



The role of selected social and psychological factors in violence against Myanmar migrant women in Thailand.

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ABSTRACT

Introduction: Violence against women (VAW) is a serious human rights violation with significant implications for public health. VAW affects the well-being of women, children, and families. This cross-sectional study aimed to determine the structural relationship of a set of variables—attitude towards violence (ATT), self-esteem (SE), relationship with residential unit members (RES), social support (SS), and coping strategies (COP)—influencing VAW and to test the model using the empirical data.

Methods: The measurement was deployed to assess violence experienced by 295 Myanmar migrant women residing in Thailand. Data collection involved the use of a self-administered questionnaire consisting of six scales. These scales exhibit Cronbach's alpha coefficients ranging from 0.74 to 0.90. The construct validity was confirmed through confirmatory factor analysis. The structural equation modeling method was employed to test the validity of the model using Mplus Software.

Results: The model provided fitted well with the empirical data ($\chi^2/df = 1.74$, CFI = 0.93; TLI = 0.91; RMSEA = 0.05; SRMR = 0.06). The VAW accounted for 33 percent of the variance through its set of variables. Among these, ATT, RES, and COP directly impacted VAW, while SS and SE had indirect effects. ATT exhibited the most significant overall influence on VAW, with RES and COP serving as mediators among other antecedents studied in relation to VAW.

Conclusion: The current findings suggest that violence against Myanmar migrant women residing in Thailand is associated with many factors. Understanding these factors can provide valuable insights for policymakers and stakeholders to develop and implement awareness and community-based intervention programs. These findings underscore the importance of targeted strategies to address this issue effectively.

1. Introduction

Violence Against Women (VAW), as per the 1993 UN Declaration, encompasses any gender-based violence causing physical, sexual, or psychological harm, including threats and coercion, regardless of the setting (Campbell, 2002). It is a severe violation of human rights with significant public health implications, affecting women, children, and families in the short, medium, and long terms. Research indicates that intimate partners account for a considerable proportion (38% - 40%) of female homicides (UNODC 2019, Stubbs and Szoeki, 2022). VAW also has profound social and economic impacts globally (Walby and Olive, 2015). Global and regional estimates from 2013 revealed that nearly one-third of women worldwide experience intimate partner violence,

necessitating urgent action to address this public health issue (World Health Organization 2013). Various forms of VAW exist, including spousal/intimate partner violence, non-partner sexual violence, femicide, and trafficking (García-Moreno et al., 2005). In patriarchal societies like in Asia, women may internalize violence due to social norms justifying male dominance. In Myanmar, such norms stem from gender ideologies reinforcing male superiority and justifying violence against women (Falb et al., 2022, Miedema et al., 2016, Larsen et al., 2021, Ikeya, 2011, Nwe, 2010). The concept of "hpon" upholds men's dominance over women, legitimizing both their authority and the use of violence to enforce traditional caregiving roles for women within the family (Ikeya, 2011).

Marginalized or minority women face elevated risks due to

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intersecting forms of discrimination. Within migrant populations, women face unique vulnerabilities, particularly in regions with high migration rates like Asia (Dimovska, 2023). Thailand, a major destination for migrants, has seen a significant increase in migration, especially from countries like Myanmar seeking better opportunities. Despite government and NGO efforts, migrant women often lack awareness of their legal rights, making them susceptible to exploitation and violence (Harkins, 2019). Research indicates that Myanmar migrants in Thailand experience high levels of violence, particularly women who are vulnerable to exploitation and abuse (Sciortino et al., 2013, Falb et al., 2013).

This study adopted Meloy's biopsychosocial model of violence (Meloy, 2006), which typically comprises three components. However, the decision was made to exclude the biological component due to homogeneity within the sample. Instead, the remaining factors were grouped into two categories: psychological and social variables. The primary outcome of interest was VAW. In prior research, numerous factors have been linked to VAW, including social support (Thananowan et al., 2020, Duan et al., 2019), self-esteem (Riazi et al., 2017), relationships among household members (Bourassa et al., 2020), coping mechanisms (Koochboomi et al., 2022, Huong and Trang, 2020), and attitudes toward violence (López et al., 2022). Existing research on VAW has primarily focused on perpetrators while examining various variables separately. However, there is a dearth of comprehensive studies exploring the intricate interplay between these factors within a single study, considering their complex relationships, including direct and indirect effects, as well as their roles as dependent, independent, and mediator variables. Few studies have investigated these relationships based on a causal model. Therefore, this study aimed to determine the structural relationship of a set of variables and to test the model using empirical data.

