

Impact of Intimate Partner violence on ever married women and utilization of antenatal care services in Tanzania

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ABSTRACT

Background & Objectives: Sub Saharan Africa region is considered as one of the deprived regions of this world and women from this part of the world are suffering from intimate partner violence. This study was undertaken to assess the impact of intimate partner violence on utilization of antenatal care services among the ever married women. **Materials & Methods:** This is a descriptive cross-sectional study design. The data used in this research was extracted from the Tanzania Demographic Health Survey 2015-16. A total of 13, 266 women were interviewed. **Results:** The mean age of the respondents is 28.69 years. About 74% women visited antenatal care services more than 4 times. Logistic regression results indicate that the middle-aged adult women (35-49 years age group) were identified having lower odds (Odds ratio: 0.807, 95% CI: 0.693-0.940, P<0.001) than women in younger age group. Women who did not complete their secondary education were less likelihood to experience IPV (Odds ratio: 0.705, 95% CI: 0.540-0.922, P<0.010). **Conclusion:** Intimate partner violence is one main challenge to women's health and wellbeing during pregnancy period. Proper implementation and community based interventions to support pregnant women to seek antenatal care services and to raise awareness regarding intimate partner violence are advocated.

Key words: Antenatal Care; Intimate partner violence; pregnant women.

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INTRODUCTION

Reproductive health is a vital part of general health system and is of special importance for women especially of reproductive years.¹ Worldwide 80% of maternal deaths occur due to causes related to pregnancy.² The progress to reduce maternal mortality is very slow despite the international emphasis on the need to address unmet health needs of women.³ WHO recommends ante natal care (ANC) visits provide an excellent opportunity for

pregnant women to receive education regarding the danger signs and symptoms during pregnancy, delivery and postnatal period and information on family planning and birth spacing.⁴ Intimate partner violence (IPV) is one the most common forms of violence against women.⁵ It is also referred to as 'domestic violence', 'battering' or 'spousal abuse'.⁶ Violence during pregnancy directly or indirectly leads to adverse health effects for the infant during pregnancy, birth and postnatal period.⁷

In Tanzania, like other Sub-Saharan Africa countries maternal mortality considered to be one of the biggest problem.⁸ Maternal mortality ratio (MMR) is 578 per 100000 cases represent 18 percent of all deaths of women age 15 to 49. The main causes of maternal mortality are haemorrhages, infections, unsafe abortions, hypertensive disorders and obstructed labours.⁹

There is significant association between utilization of maternal health care services and IPV.¹⁰ But some research found that there is no significant association between IPV and utilization of antenatal care services in Zambia.¹¹ Present study aimed to assess the impact of interpersonal violence on utilization of antenatal care by women of Tanzania.

MATERIALS AND METHODS

Study Area and Population

The research was conducted in urban and rural areas of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar. The study design used in this research is descriptive cross-sectional. The data used in this research was extracted from the Tanzania Demographic Health Survey 2015-16.¹² The study population for this research was women age between 15 to 49. Multistage cluster sampling was used to select the sample for this survey. Data was collected from 30 geographic regions of Tanzania Mainland and Zanzibar (25 regions of Tanzania Mainland and 5 regions from Zanzibar). The urban and rural areas of each region form a sampling stratum. Samples were selected independently from each sampling stratum using two stage selections. In the first stage a total of 59 strata were selected and samples were selected independently from each sampling stratum. The survey selected 608 clusters (180 EAs from urban areas and 428 from rural areas) standard enumeration areas from the strata. In the second stage, a fixed number of 22 households were selected per cluster and a total number of households were selected is 13376 and among them 3,960 households were from urban areas and 9416 households from rural areas. A total of 16,780 respondents were selected for this survey and about 13,266 of them are women and 3,514 are men.¹² But for this research only 13,266 women participants age between 15 to 49 years were selected.

Study Material and Measures

Tanzania Demographic Health and Survey 2015-16 using four different types of questionnaire-household questionnaire, woman's questionnaire, man's questionnaire and biomarker

questionnaire.¹⁶ This research has used woman's questionnaire. Close ended questionnaire was used. Data collection started in August 2015 and ended in February 2016. To maintain ethical issues prior consent was obtained from the participant before to data collection and they were explained about the purpose of the research and involvement was voluntary.

