Socioeconomic and Demographic Determinants of Marital Violence Against Women in Palestine

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Abstract

The study aimed to investigate the demographic, social, and economic factors that affect the prevalence rates of marital violence against Palestinian women. The present study used survey data. The declaration of violence in Palestinian society was made in 2019 by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics. The study sample consisted of 5,114 married women or formerly married women. In addition, the study used the descriptive approach to describe the demographic, social, and economic variables that affect the prevalence of marital violence against women (MVAW). Binary logistic regression was utilized to investigate the determinants of MVAW. The study concluded that young women are more susceptible to all forms of violence. An increase in the number of children in a family is correlated with higher rates of violence, and the women who are living in the Gaza Strip have elevated odds of experiencing MVAW if compared to women living in the West Bank. Women in low-income families are more susceptible to marital violence than women from affluent families. Currently, working women are less vulnerable to MVAW than their non-working counterparts. The study recommends further research and collaboration between government and non-government organizations to prevent the expansion of this problem.

Keywords

Binary logistic regression model; economic violence; marital violence; Palestine; physical violence; psychological violence; sexual violence; social violence

Introduction

Violence against women (VAW) represents a severe transgression of fundamental human rights (Nnadi, 2012). Several research studies have found that one in every three women is exposed to violence at least once in their lifetime, with VAW having adverse effects on their physical and mental health (Coker et al., 2002; Dillon et al., 2013). Although VAW is widespread across all countries and social classes, its prevalence varies by country. Women from lower socioeconomic backgrounds experience a higher incidence of VAW due to increased exposure to violence, particularly those perpetrated by their spouses (Pande et al., 2017; World Health Organization [WHO], 2020).

Despite an observed rise in the prevalence of marital violence against women (MVAW), the existing data remains insufficient and falls short of reflecting the true nature of this phenomenon (Walby, 2006). This phenomenon could be attributed to cultural practices, traditional beliefs, and women's apprehension towards their spouses (Bukuluki et al., 2021). Fear for their children, the absence or shortage of alternative economic support, or the absence of familial support can all contribute to women's acceptance of violence (Jewkes et al., 2002). Domestic violence can also impose additional financial burdens on the family (Masson et al., 2019).

The number of studies on VAW, particularly spousal violence, has increased since the World Health Organization (WHO) (2005) announced the results of a multi-country survey of VAW. However, VAW data is scarce, particularly in the Middle East, including Palestine (WHO, 2021). This requires further studies to assess the demographic, social, and economic factors that affect MVAW prevalence rates. As such, MVAW is not considered a significant issue in Islamic and Arab nations. According to studies, one in every three Palestinian women has experienced physical violence at the hands of their husbands (Douki et al., 2003). The prevalence of MVAW in Palestine can be attributed, in part, to the restrictions placed on women, both within and outside the family. Since the majority of Palestinian wives are economically dependent on their husbands, they are forced to endure life with a violent spouse. Furthermore, women frequently earn lower wages than men in equivalent occupations (Haj-Yahia, 2005).

The political turmoil and economic siege that Palestinian society is experiencing affect the prevalence of MVAW because they generate psychological pressures that manifest in the conduct of family members. Despite the widespread occurrence of MVAW, a mere 1% of Palestinian women who were victims of such violence sought official assistance (Fitzgerald & Chi, 2020).

The detrimental effects of MVAW extend beyond the immediate family members. Children who are exposed to domestic violence face severe repercussions (Carmel, 2023). These include a lack of a sense of security, which leads to depression and isolation, as well as aggressive behavior in social settings or at school (Flood & Pease, 2009; Guedes et al., 2016). Female children who observe their mothers being subjected to violence may develop a feeling of inferiority and tolerance towards domestic abuse. On the contrary, there is a higher probability that male children will engage in marital violence themselves after witnessing violence committed against their mothers (Fleming et al., 2015; Phuntsho et al., 2021).

Despite the decrease in the prevalence of various forms of MVAW from 37% in 2011 to 29.4% in 2019, as reported by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) (2022), domestic

violence against women remains a prevalent issue in Palestinian society. The current study aimed to measure the factors affecting the spread of violence against women (VAW) in Palestine using a comprehensive statistical model. This approach allows for interpreting results based on data from the 2019 Violence in Palestinian Society Survey, the most recent and advanced data available at the time of writing. A novel aspect of this study is the examination of the impact of violence experienced by husbands from their wives on male-perpetrated violence against women.

Literature review

Numerous international studies have focused on MVAW. An investigation conducted by Guedes et al. (2016) revealed that VAW is pervasive globally and continues to exhibit a high prevalence. The highest prevalence rates of VAW are found in the underdeveloped countries. A prior study by Alkan et al. (2021) aimed to identify the factors affecting Turkish women's exposure to economic violence at the hands of their husbands. The study found that Young women are more likely to be exposed to economic violence, and women with primary or secondary education are more likely to experience economic violence than those who did not attend school.

