

**Violent Against Women and Girls and the Quest for Sustainable Development in Nigeria: A Study of Cross-River State**^a Augustine Ejiofor Onyishi, ^b Yewande Rachael Odusanya^a Department of Political Science, Nnamdi Azikiwe University, Awka Anambra State Nigeria,^b Department of Political Science, University of Calabar, Cross-River State, Nigeria

The novel development thinking highlights the linkages between environmental quandary and violent against women and girls and its threats to sustainable development. Women and girls globally experienced gender based social injustices that prevent a full exploration of their potentials in their pursuit of daily needs. It is argued that such gender violent has serious implication for sustainable development, social security and peace in any nation since they are closely related to multifarious negative social circumstances. This study investigates the impact of violent against women and girls on the hunt for sustainable development in Nigeria. Specifically, it attempts to ascertain whether there is a correlation between violent against women and girls and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State. It also examine whether the recurrent violent against women and girls is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in the State Nigeria. Using the Relative Deprivation Theory as its framework of analysis, with the modified student's *t* test, %age, Pearson Product Moment Correlation and chi-square test statistical tool. This study argues that there is a positive correlation between violent against women and girls and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State. It is of the view that the recurrent violent against women and girls is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in State. This study suggests that an actions plan should be embarked upon to promote women empowerment and autonomy.

Key word: Niger delta region, sustainable development, VAWAG, girl child education,

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INTRODUCTION: Most scholarly perceptions of the term sustainable development subsumes three interchangeable strand of the concepts of development, which include; environmental, economic and social development. In an attempt to connect the problem of economic development with environmental stability the World Conference on Environment and Development (WCED, 1987) presented their report titled *Our Common Future*, the report was named after its founder, the then Prime Minister of Norway who was the chairman of the commission. This invaluable report provided the most widely used definition of sustainable development as "development that meets the needs of the present civilization without compromising the ability of the future generations to meet their own needs" (UNGA, 1987). even though the definition appears obfuscating at first glance, this concept of sustainable development as offered by the Brundtland Report intend to sustain economic expansion and progress while protecting the long-term value of the environment, in fact it will not be wrong to contend that it "provides an agenda for the incorporation of environment policies and development strategies" (UNGA, 1987).

However, long before the Brundtland report scholars of development studies have contended that there should not be a correlation between economic development and environmental sustainability. But experience has shown that policies meant for the protection of the environment could also promote innovation and generate profit. On September

25th 2015, the United Nations General Assembly UNGA accepted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as the approved agenda for global development. The framework, unlike the MDGs, has a separate ambition for gender mainstreaming and the empowerment of women and girls globally (Ellsberg, & Goheemoeller, 1999). However, the extent to which these 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that has gender equality targets is applicable is Nigeria context is the main trust of this paper bearing in mind that the place of women in Nigeria is still too precarious to make a meaningful contribution to the sustainable development. Women and girls population accounted for over 60% of Nigerian population and they experienced gender based social injustices that prevent a full exploration of their potentials that would have been utilized in the pursuit of sustainable national development. One of these social injustices is violence against women and girls. Such aggression against women and girls has grave implication for sustainable development, harmony and social protection of any country since they are closely linked with multifarious social circumstances such as illiteracy, lack of confidence, poverty, gender inequality, economic exploitation etc. What then is violent against women? It is here seen as a key public health concern and an infringement of fundamental human rights in any society, it is perceived as any types of harmful behavior directed at women and girls because of their sex (UNIFEM, 1999). Violent against women and girls has also

been defined as any action that lead to or would possibly lead to sexual, bodily, or psychological injury or distress to women, as well as intimidation, cruelty, or dispossession of social liberty to woman on ground of gender (WHO, 2002). That type of mischief usually occur as a result of disproportionate power relations between male and the female gender and has persistently been strengthened by an institutionalized system of well-established canal of social intercourse and primordial value system, that promote traditions categorizing the female folks as lesser than their male counterpart, the widespread poverty, social injustice, illiteracy and the degraded social status that has become exclusively the reserve of women in contemporary times (FMH & UNICEF, 2002). In addition, several features of the legal, traditional, and religious requirements promote the vulnerability of women and girl child to gender violence in the society (UNDP 2005). However, the issues related to gender violent in Nigeria has received a very minute attention from relevant authorities, considering the destructive nature of its consequences, even at the individual level the issue of violent against women seems to have become part of the societies day to day system of life. Despite the fact that violence against women was recognized in the Millennium Declaration of September 2000, in which the General Assembly of the United Nations resolved "to combat all forms of violence against women and to implement the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women". With the believe that a serene environment is the only condition for sustainable development The global challenge of sustainability is now understood to lie in the complex interdependencies of environmental, social and economic development (Potter *et al.*, 2004). New understanding has emerged about the linkages between environmental resources and conflict and the threats to environmental development as highlighted in the meeting of 104 heads of state held in Johannesburg, South Africa in 2002 known as the World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD). This paper did a general review of the present state of situation as regards violence against women and girls in an African sub-cultural society like Nigeria, and its relation to sustainable development in the global south. With a particular attention on the Cross-River State Nigeria

Statement of problems: Borrowing from the United Nations General Assembly Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, adopted in 1993, the concept violent against women and girls VAWAG is in this study characterize as "any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in sexual, physical, or psychological harm or suffering to women, as well as threats of such acts, intimidation or random deprivation of right and liberty including economic privileges due to the person, whether occurring in public or private life". This factors is also including, but not exclusively to "sexual, physical, and psychological violence occurring in a given situation, as well as rough treatment, sexual abuse of female children in the family circle, dowry related violence,

