



Factors Affecting the Violence Against Women: Evidence from Rural Bangladesh

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Abstract

The present study investigates the phenomenon of domestic violence perpetrated against women in Bangladesh, and endeavors to identify potential determinants that may underlie its prevalence. By employing a multivariate logistic regression model and utilizing a national representative dataset comprising 5044 households in rural Bangladesh, the present study reveals noteworthy correlations between domestic violence and various factors, including but not limited to women's age, poultry farming, total land ownership, working in rural areas, and women's decision-making authority in agriculture. The age of female individuals is a crucial factor in the occurrence of domestic violence, as there exists a positive correlation between age and the likelihood of experiencing such violence, with older women being more susceptible to it. Nevertheless, the probability of violent behavior decreases after a specific period. The rearing of poultry in farms seems to have a noticeable effect on the incidence of violence, whereas the possession of extensive land holdings reduces the probability of violent occurrences. Men who work in rural areas are more likely to engage in violent behavior, possibly due to economic instability and adherence to traditional gender norms. Research indicates that female individuals who possess decision-making power in the realm of agricultural production tend to experience reduced levels of violence. In general, the aforementioned discoveries illuminate the intricate mechanisms that underlie domestic violence in rural areas of Bangladesh.

Keywords: Domestic Violence, Women's decision making, Age, Small business, Work in rural areas.

1. Introduction

In general, the term violence is used to describe any act committed with the intent to cause physical harm. Women are the primary victims of violence in the majority of cases (Adams et al., 2008). In all regions of the globe, women are victims of violence, and it is one of the most serious unresolved problems of our time (Akhmedshina, 2020). Violence against women (VAW) affects more than one-third of the world's female population, which is a significant global health concern and a grave violation of women's human rights. It does not discriminate on the basis of age, location, race, or socioeconomic status. To attain global equality for women and women's empowerment, VAW must be eliminated.

Husbands, fathers, fathers-in-law, stepfathers, siblings, uncles, sons, and other male relatives are typically the perpetrators of domestic violence. In 1993, the United Nations Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women defined domestic violence as "Physical, sexual, and psychological violence occurring in the family, including battering, sexual abuse of female children in the household, dowry-related violence, marital rape, female genital mutilation, and other traditional practices harmful to women, non-spousal violence, and violence related to exploitation" According to Ellsberg and Hesse's (2005) analysis of 80 population-based surveys conducted in over 50 countries, a significant proportion of women who have ever been married or have had a partner have reported experiencing at least one instance of physical violence perpetrated by an intimate partner. The prevalence rates of such violence ranged from 10% to 60%. Globally, it has been reported that up to 38% of homicides against women are perpetrated by their intimate partners (World Health Organization, 2021).

In Bangladesh, there is a longstanding perception that men possess inherent superiority, which grants them certain privileges often described as "male privilege." In a patriarchal society, this dominance is reinforced through socioeconomic and political structures, legal systems, cultural norms, customary practices, and social rituals (Dalal et al., 2009). Gender inequality engenders asymmetrical power dynamics between males and females, which are deeply rooted in patriarchal customs (Das et al., 2015; Bhattacharyya, 2009; 2013a, b; 2014; Pillai, 2001). Due to women's inferior status in Bangladesh, exorbitant demands for dowries even after weddings sometimes result in domestic violence, marital problems, suicides, and the murder of brides by in-laws and husbands (BBS, 2013; Nasrin, 2011).

According to Malik and Naeem (2020), there is an escalation in the likelihood of violence against women, as well as their abuse, exploitation, and neglect. A predominant factor contributing to the widespread occurrence of violence against women in Bangladesh is the existence of a culture of impunity, which is characterized by a lack of accountability and insufficient legal protection (Akter, 2021). Additionally, it was contended that the exacerbation of violence against women was intensified by the turmoil within households stemming from the Covid-19 pandemic. According to the human rights organization (Ain O Salish Kendra, 2022), 190 women were reportedly murdered by their husbands between January and November of 2022. Despite a reported increase in female literacy rates according to the UNESCO Institute for Statistics' 2016 the literacy rate for females remained lower than that of males, with figures of 69.9 percent and 75.62 percent respectively. This illustrates the enduring presence of gender-based discrimination and inequality in domains that are considered essential, such as education. Deprivation causes incompetence and eventually dependency on males later (Karim et al., 2018).