Numerous researchers have investigated MVAW in Palestine as well. For instance, one-third of Palestinian women were subjected to physical violence, and fifty percent were subjected to psychological violence, according to a study (Thabet et al., 2015). This type of abuse results in post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, and anxiety, and the study suggested conducting further research to investigate the various forms of marital violence and the factors that contribute to it. Farahani et al. (2019) discovered that MVAW and wars and conflicts in Palestine are significantly correlated. Additionally, the research revealed that drug use by the husband, childhood exposure to violence, or having a child with special needs are factors contributing to the transmission of MVAW within a family. Specifically, two-thirds of female victims would rather keep silent about violence and consider it a matter of the family. According to a study by Okasha et al. (2014), MVAW is the most prevalent form of violence in Palestine. In addition, women in Palestine are exposed to violence outside their homes only rarely; the prevalence of violence in the Gaza Strip is more significant than in the West Bank, and violence is pervasive among young women. Therefore, additional research is advised to consider including additional explanatory variables.

The research conducted by Haj-Yahia et al. (2012) aimed to determine the perspectives of Palestinian adults concerning the various aspects of MVAW. A strong tendency exists to justify MVAW in a variety of circumstances, such as when the husband suspects that his wife is having an affair with another man or that she physically attacks her husband. Baloushah et al. (2019) revealed that spouses who experienced childhood violence are the most likely to exhibit violent behavior toward their partners. Additionally, he discovered that the presence of a child with a disability and the substance abuse of the husband contributed to a rise in the incidence of MVAW. Additionally, Abu Ishaq (2013) illustrated that the economic status of the family and the level of education attained by women are found to be negatively correlated with the prevalence of MVAW and positively correlated with the increase in the number of children within the family.

An investigation was carried out by Giacaman et al. (2010) through a cluster survey to examine the potential correlation between MVAW and political violence within families

residing in the occupied Palestinian territory. A significant correlation was observed between political violence and an increased probability of intimate partner violence. Insufficient research has been conducted on this subject within the occupied Palestinian territories. Furthermore, it established a correlation between intimate partner violence and political, economic, and social factors; domestic violence is associated not only with families and individuals but also with collectivism and nationalism. According to the findings of Banat (2015), the unequal power dynamics within the family and the prevailing sense of inferiority towards women in Palestinian society, which stems from inherited customs and traditions, are significant factors contributing to the rise in the incidence of MVAW. Moreover, it was discovered that the heightened psychological strains and repression experienced by members of society as a result of the political unrest, the problematic economic blockade that the Palestinian society is enduring, and the rise in poverty rates all contribute to increased tensions within the family, which in turn increases the incidence of MVAW (Baldi, 2018; Imseis, 2020).

Study objective

The study aimed to identify the determinants of MVAW by their husbands in Palestine with socioeconomic and demographic variables through:

1. Measuring the prevalence rates of different marital violence according to the characteristics of women and the type of violence.

2. Identifying the determinants of marital violence according to the characteristics of women and the type of violence

Data sources and methodology

This study used data from the Violence in Palestinian Society Survey issued by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) in 2019 (2022). A total of 5,114 married or previously married women were surveyed regarding incidences of physical, psychological, sexual, social, or economic violence perpetrated by their spouses. It consists of a survey of violence in Palestinian Society 2019 for Palestinian families who usually reside in the State of Palestine (the West Bank and Gaza Strip) during the year 2019. The sample during the year 2019 was designed to be a random stratified group. The Violence in Palestinian Society Survey 2019 is considered one of the specialized qualitative surveys, and it has been implemented in Palestine for the third time. The first survey was conducted in 2006, and the second in 2011. This survey is of particular importance in that it highlights the phenomenon of violence in Palestinian society. It also responds to international demands related to the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.

This study used a descriptive approach to describe the demographic, social, and economic variables affecting the prevalence of MVAW. A binary logistic regression analysis was employed to examine the factors influencing MVAW, as MVAW variables are binary (0 indicating no violence and 1 indicating violence). The prevalence of binary logistic regression analysis has been steadily rising. Binary logistic regression analysis has gained popularity in the humanities when the dependent variable is binary. The binary logistic regression model

utilizes the odds ratio to assess the influence of a predictor variable on the outcome variable (Maroof, 2012).

Strengths and limitations of the study

One of the strengths of this study is that it fills the gap identified by previous studies that investigated MVAW in Palestine by studying many of the variables that affect MVAW. The study also examined various forms of marital violence experienced by Palestinian women.

