ghana

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## 1. Introduction and Background

In pre-revolutionary China, a common proverb was that a wife married was like a pony bought, you would ride her and whip her as you liked [1]. Unfortunately, it went beyond just a proverb as it was often carried out in deed. Up till this day, similar adages and actions can be found in almost all cultures and societies around the world. Violence against women in general is as old as recorded history and cuts across nationalities and socio-economic groups. Violence against

women is perhaps the most pervasive, yet often least recognized human right abuse in the entire world [2]. More and more women are maimed, beaten or killed because they are females than for any political or religious belief they may hold. Gender- based violence is recognized today as a major issue on the international human rights agenda. It takes many forms and varies from culture to culture. There is an understanding that it involves behaviour, injuries and impacts that are not only physical but also psychological and sexual in nature. For many, it also incorporates elements of traditional practices identified as harmful and degrading to women. For instance, a wife is not permitted to eat once

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someone begins to cry at the mourning of her husband [3].

In 2003, the Demographic and Health survey (DHS) conducted by Ghana Statistical Service states that 19.8% of women consider it acceptable for a husband to beat his wife if she goes out without telling him. Women are often expected to silently endure abuse to protect their family, while those who report their husbands or other family members to authorities for abuse may be ostracized. The survey also revealed that 10% of men and 19.9% of women consider it justified if a husband beats his wife for refusing to have sex with him. There is also a widespread belief that a husband is entitled to sexual intercourse from his wife at his command and may enforce this entitlement by force and failure on the part of the wife may result by being beaten by the husband. Harmful attitudes towards women are reinforced by certain religious and other community leaders who exhort women to stand by their husband under all circumstances, while at the same time failing to take a clear stand against wife battery and marital rape [4].

The United Nations' definition of violence against women comes from the declaration on the elimination of violence against women adopted by the General Assembly in 1993 to which Ghana acceded [3]. At the 1993 UN world conference on human rights, gender violence was defined as violence which jeopardizes fundamental human rights, individual freedom and women's physical integrity [5]. The term violence against women means any act of gender-based violence that results in or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life [6]. These include battering, sexual abuse of children, dowry-related violence, marital rape and female genital mutilation. Others are rape, sexual harassment and intimidation at work, trafficking of women and forced prostitution.

Violence against women, particularly rape and sexual defilement takes place under various conditions including war situations. There are documented reports of this in former Yugoslavia, El Salvador, Guatemala and other American countries [7]. In the United States, more than a million and a half women are beaten by their partners each year [8]. In the 1995 Egypt Demographic and Health survey, 35 percent of women reported being beaten by their husbands during marriage [9]. Though gender-based violence is widespread, information is fragmented and anecdotal. A culture of silence surrounds cases of violence against women in most countries making it difficult to get a true picture of its extent. Part of the difficulty is that gender-based violence mostly occurs in what is thought of as the private sphere – within families, inside homes, and out of sight. This type of violence is underreported and even deliberately disguised by

both the survivors and the societies in which they live. Rape, a pervasive form of gender-based violence has long symbolized a man's ability to have his way with a woman. Around the world, most rapists are known by those they attack and are often the victim's father, partner, or some other household figure [10]. In many Latin American countries, rape, even by strangers is considered a crime against morality rather than a crime against a person. Consequently, if the judicial system does not consider rape victims to have impeccable morals, the crime may not be prosecuted.

The effects of gender-based violence can be devastating and long lasting. Such violence is particularly dangerous to a woman's reproductive health and can scar a survivor psychologically, cognitively and interpersonally. Since girls are more often subjected to sexual violence, they are at risk of becoming infected with HIV at a much younger age than are boys.

In Ghana, the prevalent form of violence against women and girls include physical violence, sexual violence, economic violence, psychological violence and traditional practices which are harmful to children and women [11]. Physical violence is an act of inflicting pain or causing harm to somebody with the help of a hand, knife, stick, belt or rape. It is one of the frequently reported crimes in Ghana. Physical violence includes cruel punishment and physical torture, forced labour, beatings, assault with a weapon and death. Sexual violence involves defilement of child under 16 years, sexual harassment, forced sex in marriage, incest, etc. Psychological violence can be defined as those acts or behaviours by men in particular and societies in general directed at an emotional level or have various emotional impacts such as inability to eat or sleep, fear, low self-esteem and self-doubt [11]. Economic violence can also be defined as an act of withholding resources from women as a form of punishment. Traditional practices defined as violence are the numerous traditional practices considered harmful to women and girls because they could cause physical damage to them. Such practices include female genital mutilation, tribal marking, Trokosi, Cruel widowhood practice, Dowry-related violence, forced marriage and adultery rites that shame the woman publicly. The different forms of violence have different consequences or impacts on the victim. Whilst it is easy to identify the consequences of physical, sexual and economic abuse, it is difficult to identify those of psychological abuse. Indeed, oftentimes, the impact of physical or sexual abuse has psychological manifestation. Psychological abuse often has long lasting impact which may need professional care [11].

