




GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN KWARA STATE, NIGERIA: A QUALITATIVE ANALYSIS

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ABSTRACT. This study investigates the causes, consequences, and preventive measures of gender-based violence (GBV) in Kwara State, guided by three research objectives addressed through a qualitative approach. The participants consisted of ten university lecturers from diverse fields in Ilorin, Kwara State, who were purposively selected. Semi-structured interviews were conducted, and the data were analyzed using thematic analysis. The study found that the causes of GBV are complex and deeply rooted in cultural, social, economic, and political factors. The consequences affect individuals, families, and the broader community on multiple levels. To combat this pervasive issue, the study proposes a comprehensive set of localized preventive measures. These include community engagement, strengthening legal frameworks, economically empowering women, creating support systems, integrating GBV responses into healthcare services, educational initiatives, cultural reform, and ensuring adequate resource allocation by local governments.

Keywords: Gender; Violence; GBV; Students

INTRODUCTION

Gender-based violence (GBV) is a pervasive and deeply rooted issue that manifests in various forms, impacting individuals based on their gender. It encompasses a range of harmful behaviors, including physical, sexual, emotional, and psychological abuse, which seems to disproportionately affect women and girls, although men and boys can also be victims. The roots of GBV lie in historical and systemic gender inequalities, cultural norms, and societal structures that perpetuate power imbalances and discrimination (Djamba & Kimuna, 2015).

One of the most common forms of GBV is intimate partner violence (IPV), which includes physical assault, sexual coercion, and psychological abuse within a romantic relationship. Hattery and Smith (2019) attested that IPV often stems from patriarchal norms that normalize male dominance and control over women. Victims of IPV may experience severe physical injuries, emotional trauma, and long-term psychological effects, including depression and anxiety. Lundgren and Amin (2015) opined that the fear of stigma and retribution often prevents victims from seeking help, perpetuating the cycle of abuse.

Sexual violence is another prevalent form of GBV, including rape, sexual harassment, and human trafficking for sexual exploitation (Heidari & Moreno, 2016). Sexual violence can occur in various

settings, such as homes, workplaces, educational institutions, and public spaces. John et al. (2020) stated the impact of sexual violence on survivors is profound, leading to physical injuries, mental health issues, and social ostracization. Emotional and psychological abuse, though less visible, are equally damaging forms of GBV. This type of violence includes verbal abuse, threats, manipulation, and controlling behaviors that undermine an individual's sense of self-worth and autonomy (Sanjel, 2013). Cooper et al. (2013) stated that victims of emotional abuse may suffer from low self-esteem, chronic stress, and mental health disorders. According to Mittal and Singh (2020), GBV also intersects with other forms of discrimination and violence, such as racial and ethnic discrimination and economic exploitation. Badri (2014) asserted that women and girls from marginalized communities often face compounded risks and barriers to justice and support this is in alignment with the feminist framework.

Feminist Theory: Feminist theory offers a robust framework for understanding and addressing GBV by foregrounding the impact of patriarchal structures and gender inequalities (Gross, 2013). Feminist theory centers on key concepts such as sex, gender, race, discrimination, equality, difference, and choice (see Figure 1). Various systems and structures often act against individuals based on these characteristics and undermine equality and equity (Grant, 2013).

Research within critical paradigms is grounded in the conviction that examining these conditions within the current social order can uncover underlying truths (Gunew, 2013). Moreover, this examination is crucial for raising awareness of oppressive systems and fostering environments where diverse voices can express themselves authentically.

