



Intimate Partner Violence and Psychosocial Impacts on Battered Women: Basis for Policy and Support Interventions



S&T in Behavioral & Social Sciences

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Background

Violence against women in intimate relationships is a pervasive and deeply rooted social issue that transcends geographical, cultural, and socio-economic boundaries. This phenomenon not only violates fundamental human rights but also has far-reaching consequences for the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of victims. The intersection of violence against women within the context of intimate relationships presents a complex and multifaceted challenge that requires a comprehensive understanding and targeted interventions.

The chronic psychosocial enormities inflicted upon battered women range from shattered self-esteem to depression and PTSD. Primary support programs offer survivors a lifeline to safety, support, and empowerment, providing essential services such as legal advocacy, counseling, livelihood and financial assistance and play a pivotal role in addressing societal norms and attitudes that perpetuate IPV through education, outreach, and community engagement initiatives. Advocacy interventions, along with primary support programs, serve as catalysts for

social change, advocating for policy reforms and promoting gender equality and empowerment. The patterns of IPV and the chronic psychosocial enormities serve as a stark reminder of the urgent need for concerted action and collective solidarity.

Research Objectives

The study explored the available evidence on the prevalence, patterns of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and the chronic psychosocial enormities on abused women which primarily looked into the profile of the respondent-victims and the perpetrators, finding out the forms and factors associated with IPV experienced by the victims, and the significant relationships of the same while proposing possible primary support program/s and advocacy intervention to abate the occurrence of the IPV.

Methodology

A descriptive (documentary) research design was utilized to provide a comprehensive analysis of the research objectives of the study which focused in Cagayan Valley Region. Data were sourced from documents filed before any government agency whose mandated functions are related to the protection of violence against women and their children particularly cases that have been lodged before the Philippine National Police Regional (PNP) Office 2. The quantitative data gathered constituted the descriptive and inferential analysis of the study specifically the profile of the victims and perpetrators exploring the relationship between the profiles and the forms and factors of IPV. Descriptive statistics such as frequency and percentage were used to treat the profile of the victims, the forms of IPV, together with the factors associated with it. Chi square was utilized in the treatment of data on the significant correlation of the different variables mentioned in the objectives of this study.

Key Findings

This study provides a comprehensive analysis of IPV across Cagayan, Isabela, Nueva Vizcaya, and Quirino, revealing that IPV is a pervasive, multidimensional issue shaped by demographic, socio-economic, and

behavioral factors. Victims are predominantly women aged 26–40, with younger women also at risk due to economic dependency and limited awareness. IPV spans all education and income levels, though lower educational attainment and unemployment significantly heighten vulnerability. Perpetrators are mostly employed males aged 31–40, with husbands accounting for the majority of cases—underscoring the role of entrenched gender norms and relational control.

Conclusion

After conducting an in-depth study on the patterns of IPV and the chronic psychosocial enormities experienced by battered women, it is evident that this issue requires urgent attention and comprehensive intervention strategies. The research has highlighted the pervasive nature of IPV, its detrimental impact on the mental and emotional well-being of victims.

Policy Recommendations

- Implement proactive (preemptive) measures to identify and address signs of IPV at an early stage that involve community outreach programs, educational campaigns and training for healthcare professionals to recognize and respond to cases of abuse.
- Encourage the establishment of the *HeForShe* and similar initiatives that engage men in gender equality efforts and similar advocacy in protecting the rights and well-being of women against violence.
- Government institutions may offer empowerment workshops and educational sessions to help survivors rebuild their self-esteem, develop mechanisms and acquire skills for independence focusing on promoting self-care, resilience and empowerment through tailored programs. It is likewise encouraged that they establish a holistic support system for battered women that include but not limited to access to counselling, legal assistance, safe housing, livelihood and financial resources. Collaborate with local organization and shelters to provide a network of support for victims seeking help.
- For agencies mandated to protect the rights of women against violence, may develop and

implement a comprehensive case management system for tracking, coordinating and support for victims of IPV.

Target Policy Actors and Beneficiaries



Editor's Note

This policy brief is based on results of the CSU-funded project "Patterns Of Intimate Partner Violence And The Chronic Psychosocial Enormities On Battered Women: A Basis For Primary Support Program And Advocacy Interventions" This project was implemented by the Cagayan State University – Andrews Campus. The CSU – Andrews Campus project team is composed of Chona P. Agustin, Mary Grace T. Delelis, Catherine F. Hizon, Julia T. Cardona, Rhodora B. Romero, Irene P. Aquino and Rayma Fe N. Lagundi.

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