marital rape, female genital mutilation and other traditional practices that is perceived to be harmful to women folks, non-spousal violence and violence related to economic exploitation; physical or political aggression happening within the family unit as well as the general community, economic deprivation, together with rape, intimidation of any form be it at the work place, market place, in educational institutions or anywhere within a given society; women trafficking and forced prostitution committed and voluntarily overlooked by the government of a given nation or country where the act took or is taking place. It follows that the possibility of achieving a sustainable development in a society where socio-political, psychological, economic and gender injustice is abound must became an issue of scholarly interest, debate and scrutiny. Partly because experience has revealed that women and girls plays a very important role in economic development under normal circumstances but unfortunately there is higher incidence of poverty among women as a result of gender injustice. Unfortunately, this ugly reality has exposed them to various genders, economic and political injustice that is here referred to as violent against women and girls in contemporary times. Ensuring that women and men have equal opportunities to generate and manage income is a significant step toward achieving sustainable development for all, and women's rights under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW). In reality, theory and practice women are active in an array of economic palace, some of which they do concomitantly. On average, women shoulder 51% of the work load in developed economy and 55% in developing economies. Women work longer hours than their men counterpart but earn relatively less; this includes both household responsibilities which are unpaid and paid employment in the labor market (Coker *et al.*, 2002). Women's economic activity subsumes wage labor, subsistence farming and working in the informal sector, while a small proportion of women also work in the formal sector. Therefore, all aspects of economic activities affect women's lives direct or indirect. However, quantifying the true pervasiveness of violence against women and girls is a complex task in modern times but fact is that there might be a relationship between these violent against women and the problems of sustainable development in Africa in general and Nigeria in particular. Available Statistics on the issue often miscalculate the height of violence against women and girls because of under-reporting, most women do not report this social vice probably for fear of stigma. And the brutality of VAWAG recorded may also vary between studies, for instance, one researcher may record all violence not considering whether it led to bodily harm, while another may record only incidents in which a physical harm transpired. Population-based investigation such as this maybe more accurate, but the lack of dependable techniques and explanation makes comparisons across studies very complicated. Since explanation or definitions are subjective, assessment

questions often focus on whether women and girls experience specific acts of violence, during a particular period of time. Whereas a number of studies investigate only physical abuse, others scholars may examine the physical, sexual and psychological abuse. In synopsis, comprehensive and comparable data on VAWAG are required at the community, states, national and international level to reinforce advocacy efforts and help policy makers comprehend the predicament and direct the design of government intervention to ameliorates the environmental quandary and ensure a sustainable development for all. It is in the light of the above contradiction in the existing study that this study is embarked upon to investigate the direct impact of VAWAG on the quest for sustainable development in Nigeria with the following research question to guide the study; Is there a correlation between violent against women and girls VAWAG and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State Nigeria? Is the recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria?

Objectives of the study: By exploiting the existing economic paraphernalia, early theorists argued that policies that protect the human environment against injustice of any kind could also promote innovation and engender sustainable development to the concerned society. Therefore, the broad objective of this study is to examine the relationship between violent against women and girls and the quest for sustainable development in Nigeria. Specifically the objectives are as follow; To investigate if there is a correlation between violent against women and girls VAWAG and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State Nigeria. To ascertain whether the recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria

The research hypothesis: From the objectives and the statement of problems of this study titled Violent Against Women and Girls and the Quest for Sustainable Development in Nigeria: A Study of Cross-River State Nigeria, the following hypothesis were formulated to guide the study; There is a positive correlation between violent against women and girls VAWAG and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State Nigeria, The recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria

Significance of the study: Theoretically, the study is anticipated to be very useful to both public and private institution in Nigeria who would now comprehend the correlation between Violent against Women and Girls and the problems of Sustainable Development in Nigeria. This knowledge is here argued can increase social harmony in the country, sanitize the environment and create rooms for gender mainstreaming that will usher in a sustainable

development in the shortest possible time. It is also anticipated that the study will promote developmental management style in different organizations both private and public, since gender segregation will be reduced to the lowest ebb, in the country. Practically, the study is expected to form a source of administrative knowledge for both the public and private sectors of the Nigeria economy since a good working environment and social justice is not exclusive reserve of a particular entity, the study will also constitute a resource base for future readers and other relevant ministries. The concerns raised in this study are also expected to act as a reference point to various public and private institutions that could be used to strengthen the struggle to eradicate all forms of violent against women and girls in Nigeria. Finally, the study in this field will encourage others to explore more and fill possible research gaps in this field of study as they are expected to arise time after time.

Scope and limitation of the study: The scope of this study is limited to the Cross-River State Nigeria. Where the study on Violent against Women and Girls and the Quest for Sustainable Development in Nigeria was carried out. The Cross-River State is a coastal state located in South-south geopolitical zone of Nigeria; the state is named after the River, which passes through the state. Located in the Niger Delta Region of the country, Cross River State covers about 20,156 square kilometers in land mares. It shared boundaries with Benue State to the north, Ebonyi State and Abia States to the west, and to the east by the Republic of Cameroon and to the south by Akwa-Ibom and the Atlantic Ocean. The study attempts to unravel the impact of violent against women and girls on sustainable development project in Nigeria and also to contribute to the relentless struggle by the EU and UN to eradicate all forms of violent against women in contemporary times. The issue of finance was dare owing to costs related to internet browsing, typing, printing services, binding, telephone calls, photocopying, etc. Time as we already knew is a scarce resources and was also an immense problem to the investigator owing to the normal busy academic timetable as a full time academic staff. However, we overcame this particular problem by increasing our research assistants and managing the little time at our disposal to reach the study population and to study the generated facts qualitatively and quantitatively. We also stumbled upon biased and inaccurate feedback from our study sample either as a result of misinterpretation of the questionnaire, shyness or simple naivety viz a viz the happenings in the society under or even fear of participating in the exercise.

Violent against women and girls: an exploratory review: The concept of VAWAG has been highlighted in this study as any action that leads to or is expected to end in psychological harm, and physical, or sexual suffering to women folks, together with threats, deprivation of liberty, or coercion as a result of gender (WHO, 2002). Such damage or suffering is a function of unequal power relations between the two genders and continues to be shatterproof by the institutionalized