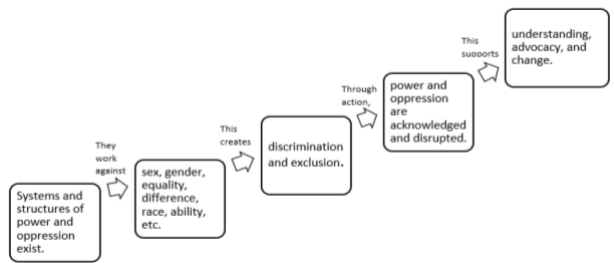


Figure 1. Jo Ann Arinder Model of Feminist Theory (Source; <https://opentext.wsu.edu/theoreticalmodelsforteachingandresearch/chapter/feminist-theory/>)

In Kwara State, entrenched patriarchal norms and cultural practices significantly contribute to the prevalence of GBV, manifesting in various forms such as domestic violence, sexual assault, forced marriages, and female genital mutilation. According to Allen (2018), feminist theory posits that these forms of violence are not isolated incidents but are deeply rooted in the systemic subordination of women and other marginalized genders, perpetuated by social, economic, and political institutions.

In Ilorin, Kwara State, the influence of patriarchal values is pervasive, dictating gender roles and expectations that place women in subordinate positions (Alabi, 2020). Feminist theory helps to elucidate how these norms are reinforced through traditional and religious practices, which often justify male dominance and female obedience. For example, the practice of early and forced marriages is prevalent, often justified by cultural and religious beliefs in Kwara (Okunlola et al., 2015). Feminist theory critiques these practices as mechanisms that control female sexuality and autonomy, thereby perpetuating gender inequality and violence (Rabinowitz & Richlin, 2014). By highlighting the intersection of cultural norms and patriarchal power, Grant (2013) attested that feminist theory underscores the need for challenging and transforming these deeply rooted beliefs to combat GBV effectively.

Moreover, feminist theory emphasizes the importance of economic empowerment and political representation for women as essential components in addressing GBV. In Kwara State, women's economic dependency on men and limited access to education and employment opportunities exacerbate their vulnerability to violence (Nwokefor, 2020). Feminist perspectives advocate for policies and

interventions that promote women's economic independence and participation in decision-making processes (Ferguson, 2017). By doing so, Nye (2013) argued that these interventions aim to dismantle the power imbalances that underpin GBV. For instance, providing educational scholarships for girls, vocational training for women, and ensuring women's representation in local governance can create a more equitable society where women are less susceptible to violence.

Another critical aspect of feminist theory is its focus on the role of legal and institutional frameworks. Feminist critiques often point out the inadequacies and biases within legal systems that fail to protect women and hold perpetrators accountable (Hennessy, 2012). In Kwara State, legal responses to GBV are frequently hindered by corruption, lack of enforcement, and societal attitudes that blame victims and exonerate perpetrators (Zakariyah et al., 2021). Feminist theory advocates for comprehensive legal reforms that ensure justice for survivors and establish preventative measures (Fineman, 2013). This includes the implementation of laws that criminalize all forms of GBV, training law enforcement officials on gender sensitivity, and providing accessible support services for survivors.

Furthermore, Belknap and Grant (2020) stated that feminist theory underscores the importance of community-based approaches and grassroots activism in combating GBV. Local women's organizations and activists play a crucial role in raising awareness, providing support to survivors, and advocating for policy changes. Feminist theory supports these efforts by emphasizing solidarity, collective action, and the empowerment of women at the community level (Ganote & Longo, 2015). By fostering a sense of agency and resistance among women, these grassroots movements challenge the normalization of violence and advocate for a cultural shift towards gender equality.

Statement of the Problem

GBV remains a pervasive and critical issue in Nigeria, profoundly impacting the lives of women and marginalized genders (Uzoigwe & Anuforo, 2023; Oni-Ojo et al., 2014; Okon & Odey, 2024). Despite various efforts at national and international levels to combat GBV, Kwara State continues to witness high incidences of domestic violence, sexual assault, forced marriages, and other forms of violence against women (Olaitan, 2019; Saadu et al., 2022). These acts of violence seem to be deeply embedded in cultural, religious, and socio-economic structures that perpetuate gender inequality and male dominance.

