

To cite this output:

Watts, CH, (2011) Contested Development?: Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Employment in Urban and Rural Tanzania

ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0422. Swindon: ESRC

ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RESEARCH COUNCIL IMPACT REPORT



For awards ending on or after 1 November 2009

This Impact Report should be completed and submitted using the **grant reference** as the email subject to **reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk** on or before the due date.

Completion of this Impact Report is mandatory. It will not be possible to edit this Impact Report at a later date, as it is designed to provide a statement of the impacts of your project to date 12 months after your grant ends.

Please note that the Impact Report will only be accepted if all sections have been completed in full. If a section does not apply to you, please enter 'n/a'. Grant holders will not be eligible for further ESRC funding until the Report is accepted. (Please see Section 5 of the ESRC Research Funding Guide for details.)

Please refer to the Guidance notes when completing this Impact Report. In particular, the notes explain what the ESRC means by 'impact'.

Grant Reference	RES-167-25-0422		
Grant Title	Contested development?: intimate partner violence and women's employment in urban and rural Tanzania		
Grant Start Date	01 April 2008	Total Amount	£208,112
Grant End Date	31 March 2010	Expended:	
Grant holding Institution	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine		
Grant Holder	Professor Charlotte Watts		
Grant Holder's Contact Details	Address	Email	
	London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, Department of Global Health & Development, 15-17 Tavistock Place, London, WC1H 9SH	Charlotte.Watts@lsthm.ac.uk	
		Telephone + 44(0) 207 927 2412	
Co-Investigators (as per project application):		Institution	
Ms Seema Vyas		London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine	

To cite this output:

Watts, CH, (2011) Contested Development?: Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Employment in Urban and Rural Tanzania

ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0422. Swindon: ESRC

1. SCIENTIFIC IMPACT

A Please **summarise** below the scientific impact(s) your project has had. [Max 250 words]

Impact on empirical understanding of the relationship between women's social and economic empowerment and risk of intimate partner violence (IPV)

A systematic review of published evidence on the relationship between women's economic resources and IPV in LMICs found that higher household socio-economic status (SES), women's secondary education and to some extent men's secondary education is protective. However, evidence on the relationship between women's employment and IPV was mixed: seven studies documented significant or suggestive protective associations and eight found significant or suggestive risk associations.

Although different economic theories posit women's employment may either increase or reduce risk, our detailed analyses of population data from Dar-es-Salaam (DES) and Mbeya could not clearly support one theory over another. Although women who reported that their partner refused to give them money were at higher risk. Qualitative research suggests that IPV is pervasive, and that even if women work they try to conform to traditional gendered expectations and roles. Their partners often control the scope of their engagement in labour markets.

Methodological impacts:

Latent Class Analysis (LCA) was used to explore the patterning of different acts of IPV. In both DES and Mbeya we found three violence groupings: low frequency moderate physical violence; sexual violence; and frequent and severe physical and sexual violence. This is one of the first studies in LMICs to use LCA in this way.

Our quantitative analysis was hampered by the questions on women's empowerment used in the WHO survey. We propose questions to include in future structured surveys.

B Please outline the **findings and outputs** from your project which have had the scientific impact(s) outlined in 1A. [Max 250 words]

Findings

Published evidence suggests that higher household SES, women's secondary education and to some extent men's secondary education is associated with reduced levels of violence. However, evidence on the relationship between women's employment and IPV is mixed, and is likely to be influenced by contextual factors.

Although different economic theories posit that women's employment may either increase or reduce risk, our analyses of data from Tanzania did not clearly support one theory over another. Qualitative research suggests a more complex relationship.

In Tanzania there are three dominant patterns of IPV: low frequency moderate physical violence; sexual violence; and frequent and severe physical and sexual violence.

