

IMPACT OF SOCIO-ECONOMIC FACTORS AND PERCEPTION OF WOMEN ON PHYSICAL ABUSE BY THEIR HUSBANDS: AN OUTRAGEOUS REVELATION

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Abstract: Domestic violence against women prevails across globe due to many social, cultural, economic, and psychological factors. The present attempts to rank the countries based on the women's opinion about their husbands' justification in beating them for variety of domestic reasons. This study also attempts to gauge the relationship between socio-economic factors and women's perception on domestic violence. The results of the study shows that African women perceive that their husbands are justified in beating them when they burn the food, refuses sex, argues, goes out without telling and neglects the children. In the country ranking, almost 6 - 7 African countries are on top 10 countries where women accept their husband's beating. The study also revealed that the socio-economic factors such as GDP percapita, gross savings as % of GDP and contributing female family workers as % of female employment are negatively correlated with the women' perception on domestic violence.

Key Words: Domestic Violence, Socioeconomic Factors, Physical Abuse

Introduction

Violence against any living being is unacceptable in modern society. Violence against women and children is considered more serious as they are notable weaker section exploited in many ways across the globe. Especially domestic violence is more serious as they face it within their homes. It can occur within a variety of relationships including couples who are married, cohabitation or dating. People of all socioeconomic backgrounds and education levels are affected by domestic violence.

Definition of Domestic Violence: Types of Abuse

According to the United States Department of Justice Office on Violence against Women, 'the definition of domestic violence may be a pattern of abusive behaviour in any relationship that is used by one partner to realize or maintain control over another intimate partner'. The definition includes different types of abuses such as physical abuse, sexual assault, emotional abuse, economic abuse, psychological abuse, threats, stalking and cyberstalking.

Among the various abuses, physical abuse is more harmful as it results in even the death of the woman. The physical abuse of women by their husbands is for various reasons. For instance, husbands beat their wives:

- when she burns the food
- when she refuses sex with him
- when she argues with him
- when she goes out without telling him
- when she neglects the children

According to the latest data from world development indicators, women accept that their husbands are justified in beating them for the above reasons.

Review of Literature

Brinkerhoff, M., & Lupri, E. (1988) have concluded that age, marital status, length of the marriage, and the number of children is associated with interspousal violence. According to them, violence is negatively correlated with marital satisfaction, significantly large proportions of highly satisfied couples report conjugal violence.

According to a study by Schuler, Lenzi, Nazneen and Bates (2013), intimate partner violence (IPV) is declining in the villages of Bangladesh as women's economic roles expand and they gain a stronger sense of their rights.

Yamawaki et al., (2012) demonstrated significant main effects of 'participant's sex, domestic violence myths, and of the victim's relationship status and decision to return'. Moreover, the victims are blamed by participants with greater domestic violence myths than those with fewer myths. The male participants blamed the victim and minimized the incident more than female participants. According to the study, domestic violence myths play an important role in negative attitudes of others toward domestic violence.

According to a study by Oyediran and Isiugo-Abanihe, (2005), a large percentage of Nigerian women agreed that a man is justified in beating or hitting his wife; 66.4% and 50.4% of married and unmarried women respectively expressed consent for wife-beating. The significant issues that are concurrent with wife-beating are 'Ethnicity, frequency of radio listening, education level, place of residence and wealth index'

In Nigerian societies and African countries in general, gender-based violence is an age-long psychological and social issue. It is observed that irrespective of class, education or profession, the cultural violence against women is manifested in all levels of the socio-cultural, economic, and political status of women in Nigeria. (Arisi and Oromareghake, 2011)

Some focus group discussions explored the role of 'personal resources, family, religion, culture, and social support system' in the utilization of domestic violence services by Arab

immigrants experiencing domestic violence in the USA. (Kulwicki, Aswad, Carmona and Ballout, 2010)

In their study, Pun et al., (2016) concluded that domestic violence during pregnancy needs to be addressed at different levels in Nepal, where women are often dependent on others for access to health care. Social norms were supposed to be shifting toward reduced acceptance of violence against women, but limitations on women's life options, movement, and decision-making authority were still considered weaknesses to the health of pregnant women.

