Socioeconomic Differences of Intimate Partner Violence among Married Women in Indonesia: Does Poverty Matter?

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Abstract

Background: Society placed women living in the men's world as inferior. Poverty as a stressor for men has the opportunity to make women victims of violence from their partners. The study aimed to analyze the effects of poverty on the risk of intimate partner violence among married women in Indonesia. **Materials and Methods:** The samples used were married women aged 15-49 years old. The weighted sample size was 34,086 women. Besides intimate partner violence as the dependent variable, other variables analyzed as independent variables were wealth status, residence, age, education, employment, living with in-laws, and recent sexual activity. The study employs binary logistic regression to determine intimate partner violence risk in the final stage. **Results:** The results show the poorest married women were 1.382 times more likely than the richest married women to experience intimate partner violence. Married women with wealthy status in the lower category were 1.320 times more likely than the richest married women to experience intimate partner violence. Married women with a wealthy group in the middle class were 1.262 times more likely than the richest married women to experience intimate partner violence. Married women with wealthy status in the more decadent category were 1.132 times more likely than the richest married women to experience intimate partner violence. **Conclusion:** The study concluded that poverty was a risk factor for intimate partner violence among married women in Indonesia. The lower the socioeconomic status, the greater the risk of intimate partner violence.

Keywords: Asian women, domestic violence, household data, intimate partner violence, poverty status, public health

INTRODUCTION

Poverty is a household economic condition with an average expenditure below the poverty line.[1] Poverty is a situation that encourages women to experience domestic violence. The World Health Organization noted that 30% of women experience violence from their partners globally.[2] One of the implications of women's poverty is the lack of knowledge due to dropping out of school so that women do not have bargaining power towards their partners.[3] Not only that, but the condition bound women by poverty will also voluntarily look for work and even experience woman trafficking.[4]

The number of violence against women in Indonesia increases from year to year. However, this condition is like the iceberg phenomenon because we found many violence cases in women under-reported. After all, violence against women is in privacy.[5,6] Based on a national survey conducted by the Central Bureau of Statistics and the Ministry of Woman Empowerment and Child Protection, Indonesia in 2016 stated that women aged

15-64, as many as 12.3% experienced physical violence, and 10.6% experienced violence by spouses.[7] Other survey reports conducted in Indonesia explain that the number of violence cases against women in Indonesia in 2017 was 348,466 cases, in 2018 as many as 406,178 patients, and still increased in 2019 by 431,471.[8]

Globally, violence against women is related to patriarchal social norms. The situation includes strict gender norms and cultural settings, which have an excellent opportunity to accept that torturing a woman is a form of fairness, as is the case in

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Sub-Saharan Africa and Southeast Asian regions that are very thick with patriarchal culture.[9,10]

Indonesia is one of the countries that embrace that culture. The patriarchal culture in Indonesia indirectly provides social values that limit women's space in terms of social and economic aspects so that women are close to poverty.[11,12] The situation shackled women in poverty in the dual household role, and the position consisted of caring for the home and earning a living for the family. In Indonesia's cultural context, society played women to care for domestic problems, and managing the family. But in low households, this role increases by helping their husbands to earn additional income.[13,14]

Physical violence, intimidation, sexual violence, and economic deprivation are forms of violence experienced by women in the household.[5] Cases of violence against women committed by a partner cannot be seen as a form of "reasonableness" because the impact on health is so generated. Previous studies explain that violence against women by their partners affects women's health. Some of them are the onset of post-traumatic stress disorder symptoms, barriers to accessing mother and child health services resulting in pregnancy disorders, namely low birth weight and abortion, contracting HIV, dropping out of school, economic dependence, and depression, including the women's death.[15]

Based on the background description, the study aims to analyze the effects of poverty on the risk of intimate partner violence among married women in Indonesia. This study's results help policymakers guide specific targets for reducing intimate partner violence in Indonesia.

METHODS

Data source
The study employs The 2017 Indonesian Demographic Data Survey (IDHS) as material for analysis in this study. The analysis unit in this study was married women aged 15-49 years old. The 2017 IDHS uses stratification and multistage random sampling, and the process resulted in a weighted sample of about 34,086 married women.

Variables
Intimate partner violence was a physical violation carried out on married women. Physical violence is beating, justified in some situations. Suppose the wife goes out without telling the husband if the wife neglects the children, if the wife argues with the husband, if the wife refuses to have sex with the husband, and burns the food. Intimate partner violence consists of not experiencing (No) and experiencing (Yes). Other variables analyzed as independent variables were wealth status, residence type, age group, education level, employment status, living with in-laws, and recent sexual activity in the last four weeks.

