

Factors Influencing Intimate Partner Violence: A Study on Khulna City, Bangladesh

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ABSTRACT

Intimate partner violence (IPV), also known as domestic violence, is a pattern of behavior where one partner uses physical, sexual, emotional, or economic abuse to gain power and control over the other partner in a relationship. Intimate partner violence is increasing and several factors influence this to happen, which is a problem. This research study investigated the factors influencing intimate partner violence in Khulna City, Bangladesh. The objectives of this study were to investigate the pattern of intimate partner violence in Khulna City and to identify and analyze the factors that influence intimate partner violence. The research has used the mixed-method, where both the quantitative and qualitative analysis was conducted. The analysis includes quantitative analysis, Interviews, and FDG with 8 individuals. Quantitative data was collected through a survey where the sample size was 140, and qualitative data was collected through interviews where the sample size was 16. The random sampling method was used to select the necessary sample for this study. The study has found that educational attainment, occupation, monthly income, poverty, addiction, psychological disorders, empowerment, infertility, sexual relationships, patriarchal attitudes, and gender inequality were also significantly related to IPV and working as the key factors that influence Intimate partner violence. The new findings of this thesis are that becoming empowered, sympathy care of Gender inequality, adaptation to foreign cultures, And lastly, the most common things in this era are extramarital affairs, which is causing intimate partner violence. The findings highlight the importance of these factors in shaping the occurrence and dynamics of IPV in Khulna City, emphasizing the need for targeted interventions and policies to address this issue effectively.

Keywords: Intimate Partner Violence, factors, influence, individual, relationship, community, social.

CHAPTER ONE: INTRODUCTION

1.1 Statement of the problem

Intimate partner violence (IPV), also known as domestic violence, is a pattern of behavior where one partner uses physical, sexual, emotional, or economic abuse to gain power and control over the other partner in a relationship (Stylianou, 2018). According to Postmus et al. (2020), IPV can occur in all types of relationships, including those between spouses, partners, and dating couples. It affects individuals of all ages, genders, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds, and it can have significant and long-lasting impacts on physical and mental health, as well as on social and economic well-being. Despite the widespread nature of IPV, it remains a highly stigmatized and under-reported issue.

Research on the factors that influence IPV and effective strategies for prevention and intervention is therefore crucial to addressing this public health problem and promoting healthy and safe relationships for all individuals. According to Abransky et al., (2011), One of the most consistent predictors of IPV is gender inequality. Research has shown that societies with higher levels of gender inequality, such as those where women have limited access to education or employment, have higher rates of IPV (Bhalotra et al., 2021). Gender norms that prioritize male dominance and control over women can also contribute to IPV.

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious and widespread issue that affects individuals of all genders, but it is important to note that it disproportionately impacts women and girls (Bates, 2020). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), globally, one in three women has experienced physical or sexual IPV by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime. According to World Health Organization (2021), this is a significant public health issue that has devastating consequences for women's physical and mental health, as well as their social and economic well-being (Adams & Beeble, 2019). Men can also experience IPV, and it is important to recognize and address this issue. However, research shows that men are less likely to report or seek help for IPV, which can make it more difficult to accurately assess the prevalence and impact of IPV on male victims (Sabri et al., 2020). It is also important to recognize that IPV does not only occur in heterosexual relationships. IPV can occur in same-sex relationships, and research suggests that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals may be at higher risk for experiencing IPV than heterosexual individuals. Overall, IPV is a complex issue that requires a nuanced and intersectional approach. It is important to recognize and address the disproportionate impact of IPV on women and girls, while also acknowledging and addressing the experiences of men and individuals in same-sex relationships. Effective prevention and intervention strategies must be tailored to the specific needs and experiences of all individuals who may be impacted by IPV. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant problem in Bangladesh, with a prevalence rate of approximately 65% among ever-married women according to a national survey conducted in 2015. While the factors that contribute to IPV can vary depending on the context, here are some factors that have been identified as potential contributors to IPV in Bangladesh: patriarchal norms, economic factors, early marriage, dowry-related violence, alcohol use, social norms around violence (Abramsky et al., 2011)

According to the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2017-2018, approximately 51% of ever-married women in Bangladesh reported experiencing physical or sexual violence by their current or most recent husbands. In addition, approximately 13% of ever-married women reported experiencing physical violence in the past 12 months (Stake et al., 2020). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately one in three women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their lives. Men can also experience IPV, but the prevalence is generally lower (Izugbara et al., 2020). IPV also has significant economic costs for individuals and societies. Survivors of IPV may experience lost income, medical expenses, and other costs associated with leaving an abusive relationship. Societies may also bear the costs of IPV, including increased healthcare expenses, lost productivity, and criminal justice costs. The COVID-19 pandemic has also had an impact on IPV. Lockdowns and other pandemic-related restrictions have led to increased isolation and stress, which may contribute to higher rates of IPV (Sabri et al., 2020)

Some countries have reported significant increases in reports of IPV during the pandemic (Bryngersdottir et al., 2022). Research has consistently shown that women are more likely to be victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) than men. According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO), globally, approximately 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime. In comparison, approximately 1 in 4 men have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner (Mathur et al., 2018).

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant public health issue that affects individuals and families across the world. IPV refers to any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm to one or both partners (Bates, 2020). This type of violence can occur in heterosexual or same-sex relationships and can take many different forms, such as physical assault, sexual abuse, emotional abuse, and financial control. IPV can have severe and long-lasting consequences for victims, including physical injuries, mental health problems, and social isolation (WHO, 2021). It can also lead to economic hardship, loss of employment, and disrupted family relationships. Furthermore, IPV can have intergenerational effects, as children who witness violence between their parents are more likely to experience or perpetrate violence themselves in the future (Stylianou, 2018). Despite efforts to prevent IPV, it remains a pervasive problem. Therefore, addressing the problem of IPV requires a multifaceted approach that includes prevention efforts, early intervention, and effective treatment for those who have experienced or perpetrated violence. Intimate partner violence is increasing and several factors influencing this to happen, which is a problem. So, this study will identify those factors that influence intimate partner violence focusing on Khulna city, Bangladesh.

1.2 Rational of the study

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious public health concern that can have devastating consequences for individuals, families, and communities. Therefore, understanding the factors that influence IPV is critical for the development of effective prevention and intervention strategies. Here are some rationales for researching the factors influencing IPV:

Research on the factors that contribute to IPV can help identify individuals who may be at risk of experiencing or perpetrating IPV. This can help inform prevention and intervention efforts by targeting resources and support to those who are most in need. Research can provide evidence-based guidance for policymakers, law enforcement officials, and service providers on how to address IPV. For example, research can inform the development of laws and policies that protect victims of IPV and hold perpetrators accountable. Understanding the factors that contribute to IPV can help identify strategies for reducing its prevalence. This may involve addressing underlying social and cultural factors that contribute to IPV, as well as providing support and resources to individuals who may be at risk of experiencing or perpetrating IPV. Research on the factors that influence IPV can also inform the development of effective interventions and services for survivors of IPV. By understanding the unique needs and experiences of survivors, service providers can tailor their services to better meet the needs of those they serve. This research is essential for preventing and addressing this serious public health concern. By understanding the factors that contribute to IPV, we can develop more effective strategies for preventing and responding to this form of violence.

Not only that, most of the research focused on women whenever researched intimate partner violence. However, the author has conducted this study focusing on both males and females. Also, it specifically showed a great concern for the jobholders and the jobless people around Mongla municipality, Bangladesh. And most importantly, this type of research did not conduct on the people of Khulna city.

So, it is very important to conduct comprehensive research on the factors affecting intimate partner violence around Khulna city, Bangladesh.

1.3 Objective:

- To investigate the pattern of intimate partner violence in Khulna city
- To identify and analyze the factors that influence intimate partner violence

1.4 Limitations of the Study

The limitation is a must thing that exists in every work or study. But despite its all limitations, this particular study tries to fulfill its target. However, some of the limitations were very strong, and the researcher was unable to avoid those. The following limitations were:

- The study was conducted on intimate partner violence, which is a very sensitive topic for Bangladeshi people to talk about. So, because of this, the author has faced different challenges when collecting study data.
- When the researcher collected the data for this study, there was a great heat wave all over the country and it was the month of Ramadan. So, it was very difficult for the researcher to conduct the interviews at that time. Also, observation is one of the important things for a researcher to conduct deep research from the core of the problem but due to such problems, the researcher was not able to do that properly, so it was one of the great limitations of this study.
- The selection of the participants was also very challenging, this is because all people are not comfortable providing any information about their intimate life.
- The researcher was a little weak in the data analysis, which was another challenging limitation of this study. But with the help of the honorable supervisor the researcher overcome this particular problem.

1.5 Layout of the Report

This particular study has five main chapters, where the first chapter contains the study's background, objectives, the problem of the statement, and the research questions. And the second chapter of this study provided the study of the relevant existing literature, which provides a clear concept about the study topic and the overall work.

However, the third chapter reflected the researcher's methodologies to complete this particular research work. This chapter described the data collection process, sample size, study area, research technique, and research method. And the next chapter means the fourth chapter showed the analysis of the collected data to reach the research target and find the research.

Then, the last chapter, which means the fifth chapter of this particular research, was based on the recommendations and conclusion. The researcher added the possible recommendations in that chapter and then concluded the whole research work.

CHAPTER TWO: LITERATURE REVIEW & THEORETICAL FRAMEWORK

2.1 Review of the Literature

2.1.1 Intimate partner violence

About 30% of women globally experience intimate partner violence (IPV), making it the least prevalent form of violence against women (VAW) (UN Women, 2015). Every behavior by a man, woman, youth, as well as girl, inside a close connection, which harms another individual in the partnership physically, sexually, or psychologically is referred to as IPV (UN Women, 2015). IPV is a major reason for harm or a possible risk for numerous mental and physical health conditions, making it a severe abuse of the

fundamental rights of women and a critical health concern (UN Women, 2015; Gzrcia-Moreno & Watts, 2011). Children's actions & feelings are adversely impacted by IPV, which frequently leads to serious issues inside the household and community due to the developmental trajectories of violence (Markowitz, 2001; UN Women, 2015; Hong, 2015; WHO, 2021). Extremely wide disparities can be seen in the incidence of partner violence, with the frequency of IPV over the previous 12 months ranging from around 4% in several high-income nations to at least 40% in certain low-income countries (Heise & Kotsadam, 2015). The variables, which account for the variations in partner violence frequency throughout nations, are not well understood (Heise & Kotsadam, 2015). Internationally, cultural attitudes against VAW have grown to be a grave issue, but knowledge is still lacking (Haj-Yahia MM., 1998).