societal values system, the perpetration of customs identifying women as lesser than their male counterpart, widespread illiteracy, poverty, and women's low status in the society (Kapur, 1995). In addition some features of the constitutional, customary, and religious provisions make women susceptible to violence (WHO, 2002 and UNDP, 2005). In 2001 there was a study conducted on the level and impact of VAWAG in Nigeria titled the Project Alert, this study revealed that 64.4% of 45 women interviewed in the work place admitted that they had been beaten by their male partners, could be 'boyfriend or husband' as the case maybe, 56.6% of 48 of market woman interviewed admitted experiencing domestic violence. It has been argued that the federal and state governments were partly responsible for these alarming figures for not doing enough to prevent it but a closer examination revealed that even the victims of this social malaise find it very difficult to report the evil and by implication subjecting millions of women nationwide at the risk of VAWAG. Another study of that nature carried out in Oyo state and indeed other parts of the country, acquiesce with the same conclusion. In another study carried out in South Eastern Nigeria, by Obi and Ozumba (2007), on the factors associated with domestic violence, 70% of the respondents are of the opinion that they have experienced VAWAG in their family and communities with 92% of the respondents representing female folks while the remaining 8% are male folks. In fact there are numerous studies on the pervasiveness, strands and outcomes of bodily, psychological and sexual cruelty against women and girls globally not just in Nigeria, but the Nigeria brand appears to be getting out of hand since it's affecting the national sustainable development plan. A domestic survey study of violent against women in Native American specifically in Oklahoma revealed that 58.7 % of the respondent under study confirmed a lifetime sexual intimate partner violence and physical domestic violent the previous year recorded about 30.1 % of similar incidence, out of which 5.8 % were information of bodily violence, specifically 3.3 % of the respondents under study were forced sexual violent confrontation; and 16.4% were physical wounds, according to Malcoe, (2004). In addition, a national investigation of violent against women and girls, in Brazil establish the fact that the incidence of physical violent against women and girls vary from 13.2% to 34.8% in the whole nation or country (Reichenheim et al. 2006). Also about 17.5% of violence against women and girls studied in Bangladesh, specifically in Matlab, within the same period experienced immense physical or mental aggression from their own spouse in the four months preceding the study period (Ahmed, 2005). The pervasiveness of sexual and or, physical violence against women and girls were 25% in South Africa national survey in 2001 meaning that the incidence of the social evil is fast becoming endemic (Centre for Health and Gender Equity, 1999). Nevertheless, it is here contended that data on the impact of violent against women and girls in Nigeria are very difficult to collect, probably because they are

most of the time so ashamed of themselves after the incidence to report the event to the appropriate authority or that they all experience some tendency to forgive their offenders so easily, the fact is that there are very small number of data on the prevalence and forms of *economic violence*, against women in Nigeria, which may be part of the reason the social evil are not getting a deserved attention in this part of the world. It has been highlighted that a major form of GBV are being experienced by numerous women and girls globally, and a horrible type of VAWAG, at that, particularly in developing states of the global south. Consequently, a serious assessment of this structure of violent against women and girls is obligatory, particularly in developing countries of the global south, that exhibit a very lofty degree of poverty. Since it is evident that endemic poverty situation in any society is the prerequisite for socio-political and economic exploitation which is antithetical to sustainable development.

Violent against women and girls and sustainable development: The challenges of sustainability globally are now understood to recline in the complex interdependencies of environmental, social and economic development (Potter et al., 2004). New believe system has emerged of the linkages between environmental resources, conflict and the threats to environment. Such as economic violence against women and girls coupled with gender inequality. VAWG has hindered a great %age of women from achieving economic autonomy and sustainable livelihood for themselves and those that depend on them for survival (Dernbach, 1998). Primarily, economic violence against women always leads to intensified poverty due to women's weakening access to self-determining means of livelihood which is a big threat to development environment. The understanding of our natural environmental constraints such as violent against women and girls would be in our best interest in the quest for sustainable development. A development minded and actually coherent and efficient government needs a society to consider and protect the environment and development potentials upon which it's present and future development would depend by eradicating all forms of violent against women and girls and institutionalization of gender equality or gender mainstreaming. Any other approach to actualization of sustainable development is self-defeating (Koenig, 2003). The relationship between the social environment and sustainable development consequently present a strong rationale for environmental protection. This intrinsic relationship between the lasting stability of the social environment and the economy of any society is the foundation of sustainable development. Regrettably violent against women and children is desecrating the environment of sustainable development in our own time making it very difficult to create a level playing field for both sex, the worst being deprivation of a quality education to girl child in both rural and urban Nigeria. Thereby establishing a gender based poverty tree for the generation unborn (Porter & Van der Linde1995) It is no

secret that poverty defy the human rights of women and their children by depriving them quality education, housing food, health, political participation and other civic public life, including freedom from gender violence (WHO, 2002). Conventional wisdom has shown that, when women acquire dependable economic means they gain some level of control over themselves and their environment and spend only moderate time working outside the household, which results in their increased ability to bring themselves and their children out of poverty (Abor, 2006; Engle & Patrice, 2000). However economic violent against women tends to lead to a situation of tension and general anxiety due to material concerns, which always degenerate into emotional and physical violence. Violent against women and girls may be triggered off by domestic arguments over maintenance allowance and household tasks. The sense of injustice on the woman's part when the primary responsibility for care of children falls entirely on her normally give rise to complaints and domestic arguments, to which the male partner often responds with violent (Fawole, Aderonmu, & Fawole, 2005). This domestic violent sometimes is extended to the children if not controlled at the initial stage of the misunderstanding. It is sometimes further compounded or complicated when the male partners earn lower wages than the female counterpart, when inflation rates are high, and when the partners are in polygamous unions a situation that occurs in many families in developing countries (UNICEF, 2002).

The end of global poverty and sustainable development can only be attained with the end of violent against women and girls and gender-based discrimination of all types. gender inequality makes and keeps women poor globally, denying them of their basic rights and opportunities for socio-political and economic competition with their male folks. Women offers important assistance every day to the development of the family, from bringing some revenue to her family as career wage earner, to building or establishing jobs as an industrialist, to taking care of her family and communities but economic violence against women results in social inequality and promotes sexual exploitation of girls and young women by older men which discourage the developmental will inherent in women. It also promotes international trafficking in women and girls. Women sometimes willingly, commercialize their bodies as a means of rapid enrichment as a result of VAWAG (Luke, 2003). Scarcity of jobs, the economic pressure of caring for needy offspring who are regularly many in number include the extended family and inadequate financial support from husbands make women vulnerable to sexual pressures and the risk of contracting HIV (Luke, 2003). Women who have witnessed violent are more likely to experience chemical dependency, depression, stress-related syndromes, or even substance abuse, sometimes suicide becomes the only option for other women (Heise *et al.*, 1999). Economic violence against women depletes the economically productive workforce of a nation and by implication the GNI per capita, and it has also been argued

that the atmosphere of fear and social insecurity that are often associated with violent against women and girls reduces productivity and development of the affected country (UNICEF, 2007). It also extended to the literacy level of the victims, by reducing the educational and therefore developmental opportunities of women. The victims of VAWAG educational attainment and opportunities to develop are more often than note compromised as a result of the experience (Mzungu, 1999) some victims usually do not formally enroll in school, while others may drop out of school as a result of stigma. All these are inimical to sustainable development in any society.