The prevalence of GBV in Kwara State is seemingly compounded by several factors, including entrenched patriarchal norms, economic

dependency, lack of education, and inadequate legal protections for victims as put forward by Hammed et al. (2023) and Zakariyah et al. (2021). Traditional and religious practices often justify and sustain gender disparities, while economic hardships and limited opportunities for women exacerbate their vulnerability to violence. To further exacerbate the issue, Sulyman and Elizabeth (2023) study suggest that the existing legal and institutional frameworks frequently fail to provide adequate support and justice for survivors, due to corruption, lack of enforcement, and societal stigma against victims.

As such, this study aims to conduct a qualitative analysis of GBV in Kwara State to uncover the underlying causes, consequences, and local preventive measure as perceived by University lecturers. Therefore, the primary purpose of this study is to examine gender based violence in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. Specifically, the study examined: (1) The causes of gender based violence in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria; (2) the consequences of gender based violence in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria; and (3) the possible preventive measures of gender based violence in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. In light of this, the following research questions were raised: (1) what are causes of gender based violence in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria as perceived by University lecturers; (2) what are the consequences of gender based violence in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria as perceived by University lecturers; and (3) what are possible preventive measures of gender based violence in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria.

METHOD

This study employs a qualitative research design. The qualitative approach allows for an in-depth understanding of the participants' perspectives on Gender based Violence (Castleberry & Nolen, 2018). The research was conducted in Ilorin, Kwara State, Nigeria. This region was selected due to its distinctive characteristics regarding gender-based violence in the State. The participants of this study include university lecturers in Ilorin. Purposive sampling technique was used to select 10 lecturers from two universities in Ilorin.

Data was collected through a semi-structured interview, these interviews structure serve as a guide that allows participant flexibility to explore following questions. Three main questions were asked to all the participants including “Question 1 (Q1) – “What can you say are the main causes of GBV in Kwara State?”, Question 2 (Q2) – “Can you enumerate some consequences of GBV you have personally observe at the local level in Kwara State” and Question 3 (Q3) – “ please suggest a possible localize solution that can be done to reduce or

eliminate GBV at the local level in Kwara State”. The interview process took a span of one month and each participant took an estimated one hour to give answer to the questions. The data collected was analyzed using thematic analysis, following these steps suggested by Maguire and Delahunt (2017) and later optimize by Cernasev and Axon (2023) : (i) Familiarization: the researcher transcribed the interviews followed by repeated reading to immerse in the data. (ii) Coding: the researcher generated initial codes from the data. These codes highlight significant features related to gender inequality and access to education. Also, to conceal the identity of the participants the research coded the participants names as Lecturer 1 through 10 for ease of identification. (iii) Theme Development: the researcher then collated the codes into potential themes, which represent broader patterns in the data. (iv) Reviewing Themes: the researcher refined the themes by checking them against the dataset to ensure they accurately reflect the data. (v) Defining and Naming Themes: the researcher then categorized the themes into two namely: (vi) Reporting: the researcher compiled the findings into a coherent narrative that addresses the stated research questions

With regard to ethical consideration, the participants was provided with detailed information about the study and their rights, and their consent were obtained before participation in line with Arifin, (2018) suggestions. The researcher ensure that all data where anonymized and stored securely to protect participants' identities. The researcher emphasized that participation is voluntary, and participants can withdraw at any time without any repercussions.

RESULT AND DISCUSSION

Table 1. Participants Profile

Participant	Gender	Field	Teaching Experience
Lecturer 1	Male	Sociology	10
Lecturer 2	Female	Law	15
Lecturer 3	Female	Sociology	29
Lecturer 4	Female	Psychology	9
Lecturer 5	Female	Public health	21
Lecturer 6	Female	Sociology of Education	23
Lecturer 7	Female	Sociology of Education	15
Lecturer 8	Male	Sociology of Education	17
Lecturer 9	Female	Social Works	14
Lecturer 10	Male	Political Science	15

Participant Responses

Lecturer 1: Q1-*“Gender-based violence in Kwara State is largely influenced by deeply rooted cultural norms and patriarchal structures. Many traditional beliefs still see women as subservient to men, which perpetuates the acceptance of violence*

as a means of control. Additionally, the lack of awareness and education about women's rights exacerbates the issue." **Q2-** "One of the most visible consequences of GBV I've observed is the severe psychological trauma experienced by survivors, which often leads to depression, anxiety, and in some cases, suicidal tendencies." **Q3-** "Implement community-based education programs that challenge harmful cultural norms and promote gender equality, involving local leaders to foster acceptance and support."

