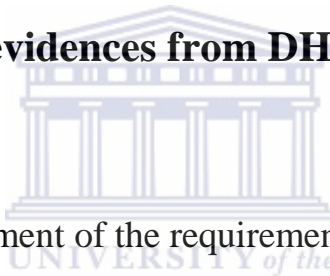


University of the Western Cape

Faculty of Natural Sciences

Department of Statistics & Population Studies

**Socio-demographic analysis of domestic violence against women:
evidences from DHS**



A thesis submitted in fulfilment of the requirement for the degree of Magister
Philosophiae in Population Studies

By

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ABSTRACT

The right for every woman to live free of violence is one of the basic human rights. Nevertheless, this right is still subject to violation on a massive and systematic scale around the world. At least one of three women around the world has reported been physical, sexual and emotional abuse by an intimate partner in her lifetime. Although, gender inequalities and discrimination are considered as the underlying factors of domestic violence, little is known about the contributions of the presence of sons and daughters at home, age, gender, education, marital status, working status, place of residence. Despite the fact that recommendations have been made both at the international and national levels to reduce intimate female abuse, the issue is still rampant in developing countries. The aim of this study was to identify and compare the impact of women's socio-economic and demographic characteristics on domestic violence across seven countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines). Frequencies and bivariate analyses were performed using the latest Demographic Health Surveys from 2005 to 2011. The findings established that on average 33.37 percent of women across the seven countries are abused. Domestic violence is a high concern in Cameroon. The educational level still remains a predicting factor of domestic violence across the countries under investigation except in Liberia. The number of living children was also identified as a predicting factor across the studied countries. Finally, a woman having a son or a daughter at home is more likely to expose the woman to intimate violence in Cameroon, Haiti, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines.

All the countries are entrenched in a culture of male domination whereby women lack the freedom to decide on marital issues. As a recommendation, the government of each of the studied countries should be more proactive in reinforcing judicial system, policies and education that will help to curb the scourge of domestic violence. Furthermore, improving the level of literacy for women and educating men as the perpetrators of domestic violence will go a long way in abating this social ill.

KEYS WORDS

CEDAW

Domestic violence

Demographic Health Survey

Demographic variables

Eastern Europe

Socio-economic characteristics

Sub-Saharan, Southern Asia

Violence against women



DECLARATION

I hereby declare that Socio-demographic analysis of domestic violence against women: evidences from Demographic health surveys is my own work, that it has not been previously submitted for any degree or examination in any other university or higher education; and that all the sources and quotations have been indicated and acknowledged by complete references

Judith D’or Donang Ngondiop

Date

Signature



DEDICATION

To dad, mum, brothers, sisters and cousins for your undying love; continuous encouragement and support.



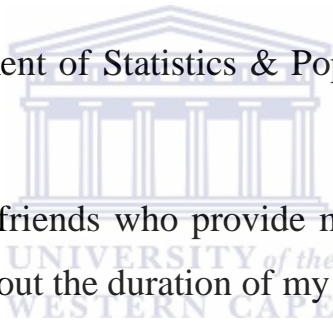
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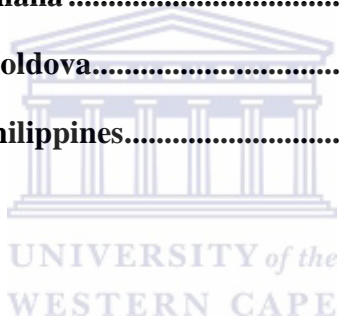
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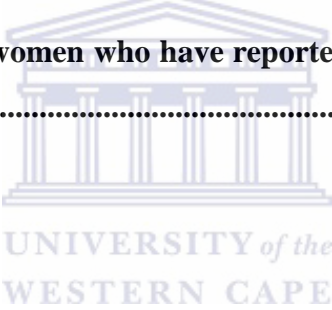
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LIST OF ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

CDHS: Cameroon Demographic Health Survey

CEDAW: Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women

CHREPROF: Centre Haitien des Recherches et d' Actions pour la Promotion Feminine

CLHNS: Cebu Longitudinal Health and Nutrition Survey

CTS: Conflict tactic scale

DHS: Demographic Health Survey

DV: Domestic violence

DVAW: Domestic violence against women

EDS: Enquête démographique et de la santé

EDS MICS: Enquête démographique et de santé et à indicateurs multiples

EMMUS: Enquête mortalité, morbidité et utilization des services

GDHS: Ghana Demographic Health Survey

GSS: Ghana Statistical Services

HDHS: Haiti Demographic Health Survey

HIV/AIDS: Human immunodeficiency virus infection/ acquired immunodeficiency syndrome

ICDRR-B: International Centre for Diarrhoeal Disease Research, Bangladesh

IPV: Intimate partner violence

LDHS: Liberia Demographic Health Surveys

LSHTM: London school of hygiene and tropical medicine

MDG: Millennium development goals

MDHS: Moldovan Demographic Health Surveys

MICS: Enquête à indicateurs multiples

MOWAC: Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs in Ghana

NDHS: Nepal Demographic Health Survey

NGO's: Non-governmental organization

NSO: National Statistics Office

PDHS: Philippines Demographic Health Surveys

SPSS: Statistical Package for Social Sciences

UNICEF: United Nations Children's Fund

USA: United States of America

USAID: United States Agency for International Development

UNFPA: United Nations population Fund

VAW: Violence against women

WHO: World Health Organization

WID: Women in development



CHAPTER 1: INTRODUCTION AND SETTING OF THE STUDY

This first chapter presents the foundation of the study and outlines a general overview of the study. It is structured under the following framework: the background of the study, a brief presentation on the geographical context and the severity of the social problem of domestic violence in the seven countries under investigation. The significance of the study, the statement of problem as well as the objectives envisaged for the study, the research questions and the limitations of the study are also presented.

1.1 Introduction

Domestic violence is a critical matter which affects both individual women and the community in general in various ways. Domestic violence here refers to the abuse of women by their male counterparts. The issue of men exercising violence towards their female partners has been prevailing for years now. Ellsberg *et al.*, (2008) and Ellsberg *et al.*, (2000) assert that the phenomenon of domestic violence has existed for many decades and women still continue to experience such violence on a daily basis. Ganley (1995) and Morgan & Chadwick (2009) define domestic violence as an act of abuse which occurs in an intimate relationship regardless of the marital status. In fact, the numbers of victims of domestic violence in society are numerous. A report of the WHO (Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, 2005) reflecting the global trend pointed that on average, 30 percent of women are affected by physical and sexual violence from their male partners. Consistent with the latter view, Ellsberg & Heise (2005) state that women all over the world suffer from domestic violence on a daily basis as well. In line with the above, UNFPA (2005) and WHO (2013), assert that at least one woman in every three women is beaten, raped, sexually and psychologically abused in her lifetime.

Violence against women is a global problem and occurs both internationally and nationally. However the levels and rates of violence against women vary from country to country and within countries among social groups. In the United States, a national survey by Crowell & Burgess (1996) found that at least 2 million women are battered each year by an intimate partner. A national study on the trend of domestic violence in England using the crime survey for England and Wales

(Sivarajasingam *et al.*, 2012) revealed that, on average more than one woman in every four women in the United Kingdom experienced domestic violence in her lifetime.

Violence against women is manifested in the form of assaults and sexual abuse which takes place in almost every environment and circumstance. With this in mind, Johnson & Indvik (1996) found that violence against women occurs everywhere; in the household, in the street or at the workplace. But the most common violence is the violence that takes place at home between women and men otherwise called domestic violence. This study focused on violence which takes place in the household between men and women in union (married partners and partners who are living under the same roof) in seven selected developing countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines).

There is relevant and contemporary literature in the area of domestic violence which suggests that acts of violence have disastrous consequences on women and the society at large. According to Flury *et al.*, (2010), domestic violence may have short or long lasting consequences for the victims. Some of the consequences endured by women include bruises, wounds, low self-esteem, depression and self-harm. Kishor & Johnson (2004) found that a vast range of factors such as gender inequalities, low economic status, poverty, education, beliefs influence acts of abuse in a relationship. Mikton (2010); Heise (1998) have grouped these factors as cultural norms, laws and other social demographic conditions linked to the personality of the couple in the relationship. With respect to culture, Brownridge & Halli (2000) assert that domestic violence is mostly perpetrated by men over women because men are considered to be dominant over women cultural wise. Okenwa *et al.*, (2009), concur that women are considered as subordinates to men in most traditional settings. Differences in cultural norms and values amongst populations are the primary factor of male abuse of women in our society. An understanding of the related factors in the selected countries in this study may enable the institution of relevant measures to address domestic violence in a country as a whole or in individual communities.

The main focus of this study was to explore the relationship between social-demographic variables and domestic violence against women in some Sub-Saharan Africa countries (Cameroon, Ghana and Liberia) and Eastern Europe (Republic of Moldova), South and Southeast Asia (Nepal and Philippines) and Caribbean (Haiti) countries. The study used secondary data from the Demographic Health Surveys in the seven countries cited above from 2005 to 2011.

1.2 Background to the study

Violence against women is an act where individual women or groups of women are abused and this affects women negatively (Relchenheim *et al.*, 2006). For this reason, domestic violence against women has been acknowledged worldwide as an abuse of basic human rights (Kaur & Garg, 2008; Heise *et al.*, 2002). As such, this study investigated the causes of domestic violence against women and made suggestions on how such violence could be controlled. Since gender inequalities is considered as a root cause (UN Women, 2013) of domestic violence, Kishor *et al.*, (2004) following the idea of Khan (2000) suggest that combating domestic violence can reduce gender inequalities among men and women in the community. This is supported by WHO (2013) reports which state that women who live in an environment free of violence are more emancipated. In fact, in this situation women live in a much safer environment.

However, strategies to respond to women abuse are evolving. The United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women (1993) has assisted many countries in the past decades and continues to assist countries to engage effectively on women's issues regarding domestic violence. Although the issue of domestic violence has been receiving attention in the past thirty decades (Ellsberg & Heise, 2005), much political intervention and implementation still need to be enforced for effective response to be observed (Kishor & Johnson, 2004) on domestic violence. Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, (2005) in a study confirm that women emancipation from domestic violence has enabled their participation in the development of a nation. Thus a focus on women's empowerment (Hindin *et al.*, 2002) helps to deal with problems of domestic violence in their spaces and places of residence. In this regard, the threat of violence is the main barrier to women empowerment and equal participation of women in society (Krishnan *et al.*, 2010, 2007; Akrami, 2006; Kishor & Johnson, 2004).

Heise (1998) following the CEDAW define violence against women as:

Any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (Heise, 1998).

The above quotation is quite relevant in this study because it gives an indication of some of the types of violence to be investigated. In practise, violence against women is manifested through rape, homicide, female genital mutilation, dowry related abuse, killing honour, trafficking, forced prostitution, debt bondage of women and domestic violence (Humphreys & Thiara, 2003, Zimmerman, 2002). With this in mind, this research explores how women face domestic violence in the community amongst other social economic challenges such as access to landlords, contraceptive use, fertility and low status in the society.

The context of domestic violence in this study is referred to as: intimate partner violence, women abuse and spousal violence. Also, domestic violence is considered as violence perpetrated by men (partner) against women in a relationship. The view is that abuse also exists in some same-sex relationships (Alhusen *et al.*, 2010). Also, women violence on men has been noticed even if in practice, data is not easy to obtain (Mikton, 2010). In this situation, men are the victims of act of abuse in the household. In general, the vast majority of partner abuse has been reported as that which is perpetrated by men against their female partners (WHO, 2002). Thus this study focuses on men who abuse women where both are in a relationship.

Although the prevalence of domestic violence against women is high in most societies, the subject in itself is very sensitive. This poses a challenge for abused women to voice out with the torture they receive from their partners in the confines of their homes. They usually find it difficult to speak up when they experience violence because they are overwhelmed by the feelings of shame, fear of denunciation or being regarded as disrespectful to their spouses (Kenya Demographic Health Survey, 2008). The culture of silence (Ellsberg *et al.*, 2008; Ellsberg & Heise, 2005) poses a big challenge to researchers as it becomes difficult for them to collect accurate data on domestic violence as women perceive this is a sensitive issue and do not want to expose their private lives to academic scrutiny (Schuler *et al.*, 2008).

The prevalence of domestic violence differs from one country to another. In the same trend, the prevalence also differs within different societies and communities within the same county (Ellsberg & Heise., 2005). According to Krug *et al.*, (2002); in developing countries, between 10 percent and 60 percent of married women in the reproductive age (15- 49), have experienced at least some forms of domestic violence in their everyday life. Likewise, a review of fifty population-based studies carried out in thirty-six countries around the world indicate that women

who have been previously married or presently married have experienced at least one incident of physical violence from an intimate partner (Heise & Garcia-Moreno, (2002);). The percentages in the different countries show that the extent of domestic violence of ever-married women are highest by 48 percent in Zambia, followed by 44 percent in Colombia, then 42 percent in Peru, 22 percent is recorded in Dominican Republic, and the lowest proportion is found in India and Cambodia (Kishor & Johnson, 2004). The same study shows that in Egypt and Nicaragua, about 30 percent of ever-married women face the issues of domestic violence. Representative sample surveys indicate that physical violence in intimate relationships is sometimes accompanied by psychological abuse, the recorded cases stands at one-third to over one-half of cases of sexual abuse (Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, 2006).

Due to the above alarming rates of domestic violence in various countries, women around the world have started to seek strategies to combat domestic violence. Women are joined in the struggle against domestic violence by international communities such as WHO and UN (Krantz & Garcia-Moreno, 2005; Heise, 1998) in order to lessen the misery of future generations of women against this vice. Since domestic violence is perceived as a pervasive issue, it has been internationally recognized and supported, and almost every country in the world has set up social institutions that criminalize, disclose and deny abuse (Mikton, 2010; Heise *et al.*, 2002). Subsequently, there is a need to consider interventions both at a local and international level to understand the plight of women suffering from domestic violence.

Strategies at the international and local levels have been put in place to tackle women abuse. However, in several developing countries women have remained at risk in many ways (Alhabib *et al.*, 2009; Ntanganira *et al.*, 2008). Thus, one can assume that a better understanding of factors underlying gender violence, and the examination of the regions with high prevalence could shed light on how to improve the fight against spousal violence in developing countries. To better understand the factors contributing to intimate partner violence, the current study on domestic violence against women is carried out in seven developing countries from different geographical locations in the world. In this study the investigator used available DHS of currently aged 15-49 married women and cohabiting women with a partner since the survey is more reflecting on women conditions, live and status in the society.

1.3 Problem statement

Domestic violence is a universal problem that cuts across all societies, gender, age and social status (Abramsky *et al.*, 2011). Tjaden & Thoennes, (2000) in their study concluded that domestic violence affects everyone in the society regardless of socio-economic status, level of education and race. In addition, Uthman *et al.*, (2009) stated that domestic violence is severe because it is one of the most underreported crimes worldwide. Domestic violence is a danger to household members' particularly women. Children and relatives in the home also witness domestic violence because of their dependence on the household leader, who is in most cases a man (Yount *et al.*, 2011; Tjaden *et al.*, 2000). Therefore, the consequences of domestic violence are critical to the victim, the abuser, the family and some environmental factors.

As indicated earlier abuse against women is a global phenomenon. We find that in some developed countries, the situation remains extremely daunting. Violence against women is the first inequality identified in 12 of the 27 European Member States, in particular in Spain (74 percent), Sweden (64 percent), Romania (62 percent) and Lithuania (62 percent) (European Parliament, 2012). Hoff, (2012) noted that, more than 6 million women in the United States of America (USA) are abused yearly by their partner at home. Besides, Erturk (2008) also ascertain that in the USA, a husband or a partner physically assaults a woman or a girl every nine seconds. The latter studies of Er Turk (2008) concludes that 95 percent of victims of domestic violence are women and children who are exposed to violence by family members living in the same house with the victim.

In addition, in the developing world, domestic violence is also a very common practice (Lawoko, 2006; Laisser *et al.*, 2011) and is considered as a cultural norm (Saravanan, 2000; Cusack, 1999). Its prevalence in the homes attests that intimate partner violence is very high in developing countries. To illustrate the latter assertion, in Kenya, India and Bangladesh, the proportion of domestic abuse committed towards women ranges between 46 percent and 72 percent (Olson & De Frain, 2000). Also, South Africa is amongst sub Saharan countries over the world with alarming proportions in domestic violence (Seedah *et al.*, 2009; Jewkes *et al.*, 2002). The South African newspaper (2013) has indicated that four in ten women are assaulted and killed by their partners every day. Similarly, indicators of domestic violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo indicates that the rates are also high as revealed by Hatari studies in 1994 where almost 60.7 percent of abuse acts of children and women are perpetrated by the head of the family who are

men (Ndabuli, 2011). Considering this high occurrence of domestic violence in the world, and particularly in the countries under examination, this study attempts to raise awareness on the issue of domestic violence amongst families and the communities of the selected countries.

Consequently, this study examined physical, sexual and emotional intimate partner violence against women across the different countries, using data from nationally representative surveys. In the process, we examined the association of domestic violence with age, educational level, employment status, child gender and number of children.

1.4 Significance of the study

In recent years, there has been a greater consideration of the problem of domestic violence, its causes and consequences. In addition, an international consensus has been developed on the need to deal with the issue of domestic violence. The convention on the elimination of all Forms of discrimination against women adopted by the United Nations General Assembly some twenty years ago, the decade-old Convention on the rights of the child and the platform for Action adopted at the fourth international conference on women in Beijing in 1995, all reflect this consensus. However, there is slow progress made to stop domestic violence because attitudes were deeply entrenched and, to some extent, effective strategies to address domestic violence are still being defined (Daro *et al.*, 2004). As a result, as time goes on, women continue to suffer from domestic violence. In a world report, WHO (2013) estimated a 20 percent to 50 percent of abused women from country to country around the world. Moreover, Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, (2006) in a WHO country study estimated that the proportion of women who have experienced abuse in their life vary from 15 percent to 71 percent in an intimate relationship.

Previously, the lack of information on population and domestic violence has been the main barriers to researchers in the field to undertake such studies (Alhabib *et al.*, 2009). However, the latter view has changed due to the availability of various reliable data sources such as surveys, census, demographic health survey, population based studies, cross national survey, clinical surveys that provide information on the magnitude, disclosure or health effects of domestic violence. The latter sources of data mentioned, facilitates the processes to investigate the current extent, prevalence and trends of domestic violence related to the countries investigated. This study analyses physical intimate partner violence against women, using data from nationally representative surveys.

The aim of this study is to explore and identify the relationship between socio-demographic variables and domestic violence against women in some Sub-Saharan Africa countries (Cameroon, Ghana and Liberia) and Eastern Europe, South and Southeast Asia and Caribbean countries (Haiti, Republic of Moldova, Nepal and Philippines). In the process, we examine if domestic violence is associated with age, gender, education, marital status, working status, place of residence, presence of male or daughters at home and the number of living children in the household. By identifying and comparing the prevalence of domestic violence across the selected countries and exploring how these factors constitute a threat to women, this study will also provide suggestions for the application and implementation of the UN recommendations to affected females in order to enhance women empowerment and gender equity in the seven countries of this study.

1.5 Objectives of the study

The main objective of the study was to explore the impact of socio demographics variables in the prevalence of domestic violence in selected developing countries.

In order to achieve the general aim of the study, the following subsidiary research aims were formulated.

- To understand the scope, causes and consequences of domestic violence.
- To report and compare the prevalence of intimate partner violence among currently married and cohabiting women aged 15 to 49 in the seven countries under investigation.
- To identify the implications of some socio-demographic factors when determining the level of domestic violence in investigating countries.
- To make suggestions to reduce the prevalence of domestic violence against women.

1.6 Research questions

This study addresses a main question and sub questions.

1.6.1 General question

- What are the roles of women background characteristics on physical, sexual and emotional violence in some seven identified underdeveloped countries?

1.6.2 Specific questions

This study seeks to answer the following questions:

1. How do women' age, the presence of sons and daughters at home, number of children and education of abused women impact on the prevalence of domestic violence?
2. Does the level of domestic violence differ amongst women from rural and urban areas whether they are working or not?
3. How do religion and ethnicity group affect battered women in the seven countries under investigation?
4. What is the prevalence of domestic violence by type in the selected countries?
5. What are the profiles of women affected by domestic violence?

1.7 Definitions of the terms used

- Domestic violence: is defined by the World Health Organization as any acts of physical, sexual and emotional abuse by a current or former partner whether cohabiting or not. Other terms used in the scientific literature is Intimate partner violence (IPV), battering or wife abuse.
- Socio-economics and demographic characteristics: factors related to age, gender, marital status, number of children, place of residence, sex of child, level of education and employment status within a population.
- Gender-based violence: is any act that results in, or is likely to result in physical, sexual or psychological harm, including threats of such acts and deprivations of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life (United Nations, 1993).

1.8 Outline of the remaining chapters

Chapter 2 presents a body of literature review of domestic violence in seven selected countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines). Some of the key themes discussed include the main factors underlying domestic violence, the history of the problem of domestic violence and the incidence of domestic violence in the countries under study. It also

discusses on some of the policy measures taken by the international community and concerned governments to control the problem of domestic violence.

Chapter 3 presents the methodological approach used in the study. It explains how the sampling methods and how results were obtained through the policy framework using frequencies distribution and cross tabulation analysis.

Chapter 4 provides a report of the results in terms of the abuse and demographic variables and a discussion of the findings.

Chapter 5 summarizes the findings drawn from this study and

Chapter 6 provides a number of conclusions and recommendations to the policy makers.



CHAPTER 2: RELATED REVIEW OF LITERATURE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

2.1 Introduction

This chapter contains a review of relevant literature and previous studies on domestic violence. It also provides a theoretical framework for understanding the influences of socio-economic and demographic characteristics on domestic violence in an abusive relationship. The theoretical framework was also used as basis to analyse the data. In this chapter, the basic concepts used in this study have been identified and described. In addition, a comparative literature review of the countries involved is explored. This shall be reviewed under the following headings:

- Background;
- A conceptual framework for the understanding of intimate partner violence against women;
- International framework to protect women from domestic violence;
- Local policies and government countries' involvement in domestic violence; and
- The prevalence of domestic violence and a general profile of domestic violence in the countries under investigation.

Each of the aspects listed are discussed in the paragraphs below.

2.2 Background

In the past two decades, violence against women received less attention and was not considered as a problem which required international recognition. Victims of violence had to tolerate it silently (Yusksel-Kaptanoglu *et al.*, 2012; Warriar, 2008; Heise, 1998) because there were few concerns about violence against women. In the 1980s, women started to associate in groups, to organize themselves locally and internationally to create awareness on the physical, sexual, psychological,

and economic damages as a consequence of domestic violence (Ellsberg & Heise, 2005). Gradually, the situation began to change. The international community finally acknowledged violence against women as a legal human rights issue. It also recognized violence against women as a significant threat to the health and the empowerment (Kishor & Johnson, 2004) of women. The problem of domestic violence now receives effective interventions, policies and strategies of prevention are established by international organizations and by the government in each country in the world (Mikton, 2010). Kimuna & Djamba (2008) in their analysis agreed that despite these positive endeavours, the phenomenon is still rampant specifically in some developing countries and regions in the world. In fact, Kishor & Johnson (2004) noted that violence against women is increasing internationally and nationally. Thus, the current proportion of intimate partner violence varies between 15 and 71 percent of women (Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, 2006). Also, Tjaden & Thoennes, (2000) in their studies have revealed that at least 25 percent of women are victims of abuse in their lifetime.

Violence against women is expressed in many forms: trafficking, female genital mutilation, dowry deaths, acid throwing, honour killing and rape, physical and verbal abuse (Garcia-Moreno & Watts, 2011). The latter, domestic violence is however the most rampant in the society (Khatun & Rhaman, 2012) and is experienced by women on a daily basis (Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, 2006). Domestic violence occurs in the household and can be perpetrated by a family member or by the husband or partner on a woman. Previous studies (Laisser *et al.*, 2011; Ganley, 1995) revealed that the perpetrators of violence are usually persons closer to the victims. Supporting this idea, Johnson & Leone (2005) assert that perpetrators of domestic violence are mostly men. Furthermore, Heise (1998), as cited by Rotimi (2007); Oyedekun (2007); Khan (2000) pointed out that abuses and violence occur frequently at home which are supposed to be safe.

Domestic violence encompasses physical, sexual and emotional acts. In a World Health Organization (WHO 2002) report, there were 57 percent of Japanese women who had been physically, sexually and emotionally abused at one point in their life. Moreover, in a study of Tjaden & Thoennes (2000), it is revealed that about 1.3 million women are victims of physical assault in the United States annually. As time went by, the magnitude of women abused did not decrease. In fact, a recent study revealed that more than one in three women (35.6 percent) against 28.5 percent of men have been somehow physically assaulted, raped or stalking by the partner in

her lifetime (Black *et al.*, 2011) in African countries. In Australia, about 2.56 million women (which represents 1 in every 3 women) have experienced physical violence at some stage in their life since the age of 15 years (Australian Bureau of Statistics, 2006).

In spite of the nature of the relationship (married, cohabiting with a partner, widowed or separated), women experience several kinds of violence (physical, sexual, financial, economic and emotional) from their intimate partners though the proportion may vary across countries (WHO, 2013; Alhabib *et al.*, 2010). Regardless the type of violence, the lifetime prevalence of men violence against women ranges from 17 percent to 47 percent (Kishor & Johnson, 2004). These proportions indicate that women are really abused in the relationship. A study of 16000 men and women over the age of 18 revealed rich evidence of intimate violence between couples in USA (Tjaden & Thoennes, 2000).

Similarly, domestic violence is widespread in African countries. With regards to sexual abuse, about 150 million women are sexually abused as estimated by the United Nations in 2002 and in South Africa one woman is killed by her partner every six days (Human Rights Watch, 1995). Also, Heise *et al.*, (2004) in their study, found that about 42 percent of women assaulted by their current intimate male partner were reported amongst Kisii population's ethnic. A community survey conducted by Jewkes *et al.*, (2006) in three provinces of South Africa identified that 25 percent of women as lifetime victims of physical abuse by intimate partners.

Also, Laisser *et al.*, (2011), reported in a study that the proportion of domestic violence in some developing countries (Haiti, Nigeria, and Uganda) varies between 15 percent and 52 percent. Another study of sexually abused women conducted in a cross national study (Kishor & Johnson, 2004) in nine countries, revealed that the proportion of sexual violence differs from country to country. Sexual violence reached 48 percent in Zambia, 44 percent in Columbia, 42 percent in Peru, 22 percent in Dominica Republic, 19 percent in India and 18 percent in Cambodia.

2.3 An understanding of domestic violence

This section attempts to shed light on the nature of domestic violence by defining what domestic violence is. It shows emphasis on its different forms, causes and outcomes. Indeed, since violence is not a hereditary disease, the reasons that push a man to poses acts of violence in the household

are investigated as well the theoretical approaches of women abuse. Domestic violence is an issue which affects the community.

2.3.1 The concept and forms of intimate partner violence

Violence occurs when someone uses any kind of force, unequal power on another person (Ali & Naylor, 2013). Generally, people behave aggressively when they are not satisfied with a situation. According to Mirsky (2009) and Ganley (1995), violence can take many forms. In its classic form, it involves the use of physical force, beating or physical torture and raping women. Violence can be categorized into three categories: self-directed (e.g.: suicide), interpersonal violence (family and intimate partner violence and other violence caused by acquaintance and strangers called community violence) and collective violence (war). According to this definition, domestic violence occurs in the family. And following this view, Wahed & Bhuiya (2007); Heise *et al.*, (2002) studies describe family partner violence as violence between family members such as a husband, partner, uncle, father and in-laws. According to Holden (2003), domestic violence can also refer to assaultive and coercive behaviours that people use against their partners. On the other hand, community violence depicts violence between people with no relationship, who are unknown to each other and mostly occurs outside the compound (Krantz & Garcia-Moreno, 2005).

The World Health Organization (1993) defines violence against women as: “the intentional use of physical force or power, threatened or actual, against oneself, another person, or against a group or a community that either results in or has a high likelihood of resulting in injury, death, psychological harm, mal-development, or deprivation”. For the purposes of this study, however, violence is defined as acts of physical, sexual and emotional abuse that occur between intimate partners in a relationship. The aspects of economic abuse have been advertently to identify the prevalence of intimate partner violence in the seven involving countries.

The seven selected countries of this study share common similarities regarding definition and forms of domestic violence. In Cameroon, domestic violence is defined as: “toute violence interpersonnelle s’exerçant dans le cadre des relations existant au sein d’un ménage impliquant les conjoints” (2011 CDHS). In other words, intimate abuse can be considered as any interpersonal violence between spouses within the household. In the same line, the 2008 GDHS and the Ghanaian government considered domestic violence as “any act of violence resulting in physical, sexual, or psychological harm or suffering to women, girls, and also men, including threats such

as acts, coercion, or arbitrary deprivation of liberty”. The ministry of law and Justice of Nepal (2009) define domestic violence as: “any form of physical, mental, sexual and economic harm perpetrated by one person on another with whom he or she has a family relationship, including acts of reprimand or emotional harm. All these definitions involve acts of violence in a family setting where women are concerned. Accordingly, Liberia, Haiti, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines have same conception on the definition of domestic violence. Therefore, according to the legislation in the seven selected countries of this study, domestic violence refers to abuse that could be of a physical, mental, verbal, emotional, economic, and a sexual nature.

The figure below represents the concept and forms of domestic violence in Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines.



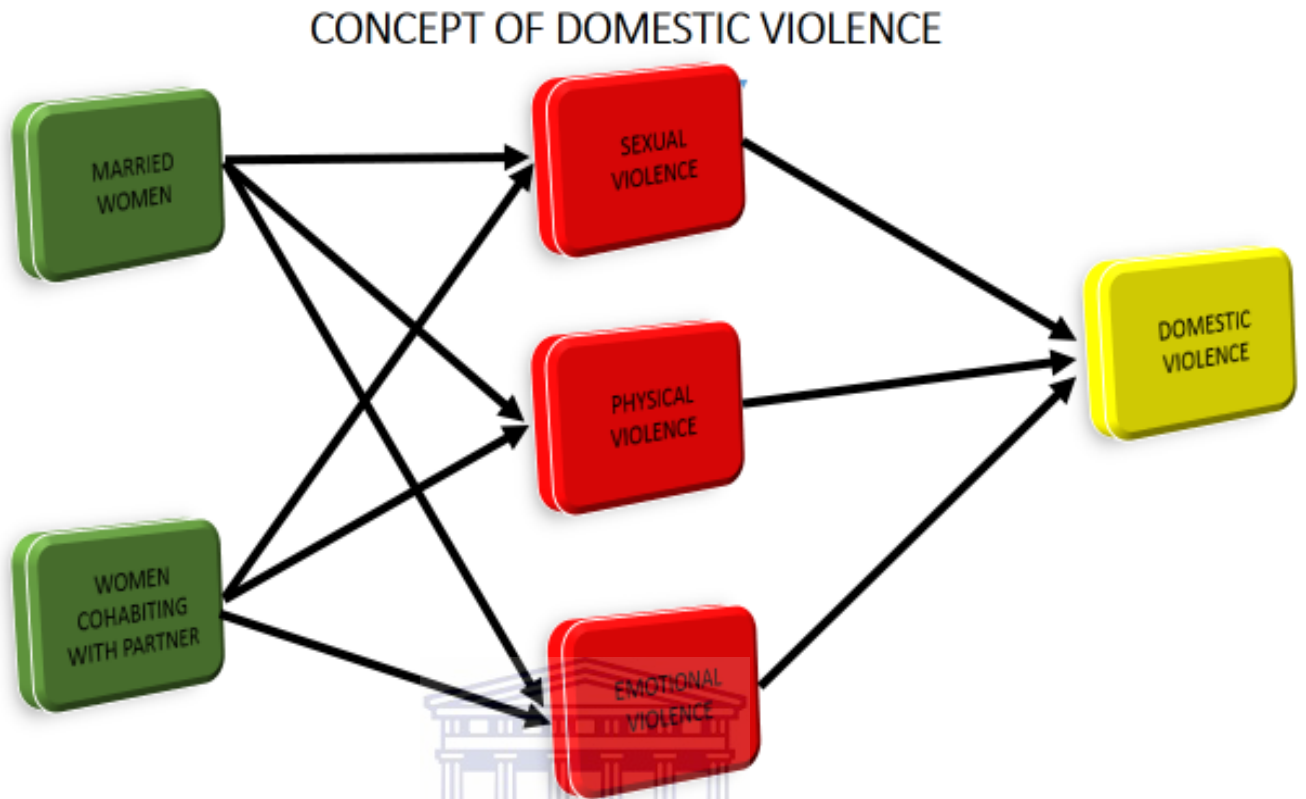


Figure 2.1: Concept and forms of domestic violence in Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines.

As mentioned, domestic violence affects girls and women of all ages. This study focuses on women of reproductive age (15 to 49) who are affected by intimate violence in the household. Therefore, domestic violence affects women, who are married or divorced, dating, widowed, separated, and living with a man and in current or former relationships. However, this study focuses on women in a union (married or women cohabiting with their partner) in seven selected countries who have reported experiences of being victims of physical, sexual and emotional violence.

In the current societies, women at different spheres of life (educated and uneducated and housewives) are easily beaten up, slapped, pushed, kicked and hurt at the slightest provocation or without any just cause. Men tend to express their dominance on women in a physical way. Men who are bigger and physically tougher have a propensity to strife, to dominate or control others including their partners which may aggravate domestic violence. Selected countries of this study considered that intimate male physical violence towards women occurs when the latter is slapped,

pushed, shaken, punched and kicked. Sometimes, the violence can be minor when the victim sustaining only minor injuries. There are nonetheless, circumstances where it can also be severe especially when the perpetrator makes use of a gun, knife or other weapon. On the other hand, with reference to sexual violence, in different relationships, women sometimes do not consent to have sex with their partners. Nevertheless, these women are obliged to fulfill or satisfy the sexual needs of their male counterparts regardless of their emotional state. Also, in certain cultures women are not expected to object sexual demands from their male partners. A woman is symbolically reduced to an object to please a man.

On the other hand, in certain cultures women have a right to take men to law courts when they force them to have sexual intercourse. Therefore, domestic violence is defined differently in different social contexts because it depicts different ideas and practices for different cultures and communities. This concurs with the description of domestic violence as a set of socially changing ideas and practices. The DHS of the selected countries considered that in a relationship, male sexual violence against women occurs when the woman is: “physically forced you to have sexual intercourse with the husband or partner even when she did not want to”. Likewise, violence is committed when the woman is “forced to perform any sexual act she did not want to.”

Nowadays, women are treated without respect by their husbands or partners. They are considered as objects with no value. Women are humiliated in the family and in front of other people and are not involved in the decision-making process in the family and sometimes do not even have control over what happens in their lives.

2.3.2 Causes of domestic violence

The causes of domestic violence include socially constructed gender practices, socio-economic factors and community influences. As such, no evidence has been found to confirm that domestic violence is a genetic disease (Dutton, 2011). Therefore, it is assumed that violence is learned, since no one is born with violent attitudes and behaviours. Violence is linked to the individual, the environment and to the gender. What generates violence in a relationship is complex as the circumstances and factors that can lead or expose women in a relationship to abuse by an intimate partner are different.

2.3.2.1 Direct determinants of men intimate abuse against women

Unequal gender relations and discrimination are considered as the main grounds associated to violence perpetrated by men against women. Gender discrimination occurs when a man hurts his partner as a consequence of adhering to the acceptable or traditional sexual norms, dominant sex culture or male domination practices. Most cultures accept and condone with gender based discrimination and consequently violence and as such there is silence around cases of sexual harassment and abuse of women by men.

2.3.2.1.1 Gender based violence

Chesler, 2005 and Sunnari *et al.*, (2002) defines gender as “the social organization of the relationship between the sexes and the fundamentally social quality of the distinction.” Gender is associated with a set of roles, rights, representations, expectations and values assigned to each sex in society where men and women have different positions. Women are considered as inferior, possessing less power in valuing situation. Women in union in this situation are expected to be passive. There is an underlying power inequality associated with the kind of violence cited above between men and women, between children and their careers, as well as with growing economic inequalities both within and between countries (Kira *et al.*, 2010; Krishnan *et al.*, 2010). Cockburn (2010) affirmed that unequal relations of power between men and women are the result of gender based violence. Inequality between men and women does not empower the women. She is more vulnerable and is exposed to abuse in the relationship. Consequently, gender inequities are considered a factor which promotes domestic violence.

Violence against women (VAW) is linked to gender discrimination and inequality. This was recognized by the UNFPA who stated that VAW is inextricably linked to gender based inequalities. Decker *et al.*, (2013) following Heise, 1998 perceived gender violence as a significant barrier to women’s ability to participate in all aspects of the society and is a violation of women’s human rights. During the fourth world women conference, celebrated in Beijing in 1995, violence against women was described as a social issue that consists of: “Any act of violence based on gender, which may result or actually results in physical, sexual or psychological harm, including threats, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, in either private or public life”. When directed at women based on their sex, there is a sense of discrimination in men’s behaviours. In a similar

way, the essence of gender inequalities rests on the difference in sex and their low status in society. Therefore, domestic violence against women can also be considered as gender based violence.

2.3.2.2 Factors leading to intimate partner violence by men on women

This section focuses on some factors that are likely to increase the exposure of a female partner in a relationship to violence. These are factors that expose or put women in relationships at risk of experiencing violence in the household. Contributing variables of intimate partner violence (IPV) are likely to increase acts of violence in the family. Heise *et al.*, (1994) points out that intimate male violence perpetrated towards women, is influenced by a wide range of variables and processes which contribute to the phenomenon of domestic violence. In this regard, the prevalence of domestic violence varies also with characteristic socio- economic and demographic background (Fulu *et al.*, 2013; Mikton, 2010) and with geographical regions (Bates *et al.*, 2004). Similarly, a study by Kishor & Johnson, (2004) on determining factors associated with domestic violence amongst couples conducted in many countries concluded that risk factors of men's violence on women are related to the individual himself, the society and the community.

2.3.2.2.1 Individual level characteristics as risk factors of domestic violence

Individual factors also contribute to domestic violence experienced by women. Individual level refers to the personal characteristics directly related to the victim or the perpetrator. It includes age, upbringing, educational and economic circumstances. For example, the natural temperament of some men may be a root cause for domestic violence because some men are naturally violent and lack compassion therefore such men do not care about others and also do lack a feeling of cooperation with their partners. Also, as men grow up in a particular community, they may accept or reject the existing culture either consciously or unconsciously. More so the efforts of an individual child are also very significant in the socialization and subsequent interaction processes since a child is able to internalize and practice violence or denounce the cultural ideologies and do not practice domestic violence.

Another variable that determines domestic violence is age. Age and the difference of age amongst partners can lead to violence in a conjugal relationship. Studies have confirmed women's age to be a determining factor in domestic violence (e.g Heise, 1998). However other reports indicated that women of reproductive age are more exposed to violence by an intimate partner in a relationship. A multi country survey study done by Heise *et al.*, (1998) and supported by Kishor

& Johnson, (2004) reveal that in most countries, show women mostly aged 25 to 34 are likely to be subjected to domestic violence in the household (Madhivanan *et al.*, 2011; Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, 2006). Also, a study by (Puri *et al.*, 2011) indicated that an estimate of 48.7 percent of young married Nepalese women have been forced to have sex with the husband against their willingness. In a study on 15 cities in Brazil, Reichenheim *et al.*, (2006) reveal that women younger than 24 old are more exposed to violence in the household. From these, one can say that the level of violence is more prominent among a certain age group. In fact, women of all ages are victims of violence in the household. This was assessed in a review of USA and Canadian population based survey (Jones *et al.*, 1999) done between 1985 to 1998 which revealed that between 8 percent and 14 percent of women in union or not, from all ages, have experienced physical violence. But age in some studies (Kimuna & Djamba, 2008) are not predictive factors of violence in the compound.

In addition, socio- economic, and demographic factors have been found to contribute to the perpetration of domestic violence. High levels of education and longevity in marriage have been found to be associated with lesser physical, sexual or emotional abuse and inversely (WHO & LSHTM, 2010). However, Hindin & Adair (2002) in a study uncovered that in rural areas, where the educational level of women and girls are low, the situation of violence is relatively high as compared to the urban areas with a high educational level for women. Education is a risk and protective factor for domestic violence in couples (Mikton, 2010). Indeed, women with low educational level as found by Kishor & Johnson (2004) in a cross sectional study where the highest rate of violence was found in women without education and who attain primary school. But findings in a recent study across 17 countries (Abramsky *et al.*, 2011) also revealed that women with secondary background as level of education were highly affected by abuse from their partners.

Using the 2003 Nigeria demographic health survey, results of a study conducted by Oyedokun (2003) examining factors related to attitudes toward wife beating among Nigerian men revealed that religious affiliation, number of unions are significant predictors of violence. In the same respect, to find out the effect of ethnicity of IPV, Okenwa *et al.*, (2009) in their study in Nigeria have revealed that alcohol use and ethnicity are highly predicted to disclose of domestic abuse in the community.

Women's economic dependency on men have been considered as a reason used by men in the relationship to abuse their partners. In a study conducted by Babu & Kar (2009) women who work

and earn money have their views on decision making in the house resist to violence. To contradict the latter view, Rahman *et al.*, (2011) in a study points a jobless man become violent and maltreat their spouses especially when there are working in the household.

Women in union are more vulnerable and are at higher risk of violence from their partners when they lack the finances. Indeed, employment is amongst one of the determining factors of violence in a relationship. A study conducted by (Khrishnaan *et al.*, 2010) revealed that women who do not have a source of income and depend on their male partners for financial support might incite violence in the household.

Another related cause of domestic violence is the number of children a woman has actually put to birth. Kishor & Johnson (2004) found that the greater the number of children a woman has, the more abuse the woman is prepared to tolerate because she is financially depended on the male partner. In that study, the more children a woman has, the less she is ready to quit the house and abandon the children. A study in Kenya (Kimuna & Djamba, 2008), the number of living children is a risk factors for physical violence. The probability of women who have reported at least one type of violence as well as (physical, sexual and emotional) show significant association; but the strength in the direction are unknown. This study does not look determine the number of living children who might expose women to abuse, but only if a relationship exist or not.

2.3.2.2.2 Societal factors contributing to domestic violence

2.3.2.2.2.1 Cultural factors

Culture consists of: “the beliefs, behaviours, objects and other characteristics common to the members of a particular group or society” (Hall, 1993). This implies that culture is established once members of a community abide and share common values. Therefore one can say that culture might dictate the way people perceive social event, live and interact with others. Culture is a critical factor underlying domestic violence. In fact, Domestic violence occurs in every society. Zimmermann (1994) in his study revealed that domestic violence is not limited to class, age and ethnic group. The same author indicated that violence occurs in all socioeconomic communities and encompasses cultural background in many societies. This is consistent with a definition of domestic violence by the Beijing Platform (1995) it includes as revealed by Bahun & Rajan (2008) “an extraordinarily broad and culturally inflected terrain of political, physical, psychological and cultural acts and actions” (Cliffnotes, 2013).

According to Dutton, (1988), acts of violence on an individual regardless of the sex cannot be considered as an illness and genetically determined issue. Therefore, domestic violence could be seen as a result of culture, social customs and behaviours acquired in a given society. In fact, in many societies, as pointed by Ganley, (1995), and nowadays (Dutton, 2011), cultural and social customs have been used to justify and provide explanations for domestic violence. To exemplify the latter, children in a community socialize into practices such as gender stereotypes, a culture of male domination and a dominant sex culture of a society as they grow up. These cultural practices place men as dominant and superior to women. To be considered as fit in a given society men must therefore abide to the cultural practices which require men to abuse their partners.

It is thought that when violence is perceived as a common fact (Fanslow & Roninson, 2010) and considered by women in a given society, it will impact on the other community members. The consequences of these are that the victims of this type of violence might be ignored or not listened to when they complain. As a fact, in many societies, male dominance over women is entrenched in the mind of the community members (Friedmann, 2012).

Around the world, society encourages domestic violence and has given power to men who are considered and established violence in general and domestic violence against women as a tradition, a custom and women have to internalize and live with that.

As a matter of fact, society encourages domestic violence and has given power to men who are considered as the head of the family regarding any decision in the household. Although more accentuated in African and Asian countries, culture as a factor associated with violence in almost all societies around the world. This has been seen in sub-Saharan African where traditional beliefs are deeply embedded as in Cameroon and Tanzania (Laisser *et al.*, 2011) where women are subordinated to their husband and are always abused in the relationship. Findings from Humphreys & Thiara (2002) indicated that in most African villages, men do not care about the legislation, so they make their own laws since they consider themselves as customs-makers and protectors and the women have no say but to obey (Saravanan, 2000) everything the man says without any opposition. Also, a recent study in Nigeria (Uthman *et al.*, 2010), revealed that it is normal for men to control women at home and in the society as they are endowed as leaders of the community. Consequently, male attitude of dominance is rooted and established in sub-Saharan African countries.

The cultural aspect of domestic violence has created some difficulties in data collection. This is because women refuse to disclose information regarding their abuse status because of fear, shame or lack of support from the community and family. This is especially true with women from Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Republic of Moldova, Nepal and Philippines and as seen in the DHS of each of the concerned countries. This is confirmed by a study in the Republic of Moldova (Lozovanu, 2012), which shows that psychological pressure, fear of the society and economic dependency are the reasons why Moldovan women do not disclose acts of violence in the compound and in the communities.

