

Article Title: Violence Against Women in Liberia: Characteristics, Contributing Factors, Service Utilization, and Interventions (2020 - 2025)

Reviewer's comment:-

1. This manuscript addresses a critical public health and human rights issue—violence against women (VAW) in a post-conflict setting. It synthesizes recent data (2020–2025) and provides a holistic overview of IPV in Liberia, including its prevalence, risk factors, systemic barriers, and interventions. The findings are relevant not only to Liberia but also to other fragile and post-conflict states, contributing to the global discourse on gender-based violence and sustainable development (SDG 5.2).
2. The title accurately reflects the scope and focus of the manuscript. It clearly identifies the geographical context, the time frame, and the key dimensions explored (characteristics, contributing factors, service utilization, and interventions). No alternative title is necessary.
3. The abstract succinctly captures the research problem, objectives, key findings, and implications. It includes essential components such as risk factors, systemic barriers, and recommended interventions. The inclusion of keywords is appropriate and enhances discoverability.
4. The manuscript is generally well-written and academically sound. However, there are occasional grammatical inconsistencies and awkward phrasings (e.g., on Page 5: "In Liberia" used mid-sentence without transition). A thorough language edit is recommended to improve fluency and readability.
5. The manuscript is well-structured and logically organized. Each section—background, mental health, substance abuse, barriers, service utilization, interventions, and policy implications—builds coherently on the previous one. The integration of empirical data (e.g., DHS 2019–2020) and theoretical frameworks strengthens the analysis.
6. The references are up-to-date (majority from 2020–2025), relevant, and drawn from credible sources including WHO, UN Women, peer-reviewed journals, and institutional reports. The inclusion of both global and Liberia-specific sources enhances the manuscript's validity. A quick check for consistency in citation formatting (e.g., page numbers, DOI style) is advised.
7. The authors have not declared any competing interests, and no such issues are apparent from the content.
8. The manuscript appears original and properly attributes ideas and findings to the respective sources. No evidence of plagiarism is detected.
9. This manuscript appears to be an original synthesis and not a direct extension of previously published work. No disclaimer is necessary.