

## Correlates of Married Men's Attitude towards Gender Based Violence, Secondary Analysis of Survey of Young People In Egypt (SYPE) Data, 2014.

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### Abstract

**Background:** Nowadays, One of the Main public health problems is intimate partner violence (IPV). Men's Attitude has been verified as one of the important predictors of IPV. **Objectives:** To Identify attitude and its correlates towards gender-based violence (GBV) among ever married males. **Methods:** Secondary analysis using Survey of Young People in Egypt (SYPE) data, 2014. Dependent variable: men's attitude towards gender-based violence. Independent variables: socio-demographic variables, attitude toward gender equity, parent's response to mistakes, mental health and some marital issues. **Results:** Among ever married males, 77.1% accepted GBV, 82.2% whom wives age at marriage was less than 18 years, 81.8% from rural residence, 88.4% whom parents were not giving any response to mistakes, 83.9% of those with positive attitude toward divorcing their wives accepted GBV with statistically significant difference. Logistic regression analysis revealed that the significant predictors for accepting GBV were: rural residence, attitude that makes husbands divorce their wives and parents' response to mistakes. **Conclusion:** The significant correlates of married men's acceptance of GBV were rural residence, respondents with an attitude toward divorcing their wives and inappropriate parents' response to mistakes. **Recommendations:** Development of intervention programs aiming to change social and cultural gender norms related to gender inequality and GBV especially in rural areas is highly recommended.

**Key words:** Attitudes; correlates, Men; Gender based violence.

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### Introduction

Nowadays, One of the Main public health problems is violence against women mainly intimate partner violence (IPV) which is contravention of women's human rights.<sup>1</sup> The public attitudes are an important issue in accepting men's violence against women. Social and cultural norms affect attitudes, and they are evidence of way of thinking about violence.<sup>2</sup> Attitude toward IPV has been

considered as one of the important predictors of practicing violence against women.<sup>3,4,5</sup> Attitudes have an impact on early detection, reaction and acceptance of gender based violence(GBV) and degree of women support.<sup>2</sup> Men's attitudes are fundamental to liability and responsibility for violence because most of violence against women is carried out by men.<sup>6</sup> Recently , about 1 in 3 (35%) of women worldwide are

exposed to physical and spousal violence in their life.<sup>1,7</sup> Violence harmfully influence women's physical, mental, sexual and reproductive health, and might raise susceptibility to HIV.<sup>1</sup> Poor education, child abuse, use of alcohol, attitudes accepting of violence and gender inequity are important correlates of IPV.<sup>1</sup> It is proofed that school-based programs are efficient to decrease spousal violence especially among adolescent and youth.<sup>1</sup> Generally, men's attitudes toward spousal violence are varying between different countries.<sup>8,9,10</sup> Consistent with demographic and Health Survey (DHS) data, 2004 in Sub-Saharan Africa, the percentage of males who accepted partner violence vary from 25 % in Malawi to 75 % in Ethiopia.<sup>9</sup> In South Asia, men's acceptance of IPV is 29 % in Nepal and 57% in India.<sup>10</sup> Regarding GBV in Egypt, according to the Demographic Household Survey, 2008 and other studies; there was a significant increase in all types of violence in latest years in spite of under-reporting. Recent Egyptian statistics, 2014 revealed that 36% of ever-married women aged between (15-49) have exposed to physical violence since the age of 15. Majority of victims (64%) reported that their current husbands are the performers, but parents are also often reported (father/step-father, 26%, mother/step mother, 31%).<sup>11</sup>

In Egypt, while many studies were describing the exposure to violence, still there is no available data describing the attitude of men towards violence against women. The objectives of our study were to identify attitude towards GBV among ever married males and its correlates.

**Objectives** To identify attitude towards GBV among ever married males and To identify correlates of men's attitude towards GBV among ever married males.