The Violence Survey in Palestine 2019 addressed the lack of data in previous surveys (PCBS, 2022). However, it only included samples from women living in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, which accounts for approximately 37.8% of the overall Palestinian population. Due to the political situation, Palestinians living in the territories were excluded. In 1948, the occupation occurred, affecting approximately 12% of the population. The Palestinians residing in Arab countries accounted for an estimated 44.9%, while those living in foreign countries made up around 5.3% of the total Palestinian population surveyed.

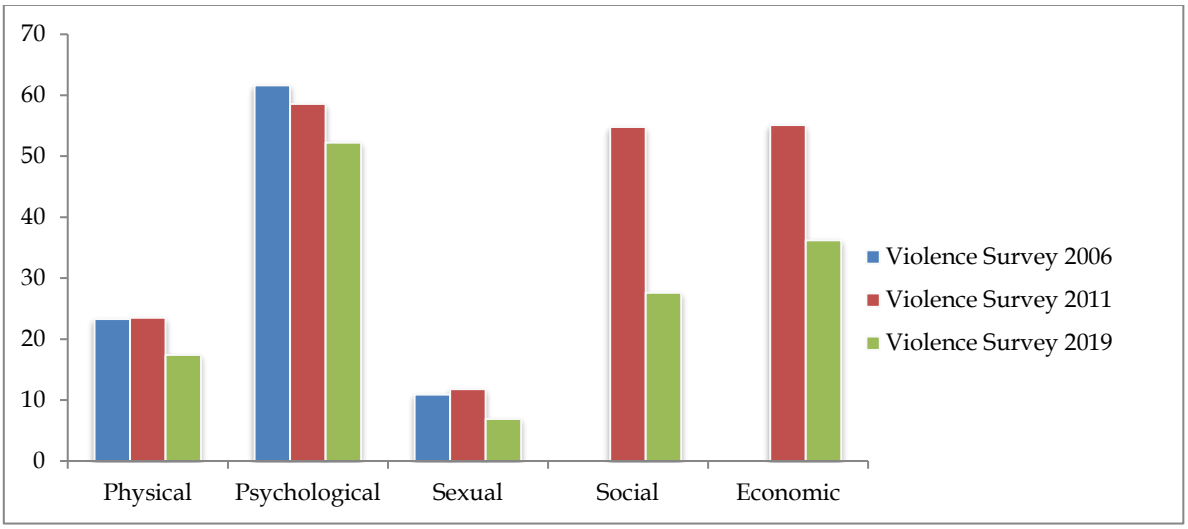
Since the study's findings are derived solely from women's perspectives and attributes, they might not precisely represent the actual state of MVAW in Palestine.

Results

Trends of MVAW from 2006 to 2019

When examining a specific phenomenon, it is imperative to comprehend its progression within society. Figure 1 demonstrates the progression of marital violence against women (MVAW) from 2006 to 2011 and 2019. It reveals a decline in all rates of violence prevalence, with psychological violence being the most prevalent form.

Figure 1: Evolution of Levels of MVAW from 2006 to 2019



Note: Data taken from the Violence Survey in Palestine 2005, 2011, and 2019 (PCBS, 2006, 2012, 2022)

Women were not asked about social and economic marital violence in the 2006 Violence Survey. Although there has been a decrease in the occurrence of MVAW in all its forms, the rates of violence remain elevated, particularly in the domains of psychological, economic, and social violence.

Table 1: Prevalence Rates of Different Types of Marital Violence to Which Women are Exposed

