

Global Intimate Partner Violence Research Development: A Bibliometric Analysis

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Abstract: Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a public health concern. Based on the Scopus database, a bibliometric analysis is conducted to evaluate the publications in the field of Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) from 2013 to 2022. This study aimed to explain the pattern of the research on IPV. The VOS-viewer software application was used to arrange the content analysis, common topics, and the map of co-occurrence terms. This study covered 1,154 studies. The result indicates that the United States and the United Kingdom are the leaders in this field of research, followed by South Africa, Spain, and Uganda. Similarly, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine in the United Kingdom and the South African Medical Research Council have the most publications based on the provenance of the authors. The Journal of Interpersonal Violence, Plos One, and Journal of Violence against Women are the three most productive journals in this discipline. In recent years, keyword analysis reveals that the majority of research has focused on the research disciplines of "domestic violence", "gender", "gender-based violence", "dating violence", and "violence". Developing collaborative networks between developed and developing countries should also be addressed.

1 INTRODUCTION

Intimate partner violence (IPV) is a prevalent manifestation of violence against women, encompassing physical, sexual, emotional abuse, and coercive conduct perpetrated by an intimate partner (WHO/PAHO, 2012). IPV has emerged as a major global health, socioeconomic, and human rights concern (Aboagye et al., 2022). IPV is a public health issue because of the trauma and disability it causes (Lagdon et al., 2014). Each nation has an obligation ensure women's safety by rapidly enacting necessary changes to its legal framework and recognizing laws as critical legal determinants of women's health (The Lancet Regional Health – Southeast Asia, 2022).

According to the World Health Organization (WHO), Approximately 33% of women who have been involved in a romantic partnership have experienced intimate partner violence (IPV) around the world (WHO/PAHO, 2012). Other researches have shown that the prevalence of IPV in women (15-49 years old) ranging between 13 and 61% (WHO/PAHO, 2012). According to national research done in India, spousal violence acceptance is among the highest in the world (52% women and 42% males) (International Institute for Population Sciences,

2016). Domestic abuse requires a lot of resources from everyone, thus it must be taken seriously. Ones believe that women may escape assault at home. However, wives, children, and other family members often abuse women at home (Alfitri, 2020).

IPV is a problem that often goes unreported. Many studies show that it is hard to get clear numbers about how often IPV happens in the general population. This means that the size of IPV is often overlooked (Crockett et al., 2015) (Devries et al., 2013). Some researches suggest that the culture of silence surrounding domestic abuse makes it difficult to collect data on this sensitive topic. Despite that, IPV is typically underreported for a variety of reasons, including fear, financial fragility, or related stigma, and prevalence estimates do not always reflect true prevalence (The Lancet Regional Health – Southeast Asia, 2022).

Based on that situation, it's hard to find complete information or statistics about the IPV situation. The absence of corroborating evidence may be attributed to the perception of domestic violence as a relatively minor public health concern, coupled with a lack of government initiatives to systematically gather comprehensive data on its prevalence and impact. People may also think that violence against women in

marriage is "natural" and just part of a woman's destiny (Munir, 2005). As a result, the purpose of this study is to map the trends of several studies that address intimate partner violence. Bibliometric analysis was employed to ascertain patterns in research on intimate partner violence among women. The analysis is a common method to evaluate the scholarly standing of a certain discipline. Therefore, this study describe on the trend of intimate partner violence lies in its ability to offer a comprehensive and visual understanding on the development of uncover gaps in knowledge and inform the policy intervention to address this critical societal issue.

2 METHOD

Bibliometric methodology has been extensively employed in this research to examine many forms of scientific publications, including research articles, books, conference papers, and journals (Diem & Wolter, 2013; Zou et al., 2018). The approach described possesses robust functionalities that were employed for many objectives, such as identifying nascent trends in the performance of articles and publications, analysing patterns of collaboration, investigating research characteristics, and exploring the intellectual framework of a certain topic within the existing body of literature (Donthu et al., 2021).

