


# The Impact of Women's Education and Employment on Their Experience of Domestic Violence in Afghanistan (2015)

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## Introduction

### Statistics on Domestic Violence

- ☐ Globally 1 in every 3 women experienced domestic violence in their lifetime(WHO, 2021).
- ☐ 87% of women in Afghanistan have experienced domestic violence at least once in their life(UN, 2015)
- ☐ Intimate partner violence is the most reported
- ☐ Afghan women experience physical, mental, sexual, and economic violence

### Economic Implications of DVW

- Women's health (mental, physical, emotional)
- Family(dependent children )
- Society (lost productivity, cost on involved sectors
- 2 percent of the global GDP, \$1.5 trillion (UN Women, 2016)

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## Domestic Violence statistics in Afghanistan

- Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission, 4,154 first half of 2013

**Figure1: Types of violence experienced by women in Afghanistan in 2013**

| Form of Violence                  | 1392 | 1391 |
|-----------------------------------|------|------|
| Other forms of violence           | 802  | 663  |
| Economic violence                 | 802  | 715  |
| Verbal and psychological violence | 976  | 808  |
| Sexual Violence                   | 262  | 336  |
| Physical violence                 | 1249 | 889  |

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## Introduction

- **Women Empowerment Factors**
  - Education: school enrolment of girls tenfold increase during last decades from zero in 2001 to 2.5 million in 2018. (UNESCO, 2023).
  - Employment: women employment increased from 16.5% in 2000 to 23% in 2019(World Bank, 2020)
- **Contribution to scarce literature**
- **Mixed Methodology**

**Research Question:**

- ☒ Does knowledge/education empower Afghan women?
- ☒ To what extent do employed women experience domestic violence compared to unemployed women?

**Research hypothesis:**

- ☒ Education has a protective effect on women's wellbeing and reduces their experience of domestic violence.
- ☒ As suggested by male backlash theory, employment increases Afghan women's domestic violence experience.

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## Theoretical Framework

- ▣ **Becker & Samuelson:** Ultristic and Unitary Model Household as one unit, where everyone works for making everyone better off
- ▣ **Bargaining models**
  - ▣ Protective effect
  - ▣ Male Backlash model
- ▣ **Agarwal:** qualitative intra and extra household factors

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## Literature Review

- ▣ **Protective** impact of education and Employment (*Mohamed Shiraz, 2016; Erin & Keskin, 2021; Kocacik et al., 2007; and Simister and Makowiec, 2008, )*
- ▣ **Male Backlash** and reverse impact of education and employment (*Usta, 2007; Sen, 1999; and Heath, 2012*)
- **Control Variables:** husband's education, husband's employment, family status, marital status, number of children, location, income.
- **Methodology:** Logit Probit, IV, Decompositions
- **Limitations:** Neglects the multidimensionality, and fails to address the selection bias and non randomization problems