2.3.2.2.2 Alcohol consumption abuse

Alcohol consumption and the intake of drugs are also important risk factor to violence in general and domestic violence in particular as indicated by Zaleski *et al.*, (2010). Men who drink are likely to be violent because alcohol tends to reduce self-control and causes anxiety. A survey conducted by Cooker *et al.*, (2000) to assess the factors associated with intimate partner violence (IPV) in a USA clinic indicated that amongst the women aged 15 to 65 who had experienced physical, sexual and psychological abuse, 55.1 percent of abuses were strongly associated with alcohol and drugs. In many African countries, it has been shown that alcohol intake is a risk factor of acts of abuse in the family. In Uganda, where alcohol is deeply entrenched in the population's habits, 49.5 percent of women physically abused had reported that their partner were under the influence of alcohol. Also, in a multi-country study in Chili, India, Egypt and Philippines, Jeyaseelan *et al.*, (2004) explained that in a relationship, when one of the partners is addicted to alcohol, the union is highly exposed to violence.

Literature on domestic violence has confirmed the negative impact of alcohol and drug consumption in the household. In fact, as pointed by Caetano *et al.*, (2001), findings from a 1995 national study indicated that regardless of the ethnic population, 30 percent to 40 percent of men who have perpetrated violence against their female partner were drunk when it happened Alcohol is a contributing cause of violence by type in a relationship. This was supported by Leonard (2005) who indicated that heavy alcohol consumption led men to violence. Heavy alcohol consumption has also been found to increase the severity of violence in the family. In a recent study, McKinney *et al.*, (2010) pointed that when alcohol is involved the risks of the female partner being abused increases. Following this assertion, 30.2 percent of couples aged 18 and over who have reported

intimate abuse said their partners were under the influence of alcohol and that half of women who were severely affected, partners were also under the influence of alcohol. Ellen *et al.*, (2012) in a study revealed that women in South Africa are more at risk of physical violence when the intimate partner is drunk.

More so, Parkhill & Abbey (2008) estimated that the proportion of sexually abuse women by drunken partners to non-drunken partners is at least 52 percent. Furthermore, Zaleski *et al.*, (2010) in a study assessing the contribution of drinking and socio-demographic factors to the risk of IPV amongst couples living under the same roof estimated that 38.1 percent of violence in the household occurs because the partner or husband was drunk.

Based on the discussions on the consequences of domestic abuse on women or victims of such abuse, it is imperative for the state and Feminist groups to develop measures to protect women against such abuse.

2.3.3 Protective factors of women exposed to domestic violence

Protective factors related to the characteristics that do not expose women to any type of violence in the household are purposed to ensure the safety of women in relationships. However, only a fewer studies aimed to develop protective strategies on domestic violence (Mikton, 2010) have been conducted. A study conducted by Carlson *et al.*, (2002) revealed that social support is the basic decreasing factor of domestic violence in a society. In fact, the intervention of family members or friends may cushion acts of violence by an intimate partner. In this situation, the perpetrator is condemned by the community. Also the intervention such as social and medical staff (Schwartz *et al.*, 2006) that provides strong support for victims of violence can reduce women's risk to violence. Shelters or safe spaces where women can receive help and be listened too can reduce the level of intimate partner violence.

Some variables contribute to buffer and protect women from intimate partner violence in the family. Social support and education, employment, women self-esteem are factors that protect women from violence.

Education may play a positive role towards improving the problem of domestic violence. Bhuiya *et al.*, (2011) indicated that women with a high level of educational are exposed to a lesser degree of abuse in the relationship. Further, the frequency of abuse by an intimate partner decreases with

the level of women's education. In fact, in a study, Fehringer & Hindin (2009) revealed that the proportion of domestic violence amongst abused women decreases between 20 percent and 55 percent when the victims have attained high school and are working and have a salary. In the same line, (Johnson & Das, 2009) men with a high level of education are less likely to abuse their females partners.

2.3.4 Theories on causes and consequences of women intimate abuse

Many theories relating to the causes and consequences of domestic violence against women have been explored. Most of these theories are interrelated and enable a better understanding of domestic violence. Some of these approaches include the public health approach, the criminal justice approach, the socio-ecological approach, and the feminist approach. The theories listed are discussed in the paragraphs below.

2.3.4.1 Public health approach

Firstly, violence has been considered as a public health approach by Surgeon and Koop in 1985 because of the health outcomes related to a victim of violence (Mercy *et al.*, 1993). Violence against women has great impacts in women's lives (Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, 2005; Garcia-Moreno & Watts, 2011). Policies and decisions are elaborated based on the damages caused by acts of violence. In fact Heise (1994) and Campbell (2002) in their respective studies emphasis that domestic violence as a major cause of mortality and morbidity, disabilities and injuries in the society. Victims of abuse face many health issues. Some are related to depression, bruises, injuries, gynaecological problems (Hegarty *et al.*, 2013; Gass *et al.*, 2010). Domestic violence also affects pregnant women since it leads to unintended abortion, miscarriages, and premature babies. This approach also develops strategies for abuse women who seek help at the hospitals. Paradoxically, the public health approach is not an effective measure because it depends on the severity of an incident (Campbell, 2002). Hence this theory is a limited notion according to the objective of this study which is to seek for the social demographics impacts.

2.3.4.2 The criminal justice approach

Secondly, the criminal theory rests on the implementation of legislation and occurs in two steps: firstly as preventive for the first level which defines the law that prohibits domestic violence and reassures victims of violence are protected. Another dimension, as a criminal, the law prohibits those who engage in acts of violence against their partner. In practice, the ratification of

agreements by the countries under investigation in this study as well as the existence of local laws show evidence that domestic violence is acknowledged as a violation of human rights.

2.3.4.3 The socio ecological approach

Thirdly, the ecological approach developed by Heise in 1998, places the family at the heart of the relationship to consider all causes, circumstances, protective factors of domestic violence against women. In the ecological model, personal, situational and sociocultural factors are all put together to form the grounds of violence. The theory of ecological model justifies violence with the broader social environment. In fact domestic violence could be explained using the individual characteristics of the victim, and the perpetrator. The ecological model provides basis to achieve the aim of this study as it made use of the socio-economic and demographic variables used to assess the magnitude of violence in the selected countries.

2.3.4.4 The feminist approach

Fourthly, the feminist approach formulated in the early 1970s, was identified as “the women’s liberation movement” (Walker, 2009). The feminist model is a theory which offers support to women to protect women from abuse, discrimination and establish gender equality. There is a long history of gender equity practices to reduce gender stereotyped behaviour and the notions of male domination in society at large. In the 1970s a program called Women in development (WID) was created to enable women have equal opportunities like men. In the 1980s a new program called women and development (WAD) came into being. WAD recognized the fact that gender problems led to inequalities between women and men. Acknowledging the efforts of past scholars enables proactive thoughts that present day scholars can seek to undo gender practices and domestic violence (Stromquist & Fischman, 2009).

Many mainstreams such as the patriarchal ideology (Haj-Yahia & Schiff, 2007), the power and control model (Gage & Hutchinson, 2006), the battered women syndrome (Moses, 1997) and the cycle of violence (Freedman, 2012) are used to explain intimate partner violence in the relationship.

Basically, the idea behind the feminist perspective is that men abuse their female partners because men want to control their partners in the relationship. The feminist theory considers the general relationship between a man and a woman regardless of the marital status. It is projected towards

annihilating the concept of male dominance on women. Partisans of this theory have led many conferences and battles so that women could also have a voice in making decisions. In addition, feminists consider that intimate partner violence is not a private matter but must be addressed at the social level so that everyone can be aware of the negative impacts of violence. Following this idea, violence against women, a social phenomenon (Dobasch & Dobasch, 1979) where women must obey to their partner if they do not have to experience physical, sexual and emotional violence or been victims of controlling behaviours.

The feminist model provides a basis upon which to realize the stance of this study because feminist actions seek to destroy the ideological practices of male domination in society.

2.3.5 Effects of domestic violence

One of the effects of domestic violence is that it leads to low self-esteem for women which consequently affect their health (Heise *et al.*, 1994). Domestic violence results in low self-esteem because women have not yet developed skills to assert themselves amongst their partners. Also most women are unable to defend themselves. Hence the inability of a woman to defend herself in an incident of violence is considered as a victory against her. Also domestic violence often leave victims with mental anguish which is sufficient to destroy their sense of self. A break down in the self-esteem of a woman makes her more vulnerable to violent behaviour. Mental illnesses associated with domestic violence may range from depression to low self-esteem, suicidal thoughts, anger, guilt or shame. In effect, a cross sectional household survey conducted in some rural countries between 2000 and 2003 revealed that the prevalence of suicide attempts in a lifetime of an abused woman varies from 0.8 percent in Tanzania to 12 percent in Peru (Devries *et al.*, 2011). The study also estimated that 1.9 percent and 13.6 percent of Peruvian women abused by their partner had suicidal thoughts during the four weeks preceding the data collection. Further investigations into suicidal thoughts, showed in a study across some low income countries (Heise & Garcia-Moreno, 2010) that there is an increase of suicidal thoughts amongst women who have reported acts of abuse by the intimate partner.

Based on the notion that most women do not consent to have sex but do so at the desire of their male partners, women also suffer from many sexually transmitted diseases. For example, domestic violence has also been associated with increased HIV prevalence (Dunkle *et al.*, 2004). Findings from a study conducted by Spiegel *et al.*, 2007 reported links between HIV and domestic violence

in some sub-Saharan countries (Republic of Congo, Tanzania, Ghana, South Africa, Botswana and Uganda). In another study conducted by Fox *et al.*, (2007), it was observed that there is an increased risk of HIV transmission among women experiencing violence than those not exposed to violence. To illustrate the latter view, a study conducted by Nyamayemombe *et al.*, (2010) in Zimbabwe, revealed that 38 percent of HIV positive women living in urban areas are physically abused compared to 29 percent of healthy women. Also, 47 percent of HIV positive women aged 20 to 24 experienced domestic violence while the proportion of healthy abused women of the same age is 41 percent.

According to Heise *et al.*, (1994), domestic violence could be considered as a menace to women's health. This is corroborated by many other studies (Moreno *et al.*, 2005; Ellsberg & Heise, 2005; Kishor & Johnson, 2004; Campbell, 2002) which outline the negative outcomes of violence on children and women. In fact, domestic violence affects women both physically and mentally (Heise *et al.*, 1994). Domestic violence has also been found to affect female fertility in ways such as unintended pregnancy which results in abortions (Kishor & Johnson, 2004). A study using representative demographic health survey data from three countries of Azerbaijan, Moldova and Ukraine shows that women exposed to sexual and physical abuse or living in an abusive relationship are greatly inclined to getting pregnant unexpectedly. Besides, some studies have established some direct and indirect links of domestic violence increasing the risk of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases (Taillieu & Brownridge, 2010; Shamu *et al.*, 2011). The prevalence of domestic violence among pregnant women is alarming in developing countries. As pointed by Nasir & Hyder, (2003)) and Campbell *et al.*, (2004), the proportion of pregnant abused women is 32 percent in developing countries while the prevalence could be found at 12 percent in industrialized countries. Another study by Kaye *et al.*, (2006) conducted in Uganda identified the existence of a strong association of 13.5 percent of physically abused women with unplanned pregnancies amongst women seeking help in Mulago hospital as well as in Rwanda (Ntaganira *et al.*, 2008). Findings from the world estimated the percentage of domestic violence to be 1 percent in Japan, 2 percent in Australia, Cambodia, Denmark and Philippines, 7 percent in Tanzania, 8 percent in Brazil and Ethiopia, 12 percent in Bangladesh, and 28 percent in Peru (WHO, 2010). In practice, when there is a lack of sexual autonomy and control, a fear to be beaten or abused by the partner when some ideas are clashing on contraception methods, may directly

lead to unwanted pregnancy and increased risk of HIV and sexually transmitted diseases (Jewkes, 2002).

Hence, domestic violence leads to an increasing number of unwanted births. Short interval between births (Valladres *et al.*, 2002) indicates none or low contraceptive use. Thus, the more children a woman has, the more she has been exposed to domestic violence (Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, 2005). A population-based study carried out in six countries (Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, 2005) revealed that the number of children of abused women doubled the number of women who have not encountered any violence.

Furthermore, domestic violence reduces efforts to improve women's access to education. International fact sheet estimates of the world health organization noted that violence against women of reproductive age is as serious as any other factor that can cause morbidity and mortality such as cancer, traffic accidents and malaria (WHO 1997). A study conducted by Glass *et al.*, (2010) in South Africa found that 25 percent of women are killed by their intimate partner.

Studies have found that domestic violence against women leads to cultural, social and individual problems (Kaur & Garg, 2010; Khan, 2000; Heise *et al.*, 2002) as it affects families, communities and nations alike (Wood & Jewkes, 1997). In many societies, children play important roles in the relationship as they symbolize the couple's fertility, and strengthen the bonds of marriage. On the other hand, some children are exposed to acts of domestic violence which have negative effects on them. Whether they witness acts of violence or intervene to defend their mother when abused, life in such an environment affects children negatively. When considering health impacts on children, a study carried out by Fantuzzo *et al.*, 1999; Garcia-Moreno & Watts, 2011) indicated potential psychological problems related to domestic violence. These usually include depression, aggression or violence associated with children who witnessed violence during their childhood, unhappiness and poor performance at school (WHO, 2002; 2004). According to Edleson *et al.*, (2007) and (Ellsberg, 2001), these conditions also jeopardize child development after parents' violent acts. Furthermore, some children may drop out of school and become juvenile delinquents (Daro *et al.*, 2004). As pointed by Justesen & Verner (2007), children in Haiti exposed to violence are likely to perpetrate violence with peers of other children as opposed to children who grow in respectful homes (Fehring & Hindin, 2009).

Female children who grow up in a violent home environment may become passive and find it normal in the future to be assaulted, insulted and abused by their partners thereby reproducing a culture of violence (Dutton & Nicholls, 2005).. Also, a study by Finkelhor (2011) confirming Morgan & Chadwick (2009) revealed that domestic violence may cause divorce of the parents with the consequence of mono parental education and adverse changes in child behaviour.

Economically, gender-based violence limits efforts to reduce poverty. The general economic situation of a country also influences violence among partners in a relationship (Abramhsky *et al.*, 2011). This is because women with low levels of education and unemployed women are more exposed to violence by their partner in countries experiencing greater poverty as in Haiti (Justesen & Verner, 2007). In a research study conducted by Jewkes *et al.*, (2003) it was found that issues surrounding gender-based violence increases expenses related to the great costs of medical care, mental health services, criminal justice intervention, job losses, and increasing mortality rates of women experiencing violence. Therefore, the effects of domestic violence are also remarkable on the labour market (Lyold, 1997). It also brings down women's participation in the employment sector since it affects the productivity of an enterprise negatively (Costello *et al.*, 2005). In fact, domestic violence reduces women's productivity level in the corporate world (Peterson, 2011).

2.3.6 Relationship between battered women and the perpetrator

Tjaden & Thoennes (2000) showed that one percent of the two-thirds of women who had experienced physical violence including rape and physical assault or both, had been victimized by an intimate partner. Another study conducted by Heise *et al.*, (1994) revealed that domestic violence involving rape constitutes five percent to sixteen percent on violent health outcomes in the society. In addition, females are more affected by domestic violence in the household even though men are sometimes abused by their female partner. The prevalence of sexual violence varies between 20 percent in Peru, 3.6 percent in Namibia and 13.4 percent in Tanzania (WHO, 2002). In addition, though domestic violence exists amongst female to female or male to male engaging in a relationship (Alhusen *et al.*, 2010), studies on that account for few. Available data are also fewer than studies on domestic violence by men on women (Alhabib *et al.*, 2010). In a community based survey of 229 lesbians, 12.2 percent of women were victims of a type of violence (Rose, 2003). However, Glass *et al.*, (2008) estimated that the prevalence of domestic violence amongst female couples varies between 8 percent and 60 percent. Kishor & Johnson (2004) in a

World Health Organization report revealed that domestic violence is higher among women aged 24 to 34.

Although men can find themselves entrapped in abusive behaviours by women (Ellsberg & Heise, 2005), abusers of the victim are commonly men and are usually closely related to the victim (Kishor & Johnson, 2004). Typically, it is usually with a close acquaintance like father, husband, partner or a neighbour (Heise, 1998). Domestic violence can also be controlled by one partner over another in a dating, marital or live-in relationship (Mikton, 2010). Domestic violence occurs in every culture, country and age group. Sometimes sex and age are important factors in determining the kind of violence exercised (Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, 2005). Koffi Anan in a video conference in 1999 declared that domestic violence cuts across culture, age, boundaries, and has no respect for the person. It takes place in same sex as well as heterosexual relationships. It can be a one-time event or an array of sexual, physical and psychological acts. But whether violent acts appear occasionally, randomly or chronically or in a controlled way, victims of violence are having many consequences (Ferraro, 2000)

2.4 Women abuse and International Organizations

The increase of the battered women phenomenon around the world has upraised a lot of concerns and both local and international organizations have started responding to calls to end this practice. These organizations have protested, and lobbied for legislations to protect women's rights. They have also drawn attention to the extent and the severity of violence against women. Consequently, this issue became acknowledged by international organizations such as the United Nations, and the World Health Organization who has been exposing the problem during important conferences. Many policy makers have drawn up policies to prevent women from violence and protect the abused ones. Today, domestic violence is recognized as a violation of basic human rights (United Nations CEDAW, 1993) and is a public concern rather than a problem of the couple involved in the relationship. Also the United Nations and member countries around the world have recognized through the GBV as a criminal offense as it violates women's rights and make them to live in fear. This is evidenced by the UN Convention that was organized to fight against all forms of discrimination and violence against women (United Nations CEDAW, 1993) (Heise, 1998). Hence violence against women is among the principal and sensitive issues calling for attention by the international community, civil society and governments. The declaration of Beijing considered

violence against women as an expression of gender-based violence. The Millennium Development Goals (MDG) programs also strive to address many concerns about domestic violence so as to help women to achieve their goals (UNFPA, UNIFEM, 2005).

Most recently, some important policies to end violence through expert group meetings are conducted. In practice, domestic violence has been addressed in numerous ways and many resolutions have been made to stamp out the practice (considered in the future as international standards and best practices) by both the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.

2.4.1 Importance of UN recommendations

United Nations' recommendations are the pathway for countries to put efforts jointly to assist victims of any violence and to end violence. In the definition of violence against women, the United Nations stresses on the fact that domestic violence against women especially hinders the achievement of gender equality, development and peace of women. It does not take into consideration where the act of abuse takes place; whether at home, within the community nor does it take into consideration the background, history, and the membership in a group community (such as women belonging to minority groups, indigenous women, refugee women, migrant women, women living in rural or remote communities, destitute women, women in institutions or in detention, female children, women with disabilities, elderly women and women in situations of armed conflict) (United Nations CEDAW, 1979).

2.4.2 Evolution of guidelines

Many campaigns are done to monitor and evaluate the evolution of violence against women, particularly domestic violence in the world. As an illustration, the multi-year campaign of public awareness and political will are intensified. These campaigns also aim to reinforce existing and protective strategies to respond to violence against women and girls, as well as develop new legislations on violence against women. In many countries, programs to assess domestic violence prevalence and significant efforts are undertaken locally by governments and NGOs through legal policies to lessen this plague.

2.4.3 Millennium Development Goals (MDG)

The Millennium Development Goals agenda focuses on sustainable human development as a way to work out through social and economic progress of countries all over the world. In fact, the

Millennium Development Goals is the expression of the international community's developmental priorities, and have set up eight goals and targets to be accomplished by 2015. The relationship between sustainable development and violence against women is not straightforward, thus violence against women is not explicitly addressed among the Millennium Development Goals (Grown *et al.*, 2005). However, in line with the United Nations, the issue of domestic violence against women is recognized and is readable under goal lines since violence against women appears as an obstacle in their program. Firstly, violence against women is a violation of a basic human right and fully relates to gender inequality and discrimination. Furthermore, its violation impacts on the well-being, freedom and health of the abused women. As a matter of fact, gender inequality intervenes greatly in achieving all eight millennium goals. In addition, the Millennium Development Goals 3 explicitly addresses the promotion of gender equality and women empowerment. Consequently, violence against women destabilizes efforts to realize the MDGs, therefore, putting an end to domestic violence became a strategic priority for fulfilling the overall gender goals. Because violence against women is considered as a critical risk for social and economic development, the Millennium Development Goals of September 2000 acknowledged it as being closely linked to poverty, lack of education, child mortality, maternal ill-health and gender inequality.

2.4.4 Proposed policies to prevent and eliminate domestic violence against women

Owing to the pervasive extent of domestic violence, it is critical for communities to act in order to tackle the problem. Though the laws governing domestic violence and the implementation thereof differ from country to country due to the cultural peculiarity of the population, the United Nations' recommendations are the same (UNFPA, 2007). Its primary proposed policies are focused on deducing the magnitude of domestic violence and occurrence. Efforts should be pointed at educating the youths both at home and at school (Butchart *et al.*, 2010). Furthermore, efforts should be made to intensify women's access to education, and affirming punishment of abusers should be among the measures which lessen domestic violence. The implementation of equitable gender policies and the abolition of laws that discriminate against women are likely to reduce domestic violence. Since alcohol is a leading factor for violence, the reduction of alcohol consumption in a given population may decrease abusive acts perpetration.

2.5 General profile of intimate abuse

Domestic violence is a growing phenomenon (Kishor & Johnson, 2004) which affects several communities. In most societies, even if it is not easy to obtain statistics on domestic violence (Anderson *et al.*, 2009), the level of violence against women has taken epidemic proportions (Alhabid *et al.*, 2009) as developed below.

2.5.1 Prevalence of domestic violence in the industrialized countries

Though present in every country over the world, the magnitude of domestic violence is less in developed countries (WHO, 2013). This difference could be explained by the facts that, information on women's rights are disclosed and more effective in the developed countries (Matczak *et al.*, 2011). Additionally, governments and non-governmental organizations provide shelters to help abused women. They are also well organized in assisting victims of violence in hospitals. They keep good records in hospitals, clinics and police station to track down individuals affected by domestic violence. Most of the published studies on intimate partner violence in Europe have been conducted in the medical setting, (e.g. Ramsay *et al.*, 2012, Franz *et al.*, 2010, Gracia & Herrero, 2006, Richardson *et al.*, 2002). Statistics in Europe show an estimate of twelve to fifteen percent of women facing violence at home (Council of Europe (2012)). The general prevalence of domestic violence varies from 1.9 percent to 70 percent in Hispanic environments (Gracia, 2004). A study by Ramsay *et al.*, (2012) portrayed that in several European states, a frequency of 10 percent to 36 percent of abuses on women is committed by their intimate partners.

Example of a case study: Socio demographic associations of physical, emotional and sexual intimate partner violence in Spanish women (Ruiz-Perez *et al.*, 2006)

This study was completed in three selected Spanish regions on women of reproductive age group of 18 to 65 years who visited a general practitioner. The research was done to raise awareness of the phenomenon of violence against women in order to suggest some preventive policies and emphasize on measures of treatment for victims of violence. The study aimed to determine the extent of IPV by type and to gauge the association of (number of children, women's employment status, age, marital status, education, social support) with physical, sexual and emotional acts on abused women. To achieve these objectives, the authors used a self-administered questionnaire on a random sample of 1402 selected women. The SPSS software was used to calculate univariate, bivariate and logistic regression of independent variables (socio-demographic factors) with all

categories (physical, sexual and emotional) abuse. They found that 34 percent of Spanish women have experienced some form of violence in their life span while 14.4 percent have been emotionally abused. Furthermore, evidences from this research estimated that older women are not protect by violence since they have reported high prevalence of abuse; whereas low monthly income in the family is predictive of physical and sexual violence. In a nutshell, IPV appears as a frequent issue in Spanish women's life.

2.5.2 Magnitude of intimate partner violence against women in the developing countries

Domestic violence is a serious issue affecting women for many decades in sub-Saharan countries with some regions more affected. Coker & Richter (1998) estimated that more than 60 percent in a survey in Sierra Leone had reported physical violence while the proportion was almost half for sexual violence. Habib *et al.*, (2011) in a study in rural area in Egypt reveal that more than one third of women with low educational background and many children at home were affected by abuse in the household. In addition, Illika *et al.*, (2002) in a clinical survey conducted on 300 women in Eastern Nigeria revealed an estimate of 40 percent of women being victims of violence. High prevalence of domestic violence was reported in South Africa. Jekwes *et al.*, (2002) in a reported in Durban, a South African city, that more than 30 percent of women with a low income experienced some kind of domestic violence in the household. Also, Onyejekwe (2004) in a study pointed that South Africa carries a high prevalence rate of rape and violence in the world.

It is estimated by the South African police in 2002 that at least one woman is raped in every 26 seconds. In Asian countries, women have internalized and accepted violence as a common happening in their lives and the society. The reported prevalence of domestic violence is also high. In a study carried out in December 2000 in a remote area of Bangladesh, Bhuiya *et al.*, (2011) revealed that around 50 percent of women are reported to be assaulted by their husbands. Similarly, a study by Babbu & Kar (2009) on violence amongst women in Eastern India revealed that the proportion of women who have reported at least some type of violence in the family is 56 percent. Meanwhile, the overall prevalence of physical, psychological and sexual abuse among women of Eastern India is respectively 16 percent, 52 percent and 25 percent.

Laisser *et al.*, (2011) in a retrospective study conducted in Haiti, Nigeria and Uganda, revealed that the proportion of domestic violence by type varies between 11 percent and 52 percent. Many reasons justify abuse in African countries. In fact, control behaviours in domestic violence

accounts for 75 percent of physical abuse in sub Saharan countries. Using data of the Cebu longitudinal health and Nutrition Survey (CLHNS) in their works to explore the risk factors of domestic violence in the Philippines, Hindin & Adair (2002) revealed that 30 percent of Pilipino females are subjected to intimate partner violence.

In a research conducted by the International Center for Diarrheal Disease in 2006, 60 percent of Bangladesh women have already been victims of violence in their lives as this was ranked among the top the proportion of Asian countries with high estimates in violence. A study conducted by Bhatti et al., 2011 reported that more than 46.48 percent of women in Bangladesh experienced some kind of domestic violence from their husband at home. And this proportion is increasing with years.

Alhadid *et al.*, (2010) stated that the methods used to collect data might encourage women to release information on domestic violence since there are existing studies indicating the percentages of women reporting intimate abuse by an intimate partner at some point in their lives in developing countries. In effect, Kishor & Johnson (2004); following Watts & Zimmerman (2002) paths in their respective works agreed that the magnitude of intimate partner violence is in sub Saharan and developing regions is higher than in industrialized societies.

2.5.2.1 Case study 1: Intimate partner violence and contribution of drinking and socio-demographics: the Brazilian National Alcohol Survey (Zaleski et al., 2010)

This research paper was the first done in Brazil though there are many similar studies in the USA (Caetano *et al.*, 2007; Caetano *et al.*, 2001). This case study explored the scope of IPV of 1445 couples in Brazil. It also pointed out how drinking behaviours and socio-demographic factors can affect and put women at risk of violence in the household. The article used data from the first Brazilian national alcohol survey with a sample of 631 men and 814 women participants in the age group 14 and more, married or in a relationship with a partner. Many analyses (bivariate and logistic regression) were done to determine the correlates among dependent variables (physical, sexual and emotional acts of violence) and independent variables (age, income, employment status, educational level, religious affiliation and Brazilian geographic regions). The results show that the age of a couple, atheist men and housewives are high risk factors for violence. It also indicated a strong and positive relationship between age group, educational level, income and IPV.

2.5.2.2 Case study 2: Gender based violence: correlates of physical and sexual abuse in Kenya (Kimuna & Djamba, 2008)

For a better understanding of the family process in Kenya, research was done to investigate the level and the factors associated with women abuse in this sub Saharan country. The authors used household characteristics, women social demographics and the husband's background characteristics from the Kenyan demographic and health survey of 2003 as independent variables. Of a sample of 4876 married women aged 15 to 49 years, statistical analysis through logistic regression were done to find out evidences of relationship between physical and sexual violence (as dependent variables) and IPV. DHS revealed that 40 percent of Kenyan women have experienced some type of violence and 13 percent of the violence is related to sexual abuse and 36 percent are physical. From these findings, household wealth was not predictive of violence while physical abuse increased enormously with the number of children as mentioned by Mc Closkey *et al.*, (2005), Fagan *et al.*, (1983); Straus *et al.*, (1980). Similarly, residing in polygamous union, being a believer, alcohol use, unskillful jobs, living in poor conditions all exposed women to violence in a relationship.

2.5.3 Linkages between socio-demographics characteristics and domestic violence

The understanding of the determinants and protective factors of domestic violence against women has a key impact on ending domestic violence and policy framing. Many reasons justify domestic violence and studies have shown that one factor cannot explain and demonstrate why in some communities, violence is still latent and rampant as well as defining the profiles of perpetrators and victims of violence (Abeya *et al.*, 2011; Ellsberg & Heise, 2005).

Many studies have been conducted on the health consequences of violence as well as those related to the role of socio-demographics on domestic violence (Deyessa *et al.*, 2010, Krug *et al.*, 2008). A study demonstrated the association between domestic violence and homeworkers and believers are not predictors to violence (Brownridge & Halli, 2000, Cunradi *et al.*, 2002). Evidence suggests that the neighbourhood of the couple, their socio-economic status and the age of the couple (Cramer, 2011, Bostock *et al.*, 2009. Caetano *et al.*, 2000) determines the type of abuse the female partner receives. Another illustration done by Zaleski *et al.*, (2010) on socio demographic characteristics of Brazilian women observed that contrary to the USA, atheist men and women homemakers are safe from violence regardless of the sex and marital status of young couples.

Among others, socio-demographics variables which can increase the probability of women being abused is the educational standards of the couple as it has been revealed in a comparative analysis in Chile, Egypt, India and the Philippines (Jeyaseelan *et al.*, 2004). However, in the countries investigated in this study, there is evidence of an association between socio-demographics factors and battered women. Given the high prevalence of domestic violence in the countries under investigation, it could be assumed that socio-demographic factors are responsible for the high prevalence.

2.5.4 General overview and extent of domestic violence in the countries under investigation

Under this section, details will be given on the geographic situation, the historical, cultural context and magnitude of assault on women among the countries under study using available census and DHS data of currently married women or women cohabiting with a partner between the ages of 15-49. Although literature exists on the prevalence of domestic violence in the selected countries, little attention has been given to the factors underlying women abuse in these regions. In fact the seven countries of this study as developing countries are amongst the poorest countries (Nepal, Moldova, Haiti) worldwide. Therefore, as countries with low income, they are not yet advanced in applying laws and projects to lessen on domestic violence. As this study intends to use more accurate and representative data of countries to understand the issue of domestic violence, only DHS carried out surveys in developing countries. Then, the researcher uses more current and available data from 2005 to 2011 of Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines. The researcher also chooses many countries in diverse parts of the continents to have an overall picture of violence across sites over the world and since little is known of the social demographic characteristics of domestic violence in the selected countries. Therefore, this research attempts to fill the gap by exploring whether women's socio-economic and demographic variables might play a part in the abuse of women in the household. And it attempts to identify the magnitude of assault on women among the countries under study using available census and DHS data of currently married women or women cohabiting with a partner between the ages of 15-49. Although literature exists on the prevalence of domestic violence in the selected countries, little attention has been given to the factors underlying women abuse in these regions. Furthermore, very little is known of the social demographic characteristics of domestic violence in the selected countries.

Therefore, this research attempts to fill the gap by exploring whether women's socio-economic and demographic variables might play a part in the abuse of women in the household.

2.5.4.1 Domestic violence in Cameroon

Cameroon is one of the sub-Saharan countries, geographically situated in Central Africa below the Gulf of Guinea, between the 2nd and the 13th degrees of the North latitude and 9th and 16th degrees of the East longitude. It has a surface area of 475 650 km². It is in the form of a triangle that stretches from the south right up to Lake Chad, close to 1 200 km whereas the base spreads from West to East for about 800 km (Annuaire statistiques du Cameroun, 2011, Delancey *et al.*, 2010). Cameroon has at the South-West, a maritime border of 420 Km along the Atlantic Ocean. It is bordered on the West by Nigeria, on the South by Congo Brazzaville, Gabon and Equatorial Guinea, on the east by Central African Republic, and on the northeast by Chad.

Culturally, Cameroon is a diverse country with more than 230 ethnic groups with varying customs (Cameroon EDS- MICS, 2011). Although the official languages are French and English, the people in Cameroon speak many different indigenous languages and therefore are likely to recognize themselves in relation to their ethnic groups rather than as a nation as a whole (Cameroon EDS- MICS, 2011). In this regard, there are many tribes in Cameroon and some of the tribes include Bamileke, Ewondo, Sawa and Fulbe (Delancey *et al.*, 2010). These tribes are made of families that accept traditional values by respecting social customs, beliefs, traditions and norms. Therefore, Cameroon evolves in a paternalistic society where values are protected by elders who are old men and tribal names continue to be significant as a way of identifying people with a common origin (Cameroon EDS, 2007; Cameroon EDS- MICS, 2011).

In such societies, women have been taught from their childhood to tolerate and sometimes accept domestic violence as a normal and natural occurrence (Cameroon EDS, 2007; Cameroon EDS- MICS, 2011). Also, in Cameroon women are abused at home, a place they are supposed to be in security and regardless of their current status (Alio *et al.*, 2009). Previous studies enunciated that women of rural and urban areas in Cameroon undergo domestic violence and the Cameroonian government have adopted laws to prevent and protect victims of violence (Alio & Nashor 2013; Cameroon EDS, 2007; Cameroon EDS- MICS, 2011). The 1996 Cameroonian constitution enshrined in its preamble treaty ratified firstly by the United Nations conference in 1991; thus this convention considers violence against women as a serious violation of fundamental human rights.

Secondly, it subscribes to the International Conference on Population and Development in 1994 and finally the International Conference on Women in Beijing whose goals are to fight for the elimination of violence against women and reduce its prevalence. And the recent 2004 DHS, it strongly corroborates that policies have to be taken to reduce the issue of domestic violence (Cameroon EDS, 2004).

In this respect, data from the 2004 DHS show that from the age of 15, more than half of women (53 percent) experience physical violence, mostly carried out by their husband or partner and other persons. Current, late partner or people in the neighbourhood (father, mother, mother in law, father in law, uncle, sister and brother) are also involved in the violence against women (Alio *et al.*, 2011). Globally, approximately 39 percent of women in union aged 15-49 have experienced physical violence, 14 percent accounts for sexual violence, and 49 percent of women have experienced all three types of violence. Further, Cameroon EDS 2004 revealed also that the rate of women emotionally abused reaches 28 percent. Moreover, 66 percent of among women who have already been in a union, were assaulted physically and sexually from their current or last husband and partner in the last 12 months. When looking at factors associated to intimate male violence, women mostly affected and more exposed to violence are those living in rural areas (57 percent), most educated and achieved high education (54 percent) and active women in the labour market (55 percent). Also, in the EDS 2004, the more a woman has children reduces the level of violence in the household. In fact, 77 percent of women without children have reported violence abuse against 53 percent for women more than five kids.

2.5.4.2 Domestic violence in Ghana

Ghana is geographically situated in the West African coast with a total surface area of 238,537 km². The Republic of Ghana is surrounded by French speaking countries (Togo, Burkina-Faso and Ivory Coast) and is considered as a sub Saharan country. Ghana is a lowland country except for a range of hills on the eastern border and mountain Afadjato, the highest point above sea level (884m) which is west of the Volta River. Ghana is divided into ten administrative regions, with an increasing population of 24 658 823 million (GSS, 2010). The distribution of Ghana's population of urban-rural residents shows that the proportion of the inhabitants living in urban areas is increasing considerably since 1960. Ever since, the rural- urban migration have increased steadily and now the population living in urban areas is about 44 percent (Ghana Demographic Health

Survey, 2008). English is currently the official language in Ghana even though the population is made up of several ethnic groups. The Akans constitute the largest ethnic group (47.5 percent) followed by the Mole-Dagbani (16.5 percent), Ewe (13.9 percent), and Ga/Dangme (7.4 percent) (GSS, 2010). Furthermore, 71.2 percent of Ghanaian believers are Christians, 17.6 percent are Muslims followed by 5.3 percent of non-believers and 5.2 percent of animists.

In a previous study, Cusack (1999) reported that in Ghanaians, beyond some cultural practices, physical, sexual, economic terms and emotional or psychological abuse practise acts of violence against women. Concerning the factors of violence, the previous report of the 2003 GDHS revealed that culture and ethnicity among others are the leading causes of domestic violence. As part of the global Demographic and Health Surveys, the 2003 Ghana Demographic and Health Survey with a module on domestic violence is the fourth in a series of national-level population and health surveys conducted in Ghana (GDHS, 2003). In effect, while analysing women experiencing domestic violence, research findings in Ghana shows questions asked were related to wife beating attitudes. In this regard, 50 percent of women believe that it was normal to experience violence in the counterpart under some circumstances. The 2008 GDHS with an entire report on domestic violence enable track and determine the prevalence of domestic violence in the household.

To stop the violence and its considerable physical damages, death, psychological effects, separation, divorce, and other social injuries inflicted from violence in the community, the Ghanaian government has developed several measures. For example, there is the Domestic Violence Act 732 in February 2007. The Ministry of Women and Children's Affairs (MOWAC) uses this law to develop strategies to prevent and respond to victims of physical, sexual and emotional abuse. They also set up a victim support fund through voluntary contributions and to facilitate parliament to limit the social menace (Government of Ghana, 2007).

The third selected country where the issue of domestic violence must be investigated is Haiti.

2.5.4.3 Domestic violence in Haiti

Haiti is a small country located in the Caribbean Sea between Cuba and the Dominican Republic. Physically, Haiti is dominated by mountains (two third), valleys, plains and plateaus and is therefore highly exposed to earthquake (Cavello *et al.*, 2010). Although, Haiti gained its independence in 1804, it was ruled by a dictatorship government for many years until 1991 when

the first democratic election took place giving birth to democracy. Haiti is divided into 10 departments with French and Creole recognized as the official languages. Economically, Haiti is ranked among the poorest among the South American countries and the fourth least undeveloped country in the world (Human development index, 2011). Hence, 8 percent of the population lives below poverty level. Studies have demonstrated that more than 54 percent of the people live on less than \$ 2 per day (Faedi, 2010).

The population of Haiti is approximately 10.1 million on an area of 27750 km². Haiti is a country with a very unstable political environment. This instability, coupled with the developing economy has impacted on Haitian life. The United Nations Development Program estimated that over 50 percent of adult Haitians are unemployed and that the population does not have access to safe drinking water. Additionally, shortage of food affects 40 percent of all households. Also, the most recent earthquake in Haiti happened in 2010 and caused considerable destructions both physically and economically.

With regards to these circumstances, violence and insecurity have become prevalent. In Haiti, violence against women appears to be part of Haitian women lives (Gage, 2005). In fact, violence and sexual violence in particular is a common practice in Haiti. It has been used during the past decade as a form of political pressure on some families during the Cedras military regime and lately between 1991 and 1994 (Gage & Hutchinson, 2006).

The Haitian government has adopted treaties and taken measures to lessen domestic violence. Although specific laws on the protection of abused women has not existed for several years (Fuller, 1999), Haiti has been part of the CEDAW since 1981 (Gage, 2005). Marital rape is inoffensive since Haiti does not consider it a crime in the society and there are no distinct laws about domestic violence against adult in Haiti.

As is the practice of many developing countries, Haiti has started to collect data on domestic violence (Gage, 2005). Though data on the prevalence of violence against women were not always reported, a research conducted by the Centre Haitien des Recherches et d' Actions pour la Promotion Feminine (CHREPROF) in 1996 revealed that about 70 percent of interviewed females have been victims of domestic violence. Approximately 30 percent mentioned they have been victims of physical abuse and 37 percent of sexual violence including rape. Also, Smith & Lamtert

(2005) stated that 54 percent of women in Haiti were estimated to have faced home violence in the form of sexual abuse in their lifetime. A 2002 WHO country study conducted in nine countries including Haiti reported a general estimate of 32.5 percent of women of reproductive age group being victims of domestic violence with 28.8 percent accounting for married female (Kierston & Johnson, 2004). These results corroborate the findings from EMMUS that found similar proportions.

2.5.4.4 Domestic violence in Liberia

Liberia is a West African country; it shares borders with Sierra Leone on the west, Guinea on the north, Ivory Coast on the east and North Atlantic Ocean on the south-west. According to the 2008 census estimates, the country has an estimated population of about 3,786,764 with a total surface area of 43,000 km². The government of Liberia recognizes English as the official language. There are over 31 indigenous languages spoken in the country as well as over sixteen aboriginal ethnic tribes in Liberia. Christianity is the official and the most widely practiced religion in Liberia. The second-largest religion in Liberia is Islam practiced by approximately 12 percent of the population. Liberia also has a range of religious practices with the most common being the Bahai faith, Hinduism, Sikhism, and Buddhism.

As in many countries of the world, there are threats that impact negatively on the safety of the Liberian population which include violence against women. Indeed, on a daily basis, women undergo different forms of violence (rape, physical, psychological, and sexual) within their environment (Sobkoviak *et al.*, 2012). In order to stop this violence and its considerable impact on the individual and community, the Liberian government has developed several measures. Among these is a five-year gender-based violence national plan of action (Government of Liberia, 2007), and the coordination of gender-based violence prevention and response through a gender-based violence task force under the leadership of the Ministry of Gender and Development. This program has gained the support of both national and international partners (LDHS, 2007).

In the 2007 LDHS, there is a whole module related to women experiencing domestic violence. Available information shows that 44 percent of women in their reproductive stage have experienced physical violence. 80 percent of married women have been abused by their current or former partners and husbands. The 2007 LDHS indicated that almost half women of reproductive age and in union have ever experienced some time of violence. The prevalence of women in union

who have reported physical violence is 35 percent, 11 percent for sexual and 36 percent women having experienced emotional abuse.

2.5.4.5 Domestic violence in the Republic of Moldova

The Republic of Moldova is a small nation, surrounded by other countries in Eastern Europe with a surface area of 33,700 km². The country shares its borders with Romania and Ukraine. The main water arteries are the Dniester River (657 km long) and the Prut River (695 km long).

The July 2012 estimates of the population of the Republic of Moldova are around 3.6 million. From the 2004 census, it appears that regarding Moldovan's ethnic composition, the majority of the population is ethnic Moldovan (76 percent), followed by Ukrainian (8 percent), Russian (6 percent), Gagauz (4 percent) and (2 percent) Romanian and Bulgarian. Other ethnic groups make up about 1 percent of the population (MDHS, 2005). The vast majority of Moldovans is affiliated with the Orthodox Church.

As in many countries, domestic violence is a criminal offense in the Republic of Moldova (Asay, 2011). To fight against domestic violence therefore, many policies have been taken to improve the security of the Moldovan population in general and specifically women's empowerment and reduce the prevalence of domestic violence (Ponce *et al.*, 2010). Recent studies by Ismayilova & Bassel (2013) point that recent law on prevention and combating of domestic violence specifically was ratified by the Moldovan government as measures to protect abused women in relationships. Furthermore, the data and findings (Asay, 2011) considering violence as a cause of the termination of unions of current, divorced and separated women in Moldova assumed that members of Christian community can play a role in abating domestic violence in Moldova. Statistically, 2005 MDHS data show that one-quarter of all women (37 percent) have experienced violence since the age of 15 and 36 percent experienced violence in the last 12 months prior to the survey.

2.5.4.6 Domestic violence in Nepal

With its ancient culture and the Himalayas as a background to attract tourists, Nepal is a landlocked country situated in South Asia, between China in North and India in South. However, it is one of the world's poorest countries struggling to overcome the legacy of a 10-year Maoist insurrection (NDHS, 2011; Rani & Bonu, 2008). Nepal became a republic in May 2008, ending the rule of the monarchs, a ruling family for most of its modern history. According to the preliminary results of

the 2011 population census, the population of Nepal stands at 26.6 million (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2011). According to the 2001 Census, there are around 103 different ethnic groups in Nepal with different distinct language and culture. However, a wide range of vernaculars (about 92) are spoken in Nepal (Central Bureau of Statistics, 2003). Most of these languages originated from two major groups: the Indo-Europeans, who constitute about 79 percent of the population, and the Sino-Tibetans, who constitute about 18 percent of the population. Nepali is the official language of the country and is the mother tongue of about half of the population (NDHS, 2011).

During the past decades, domestic violence has also emerged as a central concern within the field of women and development in Nepal (Lamichhane, 2011). Many population-based studies in Nepal have indicated domestic violence as a reason for poor health, insecurity, and inadequate social mobilization among women (Women's Rehabilitation Centre Nepal, 2009). Dhakal, (2008) revealed that, domestic violence against women, including, dowry-related murders, physical and psychological harassment by families is widespread in Nepal. But, domestic violence accounts for more than 80 percent out of the total prevalence of violence against women in Nepal (Dhakal, 2008). Many factors put women at risk of violence in the relationship in Nepal. A study conducted by Paudel (2007) indicated that Nepalese women lack autonomy, do not participate in decisions at all levels in the household and are subordinated to men. Alcohol, man's power, lack of autonomy by women, low socioeconomic status, early marriage, lack of and knowledge of sexuality are common factors that exposed women to domestic violence in Nepal (Puri *et al.*, 2011). Also, the young girls who get married at an early age and lack of education are risk factors of domestic violence. A report provided by the central cell for women and children at Nepal's police headquarters recorded 1100 cases of acts of abuse in the family in 2007. Also, a study conducted by Puri *et al.*, (2011) in two districts and among two major ethnic groups in Nepal between 2006 and 2007 revealed that 74 percent of Nepalese married women aged 15 to 24 years experienced sexual violence. Furthermore, a study conducted by Bennett (1983) estimates that sexual violence in Nepal ranged between 12 percent and 50 percent. Findings from a study conducted by Paudel (2007) show that 35 percent of women in union are victims of domestic violence in their homes.