IPV can have serious and long-lasting impacts on the victim's physical and mental health, as well as on their ability to work and maintain relationships (Voth Schrag et al., 2019). It can also have a ripple effect on the entire family, including children who may witness the abuse or be directly targeted. There are resources available, including hotlines, shelters, and counseling services that can provide support and assistance (Goodman and Smyth, 2011). It's also important to hold abusers accountable for their actions and to work towards creating a culture that values healthy and respectful relationships.

Both men and women can experience intimate partner violence (IPV) (Caldwell et al., 2012). research has consistently shown that women are more likely to experience IPV and to experience more severe forms of violence than men (Caldwell et al., 2012). Research has consistently shown that women are more likely to be victims of intimate partner violence (IPV) than men. According to a report by the World Health Organization (WHO), globally, approximately 1 in 3 women have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner at some point in their lifetime (WHO, 2021). In comparison, approximately 1 in 4 men have experienced physical or sexual violence by an intimate partner (WHO, 2021). A meta-analysis of 170 studies from 65 countries found that women were twice as likely as men to experience IPV (Dowling et al., 2016). The study also found that women were more likely than men to experience severe physical violence and to be injured as a result of IPV. The reasons why women are more likely to experience IPV than men are complex and multifaceted. Gender inequality, including attitudes that condone violence against women and norms that prioritize male dominance and control, is a key factor. Other factors that contribute to women's increased risk of IPV include economic dependency, lack of access to education and employment opportunities, and social isolation. In addition, women are more likely than men to experience severe physical and sexual violence by their partners (Smith et al., 2018). It is important to note that men can also experience IPV and that this can have serious consequences for their health and well-being (Pratt-Eriksson et al., 2014). However, the overwhelming majority of IPV is experienced by women, and interventions to prevent and respond to IPV need to prioritize the needs and experiences of women as the primary victims of this type of violence (Ford-Gilboe et al., 2020).

2.1.2 Intimate partner violence from a global perspective

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a global problem that affects individuals and communities around the world (Ellsberg and Emmelin, 2014). According to the World Health Organization (WHO), approximately one in three women worldwide have experienced physical and/or sexual violence by an intimate partner or sexual violence by a non-partner at some point in their lives (WHO, 2021). Men can also experience IPV, but the prevalence is generally lower (Desmarais et al., 2012). The consequences of IPV can be severe and long-lasting. IPV can lead to physical injuries, psychological trauma, and even death (Tasnim et al., 2021). IPV is also associated with a range of negative health outcomes, including

mental health problems, substance abuse, and chronic diseases (Tasnim et al., 2021). The COVID-19 pandemic has also had an impact on IPV. Lockdowns and other pandemic-related restrictions have led to increased isolation and stress, which may contribute to higher rates of IPV (Lyons and Brewer, 2021). Some countries have reported significant increases in reports of IPV during the pandemic (Nair and Banerjee, 2021).

Due to its patriarchal, male-dominated, & family-oriented society, Korean society has demonstrated lenient views against partner violence (Choi and Harwood, 2004). Nevertheless, the public's perception of partner violence is evolving as a result of the shift in women's roles brought on by quick modernization and westernization (Choi and Harwood, 2004; Hong JS et al., 2010; Kim & Sung, 2000). The GDP for each person in Korea rose to \$30,600 in 2018. At 33.1% in 2007, 39.1% in 2010, & 29.8% in 2013, the incidence of physical, mental, sex, or socioeconomic violence against a female partner nationally in the previous year has stayed high (Lee IS et al., 2017). At least 887 women were killed by intimate partners' companions between 2009 and 2018, as well as 727 of those women managed to escape assassination attempts, as reported by the Korean Women's Hotline (Korea Women's Hot Line, 2019). The number of victims could probably be higher than published sources as there could be more cases that did not come in the report.

According to estimates, the male intimate companion is responsible for more than 75% of violence against women (World Health Organization, 2005). Throughout their lives, 31% of males in a cohort of 8 middle-income and low-income nations report using physical force against a partnership (Fleming PJ et al., 2015). While there are variations between the 9 Asian and Pacific territories, the percentage of men who committed acts of assault, both physical and sexual, varies from 25.4% to 80% (Fulu et al., 2013). The range increases from 39.3% to 87.3% while mental and financial violence is taken into account. A complicated, linked system of mental, financial & societal variables contributes to men's commission of violence against women (Heise, 1998).

2.1.3 Intimate partner violence from Bangladesh's perspective

With estimates varying from 55% to 95% of ever-married women suffering some form of IPV, Bangladesh has one of the maximum lifetime rates of IPV (Esie et al., 2019). Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a significant problem in Bangladesh, with a prevalence rate of approximately 65% among ever-married women according to a national survey conducted in 2015 (Stake et al., 2020). While the factors that contribute to IPV can vary depending on the context, here are some factors that have been identified as potential contributors to IPV in Bangladesh: patriarchal norms, economic factors, early marriage, dowry-related violence, alcohol use, social norms around violence (Roychowdhury & Dhamija, 2021).

According to the Bangladesh Demographic and Health Survey (BDHS) 2017-2018, approximately 51% of ever-married women in Bangladesh reported experiencing physical or sexual violence by their current or most recent husbands (Afroz et al., 2022). In addition, approximately 13% of ever-married women reported experiencing physical violence in the past 12 months (Stake et al., 2020). The prevalence of IPV can vary by region within Bangladesh. According to the BDHS, women in urban areas are more likely to experience physical or sexual violence by their current or most recent husbands compared to women in rural areas (Afroz et al., 2022).

Women who experience IPV in Bangladesh often experience physical injuries, psychological trauma, and social stigma (Tasnim et al., 2021). IPV is also associated with a range of negative health outcomes, including poor maternal and child health outcomes, and increased risk of sexually transmitted infections and HIV (Shamu et al., 2018). Child marriage is a significant problem in Bangladesh, with

approximately 59% of women aged 20-49 having been married before the age of 18 (Amin et al., 2018). Early marriage can contribute to IPV by limiting women's autonomy and leaving them vulnerable to violence from older and more powerful partners (Leonardsson and San Sebastian, 2017).

2.1.4 Pattern of Intimate partner violence

Age, socioeconomic position, educational level, relationship status, susceptibility to previous abusive experience, approval of brutality and conventional gender stereotypes, and social penalties are just a couple of factors linked to IPV (UN Women, 2015; WHO, 2021; World Health Organization, 2005; Kim et al., 2013). The primary underlying causes of IPV include but are not limited to, discrimination against women & gender discrimination inside the division of power & resources (UN Women, 2015; Garcia-Moreno and Watts, 2011; World Health Organization, 2016). However, there are numerous factors, like personal experiences, context, and societal norms that are connected to both crime and victimization at various levels. The likelihood of IPV varies by nation, in addition to the abuser & victim, and the initial reaction to these factors could also vary (WHO, 2021; Fleming et al., 2015; Fulu E, Jewkes, et al., 2013; Heise and Kotsadam, 2015; Kim et al., 2013; World Health Organization, 2016). Investigation into the factors linked to IPV is limited in Bangladesh and has primarily concentrated on female victims. Therefore, a concurrent study on male perpetrators is required and an ecological perspective, which includes different factors associated with the prevalence of IPV in the private, social, and household context, is important.

Domestic and public violence are two types of violence that are deeply concerning in both established and developing nations. Following cultural and regional contexts, different types of intimate partner violence have been introduced (Ardabili et al., 2011). Violence is defined as the intentional or negligent use of physical force or power against another person, which can lead to bodily harm, psychological harm, developmental problems, various forms of deprivation, and even death (Garcia-Moreno and Watts, 2011). Domestic violence was regarded as a health catastrophe by the World Health Organization (WHO) in 2015 (Buzawa & Buzawa, 2017). According to specialists, physical abuse includes all types of bodily harm caused by contact with hard objects, hands, or other activities, which result in burns or fractured ribs. All immoral and unusual forms of sexual activity, such as indifference and coerced sexual encounters, are considered to be sexual violence (Ghahari et al., 2005). Being exposed to or subjecting someone to worry, guilt, insult, accusation, deprivation, and social deprivation is referred to as psychological violence. Ultimately, financial abuse deprives people of their necessities while also forcing enforced mendacity and income confiscation (Krahé, 2018). Even though both men and women may experience violence, studies have demonstrated that domestic violence affects men more frequently than women.

Firouzjayaan et al. (2016) showed the prevalence of various forms of violence among males, for instance. In addition, several lines of evidence have shown that several factors, such as patriarchy (Zare Shahabadi & Nadarpoor, 2016), personal characteristics, cultural peculiarities, family values, the structure of both the family and society, poverty (Jura & Bukaliya, 2015), supporting men's violence against women, moral crisis, social injustice, joblessness (Aliverdinia et al., 2013), career and limited income of the household, early life neighborhood conditions, (Marshall & Furr, 2010) addictive personality and criminal conviction of partner (Sheikhan et al., 2014), inadequate assistance of women in the household, and others, could indeed take part in intimate partner violence (Kamal, 2013). According to the above concepts, it appears that violence is a serious problem that needs further study to present fresh, successful answers that are in line with the requirements and circumstances of the cultures.

The goal of the current research was to investigate the contributing factors to intimate partner violence.

2.1.5 Factors influence Intimate partner violence

Men may not like to speak about violence against men because it is taboo (Shusmita Khan et al., 2018). According to some research, women are more likely than males to experience violence (Hunter et al., 2016). Because the majority of those involved were dwelling in poor housing, they were required to labor for meager wages to cover living expenses. Moreover, husbands were the ones who used aggression the most frequently. Numerous studies have shown that women tolerate patriarchy (Kiani, 2014; Alhabib et al., 2010). Similarly, Hunter et al. noted that husbands or ex-husbands were responsible for the majority of violent acts (Hunter et al., 2016). Men's violence in intimate relations was noted as a massive issue in some other research that undoubtedly had significant physical and psychological effects on the woman, home, as well as culture (Jahromi et al., 2016). According to Shusmita Khan et al., the greatest prevalence rates for psychological, physical, economic, and sexual violence were each observed (Shusmita Khan et al., 2018). The taboo nature of sexual issues in Iranian culture makes it difficult to effectively and appropriately raise youth awareness. So, the study concluded that the community is either unaware of intimate partner violence or does not want to tolerate it (Shusmita Khan et al., 2018). Several studies showed that psychological-verbal aggression was the most common type (Narimani & Aqamohamadian, 2005; Sheikhbardsiri et al., 2018). On the other hand, Shrestha et al. (2016) found that sexual abuse against pregnant women had the greatest percentage. Shusmita Khan et al. (2018) found the following factors to be the primary contributors to violence: economic hardship and poverty, addiction, prior psychological disorders, delinquency, victims of fertility issues, inadequate parental care, discrepancies in familial and cultural backgrounds, lack of emotional connections, insufficient schooling, low total salary, and victim's addictive personality, risky sexual partnerships, and disregard for morality (Shusmita Khan et al., 2018). The major causes of intimate partner violence were an experience of mental illnesses, a lack of loyalty & disregard for moral principles, and addiction (to both drugs and alcohol) (Överlien, 2017). The primary factor contributing to intimate partner violence is the presence of mental illnesses in the household of the perpetrator (Montero et al., 2011). The patriarchal family, economic hardship, joblessness, neglecting family issues, as well as alcoholism were also found to be the main causes of intimate partner violence, according to research by White (White, 2004).

