

Factors Associated with Women's Attitude towards Physical Violence to Wife in Bangladesh

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Abstract:

This study included a nationally representative sample of 47,827 women using the Bangladesh Demographic and Health (BDHS) 2018 survey. We tried to figure out the socio-demographic factors influencing the attitudinal acceptance of intimate partner violence (IPV) and understanding the necessary interventions needed to address. Out of the total women, 8.56% of them perceive that wife beating is justified if wife goes out without the permission of husband, 10.61% for neglecting the children, 15.29% for arguing with the husband, 1.41% for burning food and 3.37% for refusing to have sex. The probit regression results show that the educational qualification of women and their husbands are associated with a decrease in the likelihood of justifying wife beating among the women. Women from rural areas are also more likely to accept wife beating than their urban counterparts, implying a significant gap in women empowerment based on their residential area. The probability of justifying each behavior is negatively related with the wealth index of the households. So, the policies prioritizing women empowerment through education and their access/control over resources, aiming to reduce the prevailing attitudes of women towards accepting wife beating. It is also necessary to ensure women's rights and social justice through increased access to media that can also serve as a reducing factor to accept wife beating by husbands.

Background and Rationale

Domestic violence, also known as intimate partner violence or domestic abuse, is any behavior used to exert control over a partner. Any economic, physical, sexual, emotional threat or abuse by partners is considered as domestic violence which significantly impact women. One in three women in the world is being affected by domestic violence, victimized mainly by partners or family members (UN Women, 2023). Violence against women is considered as the violation of human right. Prevalence of domestic violence is not only noticeable in underdeveloped country but also a common phenomenon in the developed countries as well. Violence against women has a profound impact on women's overall well-being by preventing them from participating in society, educational attainment and active participation in the labor force. It also impacts their families, making high societal costs including increased healthcare costs, legal costs, and loss of productivity. The United Nations defines violence against women as *“any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or mental harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”* Violence against women is considered as global problem because every day millions of women all over the world are being affected by it (Oyedrian & Isuego-Albanihe, 2005).

Domestic violence, like in other parts of the world, has been one of the significant issues affecting the lives of many women in Bangladesh's urban and rural areas. Regarding violence against women, Bangladesh now ranks among the highest in the world. The VAW (Violence Against Women) survey conducted in 2011 revealed that about 87% currently married women have faced gender-based violence at least once in their lifetime while 77% experienced any type of violence in the last 12 months, this violence includes physical, mental, and sexual violence. Only 2.4% of the currently married women have taken legal action after being physically abused by their partners (BBS 2011). During COVID-19 pandemic, the overall exposure of women to intimate partner violence has increased rapidly, nearly 1 in 2 women in Bangladesh has reported being subject to intimate partner violence according to multi-country data, 70% of women in these countries feel that domestic violence is normal in their country (UN women). According to a study of 23 developing countries, it was found that women empowerment is negatively related with the issues, wife beating is justified if the wife goes out without telling her husband, neglects her children, argues with her husband, refuses to have sex with her husband, or burns food (Kishor & Subaiya, 2008). The most notable fact is that many people hold a view that the victims of domestic violence are the ones responsible for domestic violence (Rossie, Waite, & Barke, 1974; Shortland Straw, 1976).

The victim women in some cases fuel the recurrence of these incidents by holding a belief that beating wife is justified in some circumstances. In Bangladeshi contexts, a major portion of men and women justify violence perpetrated against them to some extent (Rashid et al.,2014). Throughout the last decade, several severe cases of domestic violence against women have compelled academics and practitioners to consider the adverse effects of such violence on society and devise effective countermeasures. Especially, there are limited studies regarding factors influencing wife beating in Bangladesh. This study aims better to understand the women's perspective on domestic violence especially the phenomenon of wife beating, and which factors are the major drivers of domestic violence. The primary goal of this research is to determine what a woman thinks and why a man is motivated to abuse a woman. There are some micro level factors that may influence women's attitude towards wife beating. To account for factors influencing the attitude towards domestic violence, the variables we will consider are the man's education level, the woman's educational qualification, access to media, age, location etc.