Violent against women and girl child education in Nigeria: Knowledge is recognized to be the *sene qua non* for sustainable development in any society .but its acquisition has continue to be a mirage to most girl child in Nigeria particularly in the north. It is an axiom that girls child is historically underprivileged in education with violence against women and girls and other swarming related social tribulations as obstacles that continued challenging the constitutional right of women and girl child to acquire education just like their male counterpart. Over and over again, the girl child aspirations, dreams, and expectation of life are frequently put on hold as a consequence of VAWAG, which often lead to arrested ambition, disappointed expectations, disenchantment, and most of the time hopelessness depending on their stress levels. Even the family circle that is seen as a significant social element has not facilitated issues but has over and over again worked in opposition to her fundamental human rights. In most developing countries the girl child might has admirable childhood dreams and goals that she intend to accomplish in life but will always put it on hold as she end up victims of forced marriages, owing to selfish expectation from the parent or simply exorbitant bride price on her head irrespective of how feels about it. Girl child in this neck of the wood is almost accustomed to frustrated dreams and in some cases untimely death owing to her arrested development in place she call her home. Some sort of VAWAG also influences this vulnerable group to economic mistreatment or exploitations, dehumanization of many types, socio-economic oppression and the worst of all sex slavery. These vulnerable girls in most cases end up end up in petty trading just to supplement family meager earnings while their male counterparts are in school. Studies have revealed that 63 % of girl child and women are uneducated compared to 41% of men globally, also about 10 % of global uneducated women are Nigeria citizens. And about 18% of Nigeria children between the ages of 15 and 19 years have children, while two out of three of this children who cannot read and right are women in the northern Nigeria (UNICEF, 2010). Some of the major problems arising from violent against women and girls *viz a viz* the girl child education can be reducible under the following sub themes; Violence against women and girls is a social quandary that negatively affect the girl child

education in Nigeria, violence against women and girls does not just reduce their enrolment in primary and secondary school it also affect their class attendance. This is for the reason that the domestic circumstance upon which the girls child often find themselves has continue to present different hindrance that encumber their active participation in education. Consequently, it has become a social dictum in some quarter of Nigeria socio-economic formation that enrolling a girl child or young women into formal schooling is a misuse of resources and time because they will get married sooner than later and take all the education to another family. To substantiate the above postulate, it is evident that some cultural encumbrances such as forced marriage, sexual harassment and embarrassment, inheritance law, unwanted pregnancy and other multiplicities of household tasks tend to circumvent the attendance and enrolment of girls and young women in primary and secondary schools. Studies has revealed that the %age of boy child enrolment into primary and secondary school Statistics has consistently continued to be higher than that of their girl child counterpart, and even in the minute number of girl child who finally made it to primary school in Nigeria only about 43% of them would finally got enrolled into secondary education (UNICEF,2003). Apart from the above exposition VAWAGs has other severe connotation to the wome and girl child education prospects, like resulting in the girls increased absenteeism in school classes, for those that were lucky to be enrolled, it is recorded that 6% of girl child enrolled in school are always absent in school classes due to physical violence and other relate domestic quandary (UNICEF, 2010). In another study carried out in the northern Nigeria it is revealed that girl child 7% more than boys were always absent from their school classes as a result of domestic violent or VAWAG, this non-attendance in school classes by the girl child in the northern Nigeria often lead to school dropout (Umarnah, 2005). Some scholars are of the opinion that the level at which the girl child and young women are dropping out of both primary and secondary institutions in Nigeria is crossing the red line, others chose frightening and alarming to describe the situation, but they all blame violent against women and girls as the main reason for the social dislocation (Umarnah 2005). Studies has also revealed that the tempo at which the primary and secondary school dropout rise in Nigeria in more among the girl child and young women as a result of unwanted pregnancy and sometimes forced marriage (Amannachukwu, 1978). There is no doubt that when the girl child and young women acquire knowledge and skills in their early stage of development through formal education, they will be equipped in their adulthood to contribute their quota in the quest for sustainable development in the society concerned. In addition the girl child acquisition of knowledge through formal education will go a long way in helping her understand reproductive health and the opportunity to apply or administer family planning when the need arises, this measure will definitely control her birth rate and minimize it

to the number or level with which she or they can handle. Accordingly in the Jayinka, (2010) study about girl child opportunities in a changing world, she contend that a woman's inability to write or read automatically exposes her to the dangers of drug abuse and other related social hazards. Her lack of knowledge viz a viz the healthy living measures and habits to protect herself against avoidable diseases will affect her welfare negatively, including her immediate family and the society at large. The girl child education help her to understand her civil right and responsibility which will protect her from gender violent such as economic exploitation and forced marriage thereby reducing her vulnerability in the wider society. When a woman acquires good education a she can stand against such practices that reduce womanhood to object of exploitation.

Theoretical framework: In this study the Relative Deprivation Theory was employed in the analysis of VAWAGs and the quests for sustainable development in Nigeria. The theory has been extensively applied in social psychology and other social sciences discipline for more than a century. This popularity reflects the relative derivation usefulness for explaining many absurdities. The theory has offered a number of important insights into researchers understanding of social attitudes (Pettigrew 2002). The concept of relative deprivation was coined by researchers who were studying the satisfaction levels of American soldiers during the Second World War (Stouffer *et al.* 1949). Relative deprivation theory has been successfully applied to a variety of social-psychological domains including collective action (Gurr, 1970 & Devies (1982), and the dynamic of inter-group hostility and prejudices (Klink and Mielke 1999). Relative deprivation theory also has been identified as being a strong and vigorous forecaster of inter-group attitudes in a variety of countries including the United States, India, South Africa and Western Europe, (Dambrun and Guimond ,2010). The Major assumption or tenets of relative deprivation theory is that a person's or group's satisfaction is not related to their objective circumstances but rather to their condition relative to other persons or groups. This implies, for example that objectively disadvantaged people may feel less deprived than the objectively advantaged people because of the chosen target for their social comparisons. In terms of gender discrimination to socio-political realities, relative deprivation theory is of the opinion that unfavorable comparisons (the cognitive component of relative deprivation) can generate feeling of deprivation (the affective component of relative deprivation) that motivates out-group hostility, grant and Brown (1999). The relative deprivation framework suggests that negative attitude towards sustainable development by women and girls in Nigeria maybe the result of perceived relative deprivation by their male counterpart through gender based violent. However, a recent experiment suggests the possibility of a more complex relationship between women perception of their circumstances and negative attitude towards sustainable development.

