



Journal of
**Developing Country
Studies**
(JDCS)

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Kenya: A Case of Jimmia Rescue Centre**



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Disparities in Income Levels and Violence against Women among Intimate Partners in Informal Settlements in Nakuru County, Kenya: A Case of Jimmia Rescue Centre

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Accepted: 20th July 2023 Received in Revised Form: 24th July 2023 Published: 27th July 2023

Abstract

Purpose: Intimate Partner Violence is on the rise in developing countries and is alarming in Kenya specifically, therefore this study will establish the relationship between disparities in income levels and violence against women among intimate partners in Nakuru County, Kenya; A case of Jimmia Rescue Centre. Resource Theory founded by Goode in 1971 and Gendered Resource Theory founded by Atkinson and Greenstein in 2005 anchored this study.

Methodology: Embedded mixed method was employed which consisted of descriptive survey and phenomenological designs for quantitative and qualitative enquiries respectively. The study was conducted in Nakuru County, specifically in Jimmia Rescue center located in Nakuru East. A total sample of 112 respondents from Jimmia Rescue center were sampled through proportionate and purposive techniques. Questionnaires and semi-structured interviews were used to collect data. Qualitative data was grouped, coded, and placed in different categories by selecting similar issues, then assembled analyzed and interpreted. Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 22 for windows was used for coding and keying in data. The results were presented using tables, themes, quotes, and narrative descriptions.

Findings: The study established that the majority of the Intimate Partner Violence victims were married as reported by 54 out of 90 (60%) respondents and 66 out of 90 (73%) of the respondents were from monogamous marriages. The study also established 53% of the women victims were unemployed, income levels and unemployment status influenced violence against women. Violence was experienced in households where 80% respondents reported that earnings was controlled by husbands. This study concluded that Intimate Partner Violence is a concern among married women especially those in monogamous marriages and unemployed.

Unique contribution to theory, practice and policy: The study recommends couples to work towards equal contribution in gender roles and contributing household income to reduce power imbalances that contribute to Intimate Partner Violence.

Key Words: *Income Levels Disparities, Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Informal Settlements*

Background to the Study

Violence between intimate partners, particularly against women, is on the rise. Intimate partner violence is against women's rights and a global health concern. It is abuse or aggression that takes place in a romantic relationship, and in it is often committed by one spouse against another. There are many different ways it may happen, including physical assault, sexual abuse, psychological violence, and economic hardship. Most cultures have always perceived IPV especially against women as normal. According to Ricci (2017), intimate partner violence happens in both public and private settings, and it is sometimes contributed by state through its laws or acts. IPV is prevalent in all societies globally and women are the most affected. According to global estimates, between 38% and 40% of all female homicides are perpetrated by intimate partners, which represents 1 in 3 women worldwide. A report by WHO (2021) on "Violence Against Women Prevalence Estimates, 2018," revealed that 27% of women who have ever been married or had a partner between 15-49 years have been victims of physical or sexual violence at least once in their life from a current or former husband or male intimate partner. This represents approximately 641 million and up to 753 women 15-years-old and older who have ever been married or had a partner had been victims of physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner at least once since attaining the age of 15(WHO, 2021).

Though this an issue affecting both genders, women seem more violated than the men in intimate relationships. According to the national Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NIPSVS) report on IPV conducted between 2016 and 2017 in the United States provides a summary of different forms of IPV experienced by men and women in their lifetime or within the past twelve months. The survey revealed that about 1 in 2 women, that is 47.3% or 59 million women in the United States had been abused physically, sexually, or been stalked by an intimate partner at some point in their life. Twelve months before the survey, 73% or 9 million women and 44% men reported to have experienced contact sexual violence, physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner. The survey showed that even though men were also victims of IPV, women were the most affected (Leemis R. W., *et al.*, 2022). Moreover, data from NISVS showed that IPV often begins in adolescence. Approximately 7% equivalent to 8.5 million women in the U.S and 4% men representing 4 million men reported to have been violated sexually, physically or been stalked by an intimate partner in their life before reaching 18 years. The probability of engaging in and being violated by an IPV has been associated with an array of factors, including demographic parameters such as age mostly adolescents and young adults, , low income, low educational levels, stress, anxiety and joblessness, poor upbringing, and childhood exposure to violence (Nilon, *et al.*, 2017). These alarming statistics makes it clear that violence in intimate relationships is evident and specifically a burden on women.

The health and economic consequences of IPV are significant. About 41% of female survivors of IPV and 14% male IPV victims experience physical injuries associated with the violence they face. Death is the most extreme effect of IPV and according to the U.S. crime reports revealed that 16% of the murder victims are killed by an intimate partner. Some of the adverse health effects caused by IPV include, reproductive, gastrointestinal, cardiovascular and nervous system conditions and majority are chronic in nature. Other mental effects experienced by the survivors of IPV include depression and post-traumatic disorder (Nilon, *et al.*, 2017). Furthermore, the 2018 regional estimates revealed that the Least Developed Countries reported the highest cases of physical and sexual IPV among who were ever married or had a partner at 37% after employing the United Nations SDG regional and sub regional classifications. Southern Asia region followed with cases at 35% and Sub-Saharan Africa at 33%. Therefore, intimate partner violence seems to be a public health concern that affects a significant number of people and occurs among people of all ages and requires urgent action (WHO, 2021). There is no political, religious, or cultural norm that may justify intimate partner abuse since it is against human rights. IPV leads to women's poor standing in society and several injustices between women and men and also reinforces gender inequality in society. Lack of control and authority and societal expectations of the roles of men and women are the root causes of IPV. THE culture of discrimination against women has been prevalent worldwide which allows abuse against women in intimate relationships to take place frequently and without the perpetrators being held accountable. Therefore, the pressing need to understand why the problem is taken lightly and educate the society on the same through different ways such as through evidence-based research, as intended in this study.