Literature review

From the literature on determinants of domestic violence and studies on marriage and family, we have found six theories on why a husband abuses his wife. The six theories are Resource theory, Exchange theory, Culture of violence theory, Patriarchal theory, Modernization theory, and Dependency theory. Resource theory was first coined by Goode (1971), he asserted that the husband would be less likely to use domestic violence the more resources he brings to the partnership, such as money, food, prestige, or authority. However, to maintain power over the marriage, the husband will turn to domestic abuse if the wife's education or wealth threatens his superior standing. Therefore, violence is used to exert consistent control over a spouse. Violence serves as compensation for the husband's shortage of resources. At a macro level, Levinson (1989) proposed that if men's conventional dominance in society is undermined by women's access to superior societal resources, this will lead to status discrepancies, resulting in more widespread domestic violence. Studies have been done to support this theory. Studies show a correlation between higher levels of physical wife abuse and lower income levels (Steinmetz, 1987; Gelles & Straus, 1988). In addition to variables assessing interpersonal and intrinsic resources, Allen and Straus (1980) employed measures of extrinsic resources, such as occupational prestige, educational attainment, income level, and satisfaction with income. They discovered a significant positive association between the husband's use of physical force and the poor resources class variable. The result supports other studies in this field that found that resource-poor husbands are more prone to commit domestic abuse (Browker, 1983; Pagelow, 1981). Gelles (1974) discovered that higher levels of wife abuse are related to intra-couple variations in occupational prestige when the woman's position is more elevated. It also shows a clear correlation between domestic violence and variations in the educational achievement of the husband

and wife. Banerjee et al. (2009) demonstrated that the age difference between men and women in relationships is one of the key determinants of the domestic violence. An integrated model test by A. DeMaris et al (2003) revealed interesting stories regarding factors associated with intimate partner violence. According to their model background characteristics of partners fuels relationship stress which in turn results in more domestic violence. Couples are more vulnerable to domestic violence if a traditional man is married to a non-traditional woman. They showed that couples are more likely to face violence in their early stages of relationship than at later stages which is an interesting phenomenon.

A study conducted in Punjab about wife beating has illustrated the key reasons behind wife beating. They identified that wife beating is more prevalent in low-income households than the high-income ones. They also identified that men with employment instability, men who are informal sectors, are more likely to engage in physical violence with their wives (H Kaur, 2020). Women's education, exposure to the media, residence, and religion were very significant predictors of violence against women among reproductive-aged women in Bangladesh (Rahman et al., 2023). In Bangladesh, however, there are fewer studies related to the reasons for justification wife beating. A recent study on this issue was carried out by Hossain et al. (2022), they considered five grounds on which men and women will justify wife beating and attempted to find out which is the most significant reason for justification. The bases were "going out without telling husband", "neglecting the children", "arguing with husband", "refusing sexual intercourse", and "burning the food". Out of the five reasons, they identified arguing with husband will most likely lead to wife beating in Bangladesh.

Whaley (2001), who did not specifically address domestic violence, hypothesized that gender equality would increase the threat of violence against women in the short term. However, in the long run, gender equality will improve the social environment for women. She researched to test her theory in 109 US cities and discovered a negative relationship between rape rates and gender equality regarding money, education, and access to higher-status employment. Domestic violence is related to lower education levels of both women and husbands (McCall & Shields, 1986; Straus et al., 1980). Straus et al. (1980) also suggest a curvilinear link between education level and wife abuse may exist.

Thus, alternative hypotheses are provided by resource theory. One is that domestic violence will rise as education, labor force involvement, and women's access to political positions rise. Another is that reduced domestic violence will result from gender equality. According to exchange theory, domestic violence will be especially prevalent in societies with low domestic abuse costs. In many communities, domestic violence has a low social cost because the social consequences are insufficient. Social norms make it easy for a man to commit domestic violence. Levinson (1989) observed that domestic violence would increase in a society where the cost of domestic violence is low. The exchange theory is also related to the culture

of violence. Compared to societies with low levels of crime or violence, violence against women is more prevalent in violent societies (McWilliams, 1998). Again, men have historically and anthropologically dominated women as the head or patriarch of their families. This empowered men to dominate female members of their families. Such patriarchal norms safeguard men's ability to control their wives while justifying violence against them. These norms have historical roots in female subordination (Dobash & Dobash, 1979).

