Impact Of Women Empowerment On Attitudes Towards Intimate Partner Violence

Mehwish Ghulam Ali, RMIT*
Anil Saleem, IBA
Siddiqa AliBhai, IBA
*ali.mehwish@rmit.edu.au
Research question

• What is the impact of women empowerment on attitudes of women towards spousal violence.
  – How is empowerment measured?
Motivation

• To help policy makers devise a comprehensive plan to tackle violence against women
  – Status of Women In Pakistan
  – Punjab Protection of Women Against Violence Act 2015
  – Will women report the abuse?
  – Does empowerment of women change their attitude toward violence?
    • What does it mean to be empowered?
Literature Review

• One out of every three women face has faced intimate violence at some instant in her life.

• Negative Impact of IPV

• Factors which increase risk of IPV
  – Khan, Hafiz Muhammad Ather et al. 2013

• Women empowerment index
Data and methodology

Beating justified if wife goes out without telling husband

Beating justified if wife neglects the children

Beating justified if wife argues with the husband

Is wife beating justified?

Beating justified if wife refuses to have sex with the husband

Beating justified if wife burns the food
Data and methodology

Conceptual Framework

Control Variables
- Age
- Education
- Wealth
- Urban
- Employment

Women Empowerment
- Control over Household Earnings
- Decision Making Power

Attitudes Towards Spousal Violence
- Do they choose higher or lower number of cases where IPV is justified?
## Data and methodology

### Women Empowerment Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Score</th>
<th>Decision Index</th>
<th>Household Income Index</th>
<th>Women Empowerment Index</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Woman Participates in All Three Decisions</td>
<td>Wife's Income: Wife Primarily Decides</td>
<td>Husband's Income: Wife Primarily Decides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Woman Participates in Atleast One Decision</td>
<td>Wife's Income: Wife Jointly Decides</td>
<td>Husband's Income: Wife Jointly Decides</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>Woman Does not participate</td>
<td>Wife's Income: Wife does not decide</td>
<td>Husband's Income: Wife does not decide</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
## Women Empowerment Score and Women Empowerment Index

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Women Empowerment Score</th>
<th>Women Empowerment Index</th>
<th>Number of Observations</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 or 1</td>
<td>low</td>
<td>1,937</td>
<td>52.54%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2 or 3</td>
<td>medium</td>
<td>1,455</td>
<td>39.46%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4, 5 or 6</td>
<td>high</td>
<td>295</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,687</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Descriptive analysis

Women Who Feel Wife Beating Is Never Justified
By Level of Empowerment
Source PDHS 2012-2013

Empowerment Level

Low
Medium
High

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Descriptive analysis

Attitudes Towards Spousal Violence and Level of Empowerment
Source PDHS 2012-2013

Low
Medium
High

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Descriptive analysis

Incidence of Physical Violence By Level of Empowerment
Source: PDHS 2012-2013

Level of Empowerment

- low
- medium
- high
Descriptive analysis

Level of Education By Empowerment Level
Source PDHS 2012-2013

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Wealth By Empowerment Level
Source PDHS 2012-2013

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Descriptive analysis

Employment Status By Empowerment Level
Source PDHS 2012-2013
Results

• Ordinal Logit, MLE Ordinal Logit and Generalised Logit (Constrained, Unconstrained and Partial Proportional Odds)

• Ordinal Logit and MLE both give similar and expected results
  – WEI, Education and Urban status have a negative relation to attitudes towards spousal violence
  – IPV has a positive relation to attitudes towards spousal violence
  – Age group and employment have no effect
  – Proportional Odds Assumption is violated

• Generalised Ordinal Logit
  – The constrained model does not give us any interesting results
  – The unconstrained model and proportional odds model give similar results as Ordinal Logit
  – The models are good at explaining the extensive decision i.e. if women feel spousal violence is justified or not good at explaining extent of justification
    • Sign of WEI on Attitude towards domestic violence remains consistent but affect dies down at higher levels of dependent variable
## Results

### Table 2: Predicted Probability of respondents choosing N number of reasons where they feel spousal violence is justified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>N</th>
<th>Mean</th>
<th>Dev.</th>
<th>Min</th>
<th>Max</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0</td>
<td>0.620</td>
<td>0.159</td>
<td>0.315</td>
<td>0.922</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 or 2</td>
<td>0.104</td>
<td>0.030</td>
<td>0.035</td>
<td>0.190</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 or 4</td>
<td>0.152</td>
<td>0.072</td>
<td>0.020</td>
<td>0.287</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.124</td>
<td>0.084</td>
<td>0.014</td>
<td>0.346</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Results

Figure 1: Predicted Probability That Participant Chooses N Number of Reasons Where Spousal Violence is Justified

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Number of Reasons</th>
<th>Predicted Probability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Figure 2: Predicted Probability By Incidence of Spousal Violence

Number of Reasons Where Spousal Violence is Justified

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</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>0.15</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Legend:
- Did Not Suffer Any Physical Violence
- Suffered Any Physical Violence

Figure 3: Predicted Probability By Incidence of Women Empowerment

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level of Empowerment</th>
<th>Predicted Probability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Low</td>
<td>0.06</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Medium</td>
<td>0.07</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>High</td>
<td>0.08</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Legend:
- Low
- Medium
- High
Conclusion

• Spousal violence is spread across socio economic levels, and cannot be sufficiently explained by traditional approaches which focus on education, wealth and labour force participation.

• We create a women empowerment index, which focuses on defining women empowerment based as the ability to independently make decisions.

• We then looked at the impact of women empowerment on attitudes towards spousal violence.

• Our analysis provides some interesting results,
  – Women empowerment has a negative and significant impact on tolerance for spousal violence, but this effect is more at the extensive rather than intensive margin.