

Men's Experiences of Female Perpetrated Intimate Partner Violence in Bangladesh

ABSTRACT

Intimate partner violence (IPV), often regarded as a gendered phenomenon, has traditionally focused on women as victims and men as perpetrators, leaving male victimization underexplored. In Bangladesh, IPV against men remains an overlooked and stigmatized issue. This research aims to examine the phenomenon of female-perpetrated IPV against men, providing a comprehensive understanding of it. It intends to adopt the qualitative phenomenological approach to explore the lived experiences of male victims of IPV. Data will be collected through semi-structured interviews with participants identified *via* local men's rights organizations. The study focuses on capturing the contexts of diverse forms of IPV (e.g., physical, psychological, sexual, financial, and legal abuse) perpetrated against men by their female partners, as well as the factors contributing to such violence and its impacts on them. Additionally, the research investigates nature of help-seeking including the structural, institutional, and cultural barriers that prevent men from seeking supports. Drawing on theoretical perspectives of Family Violence Perspective and Gender Symmetry Theory, this study challenges the conventional narratives of IPV, highlighting the bidirectional and reciprocal nature of violence in intimate relationships. The study underscores that male victimization is not only a violation of individual rights but also a critical issue that hinders the creation of inclusive policy interventions. Findings from this study are expected to fill a significant knowledge gap on IPV against men in Bangladesh, providing empirical evidence that can inform policy, advocacy, and intervention strategies. By shedding light on male experiences of IPV, the research aims to promote gender-inclusive legal protections, support mechanisms, and public awareness campaigns. This work aligns with global goals for gender equality and the reduction of violence as outlined in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly SDG 5 and SDG 16, and seeks to foster a more equitable and comprehensive approach to addressing IPV against men in Bangladesh.

Keywords: IPV against men, forms/practices, consequence, help-seeking, social policy, Bangladesh