



Factors associated with domestic violence against women at different stages of life: MINIMat longitudinal study in rural Bangladesh (2001-2020)

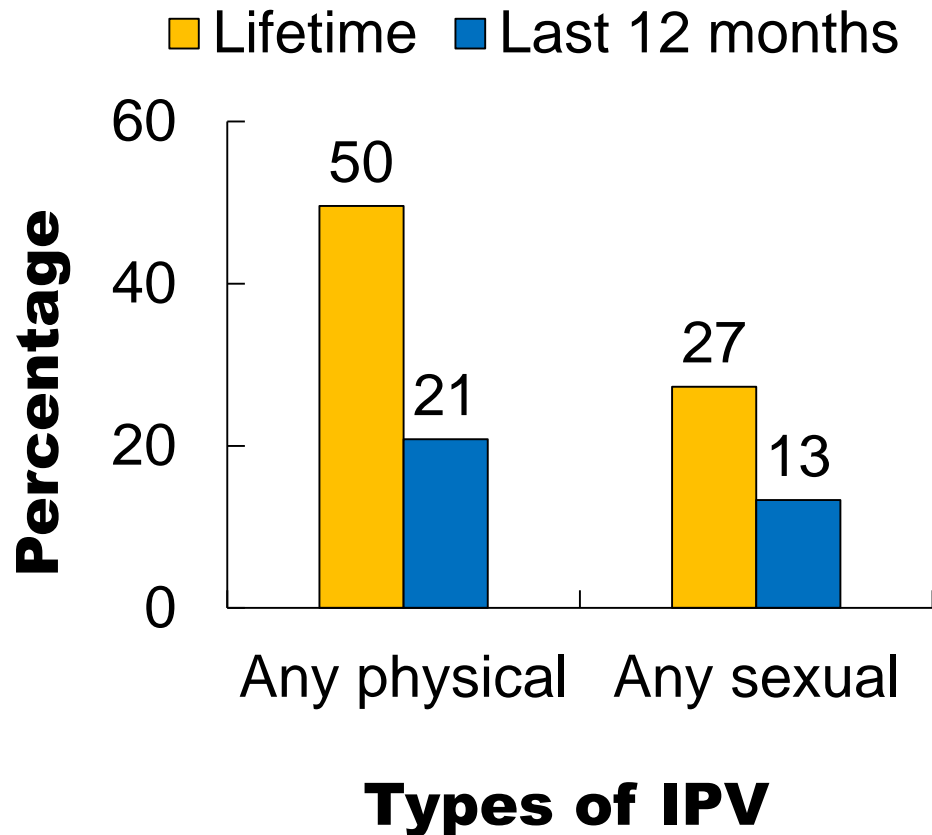
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Prevalence of IPV against women and its correlates in Bangladesh

Prevalence of IPV among ever-married women



Source: National VAW survey 2015, BBS

Correlates of IPV

- Lower level of education
- Lower socio-economic status
- Younger age
- Alcohol abuse
- Childhood experience of abuse
- Witnessing violence between parents
- Lack of communication between partners
- Living in communities with stronger norms of masculine dominance
- Membership in microcredit programs

Violence against women at different stages of women's life

- Women's experience of violence may change over time due to many factors, including social and gendered expectations from them and relationship dynamics at different life stages
- Although it is important to understand the correlates of VAW at different stages of life for program and policy purposes, to date little is known about this

Objective


To explore factors associated with physical and sexual domestic violence (DV) in different stages of rural women's lives in Bangladesh





Methods

- **Study design:** MINIMat longitudinal cohort study
- **Study site:** Matlab, a rural sub-district of Bangladesh
- **Recruitment criteria:** <14 weeks pregnancy; no serious illnesses
- **Study population and sample size:**
1,126 women, interviewed at enrollment; 10- and 18-year follow ups

Data collection, measurement and analyses

 **Enrollment**
(pregnancy, 2001-03)
N=4,436

 **10-year follow-up**
(2012-13)
N=1,356

 **18-year follow-up**
(2020-21)
N=1,126



10 years after the birth
of the index child

18 years after the birth
of the index child

Outcome variable:

- Physical DV, last 12 months (yes/no)
- Sexual DV, last 12 months (yes/no)