A report done by the Economic Security and Safe Relationships (ESSR) in 2017 established that economic conditions such as extreme poverty rates caused by high unemployment rates is the leading cause of IPV in California. The economic insecurity issue also leads to housing insecurity which is a prevalent problem in California. Residents face difficulties in paying house rent since housing costs have also been on the rise, and this leads to IPV among couples. According to the study, high unemployment rates and poverty increases the risk of individuals to IPV. When a family is economically secure, that is having sustainable wages and investments and also owning assets, it will have the ability to meet daily need without problems hence reducing cases of partner violence (ESSR, 2017). This survey brings out clearly how economic hardships contribute to IPV which highlights the need for more research and illumination of the issue. According to Bishwajit and Yaya (2016) IPV has increasingly become a public health concern. However, South Asia and SSA countries have been addressing the issue seriously. The study highlighted that some of the reasons why women faced violence by their partners included mere issues such as not cooking food on time and serious issues such as not being able to give birth to a male child. Other cause of IPV included illiteracy, cultural inferiority of women, low economic status, and women tendency to accept violence. The study established that IPV cause tremendous effects on the health of women as it causes short and long term effects. IPV causes physical injuries mood disorders, unplanned pregnancies, diseases such as HIV and can even lead to death (Bishwajit & Yaya, 2016). The study pointed

out that IPV is a socio cultural problem and requires nations to implement policies which are gender sensitive.

Kenya has many informal settlements due to rapid urbanizations and high levels of poverty, IPV is creating serious attention due to its high prevalence in these settlements. In Kibera which is biggest slum in SSA located in Kenya, a study was done to compare the pervasiveness and attitudes towards GBV among slum dwellers in relation to those in general population, revealed high cases of GBV among women than men and other population groups in Kenya (Swart, 2012). This study serves as an evidence of violence against women in slums and platform for future studies, one of which is the current study that aims to explore the relationship between gender-based violence and socio-cultural factors. There is a high prevalence of IPV cases in Nakuru County but most of them happen in silence as victims do not report. Between March and September 2019, statistic from the Nakuru County Provincial Hospital revealed that about 2300 cases of sexual and gender based violence were reported. The report showed that 90% of the victims were women. Additionally, results from a research on the general population in Kenya revealed that 39 to 45% of women have experienced IPV of some form and majority of the perpetrators were intimate partners. According to the research, few studies have examined IPV in the informal settlements. The study done in Rhonda in Nakuru town and Kiragita in Naivasha revealed that among 301 women who participated in the study, about 62% of them were physically violated by their husbands at least once in their lifetime and the specific forms of physical violence included, being pushed or slapped (Lambert & Michael, 2020). However there seem to be no empirical study done in Nakuru County thus this study investigated the relationship between income levels disparities and violence against women among intimate partners in Nakuru County, a case of Jimmia Rescue center which is a facility support women from informal settlements that are exposed to violence in Nakuru County, Kenya.

Statement of the Problem

For almost three decades, Intimate Partner Violence has been recognized internationally as a serious and persistent issue affecting women lives and health, and a violation of their rights (WHO, 2018). A report by WHO indicates that, worldwide, 27% of ever married women or ever-partnered women between the ages of 15-49 have been victims of physical or sexual violence or both committed by intimate partners at least once in their lifetime (WHO, 2018). A study by Swart et.al revealed that 85% of women in Kibera, reported to have experienced violence in their lifetime (Swart, 2012). Corburn and Hilderbrand (2015) established that in Mathare Valley, another large informal settlement in Nairobi Kenya, 68% of the women reported that they had experienced more physical violence compared to the general population (Corburn & Hildebrand, 2015). Intimate Partner Violence is a problem rooted in imbalance in power in regards to socioeconomic forces, and the family unit, fear of controlling women, domination of men, and cultural beliefs that have traditionally denied women legal and social status. Therefore, laws and policies alone will not help to change people's violent behaviours even if they are effectively enforced at local levels. In most cultures, IPV remains hidden, sensitive, and stigmatized, and dominant norms often perpetuate this vice. Hence, there is need to change the negative practices that are inherent within the cultures. The Kenyan government,

just like other countries globally has passed several laws, policies, and regulations that prohibit various forms of violence against women and girls which include the constitution of Kenya 2010, and the Domestic Violence Act (2015). However, IPV remains rampant in the country and across the globe despite having laws and policies against it, and women are often the most affected (WilsonCentre, 2020). There has been a high prevalence of IPV in the informal settlements in different parts of Kenya as established by several studies and different contributing factors have been enumerated (Kibiti, 2015). Apart from threatening the peace in families IPV also leads marriages and it does not only affect spouses but also growth and development of children is affected. The mental and physical health of women is also affected by IPV which prevents them from contributing to their full potential in the society. However, this area seems to be under-researched and there may be no known study exploring the direct relationship between income levels disparities and intimate partner violence against women in Nakuru, therefore, this study investigated the link between these two variables of income levels disparities and intimate partner violence against women in Nakuru, a case of Jimmia rescue center which is a facility that supports women exposed to different forms of violence to fill this gap.

Theoretical Review

Resource Theory

According to resource theory, first put forward by Goode in 1971, violence is the main tool used to gain control within relationships. Resource theory suggests that a man is more likely to use violence against his wife as a primary means to gain control of power if there is no balance or the husband notices that there is an imbalance in key resources such as educational level, professional status and income that favors the other partner. According to Goode, a husband has greater influence when he contributes more resources in the relationship and he is less likely to use violence. However, a male may use violence to re-establish himself as dominant if his position of authority is endangered by his wife's access to job -related or educational resources. People who lack alternative methods of authority, such as wealth or educational position, are more inclined to use violence to gain more power in relationships. Goode goes on to say that wealthy husbands are less likely to be violent because they are sure that their wives will be obedient and submissive and that husbands have greater power within families than other family members. According to Goode (1971) power imbalance between spouses affect partners' propensities for violence. Since men were taught as children that giving in meant denying their masculinity, men never want to feel as though their authority is being challenged. This theory has two assumption, one is that when a female partner gains more social resources than the male partner, it contravenes sexual roles dominant in society such as (male as the provider). Secondly, socially associated stress would raise risk for partner violence. According to Basile, Hall, and Walter (2013), other studies have also shown a relationship between marital abuse and the differences between spouses' occupations and educational backgrounds. Women are less at risk of being violated when men possess more resources than his wife and there are higher incidences of violence among couples when the wife holds a higher occupational standing than the husband. Many studies that support the resource theory show that men who

have lower status, education, and wealth have a higher probability of mistreating their spouses. According to Goode (1971), people who live in poverty or those at the lower social class also experience more frustration and hostility since they have less prestige, authority, and money. They are most likely to make fewer decisions that do not involve their wives or friends. This is because they do not have adequate resources to achieve their goals while dealing with strangers or close friends and family members. They have less tolerance for pain and frustrations inside the house because of they receive less respect outside the home throughout the day. They are less adept at mediating or talking out disagreements whether the issue is one of sexual adaptations or family income.

