

The perceived effects of domestic violence on academic performance among married female students in high learning institutions: the case of a national teachers' college

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The study explored the perceived effects of domestic violence on academic performance among married female students in high learning institutions using an in-depth interview, group discussions and the documentary review. One study site, Teachers' Colleges in the Northern Zone in Tanzania and fifteen study participants, were selected using purposeful sampling. Data was analyzed in a dummy table. The informants had experienced violence like hitting with fists or strokes, battering, kicking, pulling, pushing, and sexual assaults. Others were threats, calling names, being shouted at and accused as hopelessness, unfaithful, worthlessness, and unable to take care of their children. Effects of domestic violence included physical disorders like peptic ulcers, heart problems, backache, headache, loss of body weight, loss of appetite, and miscarriage. Others were anger, confusion, and despair, lack of sleep, hope, and confidence. Some informants seemed to be stressful and perceived domestic violence as an obstacle to their academic performance while others appeared less stressful and perceived it as a power of endurance. Violence seemed to have been resilience that had enhanced them to prevail over the violent acts and as a result looked forward to improve their academic performance. The researcher recommends that there should be community-counseling services to enable these women to deal with domestic violence. Further, laws should avert domestic violence through changing the societal attitudes towards the oppressive relationships. Moreover, there should be awareness programmes focusing on the rights and equal relationship among spouses. It also recommends that there should be studies covering higher learning institutions focusing on other specific learning difficulties encountered by married female students in their studies.