



THE PREVALENCE OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN AKWA IBOM STATE: INVESTIGATING THE STRATEGIC WAYS OF ADOPTING ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN PREVENTING VIOLENCE FOR A SAFE SOCIETY

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ABSTRACT

This study examined the prevalence of domestic violence in Akwa Ibom State, investigating the strategic ways of adopting artificial intelligence in preventing violence for a safe society. To carry out the study, descriptive survey design was adopted. The study was carried out in Akwa Ibom State. The targeted population for the study comprised of all the Social Scientists in Akwa Ibom State. A simple random sampling technique was used to select a total of 120 Social Scientists, which formed the sample size for this study. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled "Artificial Intelligence Aided Domestic Violence Prevention Questionnaire (AIADVPQ)". Face and content validation of the instrument was carried out by an expert in test, measurement, and evaluation in order to ensure that the instrument has the accuracy, appropriateness, and completeness for the study under consideration. The reliability coefficient obtained was 0.89, and this was high enough to justify the use of the instrument. The researcher subjected the data generated for this study to appropriate statistical technique such descriptive statistics to answer research questions. The study showed that the highest percentage (31.67%) of the types of domestic violence on victims was recorded for "Emotional and Psychological Abuse". It was also observed that the highest percentage (24.17%) of the effects of domestic violence on victims was recorded for "Psychological and Emotional Effects". The study concluded that addressing domestic violence in Akwa Ibom State requires urgent and innovative solutions, as many victims remain trapped in cycles of abuse due to fear, stigma, and inadequate intervention. One of the recommendations made was that government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should develop and deploy AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants to provide victims with confidential and accessible reporting platforms.

KEYWORDS: Domestic Violence, Artificial Intelligence, Violence, Safe Society and Akwa Ibom State

INTRODUCTION

Domestic violence remains a pervasive issue in Akwa Ibom State, affecting countless individuals across different social and economic backgrounds. Reports indicate that domestic abuse, ranging from physical assault and emotional abuse to financial and psychological manipulation, continues to thrive in silence due to societal stigma, fear, and inadequate intervention strategies (UN Women, 2021). Despite numerous awareness campaigns and legislative measures, the rate of domestic violence remains alarmingly high, with victims often trapped in cycles of abuse.

In recent years, AI-driven tools such as predictive analytics, natural language processing, and machine learning algorithms have been successfully applied to crime prevention and security enhancement (Raji and Sholademi, 2024). These technologies have the potential to transform how

domestic violence cases are detected, reported, and prevented. By analyzing behavioral patterns, monitoring distress signals, and providing real-time alerts, AI can offer proactive solutions that go beyond traditional response mechanisms.

One of the key barriers to addressing domestic violence in Akwa Ibom State is the underreporting of cases. Many victims are either too afraid to speak out or lack access to effective reporting channels. AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants can provide confidential platforms where victims can seek help without fear of retribution (Henry, Witt & Vasil, 2024). Furthermore, AI-driven data analysis can help policymakers identify high-risk areas, predict potential cases of abuse, and implement targeted interventions to protect vulnerable individuals.

Additionally, the legal and law enforcement frameworks in Akwa Ibom State often struggle to provide timely and efficient support to victims. With AI-enhanced surveillance, speech recognition software, and automated case-tracking systems, authorities can improve response times, gather concrete evidence, and streamline the prosecution of offenders (Cadet, Osundare, Ekpobimi, Samira and Weldegeorgise, 2024). These advancements can significantly strengthen the justice system, ensuring that perpetrators are held accountable while victims receive the necessary protection and support.

Research Objectives

1. To examine the types of domestic violence common in Akwa Ibom State.
2. To find out the effects of domestic violence on the victim in Akwa Ibom State.

Research Question

1. What are the types of domestic violence common in Akwa Ibom State?
2. What are the effects of domestic violence on victims in Akwa Ibom State?

Statement of Problem

Domestic violence continues to be a major social and public health challenge in Akwa Ibom State, affecting individuals, families, and communities. Despite its prevalence, accurate data on the magnitude and patterns of domestic violence in the state remain limited. This lack of information hinders the development of effective prevention and intervention strategies. Advancements in artificial intelligence (AI) offer potential tools for predicting, monitoring, and preventing domestic violence. However, the strategic adoption and feasibility of AI-based solutions in the local context have not been adequately explored. Therefore, there is a need to investigate both the prevalence of domestic violence and the strategic ways AI can be utilized to create a safer society.