The study calculated the socioeconomic status based on the wealth quintile. Households were scored based on the amount and type of things they have, from televisions to bicycles or vehicles, and housing characteristics, such as drinking water sources, toilets, and primary construction materials for the house floor. The score determines using principal component analysis. National wealth quintiles were arranged for each household based on household scores and then split into five groups, accounting for 20% of the population.[16] Wealth status consists of the poorest, poorer, middle, richer, and richest levels.

The category of residence consists of urban and rural. The age group consists of seven types in five years: 15-19, 20-24, 25-29, 30-34, 35-39, and 40-45. Education level consists of four types: no education, primary, secondary, and higher. Meanwhile, the study divides employment status into unemployed and employed. Life with in-laws consists of two types: no and yes. The recent sexual activity in the last four weeks consists of two categories: never had sex/not active and active.

Data analysis
In the initial stage, the researchers use Chi-square to see the relationship between wealth status and other variables. In the final step, the study uses binary logistic regression to calculate the odds ratio of variables that influence intimate partner violence among married women in Indonesia. The research carried out all statistical analyzes using IBM SPSS 26 software.

Ethical approval
The study used secondary data from the 2017 IDHS as a materials analysis. The survey removed the identities of all respondents from the 2017 IDHS dataset. Participants in this study signed written consent forms, and children's parents or guardians gave their consent (under 16 years). The author has obtained permission to use data for this study through the website https://dhsprogram.com.

The 2017 IDHS adheres to the Standard DHS. survey protocol under The Demographic and Health Surveys Program (DHS-7), which has been approved by ICF International's Institutional Review Board and was previously reviewed and approved by the ORC Macro IRB in 2002. DHS surveys that adhere to the Standard are classified as DHS-7 program approved, and the approval document is attached. ICF International's Institutional Review Board followed the US Department of Health and Human Services requirements for the "Protection of Human Subjects" (45 CFR 46).

RESULTS

Table 1 is a display of descriptive statistics of respondent characteristics. The table shows that intimate partner violence incident dominates those who did not experience it. The proportion of intimate partner violence in the poorest married women is more extensive than in other wealth status categories.

Poor married women predominantly live in rural areas based on residence type, while wealthy married women are dominant in urban areas. Based on the age group, all wealth status categories are ruled by the 40-44, except the richer, dominated by the 35-39.

Variables	Wealth Status					Total	P
	Poorest (*n*=7693)	Poorer (*n*=6671)	Middle (*n*=6623)	Richer (*n*=6621)	Richest (*n*=6478)		
Intimate partner violence							<0.001
No	62.5%	64.9%	66.9%	70.4%	75.0%	65.2%	
Yes	37.5%	35.1%	33.1%	29.6%	25.0%	34.8%	
Place of residence							<0.001
Urban	15.5%	32.1%	47.5%	61.8%	79.6%	47.6%	
Rural	84.5%	67.9%	52.5%	38.2%	20.4%	52.4%	
Age group							<0.001
15-19	3.4%	2.8%	1.9%	1.2%	0.5%	0.5%	
20-24	10.9%	11.4%	10.6%	8.5%	4.9%	3.9%	
25-29	16.4%	15.8%	15.7%	16.1%	13.4%	10.0%	
30-34	18.7%	18.1%	18.6%	18.9%	18.3%	17.2%	
35-39	18.9%	19.3%	20.1%	21.2%	22.1%	22.9%	
40-44	16.2%	17.0%	17.9%	17.9%	21.1%	23.6%	
45-49	15.6%	15.6%	15.1%	16.2%	19.7%	21.9%	
Education Level							<0.001
No education	5.9%	2.0%	1.0%	0.5%	0.2%	3.2%	
Primary	56.7%	46.2%	36.6%	24.7%	9.6%	37.6%	
Secondary	35.0%	48.1%	56.9%	62.7%	54.1%	48.1%	
Higher	2.3%	3.7%	5.4%	12.1%	36.1%	11.0%	
Employment status							<0.001
Unemployed	45.0%	49.1%	46.7%	42.8%	37.3%	41.2%	
Employed	55.0%	50.9%	53.3%	57.2%	62.7%	58.8%	
Live with in-laws							<0.001
No	54.1%	60.2%	62.9%	62.1%	53.4%	58.4%	
Yes	45.9%	39.8%	37.1%	37.9%	46.6%	41,6%	
Recent sexual activity in the last four weeks							<0.001
Never had sex/Not active	23.2%	20.6%	18.8%	16.8%	15.4%	21.0%	
Active	76.8%	79.4%	81.2%	83.2%	84.6%	79.0%	

Table 1: The descriptive statistics of respondent characteristics of married women in Indonesia, 2017 (*n*=34,086)

Secondary education groups dominated all categories based on education level, except the poorest ones dominated by primary education. Based on employment status, employed married women dominated all classes of wealth status.