Lecturer 2: Q1- "The main causes of GBV in Kwara State can be attributed to inadequate legal protections and enforcement. While there are laws against gender-based violence, enforcement is weak, and many victims do not seek justice due to fear of stigmatization and a lack of faith in the judicial system." **Q2-** "GBV often results in physical injuries that sometimes lead to permanent disabilities. This not only affects the victims' quality of life but also imposes a significant economic burden on families due to medical expenses and lost income." **Q3-** "Strengthen and enforce local laws against GBV by training law enforcement officers and ensuring that the judicial process is accessible and fair to survivors."

Lecturer 3: Q1- "One significant cause of GBV in Kwara State is the economic dependency of women on men. This dependency limits women's autonomy and increases their vulnerability to violence. Empowering women economically through education and job opportunities can be a key strategy in combating GBV." **Q2-** "I have seen that GBV contributes to educational disruption for many girls and young women, as they are often forced to leave school either due to the violence itself or its aftermath, including pregnancy and stigma." **Q3-** "Develop and support women's economic empowerment initiatives, such as vocational training and microfinance programs, to reduce dependency and increase women's autonomy."

Lecturer 4: Q1- "Psychological factors, including the normalization of violence in the family and community, play a critical role in GBV in Kwara State. Children who grow up in violent homes are more likely to replicate that behavior in adulthood. Hence, addressing GBV requires interventions that focus on changing family dynamics and societal attitudes towards violence." **Q2-** "At the local level, GBV undermines community cohesion and trust. It creates an environment of fear and insecurity, which can hinder social and economic development." **Q3-** "Create community support groups and safe spaces where survivors of GBV can receive psychological counseling, social support, and legal assistance."

Lecturer 5: Q1- "From a public health perspective, the main causes of GBV in Kwara State

include substance abuse and mental health issues. Alcohol and drug abuse are significant risk factors for perpetrating violence, and addressing these issues can help reduce the incidence of GBV." **Q2-** "Health complications are a major consequence of GBV, including reproductive health issues, sexually transmitted infections, and complications from unsafe abortions." **Q3-** "Integrate GBV prevention and response into local healthcare services, ensuring that health workers are trained to recognize and respond to cases of GBV appropriately."

Lecturer 6: Q1- "Education levels significantly impact GBV rates in Kwara State. Lack of education, particularly among women, contributes to their inability to assert their rights and seek help. Educational programs that focus on gender equality and legal rights are crucial in addressing this issue." **Q2-** "GBV leads to economic disempowerment of women. Many survivors struggle to maintain employment or participate in economic activities due to the physical and emotional toll of the violence." **Q3-** "Promote educational campaigns in schools that focus on teaching young boys and girls about respect, consent, and healthy relationships to change future attitudes."

Lecturer 7: Q1- "GBV in Kwara State is influenced by cultural practices and rites that devalue women. Practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation are deeply entrenched in some communities, contributing to a culture of violence against women. Challenging these cultural norms is essential in reducing GBV." **Q2-** "I've observed that children exposed to GBV at home are more likely to exhibit behavioral problems and perform poorly in school, perpetuating a cycle of violence and disadvantage." **Q3-** "Work with traditional and religious leaders to address and reform cultural practices that perpetuate GBV, leveraging their influence to promote positive change."