In the structural equation model, the full model comprised two exogenous factors such as attitude towards violence (ATT) and self-esteem (SE), three endogenous factors such as relationship with residential unit members (RES), social support (SS) and coping strategies (COP), and one outcome (VAW). The proposed causal model posited that ATT had a positive direct effect on VAW and a negative direct effect on RES; RES had a negative direct effect on VAW and positive direct effects on SS and COP; COP had a negative direct effect on VAW; SE had a negative direct effect on RES; and SS had a positive direct effect on COP.

2. Material and methods

2.1. Study design and participants

An exploratory cross-sectional study focused on Myanmar migrant women residing in Samut Sakhon Province, Thailand. The inclusion criteria for participants were as follows: (1) aged 18 years and above, (2) in good health with the ability to read and write in Myanmar language, and (3) having worked and lived in the study area for at least one year. Participants also needed to express willingness to participate and provide informed consent by signing a consent form. The sample size determination followed the rule of thumb (Belle, 2002), specifically the N:q rule, aiming for a ratio of 15:1 (sample size to parameter ratio). With 17 parameters requiring statistical estimates, the minimum sample size calculated was 255. To accommodate potential errors or sample losses, an additional 25% was added, resulting in a final sample size of approximately 320 individuals. The sampling strategy involved stratification of Samut Sakhon Province into an inner zone and an outer zone, followed by simple random sampling to select three communities from the inner zone and two from the outer zone. Each selected community contributed a sample of 60–65 subjects meeting the inclusion criteria.

2.2. Ethical consideration

The Ethics Review Committee for Human Research of the Faculty of

Public Health, Mahidol University granted approval for this study under COA No. MUPH 2023–113 on September 18, 2023.

2.3. Instrument

The research instrument was a self-administered questionnaire comprising items on the participants' characteristics (such as age, educational attainment, income, and income sufficiency), as well as details regarding residential unit members (including relationship with participants, gender, and employment status), along with six scales. The contents were validated by five experts from three areas: strategic management and policymakers among migrant workers; psychology and behavioral sciences; and public health science. Additionally, the confirmatory factor analysis (CFA) was employed to assess construct validity. The corrected item-total correlation (CITC) was used to evaluate item discrimination, and Cronbach's alpha coefficient was shown as reliable. The six scales are as follows:

- 1) Attitude towards violence was measured by using the Attitude Towards Violence Scale (Gur et al., 2017). A total of 10 items covered 3 subscales: cognitive (cog, 4 items), affective (aff, 2 items), and behavioral (beh, 4 items). The scale is rated on a 4-point rating scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). Higher scores reflect more accepting attitudes towards violence. The result of CFA showed item loadings ranging from 0.53 to 0.86, composite reliability (CR) ranging from 0.57 to 0.85 and R^2 ranging from 0.28 to 0.74. The CITC ranged from 0.38 to 0.66, and Cronbach's alpha coefficient was 0.84.
- 2) Self-esteem was evaluated by applying the Rosenberg Self-Esteem Scale (Bigizadeh et al., 2021). A total of 6 items were rated on a 4-point rating scale ranging from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). Higher scores denote a greater level of self-esteem. Item loadings ranged from 0.42 to 0.67, CR was 0.75 and R^2 ranged from 0.18 to 0.45. The CITC ranged from 0.35 to 0.56, and Cronbach's alpha coefficient was 0.74.
- 3) Relationship with residential unit members was measured by 10 items by applying the Non-Violent Relationship Questionnaire (Srihata and Kitcharoen, 2020), rated on a 4-point rating scale from 1 (strongly disagree) to 4 (strongly agree). The scale evaluates participants' perceptions of non-violence, harmony, and emotional well-being in their relationships with these household members. Higher scores indicate perceived good relationship and lower risk of violence. Item loadings ranged from 0.58 to 0.78, CR was 0.90 and R^2 ranged from 0.33 to 0.61. The CITC ranged from 0.55 to 0.73, and Cronbach's alpha coefficient was 0.90.
- 4) Social support was measured by applying the Social Support Behavior Scale (Vaux et al., 1987). A total of 15 items covered 5 subscales: emotional support (emot, 3 items), socializing (soci, 3 items), practical assistance (pract, 3 items), financial assistance (finc, 3 items), and advice/guidance (adv, 3 items). The scale is rated on a 4-point scale from 0 (never) to 3 (always). Higher scores indicate a higher level of received help. Item loadings ranged from 0.42 to 0.75, CR ranged from 0.56 to 0.67 and R^2 ranged from 0.18 to 0.58. The CITC ranged from 0.35 to 0.60, and the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was 0.86.
- 5) Coping was measured by applying the Coping Inventory for Stressful Situations (Fakari et al., 2022). Coping strategies are methods people use to manage stress, which categorizes coping strategies into three types: (1) Task-oriented -directly addresses problems, helping to reduce violence by resolving stress constructively, (2) Emotion-oriented -focuses on managing emotional responses, which can either lessen or worsen violence, depending on how emotions are handled, and (3) Avoidance-oriented -involves evading or ignoring stress, often leading to frustration and a higher risk of violent behavior. A total of 15 items covered 3 subscales: task-oriented (task, 5 items), emotion-oriented (emo, 5 items), and avoidance-oriented