When foreign and Iranian studies were compared, it became clear that in the Iranian population, poverty played a more significant role in the incidence of intimate partner violence (Arjmand Siapoush & Ajam Dashtinezhad, 2010; Bagrezaei et al., 2017; Hassan et al., 2010). The global financial issues appear to have a significant effect. Global research indicates that economic inequality was one of the minor variables that had the least effect on violence. For example in the case, a survey by the WHO found that households that had greater incomes had lower rates of intimate partner violence in the United States & Europe (World Health Organization, 2002). Our study's results indicated that illiteracy increased the likelihood of committing violent acts. According to (Narimani & Aqamohamadian, 2005), more educated women are less likely to perpetrate acts of violence against them.

having a job is regarded as a crucial element in preventing violence commitment; in many other respects, men who are jobless or who experience unexpected decreases in earnings are more likely to commit acts of violence (Shusmita Khan et al., 2018). In this respect, blue-collar workers were responsible for the majority of violent crimes that were reported. According to a study carried out in Iran, the greatest rates of violence were separately committed by blue-collar workers and the jobless (Ardabili et al., 2011). According to Shusmita Khan et al., (2018), the contrast between these two

investigations demonstrates how a man's socioeconomic position, earnings, & overall social standing affect his propensity for violence. Gaining the participants' confidence was not simple. Most of them vehemently denied answering our inquiries. Another significant limitation was that, in the majority of instances, the individuals' families had no interest in taking part (Shusmita Khan et al., 2018). Research on the factors that influence IPV and effective strategies for prevention and intervention is therefore crucial to addressing this public health problem and promoting healthy and safe relationships for all individuals. According to Abransky et al., (2011), One of the most consistent predictors of IPV is gender inequality. Research has shown that societies with higher levels of gender inequality, such as those where women have limited access to education or employment, have higher rates of IPV (Bhalotra et al., 2021). Gender norms that prioritize male dominance and control over women can also contribute to IPV.

2.1.6 Study Variables

2.1.6.1 Individual

Demographic factors

According to Postmus et al. (2020), IPV can occur in all types of relationships, including those between spouses, partners, and dating couples. It affects individuals of all ages, genders, races, and socioeconomic backgrounds, and it can have significant and long-lasting impacts on physical and mental health, as well as on social and economic well-being. Child marriage is a significant problem in Bangladesh, with approximately 59% of women aged 20-49 having been married before the age of 18 (Amin et al., 2018). Age, socioeconomic position, educational level, relationship status, susceptibility to previous abusive experience, approval of brutality and conventional gender stereotypes, and social penalties are just a couple of factors linked to IPV (UN Women, 2015; WHO, 2021; World Health Organization, 2005; Kim et al., 2013).

Infertility of victim

According to different surveys, women who are infertile or have problems with taking children often become victims of intimate partner violence (Stellar et al., 2016). In the same way, Campbell and Mannell (2016) found that most of the time women face violence because of their infertility. women's infertility is one of the factors that contribute to their tolerance of intimate partner violence from their partner (McTavish et al., 2016; Ali et al., 2015).

Addiction

Substance abuse, particularly alcohol and drug use, has been linked to higher rates of IPV. Research has found that perpetrators of IPV are more likely to be under the influence of alcohol or drugs at the time of the violence. The major causes of intimate partner violence were an experience of mental illnesses, a lack of loyalty & disregard for moral principles, and addiction (to both drugs and alcohol) (Överlien, 2017). On the other hand, Shusmita Khan et al. (2018) found that addiction is one of the factors that influence intimate partner violence. According to some other researchers, factors that contribute to IPV can vary depending on the context, here are some factors that have been identified as potential contributors to IPV in Bangladesh: patriarchal norms, economic factors, early marriage, dowry-related violence, alcohol use, social norms around violence (Abramsky et al., 2011; Roychowdhury & Dhamija, 2021). According to Överlien (2017) and Montero et al., (2011), the major causes of intimate partner violence were an experience of mental illnesses, a lack of loyalty & disregard for moral principles, and addiction (to both drugs and alcohol). The patriarchal family, economic hardship, joblessness, neglecting family issues, as well as alcoholism were also found to be the main causes of intimate partner violence,

according to research by White (White, 2004).

Psychological disorders

IPV refers to any behavior within an intimate relationship that causes physical, sexual, or psychological harm to one or both partners (Bates, 2020). Every behavior by a man, woman, youth, as well as girl, inside a close connection, which harms another individual in the partnership physically, sexually, or psychologically is referred to as IPV (UN Women, 2015). IPV can lead to physical injuries, psychological trauma, and even death (Tasnim et al., 2021). Violence is defined as the intentional or negligent use of physical force or power against another person, which can lead to bodily harm, psychological harm, developmental problems, various forms of deprivation, and even death (Garcia-Moreno and Watts, 2011). Men's violence in intimate relations was noted as a massive issue in some other research that undoubtedly had significant physical and psychological effects on the woman and they are influenced by their psychological condition (Jahromi et al., 2016). According to Shusmita Khan et al., the greatest prevalence rates for psychological, physical, economic, and sexual violence were each observed (Shusmita Khan et al., 2018). Several studies showed that psychological-verbal aggression was the most common type that influence intimate partner violence (Narimani & Aqamohamadian, 2005; Sheikhbardsiri et al., 2018). On the other hand, Shusmita Khan et al. (2018) found psychological disorders as one of the factors that influence intimate partner violence (Shusmita Khan et al., 2018).

Educational Attainment

According to (Bradbury-Jones et al., 2017), a lack of education and empowerment was found to contribute to IPV. Women who were less educated or had limited economic and educational opportunities were less likely to challenge or resist abusive behavior and tolerate violence in their intimate partnership (Campbell and Mannell, 2016). Research has shown that societies with higher levels of gender inequality, such as those where women have limited access to education or employment, have higher rates of IPV (Bhalotra et al., 2021). Age, socioeconomic position, educational level, relationship status, susceptibility to previous abusive experience, approval of brutality and conventional gender stereotypes, and social penalties are just a couple of factors linked to IPV (UN Women, 2015; WHO, 2021; World Health Organization, 2005; Kim et al., 2013).

2.1.6.2 Relationship

Family structure

Studies have indicated that there is a correlation between family structure and IPV, with some findings suggesting that certain family types are more vulnerable to IPV. For instance, research has shown that individuals from families with a history of domestic violence are more likely to engage in violent behavior within their own intimate relationships (Ackerman, 2018). Additionally, studies have found higher rates of IPV in families characterized by lower socioeconomic status, single-parent households, and families with a lack of social support (Caetano et al., 2002; Cunradi et al., 2000). However, it is important to note that the association between family structure and IPV is influenced by various factors and cannot be solely attributed to family composition. Other factors, such as cultural norms, individual characteristics, and social and economic circumstances, also play significant roles in shaping the occurrence of IPV (Johnson, 2008).

Men's control over women

Patriarchal attitudes and gender inequality were found to be pervasive in Bangladeshi society and contribute to IPV. These attitudes were evident in the way men were socialized to assert control over women and in the acceptance of violence against women as a means of maintaining control. Factors that

contribute to IPV in Bangladesh: patriarchal norms, economic factors, early marriage, dowry-related violence, alcohol use, and social norms around violence (Abramsky et al., 2011; Roychowdhury & Dhamija, 2021). Due to its patriarchal, male-dominated, & family-oriented society, Korean society has demonstrated lenient views against partner violence (Choi and Harwood, 2004). The patriarchal family, economic hardship, joblessness, neglecting family issues, as well as alcoholism were also found to be the main causes of intimate partner violence, according to research by White (White, 2004). Patriarchal attitudes, gender inequality, and the social and cultural pattern is a couple of factors linked to IPV (UN Women, 2015; WHO, 2021; World Health Organization, 2005; Kim et al., 2013).

Sexual relationship

Several studies have indicated a link between certain sexual dynamics and an increased risk of IPV. For example, research has found that sexual coercion, including forced or unwanted sexual acts, is associated with higher rates of IPV (Black et al., 2011; Macy et al., 2010). Additionally, studies have shown that sexual jealousy and possessiveness can contribute to IPV incidents (Randle et al., 2016; Testa et al., 2012). Moreover, the context of sexual relationships, such as power imbalances and control, is related to IPV. Studies have highlighted that relationships characterized by unequal power dynamics, where one partner exercises dominance and control over the other, are more likely to experience IPV (DeKeseredy et al., 2017; Swan et al., 2008). IPV is not all about violence in heterosexual relationships but it happens in the sexual relationship also (Stewart et al., 2013). According to Langenderfer-Magruder et al. (2016), IPV can occur in sexual relationships, and research suggests that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBT) individuals may be at higher risk for experiencing IPV than heterosexual individuals. Shrestha et al. (2016) found that sexual abuse against pregnant women had the greatest percentage. When foreign and Iranian studies were compared, it became clear that in the Iranian population, violence happens in the sexual relationship also (Arjmand Siapoush & Ajam Dashtinezhad, 2010; Bagrezaei et al., 2017; Hassan et al., 2010). There are several types of research have been done on people from different locations and they found that sexual violence takes part in intimate partner violence (Kamal, 2013).

2.1.6.3 Community

Patriarchal attitudes

Patriarchal attitudes and gender inequality were found to be pervasive in Bangladeshi society and contribute to IPV. These attitudes were evident in the way men were socialized to assert control over women and in the acceptance of violence against women as a means of maintaining control. Factors that contribute to IPV in Bangladesh: patriarchal norms, economic factors, early marriage, dowry-related violence, alcohol use, and social norms around violence (Abramsky et al., 2011; Roychowdhury & Dhamija, 2021). Due to its patriarchal, male-dominated, & family-oriented society, Korean society has demonstrated lenient views against partner violence (Choi and Harwood, 2004). The patriarchal family, economic hardship, joblessness, neglecting family issues, as well as alcoholism were also found to be the main causes of intimate partner violence, according to research by White (White, 2004). Patriarchal attitudes, gender inequality, and the social and cultural pattern is a couple of factors linked to IPV (UN Women, 2015; WHO, 2021; World Health Organization, 2005; Kim et al., 2013).