LITERATURE REVIEW

Concept of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behaviors—physical, emotional, psychological, sexual, or financial used by one person to exert power and control over another within a domestic or intimate relationship. It can occur between spouses, partners, family members, or cohabitants and often includes actions such as physical assault, threats, manipulation, and isolation. Domestic violence is not limited to any specific gender, age group, or socioeconomic status, and its consequences can be severe, leading to physical injuries, emotional trauma, and even loss of life.

According to Piate and Obunadike (2020) domestic violence is any vice behavior the purpose of which is to gain power and control over a spouse, partner, girl/boyfriend or intimate family member. The CDC defines domestic violence as "physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression (including coercive acts) by a current or former intimate partner. "Domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.

Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, psychological, or technological actions or threats of actions or other patterns of coercive behavior that influence another person within an intimate partner relationship. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone. (Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), 2025). Domestic occurs in a domestic setting, such as in a marriage or

cohabitation. Furthermore, Mascolo (2023) defined domestic violence is a pattern of abusive behavior in a relationship by one partner seeking to exert control over their spouse. Domestic violence is not limited to physical abuse. It includes emotional, psychological and financial abuse, among other types of abuse.

Concept of Artificial Intelligence

Artificial Intelligence can be understood as the collection of technologies that enable machines to sense, comprehend, act, and perform several functions matching those of humans. According to Bassey and Owushi (2023) artificial intelligence (AI) refers to the development of computer systems that can perform tasks that typically require human intelligence. These tasks include understanding natural language, recognizing objects and patterns, making decisions, and learning from experience. Artificial intelligence (AI) is the study of how the human brain makes decisions, learns new things, and thinks through difficulties. The goal of artificial intelligence is to enhance computer abilities related to human understanding, including language intelligence, learning, reasoning, and problem-solving (Nathan and Isuaiko, 2025).

Furthermore, Clark and Abakasanga (2024) defined the term artificial intelligence (AI) as computer programmes that are able to carry out sophisticated operations that were previously limited to human performance, such as problem-solving, thinking, and decision-making. Artificial intelligence (AI), in its broadest sense, is intelligence exhibited by machines, particularly computer systems, as opposed to the natural intelligence of living beings. As a field of research in computer science focusing on the automation of intelligent behavior through machine learning, it develops and studies methods and software that enable machines to perceive their environment and take actions that maximize their chances of achieving defined goals, with the aim of performing tasks typically associated with human intelligence (Igbokwe and Okwara, 2024).

Moreover, Akpan and Clark (2024) mentioned that in the modern world, artificial intelligence has become incredibly popular. Artificial intelligence (AI) is the study of how the human brain makes decisions, learns new things, and thinks through difficulties. The goal of artificial intelligence is to enhance computer abilities related to human understanding, including language intelligence, learning, reasoning, and problem-solving. A branch of computer science called artificial intelligence studies how computers learn, comprehend data, recognize characters in images, analyses pictures, and simulate how the eyes work (Udo-Okon and Akpan, 2024).

Types of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence manifests in various forms, each with severe consequences for victims. Understanding these types is crucial in addressing and preventing abuse effectively. According to Huecker, King, Jordan and Smock, (2023) the following are the types of domestic violence:

Physical Abuse: This involves the use of physical force to cause harm, pain, or injury. It includes hitting, slapping, choking, pushing, burning, or using weapons against a victim. Physical abuse often escalates over time and can result in serious injuries or even death.

Emotional and Psychological Abuse: This form of abuse aims to manipulate, intimidate, or degrade a victim's self-esteem and mental well-being. It includes verbal insults, threats, humiliation, gaslighting, isolation from friends and family, and constant criticism, which can lead to anxiety, depression, and loss of self-worth.

Sexual Abuse: Sexual abuse in domestic settings involves any non-consensual sexual activity, including rape, forced sexual acts, marital rape, and coercion into unwanted sexual behavior. It violates a person's autonomy and can have lasting psychological and physical consequences.

Financial Abuse: This occurs when an abuser exerts control over a victim's financial resources to limit their independence. It includes withholding money, preventing access to employment, controlling bank

accounts, or forcing financial dependence, making it difficult for the victim to leave the abusive relationship.