(avd, 5 items). The scale is rated on 4-point scale from 0 (never) to 3 (always). Greater scores denote a greater level of using coping strategies. Item loadings ranged from 0.45 to 0.71, CR ranged from 0.69 to 0.79 and R^2 ranged from 0.21 to 0.50. The CITC ranged from 0.34 to 0.58, and Cronbach's alpha coefficient was 0.84.

6) VAW was measured by applying a modified WHO Violence Against Women study instrument for physical, emotional, and sexual violence, and the Revised Scale of Economic Abuse (SEA2) for economic violence (García-Moreno et al., 2005, Adams et al., 2020). A total of 13 items were used, covering four types of violence: physical violence (phy, 5 items), sexual violence (sex, 2 items), psychological violence (psy, 3 items), and economic violence (eco, 3 items). Participants rated the frequency of abusive behaviors exhibited by someone over the past 12 months on a 3-point scale: 0 (never), 1 (1–2 times per year), and 2 (more than 2 times per year). Item loadings ranged from 0.47 to 0.95, CR ranged from 0.63 to 0.85 and R^2 ranged from 0.22 to 0.89. The CITC ranged from 0.53 to 0.74, and the Cronbach's alpha coefficient was 0.90.

2.4. Data collection

Data collection for this study took place between October and December 2023. Following approval from the institutional review board, the researcher, along with two skilled data collectors who were also Myanmar citizens and served as community leaders, met with participants in their residential units. Recognizing that the community readiness in Myanmar plays a vital role in participation, the researcher trained the data collectors on all aspects of data collection and provided guidance on using the research questionnaire, including a demonstration of the procedures with one case as an example. Prior to data collection, the study's objectives and procedures were explained, ensuring that participants were fully informed about their rights and the protection measures in place. Signed informed consent was obtained from all willing participants, and they were assured they could withdraw from the study at any time if they chose to do so or felt uncomfortable. The self-administered questionnaire took approximately 15–20 mins to complete. If there were multiple participants in a residential unit, data were collected from each individual in that unit. A total of 295 out of 320 participants, 92.19%, completed the questionnaire, and their responses were suitable for data analysis.

2.5. Data analysis

The Mplus Software, version 8.10, (Muthén & Muthén, Los Angeles, CA, USA), with licensed number STBML80006817, was utilized for Structural Equation Modeling (SEM) to evaluate the model. Three primary fit indices were considered: normed χ^2 for absolute fit, standardized root mean square residual for absolute fit, and comparative fit index and Tucker–Lewis Index for incremental fit. Additionally, Akaike's information criteria and Bayesian information criteria were used as model comparison indices (Rex, 2022, Robert and David, 1986). The absolute fit was assessed through normed Chi-square (χ^2/df) below 2, root mean square error of approximation (RMSEA) below 0.08, and standardized root mean square residual (SRMR) below 0.08. The incremental fit was evaluated using the comparative fit index (CFI) and the Tucker–Lewis's index (TLI) was above 0.90 (Hair JR et al., 2010).

3. Results

Myanmar migrant women, predominantly aged 19–29 (63.1%) with an average age of 28.39, have varying educational levels, with approximately half having completed middle school. Their income distribution varies: while 80% earn 300 Thai baht or more daily, about half experience partially sufficient income, and around 35% struggle with inadequate income and debt (Table 1). Their residential units mainly comprise spouses (53.2%), friends (18.6%), parents (11.5%), siblings or

Table 1
Characteristics of migrant women.