To cite this output:

Watts, CH, (2011) Contested Development?: Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Employment in Urban and Rural Tanzania

ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0422. Swindon: ESRC

Outputs

Vyas & Watts (2009) How does economic empowerment affect women's risk of intimate partner violence in low and middle income countries? A systematic review of published evidence. *Journal of International Development*: 21(5) 577-602

Draft papers to be submitted

Vyas, Heise, Mbwambo & Watts. Women's economic empowerment and IPV: Evidence and methodological implications from urban and rural Tanzania. *Feminist Economics*

Vyas, Watts, Heise. Using Latent Class Analysis to explore patterns of IPV in LMICs: Insights from Tanzania and Latin America. *Violence Against Women*

Conference/ Meeting presentations

Vyas (2011) Women's economic empowerment and IPV in urban and rural Tanzania. Presentation to Ifakara Health Institute (IHI), Tanzania

Vyas (2010) Contested development?: women's economic empowerment and IPV in urban and rural Tanzania. Presentation at UNGEI conference, Senegal

Watts (2010) The costs of violence against women. Presentation to an audience of UK civil society organisations, organised by Action Aid.

C Please outline **how** these impacts were achieved. [*Max 250 words*]

We have drawn on the networks of Dr Jessie Mbwambo at MUHAS (Tanzania), to disseminate the findings of our research in Tanzania. We worked with her to bring together key representatives from violence, gender and development groups, to discuss the findings and explore the implications in Tanzania. This dissemination was facilitated by a previous meeting held in the first year of the project, where we briefed participants about our study and got their advice about key issue to include. We also had follow-up meetings at IHI, to explore the possibility of including violence questions in the next demographic surveillance survey.

We have used our strong links with WHO and researchers involved in the WHO multi-country study on women's health and domestic violence to discuss: 1) opportunities to refine the questions on women's economic status included in the WHO questionnaire, to facilitate future research and analysis; 2) the potential value of using LCA to better conceptualise IPV; and 3) the implications of a more detailed analysis of the patterning of violence for the reporting of violence by the UN. For this we have held one to one briefing meetings with key staff at WHO, as well as telephone conference calls and face to face discussions with country researchers. These discussions have been facilitated by our long-standing relationship with the WHO study.

We have also opportunistically sought to disseminate our findings to key relevant

To cite this output:

Watts, CH, (2011) Contested Development?: Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Employment in Urban and Rural Tanzania

ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0422. Swindon: ESRC

audiences, by taking opportunities to give talks, brief key individuals, and make contributions to important reports.

D Please outline **who** the findings and outputs outlined above had an impact upon. This can include specific academics/researchers through to broader academic groups. *[Max 250 words]*

The findings from the systematic review were shared with staff at UNDP working on the MDGs in sub-Saharan Africa, and submitted for inclusion in the next World Development Report, that has a focus on Gender and Development.

Our research into patterns of violence has had an impact on WHO and partner country researchers from Brazil, Japan, Bangladesh and Thailand, and with other country researchers that are starting to explore patterns of violence in their own setting. The implications of the findings for future violence measurement and reporting have also been discussed with WHO, and we are having ongoing discussions about the potential implications of the findings for reporting IPV by the UN.

A presentation given to IHI may lead to the inclusion of questions on gender based violence being included in the Demographic Surveillance Survey. This will provide a rich data set that includes household income data (not explored in our study), that would facilitate a more in-depth analysis of this issue in the future.

We have drafted a revised set of structured questions on women's economic empowerment, for inclusion in the next version of the WHO multi-country study on questionnaire, to help ensure that the survey data can be better used to explore the relationship between economic employment and development. WHO regularly receives requests to use the questionnaire and study protocol for the replication of the study in other countries, and so these revisions will have an enduring impact on research in a broad range of settings.

2. ECONOMIC AND SOCIETAL IMPACT

A Please **summarise** below the economic and societal impact(s) your project has had. *[Max 250 words]*

Based upon these findings we have started to have discussions with an established micro-finance group (BRAC), that works in several Eastern African countries, to explore the potential of integrating gender and violence training into their programmes.