Moreover, this tool efficiently retrieves scholarly articles of significant influence, identifies research areas of interest among colleagues, assesses past research accomplishments alongside emerging publication trends in the field of intimate partner violence, encompassing institutions, countries, individuals, funding sources, and disciplinary perspectives (Bornmann et al., 2014). The present study utilizes the core collection of Scopus databases as the primary data source, specifically focusing on publications published within the time frame of 2013 to 2023.

This study searched the document from the Scopus database with keywords "gender" AND "violence" AND "intimate" AND "abuse". Inclusion criteria for further analysis were based on: 1) articles describing the intimate partner violence among married couples; 2) original articles; and 3) all publications in English. However, those related to child abuse, adolescent violence, editorial papers, and letters to editor are excluded.

The statistics were retrieved from the Scopus database throughout April to June 2023. In addition, the selection of this database was based on its greater significance compared to PubMed or Web of Science,

as it possesses the most exhaustive catalogues. The SciVal Scopus search engine offers a diverse array of perspectives, enabling users to efficiently retrieve relevant documents. The present analysis discovered a total of 1,236 documents, predominantly comprising articles.

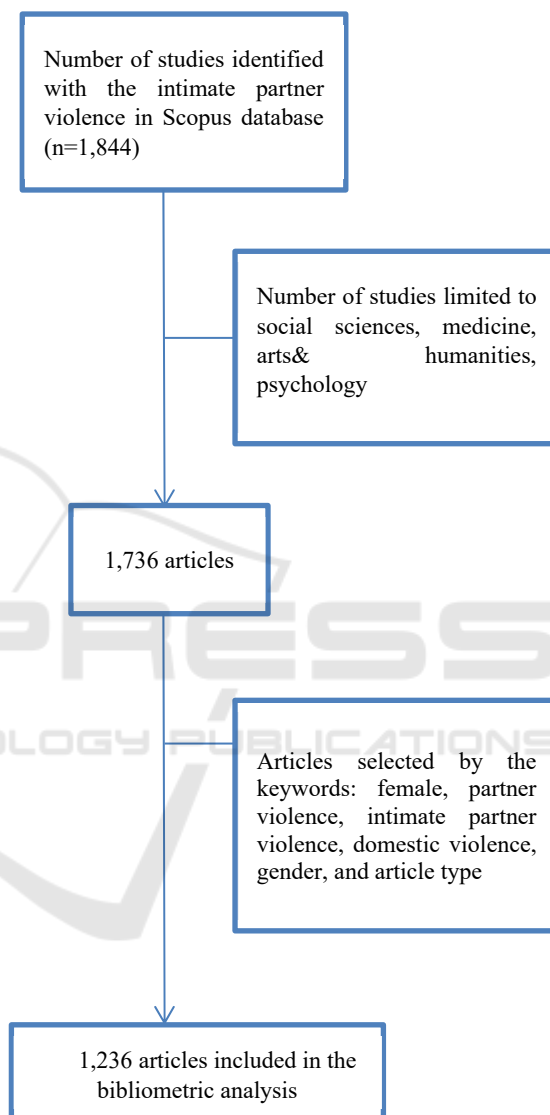


Figure 1: The flowchart of selecting the articles.

2.1 Data Analysis

In order to analyse the formation of keywords network and its clustering, the raw data contained in CSV, RIS, and BibTex files was extracted and subsequently evaluated using VOSviewer version 1.6.18 and bibliometrix (R) software. The study examined and depicted the annual publication count, citation analysis, co-authorship patterns, common

citation network, and trends in topics (van Eck & Waltman, 2010). To examine the development of a keyword network and its clustering, we retrieved the primary data from CSV, RIS, and BibTex files and then assessed it using VOSviewer version 1.6.18 and bibliometrix (R) software. This study investigated and illustrated various aspects including the annual count of publications, analysis of citations, patterns of co-authorship, the network of commonly cited works, and trends in themes.