Modernization theory has the potential to undermine patriarchal norms. According to modernization theory, changes in people's ideologies and values are expected due to modernization. Individuals will gain a more universalistic view of the world as modernization occurs and be liberated from gender norms and stereotypes (Parsons, 1960). So, if modernization triumphs over patriarchy, we may see a decrease in the prevalence of domestic abuse. Sun Lei-yang (2003) believes that an improvement in the implementation of domestic violence laws adopted and enacted in many countries can help reduce the cases of domestic violence as well as the cultural values. The Economic Dependency Theory is the last theory in the literature to explain domestic violence. Keeping everything else constant, we can say that if a woman is dependent on a man, there is a high likelihood of domestic violence. Women's access to educational, economic, and political resources has frequently been linked to financial dependency (Basu & Famoye, 2004). The foremost determinant is the education of women, recognized as a crucial factor in explaining their attitudes, given its role in women's empowerment. Educated women don't accept wife beating and they have more knowledge about their right and process of legal actions (Rani & Bonu, 2009). On the contrary, husband's education is also related to the attitude of women towards wife beating. The spillover effect of a husband's education manifests in a lower likelihood of wives accepting such violence, with higher levels of husband's education reducing the acceptance rate. Religion has a mixed effect to explain the attitude of women towards wife beating. More religious women have a tendency to accept the abuse by husband although the relationship is not straightforward. Age of the women is negatively related with their acceptance of wife beating. Older women, in comparison to their younger counterparts, exhibit lower acceptance levels of violence against women (Uthman et al., 2009). The empirical studies do not show any significant relationship between working status of women and attitude towards wife beating, suggesting that the nature of the work may be more influential than mere employment status. Access to media plays a pivotal role, inversely influencing the justification of wife beating. Media serves as a source for awareness regarding women's rights, contributing to a decline in acceptance (Oyediran and Isiugo-Abanihe 2005). Family wealth is also strongly related with the justification of women towards wife beating. According to the resource-based theory, women from high wealth family less justify the wife beating than the women from low wealth family.

Using these concepts, we will model the wife's attitudes to justify wife beating. Previous empirical research found an association between domestic violence and its determinants, but there has been very little research on the relationship between attitude toward domestic violence and its factors. There is even less research on this topic in Bangladesh. We aim to identify the factors influencing people's attitudes toward domestic violence and how we can mitigate them.

Gaps in the previous studies

Previous research in this area was based on women's experience with domestic violence (Rapp et al., 2012; Owusu, Ebenezer, and Agbemafle, 2016). With this analysis, there is a two-part problem. To begin with, past research tells us what increases the level of domestic violence against women; however, it does not identify the connotations of what causes such abuse. Once we know the motivations, we can implement policies to reduce domestic violence in Bangladeshi society. The second issue is that the surveys ask women about their experiences with domestic violence. Because patriarchal families are the norm in Bangladesh, women are afraid to speak up about their husbands. As a result, we can assume that the data understates the actual level of domestic violence.

We will investigate women's attitudes toward domestic violence. The goal is to discover what characteristics in women cause them to have a positive attitude toward domestic abuse. We want to identify the factors contributing to the desensitization of domestic violence. We want to determine why women think domestic violence is the correct way to deal with women.

Previous research on domestic violence has encountered several challenges and limitations. A lack of agreement on the definition of domestic violence has resulted in inconsistent and incomparable data and findings. As a result, rather than the full description of domestic abuse, we will use women's attitudes toward wife beating as a proxy for domestic violence behavior. Because victims may not feel safe or willing to disclose abuse, relying on self-reported data, particularly from victims, can lead to underreporting and bias. So, rather than reporting from victims, we are looking for information on when it is okay to cause domestic violence. Research has frequently used small and non-representative samples (only married women or women over a certain age), resulting in generalizability issues and an incomplete understanding of domestic violence's true scope and nature. We are using data on all women to broaden the scope of this field because the primary issue is understanding what motivates domestic violence in Bangladesh. Research has frequently failed to account for cultural and contextual differences, resulting in a lack of understanding of different communities' unique experiences and challenges. Due to a lack of domestic violence research in Bangladesh, it is impossible to understand the cultural and contextual differences notable to Bangladesh. Our study will attempt to control for religious, geographical, educational, and other differences to identify the root causes and solutions to domestic violence.

