

Integrating Multi-Sectoral Approaches to Address Gender-Based Violence in Lagos State: Prevalence, Perceptions, and Policy Recommendations.

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Abstract : Gender-based violence (GBV) is a pervasive issue that demands a nuanced understanding to foster effective solutions. This study, conducted by the Lagos State Domestic and Sexual Violence Agency (DSVA), delves into the heart of Lagos State to uncover the realities of GBV, from the perceptions of its residents to the efficacy of support systems in place. Covering ten local government areas (LGAs) and drawing from a diverse range of demographics—gender, age, marital status, literacy levels, religion, and ethnicity—this research paints a comprehensive picture of GBV's impact. The narrative begins with the voices of the community, revealing a widespread awareness of GBV's multifaceted nature—physical, emotional, psychological, and structural. Through their stories, key drivers such as poverty, low education levels, and substance abuse emerge, illustrating the interconnected factors that sustain GBV. Despite a high level of awareness, there is a significant gap in knowledge about reporting mechanisms, highlighting an urgent need for improved accessibility and information dissemination on support services. Notably, inter-agency collaboration and public awareness campaigns play crucial roles in the community's fight against GBV. This study evaluates these efforts by the Lagos State Government, shedding light on successful educational interventions that have transformed community attitudes. Case studies of these initiatives provide examples of success, demonstrating the power of coordinated action and informed advocacy. In conclusion, the study calls for a robust, multi-sectoral approach—engaging government agencies, civil society organizations, and community stakeholders—to address GBV comprehensively. Recommendations include scaling successful models to other urban centers, enhancing reporting mechanisms for greater accessibility and confidentiality, and investing in ongoing research to refine our understanding of GBV's dynamics with the aim to foster a safer and more inclusive society, tackling the root causes of GBV and improving support for survivors.

Keywords : gender based violence, policy recommendations, public awareness, inter agency collaboration

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