3 RESULTS

3.1 Trend of Publication

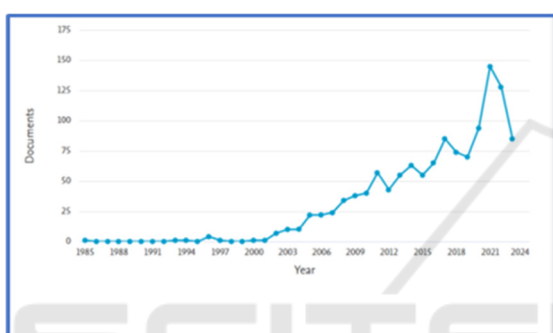


Figure 2: The global annual publication count pertaining to intimate partner abuse.

Figure 2 presents the trend of publication numbers from 2003 to 2023. It can be seen that most publications were in 2021 and the lowest ones were in 2003-2005. The article on intimate partner violence was first indexed in 1985 under the title Gender and victimization by intimates with the authors, namely Auerbach Walker, Lenore E, Browne, and Angela (Walker, 1985) (Zou et al., 2018). Articles about intimate partner violence publication increased in 2021 with a total of 145 publications. Out of the total corpus of 145 primary papers, a significant majority were authored by individuals affiliated with esteemed academic institutions such as the University of North Carolina, the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, and Harvard Medical School. Hence, scholarly publications pertaining to intimate partner violence predominantly originate from scholars affiliated with universities in the United States and Europe. Dyar C. is one of the authors that actively publishes on the topic of intimate partner violence (Hall et al., 2021; Messinger, Dyar, et al., 2021; Whitton et al., 2021), followed by Jewkes with three documents (Jewkes, Milovanovic, et al., 2021; Jewkes, Otwombe, et al., 2021; Ndungu et al., 2021).

The third rank is Messinger, A.M with three documents in the latest decade such as: “Sexual and Gender Minority Intimate Partner Violence and Childhood Violence Exposure” (Messinger, Dyar, et al., 2021), “Bidirectional IPV Among Adolescent Sexual Minorities” (Messinger, Sessarego, et al., 2021), and “Perceptions of Same-Gender and Different-Gender Intimate Partner Cyber-Monitoring” (Messinger, Birmingham, et al., 2021).

3.2 Distribution of Publication Based on Journal

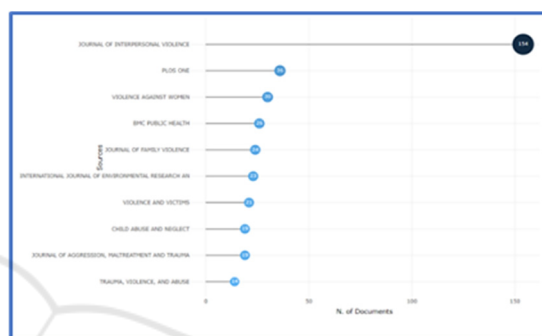


Figure 3: The distribution of publication based on the journal.

Figure 3 illustrates the manuscript that had at least one publication between 2001 and 2021, with the publications being released within the time frame of 2013 to 2023.

3.3 Distribution of Publication Based on Countries

Figure 4 presents the study of the ten countries that have exhibited a substantial number of publications pertaining to the subject matter of intimate relationship abuse. In the latest decade, the United States has exhibited the highest number of publications, surpassing both the United Kingdom and Canada. Specifically, the United States has produced over 650 documents, while the United Kingdom and Canada have contributed 130 documents and around 90 documents, respectively. Intimate partner violence in the United States exhibits the highest prevalence among high-income countries, in contrast to low-middle-income countries. Various elements exert the effect on the state of affairs, one of which pertains to the reluctance to disclose instances of intimate partner violence (IPV), leading to a sense of shame. Additionally, individuals who are particularly susceptible to IPV may experience stigmatization.