The research on intimate partner violence in Bangladesh is nascent. There has been some research on the socioeconomic factors of domestic violence (Bate et al., 2004; Schuler, 2013). These studies have shown qualitatively the factors of domestic violence or wife beating by conducting in-depth interviews. Others have shown descriptive statistics on what proportion of women believe in wife-beating or intimate partner violence (Rashid et al., 2014; Hossain et al., 2022). Khan and Islam (2018) found a relationship between attitude toward wife beating and reproductive healthcare-seeking behavior. In our research, we are trying to find a significant relationship between socioeconomic factors of women's attitudes toward wife beating. In our study, we will try to figure out if some socio-economic factors are affecting the attitudes toward acceptance of domestic violence.

Research Questions

What is the level of justification for wife beating among the ever-married women in Bangladesh?

What are the determinants of this attitudinal acceptance of IPV?

What necessary interventions need to identify to empower women?

Data and Research Methods:

This analysis will use nationally representative data from Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) of 2018. We will use descriptive statistics and the econometric model to answer the above research question. The survey questions were asked female participants, ever-married women, whether a husband is justified in beating his wife under a series of possible circumstances (going out without telling her husband, neglecting the children, arguing with her husband, refusing to have sex with husband, and burning the food while cooking). Accordingly, the responses were coded to two mutually exclusive categories: "yes" (coded as 1) and "no" (coded as 0). Thus, given the nature of the dependent variables (women's response under the above five circumstances), a binary probit regression model is fitted for the dependent variable to identify the factors that significantly predict respondents' attitudes toward wife beating in Bangladesh.

$$Y_i = \beta_i X_i + e_i$$

where Y denotes women's attitude toward wife beating based on the binary response under any of the five circumstances, the Y variable is coded 1 if the respondent answered yes in any of the five items on justifications for beating wife, meaning the attitudinal acceptance of IPV (Yes=1). On the other hand, if she did not support to any of the five items is considered as attitudinal unacceptance of IPV (No=0). For the predicting variables, X denotes a range of explanatory variables influencing women's attitude toward wife beating in Bangladesh, β is a vector of the coefficients for the explanatory variables, and e_i refers the

random error term. The socio-demographic factors used as the explanatory variable in the regression model are age, number of children, working status, administrative location, religion, wealth index, level of education, exposure to media.

Results

Background information:

The following table provides us the socio-demographic characteristics of the surveyed women. Of the total women of 47827, a significant portion of them (24.68%) have no formal education, 36.77% of them have completed primary level of education and a smaller percentage of them (6.86%) pursued higher than the secondary level of education. The fundamental reason of the low level of education of the women in Bangladesh is most of the population in Bangladesh live in rural area. The husbands' educational qualification of the surveyed women is also similarly distributed as of the women, 28% of them have no formal education, a very smaller percentage of them (11.42%) have higher level of education. The survey was also conducted in both rural and urban location in Bangladesh to make it representative with the national population. Of the surveyed women, 74.23% of them are from rural area whereas 25.77% of them are urban area. The data is also representative to the administrative division of Bangladesh according to the population proportion. Highest number of sample (23.97%) was collected from Dhaka division, followed by Chittagong division (19.62%), whereas only 5.62% of the women are surveyed from Barisal division. The majority of the women practices Islam as their religion (91.56%), while 8.44% are the follower of Hinduism, Buddhism, or Christianity.

In terms of working status of the women, 52.99% of them are currently engaged with any type of workings. Age-wise distribution of women indicates that the largest age group is in the range of 35-49 years, constituting 54.47% of the total surveyed women, followed by 25-34 (33.97%) and 15-24 (11.56%). In terms of household composition, a substantial percentage have 1-2 children (38.72%) and 3-4 children (44.58%). The wealth index distribution highlights that the majority fall into the categories of poorer, poorest, and middle.

