

Factors of Domestic violence against women: Correlate women right and vulnerability

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Abstract

Many studies have been made on domestic violence but very few considered women knowledge and perception about their rights. This is a research action study aiming to examine the main sociocultural factors behind domestic violence against women with an emphasis on the power of the knowledge and perception of the women about their international and constitutional rights. Quantitative data collected in 2015 in the regions of East and Southwest Burkina Faso are used in this paper. Multivariate logistic regression is implemented to take into consideration the net effects of each factor when controlling the effects of other covariates. Results of this paper can be used to implement actions against domestic violence in the zone of intervention of PROSAD project.

Introduction

The Situation of women and children are very concerning and challenging issues slowing economic growth and development in many African countries. These population groups are vulnerable and their rights are not often respected due to divers and complex sociocultural and economic barriers. Burkina Faso is not exempted. In the country, numerous women and girls are still exposed to multiple violence and right violations such as the femal genital mutilations or cutting, forced marriage, physical and moral violence, etc. Yet, some legal instruments that protects and defends women of these different acts of violence exist.

To frame struggle against violence that some women encounter in there household, Burkina Faso endowed itself with a legal and organizational setting with supporting and the signature of international and regional legal instruments. The country accepted legal instruments such as :

- Convention for elimination of all shapes of discrimination against women ;
- Convention relative to children rights ;
- African charter of the Rights and the child's Well-being
- African Charter of the human and people rights ;
- Additional protocol to the African Charter of the human and people rights relative to African woman adopted in Maputo and commonly called Protocol of Maputo,
- United Nations declaration for elimination of the violence against women;
- etc.

In addition to these texts, Burkina Faso subscribed to several international engagement to fight against violences based on gender. The list goes up to the declaration and the program of action of Vienna ; the Program and the Action plan of Cairo (Egypt) ; the Program of actions of Istanbul (Turkey) concerning human establishments and the Declaration and program of action of Stockholm (Sweden).

At national level, in addition to the organizational structure, there is a ministerial department with a specific unit on women protection and a National Council for women promotion. There is also some texts adopted locally to describe protective mechanisms of the rights of women and children. Among them :

- the fundamental law of the country (Constitution of June 2nd, 1991);
- The code of family and People (FPFC);,
- texts carrying Agrarian and land reorganisation (ALR);
- Criminal code repressing female genital cutting, forced and precocious marriage, family's abandonment, levirat, dowry, etc.

These legal and political measures should contribute in :

- i) ensuring equality and fairness between man and woman;
- ii) promoting, protecting and defending the rights of the women and children within the family and the society;
- iii) fighting against any type of violence against women and girls and finally;
- iv) promoting exercise of the women citizenship and their full involvement to the power.

Despite the existence of this organizational tools and legal texts that constitutes an important asset, the rights of women and children are not always respected. It is especially justified by the difficulties in the application of these texts for multiple reasons among which:

- ignorance by women of their rights;
- ignorance of judicial, legal institutions and conditions of access;
- ignorance of legal procedures able to allow women to get justice;
- difficult access to the judicial system;
- burden of some traditional and religious factors;
- sociocultural burden that concede to the woman a statute of inferiority.

To support the Government of Burkina Faso in struggle for equality of any kinds, some development partners tries to bring their contributions. In this setting, the Cooperation between Germany and Burkina Faso, through its Program of Sexual Health and Human Rights (PROSAD) undertook some actions in the sense of sensitization, capacity building and backing the capacities of actors, etc. The zones of intervention of this program are the regions of East and Southwest of Burkina Faso.

This paper aims to analyze in a monitoring and evaluation perspective, key indicators related to the phenomenon and to bring a lighting on the situation of violence against women in the regions of the Southwest and the East. It is also envisage to bring valuable statistical, sociological, legal information on main factors of violence that women undergo in these two regions of Burkina Faso.