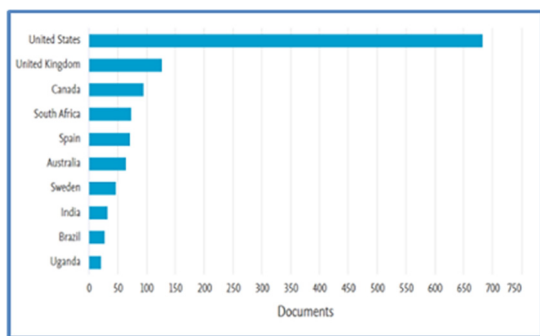


Figure 4: The publications distribution based on country specific to intimate partner violence issues.

3.4 Publication Based on Author's Affiliation

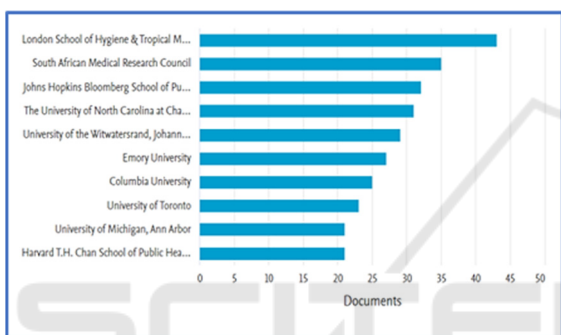


Figure 5: Publication based on author's affiliation.

Based on Figure 5, the text illustrates the associations, most of which were acquired from the university. The institution possesses ample financial resources and well-equipped facilities to effectively facilitate the execution of academic research and studies. In addition, it is worth noting that certain nations, such as Indonesia, enforce compulsory research and publication requirements as a prerequisite for attaining an advanced academic degree.

3.5 The Famous Keywords for Publication

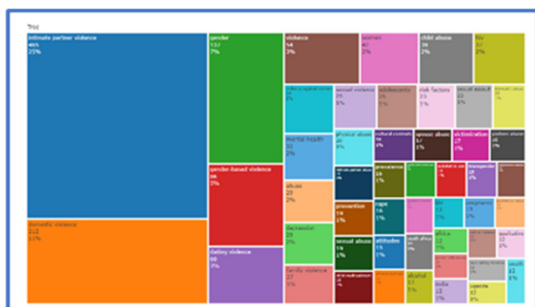


Figure 6: The famous keywords of the publication.

Based on Figure 6, the current keywords are intimate partner violence (465 documents), domestic violence (212 documents), sex (137 documents), gender-based violence (86 documents), and dating violence (60 documents). There are also countries named as the keywords of the study which are South Africa (including Uganda) and India. As we can see in the countries that are productive in writing the paper on intimate partner violence. Another research also shows that India and South African countries that concerned about this issue. However, there are some possibilities that there are studies conducted in Indonesia even though not indexed in the Scopus database.

3.6 Trend Topic for the Future Study on Intimate Partner Violence



Figure 7: The topic trends of the intimate partner violence publication.

Based on Figure 7, prospective information is obtained on the research themes of intimate partner violence, including “cyber dating abuse”, “intimate partners’ violence” in terms of “adverse childhood experiences” and “dating abuse perpetration”.

4 DISCUSSION

Intimate partner violence represents a prevalent form of harm inflicted upon women by men. The range of abusive behaviors encompasses physical, sexual, and psychological maltreatment, with manipulative and controlling conduct. Intimate partner abuse, also known as IPV, has the potential to occur in various settings and affect individuals from diverse backgrounds, encompassing different socio-economic statuses, religious affiliations, and cultural orientations. Most of the load of IPV is carried by women around the world. Even though women can be

violent in relationships with men, usually for self-defence, and violence can happen in relationships between people of the same gender, men are usually the ones who hurt women. Men, on the other hand, are much more likely to be hurt by strangers or friends than by someone they know well (WHO/PAHO, 2012).