The application of the theory: Relative Deprivation theory involves a threatening feeling brought about by perception of inequality in the form of negative comparison between the men and their women folks (Crosby 1978). The theory implies that the existing violent against women and girls viz a viz the problems of sustainable development became more apparent when the women and girls compare their existing stake in the general socio-political and economic process in the country with what is obtainable in other part of the world, it also predict that if the present trend is not reversed it will lead sooner or later to civil unrest and complete anarchy in the society. This is because group based relative deprivation theory has two basic assumptions (Stouffer, 1949). First people, asses the condition of their group based on subjective, as opposed to objective target of comparison, if the chosen target of comparison is not in their favour, they will feel dissatisfied. The second assumption is that the target of comparison is context-dependent and studies reveal that targets of comparison in situation of dramatic gender based violent will be different from those used in less dramatic circumstances

Research methodology: In the previous section, we did a review of the related literature in which a considerable number of related works on violent against women and girls were reviewed so as to examine what other interested scholars and related authorities have written about VAWAG in Nigeria and other part of the world. In this part of the study we intend to present the methodological steps taken in congregating the relevant data for this study, the methods employed in analysis and drawing of meaningful conclusions based on the research findings These steps are as follow; the research design, sources of data collection, and population of the study, sample and sampling technique, description of research instruments, data analysis technique, and the decision rule.

Research design: The research design employed in this study is the survey research design, the survey design is that type of research design which is arrived at determining the nature of a situation, as they exist at the time of investigation. It is preferred for this study because it concerned itself with determining and establishing the status-quo, facts or piece of information at the time of the study, and moves ahead to present such piece of information as they are and going further to analyze the data and draw inferences based on the research hypotheses and data drawn from the population of the study which in this case is the Cross-River State Nigeria.

Sources and method of data collection: The method of data collection used for this study is self-report technique. This is a process whereby the researcher administered questionnaires to the selected sample extracted from the study population. According to Legee and Francis (1974, 193) "in this strategy, the investigator will presented the subjects with a question designed to stimulate response about the research issue. Therefore, the data for this study was elicited from the sample drawn from the local governments selected from the three

senatorial zones in Cross-River State. The Likert style questionnaire scaling was adopted with different weight for each of the options, ranging from strongly agreed (SA) = 5, Agreed (A) = 4, undecided (u) = 3, Disagreed (d) = 2, and strongly disagreed (SD) = 1. With this system each question has five options which are graduated above to allow respondents the freedom to choose among other alternative answers provided.

The study population: The population for this study is the entire households in the local governments selected from the three senatorial zones in Cross-River State Nigeria namely: Obanliku Local Government Area from Cross River North Senatorial District totaling 110,324 as at 2006 national population census., Obubra Local Government Area, from Cross River Central Senatorial District with population of 172,444 as at the 2006 national population census and Akpabuyo Local Government Area from Cross River South Senatorial District with 271,395 population as at the 2006 national population census. The study therefore has a combined population of 554,163 people as at 2006, according to the Nigeria Population Commission (NPC, 2006),

Sampling technique: Given that the projected number of the population under study was estimated at approximately 554163 as at 2006. With an annual growth of 3% Tadora (2000), the projected population based on the 2006 population census of 554163 will be 753651 in 2018. Then given an average household size of 5 members, the projected number of households under study is estimated at approximately 150730. However, in obtaining an optimal sample size this study used the Taro Yamane (1967) specification as cited in Israel (1992) given as:

$$n = \frac{N}{(1 + N(e)^2)}$$

Where n = the sample size to be estimated

N = the population size (Households) and

e = the error margin

Allowing for an error margin of e = 0.05 or e = 5% or 95% confidence level, we obtained the desired optimum sample size as;

$$n = \frac{150730}{(1 + 150730)(0.05)^2} = \frac{150730}{150730(0.0025)}$$

$$7.733$$

$$n = 399.99,$$

Households selected from three senatorial zones in Cross River State. However, the figure was then approximated to 400 questionnaires which were sent to both rural and urban households in the selected local government in Cross-River State. Although out of the 400 questionnaires that was administered only 359 was returned, still from the 359 questionnaires that was returned nine questionnaires was rejected because they were not properly completed by the respondents. Therefore a total of 350 questionnaires were properly completed and used for this study. Stratified and

random sampling techniques were employed as already highlighted during the data collection stage. The stratified sampling technique was used for the study because the population has different strata and then the simple random sampling was applied after the population has been divided into homogenous groups. Both techniques were drawn from the probability (random) sampling method.

Reliability of the measuring instrument: The study employed the test-retest technique in order to attain the reliability of the measuring instruments for this enquiry. In doing this, the researcher made sure that the same questionnaire were administered to a selected group of the sample selected from the study population on one occasion and after twelve days, administered the same questionnaire items to the same sample in order to determine the degree of the correlation between the two sets of scores obtained from the sample. The study also made use of the Spearman's ranking correlation coefficient denoted as r^1 to determine the strength of the relationship, the formula for the Spearman's ranking is stated below as follow;

$$r^1 = 1 - \frac{n(n^2-1)}{6d^2}$$

Where:

d = difference between any pair of rank; and

n = the number of data pairs

The closer the value of the r^1 to 1, the higher is the reliability of the measuring instrument, and vice-versa. The researcher conducted the same type of test to the same group of employees at two different occasions. The test was conducted among a group of 350 respondent from the selected local governments under study, and the difference obtained from the two sets of test was 320. By substituting into the formula, we have:

$$r^1 = \frac{2(350^2 - 1)}{1-6(320)^2}$$

$$r^1 = 0.35$$

Since the correlation coefficient is 0.35, it suggests that there is significant agreement between the two sets of test administered to the sample. Therefore, we resolved that the measuring instrument is reliable and can be used for this study.