Variable	Physical		Psychological		Sexual		Economic		Social	
	No. (%)	χ^2 (*df*)	No. (%)	χ^2 (*df*)	No. (%)	χ^2 (*df*)	No. (%)	χ^2 (*df*)	No. (%)	χ^2 (*df*)
Woman's age										
18–24	146(23.9)	93.77*	349(60.4)	169.8*	78(12.8)	69.45*	143(52.2)	146.3*	123(47.5)	176.3*
25–34	311(18.7)		491(60.8)		167(10.1)		357(46.2)		283(36.6)	
35–44	228(17.2)		691(55.9)		108(8.2)		256(37.7)		182(27.2)	
45–54	102(10.4)		425(47.0)		44(4.5)		136(27.9)		77(16.7)	
55–64	38(7.0)		150(30.5)		12(2.2)		41(13.4)		18(6.2)	
Woman's education										
Never enrolled	11(9.6))	38.10*	33(31.3)	60.43*	10(2.6)	23.12*	11(17.7)	84.39*	6 (9.8)	89.12*
Can read and write	39(12.7)		112(40.4)		17(5.5)		37(22.6)		29(17.8)	
Primary	392(18.2)		1,152(51.7)		186(8.7)		432(44.0)		324(35.1)	
Secondary	270(18.0)		771(55.5)		146(9.7)		295(41.8)		218(32.4)	
Higher	113(10.9)		488(50.4)		57(5.5)		158(25.9)		106(16.7)	
Number of children										
0	191(11.4)	92.48*	649(41.8)	165.2*	87(5.2)	39.32*	212(24.1)	120.7*	151(17.7)	92.16*
1–2	148(14.9)		505(55.0)		72(7.3)		181(36.9)		131(27.6)	
3–4	279(16.8)		906(59.2)		158(9.5)		332(43.5)		235(31.8)	
5**	207(26.6)		496(67.7)		92(11.8)		208(53.3)		166(42.7)	
Kinship relationship with the husband										
There is a kinship relationship	32716.3)	0.10	1,023(54.8)	0.785	143(7.1)	3.267	365(39.2)	2.943	253(28.6)	0.393
There is no relationship	498(16.0)		1,533(53.5)		266(8.5)		568(35.7)		430(27.4)	
The woman's working status										
Working	76(11.6)	11.72*	259(24.3)	38.92*	38(5.8)	5.07*	97(16.9)	129.6*	48(7.6)	174.1*
Not working	749(16.80		2,297(55.7)		371(8.3)		836(43.0		635(43.9)	
Region										
West Bank	406(11.8)	147.8*	1,515(49.1)		241(7.0)	14.48*	520(30.1)	114.2*	377(21.8)	105.9*
Gaza Strip	419(25.1)		1,041(63.0)	82.92*	168(10.1)		413(52.2)		304(42.2)	

Variable	Physical		Psychological		Sexual		Economic		Social	
	No. (%)	χ^2 (*df*)	No. (%)	χ^2 (*df*)	No. (%)	χ^2 (*df*)	No. (%)	χ^2 (*df*)	No. (%)	χ^2 (*df*)
Locality type										
Urban	484(16.4)	3.49	1,458(54.1)	0.326	211(7.2)	9.11*	537(39.3)	8.78*	402(30.6)	11.07*
Rural	160(14.4)		530(53.2)		92(8.3)		190(32.3)		152(25.4)	
Camp	181(17.2)		541(54.4)		106(10.1)		206(36.3)		129(23.8)	
Wealth index										
Very poor	153(33.8)	163.1*	306(68.5)	75.19*	58(12.8)	20.24*	133(58.3)	81.29*	103(50.0)	90.21*
Poor	159(23.2)		379(57.8)		58(8.5)		145(41.5)		108(33.5)	
Middle	365(13.5)		1,320(53.7)		213(7.9)		479(37.5)		351(28.2)	
Rich	104(11.9)		406(49.9)		51(5.9)		123(28.1)		81(18.3)	
Very rich	43(10.7)		145(40.1)		29(7.2)		53(23.1)		40(16.8)	
The husband was exposed to physical violence										
Not exposed	521(12.6)	661.5*	2,065(54.5)	228.4*	261(6.3)	303.7*	666(36.5)	221.2*	477(26.6)	249.0*
Exposed	270(61.4)		398(29.3)		136(30.9)		232(84.1)		188(77.0)	
The husband was exposed to psychological violence										
Not exposed	324(10.2)	367.9*	1,252(43.6)	827.4*	149(4.7)	205.2*	385(27.7)	385.2*	283(20.3)	269.4*
Exposed	485(33.1)		1,270(89.6)		255(17.4)		535(71.9)		388(58.3)	
The husband was exposed to sexual violence										
Not exposed	616(14.5)	233.3*	2,127(54.7)	205.9*	263(6.2)	309.8*	700(37.6)	177.5*	526(28.6)	117.0*
Exposed	205(42.2)		423(89.1)		145(29.8)		231(79.1)		156(62.9)	
The husband was exposed to economic violence										
Not exposed	703(15.9)	73.13*	2,310(56.7)	73.02*	342(7.7)	72.19*	797(39.8)	95.57*	598(30.3)	69.33*
Exposed	77(39.3)		165(88.2)		49(25.0)		101(85.0)		65(72.2)	
The husband was exposed to social violence										
Not exposed	719(16.1)	77.77*	2,314(56.5)	92.67	334(7.5)	119.4*	799(40.2)	94.88*	574(29.6)	108.1*
exposed	103(36.7)		236(86.1)		74(26.3)		132(79.0)		108(70.6)	

*Note: This table was prepared by researchers based on data from the Violence Survey in Palestine 2019; * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$*