Based on the literature, domestic violence is defined as an unusual occurrence that occurs only in small-scale cases. It is a systematic, ongoing, and structural manifestation of social control. A lot of factors may clarify the occurrence of domestic violence (Wolfe et al., 2003). Instead, violence can also happen due to cultural and social problems as interconnected factors (Wolfe et al., 2003). Domestic violence has wide range of causes deeply rooted in gender disparities. In addition, discrimination and hereditary inequities can be perpetuated by a patriarchal culture (Alghamdi et al., 2022). Women frequently have a role in the family by providing care for family members at home, as well as caring for those who are sick, which is occasionally an enormous burden on women's shoulders (Kamaruddin & Oseni, 2013).

The present investigation unequivocally determined that there was a discernible upward trajectory in publications throughout the course of the previous decade. The topic of intimate partner violence (IPV) is noteworthy due to its delicate and taboo nature, although it has witnessed a rise in the volume of scholarly investigations pertaining to this subject matter. There is a growing trend in which women are increasingly inclined to report instances of violence they encounter, while the government is providing support for victim protection and implementing measures to prevent violence targeting women (Zhao et al., 2022).

The United States and the United Kingdom are recognized as the two nations that have the most extensive body of literature pertaining to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). This phenomenon is of particular importance because to the high frequency of intimate partner violence (IPV) in these nations, coupled with the significant level of public and governmental apprehension surrounding IPV-related issues. It is surprising that the incident rates of intimate partner violence are rising fast in the developed countries. It is important to note that those countries are leading the world in research, including medicine and social research.

From the perspective of the author's institutional affiliation, it may suggest the existence of a collaborative effort across multiple agencies to engage in research pertaining to intimate partner

violence (IPV). The findings of this study indicate that institutions located in the European region exhibit a higher level of apprehension regarding this delicate matter. The potential for institutional collaboration in Asia is of great importance, particularly in light of the significant prevalence of violence against women in the region, which is comparable to that observed in Africa (CDC, 2022).

Keywords play a crucial role in the process of conducting research on trends. In addition to serving as a prominent trend in keyword research, it also facilitates the convenient identification of subject matters pertaining to the respective fields of study for researchers and readers alike. This discovery can be utilized to construct a compelling topic that can be published, encompassing “intimate partner violence, domestic violence, sex, gender based violence, and dating violence”. Furthermore, the study also identified potential areas for future research, namely the emerging trend issues concluding intimate partner violence, including “cyber dating abuse”, “intimate partners’ violence” in terms of “adverse childhood experiences” and “dating abuse perpetration”. The selection of words with accuracy will influence the accessibility of searches and the on-going discourse on various topics. The selection of keywords, whether they are single words or combinations of two terms, plays a crucial role in defining the scope of the literature search and research (Wu et al., 2020).

The present study is subject to certain constraints. Specifically, the sole reliance on the Scopus database may not provide a comprehensive representation, it may lead to incomplete findings and the potential for false-negative outcomes. Hence, it is recommended that future studies should prioritize the integration of several data sets. Attempts to enhance research collaboration about intimate partner violence between developed and developing nations should be intensified, particularly related to facilitating research in countries with limited resources. Nevertheless, this particular study possesses several merits, specifically in its utilization of bibliometric analysis to examine peer-reviewed literature about intimate partner violence (Nguyen et al., 2023). The findings of this study may assist international health authorities and grant agencies in identifying gaps in the prevalence of intimate partner violence in both developed and developing nations.

5 CONCLUSION

The United States, United Kingdom, and Canada are widely recognized as the three nations that have made

the most significant contributions to addressing the global epidemic of intimate partner abuse. Utilizing the Scopus database, bibliometric and visual techniques were employed to examine the trajectory and potential areas of investigation pertaining to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV). This topic encompasses several pertinent terms, including internet dating abuse, unfavourable childhood experiences, and dating abuse prevention, which warrant more exploration. The authors have the opportunity to access several potential journals, including the Journal of Interpersonal Violence, the Journal of Violence against Women, and BMC Public Health. Moreover, the results of this study provide a foundation for the development of research on intimate partner violence (IPV), particularly in Asian countries such as Indonesia. This framework aims to assist IPV victims in improving their quality of life.

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