Data analysis: Preliminarily, the types of data collected in statistical enquiry decide or determines the statistical tool to be employed in the arrangement and subsequent analysis. In this particular study, the data collected were presented in frequency tables. The responses from the respondents were expressed in %ages in relation to the number of respondents. Specifically, all the questionnaire items that were designed with a view to pursuing the achievement of the research objectives were analyzed in this way. In this study, the tow hypotheses generated from the research question were tested with Chi- square test and the Karl Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient, the formulae for the chi-square test employed in this study is;

$$x^2 = (fo - fe)^2 \quad (\text{for each cell})$$

Where X^2	fe
fo	= Chi-square
fe	= Observed frequency
	= Expect frequency

While the formula for the Karl Parsons Product Moment Correlation Coefficient (the Raw Score) is stated as;

$$r = \frac{N \sum XY - (\sum X)(\sum Y)}{\sqrt{n(\sum X^2) - (\sum X)^2} \sqrt{n(\sum Y^2) - (\sum Y)^2}}$$

Keys

S. A = Strongly Agreed

A = Agreed

D = Disagree

S. D. = Strongly Disagree

U. = Undecided

The expected frequency was as shown in parenthesis

R = Row total

C = Column total

T = Grand total

Decision rule:

The decision rule is stated accordingly thus: Reject the H_0 if calculated value is greater than the critical value of both statistical tools that is used at 5% level of significance. Do not reject H_0 , if the critical value of 5% level of significance is greater.

Method of data presentation and analysis: The data generate for this study are presented in tables and the method of data analysis used in this study is quantitative method. Therefore the two hypotheses formulated were tested with the use of Chi Square test and the Karl Pearson's product moment correlation co-efficient. The test statistic was also employed to test the significance of the correlation.

Data presentation:

The socio-economic character of the respondents in the selected Local Government in Cross-River State Nigeria: The character of the respondent treated here are those that is believed by the researcher to have bearing with the subject matter of gender injustice in the study area (table 1).

Source: field study: The above table show that the majority of the respondents from the selected local government area in Cross River State fall between the age of 31 and 60 years and constitute 81.4% of the total respondents under study sample therefore the majority of the respondents are middle-age people. This distribution has two implications on the theme of this study (violent against women and girls) in Nigeria which is the focus of this study. The point is that while the distribution still ranks the entire respondent on average at their economically active age, it also shows that they are still at their sexual active age. In the first reason cited, the

Table 1: Age distribution of respondents (households)

Age group of households in Heads years	Male frequency	Female frequency	Total	%age distribution
Less than or equal 30	15	20	35	10%
31-40	16	74	90	25.7%
41-50	30	90	120	34.3%
51-60	25	50	75	21.4%
Greater than 60	9	21	30	8.6%
Total	95	255	350	100%

ability of families to go about their daily activities in order to earn income with which they cater for their family basic needs is enhanced, thus these can result to their vulnerability to VAWAG. Alternatively, the fact that most are still responsible for their family's basic need implies that they may not be equipped to resist the social quandary (table 2).

Table 2: Distribution of respondents by household size

Household size	Male frequency	Female frequency	Total frequency	%age distribution
5-10	85	15	100	28.6%
11-16	100	20	120	34.3%
17-22	83	7	90	25.7%
Greater than 23	32	8	40	11.4%
Total	300	50	350	100%

Source: field study

The household size of the respondent ranged between 5-22 for both male and female household heads. However the average family size of the respondents is five (5). It is assumed that the impact of large family size is such that it reduces the per-capita expenditure of the family thereby aggravating the possibilities of sexual exploitation in that household. The distribution of household size is shown in the table 2 above. About 62.9% of the household under study fall between household size 5-10 and 11-16 even household size is assumed to reduce per-capita expenditure it can also enhance it. But then we shall find out its impact on violent against women and girls on the population under study after the analysis of our data.

Source: field study: Table three (3) above portray the occupational distribution of the respondents under study, though, some are educated, it is shown from the study that about 31.4% are farmers, while about 54.4% are either civil servants or traders in their local markets. Only about 11.4% of the respondents are unemployed with males accounting for 44.3% and female accounting for 55.7% respectively, also

highlighting the degree of economic violent against women and girls in the study area.

Table 3: Occupational distribution of respondent

Occupation	Male frequency	Female frequency	Total frequency	%age distribution
Civil servant	60	20	80	22.9%
Farming	85	25	110	31.4%
Trading	40	80	120	34.3%
Unemployed	10	30	40	11.4%
Total	195	155	350	100%

Date snalysis: The analysis of data and findings shall be presented under two main headings.

- Test of hypothesis formulated and discussion of findings
- Discussion of findings based on the research questions generated earlier.

Test of hypothesis one

H₁: There is a positive correlation between violent against women and girls VAWAG and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State Nigeria

H₀: There is a negative correlation between violent against women and girls VAWAG and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State Nigeria

Karl Pearson product moment correlation was employed to test the significance of the response from the questionnaires (respondents). However, in Pearson's product moment correlation which is employed to test the hypothesis stated above, two statistical strategies or methods are available for the computation of **r**, they are;

- Use of mean
- Raw score formula

For easier comprehension of the methods, the "raw score formula" was used in the computation of the data obtained for this study Using the below Karl.

	X	Y	XY	X ²	Y ²
SA	120	115	13800	14400	13225
A	90	95	8550	8100	9025
U	75	80	6000	5625	6400
D	30	40	1200	900	1600
SD	35	20	700	1225	400
TOTAL	350	350	30250	30250	30650

Pearson's product moment correlation formula (the Raw Score) which is given as:

$$r = \frac{N \sum XY - (\sum X)(\sum Y)}{\sqrt{n(\sum X^2) - (\sum X)^2} \sqrt{n(\sum Y^2) - (\sum Y)^2}} \quad \text{we}$$

compute:

$$r = \frac{5x30250 - (350)(350)}{5x30250 - (350)^2 \sqrt{5x30650 - (350)^2}}$$

$$r = \frac{151250 - 122500}{\sqrt{151250 - 122500} \sqrt{153250 - 122500}}$$

$$r = \frac{28750}{\sqrt{2875} \sqrt{30750}} \quad r = \frac{2875}{169.56 \times 175.36} \quad r = \frac{2875}{29734.04}$$

$$r = 0.967$$

The above result shows almost a perfect correlation between violent against women and girls VAWAG and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State Nigeria. Let us now examine the strength of the correlation by converting the r value (0.967) to t scores. In this study the method used in testing the significance of the correlation Coefficient is the modified student t test. Using the formula below;

$$t = r \sqrt{\frac{n-2}{1-r^2}} \quad \text{we compute } t = 0.967 \sqrt{\frac{\sqrt{5-2}}{1-(0.967)^2}}$$

$$t = 0.967 \frac{\sqrt{3}}{1-0.935} \quad t = 0.967 \frac{\sqrt{3}}{0.065} \quad r = \sqrt{46.15}$$

$$t = 0.967 \times 6.79 \quad : t = 6.57$$

Where n is the number of observation $n - 2$ is the degree of freedom, r is the correlation coefficient and the critical value of t for 0.05 and 3 degree of freedom is **3.182**.