Factors such as social, cultural, economic, and psychological affect domestic violence against women in Turkish cities. Personal income decreases the prevalence of violence, however, working women and women with children are more prone to domestic violence. Families, where women must get permission from the husband to carry out certain activities, have an increased incidence of suffering from the husband's violence. (Kocacik, Kutlar and Erselcan, 2007)

Harding and Helweg-Larsen, (2008) have found that domestic violence shelter (N=56) indicates that women perceive the lower risk of future violence if the abusive relationship were to end and an increased risk of violence if it were to continue.

Violence against women is now widely known as a severe human right exploitation, and an important public health issue. This results in severe consequences in the 'physical, mental, sexual, and reproductive health'. The lifetime domestic physical violence by a husband or intimate partner against women ranged from 31 to 76.5 % in Ethiopia. There is a significant association between domestic violence against women and the indicators such as 'alcohol consumption, chat chewing, family history of violence, occupation, religion, educational status, residence, and decision-making power'.

There is a direct relationship between domestic violence and sociodemographic characteristics of the victim as well as the perpetrator. (Semahegn and Mengistie, 2015)

According to Al-Badayneh, (2012) there is no differences in violence against women because of the 'husband's education, husband's work, or having friends who believe in physical punishment of kids'. He concluded that 98 % of the sample was subjected to at least one type of violence. Twenty-eight per cent of the sample believed a husband has the right to control a woman's behaviour and 93 % believed a wife is obliged to obey a husband.

From the above reviews, we can understand that domestic violence against women prevails across the globe due to many social, cultural, economic, and psychological factors such as

age, marital status, length of the marriage, number of children, ethnic affiliation, level of education, place of residence, wealth index, frequency of listening to the radio, alcohol consumption, chat chewing, family history of violence, occupation, religion, and educational status. However, there are no specific studies that deal with the socio-economic indicators and their influence on violence against women. Thus, an attempt is made to gauge the relationship between socio-economic factors and domestic violence.

Objectives

The current study aims at achieving the following objectives:

1. To study the perception of the women on their husband's justification in beating them for various reasons.
2. To rank the countries based on the perception of the women about the beating by their husbands.
3. To study the relationship between the women's perception about the beating by their husbands and socio-economic factors.

Hypotheses

1. There is a significant negative relationship between GDP Percapita and 'women's perception of their husband's justification in beating them'.
2. There is a significant negative relationship between 'contributing female family workers as % of female employment' and 'women's perception of their husband's justification in beating them'.
3. There is a significant negative relationship between 'Gross savings as % of GDP' and 'women's perception of their husband's justification in beating them'.
4. There is a significant negative relationship between 'Female Human capital index' and 'women's perception of their husband's justification in beating them'.

Methodology

This study is based on the data compiled from World Development Indicators, 2018. The data period ranges between 2015 and 2018 for different countries. Out of 33 countries for which the data are available, 16 are from Africa and 12 are Asian countries. There are 2 North American countries (Guatemala and Haiti) in the data set. Europe, South America and Oceania/Australia constitute one country each to the data set.

The data regarding the following were extracted and analyzed:

1. Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife when she burns the food.
2. Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife when she refuses sex with him.

3. Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife when she argues with him.
4. Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife when she goes out without telling him.
5. Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife when she neglects the children.

The study also used the macro-economic indicators such as GDP Percapita, Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%), Gross savings as % of GDP, Female Human Capital Index (HCI) and Contributing female family workers as % of female employment.

Discussion & Analysis

This section deals with the discussion of the women's perception of their husband's justification in beating them, followed by the statistical analysis and hypothesis testing.

Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife when she burns the food

As shown in the table-1, 7 out of the top 10 countries are from Africa. Thus, the African women in these countries perceive that their husbands are justified in beating them if they burn the food. African countries are poorest where the value of food is more and if the wife burns it to be wasted then the husband is justified in beating them, according to these African women. 63% of the Senegal women accept that their husbands justified in beating them if the food is burnt followed by Chad and Ethiopia with 49% and 40% respectively. India ranks 11th position with 19% of the women perceives that their husbands are justified in beating them if the food is burnt to get it wasted. South Africa, Albania, Armenia, and the Maldives have less than one per cent of women accepting that the husbands are justified in beating their wives for burning the food by mistake.

Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife when she refuses sex with him:

In this category also seven African countries are in the top-10 list. According to table-1, Mali, Guinea, and Burundi are on top with 63%, 48% and 42% of the women in these countries accept that their husbands are justified in beating them for refusing sex. India ranks 17th with 13% of the women accept that their husbands are justified in beating them for refusing sex. However, women in South Africa, Albania, Armenia, and Jordan have a different opinion as only 1% or fewer women in these countries accept the husband's beating for refusing sex.

Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife when she argues with him

As depicted in the table-1, 68.5% of the women in Mali believe that a husband is justified in beating his wife for arguing with him, followed by Timor-Leste (60.2%), Afghanistan (59.2%) and Tajikistan (52.3%). 6 out of the top 10 countries in this category are from the

African continent. 3 countries are from Asia and one from Oceania. India ranks 13th with 29.1% of the women opined that their husbands are justified in beating them for argument. It is to be noted that Pakistan is in 11th rank, just two ranks above India with 31.6%. Philippines, South Africa, Albania, Colombia, Maldives are best countries as only a negligible portion of women, i.e., less than 2.5% of the women support the argument that their husbands are justified in beating for arguments.

Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife when she goes out without telling him

It is quite surprising that the man beat his wife for going out without telling him. As depicted in table-1, Afghanistan tops with 66.9% of the women believe that their husbands are justified in beating them, followed by Timor-Leste with 64.4%. The percentage was 50-60% in 5 countries, two countries are in 40-50% range, three countries are in 30-40% range and seven countries are in 20-30% range. In Colombia only 1.2% of the women support the beating, thus it is the best country. Even if you look at the other criteria Columbia is ranked the last 5, which means women in Columbia are matured and strong enough. Around 10 countries are in the 0-10% range. 26.1% of the Indian wives believe that their husbands are justified in beating them for going out without telling him. India is placed in 14th rank in the list, which is not an encouraging factor for the country.

Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife when she neglects the children

In any society, children are the main reason for bonding between couples. Thus, the majority of women believes that the husband is justified in beating her if she neglects the children. For instance, as shown in table-1, Timor-Leste, Chad, Papua New Guinea are the top three countries with 62.8%, 59.7%, 59.3% of the women respectively with such an opinion. However, it must be noted that when compared to other criteria, beating for neglecting the children is the lowest, i.e., 62.8%. Mozambique, South Africa, and Colombia are the best countries as they are ranked the last three with 4.2%, 3.8% and 2.4% respectively. In this category also India is placed 14th rank with 32.8% of the women agree that their husbands are justified in beating them if she neglects the children.