The prevalence rates of MVAW based on women's characteristics

According to Table 1, the prevalence rates of various forms of violence are categorized by the demographic, social, and economic attributes of women. Psychological violence was the most prevalent form of violence, which was determined by the demographic, social, and economic characteristics of women. It was observed that the highest occurrence rates of various forms of violence were found among young women, while the highest occurrence rates of violence based on women's education were among those who had completed middle school and high school. Regarding the number of children, it was observed that there was a direct correlation between the number of children and the occurrence of MVAW. Women's work was strongly correlated with higher rates of violence, indicating that non-working women were particularly susceptible to various forms of violence. It is worth mentioning that the occurrence rates of MVAW in the Gaza Strip are greater than those in the West Bank. Furthermore, there was an inverse relationship between the wealth index and the prevalence of MVAW, indicating that as the wealth index increases, the prevalence of MVAW decreases. Additionally, it is noteworthy that women who subjected their husbands to any form of violence experienced a greater incidence of violence against themselves compared to women who did not expose their husbands to violence.

Determinants of MVAW

This section provides the outcomes of binary logistic regression models for different types of MVAW. The models examined the variables that could potentially influence the likelihood of MVAW and combined them into a single statistical model. This approach enabled the estimation of the individual effects of each variable while accounting for the impact of other independent variables, which has been considered in the model.

The goodness-of-fit of the models was fully verified through comprehensive goodness-of-fit measurements, such as the omnibus, pseudo-R^2, and Hosmer & Lemeshow goodness-of-fit tests. The study initially tested statistical significance to ascertain the suitability of the models that were prepared as a whole using the following measures:

Table 2: Testing the Statistical Significance of the Models as a Whole

Type of violence	Chi-square test	*df*	*p* value
Physical violence	778.621	17	.000
Psychological violence	1130.335	17	.000
Sexual violence	395.848	17	.000
Economic violence	786.333	17	.000
Social violence	575.975	17	.000

The chi-square test revealed a significant difference between the logarithm of the weighted function values for the logistic regression model with independent variables and the empty models (without independent variables), as indicated in Table 2. The models developed for all types of violence exhibit statistical significance, indicating that the variables in the models play a significant role in explaining the factors that contribute to women's exposure to each type of violence by their husbands (Loughin, 2004).

Table 3: The Results of the Pseudo Chi-Square Test

Type of violence	Cox & Snell	Nagelkerke
Physical violence	0.163	0.273
Psychological violence	0.243	0.328
Sexual violence	0.097	0.200
Economic violence	0.320	0.431
Social violence	0.317	0.444

In the logistic regression model, the pseudo-R^2 coefficient is similar to R^2 in a linear regression model. It indicates the amount of variability in the dependent variable explained by the independent variables. For each model, two pseudo-R^2 were calculated, Neglkerke R^2 and Cox & Snell R^2, when the value of pseudo-R^2 ranges from 0.2:0.4 for all five models, as shown in Table 3. The results indicated the model's goodness of fit for prediction (White, 2013).

Table 4: Hosmer & Lemeshow Testing

Type of violence	Hosmer & Lemesho	*df*	*p* value
Physical violence	5.548	8	0.698
Psychological violence	11.997	8	0.151
Sexual violence	13.451	8	0.097
Economic violence	6.278	8	0.616
Social violence	8.265	8	0.408

The Hosmer & Lemeshow test, presented in Table 4, was utilized to assess the predictive capability of the models by testing the null hypothesis. The estimated values of the dependent variables match the actual values for all five models, and the test statistic of the Hosmer & Lemeshow test is greater than 0.05. Consequently, we accept the null hypothesis, indicating that the estimated value of the dependent variables equals the observed values, and we reject the alternative hypothesis, which is that the estimated values are not equal to the actual values. Therefore, the final models are good (Archer & Lemeshow, 2006).

Table 5: The Odds Ratio for Determinants of MVAW

Variable	Physical	Psychological	Sexual	Economic	Social
Woman's age (years)	0.974**	0.992*	0.972**	0.985**	0.965**
Woman's education (years)	0.914**	0.956**	0.944**	0.913**	0.890**
Number of children	1.071**	1.107**	1.058	1.127**	1.095**
Kinship relationship with the husband					
There are	0.823*	0.937	0.761*	0.964	0.887
No (reference category)	-	-	-	-	-
Woman's working status					
Working	0.104	0.703**	0.858*	0.275**	0.160**
Not working (reference category)	-	-	-	-	-
Region					
West Bank	0.546**	0.644**	0.849	0.441**	0.444**
Gaza Strip (reference category)	-	-	-	-	-
Locality type					
Urban	0.909	0.951	0.649**	1.884*	1.658**
Rural	1.076	1.132	0.821	0.915	1.437
Camp (reference category)	-	-	-	-	-