Violence against women remains widespread in Ghana. A study report submitted to UNDP and National Council on Women and Development indicated that physical abuse by

Husband or other intimate partners is widespread [12]. According to the report, 72% of respondents to the 1998 survey reported that wife beating was a common practice in their community. Approximately 100 women out of the 145 cases reported at the Federation of International Women Lawyers (FIDA), GHANA, between the months of January and July 1997 indicated that they had suffered some form of violence from their husband partners and in the case of widows from their husband's relatives [13]. There are also various reported cases of violence against women that appear in both the electronic and print media in the country. For example, on the 11<sup>th</sup> May, 1996, the mirror reported a story about a 37-year-old trader who poured acid on his 24-year-old girl friend and caused deformities on her body because she decided to end their love relationship. On the 28<sup>th</sup> March, 1998, the *Mirror* similarly reported a 26-year-old trader living in Tema who was thrashed by her husband till she became unconscious. She had disobeyed her husband's instructions that she should not attend a religious crusade being organized in their neighbourhood. In another development, on the 29<sup>th</sup> August, 1998, the *Mirror* also reported of an ex-service man who shot and killed his wife in Madina, Accra, because she reversed an instruction he had given to their children. Also, a 45-year-old man murdered his 42-year-old wife by kicking her in the chest and abdomen, because the wife had resisted her husband's decision that they should spend the night in the same room with his girlfriend. This incident occurred on the 16<sup>th</sup> October, 2000 at Samsu, a village near Obuasi in the Ashanti region.

Rape cases are also highlighted in the media, but these are also documented. A survey conducted by Domestic Violence Victim and Support Unit (DOVVSU) in Accra revealed that between January and September 1999, about one hundred and nineteen (119) cases of rape were reported. In a study carried out by the Gender Studies and Human Rights Documentation Centre in Accra in 1999, it was revealed that out of every ten (10) rape cases, seven (7) do not report the case. In addition, for two in every ten women, their first experience of sexual intercourse was by use of force. A further study conducted by Gender Center in Ghana in 1999 revealed that in over 95% of rape cases, the perpetrators were male relatives. The most likely offender in this category is the stepfather [14]. The evidences gathered from the professional institutions, ministries and NGOs about the violence against women are quit cumbersome in Ghana. This prompted the researchers to investigate into the causes and effects of violence against women in Accra metropolis. The purpose of this study was to examine the causes and effects of wife beating and rape in Accra Metropolis in Ghana. The study was guided by these research questions- (1) To what extent is wife beating and rape a problem in Accra

Metropolis? (2) What are the causes of wife beating and rape in Accra Metropolis? (3) What are the effects of wife beating and rape in Accra Metropolis?

## 2. Review of the Literature

Violence against women is a human rights issue. It is also a development issue because of the link between poverty, human insecurity and violence. Although it occurs across strata, there are clear links between violence, poverty and social status. The Beijing Platform for Action identifies gender violence as a critical area of concern. It states that "violence against women both violates and impairs or nullifies the enjoyment by women of their human rights and fundamental freedoms" [15]. At home, the workplace and on the street, women have fallen and continue to fall victim to gender violence. The violence to which women and girls are subjected to transcends class, race, age and religious categorization.

Violence against women is a human rights violation that causes devastating impacts on the health of women as well as their right to equality, development, security and peace [16]. The terms violence against women and gender-based violence are used to refer to a range of abuses committed against women that stem from gender inequality and women's subordinate status in society relative to men. In 1993, Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action defined violence against women as any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or private life [6].

In Africa, particularly Ghana, prevalent forms of violence against women and girls include sexual violence (incest, rape, defilement, sexual harassment), harmful cultural practices such as Trokosi, early marriage, widow inheritance, Female Genital Mutilation and Widowhood Rites. Others include wife beating, assault with a weapon, forced labour and cruel punishment and physical torture which come under physical violence [3]. Cultural practices such as Widowhood Rites, Female Genital Mutilation and early marriage discriminate against women and tend to lower their status especially in rural areas [17] She found that majority of women from Western and African countries called for legislation to ban such dehumanizing cultural practices and thereby set in motion that would put an end to them since they deepen the spirit of initiative of women, inhibit their potentials which ultimately derail socio-economic development of society.