For the first time in 2011, a domestic violence module was included in the Nepal Demographic Health Survey (NDHS, 2011), acknowledging the gravity of the problem of gender-based violence in Nepal. Data from the 2011 NDHS show that 22 percent of women age 15-49 have experienced

physical violence at least once since the age of 15, and 9 percent experienced physical violence within the 12 months prior to the survey.

2.5.4.7 Domestic violence in Philippines

The Philippines is an archipel located about 1,210 km east of the coast of Vietnam and separated from Taiwan in the north by the Bashi Channel. It is bounded by the Philippine Sea (and Pacific Ocean) on the east, by the Celebes Sea on the south, and by the South China Sea on the west. The Philippines comprise 7,107 islands and has a total land area of 300,000 km². There are three main island groups: Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao with a total population of about 103,775,002 in 2012. There are two official languages in Philippines: Filipino and English. Then indigenous languages such as Tagalog, Cebuano, Ilocano, Hiligaynon or Ilonggo, Bicol, Waray, Pampango, and Pangasinan are amongst others that are the most frequently used by the population. With reference to the 2000 Filipino population census, the Tagalog with 28.1 percent represents majority when looking at ethnic's repartition following by Cebuano (13.1 percent), Ilocano (9 percent), Bisaya/Binisaya (7.6 percent), Hiligaynon Ilonggo (7.5 percent), Bicol (6 percent), Waray (3.4 percent) and 25 percent of the others. Religion holds a major place in Philippines population's lives. Thus Roman Catholic is the main religion in Philippines with more than 80 percent of believers. It is followed by Muslim (5 percent) (Philippines Census, 2000; 2013). There are others believers such as Evangelical (2.8 percent), Iglesia Ni Kristo (2.3 percent), other Christian (4.5 percent), Aglipayan (2 percent), other unspecified religions (1.8 percent) and 0.1 percent of the population is animist.

One of the challenges faced by the Filipino population is gender based violence. Tuparan (2002) in a study shows that Filipino women, like their counterparts in many other countries, encounter violence on a daily basis. Because domestic violence is considered pervasive and violates basic human rights, many acts have been promulgated by the Filipino government to tackle the issue. In 2004, the Philippines passed Republic Act 9262, the anti-violence against women and their children act. According to the law, violence against women is not limited to physical harm, but extends to emotional and psychological injuries and also addresses discrimination in work places. A significant feature of the act is the involvement of the community in addressing domestic violence (Philippine Star, 2009). Furthermore, the 2008 National Demographic and Health Survey (NDHS) conducted by the National Statistics Office (NSO) introduced the "Women Safety

Module" which aims to capture the extent and types of violence perpetrated against women between the ages of 15-49 years. Information was collected on spousal violence and covering all forms of violence against women: (physical violence; sexual violence; emotional violence; and economic). The module also included questions on marital control, which may fall either under emotional, psychological or economic violence.

Data from the NDHS in Philippines revealed that 1 in every 5 women have reported violence since the age 15 and during the 12 months preceding the survey, the percentage of intimate abuse is seven.

2.6 Conclusion

This chapter has presented the general magnitude of domestic violence. It also provides root causes, factors that exposed and protect women in abused relationships. The consequences of male violence on women in the society on women well-being have been presented. As domestic violence violates women's rights, and given the prevalence of women abuse across the countries, international organizations and government involvement to prevent and respond to this issue were investigated. In an overall view, violence against women is an obstacle in the gender equity, development and peace process.

CHAPTER 3: METHODOLOGY

3.1 Introduction

The previous chapter provided a relevant review of consulted literature. This chapter looks at the methodology employed to answer research questions for this study. This is done by examining each stage of the research in order to come up with a valid and reliable result. Nevertheless, this study did not use primary data. In, the countries selected for this investigation, the data in the current research were collected from secondary data; precisely Demographic and Health Surveys data from 2005 and over.

3.1.1 Problem statement

The current study investigates the prevalence and trends of domestic violence in selected countries and the different demographic and socio-economic characteristics that are likely to impact on the status of women in union.

3.1.2 Aim of the study

The purpose of the study is to determine the factors contributing to intimate partner violence in some selected countries. The focus of this study is on the demographic and / or socio-economic factors. The demographic attributes are made of: age group, marital status, religion, ethnicity, place of residence (rural or urban), number of living children, sons and daughters at home. Meanwhile, the socioeconomic variables consist of the level of education and the employment status.

3.1.3 Objectives of the study

The main objectives of the study were to identify the prevalence of domestic violence as well as investigate the main factors affecting intimate partner violence in the selected countries. It also aimed at providing suggestions based on national policies to address the issue.

3.1.4 Research questions

- What are the role of socio-economic and demographic factors on intimate partner violence?
- What do socio-economic and demographic factors play in the perpetuation of domestic violence?

3.2 Source of data

Data were obtained from the Demographic Health Survey (DHS) in the seven countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines) in a specific year for each of these countries; and they all provided information and large scale dataset on demographics health status and issues of domestic violence.

In Cameroon, the Demographic Health Survey refers to “Enquête démographique et de santé au Cameroun” combined with: Enquête par grappe a indicateur multiples (MICS). It was realized after the EDSC in its III phase in 2004 and addresses issues of domestic violence.

The Ghanaian Demographic Health Survey (GDHS) conducted in 2008 is the fifth international survey supported by ICF and provided current and reliable information on the domestic violence extent. The new Ghanaian MICS 2011 (still to be released) discloses update information on domestic violence evolution.

Haiti Demographic Health Survey (HDHS) was carried out in 2005- 2006 and is referred to “Enquête, mortalité, morbidité et utilisation des services” (EMMUS). In Haiti, EMMUS is in its IV phase and is the latest national large scale dataset on demographic, health and violence against women issues of domestic violence. The new Haiti DHS 2012 provides updated information the about domestic violence scope but is not yet released.

In 2007, Liberia with the support of its government and international organizations (ICF) realized the third DHS in the territory.

In Moldova, the fifth international Demographic Health Survey with a specific module of domestic violence was carried on 2005.

A full dataset with an entire module which disclose the issue on domestic violence in Nepal was provided for the first time in 2011 with the Nepal Demographic Health Survey (NDHS); the fourth and latest on this range.

Lastly, among countries under study, the Philippines in 2008 conducted a Demographic Health Survey for the fifth time which address statistic on domestic violence prevalence.

The table below presents Demographic Health Survey countries phases as well as the historical background to address the question of domestic violence.

Table 3.1: Types of DHS domestic violence samples, by country and by women and men age group

Existence of domestic violence module					Age group	
Countries	Year	DHS phases	In the last survey	In the current survey	Women	Men
Cameroon	2011	EDS/MICS	YES	YES	15-49	15-59
Ghana	2008	GHDS V	NO	YES	15-49	15-59
Haiti	2005	EMMUS IV	YES	YES	15-49	15-59
Liberia	2007	LDHS III	YES	YES	15-49	15-59
Moldova	2005	MDHS V	NO	YES	15-49	15-59
Nepal	2011	NDHS IV	NO	YES	15-49	15-59
Philippines	2008	PDHS V	NO	YES	15-49	15-59

3.3 Data collection

The data were collected by the DHS fieldworkers of each country. The field workers were trained during a specific period of time and a pilot survey was done in each of the relevant countries to ensure the quality and reliability of the questionnaire. Field workers were taught on how to handle domestic violence questionnaire, to respect respondent's privacy, drop out when necessary and provide reasons as well as direct abused women if they were interested in seeking help and support during the survey.

Demographic Health Surveys are representative household- based surveys with a representative population during the implementation' process. Also, the sampling design used mostly is a stratified multistage sampling strategy for Demographic Health Survey countries where sampling is stratified, clustered and selected using a two- stage random sampling technique. In fact, the Demographic Health Survey utilized the clusters (or the primary sampling unit) of the last national

census which were selected through a probability proportionate to size sampling procedure inside each strata for the household and to maximize choices of more populated clusters. Then, households were randomly selected within each previously selected cluster as well as women of reproductive age 15 to 49 to whom individual questionnaires will be administered. As domestic violence is a sensitive issue and women mostly needing ensured safety to disclose information about it, a subsample inside the women reproductive sample select was done. Therefore, the domestic violence module was administered to one of every three women of age group 15 to 49 eligible in the household within each selected household. In some countries, eligible men were also asked about their attitudes and control behaviors towards domestic violence. At a later stage, to get nationally representative estimates, the study used weights from the domestic violence module as sampling weights. Furthermore, they used the standard Demographic Health Survey domestic violence module which is a modified version of the conflict tactic scale (CTS) template. Therefore all the questions in countries under study except in the Philippines are almost the same.

3.4 Data

The DHS through its DHS program have already collected, analysed and published accurate and representative data on population, fertility, health, VIH, fertility and nutrition (www.measuresdhs.com). In fact, nowadays, more than 300 surveys in over 90 countries are conducted over the world (www.measuresdhs.com, retrieved on 2013 August 08). The program is financed by United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and is executed by Macro International. Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Republic of Moldova, Nepal and Philippines are amongst countries that conduct Demographic Health Surveys.

All the countries under study used a nationwide survey where there are three types of questionnaire. The first is the household questionnaire which provides general information on all the people living in the sampled household like name, age, marital status, gender, religion of the head of the household, others members of the dwelling unit and information about their living conditions.

The second is an individual questionnaire called “men questionnaire” collects information regarding the background and characteristics of men aged 15-59. Since the focus of this study is on women and social demographic characteristics, the researcher deemed it not necessary to emphasize on the main questionnaire.

Then, the last individual questionnaire is a “women questionnaire” which recoded detailed information on eligible women of age reproductive group 15 to 49 (regardless of their marital status) and their children. In investigating countries, the collected information mainly concerned:

- Respondent’s background or socio- demographics and economic characteristics composed of age, gender, marital status, religion, ethnicity, education, place of residence, literacy, number of children, age at first marriage and women’s working status.
- Reproductive history including pregnancy history, knowledge and use of contraceptive, marriage and sexual activities and fertility preferences.
- Women's health related to antenatal and delivery care, breastfeeding, child health and immunization, maternal mortality and other related health issues such as awareness and behaviours about HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted infections, awareness of TB and domestic violence impacts.

Unlike other countries where the domestic violence questionnaire was found in the women questionnaire, in Haiti, questions on domestic violence was done in a woman’s safety questionnaire.

The variables of interest in the study are domestic violence and selected socio-economic and demographic (age, gender, marital status, place of residence, sex of child, number of living children, level of education and women's employment status). It is worthwhile noted that the research will only use married and cohabiting women in the marital status set.

3.5 Study of the sample of the population

In the seven investigating countries, the population under study consisted of eligible women (or women in union) of the reproductive age group 15 to 49 years old. We defined an eligible woman as any married women regardless of the time she gets engaged and any woman living or cohabiting with a partner at the time of the survey. There is no uniformity in sample number in the countries. Hence women populations differ from one country to another. But in all the investigated countries, the selection of women respondent to the domestic violence module were selected in a specific method. In fact, in the women sample size of the household, another selection was done for women eligible to respond to domestic violence module. Therefore, out of the eligible women for the individual women questionnaire, the domestic violence module was administered to only women

randomly selected in the household. Consequently, the women population sample of domestic violence differs from the women interviewed in the survey. Below is a table of women sample and marital status characteristics of the domestic violence in the investigating countries.

Table 3.2: Distribution of women sample, by country and marital status

Countries	Total sample women aged 15-49	women domestic sample	Female married	women living with the partner
Cameroon 2011	15426	5043	2536	705
Ghana 2008	4916	2443	1117	308
Haiti 2005-2006	10757	3567	1538	544
Liberia 2007	7092	4897	2046	1127
Moldova 2005	7440	5737	3541	264
Nepal 2011	12674	3084	3084	33
Philippines 2008	13594	9316	5336	1185

3.6 Ethical measures

Domestic violence module raises a real ethical concern in countries. The issue of domestic violence is really a sensitive problem which needs appropriate care. In practice it is not easy for women to stand and confess to be victims of violence. Furthermore, when talking about violence, because they are not protected, women are scared to disclose it, and can be beaten by the partner given to the familial setting environment of administration of the questionnaire. Therefore, field workers are well trained; privacy is respected during the questionnaire administration. Alhabib et al., (2009) indicated that when caution is not ensured, estimate of domestic violence prevalence might be underestimated. This is not ethical measures.

3.7 Study and description of variables

Women were interviewed on a range of variables that encourage domestic violence. Practically some demographic and socioeconomic characteristics are suggested to be associated with domestic violence. Variables are classified into independent (social economic and demographic characteristics) and dependent variables (physical, sexual and emotional violence).

3.7.1 Independent variables

All independent variables are grouped into socioeconomic and demographic characteristics.

3.7.1.1 Age

The question asked to determine the age of women was: “in what month and year the woman was born?” and “give the age in completing years”. In fact the field workers were asked to write the completed years in digit numbers and in all the investigating countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines). Also, the question of age was asked in a same way and respondent’ ages were given in five year categories as follows: 15 to 19, 20 to 24, 25 to 29, 30 to 34, 35 to 39, 40 to 44 and 45 to 49. Answers to the question was captured using SPSS and coded as follows: (1): 15-19; (2): 20-24; (3): 24-29; (4): 30-34; (5): 35-39; (6): 40-44; (7): 45-49.

3.7.1.2 Marital status

In Cameroon, question on marital status was asked by: “quel est l’etat matrimonial actuel de la femme? Possible choice of answers are: (1): Mariee ou vivant ensemble, (2): Divorcee/separee, (3): veuve and (4): N’est jamais mariee/ n’a jamais vecu avec quelqu’un.

In Ghana, the question asked to find out the marital status of each member of the household specific for the eligible women was: “What is the current woman marital status?” And they have to tick one amongst: (1): Married or living together, (2): Divorced/ separated, (3): Widowed and (4): Never married and never lived together.

In Haiti, the question was “Quel est l’état matrimonial actuel de la femme?” And the answer was: (1): Mariee/placee, (2): Divorcee/separee, (3): Veuve and (4): N’est jamais mariee/ n’a jamais vecu avec quelqu’un.

In Liberia, DHS report asked following the question: “What is the woman’s current marital status?” And answer choices are: (1): Married or living together, (2): Divorced, separated, (3): Widowed and (4): Never married, never lived together.

To determine the marital status of woman in Moldova, the question asked was “are you currently married or living together with a man as if married?” And possible answers were: (1): is currently married, (2): Yes, living with a man and (3): No, not in union. The next question was: “what is your marital status now: are you widowed, divorced or separated? With possibility to tick between: (1): Widowed, (2) Divorced and (3): Separated.

In Nepal, DHS to determine the woman’s marital status used this question: “What is the woman’s current marital status? With a possibility to choose one in these answers: (1): Currently married, (2): Divorced/separated, (3): Widowed and (4): Never married. In Nepal’ culture, women living with a partner are not considered as having a marital status.

Philippines Demographic Health Survey questions to find out the marital status of women were formulated as: “are you currently married or living together as if married” and the answers were: (1): Yes, currently married, (2): Yes, living with a man and (3): No, not in union. The second question was: “what is the women marital status now: is she widowed, divorced or separated? The possible answers were: (1): Widowed, (2): Divorced or annulated and (3): Separated.

3.7.1.3 Number of living children

It represents the total number of children alive that the respondent woman had at the time of the survey. In the countries under study, the question asked was “what are the total number of children the woman has”.

3.7.1.4 Place of residence

It is categorized into (1): urban and (2): in rural areas and enables to determine the prevalence of violence amongst women living in different regions over countries.

3.7.1.5 Level of education

According to the MDG goals, education can be considered as an important predictor of domestic violence. In all the concerned countries of the research, the question asked was: “what is the highest

level of school the woman has attended?" The answers vary in the classification from country to country. Answers differ from country to one another.

In Cameroon, it was categorized and coded as: (1): Aucun, (2): Primaire, (3): Secondaire premier cycle and (4): Secondaire second cycle ou plus.

In Ghana, answers set revealed: (1): No education, (2): primary, (3): Middle/SSS and (4): Secondary and +

In Haiti, the answers were: (1): Aucune instruction, (2): Primaire/ alphab and (3): Secondaire ou +.

Liberia answers were formulated as: (1): No education, (2): Primary and (3): Secondary and higher

In Moldova republic, the answers were: (1): No education/primary, (2): Secondary, (3): Secondary special and (4): Higher

Nepal recoded answers as: (1): No education, (2): Primary, (3): some secondary and (4): Slc and above

And Philippines are categorized into four levels of answers: (1): No education, (2): Elementary, (3): High school and (4): College.

3.7.1.6 Women' employment status

This variable attempts to find out whether a woman is working and earning money for a better improvement of herself, family members or her community life. The working age group according to labour law is 15 to 69 years and is fulfilled by all women eligible for the domestic violence module in the investigating countries. A woman's employment status was determined by asking the question:" in the past seven (Months, days, or weeks), did the woman do any work for a wage or salary, commission or any payment of any kind? This repartition encompassed all types of job excepting domestic work. And women were advised to answer by (1): yes or (2): no.

3.7.1.7 Religion

This variable attempts to find out whether a woman affiliation to a religion may expose her to violence in the counterpart. Since religions differ from one country to another, details will be given while presenting each country.

3.7.1.8 Ethnicity

Does a women belonging to a particular ethnic population being exposed to violence. The presentation of ethnic groups by country is detailed in the next chapter.

3.7.1.9 The total children ever born, the presence of sons and daughters at home

Since children are in African cultures considered as gift of God, and enable to define the size of a family, this study attempts to identify the impact of their presence in the male attitude towards violence.

3.7.2 Dependent variables

They are related to domestic violence by type which are physical, sexual, control behaviours, economic and emotional. The focus of this study was only on physical, sexual and emotional abuse of women by their partners. All the countries involved in this study define violence of these types of in the same way but Ghana and Philippines recognize economic violence as a type of domestic violence.

3.7.2.1 Physical violence

Referring to Demographic Health Survey reviewed of the selected countries, physical abuse is any act which consists of physical action such as: “Slapping”; “Twisting of arm or pulling of hair”; “Pushing, shaking, or throwing something at a partner”; “Punching with fist or with something that could hurt you”; “Kicking, dragging on the floor or beating”; “Trying to choke or burning the partner on purpose”; “Threatening or attacking with a knife, gun, or any other weapon.” In all the selected countries, the variety of physical violence was divided into two: women who experienced minor violence such as being slapped, pushed, had something throw at her, have her hair pulled and severe violence (e.g. hit with something to harm or burnt or strangled by the husband or partner). For a good picture of the situation, and since this study investigates on the physical violence as a whole, we merged the less physical and severe violence to have the variable called “physical violence”.

3.7.2.2 Sexual violence

This is another form of abuse that the abuser applies by forcing another person, adult or child of different or the same sex, to be involved in a sexual act without consent (Olson & DeFrain, 2000). Sexual violence was determined in DHS by asking if the partner has ever: “Physically forced you

to have sexual intercourse with him even when you did not want to”; “Forced you perform any sexual acts you did not want to.”

3.7.2.3 Emotional or psychological violence

Emotional violence refers to the perpetrator’s intention, the intentional thoughts about the way the abuser uses to put the assaulted women under his control. Emotional abuse can also be called psychological violence, it includes intimidation and humiliation where the victim is made to feel bad about herself and is subjected to excessive controlling, curtailing and/or disruption of routine activities such as sleeping or eating habits, social relationship, access to money, verbal insults (WHO, 2005 & ICDDR-B, 2006).

In Demographic Health Surveys, emotional or psychological violence was asked through these questions: (Does/did) your (last) husband or partner ever: “Say or do something to humiliate you in front of others?”; “Threaten to hurt or harm you or someone close to you?” “Insult you or make you feel bad about yourself?”

A last group of new variable was computed, recoded from the existing variables. A new variable “at least one form of violence” was created to determine the overall prevalence of women who were victims of any type of domestic violence in the family. At this level, women who have reported at least one act of violence in the household regardless of the type and the severity was considered in the study.

3.8 Data analysis

The statistical analysis of this study was performed using the statistical package for social sciences (SPSS) software version 21. The statistical analysis was conducted individually for each country and the results were compared. To answer the research question, this study used a direct analytical approach in the form of cross tabulation of women socioeconomic and demographic characteristics to the current types of domestic violence. Section 1 provided a detailed list of the prevalence of intimate partner violence by type in the selected countries. Essentially, it consists of the number of occurrences (frequencies) and the proportion of women in union. In section 2 results of cross tabulation were run in examining the association between physical, sexual and emotional violence with the diverse socioeconomic and demographic factors.

3.9 Conclusion

This chapter described the method of data that will be used for the analysis. It clearly enumerates the procedures in data analysis as well as the nature of analysis and variables to be used.



CHAPTER 4: FINDINGS

4.1 Introduction

This chapter presents the results of the analysis and is divided into two main sections: the first provides results of domestic violence by country and socio-economic and demographic variables while the second presents the trends of IPV across countries. This research used data from DHS 2005 to 2011 of concerned countries. The primary issue was to explore the role of some socio-economic and demographic characteristics on physical, sexual and emotional violence in the selected countries (Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines). Statistical were used to enable us to have frequency distributions, cross tabulation and chi square test for association. In addition, tables and graphs were drawn to illustrate this statistical information.

4.2 Prevalence of domestic violence by country

The majority of married women and women living under the same roof with partners who were exposed to domestic violence were found in Cameroon. Out of a total number of 3241 women, 78.2 percent of them are married while 705 women (21.8 percent) are in a cohabiting relationship.

The figure below presents the general situation of domestic violence in Cameroon. Almost the half (43.2 percent) of female aged 15-49 have experienced some type of physical violence by their husband or partner while 56.8 percent is safe from any physical violence. About 14.5 percent gave account of sexual abuse and 39.8 percent of Cameroonian women had experienced emotional violence in the family. Furthermore, when looking at the general figure, at least 56.6 percent of women had experienced at least one type of domestic violence in Cameroon.

4.2.1 Prevalence distribution of domestic violence by type in Cameroon

4.2.1.1 The proportion of domestic violence in Cameroon

The majority of married women and women living under the same roof with partners who were exposed to domestic violence were found in Cameroon. Out of a total number of 3241 women, 78.2 percent of them are married while 705 women (21.8 percent) are in a cohabiting relationship.

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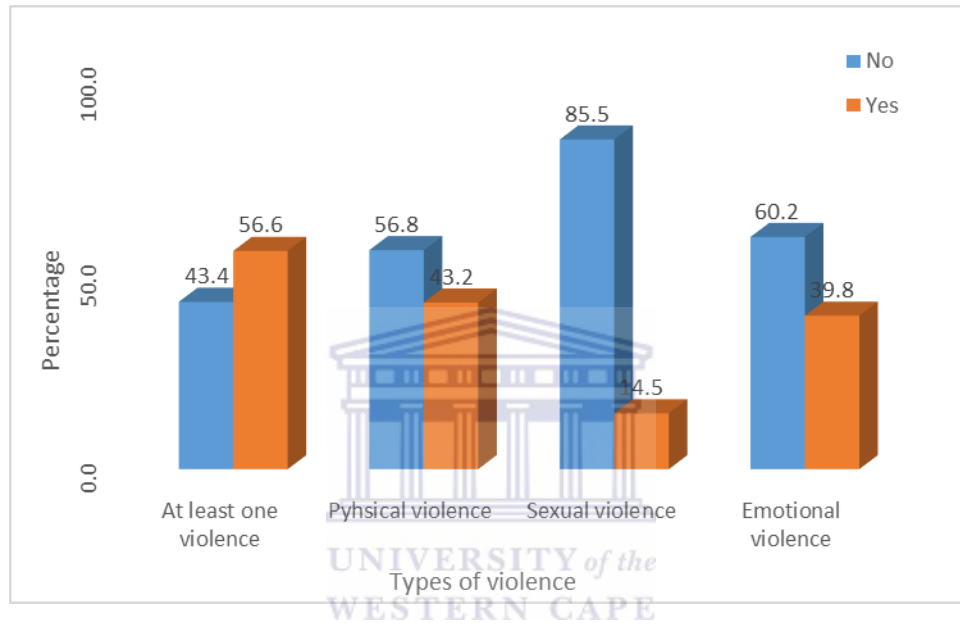


Figure 4.1: Percentage of women in union who have experienced domestic violence in Cameroon

4.2.1.2 Bivariate analysis of domestic violence by socio-economic and demographic characteristics in Cameroon

The findings on domestic violence will be presented according to the association between physical, sexual and emotional violence with women’s age group, place of residence, religion, ethnicity, employment status, number of children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children.

4.2.1.2.1 Bivariate analysis for physical violence in Cameroon

4.2.1.2.1.1 Percentage distribution of women physically abused by age group in Cameroon

The 2011 Cameroon DHS contained information on women between the age group of 15 to 49. Results showed that 36.8 percent of women aged 15 to 19 had experienced physical violence while 63.2 percent of females in the same age group had never been physically abused. In the age group 20-24, 42.6 percent of Cameroonian female observed physical abuse. Out of the 533 married women and those living with a partner of the ages 25-29, 239 are victims of physical abuse. Furthermore, an estimated 44.8 percent of females aged 30-34 are beaten by the husband or partner whereas 55.2 percent are not addressed physically. The same analysis reveals estimates that 40.4 percent of women aged 35-39 have been physically assaulted by their intimate partner. In the age group 40-44, 36.9 percent of physical abuse occurs amongst Cameroonian women regardless of their place of residence. In Cameroon, age does not protect women from physical violence. Very often, old women are victims of domestic violence. In fact, the current study observes that 43.8 percent of female aged 45-49 were physically abused by their husbands and partners while in the younger age group 15-19, only 36.8 percent were exposed to physical violence.

When looking at the general prevalence of physical violence within the age group, it was found that the highest preponderance of physical violence was observed in the group 25-29 (48.8 percent). This was closely followed by 43.8 percent of women aged 45-49, then 42.8 percent of the age 35-39. Similarly, with 36.9 percent and 36.8 percent female aged 15-19 and 40-44 observed the lowest prevalence in physical abuse. There is a significant relationship between physical violence and female age group ($P_v = 0.002 < 0.05$). Therefore, women's age group is a contributing factor for physical violence in Cameroon.

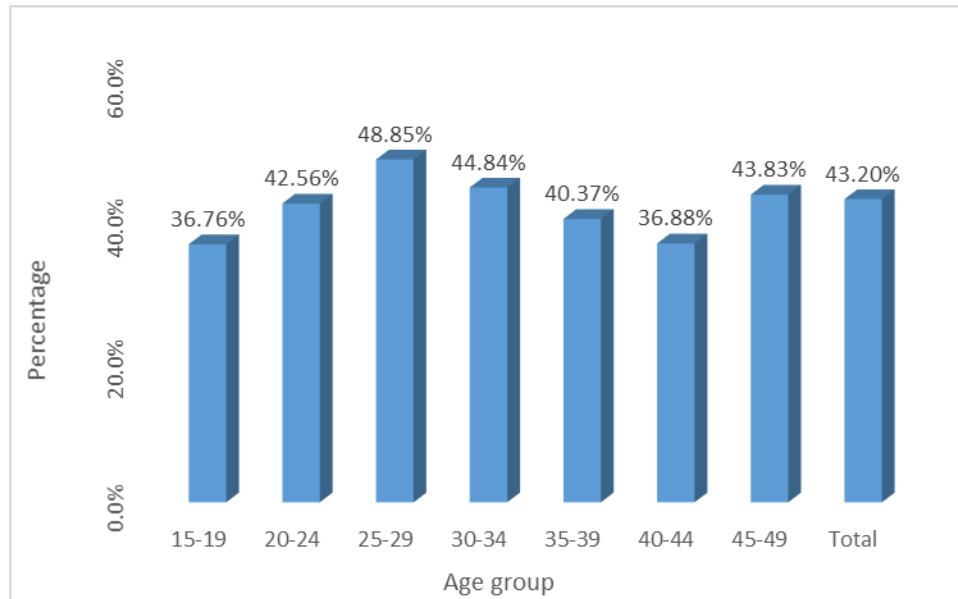


Figure 4.2: Distribution of women who experienced physical violence by age group in Cameroon

4.2.1.2.1.2 Percentage distribution of women physically abused by place of residence in Cameroon

This section demonstrates the prevalence of physical abuse amongst women from urban and rural regions and whether it differs across these two regions. Among women living in urban regions, 42.2 percent are exposed to physical violence while 57.8 percent have never been victims of physical abuse. This percentage is higher with 44.2 in rural provinces. With ($P_v = 0.255 > 0.05$), there is no statistically significant association between the type of residence and physically abused women aged 15-49 in Cameroon. In conclusion, the type of place of residence is not a contributing factor of physical abuse in Cameroon.

4.2.1.2.1.3 Percentage distribution of women physically abused by educational level

This section demonstrates the prevalence of physical abuse amongst women from urban and rural regions and whether it differs across these two regions. Among women living in urban regions, 42.2 percent are exposed to physical violence while 57.8 percent have never been victims of physical abuse. This percentage is higher with 44.2 in rural provinces. With ($P_v = 0.255 > 0.05$), there is no statistically significant association between the type of residence and physically abused women aged 15-49 in Cameroon. In concluding, the type of place of residence is not a contributing factor of physical abuse in Cameroon.

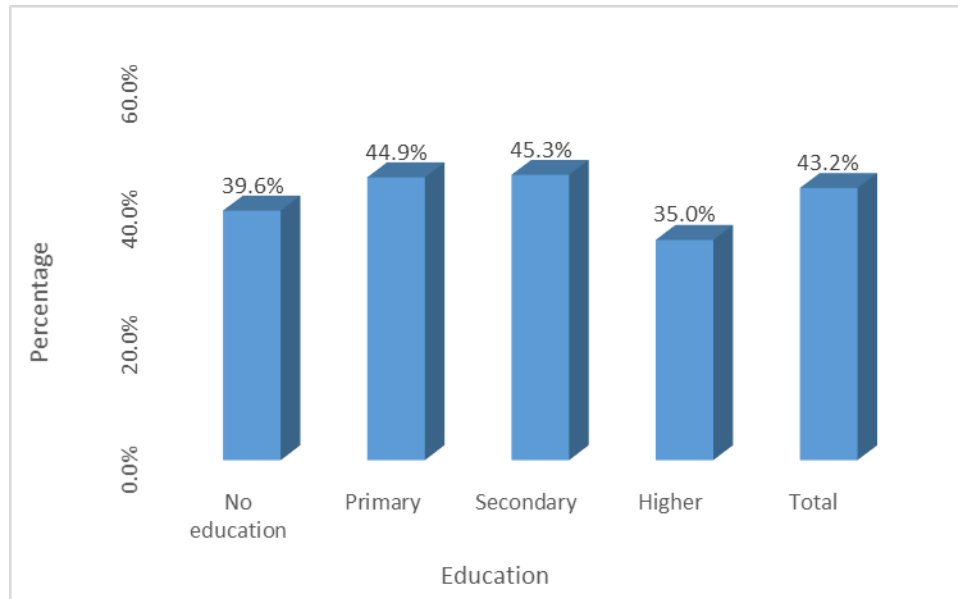


Figure 4.3: Percentage of women in union who have experienced physical violence by educational level

4.2.1.2.1.4 Percentage distribution of women physically abused by religion' group

Cameroon is a multi-religious country with Christians, Muslims, Animists and those who do not adhere to any religion. The graph below describes the impact of female preference to a particular religion on physical abuse. 47.5 percent of Christians have been physically assaulted in the compound. 27.5 percent of Muslim women have experienced physical assault. Regarding Animist disciples 55.3 percent have been victims of violence call physical abuse by the partner or husband. Lastly 51.4 percent of non-believers are free from any type of physical abuse.

Muslim female experienced the lowest percentage (27.5 percent) of physical abuse largely followed by Christian (47.5 percent). The ($P_v = 0.002 < 0.05$) indicated a really strong relationship between church attendances and physical violence. In Cameroon, belonging to a religious community can contribute to acts of violence in the family.

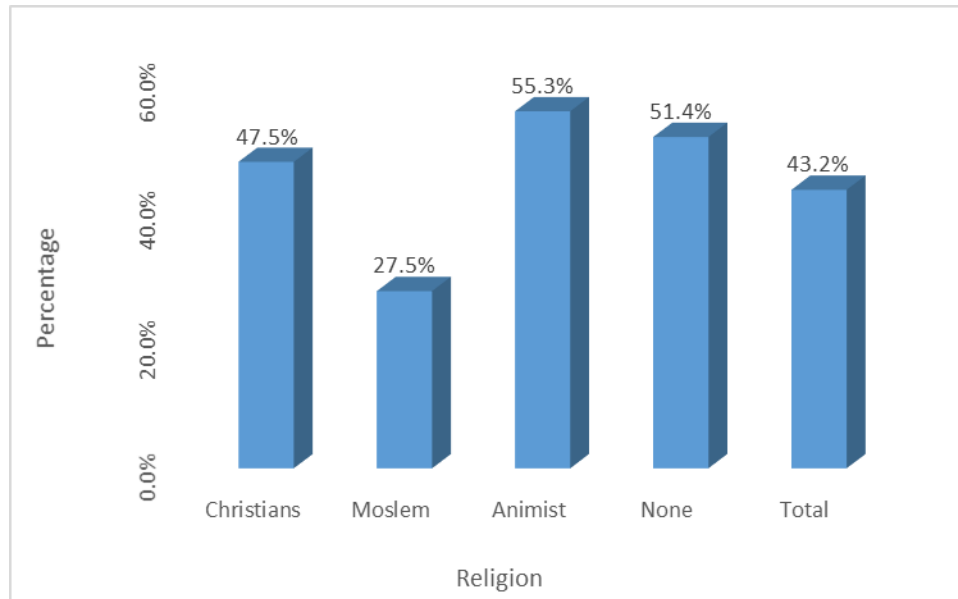


Figure 4.4: Percentage of women in union who have experienced physical violence by religion

4.2.1.2.1.5 Percentage distribution of women physically abused by ethnicity

Grouped in five major tribes, ethnicity, ($P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$) indicates a strong statistical relationship with physical violence in Cameroon. In fact, 38.6 percent of women living in the northern Cameroon (Arab-Choa, Peulh, house, Kanouri) have experienced physical violence in the family. Women from South West in the Anglophone part of the country are more exposed to physical violence with 61 percent while 38.3 percent of West tribes' women have been beaten, assaulted, pulled by their husbands and partners. 56 percent of Beti, Bassa and Mbamoise women have disclosed acts of physical violence in the relationship while between 49.6 percent and 51.4 percent of Littoral and 49.6 percent of strangers and the other living in Cameroon have been victims of physical abuse. With a ($P_v = 0.000 < 0.005$), females population ethnic group is a predicting factor of physical violence in Cameroon.

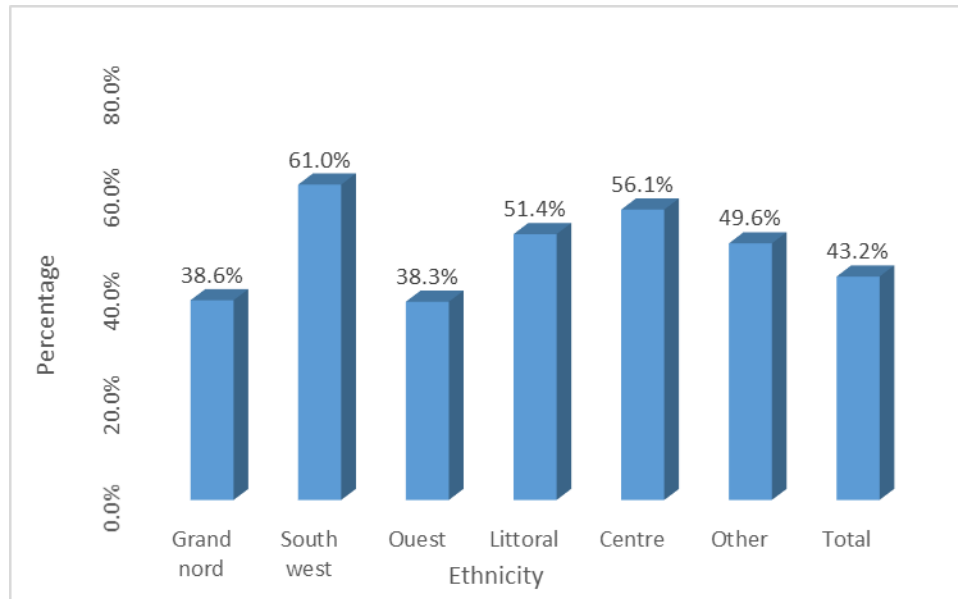


Figure 4.5: Percentage of women in union who have experienced physical violence by ethnic group

4.2.1.2.1.6 Percentage distribution of women physically abused by employment status

In Cameroon, the status of a woman in the labour market is highly related to men' behaviours at home. In fact, ($P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$) shows that there is a great relationship between physical violence and women's employment status. About 46.1 percent of employed women are physically abused while 36.5 percent of women who do not work are still abused in the household. A woman's employment status does not protect her from violence in Cameroon. In conclusion, the women's employment status is a risk-factor for physical violence.

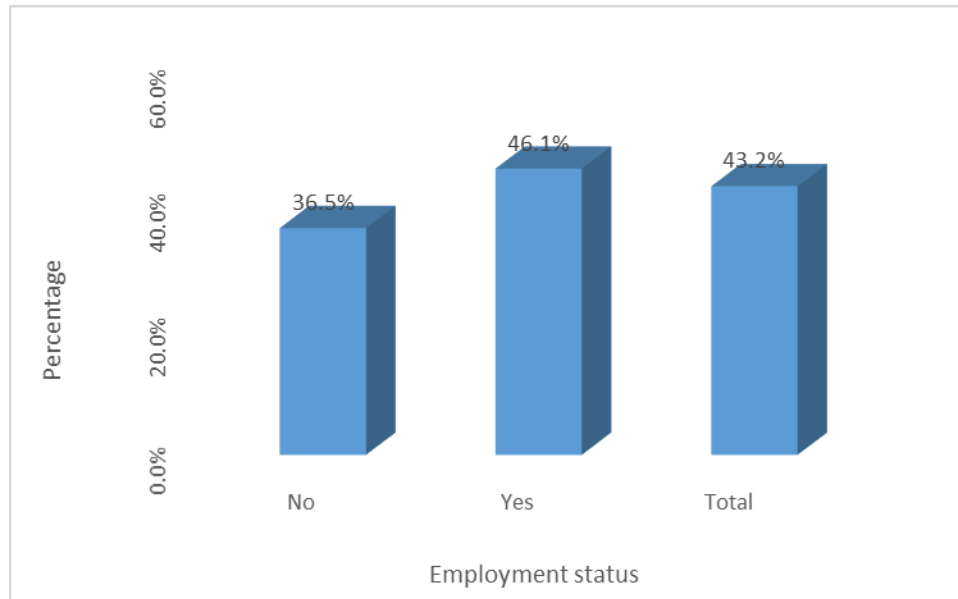


Figure 4.6: Percentage of women in union who have experienced physical violence by employment status

4.2.1.2.1.7 Percentage distribution of women physically abused by the total children ever born, the sons at home, the daughters at home and the number living children

A Mann-Whitney test analysis was run to determine the level of association between the total children ever born, the number of living children, the presence of sons and daughters at home. There is no difference in the mean rank of physically abused women with and without children ever born ($1623.25 - 1613.73 = 9.52$). $P_v = 0.036 > 0.05$ shows no strong association between physical violence and children ever born in the family.

Also, women with sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children are almost alike since the respective $P_v > 0.05$.

In conclusion, children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children do not have a strong relationship and do not influence on physical violence.

Table 4.1: Mann-Whitney test results exploring association between physical violence and demographic variables in Cameroon

Demographic variables	Types of responses	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P _v
Total children ever born	No	1856	1613.73	0.36
	Yes	1431	1683.25	
Sons at home	No	1856	1614.96	0.037
	Yes	1431	1681.66	
Daughters at home	No	1856	1620.65	0.093
	Yes	1431	1674.29	
Number of living children	No	1856	1606.39	0.093
	Yes	1431	1692.78	
Total		3287		

4.2.1.2.2 Bivariate analysis for sexual violence in Cameroon

The results of this study show that 14.5 percent of women in Cameroon have been victims of sexual violence. Many socio-economic and demographic factors associated to sexual violence were explored in this research.

4.1.1.2.2.1 Percentage distribution of sexual abuse by age group in Cameroon

With respect to the percentile distribution of intimate partner sexual abused in Cameroon, 9.8 percent of women aged 45-49 are forced to have sex with their partners and husbands. Overall, around 15 to 40 have reported sexual abuse in the family. However, there is no significant relationship between ($P_v > .05$) and the report of sexual abuse and for this reason, the age group of women in a couple cannot be considered as a determining factor in the incidence of sexual abuse in Cameroon

4.2.1.2.2.2 Percentage distribution of sexual abuse by type of place of residence in Cameroon

There is no great difference between the proportion of women living (15 percent) in remote areas and urban cities (14 percent). Also, the place of residence does not justify men sexual violence towards their parents ($P_v = 0.464 > 0.05$).

4.2.1.2.2.3 Percentage distribution of sexual abuse by level of education attainment in Cameroon

The figure below shows the data for women living in union who have reported being sexually abused. There is little variation across the different levels of educational attainment. In fact, women with a primary education appear to have reported the most cases of sexual violence (18.1 percent). Women with a higher education present the least (4.9 percent) while 11.6 percent of women with no education are sexually abused. On the other hand, 14 percent of women who attained a secondary school reported forced sex as a couple. The significance of the chi square analysis ($P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$) indicates that educational attainment is a contributing factor to sexual abuse in Cameroon.

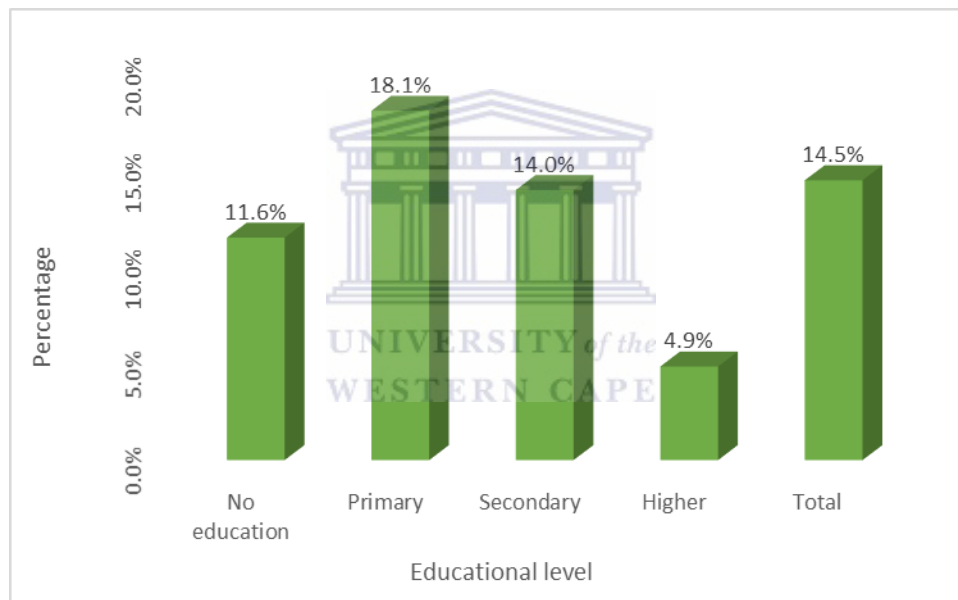


Figure 4.7: Percentage of women in union who have experienced sexual violence by level of education

4.2.1.2.2.4 Percentage distribution of sexual abuse by ethnicity in Cameroon

Acts of sexual abuse varies across ethnic groups in Cameroon. The most reported cases (25 percent) are from the South West (Bantoide and South west) and Owest (Grassfields, Bamoun and Bamileke) tribes while around 11 percent of the Littoral (Cotier, Ngoe and Oroko) and Grand Nord (Arab Choa, Peullh, Houassa and Kanouri population' groups) women disclose to have been forced sexually into the family. 16.3 percent of women of Centre (Bassa, Beti and Mbam) reported sexual abuse while 17.7 percent of the other group (non-declared, strangers) are sexually abused in

Cameroon. Variations across the proportion reveal a significant association ($P_v = 0.000$; $P < 0.05$) of sexual abuse with ethnicity. Consequently, ethnicity is a factor influencing sexual violence in Cameroon.