Decision rule: The tabulated value of 0.05 at 3 degree of freedom is 3.182 consequently the computed value is greater than the tabulated value ie ($6.57 > 3.182$). Meaning that we shall reject the H_0 and accept H_1 which states that, there is positive correlation between violent against women and girls VAWAG and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State Nigeria.

Table 4: The distribution of respondent's opinions as to whether the recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria?

Question	S.A	A	D	S.D	U	Total
8 The girl child is another's property and should not be trained like her male counterpart	301 (1.77) 92.33%	18 (10.29) 5.52%	7 (0.66) 2.15%	0 (0) 0%	0 (0) 0%	326 100%
9 The girl child office is in the kitchen; therefore money should not be wasted on her education.	273 (0.12) 83.74%	42 (0.49) 12.88%	11 (0.24) 3.37%	0 (0) 0%	0 (0) 0%	326 100%
10 Traditionally a women is a man's property and therefore should be submissive to whatever the man decides negative or positive	256 (1.86) 78.53%	58 (10.93) 17.79%	12 (0.66) 3.68%	0 (0) 0%	0 (0) 0%	326 100%
11 The traditional perception of a woman's position in the family is implicated in their low enrolment into primary and secondary schools in Nig..	284 (0.10) 87.12%	33 (0.59) 10.12%	9 (0.03) 2.76%	0 (0) 0%	0 (0) 0%	326 100%
12 Women are the traditional keeper of the house and should not be allowed to move around at will.	291 (0.53) 89.26%	30 (1.57) 9.20%	5 (2.13) 1.53%	0 (0) 0%	0 (0) 0%	326 100%
13 Keeping women and girl at home while their male counterparts are in school is not injustice but the right thing to do	268 (0.42) 82.21%	45 (1.41) 13.80%	13 (1.29) 3.99%	0 (0) 0%	0 (0) 0%	326 100%

Sources: 2008 field survey.

The table 4 above illustrates the reactions of our respondents and their chi-square computations. From the disposition above, as many as 92.33% of the total respondents strongly agreed that the girl child is another's property and should not be trained like her male counterpart. about 18 respondents which is 5.52% of the population sample agreed; 7 or 2.15% disagreed; while none strongly disagreed or undecided on the issue in focus. On the contention that the girl child final office is in the kitchen; and that money should not be wasted on her education. 273 of the respondents that equal 83.74% of the total respondents strongly agreed, 12.88% of the respondents agreed, and 3.37% disagreed on the postulate, while none of the respondents strongly disagreed or undecided. out the total respondents, 78.53% strongly agreed that Traditionally a women is a man's property and therefore should be submissive to whatever the man decides negative or positive; 17.79% of the respondents agreed 3.68% disagreed; while none of the respondents strongly disagreed or undecided. 89.26% of the total respondents strongly agreed, 9.20% disagreed, and 1.53% disagreed while none of the respondents strongly disagreed or undecided on the issue relating to the fact the traditional perception of a woman's position in the family is implicated in their low enrolment into primary and secondary schools in Nigeria. in conclusion, 82.21% of the total respondents strongly agreed that Women are the traditional keeper of the house and should not be allowed to move around at will.,,13.80% agreed to the dictum, 3.99% disagreed; while none of the respondents strongly disagreed or undecided accordingly about the augment.

Conclusion: There is positive correlation between violent against women and girls VAWAG and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State Nigeria.

Solution Expected Frequency = RT/C

- (1) S. A. Strongly Disagreed = $1673 \times 326 / 1956$
- (2) A. (Agreed) = $226 \times 326 / 1956$
- (3) D. (Disagreed) $57 \times 326 / 1956 = 9.5$
- (4) S. D. (Strongly Disagreed) = $0 \times 326 / 1956 = 0$
- (5) U (Undecided) = $0 \times 326 / 1956 = 0$

1956

Test of hypothesis two, related to table 4: The recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria

H₁: The recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria

H₀: The recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG is not implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria

Level of freedom adopted or =

chosen 0.05

Degree of = (6-1) (5

freedom -1)

5 x =

4 20

Note: For the application of chi-square test to table 4 see table 5

Table 5: Calculation of X² test on data of table 4. (Hi:2) which states that The recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria

fo	fe	fo-fe	(fo-fe) ²	(fo-fe) ² /fe
301	278.8	22.2	492.8	1.77
273	278.8	5.8	33.6	0.12
256	278.8	22.8	519.8	1.86
284	278.8	5.2	27.0	0.10
291	278.8	12.2	148.8	0.53
268	278.8	10.8	116.6	0.42
18	37.7	19.7	388.1	10.29
42	37.7	4.3	18.5	0.49
58	37.7	20.3	412.1	10.93
33	37.7	4.7	22.1	0.59
30	37.7	7.7	59.3	1.57
45	37.7	7.3	53.3	1.41
7	9.5	2.5	6.3	0.66
11	9.5	1.5	2.3	0.24
12	9.5	2.5	6.3	0.66
9	9.5	0.5	0.3	0.03
5	9.5	4.5	20.3	2.13
13	9.5	3.5	12.3	1.29
			Total	35.09

$X^2 = 35.09$

From chi-square table distribution, we (0.05, 20) 31.41

Decision Rule: Reject H_0 (Null) hypothesis if calculated X^2 value is greater than critical X^2 value at (0.05, 20) = 31.41, and

accept H_1 (alternative) hypothesis if otherwise.