Building both upon the systematic review, quantitative analysis and qualitative research conducted as part of this project, as well as our intervention research in South Africa (the IMAGE study), we are proposing to develop and evaluate a pilot intervention, that will

To cite this output:

Watts, CH, (2011) Contested Development?: Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Employment in Urban and Rural Tanzania

ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0422. Swindon: ESRC

assess the impact of this form of integration on women's risk of violence in an East African setting. If we are successful in obtaining funding for this research, the intervention study will result in the provision of gender training to several hundred women enrolled in a micro-finance programme.

In turn, if the evaluation shows that this combined intervention impacts on the incidence of violence, it is likely that the findings will be integrated into the routine provision of micro-finance in the region. This could ultimately benefit thousands of women in the region.

B Please outline the **findings and outputs** from your project which have had the economic and societal impact(s) outlined in 2A. *[Max 250 words]*

Our findings from a systematic review of the current literature highlight that household socio-economic status, women's secondary education are often protective against violence, but there is much more mixed evidence about the extent to which women's engagement in employment may either exacerbate or reduce their risk of violence from their partner. This paper has been published in the Journal of International Development.

In Tanzania we did not find any clear associations between women having an income and the levels of past year violence. Our qualitative findings highlighted that violence against women is pervasive, and that even when women are working, men often control the extent of their engagement in income generating activities such as informal sector market trading, and that women still are expected to maintain their traditional gender roles in the household.

These findings suggest that in settings such as Tanzania, it is unlikely to be sufficient to rely on income generation activities alone to socially empower women and reduce their risk of intimate partner violence. Although economic strategies are important, they are probably not sufficient to lead to substantial changes in gender roles

This has been written up as a draft paper, and presented at the UNGEI conference held in Senegal (May 2010).

C Please outline **how** these impacts were achieved. *[Max 250 words]*

The findings from the systematic review have been shared with UNDP, included in submissions to the authors of the upcoming World Development Report on Women, and discussed in face to face meetings with BRAC and other micro-finance organisations.

To cite this output:

Watts, CH, (2011) Contested Development?: Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Employment in Urban and Rural Tanzania

ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0422. Swindon: ESRC

These findings and the more in-depth results from Tanzania have been shared with key stakeholders in Tanzania from the ministry and NGO, at a dissemination meeting in DES, as well as with other academics working in the field of intimate partner violence. They have also been discussed with donors and policy makers considering what may be appropriate forms of investment to prevent violence against women.

We have also discussed the findings and their implications with two donors who have been seeking to identify what may be effective forms of investment to prevent intimate partner violence.

D Please outline **who** the findings and outputs outlined above had an impact upon. This can be at a broad societal level through to specific individuals or groups. *[Max 250 words]*

The findings and outputs from this study has had impact on researchers working in the field of intimate partner violence, and especially those working to analyse the WHO multi-country study data.

3. UNEXPECTED AND POTENTIAL FUTURE IMPACTS

A Unexpected Impacts

Please note which, if any, of the impacts that your research has had were *unexpected* at the outset of the research, explaining where possible why you think this was the case. *[Max 250 words]*

At the outset of the study we had expected that we would find clearer associations between women's employment and economic status in Tanzania, that we would use to discuss the implications of the findings with policy makers working in gender, health and development. This did not emerge strongly from the data. The qualitative findings also suggested that in the Tanzanian context, women's engagement in the informal sector did not substantially impact on gender roles and expectations in the household. This is in contrast to the findings from our systematic review of the literature, and our prior intervention research in South Africa, that showed that in some settings, having an impact may either be protective or increase risk. We hypothesise that in settings such as Tanzania, initiatives to empower women need to not only address women's economic dependence on men, but also address pervading norms and expectations around gender roles and the acceptability of intimate partner violence.

To cite this output:

Watts, CH, (2011) Contested Development?: Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Employment in Urban and Rural Tanzania

ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0422. Swindon: ESRC

B Potential Future Impacts

If you have a clear idea of the impact your research is likely to have in the future please detail these below.