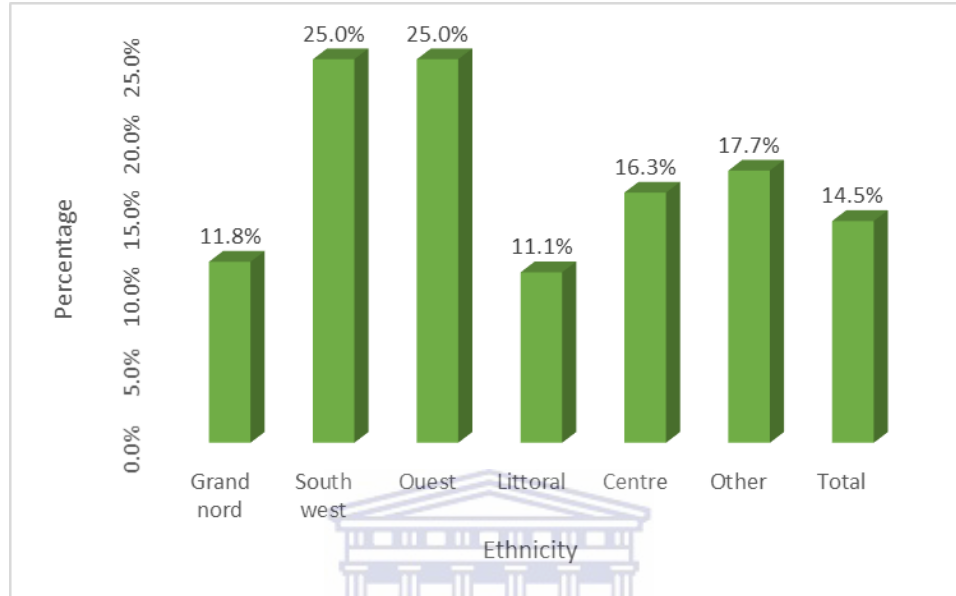


Figure 4.8: Percentage of women in union who have experienced sexual violence by ethnic

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4.2.1.2.2.5 Percentage distribution of sexual abuse by religion in Cameroon

Findings suggest that in case of female believers, alternate levels were different when looking at physical abuse. The proportion ranges between 15.4 and 8.1 percent. In fact, the higher extent of sexual violence was visible amongst Christians (15.4 percent) while 10.6 percent are Animists. In effect, the least prevalence reported was found among women who do not belong to any religion. Lastly, 13.1 percent of Moslems have experienced sexual abuse in the family. Religion is not a risk factor ($P = .084$; $P > 0.05$) of sexual violence in Cameroon.

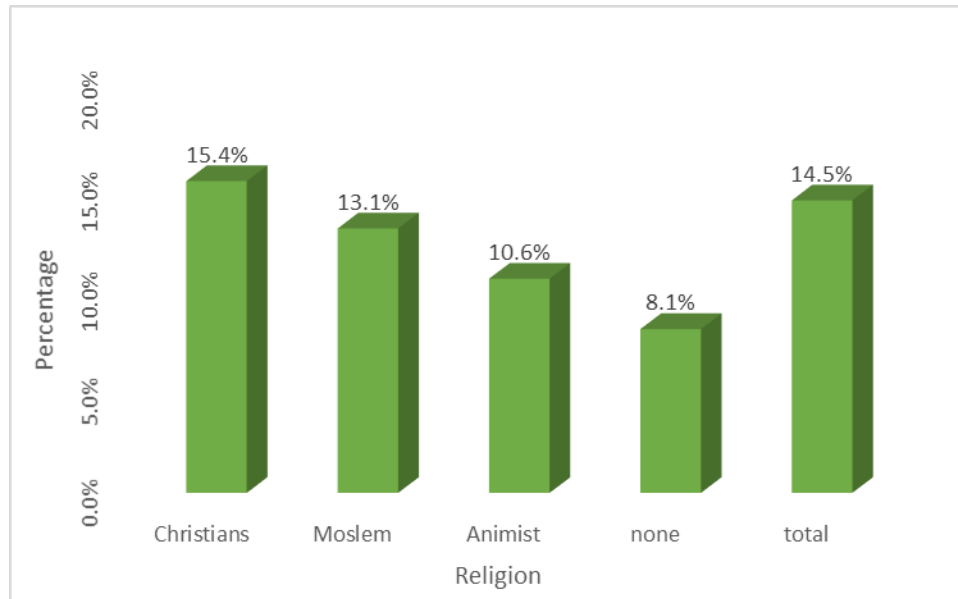


Figure 4.9: Percentage of women in union who have experienced sexual violence by religion

4.2.1.2.2.6 Percentage distribution of sexual abuse by employment status in Cameroon

In Cameroon, 11.4 percent of unemployed women are victims of sexual violence while the proportion is 15.8 percent for women in union and active in the labour market. With ($P_v = 0.001 < 0.05$), employment status appears as a factor determining of sexual violence in Cameroon.

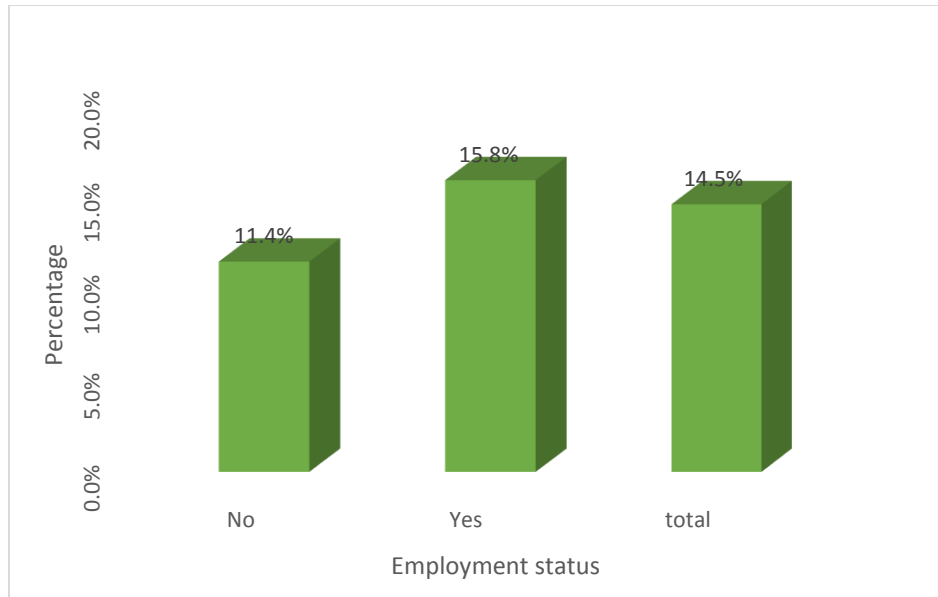


Figure 4.10: Percentage of women in union who have experienced sexual violence by employment status

4.2.1.2.2.7 Association of sexual violence with the children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children in Cameroon

To explore whether children ever born, presence of sons and daughters at home and the number of living children in the household are decisive factors in the prevalence of sexual abuse in the family, the table below presents results of the analysis. Considering the children ever born, there is not great difference between the mean rank of the total children ever born to women who do not report sexual violence and the mean rank of children ever born for women who have experienced sexual abuse in the family. Indeed, the results show that there are no relationship between the children ever born, the presence of sons and daughters at home, the number of living children and sexual violence. Therefore, the total children ever born is not a factor contributing to sexual violence at home. And it is same for the presence of sons, daughters at home and the number of living children which actually, do not influence on the incidence of sexual violence in Cameroon.

Table 4.2: Mann-Whitney test results showing association between sexual violence and demographic variables in Cameroon

Demographic variables	Types of responses	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P _v
Total children ever born	No	2801	1639.11	0.569
	Yes	484	1665.52	
Sons at home	No	2801	1640.17	0.668
	Yes	484	1659.38	
Daughters at home	No	2801	1630.74	0.062
	Yes	484	1713.94	
Number of living children	No	2801	1636.79	0.362
	Yes	484	1678.94	
Total		3285		

The last cross tabulation investigates the relationship between emotional violence and social-economic and demographic characteristics.

4.2.1.2.3 Bivariate analysis for emotional violence in Cameroon

4.2 percent of women experienced emotional violence in Cameroon

4.2.1.2.3.1 Percentage distribution of emotional abuse by age group in Cameroon

The figure below demonstrates that, the youngest are the last class who have experienced emotional violence in a relationship. For women aged 25 to 39, 40 percent and more reported emotional violence and a high prevalence (43.5 percent) was seen in the last age group 45-49. More than 35 percent of women aged 20-24 and 40-44 reported emotional violence. Although variations are slightly evident across the different age group, this is not a contributing factor for emotional abuse.

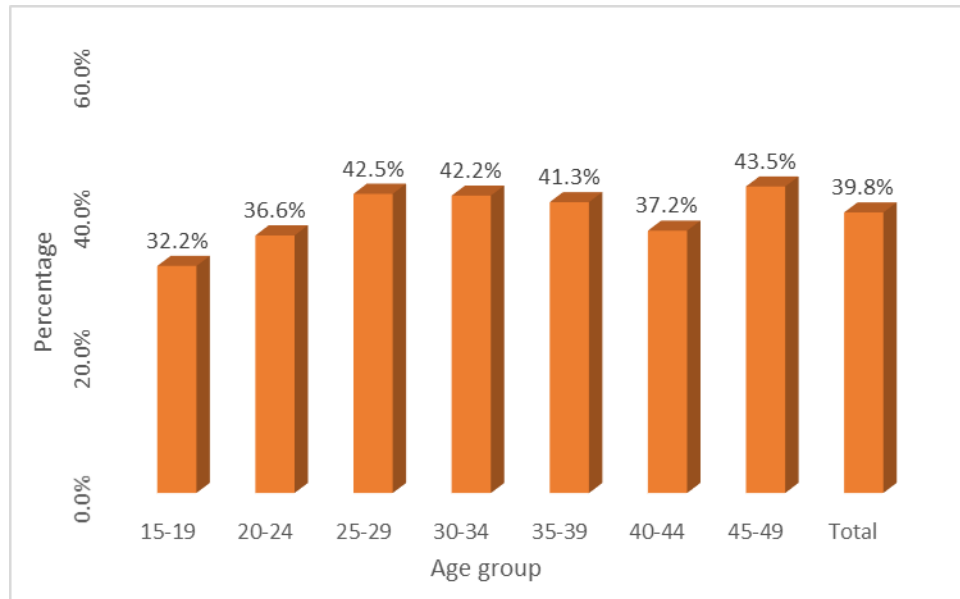


Figure 4.11: Percentage of women in union who have experienced emotional violence by age group

4.2.1.2.3.2 Percentage distribution of emotional abuse by regions in Cameroon

An estimated 41.8 percent of women living in urban regions have reported emotional abuse from their partner while the percentage is 37.7 for women in rural places. The Chi square analysis of the relationship between the place of residence and emotional violence ($P_v = 0.02 < 0.05$), show that the place of residence is a contributing factor for emotional abuse.

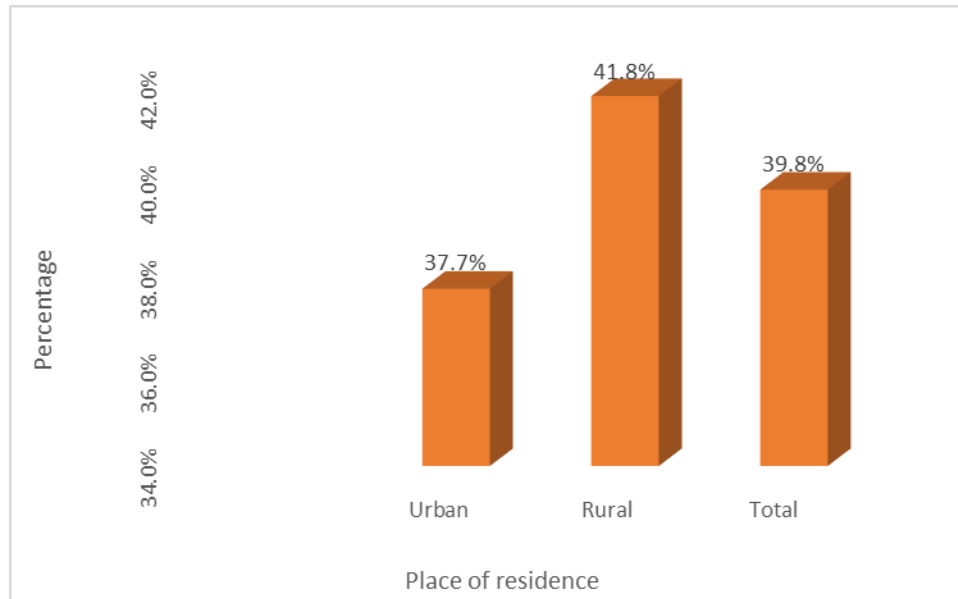


Figure 4.12: Percentage of women in union who have experienced emotional violence by place of residence

4.2.1.2.3.3 Percentage distribution of emotional abuse by highest level of education in Cameroon

The figure below shows the data for women in a union who have reported being emotionally abused in the context of educational attainment. From these findings, women with no education present a high proportion of emotional abuse (41.8 percent). Almost a third of women who have attended high school has experienced emotional abuse by an intimate partner while only 18.1 percent of women with a primary level were victims of emotional abuse. A total of 40.7 percent of women with a secondary level background reported acts of humiliation, threat, insults from the husband or partner. Despite these variations, educational attainment was not found to be a contributing factor of emotional violence in Cameroon.

4.2.1.2.3.4 Percentage distribution of emotional abuse by religion in Cameroon

The figure below shows the data on women in union who have reported acts of emotional violence for each category of religion. There is variation across the diverse types of religion. The highest proportion (51.7 percent) of women experiencing emotional violence was reported by Animists while 28.3 percent of Muslims were victims of emotional violence. An estimate of 42.8 percent of Christian believers reported acts of emotional abuse and 45.9 percent of women who do not

belong to any religion were also emotionally abused by their partners. Religion appears to be a factor which influences emotional violence in Cameroon.

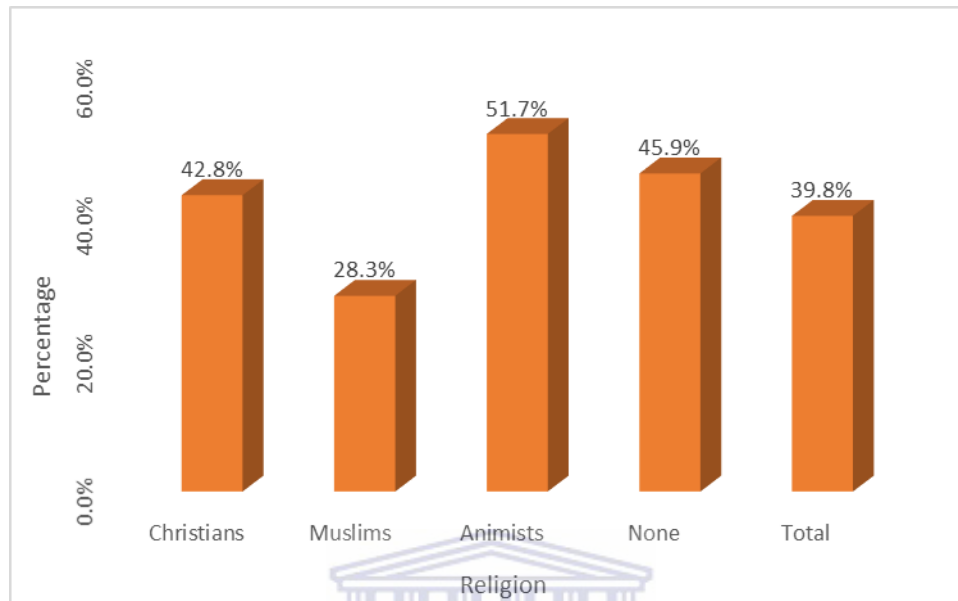


Figure 4.13: Percentage of women in union who have experienced emotional violence by religion

4.2.1.2.3.5 Percentage distribution of emotional abuse by ethnicity in Cameroon

Proportions of emotional abuse amongst ethnic populations are not on an equal degree. Therefore, ethnicity is found to be a factor that contributes to emotional violence in Cameroon ($P = 0.000 < 0.05$). In this respect, the least proportion was reported by the Grand Nord ethnic population (34.9 percent) followed by the Littoral ethnic with 35.8 percent. Between 37.5 percent and 46.6 percent of women from diverse ethnic population have reported emotional violence by a spouse or partner.

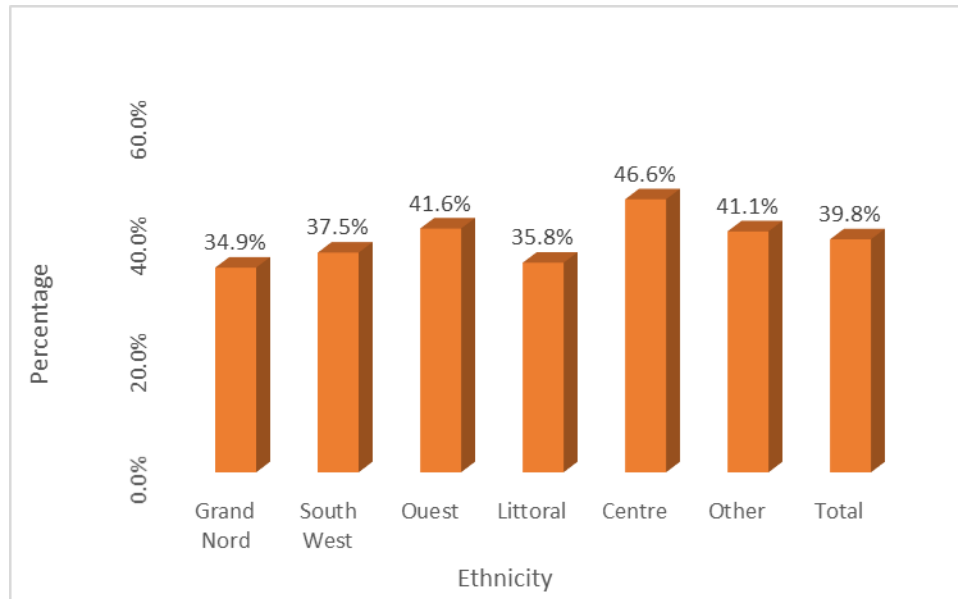


Figure 4.14: Percentage of women in union who have experienced emotional violence by ethnic group

4.2.1.2.3.6 Percentage distribution of emotional abuse by employment status in

Cameroon

Results of the analysis show a great variation on employment status. In fact, 43.7 percent of active women are emotional abused by their partners while 30.6 percent of women who are not working have reported acts of emotional violence. Employment status is a factor contributing to emotional violence in Cameroon.

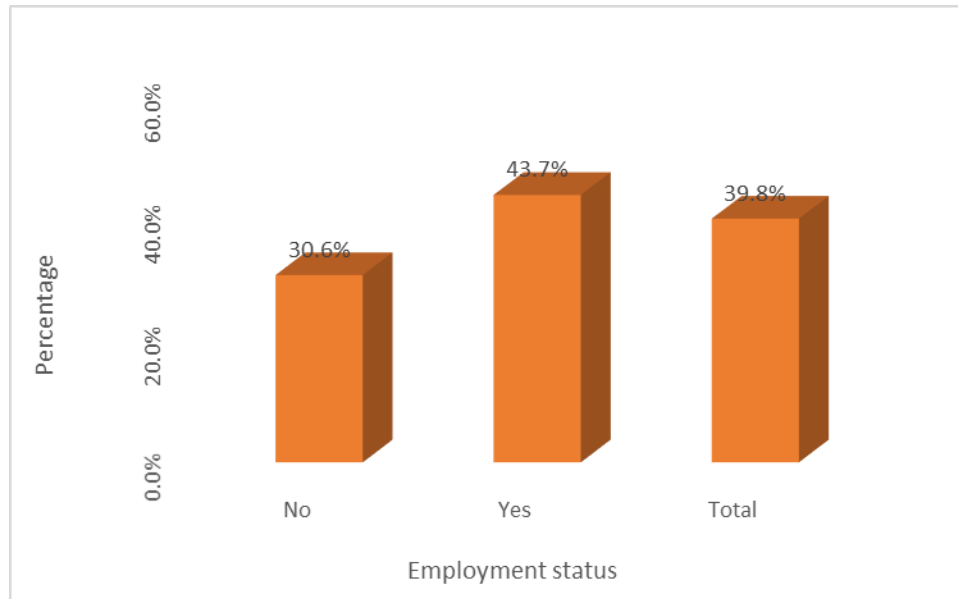


Figure 4.15: Percentage of women in union who have experienced emotional violence by employment status

4.2.1.2.3.7 Association of emotional violence with the children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children in Cameroon

There is a great difference amongst the total children ever born mean rank of women who have not experienced emotional violence as compared to women who have experienced emotional abuse (1724.06-1588.55= 135.51). Further, the P value=. 000 reveals a strong significance in the relationship between the total children ever born and emotional violence. Therefore one can conclude that the children ever born is a determining factor contributing to emotional violence in Cameroon.

With $P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$), the variable sons at home influences the occurrence of emotional violence in the family. Moreover, the mean rank of abused women staying with sons at home and women with sons at home who do not have reported emotional abuse is quite great: $1709.86 - 1598.09 = 111.77$ and significant.

On the other side when looking at the association of daughters at home and emotional, this previous seems as not have any influence on emotional violence.

The influence of the total number of living children on emotional violence seems positive. In fact with a $P_v = 0.000$, the number of living children is a contributing factor for emotional violence in Cameroon.

Table 4.3: Mann-Whitney test results showing association between emotional violence and demographic variables in Cameroon

Demographic variables	Types of responses	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P_v
Total children ever born	No	1965	1588.55	
	Yes	1320	1724.06	0.000
Sons at home	No	1965	1598.09	
	Yes	1320	1709.86	0.001
Daughters at home	No	1965	1626.19	
	Yes	1320	1668.02	0.195
Number of living children	No	1965	1586.13	
	Yes	1320	1727.66	0.000
Total		3285		

In conclusion, domestic violence is very prominent in Cameroon though the risk factors differs with the different types of violence. The Cameroonian Government should therefore consider domestic abuse as a serious matter and take appropriate measures to reinforce the existing policies.

This study investigates also the pattern of domestic violence in Ghana, a sub-Saharan country in Africa.

4.2.2 Prevalence distribution of domestic violence by type in Ghana

This section provides the frequencies distribution of domestic violence by type and by women's socio-economic and demographic factors.

4.2.2.1 The extent of domestic violence in Ghana

The table below presents the distribution of domestic violence in Ghana. A total of about 1425 women in union in Ghana were reported in the 2008 GDHS. Amongst the respondents, 1117 were married while 308 were in a relationship with their partners. In Ghana, 18.4 percent of the women population have already experienced a type of minor physical abuse while the proportion of those

who were victims of any severe violence is only 1.8 percent against 98.2 percent who did not report any acts of physical violence physical violence. The findings of this analysis have revealed that 18.5 percent of female Ghanaians on average encounter some type of physical violence in the household. The prevalence of sexual violence in Ghana communities is 5.6 percent of the female population affected. Also, the 2008 GDHS have reported that 31.7 percent of females in union have experienced emotional violence in the family. Further still, at least 37.1 percent of women in Ghana have been a victim of domestic violence, regardless of the type of violence.

Table 4.4: Prevalence of women in union who have experienced intimate partner violence in Ghana

Responses	At least one violence	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Emotional violence
Yes	37.1	18.5	5.6	31.7
No	92.3	81.5	94.4	69.3
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.2.2.2 Bivariate analysis of domestic violence by socio-economic and demographic characteristics in Ghana

Analysis of physical, sexual and emotional violence associated with independent variables were run.

4.2.2.2.1 Bivariate analysis for physical violence in Ghana

4.2.2.2.1.1 Percentage distribution of physical abuse by age group in Ghana

Using the 2008 Ghana DHS, there were only 48 women aged 15 to 19 in the domestic violence sample. Amongst them, only 9 (18.8 percent) women have experienced some type of physical violence. An estimate of 20.8 percent of women aged 20 to 29 disclosed an experience of physical violence in the household while 13.2 percent of women aged 30-34 were victims of physical abuse. The proportion of abused women ranges between 16.9 and 19.8 percent for women between the ages of 35 to 49 in Ghana who have been physically abused by the husband or the partner. In total, the proportion of abused women regardless of their age group is 18.5 percent in Ghana. The chi-square analysis revealed a non-significant ($P_v = 0.286 > 0.05$) relationship between the age of women and the occurrence of physical violence. Age group does not influence physical violence.

4.2.2.2.1.1 Percentage distribution of physical abuse by type of residence in Ghana

An estimated 19.9 percent of women who have experienced physical abuse live in urban provinces while 17.4 percent are in rural areas. Similarly, there is not a great difference in percentage of physical violence across the place of residence and the average proportion is 18.5 percent.

With a ($P_v = 0.246 > 0.05$), this study finds no significant association with the place of residence and physical acts of violence. Hence, the place of residence is not a contributing factor for physical violence.

4.2.2.2.1.3 Percentage distribution of physical abuse by highest level of education in Ghana

Amongst the 18.5 percent of physically abused women, 17.6 percent of the 408 women sample had never attended a formal school; they have no education while 22.7 percent went to primary school. Amongst the women who experienced physical violence in Ghana, only 3.6 percent have attained higher educational level. Though 18.1 have attained secondary school. There is a strong and evident relationship ($P_v = 0.007 < 0.05$) of physical abuse with education. Findings from this study confirmed that the level of education is associated with acts of physical violence. Education is a determining factor for physical violence.

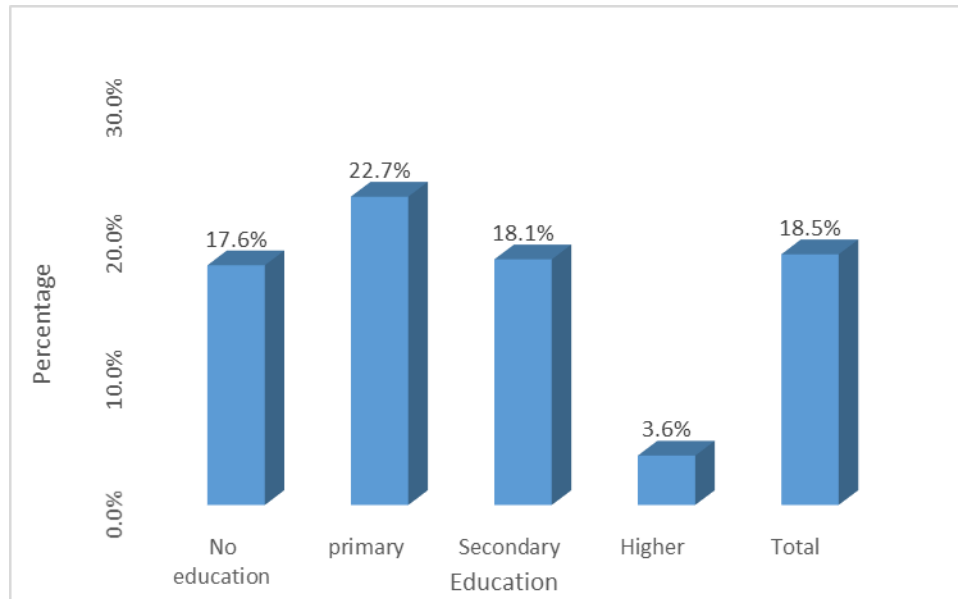


Figure 4.16: Distribution of physical assault on women by level educational

4.2.2.2.1.4 Percentage distribution of physical abuse by religion in Ghana

Among the physically abused women in Ghana, 18.7 percent attend Christian churches while 16.4 percent are Muslims. 21.3 percent of Animist belief and 19.3 percent of Atheists have reported acts of physical violence in Ghana's households. The $P_v = 0.771 > 0.05$ indicates a weak relationship between religion with physical violence. Therefore, Religion does not affect physical violence in Ghana

4.2.2.2.1.5 Percentage distribution of physical abuse by ethnic group in Ghana

In Ghana, the proportion of violence varies across community dialects. For the purpose of this study, ethnic groups are composed of three major groups: Kwa (Akan, Ewe and Mole Dagbani), Gur (Grussi, Gruma and Guan) and others (Ga / Dangme, Mande and some ethnic populations who have not been namely identified).

The proportion of physical violence in Kwa group is 18.8 percent. Amongst Gur ethnic group, the percent is low (13.3 percent) unlike other which reported 19.2 percent of physical abuse in the family. Statistical analysis was done with a ($P_v = 0.415 > 0.05$), indicating that there was no strong relationship between physical violence and ethnicity. This means that population ethnicity is not a risk factor for physical violence.

4.2.2.2.1.6 Percentage distribution of physical abuse by respondent employment status in Ghana

Studies were done to find out whether a woman staying at home or working may influence being physical assaulted from her husband or partner in the household. It revealed that 18.5 percent of women experienced physical abuse, the proportion of physically abused women amongst housewives and working women look almost alike. In fact, 18.8 percent of jobless females in Ghana encounter physical violence and 18.5 of working women were in the same position. There is no strong relationship between physical violence and women's employment status ($P_v = 1$). The variation is on equal degree, therefore, employment status is not a contributing factor for physical violence in Ghana.

4.2.2.2.1.7 Bivariate analysis of physical abuse with the number of children ever born, the sons at home, the daughters at home and the number of living children

There is no statistically significant difference in mean ($Z = -1.097$ and $P_v > .05$) for the total children ever born between women victims of physical violence and those who do not experience physical abuse. On average women who are abused physically have more children (Mean rank = 764.76) than those who are not (Mean rank = 736.76). The total number of children ever born is not a contributing factor for physical violence.

The results of the analysis are not significant, $Z = -1.491$ and ($P_v = 0.273 > 0.05$) for women with sons whose average rank 772.77 while women with no sons at home had an average rank of 731.96. Sons at home do not influence physical violence in the family.

The presence of daughters at home does not influence husbands and partners with respect to maltreating their spouses. In fact with $Z = .023$ and ($P_v = 0.989 > 0.05$), there is no statistical significance in mean total daughters at home and physical violence. Daughters at home does not influence in the behavior of men towards their female spouses or partners.

Lastly, the results of the analysis of the relationship between number of living children and physical violence show that the level of significance is weak ($Z = -.312$ and $P_v > 0.05$).

All these variables are not risk factors for physical violence in Ghana.

4.2.2.2.1 Bivariate analysis for Sexual violence in Ghana

Overall 94.4 percent of Ghanaian women are not sexually assaulted while 5.6 percent reported sexual abuse. Bivariate analysis has been done to look at the relationship of sexual violence with some demographic characteristics.

4.2.2.2.1.1 Percentage distribution of sexual violence by age group

The proportion of sexually abused women aged 20 to 49 varies between 4.9 percent and 5.8 percent. On the contrary, there is a difference of 4.3 percent of the women within the women with age range 15 to 19 who are highly exposed as the proportion reaches 10.4 percent. With a ($P_v = 0.793 > 0.05$) there is no statistical difference to show that women age group and sexual violence are related. Women age group do not constitute a factor that influences sexual violence in Ghanaian families.

4.2.2.2.1.2 Percentage distribution of sexual violence by type of place of residence in Ghana

Among the physically abused women in Ghana, 18.7 percent attend Christian churches while 16.4 percent are Muslims. 21.3 percent of Animist belief and 19.3 percent of Atheists have reported acts of physical violence in Ghana's households. The p value ($P_v = 0.771 > 0.05$) indicates a weak relationship between religion with physical violence. Therefore, Religion does not affect physical violence in Ghana

4.2.2.2.1.3 Percentage distribution of sexual violence by level of education in Ghana

A total number of 19 women who experienced sexual abuse had received no formal education while 1.8 percent of those who had attended high school reported having been abused sexually by their partners. The highest proportion (6.6 percent) is seen in the range of women whose educational background is a secondary level while 5.5 percent of women went to primary school. A Chi square test conducted ($P_v = 0.331 > 0.05$) revealed a weak statistical significant relationship between educational level and sexual violence. The level of education does not influence sexual violence in Ghana.

4.2.2.2.1.4 Percentage distribution of sexual violence by religion in Ghana

There are many types of religion in Ghana. For a better understanding, they have been regrouped in four groups: Christians, Muslims, traditionalists/ spiritualists and those without religion. 5.8

percent of Christian believers encounter sexual violence in the family. Only 1.8 Muslims women reported of being forced into sexual relationship by their husbands while the proportion is 12 percent for Animists women. In Ghana, 8.6 percent of women who do not believe in God are victims of sexual abuse. Religion in Ghana does not justify ($P_v = 0.4$) the attitudes of men who have forced their partners in sexual intercourse. Religion in Ghanaian communities is not a contributing or mitigation factor for being assaulted by an intimate partner.

4.2.2.2.1.5 Percentage distribution of sexual violence by ethnicity in Ghana

The rate of sexual abuse amongst Ghanaian ethnic groups varies between 4.4 percent for other ethnics groups to 6.1 percent for the Kwa ethnic. ($P_v = 0.457 > 0.05$) revealed no statistically significant relationship between sexual violence and ethnicity in Ghana. Population ethnicity, there, is not a determining factor for being sexually abused by an intimate partner in Ghana.

4.2.2.2.1.6 Percentage distribution of sexual violence by employment status in Ghana

Amongst female workers, 5.4 percent have experienced sexual assault while 6.1 percent of unemployed women reported sexual abuse. There is no strong relationship between employment status and sexual violence ($P_v = 0.849 > 0.05$). Therefore, employment status is not a risk factor for sexual violence.

4.2.2.2.1.7 Percentage distribution of sexual violence by the children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children

The table below indicated the results of the association between sexual violence with the demographic factors. The total number of children in the household was married female and women living with a partner were sexually abused do not differ greatly from household of women sexually abused. With ($Z = -.159$ and $z > .05$), there is no significant difference between the number of children at home and psychological violence. When looking at the relationship of sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children, with P value $> .05$ there is no statistical significance with sexual violence.

The total children ever born, the presence of sons and daughters at home and the total number of living children are not factors that may contribute to sexual violence in Ghana.

Table 4.5: Mann-Whitney test results showing association between sexual violence and demographic variables in Ghana

demographic variables names	Types of responses	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P _v
Total children ever born	No	1393	738.07	0.874
	Yes	83	745.65	
Sons at home	No	1393	739.82	0.610
	Yes	83	716.34	
Daughters at home	No	1393	738.55	0.984
	Yes	83	737.63	
Number of living children	No	1393	738.40	0.970
	Yes	83	740.16	
Total		1476		

4.2.2.2.3 Bivariate analysis for emotional violence in Ghana

4.2 percent of women experienced emotional violence in Ghana.

4.2.2.2.3.1 Percent distribution of emotional violence by female age group

The prevalence of emotional domestic violence in Ghana is high. In fact, the prevalence of emotional abuse varies from 25 percent perpetuated towards females of the 15 to 19 years age group to 30.4 for women aged 20 to 24 and 33 percent in women age 25 to 29. On the other side, 34.3 percent for women of 30 to 39 and 32.4 for the women aged 45-49 have reported emotional abuse in the family. A lower percent is seen in younger age group followed by women aged 30 to 34 (27.2 percent) while as the women get older; they become more exposed to sexual violence. In fact, the high prevalence of emotional abuse is found among women aged 35 to 44. The Chi-square ($P_v > 0.05$) conducted indicated a weak relationship of age group with sexual violence. Therefore, the women's age group does not determine whether or not they would receive emotional abuse from their male counterparts.

4.2.2.2.3.2 Percent distribution of emotional violence by type of residence in Ghana

The current analysis shows that 28.9 percent of emotionally abused females have no educational background while only 20 percent of abused women have a higher education. On the same line, there are 35.9 percent of women with a primary level who were still emotionally abused. Also 32.3 percent of women who have attended secondary school disclose emotional acts of violence. Incidentally, there is no strong statistical relationship between the level of education and emotional violence. Education is not a contributing factor for emotional violence.

4.2.2.2.3.3 Percent distribution of emotional violence by educational level in Ghana

The current analysis shows that 28.9 percent of emotionally abused females have no educational background while only 20 percent of abused women have a higher education. On the same line, there are 35.9 percent of women with a primary level who were still emotionally abused. Also 32.3 percent of women who have attended secondary school disclose emotional acts of violence. Further, there is no strong statistical relationship between the level of education and emotional violence. Education is not a contributing factor for emotional violence.

4.2.2.2.3.4 Percent distribution of emotional violence by ethnicity in Ghana

Women from different ethnic and minority groups experience domestic violence over the world (Grossman & Lindy, 2007). Results show that some ethnic populations were more exposed than others to emotional violence. In Ghana, 32.7 percent of the Kwa ethnic group were emotional abused in their relationship. Among women of the Gur ethnic groups, 26.4 were humiliated in different ways by their husbands, partners and the proportion reaches 30.4 percent for others population groups (Guan, Grussi and Gruma) With a P value = .387, the relationship between emotional abuse and the ethnicity of the abused woman is almost non-existent in Ghana and this enables us to conclude that population ethnicity is not a determining factor for emotional violence.

4.2.2.2.3.5 Percent distribution of emotional violence by religion in Ghana

Analysis was done to determine the relationship between religion and emotional violence. The prevalence of emotional violence in Ghana ranges from 28 percent for Animist believers to 38.3 in Muslims communities. About 31 percent of women without religion and Christian female were humiliated and threatened in the family. P value of .406 shows a non-statistically significant

association between emotional violence and the religion of the abused. Religion, therefore, does not influence emotional violence.

4.2.2.2.3.6 Percent distribution of emotional violence by employment status in Ghana

Amongst women who were working, 31.6 percent have experienced emotional violence while there is an estimate of 27.6 percent of emotional abuse among housewives. A Chi-square computation shows that there is no strong relationship between them ($P_v = 0.280 > 0.05$), women's employment status is not a contributing factor for emotional violence.

4.2.2.2.3.7 Percent distribution of emotional violence by the children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children

The table below presents the relationship between the emotional violence and the children ever born, the sons and daughters at home and the number of living children. With ($P_v = 0.212 > 0.5$) women living with children at home are still exposed to emotional violence in Ghana.

The level of significance of emotionally abused women who already give birth is not statistically relevant ($P_v = 0.183 > 0.05$).

This analysis suggests that there is no significant difference between the mean rank of emotional abused mothers with sons and daughters at home and those who do not children at home. With a ($P_v > .05$) and Z (negative score), this study reveals that having children at home do not protect women from emotional violence.

Table 4.6: Mann-Whitney test results exploring association between emotional violence and demographic variables in Ghana

Demographic variables	Types of responses	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P _v
Total children ever born	No	1007	727.88	0.183
	Yes	470	762.82	
Sons at home	No	1007	735.99	0.679
	Yes	470	745.44	
Daughters at home	No	1007	733.89	0.477
	Yes	470	749.96	
Number of living children	No	1007	729.65	0.212
	Yes	470	759.03	
Total		1477		

As part of this research, prevalence of domestic violence was done in Haiti.

4.2.3 Intimate partner violence in Haiti

In Haiti, sexual violence of women in union is a public health concern (Gage & Hutchinson, 2006). This study estimates the occurrence of domestic violence amongst Haitian women of reproductive age and in union and attempts to assess women risk factors of domestic violence before useful suggestions.

4.2.3.2 Prevalence of women abuse in Haiti

In the last Haiti DHS, a total of 2082 women was selected and effectively interviewed on the domestic violence sample. Amongst them, 73.9 percent were married women and 544 of the women were living under the same roof with their partner. The table below indicates the distribution of domestic violence by type in Haiti. About 12.1 percent of Haitians have experienced less severe violence while 5 percent were seriously affected by high abuse from their partners. Generally, an estimate of 12.4 percent of women aged 15 to 49 were victims of any type of physical violence in Haiti. In the Haiti DHS, questions were asked to know if women sexually assaulted by their husbands or partners. An estimated 10.8 percent of women were sexually abused while 89.2 percent have not been sexually assaulted by their partners or husbands in the household. Meanwhile about 15.9 percent of females aged 15 to 49 reported acts of emotional abuse as against

them 84.1 percent were silent. In Haiti, at least 23.7 percent of females have been victims of one form of domestic violence.

Table 4.7: Prevalence of women in union who have experienced intimate partner violence in Haiti

Responses	At least one violence	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Emotional violence
Yes	23.7	12.4	10.8	15.9
No	76.3	87.6	89.2	84.1
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

4.2.3.2 Cross tabulation analysis for Haiti

4.2.3.2.1 Bivariate analysis for physical violence in Haiti

12.4 percent of women aged 15 to 49 were victims of any type of physical violence in Haiti. Population ethnic of Haiti was not considered in the HDHS. The cross tabulation analysis provides the following results.

4.2.3.2.1.1 Percent distribution of physical by age group in Haiti

Out of the 1824 selected women in Haiti, the highest proportion (24 percent) of physical violence was reported amongst women aged 15-19. It was followed by 14.8 for women between 20 and 24. The least percentage of physical abuse (8 percent) was reported by old women (45-49). In Haiti, the proportion of physically abused women aged 25-39 ranges between 10.8 percent and 13.7 percent. With a $P_v < 0.000$, there is a significant relationship between domestic violence and women age group in Haiti. The age group is a contributing cause for physical violence in Haiti.

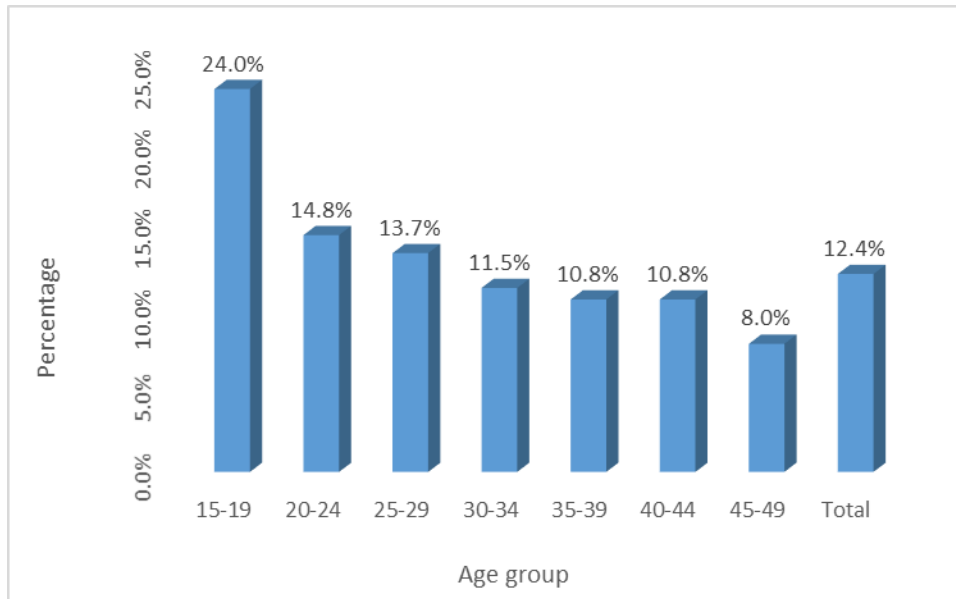


Figure 4.17: Distribution of physical abuse on women by age group in Haiti

4.2.3.2.1.2. Distribution of physical violence by place of residence in Haiti

Analysis show that 12.4 percent of women have experienced physical violence regardless where they are living. 13.6 urban women have experienced some kind of physical violence while it has reached 11.4 percent for women living in rural areas. Results of the Chi Square test ($P_v = 0.132 > 0.05$) show that the statistical relationship is weak among the type of place of residence and physical violence. Therefore, the type of place of residence is not a risk factor for physical violence.

4.2.3.2.1.3 Distribution of physical violence by level of education in Haiti

The figure below displays the variations of the total number of women in union who are physically abused with respect to educational level and qualification. Around 13.2 percent of physically abused women had no formal education. The proportion of assaulted female reaches 14.3 percent for women with a primary level while it is 9.2 percent for women with a secondary level of education background. Amongst women who finished high school, 6.6 percent were physically abused by their husbands or partners at home. From the $P_v = 0.018 < 0.05$); there is a statistical significant relationship of physical violence with the level of education in Haiti. Thus, the level of education plays a role in determining whether a woman not be physically violated by her intimate partner at home.

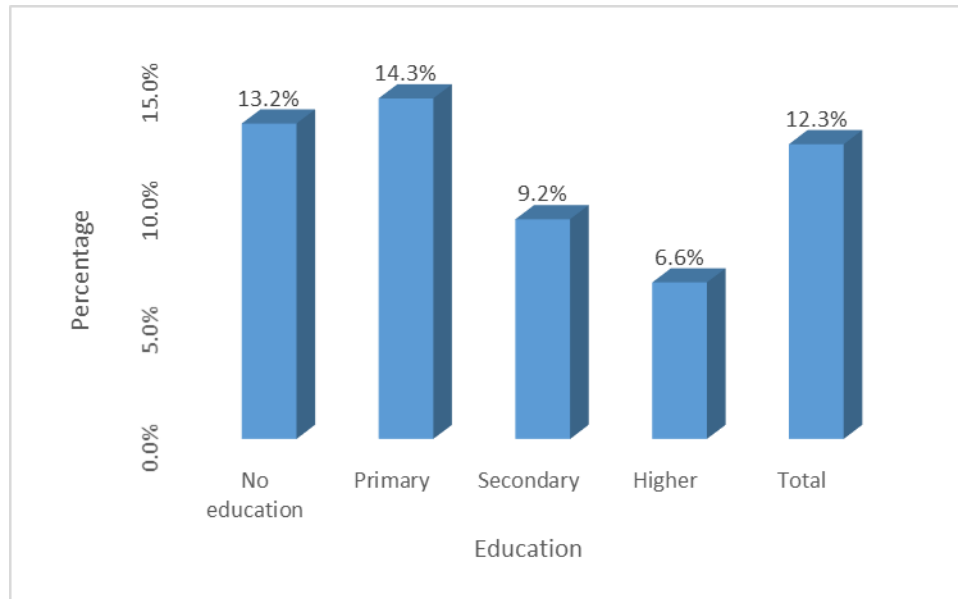


Figure 4.18: Distribution of physical abuse on women by education in Haiti

4.2.3.2.1.4 Distribution of physical violence by religion in Haiti

The population under review was grouped into the prominent religious groups that exist in the country. These are Christians, Budu and those without religion. The data collected indicated that about 41.7 percent of Budu women were beaten by their husbands or partners while 21.8 percent of women with no religion have experienced physical violence in the household. A lower percentage of 11.2 percent of Christians reported acts of physical violence in the family. In order to explore the effects of religion on physical violence, a chi square was computed and according to the p value, there is significant relationship ($P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$) between physical violence and being a member of a religious community and there are great patterns of variations. Consequently, religion is a factor influencing physical violence in Haiti.