Rape is another form of violence against women. American Medical Association explained rape is a type of sexual assault

usually involving sexual intercourse by one person against another person without that person's consent [18]. Sexual violence in particular is considered the most underreported violent crime, because the rate of reporting, prosecution and convictions for rape varies considerably in different jurisdictions. Over the years, there have been several newspapers and police reports on rape cases [19]. A book titled "Combating domestic violence: A manual for churches and service providers" revealed that on the 11<sup>th</sup> February, 1992, three men raped a thirteen-year-old girl on her way back from an errand. This matter was reported to the police but no arrest was made [19]. A related episode was in April 1994, where a four-year-old girl fell asleep in the room of an adult male who lived in the same building with them. The suspect upon finding the little girl asleep on his bed allegedly raped her. The girl came out bleeding and the mother reported the matter to the police and since then the rapist has not been prosecuted. This shows that rape cases are underreported, thus protecting rapists, thereby increasing the chance that they will repeat the offence. Most rape cases are not reported because of the female victims and their families' fell would be attached to them thereafter. Thus, the violence is going on unreported and also because of the societal attitude in general and law enforcement agencies towards victims of rape. More often than not rape victims are treated as suspect's right from the police station to the courtroom. This treatment is essentially a great discrimination against women and for that matter constitutes a breach of their basic human right [19].

However, the enjoyment of the right to the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health has been identified as vital to the life and well-being of women and their ability to participate in all areas of public and private life. However, as a result of negative practices and belief which place women in perpetual subordinate positions in all spheres of society, health and wellbeing elude the majority of women. This situation is further aggravated by violence against women which has been identified through empirical studies as constituting an urgent public health problem worldwide [9]. Health consequences of gender-based violence are varied and range from short-term health effects such as headaches, bruises and bodily pains to long-term serious effects such as partial or permanent disabilities, chronic pain, depression and mental disorders [21]. The various types of violence inflicted by 96% of men on women and girls and 4% of women on men and boys had varying effects. Domestic violence for instance is almost invariably accompanied by psychological abuse such as verbal insults and the use of language that constitutes threats and undermines the safety and security of the victim. Other forms of abuse, such as sexual abuse tend to have psychological damage on the victims. Victims of rape can be severely traumatized by the assault and may have

difficulty in functioning. For example, after being raped, it is common for the victim to experience acute stress disorder which such as depersonalization or dissociation, difficult to remember important parts of the assault and also avoidance of things, places, thoughts and memories. Others include anxiety or increased alertness and avoidance of social life.

Violence affects women and children in various ways. These effects could be physical, psychological, sexual, economic among others. Physically, the victim can develop bruises, broken bones, fractures, swollen face, Rashes, broken teeth, wounds, STDS/ HIV/ AIDS, pregnancy, pain and death. Similarly, some of the psychological effects on the victim are fear, anger, depression, guilty, feeling low self-esteem, insomnia (inability to sleep) and internalized blame. Other psychological effects are isolation, helplessness, high level of anxiety, risk of alcohol and substance abuse and attempt to commit suicide. Additionally, the effects of sexual assault on victims include frigidity, promiscuity, shock and inability to build intimate relationship with anyone. Economic effects on victims also include loss of income as a result of days lost at work, poverty, financial dependence on man, divorce, among others [21].

According to world report on violence and health, women who are abused by their partners suffer more depression, anxiety and phobias than non-abused women [9]. Similar studies in Australia, Nicaragua, Pakistan and the United States. Similarly, other studies suggest that women abused by their partners are at heightened risk for suicide and suicide attempts. In Nicaragua, the United States and Zimbabwe, women who have experienced physical or sexual assault, either in childhood or adulthood use health services more frequently than their non-abused peers thereby increasing health care cost [9]. Recent evidence suggests that violence may also directly or indirectly affect child mortality. Researchers in Leon and Nicaragua found that after controlling for other possible confounding factors, the children of women who were physically and sexually abused by a partner were six times more likely to die before the age of 5 years than children of women who had not been abused. Partner abuse accounted for as much as one-third of death among children in this region [9].