Meanwhile, Table 1 informs that married women who are not live with in-laws dominated all wealth status categories. Based on recent sexual activity in the last four weeks, married women who actively engaged in sexual activity dominated all wealth status categories—the more prosperous the proportion of married women who engage in active sexual activity, the more remarkable.

Table 2 displays the results of the binary logistic regression test of intimate partner violence in Indonesia. The study used the "intimate partner violence = no" category as a reference point in this final stage. All dependent variables are involved in the final stage of this analysis. The analysis proves seven variables have an influenced together with intimate partner violence in Indonesia significantly.

First, the poorest married women are 1.382 times more likely than the richest married women to experience intimate partner violence (AOR 1.382; 95% CI 1.382-1.382). Married women with wealthy status in the more deficient category are 1.320 times more likely than the richest married women to experience intimate partner violence (AOR 1.320; 95% CI 1.320-1.320). Married women with wealth status in the middle category are 1.262 times more likely than the richest married women to experience intimate partner violence (AOR 1.2620; 95% CI 1.262-1.262). Married women with wealth status in the more decadent category were 1.132 times more likely than the richest married women to experience intimate partner violence (AOR 1.132; 95% CI 1.132-1.132). This analysis shows that the poorer married women, the more likely they experience intimate partner violence in Indonesia. The situation means that poverty is a risk factor for intimate partner violence.

Second, married women who live in urban areas are 0.850 times more likely than married women who live in rural areas to experience intimate partner violence (AOR 0.850; 95% CI 0.850-0.850). This information shows that married women who live in rural areas in Indonesia are more likely to experience intimate partner violence.

Third, married women in the 20-24 age group have the possibility of 0.794 times compared to married women in the

Table 2: Binary Logistic Regression of Intimate Partner Violence in Indonesia, 2017 (*n*=34,086)				
Predictor	**Intimate Partner Violence**			
	P	AOR	95% CI	
			Lower Bound	**Upper Bound**
Wealth status: The Poorest	<0.001	1.382	1.382	1.382
Wealth status: Poorer	<0.001	1.320	1.320	1.320
Wealth status: Middle	<0.001	1.262	1.262	1.262
Wealth status: Richer	<0.001	1.132	1.132	1.132
Wealth status: The Richest	-	-	-	-
Place of residence: Urban	<0.001	0.850	0.850	0.850
Place of residence: Rural	-	-	-	-
Age group: 15-19	-	-	-	-
Age group: 20-24	<0.001	0.794	0.794	0.794
Age group: 25-29	<0.001	0.696	0.696	0.696
Age group: 30-34	<0.001	0.643	0.643	0.644
Age group: 35-39	<0.001	0.557	0.557	0.557
Age group: 40-44	<0.001	0.517	0.517	0.517
Age group: 45-49	<0.001	0.496	0.496	0.496
Education level: No education	<0.001	1.436	1.435	1.436
Education level: Primary	<0.001	1.440	1.439	1.440
Education level: Secondary	<0.001	1.362	1.362	1.362
Education level: Higher	-	-	-	-
Employment status: Unemployed	-	-	-	-
Employment status: Employed	<0.001	1.129	1.129	1.129
Live with in-laws: No	-	-	-	-
Live with in-laws: Yes	<0.001	1.232	1.232	1.232
Recent sexual activity in the last four weeks: Never had sex/Not active	<0.001	0.948	0.948	0.948
Recent sexual activity in last four weeks: Active	-	-	-	-

15-19 age group to experience intimate partner violence (AOR 0.794; 95% CI 0.794-0.794). Married women in the 30-34 age group are 0.643 times more likely than married women in the 15-19 age group to experience intimate partner violence (AOR 0.643; 95% CI 0.643-0.644). Married women in the 45-49 age group are 0.496 times more likely than married women in the 15-19 age group to experience intimate partner violence (AOR 0.496; 95% 0.496-0.496). This information shows that older married women are less likely to experience intimate partner violence in Indonesia.

Fourth, based on education level, the research shows that married women with no education are 1.436 times more likely than married women with higher education to experience intimate partner violence (AOR 1.436; 95% CI 1.435-1.436). Married women with primary education are 1.440 times more likely than married women with higher education to experience intimate partner violence (AOR 1.440; 95% CI 1.439-1.440). Moreover, married women with secondary education are 1.362 times more likely than those with higher education to experience intimate partner violence (AOR 1.362; 95% CI 1.362-1.362). This analysis shows that the higher the level of schooling married women are, the less likely they experience intimate partner violence in Indonesia.

Fifth, based on employment status, it can be seen that employed married women have 1.129 times more likely than unemployed

married women to experience intimate partner violence (AOR 1.129; 95% 1.129-1.129). This analysis's results inform that employment is a risk factor for married women to experience intimate partner violence.