Scholars like Macmillan and Gartner (1999), modify resource theory by stressing the association between the relative resources of the husband and wife as indicators of wife abuse despite the fact that resource theory places an emphasis on the absolute level of resources of the man. According to relative resource theory, there is a high chance of marital violence when a man lacks resources relative to their wives. It is argued by scholars that men who do not have resources like their wives resort to violence to reclaim their position. The disparity in the level of resources between the husband and wife predicts the occurrence of wife abuse, this is according to resource theory and relative resource theory. According to the resource theory, married men with less resources than their wives are more inclined to commit violence than men who have more resources to be violent (Gartner & Macmillan, 1999). Relative resource theory predicts that a husband who earns less than the wife is more likely to abuse his wife. This theory to an extent anchors the current study since it discusses how power levels among men in relation to their resources contributes to violence against women, it fails to discuss different forms of violence and to look at other factors that may contribute to violence apart from resources. Resource theory has been criticized since it does not explain the relationship between gender ideologies and partner violence. Therefore, there is need for a second theory and to be specific gendered resource theory to explain how gender ideologies have a link with relative resources and violence among intimate partners.

Gendered Resource Theory

Gender ideology has been associated with IPV against women. Gender ideologies which range from 'traditional' (the notion that husbands should be the chief breadwinners and wives should stay at home) to 'egalitarian' (the belief that women contribution towards total income in the home is significant) are how people identify themselves in terms of marital status (Aziz, Idris, Ishak, Wahid, & Yazid, 2018). Atkinson and Greenstein's (2005) gendered resource theory has been extensively used to examine how economic issues and gender roles raise the vulnerability of women to partner violence. According to the gendered resource theory, the beliefs about gender of the partner moderates the effects of relative resources on abuse. Men's gender ideals are often match with their family responsibilities, and they might use these duties to promote their masculine identity. On the other hand, a traditional man who is unable to provide for his family, loses the opportunity to justify his manhood by income provision. A man who contributes greatly to household income would not validate his masculinity by using violence if their gender ideology is not tied to providing for the family (Atkinson & Greenstein, 2005).

Gender ideologies offer a framework through which to examine how relative wealth affects wife abuse. The incidence of wife abuse is highly and adversely correlated with the husband's relative income in marriages with traditional men, those who think the husband should be the main provider. The incidence of wife abuse is not linked with the relative income of the husband in marriages with egalitarian husbands, i.e., those who think that husbands and wives should have equal responsibilities in both domestic roles and income generation. According to the Gendered Resource Theory, women who have traditional spouses and are the main breadwinners are more susceptible to abuse.

Gendered resource theory relates to this study since discrimination against women occurs in patriarchal societies where men are encouraged to have control over women. Gender imbalance in marriage and family is reinforced by patriarchy and patriarchal norms are frequently linked with IPV. Patriarchal societies have established gender roles that both men and women are supposed to follow. According to Tonsing and Tonsing, (2017) women who go against the traditional gender role expectations such as keeping family honor, taking care of the home, and being submissive to men are highly at risk of IPV. Whereas, men are supposed to be the key providers in the household. Such societal role expectations make women vulnerable to IPV if they do not abide by them. One strength of this theory is that it discusses clearly how traditional beliefs contribute to how men are viewed when they are not providing for the family and how that can contribute to violence against women among intimate partners. The theory also discusses the influence defined gender roles and how that may contribute to violence against women. One weakness of this theory is that it does not discuss violence against men in relation to gender roles. The theory does not discuss how women that do well financially could be exposed to violence from their intimate partners. This theory brings out clearly what had missed out in the first theory. It discussed in details how socio-cultural factors in relation to gender are likely to influence the violence against women among intimate partners.

Empirical Review

Influence of income levels on IPV against women

A study Khurram (2017) aimed to examine the factors responsible for violence against women in Karachi, Pakistan. The researcher interviewed a total of 22 women from the lower, middle and upper classes of the community. It was established that women from the lower social class were married because most girls from the lower social class got married or were married off at a very young age. Most of the women were not mature enough to take on the responsibilities associated with marriage life since they are forced into marriage at a very young age. The women faced abuse from their in-laws and their male partners. Women in the lower social class were also illiterate increasing their vulnerability to violence since they lacked awareness about their rights. Poverty was cited as one of the reasons why most women in the lower social class were not educated. In the culture of Karachi people, only boys got the chance of being educated while the girls were left home to work mainly as housewives. Feudal Lord of Sindh Province in Pakistan is one of the reasons why most people do not get educated. They believe that once a woman gets educated, they will forget their culture. Most women in the lower social class are

easily exposed to violence since they relied mainly on men for provision. (Khurram, 2017). Disagreements may occur especially when the husband cannot meet the needs of his family and this may expose women to violence. Thus, the current study will work to establish how income levels among intimate partners may be contributing to violence against women in the relationships.

According to the Human Development Report (HDR), in India, women in casual jobs or those with a low salary were more at risk of violence than those who were employed with a regular wage. Most studies have suggested that there exists a culture of violence among poor and marginalized populations. According to Wolfgang and Ferracuti (1967), people from low-income areas and informal settlements were less educated, more likely to be unemployed and had broken families. Women have a lower chance of being abused by their partners if they are economically dependent. In my opinion, when a man is unemployed, there will always be conflicts in the home about finances which can lead violence and even separation between couples. Gonzalez (2018) conducted a study to determine whether there was an association between domestic violence and women employment. The study employed Colombian demographic and health survey and found that there was a positive link between employment and violence among intimate partners. The incidencies of violence in relationships were also found to increase the likelihood of more females getting out of employment by about 19%. This study was conducted in Columbia and helps to understand there is a relationship between employment and domestic violence which informs the current study pushing the researcher to want to explore whether there is similar relationship in Kenya and specifically in Nakuru County.