Data Analysis

Data were analyzed using Statistical Software SPSS version 20.0. The probability of significance was set at 5% level of significance for all tests and 95% confidence interval. Frequency distribution, Chi-Square and bivariate logistic regression analysis was carried out using odds ratio as both the dependent variables of this research are categorical. For data analysis purpose, two types of variables are used in this research and description of those variables are given below.

Dependent Variables

This research has used two dependent variables. The first dependent variable is Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and it was determined by combination of physical violence, sexual violence and emotional violence. Physical violence was determined by respondent answering "yes" to any of a string of questions about whether her spouse ever did the following – (1) pushed, shook or threw something at her (2) slapped her (3) punched her (4) kicked or dragged her (5) strangled or burnt her (6) threatened or attacked her with a knife, gun or any other weapons. Sexual violence was determined by the respondent answering "yes" to any of the two following questions- (1) ever been physically forced into unwanted sex and (2) ever been forced into other unwanted sexual acts. Emotional violence was determined by respondent answering "yes" to ever experience emotional violence. The other independent variable of this research is ANC visit. It was measured using the question that how many times they received antenatal care during pregnancy. ANC visit was recorded as "0" when the respondents made one to three visits and it was recorded as "1" when they made four or more ANC visits.

Independent Variables

Women's characteristics such as age of the respondent, wealth index, place of residence, educational attainment, occupational status and number of children five and under were considered as first set independent variable. Husband characteristics such as educational attainment, drinks alcohol, husband jealous and witnessed

parental beating were also determined as first set of independent variables. In the second set of variable IPV was considered as independent variable.

RESULTS

The background characteristics of the women from Tanzania are shown in Table 1. The mean age of the respondents is 28.69 years. About 41% respondents age were between 15 to 24 years of age. Approximately 30% respondent's age are between 35-49 years. Majority of the respondent about 68% of them were from rural area and 31% from urban area. About 57.6% respondents had completed primary education and 15% of them had no education. A clear majority of the respondent (71.5%) were currently working and about 28.4% of them have no work. Only 1.2% households had six or more children. About 25.7% of the

Table 1 Background Characteristics of the respondents

Categories	Frequency	%
Age of the respondent		
15-24	5399	40.7
25-34	3856	29.1
35-49	4011	30.2
Mean \pm SD	28.69 \pm 9.7	
Type of place of residence		
Urban	4145	31.2
Rural	9121	68.8
Highest educational level		
No education	1998	15.1
Primary	7640	57.6
Secondary	3487	26.3
Higher	141	1.1
Occupational Status		
Yes	9489	71.5
No	3773	28.4
Number of children 5 and under in household		
0	3714	28
2-Jan	7821	59
5-Mar	1569	11.8
6+	162	1.2
Wealth index		
Poorest	2144	16.2
Poorer	2166	16.3
Middle	2438	18.4
Richer	3108	23.4
Richest	3410	25.7

respondents were coming from richest households, only 18.4% respondents participated from middle class households and 16% respondents from poorest households.

Table 2 shows the characteristics of respondent's husband. About 64% respondents' husband completed primary education and about 13% of respondent's husband had no education. About 31% respondents revealed that their husband or partner drink alcohol. Approximately, 33.3% respondents shared that husband become jealous if they see them talking to another man.

Table 3 highlights the relationships between IPV and socio-demographic characteristics of women and their spouse based on logistic regression analysis. The type of residence and husband educational attainment did not show any significant effects on IPV. Table 9 also showed that women in younger age group (15-24 years age group) had higher risk to be abused by inmate partners and the risk of being abused declined with the increase of age. The middle-aged adult women (35-49 years age group) were identified having lower odds (Odds ratio: 0.807, 95% CI: 0.693-0.940, $P < 0.001$) than women in younger age group. Women who did not completed their primary education had more chance to experience IPV (Odds ratio: 1.248, 95% CI: 1.022-1.524, $P < 0.030$) than those who had no