Gender-based violence has serious impact on national development because of its negative mental consequences with women after exhibiting post-traumatic stress disorder which further undermines their ability to work effectively, therefore affects productivity. An equally important impact of gender-based violence on development is that, it has a strong association with poor nutritional status of women and their children, because it affects the economic stability of the family through loss of work which in turn affects food security which results in increased hunger [9].

In conclusion, political leaders, civil societies and non-governmental organizations are urged to continue to highlight gender-based violence in international, national and local fora as a fundamental human rights violation and as a priority issue to promote sustainable development and reduce poverty.

### 3. Methodology

Qualitatively, interpretative research technique was carefully chosen for this study. Triangulation was used to test the consistency of findings obtained through the semi-structured questionnaire and interview guide conducted. Purposive, convenience and random sampling techniques were used to select the of Ark Foundation (NGO) workers and victims (their clients) as respondents for the study. In all there are nine-five (95) workers of Ark Foundation as well as their clients. A sample size of 50 respondents, representing fifty - nine percent (59%) of the entire population was randomly selected for the study. This was made up of five (5) programme officers, five (5) Programme Coordinators, three (3) Social workers, two (2) Volunteers, fifteen (15) rape victims and twenty (20) wife battered victims. The data were presented in the form of percentages and frequency tables to facilitate clearer and easier interpretation of results for the presentation of findings. The themes were related to the

research questions and interpreted on the number of issues raised by respondents. These were based on question on the semi-structured questionnaire and interviews.

### 4. Findings and Discussions

This section presented findings on problem resulting into the causes and effects of wife beating and rape in Accra Metropolis. Table 1 below illustrates the educational background of the victims. Concerning the rape victims, only 7.0% have university education, while 20.0% and 53.0% have Senior High and Junior High School education respectively. 20.0% of the rape victims said that they have never had any formal education. Similarly, 30.0% of wife battered victims specified that they have never had any formal education. However, 5.0%, 20.0% 15.0% and 30.0% of wife battered victims have University, Polytechnic, Senior High and Junior High School education respectively. Majority of the rape and wife battered victims have Junior High School Certificates and they form 53.0% of rape victims and 30.0% of wife battered victims.

It can therefore be deduced from the analysis that people with low or basic level of education are prone to be victims of rape and wife beating.

**Table 1.** Educational background of victims.

Level of Education	Rape Frequency	%	Wife Battered Frequency	%
University	1	7.0	1	5.0
Polytechnic	-	-	4	20.0
S. H. S	3	20.0	3	15.0
J. H. S	8	53.0	6	30.0
No education	3	20.0	6	30.0
Total	15	100.0	20	100.0

Source: Field study, 2009.

Table 2 below presents the occupation of rape and wife battered victims. Concerning the rape victims, 46.0% of them are students, followed by trading and farming, which represent 20.0% each. Those who are unemployed represent 14.0%. This indicates that students form majority of those who are raped in Accra Metropolis. On the other hand, out of the 20 wife battered victims, 35.0% of them are traders, 25.0% are farmers and 40% who form majority are said to be

unemployed. None of the wife battered victims is a student. Unemployed wives record high incidence of wife beating than farmers, students and traders. This explains why frustration from material deprivation may result in physical wife abuse, because the husband is limited in his ability to provide for his family and to meet normative expectations with poverty or unemployment [22].

**Table 2.** Occupation of victims.

Occupation	Rape Frequency	%	Wife Battered Frequency	%
Trading	3	20.0	7	35.0
Farming	3	20.0	5	25.0
Student	7	46.0	-	-
Unemployed	2	14.0	8	40.0
Total	15	100.0	20	100.0

Source: Field study, 2009.

Table 3 illustrates the age distribution of both rape and wife battered victims. Majority of rape victims are within the age range of 15-19 years representing 41%. This is followed by 20% of rape victims who fall within 20-24 years. It is worthy to note that none of the rape victims falls within 40-45 years and above. Moreover, 13% each of rape victim falls within the age ranges of 25-29, 30-34 and 35-39 years respectively. In the case of wife

battered victims. Majority of them fall within 35-39 years which represents 35%. This is followed by those who fall within 25-29 years representing 20%. Those who fall within 45 years and above represent only 5%. This suggests that about 60% of rape victims are aged 15-24 years while women between 30 and 44 years who represent 65% are more assaulted by their spouses. Table 3 as presented below:

**Table 3.** Age distribution of victims.

Age of victims	Rape	%	Wife Battered	%
15-19	6	41	-	-
20-24	3	20	2	10
25-29	2	13	4	20
30-34	2	13	3	15
35-39	2	13	7	35
40-44	-	-	3	15
45 and above	-	-	1	5
Total	15	100.0	20	100.0

Source: Field study, 2009.