Cools and Kotsadam (2017) main objective was to explore the link between exposure of women to IPV and level of resources in SSA. A total of 150, 000 women sampled from 19 countries and the study done using DHS of data of up to 10 years. It was established that there was a relationship between educational level and abuse. There are two predictions with relative theories. The inconsistency version which states that if women get more resources than their husbands, they are more vulnerable to violence. On the other hand the dependency version posits that women are more at risk of violence if they possess fewer resources than their husbands. Women with less income do not have the ability to end violence and power to negotiate. Individuals who live in poverty have a higher probability of experiencing abuse because of the stress that is cause by poor economic conditions. Unemployment makes women to be less empowered and therefore will have to rely on their husbands for financial support and will have a higher chance of being abused. Such kind of women will be less likely to leave such abusive marriages for lack of finances and fear of starting over.

According to Debrie (2018) increased poverty rates in the African continent greatly contributes to the occurrence of IPV in Ghana. Debrie argues that VAW is not only as a result of male dominance but it's also caused when men feel vulnerable when they cannot provide for their families as expected in most patriarchal cultures. IPV not only has health effects but also causes significant economic costs since violence results in low production rates and low income. In most cases, there will be violence where there is no joint decision making among couples and

where responsibilities of the husband and wife are defined. The purpose of a study conducted by Bonnes (2016) in Malawi was to understand the effect difference in the levels of education between a husband and wife have on the possibility of an individual experiencing IPV. The study employed the 2010 Malawian Demographic and Health Survey to conduct an analyses of 3893 Malawian women and their husbands who had been victims of IPV. The study found that the impact that a woman's level of education had on the possibility of experiencing IPV was also dependent on the husband's level of education. Malawian women reported that within the past 12 months. About 30 % of them had been violated physically by a romantic partner.

Violence among intimate partners in many societies reinforced by the social norms that support differences in power in relationships and lead to incidences of IPV. The differences in power are dependent on the partner's income, education, occupation and decision making power in the family. A person's educational level has a high chance of influencing the type of job they get, and their income level. Therefore, women are highly at risk of IPV if their partners have higher educational levels and also earn more because they will rely most on their husbands (Bonnes, 2016). I believe that women do not have a say in many issues in the family because of being seen as subordinate to the husband and they are required to be submissive. Abramsky, *et al.*, (2019) examined the association between women exposure to violence and their level of income in Mwanza, Tanzania. Out of the 740 women with an intimate partner, majority were earning some amount of money and it was also established that older women contributed more to household income than younger women compared to their partners. The participants experienced few cases of IPV when they received a higher income. Women who contributed more to household income were also more susceptible to IPV. However, there was reduced IPV in households with a higher income because there were fewer arguments over the inability of the partner to provide. This study brings out a serious revelation that when women earn less is a problem and again when they earn more the men feel threatened and so both scenarios expose women to IPV. However, this is a study that was done in Tanzania and this current study aims to discover whether there is an association between income and IPV in Nakuru County.

Agostino (2015) study assessed the effect of GBV on the implementing community projects in Meru, Kenya. A sample of 50 women and 250 men working at Gikui Mweru water project were used for the study. It was established that physical violence was the most common among the workers and women were the most affected. The economic hindrances to implementing Gikui Mweru water project included unemployment, being prevented from career advancement, and denial of property rights. The main objective of a study conducted by Onyango (2015) in Nakuru County established how the productive work of women was influenced by IPV in in Nakuru municipality informal sector. For this to be achieved, five rescue centers of intimate partner violence victims were sampled and the target population was 284. Ex-post facto research design was employed and 176 respondents chosen through simple random sampling. The participants reported that they experienced included sexual, physical, verbal and economic. Physical violence was the most common among the respondents most of them experienced slapping. It was revealed that men's aggressiveness increases when they feel

threatened, especially when a women gains more resources. Men always want to have authority in the household and when a woman tries to challenge this, they tend to use violence to maintain their power. Domestic activities have often been left for the women to handle while the man is considered the provider. Women lose morale or get hurt physically which inhibits them from economic contribution in the home and community when they get violated by the men. (Onyango, 2015). It is believed that women challenge the authority of men when they become empowered and this is against patriarchy which requires men to be dominant in the household and community.

Conceptual Framework

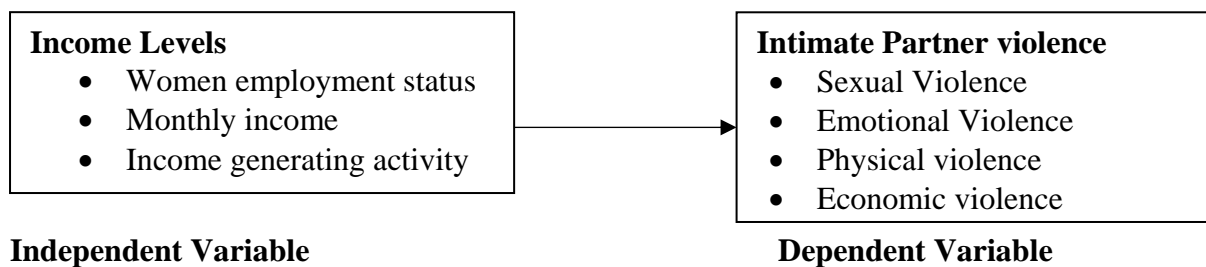


Figure 1: Conceptual Framework

Research Methodology

The study will adopt embedded mixed method design to comprehensively analyze the research problem. The qualitative data was the primary data that was enriched by the quantitative data. Descriptive survey was used for quantitative enquiries while phenomenological methods were adopted for qualitative enquiries to effectively address the research problem. The target population included all women sheltered in the facility and those that were attached to the facility but living outside and went occasionally for psychosocial and economic support to Jimmia Rescue Center. And also two administrators of the center who were interviewed. According to Jimmia's website the facility accommodates 12 clients and is currently supporting other 1000 women from different parts of Nakuru Country. Therefore, the target population for this study is 1014 women. Yamane (1967) formula was used to determine a sample 100 respondents. The study employed a combination of probability and nonprobability sampling techniques to select the respondents. The researcher collected both qualitative and quantitative data by employing a mixed method approach which entailed the use of a questionnaire and semi-structured interview guide. Qualitative data from the interview guides was analyzed using thematic content analysis.