### **Methods:**

**Secondary analysis:** Using SYPE data, 2014 to analyze attitude towards gender-based violence among ever married males and its correlates. This data was collected by the Population Council. It was the second round of data for the (SYPE) in 2013/2014, which re-interviewed the same sample of young people that were interviewed in 2009. SYPE 2009 interviewed a nationally representative sample of 15,029 young people aged 10-29 from 11,372 households. SYPE 2014 managed to interview 10,916 (72.6%) of those same young people (now aged 13-35) who were interviewed in SYPE 2009. All ever married men in SYPE data (2014) were included in the secondary analysis of our study and they were 1367.

The data set was available to the researchers by Population Council. The Population Council arranged training course for the researchers about how to manipulate the data and identify the variables.

**Inclusion criteria:** Ever married men.

**Dependent variables:** Men's attitude towards gender-based violence (Q 4145).

**Independent variables:** Independent variables: sixteen variables were selected including 1- Socio-demographic variables (age, residence (urban), respondent's education (educ2), employment status (empsts), wealth quintile (wiq\_W), smoking status(Q7207) and wife age at marriage(Q4108\_D) ). Some of these variables were recoded. 2- Some family/marital issues: Family type (Q4131), consanguinity (Q4118), marital

relation (Q4121), marital happiness (Q4122) and husband wife communications (Q4120). 3- Mental distress (Q4227- 4246). 4- Attitude toward gender equity (Q4140). 5-Attitude to accept wife's right to ask for divorce (Q4142) 6- Attitude toward wife divorce (Q4143). 7- Parents response to mistakes (4249).

*Note:* some of the titles of these variables were recruited from SYPE questionnaires and others from SPSS data files sent by the population council.

**Data manipulation:** included (a) Determining available dependent & independent variables. (b) Cleaning of the different variables. (c) Scoring and recoding of the variables. (d) Statistical analysis

*Steps of constructing indices (scores from many variables):* (1) Choosing variables for constructing each index. (2) Applying reliability analysis (Cronbach's Alpha) to the chosen variables. (3) Recoding and computing variables. (4) Classifying each index to grades: Low:  $\leq 25\%$ , Middle:  $>25\%$  -  $\leq 75\%$ , High:  $>75\%$

**Analysis plan:** The Statistical Package for Social Science (SPSS) version 16 was used for data management. Univariate analysis was done in the form of frequency tables, bivariate analysis (cross tables) & multivariate analysis (logistic regression). Chi-square was used for bivariate analysis. Probability level (P value)  $< 0.05$  considered significant. logistic regression was applied for significant variables.

#### Ethical consideration

Ethical approval was obtained from Population Council for manipulation of SYPE data, secondary analysis and publication of scientific paper.

## Results

**Table (1): Socio-demographic characteristics of ever married males SYPE, 2014.**

Characteristics	N (N=1367)	%
<b>Age groups:</b>		
• 18-24	156	11.4
• 25-29	560	41.0
• 30-35	651	47.6
(Mean $\pm$ SD)	29.0 $\pm$ 3.4	
<b>Wife age at marriage</b>		
• < 18 years	236	17.3
• $\geq 18$ years	1131	82.7
(Mean $\pm$ SD)	20.6 $\pm$ 3.9	
<b>Urban-rural residence</b>		
• Urban	519	38.0
• Rural	848	62.0
<b>Place of residence</b>		
• Urban governorates	247	18.1
• Urban Lower Egypt	138	10.1
• Rural Lower Egypt	505	36.9
• Urban Upper Egypt	72	5.3
• Rural Upper Egypt	269	19.7
• Frontier Governorates	136	9.9
<b>Respondent's education:</b>		
• illiterate	122	8.9
• basic education*	316	23.1
• secondary education	630	46.1
• university and above	299	21.9
<b>Employment status:</b>		
• Employed	1269	92.8
• Un-employed**	98	7.2
<b>Wealth quintile:</b>		
• Lowest	225	16.5
• Second	257	18.8
• Middle	293	21.4
• Fourth	313	22.9
• Richest	279	20.4
<b>Family type:</b>		
• extended family	419	30.7
• nuclear family	948	69.3
<b>Smoking status:</b>		
• Never smoke	748	54.7
• Current smoker	592	43.3
• Ex-smoker	27	2.0

**N.B:** \*Basic education include primary and preparatory education, \*\*Unemployed include those not currently working and those out of labor force.