Cultural norms in Bangladesh encourage women to adopt a passive stance towards their spouse's aggressive conduct, leading to socio-economic reliance on their spouses, which can lead to domestic

violence (Dalal et al., 2009). Individuals who have experienced domestic violence often hide their experiences due to feelings of shame, limited options for relocation, potential consequences, and worries about their children (Jeyaseelan et al., 2007; Schuler & Islam, 2008). Additional factors that contribute to domestic violence in Bangladesh include the deviant behavior and personality traits of husbands. Studies conducted by Dalal et al. (2009), Jayasuriya et al. (2011), Jeyaseelan et al. (2007), Sambisa et al. (2010), and Solomon et al. (2009) have found a positive correlation between the use of alcohol or drugs by husbands and their likelihood to perpetrate domestic violence.

Early marriage is another significant cause of domestic violence, particularly in Africa and South Asia. This type of sexual abuse involves forcing young females into early marriage and sexual relationships. However, financial considerations play a big part in many weddings since families thought skipping the dowry requirement may aid them (Khatun & Rahman 2012). Women are subjected to mistreatment by their husbands and in-laws due to their incapacity to bear a male child. In a significant number of instances, women encounter instances of degradation, verbal mistreatment, psychological or physical maltreatment, coerced repeated pregnancies until the birth of a male offspring, or the dissolution of marriage or remarriage by their spouse (Naved et al., 2005). Numerous studies have demonstrated that domestic violence incurs both quantifiable and nonquantifiable expenses. The household and national levels are evaluated for the economic cost, which includes the loss of working days and earnings. Direct and indirect costs, including hidden expenses, can be associated with economic expenditures. The category of economic expenses encompasses various costs such as medical health expenditures, social assistance costs, relocation costs, lost workday costs, court and other legal process fees, and bribe. The occurrence of social ramifications is also noteworthy, including the social condemnation of victims resulting in feelings of shame and dishonor, rejection from family and society, and deprivation from educational opportunities. Additionally, battered individuals may find themselves in a vulnerable position, unable to disclose their situation due to societal expectations and the increased likelihood of marital dissolution along with intangible consequences, such as pain, suffering, and illness, incur expenses (Sifat, 2020).

2. Literature Review

Bangladesh has one of the highest domestic violence rates, where two thirds of Bangladeshi women, i.e., about 66%, have experienced domestic violence and 72.7% of them have never revealed their experience to others. Only 2.1% of women notify local leaders, while 1.1% of women are requesting police assistance. (Action Aid Bangladesh and Jatiyo Nari Nirjaton Protirodh, 2018). Bangladeshi women of all strata are vulnerable to ill-treatment and abuse at the hands of husbands, in-laws and other family members. Regardless of its growing trend, domestic violence is seen as a personal matter that should be handled privately behind closed doors (Parvin et al, 2016).

