



## Gender Based Violence and Social Rights Policy Interventions in Ondo and Ekiti States 2012-2022

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### ABSTRACT

The study investigated the phenomenon of gender- base violence and its effect of social base right policy intervention at addressing it menace in both Ondo and Ekiti states 2012-2022. Gender base violence has been acknowledged in literature that women bear it brunt more than men been the weaker sex gender-based violence thrived because it is socially routed in inequality, patriarchy and social roles expectation against female. The study evaluate the root causes of gender-based violence factors enhancing it and the effect of social right policy interventions in Ondo and Ekiti states frustration aggression theory serve the basis of theoretical framework of analysis. Also, the research methodology involved the mixed-methods of data gathering and analysis. From policy perspective the study widening the frontiers of knowledge about the phenomenon of gender-based violence and proffer feasible and intervention solutions at addressing the social menace of gender based violence. The results of the study would provide immense knowledge and benefits to researchers in the fields of gender studies, policy analysis governmental and women-based non-governmental and women-based non-governmental organizations in Nigeria.

**Keywords:** Gender based violence, policy interventions, Ondo and Ekiti States

### Introduction

Gender -based violence is an aggressive behaviour in most cases targeted against women and girls due to their vulnerable nature Gender based violence is violence aimed against an individual on the basis of gender, it is a social phenomenon that is deeply entrench social roles and gender inequality as a result of prevailing societal norms and cultural practice. Gender-based violence takes numerous dimensions family and intimate partner violence, child abuse, trafficking of women and girls for sexual and monetary exploitation, mental abuse, body shaming, assault and battery.

Gender-based violence in most cases is gendered in nature and majority of the violence and abuse are targeted against women and girls. The phenomenon of gender-based violence is alarming and of national dimensions in nature with significant social, health, economic, psychological and legal implications and cost especially on the victims, their families the perpetrators becoming psychopaths and constitute danger to the society in general. United Nations Population Fund (2022), acknowledged that gender-based violence undermines the health dignity, security and autonomy of its victims and that it shrouded in a culture of silence. Globally about 1 and in of women and girls worldwide in their lifetime have been subjected to either physical and, sexual intimate partner violence, 200 million women have experienced female genital mutilation. World Health Organization (2013) and The World Bank (2019)

The phenomenon of gender-based violence and violence against children is not different in Nigeria, Pathfinder (2020) posits that, in Nigeria, 31% women have experienced physical violence and 9% have experienced sexual violence abuse targeted against children. For six out of every ten children experienced some form of violence, UNICEF (2015).

The reality of all these statistics is that the incidence of gender-based violence is a trending social and human right issues that are worrisome in nature and portends danger to almost fifty percent of Ekiti state population of which female constitute 1,183,470 out of the total population of 2,398 ,957. National population Commission (2006). While that of Ondo State, women constitute almost half of the state's total population which is 3,460,887 comprising of 1,745 ,057 males and 1,715 ,820 females. Ondo State Bureau of Statistics (2009). It is alarming and pertinent to observe that females in terms of women and girls are at the receiving end and most victims of violence especially becoming rampant due to covid-19 lockdown in most of the states in Nigeria and of which Ekiti and Ondo States inclusive. Umokoro, citing Premium Times (2020), observed that there has been 60percent increase in domestic violence. Also, Akiyode -Afolabi (2020), posits that about two million women and girls are raped every year in Nigeria and only about 28% \$ of these cases are reported.

How can society and people address the challenges of gender, based violence and child abuse in Ekiti and Ondo States, despite the domestication of Child Act of 2003, National Gender Policy of 2006 and Violence Against Person Act of 2015, yet violence against women and girls continue to manifest on daily basis in forms of body shaming sexual abuse, child and labour and trafficking, harmful cultural practice of female genital mutilation, torture and femicide.

Nigeria society is patriarchal in nature which lends to reinforces gender inequality and superiority of men over women. The issue of violence is a conundrum that transcends cultures and suppress women and girls from aiming high and realizing their fully potential politically economically and socially.