Digital Abuse: With technology's advancement, digital abuse has become more prevalent. It includes cyberstalking, online harassment, unauthorized monitoring of a partner's activities, and using technology to manipulate or threaten a victim.

Neglect: In cases where domestic violence occurs within family settings, neglect is a form of abuse where basic needs such as food, shelter, medical care, and emotional support are intentionally denied, often affecting children, the elderly, or dependent individuals.

Effects of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence has devastating consequences that impact not only the victims but also families, communities, and society as a whole. The effects can be physical, psychological, social, and economic, often lasting for years beyond the initial abuse.

Physical Effects: Victims of domestic violence often suffer from injuries such as bruises, broken bones, burns, and internal damage. In severe cases, it can lead to permanent disabilities or even death. Long-term physical health issues, including chronic pain, migraines, and reproductive health complications, are also common among survivors (Martin et al., 2023).

Psychological and Emotional Effects: Domestic violence leaves deep emotional scars, leading to conditions such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and suicidal thoughts. Victims may also suffer from low self-esteem, emotional numbness, and an inability to trust others, affecting their ability to form healthy relationships in the future (Martin et al., 2023).

Impact on Children: Children who witness domestic violence are at a higher risk of developing emotional and behavioral issues (UN Women, 2021). They may experience fear, aggression, withdrawal, poor academic performance, and difficulty in forming stable relationships. Many of these children may also grow up to either become abusers or victims in their own relationships due to learned behaviors.

Economic Consequences: Domestic violence can lead to job loss, reduced work productivity, and financial instability for victims (Wathen, MacGregor & MacQuarrie, 2015). Many survivors struggle to maintain employment due to frequent absences, injuries, or emotional distress. Additionally, financial abuse—where an abuser controls a victim's access to money—can leave victims trapped in abusive relationships with no means of escape.

Social Effects: Victims of domestic violence often experience isolation from friends and family due to fear, shame, or manipulation by the abuser. Social stigma and victim-blaming further discourage survivors from seeking help, making it harder for them to rebuild their lives after abuse.

Legal and Criminal Implications: Domestic violence contributes to increased crime rates, overburdened law enforcement agencies, and congested legal systems. Many cases go unreported due to fear of retaliation, lack of faith in the justice system, or cultural barriers, allowing abusers to continue their actions without consequences.

Causes of Domestic Violence

Domestic violence is a complex issue influenced by various social, psychological, and economic factors. Understanding these causes is essential for developing effective prevention and intervention strategies. According to Gillette (2021) the following are the causes of domestic violence:

Power and Control: A major cause of domestic violence is the abuser's desire to dominate and control their victim. This need for power often stems from deep-seated insecurities, past traumas, or a learned behavior from growing up in violent environments.

Cultural and Societal Norms: In some societies, domestic violence is normalized or justified due to cultural beliefs that prioritize male dominance or discourage women from leaving abusive relationships. Traditional gender roles, patriarchy, and societal stigmas prevent victims from speaking out or seeking help.

Substance Abuse: Alcohol and drug abuse significantly contribute to domestic violence by impairing judgment, increasing aggression, and reducing self-control. Many abusers resort to violence under the influence of substances, leading to repeated cycles of abuse.

Economic Hardship: Financial stress, unemployment, and poverty can create tension in relationships, leading to frustration and violent outbursts. Economic dependence on an abusive partner also forces many victims to remain in harmful situations out of fear of financial insecurity.

Childhood Trauma and Learned Behavior: Individuals who grow up in abusive households are more likely to replicate violent behaviors in their relationships. Witnessing domestic violence as a child can normalize abuse, making it a repeated pattern in adulthood.

Mental Health Disorders: Psychological conditions such as anger management issues, depression, personality disorders, and untreated trauma can contribute to abusive tendencies. Without proper therapy or intervention, these conditions may escalate into violent behaviors.

Lack of Legal Enforcement and Support Systems: Weak legal frameworks, corruption, and inadequate support services for victims allow domestic violence to persist. When perpetrators are not held accountable, the cycle of abuse continues, leaving victims without protection or justice.

Roles of Artificial Intelligence in Preventing Domestic Violence

Domestic violence remains a pervasive global issue, affecting millions of individuals across all demographics. While traditional approaches such as counseling, law enforcement, and support services remain vital, the integration of Artificial Intelligence (AI) into these efforts offers transformative possibilities. The following are the roles of artificial intelligence in preventing domestic violence:

Early Detection Through Data Analysis: AI can analyze patterns in data to identify early warning signs of domestic violence. This includes examining text messages, emails, voice recordings, and social media activity for signs of abuse, coercion, or psychological distress (Lee, 2024). Natural Language Processing (NLP) algorithms can detect threats, manipulative language, or emotional abuse, potentially alerting authorities or support systems before physical violence occurs.

