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ASSIGNMENT

My name is Owosho Bashirat and I’ll be discussing the rise of domestic violence in African homes.

Domestic violence is violence or other abuse in a domestic setting, such as in marriage or cohabitation. In its broadest sense, domestic violence also involves violence against children, parents or even the elderly. Domestic violence takes a number of forms such as; physical, verbal, emotional, economic, religious, reproductive, and sexual abuse, which can of course range from subtle, coercive forms of marital rape and to violent physical abuse such as chocking, beating, female genital mutilation, and so much more, which can result in disfigurement and as well as death.

Globally, the victims of domestic violence are overwhelmingly women, and women tend to experience more forms of violence, according to WHO 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence. Domestic violence is a problem in many parts of Africa, South Africa is said to have the highest rate of gender based violence which of course includes domestic violence and all it entails. According to the police statistics, a woman is killed every three hours in South Africa, official statistics suggest that during this pandemic, more than 110 rapes are reported to the police per day.

 Let’s narrow this to my country Nigeria, there is said to be some deep cultural belief where it is acceptable to hit a woman to discipline a spouse, domestic violence is pretty much wide spread and has only shown little reduction according to statistics and we can’t rely on this information because an amount of women do not come out to admit to domestic violence. There are so many diverse excuses being placed as reasons for domestic violence, even though I feel like there should be particularly no reason to justify domestic violence, it is a wrong act and everyone needs to see it as that. Men also experience domestic violence and this is not much talked about, according to studies, men are much less likely to report victimization in these situations. Many reasons such as illiteracy, poverty, unemployment and low income have shown to be risk factors for higher levels of domestic violence in several studies. People need to master the art of proper communication, as basic as it may seem, the lack of prober communication is what leads to a lot of toxicity in many relationships. People should learn to tolerate one another and be able to speak and solve problems through speech.

Let’s not forget that in the course of this current global pandemic, the rate of domestic violence has only gone up the charts and it is quite disturbing, everyday there is a new case of rape or murder and it has covered the female gender particularly. This is as a result of the lockdown and having to be with one another 24hours a day, 7 times a week. Once again this screams tolerance; they cannot seem to control themselves because they cannot tolerate their family.

Domestic violence goes a long way in the life of victims, it can destroy them physically, mentally and emotionally, such people do not have trust in people anymore, they can even become violent as a result, some go ahead and take their own lives and many other terrible effects that it has on them. Victims of Domestic violence need to be treated with care and love; they need counseling, security and therapy, things that help them take their minds off the trauma and this helps too.

And as for the offenders, the government has put in place several disciplinary measures and I think this can help curb the spread to an extent, even though some don’t mind, there is still a percentage of people that won’t do it for this reason. Afterwards, these offenders need counseling too to help work on the anger, frustration or whatever it is that made them do it and this can also help prevent future cases.

Generally, domestic violence is a bad, terrible, disfiguring, harmful, name all the bad words, it’s worse than them, it is a sad thing and it is quite rampant in several parts of Africa. I really do hope that the government as well as individuals work towards the curb of this practice in any way they can and I hope and pray that domestic violence will be a thing of the past sooner or later.