Table (1) shows the socio-demographic characteristics of the study population. A total 1367 of ever married men were

**Table (2): Attitude towards gender-based violence among ever married males by socio-demographic characteristics, SYPE, 2014.**

Characteristics	Gender-based violence attitude				P-value
	Reject violence		Accept violence		
	N (313)	(%) 22.9	N (1054)	(%) 77.1	
<b>Age groups:</b>					
• 18-24	35	22.4	121	77.6	0.58
• 25-29	121	21.6	439	78.4	
• 30-35	157	24.1	494	75.9	
<b>Wife age at marriage</b>					
• < 18 years	42	17.8	194	82.2	<b>0.04</b>
• ≥18 years	271	24.0	860	76.0	
<b>Urban-rural residence</b>					
• Urban	159	30.6	360	69.4	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
• Rural	154	18.2	694	81.8	
<b>Place of residence</b>					
• Urban governorates	72	29.1	175	70.9	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
• Urban Lower Egypt	54	39.1	84	60.9	
• Rural Lower Egypt	101	20.0	404	80.0	
• Urban Upper Egypt	19	26.4	53	73.6	
• Rural Upper Egypt	35	13.0	234	87.0	
• Frontier Governorates	32	23.5	104	76.5	
<b>Respondent's education:</b>					
• Illiterate	30	24.6	92	75.4	0.55
• Basic education	63	19.9	253	80.1	
• Secondary education	149	23.7	481	76.3	
• University and above	71	23.7	228	76.3	
<b>Employment status:</b>					
• Employed	295	23.2	974	76.8	0.32
• Un-employed	18	18.4	80	81.6	
<b>Wealth quintile:</b>					
• Lowest	42	18.3	183	81.7	0.26
• Second	56	21.8	201	78.2	
• Middle	69	23.5	224	76.5	
• Fourth	83	26.5	230	73.5	
• Richest	63	22.6	216	77.4	
<b>Type of family:</b>					
• Extended family	84	20.0	335	80.0	0.05
• Nuclear family	229	24.2	719	75.8	
<b>Smoking status:</b>					
• Never smoke	180	24.1	568	75.9	0.42
• Current smoker	126	21.3	466	78.7	
• Ex-smoker	7	25.9	20	74.1	

N.B: Reject violence = score (0), Accept violence = score (1-6)

included in the analysis. About half (47.6%) of the study population were in the age group 30-35years. The mean age was 29.0±3.4. On the other hand, mean age of wives at marriage of the study

participants was 20.6±3.9. Majority of their wives were married at age 18 years and above (82.7%). More than half of the participants were rural residents (62.0%) versus 38.0% for urban residents.

**Table (3): Attitude of ever married males towards gender-based violence by Parent's response to Mistakes, Mental Distress & some marital issues, SYPE, 2014.**