Characteristics	Number	Percentage
Age (years)		
19 – 29	186	63.1
30 – 44	95	32.2
45 – 59	14	4.7
Range 19–54, Mean \pm SD = 28.39 \pm 8.02		
Educational attainment		
Primary school	47	15.9
Middle school	148	50.2
High school	91	30.8
Graduate from University	9	3.1
Daily income (Thai Baht)		
200 – 249	25	8.5
250 – 299	35	11.9
300 – 349	102	34.6
350 and above	133	45.1
Range 200–370, Mean \pm SD = 311.48 \pm 45.43		
Income sufficiency		
Fully sufficient	46	15.6
Partially sufficient	145	49.2
Not sufficient & debt problem	104	35.3

offspring (11.2%), and acquaintances (5.4%). The gender ratio within these units was relatively balanced (57.6% male, 42.4% female), and the employment rate among members was 84.1%, emphasizing robust employment within this demographic.

The analysis revealed that the observed variables did not follow a perfectly normal distribution. Therefore, for the structural equation modeling (SEM) analysis, the maximum likelihood parameter estimates with standard error and the χ^2 test statistics (MLM) method were used as the estimator due to non-normality in the data. Upon examining the inter-correlations matrix, coefficients were found to range from –0.35 to 0.66. Notably, none of the variables exhibited correlations greater than 0.80, indicating the absence of multicollinearity in the study (Table 2).

The proposed model fits the data well overall. However, when examining individual paths, all were statistically significant. All observed variables had acceptable factor loadings (ranging from 0.50 to 0.90). Among the five antecedent factors influencing VAW, ATT had the strongest direct and total effects, followed by COP and RES, respectively. Furthermore, VAW was influenced by its set of variables, explaining 33 percent of the variance (Fig. 1). Mediating factors of the model showed indirect effects of the ATT ($\beta = 0.12$) on the VAW was RES and the RES ($\beta = -0.06$) on the VAW were mediated by the COP. Moreover, the SS was a mediator of the RES ($\beta = 0.26$) on the COP. The RES was a mediator of the SE ($\beta = -0.21$) on the COP (Table 3).

4. Discussion

Five antecedent factors within two categories affected VAW: psychological: i.e. ATT, SE, and COP; and social: i.e. RES and SS. The model fitted the empirical data. The relationship among the set of factors in the model is discussed as follows.

Initially, in societies with gender inequality, traditional roles prevail, expecting women as homemakers and men as breadwinners, perpetuating unequal treatment and normalized violence (Allendorf, 2012). Investigating societal norms and risk factors is crucial in preventing violence against women, requiring a deep understanding of these attitudes. Addressing cultural values supporting gender inequality is essential for fostering a safer, more equitable society (Australian Bureau of Statistics 2024). In this study, the majority of participants lived with their family members, leading to an enhancement in relationships among household members and a decrease in violence. The study found that attitudes toward violence (ATT) indirectly influence violence against women (VAW) through relationship quality (RES). It revealed that individuals with positive attitudes toward violence tend to have lower relationship quality, which, in turn, increases the likelihood of

Table 2
Inter-correlation matrix for observed variables.

