

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to express my sincerest thanks and appreciation to the following people and organisation whose valuable assistance made a major impact into this mini-dissertations.

- Brenda Radebe, my supervisor, for her unconditional support and constructive guidance
- Dr Zubeda Dangor, co-supervisor, for her assistance and guidance
- Makgathi Mokwena, lecturer, for her selflessness and encouragement
- Nisaa institute for women's development and its staff for assisting with their resources and the relevant exposure beneficial to this study
- My family and everyone who has offered themselves unselfishly in seeing me through the study

ABSTRACT

This study is described within a social constructionist perspective, which explores the experiences of abuse on women by their intimate partners and the resultant trauma will be fully explored. The women are battered, raped, beaten, emotionally, verbally, and psychologically abused by their partners. To add on the partner abuse, the patriarchal, social-economic, political, cultural, historical, traditional, criminal and mental health systems also perpetuate the abuses. However, from the inhuman exposures there are prevailing traumatic effects that are destructive to the lives of women victims. They may lose their newly or unborn infants, abuse substances, attempt or complete suicide, suffer chronic medical problems and psychological disorders that are an enormous sense of loss to their esteem, confidence, pride, dignity, and identity (self).

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CONTENTS	PAGE NUMBERS
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	(i)
ABSTRACT	(ii)
TABLE OF CONTENTS	(iii)
1.INTRODUCTION	1-2
2.THE EXPERIENCES OF ABUSE ON WOMEN	2-18
2.1.WOMEN ABUSE DEFINED AND DESCRIBED	2-7
2.2.WOMEN ABUSE AND PATRIARCHY	7-13
2.3.WOMEN ABUSE AND LEGAL SYSTEM	13-15
2.4.WOMEN ABUSE AND HEALTH SYSTEM	15-18
3.THEORETICAL PERSPECTIVES OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN	19-30
3.1.INTRODUCTION	19
3.2.PSYCHOANALYTICAL APPROACH	19-20
3.3.SOCIOLOGICAL THEORIES	20-21
3.4.FEMINIST THEORY	21-23
3.5.COERCIVE CONTROL THEORY	23-24
3.6.SOCIAL LEARNING THEORY	25-26
3.7.SYSTEMS THEORY	26-30
4.HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES ON ABUSE OF WOMEN	30-35
5.SOUTH AFRICAN PERSPECTIVES OF WOMEN ABUSE	35-40
6.INTERNATIONAL PERSPECTIVES ON ABUSE OF WOMEN	40-46
7.EFFECTS OF ABUSE ON WOMEN: TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCE	46-60
7.1.INTRODUCTION	46-49
7.2.SUBSTANCE ABUSE (ALCOHOL & DRUG)	49-50
7.3.PREGNANT WOMEN	50-52
7.4.SOCIO-ECONOMIC STATUS	52-54
7.5.SUICIDE	54-55
7.6.STRESS	55-56
7.7.OTHER HEALTH PROBLEMS	56-58
7.8.LOSS	58-60
8.CONCLUSION	60-61
9.REFERENCE LIST	62-71