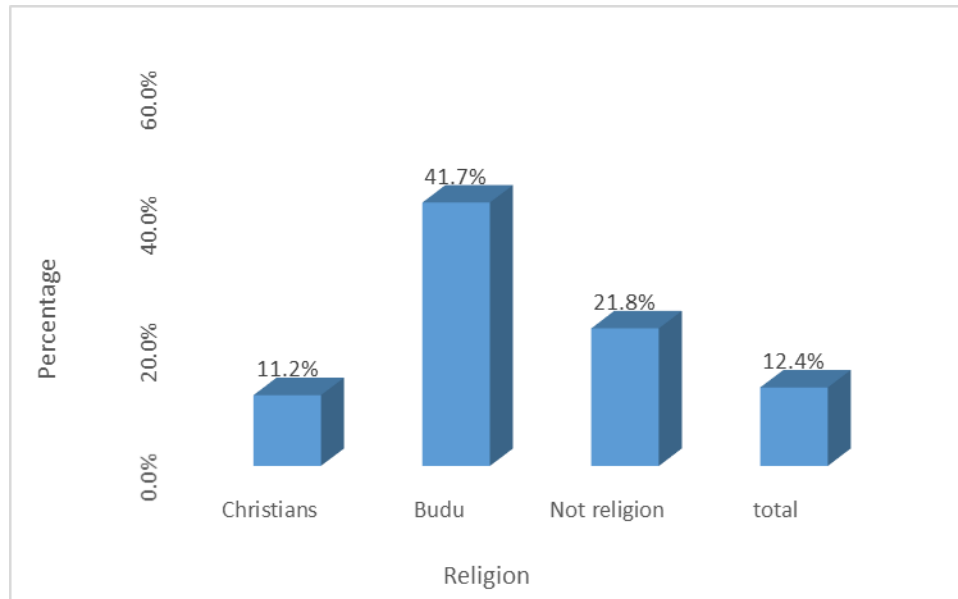


Figure 4.19: Distribution of physical abuse on women by religion

4.2.3.2.1.5 Distribution of physical violence by employment status in Haiti

13.2 percent of unemployed Haitians females were exposed to physical violence while the proportion is 11.8 percent for women who were employed. The place of residence across regions are almost equal. Also with a $P_v = 0.371 > 0.05$, there is no statistical significant relationship between physical violence and female employment status. Therefore, one can conclude that the latter does not influence physical violence.

4.2.3.2.1.6. Distribution of physical violence by the total children ever born, the sons at home, the daughters at home and the number of living children

There is no difference in the prevalence of physical violence between the mean rank of physically abused and non-abused women. As the p value ($P_v > 0.05$) of all variables above cited show that there is no significant relation of intimate partner violence with each of these characteristics. Children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children are not the factors contributing to physical violence.

Table 4.8: Mann-Whitney test results showing association between physical violence and demographic variables in Haiti

Demographic variables	Types of responses	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P _v
Total children ever born	No	1730	992.45	
	Yes	242	943.93	0.210
Sons at home	No	1730	986.65	
	Yes	242	985.42	0.037
Daughters at home	No	1730	984.43	
	Yes	242	1001.27	0.093
Number of living children	No	1730	991.80	
	Yes	242	948.60	0.263
Total		1972		

4.2.3.2.2 Bivariate analysis for sexual violence in Haiti

In the Haiti DHS, questions were asked to know if women have been forced to have sex or force to practice any act they did not like during sexual intercourse with their husbands or partners. 10.8 percent of women were sexually abused while 89.2 have not been forced to have sex with their partners or husbands in the household.

4.2.3.2.2.1 Distribution of sexual violence by age group in Haiti

Around 10 percent of women in the age group 15 to 19 and 30 to 34 experienced sexual abuse. For women aged 25 to 29, 35 to 39, the prevalence is 13 percent. But the proportion was lower (6.8 percent) for women 45 to 49. Around 9 percent of women 20 to 24 and 40 to 44 were victims of sexual abuse in the family. There is no significant association between sexual acts of abuse and age group ($P_v > 0.005$). Women age group is not a risk factor for sexual violence.

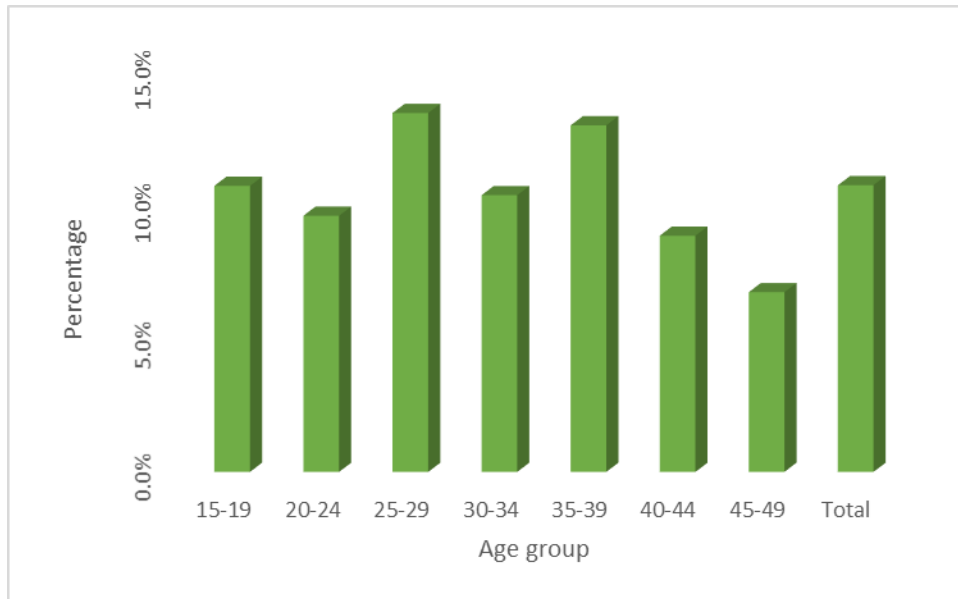


Figure 4.20: Distribution of sexual abuse on women by age group

4.2.3.2.2.2 Distribution of sexual violence by place of residence in Haiti

There is no significant difference amongst sexually abused women living in urban areas (11.5 percent) with women of rural villages in Haiti (10.2 percent). With a $P_v > 0.05$, the place of residence does not affect the practice of sexual violence in Haiti. As a result, the place of residence does not influence sexual violence.

4.2.3.2.2.3 Distribution of sexual violence by educational attainment in Haiti

About 11.2 percent of uneducated Haitians women have experienced sexual violence in the family. The prevalence of sexual violence amongst women who graduated from high school is 1.6 percent while it is as high as 13 percent for women with a primary education background. Further, 8.1 percent of women who had secondary classes are sexually abused. In Haiti, there is a statistical significant ($P_v = 0.004 < 0.05$) ($P = .004$) relationship of sexual violence with the level of education. Educational attainment is a contributing factor for physical violence.

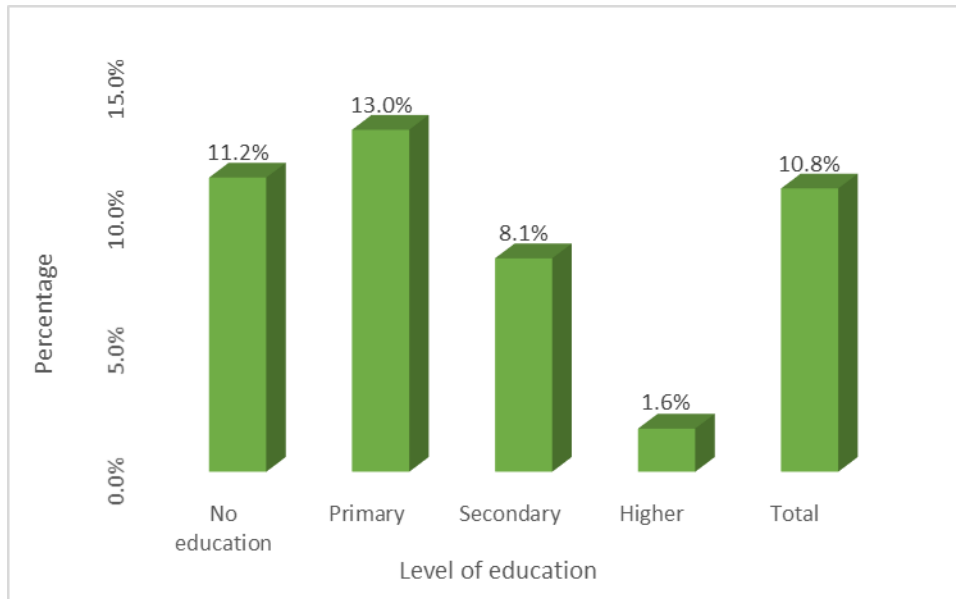


Figure 4.21: Distribution of sexual abuse on women by level of education

4.2.3.2.2.4 Distribution of sexual violence by religion in Haiti

Although 80 percent of the Haitian population are Catholics, many adhere to Voodoo or Budu practices. This study has grouped the types of religion into three categories: Christians, Budu and no religion. There is a variation in proportions across the different types of religion. Around 8.3 percent of Budu believers are victims of sexual violence in their household while the proportion is 17.5 percent amongst women with no religion. The results of a Chi square test conducted ($P_v = 0.02 < 0.05$); revealed that religion tends to influence sexual violence in Haiti. Therefore, religious practices in Haiti are a determining factor in the incidence of sexual violence.

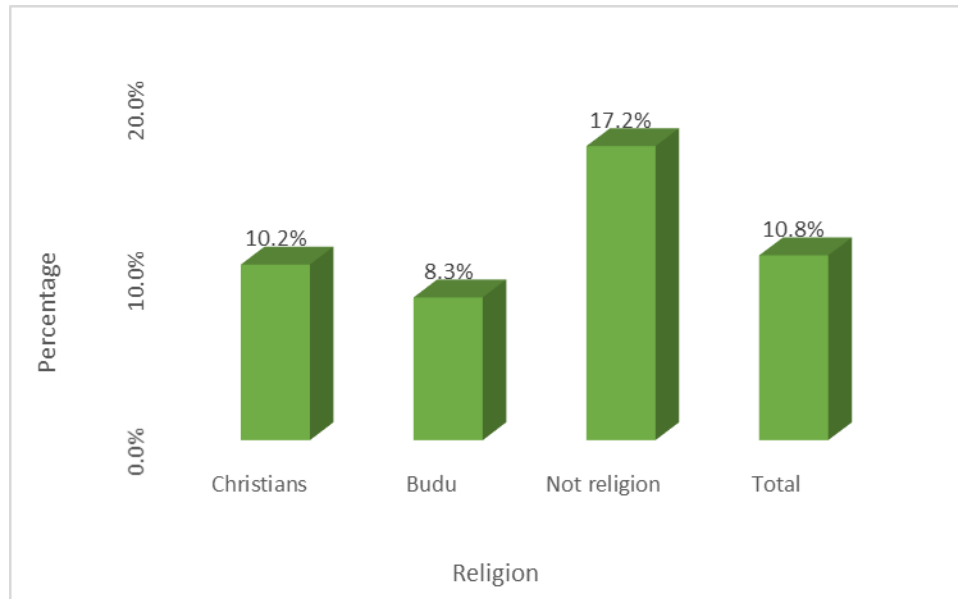


Figure 4.22: Distribution of sexual abuse on women by religion

4.2.3.2.2.5 Distribution of sexual violence by employment status in Haiti

Analysis of employment status show that 11.3 percent of employed women experienced some kind of sexual violence in Haiti while the prevalence is 10 percent for women who are not working. The ($P_v = 0.351 > 0.05$) show no relationship between sexual violence and employment status. The women's employment status is not a factor explaining sexual violence.

4.2.3.2.2.6 Distribution of sexual violence by the total children ever born, the sons at home, the daughters at home and the number of living children

The table below shows displays data for women in union who have reported to be sexually abused, those who have not reported being sexually abused and having sons at home, daughters at home and also according to the children ever born and the number of living children. Z score of all these variables is negative. Furthermore, statistical analyses revealed that all the $P_v > 0.05$ and also, there is no great difference between the mean rank of sexually abused women and those who do not reported having being sexually abuse amongst the children ever born, the number of living children, the presence of sons and daughters at home. Consequently, one can conclude that sons at home, daughters at home, the children ever born and the number of living children are not contributing factors for sexual violence in Haiti.

Table 4.9: Mann-Whitney test results showing association between sexual violence and demographic variables in Haiti

Demographics variables	Types of responses	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P _v
Total children ever born	No	1760	981.68	
	Yes	212	1026.50	0.274
Sons at home	No	1760	987.80	
	Yes	212	975.75	0.760
Daughters at home	No	1760	981.92	
	Yes	212	1024.52	0.280
Number of living children	No	1760	982.38	
	Yes	212	1020.68	0.349
Total		1972		

Analysis was done to explore the effect of socioeconomic and demographic variables on emotional violence.

4.2.3.2.3 Bivariate analysis for emotional violence in Haiti

In Haiti, 15.9 percent of female in union have reported emotional abuse.

4.2.3.2.3.1 Distribution of emotional violence by age group in Haiti

More than 14 percent of women in the age 19 to 24, 30 to 34, 35 to 39 and 40 to 44 were victims of emotional violence. The proportion varies from 16.5 percent to a high of 18.2 percent for women aged 25 to 29, 45 to 49 and 15 to 19. With a $P_v > 0.05$, there is no statistical significant association between psychological violence and women aged group. Women age is not a contributing factor for emotional violence.

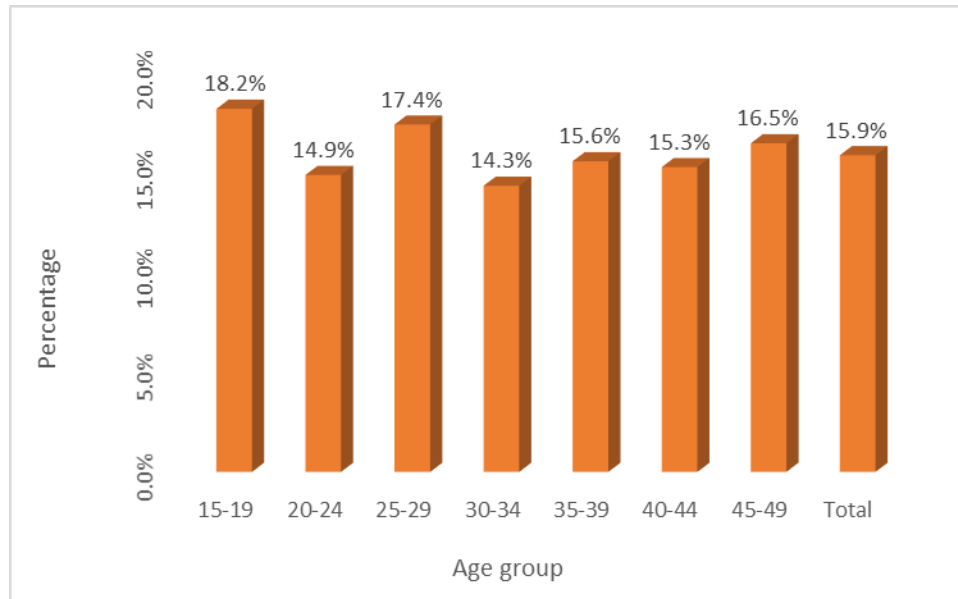


Figure 4.23: Distribution of emotional abuse on women by age group

4.2.3.2.3.2 Distribution of emotional violence by type of residence in Haiti

About 16 percent of Haitian women living in urban regions have experienced emotional violence and the prevalence does not differ from rural women (15.8 percent). The variations are on an equal degree. Results of Chi square test ($P_v > 0.05$) reveal an absence of statistical significance in the relationship between emotional violence and the place of residence. The place of residence is not a factor that contributes to emotional violence.

4.2.3.2.3.3 Distribution of emotional violence by level of education in Haiti

In Haiti, an estimated 17.9 percent of women without education have experienced emotional violence from an intimate partner. About 16.5 percent of women who were primary school graduates were victims of violence while the proportion was 13.3 of women with a secondary level. The proportion is lowest (8.2 percent) for women with highest educational background. Though there is a pattern of variation through the diverse level of education, a p value of 053 shows that there is no significant association between emotional abuse and educational level. Hence, education attainment is not a contributing factor for emotional domestic violence.

4.2.3.2.3.4 Distribution of emotional violence by religion in Haiti

The figures below indicate the prevalence of emotional violence of women in union across the types of religion in Haiti. Emotional abuse is predominant amongst Budu believers. It is estimated that there are about 26 percent of Haitian women with no religion undergoing emotional violence and 14.4 Christians reported emotional violence. Religion is a determining factor ($P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$) for emotional violence in Haiti.

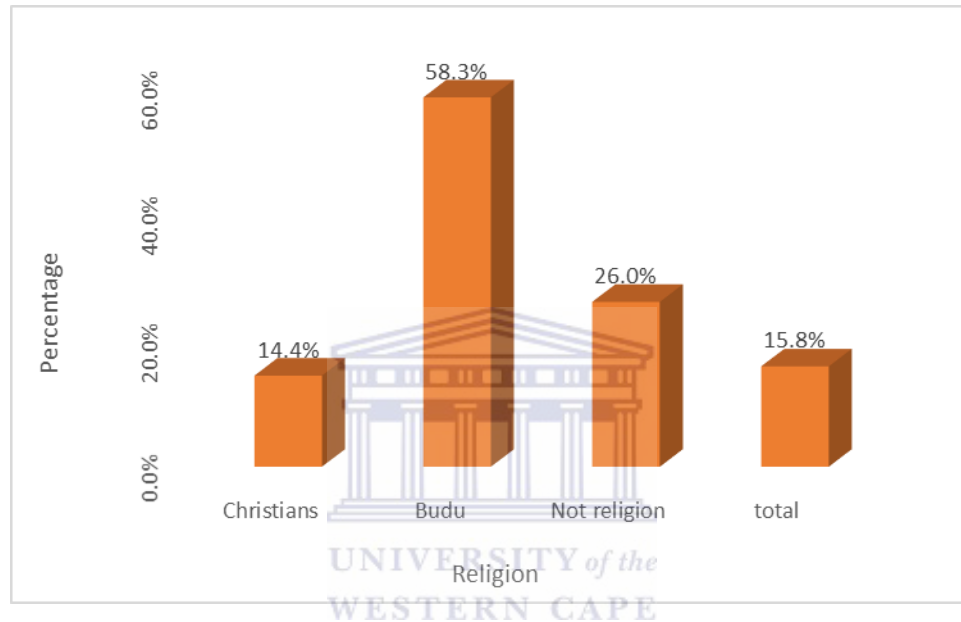


Figure 4.24: Distribution of emotional abuse on women by religion

4.2.3.2.3.5 Distribution of emotional violence by employment status in Haiti

There is no significant difference between abused women regarding their status in the labour market. This is because the proportion of employed women is 16.5 percent against 15.2 percent of unemployed women who are abused. The cross tabulation analysis shows no relationship ($P_v = 0.468 > 0.05$) between emotional abuse and employment status in Haiti. Employment status is not a risk factor for emotional violence.

4.2.3.2.3.6 Distribution of emotional violence by the children ever born, the sons at home, the daughters at home and the number of living children

Table 4.10: Mann-Whitney test results showing association between emotional violence and demographic variables in Haiti

Demographics variables	Types of responses	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P _v
Total children ever born	No	1667	972.51	
	Yes	304	1059.95	0.013
Sons at home	No	1667	979.26	
	Yes	304	1022.97	0.195
Daughters at home	No	1667	972.34	
	Yes	304	1060.91	0.009
Number of living children	No	1667	972.14	
	Yes	304	1061.99	0.010
Total		1971		

The table above presents the results of the investigation on the effects of children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children with emotional violence. It was discovered that there is a significant difference amongst the total number of children ever born mean rank of women who have reported emotional violence and those who did not report emotional violence. Further the analysis of the P value revealed that there is a statistical significance (P=. 013). The total children ever born are can then be considered a factor that contributes to emotional violence.

The results of effects of sons at home on emotional violence are not significant as $P_v > 0.05$, the presence of sons at home is not a factor which contributes to moral violence.

The mean rank of women with daughters at home differs greatly from the mean rank of women without daughters at home who did not report emotional abuse. And the ($P_v = 0.009 < 0.05$) show that daughters at home is a risk factor for emotional violence.

There is a pattern of variation between the number of living children of women who reported emotional violence and with women who did not experience emotional violence. Also, the $P_v = 0.01 < 0.05$. Therefore one can conclude that the number of living children is a contributing factor in the emotional abuse of women living in union in Haiti.

Intimate female violence appears to be a common issue in Haiti. The next section provides information on the magnitude of women abuse in Liberia.

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4.2.4 Domestic violence in Liberia

As pointed in the final report in the Liberia DHS 2007, domestic violence is a universal issue in Liberia. Liberian women have accepted and kept silence when experiencing acts of violence in the household. In order to reinforce existing measures, the Liberia DHS carried a study to determine the prevalence of domestic violence in Liberia. Analyses were done to determine the magnitude of physical, sexual and emotional violence in association with socio-economic and demographic factors. The findings of these analyses are discussed in the section that follows.

4.2.4.1 Prevalence of domestic violence in Liberia

The figure below presents the distribution of physical, sexual and emotional violence in Liberia. About 32.8 percent of Liberian women have experienced mild physical violence while 15.6 have reported acts of severe physical violence. On the overall, 33.2 percent of women in union have reported some form of physical violence. Also 9.9 percent of women have reported sexual violence and the proportion of emotional violence accounts for 34.8 percent. 48.8 percent of women in union have already experienced at least one type of violence in Liberia.

This study examines the effects of some socio-economic and demographic variables on domestic violence by type in Liberia by analysing the DHS data accordingly.

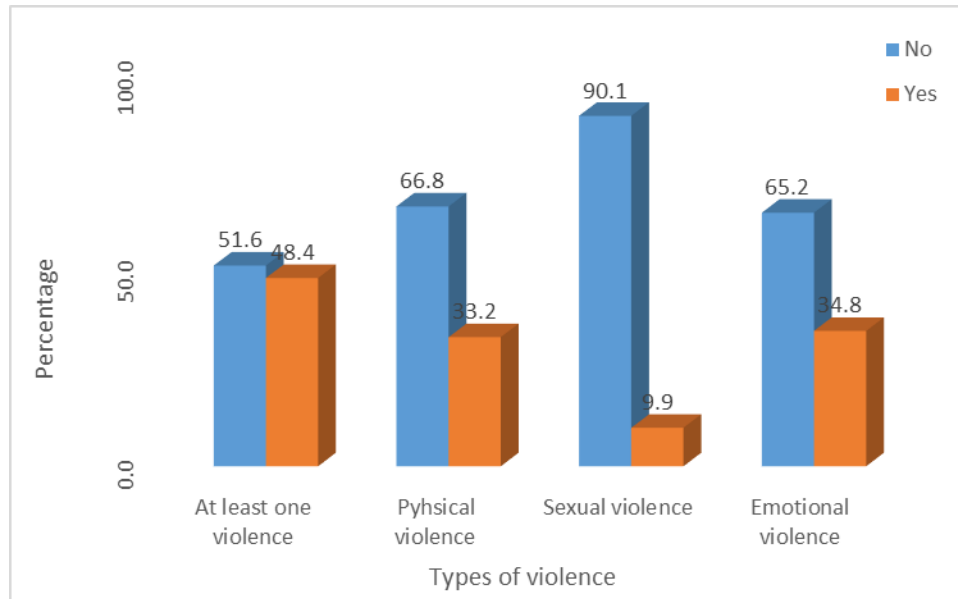


Figure 4.25: Prevalence of women in union who have experienced any type of violence in Liberia

4.2.4.2 Bivariate analysis for physical, sexual and emotional violence

Domestic violence by type was cross tabulated with each independent variable and LDHS does not consider ethnic group in this survey.

4.2.4.2.1 Cross tabulation of physical, sexual and emotional violence by age group in Liberia

Out of the 4 897 selected women in Liberia, the highest proportion of physical violence was reported by women aged 20-24 (43.6 percent) while women aged 40-40 were estimated at 21 percent, representing the lowest range of women experiencing physical violence in Liberia. 41.4 percent of women aged 25-29 are physically abused. The proportion is 35.9 for women of 30-34 and 28.6 percent of women aged 35-39 have reported physical violence in the family. The older age group 23.6 of women aged 45-49 are victims of physical violence in Liberia. When looking at the proportion of physical violence, there are variations in the percentage across the age groups and the probability value ($P_v = 0.000 < 0.000$). This suggests that across all the age groups, intimate partner violence on women varies according to their age. Thus, age is one of the contributing factors to women being physically abused by their partners.

The proportion of women who have reported sexual violence of age 15-49 varies between 6.8 percent (women aged 44-49) and 12.1 percent (women aged 20-24) in Liberia. With a ($P_v = 0.132 > 0.05$), there is no statistical significance between age group and sexual violence in Liberia. Therefore, one can conclude that women age group is not a determining factor for sexual violence in Liberian communities.

In Liberia, around 28 percent of women aged 40-49 have reported to have experienced emotional violence in the household. Between 32.4 percent and 39.8 percent of women aged 15-39 have experienced some type of emotional violence in the household. The highest percentage 39.8 was experienced by women aged 20-24 while 28.1 percent of women aged 40-44 have reported being victims of emotional violence. Though, variations in proportions exist across the different age groups, this latter is not a factor that justifies emotional violence in Liberia.

4.2.4.2.2 Cross tabulation of physical, sexual and emotional violence by the type of place of residence in Liberia

An estimate of 37.1 percent of women living in urban provinces and 31.2 percent of rural women have reported acts of physical violence in the household. The gap between the two proportions show a variation between physical violence occurrence in villages and in cities. As the probability value ($P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$), the place of residence is a factor influencing physical violence in Liberia.

There is no significant difference between the proportions of women in union residing in rural regions (10.7 percent) and women of cities (8.4 percent). Although the prevalence of physical violence is higher in Liberian villages, the place of residence is not is not considered as a factor contributing to physical violence in Liberia.

Over 33 percent of rural and urban women have reported acts of emotional violence in Liberia but still, the place of residence is not a contributing factor for emotional violence in Liberia.

4.2.4.2.3 Cross tabulation of physical, sexual and emotional violence by educational level in Liberia

The table below displays the data for women living in union who are physically abused and those who did not report physical violence based on their educational background. Women living in union who have a secondary education are the most physically abused (35.2 percent). This was followed by women who attended primary school (34.3 percent) then 32.2 percent of women

without education reported acts of physical violence in the family. Conversely, women in union who have a higher education with 25.9 percent are the least physically abused. Although variations in proportions exist across all the different level of education, the latter contributes to physical violence in Liberia.

In Liberia, 8.1 percent of women in union who have never attended school have reported sexual violence while the percentage was 14 for women with a primary background and 7.4 percent for women having attended secondary school. The table shows that as the level of education increases, the more women are sexually abused. In fact, women with a higher level of education are the most affected by sexual violence with 18.5 percent. There are variations in patterns of physical abuse amongst the different level of education. The probability value ($P = 0.000 < 0.05$) shows a strong statistical significance in the relationship between sexual violence and educational attainment; one can conclude that the level of education might be a contributing factor for sexual violence.

Bivariate analysis shows that there is no strong statistical association of emotional violence with education. Although there is little difference in variation between the proportions of each level of educational attainment, this latter does not influence emotional violence.

4.2.4.2.4 Cross tabulation of physical, sexual and emotional violence by religion in Liberia

To find out if the religion that a woman practices is a determining factor in the incidence of domestic violence across the diverse religion in Liberia communities, the study explored the data according to the following religions belief: Christian, Muslim, those attached to traditions and the non-believers. The reported percentage of women living in union whose physical violence was linked to a religious affiliation is 33.2 percent. Thus, women attached to traditional practices are the most affected by physical violence (61.1 percent) while the least proportion was recorded by women who do not have any religion (31.2 percent). In the same line, 33.3 percent of Christian believers have reported physical violence and the percentage is almost alike with 32.4 for Muslims. In Liberia, religion does appear as a factor that contribute to physical violence.

Regarding sexual violence and religion, 31.5 percent of non-believers have reported acts of sexual abuse while around 9 percent of Christian and Muslims reported sexual violence respectively. Religion is a determining factor for sexual violence in Liberia.

When looking at the relationship of religion on emotional violence, the data revealed variations across the types of religion. Therefore, one can conclude that the religion practised by the women affects whether or not she receives emotional violence.

4.2.4.2.5 Cross tabulation of physical, sexual and emotional violence by employment status in Liberia

An estimated of 38.2 percent of women who do not work have experienced physical violence while the proportion is 30.5 percent for employed women living in union. The two proportions are not on equal degrees and the probability value ($P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$). This indicates that employment status is a contributing factor for physical and sexual violence in Liberia.



Table 4.11: Women in union who have experienced physical, sexual and emotional abuse by background characteristics in Liberia

Variables names	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Emotional violence
Age (%)			
15-19	31.3	8.1	34.1
20-24	43.6	10.1	39.8
25-29	41.4	12.1	37.6
30-34	35.9	11.2	39.3
35-39	28.6	10.1	32.4
40-44	21	8.4	28.1
45-49	23.6	6.8	28.2
Total	33.2	9.9	34.8
P value	0.000	0.132	0.73
Place of residence (%)			
Urban	37.1	8.5	36.6
Rural	31.2	10.7	33.9
Total	33.2	9.9	34.8
P value	0.001	0.061	0.152
Educational level (%)			
No education	32.2	8.1	34.3
Primary	34.3	14	35.7
Secondary	35.2	7.4	34.9
Higher	25.9	18.5	31.5
Total	33.2	9.9	34.8
P value	0.32	0.000	0.849
Religion (%)			
Christian	33.3	9.3	34.6
Muslim	32.4	9.1	38.5
Traditional religion	61.1	0	55.6
No religion	31.3	31.5	23.2
Total	33.2	9.9	34.8
P value	0.157	0.000	0.015
Employment status (%)			
Unemployed	38.2	13.4	35.9
Employed	30.5	8.2	34
Total	33.2	9.9	34.6
P value	0.000	0.000	0.317

4.2.4.2.6 Cross tabulation of physical, sexual and emotional violence by the total children ever born, the sons at home, the daughters at home and the number of living children in Liberia

Table 4.12: Mann-Whitney test results showing association between physical, sexual, emotional violence and demographic variables in Liberia

	Variables names	Types of responses	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P_v
Physical violence	Total children ever born	No	2029	1582.91	
		Yes	1034	1432.1	0.000
	Sons at home	No	2029	1558.52	
		Yes	1034	1479.96	0.015
	Daughters at home	No	2029	1551.78	
		Yes	1034	1493.18	0.067
	Number of living children	No	2029	1586.36	
		Yes	1034	1425.33	0.000
Total		3063			
Sexual violence	Total children ever born	No	2740	1532.15	
		Yes	304	1435.5	0.067
	Sons at home	No	2740	1523.69	
		Yes	304	1511.76	0.814
	Daughters at home	No	2740	1527.83	
		Yes	304	1474.48	0.289
	Number of living children	No	2740	1526.11	
		Yes	304	1489.99	0.492
Total		3044			
Emotional violence	Total children ever born	No	1961	1541.8	
		Yes	1088	1494.72	0.154
	Sons at home	No	1961	1539.21	
		Yes	1088	1499.39	0.209
	Daughters at home	No	1961	1533.91	
		Yes	1088	1508.94	0.428
	Number of living children	No	1961	1551.49	
		Yes	1088	1477.26	0.024
Total		3049			

The table above presents the results of the analysis conducted to study the effects of the total children ever born, the sons at home, the daughters at home and the number of living children on domestic violence in the household.

4.2.4.2.6.1 Physical violence

There is a great difference in the mean rank of the total children ever born of women and the number of living children who reported physical abuse (1432.1) as well as women who did not report physical violence (1582.91). The total children ever born in the household is a determining factor in the physical violence in Liberia. The association of the sons at home with physical violence indicates a strong statistical relationship between the two variables. Therefore, the presence of sons at home appears as a contributing factor for physical violence for women living in union in Liberia. Inversely, women who have female daughters in the household are not affected by their male partner's violence as was shown with the probability value of $P_v = .067 > 0.05$.

4.2.4.2.6.2 Sexual violence

The results of the analysis show that there are no relationships between sexual violence and total children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children ($P_v > 0.05$). So they are not underlying factors for sexual violence in Liberia.

4.2.4.2.6.3 Emotional violence

There is no relationship between the total children ever born, the presence of sons and daughters at home as well as the number of living children on domestic violence in Liberia. Hence, these variables do not affect emotional violence in the family.

Domestic violence is widespread in South Asian as it results from the analysis done in Moldova.

4.2.5 Occurrence of domestic violence in the republic of Moldova

Domestic violence touches women of all ages regardless their education standard and socio-economic background. Studies have shown that violence is still not treated as a serious matter by the Moldovan government; it is recent and still considered as a private matter in the minds of the Moldovan population (Assay, 2011). Financial dependency, psychological pressure and fear of

the society are reasons that make Moldova abused women to do not disclose acts of violence in the household (www.refworld, 2011).

4.2.5.1 Distribution of domestic violence in Moldova

According to the last Moldovan DHS in 2005, out of the 3805 women in union (15-49) of the domestic violence sample, 93.1 percent are married while 6.9 percent are in a relationship and live under the same roof with the partners.

Table 4.13: Prevalence of women in union who have experienced any type of violence in Moldova

Responses	At least one violence	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Emotional violence
Yes	28.1	20.6	3	19.8
No	71.9	79.4	97	80.2
Total	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

The table above provides the distribution of domestic violence in the republic of Moldova. Approximately 79.40 percent of Moldovan women are victims of less physical violence meanwhile an estimated of 2.6 percent is accorded for women who have reported severe violence. Overall, 20.6 percent of Moldovan female were exposed to physical violence. The prevalence of sexual violence exists though lower in Moldova because only 3 percent reported sexual acts in the family. Concerning emotional violence, women have reported that their husbands, partners have humiliated them in front of other people, threatened and insulted them at home. Therefore, 19.8 percent of female Moldovan population were victims of emotional violence.

4.2.5.2 Cross tabulation for Moldova

In the Republic of Moldova, the DHS questionnaire on domestic violence was administrated to 3805 women of reproductive age group. In this sample, 93.1 women are married while 6.9 percent are living under the same roof with the partner. The proportion missing in the questionnaire was less than 5 percent.

4.2.5.2.1 Crosstab for Physical violence

20.6 percent of Moldovans females have reported physical violence.

4.2.5.2.1.1 Distribution of physical violence by age group in Moldova

In Moldova, between 20 and 25 percent of women aged 30-49 have experienced some type of physical violence. For women in union and aged 15-19, the prevalence ranges from 13.3 percent to 16.4 percent for women of 25-29 with an intermediate level of 14.9 percent in the 20-24 age group. The graph below points out that abused women age group's proportion was varying by level depending on the age group. Also, as there is a strong statistical significance $P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$) in the relationship between physical violence and women population age group, age appears as a contributing factor to physical violence.

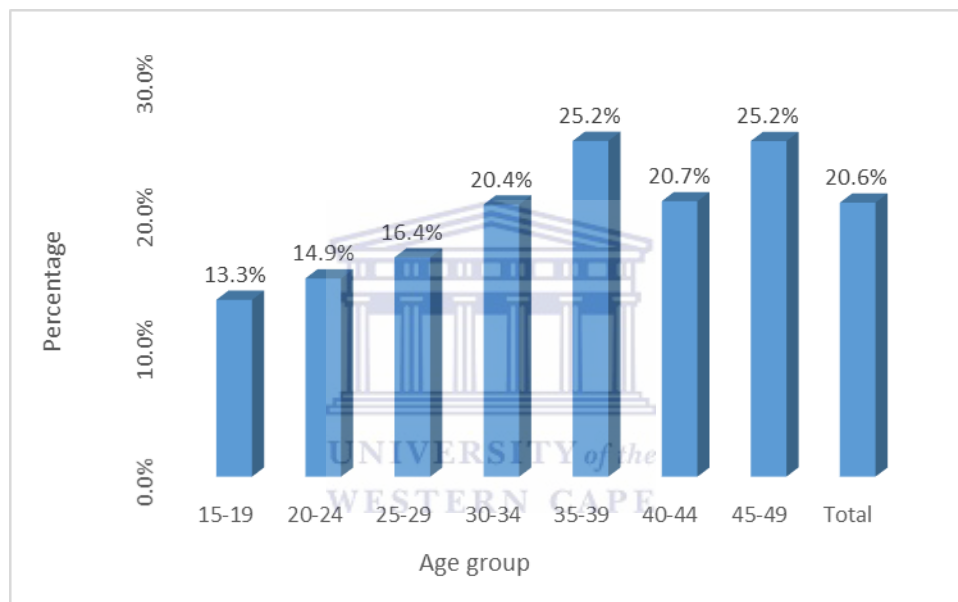


Figure 4.26: Distribution of physical abuse on women by age group in Moldova

4.2.5.2.1.2 Distribution of physical violence by place of residence in Moldova

Over 14 percent of women who have reported physical violence were residing in urban provinces while that of rural and remote areas was 24.1 percent. There were differences in the prevalence of physical violence reported between urban and rural women as $P_v < 0.05$. Place of residence is a factor which influence the occurrence of physical violence in Moldova.

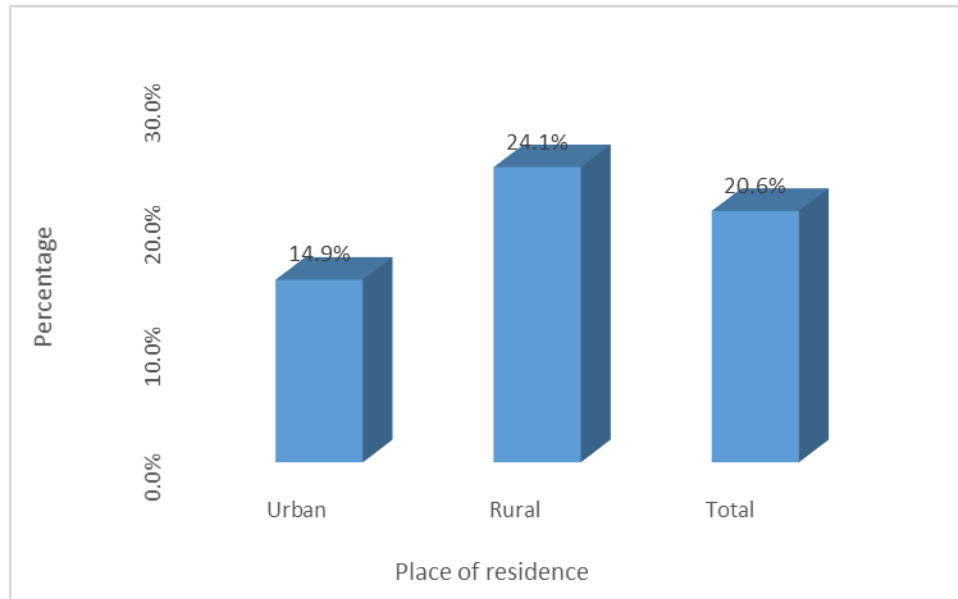


Figure 4.27: Percentage of physical abuse on women by place of residence in Moldova

4.2.5.2.1.3. Prevalence of physical violence by level of education in Moldova

In Moldova, out of all women with varying levels of education, the proportion of physically abused women never attended school is surprisingly low. This means that uneducated women in Moldova were not exposed to violence in the family, with their husband or partner. Also, 36.4 percent of women with primary background suffered physical abuse while it was 23.3 percent for secondary leaver women. Only 9.2 percent of women who attended high school are abused physically in the household. In Moldova, there is a significant relationship between the level of education and the experience of physical acts. Hence, educational attainment might contribute to physical violence.

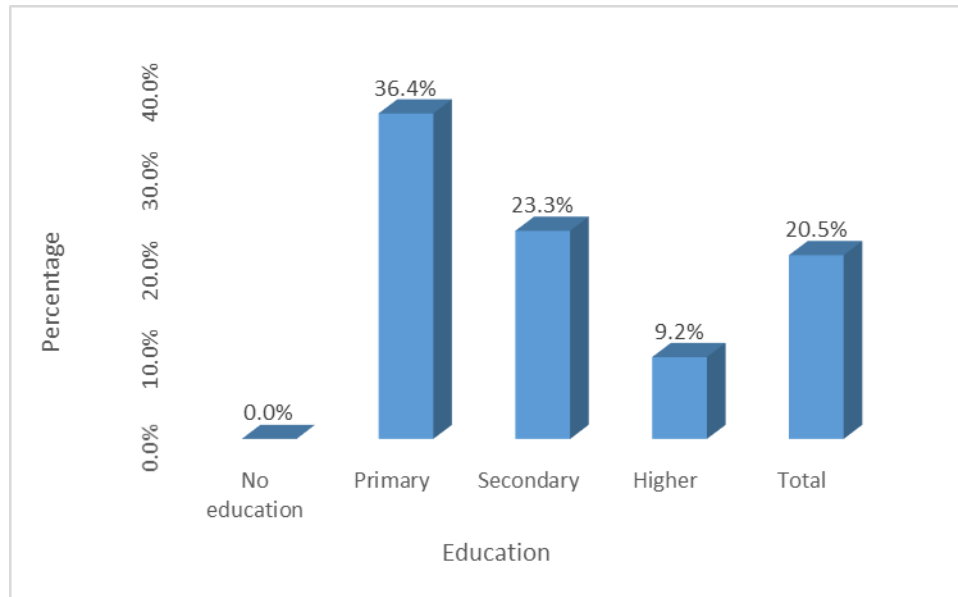


Figure 4.28: Distribution of physical abuse on women by level of education in Moldova

4.2.5.2.1.4. Prevalence of physical violence by religion in Moldova

There are many religious communities in Moldova. Grouped into Orthodox, other religions including Jewish and those without religion. Women from different religious backgrounds, face physical violence in the household differently. In fact, 7.3 percent of Jewish partisans are physically assaulted by the husbands or partners. There has been no significant change in the proportions of physically abused women believers and being a member of any religion do not expose and increase the level of physical violence ($P_v > 0.05$) in Moldovan cities.

4.2.5.2.1.5. Prevalence of physical violence by ethnicity in Moldova

Regarding population ethnicity, the reported percentage of abused women was 21.5 percent amongst Moldovan ethnics. It appears in varying degrees with 17.3 percent in the Ukrainian population group and 15 percent in Gagauzan ethnic. Ethnicity plays a determining role ($P_v = 0.008 < 0.05$) in the physical violence occurrence in the family. Population group is an underlying cause of physical violence.

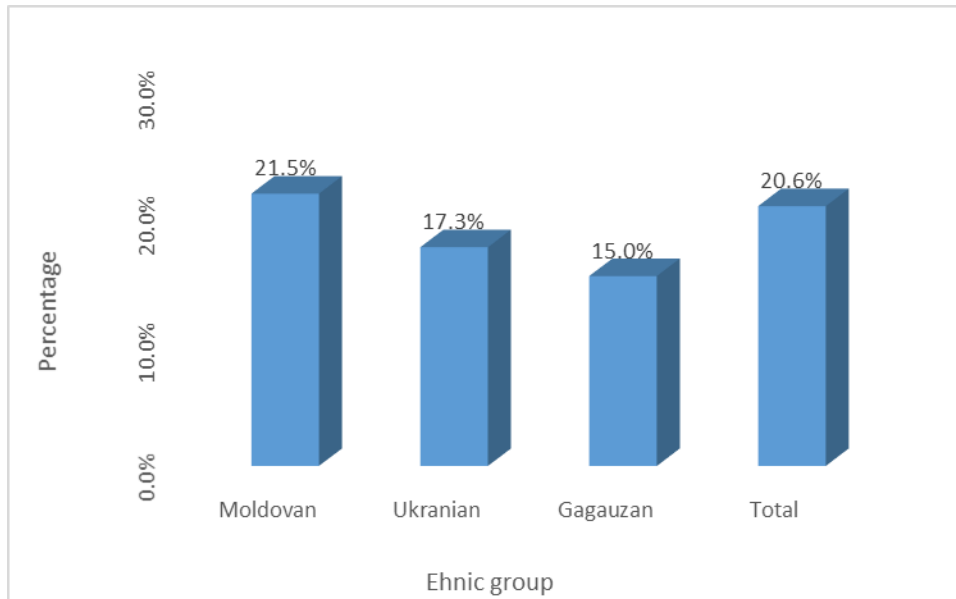


Figure 4.29: Distribution of physical abuse on women by ethnicity in Moldova

4.2.5.2.1.6. Prevalence of physical violence by employment status in Moldova

21 percent of women in union and who are employed were victims of physical violence while 19.8 unemployed women still faced physical violence. Also, Chi square results show that employment status is not a contributing factor to physical violence in Moldova.