The NGO workers were interviewed on the forms of violence against women that are reported frequently to their office and the result is presented in Table 4.

**Table 4.** Forms of gender based violence.

Forms	Frequency	Percentage
Sexual Abuse	10	67.0
Physical Abuse	5	33.0
Total	15	100.0

Source: Field study, 2009.

From table 4 above, 67.0% of the NGO workers indicated that sexual abuse is one of the forms that are frequently reported to their office. Also, 33.0% of the respondents indicated that physical abuse is one of the forms of gender base violence that are reported to their office. This suggests that sexual and physical abuses are the major forms of violence that are prevalent and frequently reported in Accra Metropolis. The above findings agree with a study conducted on *Domestic violence in Ghana: The facts, the law and the way that rape of children and adults is the commonest form of gender based violence in Accra Metropolis* [23].

On the causes of rape, Table 5 below, illustrates that 80.0% of the NGO workers indicated sexual passion as the cause of rape, 13.0% of them attributed rape of the victims as a result of drunkenness on the part of the rapist, while only 7.0% said that women are raped because of the type of dress they wear.

The answers given by the NGO workers on the causes of rape are as a result of their personal experience with victims during their outreach programmes in the various communities. Rape victims were also interviewed and the outcome was that, close to half of the respondents, representing 40.0% indicated that they do not know why they were raped, 13.0% said that they were raped because they slept on the same bed with relatives, but the majority who represented 47.0% attributed their predicament to their refusal to accept the love of the men who raped them. In conclusion, one can say that sexual passion is the most potent cause of rape in Accra Metropolis as indicated by NGO workers. This supports a research conducted on "theories of rape; inquiries into the causes of sexual aggression" which revealed that testosterone can lead to an increased sexual behaviour or passion which can cause men to rape [24].

**Table 5.** NGO workers and rape victims' opinion on the causes of rape.

Causes of rape	NGO workers	Rape victims
Sexual passion	12 (80.0)	-
Drunkenness (rapist)	2 (13.0)	-
Type of dress worn	1 (7.0)	-
Do not know	-	6 (40.0)
Slept on the same bed	-	2 (13.0)
Refusal of sexual advances	-	7 (47.0)
Total	15 (100.0)	15 (100.0)

Source: Field study, 2009.

With respect to why women are beaten, 33.0% of the NGO workers attributed it to misunderstanding between couples due to family issues, 60% said that wives are beaten because of financial problems, while only 7.0% attributed wife beating to disrespectfulness on the part of women, because according to the NGO workers, some battered wives who report to the NGO office and are interviewed appear to have shown some kind of disrespectfulness towards their husbands. A practical experience was when a certain woman who was asked why she was beaten by her husband said that her husband refused to give her house-keeping money on time, so she only shouted on the husband and the husband beat her. However, the NGO workers did not say anything about drunkenness and denial of sex. According to them, they did not notice these attitudes during their outreach program.

Moreover, wife battered victims were asked why they were beaten by their husbands and only 5.0% said that they were beaten because of their husbands' drunkenness. Half of the victims representing 50.0% attributed their predicament to misunderstanding between them and their husbands, while 25.0% of them attributed their predicament to financial problems. However, 20.0% of the victims claimed that they were beaten because of denial of sexual advances from their

partners. Victims gave various reasons for their husbands' attitudes towards them. For instance, one wife-battered victim interviewed said that she decided not to have sex with her husband again because she has many children and that, she can no longer cater for any additional mouth. This brought a misunderstanding between her and her husband and so the husband always came home drunk and beat her. Another victim also confessed that her husband has lost his job and so he is so frustrated that the woman has become the breadwinner of the house. However, when the wife is unable to cook, the husband harasses her.

The analysis above indicates that most of the reasons for wife beating in Accra Metropolis are misunderstanding between partners and financial problems. Other causes indicated by respondents are wives' refusing to have sex with their husbands and drunkenness on the part of the men. This is in consonance with a study on "Dimension and consequence of violence against women in Ghana" that a husband beats his wife for refusing to have sex with him [12]. Also, the notion that, drunkenness is one of the causes of gender-based violence confirms the assertion that the high rate of alcohol consumption is an appropriate conceptual framework for the study of partner abuse [25]. The result is presented in Table 6.

