Thailand Statistician
October 2026; 24(4): 954-966
http://statassoc.or.th
Contributed paper

Determinants of Domestic Violence Against Husbands in Palestine

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Received: 13 February 2026
Revised: 21 March 2026
Accepted: 9 April 2026

Abstract

The study aimed to investigate the demographic and socioeconomic factors that affect the husbands' odds of experiencing domestic violence in Palestine. Violence in the Palestinian Society Survey is the main source of data, it was conducted by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics in 2019. The sample was 5114 ever-married women. The descriptive analysis was used to describe the demographic and socioeconomic variables that affect the prevalence of violence against husbands. Binary logistic regression was used to study the determinants of violence against husbands. Findings revealed that younger wives are more likely to practice physical and psychological violence and the increase in the number of children within the family leads to an increase in the chances of husbands experiencing physical and sexual violence. The low education and unemployment status of wives were protective factors for husbands against domestic violence. The wives' exposure to any form of domestic violence accompanies an elevated odd of husbands experiencing the same type of domestic violence that their wives face. Laws and policies should consider the male partner's problems from exposure to different types of domestic violence. Context-oriented premarital counseling programs for youth.

Keywords: Physical violence, psychological violence, sexual violence, binary logistic regression.

1. Introduction

Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of behavior in any relationship that is used to gain or maintain power and control over an intimate partner (Kelly and Johnson 2008). Domestic violence could happen in different forms, physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. Domestic violence affects Spouses of all demographic, socioeconomic backgrounds, and education levels. Worldwide, domestic violence is considered a major health risk for the victim (Ellsberg et al. 2008, Clark et al. 2023). Usually, women are the victims of domestic violence and men are always the perpetrators (Hernández et al. 2023), but recent studies showed that men can be victims of domestic violence as well (Lewis and Sarantakos 2001, Dutton and Nicholls 2005). Violence against men is not a new or rare phenomenon, but very few studies have addressed it (Adebayo 2014, Hines and Douglas 2009).

While many studies discuss violence against men in non-Arab countries where it is socially accepted that a man could report his experience of violent practice by his intimate partner, a limited number of studies discussed this topic within the Arab region because it is a kind of a shame that the husband reports his experience of any form of violence by his wife (Alsawalqa 2023). A previous study showed that about 7% of male partners experienced any form of domestic violence while this percentage reaches about 22% among females in the USA (Tjaden and Thoennes 2000).

This is the case in Palestine, where national surveys on violence conducted in 2011 and 2019 by the Palestinian Central Bureau of Statistics (PCBS) reported on violence against men by questioning wives themselves, which may lead to underreporting of the phenomena due to social desirability (PCBS 2012, PCBS 2022). According to the reports of domestic violence published by the PCBS, despite the underreporting, the percentage of Palestinian husbands who experienced any form of physical violence was 20.3% in 2011 and decreased to reach 9.6% in 2019, while the percentage of those who experienced any form of psychological violence was 35.1% in 2011 and 31.5% in 2019, and the sexual violence which have been reported for the first time in 2019, the percentage was 10.3%. It can be noticed the highest form of domestic violence Palestinian husbands face is psychological violence which remains at its high levels over the eight years, while the level of physical violence decreased substantially and the sexual violence emerged clearly in 2019. This clear phenomenon in the Palestinian society calls for an investigation to identify its correlates and determinants.

The correlates of husbands' experience of domestic violence and the correlated factors are investigated in many studies. The risk factors differ according to societal norms, culture, and the form of violence itself. The factors are categorized into mental health-related factors, demographic and socioeconomic-related factors, and context-related factors. As for the first category, studies show that childhood trauma, depression, and living within matriarchs' households are the main factors (Fulu et al. 2013, Agüero et al. 2022). As for the demographic and socioeconomic factors, alcohol and drug misuse, low educational levels, poverty, unemployment, low income, and Jealousy are the most common factors (Selic et al. 2011, Das and Roy 2020, Skinner 2021, Salas et al. 2024).

