



Review of Literature Regarding Women's Perspectives Towards Intimate Partner Violence (IPV)

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Abstract:

This study focuses on women's health and empowerment as we delve into the attitudes of women towards intimate partner violence (IPV), along with the presence of it throughout rural areas such as those found in parts of Honduras. Through our exploration of different pieces of literature, we will review how IPV is a prevalent issue throughout rural areas and review the survey-based women's empowerment index (SWPER) and its effectiveness. The SWPER captures three areas of empowerment that indicate assets and agency among women with partners; these areas include social independence, decision-making, and attitudes to violence. This project aims to provide insight into how women in Honduras feel about this issue and how it personally affects them. We hope to use this information to implement a survey, using the SWPER global program, to gain a better understanding of intimate partner violence affecting women in rural Honduras. We can learn more about the insecurities and obstacles women face to their personal well-being.

Introduction:

Intimate Partner Violence, also known as IPV, refers to the aggression and violence individuals face in relationships with a significant other. Forms of IPV can include physical, sexual, or emotional abuse. According to the CDC, 1 in 3 women and 1 in 4 men are affected by IPV (*Preventing Intimate Partner Violence* 2022). Throughout our research, we focus on how women are targeted in relationships with their partners. We will explore the health effects, causes, women's attitudes and perspectives towards IPV, and the effectiveness of screening surveys. Completing a literature review allows us to revise different sources and find patterns of information regarding the themes we will discuss.

Methods:

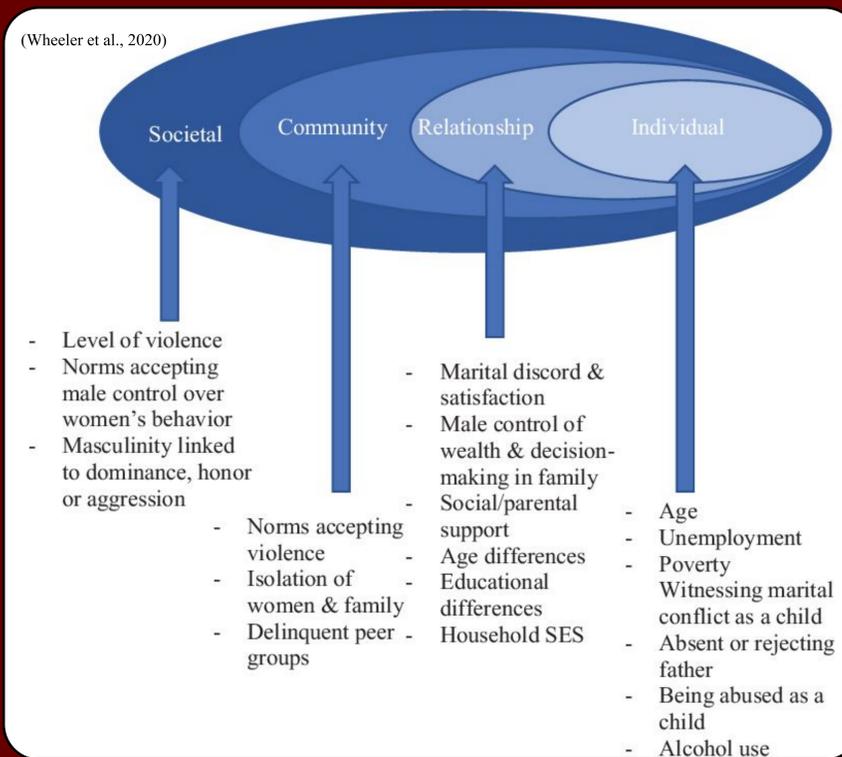
Using the FSU libraries' online tool known as OneSearch, we input certain keywords such as Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), survey, women, Honduras, and health effects to narrow the search to fit our parameters. We made sure to include peer-reviewed and scholarly sources with descriptions and abstracts. Pubmed is a great search engine that ensures the quality articles we are looking for. Other websites and databases used include Google Scholar and Academic Search Complete.

Preliminary Findings:

The literature reviewed display several patterns and commonalities which corroborates the findings and information drawn from their research. The causes of intimate partner violence (IPV) can vary on a case-by-case basis, but several causes were found in nearly all of the papers. These include living in a rural or lower-income area, the partner's use of substances, being in a male-dominated relationship (Coll et al. 2020; Kugel et al. 2009; Wheeler et al. 2020), and the "outer norm" or the community's acceptance of IPV (Shakya et al. 2016; Wheeler et al. 2020). In terms of the adverse health effects of IPV, it was found that exposure was associated with an increase in risk of depression, suicidal thoughts and attempts, substance use (Coll et al. 2020; Sukhera et al. 2012), physical injury, eating and psychotic disorders, HIV and STI infections (Sukhera et al. 2012; Wheeler et al. 2020), and many more.

The views and attitudes toward IPV of most of the women interviewed in these studies differed from their male counterparts. For many of these women, alcohol and drug use was considered to be a leading cause of IPV, with anger, cultural norms, and gender roles (Kugel et al. 2009; Shakya et al. 2016; Sukhera et al. 2012) being mentioned as other factors causing IPV. These surveys, which were used to both screen for IPV and gain information on individuals' perspectives on IPV, employed different methodologies. These included using the SWPER index to analyze the women's levels of empowerment (Coll et al. 2020; Ewerling et al. 2020), administering the surveys without the women's partners being present (Kugel et al. 2009), and using Pearson chi-square tests to assess differences in the experience of different forms of violence (Wheeler et al. 2020).

(Wheeler et al., 2020)



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Discussion:

Through the literature review, we can see how certain similarities and patterns are found in these studies, which can in turn help future studies by identifying the common causes of IPV and the subsequent health effects that can impact Hispanic women who are subjected to it. Additionally, by distinguishing what these women's thoughts and views regarding IPV are, as well as what they believe causes it, we can focus on targeting those perspectives when creating screening surveys or forming plans for interventions at the community level. During this process, we can also take a look at the methodologies used in the studies and their effectiveness to determine what can be reused or repurposed for a future educational program to be implemented in rural areas in Honduras. These interventions can help fight against patriarchal dividends and protect women against degradation.

| | Key informant interview | Health volunteer focus group |
|------------------|---|--|
| Overall theme(s) | Denial and minimization IPV as a private matter | Acknowledgement vs. denial Fear of disclosure |
| Types | Bilateral violence Physical Psychological | Control Sexual Family violence |
| Causes | Jealousy Lack of understanding Alcohol Rumor Gossip | Cultural norms Lack of education Alcohol |
| Effects | Family | Family Stigma |
| Interventions | Legal Preventive education Health | Legal Preventive education Health |

(Sukhera et al., 2012)

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