Variable	Physical	Psychological	Sexual	Economic	Social
Wealth index					
Very poor	2.369**	2.921**	1.066	1.884*	1.654
Poor	1.832**	2.217**	0.953	1.362	1.399
Middle	1.136	2.062**	0.887	1.637*	1.634*
Rich	1.213	1.766**	0.723	1.216	1.008
Very rich (reference category)	-	-	-	-	-
The husband was exposed to physical violence					
Not exposed	0.186**	0.400**	0.377**	0.349**	0.301**
Exposed (reference category)	-	-	-	-	-
The husband was exposed to psychological violence					
Not exposed	0.458**	0.121**	0.529**	0.239**	0.280**
Exposed(reference category)	-	-	-	-	-
The husband was exposed to sexual violence					
Not exposed	0.535**	0.441**	0.330**	0.426**	0.561**
Exposed(reference category)	-	-	-	-	-
The husband was exposed to economic violence					
Not exposed	0.677*	0.449**	0.654*	0.265**	0.341**
Exposed(reference category)	-	-	-	-	-
The husband was exposed to social violence					
Not exposed	0.992	0. 712	0.643**	0.524**	0.475**
Exposed(reference category)	-	-	-	-	-

Note: Prepared by researchers based on data from the Violence Survey in Palestine 2019;
*- Reference Category; * $p < .05$. ** $p < .01$*

Determinants of physical violence

The findings of the model analyzing the factors that contribute to physical violence against women by their husbands are presented in Table 5. As the woman's age increased, the likelihood of her experiencing physical violence from her husband decreased (OR = 0.974, $p <$ .01). Furthermore, there was a negative correlation between a woman's level of education and the likelihood of experiencing physical violence from her spouse. Specifically, for each additional year of education, the odds ratio of being exposed to such violence decreased by 0.914, with a significance level of $p < .01$. An increase in the number of children in the family by one child was associated with a higher likelihood of the woman being subjected to physical violence by her husband (OR = 1.071, $p < .01$). Women who had a close familial relationship with their husbands hade a decreased likelihood of experiencing physical violence (OR = 0.823, $p < .05$).

The likelihood of a woman residing in the West Bank experiencing physical violence from her spouse was lower compared to a woman living in the Gaza Strip (OR = 0.546, $p < .01$). The findings also indicated that the likelihood of a woman residing in a highly impoverished household (OR = 2.369, $p < .01$) or a low-income family (OR = 1.832, $p < .01$) experiencing physical violence from her spouse was higher compared to a woman who lived in a wealthy family.

The analysis revealed that a woman who had not engaged in any physical violence (OR = 0.186, $p < .01$), psychological violence (OR = 0.458, $p < .01$), sexual violence (OR = 0.535, $p <$ .01), or economic violence (OR = 0.677, $p < .05$) towards her husband had a reduced likelihood of experiencing physical violence from her husband.

The analysis revealed that there was no statistically significant correlation between a woman's employment, the type of locality she lived in, her exposure to social violence by her husband, and the likelihood of her experiencing physical violence by their husband ($p > .05$).

Determinants of psychological violence

The results of the model of the determinants of psychological VAW by their husbands are shown in Table 5. Also, as the woman's age increased, the chance of her being exposed to psychological violence by her husband decreased (OR = 0.992, $p < .05$). The results indicated that as the woman's age increased, there was a decrease in the likelihood of her experiencing psychological violence from her husband (OR = 0.956, $p < .01$).

An increase in the number of children in the family by one child raised the likelihood of a woman being subjected to psychological violence by her husband (OR = 1.107, $p < .01$). Employed women were less likely to experience psychological violence than their husbands (OR = 0.703, $p < .01$).

The likelihood of a woman in the West Bank experiencing psychological violence from her husband was lower than that of a woman in the Gaza Strip (OR = 0.644, $p < .01$). Additionally, the study found that women from low-income families (OR = 2.921, $p < .01$), poor families (OR = 2.217, $p < .01$), middle-class families (OR = 2.062, $p < .01$), and even wealthy families (OR = 1.766, $p < .01$) had a higher likelihood of experiencing psychological violence from their husbands compared to women from very wealthy families.

The analysis revealed that a woman who had not engaged in any physical violence (OR = 0.400, $p < .01$), psychological violence (OR = 0.121, $p < .01$), sexual violence (OR = 0.441, $p < .01$), or economic violence (OR = 0.449, $p < .01$) towards her husband had a reduced likelihood of experiencing psychological violence compared to her husband.

The analysis also revealed that there was no statistically significant correlation between a woman's probability of experiencing psychological violence from her husband and factors such as kinship relationship with her husband, locality type, and a woman's exposure to social violence by her husband on a woman's probability of exposure to psychological violence by their husband ($p > .05$).