Predictive Analytics for Risk Assessment: Machine learning models can be trained to assess the risk of future domestic violence based on various indicators, such as past criminal records, emergency call logs, or social services reports (Bernal-Monroy, Castañeda-Monroy & Ceballos-Villada, 2025). These predictive tools can assist law enforcement and social workers in prioritizing high-risk cases, enabling timely interventions.

AI-Powered Helplines and Chatbots: AI-driven chatbots offer 24/7 anonymous support to survivors of domestic violence. These tools can provide resources, answer questions, guide users to shelters, and even connect them with legal assistance (Maeng and Lee, 2022). Importantly, they offer a safe and non-judgmental space for victims who may be afraid or unable to speak directly with a human.

Monitoring and Surveillance Tools: Smart home devices equipped with AI can potentially detect sounds of distress, shouting, or physical altercations. For instance, AI-enabled audio sensors could be used to trigger alerts in high-risk households, especially in cases where survivors have been previously identified and have consented to monitoring.

Enhancing Law Enforcement Capabilities: AI can assist police departments in better tracking domestic violence cases through automated reporting systems and case management platforms. Image



recognition technologies can help analyze evidence like bruises or injuries over time, while facial recognition can identify repeat offenders. AI also helps optimize resource allocation for timely response.

Public Awareness and Education: AI tools can analyze social media and digital platforms to identify trends in public sentiment, misinformation, or stigmas around domestic violence. These insights can guide public awareness campaigns and educational programs that promote healthy relationships and inform the public about support services.

Strategic Ways of Adopting Artificial Intelligence in Preventing Domestic Violence

The following are the strategic ways of adopting artificial intelligence in preventing domestic violence:

AI-Powered Predictive Analysis: artificial Intelligence can help prevent domestic violence by analyzing patterns in law enforcement records, emergency calls, and social media interactions. Machine learning algorithms can assess risk factors such as prior history of abuse, financial stress, and psychological distress to predict potential cases. With this predictive capability, authorities and social workers can intervene before an incident escalates. AI can also analyze online behavior, tracking changes in communication patterns that might indicate distress.

Smart Surveillance & IoT Devices: AI-enabled smart home devices, such as security cameras and voice assistants, can be used to detect signs of domestic violence. These devices use machine learning to recognize distress signals like screaming, crying, or sudden movements indicative of physical violence. Once a potential threat is detected, AI can send automatic alerts to emergency contacts or law enforcement. Smart doorbell cameras can also provide evidence in case of abuse, strengthening legal action against perpetrators.

AI Chatbots for Victim Support: AI-powered chatbots can provide confidential and immediate assistance to domestic violence victims, offering support 24/7. These chatbots can guide victims on legal rights, available shelters, and mental health counseling without the need for human intervention. Many victims fear speaking out due to stigma or retaliation; AI chatbots create a safe space where they can seek help anonymously (Verticurl, 2024).

Sentiment Analysis on Social Media: AI algorithms can scan social media platforms for distress signals, abusive messages, or coded cries for help from victims. Many individuals in abusive relationships express their struggles indirectly online, and AI can detect these subtle indicators through sentiment analysis. Machine learning models can assess emotional tone, word patterns, and frequency of concerning posts to flag potential cases of domestic violence. This information can be relayed to crisis intervention teams, who can reach out to at-risk individuals.

AI-Enhanced Law Enforcement Tools: Law enforcement agencies can leverage AI to analyze domestic violence reports, prioritize high-risk cases, and optimize response times. AI-driven databases can assess criminal records, history of restraining orders, and previous complaints to determine the likelihood of repeated offenses. Predictive policing models can suggest preventive measures based on past trends, ensuring swift intervention before an attack occurs. AI can also streamline the process of filing restraining orders, reducing bureaucratic delays and protecting victims faster (Axios, 2024).

Voice & Speech Recognition for Early Detection: AI-driven speech and voice recognition systems can detect distress in a person's tone, pitch, and speech patterns, even if they don't explicitly report abuse. Call centers, emergency helplines, and even smart devices can use this technology to identify fearful or distressed speech. If AI detects signs of coercion, nervousness, or coded language indicating danger, it can trigger an alert for human intervention.