The current research aimed to explore the levels of domestic violence against husbands in Palestine; A context that suffers from political instability, considerable levels of terrorism and violence, frequent, along with the continuous Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This is along with identifying the factors associated with men's exposure to any form of domestic violence where the wives are the perpetrators.

The main research assumption is that violence against husbands co-occur with violence against wives, i.e., if the woman has ever experienced any form of violence by her husband, she will have a violent reaction. In other words, husbands who practice violence against their wives, have a higher likelihood to suffer from the same form or other forms of violence by their wives as a reaction. In the light of previous literature, the authors also assume that demographic and socioeconomic would have a statistically significant effect on the likelihood of a husband's exposure to domestic violence.

2. Data and Methods

2.1. Data

The research used data from the Violence in Palestinian Society Survey, conducted by the PCBS in 2019. It was a household (HH) survey conducted on a stratified random sample formed of 12942 HH. The survey was interested in investigating the violence in its different forms experienced by all HH members. Many subsamples were selected to respond to different questionnaire modules according to the eligibility of the respondent for answering the questions of the module. Data was

collected through a face-to-face interview. The response rate was 90% with a final sample size of 11545 HH.

The number of women who were eligible to respond to the section on violence against husbands; those who are currently married women aged (18-64), was 5,114 women. This sample included women who have practiced any form of physical, psychological, social, economic, or sexual violence against their current husbands and women who haven't practiced any type of violence against their husbands who would be our control group in the predictive models. A description of the main characteristics of the sample is given in Table 1 in the next section (the last column of the table shows a description of the study sample).

Since the 2019 survey of violence in Palestinian society was conducted using a sample, sampling errors were inevitable. To minimize these errors, the agency used a probability sample with a suitable design to account for errors at all times. This means that every unit in society has a chance of being selected in the sample. The variance and the effect of the sampling design were calculated for the most prominent survey indicators at the level of the West Bank and Gaza Strip. The agency also weighted the sample to be representative of the areas of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

2.2. Instruments

The survey used 27 questions to measure the husbands' experience of domestic violence by their wives; of them 8 questions to measure the forms of psychological violence (cursed or humiliated him, told him that he is stupid or other word that hurt his feelings, yelled at him, uttered expressions to tease him, threatened him by confidential information, disrespected is parents and relatives, incited the kids against him, or incited the kids to beat him), 12 physical violence questions (threw something at him, pushed him away, pushed him away from children, attacked him which resulted in injuries, pushed him hard, attacked him with a knife or other dangerous tool, hit him with less dangerous object, sabotaged his belongings, tried to suffocate him, held him firmly, slapped him, or burned him on purpose), one question on the economic violence which was about whether she had withdrew money from his account or credit card without his permission, 3 questions on the social violence forms (tried to prohibit him meeting his friends or neighbors, prohibited him going out with his friends, or limited his relation with his direct relatives), and 3 questions to measure the sexual violence (ignored his sexual desires, refused the sexual intercourse, or forced him to maintain a sexual intercourse). The violence against husband module and the sub-modules showed an acceptable level of internal consistency and reliability (Cronbach's Alpha = 0.646, 0.693, 0.662, 0.620, and 0.817 for psychological, physical, social, sexual, and the whole violence module, respectively). Cronbach's alpha was not computed for economic violence, as it is measured through a single item, rendering internal consistency reliability inapplicable. The percentage of missing data was less than 0.15% in all questions except the sexual violence questions, the missing data percentage increased to about 23%. Cases with missing data on sexual violence were deleted from the analysis. The module's sensitivity suggests that non-response is probably due to reluctance in reporting rather than systematic variations in key explanatory factors.

The outcome variables are the husband's exposure to psychological, physical, or sexual violence during the 12 months preceding the survey. As for the social and economic violence, the current research will not analyze them since the prevalence rates are trivial, less than 5% of the sample (see Figure 1).

