

Violence and abuse

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‘Shame’ and Pain: Intimacy, Pregnancy and Childbirth of Indonesian Migrant Women in Taiwan
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This paper examines how Indonesian Muslim women’s experiences of intimacy are constrained and regulated while working abroad, with a focus on two key questions: What forces shape and control their expressions of intimacy overseas? And how are their pregnancy, childbirth, and maternity treated within Taiwanese medical institutions? Drawing on interviews with Indonesian migrant women and obstetric professionals in Taiwan, the paper argues that intersecting socio-cultural, religious, and economic regimes in both Indonesia and the host country inflict various forms of social, psychological, and obstetric violence on these women. The Islamic concept of zina—the moral condemnation of pre- or extramarital sex— instills Muslim women with shame and impose control, a context manipulated by placement agencies. Some agencies arrange prospective workers to undisclosed or involuntary contraception to ensure they remain eligible for overseas employment, aligning with agency profits. Upon arrival, the stigma of zina is compounded by the fear of pregnancy, job termination, and the loss of remittances—pressures that constitute a form of socio-economic coercion. While some seek religious legitimacy through nikah siri (unofficial Islamic marriage), its lack of legal recognition exposes them to further gender-based marginalisation. In Taiwanese hospitals, these women encounter institutionalised obstetric violence (Sadler et al. 2016), shaped by racialized and gendered hierarchies within the medical system. Treated as a gendered underclass, their bodies are subjected to intrusive practices justified by biomedical sciences and profit-driven healthcare. Through the lens of intimacy, this paper contributes to scholarship on gender-based violence enacted in the name of morality, remittance, profit and science.

The gendered nature of family violence during childhood and the importance of context: a neglected perspective in research

Stephanie Condon - INED, Christine Hamelin - University of Versailles Saint-Quentin-en-Yvelines, Arno Muller - INED

The gendered nature of child maltreatment is often neglected in research on family violence. More precisely, whilst research on the prevalence of sexual violence distinguishes between experiences of girls and boys, other forms of violence – verbal, psychological, physical – are rarely examined from a gender perspective (May-Chahal, 2006). This contrasts with most research on intimate partner or ‘domestic’ violence, which is firmly located within feminist research. This field of research has also emphasized the importance of considering the context of violence (Myhill, 2017). France is one of the rare states to have produced two national surveys (2000 and 2015), both of which gathered data on violence experienced before the age of 18. Each of these were followed by local surveys conducted in several overseas territories. This paper will present results from the Virage survey conducted by Ined in 2018 in the French Caribbean territories of Guadeloupe and Martinique and in Reunion Island (Indian Ocean). After the discussing the results of analysis of different types of violence experienced by women and men before the age of 18, the paper will present the results of multivariate analyses. Using factor analysis to articulate different forms of violence and their context (age of victim, frequency, relationship to the perpetrator), gendered patterns of violence were revealed. Cluster analysis then furthers our understanding of how gender interacts with various aspects of the context of violence and other individual characteristics such as age. The study will contribute to broadening the perspective on family violence in these post-colonial contexts.

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Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) in Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) Camps in Northern Nigeria During the COVID-19 Pandemic: Assessing the Risk, Protective Factors and Support Mechanisms for Survivors

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This study investigates the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the prevalence and patterns of Violence Against Women and Girls (VAWG) within Internally Displaced Persons (IDP) camps in Northern Nigeria. In settings already characterised by displacement, poverty, and institutional fragility, the pandemic introduced new layers of vulnerability. The research addresses three core questions: (i) How did the pandemic influence patterns of VAWG in IDP settings? (ii) What community-based or context-specific interventions can mitigate such violence and support survivors? and (iii) What role did NGOs and government actors play in addressing VAWG in these humanitarian contexts?

Grounded in a critical realist ontology, the study adopts an embedded mixed-methods design to ensure both analytical depth and contextual breadth. Quantitative data was drawn from the UNHCR COVID-19 Impact Assessment survey, offering camp-level insights into changing socio-economic conditions, access to services, patterns of SEA, and mobility restrictions during the pandemic.

Complementary qualitative data were gathered through 70 in-depth conversations with 90 participants, including 35 semi-structured interviews with survivors, 8 with government officials, 10 with NGO/CBO representatives, 8 with local leaders, and 8 focus group discussions with community stakeholders such as teachers, healthcare workers, and religious leaders.

Preliminary findings reveal a notable increase in sexual and socio-economic violence, exacerbated by loss of livelihoods and reduced humanitarian presence during the period. However, physical and psychological violence showed no significant change due to the pandemic. The study identifies women-led financial independence, gender-sensitive settlement patterns, community-based network of first responders, multi-ethnic representation in VAWG joint insecurity and engaging men as effective strategies for addressing VAWG in such settings.

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