Determinants of sexual violence

The model results regarding the determinants of sexual VAW by their husbands are shown in Table 5. It was found that when a woman's age increased, the likelihood of her experiencing sexual violence from her spouse reduced (OR = 0.972, $p < .01$). Additionally, there was a negative correlation between a woman's level of education and her likelihood of experiencing sexual violence from her spouse. Specifically, with each additional year of education a woman received (OR = 0.944, $p < .01$). A woman who shared a kinship relationship with her spouse experienced a decreased likelihood of being exposed to sexual violence (OR = 0.761, $p < .05$). Furthermore, employed women were less likely to experience sexual violence from their husbands (OR = 0.858, $p < .05$). The likelihood of a woman residing in urban regions being subjected to sexual violence by her spouse was lower compared to a woman living in a camp (OR = 0.649, $p < .01$).

The analysis revealed that women who had not engaged in any physical violence (OR = 0.377, $p < .01$), psychological violence (OR = 0.529, $p < .01$), sexual violence (OR = 0.330, $p < .01$), economic violence (OR = 0.654, $p < .05$), or social violence (OR = 0.643, $p < .01$), hade a reduced likelihood of experiencing sexual violence by their husbands.

The analysis also showed that there was no statistically significant correlation between the number of children, region, wealth index, and a woman's likelihood of experiencing exposure to sexual violence by her husband ($p > .05$).

Determinants of economic violence

The model results regarding the determinants of economic VAW by their husbands are shown in Table 5. The results revealed a negative correlation between a woman's age and the likelihood of her experiencing economic violence from her husband (OR = 0.985, $p < .01$). Furthermore, there was a negative correlation between a woman's level of education and her likelihood of experiencing economic violence from her spouse. Specifically, for every additional year of education a woman received, her odds of being exposed to economic violence decreased (OR = 0.913, $p < .01$). Moreover, an increase in the number of children in a family by one child raised the likelihood of a woman being subjected to economic violence by her husband (OR = 1.127, $p < .01$).

Employed women were less likely to experience economic violence than their husbands (OR = 0.275, $p < .01$). The likelihood of a woman residing in the West Bank experiencing economic violence from her husband was lower compared to a woman living in the Gaza Strip (OR = 0.441, $p < .01$). The likelihood of a woman living in an urban area being subjected to economic violence from her spouse was significantly higher compared to a woman living in a camp (OR = 1.884, $p < .05$). The findings also indicated that women from low-income families (OR = 1.884, $p < .05$) and middle-income families (OR = 1.637, $p < .05$) has a higher likelihood of experiencing economic abuse from their husbands compared to women from high-income families.

The analysis revealed that a woman who has not engaged in any physical violence (OR = 0.349, $p < .01$), psychological violence (OR = 0.239, $p < .01$), sexual violence (OR = 0.426, $p < .01$), economic violence (OR = 0.265, $p < .01$), or social violence (OR = 0.524, $p < .01$) towards her husband has a reduced likelihood of experiencing economic violence by their husband.

The analysis also revealed that there was no statistically significant correlation between the kinship relationship with a woman's spouse and the likelihood of her being subjected to economic violence by her husband ($p > .05$).

Determinants of social violence

The findings of the model examining the factors influencing social violence against women by their spouses are shown in Table 5. Furthermore, as the woman aged, the likelihood of her experiencing social aggression from her husband reduced (OR = 0.965, $p < .01$). Furthermore, there was a negative correlation between a woman's level of education and her likelihood of experiencing domestic violence from her spouse. Specifically, with each additional year of education, the odds ratio of being exposed to social violence decreased (OR = 0.890, $p < .01$).

When the number of children in the family increased by one child, it increased the woman's chance of being exposed to social violence by her husband (OR = 1.095, $p < .01$).

Employed women were less likely to experience social violence than their husbands (OR = 0.160, $p < .01$).

The likelihood of a woman residing in the West Bank being subjected to economic violence by her husband was much lower compared to a woman living in the Gaza Strip (OR = 0.441, $p < .01$). The likelihood of a woman being subjected to economic abuse from her husband was significantly higher if she resided in an urban area compared to living in a camp (OR = 1.658, $p < .01$). The findings also indicated that the likelihood of a woman residing in a middle-class family (OR = 1.634, $p < .05$) experiencing domestic violence from her spouse was more significant compared to a woman living in a wealthy family.

The analysis revealed that if a woman had not engaged in any physical violence (OR = 0.301, $p < .01$), psychological violence (OR = 0.280, $p < .01$), sexual violence (OR = 0.561, $p < .01$), economic violence (OR = 0.341, $p < .01$), or social violence (OR = 0.475, $p < .01$) towards her husband, she had a reduced likelihood of experiencing social violence by their husband.

The data also indicated that there was no statistically significant correlation between the kinship relationship of a woman with her husband and the likelihood of her being subjected to social violence by her husband ($p > .05$).