The selection of covariates was informed by existing work on the determinants of violence, encompassing socio-demographic and household data.

2.3. Statistical analysis

The outcome variables take code 1 if he had been exposed to the form of violence, and code 0 otherwise. The percentages of husbands who have experienced domestic violence are presented in different categories of predictors, and the significance of the unadjusted bivariate relationships between the predictors and the outcome are examined using the chi-square test and a crosstabulation

To examine the effect of predictors on the likelihood of experiencing domestic violence by Palestinian husbands, A binary logistic regression model was utilized. This model is generally used to estimate the predictors' adjusted effects on the outcome variable and identify its determinants. Binary logistic regression is appropriate for modeling binary outcomes. The model estimates the likelihood of belonging to the interest category to that of belonging to the reference category of the outcome variable associated with the predictors' different categories. Data were analyzed using IBM Statistical Package for Social Science version 27 (IBM SPSS version 27). Equation (1) presents the form of the binary logistic regression model:

$$\ln\left(\frac{P}{1-P}\right) = \beta_0 + \beta_1 X_1 + \beta_2 X_2 + ... + \beta_i X_i, \quad (1)$$

where P is represents the probability of the outcome occurring, β_0 is the intercept, β_i are the regression coefficients, and X_i are the explanatory variables (Chatterjee and Hadi 2012).

3. Results

3.1. The prevalence rates of different types of domestic violence and its variation according to predictors

From Table 1 we may notice the main characteristics of the study sample, about 60% of women of age 25-44 years old, 42% of women have primary education, about half of the sampled women have 3 children or more, 40% of women have a kinship relation to their husbands, about 87% of women are not working at the time of the survey, 61% of women residing in the West bank, about 58% reside in an urban area. About half of the HH are in the middle class concerning their wealth index. As for the percentage frequency of women according to their experience of domestic violence, we can notice that 16% have experienced any form of physical violence, 54% have experienced any form of psychological violence, and 8% have experienced any form of sexual violence.

The results presented in Figure 1 show that almost a third of husbands were exposed to any form of psychological violence, about 10% have been exposed to any form of physical violence, 10% have been exposed to any form of sexual violence, 6% have been exposed to any form of social violence and about 4% have been exposed to economic violence. As we said earlier the percentages of husbands who were exposed to economic and social violence are very small, so we would focus in the analysis on the other three types of domestic violence.

Table 1 shows the prevalence rates of psychological, physical, and sexual violence according to the demographic, and socioeconomic characteristics of the wife and her previous experience of different types of domestic violence by her husband.

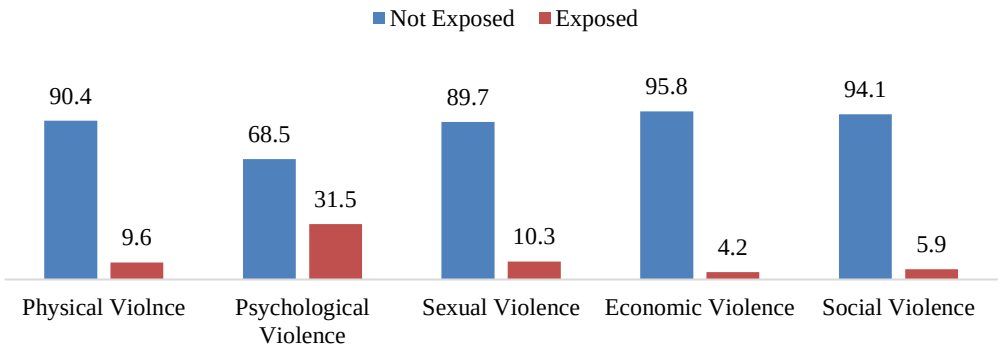


Figure 1 The percentage distribution of respondents according to the types of violence their husbands have experienced.

It can be noticed that psychological violence is the most prevailed type of violence among the respondents as its percentage is 31.5, followed by sexual violence at 10.3%, and the least prevalent is physical violence at 9.6%.