Table-1: Women who believe a husband is justified in beating his wife

when she burns the food			when she refuses sex with him			when she argues with him			when she goes out without telling him			when she neglects the children		
Country	%	Rank	Country	%	Rank	Country	%	Rank	Country	%	Rank	Country	%	Rank
Senegal	63	1	Mali	63	1	Mali	68.5	1	Afghanistan	66.9	1	Timor-Leste	62.8	1
Chad	49	2	Guinea	48	2	Timor-Leste	60.2	2	Timor-Leste	64.4	2	Chad	59.7	2
Ethiopia	40	3	Burundi	42	3	Afghanistan	59.2	3	Chad	59	3	PNG	59.3	3
PNG	34	4	Chad	41	4	Tajikistan	52.3	4	Guinea	53.8	4	Guinea	52.3	4
Timor-Leste	32	5	Timor-Leste	36	5	Chad	49.8	5	Mali	53.8	5	Burundi	51.8	5
Tajikistan	30	6	Senegal	35	6	Guinea	49	6	Tajikistan	51.3	6	Mali	51.7	6
Guinea	24	7	Ethiopia	35	7	Ethiopia	42.2	7	PNG	50.4	7	Tajikistan	49.9	7
Mali	23	8	Afghanistan	33	8	Tanzania	42	8	Ethiopia	43.3	8	Afghanistan	48.4	8
Burundi	22	9	PNG	32	9	PNG	41.8	9	Tanzania	40.9	9	Tanzania	47.9	9
Tanzania	20	10	Tanzania	31	10	Senegal	35.4	10	Burundi	39.2	10	Ethiopia	47.5	10
India	19	11	Pakistan	27	11	Pakistan	31.6	11	Senegal	33.2	11	Myanmar	42	11
Pakistan	18	12	Tajikistan	27	12	Burundi	30.1	12	Pakistan	31.5	12	Uganda	38.5	12
Afghanistan	18	13	Rwanda	24	13	India	29.1	13	Uganda	30	13	Senegal	35.4	13
Nigeria	15	14	Nigeria	20	14	Uganda	26.1	14	India	26.1	14	India	32.8	14
Benin	14	15	Uganda	18	15	Benin	20.8	15	Zimbabwe	22.8	15	Rwanda	29.4	15
Uganda	14	16	Zimbabwe	15	16	Rwanda	20.4	16	Rwanda	22.3	16	Pakistan	27.8	16
Myanmar	13	17	India	13	17	Nigeria	19.6	17	Myanmar	21.6	17	Indonesia	27.2	17
Angola	11	18	Benin	13	18	Zimbabwe	16.7	18	Nigeria	21.4	18	Nepal	24.4	18
Rwanda	8.9	19	Angola	12	19	Angola	15.2	19	Benin	21.2	19	Benin	22.6	19
Zimbabwe	8.1	20	Myanmar	10	20	Myanmar	10.1	20	Indonesia	19	20	Nigeria	21.4	20
Malawi	5.5	21	Maldives	10	21	Nepal	8.9	21	Angola	14.5	21	Zimbabwe	21.4	21
Guatemala	4.2	22	Malawi	8.3	22	Malawi	6.7	22	Nepal	11.7	22	Angola	16.3	22
Haiti	4	23	Indonesia	6	23	Mozambique	6.5	23	Haiti	11.2	23	Maldives	15.9	23
Nepal	3.4	24	Mozambique	5.4	24	Armenia	6.1	24	Mozambique	7.5	24	Haiti	10.1	24
Jordan	2.4	25	Haiti	4.8	25	Jordan	5.9	25	Jordan	7.2	25	Malawi	8.8	25
Mozambique	2.4	26	Nepal	3	26	Indonesia	4.4	26	Malawi	6.9	26	Armenia	8.6	26
Indonesia	1.7	27	Guatemala	2.4	27	Guatemala	3.3	27	Armenia	5.2	27	Philippines	8.6	27
Philippines	1.3	28	Philippines	1.3	28	Haiti	2.5	28	Maldives	4.6	28	Guatemala	7.6	28
Colombia	1.1	29	Colombia	1.1	29	Philippines	2.2	29	Albania	3.7	29	Jordan	6.7	29
South Africa	1	30	South Africa	1	30	South Africa	2.2	30	Guatemala	3.6	30	Albania	5.2	30
Albania	0.8	31	Albania	0.9	31	Albania	1.8	31	Philippines	3.4	31	Mozambique	4.2	31
Armenia	0.4	32	Armenia	0.8	32	Colombia	1.3	32	South Africa	2.1	32	South Africa	3.8	32
Maldives	0	33	Jordan	0	33	Maldives	0	33	Colombia	1.2	33	Colombia	2.4	33