Table 2: Characteristics of respondent's husband

Categories	Frequency	%
Husband/partner's educational level		
No education	1062	13
Primary	5292	64.6
Secondary	1563	19.1
Higher	241	2.9
Don't Know	31	0.4
Husband/partner drinks alcohol		
No	5208	68.6
Yes	2389	31.4
Husband Jealous		
No	3106	23.4
Yes	4412	33.3
Don't Know	78	0.6
Witnessed parental violence		
No	5563	41.9
Yes	2979	22.5
Don't know	780	5.9

Table 3: Logistic regression results of IPV and woman and husband's characteristics

Variables	Ever experienced IPV		
	Odds ratio	95% CI	p-value
Age of the respondent			
15-24		1	
25-34	0.974	0.844-1.125	<.72
35-49	0.807	0.693-0.940	<.00
Type of residence			
Urban		1	
Rural	0.881	0.747-1.039	<.13
Educational attainment			
No education		1	
Incomplete primary	1.248	1.022-1.524	<.03
Complete primary	1.063	0.910-1.241	<.44
Incomplete secondary	0.705	0.540-0.922	<.01
Complete secondary	0.723	0.554-0.943	<.01
Higher	0.677	0.310-1.479	<.32
Wealth Index			
Poorest		1	
Poorer	0.857	0.717-1.024	<.09
Middle	0.826	0.691-0.987	<.03
Richer	0.723	0.598-0.873	<.00
Richest	0.688	0.539-0.878	<.00
Occupational Status			
No		1	
Yes	1.394	1.212-1.603	<.00
Number children 5 and under			
0		1	
2-Jan	1.066	0.929-1.224	<.36
5-Mar	1.334	1.084-1.640	<.00
6+	2.261	0.994-5.114	<.05
Husbands Educational Attainment			
No education		1	
Primary	1.094	0.918-1.304	<.31
Secondary	0.804	0.639-1.012	<.06
Higher	0.721	0.457-1.139	<.16
Don't know	1.695	0.697-4.120	<.24
Drinks alcohol			
No		1	
Yes	2.508	2.217-2.836	<.00
Husband jealous			
No		1	
Yes	3.068	2.736-3.442	<.00
Don't know	0.928	0.533-1.616	<.79
Witnessed beating			
No		1	
Yes	2.498	2.218-2.812	<.00
Don't Know	1.606	1.322-1.952	<.00

Table 4: Logistic regression showing woman's and husband characteristics and intimate partner violence with use ANC services

Variables	Use of ANC		
	Odds ratio	95% CI	p-value
Ever Experienced IPV			
No		1	
Yes	0.913	0.800-1.042	<0.17
Age of the respondent			
15-24		1	
25-34	0.925	0.798-1.071	<0.29
35-49	0.847	0.715-1.002	<0.05
Type of residence			
Urban		1	
Rural	0.977	0.815-1.172	<0.80
Educational attainment			
No education		1	
Incomplete primary	0.957	0.772-1.186	<0.68
Complete primary	1.157	0.981-1.365	<0.08
Incomplete secondary	0.894	0.683-1.171	<0.41
Complete secondary	1.567	1.176-2.088	<0.00
Higher	3.113	1.129-8.586	<0.02
Wealth index			
Poorest		1	
Poorer	0.907	0.751-1.094	<0.30
Middle	1.029	0.853-1.243	<0.76
Richer	1.569	1.280-1.924	<0.00
Richest	1.747	1.337-2.282	<0.00
Occupational Status			
No		1	
Yes	1.005	0.869-1.162	<.94
Number children 5 and under			
0		1	
2-Jan	0.818	0.605-1.106	<0.19
5-Mar	0.576	0.411-0.807	<0.00
6+	0.253	.091-0.706	<0.00
Husbands Educational Attainment			
No education		1	
Primary	1.268	1.065-1.553	<0.00
Secondary	1.473	1.152-1.881	<0.00
Higher	1.383	0.824-2.321	<0.22
Don't know	1.799	0.616-5.248	<0.28
Drinks alcohol			
No		1	
Yes	0.877	0.762-1.010	<0.06
Husband jealous			
No		1	
Yes	1.287	1.135-1.461	<0.00
Don't know	1.669	0.924-3.017	<0.06
Witnessed beating			
No		1	
Yes	0.951	0.915-1.416	<0.46
Don't Know	1.138	0.800-1.042	<0.24

education. Women found to experience IPV more who belonged to lower socio-economic status. Women who had job were more likely to experience IPV (Odds ratio: 1.394, 95% CI: 1.212-1.603, $P < 0.001$) than who had not. Women whose husband felt jealous had more than 3 times higher chance to experience IPV (Odds ratio: 3.068, 95% CI: 2.736-3.442, $P < 0.001$) than those whose husband were not jealous.