Husbands of younger wives were at the highest risk of experiencing all types of violence as you can notice that the highest percentage of all types of violence were among women whose age is between 25-34 years. Husbands of women whose highest level of education is primary education are highly exposed to all types of violence and the relationship between violence and women's education is negative; i.e. as the educational level of women increases as the percentage of husbands who have experienced violence decreases, with an exception of women who are never enrolled to education who showed the least percentage of husband's exposure to all types of violence.

The percentage of husbands who experience violence increases as the number of children increases but the relationship is reflected after having 5 children or more. As for the region, the results in Table 1 show that husbands who reside in the West Bank are Less exposed to domestic violence rather than those who reside in the Gaza Strip. As for the economic status of the household, the results show that the percentages of husbands who are exposed to physical, psychological, and sexual violence reach their highest levels in middle-class families which equals about 51% for all the types of violence, while the best-off had the lower level of exposure.

The percentage of husbands who were exposed to physical violence was higher among the group of families where the wife has been exposed to physical violence as 61% of husbands who experienced physical violence, their wives have experienced domestic physical violence as well.

The highest percentages of husbands who experienced physical, psychological, and sexual violence were among husbands whose wives were exposed to any form of psychological violence during the 12 months preceding the survey, as the percentages are about 92%, 90%, and 89% respectively. In contrast, the percentages of husbands who experienced physical, psychological, and sexual violence whose wives were exposed to any form of sexual violence during the 12 months preceding the survey were the lowest

Table 1 The percentage distribution of husbands experienced different types of domestic violence according to their wives' characteristics

Variables		Physical		Psychological		Sexual		Total
		(%)	$\chi^2(df)$	(%)	$\chi^2(df)$	(%)	$\chi^2(df)$	No. (%)
Wife's age	18-24	15.7	51.13 (4)**	14.7	58.08 (4)**	12.6	33.16 (4)**	735 (14.3)
	25-34	40.5		37.9		41.4		1753 (34.3)
	35-44	30.7		27.7		28.6		1241 (24.3)
	45-54	11.8		14.5		15.0		870 (17.0)
	55-64	1.4		5.2		2.5		515 (10.0)
Wife's educational level	Never enrolled	2.3	18.97 (3)**	4.8	10.87 (3)*	3.9	12.23 (3)*	422 (8.25)
	Primary	48.6		42.1		45.5		2150 (42.0)
	Secondary	30.5		32.2		33.1		1504 (29.4)
	Higher	18.6		20.9		17.5		1038 (20.3)
The wife's working status	Working	10.7	1.71 (1)	12.3	0.21 (1)	12.6	0.10 (1)	658 (12.9)
	Not working	89.3		87.7		87.4		4456 (87.1)
Number of children	0	16.4	52.96 (3)**	24.9	17.94 (3)**	19.1	32.14 (3)**	1680 (32.8)
	1-2	18.4		20.8		20.2		991 (19.4)
	3-4	38.9		35.6		40.9		1664 (32.5)
	5+	26.4		18.7		19.8		779 (15.2)
Consanguinity	Yes	41.6	8.80 (1)	39.3	0.55 (1)	40.5	0.24 (1)	2002(39.1)
	No	58.4		60.7		59.5		3112(60.9)
Region	West Bank	48.4	55.33 (1)**	37.3	21.60 (1)**	38.5	8.12 (1)**	3446 (67.4)
	Gaza Strip	51.6		62.7		61.5		1668 (32.6)
Locality type	Urban	55.5	1.51 (2)	56.6	1.78 (2)	55.6	2.05 (2)	2950 (57.7)
	Rural	23.2		23.1		22.0		1111 (21.7)
	Camp	21.4		20.3		22.4		1053 (20.6)
Wealth index	Very poor	18.0	62.23 (4)**	11.0	23.86(4)**	12.8	15.82(4)**	453 (8.9)
	poor	13.2		14.2		14.2		685 (13.4)
	middle	51.1		50.9		51.2		2703 (52.9)
	rich	11.6		16.8		15.6		871 (17.0)
	Very rich	6.1		7.2		6.2		402 (7.9)
The wife exposure to physical violence	Not exposed	38.6	661.5 (1)**	66.9	367.8(1)**	57.8	233.3 (1)**	4289 (83.9)
	exposed	61.4		33.1		42.2		825 (16.1)
The wife exposure to psychological violence	Not exposed	7.7	228.4 (1)**	10.4	827.4 (1)**	10.9	206.0 (1)**	2180(46.0)
	exposed	92.3		89.6		89.1		2556 (54.0)
The wife exposure to sexual violence	Not exposed	69.1	303.72 (1)**	82.6	205.9 (1)*	70.2	309.8 (1)*	4705 (92.0)
	exposed	30.9		17.4		29.8		409 (8.0)
Total		491 (9.6)		1611 (31.5)		526 (10.3)		5114 (100.0)