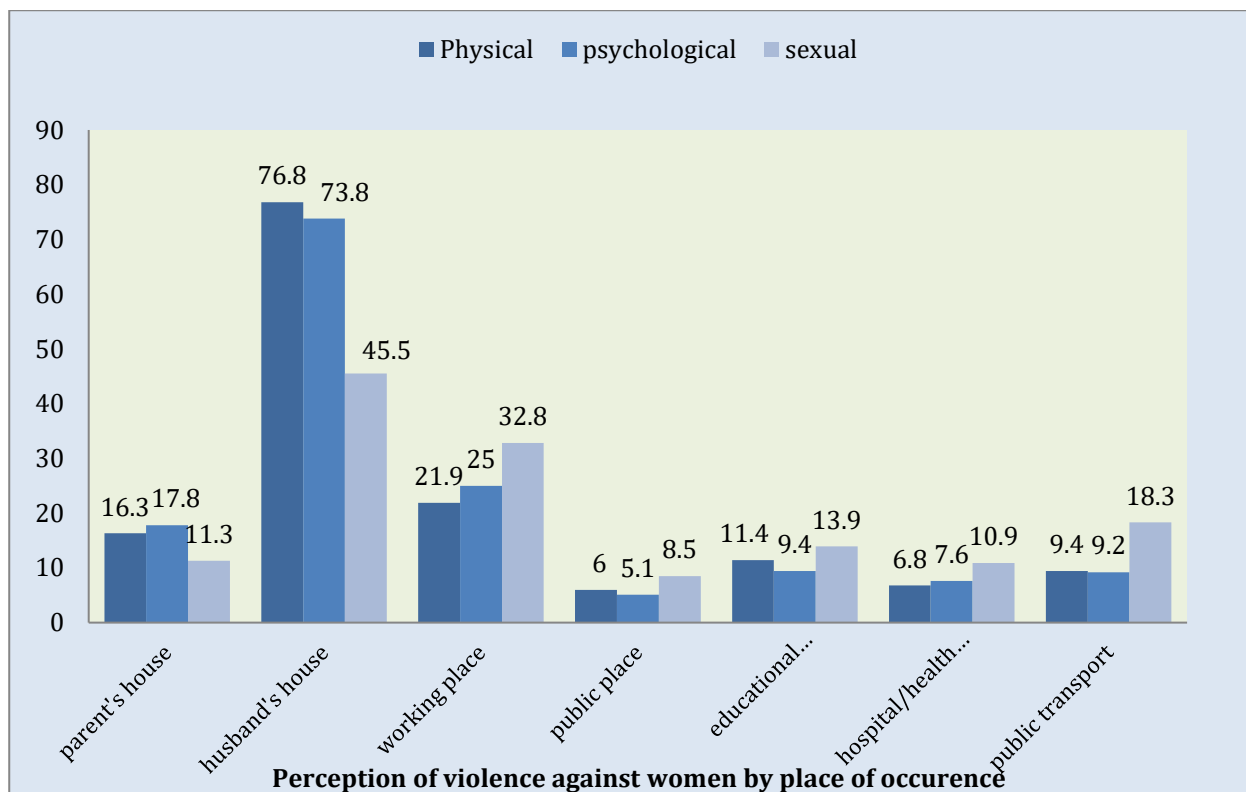


Figure 1: Perception about place where physical, psychological and sexual violence against women takes place by site. Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), 2024.

The figure illustrates the prevalence of violence against women by location. According to a 2015 survey by the Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), a woman's marital home is the most frequently reported site of physical, psychological, and sexual violence. The study further revealed that nearly two-thirds of married Bangladeshi women have experienced intimate partner violence at least once in their lifetime, with controlling behavior being the most common form, alongside physical, emotional, sexual, and economic abuse.

Types of Violence	Percentage
Controlling Behaviour	55%
Physical Violence	49.6%
Emotional Violence	28.7%
Sexual Violence	27.3%
Economic Violence	11.4%

Figure 2: Types of Partner Violence Against Ever-Married women During Their Lifetime. Source: Bangladesh Bureau of Statistics (BBS), 2024

Factors Perpetuating Domestic Violence

Education and Age of Bride

In Bangladesh, education acts as a protective factor against domestic violence. Bates et al. (2004) note that at least six years of schooling can reduce women's risk, while Naved and Persson (2005) found that men's higher education (beyond secondary level) offers protection only in rural areas.

Child marriage, defined by UNICEF as marriage before age 18, remains widespread, with Bangladesh ranking fourth globally. UNICEF (2020) reports that 15% of girls marry before 15 and 51% before 18. Rahman et al. (2020), studying 14,557 married women, found that younger women with less education face a 13.57% higher risk of intimate partner violence than older, better-educated women.

Lack of awareness about legal rights

Majority of individuals in the lower socio-economic class of Bangladesh are unaware of their rights, and half of them, particularly women, remain silent about their rights breaches. Only a small percentage of offenses are reported to the appropriate authorities (e.g., to the police or to the court) (Paul & Islam, 2015).

Exposure to violence

Childhood exposure to violence has a greater impact on boys who are more likely to support and commit violence in adulthood (Flood & Pease, 2009). In Bangladesh, men who witnessed father-to-mother abuse were considerably more likely to perpetuate any physical or sexual abuse. These same men were also 1.34 times more likely to believe that marital abuse is justified. (Islam et al, 2017).

Socio Economic Status of Women

Women from poor households face higher risks of both physical and psychological violence compared to wealthier women. Rural women, with 82% reporting low empowerment, are especially vulnerable due to structural disadvantages (Parveen & Leonhäuser, 2005; Koenig et al., 2003; Krishnan et al., 2001). A survey of 1,143 victims revealed that over half (56.26%) were from lower-class backgrounds (Khan et al., 2017). Beyond personal harm, violence against women also carries a massive economic cost, estimated at \$1.5 trillion globally each year (Scotland, 2022).

Dowry

Dowry remains a major driver of violence in Bangladesh. It is common in 53% of rural and 14% of urban marriages (Naved & Persson, 2010). Since the 1970s, dowry demands have been linked to women's abuse, suicides, and even deaths when payments were unmet (Jahan, 1994). Women who paid dowry were also 1.5 times more likely to face marital violence than those who did not (Bates et al., 2004).