Discussion

This study examined the demographic, social, and economic factors affecting marital violence against women (MVAW) in Palestine and measured its determinants utilizing the most recent data from the Violence Survey in Palestine 2019 (PCBS, 2022).

The study also elucidated the development of the spread of MVAW in Palestine using data from the Violence Survey in Palestine for 2005, 2011, and 2019. The study found that the rates of MVAW have decreased over the years. However, it also highlighted that the rates of violence, encompassing all forms, continue to stay elevated. Additionally, the study revealed that psychological violence is the predominant kind, aligning with prior research (Daruwalla et al., 2020; Kadir Shahar et al., 2020; Sen & Bolsoy, 2017; Valls et al., 2016).

This study used descriptive statistics to determine the demographic, social, and economic factors that affect the prevalence of different types of MVAW in Palestine. The study has found that MVAW is widespread across all groups and classes. This study used analytical statistics to measure the determinants of MVAW using binary logistic regression. The study reached the following conclusions were drawn:

Younger women had a higher likelihood of experiencing various forms of violence from their husbands, which is consistent with prior studies (Abouelenin, 2022; Nihel et al., 2021). It has been established that VAW decreases with age, which contradicts the findings of a previous study (Sen & Bolsoy, 2017), which demonstrated that marital violence increases relatively among older women.

The likelihood of a woman experiencing various forms of violence from her husband decreases as her level of education increases. This is consistent with Afkhamzadeh et al. (2019), who demonstrated that there is a relatively higher incidence of marital violence among older women.

The likelihood of women experiencing violence from their spouses rises in correlation with the number of children in the family across all forms of violence except for sexual violence. Many children in a family impose financial hardships, particularly in impoverished or low-income households. This, in turn, leads to frequent conflicts within the family, particularly between the husband and wife, and consequently increases the incidence of violence. A recent study conducted by Campbell and Mace (2022) established a correlation between the number of children in a family and the likelihood of spousal violence perpetrated by the husband against his wife. In many instances, the wife endures significant violence due to fear for her children's well-being and her financial dependence on her husband.

The presence of a kinship relationship between a husband and wife reduces the likelihood of women experiencing physical and sexual violence from their husbands. However, this relationship does not have a significant impact on the occurrence of psychological, economic, and social violence.

The likelihood of women being subjected to psychological, economic, and social violence diminishes when the wife is employed. As women's contribution to fulfilling household responsibilities decreases, the pressure on husbands is reduced, resulting in a decrease in the occurrence of violence, particularly violence perpetrated by husbands against their partners. Non-working women are at a higher risk of experiencing violence due to their economic and social reliance on their husbands. Married women residing in the West Bank are at a lower risk of experiencing various forms of violence, except for sexual violence, in comparison to those living in the Gaza Strip.

Women from very poor or poor families have a higher likelihood of experiencing physical violence from their husbands, while women who move up the wealth index are less likely to be subjected to such violence. Women belonging to very poor and poor families are more likely to experience economic violence perpetrated by their husbands. Women from middle-class families have a higher likelihood of experiencing social violence compared to women from very wealthy families, which aligns with the study by Shoukry Rashad et al. (2018). This finding confirms that marital violence increases in the category of women who belong to low-income families, and its prevalence decreases in the category of women belonging to wealthy families.

The likelihood of women experiencing various forms of violence from their husbands decreases when women refrain from engaging in violence themselves, except for instances where women are subjected to physical and psychological violence and when they expose their husbands to social violence. These results are consistent with Muftić et al. (2015) and Swan et al. (2008), who found that women who practice violence against their husbands are more likely to be exposed to violence.

The study suggests the implementation of educational programs targeting young couples and those on the verge of marriage, intending to raise awareness about the detrimental effects of domestic violence. This is achieved by implementing awareness campaigns via various media platforms and social networking sites. These campaigns aim to promote women's education and empower them in society, ultimately increasing their involvement in the labor market

and decision-making processes within their families. Furthermore, the study suggests developing national plans and policies and providing support to low-income families, especially in the Gaza Strip. This region is burdened by population density and high unemployment rates through governmental and non-governmental agencies to reduce the spread of marital violence.

The study also suggests expanding surveys on MVAW to obtain up-to-date data on the issue and to carry out sociological investigations. In order to accurately assess the prevalence of MVAW, it is essential to consider both the Palestinians residing in the occupied territories and those living in other countries. This is due to the possibility that the rates mentioned in the study might be underestimated in terms of the phenomenon's true magnitude. Additionally, the study recommends evaluating further variables that may potentially impact MVAW. Additionally, the research suggests the inclusion of additional variables that could influence MVAW, such as husbands' perspectives on the factors that incited them to resort to violence against their wives.

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