Descriptive analysis was used to analyze quantitative data which was coded and keyed into Statistical Package for Social Sciences (SPSS) version 26. SPSS was used to generate frequency distributions and percentages, and the variables were also cross tabulated for analysis and interpretation. Bar graphs, pie-charts and frequency distribution tables were employed to illustrate the data, and the results were interpreted and related to the research theories and literature review.

Results

Marital Status and Duration of Marriage of Respondents

This section shows cross tabulation between marital status and duration of marriage of women who experienced (IPV). The table below illustrates the marital status of respondents, highlighting the number of women and their marital status at the time of the study and the duration of their marriages.

Table 1: Marital status and duration of marriage of respondents

Marital status	Less than 1 year	1-4 years	4-8 years	More than 8 years	Total
Married	7 (8%)	16 (18%)	26 (29%)	5 (6%)	54 (60%)
Divorced	1 (1%)	6 (7%)	7 (8%)	2 (2%)	16 (18%)
Separated	0 (0%)	7 (8%)	1 (1%)	1 (1%)	9 (10%)
Single	8 (9%)	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	13 (14%)
Total	13 (14%)	31 (34%)	34 (38%)	9 (10%)	90 (100%)

Source: Jimmia Rescue Center 2022

The analysis showed that 54 out of 90 respondents representing 60% of the sample were married. This implies that married women had a higher chance of experiencing IPV than women who were divorced, separated, or single. This concurs with data from WHO (2018) which found that 68% of ever-married women more than 15 years have experienced violence by an intimate partner. Furthermore, the study reveals that the highest number of married women, that is 34 respondents (38%), were in marriages that lasted between 4-8 years. The findings suggest that women who have been married for a relatively shorter period of time are more likely to experience IPV than those married for a longer period.

Type of Marriage of Respondents

The table below displays the type of marriage of the respondents in the study. Knowing the type of marriage of the respondents helps to be aware of the forms of marriage dominant in the population under study and also determine the influence it may have on violence. The forms of marriage listed include monogamy, polygamy, and bigamy which is the act being legally married to one partner and getting married with another person.

Table 2: Type of marriage of respondents

Type of Marriage	Frequency	Percent
Monogamy	66	73.3
Polygamy	15	16.7
Bigamy	6	6.7
N/A	3	3.3
Total	90	100.0

Source: Jimmia Rescue Center 2022

The table above shows that majority of the respondents (73.3%) were from monogamous marriage accounting for the highest number of participants in the study. This indicates that IPV was most prevalent among women in monogamous marriages. This finding contradicts with Rahaman, et.al (2022) who found that spousal violence was higher among polygamous marriages than monogamous marriages. Additionally, the study revealed that a minority of respondents, accounting for (3.3%) were not in any form of marriage. The findings imply that women victims who were most vulnerable to violence were those who were married.

Age and Religion of Respondents

The table below shows a cross tabulation of age and religion of respondents in the study. Data on the distribution of age is important to know what age group is more at risk of IPV and how age relates to violence. Also data on religion helps to understand whether individual's religious affiliation contributes to the experiences of IPV among women.

Table 3: Age and religion of respondents

Age	Religion of respondents				Total
	Catholic	Protestant	Muslim	Others	
Below 20 years	0 (0%)	1 (100%)	0 (0%)	0 (0)	1 1%
20-29 years	11 (12%)	22 (24%)	2 (2%)	8 (9%)	43 48%
30--39 years	18 (20%)	9 (10%)	3 (9%)	3 (3%)	33 37%
40-49 years	6 (7%)	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	3 (3%)	11 12%
Above 50 years	0 (0%)	2 (2%)	0 (0%)	0 (0%)	2 2%
Total	35 39%	36 40%	5 6%	14 16%	90 100%

Source: Jimmia Rescue Center 2022

From the findings, most of the respondents 48% (43) were aged 20-29 years and 24% (22) of them were Protestants. Followed by 37% (33) respondents aged (30-39) years with only (1) respondent being below 20 years. These findings suggest that young women who were between the age of (20-30) years were the majority of IPV victims and fewer cases of IPV were experienced among older respondents between (40-49) years and those (above 50) years. A possible explanation for this trend is that young couples are more likely to face stress associated with being in a romantic relationship that can result in IPV such as early pregnancies. Getting pregnant at an early age can make young couples to decide to live together and even get married when they are not ready for the responsibilities that come with parenthood and marriage. Young couples may also not be financial stable and would have several disagreements over financial problems. This finding has supported the views of Stockl et.al (2014) who found that IPV was high among young women in intimate relationships. Additionally, 40% of the victims were Protestants accounting for the highest denomination of women who experienced IPV, closely followed by Catholics at 39%. This implies that an individual's religious affiliation may play a role in influencing IPV.

Highest academic qualification of respondent and partner

Table 4 highlights the highest qualification attained by respondent and their partners. The data presented in table 4 is significant since it helps to compare the level of education between respondents and their partners, which provides insight into the level of education of the couples.