Tool used: A modified version of the conflict tactic scale

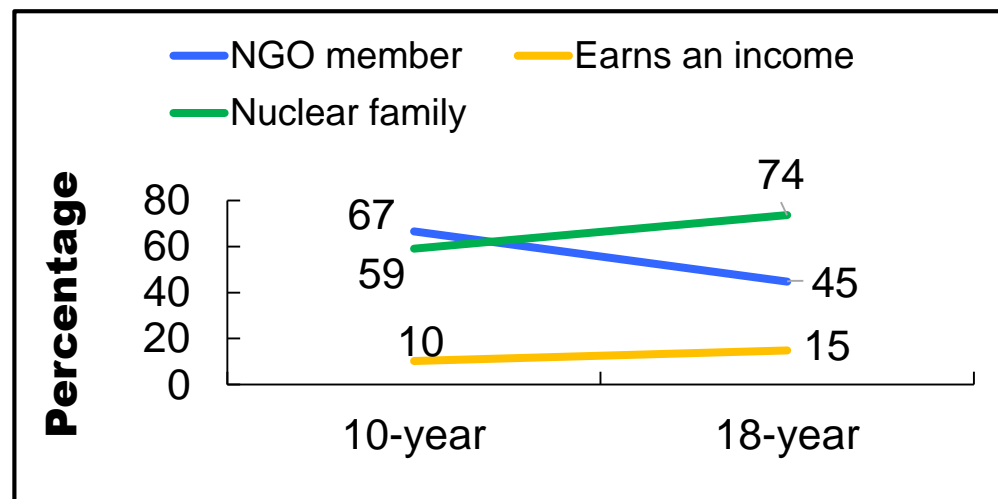
Analyses: Descriptive; multivariate logistic regression

Independent variables used in the models

Variable	Categories	Variable	Categories
Education, year	Continuous	Earns an income	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No (ref) • Yes
Spousal age difference	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <5 yrs (ref) • 5-10 yrs • > 10 yrs 	Decision-making autonomy, score	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Low (ref) • Medium • High
Family structure	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nuclear (ref) • Extended 	Wealth index, score	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poorer (ref) • Poor • Middle • Rich • Richest
NGO membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No (ref) • Yes 		

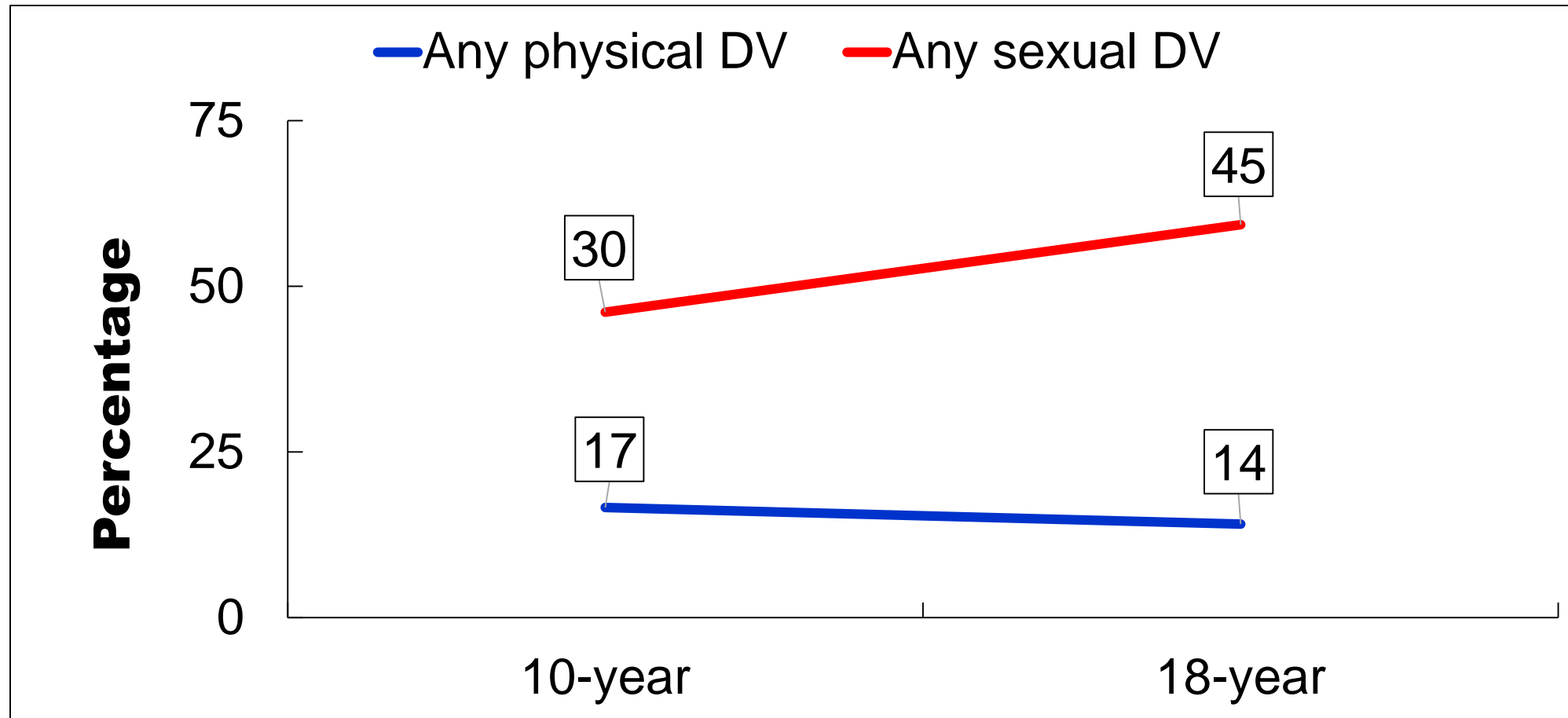
Sample characteristics (n=1,126)