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### **Problem Statement/Justification**

The statement problem are knowledge gaps in respect of gender-based violence issues to be address by the research study. Gender -based violence is a trending issue that does not discriminate in age and class, any woman and young lady can be a victim of gender-based violence in both Ekiti and Ondo state. How do we break the circle of gender-based violence in both Ekiti and Ondo states? How do we de-emphasis the influence? of patriarchy which continue to reinforces the incidence of violence especially domestic and intimate partner violence in our society? How can Nigeria patriarchal society be made responsive to social change in regards to gender equality? How to attain female -oriented good practices through collaboration among child and women-based governmental agencies non-governmental organizations in both Ekiti and Ondo states? How can the voices of women and girls that is shrouded in silence be heard in our society? How can the social rights policy interventions implemented in both states be more impactful in response to prevention and tackling gender-based violence holistically in both Ekiti and Ondo states? These are the issues that need to be addressed by this research study.

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### **Objective(s) of the Study**

The objectives of this study are to:

- (i) Ascertain the impacts of national and state's government institutional mechanism and social policy interventions at addressing gender -based violence and child abuse in southwest, Nigeria.
- (ii) Determine the fundamental causes of violence against women and children and the aftermath socio-economic and health implications on the victims and the society.
- (iii) Address violence -against women and children through giving supports to the victims and strengthening the capacity of women and children governmental ministries and enhancing synergy with non-governmental organization in Ekiti and Ondo States.
- (iv) Determine ways to give needed supports and facilitate social integration for the victims of violence of child abuse.
- (v) Determine measures on how to bring about social change, downplay the culture of silence on the part of the victims and make the voice of women and girls been abused to be heard and justice realize for the victims in Ekiti and Ondo states.

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### **Literature Review**

Violence, inequality and gender-based violence are age long social issues which are well documented by scholars, non-governmental organizations and governmental institutions According to The World Bank (2019), gender-based violence knows no social or economic boundaries and it affects women and girls of different socio-economic backgrounds Several literatures have been written in regards to the issue of violence in general and gender-based violence in particular among these literatures were the works of Gurr (1970)Englander (2007),Okolo and Okolo (2018)Hattery and Smith (2019)The World Bank (2019)Daruwalla et,al (2019) UNICEF-(2015), Pathfinder (2020).

Englander (2007), analyze violence psychoanalytically by positing that aggression is a basic human impulse that is repress in well adjusted people who have experienced a normal childhood. Also, if the aggressive, impulsive is not controlled or repressed, some aggression can leak out of the unconscious acts of-violence. Daruwalla et,al(2019),lay emphasis on the health effects of violence against women and posited that the health effects are fatal and non-fatal and are profound in nature Hattery and Smith (2019), analyze gender-based violence base on sociological perspective both scholars in their literatures demonstrated how prevalent gender -based violence, child abuse and sexual harassment. While, The World Bank (2019), view gender-based violence or violence against women and girls as a global pandemic that affects one in three women in their life time. The World Bank hold the viewpoint that the solution to address the menace of violence against women and girls should be holistic that requires a community-based, multi-pronged approach are sustained engagement with multiple stakeholders.

Gender-based violence is not only limited to sexual intimate partner violence alone it has been observed in politics which is seen as who get what when and how violence against women in politics is wide spread, gendered and having serious implications on women political participation and representation. UN Women(2018), acknowledged that, violence against women in politics is deeply damaging not only to women but to all of us. Every vote that is not cast and every voice that is not heard takes us farther from realizing our full potentials at local and national politics and as a global community.

## Theoretical Framework

In analyzing social phenomenon, theoretical model serves as the lens through which all the issues involved in that particular social phenomenon can be adequately analyze. In the course of this study, the preferred frame work of analysis is the frustration-aggression theory which is highly relevant to discourse on violence. Frustration-aggression theory has been espoused by scholars such as Dollard et, al (1939), Gurr (1970),Rummel and Zillmann (1990).

Frustration-aggression theory emphasize the importance of social psychology and ideology us the society.