Table 4: Highest academic qualification of respondent and partner

Highest academic qualification	Respondent		Partner	
	Frequency	Percentage	Frequency	Percentage
Never went to School	8	9%	1	1%
Primary	23	26%	18	20%
Secondary(KCSE)	46	51%	48	53%
Diploma	8	9%	15	17%
Degree	4	4%	6	7%
Masters	1	1%	1	1%
PHD	0	0%	1	1%
TOTAL	90	100%	90	100%

Source: Jimmia Rescue Center 2022

The highest academic qualification of majority of the respondents was KCSE (Form 4) comprising of 51% of the respondents. Similarly, the highest academic qualification of majority of the respondent's partners was also KCSE (Form 4) accounting for 53% of the partners. The data further revealed that only (6) of the respondent's partners had a degree and (1) had a PHD while (4) respondents had a degree and (1) had a masters. Data shows that most of the IPV victims and their partners had not pursued higher education. The study findings revealed that the highest academic qualification of majority of the respondents and their partners was secondary level which indicates that most of the respondents and their partners

had not pursued higher education. This implies that IPV was experienced mainly among partners with secondary level education as the highest qualification. This trend has also been confirmed by, (Nilon, *et al.*, 2017) in the background of the study who stated that low educational attainment is one of the factors identified that increases the risk of being a perpetrator and victim of intimate partner violence. The same view is supported by Uthman (2017) who stated that women who are not educated, or those not exposed to higher learning institutions are more likely to tolerate violence because they do not know their rights. The respondents were further asked to state whether they ever wanted to go for further training and also whether their husbands accepted or rejected and the reason for their reaction.

Majority of the respondents (57.8%) reported that they had ever wanted to go for further training. However, most of them stated that they could not go back to school due to financial constraints. Findings concur with a study by Khurram (2017) in Pakistan that found out that majority of the women in the lower social class never wanted to go to school because of poverty. Majority of the respondents (42, 47%) strongly agreed that their husbands did not support the idea of them furthering their studies. (30, 33.3) of the respondent's husbands disagreed while (17, 18.9%) agreed about the respondent's idea of furthering their studies. However, quite a number of them (42.2%) never wanted to go for further training because they wanted to focus on raising their children, others felt that it was already too late to go back to school while others claimed they did not have time. Low levels of education among the women, and not wanting to go for further training could be one of the factors predisposing them to violence. This is because the fact that they were not educated, they could not get better jobs with competitive salaries. This meant that they would depend mostly on their husbands to provide for the family, or engage in casual jobs that would not generate adequate income for the family. Also, by not having a higher education, it meant that the women were not aware of their rights because they lacked exposure. According to the Eurobarometer (2011), majority of the respondent's low level of education is a factor that was regarded as a cause of violence. For example, some of the respondents shared that,

"I have never wanted to go for further training because I want to take care of children." (R4, 30-40 years, 7/09/2022); *"No I don't want to go to school because am too old."* (R50, 40-50years, 16/09/2022); *"I have never wanted to because I wouldn't know where to start."* (R13, 20-30 years, 16/09/2022); *"No I don't want to because I feel I can make money by working. Going to school will use up my funds."* (R16, 30-40 years, 16/09/2022); *"There is no time because I have children."* (R34, 21/09/2022)

Type of violence experienced by respondents

Table 5 presents data on the violence experienced by respondents in the study. The table presents the different forms of violence, including physical, verbal, sexual, emotional, psychological and economic violence. This helps to identify the type of violence prevalent in the population under study.

Table 5: Type of violence experienced by respondents

Type of violence	Frequency	Percent
Physical	4	4.4
Verbal	1	1.1
Physical and verbal	18	20.0
Physical, verbal and economic	36	40.0
Physical, verbal and sexual	13	14.4
Sexual, emotional and psychological	2	2.2
All types of violence	16	17.8s
Total	90	100.0

Source: Jimmia Rescue Center 2022

The results showed that most of the violence experienced by the respondents (40%) were physical, verbal, and economic which accounted for the highest form of violence among the respondents. (20%) of the respondents experienced physical and verbal violence by their partners, followed by (17.8%) respondents who experienced all the forms of violence (verbal, physical, sexual, economic, and psychological). This implies that most respondents were either physically assaulted, belittled by their husbands through demeaning words or were denied access to financial assets. The respondents were further asked to state the specific forms of violence they have experienced by their intimate partners. The table below provides the responses of the participants on whether they had faced the following forms of violence by either agreeing or disagreeing.

Table 6: Consensus on the violence experienced by the respondents

Consensus on violence experienced	Yes	No
Husband Hits/Slaps/Pushes	86 (95.6%)	4 (4.4%)
Husband Insults	75 (83.3%)	15 (16.7%)
Husband Forces to Have Sexual Intercourse	32 (35.6%)	58(64.4%)
Husband Looks Down on Respondent	58 (64.4%)	32 (35.6%)
Husband Choked or Burnt on Purpose	21 (23.3%)	69 (76.7%)
Husband Threatens to Use a Knife or Any Other Weapon	21 (23.3%)	69 (76.7%)
Husband Has Total Control of Finances	55 (61.1%)	35 (38.9%)

Source: Jimmia Rescue Center 2022

The analysis revealed that 86 out of the 90 (95.6%) respondents were either hit, slapped or pushed by their partners accounting for the highest form of violence experienced by the participants. This implies that a most of the respondents reported physical violence by their male counterparts. The findings agrees with Lambert and Michael (2020) who established that women faced atleast one type of physical violence from their husbands by most of the women and most were pushed or slapped. The finding is further supported by Bonnes (2016) in Malawi who revealed that majority of the women experienced physical abuse such as being slapped, pushed and punched in their lifetime. For example, some respondents shared that;

“My husband was beating me regularly and it became more and more so I had to flee.”(R6, 20-30 years); “My husband is always drunk and beat me.” (R7, 30-40 years); “My husband hits me if I don’t do what he wants.” (R30, 30-40 years, 16/09/2022)

The findings also showed that 75 out of 90 (83.3%) respondents had been insulted by their partners. This finding is also supported by (Onyando, 2015) who found that insulting or name calling was the most common type of verbal abuse. For example, some respondents said that;

“My husband had a short temper and abused me and beat me.” (R8, 30-40years); “Every time my husband comes home, he starts an argument, insults and beat me for no reason, (IGR5, 15/09/2022)

Majority of the respondents (76.7%) were never choked or burnt on purpose by respondents. Additionally, a significant number of respondents, 69 out of 90 (64.4%), disagreed that they had been forced by their husbands/partners to have sexual intercourse against their will. On the other hand, 55 out of 90 (61.1%) respondents agreed that their partner had total control of finances and restricted their ability to obtain or use money or economic assets.