Lecturer 8: Q1- "The main causes of GBV in Kwara State include the breakdown of social structures and inadequate community support systems. When community mechanisms for conflict resolution and support are weak, individuals are more likely to resort to violence. Strengthening community networks can help mitigate GBV." **Q2-** "GBV contributes to a culture of silence and impunity, where perpetrators are not held accountable, and victims are reluctant to report abuse, further perpetuating the cycle of violence." **Q3-** "Establish community watch programs that involve local residents in monitoring and reporting GBV incidents, ensuring swift intervention and support for victims."

Lecturer 9: Q1- "Gender-based violence is often a result of power imbalances in relationships. In

Kwara State, traditional gender roles that favor male dominance contribute to these imbalances. Promoting gender equality and respectful relationships is key to addressing GBV." **Q2-** *"The social stigma attached to survivors of GBV often leads to their isolation from the community, which exacerbates their trauma and limits their support networks."* **Q3-** *"Establish community watch programs that involve local residents in monitoring and reporting GBV incidents, ensuring swift intervention and support for victims."*

Lecturer 10: **Q1-** *"Political instability and corruption can exacerbate GBV in Kwara State. When governance structures are weak, and there is a lack of political will to address gender issues, GBV tends to rise. Ensuring political stability and commitment to gender equality policies is crucial in tackling GBV."* **Q2-** *"On a broader scale, GBV hinders development efforts by affecting the productivity and participation of a significant portion of the population, thereby impacting overall community progress and economic growth."* **Q3-** *"Establish community watch programs that involve local residents in monitoring and reporting GBV incidents, ensuring swift intervention and support for victims."*

Answering the Research Questions

Research Question 1: *What are causes of gender based violence in Kwara State, Nigeria as perceived by University lecturers*

Theme 1: Causes of GBV

The perceptions of university lecturers in Kwara State regarding the causes of gender-based violence (GBV) highlight a multifaceted issue deeply entrenched in cultural, social, economic, and political factors. **Lecturer 1** emphasizes the influence of deeply rooted cultural norms and patriarchal structures that view women as subservient to men, perpetuating violence as a means of control. Similarly, **Lecturer 7** identifies harmful cultural practices such as early marriage and female genital mutilation that devalue women and contribute to GBV. From a legal standpoint, **Lecturer 2** points out that inadequate legal protections and weak enforcement discourage victims from seeking justice while **Lecturer 10** attributes the exacerbation of GBV to political instability and corruption, which undermine efforts to address gender issues effectively. Economically, **Lecturer 3** highlights women's dependency on men, which limits their autonomy and increases their vulnerability to violence.

Psychological and social factors are also critical. **Lecturer 4** discusses the normalization of violence within families and communities, suggesting that children raised in violent environments are more

likely to perpetuate such behavior, which demonstrated that gender based violence breeds more gender based violence if not eradicated. **Lecturer 5** adds that substance abuse and mental health issues are significant risk factors for perpetrating violence, framing GBV as a public health concern. **Lecturer 6** underscores the impact of education levels, noting that a lack of education, particularly among women, hinders their ability to assert their rights and seek help. Furthermore, **Lecturer 8** identifies the breakdown of social structures and inadequate community support systems as contributing factors. **Lecturer 9** points to power imbalances in relationships, driven by traditional gender roles that favor male dominance.

The causes of GBV identified by the lecturers reflect the core arguments of feminist theory, which asserts that systemic inequalities rooted in patriarchy perpetuate violence against women. As Abulaziz and Olokooba (2022) and Izzi and Umunna (2020) highlight, cultural and legal structures often marginalize women, enabling male dominance and the normalization of violence. Feminist theory critiques these power imbalances and the institutional frameworks that uphold them, emphasizing that GBV is not merely a private issue but a societal and political one. The lecturers' observations support this view pointing to how education, economic empowerment, and legal reform are necessary to disrupt the patriarchal order. As Russo (2019) and Opanasenko et al. (2021) argue, feminist approaches to public health also recognize how GBV intersects with mental health, economic status, and structural inequality, demanding a holistic response that addresses both individual and systemic drivers of violence.