According to Gurr (1970)relative deprivation is summed up as "actor perception of discrepancy between their value expectation and their values capabilities". On this basis, Gurr connected deprivation as a causal-factor for violence. According to Gurr (1970). The primacy of human capability for violence appears to be the frustration-aggression mechanism Frustration does not necessary lead to violence and violence for some men is motivated by expectations of gain. The anger induced frustration, however is a motivating force that dispose men to aggression in respective of its instrumentalities. If aggression is quite likely, if not certain to occur, men who are frustrated have an innate disposition too do violence to its sources in proportion to the intensity if their frustrations.

Zillmann through his studies enhance the psycho-analytic nature of the frustration -aggression theory According to Zillman (1979 ), frustration instigates behaviour that may not be hostile or aggressive, any hostile or aggressive behvaiour that occur is caused by frustration. In other words, frustration is not a sufficient but a necessary condition for hostility and aggression Analyzing the frustration-aggression theory, it is significant to note that itis a psycho-analytic theory that provide explanation for gender -based violence in Ondo and Ekiti , Nigeria.

## Methodology

Location of the study

The study was conducted by the researchers in Ondo and Ekiti states, Nigeria. The two states are mainly Yoruba language speaking states in southwest, Nigeria. The states are civil service oriented and agrarian states the two states are endowed with human and natural resources and with high level of literacy rate.

### Areas of Study

The research was conducted by the researchers in purposive selected local governments (6) in both Ondo and Ekiti States, Nigeria with urban and rural towns identified by the researchers as target location of the study

**Table: Design Outlay for Selecting Study Area**

S/N	States	Local Gov't Area	Towns Selected	Total Number Selected	Total Aggregate
1	Ondo	Owo	Owo, Ipele and Ijebu	3	9
		Akure South	Akure, Awule, Igbetoro	3	
		Okitipupa	Okitipupa, ode Aye Igbotako	3	
2	Ekiti	Ido-osi	IdoEkiti, Ifaki, Orin	3	9
		Ado-Ekiti	Ado Ekiti, Igirigiri, Ago Aduloju	3	
		Ikere	Ikere, AjebardeleOlumilu	3	
Total	2	6		18	18

### Reasons for the study Area

A total number of six local governments of Ondo and States were investigated for the study the researcher ensured that the study area selected reflect both urban and rural population at residents in the six local governments areas and eighteen towns selected for the study.

### Sample Frame of the Participants

The participants for the research were residents of the selected urban and rural towns which entailed academics, gender-based experts, market women, civil servants and students of tertiary institutions.

### Interview

In the course of the research study, the researchers interviewed civil servants, academics and gender experts with the aims of eliciting information in order to realize the objectives of the study.

## Method of Data Collection

The method of data collection was mixed-methods which entail the use of primary and secondary data gathering and analysis. Thus, this mixed-method enabled the researchers to gather and analyses data for the purpose of the research.

Title: gender based violence and social rights policy interventions in Ondoand Ekitistates: 2012-2022

### Section A

Socio-demographic characteristics of respondents

**Instruction:** Kindly tick( ) your  response in the space provided

1. **Age:** 18-31() 32-41 (  ) 42-51 (  ) 52-60 (  ) 62years and above (  )
2. **Gender:**Male (  ) female (  )
3. **Marital Status:** Single (  ) married (  ) divorce (  ) widow and Widower (  )
4. **Educational Level:** SSCE (  ) ND/HND (  ) Bsc (  ) MSC and above (  )
5. **Health Status:** Able (  ) Physically Challenged (  )
6. **Occupation:** Artisan (  ) Trader (  ) Civil Servant (  ) Private (  )
7. **Religion:** Christian (  ) Muslim (  ) Others (  )

### Section B

300 structured questionnaire were prepared by the researchers twelve personal interview and six focus group discussion were administered to collect information from the respondents, while secondary were collected from textbooks, newspapers journals and internet sources on the research topic of the study.

Table 1: Do you agree that the fundamental causes of violence against women were due to prejudice and socio cultural factors in Ondo and Ekiti States?

