



Paternal mortality: The neglected but an impending global pandemic!!!

Onyekpal feanyi Johnson and Odugu Boniface Uwaezuoke *

Department of Obstetrics and Gynaecology, ESUT College of Medicine/Teaching Hospital, Enugu, Nigeria.

World Journal of Advanced Pharmaceutical and Medical Research, 2024, 06(02), 025–027

Publication history: Received on 23 April 2024; revised on 08 June 2024; accepted on 11 June 2024

Article DOI: <https://doi.org/10.53346/wjapmr.2024.6.2.0037>

Abstract

Men have always been in the eyes of the storm over the years and across all history, losing their lives with reckless abandon just to save their community, family, wives and children that their death no longer generates any emotions or concerns. Little wonder then, that during crises and war times the attention is only directed towards “**innocent women and children**” as if the men are guilty of the destructions that befall the society. The realization of the impending annihilation of the male gender necessitated this editorial so as to save the male species from total extinction. The concept of “**paternal mortality**” is a novel idea that may not have been written in social and medical texts, hence, this editorial that tends to raise the awareness of this impending catastrophe.

Keywords: Paternal Mortality; Impending; Neglected; Global; Pandemic

1. Introduction

“Paternal mortality” in this editorial refers to the death of a man during courtship, sexual intercourse, marriage or family life, arising directly or indirectly from these conditions or their complications, but not from incidental or accidental causes. Man, here refers to any male gender of reproductive age. This concept has been grossly overlooked over time leading to obvious survival threats for the male gender. The direct causes here include but not limited to death during the act of sexual intercourse, deaths arising from physical protection of the spouse and the family, physical abuses from spouses and children; while indirect causes include emotional and verbal abuses from spouses and other dependants, excessive pressure from finance and other bills for the family, occupational hazards; depressive conditions following divorce, alimony, outrageous child and family support bills after divorce, emotional blackmails and their attendant health complications and challenges.

Literature in both social sciences and public health is replete with many studies buttressing the threats to life and survival of the man which are related to his gender roles. In a review of literatures in 2020 by Verena Kolbe and Andreas Butter, the studies analyzed yielded a prevalence of 3.4% to 20% of domestic physical violence against men [1]. In 2020 Verena Kolbe found a prevalence of 3.4 to 20.3% for domestic violence against men and concluded that the problem and the risk factors to it have been grossly understudied [2]. The WHO has reported that intimate partner violence is one of the main health risks for women but little or no attention is paid to the plight of men in relationships. This neglect of the health risks to the male gender could be one of the determinants of increased male mortality across almost all nations and cultures of the world.

Intimate partner violence against men, which could result in death, is not given the deserved attention in the laws of many nations, making it more difficult for men to report such events, unlike their female counterparts [3,4]. As such, men are less likely to report domestic violence and abuses to the police or the public for fear of being shamed as weak [5]. This scenario will result in general under-reporting of the events that will ultimately result in “paternal mortality”.

*Corresponding author: Odugu Boniface Uwaezuoke

The man's role as the chief breadwinner of the family has also made him vulnerable over years resulting in high rates of work-related deaths. The International Labour Organization, ILO, in its 2019 report noted that work-related deaths are unequally distributed; with the male mortality rates (108.3/100,000) significantly higher than the female mortality rates (48.4/100,000) more than double the female values [6]. These works are integral part of the man's role as a male, husband, father and provider. So, a man who dies trying to provide for his family should be considered a significant death worth international recognition and attempts made to reduce such occurrences to the barest minimum.

The literature is filled with articles on women dying from pregnancy and childbirth which is their own role in procreation. However, little or nothing is documented about men who die during sexual intercourse in trying to achieve pregnancy with a partner. This is relevant as there could be no pregnancy and childbirth without male involvement and contributions. The annual incidence of sudden death during sexual intercourse is estimated to be 0.2/100,000 men; and the risk for women is lower by a factor of 12 [7]. This may even be more, nowadays, as more women tend shame men openly for not satisfying them on bed leading to increased use of aphrodisiacs (which traditionally pose cardiovascular risks) by men. The whole world behaves as if a man's death is just normal irrespective of the cause.