Literature review

Several authors have invested in the study of violence against women. But, in Burkina Faso, researches on violence against women are relatively rare especially when it is question of the link with women rights. Existent documentation goes from descriptive analyses of survey data such as demographic and health surveys, biographical analysis and specific sectoral data to intervention areas of some programs.

A consensual definition of gender-based violence is any violence against men and women, where women are usually the victim. It stems from unequal power relations between men and women. Violence affects women disproportionately and it is predominantly directed against women because there are women. It includes, without limitation, physical, sexual and psychological abuse (United Nations Fund for Population). Violence against women includes physical, sexual and psychological / emotional violence within the family, sexual abuse of children, violence related to dowry, rape and sexual abuse, marital rape, sexual harassment in the workplace and in educational institutions, forced prostitution, sexual exploitation of girls and women and female genital mutilation.

Violence against women are burning truth that affects all countries, including Burkina Faso. However, one can classify countries according to two levels of violence against women. While domestic violence remains one of the most widespread forms in developing countries, sexual harassment and rape are recurrent violence in parts of the developed societies (RECIF/ONG-Burkina Faso, 1995). Most of the time, authors of violence are relatives (spouses, brothers, close family members) but also friends and colleagues at schools, services, etc.

In terms of use of legal and judicial services, some studies (Example of studies, source) showed a low use of these services among women victims of violence. This is usually explained by the predominance of customary law in the societies and the resolution of conflicts within the family or by friends. In addition, the place of women in traditional society, perceptions that people have of legal institutions and modern judicial, customary practices partly explain why women in such situations rarely make use of legal and other social services.

In an article published in 2015, B enoit T. and Dambele S. made an interesting documentary research on the phenomenon. This review was an exploratory bibliographic research to make an initial inventory of knowledge on the links between the violence suffered and substance use among women in Europe and some countries in the region Mediterranean. They find a strong relationship between violence and use of psycho-active substance that may in one way or another snap the violence process. (Benoit T, et al, 2015). Those reasons are almost the same in Burkina Faso.

The response to violence against women in Burkina Faso is through legal instruments on violence protective against women through the criminal code adopted by Law No. 043/96 ADP of 13 November 1996 Code Penal provides and punished several types of abuse (physical and sexual) performed on both men and women including blows and injuries, indecent assault and rape. Female genital mutilation is also a sexual violence prohibited in Burkina Faso.

Most of the time information about violence against women are obtained from qualitative studies. However, the main finding is the lack of quantitative data on Burkina Faso. This is what this study attempts to remedy by providing both quantitative elements and factors that affect violence against women in the regions of East and Southwest of Burkina Faso.

Aims

The general objective of this article is to identify sociocultural factors that affect domestic violence against women in the region of East and Southwest in Burkina Faso.