4.2.5.2.1.7. Prevalence of physical violence by the total children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children

Regarding the total children ever born, there is a difference amongst the mean rank of physically abused women and those who are not abused. The probability value $P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$) show that the total children ever born in Moldova is a determining factor for physical violence. With a $P_v > 0.05$, the presence of sons at home is not influencing men's violence towards their partners. There is a statistical significant difference in mean rank of daughters at home among women who had experienced physical violence and women who did not report a physical act of violence in Moldova. Furthermore, the probability value $P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$). It shows that the presence of daughters at home is a contributing factor for physical violence. From the table below, it appears that the number of living in a family has an effect on the physical violence in Moldova.

Table 4.14: Mann-Whitney test results showing association between physical violence and demographic variables in Moldova

Demographic variables	Types of responses	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P _v
Total children ever born	No	3080	1857.15	
	Yes	783	2226.44	0.000
Sons at home	No	3080	1917	
	Yes	783	1991	0.072
Daughters at home	No	3080	1891.64	
	Yes	783	2090.77	0.000
Number of living children	No	3080	1860.29	
	Yes	783	2214.07	0.000
Total		3863		

4.2.5.2.2 Bivariate analysis for sexual violence in Moldova

2 percent of women in union have reported sexual acts in the compound in Moldova.

4.2.5.2.2.1 Prevalence of sexual violence by age group

The results of the analysis of women in union who have experienced sexual violence and those who have not reported any sexual abuse were indicated. It varies between 1 percent and 4.3 percent amongst women age 15-49. The lowest was found in women aged 15-19 with one percent and it was more accentuated (4.3 percent) in women aged 35 to 39. Variations in proportions were not seen in and with a $P_v = 0.9 > 0.05$, there is no significant association between sexual violence and age group in Moldova. Therefore, one can conclude that age group is not a contributing factor for sexual violence.

4.2.5.2.2.2 Prevalence of sexual violence by a woman location

Findings suggest that 2.6 percent of women living in urban regions suffer from sexual violence while in rural areas, the proportion is 3.2. With a $P_v > 0.05$, the relationship between sexual violence and the place of residence is consistently negative in Moldova.

4.2.5.2.2.3 Prevalence of sexual violence by educational attainment

In Moldova, women who have attended primary school and who have no formal education have not reported any type of sexual harassment. However, about 3.6 percent of women with a secondary background were victims of sexual acts while it is 0.8 percent for women with higher education level suffered the same fate. Acts of sexual abuse is also associated with the level of education in Moldova as it is a contributing factor for sexual violence.

4.2.5.2.2.4 Prevalence of sexual violence by religion

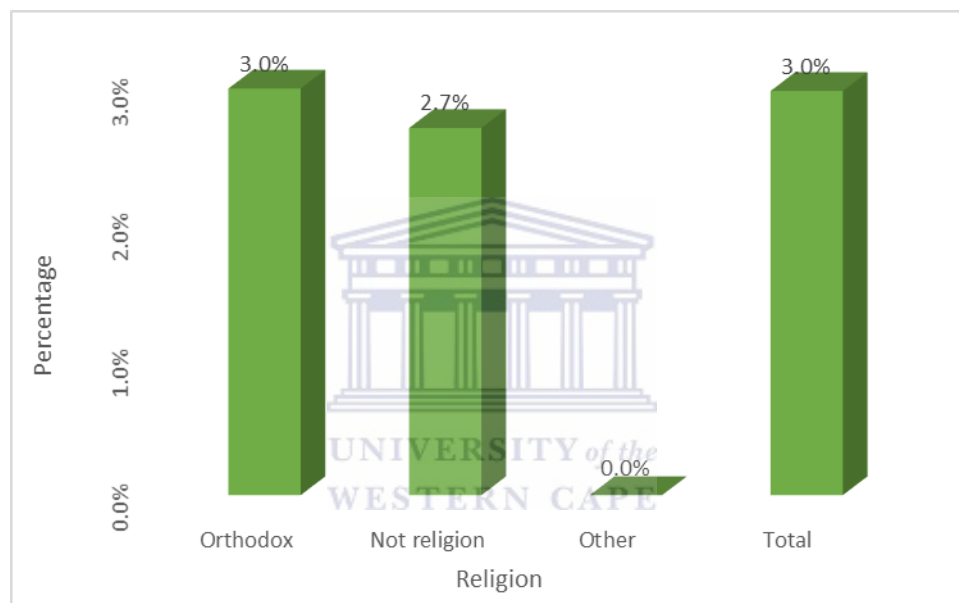


Figure 4.30: Distribution of sexual abuse on women by religion in Moldova

The graph above investigates whether being a member of a specific religion has an impact on sexual violence at home. From the reports of sexual abuse, 3 percent of orthodox female believers in union reported sexual violence while 2.7 percent of the non-believers reported being sexually abused by an intimate partner. As their proportions are on equal degrees, religion does not affect sexual violence in Moldova.

4.2.5.2.2.5 Prevalence of sexual violence by ethnicity in Moldova

Findings show that there is no great variation on sexual violence reports. Regarding the relationship, ethnicity does not influence on sexual violence.

4.2.5.2.2.6 Prevalence of sexual abuse by women's employment status in Moldova

The graph above indicates reports of women living in union who have reported sexual violence and those who do not report sexual violence from their partners. In terms of employment status, 2.6 percent of unemployed women have experienced sexual abuse while the percentage is 3.3 for active female. The employment status does not affect the occurrence of sexual acts inside the couple.

4.2.5.2.2.7 Prevalence of sexual violence by the women's total children ever born, the daughters at home, the sons at home and the number of living children

The table below provides the data for women living in union who have not reported being sexually abused and those who have experienced sexual violence by their partners according to the children ever born, the sons at home, the daughters at home and the number of living children. To investigate whether there is an association between the children ever born from a woman with emotional violence, the explored data suggest that there is a difference amongst the total children ever mean rank of women who have reported sexual violence and those who did not report sexual violence. Moreover, with a statistical significance $P_v = 0.000$, the variable children ever born appear to be a contributing factor for sexual violence in Moldova.

The mean rank in sons at home and for the number of living children show a great difference in proportion for sexually abused women and not abused women. Also, both have a statistically significant probability value and one can conclude that the presence of daughters at home and the number of living children are determining factors for sexual violence.

On the other side, when looking at the influence of sons at home and sexual violence occurrence, one can say that the variable sons at home does not influence at all on sexual violence.

Table 4.15: Mann-Whitney test results exploring association between sexual violence and demographic variables in Moldova

Demographics variables	Types of responses	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P_v
Total children ever born	No	3738	1918.88	0.001
	Yes	120	2260.36	
Sons at home	No	3738	1921.66	0.008
	Yes	120	2173.68	
Daughters at home	No	3738	1923.91	0.057
	Yes	120	2103.63	
Number of living children	No	3738	1918.51	0.000
	Yes	120	2271.78	
Total		3858		

4.2.5.2.3 Bivariate analysis of socio-economic and demographic variables and emotional violence in Moldova

4.2 percent of the female Moldovan population are victims of emotional violence.

4.2.5.2.3.1 Prevalence of emotional violence by age group

An estimated 14.3 percent of women between the ages of 15-19 are reported to have experienced domestic emotional violence in Moldova. For women aged 20-24, about 11 percent were reported, while it reached values of 16.9 percent of women aged 25- 29. Around 24 percent of women in the age 35-49 experienced sexual violence in the household in Moldova. On the other hand, 18.2 percent of women aged 30-34 and 22 percent of women aged 40- 44 have suffered from violence. Because there is a strong and significant relationship between emotional violence and the level of education, the latter is a factor contributing to emotional violence.

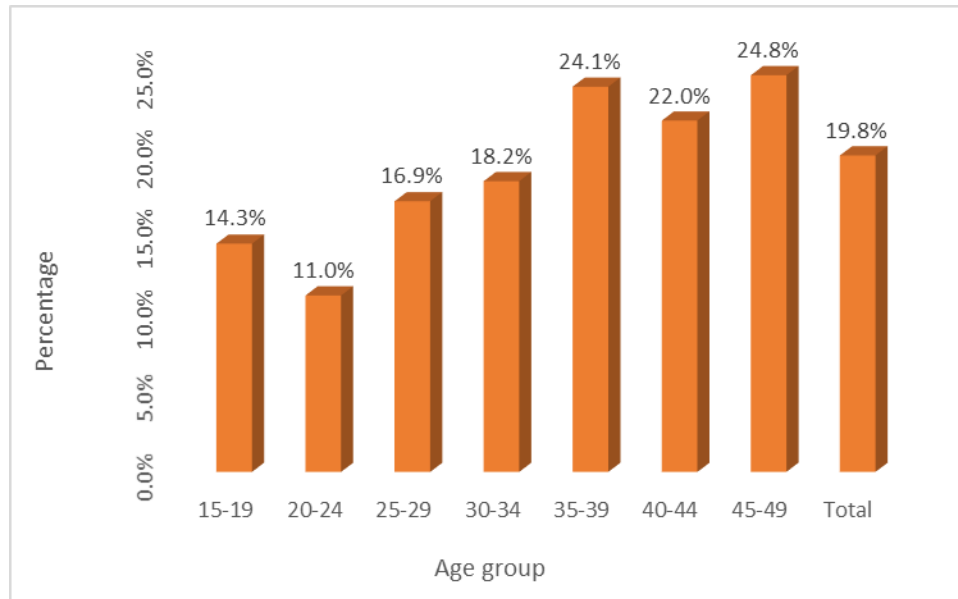


Figure 4.31: Distribution of emotional abuse on women by age group in Moldova

4.2.5.2.3.2 Prevalence of emotional violence by the place of residence

21.6 percent of rural women have experienced some form of emotional violence while in urban regions, the prevalence is 17.1 percent. The types of place of residence affect emotional violence amongst Moldovan families.

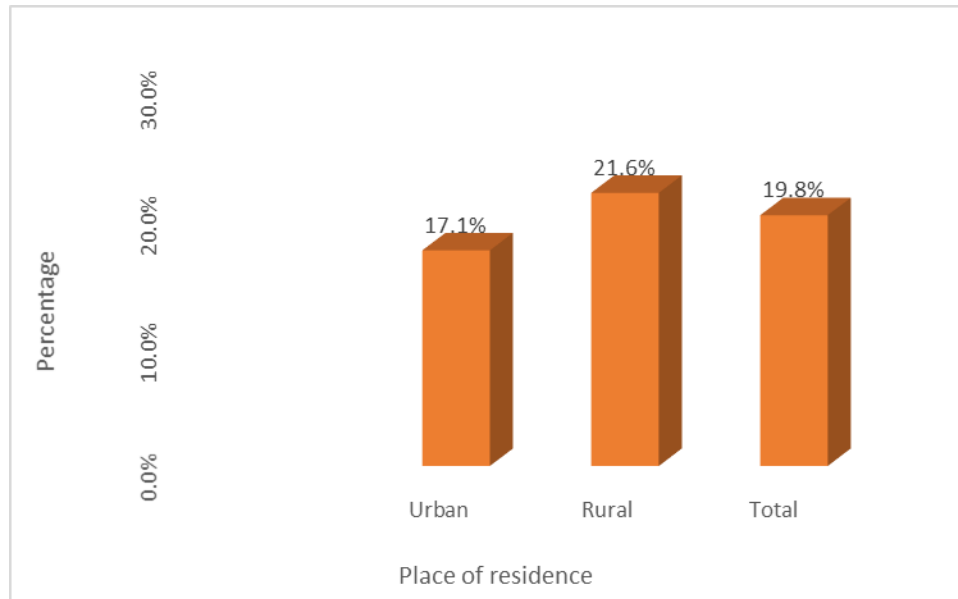


Figure 4.32: Distribution of emotional abuse on women by place of residence in Moldova

4.2.5.2.3.3 Prevalence of emotional violence by the level of education

The lowest level of emotional violence (11.1 percent) was found in the group of women who have never attended school. Violence on women who did primary school reached 33.3 percent while the proportion was 21.2 percent for women with secondary background. The prevalence of emotional violence reduced with increase in the level of education to 9.2 percent. There is a great association of women educational level and emotional violence in Moldova. Therefore, education is a factor associated to emotional violence.

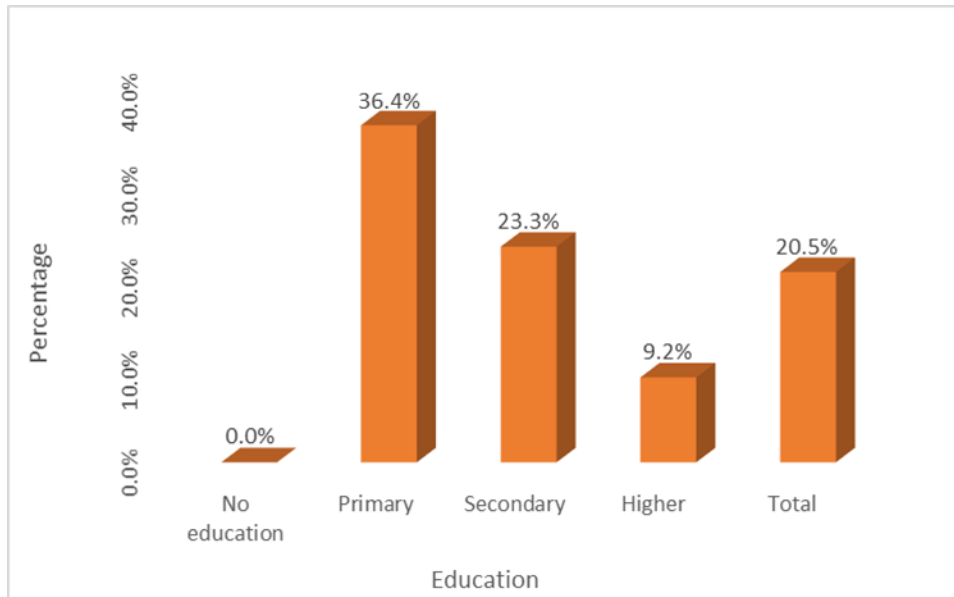


Figure 4.33: Distribution of emotional abuse on women by education in Moldova

4.2.5.2.3.4 Prevalence of emotional violence by religion

Despite existing variations on patterns across the type of religion, the latter does not a leading factor of emotional abuse. In fact, the proportion of emotionally abused women ranges from 15.8 percent to 20.6 percent amongst Orthodox females believers. With a $P_v > 0.05$, there is no significant relationship between a Moldovan women religion and emotional abuse.

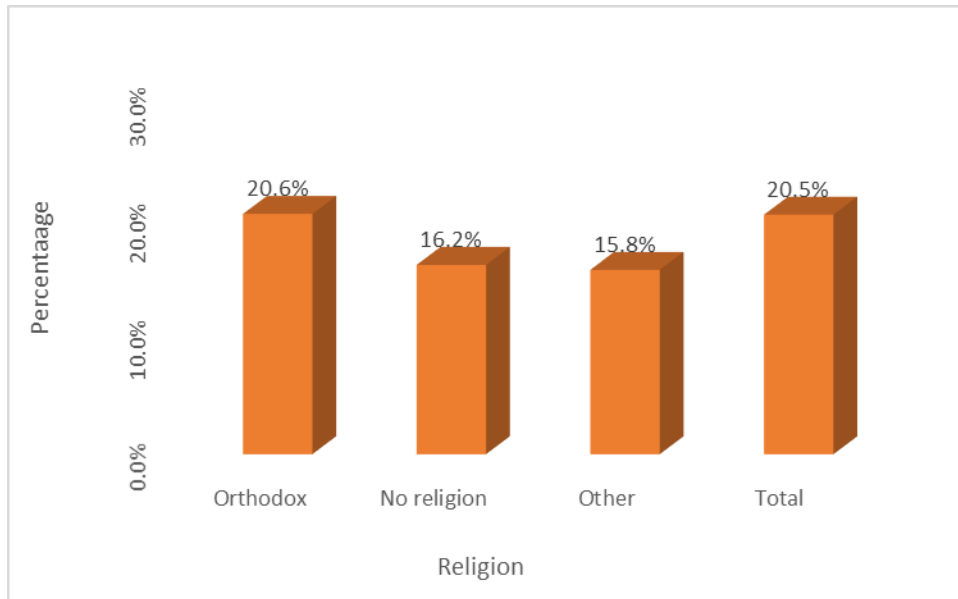


Figure 4.34: Distribution of emotional abuse on women by religion in Moldova

4.2.5.2.3.5 Prevalence of emotional violence by ethnicity

With a probability value $P_v = 0.001 < 0.05$) and unequal percentages amongst diverse population group, ethnicity might be considered as a factor that put women at risk of violence in Moldova.

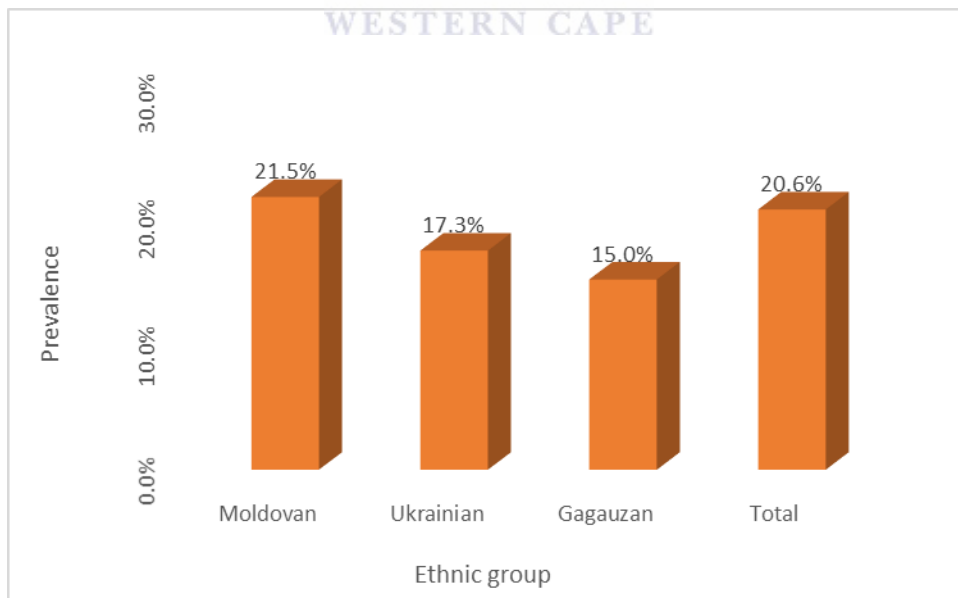


Figure 4.35: Distribution of emotional abuse on women by ethnicity in Moldova

4.2.5.2.3.6 Prevalence of emotional abuse by employment status

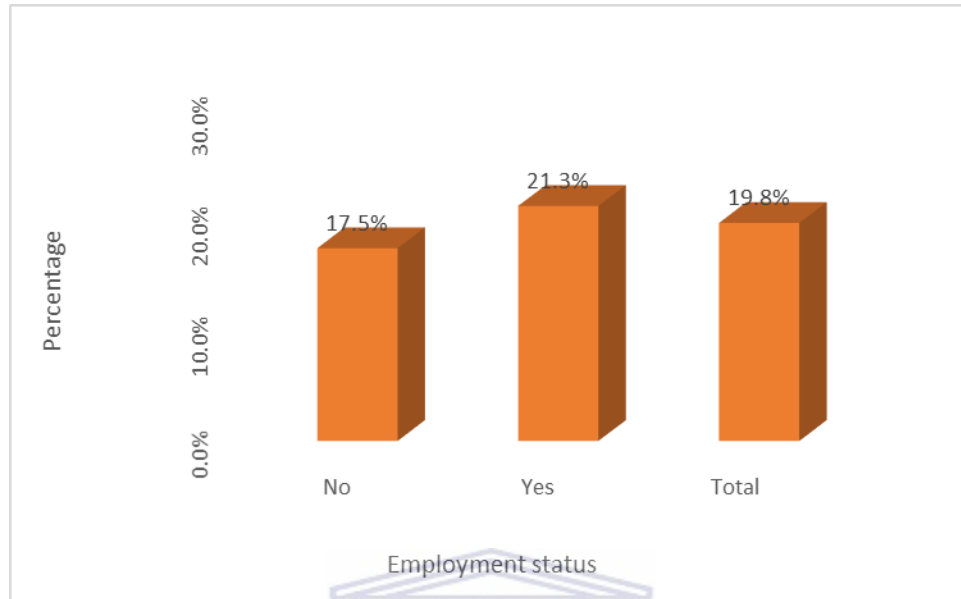


Figure 4.36: Distribution of emotional abuse on women by employment status in Moldova

The graph above shows that about 17.5 percent of unemployed women were exposed to emotional while the prevalence was 21.3 percent for women in the labour market. With $P_v = 0.04 < 0.05$), employment status impacts men's attitudes towards emotional violence.

4.2.5.2.3.7 Bivariate analysis of emotional abuse with the total children ever born, the sons at home, the daughters at home and the number of living children in Moldova

Children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children are contributing factors for emotional violence in Moldova.

There is a great difference between the mean rank of emotionally abused women in the union and women who do not report emotional violence according to all the variables (children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children).

Table 4.16: Mann-Whitney test results showing association between emotional violence and demographic variables in Moldova

Demographic variables	Types of response	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P _v
Total children ever born	No	3105	1875.01	0.000
	Yes	754	2156.45	
Sons at home	No	3105	1912.26	0.029
	Yes	754	2003.07	
Daughters at home	No	3105	1899.46	0.000
	Yes	754	2055.76	
Number of living children	No	3105	1878.86	0.000
	Yes	754	2140.6	
Total		3859		

This study attempts also to look at the magnitude of domestic violence in Nepal.

4.2.6 Women abuse in Nepal

Women abuse is a burning issue in Nepal and is at the heart of government and populace concerns (Dhakal, 2008). The Nepalese government through DHS has conducted a survey in 2011 to find out the prevalence of domestic couples in the household. Unlike in other selected countries where the sample was constituted of married women and women cohabiting with a partner, Nepal has considered only 3084 married women as respondents.

4.2.6.1 Prevalence of domestic violence in Nepal

Using the latest DHS of Nepal, analysis was done to determine the extent of intimate abuse of women in Nepal. Nepalese women reported acts of abuse by their intimate partners. On the whole, an estimated 23 percent of women have experienced physical violence in Nepal. Amongst women who underwent physical abuse, 22.7 percent of them reported physical violence are less severe while 9.8 percent are really harmful. Reports from the Nepal DHS show that 14 percent of women have experienced sexual acts of abuse while 15.8 percent of women in union have reported emotional violence in their home. At least 31.1 percent of women in Nepal have reported any act of violence in the household.

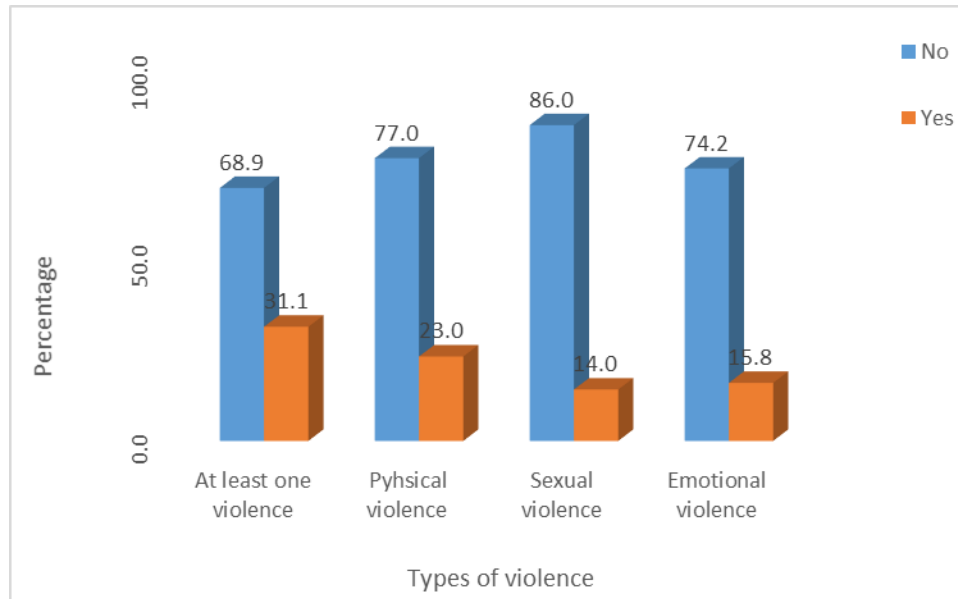


Figure 4.37: Proportion of women in union who have ever experienced domestic violence in Nepal

4.2.6.2 Bivariate analysis of domestic violence in Nepal

Analysis were done for physical, sexual and emotional abuse

4.2.6.2.1 Bivariate analysis of physical, sexual and emotional abuse by women's socio-economic and demographic factors in Nepal

4.2.6.2.1.1 Bivariate analysis of spousal abuse by age group in Nepal

About 16.2 percent of women aged 15-19 were physically assaulted by an intimate partner in the family. In the age group of 20-35, the proportion varies between 20 and 24 percent. 28.3 percent of women aged 45-49 suffered from physical acts of abuse from their partners, husbands and 26.4 percent was found in the age of 40-44. In Nepal, the age of women is a risk factor of exposure to physical violence ($P_v = 0.006 > 0.05$).

Between 11.6 and 12.7 percent of women ages 15-29 are sexually abused in Nepal. Sexual abuse ranges from 14.2 percent to 16.2 for women ages 30-49. With a ($P_v = 0.266 > 0.05$), there is no statistically significant association between women's age group and sexual violence. Consequently, the women age group is not a contributing factor for sexual violence in Nepal.

The women age group is not a contributing factor for emotional violence even if there is a slight variation in the proportions. Indeed, the extent of emotional abused varies between 10 percent for the youngest age group (15-19) and 18.9 percent for women in union and aged 35-39.

4.2.6.2.1.2 Bivariate analysis of spousal abuse by the place of residence in Nepal

Around 20.5 percent of urban provinces have experienced physical violence while the percentage was 23.7 percent for female living in rural regions. Variations in place of residence are almost on an equal level in Nepal. With a probability value greater than 0.05 ($P_v = 0.068$), there is no significant relationship between Nepal and the place of residence.

In the table below, the proportion of 12 percent represents women living in urban provinces who are victims of any type of sexual acts in the relationship. On the other end, the value of 14.7 percent was found for women living in rural areas. ($P_v = 0.083 > 0.05$) has revealed a weak relationship between sexual abuse and the location and at this stage, one can conclude that the place of residence has no effect on sexual violence.

The prevalence of emotional violence across urban and rural provinces are almost equal. The place of residence does not affect emotional violence when looking at the relationship between the two

4.2.6.2.1.3 Bivariate analysis of spousal abuse by the level of education in Nepal

To explore the relationship between the level of education attained and physical violence in Nepal, bivariate analysis was conducted using the Nepalese DHS survey. Findings showed that across the Nepalese women population, 31.3 percent of women with no education have experienced physical violence while 19.5 percent of women with primary background have experienced physical abuse. For women who went to secondary schools, the percentage is 14.4 and a lower percentage (7.2 percent) was found amongst female with a higher educational level. There is a statistical significant in relationship of physical violence and educational attainment. $P_v = 0.000$ and also variations are visible across the different level of education. Therefore, one can conclude that the level of educational attainment contributes to physical violence.

Findings also suggest that sexual violence in the household decreases with higher educational standards. That is, the more a woman advances in her educational levels, the less she is likely to be sexually assaulted by her intimate partner. As illustrated in Nepal, the proportion of sexual abuse of women in union varies between 10.1 percent for higher educated women and 17.6 percent

for women with no formal education. 10.3 percent of women with a secondary background have experienced some form of sexual abuse from a partner.

The proportion is 11.3 percent for women who did primary school. There is a variation in patterns of sexual violence percentages. The $P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$) indicates a statistical significance between the level of education and sexual abuse. In conclusion, the level of educational attainment influences sexual violence.

This study also investigated the impact of the level of education on emotional violence. There are variations in proportions across the levels of women's background education. The percentage of emotionally abused women who have attended school ranges from 9.8 percent (women who did secondary school) to 19.7 percent for women having no education. In Nepal, education is a contributing factor for emotional violence.

4.2.6.2.1.4 Bivariate analysis of domestic abuse by religious affiliation in Nepal

Religion is central to the Nepalese population. Overall, major religious groups in Nepal are Hindus, Buddhists, Muslims and Kirat. Muslims Nepalese women are more affected by physical violence in the household as the proportion of this religious community reaches 49.5 percent. 22 per cent of Hindu believers have reported acts of physical abuse in the household while the proportion of physical violence is 25 percent for Kirat women believers and 17.8 for Buddhists women. These proportions show variations in the level of physical violence in Nepal. Further, the $P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$); shows that religion plays a significant role in the household and affects male behaviours of the men regarding physical violence.

The table below presents the proportions of women in union sexually abused regarding their religious belief. The majority of sexual abuse was reported by Muslims (24.7 percent). It is followed by Hindu women with 13.8 percent, then by Kirat female believers (11.1 percent). Around 10.8 percent of Buddhist religion has reported sexual violence in Nepal. The proportions of sexual violence across religion are unequal and the $P_v = 0.007 < 0.05$ indicate a strong relationship between the two variables. Therefore, one can conclude that religion is a contributing factor for sexual violence in Nepal.

The proportions of females who have reported emotional violence are not on equal degrees. In fact, there is 23.2 percent for Muslims and over 15 percent for the other religious groups. Religion

is a determining factor for emotional violence. Patterns of sexual violence percentages. The probability value $P_v = 0.000 < 0.05$) indicates a statistical significance between the level of education and sexual abuse. In conclusion, the level of educational attainment influences sexual violence.

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4.2.6.2.1.5 Bivariate analysis of spousal abuse by ethnicity in Nepal

Ethnic diversity is one of the specific features that define Nepalese culture. In fact, for centuries, there has been a wide range of tribes and casts amongst the Nepalese population. So, in Nepal Hill Brahmin, Dalits, Newar, Hill Chhetri, Hill Janajati and Muslims are some casts. Despite these differences, they form a common community in which they live together every day.

The effect of ethnicity on physical violence was also investigated in this study. Referring to the Nepal DHS of 2011, the different ethnic cast population were grouped into some major groups as followed: Hill Brahmin, Newar, Muslims and other. The results of the analysis indicated that 20.7 percent of women in the union among Hill Brahmin members have reported physical abuse in the family. Also, the highest prevalence of 56.4 percent was reported by Muslims women while almost 24 percent of Newar women have experienced physical violence. These proportions show that

there is a variation across the different ethnic groups. Hence, ethnicity is a contributing factor for physical violence.

There are great variations in the patterns of sexual violence across the different ethnic populations. Indeed, the proportion of ethnicity varies between 13.6 percent and 25.5 percent across the diverse groups. Consequently, ethnicity appears to be a factor that affects sexual violence.

Findings using the probability value ($P_v = 0.2 > 0.05$) show no statistical significance in the association of ethnicity with emotional abuse and enable us to conclude that religion does not influence emotional violence.

4.2.6.2.1.6 Bivariate analysis of spousal abuse by employment status in Nepal

The prevalence of domestic violence among women who do not work and is estimated at 22.4 percent while an almost similar value was recorded (23.3 percent) amongst active women in the labour market. There is no significant statistical ($P_v = 0.573 > 0.05$) relationship between physical violence and women's employment status. So, women's employment status does not influence physical violence in Nepal.

There is no difference in proportions amongst working and unemployed females who have experienced sexual violence in Nepal. Basically, 14.6 percent of employed women have reported sexual violence and 14.6 percent of sexually abused females are not working. Results of the analysis indicate that the women's employment status is not a contributing factor for sexual violence in Nepal.

About 14.6 percent of unemployed women have reported emotional violence in the household while the proportion is 16.5 percent for women who are working. The probability value ($P_v = 0.18; > 0.05$) has indicated that there is no statistical significance in the relationship between employment status and emotional violence. Therefore, one can conclude that women's employment status does not influence emotional violence.

Table 4.17: Women in union who have experienced physical, sexual and emotional abuse by background characteristics in Nepal

NEPAL	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Emotional violence
Age (%)			
15-19	16.2	11.6	10
20-24	20.1	12.2	14.8
25-29	22.1	12.7	15.5
30-34	24	16.2	15.4
35-39	24.5	15	18.9
40-44	26.4	15.5	18.4
45-49	28.3	15.8	16.1
Total	23	14	15.8
P value	0.006	0.266	0.059
Place of residence (%)			
Urban	20.5	12	16.9
Rural	23.7	14.7	15.5
Total	23	14	15.8
P value	0.076	0.083	0.398
Educational level (%)			
No education	31.3	17.6	19.7
Primary	19.5	11.3	15.8
Secondary	14.4	10.3	9.8
Higher	7.2	10.1	11.6
Total	23	14	15.8
P value	0.000	0.000	0.000
Religion (%)			
Hindu	22	13.8	15.7
Buddhist	17.8	10.8	12
Muslim	49.3	24.7	24.7
Kirat	25	11.1	16.2
Total	23	14	15.8
P value	0.000	0.001	0.009
Ethnicity (%)			
Hill Brahmin	20.7	13.7	15.4
Newar	24.2	13.6	15.9
Muslim	56.4	25.5	23.2
Total	23	14	15.8
P value	0.000	0.011	0.2
Employment status (%)			
Unemployed	22.4	12.9	14.6
Employed	23.3	14.6	16.5
Total	23	14	15.8
P value	0.573	0.193	0.18

4.2.6.2.2.7. Bivariate analysis of spousal abuse by the total children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of living children

The table below presents the results obtained after investigating the association between the children ever born, the presence of sons and daughters at home and the number of living children with physical violence. Along these four variables, there is a difference in the mean rank of women who have reported physical violence and those who have not reported physical violence. Bivariate results show that children ever born are a determining factor as to whether physical violence takes place or not. Similarly, the presence of sons and daughters at home are revealed as factors that expose Nepalese women to physical violence. In Nepal the number of living children is a major risk leading to physical violence.

The mean rank in daughters at home and for the number of living children shows a great difference in proportion for emotionally abused women and not abused women. Also, both have a statistically significant probability value and enable us to conclude that the presence of daughters at home and the number of living children are determining factors for emotional violence.

On the other hand, when looking at the influence of the presence of sons at home and emotionally violent occurrence, one can say that the variable sons at home does not influence at all on emotional violence.

The table below provides a general overview of the extent of relationship between sexual violence amongst married women regarding the children ever born, the number of living children, the presence of sons and daughters at home.

From this table, all the mean rank of the concerned variable for women in union who reported sexual violence differs greatly from the mean rank of women who did not disclose any sexual abuse. Also, the probability values of all the four variables are $<.05$ and this shows that the children ever born, the sons and daughters at home and the number of living children are factors that contribute to sexual violence in Nepal.

Table 4.18: Mann-Whitney test results showing association between domestic violence and demographic variables in Nepal

Types of violence	Variables	Number of respondents	N	Mean rank	P _v
Physical violence	Total children ever born	No	2370	1461.02	
		Yes	710	1805.8	0.000
	Sons at home	No	2370	1501.99	
		Yes	710	1669.04	0.000
	Daughters at home	No	2370	1505.54	
		Yes	710	1657.2	0.000
	Number of living children	No	2370	1469.44	
Yes		710	1777.7	0.000	
	Total		3080		
Sexual violence	Total children ever born	No	2658	1507.6	
		Yes	422	1747.7	0.000
	Sons at home	No	2658	1521.24	
		Yes	422	1661.38	0.001
	Daughters at home	No	2658	1527.66	
		Yes	422	1621.38	0.032
	Number of living children	No	2658	1508.95	
Yes		422	1739.22	0.000	
	Total		3080		
Emotional violence	Total children ever born	17	2612	1505.4	
		Yes	468	1736.42	0.000
	Sons at home	No	2612	1532.56	
		Yes	468	1584.81	0.214
	Daughters at home	No	2612	1516.85	
		Yes	468	1672.5	0.000
	Number of living children	No	2612	1505.72	
Yes		468	1734.63	0.000	
	Total		3080		

Domestic violence is a plague in Nepal and strategies have to be taken to solve this issue. The analysis of the extent of intimate partner violence was also investigated in Philippines.

4.2.7 Distribution of domestic violence in Philippines

As in the world, a study done by Monares (1997) affirms that domestic violence has no consideration for social classes. In previous studies (Guerrero *et al.*, 2009), 60 percent of women are beaten in their homes. During the past decades attention has been given to the perception and knowledge on of domestic violence in the Philippines (Llagan, 2010).

4.2.7.1 Prevalence of domestic violence in Philippines

In order to collect information on the prevalence of the different types of domestic violence in the Philippines, the 2008 Philippines NDHS introduced the domestic violence module for the first time in the Philippines through the women safety module. Out of the 6522 women who participated in the questionnaire, 5336 are married and 1185 are in non-legalized relationship. 12.6 percent of women in the Philippines are victims experience low physical violence while 4.3 are totally and severely assaulted in their homes. In overall, 13.4 percent of women experienced any type of physical violence in Philippines families. The proportion of sexual abuse accounts for 6.5 percent and 22.4 percent of Philippian women in union are psychologically abused. 27.2 percent of Philippians women have reported to have experienced at least on type of intimate abuse in the household.

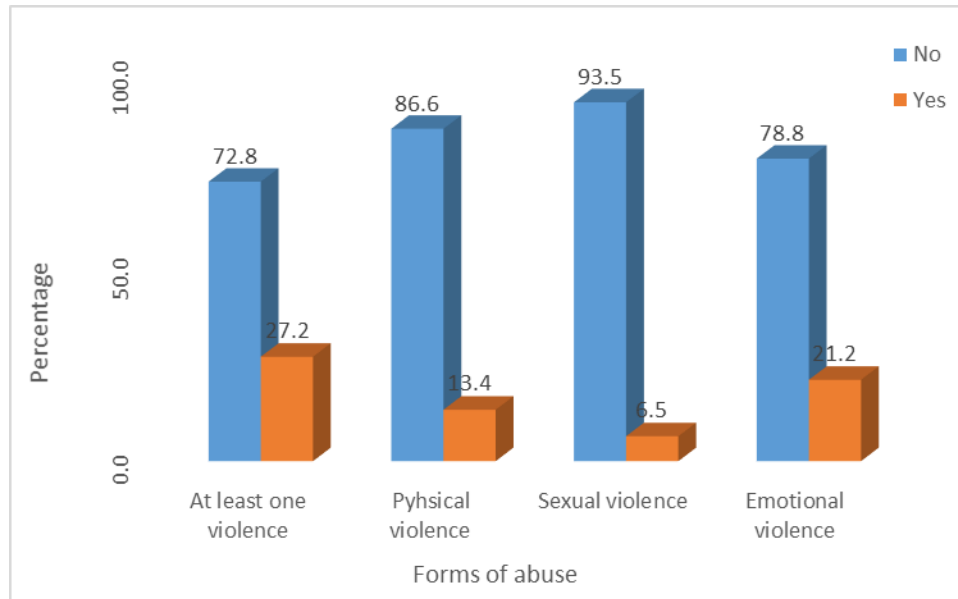


Figure 4.38: Percent distribution of women in union who have experienced domestic violence in Philippines

4.2.7.2 Cross tabulation for Philippines

The table below presents general table of socio-economic and demographic violence and the cross tabulation by domestic violence.

4.2.7.2.1 Bivariate analysis of domestic violence with socio-economic and demographic factors

Results were indicated in the table below.

4.2.7.2.1.1 By age group across the types of violence

Around 16 percent of women aged 15 to 19 are victims of physical violence. The proportion is 14.3 percent for women aged 20 to 29. It is also comprised between 11.9 and 13.2 for women aged 30-49. The P value being greater than .05 showed the non-significant relationship between physical violence and age group. Therefore, these findings suggest that the age of women in union does not contribute to physical violence.

About 5.7 percent of women aged 20 to 24 experienced sexual violence. For the other age groups, the proportion of sexual abuse varies between 6 percent and over 7 percent. With a P value > .05, and with a slight variation in physical proportion across all the age groups, the women age group

does not justify attitudes of men who perpetuate sexual abuse on behalf of their wives and 22.4 percent and more of women aged 15 to 24 are exposed to emotional violence.

The proportion of emotional abuse varies between 19 and 21.2 percent for women 25 to 49 in the Philippines. With a $P = .73$ ($P > .05$), there is no significant relationship between emotional violence and women age group. This means that in the Philippines, men are still violent in the household regardless of the age of their partner in the Philippines.



Table 4.19: Women in union who have experienced physical, sexual and emotional abuse by background characteristics in Philippines

Variables names	Physical violence	Sexual violence	Emotional violence
Age (%)			
15-19	16.1	7.8	22.4
20-24	14.3	5.7	23.2
25-29	14.3	6.4	21.8
30-34	13.2	6.6	21
35-39	12.2	7.4	19.9
40-44	13.9	6.2	20.6
45-49	11.9	6.1	21.3
Total	13.4	6.5	21.2
P value	0.431	0.782	0.73
Place of residence (%)			
Urban	13.4	5.5	20.3
Rural	13.3	7.7	22.3
Total	13.4	6.5	21.2
P value	0.882	0.000	0.053
Educational level (%)			
No education	10.4	9.5	13.5
Primary	17.2	8.6	24.4
Secondary	14.9	7	23.5
Higher	8.1	3.9	15.6
Total	13.4	6.5	21.2
P value	0.000	0.000	0.000
Religion (%)			
Catholic	13.7	6.5	21.9
Iglesia na Christo	12.9	5.4	21.7
Islam	7.4	7.3	10.2
None	28.6	28.6	50
Total	13.4	6.5	21.2
P value	0.004	0.088	0.000
Ethnicity (%)			
Tagalog	13.7	6.3	22.1
Bicalano	11.7	5.9	19.5
Antiqueno	11.4	7.9	16.3
Other	15.6	8.6	23.1
Total	13.4	6.5	21.2
P value	0.081	0.122	0.003
Employment status (%)			
Unemployed	13	6.5	20.6
Employed	13.8	6.6	21.9
Total	13.4	6.5	21.2
P value	0.338	0.913	0.186

4.2.7.2.1.2 By the type of place of residence

The combined prevalence of physically abused women in urban and rural regions of the Philippines is almost the same (13percent). The Chi square test conducted shows that there is no relationship between physical violence and the place of residence.

About 5.5 percent of women in union living in urban provinces experienced sexual violence while 7.7 female of urban regions are also victims of sexual abuse. The location has a significant relationship ($P < .05$) with sexual violence and could be considered a contributing factor for sexual violence in the Philippines.

The table above indicates where couples reside might influence sexual violence in the household. Around 20 percent of women living in urban areas suffered from psychological abuse and in rural regions, the proportion reached 22.3 percent. The level of significance $P = 0.053$ ($P > .05$) showed there is no high relationship between emotional violence and the place of residence. Therefore, one can conclude that the place of residence does not contribute to sexual violence

4.2.7.2.1.3 By the level of education

In the Philippines, experience of physical violence varies with the level of the women's education. Around 10 percent of women without education are beaten by their husband or partner in the Philippines. The prevalence of physical violence on women with a primary educational level is 17.2 percent while it is 14.9 percent for women who attended secondary school. Lastly, 8.1 percent of women with a higher level of education are victims of physical violence. There is a strong association of physical violence with the level of education in the Philippines. Educational attainment appears to be a determining factor for physical violence.

About 9.5 percent of uneducated women disclosed acts of sexual violence in the household while 8.6 percent with a primary educational background are also sexually abused. Around 3 percent of women who attained a high school encountered some type of sexual abuse while the proportion is 7 percent for women with a secondary school educational. Results of the analysis show a significant association ($P < .05$) between sexual violence and the level of education. The latter contributes to the sexual violence occurrence in the family.

To investigate the effect of emotional violence on the level of educational attainment, analysis reveals that the proportions amongst different level are not equal. In fact, the proportion of emotionally abused women varies between 13.5 percent and 24.4 percent. Also the probability value reveals a significant relationship between levels of education and emotional violence. Therefore, one can say that educational standards plays a role in abating emotional violence in the Philippines.

4.2.7.2.1.4 By the religious affiliation

Grouped into Christians, Muslims, no religion and Iglesia na Christo believers, except for sexual violence, the probabilities show significant relationship between the dependent variable and women' religion. Thus, religion is a determining factor that influence physical and emotional violence amongst the Philippines population.

4.2.7.2.1.5 By ethnicity

Philippines has a wide range of ethnic population. For the purpose of the study, ethnicity were regrouped into four categories: Tagalog, Bicalano, Antiqueno and the others. Analysis was done to investigate the impact of ethnicity on domestic violence in the Philippines. As a result, there are little variations in proportions of violence across all the ethnic groups. Ethnicity is a factor that contributes to emotional violence and not to physical and sexual violence.

4.2.7.2.1.6 By the women employment status

The prevalence of active and unemployed women is almost the same in rural and urban regions of the Philippines for the physical (around 13 percent) and emotional (over 20 percent) violence. And the women employment status is not a predictor of both types of violence in the Philippines ($P > .05$).

Around 6.5 percent is the proportion of sexual abuse for women living in rural and urban regions and with $P > .05$, the women employment status is not a factor risk of sexual violence in the Philippines.