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

[i]: The total may differ in some variables because of the missing values

Source: Prepared by researchers based on data from the violence survey in Palestine 2019.

The results in Table 1 showed that the bivariate relationships between husbands' exposure to any type of domestic violence and the consanguinity, the wife's working status, and the locality type are insignificant relationships at 0.05 level of significance.

3.2. Determinants of domestic violence against husbands

This section contributes to the earlier results in that it presents the results of binary logistic regression models for the types of domestic violence practiced against husbands, where the variables that may affect the chance of being exposed to violence were studied all together into one statistical model, which allows estimating the effect of each explanatory variable on the outcome variable while controlling for the effect of other explanatory variables considered in the model. With a relatively large number of predictors, a stepwise binary logistic regression model was applied to identify the determinants of domestic violence against husbands. The researcher developed a separate model for each type of violence. The results of the three models are presented in Table (2).

As for the models' statistical significance, it was tested by the Omnibus test, which showed a statistical significance of the three models at 0.05 level of significance since $\chi^2 = 648.113(df = 19)$ for the physical violence model, $\chi^2 = 1052.718(df = 19)$ for the psychological violence model, and $\chi^2 = 406.140\ (df = 19)$ for the sexual violence model.

Model fit was further evaluated using the Nagelkerke pseudo-R^2 and the Hosmer–Lemeshow goodness-of-fit test. The Nagelkerke pseudo-R^2 values were 0.295, 0.303, and 0.179 for the physical, psychological, and sexual violence models, respectively, indicative of moderate model fit (Hemmert, 2018). The results showed an insignificant Hosmer and Lemeshow test with p-value = 0.531 with $\chi^2 = 7.051\ (df = 8)$ for the physical violence model, p-value = 0.867 with $\chi^2 = 3.889(df = 8)$ for the psychological violence model, and p-value = 0.184 with $\chi^2 = 11.323(df = 8)$ for the sexual violence model, which indicates small and insignificant differences between observed and fitted values of the outcome at the three models (Archer 2006).

Table 2 Determinants of physical, psychological, and sexual violence against husbands

Variables		Physical		Psychological		Sexual	
		Exp(β)	95% CI for Exp(β)	Exp(β)	95% CI for Exp(β)	Exp(β)	95% CI for Exp(β)
Constant		0.05**		0.18**		0.03**	
Wife's age (in years)		0.98*	0.98, 0.99	0.99**	0.98, 0.99	1.00	0.98, 1.01
Wife's education	Never	0.36**	0.17, 0.77	0.85	0.58,1.24	0.86	0.48, 1.56
	Primary	1.02	0.74, 1.42	0.90	0.73, 1.11	1.19	0.88, 1.63
	Secondary	0.83	0.59, 1.17	1.08	0.87, 1.34	1.24	0.91, 1.70
	Higher	-	-	-	-	-	-
The wife's working	Working	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Not	0.97	0.65, 1.43	0.78*	0.60, 0.98	0.73*	0.52, 0.99
Number of children	0	0.60**	0.42, 0.85	1.14	0.91, 1.43	0.74	0.53, 1.02
	1-2	0.78	0.55, 1.10	1.16	0.91, 1.47	1.00	0.72, 1.39
	3-4	0.93	0.69, 1.24	1.06	0.86, 1.31	1.21	0.91, 1.61
	5+ (Ref.)	-	-	-	-	-	-