	self	emot	soci	pract	finc	adv	task	emo	avd	cog	aff	beh	res	phy	sex	psy	eco
emot	-0.09																
soci	-0.06	0.54**															
pract	-0.06	0.41**	0.52**														
finc	0.01	0.42**	0.45**	0.55**													
adv	-0.13*	0.45**	0.51**	0.43**	0.53**												
task	-0.26**	0.25**	0.20**	0.04	0.02	0.29**											
emo	-0.06	0.08	0.05	0.12*	0.14*	-0.05	0.32**										
avd	-0.16**	0.16**	0.13*	0.18**	0.14*	0.20**	0.51**	0.47**									
cog	-0.05	0.05	-0.09	0.05	0.05	0.04	-0.12*	0.06	-0.03								
aff	-0.11	-0.07	-0.08	-0.10	<0.01	0.13*	-0.09	<0.01	0.03	0.46**							
beh	-0.10	-0.07	-0.08	0.05	-0.03	0.04	-0.09	0.02	<0.01	0.41**	0.61**						
res	-0.31**	0.21**	0.17**	0.18**	0.11	0.18**	0.26**	0.17**	0.17**	-0.02	-0.02	-0.03					
phy	-0.01	-0.16**	-0.12*	-0.06	-0.01	0.02	-0.19**	-0.05	-0.14*	0.24**	0.22**	0.31**	-0.31**				
sex	0.17**	-0.17**	-0.20**	-0.06	-0.03	-0.14*	-0.25**	-0.09	-0.21**	0.07	<0.01	0.10	-0.34**	.48**			
psy	0.04	-0.16**	-0.08	-0.13*	<0.01	-0.02	-0.18**	-0.13*	-0.18**	0.13*	0.23**	0.17**	-0.35**	.66**	.53**		
eco	0.06	-0.05	-0.06	-0.01	0.10	0.08	-0.16**	-0.19**	-0.20**	0.17**	0.24**	0.21**	-0.21**	.54**	.47**	.61**	
Range	6-23	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-9	0-15	0-15	0-15	4-16	2-8	4-16	10-40	0-10	0-4	0-6	0-6
Mean	11.74	5.27	5.57	4.36	4.92	5.97	10.66	8.60	9.47	7.46	4.18	8.64	29.92	1.21	0.23	0.59	0.47
SD	2.81	2.02	1.98	2.20	2.23	1.98	3.10	3.14	2.67	2.57	1.37	2.97	5.12	2.00	0.77	1.17	0.98
Skewness	0.38	-0.44	-0.53	0.08	-0.10	-0.75	-0.86	-0.31	-0.83	0.64	0.05	0.18	-1.00	2.09	3.66	2.30	2.67
Kurtosis	0.71	0.25	0.36	-0.28	-0.39	0.74	0.69	-0.38	1.48	0.28	-0.46	-0.48	2.90	4.58	13.12	5.41	8.72

Notes: self, self-esteem; emot, emotional support; soci, socializing; pract, practical assistance; adv, advice; task, task orientated; emo, emotional orientated; avd, avoidance; cog, cognitive; aff, affective; beh, behavior; res, relationship with residential unit member; phy, physical violence; psy, psychological violence; eco, economic violence. * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$

violence against women. This is consistent with previous study conducted with couples living in Brazil, which showed that attitudes toward violence are associated with lower relationship satisfaction and higher levels of conflict (Silva et al., 2017). Additionally, individuals with higher levels of acceptance of violence were more prone to experiencing VAW, as the ATT directly impacted VAW. This finding aligned with previous studies, which found a significant positive correlation between attitudes toward violence and peer victimization among Thai students, with physical victimization showing the strongest correlation (Adams et al., 2020). Additionally, a systematic review revealed a significant positive correlation between attitudes toward violence and school violence in children and adolescents (López et al., 2022).

Additionally, SE was another variable that affected violence indirectly via RES. While many studies emphasized the positive impact of high self-esteem on interpersonal relationships, it's crucial to acknowledge that self-esteem can also have negative direct effects, particularly when it comes to household dynamics (Lewandowski et al., 2010, Harris and Orth, 2020). The lack of a relationship between SE and SS may be due to their distinct concepts. For Myanmar migrant women facing violence, trauma can diminish any positive effects of support on SE. Additionally, cultural values in Myanmar emphasize group harmony, which can adversely affect individual self-esteem. Individuals with low self-esteem may exhibit communication patterns characterized by defensiveness, avoidance, or passive-aggressive behavior within household relationships. This can lead to misunderstandings, conflicts, and breakdowns in effective communication (Joiner et al., 1992). Moreover, individuals with low self-esteem may struggle with expressing their needs or setting boundaries, contributing to feelings of frustration, resentment, or dissatisfaction among household members (Kling et al., 1999). However, SE had a direct effect on RES and self-esteem played a significant role in shaping relationships, as supported by various studies. For instance, a study involving 511 adolescents found that those with higher self-concept clarity reported better relationship quality. Moreover, a meta-analysis of 24 longitudinal studies revealed a strong positive correlation between self-esteem and social relationships, with higher self-esteem linked to better social relationships (Lewandowski et al., 2010, Harris and Orth, 2020).

