

## INFLUENCE OF INTIMATE PARTNER VIOLENCE (IPV) ON WOMEN'S PRODUCTIVE WORK IN THE INFORMAL SECTOR IN NAKURU MUNICIPALITY, KENYA

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**ABSTRACT:** Globally, intimate partner violence is experienced in various cultures and affects people across societies irrespective of their economic status. This is also the case in Sub-Saharan Africa. Kenya is reported to show an increasing trend as reported by Medical and Human Rights groups. The influence of intimate partner violence on women's productive work in the informal sector is a subject of interest since women play an active role in the sector. The purpose of this study was to examine the influence of intimate partner violence (IPV) on women's productive work in the informal sector in Nakuru Municipality. The study was carried out in five rescue institutions handling intimate partner violence victims. The study employed *ex-post facto* research design while simple random sampling was used to select 176 participants who were victims of intimate partner violence and had registered the violence in the five rescue institutions. Data was collected by use of researcher administered questionnaire and focus group discussions. A pre-test was conducted among 25 randomly selected women in Lanet Deanery Centre to determine the instrument's reliability which was found through Cronbachs alpha to be 0.8. Data was analyzed using descriptive statistics for qualitative data while inferential statistics based on Chi square test and T-test were used to analyze quantitative data. The findings of the study showed that IPV significantly ( $p < 05$ ) resulted into loss of hours of productive work, and reduced personal earnings. The findings therefore indicate that IPV has an influence on productive work of women. It has been recommended that policy makers and stakeholders should include measures to reduce IPV. The same should also be considered for further research so that feasible coping mechanisms can be developed.

**KEYWORDS:** Intimate Partner Violence (IPV), Women's Productive Work, Informal Sector.

### 1 INTRODUCTION

IPV is experienced in various cultures and affects people across society irrespective of economic status. A survey carried out in the USA by Bachman, Ronet and Saltzman, (1995) revealed that women are about six times as likely as men to experience IPV. Further research studies reveal that 30% of women surveyed in Barbados experienced IPV while in Canada the figure was 29%. The other parts of the world such as Egypt, New Zealand, Swaziland and the USA, the respective experiences were 34%, 35%, 21% and 22%, other countries such as Nicaragua reveal the same trend (Tonia & Hamel 2007). In East Africa, cases of IPV have also been reported. For example in Tanzania 21% of 1444 women reported such cases over a period of 12 months while 26% reported that the violence can occur anytime (McCloskey, Williams and Larsen, 2005). These women reported that the commonly experienced IPV were physical abuse and forced intercourse.

In Kenya, there has been an increased trend to IPV (Medical and Human Rights [MHR], 2010). The statistics at the Gender Violence Recovery Centre in Nairobi Women's Hospital indicate a drastic increase in IPV. Records in this institution show that cases of IPV were 299 in 2006, 412 in 2007 and 400 in 2008. These statistics are based on reported cases but the ones which go unreported could make the total figure much higher. Further statistics from the centre show that a minimum of eight new cases are reported daily. In Nakuru Municipality, cases of IPV are on the increase. This is confirmed by the increased presence of newly introduced rescue centres for women in abusive relationships such as Tumaina Jipya Centre, Filadelfia Women Crisis Centre, Catholic Diocese of Nakuru and Lanet Deanery within the Municipality.