Characteristics	Gender-based violence attitude				P-value
	Reject violence		Accept violence		
	N	(%)	N	(%)	
<b>Parent's response to Mistakes:</b>					
• Explain quietly	111	24.7	338	75.3	<b>0.009</b>
• Emotional violence	92	20.5	356	79.5	
• Physical violence	99	26.8	271	73.2	
• Nothing	10	11.6	76	88.4	
• Total*	312	23.1	1041	76.9	
<b>Mental health score**:</b>					
• Normal score	301	22.9	1012	77.1	<b>0.71</b>
• Mental distress	12	22.2	42	77.8	
• Total	313	22.9	1054	77.1	
<b>Attitude toward gender equity:</b>					
• Low (<25)	65	18.7	283	81.3	0.05
• Middle (26-31)	161	23.3	529	76.7	
• High (> 32)	87	26.4	242	73.6	
• Total	313	22.9	1054	77.1	
<b>Consanguinity:</b>					
• First cousin	28	17.3	134	82.7	0.18
• Others	47	24.4	146	75.6	
• No	238	23.5	774	76.5	
• Total	313	22.9	1054	77.1	
<b>Marital happiness:</b>					
• Very happy/Happy	289	23.7	932	76.3	0.07
• Does not matter	15	14.0	92	86.0	
• Unhappy	7	26.9	19	73.1	
• Total*	311	23.0	1043	77.0	
<b>Marital Relation***:</b>					
• low score (<20)	65	25.1	194	74.9	<b>0.003</b>
• middle score (21-25)	186	25.4	547	74.6	
• high score (>26)	60	16.6	302	83.4	
• Total*	311	23.0	1043	77.0	
<b>Husband wife communications</b>					
• Rarely (<8)	58	19.4	41	80.6	0.24
• Often (9-11)	176	24.2	551	75.8	
• Always (>12)	77	23.5	251	76.5	
• Total*	311	23.0	1043	77.0	
<b>Score of attitude to accept wife's right to ask for divorce:</b>					
• Low agreement (<3)	60	21.2	223	78.8	0.12
• Middle agreement (4-7)	155	22.7	527	77.3	
• High agreement (>8)	71	21.2	264	78.8	
• Total*	286	22.0	1014	78.0	
<b>Score of attitude toward wife divorce:</b>					
• Low agreement (<3)	137	30.1	318	69.9	<b>&lt;0.0001</b>
• Middle agreement (4-6)	127	20.9	481	79.1	
• High agreement (>7)	49	16.1	255	83.9	
• Total	313	22.9	1054	77.1	

\*Missing data, \*\*Mental health score: Normal < 8, mental distress  $\geq 8$ .<sup>(34)</sup>

\*\*\* Marital relation: in the form of more freedom and discussions.

**Table (4): Multivariate analysis of factors affecting attitude of ever married males towards gender-based violence, SYPE, 2014.**

	B	S.E.	Wald	df	Sig.	Exp(B)	95% C.I. for EXP (B)	
							Lower	Upper
Marital relation	.039	.020	3.907	1	.05	1.040	1.000	1.080
Attitude toward wife divorce	.162	.029	30.634	1	.000	1.176	1.110	1.245
Rural residence	.618	.135	21.083	1	.000	1.855	1.425	2.414
Wife age	-.300-	.190	2.486	1	.12	.741	.510	1.076
Parents' response to mistakes	.080	.039	4.125	1	.04	1.083	1.003	1.169
Constant	-1.019-	.645	2.496	1	.11	.361		

The highest percentage of the participants were from rural lower Egypt (36.9%). Regarding the educational status, 46.1% of the participants had secondary education. The majority of all participants were employed (92.8%). Nearly one fifth of each study population was distributed in each class of the wealth quintile. More than two thirds (69.3%) were living in nuclear family while 43.3% of studied men were current smoker.

Fig. (1) shows that 77.1% of study population were accepting attitude toward GBV versus 22.9% who were rejecting GBV.

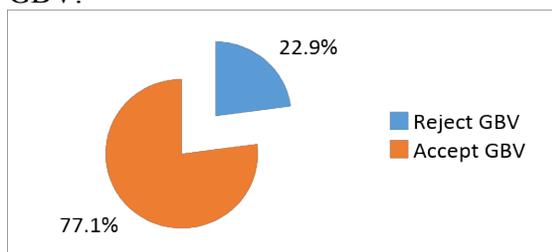
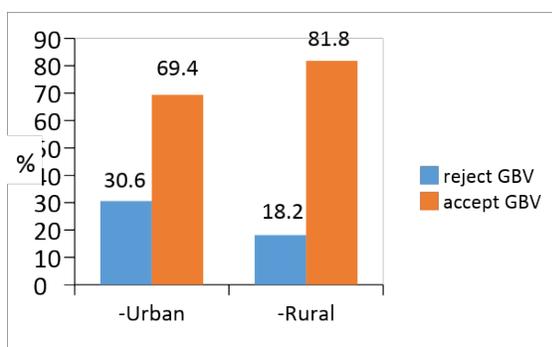
**Fig. (1): Attitude of ever married men toward GBV, SYPE, 2014**