Subsequently, regarding RES, participants rated a high mean score, indicating that the participants have a positive perception of their relationships with the members of their residential unit. This could mean that they experience a high level of love, support, and communication within their households, which can contribute to their overall well-being and reduce violence. These findings support previous research, indicating that stronger relationships are linked to reduced levels of partner violence (Verbruggen et al., 2019, Bourassa et al., 2020). Additionally, RES had a positive direct effect on both SS and COP, indicating that maintaining a positive relationship with household members can enhance the ability to manage challenges and receive important social support. The study found that the quality of relationships is significantly correlated with perceived social support in persons with spinal cord injury, which is consistent with the present study that maintaining positive relationships within the household can enhance overall well-being (Harris and Orth, 2020). Furthermore, the study from Iran revealed that relationship quality is correlated with managing challenges and maintaining well-being. These findings aligned with this study, which emphasizes the role of positive relationships in enhancing the ability to manage challenges and receive important social support. (Ara et al., 2017)

Furthermore, a higher mean score in SS indicates that individuals who receive greater levels of support from others are likely to demonstrate increased resilience when dealing with challenges (Southwick et al., 2016). The present study revealed that over half of the participants lived with their spouses, followed by friends, indicating that the support garnered from these relationships fostered positive perceptions and potentially enhanced coping skills. Consequently, the findings suggested that social support may exert a positive direct effect on

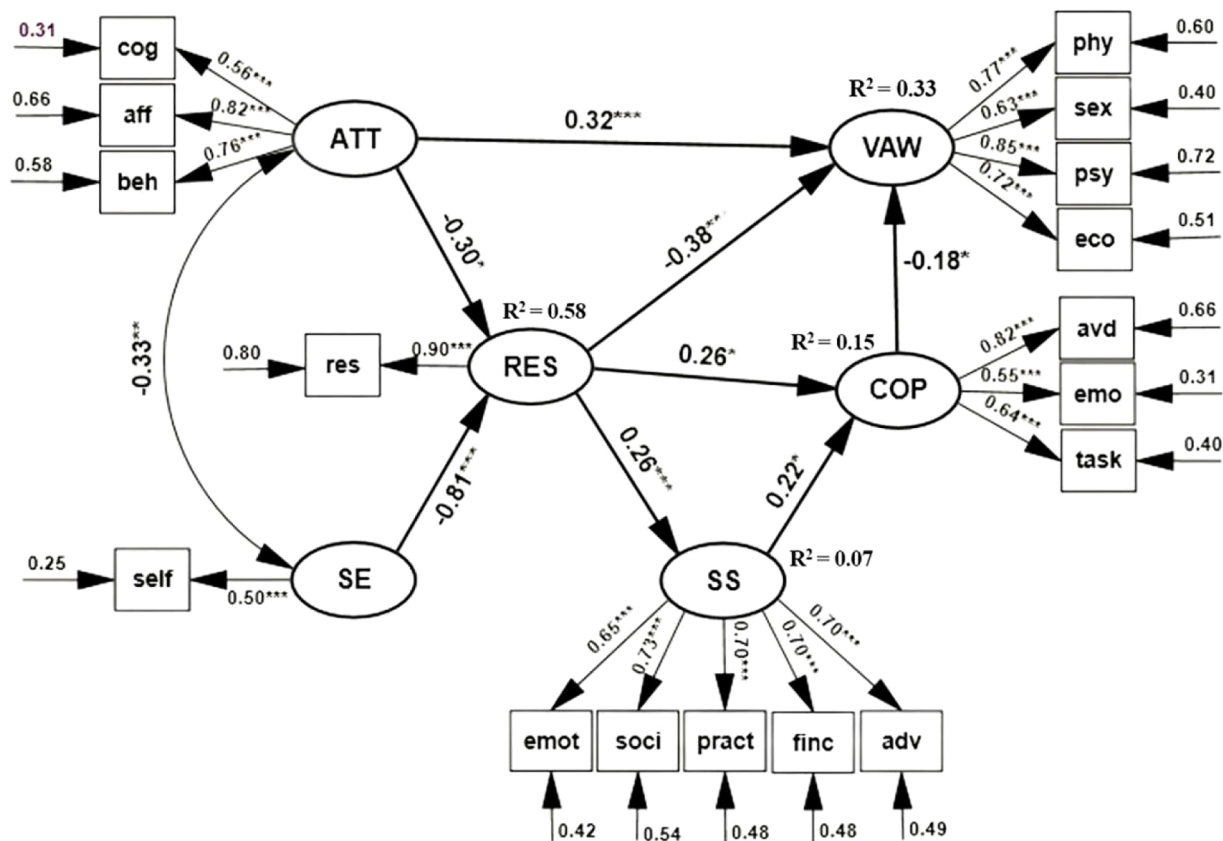


Fig. 1. The structural equation model of the violence against women among Myanmar migrant women in Thailand.

