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Patterns of Disclosure and Help-Seeking by Nigerian Women Resident in England with Lived Experience of Domestic Violence and Abuse

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Presented at the European Conference on Domestic Violence, Belfast (Sept 6th -9th, 2015).

1. Introduction

- Although domestic violence and abuse is emerging as a global public health problem, the pervasiveness of the problem is unknown. This may be due to inadequate disclosure and help-seeking.
- This study focuses on disclosure and help-seeking practises among Nigerian women resident in England
- Nigerians in the UK are the largest Black African population.

2. Research Objectives

The objectives of this study include exploring the:

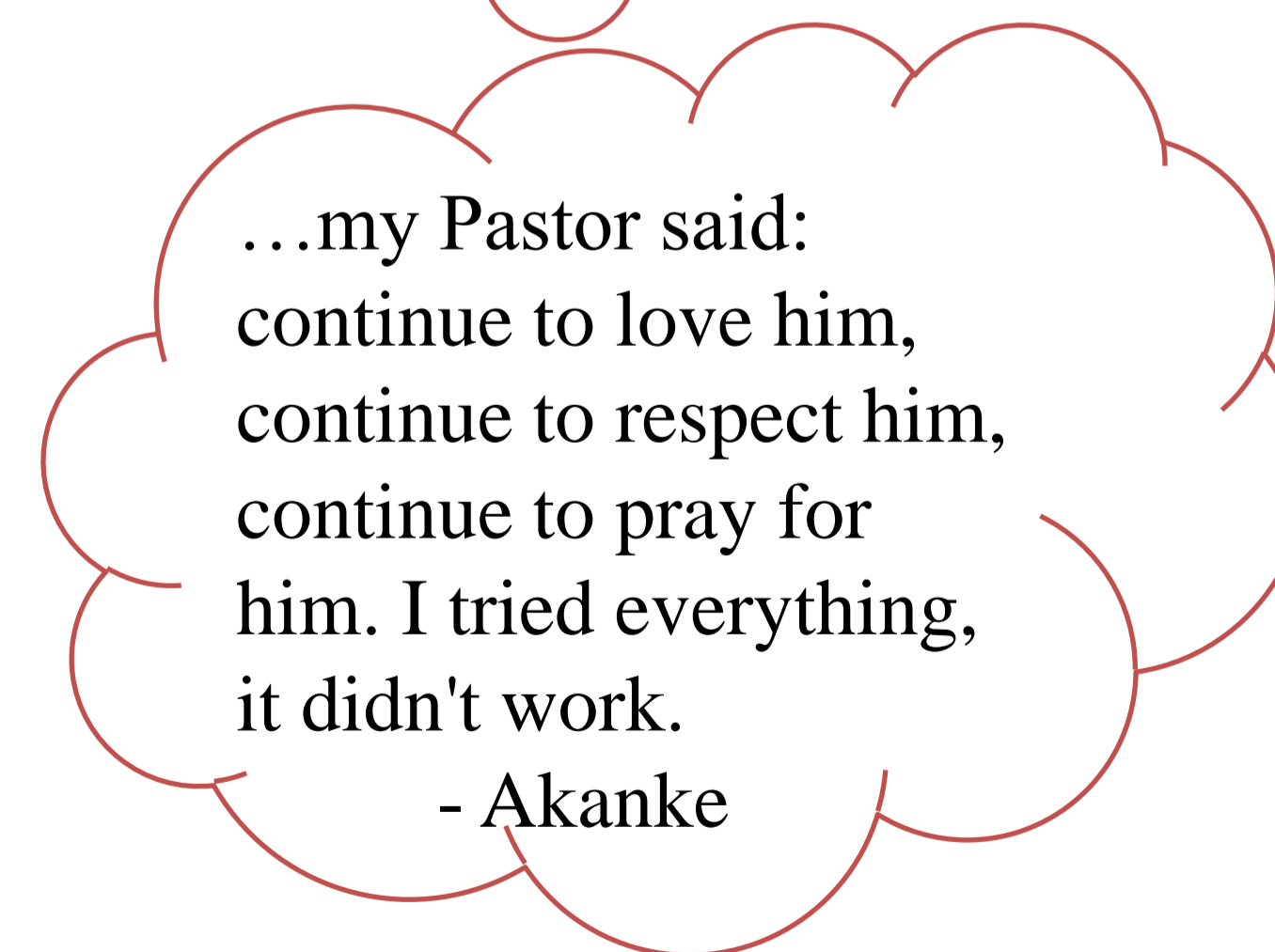
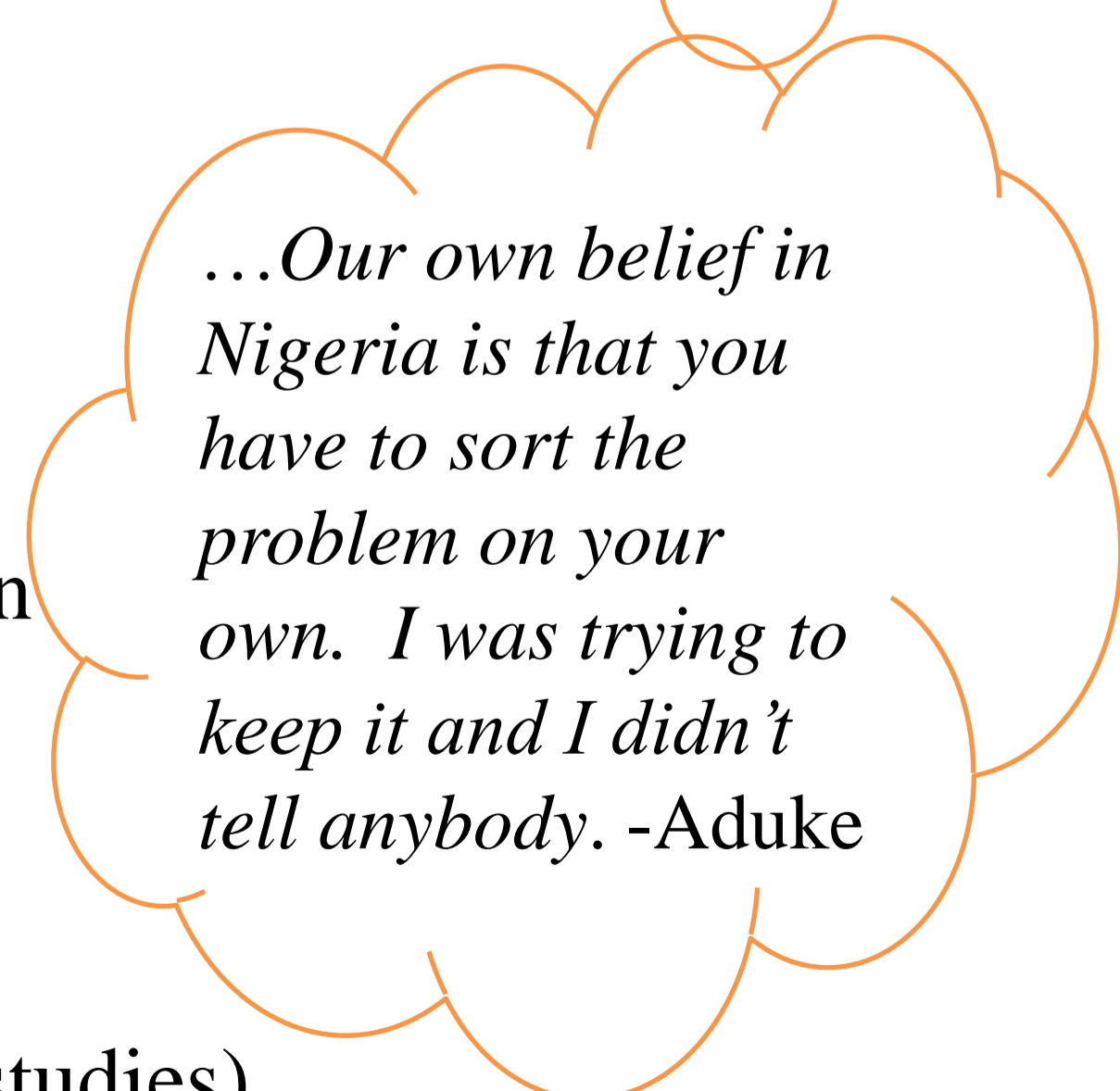
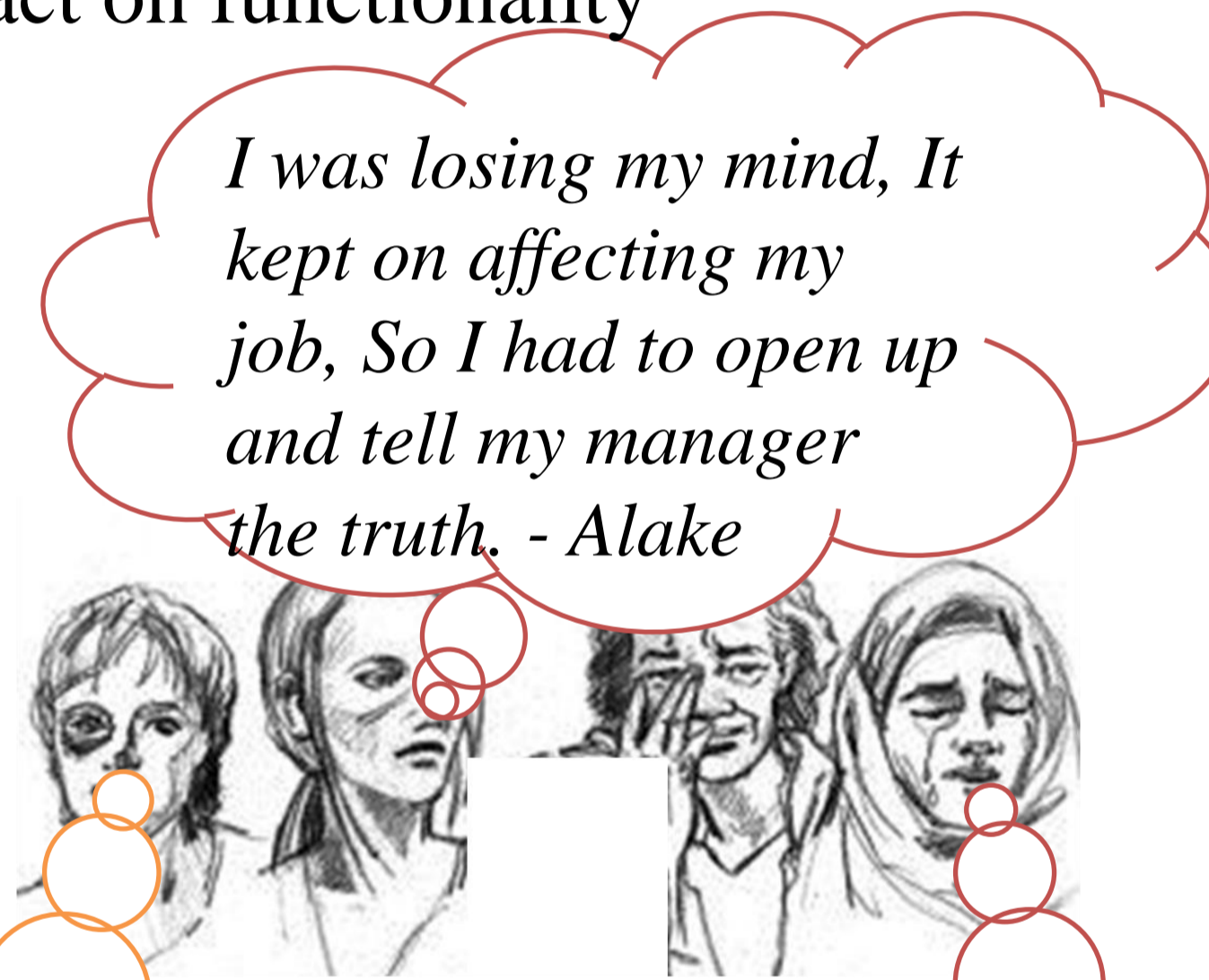
- Barriers to disclosure of domestic violence;
- Facilitators of help-seeking for domestic violence;
- Service support needs for Nigerian women experiencing domestic violence and abuse in England.