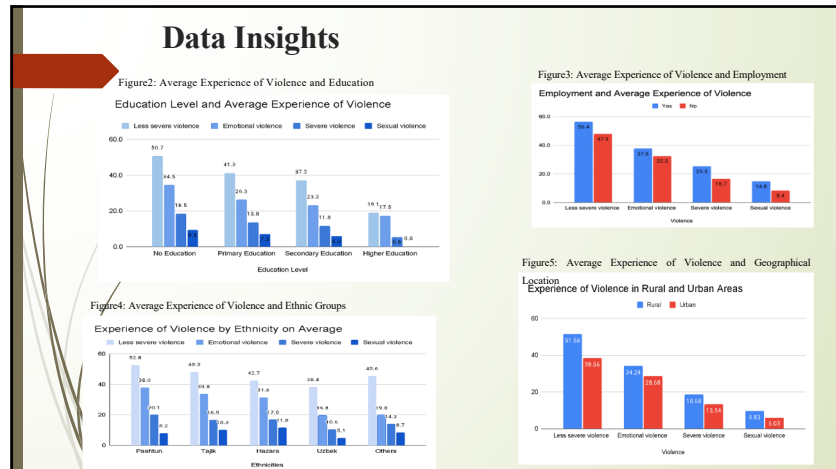
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| Quantitative Data Description   |  | VARIABLES            | N    | mean  | sd    | min | max |
|---|--|----------------------|------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| <b>Summary Statistics</b><br>Afghanistan Demographic Health Survey(DHS) for 2015<br>Cross sectional, 7478 observations, all married women aged 15 to 49 |  | emotional_violence   | 7478 | 0.330 | 0.470 | 0   | 1   |
|   |  | less_severe_violence | 7478 | 0.486 | 0.500 | 0   | 1   |
|   |  | severe_violence      | 7478 | 0.175 | 0.380 | 0   | 1   |
|   |  | sexual_violence      | 7478 | 0.089 | 0.286 | 0   | 1   |
|   |  | violence             | 7478 | 0.526 | 0.499 | 0   | 1   |
|   |  | women_age            | 7478 | 30.22 | 7.597 | 15  | 49  |
|   |  | women_educ_cat       | 7478 | 0.237 | 0.635 | 0   | 3   |
|   |  | wyears_schooling     | 7478 | 1.094 | 3.022 | 0   | 14  |
|   |  | household_size       | 7478 | 8.430 | 3.780 | 2   | 41  |
|   |  | hus_years_schooling  | 7478 | 4.110 | 4.975 | 0   | 18  |
|   |  | no_children          | 7478 | 3.981 | 2.532 | 0   | 13  |
|   |  | woman_age_marriage   | 7478 | 17.89 | 3.400 | 8   | 42  |
|   |  | man_age_marriage     | 7478 | 21.90 | 4.141 | 12  | 49  |
|   |  | women_employ         | 7478 | 0.099 | 0.299 | 0   | 1   |

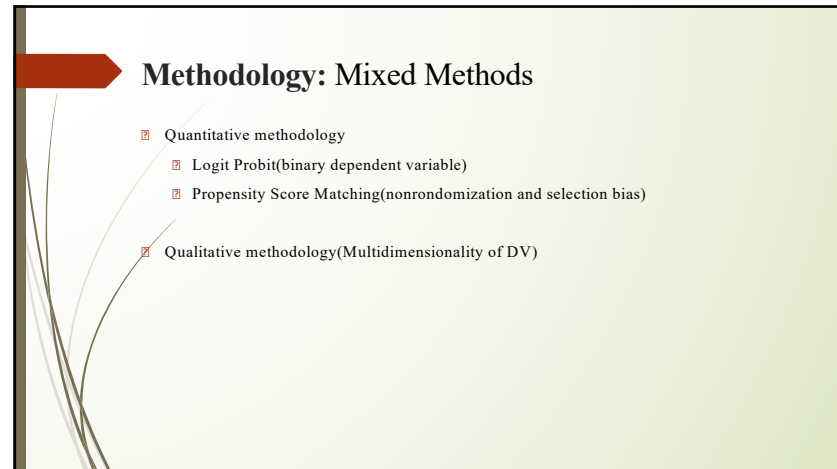
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| Summary Statistics        |      | VARIABLES            | N     | mean  | sd    | min | max |
|---------------------------|------|----------------------|-------|-------|-------|-----|-----|
| <b>Summary Statistics</b> |      | hus_age              | 7478  | 34.53 | 8.100 | 15  | 91  |
|                           |      | hus_employ           | 7478  | 0.922 | 0.268 | 0   | 1   |
|                           |      | pashtun              | 7478  | 0.423 | 0.494 | 0   | 1   |
|                           |      | tajik                | 7478  | 0.317 | 0.465 | 0   | 1   |
|                           |      | hazara               | 7478  | 0.090 | 0.287 | 0   | 1   |
|                           |      | uzbek                | 7478  | 0.070 | 0.256 | 0   | 1   |
|                           |      | others               | 7478  | 0.096 | 0.296 | 0   | 1   |
|                           |      | wealth               | 7478  | 1.934 | 0.878 | 1   | 3   |
|                           |      | perm_medhelp         | 7478  | 0.583 | 0.493 | 0   | 1   |
|                           |      | money_medhelp        | 7478  | 0.704 | 0.456 | 0   | 1   |
|                           |      | decision_womenhealth | 7478  | 0.470 | 0.499 | 0   | 1   |
|                           |      | decision_hhpurchases | 7478  | 0.463 | 0.499 | 0   | 1   |
|                           |      | women_age_group      | 7478  | 2.117 | 0.838 | 1   | 4   |
|                           |      | rural                | 7478  | 0.779 | 0.415 | 0   | 1   |
| early_marriage            | 7478 | 0.199                | 0.399 | 0     | 1     |     |     |
| childhood_violence        | 7478 | 0.595                | 0.491 | 0     | 1     |     |     |