**Table 6.** NGO workers and wife battered victims' opinion on the causes of wife beating.

Causes of Wife beating	NGO workers	Wife battered victims
Misunderstanding	5 (33.0)	10 (50.0)
Financial problem	9 (60.0)	5 (25.0)
Disrespectfulness (wives)	1 (7.0)	--
Drunkenness	--	1 (5.0)
Sex denial	--	4 (20.0)
Total	15 (100.0)	20 (100.0)

Source: Field study, 2009.

Table 7 explains the effects of gender based violence in Accra. According to 27.0% of the NGO workers, rape victims have the chance of being infected with sexually transmitted diseases, 53.0% said that rape may lead to unwanted pregnancy. While 13.0% can live promiscuous life according to NGO workers, 7.0% of the same NGO workers claimed that, sexual effect on the victim could lead to frigidity. It could be deduced from the analysis that, NGO workers' opinion on the effects of rape may be due to their personal encounter with some of these victims and also reports from medical officers who work on the victims. On the other hand, when the rape victims were contacted, 66.0% of them who form majority said that, they developed severe pains when they were raped, 20.0% said that, they were shocked when they were raped, 7.0% of the victims said that they have developed promiscuous life while the rest who represent 7.0% claimed that they dislike sex (frigidity) as a

result of the situation they have gone through.

The above findings on the effects of rape being raised by the NGO workers and rape victims agrees with similar study that victims subjected to rape developed sexually transmitted diseases, unwanted pregnancy, frigidity, pains and promiscuity [21].

**Table 7.** NGO workers and rape victims' opinion on the effects of rape on victims.

Effects of rape NGO	NGO Workers	Rape Victims
Sexually transmitted disease	4 (27.0)	--
Unwanted pregnancy	8 (53.0)	--
Promiscuity	2 (13.0)	1 (7.0)
Frigidity	1 (7.0)	1 (7.0)
Pains	--	10 (66.0)
Shock	--	3 (20.0)
Total	15 (100.0)	15 (100.0)

Source: Field study, 2009.



Table 8 illustrates NGO workers and wife battered victims' opinion on the effects of wife battered. With respect to the effects of wife beating on victims, 13.0% of NGO workers said that victims develop swollen face, 7.0% said that wife assault results in broken bones, while 7.0% thought that victims get their teeth broken when they are beating. However, majority of the workers who constitute 73.0% said that wife assault could result in separation (broken home). However, 55.0% of those women who have been assaulted by their partners said that they had their faces swollen, 25.0% said that, the assault was so severe that they got their bones broken, while 20.0% of the victims said that the effects on

them as a result of the assault were depression, fear and insomnia (inability to sleep).

It can therefore be concluded, considering the above analysis that separation between partners and developing of swollen face happen to be the major effects of wife battery in Accra metropolis and this due to the high percentages recorded by the NGO workers and the wife battered victims. The findings of the effects of wife beating and rape corroborate or agree with the assertion that victims of wife battered could develop swollen face broken bones and depression [21]. Victims of rape could also develop promiscuous behaviour [21].

**Table 8.** NGO workers and wife battered victim's opinion on the effects of wife beating.

Effects of Wife beating	NGO workers	Wife battered
Swollen face	2 (13.0)	11 (55.0)
Broken home	11 (73.0)	--
Broken teeth	1 (7.0)	--
Broken bones	1 (7.0)	5 (25.5)
Others (fear, depression, insomnia)	-	4 (20.0)
Total	15 (100.0)	20 (100.0)

Source: Field study, 2009.

## 5. Conclusion and Recommendations

The study concluded that, violence against women has emerged as a serious issue, a problem that calls for individual, local and national concern and action. It is an anti-development phenomenon that occurs in almost every society. It is noted that individual victims of gender related violence suffer from health and psychological problems.

Most women abused sexually do not know that it constitutes a crime and that they have a right to make a report. The worst part of it is that even those who might dare to make a report might keep silent because their abusers threaten to harm or kill them if they report. It is therefore recommended that, the Ministry of Women and Children Affairs and other Governmental Organizations as well as non-governmental organizations to intensify awareness creation and education among women and men, and girls and boys to make them aware of the various types of violence and the fact that they constitute offences and therefore must not be encouraged.

It is also recommended that, the media must intensify its coverage of issues of violence against women for educational and advocacy purpose. This calls for journalists to actively search for and report on incidences of violence against women.

The study also recommended that, the government should support women organisations to prioritise the coordination of programmes and policies across sectors such as health, justice, social welfare and education to ensure that the

composite needs of survivors of gender-based violence are addressed.

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