The results of logistic regression analysis highlighting the relationships between use of ANC services and socio-demographic characteristics of women and their spouse presented in Table 4. The women in younger age group (15 to 24 years age group) had higher chance to take ANC and the chance reduced with the increase of age. The middle-aged adult women (35 to 49 years age group) were less likely to take ANC (Odds ratio: 0.847, 95% CI: 0.715-1.002, $P < 0.050$) than women in younger age group. In contrast, women who completed their secondary (Odds ratio: 1.567, 95% CI: 1.176-2.088, $P < 0.010$) and higher education (Odds ratio: 3.113, 95% CI: 1.129-8.586, $P < 0.020$) were more likelihood to take ANC than those who had no education. Similarly, Women who belonged to richer (Odds ratio: 1.569, 95% CI: 1.280-1.924, $P < 0.001$) and richest (Odds ratio: 1.747, 95% CI: 1.337-2.282, $P < 0.001$) in terms of socio-economic status were more likelihood to take ANC than those who were poorer. Women with 3-5 children were less likely to take ANC (Odds ratio: 0.576, 95% CI: 0.411-0.807, $P < 0.001$) than those who had no children. Once again, women with more than 6 children had 75% less chance to take ANC (Odds ratio: 0.253, 95% CI: 0.091-0.706, $P < 0.001$) than those who had no children.

DISCUSSION

The study result revealed that the mean age of the respondents is 28.69 years and about 41% of the respondent's age is between 15 to 24 years of age. This is consistent with another research conducted in Nepal and the research found the mean age of the respondents was 25.5 years and majority of the respondents (44%) of them were belong to age group less than 25 years.¹³ The participants of this research are mostly from (68%) rural area and 57.6% of them completed primary education. Another research identified that about 78.3% of them were living in rural area and only 26.4% of them had no education.¹⁴ About 71% respondents are currently working but a study done in

Bangladesh found that 72.4% respondents had no jobs.¹⁴ This is due to the fact that cultural norms do not allow women to work outside home specially the pregnant women. Respondents from 15 to 24 years age group are more likely to face IPV, this is inconsistent with another finding from a research in central hospital of Benin City, Nigeria where the researcher found that violence was highest among age group between 25 to 34 years.¹⁵ The statistics show that about 74% Tanzanian women received four or more antenatal care visits but another similar study was in Nepal had shown that 41% women had completed the four ANC visit.¹⁶ Husbands education is an important factor for determination of domestic violence. Respondent's husband who completed primary education are more going to abuse their partners. This was consistent with a finding from Rwanda where they cited that husband's level of education was significantly associated with spousal violence.^{17,18} The logistic regression analysis of this research present that intimate partner violence did not show any significant relationship with ANC visit. Women who had experienced spousal violence made at least four ANC visits which is higher than among women who had not experienced any violence.¹⁹ In Pakistan, researchers reported that ANC visit is associated with domestic violence.²⁰ Other categories like age of the respondents, educational attainment, and wealth index, number of children in the households, husband's educational attainment and jealousy of husband found to have significant association with ANC visits. These findings are consistent with other researches.¹⁹⁻²²

LIMITATIONS

One of the limitations of this research is that cross-sectional study design which does not show association between dependent and independent variables. Another limitation of this research is recall bias of the respondents and could impact the findings of the research.

CONCLUSION

Intimate partner violence is a major problem in Tanzania and the young married women are vulnerable to IPV which is affecting their maternal health and pregnancy outcomes. This study revealed that a good number of women are using four or more antenatal care visits. Although the research could not show significant relationship

between IPV and antenatal care visits but it provides a direction that there is a need to make sure that women should have easy access to information related to antenatal care services.

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Conflict of Interest Statement:

None Declared

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