Data and Methods

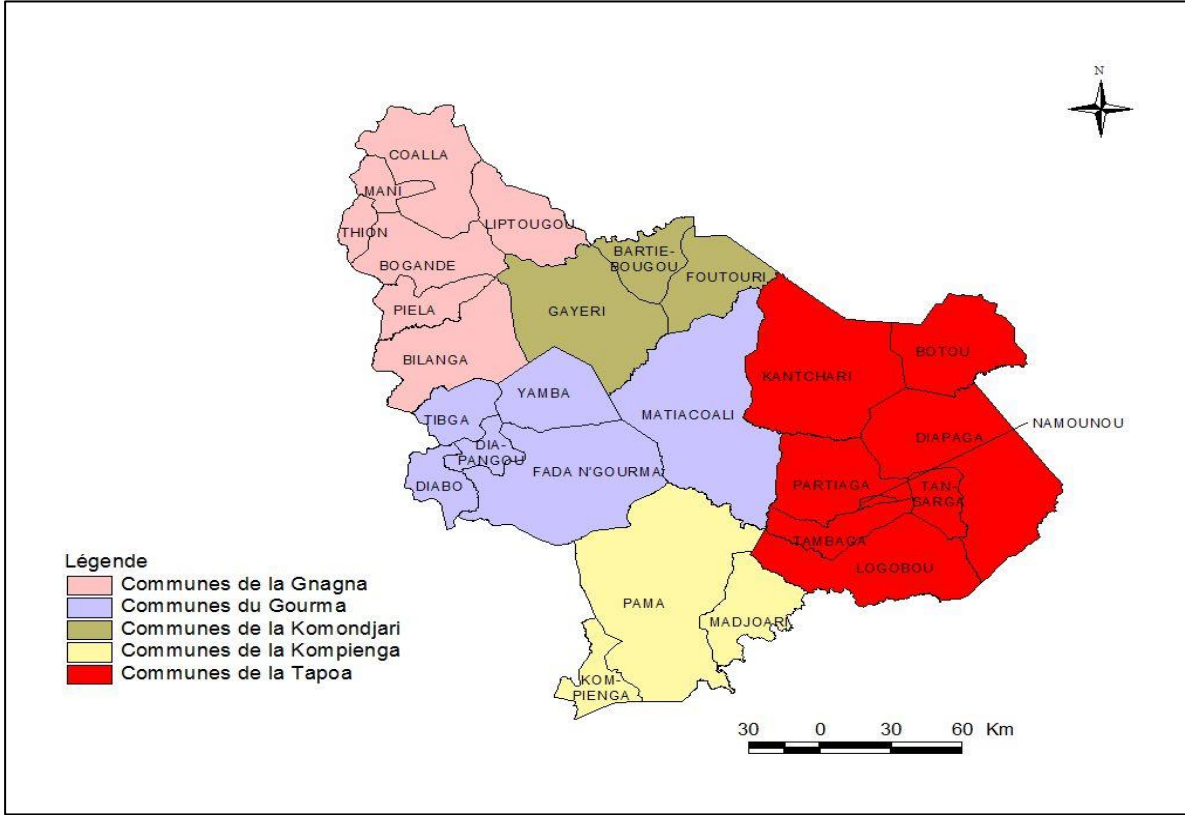
The PROSAD program intervention area includes two administrative regions of Burkina Faso that are the regions of East and Southwest. These two regions, like the 11 others of Burkina Faso, have been created by Law No. 2001-013 / AN of 02nd July 2001 concerning the creation of 13 administrative regions.

The Eastern Region

The Eastern region is located in the eastern part of Burkina Faso. It is large of 46 694 km², it is 17% of the national territory (DRED, 2003). Its average density was 26.0 people per km² in 2006¹. It covers five provinces: Gourma, Gnagna, Tapoa, Komondjoari and Kompienga.

It is bounded to the north by the Sahel region, south by the states of Togo and Benin to the east by Niger, to the west by the region of Central-East and Central-North.

Figure 1: Representation of administrative subdivisions (communes) of the region of the East



Source : SE/PROSAD

Demographically, according to the latest general census of population and housing in 2006, the population of the region of the East was 1,212,284 individuals composed of 594 868 men (49.1%) and 617 416 women (50.9%). This population is estimated at 1,615,740 inhabitants in 2015. One of the features of the eastern population is its extreme youth. Indeed, more than the half of the population is under 10 years old and the average age is 20.0 years against 21.7 years on national level. The population of the eastern region represents 8.6% of the national population.