Table 2 (Continued)

Variables		Physical		Psychological		Sexual	
		Exp(β)	95% CI for Exp(β)	Exp(β)	95% CI for Exp(β)	Exp(β)	95% CI for Exp(β)
Consanguinity	Yes (Ref.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	No	0.82	0.65, 1.03	1.01	0.87, 1.17	0.90	0.73, 1.11
Region	West Bank	0.69**	0.51, 0.93	1.12	0.92, 1.36	1.11	0.85, 1.46
	Gaza Strip (Ref.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
Locality type	Urban (Ref.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Rural	1.60**	1.16, 2.20	1.13	0.92, 1.38	1.06	0.80, 1.41
	Camp	1.03	0.78, 1.37	0.96	0.80, 1.16	1.07	0.83, 1.38
Wealth index	Very poor	1.19	0.67, 2.13	0.87	0.59, 1.28	1.25	0.72, 2.16
	Poor	0.70	0.40, 1.25	0.89	0.62, 1.28	1.10	0.66, 1.84
	Middle	1.11	0.69, 1.80	0.80	0.59, 1.07	1.09	0.71, 1.69
	Rich	0.82	0.48, 1.41	0.88	0.64, 1.22	1.12	0.69, 1.79
	Very Rich (Ref.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
The wife exposure to physical violence	Not exposed (Ref.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Exposed	5.36**	4.14, 6.78	1.69**	1.41, 2.03	1.79**	1.42, 2.26
The wife exposure to psychological violence	Not exposed (Ref.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Exposed	3.77**	2.55, 5.57	9.32**	7.65, 11.35	4.28**	3.13, 5.86
The wife exposure to sexual violence	Not exposed (Ref.)	-	-	-	-	-	-
	Exposed	2.40**	1.82, 3.15	1.81**	1.42, 2.29	3.17**	2.46, 4.09

* $p < 0.05$, ** $p < 0.01$

Source: Prepared by researchers based on data from the violence survey in Palestine 2019.

The results in Table 2 show that the chance of experiencing physical violence decreases as the age of the wife increases (OR=0.98; 95% CI=0.97-1.00) controlling for the other predictors considered in the model. The chance of experiencing physical violence decreases among families where the wife has never enrolled in a school compared to families where the wife has a high level of education (OR=0.36; 95% CI=0.17-0.77). Having no children decreases, significantly at a 0.05 level of significance, the chance for the husband to experience any form of physical violence (OR=0.60; 95% CI=0.42-0.85). When the wife is exposed to physical violence, the chance that her husband experiences any form of physical violence increases by about 5-fold (OR=5.36; 95% CI=4.14-6.78). The wife's exposure to psychological violence increases the chance that her husband experiences any form of physical violence by approximately 4-fold (OR=3.77; 95% CI=2.55-5.57). The wife's exposure to sexual violence doubles the chance that her husband experiences any form of physical

violence (OR=2.40; 95% CI=1.82-3.15). The wife's working status, the consanguinity, the locality type, the region of residence, and the wealth index have insignificant statistical effect on the husband's experience of physical violence.