Respondents were asked to respond on the frequency of occurrence of abuse faced and effect of husband violent behavior on respondent. Knowing the frequency of violence helps to tell its prevalence. Additionally, respondents were asked how they were affected by their partner’s abuse.

Table 7: Frequent occurrence of the abuse and Effect of violent behavior on respondent

	How partner behavior has affected respondent				Total	
	Physically	Mentally	no effect	both physically and mentally		
How often does the abuse occur	once in a while	10 (11%)	19(19%)	3(3%)	13(14%)	45(50%)
	regularly	4 (4%)	13(14%)	3(3%)	22(24%)	42(47%)
	all the time	0 (0%)	1 (1%)	0(0%)	2 (2%)	3(3%)
Total		14 (16%)	33(37%)	6(7%)	37(41%)	90(100%)

Source: Jimmia Rescue Center 2022

The results revealed that 45 out of the 90 (50%) respondents were once in a while abused by their partners and of the total 45 respondents, 19 (19%) reported to have been affected mentally by their husband’s violent behavior. Additionally, 42 out of the 90 (47%) respondents were regularly abused by their partners, and of the 42 respondents, 22 (24%) reported that they were affected both physically and mentally by the violence experienced. This indicates that intimate partner violence was prevalent among the participants. It was also established that 37 out of the 90 (41%) respondents were affected both physically and mentally. In the background of the study, Bishwajit and Yaya (2016) agrees with findings of this study that violent behavior of the

respondent's husband had an effect on the respondents. IPV possess significant obstacles to the advancement of women's health, it affects the self-esteem of women, drains their energy, and also causes emotional trauma. Some of the physical health effects that women faced included back pain, chronic headache, loss of some parts of the body, and limited mobility due to injuries. Additionally, Oram, Khalifeh, and Howard, (2016) also posited that mental problems such as low-self-esteem, anxiety, depression, and post-traumatic disorder were experienced by women victims of physical and sexual violence and it was reported that more than half of the victims in their study attempted to commit suicide. For example, a respondent, (20-30) years said that;

"My husband burnt me with an iron box because I did not wash cloths for him. It left me with marks to an extent that I had to get tattoos to hide them."(R3, 7/09/2022)

Another respondent (20-30) years stated that;

"It is a fearful story that makes me depressed. My husband beat me when he came home drunk because I didn't give him food." (R18, 9/09/2022)

A respondent (20-30) years shared that;

"My husband did not come home during the weekend, when he came back on Tuesday, I asked where he was and started to quarrel and beat me until he broke my hand." (R 65)

Furthermore, a respondent between (40-50) years stated that;

"My husband always demeaned me because I do not have a job and always asked what work I do at home because my work is to sit and do nothing. He came home one day and almost stabbed me with a knife and left me with deep cuts on my arm. I had to run away." (R 72, 08/09/2022)

Influence of income level on violence against women

This section presents how disparities in income levels influences violence against women among intimate partners. It explores the possible relationships between income level, and employment status and the experiences of violence. Examining the connection between income and violence against women helps to gain more insight on how economic disparities contribute to IPV. A higher level of income can help increase women's economic independence and reduce their vulnerability to violence. The figure below provides a visual presentation of the respondent's nature of work. It shows the percentages of respondents in each employment category, including, formal employment, self-employment and unemployment.

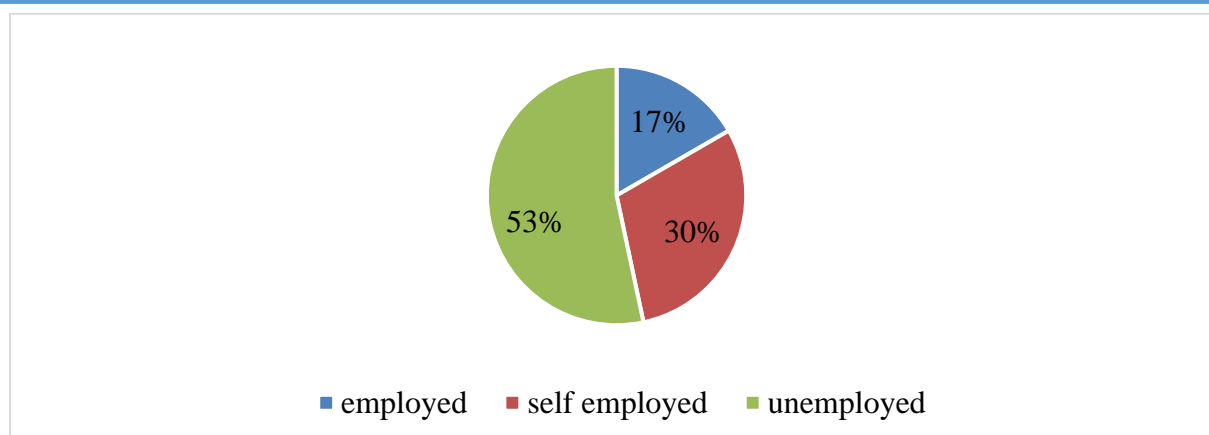


Figure 1: Respondents nature of work

From the analysis conducted, 53% of the respondents were unemployed accounting for the majority of the respondent. This suggests that IPV against women is significantly influenced by unemployment. Most of the women were unemployed because they had not gone for higher education and therefore didn't have the necessary qualifications to make get formal employment. Therefore, most of the women were housewives and depended solely on the husband for any finances needed. Others were not interested in getting formal employment since they felt the need to take care of the children. The analysis also revealed that 30% of the respondents were self-employed, indicating that many women were engaged in entrepreneurial activities. Majority of the women mentioned that they sold groceries or worked as house managers to generate an income. The table below shows the amount of money that respondents would make in a month.