Background information	Frequency	Percent
Education of women		
No education	11806	24.68
Primary	17588	36.77
Secondary	15152	31.68
Higher	3280	6.86
Husband's education		
No education	12999	28.95

Primary	15290	34.06
Secondary	11388	25.37
Higher	5125	11.42
Current Working Status of women		
Yes	25342	52.99
No	22486	47.01
Location		
Rural	35503	74.23
Urban	12325	25.77
Wealth index		
Poorest	10215	21.36
Poorer	10246	21.42
Middle	9724	20.33
Richer	9327	19.5
Richest	8316	17.39
Division		
Barisal	2833	5.92
Chittagong	9383	19.62
Dhaka	11461	23.97
Khulna	4936	10.32
Mymensingh	3858	8.07
Rajshahi	6232	13.03
Rangpur	5741	12
Sylhet	3383	7.07
Religion		
Islam	43789	91.56
Hinduism/Buddhism/Christianity	4039	8.44
Women's age		
15-24	5530	11.56
25-34	16248	33.97
35-49	26050	54.47
Number of Children in the HHs		
None	142	0.3
1-2	18517	38.72
3-4	21321	44.58
5 and more	7847	16.41

Table 1 Background information of the surveyed women

Women attitude towards wife beating

The following figure-2 show the percentage of the women justify the wife beating for the given circumstances. Out of the total women, 8.56% of them think that wife beating is justified if wife goes out

without the permission of husband. Secondly, 10.61% of women believe that beating is justified if a wife neglects the children. Of the total women, 15.29% of women think that beating is justified if a wife argues with her husband which is highest among the five cases. Only 1.41% of women justify beating if a wife burns food which potentially indicates a recognition of the disproportionate nature of physical punishment for minor issue. Lastly, 3.37% of women believe that beating is justified if a wife refuses to have sex.

