

FACTORS ASSOCIATED WITH INTIMATE PARTNER EMOTIONAL VIOLENCE AMONG MARRIED WOMEN IN UGANDA

Violence against women (VAW) is a form of discrimination against women and a violation of human rights. According to (Tuyishime, Mung, & Desiderio, 2015) emotional violence is a behavior that is intended to intimidate or humiliate. It includes verbal assault, dominance, control, isolation, ridicule, threats of harm, threats to take away children or the use of intimate knowledge for degradation (Silver, 2013).

Globally, 35% of women have experienced IPV (WHO, 2014). A 2014 study conducted in 10 countries, more than half (20–75%) of the women reported experiencing one emotionally abusive act from a partner (WHO, 2014). Among the East African countries, the prevalence of IPEV among the married is highest in Uganda with 51% (UBOS & ICF, 2016) followed by Tanzania with 36% (Kapiga et al., 2017), Kenya with 32% (KNBS & ICF, 2014) and Rwanda with 27% (ICF & NISR, 2014). It occurs among all socioeconomic, religious and cultural groups. The overwhelming global burden of IPEV is borne by women where 30% of the ever partnered women have experienced IPEV in their life time (Devries et al., 2013). The most common perpetrators of violence against women are male intimate partners or ex-partners.

Existing studies had focused on physical violence, sexual intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence and the effect of violence on child growth (Cools & Kotsadam, 2017; Durevall & Lindskog, 2015; Tetri, 2016; Whitaker, 2014). Other studies had focused on the attitude of men and women on IPV, the relationship between IPV and contraction of HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases (Capaldi, Knoble, Shortt, & Kim, 2012; Wagman et al., 2015; WHO, 2012). Despite the growing evidence of the prevalence of IPEV in Uganda there is limited understanding of the factors influencing intimate partner emotional violence among married women in Uganda.

Data source

The study used secondary data from the 2016 Uganda Demographic and Health Survey (UDHS). It covered all regions and districts in the country. It only focused on married women aged 15 – 49 years. In the survey, 9,232 women were interviewed. From this survey a weighted sample of 5,642 who reported being union or cohabiting for the last twelve months was

extracted. The domestic violence weighting (d005) is applied to attach the weights during analysis.

Outcome variable

The outcome variable of the study was Intimate Partner Emotional Violence (IPEV). In the UDHS, information about IPEV was captured by asking a question like: Did your husband / partner ever. Say or do something to humiliate you? ; Threaten to hurt or harm you or someone you care about? ; Insult or make you feel bad about yourself? The outcome variable was binary because for each of the above questions, the respondent was expected to answer either Yes or No.

Explanatory variables

They include: number of other wives, marital status, witnessed parental violence, age, residence, sex of household head, wealth index, education level of the wife and husband, type of earnings, participation in decision making and ownership of assets, partners' controlling behavior, attitudes justifying physical violence and alcohol consumption.

Table 1: Percentage distribution of married women who experienced (IPEV) by background characteristics

Social-demographic characteristics	Percentage (%)	Frequency (n= 5,642)
Age		
15-24	29.7	1,675
25-34	38.0	2,145
35+	32.3	1,822
Type of place of residence		
Urban	22.3	1,261
Rural	77.7	4,382
Sex of household head		
Male	82.3	4,643
Female	17.7	1,000
Current marital status		
Married	50.0	2,820
Cohabiting	50.0	2,822
Highest education level of women		
No education	12.6	709
Primary	59.4	3,349
Secondary	20.4	1,153
Higher	7.6	431
Partner's education level		
No education	8.9	504
Primary	53.0	2,990
Secondary	26.1	1,472
Higher	12.0	677
Number of other wives		
No other wives	74.2	4,187

One or more co-wives	25.8	1,456
Respondent's father ever beat her mother		
No	64.1	3,614
Yes	35.9	2,028
Type of earning's from respondent's work*		
Not paid	20.8	983
Cash only	46.9	2,212
Cash and in-kind	32.3	1,524
Wealth index		
Poorest	19.3	1,089
Poorer	20.6	1,160
Middle	20.1	1,135
Richer	18.8	1,059
Richest	21.3	1,200
Ownership of assets		
a) Owns land alone or jointly		
No	57.2	3, 225
Yes	42.8	2,417
b) Owns a house alone or jointly		
No	47.0	2,650
Yes	53.0	2,992
Partner alcohol consumption		
No	59.0	3,329
Yes	41.0	2,312
Frequency of partner being drunk		
Never gets drunk	11.5	265
Often gets drunk	32.2	744
Sometimes gets drunk	56.4	1,304
Beating justified		
No	50.1	2,819
Yes	49.9	2,823
Total	100	
Decision making in household		
No	12.8	724
Yes	87.2	4,919
Partners' controlling behavior		
No	30.8	1,735
Yes	69.2	3,907

**Frequencies don't add up to 5,642 due to missing responses and or/ filters that dropped some questions when certain criterion was not met*

Table 2: Multivariate Results

Variables	Odds Ratio	p-value	95% confidence interval	
Age in 10-year groups				
15-24 (Rc)				
25-34	1.31	0.050	0.99	1.72
35+	1.44	0.018	1.06	1.95
Type of place of residence				
Urban (Rc)				
Rural	0.68	0.041	0.48	0.99
Current marital status				

Married (Rc)				
Living with partner/cohabiting	0.74	0.007	0.59	0.92
Respondent's father ever beat her mother				
No (Rc)				
Yes	1.37	0.006	1.09	1.70
Highest education level of woman				
No education (Rc)				
Primary	1.12	0.495	0.811	1.54
Secondary	1.05	0.835	0.671	1.64
Higher	0.51	0.052	0.26	1.00
Partner's education level				
No education (Rc)				
Primary	0.88	0.483	0.62	1.26
Secondary	0.87	0.520	0.58	1.32
Higher	1.25	0.436	0.71	2.18
Number of other wives				
One or more co-wives (Rc)				
No other wives	0.91	0.450	0.71	1.64
Type of earning from respondent's work				
Not paid (Rc)				
Cash only	1.20	0.233	0.89	1.62
Cash and in kind	1.32	0.065	0.98	1.77
Wealth index				
Poorest (Rc)				
Poorer	1.11	0.489	0.83	1.47
Middle	1.36	0.050	0.99	1.85
Richer	1.06	0.749	0.13	1.54
Richest	0.83	0.475	0.51	1.37
Ownership of assets				
a) Owns land alone or jointly				
No (Rc)				
Yes	1.21	0.185	0.91	1.61
b) Owns a house alone or jointly				
No (Rc)				
Yes	0.84	0.230	0.63	1.12
Alcohol consumption				
Frequency of partner being drunk				
Never gets drunk (Rc)				
often gets drunk	4.24	0.000	2.85	6.31
Sometimes gets drunk	2.41	0.000	1.66	3.49
Decision making in a household				
No (Rc)				
Yes	0.86	0.443	0.58	1.27
Beating justified				
No (Rc)				
Yes	1.16	0.162	0.94	1.44
Partners' controlling behavior				
No (Rc)				
Yes	4.32	0.000	3.33	5.60