The Southwest region

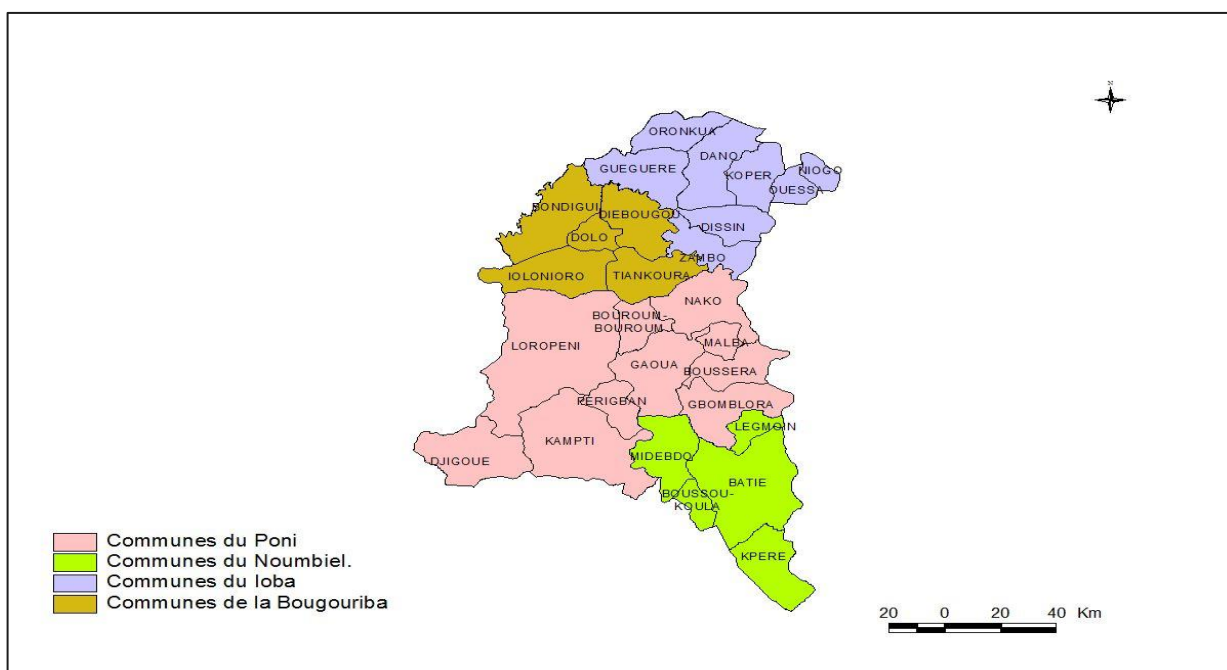
¹ According to the last General census of population.

The Southwest region is composed of four (4) provinces: Bougouriba, Ioba, Nounbiel and Poni. It has an area of 16,318 km² or 6% of the national territory and its population is estimated at 620,767 inhabitants in 2006 (RGPH 2006) or 4.4% of the population of Burkina Faso. Its density is about 38.0 hts / km² in 2006. In 2015, this population was estimated at 795 549 inhabitants with 381,847 men and 413,702 women.

Compared to the population of the eastern region that of the Southwest is very young. Indeed, 56.7% of its population is under 20 years.

The Southwest region is bounded to the east by Ghana and the Central West region, to the North by the Hauts-Basins, Boucle of Mouhoun and Central West, to the west by the regions Cascades and Hauts-Bassins and south by the State of Ivory Coast.

Figure 2: Representation of administrative subdivisions (commune) of the South-West region



Source : SE/PROSAD

Methods

This research paper is in line with the interventions of the Program of Sexual Health and human rights (PROSAD) through one of its three components: works for women's rights promotion and prevention of gender-based violence. Results of this paper will contribute in the evaluation of the program interventions on the phenomenon. Currently bivariate and univariate analyses are used at program level while multivariate analysis will better allow to identify the real reasons of violence whose women are victims.

The quantitative analysis undertaken make use of primary data collected in 2015 in the two areas of program intervention. This survey includes modules concerning the "knowledges and the approval of the women and girls rights" and the "extent of violence against women and men".

Given the purpose and the nature of our study, a logistic regression analysis is the more appropriate technique. The use of this method follows a number of requirements. The goal is to

explain violence against women with a dichotomous dependent variable: Either 1 for women who have been victims of any violence during the last 12 months and 0 for those who have not been.