Research Question 2: *What are consequences of gender based violence in northern-central, Nigeria as perceived by University lecturers*

Theme 2: Consequences of GBV

With regard to the consequences of gender-based violence (GBV), University lecturers in Ilorin perceive the alluded that it affects individuals, families, and the broader community on several levels. **Lecturer 1** highlights the severe psychological trauma that survivors endure, including depression, anxiety, and suicidal tendencies, illustrating the profound mental health impact of GBV. **Lecturer 2** underscores the physical toll, noting that injuries can lead to permanent disabilities, significantly affecting victims' quality of life and imposing substantial economic burdens due to medical expenses and lost income. Educational disruption is another critical consequence, as pointed out by **Lecturer 3**, who observes that many girls and young women are forced to leave school due to violence or its aftermath, such as pregnancy and

stigma. This disruption not only affects their personal development but also limits their future opportunities. On a community level, **Lecturer 4** discusses how GBV undermines social cohesion and trust, creating an environment of fear and insecurity that hinders social and economic development.

Health complications are a major concern, as **Lecturer 5** notes, including reproductive health issues, sexually transmitted infections, and complications from unsafe abortions. These health problems can have long-lasting effects on survivors' overall well-being. **Lecturer 6** further elaborates on the economic impact, explaining that GBV leads to the economic disempowerment of women, as many survivors struggle to maintain employment or participate in economic activities due to the violence's physical and emotional toll. The impact on children is also significant. **Lecturer 7** points out that children exposed to GBV at home are more likely to exhibit behavioral problems and perform poorly in school, perpetuating a cycle of violence and disadvantage. This cycle is exacerbated by a culture of silence and impunity, as discussed by **Lecturer 8**, where perpetrators are not held accountable, and victims are reluctant to report abuse. Social stigma and isolation are additional consequences, as **Lecturer 9** highlights, noting that survivors often face community isolation, which exacerbates their trauma and limits their support networks. On a broader scale, **Lecturer 10** explains that GBV hinders development efforts by affecting the productivity and participation of a significant portion of the population, thereby impacting overall community progress and economic growth.

GBV has far-reaching consequences that affect individuals, families, and communities in Ilorin. Survivors experience deep psychological trauma, physical injuries, and long-term health issues including reproductive complications and sexually transmitted infections. Educational attainment is disrupted, particularly for young women, leading to lost opportunities and economic hardship. GBV also weakens social cohesion, breeds insecurity, fosters economic disempowerment, and creates intergenerational cycles of violence. The culture of silence, stigma, and lack of accountability further intensifies these effects, hindering community development and economic growth. From the lens of feminist theory, the consequences of GBV are not just personal but structural, reflecting entrenched gender inequalities that limit women's agency and participation in society. The psychological, educational, and economic consequences outlined by the lecturers affirm the feminist critique that GBV systematically disempowers women, reinforcing patriarchal control. Uyanne (2021) and Arowolo (2020) provide empirical backing for this, illustrating

how trauma and disempowerment reduce women's capacity to thrive independently. Feminist scholars argue that the normalization of GBV within a culture of silence and impunity, highlighted by Postmus et al. (2015), sustains gender hierarchies by silencing victims and protecting perpetrators. Moreover, the educational setbacks and economic disenfranchisement emphasized by Fawole et al. (2018) and Olojede et al. (2020) align with feminist concerns about structural barriers that limit women's upward mobility. These consequences collectively underscore the urgent need for gender-responsive policies that confront systemic injustice and promote women's full participation in social and economic life.