Table 8: Respondents Monthly Income

Amount	Frequency	Percentage
Below 10,000	62	69.0
10,001-20,000	11	12.0
20,001-30,000	8	8.8
30,001-40,000	7	8.0
40,001-50,000	2	2.0
Above 50,000	1	1.0

Source: Jimmia Rescue center 2022

The table above indicates that majority of the respondent 62 out of 90 (69%) earned below KES. 10,000 followed by those earning between KES. 10,001-20,000, generally only 2% and 1% earned above 40,000 and 50,000 Kenyan shillings respectively. From the results above, those that earned below 10,000 shillings were the majority, this means most of them either did not have any income at the end of the month because they were housewives. While others mentioned that they sold groceries or did hawking and making a profit was not easy. This implies that most of the women did not have enough income to adequately meet their needs and those of the family and therefore had to rely on their husbands for support. However, most

women reported that when their husbands could not provide money that they needed, they would constantly have conflicts or would be dissatisfied if they were given less amount of money that they asked. This would increase stress levels between couples and arguments that would result in IPV. This finding confirms views by Cchabra (2018) that women who are more vulnerable to violence tend to be found in the lower carder of employment and that women unemployment increases risk of abuse. Furthermore, the study stated that women who did not work depended solely on their husbands, had less autonomy in the households and had a higher chance of being violated by their husbands. Table below illustrates the responses by respondents on the behavior of the husbands or partner. The statements show how husband control of finances, disparities in income level, employment status relate with violence.

Table 9: Respondent's response to behavior by husband/partner

Behavior by husband	Strongly Agree	Agree	Neutral	Disagree	Strongly Disagree
Husband believes he is the main breadwinner and does not like when respondent works	52 (56%)	18(20%)	2 (2%)	16 (18%)	2 (2%)
Husband does not support the idea of respondent furthering their studies	42 (47%)	14(16%)	3 (3%)	30 (33%)	1 (1%)
Husband has total control of finances and gets angry/violent when respondent questions how money is spent	58 (64%)	14 (16%)	2 (2%)	11(12%)	5 (6%)
Husband looks down on respondent for being unemployed	36 (40%)	16(20%)	2 (2%)	33 (37%)	3 (3%)
Husband is very violent when broke	66 (73%)	16 (18%)	1 (1%)	5 (6%)	2 (2%)

Source: Data collected from Jimmia Rescue Center 2022

Most women 66 (73.3%) strongly agreed and 16 (18%) agreed that their husbands are very violent when having financial problems. Lack of money can lead to husbands feeling stressed up about not being able to provide for their families. They may feel moody all the time because they may not be able to also engage in social activities with their friends hence becoming aggressive most of the time. This implies that This is consistent with a finding by Phuntsho et.,al (2020) that husband with low income were more aggressive due to economic challenges and may resort to violence. Cchabra (2018) supports this finding that husband total control of finances is associated with violence. Findings also showed that 58 (64%) respondents strongly agreed that their husbands have total control of finances and get angry or violent when respondent question how money is spent. This implies that most men always want to feel like they have authority in the home and one way is by being in total control of household income. For example, an unemployed respondent between 30-40 years stated that;

“My husband does not like when I earn my own money and likes to control whatever I earn, if I refuse he gets angry and hits me.” (R 52, 16/09/2022)

Further, (58%) respondents strongly agreed while (21, %) respondents agreed that their husbands believed that they are the main breadwinners and do not like when the respondents (wives) work. This means that most husbands held traditional believes that it is the man supposed to provide for the family while it was the responsibility of the wife to take care of the home. For example, an unemployed respondent between 30-40 years said that;

“My husband never wanted me to work, he always said that my responsibility is to take care of the kids and the house. If I tried to do any casual job and he knew about it, he hit me.”(R 77, 16/09/2022) “My husband counters any attempt of me starting a job and wants to monitor all my moves. He seems insecure.” (R15, 9/09/2022)

Findings of this study is in line with a research done by Onyango (2015) who found that in most cultures, domestic activities have often been assumed to be the responsibility of women while the man as the provider. Resource theory by Goode (1971) also supports this notion as it states that men are more likely to abuse their wives when they strongly believe in masculine gender norms especially the belief that the man is the breadwinner of the family and the feel that this norm is being challenged. The table below shows the opinion of respondent on whether they argue if their husband or partner is unable to provide and their responses are cross tabulated with the type of violence experienced. In most cases, the inability of the husband to provide for the family is always associated with frequent arguments between the couple because of increased hardships in the family.

Table 10: Husband and partner argue when husband is unable to provide for the family

		whether the respondents argue when the partner is unable to provide for the family		
		yes	no	Total
Type of violence	physical	4 (4%)	0 (0%)	4 (4%)
	verbal	1 (1%)	0 (0%)	1 (1%)
	physical and verbal	16 (18%)	2 (2%)	18 (20%)
	all types of violence	14 (16%)	2 (2%)	16 (18%)
	physical, verbal and economic	28 (78%)	8 (9%)	36 (40%)
	physical, verbal and sexual	13 (31%)	0 (0%)	13 (14%)
	sexual, emotional and psychological	0 (0%)	2 (2%)	2 (2%)
Total		76(84%)	14 (16%)	90 (100%)

Source: Data collected from Jimmia Rescue Center 2022

Most of the respondents approved that they argue when their partner is unable to provide for the family 76 (84%). Of the 76 respondents, 28 reported that they experienced physical, verbal

and economic violence. This finding suggests that financial constraints within the family would lead the husbands to argue with their wives, and there is a high possibility that the arguments would lead violence. In most cases, when the husband is unable to provide for the family, the couple feels anxious about what their next meal would be and they will constantly be worried and thinking about their daily need and the fact that they do not have enough money to cater for them.

Summary Findings

The study found that most of the respondents were unemployed and relied mainly on the husbands to generate income for the family. Those who were self-employed did not earn enough income to support the family since they were doing businesses such as selling groceries which were not very profitable. Therefore, the women were not generating much towards total household income. A lower income is associated with an increase in household hardships and couples are more likely to argue over the inability of the partner to provide, and partners may become violent.

Recommendations

Couples should aim to make equal contribution to the family's income so that the role of providing is not solely left for the husband. Both men and women should also be educated so that they can get jobs with competitive wages so as to contribute in household income equally. This can prevent power imbalances than often cause IPV.

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