Occupation

Studies have found that certain occupations may be associated with higher rates of IPV perpetration or victimization. For instance, research has indicated that individuals working in occupations with high levels of stress, such as law enforcement, military personnel, or healthcare workers, may be at an

increased risk of experiencing or perpetrating IPV (Lipari et al., 2010; Macdonald et al., 2016). Additionally, studies have suggested that occupations characterized by power differentials, such as those with hierarchical structures or positions of authority, may be associated with higher rates of IPV (Cooke et al., 2005; Testa et al., 2012). However, it is important to note that the relationship between occupation and IPV is influenced by various factors, including socioeconomic status, education level, and individual characteristics. Additionally, the association may differ across different contexts and cultural settings.

2.1.6.4 social

Gender inequality

According to Abransky et al., (2011), one of the most consistent predictors of IPV is gender inequality. Research has shown that societies with higher levels of gender inequality, such as those where women have limited access to education or employment, have higher rates of IPV (Bhalotra et al., 2021). Gender norms that prioritize male dominance and control over women can also contribute to IPV. Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a serious and widespread issue that affects individuals of all genders, but it is important to note that it disproportionately impacts women and girls (Bates, 2020).

Poverty and economic dependence

Economic dependence on husbands or male family members was identified as a major factor contributing to IPV (Umubyeyi et al., 2016). Women who were financially dependent on their partners were less likely to seek help or leave abusive relationships (Pereira et al., 2020). According to Jura & Bukaliya (2015), poverty is the leading influencer of intimate partner violence. There are several types of research have been done on people from different locations and in all of those areas, poverty was the most common factor that played a more significant role in the incidence of intimate partner violence (Arjmand Siapoush & Ajam Dashtinezhad, 2010; Bagrezaei et al., 2017; Hassan et al., 2010). Shusmita Khan et al. (2018) found different factors that influence intimate partner violence and poverty is one of those factors.

Social and cultural norms

Social and cultural norms that prioritize family honor and reputation were found to contribute to IPV (Tripathi and Azhar, 2022). According to Postmus et al. (2020), IPV can occur due to the condition of one's social and economic well-being. The factors that contribute to IPV can vary depending on some factors that have been identified as potential contributors to IPV in Bangladesh: patriarchal norms, economic factors, early marriage, dowry-related violence, alcohol use, and social norms around violence (Abramsky et al., 2011). IPV can have severe and long-lasting consequences for victims, including physical injuries, mental health problems, and social isolation (WHO, 2021). Roychowdhury & Dhamija (2021), social and cultural norms have a great influence on intimate partner violence. Age, socioeconomic position, educational level, relationship status, susceptibility to previous abusive experience, approval of brutality and conventional gender stereotypes, and social and cultural patterns are a couple of factors linked to IPV (UN Women, 2015; WHO, 2021; World Health Organization, 2005; Kim et al., 2013). According to Shusmita Khan et al., (2018), the contrast between these two investigations demonstrates how a man's socioeconomic position, earnings, & overall social standing affect his propensity for violence. According to some other researchers, factors that contribute to IPV in Bangladesh: are patriarchal norms, economic factors, early marriage, dowry-related violence, alcohol use, and social norms around violence (Abramsky et al., 2011; Roychowdhury and Dhamija, 2021).

Empowerment

According to (Bradbury-Jones et al., 2017), a lack of education and empowerment were found to contri-

bute to IPV. Women who were less educated or had limited economic and educational opportunities were less likely to challenge or resist abusive behavior and tolerate violence in their intimate partnership (Campbell and Mannell, 2016). Research has shown that societies with higher levels of gender inequality, such as those where women have limited access to education or employment, have higher rates of IPV (Bhalotra et al., 2021). Age, socioeconomic position, educational level, relationship status, susceptibility to previous abusive experience, approval of brutality and conventional gender stereotypes, and social penalties are just a couple of factors linked to IPV (UN Women, 2015; WHO, 2021; World Health Organization, 2005; Kim et al., 2013).

2.2 Theoretical Framework

According to García-Moreno et al. (2015), the feminist ecological model, also known as the feminist ecological framework, is a theoretical perspective that seeks to understand and address various forms of oppression and violence against women within the context of their social environments. According to Krug et al. (2002), this model integrates feminist theory and ecological systems theory to examine the complex interplay of individual, interpersonal, community, and societal factors that contribute to gender-based violence and inequality. According to Aldoory and Toth (2021), the feminist ecological model emerged as a response to the limitations of individual-focused explanations for violence against women (Aldoory and Toth 2021). It draws from feminist theory, which highlights the role of gender and power dynamics in shaping women's experiences. The model also incorporates principles from ecological systems theory, which emphasizes the interconnectedness between individuals and their social environments. The feminist ecological model consists of several interrelated stages or levels, each influencing and being influenced by the others. These stages include:

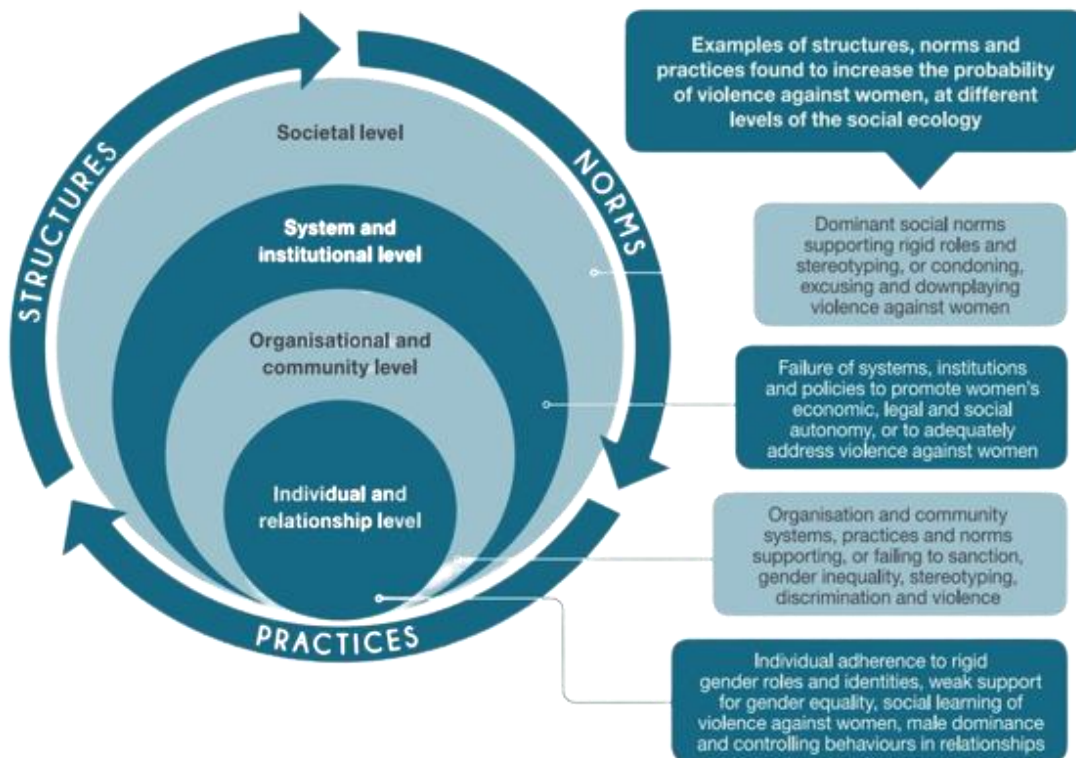


Figure 1: Theoretical Framework (Krug et al., 2002)

The Individual Level focuses on the personal experiences, attitudes, and behaviors of individuals. It examines how factors such as personal history, self-esteem, and coping mechanisms contribute to women's vulnerability to violence or their ability to resist it (Krug et al., 2002). At the Interpersonal level, the focus shifts to the dynamics within intimate relationships. It explores how gender roles, power imbalances, and patterns of control shape interactions between individuals. This level also considers the impact of family, friends, and social networks on women's experiences of violence (García-Moreno et al., 2015). The community level examines the broader social and cultural contexts in which individuals live. It considers factors such as community norms, social support systems, and access to resources. Community-level influences can either contribute to or mitigate violence against women (Krug et al., 2002). The societal level encompasses the larger structures and institutions that shape social norms and power dynamics. It includes laws, policies, and cultural beliefs that perpetuate gender inequality and violence against women. This level also examines the influence of media representations and institutional practices on women's experiences (García-Moreno et al., 2015).

The feminist ecological model provides a comprehensive framework for understanding intimate partner violence (IPV) and researching the topic. It recognizes that IPV is not solely the result of individual pathology but is influenced by a range of interconnected factors (Krug et al., 2002). By applying the feminist ecological model to research on IPV, researchers can examine the multilevel influences on violence. They can investigate how individual characteristics, relationship dynamics, community contexts, and societal structures contribute to the occurrence and perpetuation of IPV (Jewkes, 2002). This broader perspective helps to uncover the complex interactions and systemic factors that sustain violence against women. Moreover, the model emphasizes the importance of addressing IPV through multiple levels of intervention. It recognizes that effective prevention and intervention strategies need to target individual, interpersonal, community, and societal factors simultaneously (García-Moreno et al., 2015). This approach involves interventions such as empowering individuals, promoting healthy relationship dynamics, creating supportive communities, and advocating for policy changes to address gender inequality.

2.3 Conceptual Framework

The researcher has modified the feminist ecological model as the shape of this study and its objectives. The author has developed the conceptual framework of this study using the feminist ecological framework for analyzing the factors that influence intimate partner violence (Heise, 1998). Four levels of risk are used to organize the model: individual, relationship, society, and community.