Variable	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly Agreed	283	55
Agreed	200	40.0
Disagreed	24	0.2
Strongly disagreed	4	3.3

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Fig 1; Do you agree that the fundamental causes of violence against women are socio-cultural factors in Ondo and Ekiti States

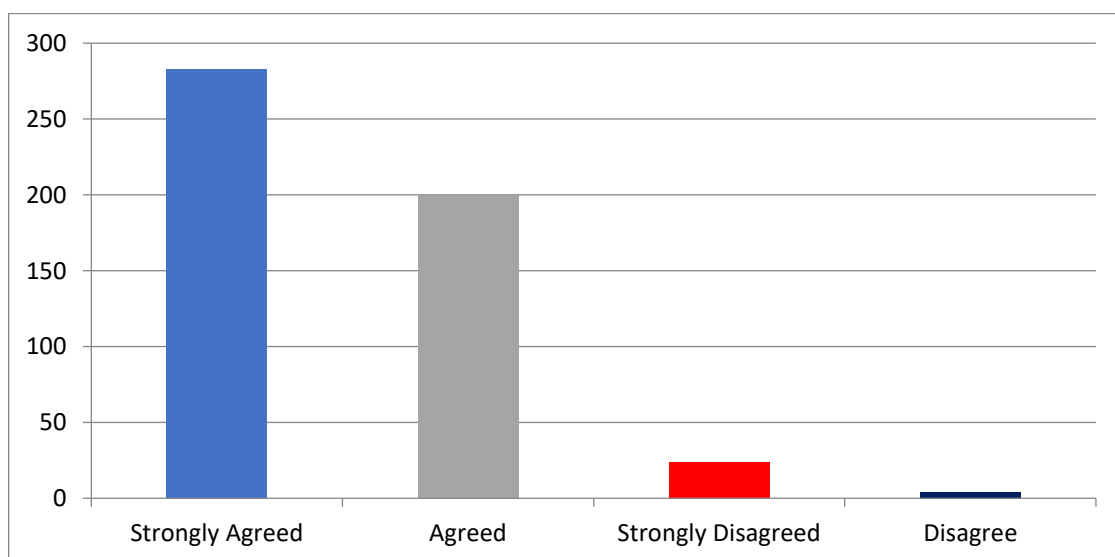


Table 1:

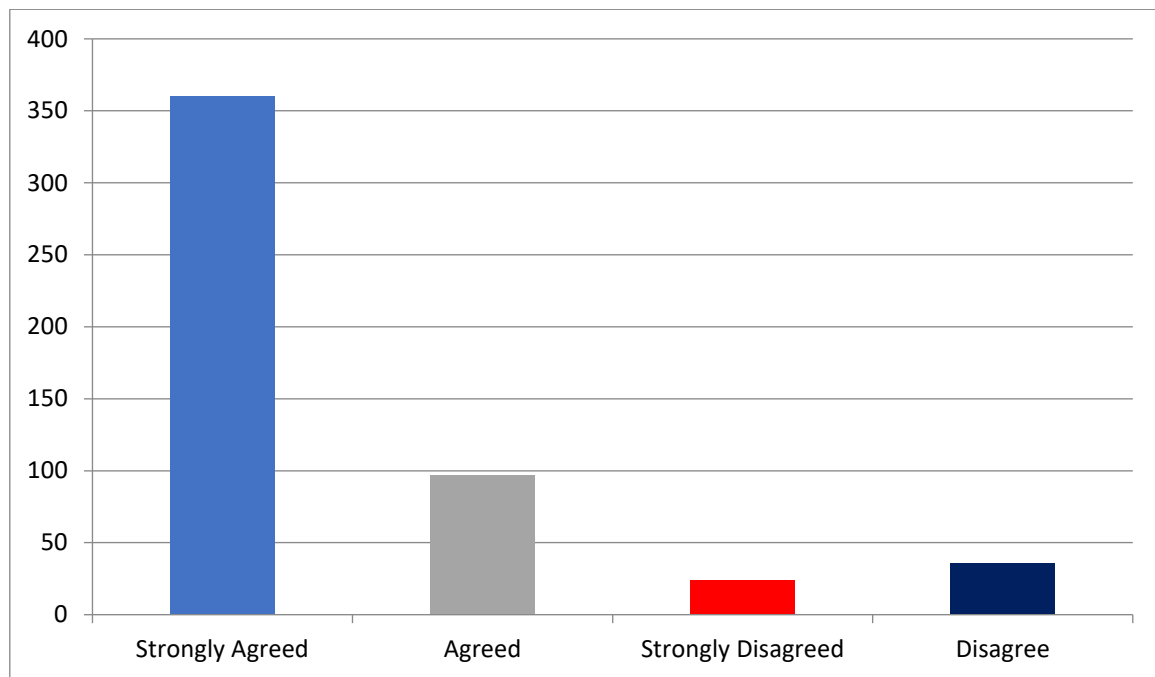
Analysis of Table 1 and fig 1: It revealed that 483 (95%) of the respondents strongly that is combination of strongly agreed and agreed accepted that the fundamental cause of violence against women in Ondo and Ekiti States were mainly due to prejudice and socio-cultural factors against women while

