



Virtual Event 15-18 June
2020
**2020 Asia-Pacific
Statistics Week**

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Women Empowerment and its Relationship to Spousal Violence: Evidences from the 2017 Philippines National Demographic and Health Survey

Action Area E. Engaging for impact and action by local and national governments (SA3)

Session Title

Presenter:

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Commission on Population and Development

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Introduction

- Since 2008, the Philippine National Demographic and Health Surveys (NDHS) have been collecting information on three sets of women empowerment variables that qualify as evidence of empowerment in Kishor's framework (2000): one that measures women's participation in decision-making and two others that measure women's acceptance of gender-role norms that endorse the control of women by men.
- However, the NDHS did not offer a detailed assessment of how the empowerment levels of women influence gender-based violence.
- There are several cogent and pressing reasons for evaluating, promoting and monitoring the level of women empowerment in a country, not the least of which is that household health and nutrition are generally in the hands of women. Hence, women empowerment is necessary for ensuring their own welfare, as well as the well-being of their households.
- Empowerment of women is also critical for the development of a country because it enhances both the quality and quantity of human resources available for development. (Kishor and Subaiya, 2008)

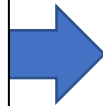




Conceptual Framework

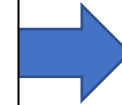
SOCIO-DEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS

- Age
- Wealth
- Number of children



MEASURES OF WOMEN EMPOWERMENT

- Highest educational level
- Employment status
- Participation in household decision-making
 - Health care
 - Household purchases
 - Family visits
- Ownership of house or lot
- Has own bank account
- Control over cash earnings
- Ownership of mobile phone
- Justifies wife beatings
 - Burns the food
 - Argues with him
 - Goes out without telling him
 - Neglects the children
 - Refuses to have sex with him



SPOUSAL VIOLENCE

- Physical violence
- Sexual violence
- Physical and sexual violence
- Neither physical nor sexual violence





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Results on Empowerment-Related Characteristics

- Of the 12,520 currently married women age 15-49 years identified in this study:
- 67 percent have attended Grades 1 to 12 level of education
- 87 percent has own cash earnings BUT 77 percent does not have own bank account and more than half (57%) does not have control over their cash earnings on their own or jointly with their husband/partner
- 85 percent are involved in three household decisions either alone or jointly with their husband/partner (on their own health, major household purchases and visits to their family or relatives).

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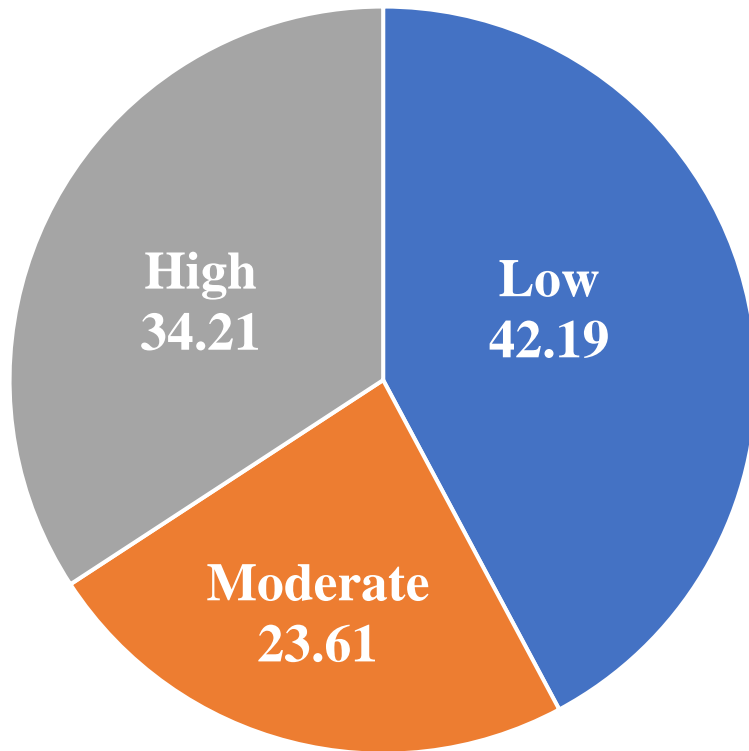
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Results on Women Empowerment Index (WEI)

Percent distribution of sample women by their levels of empowerment, Philippines 2017



- Women below age 35 are in the low level of empowerment
- There is about equal distribution of women in the moderate level of empowerment in all age groups
- Women in the highest wealth quintile are in the highest empowerment level
- Women who have more than six children are less likely empowered compared to women with less than three children

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Results on Prevalence of Spousal Violence by WEI

Percentage of currently married women age 15-49 who ever experienced spousal violence, according to their level of empowerment: Philippines 2017

| Levels of empowerment | Physical violence | Sexual violence | Physical and sexual violence | Physical or sexual violence | Number of women |
|-----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Low | 15.7 | 5.5 | 3.9 | 17.3 | 4,598 |
| Moderate | 11.5 | 4.5 | 3.2 | 12.8 | 2,533 |
| High | 8.6 | 3.5 | 2.3 | 9.8 | 3,648 |
| Total | 12.3 ** | 4.6 ** | 3.2 ** | 13.7 ** | 10,778 |
| Note: ** p<0.01 | | | | | |



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Discussion and Conclusion

On women empowerment

- Women under age 20 belonging to the low level of empowerment are likely due to their dependence on their husband/partner, with less engagement in earning cash due to lower access to education, and less participation in decision-making.
- Women earning cash is decreasing as women get older and number of children increases, probably reflecting the economic viability of women in our society

On spousal violence and women empowerment

- The greater the number of living children, the lower the empowerment level and the higher the prevalence of spousal violence
- Women in households in the lowest quintile has a higher prevalence of spousal abuse
- Multivariate analysis shows that women empowerment is significantly associated with the experience of spousal violence

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What was done for the utilization of NDHS data?

1. Capacity strengthening for the data providers on introducing the data to various stakeholder, e.g. infographics training, data dissemination workshops
2. Trainings on the use of data for potential client users such as media practitioners and other government agencies
3. Engaged and collaborate for further studies/researches

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Maraming Salamat Po!
(Thank you!)

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