Notes: ATT, attitude towards violence; cog, cognitive; aff, affective; beh, behavior; SE, self-esteem; self, self-esteem; RES, relationship with residential unit member; res, relationship with residential unit member; SS, social support; emot, emotional support; soci, socializing; pract, practical assistance; finc, financial assistance; adv, advice; COP, coping; task, task orientated; emo, emotional orientated; avd, avoidance; VAW, violence against women; phy, physical violence; sex, sexual violence; psy, psychological violence; eco, economic violence. The coefficients presented in the figure are standardized * $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$.

Table 3

Effects and mediating factors of the structural equation model.

Structure Paths	DE	IE [moderating factors]	TE	R ²
SS ← RES	0.26***		0.26***	0.07
RES ← SE	-0.81***		-0.81***	0.58
← ATT	-0.30*		-0.30*	
COP ← SE		-0.21[RES]; -0.05*[SS& RES]	-0.26*	0.15
← SS	0.22*		0.22*	
← RES	0.26*	0.06[SS]	0.32**	
VAW ← COP	-0.18*		-0.18*	0.33
← ATT	0.32***	0.11[RES]; 0.01[COP& RES]; <0.01 [COP, SS& RES]	0.44***	
← RES	-0.38***	-0.05 [COP]; -0.01[COP&SS]	-0.44***	

Notes. DE = Direct effect, IE = Indirect effect, TE = Total effect

* $p < .05$; ** $p < .01$; *** $p < .001$

coping, consistent with previous studies conducted in China (Li et al., 2023) and the United States (McLean et al., 2022), which indicated that higher levels of social support led to more effective coping strategies. Finally, participants reported that a higher mean score of COP indicates that individuals were more resilient, better equipped to manage challenges, and tended to employ healthier coping mechanisms when faced with difficult situations (Taberkhani, 2022). In this study, COP was a negative direct effect on VAW and it was consistent with previous studies. Miranda et al. illustrated the range of coping mechanisms employed by adolescents in such environments, emphasizing their active role in managing violence (Li et al., 2023). Another study underscored the psychological impact of violence exposure and the role of coping strategies in mitigating its effects. Together, these findings

suggest that while coping strategies varied in their effectiveness, they played a crucial role in shaping experiences of violence (Coulthard, 2023).

4.1. Limitations

The study's limitations included its narrow focus on one province in Thailand with a particular migrant community, which limited generalizability. The cross-sectional design of the study provided only a snapshot of violence prevalence, lacking the ability to establish causation or observe changes over time. Furthermore, recall bias is a significant concern since participants were required to recall incidents of violence from the past 12 months. Considering the vulnerability of the participant group, which included both legal and illegal migrants, the findings should be interpreted with caution, as the responses might have been influenced by pressure or situational factors. Therefore, to achieve a more comprehensive understanding, a qualitative or mixed-methods approach is recommended.

5. Conclusions

Violence against Myanmar migrant women in Thailand is a complex issue that is influenced by a combination of social and psychological factors. Among these, attitudes towards violence (ATT) and non-violent relationship (RES) play crucial roles in influencing the occurrence of high levels of violence against women (VAW). These factors highlighting the need for comprehensive interventions to solve the root causes of the problem. To address these issues, community-based interventions and policy interventions are needed to promote gender equality, safe

working conditions, and fair treatment of all migrant workers. Additionally, educational and awareness campaigns focusing on ATT and RES are essential to empower migrant women with knowledge and resources to protect themselves from violence.

CRedit authorship contribution statement

Kaung Zaw: Writing – original draft, Visualization, Software, Resources, Formal analysis, Data curation, Conceptualization. **Wirin Kit-tipichai:** Writing – review & editing, Visualization, Validation, Supervision, Software, Project administration, Methodology, Investigation, Funding acquisition, Conceptualization. **Kanittha Chamroonsawasdi:** Writing – review & editing, Resources, Conceptualization. **Arpaporn Powwattana:** Writing – review & editing, Resources, Conceptualization.

Declaration of competing interest

The authors declare that they have no known competing financial interests or personal relationships that could have appeared to influence the work reported in this paper.

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