In Philippines male violence towards their female partner is not influenced by the employment status of women.

4.2.7.2.21.7 Cross tabulation of the total children ever born, the sons at home, the daughters at home and the number of living children

Using Mann-Whitney U, analysis to investigate the effect of the children ever born, the presence of sons and daughters in the household as well as the number of living children a woman ever had on domestic violence. The table below reveals that with children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the number of children a woman ever had are factors which exposed women in union to physical violence.

Overall, with $P_v < 0.05$ for all the variables across sexual violence, there is a difference in mean rank of women who reported sexual violence and those who do not experience sexual abuse, one can conclude that the children ever born, the sons at home, the daughters at home and the number of living children are contributing factors for sexual violence in the Philippines.

The relationship of the number of children with emotional violence shows that the former does not influence the latter. On the other hand, the children ever born, the presence of sons and daughters at home do effect of acts of emotional abuse in the family.

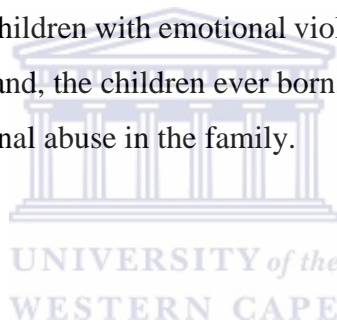


Table 4.20: Mann-Whitney test results showing association between domestic violence and demographic variables in Philippines

Types of violence	Variables	Sample	Number of respondents	Mean rank	P _v
Physical violence	Total children ever born	No	5938	3360.33	
		Yes	915	3859.69	0.000
	Sons at home	No	5938	3383.95	
		Yes	915	3706.4	0.000
	Daughters at home	No	5938	3392	
		Yes	915	3654.16	0.000
	Number of living children	No	5938	3361.23	
Yes		915	3853.83	0.000	
	Total		6853		
Sexual violence	Total children ever born	No	6385	3391.48	
		Yes	470	3924.19	0.000
	Sons at home	No	6385	3395.8	
		Yes	470	3865.38	0.000
	Daughters at home	No	6385	3410.78	
		Yes	470	3661.93	0.005
	Number of living children	No	6385	3393.77	
Yes		470	3893.04	0.000	
	Total		6855		
Emotional violence	Total children ever born	No	5357	3387.4	
		Yes	1498	3573.2	0.001
	Sons at home	No	5357	3397.79	
		Yes	1498	3536.05	0.013
	Daughters at home	No	5357	3424.28	
		Yes	1498	3441.29	0.757
	Number of living children	No	5357	3390.87	
Yes		1498	3560.78	0.003	
	Total		6855		

4.3 Comparison of women abuse across the countries under investigation

The prevalence of domestic violence amongst women of reproductive aged in union are unequally recorded across countries. Also, socio-economics and demographic factors associated with spousal violence were examined.

4.3.1 Overall prevalence of domestic violence across countries

The graph below presents the proportion of ever married and cohabiting women who have reported the different types of violence perpetrated by their husband or partner in all the countries. The prevalence of domestic violence varies across the countries under the study and by type of abuse. Also the same figure shows the prevalence of all women in union who have experienced at least one type and other forms of violence in the family.

In fact, Haiti, a country in the Caribbean region registered the lowest rate of violence with 23.7 percent of abused women. However, with more than half of women (56.6 percent) having reported at least one type of violence, Cameroon accounts for the highest in terms of domestic violence. Rates of violence in other countries range from 48.4 percent in Liberia, 31.1 percent in Nepal and 28.1 percent in the Republic of Moldova. The proportions of women in union who have ever experienced at least physical, sexual or emotional violence in Ghana was estimated at 37.1 percent. Information on the prevalence of domestic violence by an intimate partner in the Philippines revealed that at least 27.2 percent of Filipinos females have reported some type of violence in the family.

Rates of physical violence amongst intimate partner in union show a picture from one country to another. With the highest rate of physical violence at 43.2 percent in Cameroon, 33.2 percent in Liberia, 23 percent in Nepal, 20.6 percent in Moldova and lowest rates of 18.5 percent in Ghana, 13.4 percent and 14.4 percent in Philippines and Haiti. Cameroon tops the other countries under investigation whereas the lowest rates were found in the Philippines and Haiti.

Women of the age group 15 to 49 who were asked whether they have ever been coerced for sex by their intimate partner in the household across countries reveal varying results. In the figure below, around 14 percent of women in Cameroon and Nepal have been sexually abused by an intimate partner compared to 9 percent to 10 percent in Liberia and Haiti. Sexual violence on married and cohabiting women is least prevalent in Moldova since only 3 percent of women in

union have reported coerced sex. Also, rates of sexual violence vary similarly in the Philippines (6.5 percent) and Ghana (5.6 percent). When looking at the prevalence of sexual violence across the selected countries, once again, the country with a higher rate is Cameroon (14.5 percent) is closely followed by Nepal with 14 percent.

As a part of the domestic violence module, the prevalence of emotionally abused women in union the seven countries under investigation was identified. Women's emotional violence ranges from 15 percent to 39 percent with the lowest percentage recoded in Nepal and Haiti with almost 16 percent. With 39.8 percent, emotional violence is a genuine and a major concern in Cameroon. Also, around 35 percent of Liberian women experienced emotional violence while the percentage is 31.7 in Ghana.

Overall, the average mean of women in union aged 15-49 who have ever experienced at least one type of domestic violence across the sites is 33.37 percent. As indicated by the UNFPA regarding the prevalence of domestic violence by a woman in her lifetime, this enables us to confirm that 30 percent of women over the world experienced intimate female abuse. In conclusion, the findings in the comparative analysis of women of reproductive age group in the seven selected countries with experience of domestic violence by type revealed that violence is widespread in all these developing countries. In sub-Saharan regions, intimate male violence towards their wives and partners women abuse seems to be leading in Cameroon whether it is physical, sexual or emotional. Still, it is noteworthy to point that giving the magnitude of women abuse in Liberia and Ghana, local governments shall put efforts together with the community to tackle the phenomenon of violence.

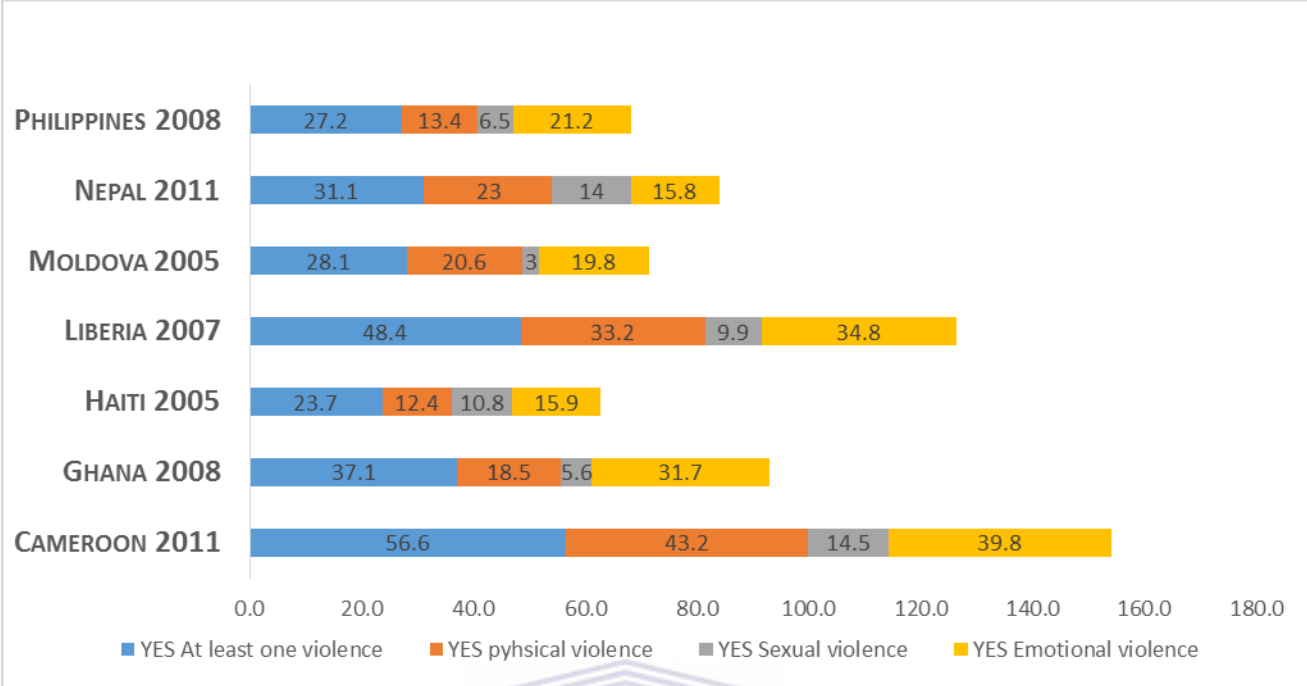


Figure 4.39: Percentage of all women who have reported spousal abuse by type in all the countries

4.3.2 Differential in the prevalence of domestic violence by women’s socio economic and demographic patterns across countries

The variations in the percentage of married women or women having a relationship with an abusive partner were examined through the following socio-economics and demographic variables: age group, education, place of residence, employment situation, religion, ethnicity, total children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and number of children ever born.

4.3.2.1 Socio-demographics differential

The table below shows prevalence of women in union within the age group 15 to 49 who have reported any violence by an intimate partner varies across the different age groups. The results of the DHS of all the countries show discrepancies of rate across countries. In essence, apart from Moldova and Nepal where the highest prevalence was found in the older age group (45-49) and Haiti where the more exposed women ranged in the youngest age group 15-19, the rate of domestic abuse is most prevalent between the ages of 20-39. This was the situation in Cameroon where the peak 61.2 percent of women exposed to abuse falls in the age 25-29. However, in Ghana, the proportion of women abused according to age group is more prevalent in the ages between 40 and

44. Moreover, in most countries the rate of women in union who disclose age as a contributing factor to spousal violence contrasts unevenly within the age range. In Haiti, it starts high with 28.1 percent for women 15-19 then along the years, the rate just keeps decreasing. This is contrary to what is noticed in other countries where, the rate first rises, reaches a peak before decreasing or remaining constant.

On overall, although there are some variations in the rate across regions in the selected countries, the place of residence might not be associated with domestic violence in some countries such as Ghana, Haiti and Philippines. But with a statistically significant relationship ($P_v < 0.05$) and highest percentage, results of the current analysis show that women in union living in rural areas are more likely exposed to domestic abuse in Cameroon, Liberia, Moldova and Nepal.

Regardless of the strength of the relationship of IPV with the woman's employment status, the different percentages show that violence do exist across the countries. The correlation between women's work status and domestic violence across the selected countries indicate that in general, women who are active in the labour market are still abused by the husband or partner in the household in some countries. Indeed, the highest rate of abused women was reported by women who currently hold employment. With an exception of Cameroon and Liberia where violence on women is significantly related to the female employment status, the results of other countries after an analysis show that intimate male partner exerting violence on their partner and their violent behaviour is not justified by the victims' working status. The rate of violence on women employment status varies in Cameroon and Liberia. For example, in Cameroon, results of 2011 DHS show that 46 percent of unemployed women are not likely to be exposed to male intimate abuse while the percentage has reached more than 60 percent for female workers. Also, in Liberia, the rate of intimate partner violence on women active in the labour market is 52.3 percent while only 46.2 percent for unemployed women suffer the same fate. Surprisingly, the highest rate of violence was reported by employed women in Cameroon while unemployed women in Liberia are more at risk of spousal abuse. As a matter of fact, there is no wide disparities amongst the percentages of currently employed and inactive women in Ghana, Haiti, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines since both (employed and unemployed women) have almost the same rate of violence in the household.

Analysis was done to indicate the association of domestic violence with woman's educational level indicates that across these countries one can say that, in general, woman's educational attainment is a contributing factor for domestic violence. However, incidence levels differ depending on the educational level attained by the woman. Except in Liberia and Moldova where the lowest rate of violence was reported by women with no education, women with higher educational standards are less likely to report violence in the household. Thus, the percentage of IPV by woman's educational level in Ghana varies between 20 percent (women with a higher education) to 41.4 percent and women who did primary school are the most at risk. In Liberia, it ranges between 46.5 percent (women who never received education) to around 52 percent in secondary school and 50 percent of women who have attended tertiary education reported of being victims to spousal violence. Accordingly, more than one woman in every two among women in union in Moldova and who have attended primary school have reported some types of violence from an intimate partner. Females with higher educational background (17.1 percent) are more likely exposed to violence unlike women without any education where the level is 11 percent. Almost 40 percent of Nepalese married females who never went to school have reported spousal violence while 27.7 percent of women with a primary education revealed having experienced violence in the household. Similarly, for women of secondary school, the magnitude of reported abused is almost 21 percent and it drops for women with a higher education. Therefore, in Nepal, the level of violence decreases with increasing educational level. Women educational attainment impacts significantly on domestic violence in the Philippines. There are variations among rates and the level of education of a woman. Indeed, the highest level of violence was reported by women who had primary school education. It was closely followed by women with a secondary educational background (30.3 percent), then around 20 percent for women with no formal education and women attending tertiary school. It is worthwhile note that there is no difference in rate for women without and with a higher educational level. In Cameroon, the least a woman has gone to school, the least she is likely to report acts of abuse. In effect, 60 percent of women with a secondary level have reported having experienced domestic violence in the household compared to 50.9 percent of women who have no education.

In general, educational attainment across countries varies between 26.1 percent and 60 percent. Except for Cameroon and Nepal, women with a primary education are the most affected and are more likely to be exposed to domestic violence. In Cameroon, the highest proportion (60 percent)

of women having reported at least one type of violence has attained secondary school education whereas in Nepal, the top prevalence was linked to women without education. In all the countries (but not in Liberia), the least level of violence was reported by women with a higher education. This could lead to the assumption that the higher a woman's educational level, is the less likely she is to be abused by her partner or husband in the society. Again, except Liberia, in all other countries, women's educational level plays a significant role on men's violence attitudes. In fact, educational level of a woman is a determining factor for domestic violence in Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines.

The bivariate analysis of religion and domestic violence across countries show that in Cameroon, Haiti, Nepal and Philippines, women's religious affiliation might play a role on their chances of being abused by their partners. The fact that the $P_v < 0.05$ shows significant association between religion and domestic violence prevalence. Therefore, one might conclude that in those related countries, religion is a factor-risk for domestic violence.

Regarding ethnicity, some countries like Haiti and Liberia do not provide information on ethnicity. Then, with $P_v < 0.05$, Cameroon and Nepal are the only countries in the current study which indicated a strong association of ethnicity with domestic violence.

Although the percentage of violence in relation with women's religion and ethnicity do exist within and across regions in the countries, they are not considered as leading factors for domestic violence in some settings.

Table 4.21: Percentage of women in union age 15 to 49 who experienced domestic violence by women's socio-economic and demographic characteristics							
Variables	Cameroon	Ghana	Haiti	Liberia	Moldova	Nepal	Philippines
Current age							
15-19	46.9	34.7	28.1	43.9	21.2	23.6	28.1
20-24	57	35.4	23.6	54.7	19	26.4	30.4
25-29	61.2	38.8	27.6	53.5	23.8	30.6	28.9
30-34	57.3	32.5	21.7	53.4	27.8	33.1	26.9
35-39	57.7	39.7	21.8	46.9	33	34	25.3
40-44	48.6	41.2	21	38.3	29.4	34.5	26
45-49	56.7	35.9	21.9	39.3	33.8	36.5	25.8
P value	0.000	0.498	0.237	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.145
Place of residence							
Urban	55.9	38.4	24	52.4	23.1	30.4	26.1
Rural	57	36.2	23.4	46.3	31.3	31.3	28.4
P value	0.57	0.432	0.789	0.001	0.000	0.7	0.047
Education							
No education	50.9	34.1	25.3	46.5	11.1	39.9	20.8
Primary	58.5	41.4	26.1	51.9	52.4	27.7	31.5
Secondary	60	38.3	19.7	47.4	30.7	20.9	30.3
Higher	47.9	20	8.3	50	17.1	17.9	19.3
P value	0.000	0.009	0.001	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.000
Employment status							
Employed	60.9	37.2	23	46.2	29.2	31.2	27.1
Unemployed	46	35.6	24.2	52.3	26.4	30.8	27.2
P value	0.000	0.744	0.549	0.002	0.068	0.869	0.969

Yellow: Highest prevalence

green: Lowest prevalence

4.3.3 The total children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and number of living children as factors associated to domestic violence across the countries

Table 4.22: Incidence of total children ever born, presence of sons at daughters at home and number of living children on violence by country																					
	Cameroon 2011			Ghana 2008			Haiti 2005			Liberia 2007			Republic of Moldova 2005			Nepal 2011			Philippines 2008		
Experienced domestic violence	Mean rank	Z	P	Mean rank	Z	P	Mean rank	Z	P	Mean rank	Z	P	Mean rank	Z	P	Mean rank	Z	P	Mean rank	Z	P
Total children ever born	1,583.280	-3.0	0.0	723.0	-1.0	0.0	969.0	-2.0	0.0	1551.43	-1.9	0.0	1,834.790	-8.9	0.0	1,449.540	3.0	0.0	334.6	-5.3	0.0
	1,688.190	1.6	0.2	763.0	7.6	0.8	1,039.650	8.0	0.9	1490.89	5.5	0.6	2,177.240	2.5	0.0	1,760.820	0.0	0.0	363.8	7.9	0.0
Sons at home	1,584.680	-3.0	0.0	732.0	-0.0	0.0	973.0	-1.0	0.0	1532.79	-0.7	0.5	1,906.920	-2.2	0.0	1,499.400	4.3	0.0	336.4	-4.2	0.0
	1,687.130	1.9	0.1	747.0	6.7	0.9	1,025.930	8.1	0.7	1509.96	2.2	0.2	1,988.570	1.7	0.0	1,632.940	0.0	0.0	358.3.7	4.4	0.0
Daughters at home	1,604.690	-2.0	0.0	727.0	-1.0	0.0	971.0	-2.0	0.0	1526.5	-0.3	0.8	1,875.250	-5.3	0.0	1,491.090	4.3	0.0	339.5	-2.4	0.0
	1,671.990	1.0	0.3	757.0	3.7	0.1	1,020.0	1.8	0.3	1516.38	5.7	0.2	2,071.400	2.0	0.0	1,651.620	0.0	0.0	351.4	1.1	0.6
Number of living children	1,573.500	-3.0	0.0	727.0	-1.0	0.0	968.0	-2.0	0.0	1553.19	-2.0	0.0	1,839.150	-8.0	0.0	1,453.620	2.2	0.0	335.2	-5.1	0.0
	1,695.590	6.8	0.0	757.0	3.8	0.3	1,042.550	4.7	0.1	1489.1	5.5	0.2	2,165.830	5.0	0.0	1,735.890	0.0	0.0	362.7	9.9	0.0

Table 4.23: Do women’s socio-economic and demographic factors influence on the domestic violence?

	Cameroon	Ghana	Haiti	Liberia	Moldova	Nepal	Philippines
Age group	0.000	0.498	0.237	0.000	0.000	0.001	0.145
Employment status	0.000	0.744	0.549	0.002	0.068	0.869	0.969
Regions	0.57	0.432	0.789	0.001	0.000	0.7	0.047
Education	0.000	0.009	0.001	0.062	0.000	0.000	0.000
Religion	0.000	0.601	0.000	0.153	0.934	0.000	0.001
Ethnicity	0.000	0.206	NA	NA	0.214	0.000	0.081
Total children ever born	0.002	0.078	0.019	0.056	0.000	0.000	0.000
Sons at home	0.001	0.499	0.07	0.452	0.027	0.000	0.000
Daughters at home	0.035	0.171	0.034	0.737	0.000	0.000	0.016
Number of living children	0.000	0.183	0.014	0.042	0.000	0.000	0.000

The table above presents data representing the effect of the women’s socio-economic and demographic characteristics (total children ever born, the sons and daughters at home and the number of living children) on domestic violence within and across countries.

Regarding Cameroon, there is a great difference in the mean rank of the total children ever born of women and the number of living children who reported domestic abuse (1583.28) and women who did not report physical violence (1688.19). the Z value is -3.16 (rounded) with a significance level $P_v = 0.002 < 0.05$. So, there is statistical significance in the abused women who have previous experience of childbearing of abused women with not children ever born. Therefore, the total children ever born in the household is a determining factor in the physical violence in Cameroon. The mean rank of abused women having sons and daughters at home differs from the mean rank of women who did not reported violence in the household. With a Z score =-3.2 and -2.10 respectively, and a $P_v < 0.05$ as seen in the table above, one can giving evidences of statistical significance amongst the related variables affirmed that a woman having sons and daughters at home is likely exposed to spousal violence at home

The association between the number of living children and domestic violence indicates a strong statistical significance between the two variables a great variation in the mean rank of abused

women living with children and non-abused females having survived children. So, the number of living children may put women at risk of violence at home.

In Ghana, the results of analysis show no great difference amongst the mean rank of these variables. Also, when looking at the respective Z score and the $P_v > 0.05$ in the table below, the children ever born, living children, sons and daughters at home are not factors associated to men's intimate violence towards their female partner.

The results of the conducted analysis in Haiti, a country in the Caribbean region on the children ever born, living children, sons and daughters at home reveal that except for the presence of sons at home, there is a difference in the mean rank of women abused and women who did not experienced and having respectively bear children, surviving children and staying at home with daughters. In this regard, the respective p value are less than .05 ($P_v < 0.05$) show statistical significance and consequently, total children ever born, living children and daughters at home are risk-factors for domestic violence in Haiti.

With a difference in the mean rank (1553.19) for abused women with living children which is higher and the mean rank of non-abusers female having living children (1489.1) and a $Z = -2.4$ (rounded), analysis shows that the number of living children is a contributing factor for domestic violence in Liberia. For the total children ever born, the presence of sons and daughters at home are not associated to women violence risk-factor.

A Mann-Whitney U test of the analysis performed in the republic in Moldova and Nepal on the association of children ever born; living children; sons and daughters at home with domestic abuse revealed a great significant difference in women who for all of the respective characteristics amongst abused women and those who did not report some type of domestic violence. Indeed, results of the P value ($P_v < 0.05$) could suggest that the children ever born, the living children, the sons and daughters at home might influence on violence occurrence in Moldova. Nepal and Philippines.

Findings from this table reveals that on overall across countries, there are statistical significant in association between the total children ever born, the living children, the presence of sons and daughters at home. In fact, when looking at the relationship of the total childbearing of a woman with domestic violence experience across countries, one can say that exclude Liberia where $P_v >$

0.05, there are significant association between the total children a woman has given birth and domestic violence in the household in Cameroon, Haiti, Ghana, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines.

The association of the women experiencing domestic violence having sons at home and women who did not report some acts of violence in the family across the different countries show that with a $P_v < 0.05$ in Cameroon, Haiti, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines, the Mann-Whitney U test reveal a strong association between abused women living with children sons and non-abuse women with sons at home. Therefore, the sons at home can be considered as a one of the factors associated with domestic violence.

Findings from the analysis presented in the table below indicate that in some countries (Liberia and Ghana) show no association between the presence of daughters' children at home and domestic violence. However, in Cameroon, Haiti, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines, women having daughters living at home are more exposed to violence by their male intimate.

The bivariate analysis of the number of children with domestic violence indicated that except in Ghana, the probability value as results of the test are all less than 0.05 ($P_v < 0.05$). This reveals that across the other countries of the study, there is a strong statistical relationship between the number of living children a woman might have and domestic violence. The presence of sons and daughters at home are not associated to women violence risk-factor.

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4.4 Conclusion

This current chapter through descriptive and bivariate analysis has shed a light on the prevalence of domestic violence in Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines. Also, it also scrutinizes how social as well as economic and demographic woman's background might increase or protect them from violence in a relationship. The next chapter is related to discussion using the findings of this chapter.

CHAPTER 5: DISCUSSION OF THE RESULTS

5.1 Introduction

This study examined the relationship between the demographics of married women and the prevalence of domestic violence in Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines. Apart from exploring the relationship between personal demographics and the prevalence of domestic violence among women in unions, the study also made a comparison on the prevalence of the different forms of violence by intimate partners in the above mentioned countries. The main aim of this research was to assess abused women within a range of socio-economic and demographic factors. These factors could either protect or expose women to domestic violence. Using the DHS data, this study presents the extent of physical, sexual and emotional violence by intimate partners in the aforementioned countries. The latest data from the DHS relating to women in union (married and cohabiting with a partner), aged 15 to 49 in the above mentioned countries (from 2005 and over) were used. The socio-economic and demographic variables included: age, place of residence, educational level, religion, ethnicity, employment status, total children ever born, sons at home, daughters at home and the total number of living children. All the countries under investigation reported some sort of physical, sexual, emotional and consequently, at least one type of domestic violence. Similarly, this study is well supported by previous studies cited in the literature used in this research regarding the pervasiveness of domestic violence (cf. Alhabib *et al.*, 2010). In this regard, consistent with (figure 38: chapter 4) in all the selected countries, domestic violence exist, although disparities in percentage are seen across sites. Also, the results of the findings (table 4.21) show that education, the number of living children, the children ever born and the presence of daughters at home are the main factors associated with domestic violence in all the above mentioned countries. Moreover, there are specific characteristics in each country which put women at risk of abuse in the household.

5.2 The prevalence and nature of domestic violence across countries

This study shows that the overall rate of domestic violence across the seven countries varies between 23.7 percent in Haiti and 56.6 percent in Cameroon. This is confirmed by Bhuiya *et al.*,

(2011), who revealed that at least 1 in every 3 women in union in the world (WHO, 2013) is being physically, sexually and emotionally abused by an intimate partner. This is also supported by Tjaden & Thoennes (2000) and Garcia-Moreno et al (2006) who reported that across the 10 countries they studied, the lifetime prevalence of women experiencing physical, sexual violence or both ranged between 15 percent and 71 percent.

The highest prevalence of spousal abused was reported in Cameroon, Liberia and Ghana and the different rates show a linkage with documented literature. The study conducted by Mann & Takyi (2009), Laisser *et al.*, (2011), Bhuiya *et al.*, (2011) and Onyejekwe (2004) show that in African countries, domestic violence is widespread and women are more affected. Further reports from WHO (2013) revealed that the overall percentage of women abused in African countries presumably reach values of up to 36.6 percent.

For example, the rise of domestic violence against women in Cameroon is well explained by the country's patriarchal nature (Alio *et al.*, 2009), where men are considered as the heads of the household and the communities use their power abusively. Also, alcohol intake in Cameroon might explain the level of domestic violence as indicated by the "Jeune Afrique Economique, June 2012" which revealed increasing turnover of brewing companies. It has also been established that, in Cameroon alcohol has become a cause of violence in the dailiness of household life.

Apart from that, in Liberia; war has exacerbated women's vulnerability to domestic violence (Karnley, 2012). Even though there is some progress towards peace, fear remains pervasive. For women, the 'home' is no longer a safe haven.

While Moldova, is one of the poorest post-soviet countries in Eastern Europe; the government has rejected and criminalize domestic violence. They have considered women's right as a human right. Notwithstanding this, women have remained submissive in their communities. It is likely that the criminalisation of domestic violence has not led to total empowerment of women. Thus it can be suggested that criminalization of domestic violence should be well supported by the government, in order to help men to understand the impact of domestic violence.

Similarly, in Nepal, even though the government has adopted many laws to protect women against domestic violence; men continued to dominate and abuse them. Among the different types of violence, physical abuse is the most prevalent. Indeed, it is the most reported as shown in figure

39 followed by emotional violence and sexual violence the least. These findings are in line with previous reports where the prevalence of sexual violence has always been lower than physical, emotional and economic violence (Gage, 2005, Kimuna & Djamba, 2008). A possible explanation could be that physical violence is manifested through wife battering.

The findings of Babbu & Kar (2009), in Eastern India estimate the prevalence of sexual violence is 52 percent compared to the prevalence of physical violence in the range of 16 percent. This is contrary to the findings in all seven countries which are the focus of the study where the prevalence of sexual violence is low and less than 20 percent. My findings support the WHO (2013) report on Kenya which estimated that one in ten women is sexually abused in the household. This might imply that across countries, sexual abuse amongst couples is not reported in the society as women. Unlike other forms of violence (Mikton, 2010), sexual violence is a sensitive issue which women might feel ashamed and afraid to report in public.

The prevalence of emotional violence ranges from 15 percent to around 40 percent. Across all the selected sites, the rate of emotional abuse is higher than sexual violence. As a possible explanation, this study has observed that in most compounds, violence usually starts with disputes, verbal abuse, and tensions which might move to sexual or physical abuse.

Above all a possible explanation regarding the significant factors associated to violence across these seven countries is that the patriarchal nature of the concerned countries considers that women are meant to be the subordinates to their partners.

5.3 Correlates of domestic violence against women

This study has shown that not all variables demonstrated consistent relationship with domestic violence within and across the countries. Therefore specific factors are associated with IPV in each country; this study also indicates that overall, across countries, education, children ever born, presence of daughters at home and the number of living children are predictor factors of women abuse.

5.3.1 The impact of age on women experience of domestic violence

As indicated in studies (Mikton, 2010; Garcia-Moreno et al., 2006; Ellsberg and Heise, 2005; Heise, 1998), age is a decisive factor in determining the prevalence and category of women abuse

in the society. Although disparities exist across countries, the women's age group plays a significant role and is a contributing factor for physical, sexual and emotional violence.

The results as presented in chapter 4 (table 21) shows the prevalence of women who have experienced at least one type of violence in association with their age across the seven countries. This table indicates that in Cameroon, the variable age exposes women to violence and the range of women at risk of violence ranged between females aged 20 -39 even in the last age reproductive (45-49), respectively in Cameroon and Nepal, 56.7 per cent and 28.3 per cent of women have reported domestic abuse in the household. In Liberia and Philippines, women aged 20-24 are more likely being exposed to spousal abuse. This findings are in line with studies (Moreno et al., 2006; Kishor & Johnson, 2004; Heise, 1998) revealing the age 24-34 as age were women in the union are likely to be abused

Moreover, figure 4.2 on the association of Cameroonian females physically abused and the age of a woman indicated the latter as a risk factor for physical abuse, but not for sexual and emotional violence and that peak age of violence is among females aged 19-34. There is a wide disparity in age of physical abused women in Liberia. In fact, from age 30 to 49, women are abused.

In Ghana, Haiti and Philippines, in respects with findings in Kenya, (Kimuna & Djamba, 2008), male violence is not justified by the age of women abuse and can be considered as a predictor of spousal abuse.

Although the women's age group is not a leading factor of spousal violence in Haiti, there is a high association of physical violence with the age of women. Indeed 20.4 percent of young females 15-19 have experienced physical violence.

A possible explanation for lower violence at early ages could be that for the younger females, age 15-19. It is a protective factor because they are still getting into the relationship and are not yet exposed to the realms of marriage. Consequently, for countries where the rate of violence associated to older women is high, this might be due to their longer duration in the relationship, and similarly longer duration of exposure to the risk of intimate violence.

In conclusion, one can say the age of women and exposure to violence is specific to each country. Therefore, such disparities do not make it possible to consider the age of a woman as a main leading factor to domestic abuse.

5.3.2 Comparison of domestic violence across countries by place of residence

The association of spousal abuse and the place of residence were not consistent across countries. Overall, there is no significant association in Ghana, Haiti and Nepal ($P_v > .05$); since reports show that women living in cities and villages are likely to be equally abused. But in Moldova, through highest rates (31.3 percent in rural compared to 23.1 percent in cities), high and significant links are seen; revealing that Moldovan women living in villages and remote areas are more likely to report violence. A possible explanation of the prevalence of abuse in rural areas could be that Moldovan population is really attached to traditional values, patriarchal attitudes.

Also, women's place of residence is associated with a specific form of domestic violence across the countries under investigation. In this respect, 41.8 percent of women living in cities are more exposed to emotional abuse in the household in Cameroon; while in comparing to Liberia 37.1 percent of urban women have reported physical abuse. In Philippines, 26.1 percent of women reproductive having reported any form of violence as well as sexual abuse in the house are from rural areas. These results followed Fulu *et al.*, 2012; Hindain *et al.*, (2008) studies where urban women are more exposed to an abusive relationship. In addition Uthman *et al.*, 2009 notes that in 17 Sub-Saharan countries women living in rural areas are more likely to report violence than those on cities.

Education in Moldova society is lagging behind and is an important index regarding social position, since people considered as “non-intellectual” are the most affected by violence in the compound.

In Liberia, Philippines and Cameroon, women living in cities are exposed to at least one type of violence, compared to Moldova, whereby the majority of females staying in an abusive relationship are living in remote and rural areas.

5.3.3 Education as a factor associated with domestic violence across the seven countries

Education plays an important role in determining the prevalence of domestic violence. Across the countries, there are variations in patterns within the different levels of education and this study found that the strength of the relationship between women educational level and spousal abuse are consistent. Except Cameroon, there is a strong association between women and the low level of education across Nepal, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova and Philippines. Statistics indicate that the highest level of violence was found in the range of women who did not attain school and those who went to primary school only. The results of this study are reflective of previous studies in Haiti by Gage (2005) who assessed that non educated Haitian females are abused in the family. Also, this statement goes in line with studies (Mikton, 2010; Kishor & Johnson, 2004; Jeyaseelam, 2004; Hindin *et al.*, 2002) where the low education is a serious and high risk-factor for domestic violence in the household. A possible explanation of this cruel reality is the high poverty prevailing in Haiti. In effect, given the economic situation, the poverty and ravages of earthquakes, young females usually get into early marriages and find themselves entrapped into a relationship in search for a man that will provide for their needs. The social environment does not protect Haitian women who live in an insecure climate.

Except Cameroon and Nepal, the low level of education is a contributing factor of domestic violence in Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova and Philippines. In Cameroon, the results of this study show that although strong relationship of domestic violence exists with education, the direction differs from Haiti. Indeed, the high rate of abuse was found amongst women with a secondary background following by women who attended primary school. This goes in contrast with Devries *et al.*, (2013) who in a cross sectional study show that the secondary education for women is highly associated with lower levels of spousal violence.

In Cameroon, although the level of literacy is increasing, men's attitudes of dominance are still entrenched in Cameroon society. Therefore, regardless of background, knowledge and educational standards, a woman is still likely to be abused in Cameroon.

Because a woman educated is more self-confident, has the ability to use the information and resources, negotiates and improves her individual and social life, high level of education is therefore a protective factor of domestic violence. Across the countries and consistently,

decreasing rates of violence are associated with higher levels of education as seen in (Abrahamsky *et al.*, 2011; Mikton, 2010; Garcia-Moreno *et al.*, 2006; Kishor & Jonhson, 2004).

5.3.4 Trends of spousal abuse by employment status across the seven countries

There was no consistency in the results of influence on women's work status and domestic violence across the investigated sites. According to this study and across the countries, the factor that did not have much effect on spousal abuse is the women's' employment status. In Haiti, Nepal, Philippines and Ghana, there is no difference between the rates of employed and unemployed women staying in an abusive relationship. Here, in a consistent way, all the $P_v > .05$), there is not a significant relationship between physical, sexual and/ or emotional violence and women's work status. Consequently, women's employment status is not a factor that might put or expose women to violence in Haiti, Ghana, Nepal and Philippines. This is in contrast with a conducted study of using the 2004 GHDS

Despite that there is not significant association of physical, sexual and any type of violence in Moldova, a relationship exists between emotional abuse and employment status. Indeed, 17.5 percent of unemployed women are being emotionally abused at some point by their husbands and partners, compared to 21.3 percent of females who are employed in the librarian societies. With a probability value less than .05 ($P_v = .04 < 0.05$), employed women in union are surprisingly more affected emotionally. This implies that in Moldova, to avoid acts of abuse in the household, it is better for women to do not work. In addition, Cameroon and Liberia are the only countries of this study where women' employment status is associated with domestic violence. With an exception regarding emotional violence, employed Liberian women in union have less reported physical, sexual and at least one type of violence. As a fact, 46.2 percent of employed females in Liberia have experienced some type of violence in the household compared to 52.3 percent for unemployed females. As found in other studies (Peterson *et al.*, 2011, Abramsky *et al.*, 2011; Rocca *et al.*, 2010) women's employment status is a protective factor of domestic violence. It reduces acts of abuse in the family as well as women's dependency to men. On the contrary, in Cameroon, significant and consistent relationships exist between physical, sexual, at least one type of violence and women's socioeconomic status. Females employed and in union in Cameroon

develop high rates of abuse in the society. In fact 60.9 percent of employed women have reported physical, sexual violence while the percentage is only 46.1 percent of unemployment women.

5.3.5 The effect of religion on women abuse across the countries

The findings of the association of religion with domestic violence were mixed across the countries. The tables 21 and 21 above reveal that religion does not have an effect on either physical, sexual, emotional violence in Moldova and Ghana. Indeed, following studies of Zaleski *et al.*, 2010) with findings showing that all the probability values were greater than five ($P_v > 0, 05$), no significant association was found between Ghanaian and Moldovan women in the union having reported at least one type of violence, physical, sexual or emotional abuse. There was no consistent relationship of woman's affiliation religious with domestic abuse in Ghana and Moldova and domestic violence. One possible explanation could be that Christians have kept strong beliefs that life is a commitment and find it difficult to leave an abusive relationship. Another possible explanation could be that Moldova and Ghana are countries where the majority of the population are Christians and share egalitarian beliefs which are extended to their social lives and which protect them from too much violence. Although violence exists amongst couples in this country, disparities are very slight and one cannot justify domestic violence by a woman's affiliation to a particular religion.

In Liberia, although analysis show non-significant association of religion as a factor associated with domestic violence, physical and sexual violence were associated with religion. In fact, in contrast with studies of Cunradi *et al.*, 2002 stating that atheists as a religion is not risk factor of domestic violence, the highest rate of physical and sexual violence were found non-believers and those who abide to traditional religions compared to less than 10 percent for sexual violence and around one in three women (less < 40 percent) of female were Christian and Muslim. The results of the study show a significant correlation of religion with women abuse in Cameroon, Haiti, Nepal and Philippines. As these countries are culturally diversified, religions are different. But in all these countries, there are common religions likes Muslim and Christian (who were composed by Catholic, Evangelical, and other related religions) females. Christian's believers have reported the lowest physical, sexual and or emotional abuse across the concerned countries. In Cameroon, half of female Animists believers have experienced respectively physical and emotional abuse in the relationship. Budu females Haitian are the most exposed and at risk of physical, sexual and

emotional violence while in the Philippines, highest types of females' abuse were reported by Muslims. These findings go in line with a conducted research (kimuna & Djamba, 2008) in Kenya who found that religion was likely to increase physical and sexual violence despite the fact that the highest prevalence was seen in Christian's females.

5.3.6 Ethnicity

In Haiti and Liberia, the DHS does not consider ethnicity. Analysis of association of population ethnic group with domestic violence was not done. There are disparities in the types of population groups and the findings across Cameroon, Ghana, Nepal, Moldova and Philippines.

In Cameroon, the population ethnic group plays an important role in the occurrence of violence in family settings. There are more than 230 ethnics in this Sub-Saharan country, but entirely different cultures. This has made it possible to compose and join Cameroonian tribes for the purpose of this study in six main tribes. There are variations in rates of women having experienced at least one type of violence. With more than six in ten women (Beti, other groups and Bantoise South), male violence against their partners is really pervasive across these ethnic tribes in Cameroon. The findings of this study reveal that in Cameroon, across the different ethnic group, women have highly reported physical, sexual and emotional abuse.

Countries in this study like, Northern India and Nepal indicated a strong association of only married women abuse by different forms with ethnicity. Indeed, female appurtenance to a precise ethnic might put her at risk of violence in the family. Except for emotional violence, physical, sexual and at least one type of violence occurrence in Nepal can be attributed to ethnicity.

Ukranian, Gagauzan and Moldovan are the three main regrouped ethnic population groups in which exposed women of reproductive age to physical and emotional violence. High disparities exist within the tribes, and significant statistical association of ethnicity with domestic was found in Nepal. These high rates of violence are in diverse degrees.

In the Philippines, ethnicity was associated only with emotional violence. With a probability value less than .05 ($P_v = 0.003 < 0.05$), and 23.1 percent representing the highest ethnic group, followed by the Tagalog population group. This implies that the more a country has ethnic group, the higher will be the likelihood of domestic abuse in the family setting of the concerned community.

Findings across all the countries (Philippines, Cameroon, Moldova and Nepal) are in line with previous reports that population ethnic group affects domestic violence regardless the types of abuse.

5.3.7 Comparison of domestic violence by the total children ever born, the number of living children, the presence of sons and daughters at home across countries

The total children ever born, the number of living children, the presence of sons and daughters at home are demographic factors which determine the size of the family and the background fertility of a woman. Therefore in a community these factors might be likely to increase or protect women from violence in the family.

This study points out a strong and positive relationship between the number of living children and women who have reported some violence in their lifetime in Cameroon, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines. In exception with the presence of daughters at home by emotional violence, there is a strong association of the total children ever born, the number of living children, the presence of sons and daughters at home by physical, sexual and emotional violence in Filipino society. This implies that these four socio demographic variables are at a high risk exposure of violence in the Philippines. This is compared to Nepal, a woman in union having a male child with her in the compound is not a risk of emotional violence; all the other variables are likely to put women at risk of violence in the family. The effect of the total children ever born, the number of living children, the presence of sons and daughters at home was not consistent at all levels in Moldova. A woman with a son at home, a daughter at home will not respectively report acts of physical, emotional and sexual violence. The tables 4.14, 4.15 and 4.16 indicated that the total children ever born, the number of living children has total significant association with physical, sexual and emotional and are risk factors of domestic violence in Moldova. There are great variations in the effects of the four demographic variables in Liberia. No association of total children ever, number of living children, sons and daughters at home with sexual violence and with emotional violence in exclusion the number of living children for emotional violence. Unlike other countries, except respectively the presence of daughters for physical violence, the number of living children, the total children ever born and the presence of sons at home do not influence on domestic violence in Cameroon. Regarding sexual violence, no association was found with all the variables. But at an emotional level, only the presence of daughters at home is not associated with

violence. Ghana was the only countries in the study which has revealed no association of the prevalence of domestic violence with the total children ever born, the number of living children, the presence of sons and daughters at home. This implies that patterns underlying physical, sexual and emotional violence in Ghana are different. Along all the countries (Philippines, Nepal and Moldova), the number of living children is consistently a factor associated with physical, sexual and emotional violence.

The findings of this study go in line with Kishor & Johnson 2004 studies who reveal that a woman who have many children are likely to report acts of abuse in the household than women without children. Following the ideas of Kimuna & Djamba (2008) in line with these findings reveal that, the number of living children has an effect on the physical violence, but not sexual abuse in Kenya. Few studies on the association of the presence of a son or a daughter at home were done. So this study extends the assumption of the number of living children where by more children are likely associated with high level of violence on the total children ever born, the sons and daughters at home. Another possible explanation of the effect of the total children ever born, the presence of sons and daughters at home could be the economic status of the concerned countries, the income level and the family structure of the household. In fact, as the countries under investigation are basically developing and amongst the poorest (Moldova is the poorest in the Eastern Europe, Haiti is amongst the four least undeveloped countries), population' life conditions are still lagging; hindering the empowerment of the female population. Also, in a household with high income, raising the children at home, the number of children and the fertility of a not obstacles.

As a general remark, in Nepal, except the variable place of residence and employment status, all the factors (age, low level of education, religion, ethnicity, total children ever born, number of living children, presence of sons and daughters at home) are highly significant (all p values<0.002). This implies that all these variables are risk-factors of domestic violence in Nepalese household. Nepal is the second country after Cameroon across the countries of the study having a high rate of physical violence and although a representative demographic health survey was run in 2011 for the first time, previous clinical studies (Lamichhane *et al.*, 2011; Dhakal, 2008; Hangen, 2007) have revealed that women of reproductive age experience violence. To understand the high prevalence of spousal violence in Nepal, possible explanation might be the cultural rules, habits and beliefs which prevail in that country. Studies of Giridhari, 2007 and the 2006 Nepal

demographic health survey indicated that boys and girls of different ethnic group marry early in Nepal before the legal age 18 and stop schooling early. Women in Nepal evolve in a patriarchal society with a male having power and control on all matters and they are unable to participate in any decision making.

Domestic violence is a social and common issue in Ghana; but except women's educational level, bivariate analyses show no consistent association with all the other variables. Similar results in a recent study in Ghana with Tenkorang *et al.*, 2013 using the 2008 GDHS were found and age, ethnicity, wealth and occupation were not factors contributing to domestic violence in Ghana. Therefore one can say that factors associated with domestic violence in Ghana are in different patterns. In effect, a study of Mann & Takyi, (2009) has revealed significant association of husband's control behaviours, cultural life with physical and sexual violence provided.

A possible explanation on the findings in Ghana could be that male dominance is rooted in Ghanaian societies and women have accepted and normalized punishment in the household. Another reason might be the lack of reports and procedure in the judicial system simple when reported; perpetrators of abuse are not persecuted.

Although there is women participation in decision making in Philippines (Hindair & Adair, 2002), the findings of this study show evidences of violence. This implies that empowered women in the household are even more at risk of violence.