Findings in Table 2 showed that the wife's educational level, number of children, consanguinity, region, locality type, and wealth index were insignificant in the model of psychological violence. It can be noticed that the chance of experiencing psychological violence by the husband decreases as the age of the wife increases (OR=0.99; 95% CI=0.98-0.99) controlling for the other predictors considered in the model. The wife's working status showed a statistically significant effect at 0.01 level of significance on the chance for the husband to experience any form of psychological violence since not working decreases the chance of experiencing psychological violence (OR=0.78; 95% CI=0.60-0.98). If the wife is exposed to physical violence, the chance that her husband to experience any form of psychological violence increases (OR=1.69; 95% CI=1.41-2.03). The wife's exposure to psychological violence increases the chance that her husband to experience any form of psychological violence by about 9-fold (OR=9.32; 95% CI=7.65-11.35). The wife's exposure to sexual violence approximately doubles the chance that her husband experiences any form of physical violence (OR=1.81; 95% CI=1.42-2.29).

From Table 2, we can notice that the number of children besides the variables of the wife's exposure to different types of domestic violence is the variable that showed significant effect on sexual violence model, while all other predictors were insignificant. Having no children decreases the chance for the husband to experience any form of sexual violence (OR=0.73; 95% CI=0.52-0.99). The wife's exposure to physical violence almost doubles the chance of the husband experiencing any form of sexual violence (OR=1.79; 95% CI=1.42-2.26). The wife's exposure to psychological violence increases the chance that her husband experiences any form of sexual violence by about 4-fold (OR=4.28; 95% CI=3.13-5.86). The wife's exposure to sexual violence increases the chance that her husband experiences any form of sexual violence by about 3-folds (OR=3.17; 95% CI=2.46-4.09) if compared to husbands whose wives haven't experienced any form of sexual violence, with controlling for the effect of other explanatory variables considered into the model.

4. Discussion

There is almost a consensus that women are the victims of different types of domestic violence and the man always appears as the perpetrator. Many studies discuss the factors that drive men to act harmfully and perform violent practices against their partners (Swan et al. 2008, Kolbe and Büttner 2020). There is a scarcity of literature that discusses the determinants of women to practice different types of domestic violence on their husbands (Gubi and Wandera 2022), especially in Arab societies this issue hasn't been discussed before. This provoked the researchers' interest in studying the factors that influence the probability of husbands experiencing any type of domestic violence in Palestinian society. The research aimed to study the social, economic, and social factors that affect domestic violence against husbands, and sketch the profile of husbands who are likely to experience physical, psychological, and sexual violence by their wives. The research used the violence in Palestinian Society Survey conducted by the PCBS in 2019, this is the latest data available at the time of conducting this research.

The research found that psychological violence is the most prevailed type of domestic violence, and physical is the least common type. The bivariate relationship tests showed a statistically significant bivariate relationship exists between all types of violence and almost all the demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of wives.

The determinants differ according to the type of domestic violence. The findings showed that as the wife gets older, the probability that she practices any form of physical or psychological violence against her husband decreases. This result agrees with many previous literature (Stets and Henderson 1991, Morse 1995, Fiebert and Gonzalez 1997), while it contradicts with results of previous studies which concluded that with age, the probability of experiencing violence increases (Chattopadhyay et al. 2024), but this contradiction may be due to the different context where the spouses live and its norms and traditions.

Many studies show that as the wife's educational level increases, the probability that she practices physical violence against her husband decreases (Gubi and Wandera 2022, Ngomuo et al. 2023), while our finding showed that with wife's lower educational level, the chances that the husband experiences any form of physical violence decreases, which agree with a few previous studies reached to the same conclusion about the educational effect on the intimate partners violence (Brinkerhoff and Lupri 1988). This result may be strange in terms of the more rational and wiser woman with higher educational attainment, on the other hand, one can explain this from the woman empowerment lens (Francis 2024), which suggests that as the woman have a higher level of education, the more empowered she get and this may have an unexpected reaction showed off by increased aggressiveness towards her partner. The same suggested argument can be used for the working status of the wife which showed a significant effect in decreasing the odds that the husband experiences any form of psychological violence since the degree of empowerment is higher among working women than non-working women.