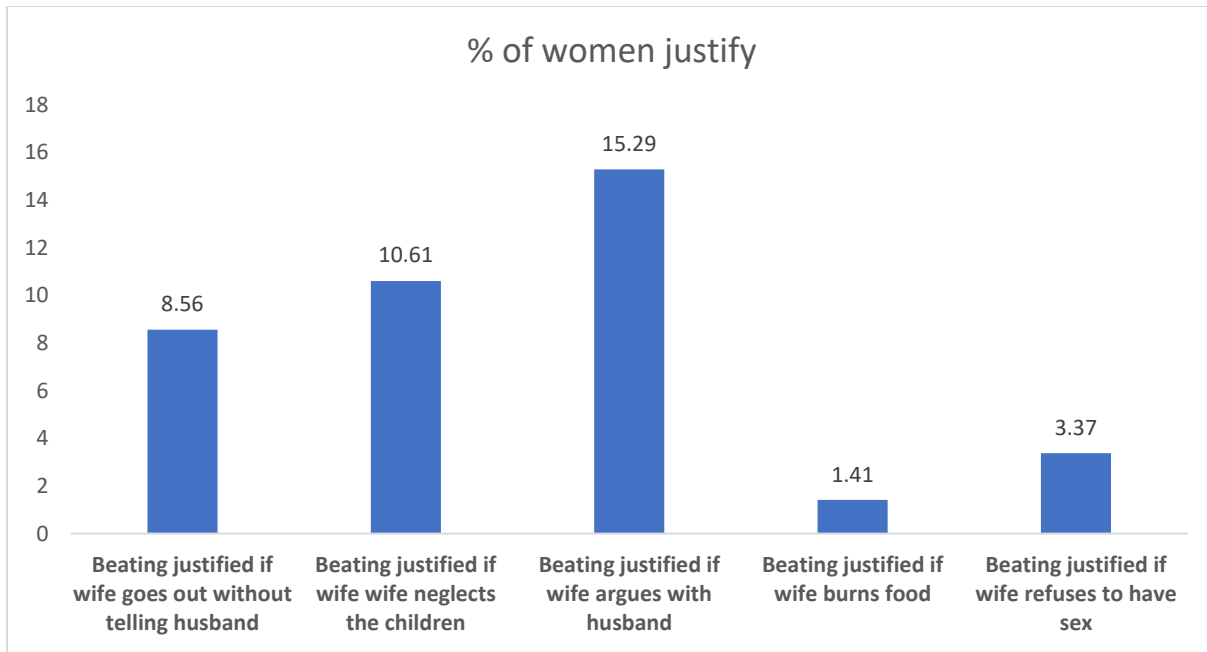


Figure 1 Percentage of women justify wife beating by the husband

The table-2 helps to analyze how societal attitudes towards the justification of certain behaviors by women vary across different education levels. It appears that as the level of education increases, the percentage of justifying wife beating among women tends to decrease. For women with no education, 10.82% of respondents find justification of wife beating if wife goes out without the permission of husband, 13.5% for neglecting children, 19.73% for arguing with the husband, 5.03% for refusing to have sex, and 2.81% for burning food. The educational qualification of the husband is also related with the justification of wife beating by the women. The higher the level of the educational qualification of the husband the lower the percentage of justification of wife beating by the women. It is also necessary to understand how societal attitudes towards the justification of wife beating among women vary based on their current working status. For women who are currently working, 8.68% of respondents find justification for wife beating if she goes out, 10.82% for neglecting children, 15.88% for arguing with the husband, 3.26% for refusing to have sex, and 1.15% for burning food. The percentages in each scenario are relatively similar between women who are currently working and those who are not engaged with any

type of work, indicating no difference in attitudinal acceptance of IPV based on the working status of the women. The percentages in each scenario are generally higher in rural areas compared to urban areas, indicating that there may be different cultural or societal norms influencing attitudes toward domestic violence. In rural areas, 9.22% of respondents find justification for wife beating if the wife goes out, 11.03% for neglecting children, 16.21% for arguing with the husband, 3.71% for refusing to have sex, and 1.53% for burning food. In urban areas, the percentages are lower, with 6.65% justifying wife beating if the wife goes out, 9.42% for neglecting children, 12.63% for arguing with the husband, 2.4% for refusing to have sex, and 1.29% for burning food. The percentages in each scenario generally decrease as the wealth index increases, suggesting that there may be a correlation between higher socioeconomic status and less justification for domestic violence. Among the poorest respondents, 11.3% find justification for wife beating if the wife goes out, 13.32% for neglecting children, 19.05% for arguing with the husband, 3.9% for refusing to have sex, and 1.73% for burning food. Justification of the wife beating by women does not vary with the age of the women.

Variables	If goes out	If neglects the children	If argue with husband	If refuse to have sex	If burns food
Education of women					
No education	10.82	13.5	19.73	5.03	2.81
Primary	9.53	11.4	16.67	3.82	1.35
Secondary	6.9	9	12.37	2.19	0.8
Higher	2.84	3.45	5.4	0.49	0.33
Husbands' education					
No education	10.44	13.54	19.29	4.82	2.2
Primary	9.59	11.52	15.58	3.36	1.46
Secondary	6.91	8.57	13.68	2.8	1.01
Higher	4.04	5.84	7.76	0.86	0.28
Current Working Status of women					
Yes	8.68	10.82	15.88	3.26	1.15
No	8.41	10.37	14.63	3.5	1.82
Location					
Rural	9.22	11.03	16.21	3.71	1.53
Urban	6.65	9.42	12.63	2.4	1.29
Wealth index					
Poorest	11.3	13.32	19.05	3.9	1.73
Poorer	9.79	11.86	16.43	4.17	1.98
Middle	8.7	10.2	14.63	3.41	1.31
Richer	6.91	9.64	14.31	3.23	1.48

Richest	5.36	7.3	11.14	1.84	0.69
Division					
Barisal	17.07	16.2	24.1	4.92	2.82
Chittagong	7.45	9.67	16.05	3.65	1.7
Dhaka	7.05	9.6	12.8	2.65	1.17
Khulna	11.02	10.18	18.45	3.64	1.83
Mymensingh	8.85	11.24	12.39	3.17	1.74
Rajshahi	8.76	10.02	16.65	3.44	0.93
Rangpur	7.11	10.85	12.88	3.12	0.98
Sylhet	7.78	12.57	14.54	3.89	1.66
Religion					
Islam	8.95	10.95	15.73	3.51	1.51
Hinduism/Buddhism/Christianity	4.26	6.92	10.53	1.83	1
Women's age					
15-24	7.2	10.04	13.32	3.35	1.1
25-34	7.79	9.65	13.7	2.83	1.18
35-49	9.32	11.33	16.7	3.72	1.73
Number of Children in the HHs					
None	2.08	7.68	5.5	1.34	0
1-2	7.12	9.03	12.82	2.65	1.11
3-4	9.43	11	16.22	3.63	1.54
5 and more	9.7	13.34	18.77	4.41	2.13