Table 2: Do you agree that there is nexus between gender-based violence and mental health of the victims?

Variable	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly Agreed	360	60.1
Agreed	97	28.3
Disagreed	24	4.4
Strongly disagreed	36	7.2

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Fig 2: Do you agree that there is nexus between gender-based violence and mental health of the victims?



Source: Field Work, 2024

Table 2:

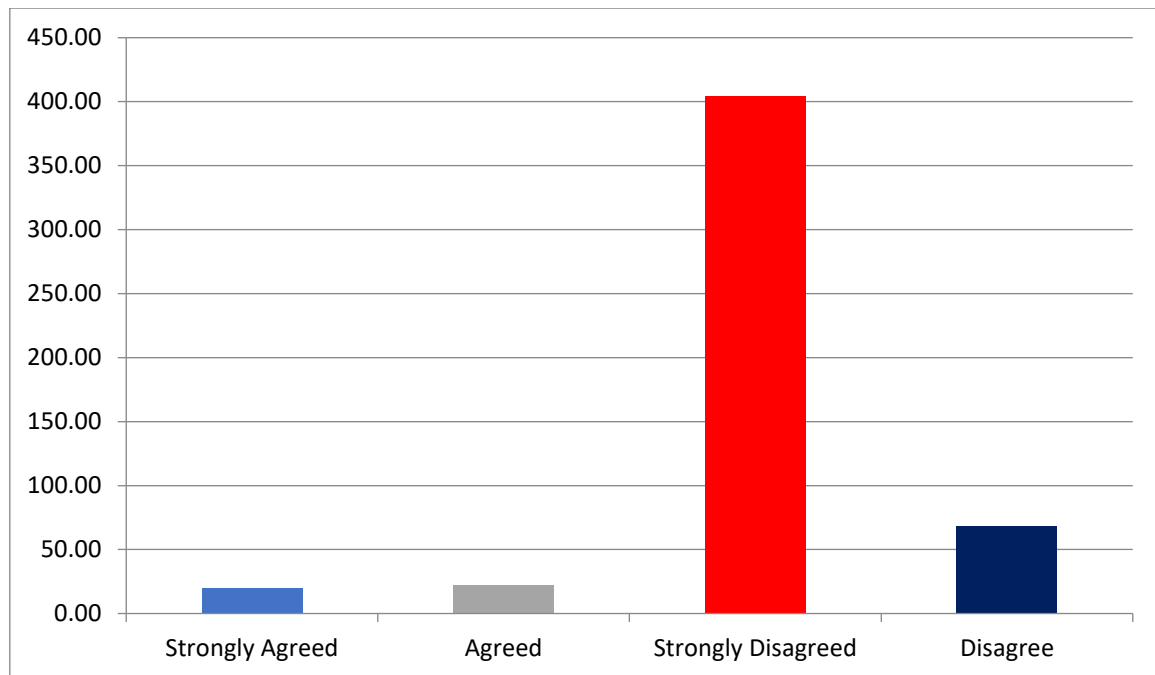
Analysis of Table 2 and fig 2: Table 2 revealed that 360 (60.1%) of the responds strongly agreed and 97 (28.3%) of the respondents agreed while only a combination of 60 (11.6%) of the respondents strongly disagree and disagreed. Thus, the majority of the respondents were in opinion that, there is linkage or nexus between gender-based violence and it's effects on the mental health of the victims.