Decision: In the calculated X^2 value above we (35.09) which is greater than the critical X^2 value (31.41), Meaning that we shall reject the H_0 and accept H_1 which states which stated The recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria

Conclusion

The recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria

SUMMARY, CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

This part of the study brought the exercise to a logical end and presented the findings in the following order; summary conclusions, and recommendations based on the findings of this study entitled 'Violent Against Women and Girls and the Quest for Sustainable Development in Nigeria: A Study of Cross-River State Nigeria. From the analysis of the data collected from the selected local governments areas in the three senatorial district in Cross-River State Nigeria namely; Obanliku, Obubra and Akpabuyo LGA, it was observed that the respondents' opinion clearly indicated that there is positive correlation between violent against women and girls VAWAG and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State Nigeria. The above result is further supported by the participants' oral interview responses with 72.40% of those interviewed contending that there is positive correlation between violent against women and girls VAWAG and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State Nigeria. To confirm this findings above, the Karl Pearson's Product Moment Correlation Coefficient with the modified students t test was employed to test the significant of the correlation at 5% level of significance and 3 degree of freedom = 3.182. However since our tabulated value of 0.05 at 3 degree of freedom is 3.182, the computed value is greater than the tabulated value ie. (6.57 > 3.82). We therefore reject the H_0 and accept the H_1 which states that, there is a positive correlation between violent against women and girls VAWAG and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State Nigeria.

From the analysis of data collected from the researcher's field survey related to table four hypothesis two, it was revealed that the recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria. Again substantiate the above postulate, the chi-square test was employed to test the hypothesis at 5% level of significance and the computed chi-square test value was 35.09. The oral interview conducted with the respondents also supported the idea with 72.09% of the respondents contending that the recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria. However, based on our arithmetical investigation, since the calculated X^2 value (35.09) as stated above is greater than the critical X^2

value (31.41), we reject H_0 (Null) hypothesis and accept H_1 (alternative) hypothesis which stated that the recurrent violent against women and girls VAWAG is implicated in the low girl child enrolment into secondary and tertiary institutions in Cross-River State Nigeria.

In table 4, the questions that generated these responses were designed to determine or find out whether a moderate employees turnover in the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike MOUAU can enhance the organizational performance. In the analysis, the respondents' opinion based on the cumulative mean of 2.2450 indicated that a moderate employees turnover in the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike MOUAU can enhance the organizational performance. The respondents were of the view that when the employees are handled with care, are asked questions as to what they think about a particular job issue, placed in a serene job environment employees retention rate. To verify this assertion, chi-square test was used to test the hypothesis at 5% level of significance and the computed chi-square test value was 56.96. Therefore Since the calculated X^2 value (56.96) is greater than the critical X^2 value (41.3), we reject the H_0 (Null) hypothesis and accept the H_1 (alternative) hypothesis which stated that a moderate employees turnover in the Michael Okpara University of Agriculture Umudike MOUAU can enhance the organizational performance. **Violent Against Women and Girls and the Quest for Sustainable Development in Nigeria: A Study of Cross-River State Nigeria**

CONCLUSION: The major objective of this study was to evaluate the impact of Violent against Women and Girls on the Quest for Sustainable Development in Nigeria' Data were collected from the selected local governments in the three senatorial districts in Cross-River State Nigeria and analyzed with quantitative statistical tools. The study revealed the following based on the purpose of the study; that There is positive correlation between violent against women and girls VAWAG and the prevalent problems of sustainable development in Cross-River State Nigeria, that a sustainable development can only be achieved in Nigeria when all the strands of violent against women and girls has been completely eradicated and put in its place in history. From the analysis of the data collected for this study and the key debates in our reviewed literatures of development thinking and environmentalism it is now understandable that the sources of persistent problems vis-à-vis sustainable development in Nigeria both in theory and practice is located in the institutionalize system of deprivation of women and girls from equitable participation in the development planning through gender injustice, gender based violent and, or violent against women and girls that has discouraged many from pursuing their education.

In [Jayinka, \(2010\)](#), perception, a woman's inability to read and write automatically excludes her from participating in so many socio-political and economic issues that can make her life worth living. And by implication from contributing her quota in the quest for sustainable development in Nigeria, in

addition, her ignorance of healthy living habits that is easily acquired through education exposes her to various illnesses that would have been averted if all things are equal. These maladies not just affect her welfare and her family alone, it also affect the society in general. Education helps the girl child to know her right which will make her become less vulnerable to exploitation of any sort, particular economic violent.

Recommendation This study strives to ascertain the impact of gender based violent on sustainable development plan in Nigeria. And from the analysis of the data collected and the key debates in the reviewed literatures on development thinking and environmentalism it has been revealed that the sources of persistent problems concerning sustainable development in Nigeria both in theory and practice is located in the institutionalize system of violent against women and girls VAWAG. To put this social malady in check this study suggest or recommends that women's economic right should be improved, but to do that requires a long-term plan designed to counter the existing social order, or structures as the case maybe. Though, the complicated nature of economic violent against women and girls requires the participation of government and other concerned stakeholders within and outside the country. It is here recommended that different approach is required for the diverse cultural contexts in which various violent against women and girls frequently occurs in Nigeria not just in Cross-River State, and a combination of strategies is necessary in the struggle to achieve lasting solutions to VAWAG in Nigeria. This study recommend that this strategies or plan of action will among other things involve raising public awareness and attracting media attention to the issue of VAWAG, and also applying pressure on the society through actions such as demonstration or initiating lawsuits against anybody that is found wanting, and pushing for changes through diplomatic and political means. An actions plan should be embarked upon to promote women empowerment and autonomy.

This empowerment and autonomy will comprise the enhancement of their political, social and economic status. It is believed that this will help women and girls to be financially independent and persuade them to take their stands against their male counterpart when necessary. Both the government and other stakeholders such the non-governmental organizations should be prepared to get involved in this struggle for environmental sanitation, order wise called the promotion and protection of the rights of women and girls in Nigeria. A strong awareness should be created about the impact of violence against women and girls on the sustainable development through televisions, radio, social media and other advocacy campaigns, posters, handbills, etc. Establishing a national plan is imperative in this struggle to promote effective sustainable responses from the masses.

The preparation for tackling this malady must feature coordinating technique at all level, starting from the local, national, and international sphere, to facilitate partnership and teamwork involving the diverse division and

stakeholders. It should also strive to consist of vital requisites such as reform and review of present legislations on the gender issues and guiding principle such as education laws, the existing employment and electoral policy, including recompense for women and girls who have experience such despicable act. It is only when social obligations and rights in every sphere of human existence, including opportunities are shared among men and women that sustainable development can be said to have been achieved in that society. This implies equally allocation in the authoritative allotment of influence and power, as well as having equivalent prospect for financial self-determination, education and realization of personal aspiration.

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