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## Methodology: Quantitative

- Logistic regression**
  - $(Violence) = function(women\_educ, women\_employ, women\_age, hus\_age, hhsizē, hus\_educ, hus\_employ, wealth, no\_children, rural, ethnicity, age\_marriage, childhood\_violenceexp, male\_dominance, u)$
- Propensity Score Matching**
  - Treated women(educated and employed) do not differ from controlled women(uneducated and unemployed) only based on their treatment status, but also differ based on their other covariates as well
    - Nearest Neighbor matching
    - Kernel and Local Linear matching method

|                       |  |                      |
|-----------------------|--|----------------------|
| Violence              | Domestic violence                      | Dependent            |
| women_educ            | Women years of education               | Variable of Interest |
| women_employ          | Women Employment(dummy)                | Variable of Interest |
| women_age             | Women age (15-49)                      | Independent          |
| hus_age               | Husband age                            | Independent          |
| hhsize                | Household size                         | Independent          |
| hus_educ              | Husband years of education             | Independent          |
| hus_employ            | Husband employment(dummy)              | Independent          |
| no_children           | Number of children                     | Independent          |
| rural                 | Location(Rural/Urban)                  | Independent          |
| ethnicity             | Vector for ethnicity dummies           | Independent          |
| age_marriage          | Age at marriage                        | Independent          |
| childhood_violenceexp | Childhood experience of violence       | Independent          |
| male_dominance        | Vector for four male dominance dummies | Independent          |

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## Methodology: Qualitative

- Non-quantifiable factors such as social norms, family settings, family interventions, society's perceptions, self-perception of women
- Semi-structured in-depth interviews:** Five married Afghan women, aged 15 to 50
- Accessing: friends and family, snowball sampling
- Persian language. interview recordings and note-taking
- MAXQDA coding the data, constructing themes, and drawing patterns
- Interview questions reviewed by AUCA IRB
- Informed consent

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### Results: Quantitative

**OLS and Binary Marginal Effect**

- Women Education:** decreases the probability of domestic violence experience
- Women Employment:** Increases the probability of domestic violence experience

| VARIABLES    | OLS       | Logit     | Probit    |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| women_educ   | -0.005*** | -0.027*** | -0.027*** |
|              | 0.002     | 0.010     | 0.010     |
| women_employ | 0.139***  | 0.655***  | 0.655***  |
|              | 0.019     | 0.091     | 0.091     |
| women_age    | 0.004***  | 0.019***  | 0.020***  |
|              | 0.002     | 0.007     | 0.007     |
| hhsiz        | -0.002*   | -0.012*   | -0.012*   |
|              | 0.002     | 0.007     | 0.007     |
| hus_educ     | -0.003*** | -0.016*** | -0.016*** |
|              | 0.001     | 0.005     | 0.005     |
| no_children  | 0.010***  | 0.047***  | 0.047***  |
|              | 0.003     | 0.015     | 0.015     |
| hus_age      | -0.002    | -0.010    | -0.010    |
|              | 0.001     | 0.007     | 0.007     |
| hus_employ   | 0.064***  | 0.299***  | 0.299***  |
|              | -0.020    | -0.094    | -0.094    |

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### OLS Probit and Logit

| VARIABLES    | OLS       | Logit     | Probit    |
|--------------|-----------|-----------|-----------|
| rural        | 0.080***  | 0.368***  | 0.368***  |
|              | 0.016     | 0.071     | 0.071     |
| wealth       | 0.016**   | 0.073**   | 0.0732**  |
|              | 0.007     | 0.034     | 0.034     |
| tajik        | -0.011    | -0.048    | -0.048    |
|              | 0.013     | 0.062     | 0.062     |
| hazara       | -0.116*** | -0.528*** | -0.528*** |
|              | 0.021     | 0.095     | 0.095     |
| uzbek        | -0.099*** | -0.461*** | -0.461*** |
|              | 0.022     | 0.104     | 0.104     |
| others       | -0.072*** | -0.337*** | -0.337*** |
|              | 0.020     | 0.094     | 0.094     |
| perm_medhelp | 0.085***  | 0.387***  | 0.387***  |
|              | 0.012     | 0.056     | 0.056     |