Sixth, based on the type of life with in-laws, married women who lived with in-laws were 1.232 times more likely to experience intimate partner violence than those who did not live with in-laws (AOR 1.232; 95% CI 1.232-1.232). This information suggests that living with in-laws is a risk factor for married women to experience intimate partner violence.

Seventh, based on recent sexual activity in the last four weeks, the analysis shows that women who never had sex or are not sexually active have 0.948 times the possibility of experiencing intimate partner violence than women sexually active (AOR 0.948; 95% CI 0.948-0.948). This analysis indicates that having sex or being sexually active in the last weeks is more likely for married women in Indonesia to experience intimate partner violence.

DISCUSSION

Overall, the study results indicate that poverty is a risk factor for intimate partner violence in Indonesia. The lower the wealth status of a woman is, the greater the risk of experiencing intimate partner violence—several studies with the same theme

before also reported economic difficulties as predictors of intimate partner violence.[3] Material difficulties are considered triggers for intimate partner violence, and socioeconomic pressure increases the possibility that intimate partner violence will continue. The studies often found intimate partner violence in urban slum areas identical to poverty.[3,9,10]

This pattern of violent interaction between intimate partners opens up opportunities for various interpretations. Theoretically, poverty is increasingly pressing the household situation to live, which impacts stress. Several previous studies reported the mediating effect of stress on partner relationships between intimate partner violence and physical health, but the cross-sectional study design limits conclusive assumptions about the direction of causal relationships.[3,10]

Research findings inform that married women who live in rural areas are more likely to experience intimate partner violence. In the Indonesian cultural context, especially in rural areas, women are responsible for domestic affairs, while men are responsible for more significant matters. This social structure puts women under the control of men.[11,17]

Meanwhile, based on age groups, it is found that the older the married women, the less likely they are to experience intimate partner violence in Indonesia. Longer togetherness tends to reduce the incidence of intimate partner violence. A previous study with the same theme has also reported similar results,[18] and early marriage increases intimate partner violence.[19]

Moreover, the study results found that education level is one of the determinants of intimate partner violence in Indonesia. Previous work also reported similar information.[20] A better level of education encourages women to have better bargaining power with their partners. Besides, women are becoming more independent in taking their stance on their destiny.[13,21] In general, education is one predictor that positively affects almost all performance in the health sector.[22–24] Meanwhile, several studies informed a low education level is a barrier to it.[25,26]

The analysis in this study also found employment status as a determinant of intimate partner violence in Indonesia. Employed married women have a higher probability than unemployed married women. In developing countries like Indonesia, the condition forced women to work to help the family economy. The suspected economic hardship of material shortages for household needs has triggered intimate partner violence.[27] These findings emphasize the double burden that women must bear. Simultaneously, women must be caring for the household and helping their husbands earn a living because of the low-income family's economic condition. This study's findings contradict Kenya's research findings, which found that unemployed women have a higher risk of experiencing intimate partner violence.[28]

The results study inform that life with in-laws is a risk factor for married women to experience intimate partner violence. Living with in-laws means entering a family with a different culture than the woman's previous family. The psychological pressure is heavier on women who live in the extended family of their husbands. In this situation, the husband has two conditions that make him superior: the context of the patriarchal culture and his extended family's environment.[29,30]

Finally, the analysis results show that based on recent sexual activity in the last four weeks, active married women have a higher possibility than married women who have never had sex in experiencing intimate partner violence in Indonesia. Although the difference is not too significant, women sexually involved with their partners are more prone to experience intimate partner violence. Contradictions of sexual relations with partners who should be able to strengthen marital relations show the opposite reality. Again, the patriarchal social system, which places women as subordinates of men, is suspected of contributing to this condition.[10] A previous study also informed that gender inequality was one of the allegedly responsible factors for intimate partner violence.[31]

According to this study's results, policymakers need to formulate policies that target policies with specific targets. The particular marks are poor women, who live in rural areas, are younger, have poor education, and are employed.

Strength and limitation

The study's use of large data as analysis material to show generalized work up to the national level was one of its merits. The utilization of secondary data was the study's flaw, though. Only variables offered by the Ministry of Health of the Republic of Indonesia are used. Previous studies found that it was impossible to study additional factors impacting intimate partner violence. These factors are the importance of family and women.[32]

Conclusions

The study concluded that poverty was a risk factor for intimate partner violence in Indonesia based on the study results. The lower, the greater the risk of intimate partner violence. Besides, the study also found six other variables as determinants of intimate partner violence in Indonesia. The six variables were the type of place of residence, age group, education level, employment status, and recent sexual activity in the last four weeks.

Authors' contributions

ADL and RDW developed the proposal and analyzed and interpreted the patient data. RM was a significant contributor in conducting the study, interpreting the data, and writing the manuscript. SS were substantial contributors to the research, analyzing the data and writing the manuscript. All authors read and approved the final manuscript.

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Conflicts of interest

There are no conflicts of interest.

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