Table 2 Percentage of women justify wife beating by husband according to their different socio-demographic characteristics

Econometric results

The table-3 provides regression coefficients and marginal effects of the probit model examining the factors influencing the attitudinal acceptance of IPV. Age variable is found significantly insignificant, indicating that the age of the women does not make any difference in the attitudinal acceptance of IPV. Both “the educational qualification of the women” and “Husband/partner’s education” are statistically significant at 5% level of significance. The negative marginal effect of each category of education indicates women who are more educated are less likely to accept the wife beating. For instance, Women with primary education are less likely to accept wife beating compared to those with no education with the negative marginal effect (-0.030, $p < 0.001$), meaning that the probability of accepting wife beating is 3% lower. Similarly, the attitudinal acceptance of wife beating is 6% lower among the women with secondary level of educational qualification compared to those with no education. As education levels increase to higher level, the probability of justifying IPV by women decrease by 13%, indicating a negative impact of education on the likelihood of justifying wife beating by husband/partner. So, women education is considered to be a source of women empowerment and reducing factor of violence against

women. The educational qualification of the husband/partner also plays a critical role in justifying wife beating by women; the higher the level of husband's education, the lower possibility of attitudinal acceptance of IPV among the women. According to the regression result, the possibility not accepting wife beating by a husband is 6.5% higher among the women with a higher level of education than those with no education. Living in urban areas compared to rural has a positive marginal effect on the likelihood of justifying wife beating (0.023, $p = 0.003$), indicating the empowerment disparity among the women based on their area of residence. Similarly, the administrative divisional location of the women creates differences in accepting the IPV. The likelihood of accepting wife beating for any of the five mentioned cases are consistently lower for the women from Barisal division compared to those from other divisions. The regression result also shows a significant relationship between the attitudinal acceptance of IPV and the religion. The likelihood of accepting wife beating is 7% higher among women who follow Islam as their religion than those of other religions.

The working status of the women does not have any role in changing the attitude of women towards wife beating. Wealth disparity among the women play a significant role on attitudinal acceptance of IPV, as the wealth index categories move from poorer to richer, there is a decreasing trend in the probability of justifying wife beating by husbands. For example, women belong in richest wealth index category are less likely to justify the IPV compared to the poorest, the negative marginal effect of -0.033 ($P < 0.01$). Having children increases the probability of attitudinal acceptance of IPV compared to those without children. For instance, the possibility of accepting wife beating is 10% higher among women with children, regardless the numbers, than those without children. Media exposure of women, such as reading newspaper, watching television and listening Radio, has a positive impact on women not accepting the IPV. The negative statistically significant marginal effect (-0.036, $P < 0.01$), indicates that women who have exposure to media are more conscious about their right, and leading to reducing the attitudinal acceptance of IPV.

	Attitudinal acceptance of IPV			
Variable	Probit Regression Co-efficients	P -value	Marginal effect (Dy/dx)	P-value
Age (Base: Below 25 Years)				
25-34	0.005 (0.025)	0.849	0.001 (0.006)	0.849
35-49	0.016 (0.026)	0.547	0.005 (0.007)	0.546
Respondent's Education (Base: no education)				
Primary	-0.099 (.018)***	0.000	-0.030 (0.006) ***	0.000
Secondary	-0.214 (.023) ***	0.000	-0.063 (0.007) ***	0.000
Higher	-0.505 (0.042) ***	0.000	-0.131 (0.010) ***	0.000
Husband's Education (Base: no education)				
Primary	-0.039 (0.017)**	0.023	-0.012 (0.005)**	0.024
Secondary	-0.130 (0.021)***	0.000	-0.037 (0.006)***	0.000
Higher	-0.238 (0.032)***	0.000	-0.065 (0.008)***	0.000
Location (Rural=1, Urban=0)	0.083 (0.016)***	0.000	0.023 (0.005) ***	0.000
Division (Base: Barisal)				
Chittagong	-0.133 (0.026) ***	0.000	-0.041 (0.008) ***	0.000
Dhaka	-0.212 (0.028) ***	0.000	-0.064 (0.008) ***	0.000
Khulna	-0.075 (0.028) ***	0.008	-0.024 (0.009) ***	0.008
Mymensingh	-0.376 (0.029) ***	0.000	-0.107 (0.008) ***	0.000
Rajshahi	-0.183 (0.028) ***	0.000	-0.056 (0.009) ***	0.000
Rangpur	-0.297 (0.028) ***	0.000	-0.087 (0.008) ***	0.000
Sylhet	-0.258 (0.028) ***	0.000	-0.077 (0.008) ***	0.000
Working Status (Yes=1, No=0)	-0.011 (0.015)	0.445	-0.003 (0.004)	0.445
Religion (Islam=1, Otherwise=0)	0.285 (0.027)***	0.000	0.073 (0.006)***	0.000
Wealth index (Base: Poorest)				
Poorer	-0.053 (0.020) **	0.009	-0.015 (0.004)***	0.009
Middle	-0.073 (0.023) ***	0.001	-0.021 (0.007) ***	0.001
Richer	-0.062 (0.024) ***	0.011	-0.018 (0.007)***	0.011