In the logistic regression model, independent variables can be numerical or categorical. If p is the probability that the dependent variable takes the value 1, that is to say that the studied event happens - probability for a woman to have been abused in the past 12 months, " $1 - p$ " is the probability that the dependent variable is not realized - probability for a woman not to have been a victim of any violence in the last 12 months.

The logistic regression model is used to pose the following equation:

$$Z = \log\left(\frac{p}{1-p}\right) \quad \text{and when } p = 1 \text{ then } Z \in]-\infty; +\infty[;$$

- Under the linear form, $Z = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + \dots + \beta_p X_p$;
- Under the multiplicative form, we have: $e^Z = \frac{p}{1-p}$ or $p = \frac{e^Z}{1+e^Z}$

The statistic $e^Z = \frac{p}{1-p}$ is called "odds ratio".

Logistic regression provides information on:

- the number of observations;
- the probability of the chi-square associated with the model
- the R^2 that gives the predictive power of a variable or model;
- Odds ratio;
- the significance ($p > |Z|$) of parameters (β coefficients or odds ratio);
- The confidence interval of the parameters of the model.

RESULTS

In this section it is question of identifying among the variables included in the model, the most significant to the explanation of violence against women. Results of this study also highlighted the mechanisms by which significant factors impact domestic violence.

Variable included in the model are grouped as the following: sociocultural factors and factors of perception. Variables are included according to the groups created in order to appreciate the net effect of each group.

Effects of sociocultural variables on the violence against women

Findings summarized in table 1 concerns the role of sociocultural variables such as region of residence, highest level of education, religion, marital status and main occupation on violence done to women.

Taking into account, in one model, all sociocultural variables of this study, we realize that the model is strongly correlated with violence against women and it explains 15.1% of the studied phenomenon. Results (M6) show that the place of residence and women religion and main occupation are the significant sociocultural factors of domestic violence. Considered individually, these factors explain respectively 7.7% and 2.0% of the variance of violence against women. Details given in table 1, show that women in the Southwest region are 4.4 times more likely to be victims of domestic violence than their counterparts in the region of East.

Concerning religions, women belonging to the traditional religion are 60% less likely to suffer from domestic violence than women of the Catholic faith. At gross level (M0) when religion is confronted to domestic violence as a single covariates, Protestant women were less likely to suffer domestic violence than catholic women. The significant difference that existed between protestant and catholic women regarding domestic violence is no longer significant at the global socio-cultural model (M6). Referring to the occupation status, results show that working women and housewives are respectively 4 and 5 times more likely to suffer from violence than women without any occupation.

Table 1 Effects of sociocultural factors on violence against women

Variables and categories	Gross effects M0	Relative risks associated to the model					
		Net effects					
		M1	M2	M3	M4	M5	M6
A- Region of residence East Southwest R²= 7,7%	*** Ref 3,227***	Ref 3,218***	Ref 4,495***	Ref 4,479***	Ref 4,549***	Ref 4,629***	Ref 4,435***
B-Current attendance Yes No R²=0,0%	ns Ref 0,993ns		Ref 0,741(ns)	Ref 0,756ns	Ref 0,730ns	Ref 0,643ns	Ref 0,409ns
Achieved level of scholarship Primary Secondary 1 Secondary 2 Higher R²=0,0%	ns Ref 0,935ns 0,923ns 0,990ns			Ref 0,972ns 0,831ns 1,059ns	Ref 0,908ns 0,743ns 0,936ns	Ref 0,917ns 0,733ns 0,965ns	Ref 0,949ns 0,731ns 1,237ns
Religion Catholic Protestant Muslim Traditional Other religion R²=0,7%	ns Ref 0,678** 0,987ns 0,820ns 1,455ns				Ref 0,735ns 1,034ns 0,425* 1,096ns	Ref 0,712ns 1,017ns 0,93* 0,504ns	Ref 0,638ns 1,008ns 0,403* 0,496ns
Marital status Single In union Widowed Divorced R²=0,2%	ns Ref 1,006ns 0,711ns 1,422ns					Ref 1,192ns 1,306ns 2,870ns	Ref 0,842ns 0,910ns 1,803ns
Main occupation Without occupation Pupils/Student Working Housewife R²=2,0%	*** Ref 1,872* 2,499*** 1,294ns						Ref 1,806ns 4,034** 5,027***
Significance Chi-Square R²		*** 79,837 7,7%	*** 49,811 11,4%	*** 48,175 11,3%	*** 52,823 12,5%	*** 55,144 13,1%	*** 64,202 15,1%