Table 3: Do men support social Right Policy women and girls regarding to gender-based violence in Ondo and Ekiti States?

Variable	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly Agreed	20	4.3
Agreed	22	3.9
Disagreed	404	75.8
Strongly disagreed	68	14.0

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Fig 3: Do men support social Right Policy women and girls regarding to gender-based violence in Ondo and Ekiti States?

**Table 3**

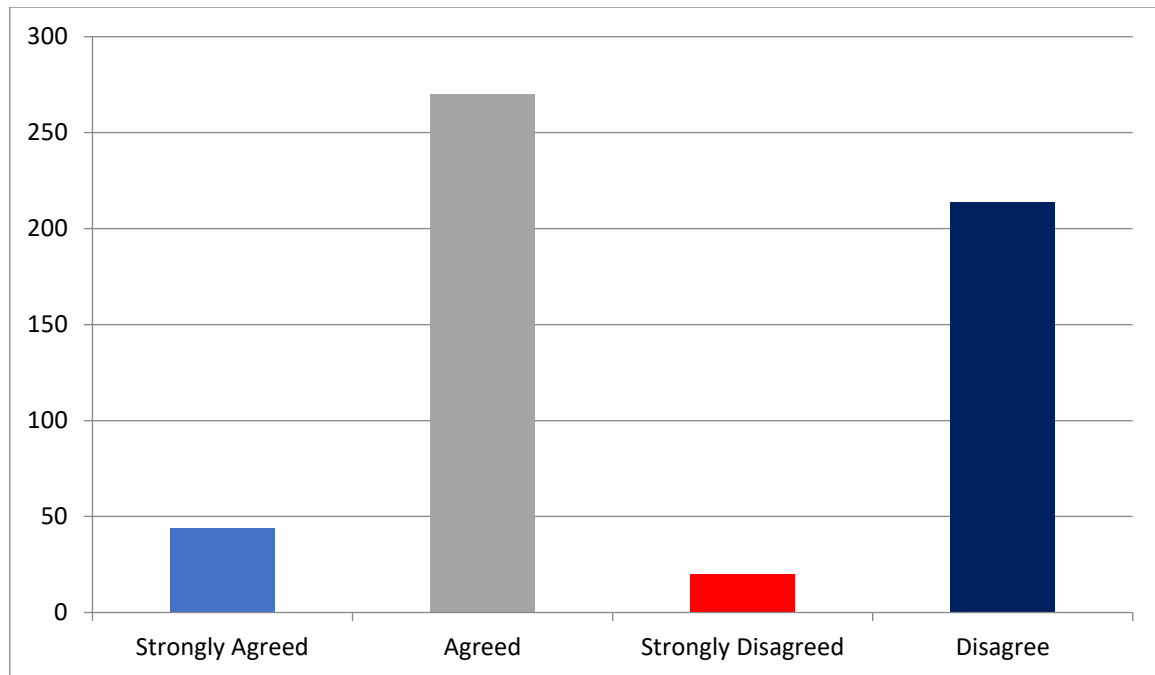
Analysis of Table 3 and Fig3: The outcomes indicate that 20 (4.3%) of the respondents strongly agreed and 22(3.9%) agreed and 404 (75.8%) disagreed and 68 (14%) of the respondents strongly disagreed. Thus, the majority of the respondents do not agree that men support social right policy initiatives protections women regarding to gender-based violence.

Table 4: Do you agreed that national; and states government mechanism and women friendly social policies interventions impactful tackling effectively gender based violence in Ondo and Ekiti States?