| VARIABLES            | OLS      | Logit    | Probit   |
|----------------------|----------|----------|----------|
| money_medhelp        | 0.078*** | 0.358*** | 0.358*** |
|                      | 0.013    | 0.060    | 0.060    |
| decision_womenhealth | 0.023    | 0.107    | 0.107    |
|                      | 0.015    | 0.070    | 0.070    |
| decision_hhpurchases | 0.040*** | 0.187*** | 0.187*** |
|                      | 0.015    | 0.069    | 0.069    |
| early_marriage       | 0.000    | 0.001    | 0.001    |
|                      | 0.014    | 0.066    | 0.066    |
| childhood_violence   | 0.254*** | 1.109*** | 1.109*** |
|                      | 0.011    | 0.051    | 0.051    |
| Observations         | 7478     | 7478     | 7478     |
| R-squared            | 0.133    |          |          |

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**Results: Propensity Score Matching**

**Education Effect**

| Nearest Neighbor ATT |           |        |          |        | Kernel and Local Linear ATT |           |        |          |        |
|----------------------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------|--------|----------|--------|
| n.treated            | n.control | ATT    | std. err | t-stat | n.treated                   | n.control | ATT    | std. err | t-stat |
| 1060                 | 1100      | -0.029 | 0.02     | -1.065 | 1060                        | 6283      | -0.049 | 0.021    | -2.369 |

**Employment Effect**

| Nearest Neighbor ATT |           |       |          |        | Kernel and Local Linear ATT |           |       |          |        |
|----------------------|-----------|-------|----------|--------|-----------------------------|-----------|-------|----------|--------|
| n.treated            | n.control | ATT   | std. err | t-stat | n.treated                   | n.control | ATT   | std. err | t-stat |
| 744                  | 800       | 0.186 | 0.027    | 6.854  | 744                         | 6576      | 0.140 | 0.018    | 7.845  |

While average violence is higher among uneducated group, it is evident that women with at least primary education have different set of confounders compared to women with zero levels of education

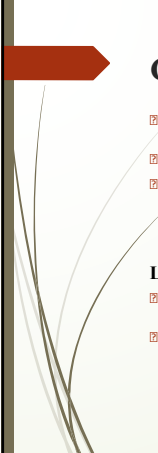
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**Results: Qualitative**

- ▣ Education Increases women’s autonomy in the household and gives them financial freedom
- ▣ Educated men are more supportive of their partners and encourage women’s education and employment.
- ▣ violence is more experienced among couples whose level of education is not equal
- ▣ Women get empowered as they get financially stable.
- ▣ Backlashes
  - ▣ Social Norms and patriarchy
  - ▣ Family
  - ▣ Marriage

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## Conclusion

- ▣ Finding of both approaches indicate that education is an influential factor in reducing the domestic violence experience of women
- ▣ Employed women are more exposed to domestic violence compared to unemployed women
- ▣ Factors such as the couple's education gap, social norms and perceptions, and family interventions influence women's employment, making them more prone to domestic violence

### Limitations

- ▣ Women who have answered the domestic violence sample have not revealed the actual situation, bias, the impact of education and employment might have been underestimated
- ▣ Qualitative study is that it is conducted online

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## Policy Recommendations

- ▣ **Improve Women's Access to Education**
  - ▣ Open schools and universities for girls and women
  - ▣ Provide emergency education programs for Afghan girls and support online education with necessary tools and facilities
- ▣ **Domestic Violence and Women Rights Awareness Campaigns**
  - ▣ Conducting workshops for both men and women
  - ▣ Promoting gender equality through media outlets and community influencers
  - ▣ Include domestic violence as a strictly punishable crime in the country's legislations.
- ▣ **Improve Women Employment**
  - ▣ Provide funding for women led businesses
  - ▣ Hiring only women staff
  - ▣ Improving workplace opportunities for women

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