Table (2) shows the relationship between attitudes of ever married males towards gender-based violence and socio-demographic characteristics. There was no statistical significant difference between the participants in different age groups regarding GBV. Most of men (82.2%) whom wives age at marriage were less than 18 years were accepting GBV versus 76.0% in the other group with statistical significant difference. Majority of participants from rural residence (81.8%)

were accepting GBV participants versus 69.4% urban residents with high statistical significant difference. Neither educational level nor the wealth quintile of the study participants was a statistically significant factor in attitude toward GBV. Higher percent of men (81.6%) who were unemployed were accepting GBV. Also 80% of those who were living in extended families were accepting GBV with no statistical significant difference. There was no statistical significant difference among the study participants in attitude toward GBV according to the smoking status.

Fig. (2) shows that rural residents were more accepting GBV than urban residents with high statistical significant difference ( $p < 0.0001$ ).

Table (3) shows that the majority of participants (88.4%) whom parents were not giving any response to mistakes were accepting GBV with significant statistical difference. Neither mental health score of the participants nor consanguinity was statistically significant regarding GBV. Most of participants with low attitude toward gender equity (81.3%) were accepting GBV with no statistical insignificant difference. Regarding marital happiness; (either happy, doesn't matter or unhappy as described by the participants themselves) and also the state of husband wife communication (either occurring rarely, often or always) showed no statistical significant difference regarding



**Fig. (2): Distribution of the attitude of ever married men toward GBV according to residence, SYPE,2014.**

GBV attitude. Participants who had high score of good marital relations items showed the highest percent of acceptance of GBV (83.4%) with high statistical significant difference. The majority of participants (83.9%) of high agreement toward divorcing their wives were accepting GBV with high statistical significant difference. On the other hand, the score of attitude of the participants to accept wife's right to ask for divorce showed no statistical significant difference regarding attitude toward GBV.

#### **Multivariate analysis:**

logistic regression was done (Table 4) and revealed that the significant predictors for accepting GBV were: rural residence, respondent's high attitude toward wife divorce and parents response to mistakes.

#### **Discussion:**

for successful prevention policy, an understanding of attitudes toward GBV is fundamental.<sup>12</sup> Researches concealed that different issues shaping attitude toward GBV were complex.<sup>13</sup>

**Acceptance of GBV:** Acceptance of GBV was varying between countries, higher in developing than developed countries.<sup>14</sup> The present study revealed that 77.1% of the studied men were accepting GBV, which is consistent with findings of other studies; In Kenya (62%)<sup>15</sup>, and In Ethiopia (85%)<sup>16</sup>, In rural Uganda, 70% of men justified

violence<sup>17</sup>, and 53% in Zimbabwe.<sup>18</sup> In Jordan, Khawaja et al., 2008<sup>19</sup> found that 60.1% of men in Palestinian refugee camps accepted violence. This finding may reflect the same cultures and believes among developing as African/Arab countries. On the other hand, other studies found that the percentage of accepting violence was 42% in Bangladesh, 51% in India, and 28% in Nepal.<sup>20</sup> Other developed countries showed much lower rates e.g. in Moscow the rate ranged from 0.8% to 18.6%.<sup>21</sup> Comparing acceptance of GBV among countries and context is not easy because respondents don't like to explore their actual attitudes, which is reflected on their responses.<sup>14</sup>

**Residence:** The present study showed that rural residence was important correlate of accepting violence (81.8% rural versus 69.4% urban). This is conformed to findings from many studies.<sup>18,20,22,23</sup> In addition, urbanization was associated with higher rejection of GBV.<sup>15</sup> Deeply rooted rural cultures and believes support the tendency toward gender inequality and accepting violence.