Variable	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly Agreed	44	8
Agreed	270	50
Disagreed	20	4
Strongly disagreed	214	38

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Fig 4: Do you agreed that national; and states government mechanism and women friendly social policies interventions impactful tackling effectively gender based violence in Ondo and Ekiti States?

**Table 4**

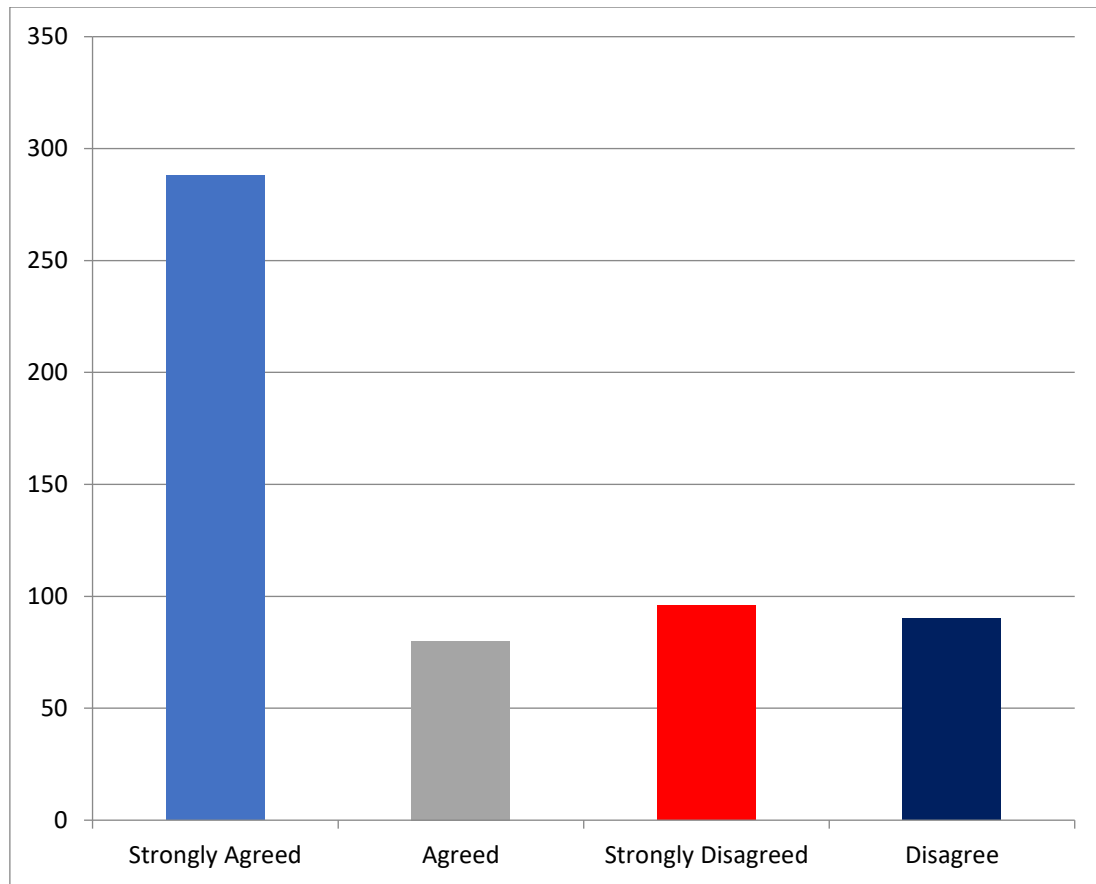
Analysis of Table 4 and Fig 4: The results indicates that 44(8%) strongly agreed, 270 (50%) Agreed. While 20 (4%) of the respondents strongly disagreed and 214 (38%) of the respondents disagreed. The outcome revealed that, majority of the respondents are of the opinion that national and state government mechanism and women friendly policy interventions can be effective at tackling gender-based violence in Ondo and Ekiti States.

Table 5: Do you agree that raising public awareness on gender-based violence and standing against toxic masculinity and abusive culture can effectively addressed gender based violence in Ondo and Ekiti States?