Variables	10-year
Mean age, year	36.9
Mean education, year	4.9
Spousal age difference, %	
< 5 years	13.0
5-10 years	51.0
> 10 years	36.0



Variables	10-year, %	18-year, %
Decision-making level		
Low	8.3	12.7
Medium	37.4	43.7
High	54.4	43.6
Wealth index		
Lowest	19.4	20.9
Low	20.8	20.4
Middle	19.9	19.4
Rich	21.7	19.6
Richest	18.2	19.7

Prevalence of physical and sexual DV at different stages of women's life



Correlates of physical DV in different stages of women's lives

Variables*	10-year OR (95% CI)	18-year OR (95% CI)
Age difference with husband		
< 5 years (ref)		
5-10 years		
> 10 years		0.52 (0.31-0.89)
Decision making level		
Low (ref)		
Medium	0.43 (0.26-0.72)	0.55 (0.35-0.88)
High	0.41 (0.25-0.68)	0.30 (0.18-0.51)
Wealth Index		
Lowest (ref)		
Low		
Middle		0.43 (0.25-0.72)
High	0.48 (0.29-0.79)	0.52 (0.32-0.87)
Highest	0.26 (0.14-0.48)	0.17 (0.08-0.34)

* The significant variables only

Correlates of sexual DV in different stages of women's lives

Variables	10-year OR (95% CI)	18-year OR (95% CI)
Membership in NGO		
No (ref)		
Yes		1.28 (1.01-1.64)
Wealth Index ^a		
Lowest (ref)		
Low		1.58 (1.10- 2.28)
Middle		
High	0.60 (0.40-0.89)	
Highest	0.64 (0.42-0.96)	

* The significant variables only

Discussion

- Physical DV reduced, while sexual DV increased over time
- Correlates of physical DV and sexual DV **were not exactly the same in different stages of women's lives**

Discussion

- Common correlates of physical DV across life stages were **decision making agency** and **wealth**
- **Spousal age difference** reduced likelihood of physical DV only at 18-year

Discussion

- **Higher wealth** reduced sexual DV against women at 10-year, whereas lower wealth increased the likelihood of **sexual DV** at 18-year follow up
- **NGO membership** increased **sexual DV** at 18-year, but did not have any effect at 10-year follow up.

Strengths and limitations

Limitations

- Underreporting of the experience of DV is common and it may vary by life stage
- Role of some other important determinants of DV could not be studied due to lack of data

Strengths

- Large sample size
- Repeated measurements

Research and programmatic implications

- Importantly, not all the variables showed consistent association with the experience of physical or sexual DV in different stages of women's life.
- Thus, the studies evaluating the determinants of DV as well as policies addressing the experience of DV should be cautious about the stage of women's life and avoid "one fit for all" model



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