Son Preference

Strong son preference persists, with 93% of families calling sons a “blessing” and 96% seeing daughters as “problems” (Alim & Rashid, 2005). Across all backgrounds, most families want a son as their first child. Men favoring sons are also more likely to commit violence against their wives (Johnson & Das, 2008).

Acceptability of Violence

Violence is widely normalized. Men with childhood experiences of abuse often continue the cycle in adulthood (Khodarahimi, 2014). The 2004 BDHS showed that 55% of men justified wife-beating—49% if wives went out without permission, and 28% if they disagreed with their husbands.

Religious Dogmatism

Certain religious interpretations are used to justify women's subordination, with sayings like “The heaven of a woman lies beneath her husband's feet” (Samuels et al., 2017). At the same time, strict

adherence to purdah norms was linked to lower support for violence among men (Johnson & Das, 2008).

Natural Disasters

Climate and natural disasters intensify domestic violence by deepening stress, despair, and feelings of lost control (Gearhart et al., 2018). Globally, disasters increase gender-based violence; for instance, sexual and partner violence tripled after Hurricane Katrina (Nguyen, 2019).

Existing Laws in Bangladesh Against Domestic Violence: Before and After Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act 2010

Before 2010, Bangladesh's legislation did not address the various forms of domestic violence adequately, and the legal options for victims were limited and vague. The legislation on violence against women and children, the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act of 2000, does not tackle domestic violence sufficiently. Domestic violence crimes fall within the jurisdiction of the tribunal of *Nari O Shishu Nirjatan Daman* only if such violence is linked to dowry demands. Until 2010, victims had to access criminal courts under the Penal Code of 1860 in all cases of physical violence within the family unrelated to dowry demands. Both the acts of 1860 and 2000 deal with offences which are identifiable and non-compoundable. The other popular solution preferred by women is The Dowry Prohibition Act of 1980, which makes the demand for dowry itself a crime, whether violence is involved or not.

Table 1: Laws used by VAW survivors in Bangladesh including domestic violence, before the 2010 DVPP Act was implemented. Source: Plan International, 2023.

Year	Laws	Sections
1860	Bangladesh Penal Code	Sections 312, 313, 314, 326A, 366, 366A, 366B, 372, 373, 375, 498, 509 Offences related to marriage, acid attacks, kidnapping, procuration, importation, prostitution, rape, insulting modesty and so forth.
1869, 1939, 1946, 1961 and 1985	Personal laws: The Divorce Act, The Dissolution of Muslim Marriages Act; The Hindu Married Women's Right to Separate Residence and Maintenance Act; The Muslim Family Laws Ordinance and The Family Courts Ordinance	Marriage, dissolution of marriage, dower, inheritance, polygamy, dower and maintenance
1980	Dowry Prohibition Act	Demand For Dowry
2000	Women and Children Repression Prevention Act	Kidnapping, prostitution, rape, torture for dowry
2002	Acid Violence Prevention Act	Violence through acid attacks
2010	Domestic Violence (Prevention and Protection) Act	Domestic violence (physical, psychological, sexual and economic)

The DVPP Act of 2010 and the Domestic Violence (Prevention Protection) Rules of 2013, corresponding to them, deal with all types of domestic violence, regardless of motive. The Act breaks down various forms of violence. It allows court access for redress on the grounds of psychological and economic abuse along with physical and sexual violence. Many remedies are provided by the Act, including protection, accommodation and compensation. The DVPP Act's main purpose is to ensure a healthy family environment. All violations under this Act are classified as compoundable, thus allowing for compromise. The DVPP Act's strength lies in the fusion of civil and criminal law components. The preamble to the Act underlines Bangladesh's obligations as a State Party to CEDAW and the CRC to protect women and children from domestic violence.

3. Data and Methods

The analysis in this study utilizes a secondary dataset. The present study employs data from the Bangladesh Integrated Household Survey (BIHS) 2019, which is a rural representative survey data sourced from the International Food Policy Research Institute (IFPRI). IFPRI employed a rigorous statistical approach to determine the aggregate sample size of 6500 households distributed across 325 Primary Sampling Units (PSUs). The survey team employed a two-stage stratified sampling approach to choose the primary sampling units (PSUs) and households. The sampling frame utilized for household selection was based on the 2001 population census of Bangladesh. Subsequently, the sampling weights were modified in accordance with the 2011 population census. The survey comprises a module that examines instances of violence against women and controlling behavior, with female members of the household serving as respondents. The research has incorporated an analysis of variables related to violent behavior in conjunction with additional socio-economic factors. The study employed a multivariate logistic regression model to conduct the regression analysis, given that the dependent variable was binary in nature, with a value of 1 indicating the presence of violence and a value of 0 indicating its absence. The findings presented the odds ratio along with the level of statistical significance and the confidence interval.