Richest	-0.115 (0.029) ***	0.000	-0.033 (0.008) ***	0.000
Number of children (Base: None)				
1-2	0.438 (0.159) ***	0.006	0.103 (0.030)***	0.001
3-4	0.443 (0.159) ***	0.005	0.104 (0.030)***	0.000
5 or more	0.434 (0.160) ***	0.007	0.102 (0.030)***	0.001
Media Exposure (Yes=1, No=0)	-0.125 (0.016) ***	0.000	-0.036 (0.005) ***	0.000
Constant	-1.025 (0.164)***	0.000		

Table 3 Marginal effects of the Probit regression model.

Discussion and Conclusion:

Violence against women is considered as the violation of human right. Prevalence of domestic violence is not only noticeable in underdeveloped country but also a common phenomenon in the developed countries. To achieve the sustainable development goal of 5.2, ending all type of violence against women, we need to figure out the policy interventions focusing on the vulnerable group of women. According to our findings, educational qualification of the women was found as statistically significant predictor in reducing the attitudinal acceptance of IPV, consistent with other studies (Pettitt, Lauren A. et al. 2023; Sayem, Amir M., et al., 2012, & Sardinha, Lynn M., et al., 2018). So, increasing the literacy and educational among the women by making education more accessible for women can serve as a preventive measure in reducing the attitudinal acceptance of IPV and fostering their understanding about the rights in the society. School based interventions relating to the human and legal rights of women in the society can serve as a predictor of women's empowerment in the long run. This kind of intervention not only empower the women but also change the attitude of men towards beating wife and the human right of women. (De Koker, Petra, et al., 2014). The educational qualification of women's husbands also serves as a reducing factor of attitudinal acceptance of IPV, indicating the positive externality of husband's education on the attitude women towards wife beating (Gautam, S., & Jeong, H. S., 2019). The economic vulnerability of the women's family as indicated by their wealth index suggest the higher possibility of attitudinal acceptance of IPV. So, women from lower economic status are more prone towards accepting IPV (UNICEF,2018). Policy needs to focus to the women from lower economic background to effectively reducing the IPV in the society. These strategies should prioritize the empowerment of women through education and their access/control over resources, aiming to reduce the prevailing attitudes of women towards accepting wife beating. The higher likelihood of accepting wife beating among the women following Islam as their religion suggests that interventions including religious leaders to educate on the legal and human right of women can serve as reducing factor towards attitudinal acceptance of wife beating (Boyer, Christopher, et al.,2022). Women from rural areas are more likely to accept wife beating than their urban counterparts, suggesting that women in urban areas are more empowered, indicating the importance of location-based interventions (Sawin, Erika Metzler, et al., 2017 & Ogum Alangea, Deda, et al.,2020). Media exposure of women serves as a reducing factor in attitudinal acceptance of IPV, indicating more exposure of women meaning more women empowerment. The positive relationship between having children and attitudinal acceptance of IPV suggest that women having children are more tolerant of abusive behaviors by their partners because of the stability of children, cultural norms and family dynamics.

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