**Education:** In the present study respondents with basic education were more accepting GBV with no statistical significant difference. Secondary analysis of nationally representative sample data of male adolescents in India, Bangladesh, and Nepal revealed that higher rate of acceptance of GBV among illiterate and primary educated respondents than secondary & higher education.<sup>20</sup> The same results were also reported by Uthman et al. 2009<sup>15</sup> in all subsaharan countries except Liberia, Madagascar, and Nigeria.

**Occupation:** The results showed that unemployed men were more accepting GBV. On the other hand, Uthman et al., 2009<sup>15</sup> reported that relationship between occupation and acceptance of GBV was mixed; respondents not in working force

from Burkina Faso, Mozambique and Rwanda were higher in accepting GBV while currently not working respondents from Benin, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Tanzania, and Zimbabwe were less accepting GBV.

**Wealth quintile:** The present study revealed that acceptance of GBV was more in lower wealth quintiles. High socio-economic status was reported as a factor of rejecting IPV by.<sup>15,19,20,22</sup>

**Gender equity:** Gender inequality was positively connected with acceptance of GBV. This agree with many other studies e.g.<sup>6,24,25,26,27,28,29,30</sup> Study was done in India and Japan revealed that the variation in attitudes toward GBV was due to differences in attitude about gender roles and inequity and male domination.<sup>12,31,32</sup> This finding may be due to support of the Egyptian culture to male dominance. However, Violence supporting attitude doesn't exist from neither simply being a man, nor from the personal characteristics of the person (age, education, occupation and socio-economic factors) but violence supportive attitude results mainly from low support of gender equality between men and women.<sup>6</sup>

**Parent's response to mistakes:** The current study showed that 88.4% of participants whom parents were not giving any response to mistakes accepted GBV with significant statistical difference. This finding highlights the important role of the family in the form of proper shaping men's attitude toward GBV. On the other hand another study was done in Cyprus among adolescents (18-25 years old) revealed that exposure to violence from their parents response to mistakes. Neither educational level nor the wealth quintile of the study participants was a statistically significant factor in attitude toward GBV. Neither mental score of the participants nor

was important reason of violence against women.<sup>33</sup>

**Mental health:** The present study illustrated that 79.2% of mentally distressed participants accept violence. And this agree with a study done in Estonia which illustrated that one of significant individual reasons of GBV was mental health problems (e.g. depression) and tendency to aggression.<sup>33</sup>

**Marital relations:** Participants who had good marital relations showed the highest percent of accepting GBV (83.4%) with high statistical significant difference. This finding could be explained by marital relation in the form of more freedom and uncontrolled discussion without rules may result in more marital problems due to useless argument and debate. Nazar& Kouzekani 2007 revealed that marital problems are among the factors of accepting GBV.<sup>33</sup>

*Limitations of the study:* Missing data and the weight variable was not available.

## Conclusion and Recommendation:

From Secondary analysis of SYPE data, 2014 we can conclude the following: Most of men whom wives age at marriage were less than 18 years, from rural residence, whom parents were not giving any response to mistakes and who have high attitude toward divorcing their wives showed more acceptance of GBV. The significant independent factors associated with married men's acceptance of GBV were rural residence, respondent's high attitude toward wife divorce and parents'

consanguinity was statistically significant regarding GBV.

Based on the study results, the following are recommended:

Development of interventions and programs that give priority to improving

men's attitudes towards GBV, aiming to change social and cultural gender norms related to gender inequality and GBV especially in rural areas through (1) Enforcing the role of religious and community leaders. (2) Comprehensive media awareness campaigns, workshops, seminars about GBV. (3) Developing and implementing school-based programs to correct the concepts and correct the acceptance of GBV. (4) Implementing parent counseling programs for proper child rearing practices. (5) Promoting attainment of secondary level education of boys and girls. (6) Taking strict actions to activate the legislation of age of marriage. (7) Activation of the premarital counseling. (8) Further studies for understanding the socio-cultural background that shapes men's attitude toward GBV and gender inequity are crucial for effective prevention strategies.

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