4. Results: Descriptive Analysis

The analysis is outlined in two parts. In the first part, there is a descriptive analysis in which division-wise violence is analysed, including verbal violence, physical violence, controlling behaviour, and economic violence. In the second part, logistic regression analysis is used to evaluate the violence and other factors that perpetuate violence against women.

Table 2: Pairwise correlations

	Verbal violence	Physical violence	Controlling Behavior	economic violence
Verbal violence	1			
Physical violence	0.4364	1		
Controlling Behavior	0.1792	0.0865	1	
economic violence	0.1183	0.0768	0.3382	1

Source: Author's calculation based on BIHS 2019 dataset

The majority of the women in Bangladesh experienced controlling behaviour, which is 85% of all other forms of violence. It shows the subordinate position of women by isolating them from sources of their support, restraining their capacities for personal gain, and regulating their everyday behaviour in the family. Another significant form of violence is economic violence, which accounts for 75% of that determined by economic independence, employment sabotage, the ability to purchase household commodities, and disregarding women's wants and needs. Its ramifications include jeopardizing women's economic security and ability to self-sufficiency. Economic violence can compel women to beg for money or place them on a strict allowance, making it a gendered issue. Moreover, 36% of the rural women experienced verbal violence. This is an example of invisible violence that is often overlooked. It humiliates women's self-confidence and self-esteem and leads to insecurity. Physical violence is the most extreme form of all violence. Besides, 11% of the rural women experienced physical violence, whereas battering is the most common. This type of violence results in depression, post-traumatic stress, and anxiety disorders.

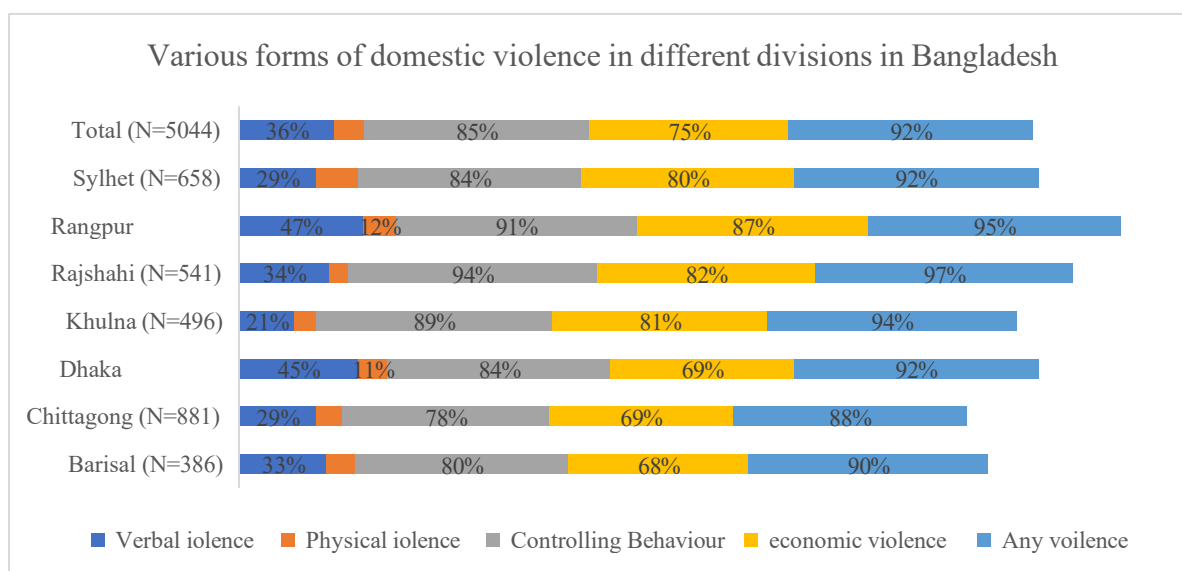


Figure 2: Various forms of domestic violence in different divisions in Bangladesh Source: Authors calculation based on BIHS 2019 dataset.