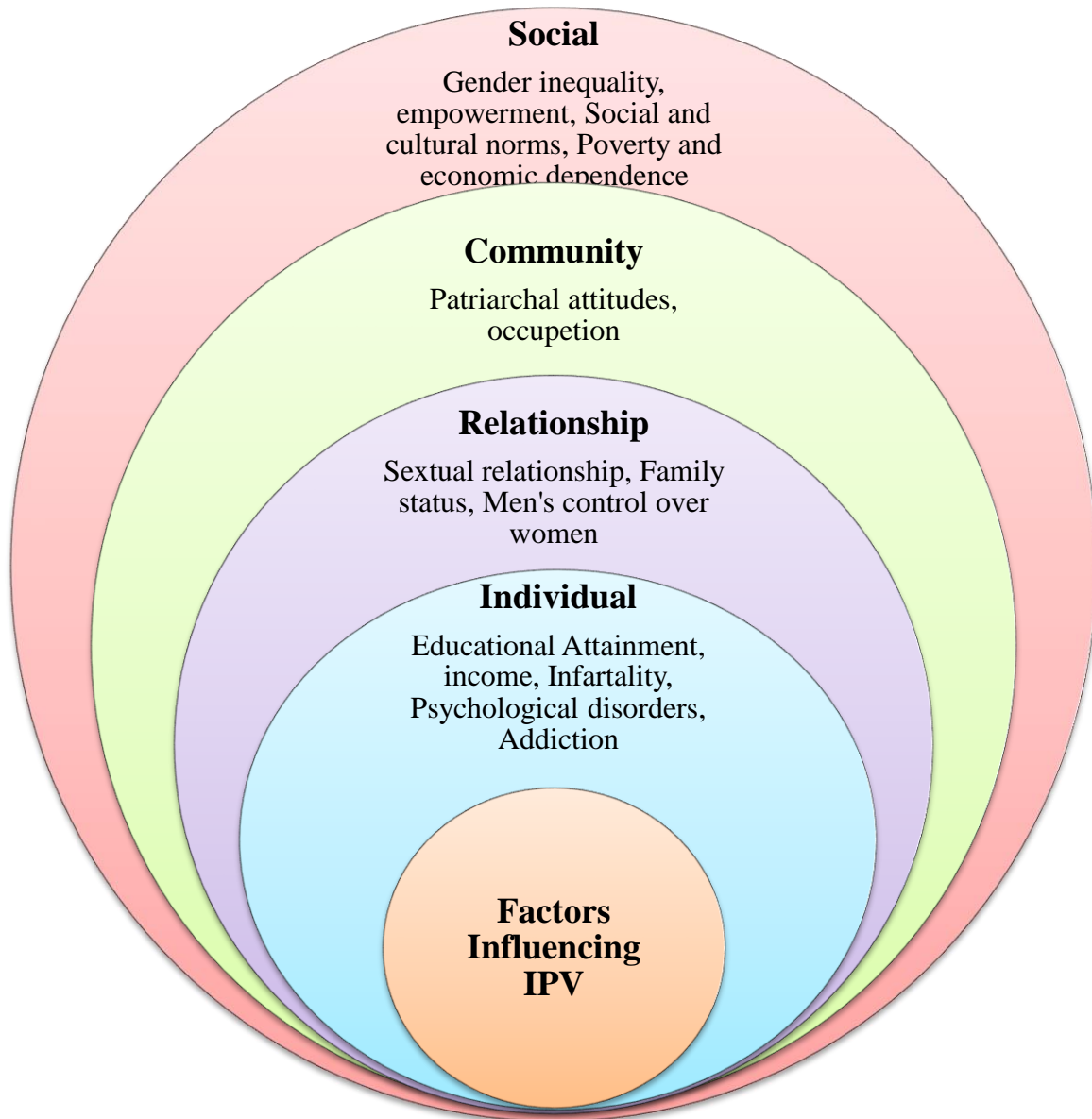


Figure 2: Conceptual Framework (The author)

CHAPTER THREE: METHODOLOGY

The previous chapter discussed the scenario regarding gender discrimination and job satisfaction. This chapter described the methodology of the research to clarify the fact that how this study was conducted. The following research methodologies are; research design, study area, data collection, unit of analysis, population, sample size, sampling technique, data analysis, and ethical consideration.

3.1 Research Method

The study intended to identify the factors that influence intimate partner violence. Therefore, this particular research work was a causal research study. Furthermore, the study was based on a mixed-method, in which the researcher used both quantitative and qualitative analysis (Green, 2022) because the mixed method can provide the best result in a study. Mixed method includes Quantitative, Interviews,

and FGD. The researcher randomly chose 156 respondents for this research work and analyzed the collected data using SPSS 23V and Nvivo.

3.2 Study Area

The researcher has chosen Khulna City as the study area for this research. The researcher has collected data from both men and women living in different words around Khulna City.

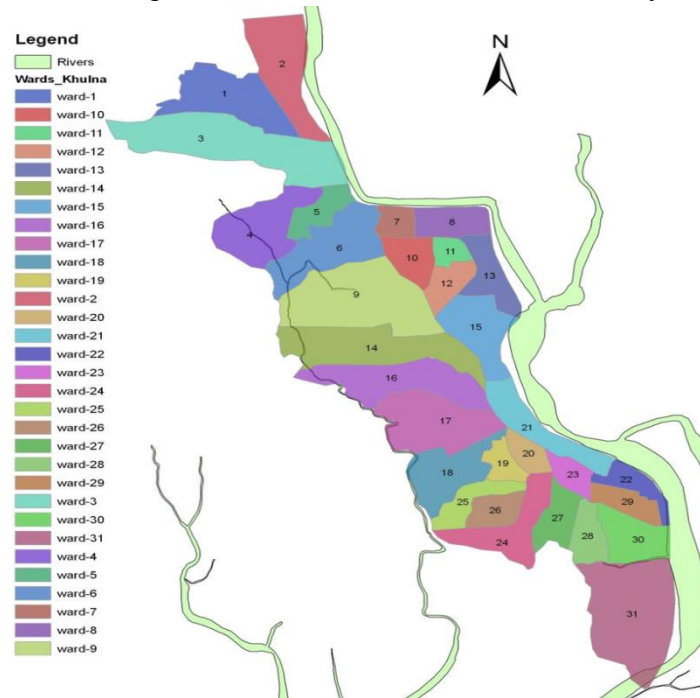


Figure 3: Study Area (ArcGIS)

3.3 Data Collection

The study was directed through a cross-sectional survey method with a self-reported both open-ended and close-ended questionnaire and also interviewed with a semi-structured interview question. The survey was conducted on respondents from the selected area via a face-to-face survey and interview with a self-administered questionnaire. The researcher surveyed 140 samples and interviewed 16 samples, and 8 were taken for FGD (the participants of Quantitative research). Both primary and secondary data sources were used to conduct this thesis. The researcher collected all necessary data from the primary data sources, and the collection process was carried out from 17th March to 30 April 2023, respectively. It took more than 40 days to complete the data collection.

3.3.1 Primary Source

The required data were collected from the male and females from different words around Khulna City. The researcher surveyed 140 samples and interviewed 16 samples; this is how the researcher collected the primary data.

3.3.2 Secondary Source

The secondary data for this research were collected from different articles, journals, previous research, and so on.

3.4 Demographic Profile

The study was conducted on the people of Khulna City. And as the population of that area was 718,735, the study population was 718,735. Both the male and females were taken to participate in the study. The

people were taken from different areas in Khulna City. From the overall samples, 140 participants were chosen for the quantitative study and 16 were for the qualitative study. Out of 140, 28 were men and 112 were women. And from 16 interview participants, 6 were men and 10 were women.

3.5 Sampling Procedure

3.5.1 Sampling Technique

Sampling is a method of studying from a few selected items instead of the entire big number of population. The sample of the respondents was determined using the simple random sampling technique.

3.5.2 Sample size Determination

In this study, the population was 718,735, and the sample size was determined using the formula of Yemane. According to Yamane's formula (1967), the sample size was:

$$n = \frac{N}{1 + N \cdot e^2}$$

Here,

N= Total Population

n= Sample Size

e= Confidence Interval (Marginal of Error)

$$n = \frac{718,735}{1 + 718,735 \cdot (0.08)^2}$$

$$n = \frac{718,735}{1 + 718,735 \cdot (0.0064)}$$

$$n = \frac{718,735}{1 + 4599.904}$$

$$n = \frac{718,735}{4600.904}$$

$$n = 156.216$$

Or n=156

After analyzing the sample size, the Random sampling method was used to determine the respondents. After scrutinizing the data, 156 individuals were selected as this study's sample size. From these samples, 140 participants were chosen for the quantitative study and 16 were for the qualitative study.

3.6 Data processing

The collected quantitative data was organized before being analyzed with the help of SPSS 23V. Then data were coded and inputted in SPSS and summarized with the help of tables, pie charts, columns, and bars. And the qualitative data was processed through thematic analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2006), where the interviewer used the inductive coding process. And the qualitative data was processed following the steps of thematic analysis.

3.7 Data Analysis

First, the reliability test was done to test the reliability of the data. Next, frequency and percentage were used to express the characteristics of demographic variables for analyzing the collected data. The Chi-square and correlation were also done in the analysis section. And the qualitative data were analyzed through thematic analysis following the 6 steps of thematic analysis, which was done through Nvivo and

textual analysis (Braun and Clarke, 2006), where the interviewer used the inductive coding process. The researcher has analyzed the data based on the structural coding system.

3.8 Ethical Issues

Ethics is an essential phenomenon for conducting research. Many perspectives were taken in the face of ethical issues. However, the study tried to keep up data accuracy. The researcher ensures the respondent protect their identity. She agreed with them not to write their names in their research or publications and confirmed that all of their given data would be used only for research purposes. This study also tried to avoid the hurting and self-defeating issues of the respondents. In addition, Respondents were free to withdraw from the interview at any time; he/they had the right not to answer any questions if unwilling and participation had voluntary. The study tried to keep up data accuracy. Also before the interview, the researcher has cleared that the research will be conducted only for academic purposes and there will be no compensation. Each interview will take about 40 minutes. They can skip any question or can stop any time you want. And after completing the interview, if they think that you will take back your answer, the research will erase your interview anytime.

CHAPTER FOUR: FINDINGS AND DISCUSSION

4.1. Demographic Characteristics of the Respondents

This segment shows the demographic factors (gender, age, marital status, Gender, Educational Attainment, Occupation, Monthly Income, and years of Relationship).

4.1.1 Age

Age is considered a key factor that influences IPV in most cases. The following table (2) summarises the age distribution and their total number with the percentage of the study's respondents.

Table 1: Respondent's Age

Variables	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Age	21-30	36	25.3%
	31-40	41	28.9%
	41-50	51	37.1%
	Above 50	12	8.8%
Total		140	100%

(Source: Field survey, 2023)

Table 2 represent the respondent's ages in four categories. It can be seen that the age group 41-50 occupies the majority of the respondents, which is 37.1% among the whole respondents. The age profile also represents that 25.3% of the respondents were between 21-30, 28.9% were in the age category of 31-40 years, and only 8.8% were in the age category above 50.

4.1.2. Gender

The socially constructed role assigned to males and females varies from one society to another society and its culture. Hence, this could be another factor that influences IPV. The following table (3) summarizes the gender of the respondent in the chosen area.

Table 2: Respondent's Gender

Variables	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Gender	Men	28	20%
	Women	112	50%
Total		140	100%

(Source: Field survey, 2023)

Table 3 show that 50% of the respondents who participated in the study were males, while 50% were female, which means the proportion of males and females who participated in this research work was the same.

4.1.3. Marital Status:

The following table (4) summarizes the marital status of the respondent in the chosen area.

Table 3: Respondent's Marital Status

Variables	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Marital Status	Married	109	78%
	Unmarried	6	5.6%
	Divorced	25	18%
Total		140	100%

(Source: Field survey, 2023)

Table 4 and Figure 6 show that 78% of the respondents were married. That means the majority of the respondents are married. And 18% of the respondents were Divorced, where 5.6% were unmarried.