Variable	Frequency	Percentage%
Strongly Agreed	288	55
Agreed	80	14
Disagreed	96	16.4
Strongly disagreed	90	14.6

Source: Fieldwork, 2024

Fig 5: Do you agree that raising public awareness on gender-based violence and standing against toxic masculinity and abusive culture can effectively addressed gender based violence in Ondo and Ekiti States?

**Table 5**

Analysis of Table 5 and Fig 5: The results indicates that 288 (55%) strongly agreed, 80 (14%) agreed, while 96 (15.4%) strongly disagreed and 90 (14%) Disagree. The outcome revealed that majority of the respondents are of the opinion that raising Public awareness on gender-based violence and standing against toxic masculinity and abusive culture can effectively address gender-based violence in Ondo and Ekiti states.

Table: Sex Distribution of Respondents

Sex	Frequency	Percentage%
Male	260	46.9%
Female	294	53.1%
Total	554	100%

Source: Fieldwork July, 2024

The table above shows sex distribution of the respondents. It indicates that 260(46.9%) of the respondents are male while 294 (53.1%) of the total respondents are female. This indicates that majority of the respondents were female.

Table: Age Distribution of Respondents

Age	Frequency	Percentage%
18-30years	180	32%
31-40years	160	29%
41-50years	131	24%
51years and above	84	15%
Total	554	100%

Source: Fieldwork July, 2024



The table above indicates the age distribution of the respondents. 180(32%) of the respondents are 18-30years 29% falls between 31-40years. 131( 24%) are within 41-50years. 51years and above 84(15%) of the respondents were 51years and above. This indicates that 18-30 years of the respondents represent the majority of the age distribution of the study.

Table: Educational Distribution of Respondents

Education Qualification	Frequency	Percentage%
WAEC/SSCE	84	16%
OND/HND	160	29%
BSC/MSC	240	42%
PHD	70	13%
Total	554	100%

Source: Fieldwork July, 2024

The table above indicates the educational distribution of respondents: with Bsc/Msc with 240(42%) having the highest, followed by OND/HND with 160(29%) of respondents, WAEC/SSCE with 84(16%) Phd with 70 (13%) was the least among the respondents.

Violence the aforementioned recommendations would be able to fill in the gap of existing study widen the frontiers of knowledge about the phenomenon of violence and provide feasible policy measures at tackling gender-based violence particularly in Ondo and Ekiti states and Nigerian society in general.

## DISCUSSION OF FININGS

The investigations of the study about gender based violence and social right policy interventions in Ondo and Ekiti states between 2012-2022 revealed that women are more prone to gender-based violence than men. That gender –based violence has been on the rise during covid 19 and post- covid period with its attendants legal, social, health concerns and implications on the victims and the society. That currents should be intensify with multilevel interventions that is holistic in nature. Also awareness and campaign against toxic masculinity, abusive culture and patriarchy should be raise both at private and public realms of the society as measures of curtailing the menace of gender based violence in Ondo and Ekiti States All these aforementioned will go a long way to create require change and create more equity between male and female and further enhance equitable society most especially for women.

### Expected Contributions

The research provides further explanation for more pragmatic awareness and the vital social rights policy interventions in Ondo and Ekiti States. Bearing in mind the negative impacts of gender-based violence on the victims and the society in general. The study is expected to enhance and contribute to knowledge about genders-based violence. It will facilitate governments and societal responses to the psychological; harrowing plights of the victims and making the voice of the victims to be heard in Ondo and Ekiti States.

## RECOMMENDATIONS AND CONCLUSION

The study recommends the following at addressing the social menace of gender-based violence in Ondo and Ekiti States. Government at all levels in both states should create a safe listening space for women and children to relate without prejudice about gender create a safe listening space for women and children that would enabled their voices to be heard in the society. The study recommends that parents should be actively involved in raising their children and the society should have zero tolerance against rape and abusive culture. Also reintegration of the victims of gender-based violence should be priority of the government. Lastly, constant campaign to raise awareness against gender-based violence and challenge gender stereo types will go a long way at addressing the social menace of gender based

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