Table helps us compare violent activities across different divisions. Along with that, a number of analogies have emerged in the context of violence. Therefore, the Rajshahi division has the highest (97%) rate of all kinds of violence. Rangpur Division experienced the highest rate (47%) of verbal violence followed by Dhaka Division with 45%. Besides, the Sylhet division has the highest rate (16%) of physical violence. Most of the women stated that they face controlling behaviour from their intimate partner. Almost all (94%) of the women in Rajshahi Division have experienced controlling behaviour. Moreover, economic violence is the second highest among all forms of violence. Rangpur Division faced (87%) economic violence, which is the highest among other divisions. There are few nuances among the divisions, though the frequencies and the perceptions of violence are close. Nevertheless, women of Barishal, Chittagong, and Dhaka Division has less economic violence (68%, 69%, and 69% respectively) than average economic violence of the seven divisions. Perhaps divisions' income status, employment opportunity, years of marriage, and other social factors beget the differences.

Table 3: Logistic Regression analysis

Any violence	Odds ratio	St.Err.	t-value	p-value	[95% Conf Interval]	Sig
Age of women (year)	2.677	.816	3.23	.001	1.472 4.867	***
Age-square women	.985	.005	-3.01	.003	.975 .995	***
Body Mass Index	.929	.076	-0.90	.369	.792 1.09	
Roof-Brick (Yes=1)	.208	.252	-1.29	.195	.019 2.24	
Livestock (number)	1.013	.135	0.10	.923	.781 1.314	
Poultry (number)	1.17	.087	2.10	.036	1.011 1.355	**
Total Land (decimal)	.998	.001	-2.18	.029	.997 1	**
Education HH (year)	1.101	.097	1.09	.275	.927 1.307	
Work in Rural areas (Yes=1)	9.439	5.513	3.84	0	3.004 29.654	***
Max. edu in HH (year)	1.053	.112	0.48	.628	.855 1.296	
HH size	.88	.141	-0.80	.425	.643 1.205	
Total Income HH	1	0	1.41	.158	1 1	
Women Decision in Agriculture Index	.916	.046	-1.76	.079	.83 1.01	*
Constant	0	0	-2.25	.025	0 .267	**
Mean dependent var		0.973	SD dependent var		0.162	
Pseudo r-squared		0.224	Number of obs		670	
Chi-square		37.102	Prob > chi2		0.000	
Akaike crit. (AIC)		156.619	Bayesian crit. (BIC)		219.721	

*** $p < .01$, ** $p < .05$, * $p < .1$

Source: Author's calculation based on BIHS 2019 dataset

A logistic regression analysis is used to examine the association of predictive variables with domestic violence. According to the results from the regression analysis data, the age of women, age square women, poultry farming, total land, working at the rural place, and women's decision in agriculture index have a significant association with domestic violence. The age of women has a significant impact on women's violence. The odd ratio in favour of domestic violence is 2.677, indicating that violence increased with an increase in women's age. Perhaps older women be more inclined to stay in a union for a longer period of time, which might raise their risk for violence. In addition, it might also indicate why they have a higher probability of experiencing domestic violence than younger women. Even though they married young, their lack of maturity and education makes them reliant on their intimate partner. Moreover, "Age-square women" show an odd ratio of 0.985, indicating that violence will increase with age at the beginning but will decrease over a certain period of time. Poultry farming has an odd ratio of 1.17, which has an effect on women's violence compared to other livestock. This poultry farming may have uncertainty, which may reprimand the violence. Families with more land are less likely to be targeted by violence. The odd ratio is 0.998. Land ownership provides economic solvency and empowerment. The women who work in rural areas are more likely to face domestic violence. The odd ratio is highest (9.439) in this case. Usually, rural women do not get proper remuneration and do not have any specific work structures or supervision processes. Patriarchal society tries to dominate women in order to control their daily activities. When women do not agree with their partners' dominance, they face violence. The women who have decision-making ability in their agriculture production process face less violence. The odd ratio in this case is 0.916. Women are closely involved with agriculture activities. As a result, women's decision-making abilities are valued in the family, and it declines violence.

5. Discussion

The physical attribute of a woman is a significant factor in determining the extent of domestic violence. Various research articles have employed age, body height, body mass index, obesity, and skin color as variables in the study of domestic violence, as evidenced by Ferreira et al. (2015) and Ferdos and Rahman (2018). This study employs age and BMI as independent variables in a logistic regression model to illustrate the impact of physical characteristics on incidents of domestic violence.