4.1.4. Educational Attainment:

As per (Juma, 2005), Generally, poor educational qualifications lead to IPV. The following table (5) summarizes the education status of the respondent in the study area.

Table 4: Respondent's Educational Attainment

Variables	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Educational Attainment	Did not attend school	8	5.7%
	primary education	26	18.6%
	SSC	52	36.8%
	HSC	54	38.9%
	Graduation	0	0%
	Any other Degree	0	0%
Total		140	100%

(Source: Field survey, 2023)

In Table 5, it can be observed that among the respondents, the majority completed their HSC and they are 38.9% among all respondents, 36.8% of respondents' educational level is SSC level, 18.6% respondents have attained primary education, and 5.7% of respondents did not attend school.

4.1.5 Occupation

The type of Occupation where the respondent works can influence IPV. The following table 6 summarizes the workplace types of respondent in the study area.

Table 5: Respondent's Occupation

Variables	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Occupation	Day labor	52	36.8%
	Business	26	18.6%
	Govt. job	0	0%
	Private	8	5.7%
	No particular job	54	38.9%
Total		140	100%

(Source: Field survey, 2023)

From table 6, it can be observed that, among the respondents, 36.8% are day labor, 18.6% are doing their business, and 5.7% are doing private jobs. However, the rest 38.9% of the respondents are not doing any particular job

4.1.6 Monthly Income

The Monthly Income is one of the fundamental factors that can also affect IPV in some cases. So, it is also a great factor to consider. The following table 7 summarizes the monthly income of the respondent in the study area.

Table 6: Respondent's Monthly Income

Variables	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Monthly Income	Below 10,000	15	10.8%
	Above 10,000 to below 20,000	94	66.9%
	Above 20,000 to below 30,000	30	22.2%
	Above 30,000 to below 50,000	1	0.1%
	Above 50,000	0	0.0%
Total		140	100%

(Source: Field survey, 2023)

Focusing on the Respondent's Monthly Income, it was observed from Table 7 and figure 9 that 10.8% of the respondents had an income of Bellow TK 10,000, 66.9% had an income between Above 10,000 to below 20,000 takas, 0.1% had income Above 50,000 TK. However, the majority of the respondents have an income between Above 10,000 to below 20,000 takas per month.

4.1.6 Family Structure

The Respondent's Family Structure is the fundamental factor that can make people become a victim of IPV. So, the following table 8 summarizes the years of the relationship of the respondent in the study area.

Table 7: Respondent's Family Structure

Variables	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Family Structure	Nuclear	48	34.5%
	Matrifocal	0	0%
	Patrifocal	0	0%
	Extended family	92	65.5%
Total		140	100%

(Source: Field survey, 2023)

From table 8, it can be observed that among the respondents, 34.5% of the respondents belong to nuclear families and the rest 65.5% have an Extended family.

4.1.7 Years of Relationship

Respondent's Years of Relationship are fundamental factors that can make people become a victim of IPV. So, the following table 9 summarizes the years of relationship of the respondent in the study area.

Table 8: Respondent's Years of Relationship

Variables	Category	Frequency (N)	Percentage (%)
Years of Relationship	Below 2 years	5	3.6%
	2-5 years	29	20.6%
	6-10years	92	65.5%
	Above 10 years	14	10.3%
Total		140	100%

(Source: Field survey, 2023)

From table 9, it can be observed that among the respondents, 3.6% of respondent's years of Relationship were below 2 years, 20,6% of respondent's years of Relationship were 2-5 years, 10.3% Respondent's years of Relationship is above 10 years, and the majority of the respondent's years of Relationship is 6-10 years.

4.2 Relation among different variables with IPV

This thesis aims to identify the Factors influencing intimate partner violence. So, it is essential to check out if there is an association between different variables with IPV. So, this section will show those associations through Chi-Square.

4.2.1 Individual Factors

Table 9: Chi-square of Individual Factors with IPV

Pearson Chi-square	Value	df	Sig (2-sided)
	Educational Attainment	5.494	1
Income	4.235	1	.031
Addiction	4.424	1	.000
Psychological disorders	2.895	1	.023

Infertility of victim	6.747	1	.050
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(Source: Field survey, 2023)

According to the above analysis, the chi-square of the respondent’s educational attainment with IPV is 5.494 with degrees of freedom 1, and the P-value of the Chi-square is significant at 0.039; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p > .05$). So, it proves that it is significantly related to the intimate partner violence. Again, the chi-square of the respondent’s Monthly income with IPV is 4.235 with degrees of freedom 1, and the P-value of the Chi-square is significant at 0.031. So, it also proves that it is significantly related to intimate partner violence.

The obtained value from the Chi-square between the respondent’s Addiction and IPV, the obtained value is 4.424 with degrees of freedom 1, and the P-value of the Chi-square is significant at 0.000, this shows that is less than .05 ($p < .05$), which means Addiction is an influential factor for IPV. So, it proves that Addiction is significantly related to IPV. However, the obtained value from the chi-square of Psychological disorders with IPV is 2.895 with degrees of freedom 1, and the P-value of the Chi-square is significant at .023; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p > .05$). So, it proves that it is significantly related to the intimate partner violence. Again, the obtained value from the chi-square of Infertility of a victim with IPV is 6.747 with degrees of freedom 1, and the P-value of the Chi-square is significant at .050; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p > .05$). So, it proves that it is significantly related to the intimate partner violence.

4.2.2 Relationship factors

Table 10: Chi-square of Relationship factors with IPV

Pearson Chi-square			
	Value	df	Sig (2-sided)
Family Structure	4.321	2	.026
Sexual relationships	3.891	1	.000
Men’s control over women	4.791	1	.000

(Source: Field survey, 2023)

According to the above analysis, the chi-square of the respondent’s Family Structure with IPV is 4.321 with degrees of freedom 1, and the P-value of the Chi-square is significant at 0.026; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p > .05$). So, it proves that it is significantly related to the intimate partner violence. Not only that, the obtained value from the chi-square of Sexual relationships with IPV is 3.791 with degrees of freedom 1, and the P-value of the Chi-square is significant at 0.00; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p < .05$), which proves that Sexual relationships are significantly related to the IPV, and affects the pattern of IPV and work as a factor.

Finally, the obtained value from the chi-square of Men’s control over women with IPV is 4.791 with degrees of freedom 1 and the P-value of the Chi-square is not significant at 0.00; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p > .05$), which proves that the Men’s control over women is significantly related to the IPV, and it is one of the factors of IPV.

4.2.3 Community Factors

Table 11: Chi-Square of Community factors with IPV

Pearson Chi-square			
	Value	df	Sig (2-sided)
Occupation	2.895	1	.023
Patriarchal attitudes	4.791	1	.000

(Source: Field survey, 2023)

The obtained value of the Chi-square between the Respondent’s Occupation and IPV is 2.895 with degrees of freedom 1, and the P-value of the Chi-square is significant at .023, which shows that it is less than .05 ($p < .05$), and the critical value is lower than the obtained value. So, it proves that the Respondent’s Occupation is significantly associated with IPV. The value from the chi-square of Patriarchal attitudes and gender inequality with IPV is 4.791 with degrees of freedom 1 and the P-value of the Chi-square is not significant at 0.00; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p > .05$), which proves that the Patriarchal attitudes and gender inequality is significantly related to the IPV, and it is one of the factors of IPV.

4.2.4 Social Factors

Table 12: Chi-square of Social factors with IPV

Pearson Chi-square			
	Value	df	Sig (2-sided)
Poverty and economic dependence	4.586	1	.033
Social and cultural norms	3.171	2	.239
Education and empowerment	4.235	1	.033
Gender inequality	3.491	1	.000

(Source: Field survey, 2023)

The obtained value of the Chi-square between Poverty and economic dependence and IPV is 4.586 with degrees of freedom 1, and the P-value of the Chi-square is significant at .033, which shows that it is less than .05 ($p < .05$), and the critical value is lower than the obtained value. So, it proves that Poverty and economic dependence is significantly associated with IPV. On the other hand, the obtained value from the chi-square of Social and cultural norms with IPV is 3.171 with degrees of freedom 2, and the P-value of the Chi-square is not significant at 0.239; this shows that it is more than .05 ($p > .05$). So, it proves that the respondent’s Social and cultural norms are not related to the IPV, and respondent’s Social and cultural norms don’t affect their pattern of IPV.

Again, the obtained value from the chi-square of Education and empowerment with IPV is 4.235 with degrees of freedom 1, and the P-value of the Chi-square is significant at 0.033; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p < .05$), which proves that Education and empowerment Income is significantly related to the IPV, and affects the pattern of IPV and work as a factor. The value from the chi-square of gender inequality with IPV is 3.491 with degrees of freedom 1 and the P-value of the Chi-square is not significant at 0.00; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p > .05$), which proves that the gender inequality is significantly related to the IPV, and it is one of the factors of IPV.

4.3 Correlations among different Variable

The absolute value of the correlation analysis is used to describe the strength of the relationship and the

direction of the relationship between two variables (Pallant, 2005). Correlation is interpreted through the **Pearson product-moment (r)** correlation coefficient. The larger the value of r, the stronger the relationship. **Table 15** shows the correlation among the variables Intimate Partner Violence, Individual factors, Relationship factors, community factors, and Social factors.

Table 13: Correlation among the variables

		IPV	Individual Factors	Relationship factors	Community Factors	Social Factors
IPV	Pearson Correlation	1				
	Sig. (2-tailed)					
	N	140				
Individual Factors	Pearson Correlation	.77	.042			
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.025			
	N	140	140			
Relationship factors	Pearson Correlation	1	1	.71		
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000		
	N	140	140	140		
Community Factors	Pearson Correlation	.45	.70	1	.35	
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.031	.000	
	N	140	140	140	140	
Social Factors	Pearson Correlation	1	.38	.62	1	.71
	Sig. (2-tailed)	.000	.000	.000	.031	.033
	N	140	140	140	140	140

*Correlation is significant at the 0.05 level (2-tailed).

(Source: Field survey, 2023)

Table 15 shows that the correlation between IPV and Individual Factors is .77 ($r=.77$) which proves that there is a **positive and very high correlation** between these variables. Furthermore, the P-value is significant at 0.00; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p<.05$), which proves that the correlation coefficient is **statistically significant**. That means individual factors like Educational Attainment, Income, Addiction, Psychological disorders, and the Infertility of victims very strongly affect intimate partner violence. Again, the correlation between IPV and Relationship factors is 1 ($r=1$), which proves that there is a **positive and very high correlation** between these variables. Furthermore, the P-value is significant at 0.00; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p<.05$), which proves that the correlation coefficient is **statistically significant**. That means Relationship factors like Family Structure, Sexual relationships, and Men’s control over women very strongly affect intimate partner violence.