* significant at 10% ; ** significant at 5% ; *** significant at 1% ; ns : no significant

Perceptions of women and violence they may suffer

How can variables of perceptions have an influence on violence against women? This is the question that this section tries to provide an answer. The results are notified in table 2.

Variables of perceptions group the perception about women rights, the perception that women deserve to have the same rights as men and the perception about violence against women. At gross level, it appears that all the three perception variables selected in this study are strongly correlated with violence against women. In the first model (M0) or gross level model, women who do not know if women have rights are 3.8 times more likely to suffer any violence than women who think they have rights. For women who think that women do not deserve the same rights as men, they have 25% less risk of being victim of domestic violence than those who believe that women have the same rights as men. Women who do not know if they have the same rights as men were about three times more likely to suffer violence than those who believe that women have the same rights as men.

At the net level (model2, table 2), all the perception factors are put together and results show that the perception about the approval of domestic violence was the only non-meaningful perception factors. In fact, there were a significant relationship for the two other variables namely: the perception that women have rights and the perception that women deserve the same rights as men. After controlling the effect of other perception factors, results indicate that women who think that women have no right have 3.2 more likely to experience domestic violence than those who think that women have rights. For those who think that the women do not deserve to have the same rights as men, they are about 32% less at risk of being victims of violence than their peers who think that women deserves the same rights as men.

Table 2 : Effects of perceptions on violence against women

Variables and modalities	Gross effects Model 0	Relating risks associated to the model	
		Model 1	Model 2
<i>Woman has right</i> Yes No Don't know R²=3,5%	*** Ref 0,771ns 3,835***	Ref 3,102***	Ref 3,168***
<i>Woman deserve to have the same right like man</i> Yes No Don't know R²=2,7%	*** Ref 0,746** 2,919***	Ref 0,686*** 1,316ns	Ref 0,681*** 1,388ns
<i>Position about violence against women</i> Approuved Desaprouved No opinion It's depend R²=1,5%	*** Ref 0,952* 1,375ns 0,727***		Ref 0,958ns 0,491ns
Probability of chi² Chi-deux R²		*** 41,690 4,5%	*** 50,193 5,5%

* significant at 10% ; ** significant at 5% ; *** significant at 1% ; ns : no significant

Key factors of violence against women

What is the contribution of all the variables in the analysis of violence against women?

To answer this question, all the variables, whether sociocultural or perception were introduced in a common model (table 3). Findings indicate that this overall model explains 20.7% of the occurrence of violence against women. Findings from this model can be separated in four situations of the independent variables. The first situation is the case of the variables that are not significant at the gross level and remained as such at the net level. These are variables such as the achieved level of scholarship and marital status. The second situation concerns variables which initially were not significant (gross level) and become significant afterwards (net level), like current attendance status. The third case concerns variables that were correlated to violence against women at initial stage and become not significant at net level. This group includes religion, perception that women have rights and position of the respondent about violence against women. The last category is when the independent variable remains correlated with violence against women from the gross level to the final model. It includes the place of residence, the main occupation and the perception that the woman deserves to have the same rights as man.