The results also showed that husbands with no children have a lower probability of facing any form of physical or sexual violence, this result agrees with a previous study which concluded that the odds of intimate partner violence decrease inside homes with no children (Bair-Merritt 2008). This may be due to less economic burdens, responsibilities, fear of any future crisis, and generally less mental pressure in case of having no children, especially in the case of political instability and conflict that the Palestinian society faces.

The research found that the most important factors that have a significant effect on the odds ratio of the husband experiencing any type of domestic violence are the factors presenting the wife's experience of different types of domestic violence, that is husbands' experience of any type of violence co-occur with wives' experience of domestic violence, this result agrees with previous literature which showed that most men who suffer from domestic violence are violent to their intimate partners (Kolbe 2020, Gubi and Wandera 2022, Ngomuo et al. 2023).

Of the noticeable results, the likelihood of each type of violence experienced by husbands is associated with the wife's exposure to the same type of violence. In other words, the odds of a husband experiencing physical violence increase at its highest level if his wife has experienced physical violence. Also, the highest odds of experiencing psychological violence are associated with the wife's prior exposure to psychological violence, but this isn't the case for sexual violence as we can notice that the highest odds of experiencing sexual violence are associated with the wife's exposure to psychological violence. This result confirms that men are often exposed to mutual violence and his experience could be considered as a result of previously practiced violence on the wife most probably by the man himself (Kolbe 2020).

5. Study Limitation

Male experience of domestic violence in Arab society may suffer from underreporting due to the social desirability especially the woman is the reporter here in the current study. Wives' self-reports are used to measure the exposure of husbands and wives to violence, which may involve social

desirability bias and common-method bias. Second, as responses reflect the same respondent's viewpoint, reporting on spouses' exposure may be prone to reciprocal or perceptual bias.

Previous studies showed many risk factors of a wife's violent practices against her husband such as his controlling tendency, alcohol abuse, jealousy, and marital infidelity, but we couldn't study their effect in the case of Palestinian society due to data limitations.

Cross-sectional data limited the analysis to only identifying the determinants, not the causes of the act since studying the causal relationships requires panel data and other statistical models. The endogeneity and possible reverse causality may have an impact on the observed relationships due to the cross-sectional structure of the data. As a result, results should not be construed as causal correlations but rather as associations.

Although sample weights were utilized to guarantee representativeness of the whole community strata, the analysis inadequately addressed clustering and stratification due to the absence of essential survey design variables (e.g., PSU and stratum identities). Consequently, standard errors may be undervalued, which implied the interpretation of statistical significance with caution.

Listwise deletion removed 23% of observations with missing sexual violence module data. Sexual violence is sensitive, so non-response may lead to underreporting or hesitance, affecting prevalence estimates. The main findings are based on consistent patterns among variables, not prevalence levels.

6. Conclusions and Policy Implications

The study showed that about 30% of the husbands in Palestine experienced any form of psychological violence by their wives, and about 10% experienced physical and sexual violence. Controlling many demographic and socioeconomic characteristics of women, the most important determinant of experiencing any type of violence is the wife's exposure to domestic violence.

Although the problem of prevailed exposure of husbands to domestic violence worldwide and in Arab society, the laws and policies are framed mainly to help and support women rather than men. From the point of view of gender equity that should exist in all dimensions of life, laws and polices should consider the male partner problems and mental and physical implications of suffering from exposure to different types of domestic violence. Tailored premarital counseling programs for youth; especially younger, highly educated, working wives, who are going construct new families are very important, tailored to be context-oriented (especially in rural Gaza Strip) programs that deliver messages about the harms of domestic violence that would hurt all the family members and may lead to family disruption and more severe consequences. Community agencies and NGOs should provide group interventions to spouses at high risk of practicing domestic violence which appeared successful in many cases (Danzo et al. 2023).

Special surveys and studies should be implemented in the field of domestic violence which should collect data from the victims themselves, and consider collecting more variables that could explain the domestic violence. Qualitative data analysis is of great importance and may have a main role in explaining the drivers of violent practices inside the home which is assumed to be the safest zone for all family members.

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