On the other hand, the correlation between IPV and Community Factors is .45 ($r=.45$), which proves that there is a **positive and medium correlation** between these variables. Furthermore, the P-value is significant at 0.00; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p<.05$), which proves that the correlation coefficient

is **statistically significant**. That means Community Factors like Occupation and Patriarchal attitudes moderately affect intimate partner violence. Again, the correlation between IPV and Social Factors is 1 ($r= 1$), which proves that there is a **positive and very high correlation** between these variables. Furthermore, the P-value is significant at 0.00; this shows that it is less than .05 ($p<.05$), which proves that the correlation coefficient is **statistically significant**. That means Social Factors like Poverty and economic dependence, Social and cultural norms, empowerment, and Gender inequality highly affect intimate partner violence.

4.4 Thematic Analysis

4.4.1 Inductive coding

Table 14: Thematic Analysis through Inductive Coding

Code	Organizing themes	Global themes
Women	Gender issues and dependency	Patriarchal Attitudes and gender inequality
Girl		
Feed by husband		
Men can do what they want	Patriarchal society, men’s superiority	
Run by man		
Family head		
Husband’s income		
Do not talk rudely to husband		
Obey husband	Uneducated	
Not educated		
Illiterate	Dependent and not empowered	
Primary education		
Do not work		
Easy working experience	Poverty and economic dependence	
Stay at home		
No earnings		
No income		Poverty, insufficient income source
Hard time		
So many costs		
Less income		
Poor		
Hunger		
Living on a daily basis		
Tobacco	Addiction	Addiction
Addict		
Drug		
Alcohol		
Cigarettes		
Learned from family	Cultural patterns and family leanings	Social and cultural norms
Everyone is like that		

Mother in law encourage to hit		
Family influence		
No children	Infertility	Infertility of victim
Infertile		
Having problems giving birth		
Physical problem		
Privet issues	Sexual issue	Sexual relationships
Sexual problem		
Intimacy problem		
Doing job	Empowerment	Empowerment
Unsocial	Judgment	Judgment
Extra marital affair	Extra marital affair	Extra marital affair
Practice of Western culture	Western culture	Adaptation of foreign culture

Fig: Thematic analysis
(Source: Field Interview, 2023)

4.4.2 Description of Emerging Themes

Table 15: Description of Emerging Themes

Theme	Description	
Patriarchal Attitudes and gender inequality	The societal norms, beliefs, and practices that prioritize and favor men over women, lead to unequal power dynamics and opportunities between genders (Ekvall, 2019).	
Subcategories	Description	Significant Statement Examples
Patriarchal attitudes	In a patriarchal system, men are often considered superior and hold positions of authority and control over the family (Ekvall, 2019)	“We need to tolerate all the things because my husband is the head of the family” “we should obey our husband” “My husband does all the things of our family, so it is normal to misbehave sometimes”
Gender inequality	Unequal treatment between men and women (Ekvall, 2019)	“I need to tolerate because I am a woman” “Women always need to compromise in such cases” “Women always get dominated by men and it is very common and normal” “What women can do” “My wife always play sympathy card in the name of gender and seek violence, I might be wrong sometimes, but not every time”
Theme	Description	
Education and	The transformative roles of education in enabling individuals, particularly women, to	

empowerment	gain knowledge, skills, and resources that empower them to make informed choices, exercise their rights, and participate actively in social, economic, and political spheres (Mezirow, 2007).	
Subcategories	Description	Significant Statement Examples
Education	The process of acquiring knowledge, skills, values, and attitudes through formal or informal means (Mezirow, 2007).	<p>“an illiterate woman like me, always face things like that”</p> <p>“I cannot prevent anything because I am not educated”</p> <p>“My husband always calls me ‘hey illiterate women’”</p>
Empowerment	The process of gaining confidence, autonomy, and control over one's life, decisions, and resources (Mezirow, 2007).	<p>“I cannot earn or do not have any earning source, so I need to tolerate any kind of rudeness from my husband”</p> <p>“You just sit down and eat. Except that you can do nothing. So why are you increasing your voice”</p> <p>“What do you do? Just some easy task for the day? I work hard all day unlike you”</p>
Theme	Description	Significant Statement Examples
Monthly Income	The amount of money that a person earns in a month.	<p>“My income is not that much. So my wife behaves very meanly with me and sometimes she even torches me. Like do not give me food and always do mental torcher”</p> <p>“My wife always abuses me in front of people and do violence because my income is not much for her, which I don't think”</p>
Theme	Description	
Poverty and economic dependence	The condition of lacking sufficient financial resources and being reliant on others or external support for basic needs and livelihood (Le Billon and Good, 2016).	
Subcategories	Description	Significant Statement Examples
Poverty	A state of extreme deprivation and lack of material resources necessary for basic needs and well-being (Le Billon and Good, 2016).	<p>“Good life is not for the poor”</p> <p>“Poor people need to tolerate so many things, so the husband's rude behavior is nothing”</p> <p>“Because of poverty, my husband got frustrated and bit me”</p> <p>“My wife always curses me because I cannot give her a rich life”</p>
Economic	Relying on others for financial	“My husband thinks that I am the extra one who is

dependence	support and being unable to sustain oneself independently (Le Billon and Good, 2016)	just ruining his money” “He always tells me like, do you know how much effort it takes to earn money? You don’t because you just know how to spend” “It is normal because he earns for us”
Theme	Description	
Addiction	A strong and compulsive dependency on a substance or behavior that is difficult to control or stop (West and Brown, 2013).	
Subcategories	Description	Significant Statement Examples
Addiction	A state of being physically or psychologically dependent on a substance or behavior, often leading to harmful consequences (West and Brown, 2013).	“My husband always has tobacco and bit me” “Every night he comes to the home after having some addictive things and misbehaves with me” “Sometimes my husband takes the drug and I need to talk or do everything very carefully or he can do anything at that time” “We are in hunger but he smokes cigarettes at least 5 in a day and when I tell him, he bit me”
Theme	Description	
Social and cultural norms	The unwritten rules and expectations within a society or culture shape individuals' behavior and beliefs (Hayakawa, 2000)	
Subcategories	Description	Significant Statement Examples
Social and cultural norms	The shared rules and expectations guide behavior and interactions within a specific society or culture (Hayakawa, 2000).	“Misbehaving with wife is very common in this area” “my in-law always encourages my husband to misconduct with me” “my wife’s birthplace is not a good place, every people there do not know how to behave well” “We always obey our husbands, so we do not argue with them” “People here, do not respect women”
Theme	Description	
Infertility of victim	The condition of being unable to conceive or have a child is experienced by an affected individual (Ozgoli et al., 2016).	
Subcategories	Description	Significant Statement Examples
Infertility	The inability of an individual, typically a woman, to conceive or carry a pregnancy to term (Ozgoli et al., 2016)	“my law including my husband always misbehave with me because I cannot give them any child” “Always get threats from my husband that he will remarry because I am unable to give birth”
Theme	Description	
Sexual relationships	the intimate interactions and connections between individuals involving sexual activity, desire, and emotional or physical intimacy (Teitelman et al., 2008).	
Subcategories	Description	Significant Statement Examples

Sexual relationships	The interpersonal interactions and dynamics between individuals involve romantic or sexual intimacy (Teitelman et al., 2008).	<p>“I am unable to fulfill her desire, so she used to misbehave with me”</p> <p>“He expects something more from me in our privet time but I am unable to do that whenever he wants”</p> <p>“I have to go into a sexual relationship as soon as he asked me, or he bit me”</p>
Theme	Description	
Empowerment	The process of gaining confidence, autonomy, and control over one's life, decisions, and resources (Angelucci and Heath, 2020).	
Subcategories	Description	Significant Statement Examples
Empowerment	The process of gaining confidence, autonomy, and control over one's life, decisions, and resources (Angelucci and Heath, 2020)	“Why do I need to do my job? This is what makes me arrogant. Working women are characterless”
Theme	Description	Significant Statement Examples
Judgment	The act of forming an opinion, assessment, or decision based on careful evaluation and analysis.	“My wife thinks that I cannot talk well and my expressions need to be perfect. I try my best. But still, my wife misbehave with me”
Theme	Description	Significant Statement Examples
Extra marital affair	A romantic or sexual relationship that occurs outside of a person's existing marriage or a committed partnership (Kaggwa et al., 2021)	<p>“My husband has a romantic relationship with other women. So, whenever I question it, he beat me. Even without any reason he beat me”.</p> <p>“We were happy for a long time. For the past few months, my wife is talking to some other guy (I have proven and my wife knows that), and due to this illegal relation, now there is a lot of violence in my family”</p>
Theme	Description	Significant Statement Examples
Adaptation of foreign culture	The process of assimilating and adjusting to the customs, practices, and values of a culture different from one's own.	“My wife sees different types of movies and dramas and acts the same as me. She tries to act like a foreigner and neglects my role totally in her life. And due to the adaptation of the foreign culture, she started to do more violence, even she tried to hit me several times”

(Source: Field Interview, 2023)

4.5 Key Insights and Findings

1. Factors Contributing to Intimate Partner Violence:

- Participants identified multiple factors contributing to intimate partner violence, including:
- Power imbalances within relationships.
- Traditional gender roles and expectations.
- Societal norms that perpetuate violence or tolerate abusive behavior.
- Substance abuse, particularly alcohol and drug addiction.
- Childhood exposure to violence, which can normalize aggressive behavior.
- Economic disparities and financial stress.
- Lack of education and awareness about healthy relationship dynamics.

2. Influence of Power Dynamics and Gender Roles:

- Participants agreed that power dynamics and traditional gender roles play a significant role in intimate partner violence.
- Gender expectations that reinforce male dominance and female subordination can contribute to abusive behaviors.
- Power imbalances within relationships can enable controlling behaviors and manipulation, leading to violence.

3. Impact of Substance Abuse:

- Participants recognized the strong correlation between substance abuse and intimate partner violence.
- Substance abuse, particularly when combined with other stressors, can increase aggression and impair judgment, leading to violent behaviors.
- Substance abuse can exacerbate existing conflicts within relationships and create an environment conducive to violence.

4. Long-Term Effects of Childhood Exposure to Violence:

- Participants agreed that childhood exposure to violence has a lasting impact on intimate relationships.
- Individuals who have witnessed or experienced violence during childhood may be more likely to repeat the cycle of violence in their adult relationships.
- Childhood trauma can affect emotional well-being and communication patterns, contributing to relationship conflict and violence.

5. Barriers to Seeking Help:

- Participants discussed various barriers that prevent individuals from seeking help or reporting intimate partner violence, including:
- Fear of retaliation from the abusive partner.
- Shame, guilt, and stigma associated with being a victim of violence.
- Lack of awareness about available resources and support services.
- Cultural and societal norms that discourage speaking out about domestic violence.