The age of women exhibits a significant positive correlation with the incidence of domestic violence in the initial stages. However, beyond a certain threshold, an escalation in age is observed to have a negative impact on the likelihood of experiencing domestic violence. The aforementioned discovery is linked to the research conducted by Schuler et al. in 1996. The author posits that there is an increase in the likelihood of experiencing physical assault within the past year from the age range of 14-19 to 20-29, followed by a subsequent decrease in probability in the subsequent age groups. Furthermore, as per Bates' (2004) findings, there exists an inverse relationship between advancing age and the likelihood of experiencing domestic violence within the previous year, with a decrease of 0.74 times. Bhuiya et al. (2003) reported a similar finding, wherein an increase in the age group was found to significantly decrease the odds ratio. In addition, it has been found that there exists a negative correlation between the age of women and the occurrence of physical and sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) in the previous year (VanderEnde, Sibley, Cheong, Naved, & Yount, 2015). Furthermore, research conducted by Rahman et al. (2020) suggests that women who are younger and have lower levels of education are more likely to experience spousal violence compared to their older and more educated counterparts. According to Ferdos and Rahman's (2018) research, individuals who marry after the age of 18 have a lower likelihood of experiencing physical or sexual intimate partner violence compared to those who marry before the age of 18. Thus, the study yields comparable outcomes to various other scholarly works concerning the influence of age on domestic violence among women. Conversely, the study concludes that an increase in Body Mass Index (BMI) decreases the likelihood of experiencing domestic violence. Nevertheless, the outcome lacks statistical significance, indicating that there is no significant correlation between the alteration in BMI and the incidence of domestic violence. Ferdos and Rahman (2018) discovered that women in Bangladesh who are underweight or overweight experience a higher incidence of physical and sexual intimate partner violence compared to those with a normal body mass index. On the contrary, Ferreira et al. (2015) discovered a negative correlation between body mass index (BMI) and domestic violence. Ferdos and Rahman (2018) have reported that Bangladeshi women who experience sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) may be at risk of developing negative psychological consequences. These consequences may manifest in the form of increased energy intake or a more sedentary lifestyle, ultimately resulting in a higher likelihood of obesity. In contradistinction to the antecedent viewpoint, the act of depriving an individual of sustenance may constitute a form of domestic abuse that culminates in undernourishment and a subsequent reduction in body mass index (Ferreira, et al., 2015)

The research suggests that an increase in the level of education attained by both partners or the entire household is associated with a reduction in the prevalence of domestic violence and the influence of patriarchal attitudes. However, the relation was found insignificant in this study. This relationship is a fundamental discovery that is present in all literature. Education plays a crucial role in fostering individuals' awareness of ethical conduct, particularly in their interpersonal relationships. According to the study conducted by Bates et al. (2004), there exists an inverse relationship between the level of education attained by women and the likelihood of experiencing domestic violence. The likelihood of women obtaining education beyond five years is reduced by approximately fifty percent. Schuler's (1996) study examines the correlation between women's educational attainment and their likelihood of experiencing domestic violence perpetrated by their partners. The findings suggest that women who receive even a minimal level of education are less susceptible to intimate partner violence. Ferdos et al. (2018) posit that an increase in education level from primary to secondary and beyond is associated with a decrease in the likelihood of experiencing physical and sexual intimate partner violence. Additionally, extant literature has demonstrated that individuals with lower levels of

education and younger women are more susceptible to experiencing physical and sexual intimate partner violence (IPV) (Naved & Persson, 2005) (Koenig, Ahmed, Hossain, & Khorshed Alam Mozumder, 2003). This paper incorporates total household education as a variable, which entails aggregating the education levels of both male and female partners. Although the outcome has lost statistical significance, it is noteworthy that a positive correlation was observed. One possible explanation is an increased level of awareness among female partners. The attainment of higher levels of education fosters an awareness of the inherent entitlements of women as individuals and as spouses. Consequently, individuals vocalize their opposition to mistreatment, which can result in incidents of domestic violence. The assertion is further corroborated by Bhuiya et al. (2003). The study conducted by the author analyzed the impact of the education level of both spouses on the incidence of domestic violence. The findings revealed that an increase in the educational attainment of wives was associated with a higher likelihood of experiencing domestic violence perpetrated by their husbands. On the contrary, an increase in the educational attainment of husbands is associated with a decrease in the incidence of domestic violence against wives. The interpretation of the findings in the two papers provides a sound defense, despite the fact that the perspective on the education of wives differs from previous literature. It is possible that the combination of the educational levels of both spouses may account for the lack of statistical significance observed in this study.