METHODOLOGY

To carry out the study, descriptive survey design was adopted. The study was carried out in Akwa Ibom State. The targeted population for the study comprised of all the Social Scientists in Akwa Ibom State. A simple random sampling technique was used to select a total of 120 Social Scientists, which formed the sample size for this study. The instrument used for data collection was a structured questionnaire titled “Artificial Intelligence Aided Domestic Violence Prevention Questionnaire (AIADVPQ)”. Face and content validation of the instrument was carried out by an expert in test, measurement, and evaluation in order to ensure that the instrument has the accuracy, appropriateness, and completeness for the study under consideration. The reliability coefficient obtained was 0.89, and this was high enough to justify the use of the instrument. The researcher subjected the data generated for this study to appropriate statistical technique such descriptive statistics to answer research questions.

RESULTS AND DISCUSSIONS

Research Questions 1: The research question sought to examine the types of domestic violence common in Akwa Ibom State. To answer the research question descriptive statistics was performed on the data, (see table 1).

TABLE 1: Descriptive statistics of the types of domestic violence common in Akwa Ibom State.

Types	Frequency	Percentage
Physical Abuse	32	26.67
Emotional and Psychological Abuse	38	31.67**
Sexual Abuse	17	14.17
Financial Abuse	6	5.00
Digital Abuse	18	15.00
Neglect	9	7.50*
TOTAL	120	100%

** The highest percentage frequency

* The least percentage frequency

SOURCE: Field survey

The above Table 1 presents the descriptive statistics of the types of domestic violence common in Akwa Ibom State. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that the highest percentage (31.67%) was recorded against “Emotional and Psychological Abuse”, while the least percentage (7.50%) was recorded against “Neglect”. This finding agrees with the opinion of Huecker, King, Jordan & Smock (2023), who stated that the use of physical force to cause harm, pain, or injury. This physical abuse includes hitting, slapping, choking, pushing, burning, or using weapons against a victim. Physical abuse often escalates over time and can result in serious injuries or even death.

Research Questions 2: The research question sought to examine the effect of domestic violence on the victims of Akwa Ibom State. To answer the research question descriptive statistics was performed on the data, (see table 2).



TABLE 2: Descriptive statistics of the effects of domestic violence on the victims in Akwa Ibom State

CHALLENGES	Frequency	Percentage
Physical Effects	21	17.50
Psychological and Emotional Effects	29	24.17**
Impact on Children	23	19.17
Economic Consequences	22	18.33
Social Effects	20	16.67
Legal and Criminal Implications Neglect	5	4.17*
TOTAL	120	100%

** The highest percentage frequency

* The least percentage frequency

SOURCE: Field survey

The above Table 2 presents the descriptive statistics of the effects of domestic violence on the victims of Akwa Ibom State. From the result of the data analysis, it was observed that the highest percentage (24.17%) was recorded against “Psychological and Emotional Effects”, while the least percentage (4.17%) was recorded against “Legal and Criminal Implications Neglect”. This finding agrees with the opinion of Martin (2023), who stated that domestic violence leaves deep emotional scars, leading to conditions such as depression, anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and suicidal thoughts. Victims may also suffer from low self-esteem, emotional numbness, and an inability to trust others, affecting their ability to form healthy relationships in the future.

CONCLUSION

Addressing domestic violence in Akwa Ibom State requires urgent and innovative solutions, as many victims remain trapped in cycles of abuse due to fear, stigma, and inadequate intervention. While awareness campaigns and legal measures exist, they have not been entirely effective. AI-driven tools such as predictive analytics, chatbots, and surveillance systems offer new opportunities for detecting, reporting, and preventing abuse. However, challenges like data privacy and ethical concerns must be addressed. By strategically integrating AI into domestic violence prevention, society can create safer environments, strengthen law enforcement, and provide victims with the support they need to break free.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. The government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) should develop and deploy AI-powered chatbots and virtual assistants to provide victims with confidential and accessible reporting platforms.
2. Law enforcement agencies should adopt AI-driven predictive analytics to analyze behavioral patterns and identify high-risk areas prone to domestic violence.
3. To ensure the safe and responsible use of AI in domestic violence prevention, strict data privacy regulations and ethical AI guidelines must be established.

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