6. Strategies for Prevention and Intervention:

- Participants emphasized the need for comprehensive strategies to prevent and address intimate partner violence, including:
- Promoting gender equality and challenging harmful gender norms.

- Implementing educational programs to raise awareness about healthy relationships, consent, and non-violent conflict resolution.
- Ensuring access to safe and confidential support services for victims of intimate partner violence.
- Addressing substance abuse issues through integrated interventions that consider the connection between substance abuse and violence.

7. Personal and Community Responsibility:

- Participants recognized the collective responsibility to address intimate partner violence.
- Promoting respectful relationships, fostering open communication, and setting positive examples within families and communities were seen as crucial.
- Encouraging bystander intervention and challenging behaviors that perpetuate violence were highlighted as important steps in preventing IPV.

4.6 Discussion

According to the analysis, the reliability test and demographic characteristics of respondents concerning intimate partner violence (IPV). The research reliability was measured using Cronbach's coefficient alpha and presents the results indicating high internal consistency and validity of the variables. This suggests that the measurement of the variables is valid and reliable for further analysis.

Regarding the demographic characteristics of the respondents, it was observed that the majority of the participants fell within the age group of 41-50 years. Additionally, an equal distribution of male and female respondents participated in the study. Most of the respondents were married, followed by a significant proportion of divorced individuals. In terms of educational attainment, a substantial number of respondents had completed their HSC, followed by SSC and primary education. Occupation-wise, a considerable portion of the respondents were day laborers, while others were engaged in business or private jobs. The majority of respondents had a monthly income ranging from above 10,000 to below 20,000 takas. Furthermore, the respondents' years of relationship predominantly fell within the range of 6-10 years. Analyzing the relationship between demographic factors and IPV, it was found that age, gender, educational attainment, occupation, and monthly income showed significant associations with IPV. Specifically, respondents' age, gender, educational attainment, occupation, and monthly income were all significantly related to IPV. This implies that these factors can impact the pattern and occurrence of IPV. On the other hand, the respondents' years of relationship did not exhibit a significant association with IPV.

Examining the association between different variables and IPV, it was determined that poverty and economic dependence, addiction, psychological disorders, education and empowerment, infertility of the victim, sexual relationships, patriarchal attitudes and gender inequality were significantly related to IPV. These variables play influential roles in shaping the occurrence and dynamics of IPV. Chi-square tests show significant associations between age, gender, educational attainment, occupation, and monthly income with IPV. Factors like poverty, addiction, psychological disorders, education, infertility, sexual relationships, and patriarchal attitudes are also found to be associated with IPV. Respondent's Age and gender are significantly related to the IPV. Respondent's age and gender impact their pattern of IPV. Again respondent's educational attainment and monthly income with IPV and the respondent's occupation both are significantly related to intimate partner violence. Not only that, the respondent's job position impacts the pattern of IPV and work as a factor. The respondent's years of relationship are not

significantly related to the IPV, so it has no impact on IPV. Also, the Respondent's educational attainment is significantly related to intimate partner violence.

Addiction and Psychological disorders are significantly related to intimate partner violence, which is an influential factor for IPV. Infertility is also significantly related to intimate partner violence. Respondent's Family Structure is significantly related to intimate partner violence, which affects the rate of violence. Sexual relationships affect the pattern of IPV and work as a factor. Men's control over women is one of the factors of IPV. Again, the Respondent's Occupation, Patriarchal attitudes, and gender inequality are significantly associated with IPV. Not only that, Poverty and economic dependence are significantly associated with IPV but the respondent's Social and cultural norms are not related to the IPV. So, respondents' Social and cultural norms don't affect their pattern of IPV. Education and empowerment Income and gender inequality are significantly related to IPV, and it is one of the factors of IPV.

On the other hand, IPV and Individual Factors are positively co-related. So, Individual factors like Educational Attainment, Income, Addiction, Psychological disorders, and Infertility of victims very strongly affect intimate partner violence. Also, IPV and Relationship factors are positive, and very high correlation between these variables. That means Relationship factors like Family Structure, Sexual relationships, and Men's control over women very strongly affect intimate partner violence. However, IPV and Community Factors are also positively co-related and statistically significant. That means Community Factors like Occupation and Patriarchal attitudes moderately affect intimate partner violence. IPV and Social Factors' correlation coefficient is also statistically significant. That means Social Factors like Poverty and economic dependence, Social and cultural norms, empowerment, and Gender inequality highly affect intimate partner violence. However, the qualitative analysis also supports this. So, these factors are supported by both qualitative and quantitative analysis. And, it also proved the first study objectives.

The focus group discussion shed light on various factors influencing intimate partner violence. The insights shared by participants emphasized the significance of power dynamics, gender roles, substance abuse, childhood experiences, and societal norms. The discussion also highlighted the importance of prevention efforts, intervention strategies, and personal/community responsibility in addressing intimate partner violence. These findings can inform future initiatives aimed at preventing and reducing intimate partner violence in our society.

The new findings of this thesis are that becoming empowered is causing violence among partners. Also, every person's behavior is different from others, so people should not judge other people. And this judgment is causing intimate partner violence, which is tolerated by men. Again, Gender inequality is a factor affecting intimate partner violence but through the thematic analysis, it was found that men tolerate violence because women play victim cards. Not only that, women's adaptation of foreign cultures after seeing in the dramas, causes intimate partner violence and affects the partnership as a whole. So the adaptation of foreign culture also works as a factor of intimate partner violence. And lastly, the most common things in this era are extramarital affair, which is causing intimate partner violence. So, this point has met the second objective of this thesis. And the pattern of IPV is quite intense in the study area.

CHAPTER FIVE: CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

5.1 Conclusion

This research study examined the factors influencing intimate partner violence (IPV) in Khulna City, Bangladesh. The analysis confirmed the reliability of the measurement variables, indicating high internal consistency and validity. The demographic characteristics of the respondents provided valuable insights into the profile of individuals affected by IPV in the region. The study revealed significant associations between various demographic factors and IPV. Age, gender, educational attainment, occupation, and monthly income were found to be linked to the occurrence of IPV, highlighting the influence of socioeconomic and cultural factors on this issue. Additionally, variables such as poverty, addiction, psychological disorders, education and empowerment, infertility, sexual relationships, and patriarchal attitudes were significantly associated with IPV, underscoring their role in shaping the dynamics of violence within intimate relationships. The findings of this research highlight several key factors that significantly influence IPV in Khulna City.

Firstly, socioeconomic factors, including poverty, unemployment, and low education levels, were identified as contributing to the prevalence of IPV. The lack of economic resources and limited access to educational opportunities can perpetuate power imbalances and increase the likelihood of violence within intimate relationships. Secondly, cultural and social norms were identified as influential factors. Traditional gender roles, patriarchal attitudes, and rigid expectations of masculinity and femininity contribute to the perpetuation of IPV. These norms create a climate where violence is more likely to be tolerated and victims may be discouraged from seeking help or reporting incidents. Furthermore, the research highlighted the role of substance abuse, particularly alcohol, in fueling IPV in Khulna City. The misuse of alcohol can exacerbate conflicts, impair judgment, and contribute to aggressive behaviors, thereby increasing the risk of violence within intimate relationships.

Importantly, this study also identified potential interventions to address IPV in Khulna City. These include comprehensive awareness campaigns to challenge harmful gender norms, promote gender equality, and encourage bystander intervention. Additionally, there is a need for targeted interventions aimed at poverty alleviation, improving education, and providing support services for victims of IPV. It is important to recognize that this research focused specifically on Khulna City and may not be fully generalizable to other contexts. However, the findings provide valuable insights that can inform future research and guide the development of evidence-based interventions to combat IPV in similar urban settings. These findings emphasize the importance of developing targeted interventions and policies to address intimate partner violence in Khulna City. Strategies should consider the socio-economic vulnerabilities and cultural norms prevalent in the region. Overall, the research on the factors influencing intimate partner violence in Khulna City contributes to the growing body of knowledge on this critical issue. By understanding the multifaceted nature of IPV and addressing its underlying causes, we can work towards creating safer and healthier environments for individuals and families, fostering gender equality, and ultimately reducing the prevalence of intimate partner violence.

The study highlights the need to address issues such as poverty, addiction, mental health, education, and gender inequality as part of comprehensive approaches to prevent and mitigate IPV. Further research is recommended to delve deeper into the identified factors and explore additional variables that may contribute to IPV. Longitudinal studies would provide a more nuanced understanding of the evolving nature of these factors over time. Moreover, comparative studies across different regions in Bangladesh or other countries would offer valuable insights into the contextual variations in the factors influencing

IPV. Ultimately, by gaining a comprehensive understanding of the factors influencing intimate partner violence, policymakers, activists, and stakeholders can develop evidence-based strategies that effectively prevent and address IPV in Khulna City and similar socio-cultural contexts, leading to safer and healthier intimate relationships for individuals in the community.

5.2 Recommendations for further research

Further research on the factors influencing intimate partner violence can help deepen our understanding of this complex issue and inform more targeted interventions and policies. Here are some recommendations for further research:

Firstly, further researchers can complement quantitative research with qualitative studies to gain a deeper understanding of the lived experiences and perspectives of both victims and perpetrators of intimate partner violence in Khulna City. Qualitative research methods such as interviews, focus groups, and ethnographic observations can capture the nuances, cultural context, and individual narratives that quantitative data may not fully capture.

Secondly, they can explore the intersections of gender with other social identities such as class, religion, ethnicity, and age. Investigate how these intersecting identities influence the dynamics of intimate partner violence in Khulna City and how they interact with other factors identified in the previous research. This approach can help uncover the specific vulnerabilities faced by marginalized groups and inform more targeted interventions.

Thirdly, further researchers can examine the impact of technology, including social media, mobile phones, and the internet, on intimate partner violence in Khulna City. Investigate how technology is used as a tool for perpetrating violence, monitoring victims, and exerting control. Additionally, explore the potential of technology for prevention, early detection, and intervention in cases of intimate partner violence.

Fourthly, conducting comparative studies between Khulna City and other regions in Bangladesh or other countries to identify similarities and differences in the factors influencing intimate partner violence. Comparative research can help identify context-specific factors and shed light on the generalizability of findings from Khulna City to other settings.

Fifthly, further research can Design and evaluate community-based interventions aimed at preventing intimate partner violence. Collaborate with local organizations and stakeholders to implement and assess the effectiveness of programs that promote awareness, education, and behavior change within the community.

Finally, they can Investigate the impact of intimate partner violence on children who witness or experience violence within their households. Examine the short-term and long-term consequences of children's exposure to violence and explore potential interventions to mitigate its effects.

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