Women's empowerment plays a crucial role in reducing domestic violence, as it lessens dependence on husbands and limits spousal control. In rural Bangladesh, many women gain self-sufficiency through small-scale enterprises supported by loans or savings, contributing to household income and stability (Hashemi, Schuler, & Riley, 1996). However, empowerment can also create tensions: women may fear losing their autonomy and, in resisting control, face increased violence (Schuler et al., 1996). Studies further show that women's income from entrepreneurship or employment often heightens the risk of intimate partner violence in rural areas, as husbands may perceive a threat to traditional roles (Naved & Persson, 2005; VanderEnde et al., 2015). Decision-making power within households is another key dimension of empowerment. Kabir et al. (2019) find that women's agricultural decision-making autonomy is inversely associated with domestic violence, echoing evidence from Ethiopia, where joint decision-making lowers women's risk (Ebrahim & Atteraya, 2019). Cross-country studies similarly suggest that shared power in workplaces and education reduces sexual violence (Yodanis, 2004). Yet findings remain complex: in Ghana, family planning autonomy reduces violence while economic autonomy may increase emotional or economic abuse (Tenkorang, 2018), and in Nigeria, greater decision-making power sometimes coincides with heightened violence, reflecting men's persistence in asserting dominance (Sunmola, 2019). Overall, while empowerment reduces women's vulnerability in many cases, its relationship with domestic violence is shaped by entrenched patriarchal norms.

Notwithstanding certain possible constraints, the outcomes of the study demonstrate a noteworthy correlation between domestic violence and women's decision-making in the agricultural sector. Additionally, the results indicate that the commencement of work or entrepreneurial endeavors may incite instances of violence. However, when women assume a prominent role in decision-making within the household, incidents of domestic violence tend to decrease.

6. Conclusion

The paper endeavours to ascertain the extent and underlying causes of domestic violence perpetrated against women. The results of this study indicate that the act of empowering women may have a greater impact on reducing incidents of domestic violence compared to previous interventions. Particularly, when women are involved in various entrepreneurial ventures and agricultural occupations in rural areas. If individuals are able to attain decision-making roles within the household, it is possible that the incidence of domestic violence may be reduced. Despite the existing challenges, there are numerous potential prospects for further exploration and development in the realm of domestic violence within rural regions of Bangladesh. The implementation of a more refined methodology, incorporating appropriate variables, may yield a more precise understanding of the underlying factors contributing to instances of domestic violence. The proposition put forth by the author posits that the education of both the husband and wife is a requisite measure in mitigating incidents of domestic violence. Given that it is typically the husband who perpetrates violence against his wife, it is imperative to prioritize educating husbands on the issue in addition to educating wives. The variables of age, body height, body mass index, obesity, and skin color have been identified as significant factors in the occurrence of domestic violence. The present investigation employs age and BMI as predictor variables to demonstrate the influence of physical attributes on occurrences of domestic violence. The research indicates that there is no statistically significant association between the body mass index (BMI) and the occurrence of domestic violence. The impact of socioeconomic variables, including household size, income, roof category, and total land area, on domestic violence has been explored. However, the results do not exhibit statistical significance. There is a correlation between an expansion in household size and a decrease in incidents of domestic violence. Additionally, an improvement in socioeconomic status is linked to a reduction in occurrences of domestic violence. There exists a negative correlation between household income and physical as well as sexual violence. The role of education in promoting ethical behavior is of utmost importance. There exists an inverse correlation between the educational attainment of women and their probability of encountering domestic violence. Moreover, a rise in the level of education from primary to secondary and beyond is linked to a reduction in the likelihood of experiencing such violence. The advancement of women's empowerment is a crucial element in mitigating occurrences of domestic violence. The present study investigates the significance of women's entrepreneurship in the Poultry and Livestock sectors, along with their involvement in household decision-making. The research indicates that there exists a positive correlation between an increase in the number of Poultry and Livestock and a higher probability of domestic violence, which is in line with previous scholarly works. Furthermore, residing in rural areas substantially increases the probability of encountering domestic violence in the context of employment. The study ultimately concluded that the assumption of a prominent role by women in household decision-making is associated with a reduction in incidents of domestic violence.

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