***Research Question 3:** What are possible localized preventive measures of gender based violence in Kwara State, Nigeria*

Theme 3: Preventive Measures of GBV

As it concern preventive measures, University lecturers in Ilorin suggested several localized and practical measures to address gender-based violence (GBV), focusing on community engagement, legal enforcement, economic empowerment, support systems, healthcare integration, educational initiatives, cultural reform, and resource allocation. **Lecturer 1** emphasizes the importance of community-based education programs that challenge harmful cultural norms and promote gender equality, with local leaders playing a crucial role in fostering acceptance and support. Strengthening and enforcing local laws against GBV is a key measure proposed by **Lecturer 2**, who advocates for training law enforcement officers and ensuring that the judicial process is accessible and fair to survivors. **Lecturer 3** highlights the need for women's economic empowerment initiatives, such as vocational training and microfinance programs, to reduce dependency and increase women's autonomy. Creating community support groups and safe spaces is essential, as **Lecturer 4** points out, where survivors of GBV can receive psychological counseling, social support, and legal assistance. **Lecturer 5** suggests integrating GBV prevention and response into local healthcare services, ensuring that health workers are adequately trained to recognize and respond to GBV cases.

Educational campaigns in schools are crucial, according to **Lecturer 6**, who stresses the importance of teaching young boys and girls about respect, consent, and healthy relationships to change future attitudes. Working with traditional and religious leaders is another vital approach mentioned by **Lecturer 7**, who believes leveraging their influence can help reform cultural practices that perpetuate GBV and promote positive change. **Lecturer 8** advocates for establishing community

watch programs involving local residents in monitoring and reporting GBV incidents, ensuring swift intervention and support for victims. Facilitating workshops and training sessions for community members on GBV awareness, prevention strategies, and the importance of supporting survivors recommended by **Lecturer 9**. **Lecturer 10** emphasizes the need for local government to allocate more resources to GBV prevention programs and to collaborate with NGOs and community organizations for a coordinated response.

University lecturers in Ilorin propose a multifaceted approach to preventing GBV, emphasizing education, legal reform, economic empowerment, and community involvement. They advocate for community-based education programs to challenge harmful norms, stronger legal enforcement and accessible justice systems, vocational and microfinance opportunities for women, and the creation of safe spaces and support groups. Integration of GBV response into healthcare services, school-based education on respect and consent, and collaboration with traditional and religious leaders are also considered vital. Additionally, lecturers recommend community watch programs, workshops on GBV awareness, and increased governmental and NGO collaboration for adequate funding and coordinated interventions. Feminist theory views the prevention of GBV as inseparable from dismantling the patriarchal structures that normalize gender inequality. The lecturers' emphasis on education, community engagement, and legal reforms aligns with feminist advocacy for systemic change that empowers women and challenges male-dominated power relations. Umejiaku (2019) and Onyishi and Agbo (2010) highlight how effective legal frameworks and economic empowerment reduce women's vulnerability, core strategies supported by feminists seeking structural equity. Educational interventions that promote consent and healthy relationships, as suggested by Obiagu (2023), reflect feminist calls for early socialization that dismantles toxic masculinity and gender stereotypes. Additionally, involving traditional leaders and integrating GBV services into local systems, as discussed by Ojo et al. (2023) and Roy et al. (2022), represent practical applications of feminist thought, which calls for intersectional, culturally grounded approaches that address GBV at all levels of society. These measures reflect a holistic feminist agenda that centers survivors, redistributes power, and promotes long-term societal transformation.

CONCLUSION

University lecturers in Ilorin recognize GBV as a deeply entrenched and multifaceted issue influenced

by cultural, social, economic, and political factors. They perceive the consequences of GBV as far-reaching, impacting individuals, families, and the broader community on multiple levels. To address this pervasive issue, lecturers propose and recommended a comprehensive set of localized preventive measures, including community engagement, strengthening legal frameworks, economic empowerment of women, creating support systems, integrating GBV response into healthcare services, educational initiatives, cultural reform, and ensuring adequate resource allocation by local governments. These strategies collectively aim to tackle the root causes of GBV, support survivors, and foster a culture of zero tolerance towards violence.

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