5.4 Conclusion

The prevalence and socio-economic and demographic factors associated with domestic violence across the seven involved countries different from a country to one another. However, there are common features across those countries: the level of education is a major risk factor for violence across the countries except Liberia. Except the variable education, all the other variables do not effect on domestic violence in Ghana. The number of living children is consistently significant across the countries. In Nepal, with exception of the employment status and the place of residence, all the variables are risky and expose women to violence. The presence of sons and daughters at home are factors contributing to spousal violence in Cameroon, Haiti, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines. Further studies need to be done for a better evaluation of the impact of sons and daughters at home on women abuse.



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CHAPTER 6: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS

6.1 Introduction

This chapter sums up the research of this study and is divided into two sections: the first provided the main findings arising from chapters 4 and 5. The second presents a general situation of abused women over the seven countries and proposed some recommendations.

This study was carried out among women aged 15-49 married and in a relationship in seven economic and cultural distinct countries around the world. The purpose of this research was to examine and compare the prevalence of abused women across the selected countries. It also intends to explore the effects of socio-economic and demographic characteristics on intimate partner violence by men against women. In order to achieve its objectives, this study used the women domestic sample data of the DHS in the concerned countries. Univariate analysis was done to determine the magnitude of physical, sexual, emotional and domestic violence across the seven countries. Similarly, descriptive statistics were used to seek the independent association between age, level of education, employment status, religion, ethnicity, the number of living children, the total children ever born, the presence of sons and daughters at home with intimate partner violence.

6.2 Conclusion

Globally, it can be deduced that at least 1 in 3 women in union in the world have experience some kind of abuse. All the countries (women abuse in Cameroon, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines) under investigation reported physical, sexual, emotional and at least one type of domestic violence. Also in all the selected countries, domestic violence exists, although disparities in percentage are seen across sites. However, education, the number of living children, the children ever born and the presence of daughters at home are the main factors associated with domestic violence in all the above mentioned countries. There are specific characteristics in each country which put women at risk of abuse in the household.

This thesis revealed that in African countries, domestic violence is widespread and about 37 percent of women are affected by violence. In Cameroon the country's patriarchal nature and alcohol abuse are responsible for the level of domestic violence. In the case of Moldova poverty

is a major cause, while in Liberia war has exacerbated women's vulnerability to domestic violence. Nepal's case is similar to the previous, but wife battering has reduced due to government adoption of many laws aimed at protecting women against domestic violence. Women have experienced at least one type of violence in association with their age across the seven countries. This table indicates that in Cameroon, the variable age exposes women to violence and the range of women at risk of violence ranged between females aged 20 -39 even in at the last age reproductive (45-49), respectively in Cameroon and Nepal, 56.7 per cent and 28.3 per cent of women have reported domestic abuse in the household. In Liberia and Philippines, women aged 20-24 are more likely being exposed to spousal abuse. In Ghana, Haiti and Philippines, male violence is not justified by the age of women abuse and can be considered as a predictor of spousal abuse. On comparison by environment, Ghana, Haiti and Nepal show that women living in cities and villages are likely equally abused. In Liberia, Philippines and Cameroon, women living in cities are exposed to at least one type of violence compared to Moldova. But in Moldova, it's higher in rural compared to cities it revealed that Moldovan women living in villages and remote areas are more likely to report violence. This is because education in the Moldovan society is lagging behind and is an important index regarding social position, since people considered as "non-intellectual" are the most affected by violence in the compound. Apart from Cameroon, there is a strong association between women and the low level of education across Nepal, Ghana, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova and Philippines, while non-educated Haitian females abuse in the family. With respect to employment in Haiti, Nepal, Philippines and Ghana, there is no difference between the rates of employed and unemployed women staying in an abusive relationship. However, Cameroon and Liberia are the only countries where women's employment status is associated with domestic violence.

One factor in Ghana and Moldova is the aspect of religion. Christians have kept strong beliefs that life is a commitment and find it difficult to leave an abusive relationship and the majority of the population who are Christians share same beliefs and extended it to their social lives, which protect them from much violence. Although violence exists amongst couples in this country, disparities are very slight and one cannot justify domestic violence by a woman's affiliation to a particular religion. In Liberia, although analysis show non-significant association of religion as a factor associated with domestic violence, physical and sexual violence were associated with religion. Budu females Haitian are the most exposed and at risk of physical, sexual and emotional violence while in the Philippines, highest types of females' abuse were reported by Muslims.

In ethnical perspective in Nepal there is a strong association of only married women abuse by different forms with ethnicity. In the Philippines, ethnicity was associated only with emotional violence.

This study points out a strong and positive relationship between the number of living children and women who have reported some violence in her lifetime in Cameroon, Haiti, Liberia, Moldova, Nepal and Philippines. Ghana was the only country in the study which has revealed no association of the prevalence of domestic violence with the total children ever born, the number of living children, the presence of sons and daughters at home.

6.3 Recommendations

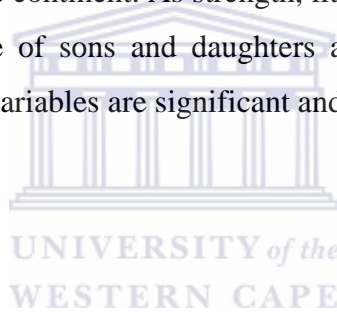
This study suggests the following recommendation among others;

- Women should be involved in policies related to education through awareness and getting them involved through the existence of workshops in communities and in a consistent way.
- Most developing are among poorest countries worldwide, the main and hidden problem that challenges the population and government is the socio-economic situation of each country. There is therefore need to seek intervention which should solve the issue violence as women are mostly affected in multidimensional ways (for example: PAR : participation action research through job creation)
- As a sensitive issue, silence which surrounds spousal violence, the government of each country should keep raising awareness at all levels including; communities, villages, hospitals, work places, at home and everywhere. It should become a public concern. In a nutshell, it has to create or adapt with changing times, giving the negatives economic and health outcomes of violence, it should create in population a mind spirit, a culture that that does not tolerate domestic violence as well as violence against women.
- Establish close partnership between, NGOs, hospital, creates shelters for abused women who seek help and protection.
- Domestic violence is a real barrier to women participation in society; women should have voices on decision makers and full participants in the household.

- Active participation of women in government and politics should be encouraged to play the role of change in their own lives.
- Improving systems to ensure the safety and well-being of the girl child population from primary school level.

As a main strength, this thesis is unique as it is a fully comparative study and has used comparable data of DHS is ensured of seven culturally, socially, geographically and economically distinct countries disseminated over the continent. But this study only considers women views of domestic violence and relies on and did not use men and couples characteristics reports.

Strengths of the study: the main strength of this study is that it is a comparative study and has used comparable DHS data of seven countries (with each having its own culture, economy and social particularity) disseminated over the continent. As strength, little has been documented on women experiencing violence in presence of sons and daughters at home. Therefore, this study has attempted to check whether these variables are significant and might be considered as risk factors of domestic violence.



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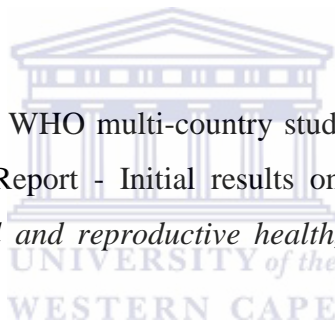
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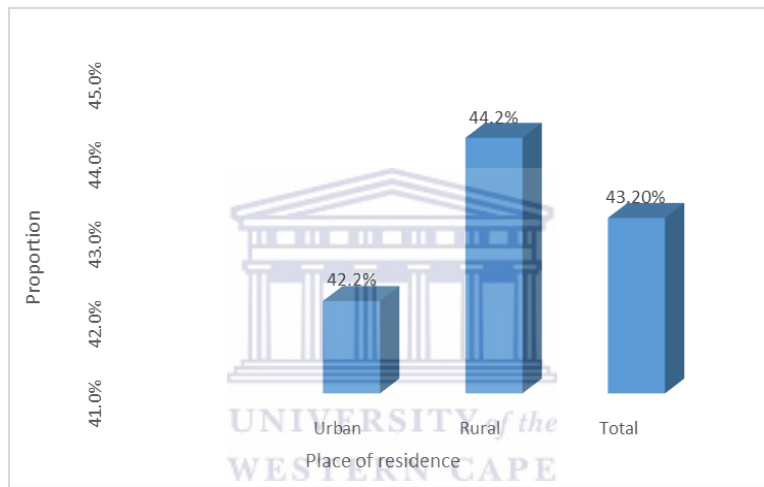


APPENDIX

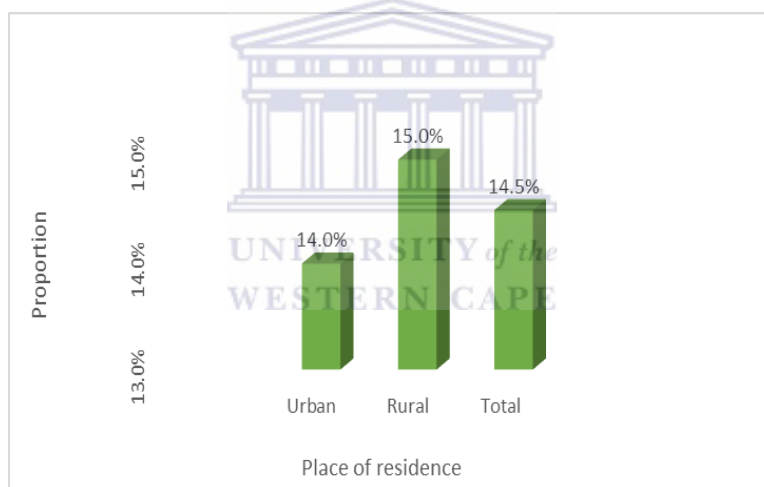
All the figures in annexes present prevalence of violence of countries where association of socio-economic- and demographic variables do not contribute to domestic violence.

Appendix 1: Bivariate analysis

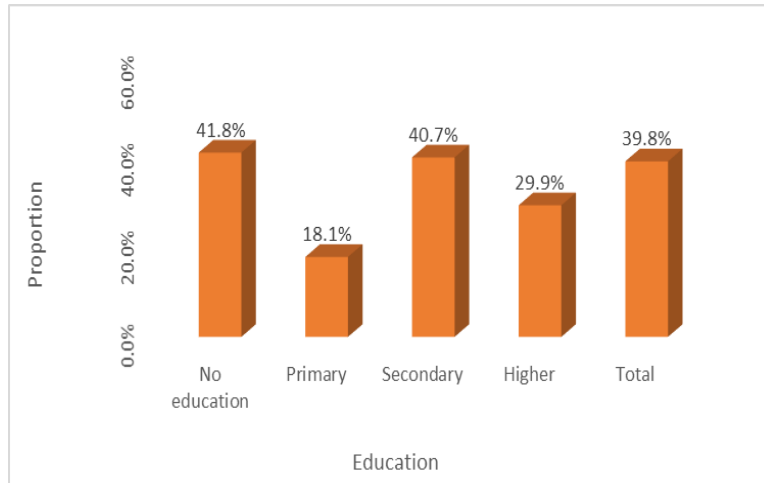
Appendix 1.1: Cameroon Bivariate analysis of physical violence by place of residence



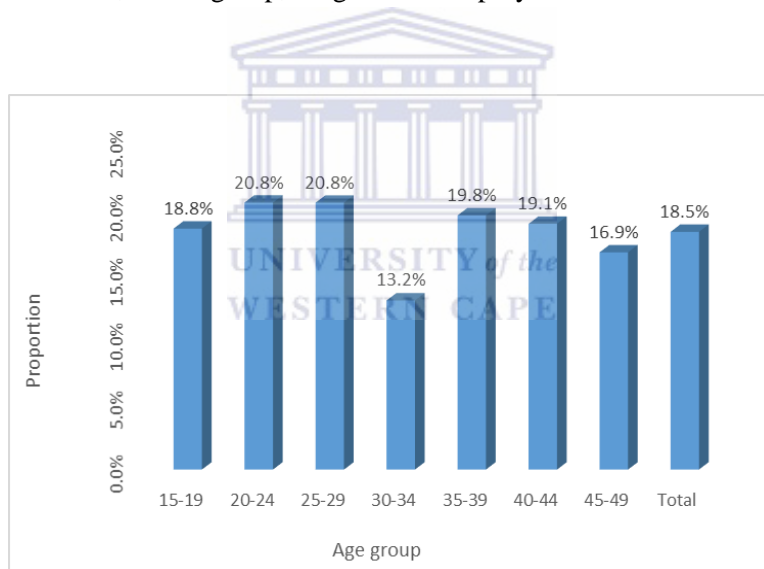
Appendix 1.2: Cameroon Bivariate analysis of sexual violence by respectively age group and place of residence

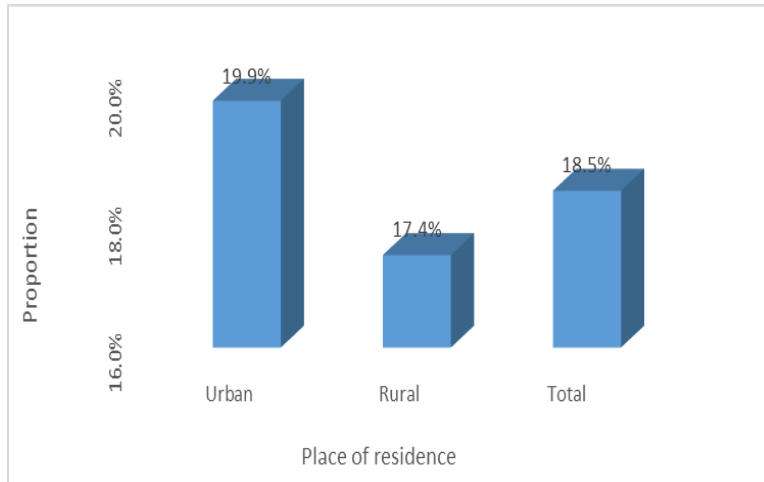


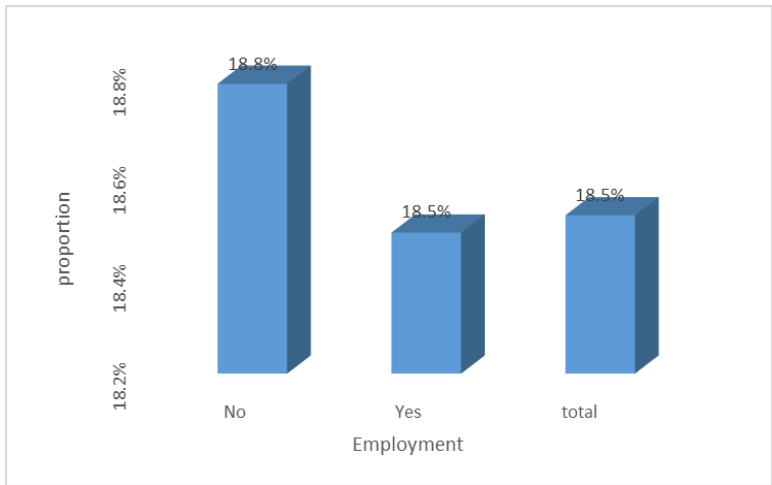
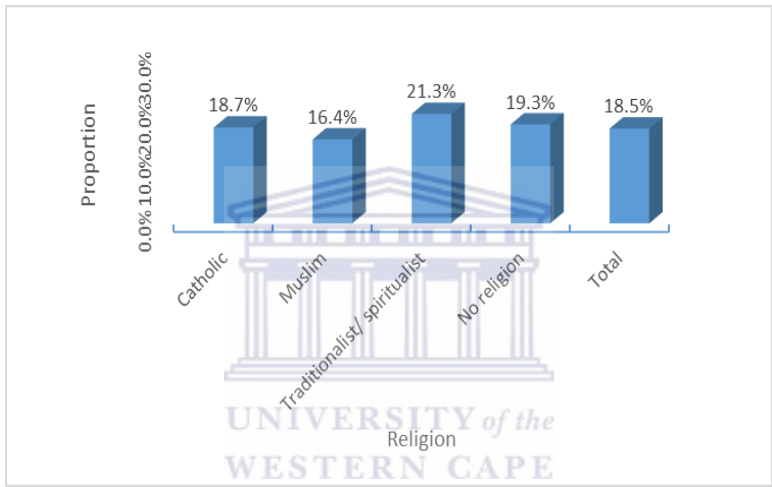
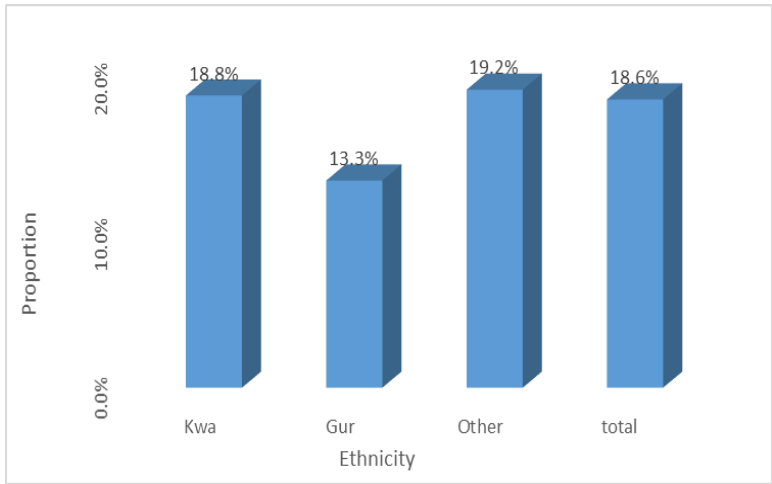
Appendix 1.3: Cameroon bivariate analysis of emotional violence by educational level



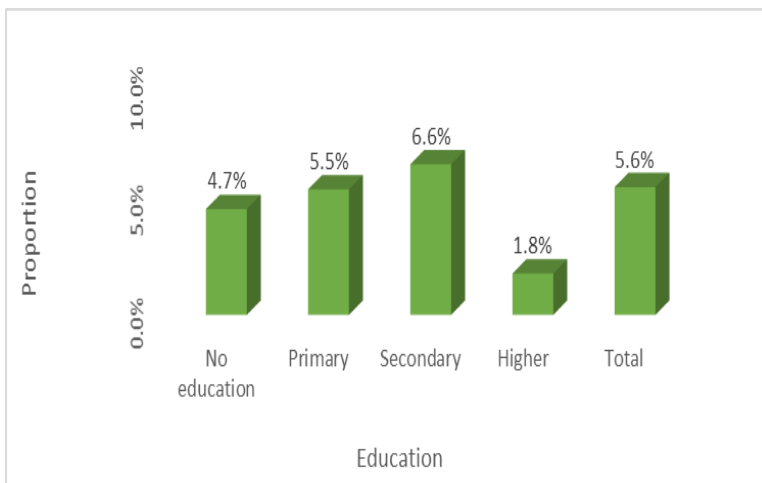
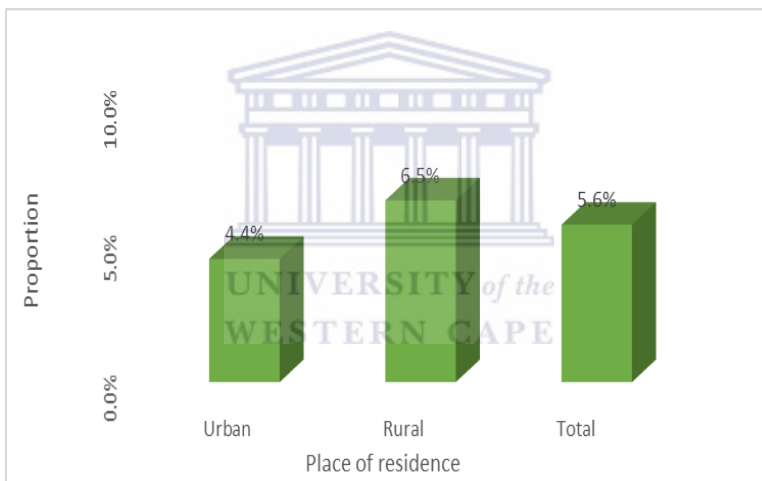
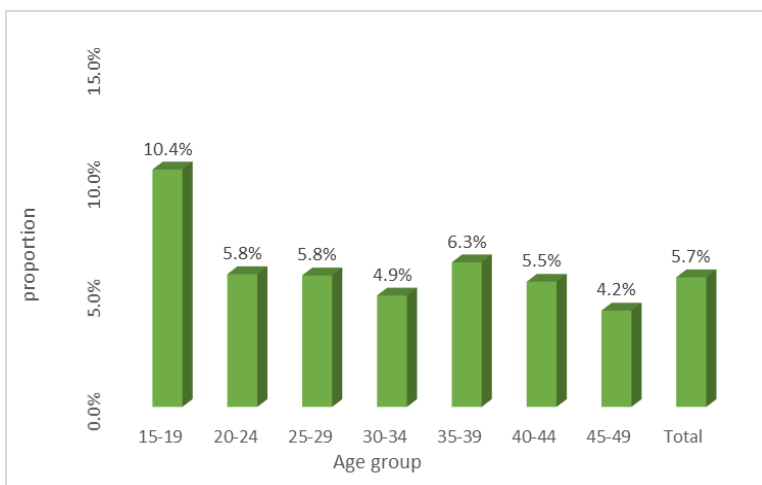
Appendix 1.4: Ghana bivariate analysis of physical violence by respectively women' age group, place of residence, ethnic group, religion and employment status in Ghana



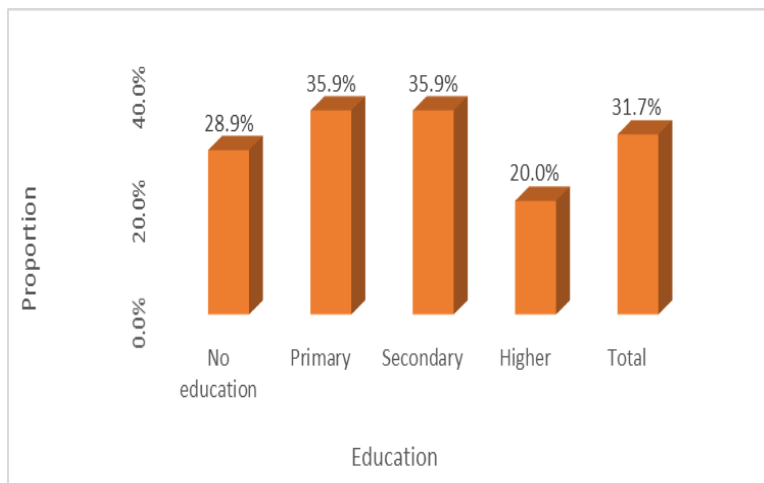
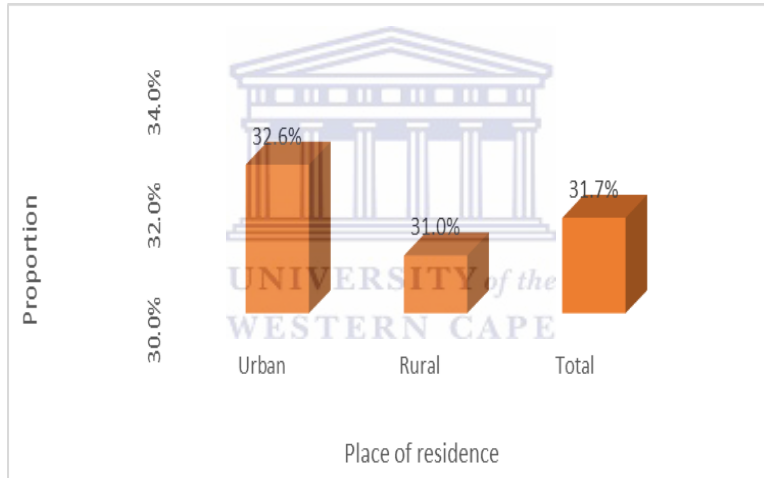
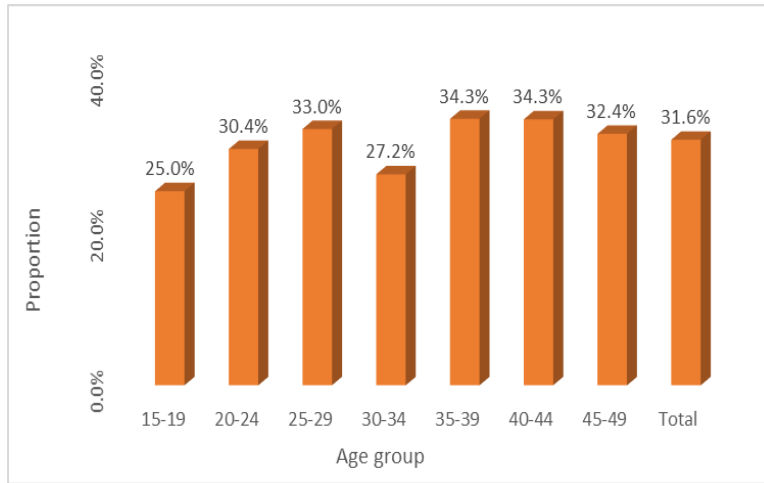


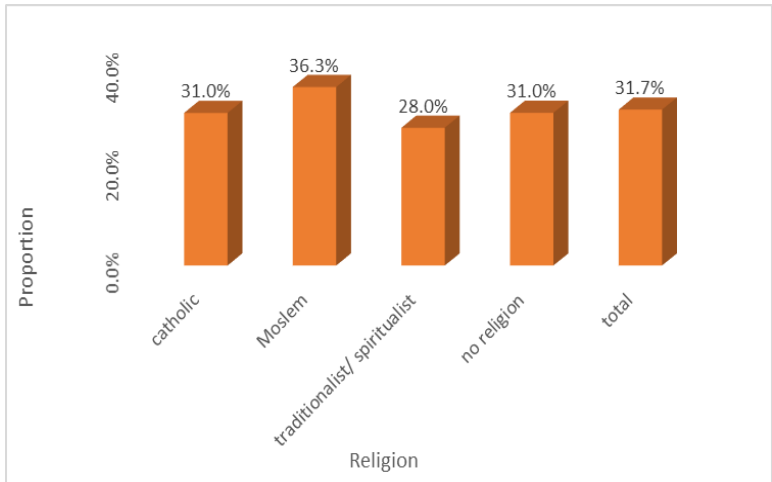
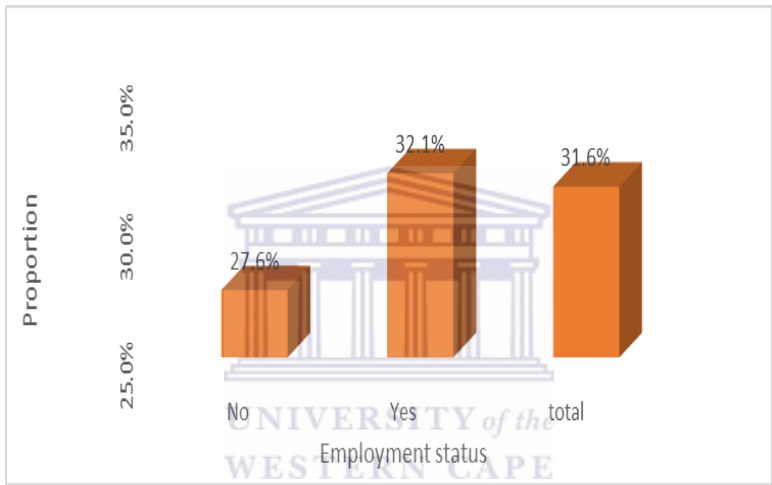
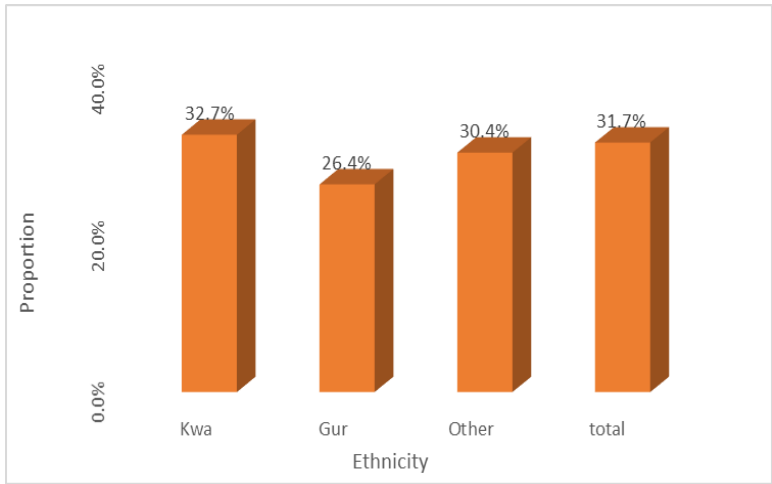


Appendix 1.5 Prevalence of sexual respectively by age group, place of residence, education, religion, ethnicity and employment status in Ghana

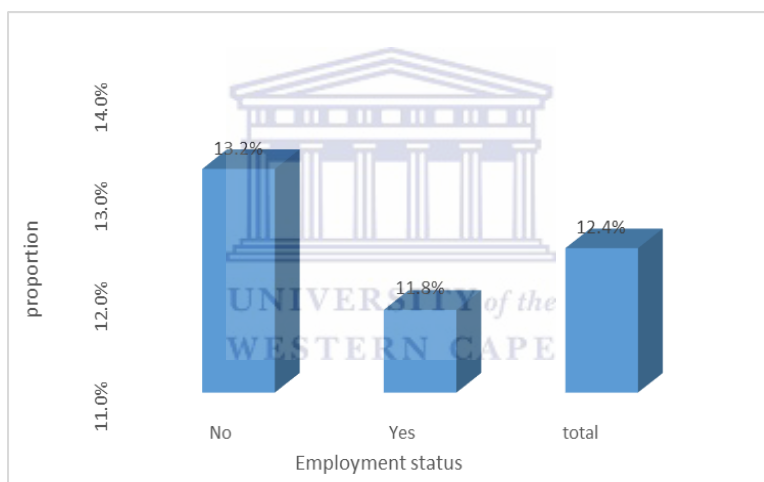
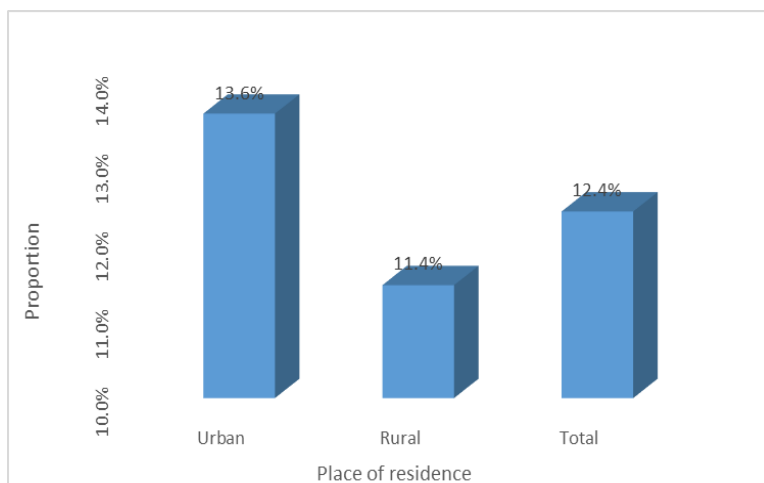


Appendix 1.6: Prevalence of emotional violence respectively by age group, place of residence, education, ethnicity, employment and religion status in Ghana

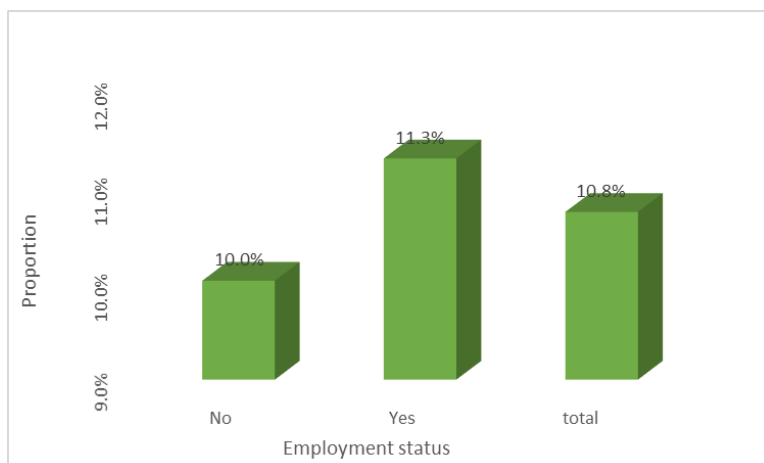


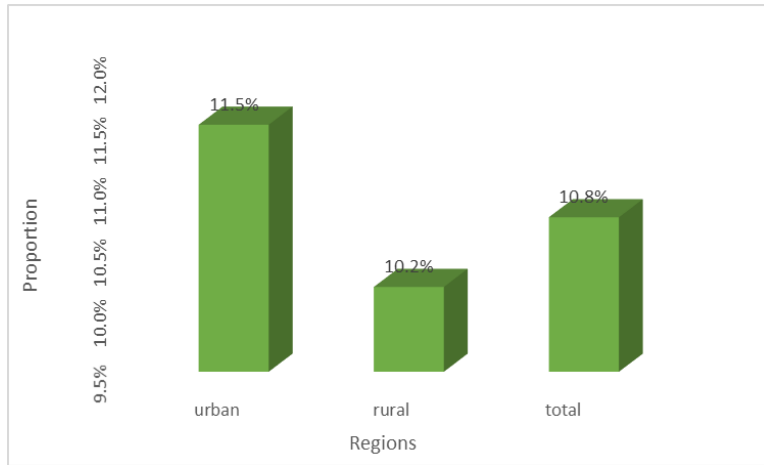


Appendix 1.7: Prevalence of physical by respectively place of residence and employment status in Haiti

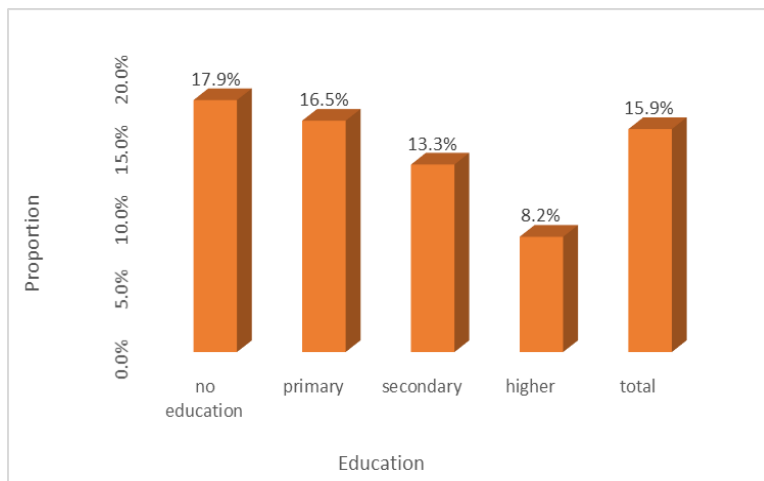
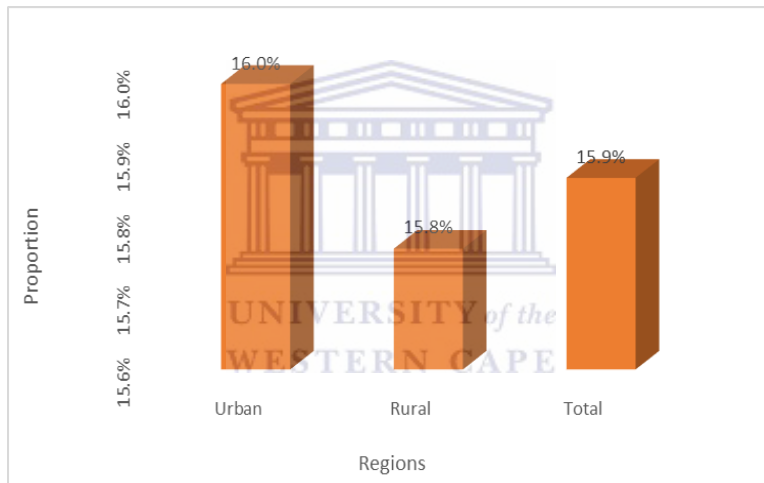


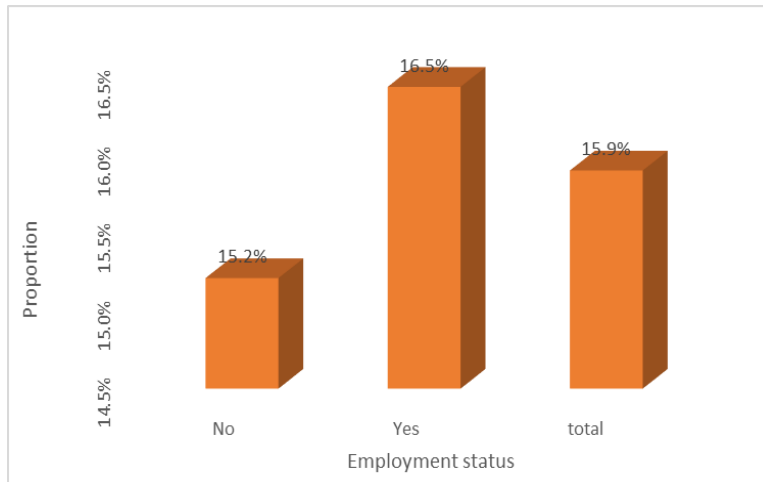
Appendix 1.8: Prevalence of sexual violence abuse by employment status and regions in Haiti



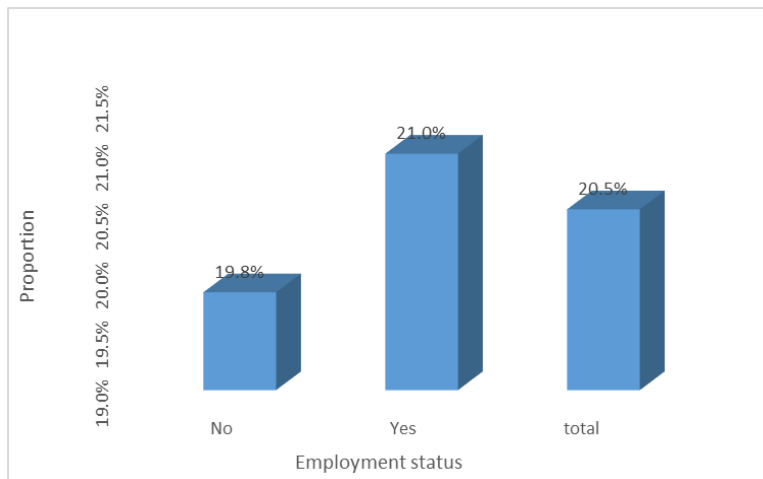
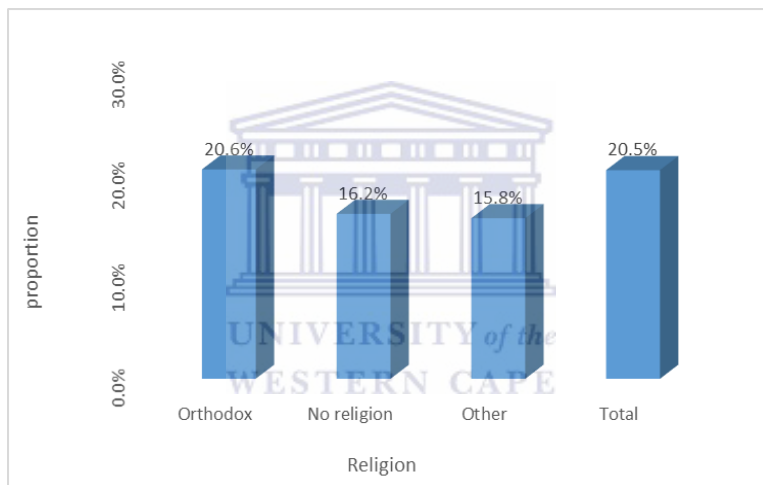


Appendix1.9: Prevalence of emotional abuse by regions, education and employment status in Haiti

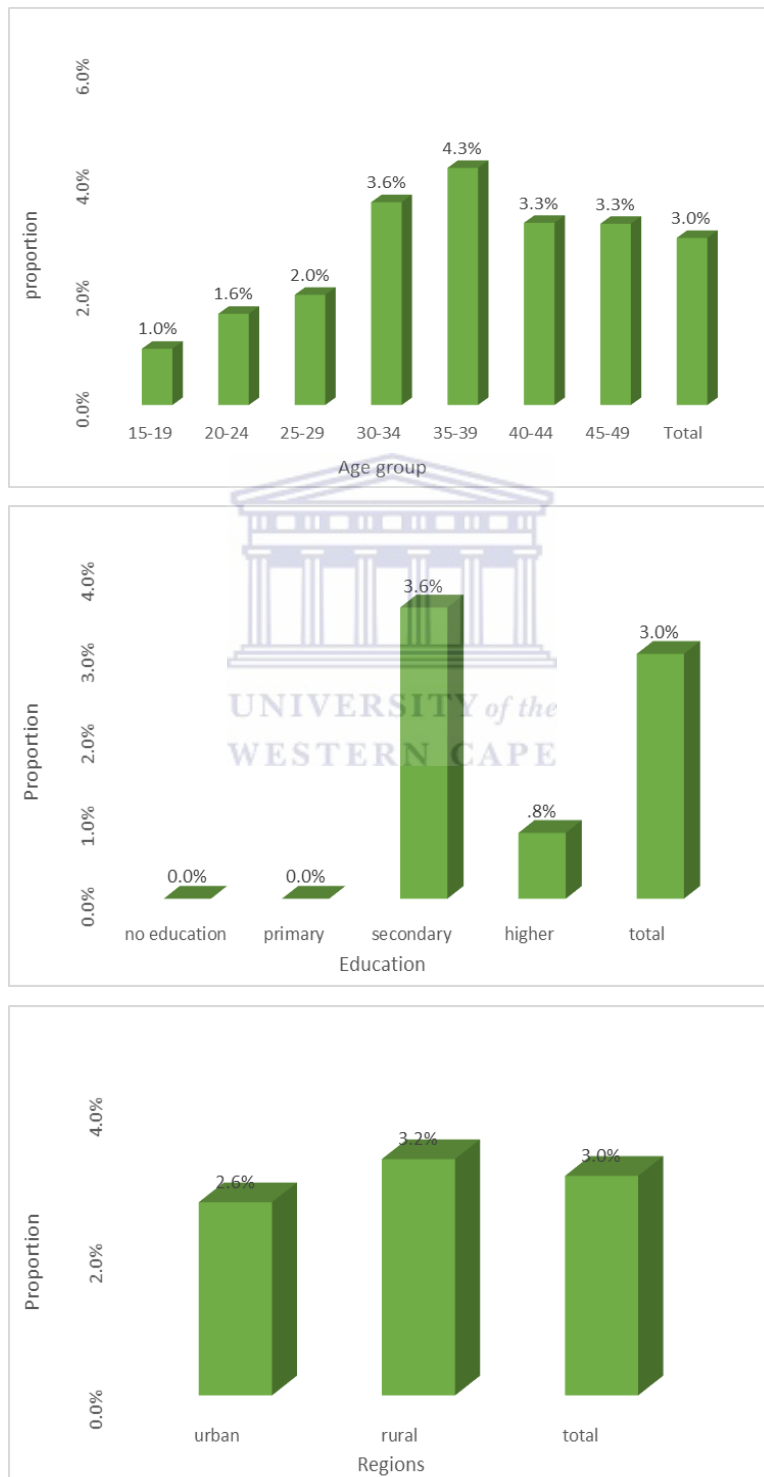




Appendix 1.10: Prevalence of physical violence by women' religion and employment status in Moldova



Appendix 1.11: Bivariate analysis for sexual violence by age, education and place of residence in Moldova



Appendix 2: Percentage of women who have reported at least one type of violence by religion and ethnicity in each country (all the numbers are in percentage)

Appendix 2.1: Percentage in Cameroon

CAMEROON			
Ethnicity		Religion	
Grand Nord	49	Catholic	60.8
South Ouest	65	Muslim	41.5
Ouest	57.8	Animist	63.6
Littoral	61.1	No religion	6706
Centre	66.5	Total	56.4
Stranger /Other	60.5		
Total	56.5		

CAMEROON			
Ethnicity		Religion	
Grand Nord	49	Catholic	60.8
South Ouest	65	Muslim	41.5
Ouest	57.8	Animist	63.6
Littoral	61.1	No religion	6706
Centre	66.5	Total	56.4
Stranger /Other	60.5		
Total	56.5		

Appendix 2.2: Percentage in Haiti and Liberia

HAITI		LIBERIA	
Christians	20.65	Christian	33.3
Other religion	33.366.7	Muslim	32.4
No religion	38.6	Traditional religi	61.1
Budu	58.3	No religion	31.3
Total		Total	33.2

Appendix 2.3: Percentage in Ghana

GHANA			
Ethnicity		Religion	
Akan	38	Catholic	36.3
Guan	28.6	Muslims	40.7
Mole Dagbani	37.3	Taditionalistes	40
Total	37.2	No religion	37.9
		Total	37.2

Appendix 2.4: Percentage in Moldova

Moldova			
Ethnicity		Religion	
Moldovan	27.7	Orthodox	28.1
Ukrainian	26.1	No religion	27
Gagauzan	24.5	Other religion	31.6
Total	28.1	Total	28.1

Appendix 2.5: Percentage in Philippines

Phillipines	
Ethnicity	
Tagalog	27.8
Bicalono	25.6
Antiqueno	23.8
Other	29.5
Total	27.2