[Max 250 words]

In the future we expect that our research will have the following impacts:

- 1) Influence approaches to researching violence against women, including methods to understand and describe the patterns of intimate partner violence in different settings
- 2) Feed into further revisions of the WHO study questionnaire on violence against women, to better enable analyses of the relationship between women's economic empowerment and risk of intimate partner violence to be developed.
- 3) Contribute to the development of revised economic theories of household bargaining and the risk of violence.
- 4) Feed into the future development of interventions to address women's social and economic vulnerability to violence. Specifically, we are exploring the possibility of piloting the integration of participatory training in gender and violence into ongoing micro-finance programmes in East Africa.

4. IMPACT LIMITATIONS

A Limited scientific impact

Please state below any major scientific difficulties that have limited the scientific impact of your research.

The statement should refer to an effect on *impact* rather than simply detail research difficulties. [Max 250 words]

Our research has been limited by the cross-sectional nature of the data set that we analysed, and methodological limitations related to the questions that had been included in the study to assess women's participation in the informal sector. For this reason, we have sought to draw out the methodological lessons from the findings, to try to ensure that we can improve future research on this issue.

To cite this output:

Watts, CH, (2011) Contested Development?: Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Employment in Urban and Rural Tanzania

ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0422. Swindon: ESRC

B Limited economic and societal impact

ESRC recognises that some of the research it funds will not have an economic or societal impact in the short term. Please explain briefly below if this is the case for your project, and refer to your grant application where relevant. *[Max 250 words]*

Although our research has had limited direct social impacts to date, as outlined above, our research findings have feed into a number of discussions and debates about how to effectively prevent intimate partner violence, both at the international and regional level.

Although in our application we had hoped to achieve greater societal impact, in hindsight we realise that the economic social impact of our research is likely to be realised over a longer timeframe, and through a more diffused process.

In practise our findings have fed into ongoing discussions about how to prevent violence against women, and so helped inform several ongoing initiatives. This includes the potential testing of an intervention that seeks both to economically and socially empower women in East Africa, which in turn, could lead to the broader replication of this model of intervention.

C No impact to date

This project has had no impact to date

Please note that ESRC projects are evaluated on the basis of their scientific and/or economic and societal impact. Grant holders are expected to report any future impacts as they occur using the Impact Record, downloadable from the ESRC website.

If you have no impacts at this stage, please give reasons below. *[Max 250 words]*

To cite this output:

Watts, CH, (2011) Contested Development?: Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Employment in Urban and Rural Tanzania

ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0422. Swindon: ESRC

5. DECLARATIONS

Please read the statements below. Submitting this Impact Report to **reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk** confirms your agreement.

- i) This Impact Report is an accurate statement of the impacts of the research project to date. All co-investigators named in the proposal to ESRC or appointed subsequently have seen and approved the Report.
- ii) Details of any subsequent impacts will be submitted via an Impact Record as they occur.

Thank you for completing this Impact Report. Your Impact Report will be considered along with your End of Award Report in the evaluation of your research.

You are now invited to complete the confidential Nominations form, which will assist with the evaluation of your project.

To cite this output:

Watts, CH, (2011) Contested Development?: Intimate Partner Violence and Women's Employment in Urban and Rural Tanzania

ESRC Impact Report, RES-167-25-0422. Swindon: ESRC

NOMINATED OUTPUTS

Please nominate a maximum of two outputs from your research which you would like to be considered as part of the evaluation.

Output type (eg journal article, book, newspaper article, conference proceedings)	Publication details (eg author name, date,, title, publisher details)	Uploaded toESRC website? (Yes/No)
Journal article	Seema Vyas; Charlotte Watts (2009) How does economic empowerment affect women's risk of intimate partner violence in low and middle income countries? A systematic review of published evidence. <i>Journal of International Development</i> : 21 (5) 577-602	Yes (abstract)
Journal article (in preparation)	Seema Vyas; Lori Heise; Jessie Mbwambo; Charlotte Watts (in preparation) Women's economic empowerment and intimate partner violence: Evidence and methodological implications from urban and rural Tanzania	No

Please email your completed Impact Report with electronic copies of your nominated outputs to reportsofficer@esrc.ac.uk, using your **grant reference number** as the email subject.