It is a known fact that in every country, the majority of the workforce is made up of the male gender. Unabated male death will consequently lead to a significant drop in workforce which will eventually cripple the economy. The family unit is also designed to depend on the man for basic supplies and provisions; failure to meet up with these demands as a result of ill-health and/or death will destabilize the family and create chaos in the community.

A common scenario in the Western world is often the case of a man being sent out of his home at the slightest provocation by the wife. This act is aimed at protecting the woman without putting into consideration what may befall the man out there as though his life and death are of no consequences. On the contrary, women are seldom treated same way if the reverse is the case, even when the man is the owner of the house. Acts such as these will definitely lead to emotional, psychological and even psychiatric complications for the man, leading to his eventual death. It is also common to have governments at various levels create a special ministry or agency for women affairs but no such bodies are formed to cater for the peculiar needs of men. The concept of gender equality as being practiced currently can best be described as women favoritism and men disenfranchisement leading to unmitigated male deaths. In all these, men have not failed to fulfill their roles as husbands, fathers and providers despite the harsh environment they may have to operate. The concept of "paternal mortality" is the least that could be entrenched to salvage the lives of the "male remnants" before the obvious end catches up with us.

Where do we go from here? In our common parlance, it is said that what is good for the geese is also good for the gander. In line with this philosophy, it is pertinent that governments at all levels pay attention to the deaths of our dear men in the line of their duty as men. The concept of "paternal mortality" should be popularized by introducing it into the curricula of our formal education at all levels, to serve as a working tool to reduce the colossal loss of our men who constitute the major workforce of our economy. Policies and programs should be formulated to cater for the peculiar needs of the male gender and both government and non-governmental organizations should make it a point of duty to reverse this ugly trend. The right of the boy child in particular and the man in general should be reviewed and upheld to give equal opportunity for the males in this modern society. Harsh policies and legislation against the male gender should be abolished and fairness enthroned when handling issues having to do with men.

2. Conclusion

Men are always doing their best to provide for and protect their family and also satisfy their wives so as to foster procreation and keep the human lineage. Their survival should be of paramount importance. NO MAN SHOULD DIE FOR NOTHING!!!

Compliance with ethical standards

Disclosure of conflict of interest

No conflict of interest to be disclosed.

References

- [1] Verena Kolbe, Andreas Butter. Domestic violence against men – Prevalence and risk factors. *DtschArztebl Int.* 2020;117(31-32):534-541

- [2] Verena Kolbe, Andreas Butter. *Dtsch Arztebl Int.* 2020;117(31-32):534-541
- [3] Lupri Eugene, Grandin Elaine. Intimate partner abuse against men. National Clearinghouse on Family Violence 2004; archived from the original on January 4, 2009
- [4] Das Dasgupta Shamita. A framework for understanding women’s use of nonlethal violence in intimate heterosexual relationships. *Violence Against Women* 2002,8(11):1364-1389
- [5] Magliaccio Todd A. Marginalizing the battered male. *Journal of Men’s Studies.* 2001,9(2):205-226
- [6] ILO, “ILO Global Estimates of occupational accidents and work-related illnesses [based on Jukka Takala, Paivi Hamalainen, RiittaSauni, Clas-HakanNygard, Diana Gagliardi, Subas Neupane, Global, Regional and Country level estimates of work-related Burden of Diseases and Accidents in 2019”, accepted in the *Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment and Health*], forthcoming
- [7] PerzellerM,Raschka C, Bratzke H, Sudden cardiovascular death during death sexual intercourse-results of a legal medicine autopsy study. *Z Kardiol* 1999,88(1):44-8