3. Methodology

1. Systematic Narrative Review (4 studies)
2. 16 semi-structured individual interviews
3. Inductive, Latent Thematic Analysis (8 themes)

4. Result: Key Themes

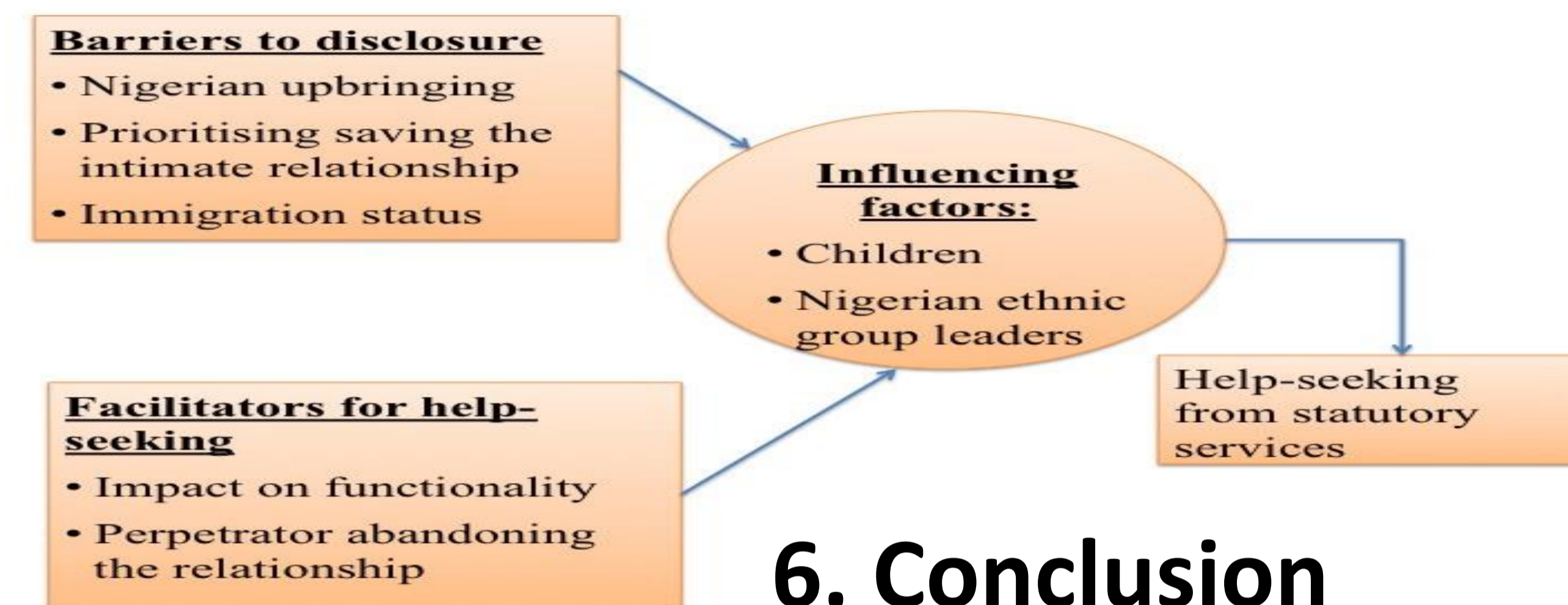
- Nigerian Upbringing
- Prioritising saving the intimate relationship
- Nigerian ethnic group leaders
- Impact on functionality



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5. Decision-making Model of Disclosure and Help-seeking from Statutory Services



6. Conclusion

- Nigerian women experiencing domestic violence are likely to seek help **first** from individuals within their ethnic community, who may not be adequately equipped to provide appropriate support and referral to professional/statutory services.
- There is need for collaboration between community groups, religious organisations, voluntary sector organisations, and statutory services on supporting BME women experiencing domestic violence.