

Abstract

Both internal displacement and intimate partner violence (IPV) pose a serious threat to women and are most pronounced in sub-Saharan Africa. The literature on factors influencing IPV is extensive, but few papers examine the connection with displacement. This thesis aims to examine the impact of internal displacement on the prevalence of IPV in six countries in sub-Saharan Africa. I hypothesise that internal displacement increases the likelihood of a women being the victim of IPV. Internal displacement is thought to increase women's empowerment. This leads to a patriarchal backlash from their partners, who exhibit hyper-masculinity to restore the status quo through increased violence. I also argue that living in conflict-affected areas increases the likelihood of IPV for internally displaced women compared to displaced women living in non-conflict-affected areas, due to increased vulnerability in conflict zones. Using cross-national data from the Demographic and Health Survey, the Uppsala Conflict Data Program and the WomenStats Project these arguments are tested using a multilevel logistic regression analysis. The results suggest that only one form of IPV, sexual violence, is consistently exacerbated by internal displacement. No influence of conflict exposure on IPV could be identified, which is likely due to poor data quality. This complexity deepens existing knowledge and encourages more nuanced approaches in future research, which should primarily focus on finding new ways to collect data on internal displacement.