In the interpretation of the final model we will be focused on the second and fourth cases. Thus, considering the region, we realize that women in the Southwest region are about six times more likely to be victims of any violence than women in the Eastern Region. As far as women who do not currently attend are concerned, they are about 66% less likely to be victims of violence than those who are currently attending. Concerning the status of occupation, working women and housewives were respectively 5.8 and 9.8 times more likely to be victims of violence than women without occupation, and women who think that women do not deserve to have the same rights like men are 66% less likely to be victim of domestic violence than women who do not.

Table 3: Effects of sociocultural factors on violence against women

Variables et modalités	Gross effects	Risques relatifs associés au modèle						
		Effets nets						
		Model 1	Model 2	Model 3	Model 4	Model 5	Model 6	General Model
A- Region of residence East Southwest	Ref 3,227***	Ref 3,218***	Ref 4,495***	Ref 4,479***	Ref 4,549***	Ref 4,629***	Ref 4,435***	Ref 5,837***
B- Current attendance Yes No	Ref 0,993ns		Ref 0,741(ns)	Ref 0,756ns	Ref 0,730ns	Ref 0,643ns	Ref 0,409ns	Ref 0,343**
Level of education Primary Secondary 1 Secondary 2 Higher	Ref 0,935ns 0,923ns 0,990ns			Ref 0,972ns 0,831ns 1,059ns	Ref 0,908ns 0,743ns 0,936ns	Ref 0,917ns 0,733ns 0,965ns	Ref 0,949ns 0,731ns 1,237ns	Ref 0,866ns 0,619ns 1,129ns
Religion Catholic Protestant Muslim Traditional Other religion	Ref 0,678** 0,987ns 0,820ns 1,455ns				Ref 0,735ns 1,034ns 0,425* 1,096ns	Ref 0,712ns 1,017ns 0,93* 0,504ns	Ref 0,638ns 1,008ns 0,403* 0,496ns	Ref 0,780ns 1,178ns 0,580ns 0,387ns
Marital status Single In union Widowed Divorced	Ref 1,006ns 0,711ns 1,422ns					Ref 1,192ns 1,306ns 2,870ns	Ref 0,842ns 0,910ns 1,803ns	Ref 0,894ns 1,330ns 1,558ns
Main occupation Without occupation Pupils/Student Occupied Housewife	*** Ref 1,872* 2,499*** 1,294ns						Ref 1,806ns 4,034** 5,027***	Ref 2,070ns 5,863*** 9,811***
Woman has right Yes No Don't know	*** Ref 0,771ns 3,835***	Réf 3,102***	Réf 3,168***					Ref 1,785ns
Woman deserve to have the same right like man Yes No Don't know	*** Ref 0,746** 2,919***	Ref 0,686*** 1,316ns	Ref 0,681*** 1,388ns					Ref 0,343*** 0,513ns
Position about violence against women Approved Desapproved No opinion It's depend	*** Ref 0,952* 1,375ns 0,727		Ref 0,958ns 0,491ns					Ref 0,589ns 0,438ns
Probabilité chi² Chi-deux R²		*** 41,690	*** 50,193					*** 85,947 20,7%

* significant at 10% ; ** significant at 5% ; *** significant at 1% ; ns : no significant

Conclusion

Analyses undertaken in this study lead to the conclusion that sociocultural variables such as place of residence, the current attendance, achieved level of education, religion, marital status, or the main occupation, as well as perception variables such as the perception that women have rights or if they deserve to have the same rights as men or what they think about violence against women, would be strongly correlated with violence against women. At first, some variables were significantly associated with the dependent variable but in the presence of the other factors, their behavior changed to explain the studied phenomenon. Current attendance is included. Elsewhere, variables such as religion and the fact to believe that the woman has rights that were significant at the gross level are no longer in the presence of other variables of the study.

In sum, women who are more at risk of domestic violence at global level of the model are women of the Southwest region, women who are employed and housewives. Women who do not currently attend, women who believe that women do not deserve the same rights like men are less exposed to violence. Results indicate that focus should be given to those categories of women.

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