Source: World Development Indicators, 2018; Note: PNG=Papua New Guinea

Table-2: Correlation Analysis

		Women Opinion	GDP Percapita	Contributing family workers, female (% of female employment)	s as % of GDP	Human capital index (HCI), female	Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)
Women Opinion	Pearson Correlation	1	-.513**	.560**	-.218**	-.020	-.023
	Sig. (2-tailed)		.000	.000	.005	.798	.765
	N	165	165	165	165	165	165
GDP Percapita	Pearson Correlation	-.513**	1	-.567**	-.112	.186*	-.059
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000		.000	.154	.017	.452
	N	165	165	165	165	165	165
Contributing female family workers as % of female employment.	Pearson Correlation	.560**	-.567**	1	.169*	-.021	.050
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000		.030	.790	.523
	N	165	165	165	165	165	165
Gross savings as % of GDP	Pearson Correlation	-.218**	-.112	.169*	1	.143	.066
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.005	.154	.030		.067	.397
	N	165	165	165	165	165	165
Female Human capital index (HCI)	Pearson Correlation	-.020	.186*	-.021	.143	1	-.140
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.798	.017	.790	.067		.072
	N	165	165	165	165	165	165
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	Pearson Correlation	-.023	-.059	.050	.066	-.140	1
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.765	.452	.523	.397	.072	
	N	165	165	165	165	165	165

** . Correlation is significant at the 0.01 level (2-tailed).

* . Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

Descriptive Statistics

	Mean	Std. Deviation	Coefficient of Variation	N
Women Opinion	22.4206	18.92585	84.41	165
GDP Percapita	2356.6061	2248.52205	95.41	165
Contributing female family workers as % of female employment	27.7576	17.99565	64.83	165
Gross savings as % of GDP	16.6061	11.52129	69.38	165
Female Human Capital Index (HCI)	.3788	.20024	52.86	165
Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)	22.6424	14.40264	63.61	165

As shown in Table-3, among the socio-economic factors, high variability in the data set is observed for GDP per capita (95.41%). However gross savings as % of GDP and contributing female family workers as % of female employment have variability of 69.38% and 64.83% respectively. Female Human Capital Index has the lowest coefficient of variation among the socio-economic factors.

Correlation Analysis & Hypothesis Testing

It is a common phenomenon that a country with good socio-economic indicators will have a good status of women with reduced domestic violence against them. Thus, the researcher assumed a negative relationship between the socio-economic factors and the women's perception of their husband's justification in beating them.

The hypothesis 'There is a significant negative relationship between GDP Percapita and 'women's perception about their husband's justification in beating them' is accepted, since a moderate negative correlation (-.513) is observed as shown in Table-2.

The hypothesis 'There is a significant negative relationship between 'contributing female family workers as % of female employment' and 'women's perception about their husband's justification in beating them' is rejected since there is a moderate positive correlation (.560) as shown in Table-2.

The hypothesis 'There is a significant negative relationship between 'Gross savings as % of GDP' and 'women's perception about their husband's justification in beating them' is accepted, since there is a low negative correlation (-.218) as shown in Table-2.

According to Table-2, the socio-economic factors such as 'female Human capital index (HCI)' and 'Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments (%)' have no significant relationship with 'women's Opinion about their husband's justification in beating them'. Thus, the hypothesis 'There is a significant negative relationship between 'Female

Human capital index' and 'women's perception about their husband's justification in beating them' is rejected.

Conclusion

Domestic violence is observed to be one of the important phenomena that determine women development and empowerment. Despite having agenda at the international level for the development of women, their living standards and styles have not improved over years. According to previous studies, many individual micro factors influence domestic violence to a larger extent. However macro socio-economic indicators such as GDP Percapita, Gross savings as % of GDP and contributing female family workers as % of female employees are also related to women's perception of domestic violence.

Arisi and Oromareghake (2011) found that the high prevalence of violence against women remains a direct obstacle to women's participation in development projects. The results of this study indicated that the socio-economic factors such as GDP Percapita, Gross savings as % of GDP and contributing female family workers as % of female employment are negatively related with the women's perception about their husband's justification in beating them. It can be concluded that if these socio-economic factors improve, then the women's perception might change. The findings also depict that African women accept domestic violence by their husbands. Almost in all the reasons for beating, i.e., when she burns the food, when she refuses sex, when she argues, when she goes out without telling, and when she neglects the children, African women accept that their husbands are justified.

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